# Europe at War

**TERMS & NAMES**
World War I
alliance
Adolf Hitler
fascism
Holocaust
World War II
NATO

## MAIN IDEA

During the first half of the 20th century, European countries fought each other over land, wealth, and ideals.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The changes brought about by the two world wars continue to affect Europe today.

## DATELINE

**SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, JUNE 28, 1914**—Today, Archduke of Austria-Hungary Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Duchess Sophie, were murdered as they drove through Sarajevo. A nineteen-year-old Serb, Gavrilo Princip, jumped on the Archduke's automobile and fired two shots. The first killed the Duchess. The second killed the Archduke, who was next in line to be emperor of Austria-Hungary.

The Serbians have protested against Austria-Hungary since 1908, when the empire took over Bosnia and Herzegovina (BAHZ•nee•uh HEHRT•suh•GOH•VEE•nuh). Princip has been arrested.

**Region** • Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Duchess Sophie, were fatally shot in Sarajevo. ▲
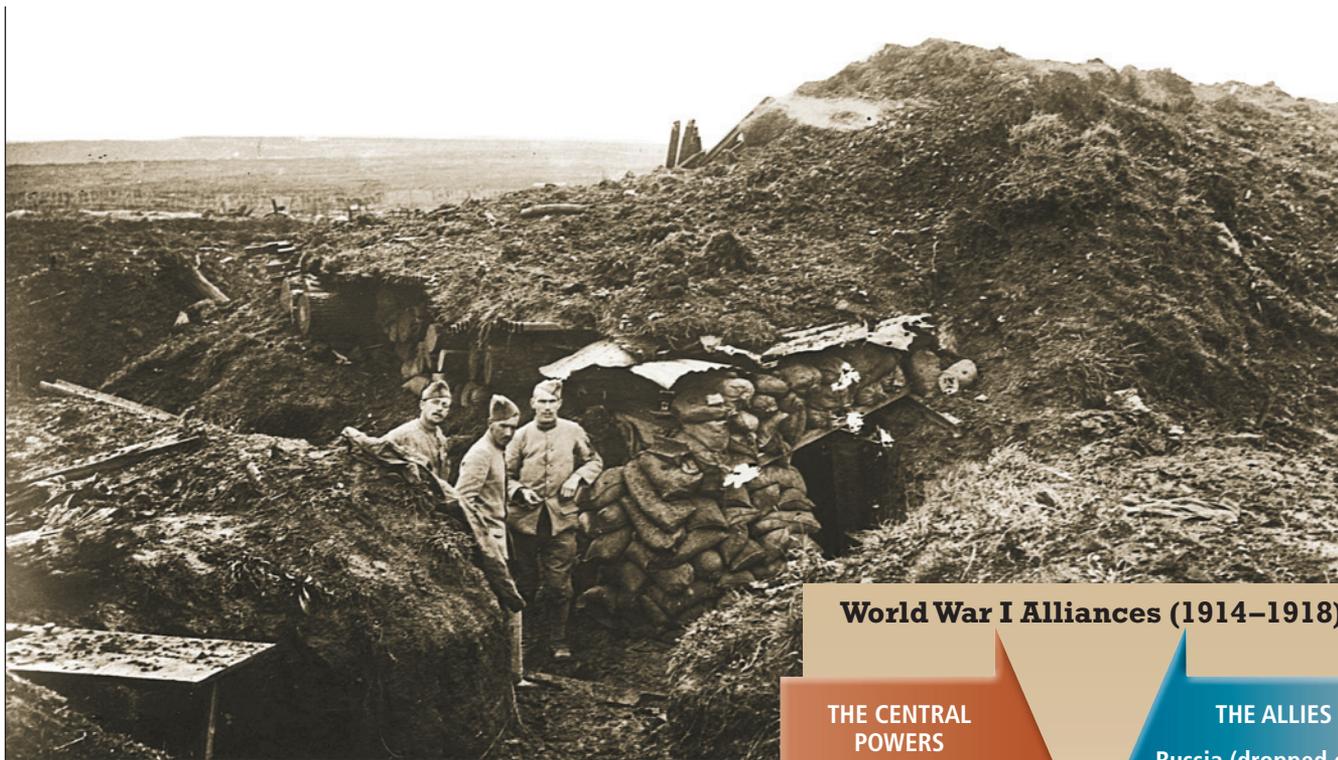
## The World at War

Because of the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914, the emperor of Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. When Russia sent troops to defend Serbia, Germany declared war on Russia. Russia supported Serbia because both Russians and Serbians share a similar ethnic background—they are both Slavic peoples. This was the beginning of **World War I.**

**TAKING NOTES**
Use your chart to take notes about war and change in Europe.

| Causes | Event | Effects |
|--------|-------|---------|
| | World War I | |
| | World War II | |

Place • World War I was primarily fought in trenches, which were dug by the armies for better defense. ▲

## World War I Alliances

European rulers wanted other leaders to think twice before declaring war on their countries. To help defend themselves, several countries joined alliances (uh•LY•uhn•sez). An **alliance** is an agreement among people or nations to unite for a common cause. Each member of an alliance agrees to help the other members in case one of them is attacked.

