

WORLD WAR I

1914 - 1918



Who's to Blame'

- Germany was to blame.....BUT
- Many countries, actually, shared the responsibility
- Austria, Serbia, Germany, France, Russia...



The Four Underlying Causes of WWI

M ~ Militarism

A ~ Alliance Systems

I ~ Imperialism

N ~ Nationalism



Militarism

- Glorification & building up of armed forces.
- Powerful military = greatness, respect and fear of other countries
- Large standing armies with the ability to mobilize quickly were valued



Alliances

- An association of countries; an agreement of defense or common policies.
- Were formed for the purpose of keeping peace in Europe.
- Ironic, because they actually pushed all of Europe into war.



Alliances

■ Triple Alliance

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy

■ Triple Entente

- France
- Russia
- Great Britain





Imperialism

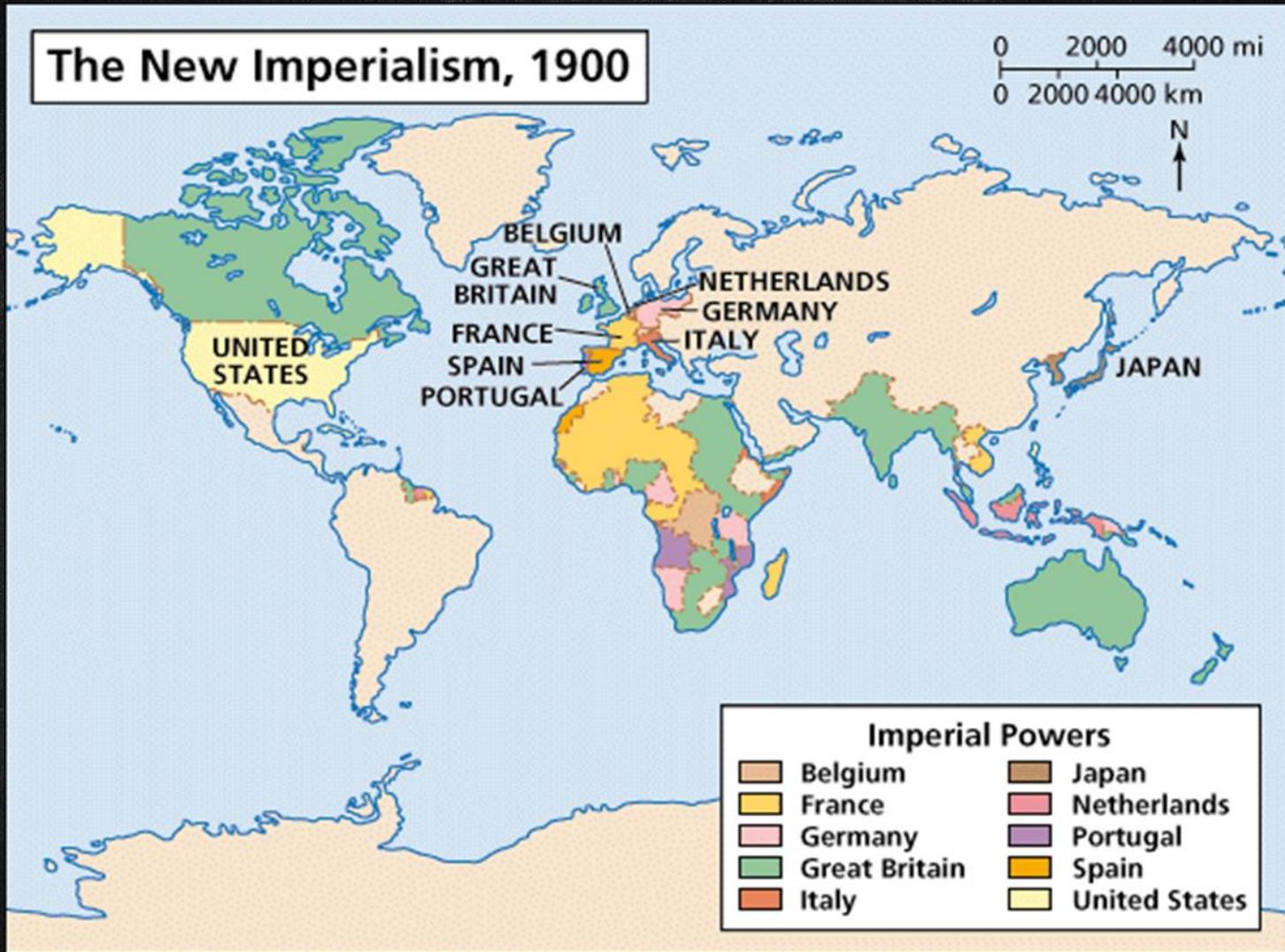
- When powerful countries try to dominate other countries.
- European nations were competing for colonies in Africa.



