

**WWI:  
Conscription/  
The End of the  
War/The  
Treaty of  
Versailles**

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**Conscription Crisis  
(Background)**

- Canadians expected WWI to be over quickly, many thought by the end of 1914
- War dragged on, casualty numbers increased
- Fewer volunteers enlisting in the military
- By 1917, PM Borden decided conscription in Canada was necessary
  - Conscription= Mandatory Military Service
  - Borden had previously promised no conscription
  - Introduced the **Military Service Act** (exceptions at first –conscientious objectors, farmers, etc.)

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**Opposition to Conscription**

- Quebec
  - Lowest voluntary enlistment rate in Canada (surprise surprise)
  - Few officers spoke French
  - Most French soldiers put in English regiments (Exception: Twenty-Second Battalion (Van Doos))
  - Many FC still angry over restriction of French in schools
  - Most FC did not feel connected to Britain or France
    - Conscription forces them to fight in someone else's war

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**Henri Bourassa**

- Led anti-conscription movement in Quebec
  - Believed that WWI had little to do with Canada
  - Too many soldiers and money spent ahead, more would endanger Canada's economic future and decrease the country's autonomy
  - Canadians should not be forced to fight in a foreign war



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**Opposition to Conscription**

- Prairies
  - Farmers needed sons and workers to work on their farms
- Factories
  - Industrial workers felt they were already contributing to the war effort, didn't want to give up jobs
- British Columbia
  - Vancouver Island coal miners already struggling to provide for family, conscription meant less money
  - Labour leader Ginger Goodwin hid, eventually killed

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**1917 "Khaki" Election**

- Khaki= colour of many military uniforms
- PM Borden calls an election to check for support of conscription
- Passes new legislation first
  - Military Voters Act – men and women serving in Europe can vote
  - Wartime Elections Act – all Canadian women related to soldiers allowed to vote; conscientious objectors and recent immigrants from enemy countries not allowed to vote

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**1917 "Khaki" Election**



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**1917 "Khaki" Election**



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**1917 "Khaki" Election**

- PM Borden (Conservative) invited pro-conscription Liberals to join him and his Cabinet in a Union Government
  - Liberal Part Leader Wilfrid Laurier against conscription, unless Canada directly attacked or invaded
- Union Government won, but country divided
  - Liberals won 95% of Quebec seats (result on p. 51)
  - Union Government won 88% of seats outside of Quebec
  - Anti-conscription riots in Quebec City, Easter 1918
    - Four demonstrators dead, ten soldiers wounded

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### **Anti-Conscription Riots**



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### **Results of Conscription**

- 402,000 men conscripted
- 380,500 applied for exemptions (medical etc.)
- 125,000 eventually were enlisted
- 25,000 reached France before the war ended

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### **The Beginning of the End**

- Two major developments occur in Spring 1917 that begin to wind the war down
  - The Russian (or Bolshevik) Revolution (March)
  - US entry on the Western Front

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**Events of 1917**

- United States
  - Sinking of *Lusitania* and other ships by German U-boats eventually convinces Americans to enter WWI (April 1917)
    - Germany supports Mexico
  - American troops slow to arrive in Europe, but by mid-1918 over 1 million in France with 10,000 arriving each day

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**Events of 1917**

- Russian Revolution
  - In November, Czar Nicholas II and government overthrown by Bolsheviks (communists/socialists led by Vladimir Lenin)
  - New Government signs treaty with Germany, ends Russia's participation in WWI, allows Germany to focus on Western Front

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**Germany's Last Push West**

- The Eastern Front is gone, but the Western Front is stronger than ever
- Germans push west, get to 75km from Paris
  - Ypres, the Somme, Passchendaele taken
    - Exhausted no supplies, no replacements
- German offensive to beat American arrival almost works
- Allies rally from the brink and surge forward (Hundred Days)
- Central Powers fall by November (Italy switches sides in 1916)

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**Hundred Days Campaign**

- Starting August 1918, series of Allied attacks to push Germans back
- Canadian troops played large role
  - Successfully broke through Hindenburg Line, a series of German defences in France
  - General Arthur Currie considered it Canada's greatest achievement in WWI

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**Hundred Day Campaign**



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**Collapse of the Central Powers**

- October 1918 – Austro-Hungarian Empire splits up; separate states negotiate peace with Allies
- November 1918 –revolution in Germany; Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates; republic declared



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### 1917-8 Political Changes

- Russia: Muscovite Czar Nicholas (Monarch) → Bolshevik Party (Socialist)
- Germany: Prussian Kaiser Wilhelm (Monarch) → Weimar Republic
- Austria-Hungary: Hapsburg Charles I/IV (Monarch) → Austrian Republic/Hungarian Democratic Republic

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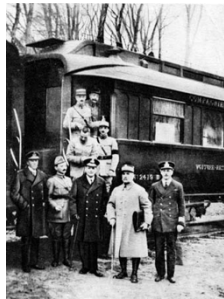
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### Armistice

- Armistice – November 11, 1918
  - “armistice” = truce
  - Signed in railcar in France
  - Between Allies and Germany
  - In effect 11:00AM, Nov. 11 1918



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### Armistice



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## Armistice



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## Participants in WWI met for the "Paris Peace Conference" of 1919