When Germany joined the war to support Austria-Hungary, France came in on the side of Russia. Germany then invaded Belgium, which was neutral, to attack France. Because Great Britain had promised to protect Belgium, it, too, declared war on Germany. After German submarines sank four American merchant ships, the United States joined the side of Russia, France, and Great Britain.

The chart above shows the major powers on both sides of World War I. Italy had originally been allied with Germany and Austria-Hungary but joined the Allies after the war began. Russia dropped out of the war completely after the revolution in that country in 1917.

### World War I Alliances (1914–1918)

| THE CENTRAL POWERS | THE ALLIES |
|---|---|
| Austria-Hungary | Russia (dropped out in 1917) |
| Germany | France |
| Turkey (Ottoman Empire) | United Kingdom |
| Bulgaria | Italy (joined 1915) |
| | United States (joined 1917) |

*Reading* **Social Studies**

A. Recognizing Important Details Why did Great Britain enter World War I?



### SKILLBUILDER:
### Interpreting a Political Cartoon

1. What does the artist mean by naming the figure "Progress"?
2. Why is the man wearing a gas mask?

World War I was costly in terms of human life. When it was over, nearly 22 million civilians and soldiers on both sides were dead. The Allies had won, and Europe had been devastated.

## Europe After World War I

More people were killed during World War I than during all the wars of the 19th century combined. Afterward, people in many countries on both sides of the costly war—and even those not directly involved—were poor, homeless, and without work.

The Allies blamed Germany for much of the killing and damage during the war. In 1919, Germany and the Allies signed the Treaty of Versailles (vuhr•SY).

## Strange but TRUE

**War Dogs** During World War I, dogs were trained to guard ammunition, to detect mines, and to carry messages. Dogs even helped to search for the wounded.

War dogs saved many lives. They were especially helpful in forested areas and at night. These dogs are wearing protective masks to keep them safe from poison gas attacks.

### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER:
### Interpreting a Map

1. **Location** • What body of water does the coast of Yugoslavia reach?
2. **Location** • Name three countries that border Czechoslovakia.

**Europe After World War I**

The Treaty of Versailles demanded that Germany be punished by being forced to pay for the damage done to the Allied countries. Germany was also made to give up valuable territory.

**A New Map of Europe** Additional treaties during the following year also altered the political boundaries of many European countries. As the map on page 335 shows, Austria-Hungary was divided as a result of the war, becoming two separate countries. This allowed several Eastern European ethnic groups that had been part of Austria-Hungary to gain their independence.

# World War II

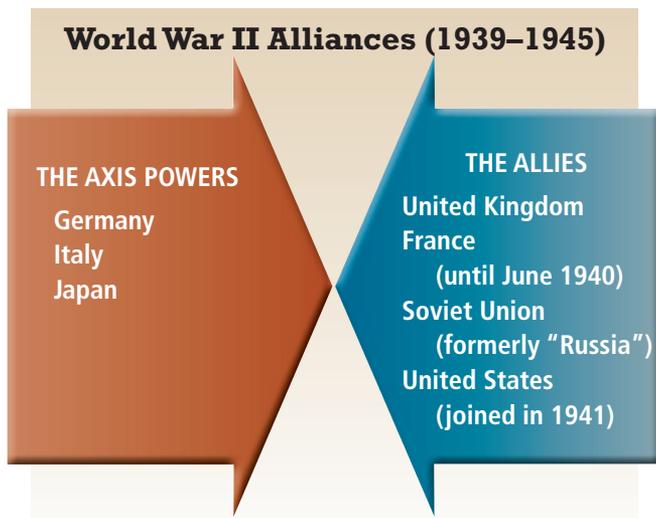By the 1930s, Germany was still paying for the damage done to the Allied countries during World War I. The German economy was in ruins, and the Germans greatly wished to rebuild their own country. In 1933, citizens elected **Adolf Hitler** and the National Socialist, or Nazi, Party. The Nazi Party believed in fascism. **Fascism** (FASH·IHZ·uhm) is a philosophy that supports a strong, central government controlled by the military and led by a powerful dictator. People believed that this new leader would help Germany recover.

