**End of WWI**

End of War in Sight

1) US enters the war (April 1917):

* Due to Germany sinking neutral ships 1917
* US wanted to protect its trading partners
* End of War in Sight

2) Russian Revolution begins

* Rebellions & revolts break out within Russian military (war is a failure) and society (widespread hunger)
* Czar Nicholas is forced to abdicate
* 1917 a provisional government is formed (temporary)
* 1917 October, Bolsheviks take over Vladmir Ilyich Lenin
  + Promise of “Peace, Land and Bread”
  + Communist party
* March 1918, Russia signs the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany
  + Russia would give lands in Eastern Europe to Germany in exchange for allowing Russia to exit from the war
* Germany now only had the western front to deal with
* End of War in Sight

Germany:

* Focuses offensive in the west and counter-attacks at Ypres, Somme, Passchendaele, Vimy Ridge
* Causes German forces to be exhausted
  + No reserves, no fresh troops, little food and supplies

3) Last Hundred Days, summer 1918 – Allied victories (Canadians to take part in Amiens, Arras, Mons,)

* Central Powers (Germany/Austria) collapse
  + Kaiser Wilhelm (Germany) abdicates and flees to Holland on 29 September 1918
* Armistice to take effect Nov 11, 11:00am, 1918
  + Armistice agreed upon via telegrams by 5:00am

History Fun Fact: A Canadian Soldier (Private George Price) was the last recorded soldier to die on the western front minutes before the armistice

* + Killed by a sniper

Paris Peace Conference & The Treaty of Versailles

* Canada’s Role at the PPC
* Entente and the new German leadership (Weimar Republic) met in Paris to discuss the terms of a peace agreement
* Borden fought for Canada to have its own seat at the conference – representing themselves, not Britain
* Canada as a separate signatory of the Treaty of Versailles
* Borden fights to have Canada as a member of the League of Nations
  + Principle of the League of Nations was collective security
* Robert Borden, Sir George Foster, C.J. Doherty, A.L. Sifton sat at the conference alternately
* All politicians

Treaty of Versailles

* Understanding the debate
* League of Nations
  + Precursor to the “UN” – to ensure collective security
* Reparations
  + Payback (money)
* Alsace-Lorraine
  + Taken from France by Germany in 1870
* Self-determination
  + A culture/nation should rule itself
* Rhineland
  + Area along the Rhine that borders between France and Germany
* Interesting WWI stats:
* 1 in 7 men died on the front lines (9 million)
* 1 in 3 men were disabled (22 million)
* $400 billion spend on the war from all sides (about $4 trillion today)

Entente- Losses:

* Military Casualties:
  + 5.7 million
* Civilian Casualties:
  + 3.67 million
* Military Wounded:
  + 12.8 million
* Interesting WWI stats:

Central Powers (Triple Alliance) - Losses:

* Military Casualties:
  + 4.02 million
* Civilian Casualties:
  + 5.2 million
* Military Wounded:
  + 8.42 million

Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

1. Germany was to no longer have colonies
   * Former German colonies would be handed over to the League of Nations who would appoint member countries to administer them temporarily (Mandate System)
   * Mandatories were supposed to help the colony rebuild so that they could be self-sufficient

2. Saar Coal field given to France for 15 years

* + Coal was the main fuel used at the time and this would cripple Germany economically

3. Rhineland to be demilitarized

* + Still belongs to Germany but they can’t have military in this area
  + Britain and France could station troops here
  + Acts as a buffer zone for France

4. Alsace and Lorraine returned to France

* + Was taken by Germany in the Franco-Prussian war, 1870

5. Anschluss is forbidden

* + Anschluss is the historical joining of Austria and Germany

6. German Military limitations

* + Air force is banned
  + Limited to 100,000 soldiers (for defence)
  + Navy is confiscated and either given to Allies or destroyed

7. Reparation payments to be made to the victors of the war

* + A commission was set up to figure out an amount that Germany would pay the Allies
  + Settled at $33billion in 1921 (lowest estimate = $330billion today)

8. War Guilt Clause

* + Germany was to accept full blame for causing the war
  + Seen as an insult to the Germans
  + Used to justify reparations
* Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was cancelled
  + So Russia gave up these lands for nothing
  + A large portion of this land becomes Poland

9. League of Nations

* + To keep peace through collective security
  + Members could place sanctions on belligerent countries
  + America doesn’t join
  + No military forces

Aftermath of the War

* People continued to suffer
  + Widespread hunger
  + Crops and transportation systems ruined by war
* Spanish Flu spread across Europe and then to North America via returning soldiers
  + Killed millions