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## Peace Process

- Paris Peace Conference
  - January 1919
  - Allies to discuss terms of peace agreement
  - PM Borden demands separate seat at conference, rather than Britain representing Canada
    - Also signed Treaty separately
  - Talks dominated by Britain, France, USA, but Canada made its presence felt
  - Result was the Treaty of Versailles

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**However, the Conference was dominated by "The Big Three"**



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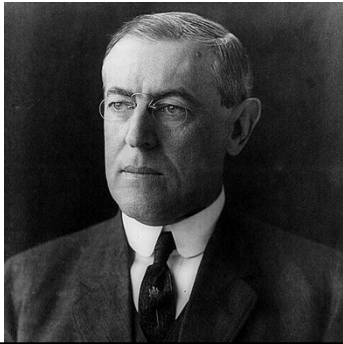
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**Woodrow Wilson (USA)**



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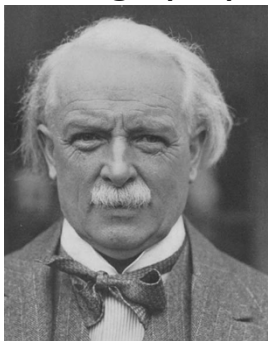
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**Lloyd George (UK)**



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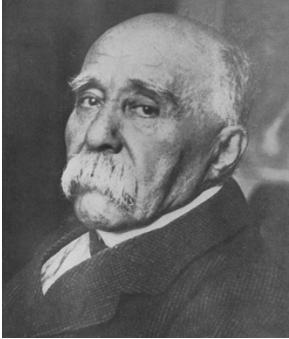
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**Georges Clemenceau  
(France)**



the "Tiger"

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**And there were two notable absences...**

**Russia was not allowed to attend**

**Neither was Germany or its allies, even though the negotiations concerned their countries**

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**The goal? Design an international system that would make another war unlikely...**



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### Secondary Goal: Help Repair France



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### Wilson's "14 Points For Peace"

- plan for enduring peace
- Basis of German surrender
- Included post-war plans to divide Europe and establish free trade



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**Wilson, an "idealist" argued that punishing Germany would make Germans feel bitter, which may cause them to seek revenge...**

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**Georges Clemenceau, a “realist” of France, wanted Germany to PAY!**



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**Lloyd George of Britain, believed Germany should pay, but really wanted to maintain control of the seas...**



**So they “compromised”**

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**Only 4 of Wilson’s original 14 Points would be included in the Treaty of Versailles...**

**Most notably the establishment of a “League of Nations”, an international council to maintain world peace**

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## The Treaty of Versailles



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## The War Guilt Clause

\* Germany is solely responsible for causing the War

\* Reparation payments of 269B Marks (German currency) = \$30 billion (= \$300 billion today)  
Couldn't pay (surprise)

\* Germany loses land to France and Poland, among others (split in two)

• Strict military restrictions

\* Forfeit of all overseas colonies and return of Saar, Alsace and Lorraine to France, Polish corridor

\*Germany and Austria could not ally

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## German military restrictions

**Army = 100 000 men**

**Navy = 15 000 men, no subs,  
6 warships**

**No Air Force (Luftwaffe)**

**Absolutely no installations (military  
or industrial) in the Rhineland**

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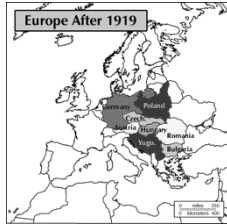
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**New nations were formed...  
“self determination”**



**Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia,  
Poland...**

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**The League of Nations was  
formed**



**Canada became a member of this  
organization that would be the  
pre-cursor to the United Nations.**

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**League of Nations**

- Similar to today's United Nations
- Collective Security = one country is attacked, others help defend it
- Britain and France not enthused about League
  - Wanted to remain imperialistic
  - League popular with the public
- Canada an independent member of the League
- Limitations
  - Required co-operation (not a good track record)
  - No military force, only economic sanctions (trade)
  - Even though it was Wilson's idea (U.S.) ....

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**Ironically, the USA did not join the League.**



THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

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### League of Nations Membership



- Founding member that stayed until the end
- Founding member that left and joined
- Founding member that left
- Joined later and stayed until the end
- Joined later and left later
- League of Nations mandate
- Never members
- Colonies of members
- Colonies of members that left
- Colonies/territories of non-members



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### Aftermath of WWI

- 16 million dead worldwide
  - 10 million soldiers, 6 million civilians
  - 21 million wounded
- 66,000 Canadians dead, 170,000 wounded
- Veterans in Canada
  - No steady pensions or special medical services
  - Few jobs available
    - Many business owners had become very rich
  - Worse for Aboriginal veterans despite service

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**Spanish Influence**

- Spanish Influenza
  - Spread by soldiers returning home
  - 21 million dead worldwide
    - Including 55,000 Canadians
  - Many small Aboriginal communities almost wiped out
  - Schools and public spaces closed for months
  - Some places required people to wear breathing masks in public

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**Spanish Influenza**



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**Spanish Influenza**



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**Effect of WWI on  
Canada**

- National Identity
- Economy
- Women's Rights
- Canadian Autonomy
- Internation Status
- French-English Relations
- Racial Discrimination
- Thousands Dead and Wounded

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