

## **Causes of WW1**

**The Spark:** Archduke Ferdinand assassination – by Serbian gunman, leads Austria to invade Serbia

Russia had a treaty to help Serbia

Germany came to aid of Austria-Hungary

France and Britain join to help Russia against Germany;

All of Europe drawn into war

Triple Alliance or Central Powers v. Triple Entente(Allied Powers)

### **Underlying Causes:**

Nationalism

Economic Competition and Imperialism

The System of Alliances

### **US Enters the War**

traditional foreign policy – neutrality, since Washington

Reasons for Involvement in WW1:

1. Closer ties with Allies
2. German Actions
  - a. Invasion of neutral Belgium
  - b. Unrestricted submarine warfare
  - c. Zimmerman telegram
3. Economic Ties and Loans

### **The US at War:**

Fed. Govt assumes sweeping powers

- over business and workers;
- Military draft
- Restrictions on civil liberties – Espionage and Sedition Acts, freedom to criticize the war effort were limited;

Jobs filled by women;

Taxes increased; war bonds sold to raise money

Entrance of US into war on side of Allies helped swing tide of battle in their favor;

Armistice, November 1918

### **The Peace Settlement:**

Wilson's 14 Points(1918) – aims to prevent future wars; free of seas national states and League of Nations

The Versailles Treaty (1919)

- Harsh on Germany
- Austria-Hungary divided up into new, smaller national states
- A League of Nations established;

### **US Refuses to Join League of Nations**

US Senators concerned that US troops would often be called upon to stop acts of aggression overseas.

Senate voted against the treaty and US never joined. US returns to isolationism.

