

Chapter 29.2 - Europe Plunges into War

1. Setting the Stage

- a. By 1914, Europe was divided into two rival camps
 - i. One alliance, the Triple Entente, included Great Britain, France, and Russia
 - ii. The other, known as the Triple Alliance, included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- b. Austria-Hungary's declaration of war against Serbia set off a chain reaction within the alliance system

2. The Great War Begins

- a. In response to Austria's _____, _____, Serbia's ally, began moving its army toward the _____
 - i. Expecting _____ to join Austria, _____ also mobilized along the _____
 - ii. To Germany, _____ amounted to a _____ so the German government _____ on Russia
 - iii. Two days after declaring war on Russia, _____ also declared war on _____ - _____
 - iv. Soon afterward, _____ declared war on _____

b. Nations Take Sides

- i. On one side were Germany and Austria-Hungary - known as the _____ - located in the _____ of Europe
 1. _____ and the _____ would later join the Central Powers in the hopes of regaining lost territories
- ii. On the other side were _____, _____, and _____ - known as the _____ or _____
 1. _____ joined the Allies
 2. _____ joined later
 - a. _____ had been a member of the _____ but joined the other side after accusing their former partners of unjustly _____

3. A Bloody Stalemate

- a. As the summer of 1914 turned to fall, the war turned into a long and bloody _____, or _____, along the battlefields of France
 - i. This deadlocked region in northern _____ became known as the _____

b. The Conflict Grinds Along

- i. Facing a _____, Germany had developed a battle strategy known as the _____, named after its designer, General Alfred Graf von Schlieffen
 1. The plan called for _____ in the west and then rushing _____ to fight _____

- a. _____ was vital to the Schlieffen Plan and German leaders knew they needed to win a _____ over France
- ii. By early September, _____ had swept into _____ and reached the outskirts of _____ - a major _____ victory appeared just days away
 - 1. On September 5, however, the _____ regrouped and attacked the Ge_____rmans northeast of Paris, in the valley of the _____
 - 2. After four days of fighting, the German generals gave the order to _____
- iii. The _____ was perhaps the _____ of the war
 - 1. The defeat of the _____ left the _____ in ruins
 - a. In the east, _____ forces had already invaded _____
 - i. Germany was going to have to fight a _____ on _____
 - ii. The _____ sent thousands of troops from France to _____ its forces in the _____
 - 2. Meanwhile, the war on the _____ settled into a _____

c. War in the Trenches

- i. By early 1915, opposing armies on the _____ had dug miles of _____ to protect themselves from enemy fire
 - 1. This set the stage for what became known as _____
 - 2. Armies traded huge losses of human life for pitifully small land gains
- ii. Life in the _____ was pure _____
 - 1. The trenches swarmed with rats, fresh food was nonexistent and sleep was nearly impossible
- iii. The _____ the opposing trenches won the grim name “_____”
 - 1. Officers ordered an attack, their men went over the top of their trenches into this bombed-out landscape
 - a. They usually met murderous rounds of _____
 - b. _____ brought death right into the trenches
- iv. The Western Front had become a “_____” and stretched nearly 500 miles from the North Sea to the Swiss border

v. New tools of war—_____, _____, _____, _____—had not delivered the fast-moving war they had expected

1. All this new technology did was kill greater numbers of people more effectively

vi. The slaughter reached a peak in 1916

1. In February, the _____ a massive attack against the French near _____

a. Each side lost more than _____ men

2. In July, _____ forces attacked the Germans northwest of Verdun, in the valley of the _____

a. By the time the _____ ended in November, each side had suffered more than _____ casualties

3. Near Verdun, the Germans advanced about four miles

4. In the Somme valley, the British gained about five miles

4. The Battle of the Eastern Front

a. Both sides were sending millions more men to fight on the _____

i. This area was a stretch of battlefield along the German and Russian border

1. _____ and _____ battled _____ and _____

b. Early Fighting

i. At the beginning of the war, _____ forces had launched an attack into both _____ and _____

1. _____ counterattacked near the town of _____ crushed the _____ Russian army and drove it into _____

ii. _____ forces defeated the _____ twice in September 1914, driving deep into their country

1. Not until December of that year did the _____ army manage to _____

a. _____ defeated the _____ and eventually pushed them out of Austria-Hungary

c. Russia Struggles

i. By 1916, _____ war effort was _____

1. Unlike the nations of western Europe, _____ had yet to become _____

a. The Russian army was continually short on food, guns, ammunition, clothes, boots, and blankets

b. The Allied _____ to Russia were sharply limited by _____ control of the _____, combined with Germany's relentless _____ in the North Sea and beyond

- c. The Ottomans still _____ leading from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea
- ii. The _____ had only one asset—its _____
 - 1. Throughout the war the Russian army _____ number of battlefield _____ but the army continually rebuilt its ranks from the country's _____
 - 2. As a result, _____ could not hurl its full fighting force at the _____
- iii. Germany and her allies, however, were concerned with more than just the Eastern or Western Fronts
 - 1. Fighting spread beyond Europe to _____, as well as to _____ and _____ Asia
 - 2. The massive European conflict indeed became a world war