

Module 1

Susan Grayzel - The First World War - Brief History in Documents

The Treaty of Vienna (The Dual Alliance) 1879

1. Alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary
2. Triple Entente included France, Russia and GB
3. Created to protect themselves, not to antagonize other states

The Hague Conventions

1. Sought to mitigate dangers of a pan-european conflict
2. Created procedures for human treatment of prisoners of war and restrictions on entering the enemy

Bertha Von Suttener

1. Anti War literature
2. Conducted campaigns for peace and disarmament

FT Marinetti

1. Most Europeans had not experienced directly war
2. Hailed war as a way to awaken the sleeping manhood of Europe
3. Brutal costs of war were very abstract
4. Futurism brought a cultural climate that embraced speed, danger and violence

Charles Mangin

1. New imperialism fostered the expansion of European colonial empires
2. He published treatises on the use of colonial troops

Micheal Howard

1. Bloch understood military logistics and had analytical skills
 - a. Wrote *Is War Now Impossible*
 - b. Said war between great states was suicidal
 - c. Armies would have to dig trenches
 - d. Battles would last for days
2. Experiences of the Franco-Prussian wars and Russo-Turkish war demonstrated the power of modern firearms on the battlefield

Bloch's War of the Future: Society vs Society

1. Large strain on the resources of the combatants
2. Dislocation of food production and industry hitting the home economy
3. He got a lot wrong in his theories, in particular, the medical field was able to rise to the task, and society was more adaptable, but he was still right on a lot of things
4. Scale of military losses depended on the skills of commanders

Lessons of the Boer War

1. First war where both sides had the new technology
2. Once the British had mastered the new techniques they were able to go on the offensive and win the war
3. The cavalry did not want guns, thought that degraded them to mounted infantry
4. Difficulty in frontal attacks and need for longer fights in formation
5. There is terrifying isolation of a soldier when they are not in their formation
6. They could use advance by small groups covering each other under fire
7. There was the question of morale if the soldiers were mostly reservists

Russo-Japanese War and Superiority of the Offensive

1. Took the Japanese a year to establish themselves
2. They used trenches
3. This was the first modern war between two great European powers as Japan was trained and equipped by Germans
4. Shrapnel was the most effective projectile
5. European forces re clothed in brown or grey
6. Japanese assault losses were heavy but they succeeded
7. Characterized them by moral and discipline
8. There was superiority to the Japanese offensive
9. Bloch's critics found after that war was an effective instrument for policy

Mark Trachtenberg

1. Idea that the statesmen lost control over the war
2. Theory of an inadvertent war
3. The interlocking mobilization and war plans created a need for rapid offensive action
4. This created a spasm of pre-emptive mobilization schedules
5. The idea of this is something that Trachtenberg will argue against
6. Some argue that once mobilization was set off the time for negotiation was cut short
7. However, mobilization was not a cause of war, it was the opening phase of war
8. Argued that the political leadership failed to understand how mobilization would lead to mobilization across Europe
9. Claim that the military was dominated policy and took effective control

The Meaning of Mobilization

1. July crisis began on June 28th 1914 with assassination of FF
2. Serbia was the base of the nationalist movement
3. Austria was determined to use force against Serbia
4. Russian gov saw themselves as the protector of Serbia and partially mobilized against Austria
5. Russian leaders thought that mobilization would be a deterrent to war
6. Russians also believed in the inevitability of war
7. If they could argue that mobilization did not mean war and Germany to tolerate mobilization then the position of the Entente would improve dramatically

Russian Partial Mobilization

1. July 28th Austria found the Serbian response to the Ultimatum unsatisfactory although most demands had been accepted
2. They declared war on Serbia
3. Russian gov then ordered a partial mobilization against Austria
4. Mobilization was taken for political and not military reasons
5. Germany's alliance agreements with Austria were more ambiguous
6. Wanted mobilization to provide for as long as possible before hostilities to be able to avoid blame for the war
7. Softening of German policy on July 29-30th
 - a. Risk to supporting Austria was increasing
 - b. Concerns that Britain would intervene

