

Topic 12.3

The End of World War I

America Joins the Fight

The United States enters the war in the spring of 1917

Germany renews unrestricted submarine warfare; Allies combat using **convoys—groups of merchant ships sailing together**

Russia overthrows Czar Nicholas II, Communist gain control under **Vladimir Lenin**

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918) ended war on the Eastern Front

America Joins the Fight

General John J. Pershing commands
American Expeditionary Force-
(1918)

**Pershing wanted to keep U.S. troops,
“doughboys” independent.**

The Battle of Argonne Forest was a
turning point for the allied forces.

**November 11, 1918, Germany surrenders
in Compiegne France, ending the
war.**

Wilson Wants “Peace Without Victory”

Lenin believed the war was nothing but an imperialistic land-grab

Wilson believed the war was about peace & freedom. “Peace without Victory.”

Wilson outlines America’s war aims in his Fourteen Points about keeping world peace

Self-Determination- The right of people to choose their own form of government

League of Nations- Collection of nations to secure mutual guarantees of political independence for the world

Paris Conference

Europe insisted that Germany started the war & demanded they pay reparations- payment for war damages

Europe was not a fan of Wilson's ideas but agreed to his League of Nations idea

Problem! The Peace treaty set up political boundaries that caused conflict!

Problem! The treaty went against self-determination & mixed groups & lands

Rejection

Spanish Flu- deadly form of influenza that became a pandemic killing 50 million people! Wilson catches it

Treaty of Versailles had to be ratified by congress, but parties were not pleased with it

Irreconcilables- Isolationist senators that opposed the League of Nations

Reservationists- Senators who were opposed to treaty but wanted changes to it.

Wilson refuses to compromise with parties & the treaty fails.