Imperialism

- Countries often disputed over land, which intensified rivalries.
- As territories to colonize became more scarce, rivalries heated up .
- Countries began to increase their military to protect their interests





Nationalism

- Deep devotion to/extreme pride in one's nation
- Led to intense competition between nations
- By 1900, there were 6 Great Powers in Europe:
- Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.



Nationalism

- Competition for markets/materials
 - GB and Germany competed for industrial dominance in Europe
- France and Germany hated each other. 1870-Franco-Prussian War-France wanted Alsace-Lorraine back.





Nationalism

- Balkans = “Powder keg” of Europe (SE peninsula). Very unstable.
- Austria-Hungary and Serbia both wanted to annex Bosnia (on the border). 1908- A-H annexed it.



Nationalism

- Pan-Slavism- belief that all Slavic people shared a common nationality and should be united.
- Russia was considered the “mother country” of all Slavic people, and stood ready to support any smaller Slavic nations.



The Spark that Started WWI

- June 28, 1914- Franz Ferdinand and wife Sophie assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia.
- Killed by Gavrilo Princip- 19yrs old
- Member of the Black Hand, a Serbian terrorist group



Germany's Role – Blank Check

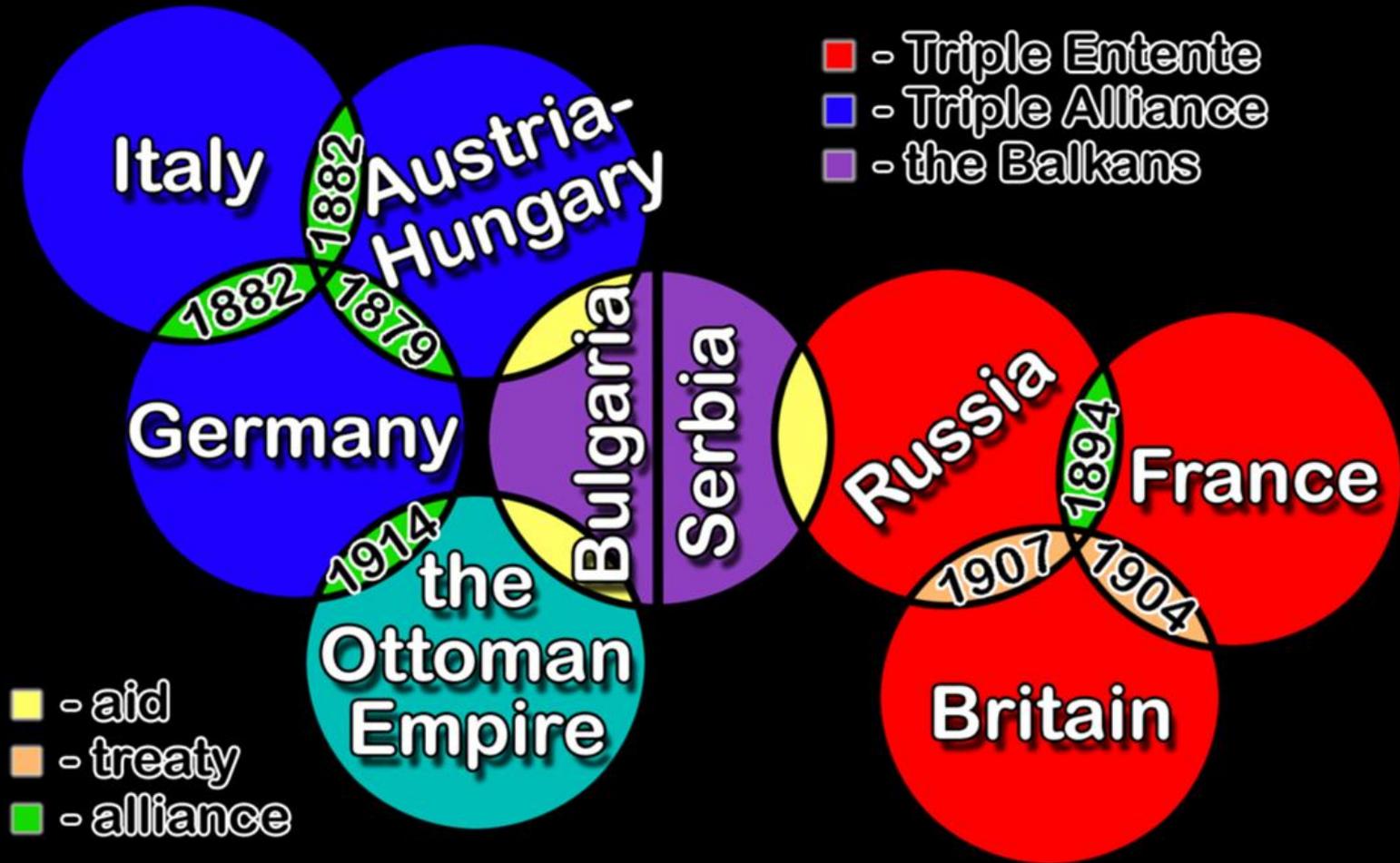
- Stunned Franz Joseph and his ally Kaiser Wilhelm II because Ferdinand was royalty.
- Wilhelm II gave Joseph a “blank check,” ~ promise of unconditional support, no matter what the cost.
- A-H wanted to crush Serbia, and saw this as the perfect excuse.