The Final Hours

1. They now wanted to hold off a European war
2. The political negotiation process was overwhelmed
3. Germany needed to take swift offensive action to use its military plan
4. Government wanted to leave the initiative in the hands of others
5. On the 30th they stopped being hesitant about mobilization and urged Austria to mobilize against Russia
 - a. This message was received after the Austrians had decided on mobilization so it had no effect
6. There was a proposal for Britain to remain neutral if France was not attacked but the attack of France was needed for Schlieffen plan
7. Germany would need to be the first to cross borders
8. Once Russian had started to mobilize they had to carry through and fight Germany and Austria
9. Germans wanted Russia to declare mobilization first

Chapter 1

1. The train of events leading up to WW1 could have been broken at any time
2. WW2 was a direct outcome of WW1
3. Many people died and it affected every town
4. Nearly 2 million died
5. Many were on foreign soil
6. Agony of a lost war divided Germany
7. Casualties were suffered by the youngest year groups
8. Many women were war widows or not yet married
9. Many were injured
10. Germany lost the largest number of dead
11. Serbia lost the most proportionately
12. There was a lament for the lost generation
13. It was mainly a rural war so the land was able to revert to agriculture easier after the war ended
14. Most communities were not forced to leave their homes
15. It damaged the rational and liberal civilizations of the enlightenment
16. After the war ended totalitarianism was on the rise
17. WW2 had a lot of apprehension before whereas WW1 emerged to populations who knew nothing of it

European Harmony

1. There was a transportation revolution
2. A lot of trade passed through London
3. There was an economic and transportation interdependence of nations
4. Commerce was establishing its own international associates
5. Christianity found commonality across Europe through philanthropy
6. Europe's educated classes had much of their culture in common
7. Travel became a middle class phenomenon
8. Almost all European royalty was related

9. Europe was still a continent of nationalism
10. Tsar Nicholas II warned at an international conference that the arms race was turning armed peace into a burden on all nations

A Europe of Soldiers

1. The problem with the International Court was that its use was voluntary
2. People were unsure of the form that modern war might take
3. Countries were troubled by the demands for wider democracy
4. Britain and France felt the burden of their empire
5. The Germans resented their lack of colonies
6. Britain and Germany tried to outbuild each other navally
7. They still thought that there was a role for cavalry on the battlefield
8. Most European states had conscription and reservists
9. There was the issue of ensuring good communication so that fire power could be effectively used

Chapter 2

1. Before this war plans had been made as issues occurred
2. The building of the railway meant that movement would have to be planned and timetabled
3. Diplomacy was taught in embassies and remained in the international class - believed that their role was to avoid war
4. Initial war plans had inflexible calculations
5. All European armies had long-laid military plans, none of which were integrated with their national security policy, and were instead military secrets
6. Schlieffen Plan (SP) predicted that war would be on 2 fronts, Russia and France
7. They would send 7/8ths of the army into France through Belgium and Luxembourg
8. Thought that expanding the military would corrupt the country
9. Wanted to avoid a wearing out war
10. He created a wheeling movement to have the troops march in
11. Despite several logical flaws with the plan it was pigeonholed for use
12. The French plan had them making an attack at the Franco-German border
13. The French reserve system had failed, and was unlikely to be able to greatly increase the size of the army
14. The conscription law increased the size of the active army
15. British and French signed agreements to protect Belgium's neutrality
16. Russian military officers were secretive and business-like and avoided formal agreements
17. Russians were experienced revolution at home and defeat with Japan
18. Destruction of Serbia was the real goal of the Austrians
19. The British planned not to fight on water, but to team up and fight at the French border
20. The monarch in these countries still had a lot of power, and approved plans that they'd did not necessarily understand

Module 2

Essay - The historical debate over German atrocities.

