World War I and the Russian Revolution

Section 4: Making the Peace

The Costs of War

- Influenza had spread among the troops at the end of the war and went home with them to their families and neighbors.
- The loss of lives from the flu and the war and the costs of rebuilding war-ravaged cities made some countries and colonies vulnerable to revolt.

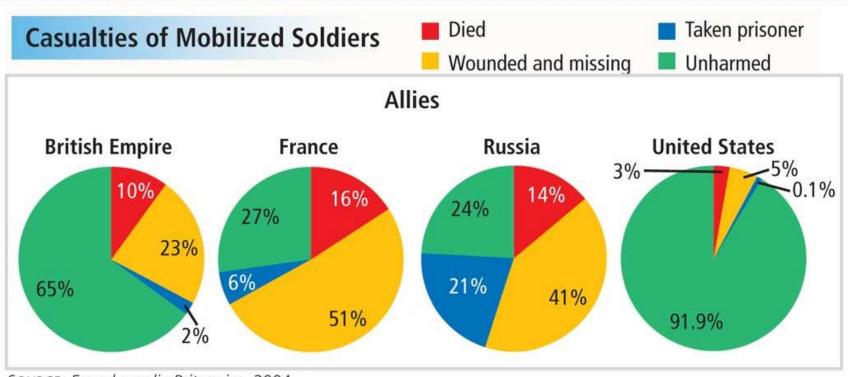
Central Powers' Casualties

Casualties of Mobilized Soldiers



SOURCE: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2004

Allied Casualties



SOURCE: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2004

Financial Costs of the War



SOURCE: The Harper Encyclopedia of Military History, R. Ernest Dupuy and Trevor N. Dupuy * Includes war expenditures, property losses, and shipping losses

The Paris Peace Conference

- The Allies met in Paris to decide what the outcome of the war would be for Europe.
- President Wilson wanted to advance his Fourteen Points, which would bring "peace without victory."
- The British Prime Minister wanted to rebuild England on a grand scale, while France's leader wanted to see Germany punished.

The Treaty of Versailles

- Germany was forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles, which narrowed German borders and as well as saddling the country with the costs of war reparations.
- For a country whose economy was already reeling, the debt would prove too costly.

The Outcome of the Peace Settlements

- Other treaties also went into effect. In Eastern Europe, the Allies created new nations, such as Poland and Yugoslavia.
- Previously German-ruled colonies in Africa and Asia were administered by other Western powers.
- The League of Nations was also established, although without U.S. participation.