The Ultimatum

- July 23, 1914- Austria-Hungary gave Serbia a very harsh ultimatum, and only 48 hrs to reply.
- Serbia met 11/12 demands, but A-H was unwilling to negotiate.
- July 28, 1914 ~ A-H declared war on Serbia





Main Idea

- What began as a local dispute between Austria-Hungary and Serbia became a global conflict that had no clear, limited objective.
 - **By 1918, 8.5 million soldiers had died**
 - **Over 21 million were wounded**
 - **Total Cost ~ \$338 billion**
 - **Destroyed homes, farms, and cities.**
 - **In Europe, entire generations of young men were wiped out by this war.**



Germany's Two Front War

■ Schlieffen Plan ~ military strategy to avoid a 2-front war.

- 1.) Cut through Belgium and encircle French
- 2.) Beat France in 6 weeks
- 3.) Race back to fight Russia

Why fight France first? Russia was less industrialized and would take longer to mobilize.





The Schlieffen Plan

- Key to success: **SPEED!**
 - Why it didn't work:
 - France & GB were stronger than the Germans anticipated.
 - Russia mobilized quicker than they expected.



The Western Front

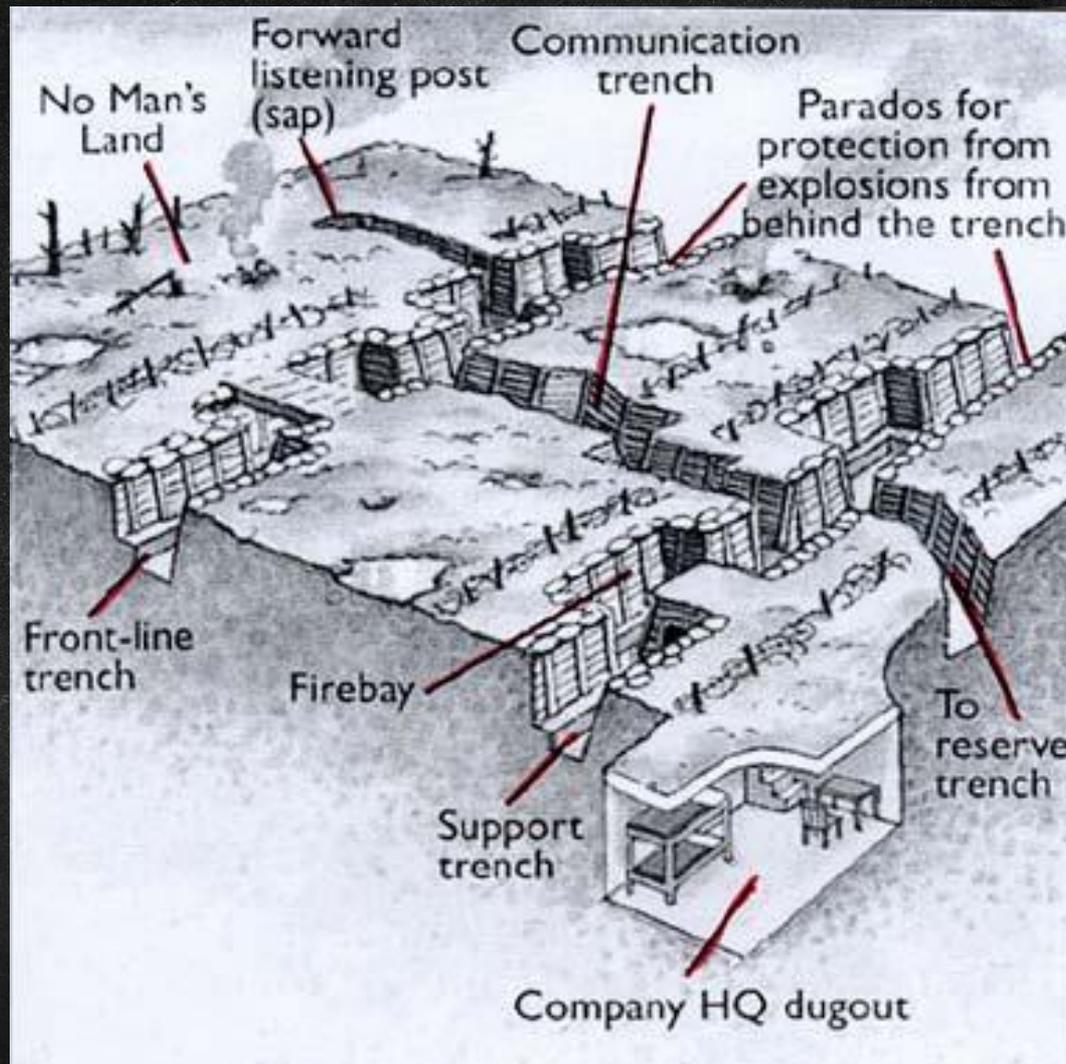
- The war settled into a stalemate.
- Both sides dug deep trenches; eventually 500 mi. of parallel trenches (North Sea to Switzerland).
- “The men slept in mud, washed in mud, ate mud, and dreamed mud.”

