Chapter 29 Summary/Notes

Unit 7 The World at War
The Great War
Chapter 29 Section 1. Marching Toward War
We learned about global transformations. Now we learn about marching toward WWI.

Rising Tensions in Europe
Many people in Europe had joined groups to work for peace. However developments would soon lead Europe into war. One of those developments was nationalism, a deep feeling of attachment to one's own nation. This force helped unify the people of a country. It also created competition between countries. By 1900, six nations were rivals for power in Europe. These nations called the great powers were Germany, Austria-Hungary, great Britain, Russia, Italy, and France. They competed economically and they competed for neighboring land. Imperialism was another force that helped lead to war. France and Germany were each seeking to control parts of Africa. They almost came to war twice in the early 1900s. Mistrust was a huge problem. The third factor leading to war was a growing arms race. Each country in Europe except Great Britain built a large army. This is called militarism.

Tangled Alliances
Growing rivalries led the nations to make military alliances. Prussia’s chancellor Otto Von Bismarck feared that France would want revenge for its defeat in the Franco Prussian War. He set out to isolate France. In 1879, he formed a triple alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy. He also signed a treaty with Russia. Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany did not want to share power with Bismarck. He forced Bismarck to resign and followed his own foreign policy. He let the agreement with Russia end. Russia soon aligned itself with France. This alliance meant that Germany would have to fight enemies on its eastern and western borders if there were a war with either country. Wilhelm II then moved to make the German navy larger. Britain grew alarmed. It began to build more ships. It also entered into the Triple Entente Alliance with France and Russia. The six great powers had now formed two camps. Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy against Britain, France and Russia.

Crisis in the Balkans
Meanwhile trouble was brewing in the Balkans. The Ottoman Empire controlled this area. It was breaking apart. Both Austria-Hungary and Russia wanted some of this land. The kingdom of Serbia was also in this region. It wanted to bring other Slavic people who lived in the Balkans under its control. In 1908, Austria-Hungary seized Bosnia and Herzegovina. These lands had Slavic peoples. This action angered the Serbs. However, their Russian allies were unwilling to support them and they backed down. By 1914, the situation was different. Serbia had gained land in other parts of the region and felt strong. Austria worried that Serbia might interfere with its control of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In June 1914, a Serbian killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia came to Serbia’s defense. Soon most of Europe was at war.
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The Great War
Chapter 29 Section 2. Europe Plunges into War
We learned about marching toward WWI. Now we learn about Europe Plunges into War.

The Great War Begins
The system of alliances turned the war between Austria-Hungary and Serbia into a wider war. Russia moved against Austria-Hungary. It figured that Germany would support Austria-Hungary. So it moved troops against Germany as well. Germany declared war on Russia. Soon after it also declared war on Russia’s ally France. Germany had a plan for winning the war on two fronts. This was the Schlieffen Plan. It called for a rapid push through France, a quick defeat of that nation and a turn to face Russia in the East. To capture France quickly, Germany moved through Belgium. Belgium was a neutral country. Britain was outraged by Germany’s action. It declared war on Germany. France, Britain and Russia were called the Allies. They were later joined by Italy which broke with Germany and Austria-Hungary. Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire joined Germany and Austria-Hungary, called the Central Powers.

A Bloody Stalemate
After the German army moved almost to Paris, French defenses strengthened and stopped them in 9/1914. Both sides became bogged down in the bloody conflict. Soldiers dug deep trenches into the ground. Trench warfare began. When soldiers left the trenches to storm enemy lines, they faced powerful weapons. Machine guns, tanks and poisonous gas, and artillery killed hundreds of thousands of soldiers. This is how the war was fought in France. Which was called The Western Front.

The Battle on the Eastern Front.
The war on the eastern front showed more movement at first but it was equally destructive. Russian armies attacked both Germany and Austria-Hungary. They had some early success in places. One reason was that Russia did not have a fully, industrialized economy. It could not keep troops supplied. Still Russia had a huge population and could send millions to war. The large Russian army was a constant threat to Germany. This threat prevented Germany from putting its full resources against the allies in the West.
Unit 7 The World at War
The Great War: Chapter 29 Section 3. A Global Conflict
We learned about Europe Plunges into War. Now we learn about a Global Conflict.

