Chapter 33: The Great War: The World in Upheaval

Chapter Outline

I. The drift toward war
   A. Nationalist aspirations
      1. Nationalism spread by the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars
      2. Slavic nationalism: stressed kinship of all Slavic peoples
   B. National rivalries
      1. The naval race between Germany and Britain increased tensions
      2. Colonial disputes of the late nineteenth century
      3. Public opinion supported national rivalries
   C. Understandings and alliances
      1. Rival systems of alliance obligated allies to come to one another's defense
      2. The Central Powers
      3. The Allies
      4. War plans: each power poised and prepared for war

II. Global war
   A. The guns of August: triggered a chain reaction
      1. June 1914, Austrian Archduke assassinated by Serbian nationalist
      2. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, July 28
      3. Russia mobilized troops to defend its Serbian ally against the Central Powers
      4. Germany: July 31, sent ultimatums to Russia and France, which were ignored
      5. Germany declared war on Russia and France, invaded Belgium to reach France
      6. August 4: to protect Belgium's neutrality, Britain declared war on Germany
   B. Mutual butchery
      1. War was greeted with enthusiasm on all sides; was expected to be brief
      2. The western front
      3. Stalemate and new weapons
      4. No-man's-land littered with dead, the grim reality of trench warfare
      5. On the eastern front, battle lines more fluid
      6. Bloodletting: long, costly battles
      7. New rules of engagement
   C. Total war: the home front
      1. On the home front: the economy mobilized to the war effort
      2. Women served the war by entering the workforce
      3. Propaganda campaigns to maintain national support for the war
   D. Conflict in east Asia and the Pacific
      1. Expansion of the war beyond Europe
      2. Japan entered war with the Allies, 1814
      3. The Twenty-One Demands
   E. Battles in Africa and southwest Asia
      1. The war in sub-Saharan Africa
      2. Battle of Gallipoli, 1915, in Ottoman Turkey
      3. The Ottoman empire lost ground after Gallipoli

III. The end of the war
    A. Revolution in Russia
1. February Revolution of 1917: uprising against shortages, mounting deaths in the war
2. Struggle for power between provisional government and Petrograd soviet
3. V. I. Lenin (1870-1924) stepped into unstable situation
4. The October Revolution
5. Russia withdrew from war, made a separate peace with Germany, lost one-third of Ukraine

B. U.S. intervention and collapse of the Central Powers
1. 1914-1916, United States under President Woodrow Wilson officially neutral
2. The submarine warfare helped sway American public opinion
3. United States declared war on Germany, 6 April 1917
4. Collapsing fronts after years of bloodletting

C. The Paris Peace Conference, 1919
1. In the end, the Great War killed fifteen million people, wounded twenty million
2. The Paris settlement was dominated by heads of Britain, France, and United States
3. Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points: proposal for a just and lasting peace
4. The Peace Treaties, 1919
5. Ataturk: Mustafa Kemal, father of modern Turkey
6. The League of Nations created to maintain world peace
7. Self-determination for ethnic nationalities: urged by Wilson at Paris Conference
8. The mandate system

D. Challenges to European preeminence
1. Great War weakened Europe, set the stage for decolonization after World War II
2. Revolutionary ideas