

RESULTS OF WWI

TERRITORIAL CHANGES

Russian Empire (lost Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine who became independent)

Austria-Hungary (losses of territory that became Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia + Transylvania, Istria, Galicia, Trieste, South Tirol, Trentino, some Dalmatian islands, Dalmatian coast, Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Ottoman Empire (lost Sudan, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Armenia + some areas in Asia Minor – the last area would be retaken by Turkey in 1922-23)

Germany (lost Alsace-Lorraine, Eupen-Malmedy, Memel, part of Silecia, parts of East Prussia, Poznan, city of Danzig and all its colonies)

Bulgaria (lost Western Thrace, Dobrudja and four areas in Macedonia)

France, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Romania and Denmark gained territories

Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were founded – new states

POLITICAL IMPACT

COMMUNISM rule was established in Russia 1917-18. In Germany and Hungary communists also tried to take over power through revolutions – these attempts failed. The success in Russia and the failed attempts would lead to a “red scare” after WWI. For several years the new Russian Communist State was diplomatically isolated.

ITALY: Italy felt deceived at the Peace Conferences after WWI. The country did not receive all the areas it had been promised in 1915 which was the main reason for joining the war. The Italian soldiers had been promised land and jobs when they returned home – this promise was not kept either. Many returned to poverty, poor living conditions and unemployment. There was a huge difference between rich industrialists and poor workers and wealthy landowners and poor peasants. The post-war depression together with all these problems brought Italy to the edge of a civil war.

POLITICAL UNSTABILITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: Central and Eastern Europe was divided into several different nations. The new Austrian state became a political unstable republic. Hungary was formally a constitutional monarchy, but the regent was more or less a conservative dictator. Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia were constitutional monarchies where the kings would enhance their own power the coming years. Poland established a conservative military dictatorship in the middle of the 1920's to counter socialists. The only stable, multi-party republic was Czechoslovakia.

GERMANY: The start of WWI had a certain impact on Germany's biggest political party – SPD (German Socialists). The war split this party into three: SPD, Independent Socialists and International Socialists (“*Spartacists*” → KPD – German Communist Party). Germany had become a Republic by the end of the war (a few days before the war ended Wilhelm II abdicated and fled to Holland where he would live for the rest of his life). This was on paper one of the most democratic nations in Europe, but the young nation had no democratic traditions. After the war the Spartacists would try to launch a revolution in Berlin. SPD would join the government and fight the revolutionaries. This would split the leftists for many years. Germany faced riots, revolution attempts and a collapsed economy after WWI!

ARMENIANS - GENOCIDE: WWI witnessed the century's first genocide. In the Ottoman propaganda Armenians had been presented as saboteurs and pro-Russian traitors. The Armenians therefore faced a massive deportation from Eastern Anatolia to the Syrian desert which caused around a million deaths. In the Balkans several attacks on different ethnic groups had also led to thousands of deaths in attempts of ethnic cleansings...

USA: The problems the country faced was a pandemic (Spanish Flu), fear of Communism, racial tension and “*Isolationism*”. The new President and the new government did not want to get involved (“*entangled*”) in European business where they would end up paying the bill – economically and with their vast resources.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COST OF WWI: The countries involved in WWI had spent enormous sums of money at the war (British Empire spent an estimated \$23 billion; Germany spent \$19.9 billion, US spent \$19.9 billion and France spent \$9.3 billion). Russia, Italy and France borrowed heavily from the British and the Americans. The British borrowed massive amounts from the USA. All combatants also borrowed from their own people through “war bonds” / “war loans” which should be paid back with some interest after the war was over. Germany raised almost entirely their money for the war through loans and government saving bonds. When Germany was defeated the country was also bankrupt and thousands of Germans lost their savings. The victorious nations now had to plan how to pay back their loans to Britain and the USA.

POST-WAR DEPRESSION: The involved country went off the gold standard and printed more money to make up for the deficits. This created a disastrous inflation. Together with huge demands and unemployment most countries went into a deep post-war depression (except the USA). When they met in Paris to draw up the Peace Treaties there would be chance to compensate for some of these economic problems with demanding high reparation from the countries that lost the war (especially from Germany).

GERMANY: Germany had also lost a lot of resources and also faced an economic depression. When the demands of a big reparation came Germany protested and claimed that it would bankrupt the country. The German politicians printed more money and in 1922-23 Germany face a hyper-inflation.

LAND DESTRUCTION: Several areas (like north-east France) could not be used for many years due to the destruction of farmland as well as industries.

USA: The US economy was even stronger after WWI.

SOCIAL IMPACT

LANDED ARISTOCRACY: Before WWI the landed aristocracy still had a strong social position. WWI changed this. The old traditional social structure was gone. Several countries carried through land reforms (Austria-Hungary, Yugoslavia, Russia...) and in Prussia the old Junkers lost their political influence.

WELFARE STATES: Both Great Britain and France standards of health and welfare rose during the war. In Britain the Housing Act (1918) subsidized the building of houses and the Unemployment Insurance Acts (1920 and 1921) increased benefits for unemployed workers and their families. Trade Unions also considerably strengthen their role...

WAR CASUALTIES: Around 10 million men were killed during WWI. 8.5-9 million soldiers and 750 000 – 1 million civilians. The fact that the losses of life now also included a high number of civilians was something that pointed to a change in future wars.

SPANISH FLU: The human cost of the war was huge – the human cost in the Spanish Flu (Pandemic) was even bigger. Around 20 million people died in this pandemic between 1917-1919

WOMEN AND WWI: Women in many nations had been crucial for the war effort. During the war millions of women took up occupations which traditionally was monopolized by men. Middle-class women entered the workforce in greater number than ever before. With an independent income they received a certain social independence. The demobilization of millions of men pushed them out of the workforce and they thereby also lost the new social position. They could either accept the situation or go back to traditional women's jobs or they could start to work for a change. In some countries we see a certain shift away from domestic service jobs for women to white-collar employment (part of this is due to an expansion within this sector – like many office jobs). Some women challenged the conventional role by living alone, cut their hair short, and took up smoking and wear new fashions. A nickname for these women were flappers.

ENFRANCHISEMENT: In 1917 Russian women got the rights to vote. In 1918 Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Canada and Great Britain followed. 1919 – Germany and in 1920 the USA.

CHANGES IN THE ROLE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

GREAT BRITAIN: Did the war change anything else for women...

NO:

- *When the post-war depression set in and factories closed women lost their jobs (especially in the munition factories)*
- *Even if the industries continues the women had to leave because the men who had served in the war came back*
- *The unemployment became high and this hit women much more than men*
- *Women were expected to go back to more typical women jobs with lower pay*
- *Two years after the war it was fewer women in the work force than there had been before the war*
- *Men were now aware of the possibility of women doing men's job so they became even more protective of their jobs, a harder attitude towards women...*

YES (the war did not change the actual work situation for women but their attitude changed):

- *Younger women said they gained confidence*
- *Some working-class women felt they could stand up for themselves*
- *Less women accepted going back to jobs like domestic servants*
- *Some middle-class women changed their behavior and their way of dressing - short dresses, short hair, smoked cigarette, drank cocktails (they became known as "flappers")*
- *In 1919 some professions opened up for women - educated women could become lawyers and architects + women were now allowed to serve in a jury*
- *In 1921 contraceptive advice was legally available to women*