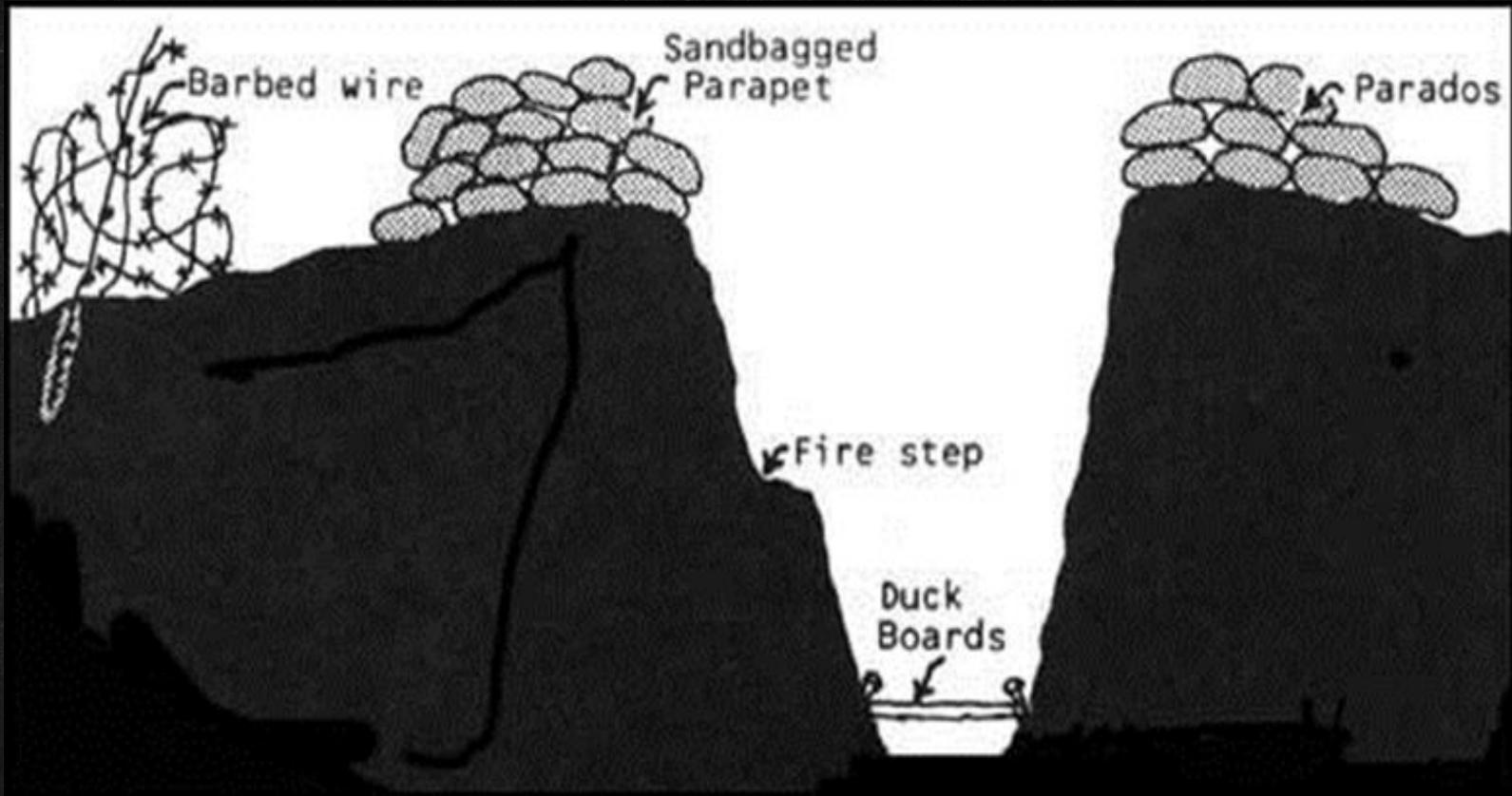


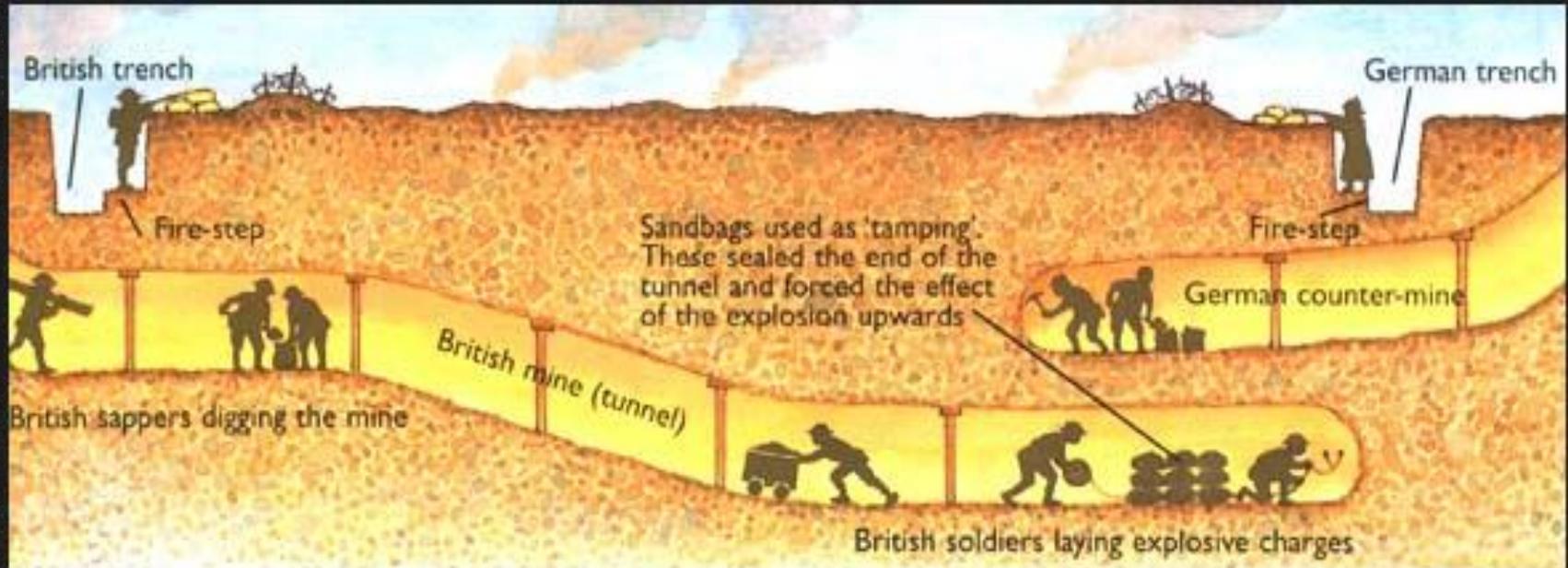
Trench Warfare

- Soldiers shared their food with rats and their beds with lice.
- Fresh food was nonexistent, and sleep was nearly impossible.
- “No-man’s land” : space b/w the opposing trenches. A man-made desert.













The Weapons of WWI

- Machine guns - worsened the stalemate;
- Poison Gas – developed by the Germans. Caused blindness, choking, burns, and even death. Very unpredictable.





Weaponry

- The Tank – introduced by the British