War Affects the World
The allies hoped to take a part of the Ottoman Empire called the Dardanelles. The attack failed with a great loss of life. A more successful operation was headed by a British officer named T.E. Lawerence. He helped lead an Arab revolt against Ottoman rule. As a result the allies were able to capture several important cities in SW Asia. Japan took German colonies in China and the Pacific Ocean. The allies captured three of the four German colonies in Africa. The British had used their strong navy to stop all supplies from reaching Germany. The Germans responded by increasing their submarine attacks on ships bringing food and supplies to the allies. They used unrestricted submarine warfare. This meant sinking any ship without warning in the waters around Great Britain. When American ships were sunk and American lives lost. Americans grew angry. Then the British intercepted a secret message from Germany to Mexico. This message asked Mexico to ally itself with Germany. Germany offered to help Mexico regain land lost to the U.S. in the 1840s. In April 1917, Congress declared war on Germany.

War Affects the Home Front
By 1917, the war had already killed millions and changed the lives of millions more, people at home as well as soldiers. This Great War as it was called, was a total war. It demanded all the resources of the countries that fought it. Governments took control of factories. They told them what to produce and how much of it to make. Governments also introduced rationing. This limited food and other goods that people could buy and hold. That way armies in the field would have the supplies they needed. Governments used propaganda to get support for the war. They also took steps to stop dissent or opposition to the war. With so many men in the military, women played a growing role in the economies of the countries at war. They worked in factories, offices and shops. They built planes and tanks, grew food and made clothing. These changes had an impact on peoples’ attitudes toward what kind of work, women could do.

The Allies Win the War
In 1917 the US entered the war and Russia left it. Suffering during the war had chipped away at Russian peoples support for the Tsar. In March he stepped down. The new government hoped to continue fighting the war. But the Russian armies refused. Just months later a new revolution broke out. Communists seized Russia’s government. They quickly made a treaty with Germany and gave up huge amounts of land in return for peace. In March 1918, Germany tried one final attack. Once again the German army nearly reached Paris. But the soldiers were tired and supplies were short. The allies now with fresh American troops, drove the Germans back. Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire surrendered. In October a revolution overthrew the emperor of Austria-Hungary. In November Wilhelm II was forced to step down in Germany. The new government signed armistice, an agreement to stop fighting. November 11th 1918, Europe was at peace.

The Legacy of War
WWI had a devastating effect. About 8.5 million died, 21 million wounded & countless civilians suffered. Economies suffered serious damage. Farms and factories were ruined. 338 billion dollars in damage. People felt that suffering was purposeless. There was a sense of hopelessness in art and literature.
The Allies Meet and Debate
Many nations sent delegates to the peace talks in Paris. The main leaders were Woodrow Wilson of the U.S., Clemenceau of France, and Lloyd George of Britain. Germany, its allies and Russia were not present. Wilson pushed for his peace plan called the fourteen points. He wanted to end secret treaties and alliances and give people self-determination – the right to form their own nation. He also hoped to set-up a world organization that would police the actions of nations and prevent future wars. Britain and especially France had different views. They had suffered greatly in the war. They wanted to punish Germany. The leaders finally agreed on a peace settlement. It was called the Treaty of Versailles and was signed in June 1919. The treaty called for a League of Nations, the world organization that Wilson wanted. It would include 32 nations. The US, Britain, France, Japan and Italy would make up the leadership. Germany and Russia were left out of the League. The Treaty took away German land in Europe and took away its colonies in Africa and the Pacific. Limits were placed on the size of Germany’s armed forces. Finally, Germany was given complete blame for the war. That meant it would have to make payment to the allies for the damage caused.

A Troubled Treaty
Germany’s former colonies were given to the allies to govern until they decided which were ready for independence. Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were all declared independent. Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania once part of Russia were made independent nations as well. The treaty also broke up the Ottoman Empire. The Ottomans only kept control of Turkey. The Treaty did not make a lasting Peace. The US senate never approved the treaty of joined the League of Nations. Germans bitterly resented the treaty because it placed all the blame for the war on them. Colonial peoples in Africa and Asia were angry because the treaty did not make them independent. Japan and Italy were also upset by getting few territorial gains.