1. Germany rejects these as they also rejected the war guilt
2. There was the idea of franc-tireurs
3. Variety of things that they were accused of
 - a. Pillaging on a grand scale, deliberate incendiarism, hostage taking among innocent civilians, the use of human shields in combat, deliberate firing on Red Cross and medical facilities, shooting of prisoners, the execution of civilians individually and en masse
4. Joseph Bedier - collected German soldiers diaries and then created a narrative of german brutality from these
5. German academics rejected responsibility for the war and denied atrocities
6. Most of the atrocities supposedly committed happened in Belgium
 - a. Claimed that they were not harmed unnecessarily, only in self-defence
7. German opponents did not dispute the validity of his evidence, just the meaning he attached to it
 - a. Accused him of editorial selectivity
 - b. Accused of poor translation
8. Bedier relied on the Hague convention for his standard of military conduct
9. Germans argued that they were sniped at and attacked
 - a. The people fired on them from hiding and they were acting in self-defence
10. Bedier says that some attacks may have occurred but the German reaction was disproportionate
11. One diarist said the men were filled with bloodlust
12. Germans said the pillaging was done due to need
13. Bedier wanted to frame the war as one of good vs evil
 - a. Cold premeditated nature of German government
 - b. Deliberate and premeditated policy of war by terror
14. Bedier's view of a good war was rooted in French medieval past
15. Some Germans tried to balance it with accounts of French soldiers sacking shops and testimonies to the kindness of the Germans
16. Bedier's portrait of dehumanization did not fit with the cultured view that the Germans had of themselves
17. Germans claimed that the Belgians fought an irregular but coordinated war
18. Possibility that the Germans suffered collective delusion about the war
 - a. Franc tireur was a stereotype that they could focus on
 - b. The lack of news created an information vacuum that was filled with military correspondence
 - c. Caused innocent events to be misread and random acts to seem sinister
 - d. Skilled allies retreat that involved being fired on by stragglers and long marches contributed to the fear
 - e. They shot and burned villages on the belief that they were shooting at them or trying to send messages
19. Killed over 6 thousand civilians
20. Scattered resistance may have occurred, but it was not organized like claimed by the Germans

21. Paranoia and franc-tireur mythology contributed to the civilian deaths
22. Fierce anti-catholicism and fear of priests
 - a. They were feared to be spies or to manipulate their congregation
 - b. Churches and church towers became the mythology place of secret communications and machine guns
23. Line between legitimate soldiers and franc-tireurs became more blurred
24. German troops ignored the non-combatant status of civilians
25. Citizens in alsace-lorraine were particularly untrustworthy as they were mixed french and german
 - a. Everyone was regarded as a potential spy

2. War and Social Change. According to Ian Beckett, although World War I caused extensive social change in most belligerent states, these changes were short-term and had little long-term impact. This question will require you to comment on historical events from this period that either support or refute Beckett's argument.

3. British Conscription. Was Britain's abandonment of voluntary recruiting and adoption of conscription in 1916 justified by the circumstances? What impact did it have on British society? Did the Dominions follow Britain's lead?

1. Total War. As a "total war" involves the mobilization of entire societies for the war effort, a nation's success or failure in the First World War could hinge on its ability to successfully mobilize its industrial, agricultural, economic, and human resources for war. This question will require you to compare the success of one or more nations in mobilizing these resources for the conflict.

1. Term total war demonstrates that there is a link between the war front and social change
2. Enhanced disruption of the war front
3. Tests the political and social structures of the country
4. It is still not able to subordinate all civilian needs to the military
5. The more modern the state the more there is an ability to have a more limited war
6. Inflation occurred in all states with prices nearly doubling
- 7.

Germany

1. There was a suspension of parliament
2. Suspension of civil liberties clause in constitution
3. Faced deficiencies of raw materials due to the blockade
4. Public and private sectors were indifferent to economic planning for the war

5. Central purchasing commission was established to distribute raw materials and find raw materials in neutral countries
6. Federal structure was a weakness as the constituent states retained a lot of power
7. Lots of agencies were formed
8. Industrialists had a lot of power, and made a modest profit
9. Introduced a new federal tax
10. Sold war bonds
11. Debt increased by a factor of 8
12. Possessed less industrial potential
13. Work became compulsory for childless wives and women and girls in useless occupations
14. Prevented workers from leaving their essential jobs with the threat of conscription
15. Made people register and be classified in a way to control the population
16. Factories were militarized
17. Relied on imported fertilizer and labour to run their farms
18. Agricultural labour force declined by 60%
19. There was a livestock shortage and flourishing black market
20. Difficult to feed the urban population
21. Created a rationing system
22. Food decreased in quality
23. Calories in their diets remained similar, but there was a shortage of fats and protein
24. Just a psychological perception of starving

Britain

1. Defence of the realm act was passed (DORA)
2. Effective electoral truce was enacted
3. Existing parliament as extended in 1915 and 1916
4. The rail system was still run by private companies, but for the government
5. Extensions had to be constantly renewed as they were on need rather than a part of a coherent plan
6. More government ministries and councils developed
7. Ministries separated from larger ministries, creating the ministry of munitions
8. Firms could be forced to take government contracts
9. Treasury lost its centralizing influence
10. Movement of businessmen into government as government was controlling more
11. Business men wanted a more confrontational approach to organized labour
12. Sold war bonds
13. Debt increased by factor of 11

