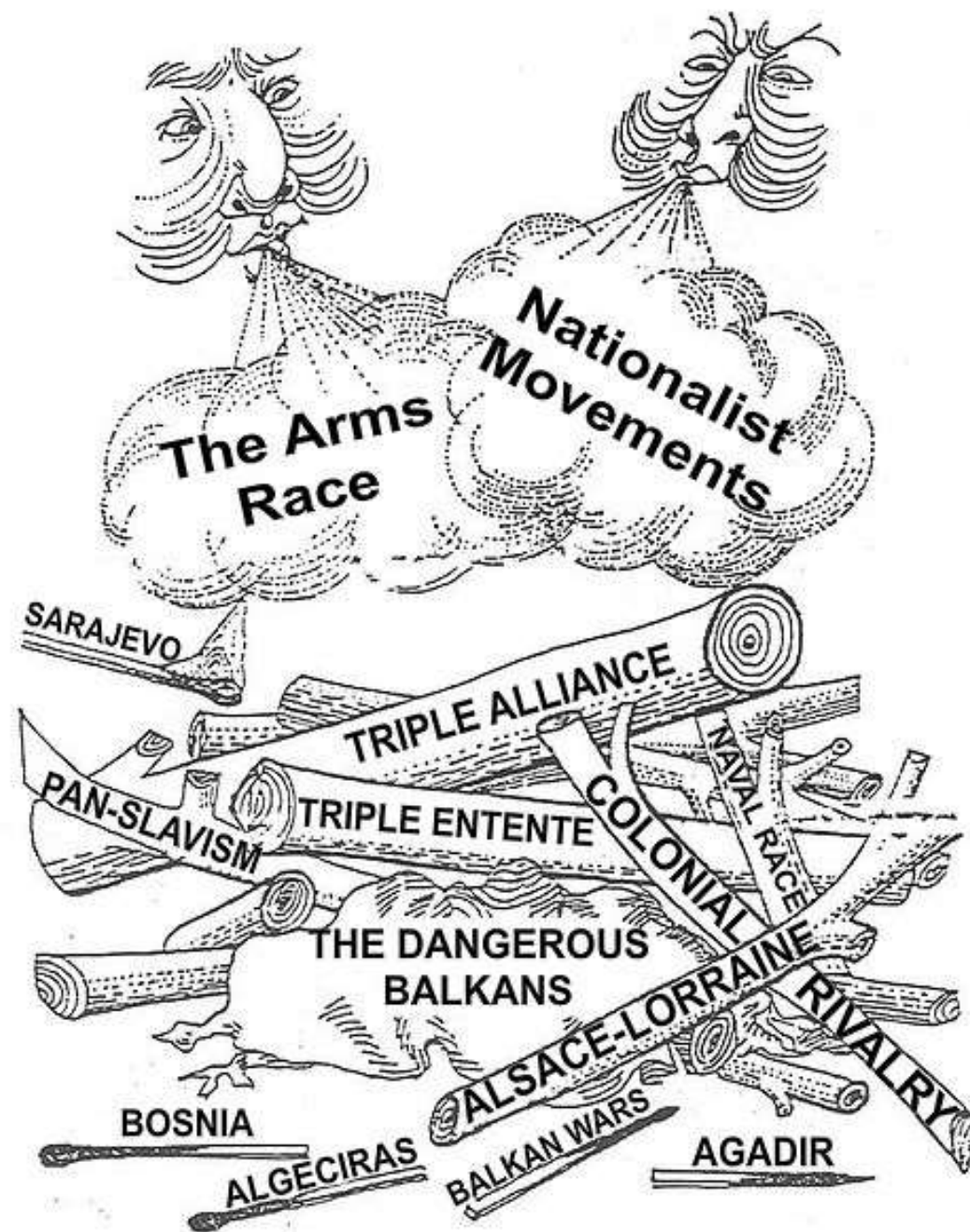


World War I 1914-1919

Chapter 19 # 5



Causes of World War I

- Militarism – competing countries growing military
- Alliance – countries merge to support each other during war
- Imperialism- larger countries take over smaller territories/countries
- Nationalism – growing pride in ones country
- Deep-rooted problems were building in Europe. Regional tensions, economic rivalries and power struggles.

