The War Comes to an End

Canada in the Post-War Years

1918-1929
Russia Out-
USA In

- The Russian Revolution of 1917
- One of the major goals of Bolshevik revolution of November 7th, 1917 was to bring an end to the war
- U.S enters the war after German U-Boat attacks on passenger ships and the Zimmermann Telegram
The End of the War

- 'Operation Michael' - a failed last ditch German offensive to end the war before America entered.
- A vast supply of troops (1.6 million “fresh” American troops) and supplies from resources rich America.
- New technology (tanks and planes) provided an advantage for the Allied forces.
- Food shortages and Influenza devastated the German home front.
War is Over! - The Treaty of Versailles

- Exactly five years after the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand - a peace treaty is signed
- Treaty between Germany and the Allied powers - the other members of the Triple Alliance signed separate treaties
- It took six months of negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference to get a deal done
Terms and Conditions

- Different countries had different goals for the peace after the war.
- The “Big Three” – France, Great Britain, and The United States all had differing ideas of how to ensure peace was guaranteed in Europe.
- France wanted to punish, Great Britain wanted to prevent, and the US wanted to pacify.
- Italy wanted territorial concessions for backing the Allies.
You've got to swallow it whether you like it or not!

Big Four pills worth millions in a box.
The most important and controversial provision was Article 231.

Germany had to accept all responsibility for the war and the loss and damage that resulted.

Germany was forced to disarm, make territorial concessions and pay reparations.

31.44 billions dollars in 1918 (equivalent to approx. 400 billion today).

It took over 90 years to pay!
Other Settlements to End the War

- Old empires of Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey were broken up. New countries were created in Eastern Europe.

- The League of Nations was created. Members agreed on the principles of collective security and disarmament.
Territorial Terms

- Germany and Austria were forbidden to unite
- Germany lost all its overseas colonies in Asia and Africa
- Rhineland became a demilitarized zone

The lost territories contained:

- 15% of Germany's agricultural land
- 10% of Germany's industry
- 4 million Germans
Disarmament

- Army limited to 100,000
- No tanks, artillery or conscription
- No airforce, 6 battleships and no U-boats
Germany lost all her colonies.

North Schleswig given to Denmark.

Danzig - a free city run by the League of Nations.

Eupen and Malmedy given to Belgium.

Poland was given a ‘corridor’ to the Baltic Sea, cutting off East Prussia from Germany.

Posen - rich farmland given to Poland.

Saar coalfields given to France for 15 years.

Paris (Versailles) to France (which had lost this land to Germany in 1871).

Weimar - New government met here - so Germany was called the Weimar Republic.

Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria.

Territory lost by Germany to other countries

Territory lost by Germany to the League of Nations

Displaced Germans
Discussion

- If you were a citizen of Germany at the end of the war, how would you react to the settlement?
- What future problems could you see arising from the settlement?
How did the German people react?

They were horrified and protested to persuade the new republican government not to sign it.
What about Canada?

- Canada had little impact on the treaty.

- Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden led a successful and historic fight for separate representation at the peace conference, and separate signatures on the treaty.
Canada’s participation and sacrifice increased Canada’s prestige

Canada would have its own membership in the League of Nations - a great opportunity to advance Canada’s national status
Was it All Worth It?

- Canada’s independent seat at the Paris Peace Conference came at a very high price. Did this seat make the sacrifices of Canadians during the war worthwhile?

- Why do you think the allies insisted placing all the blame for the war on Germany? Given the situation in Europe before the war, was this fair?