 - Could move across no-man's land
- Airplanes – 1st time in history they were used in combat.
- Zeppelins – gas-filled balloons introduced by the Germans.
- Submarines- introduced by the Germans; called U-boats from the German word “*Unterseeboot*”



Outcomes

- Most people believed this new technology would deliver a fast-moving war, BUT.....
- it did the opposite, as it actually worsened the stalemate .
- Higher death tolls all-around.



Objectives of Propaganda

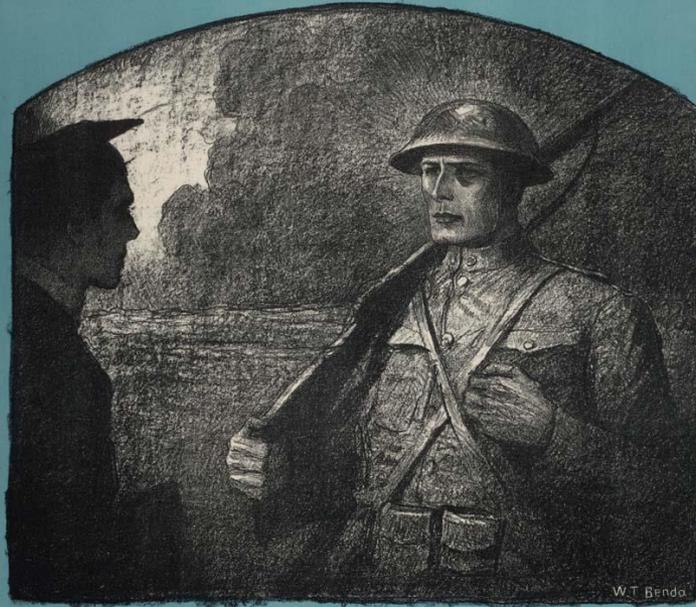
- Recruitment of soldiers
- Financing the war effort
- Eliminating dissent/unifying country
- Conservation of Resources
- Participation in home-front organizations.



Tools for Propaganda

- Demonization
- Emotional Appeals
- Name Calling
- Patriotic Appeals
- Half-Truths/Lies
- Catchy Slogans
- Evocative Visual Symbols
- Humor/Caricatures





WHEN THE BOYS COME HOME

**'While I was Over There
what were You Doing Here?'**

STUDENTS of AMERICA

HOW WILL YOU ANSWER HIM?

UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN—NOV. 11-18