14. Had to release men from the army back to work
15. Searched for women and unskilled to work in the factories
16. Came to agreements with essential unions to prevent them from going on strike and disrupting production
 - a. Widespread unofficial strikes
17. More mechanized and had more horses than continental agriculture
18. Maintained near normal production
19. Imported more tractors
20. There were larger farms rather than many small farms
21. Effort to control consumption through education and increasing allotments
22. They created rationing
23. Acknowledgement that the state should be more involved in the lives of individuals

3. THE TREATY OF BREST-LITOVSK

Under the terms of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Lenin's Bolsheviks accepted the loss of 750,000 sq. km, roughly one quarter of the Russian population, and one third of its arable land. What factors forced the Bolsheviks to accept such punitive terms? Judging from the punitive terms Germany imposed on defeated Russia in the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk, how might the western allies have fared in the event of a Germany victory in 1918?

1. The allies would have lost also leone and much of France, the areas that Germany was militarily occupying.
 2. Germany would have also wanted more sea access, as they were trying to become more of a naval power, and may have wanted to control parts of belgium, in a similar way in which they planned to control poland
 3. The allies may have also lost some of their power in the mediterranean by germany and its allies taking larger swaths of the land around the mediterranean and black sea through expelling britain and france from areas near the ottoman empire
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1. The russians ceded this territory to the Germans after their internal revolution
 2. Russian army was never very cohesive, and like france had started to fall apart, with the numbers of desertions greatly increasing
 3. Had an overwhelming desire for peace whatever the cost
 4. Economy was breaking down due to the uncontrolled boom
 - a. Many people were moving into the cities with no way to feed them
 - b. Higher wages and paper money brought rapid inflation
 - c. Some peasants refused to sell their food and instead became subsistence farmers
 - d. Supplies of food and fuel to the cities had almost entirely broken down
 5. There were a series of strikes, but these were unable to be put down as normal as only the bad army, untrained and wounded were left in the cities
 6. There were more educated people in the army, who often favour socialism
 7. The Tsar abdicated, and his appointee did not take over, leaving them without a head of state
 8. Soviets originally supported continuing to fight the war as they feared that if germany won the counter revolution of soviets would be put down
 9. Soldiers rediscovered and enthusiasm to fight
 10. The offensive continued for a while, but then the soldiers feeling that they had done their bit refused to go further
 11. They had ineffective governance, with the strong extremist leaders out of the country, and the weaker leaders constantly juggling powerKornilov stages and unsuccessful coup, and the provisional government and he lost all authority
 12. There was a three month armistice declared

13. They feared that if they did not make a peace deal then Germany and its allies would end the revolution
14. Germany declared that they were going to start to invade, and met no resistance for 150 miles
15. The Soviets started to negotiate at Brest-Litovsk
16. The Russian army had disintegrated, going home and back to their farms
17. Russian soldiers were not bound to their national cause, and were willing to follow anyone with leadership skills who would feed them

3. RUSSIAN COLLAPSE: In analyzing the revolution of 1917 in Russia, Ian Beckett has summarized, "The problems created by the attempt to wage war proved far too great for the Russian government to survive." However, both Beckett and Keegan also devote much attention to the breakdown of government. Discuss whether the Bolshevik victory of October 1917 should be attributed more to military or political failure.

I believe that the breakdown of the Russian war effort should be primarily blamed on political failures. World War One ended for the Russians in political chaos, with the end of this war turning into the start of the Russian Civil War. The Russian war effort was not forced to end because of massive losses on the battlefield, in fact, one of their last offensives, the Kerensky Offensive had great territorial gains. Nor did their efforts end with a failure of industry as industry continued to boom. Rather, the Russian war effort ended with internal political turmoil. There are three main ways in which politics ended the war effort, the lack of food, their inability to address unrest, and lack of political leadership.