## World War II Alliances (1939–1945)

**THE AXIS POWERS**
Germany
Italy
Japan

**THE ALLIES**
United Kingdom
France
(until June 1940)
Soviet Union
(formerly "Russia")
United States
(joined in 1941)

**BACKGROUND**

Like Germany, Italy was also ruled by a fascist dictator after World War I: Benito Mussolini (1883–1945).

**Hitler and the Nazi Party** Fascists practiced an extreme form of patriotism and nationalism. Fascists also had racist beliefs.

In the 1930s, Hitler unjustly blamed the Jewish citizens of Germany, among other specific groups, for the country's problems. His Nazi followers seized Jewish property and began to send Jews, along with disabled people, political opponents, and others, to concentration camps. During this **Holocaust,** millions of people were deliberately killed, and others starved or died from disease.

In 1934, Hitler took command of the armed forces. Then, in 1939, Hitler's army invaded Poland. **World War II** had begun. By June 1940, Hitler's army had swept through Western Europe, conquering Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Denmark, and Norway. A year later, Germany invaded the Soviet Union.

**WWII Alliances** The chart on page 336 shows the major powers on both sides of World War II. As in World War I, the United States at first tried to stay out of the conflict but entered the war after Japan bombed U.S. military bases at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

## Europe After World War II

World War II turned much of Europe into a battleground. By the end of the war, the United States, France, and the United Kingdom occupied Western Europe. The Soviet Union occupied Eastern Europe, including the eastern part of Germany.

Once peace was established, the western allies helped to set up free governments in Western Europe. In 1949, the countries of Western Europe joined Canada and the United States to form a defense alliance called **NATO** (NAY·toh). The members of this alliance, whose name stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization, agreed to defend one another if they were attacked by the Soviet Union or any other country. Without a common enemy, political differences quickly separated the Soviet Union from Western Europe and the United States.

**Place** • The Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin was nearly destroyed by Allied bombs. The ruins still stand today as a World War II monument. See pages 326–327. ▲

## Biography

**Anne Frank** In July 1942, during World War II, Anne Frank and her family went into hiding in Amsterdam—a city in the Netherlands. The Frank family were Jewish and were afraid they would be sent to a concentration camp. Anne was only thirteen.

For two years, Anne, her father, mother, sister, and four other people lived in rooms in an attic. Their rooms were sealed off from the rest of the building. While in hiding, Anne kept a diary. Although the family was discovered and Anne died in a concentration camp, her diary was eventually published. Today, this famous book—translated into many languages and the basis for a play and a film—lives on.

*Dit is een foto, zoals ik me zou wensen, altijd zo te zijn. Dan had ik nog wel een kans om naar Holywood te komen.*
*Annefank.*
*10 Oct. 1942*

## Europe After World War II

**GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER:**
**Interpreting a Map**
1. **Location** • In what country is Berlin located?
2. **Location** • Name three countries that border the Soviet Union.

**The Marshall Plan** United States Secretary of State George C. Marshall created the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, also known as the Marshall Plan. This plan provided U.S. aid—agricultural, industrial, and financial—to countries of Western Europe. The Marshall Plan greatly benefited war-torn Europe. It may also have prevented economic depression or political instability.
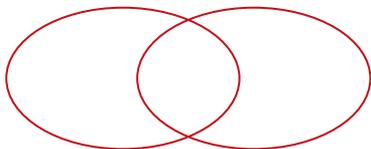
## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

**Terms & Names**
1. **Explain the significance of:**  (a) World War I   (b) alliance   (c) Adolf Hitler   (d) fascism
   (e) Holocaust   (f) World War II   (g) NATO

**Using Graphics**

2. Use a Venn diagram like this one to compare the countries that were involved in World War I and World War II.

| Involved in WWI | Involved in Both | Involved in WWII |
|---|---|---|

**Main Ideas**

3. (a) What event set off World War I?

   (b) When did World War II begin and end? Which countries won?

   (c) What happened at the end of World War II?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Making Inferences**

   How did World War I change Europe?

*Think About*
   ◆ the destruction and many deaths
   ◆ the Treaty of Versailles
   ◆ Austria-Hungary

**ACTIVITY -OPTION-**   Look at the photographs in this section. Write a **letter** in which you describe what it might have been like to visit Europe just after World War I or World War II.