The Allied Victory in World War I
Germany was faced with a two front war in 1914, with Russia to the east and France to the west.
German army general Schlieffen organized a battle plan designed to take on both France and Russia. The idea was to quickly defeat France first, and then defeat the Russians.
German generals predicted Russia would be slow to mobilize due to a lack of industrialization and a shortage of railroads.
In order for the Schlieffen Plan to work, German armies had to march through neutral Belgium, which was protected by Great Britain.
Once Germany invaded Belgium, Great Britain declared war. Just as planned, Germany swept through Belgium. However, Russia mobilized much quicker than expected.
To fight the Russians, Germany had to divert some of its forces to the east, which weakened their forces on the western front.
When British forces arrived in France the German drive to Paris stalled, and both sides dug in for winter.
The remaining four years of war would be a **stalemate** on the western front, fought in the **trenches**.
Costly Battles

At the start of the war the Russians speedily drove into Germany from the east, but suffered a crippling defeat at Tannenberg.
Costly Battles

Russian soldiers were often sent into battle without rifles or gas masks, and over a million Russians were killed.
The Germans tried to overwhelm the French at Verdun, but failed.
At the Somme River the British lost 60,000 soldiers in one day.
Costly Battles

By the time the month-long battle was over a million soldiers had died, with the Allies only gaining around 10 miles.
The Tide Turns

Due to horrible military defeats, hunger and chaos within Russia, a communist revolution occurred against the Czar in 1917.
Communist leader Vladimir Lenin pulled Russia out of the war, which greatly upset the other Allies.
Soon later in 1917, the neutral United States declared war on Germany for several reasons:

- **Lusitania** – The Germans sunk the large ocean liner, and did not halt unrestricted submarine warfare.
The Tide Turns

• Cultural Ties – the US had more similarities with the Allies than with the Central Powers (language, traditions, and democracy).
The Tide Turns

- **Zimmermann Note** – the British intercepted a message from Arthur Zimmermann, the German foreign minister, to his ambassador in **Mexico**.

Zimmermann asked for Mexican **support**, and promised that in return Germany would help Mexico conquer New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona.
Germany Defeated

In 1918 the Allies slowly pushed the Germans back, who were exhausted of men and materials.
The German people, hungry and without work, revolted against the Kaiser, who fled into exile.
The new German government was democratic, and sought an armistice, or agreement to stop fighting. World War I was over.