The first way in which internal politics ended the war effort was in a lack of food. Difficulties in harvesting, transporting, and buying food, many Russian rural peasants turned their farms into subsistence agriculture. This affected people in the cities, as they were no longer receiving a stable food supply. In addition, as the industry boomed, urbanization increased. As less food was available, and there were more people to feed, strikes and civil unrest became more prominent. The government failed to provide for their people and thus it was a political failure.

The second way that internal politics ended the war effort was through their inability to address unrest within the Russian interior. Due to a variety of factors, including food shortages, unrest in Russian cities intensified. While unrest in Russia was not uncommon, there were fewer military units to extinguish protests, as they were on the front lines. Instead in cities like Petrograd, the military force consisted of untrained recruits and the wounded. Neither group was willing, or able to put out protests of this size. This is a form of political failure, not military, as the leaders failed to take into account the unrest in society and failed to prepare the resources to deal with this.

The third way that internal politics ended the war effort was through a lack of leadership. After the protests had forced the Tsar out of power, and his nominee had declined to take over, the country lacked a leader. The strong faction of the Bolsheviks also lacked a leader, as their

higher-up members were exiled. The military was taken over by Alexander Kerensky, who was by most accounts fairly effective, but the political side was taken over for short periods by unmotivating leaders who fell out of favour. This is a demonstration of political failure as a country at war without a leader cannot set aims and has difficulty negotiating. Lacking a leader caused chaos, and this chaos ended the war effort.

In conclusion, it was not military failures that led to the Russian war effort ending, but rather political factors. The government failed to feed their people, something that bound Russians to the state. They failed to address the political unrest in the area. Their failure to demonstrate leadership also made it difficult for any aspect of the country to function. If the political leadership had responded to the demands of citizens and demonstrated strong leadership, the military leadership would likely have been able to continue for longer. However, the failure of politics in Russia caused the country's war effort to dissolve and threw the country into chaos.

1. WHO WON THE WAR? Upon its arrival in Europe the American Expeditionary Force was inexperienced and poorly trained. Yet the Americans' arrival on the Western Front contributed significantly to the collapse of German morale in 1918. For that reason, is it not accurate to argue that the United States won the First World War?

Background: Perceptions of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) and its impact on the First World War depend very much on the perspective taken. While the AEF was inexperienced, poorly trained and had leadership deficiencies at several levels, its arrival on the Western Front was nevertheless a major reason for the German defeat. Weapons training had been woefully inadequate for many American soldiers, some of whom had not even fired live rounds before deploying to France. Inexperienced leadership was also a significant problem, as many officers and NCOs were new to the military and were forced to learn their craft in combat. Poor leaders, enthusiasm, and inadequate training all too often added up to recklessness and heavy casualties. And yet the arrival of large numbers of American forces in Europe rapidly eroded German numerical superiority, and did so much faster than anyone had believed possible.

1. The Germans were forced to retreat with the numbers of Americans coming over
2. The Americans had many more people that they could recruit as they hadn't been involved in the war and suffered casualties etc
3. Germans had conscripted everyone of age who was eligible and had to wait until the fall to get another year of conscripts to age up
4. Americans were not well equipped, but were numerous and enthusiastic
5. They were supplied with weapons by the French, who had fairly developed weapons
6. Wilson's 14 points were fairly popular peace terms as they sought not to punish countries unnecessarily, and Germany's allies began to negotiate separate pieces on American terms
 - a. This left Germany as a lone combatant in the central powers

7. The americans were fresh troops and well fed, and thus had more strength even though their ranks were not well led or trained
8. Americans brought nearly 3 million men
9. Americans had not lost any battles, and their first battle, at Verdun, they had won massively, so their morale was good

2. THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCES. The Treaty of Versailles is often described as a flawed settlement that could never have served as the basis for a lasting peace in Europe. This question will require students to explain how and why the Paris Peace Conferences wavered between the goals of reconciling wartime enemies or punishing the defeated.

Background: As the victorious Allied powers met at Paris to discuss the terms to be imposed on the defeated Central Powers, statesmen faced one overriding question: Should the treaties seek to reconcile wartime enemies or punish the defeated? This module's readings consider both the complex negotiations at Versailles as well as the terms of the treaties imposed on the defeated Central Powers. The resulting Versailles Treaty was beset by paradoxes, expressing a desire for European reconciliation while imposing economic and military constraints on Germany. It demanded reparations for war guilt even as statesmen expressed hopes for the peaceful reintegration of defeated powers into the European state system. Meanwhile, elsewhere in Central and Eastern Europe, new republics were being carved out of the wreckage of three fallen empires, leaving a host of unresolved issues that would soon return to haunt the Europeans by laying the basis for a Second World War that began in 1939.

3. THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN MODERN MEMORY. This question will require students to employ examples from Beckett's concluding chapter that discusses the significance of the Great War in modern memory to explain how the memory of the First World War seems to have drifted between notions of heroic sacrifice to a futile waste and a tragic watershed in European civilization.

Background: The First World War in Modern Memory This concluding chapter of the textbook discusses the legacies and significance of the Great War in modern memory. Beckett discusses the ways in which grieving contemporaries grappled with the challenge of remembering and commemorating an event of such tragic magnitude. Vigorous and often painful debates surrounded the construction of memorials to the fallen and the establishment of war cemeteries. From the monuments of Verdun and the Menin Gate, to the rituals of Armistice Day And the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Beckett analyzes the commemoration of the First World War as a human disaster. Beckett also comments on the emerging popular memory of the Great War in literature, art, and film. Postwar literature established new forms of ironical writing, art and films reinforced anti war sentiments in popular culture, and the public memory of the war drifted between notions of sacrifice, futility, and the loss of a generation in mud-choked trenches. Both this concluding chapter and the article by Bernd Hüppauf examine the ways the First World War has been remembered as a tragic watershed in world civilization.

2. WHO WON THE WAR? “The spectre of America’s gathering millions lent greater urgency to Germany’s desire to end the war quickly in 1918.” Explain the extent to which the impending arrival of American troops drove Ludendorff’s battle plans for the Spring Offensives, the subsequent German overtures for a cease-fire, and the eventual outcomes of the peace process.

The arrival of American troops in World War One signaled the beginning of the end. The Americans were not the only cause of the end of the war, but their additional strength and the fear of their arrival encouraged other countries involved to begin negotiations for peace, and allowed the Entente to have a final push for victory. There are three main ways in which the arrival of American troops ended the war.

The first way that American arrival ended the first world war was through the reaction of Ludendorff and his final push for battle. Ludendorff knew that once the Americans had arrived the German forces would be far outnumbered, and would have superior strength. So, before they arrived he undertook a plan called the Spring Offensive. This was a major offensive on the western front aimed to hurt the British and make large territorial gains. This offensive was very successful in the first few days, and covered a lot of ground. However, as Ludendorff expected, once the Americans arrived their increased numbers, morale and physical strength as they had good food supply meant that the Germans were pushed back. The impending arrival of the Americans greatly influenced Ludendorff in advocating for a final offensive as they saw this as their last chance for victory.

The second way that the American arrival ended the first world war was through the German overtures for peace. It was released in Germany that a fight against both the original Entente and Americans was unwinnable, and they began to approach the Americans for peace talks. They approached them on the basis of President Woodrow Wilson’s fourteen points, as these were seen as widely fair and acceptable. These points included forcing Germany to become a republic, which it then did by the end of the war. The arrival of the Americans dictated the terms of which peace began to be negotiated by. While the Treaty of Versailles was far more punitive than the fourteen points were, these points and American influence convinced the Germans to start negotiating.

The third way that the American arrival ended the first world war was through how the Americans influenced the peace processes. The Americans were greatly involved in negotiating the Treaty of Versailles once the war had ended, but were also influential in negotiating five other peace agreements with other Central Power nations. Many of Germany’s allies also liked Wilson’s fourteen points and attempted to negotiate peace deals based on these agreements. The fourteen points were not overly punitive, offered a chance at leniency, and were based on the policy of self-determination necessary for the survival of these smaller and newly formed nations. The negotiation of these agreements meant that Germany’s allies were no longer at war, and Germany was the sole country remaining in the Central Powers alliance. This made it more vulnerable and further motivated for peace.

In conclusion, while the arrival of America did not single handedly end the war, it did push for a close. It scared the Germans and German commanders, and their attempt at victory before american aerial tired out troops that could have remained on the defensive longer. It created a system where the Germans could ask for peace, without complete humiliation, although this humiliation happened in the end. Finally, american arrival in influence meant that Germany lost the safety of its allies, and was alone on the battlefield. All of these aspects pushed the war into its closing phases, and encouraged the treaty of Versailles to be created, and signed.