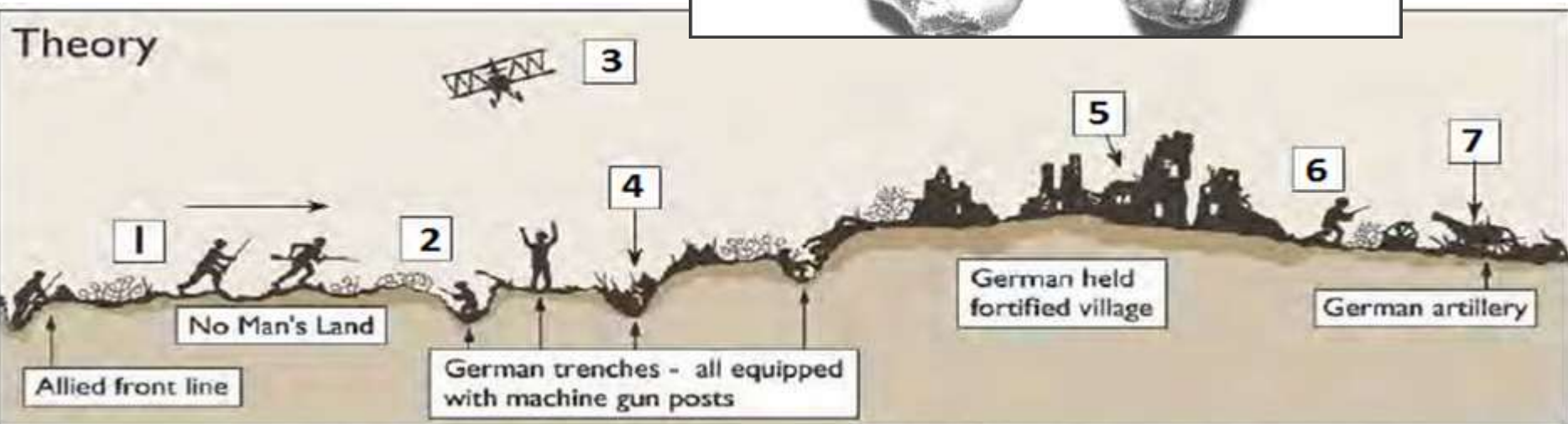
European Alliances Prepare for War

- Triple Alliance (Central Power)–
Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Ottoman Empire
- Triple Entente (Allied Power) - France, Russia, and Great Britain
- Allies were obligated to fight if war broke out
- June 28, 1914 Archduke Francis Ferdinand (heir to Austrian throne/Central Power) assassinated by Serbian (Allied Power) nationalist. Lead to the Great War.



New Technology Leads to Stalemate

- Germany supported Austria-Hungary and launched a series of attacks.
- Western Front – Germany v. France –side that won western front would win the war.
- Trenches – 450 miles of trenches stretched from Belgium to Switzerland.
- Trench Warfare – shallow trenches, soldiers in assault situations charging enemy defended by machine guns, rifles and poisoned gas.
- Trench life- harsh conditions, “trench foot” hours standing in wet mud, lice from rats, lived in constant fear.
- “No mans land”- land between trenches had to be crossed to attack entrenched enemy.
- The attacks on the Western Front lead to massive death tolls.



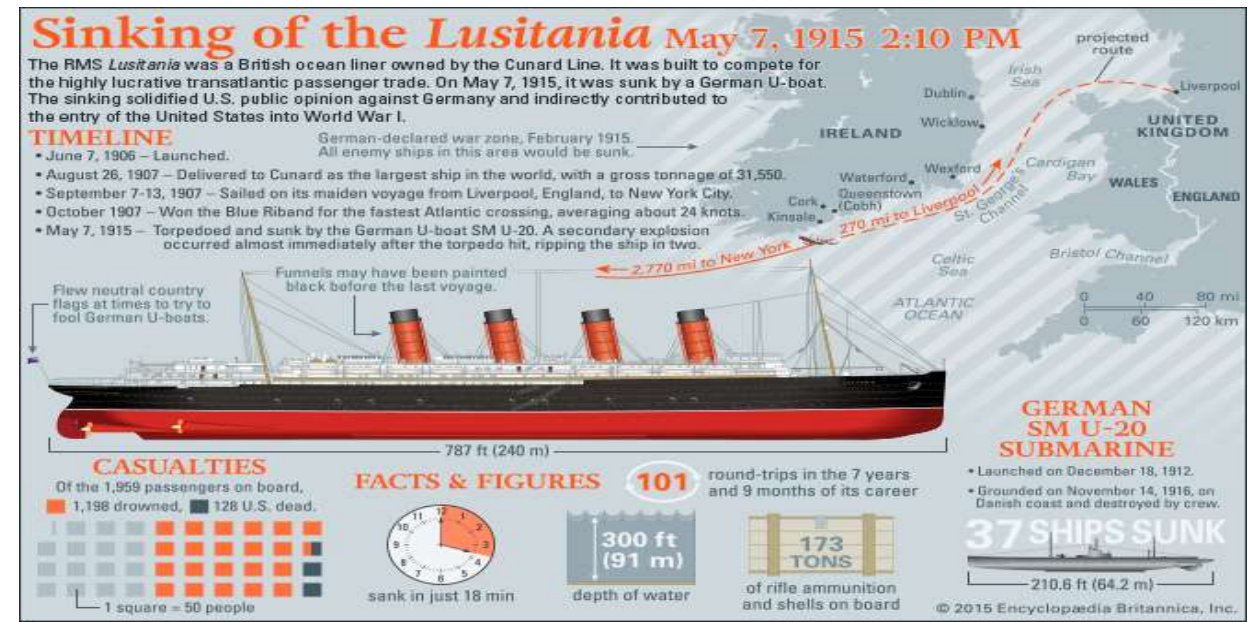
New Technology Continued

- Machine guns – could fire 600 bullets per minute
- Artillery field guns – long-range cannons caused more casualties than any other type of weapon
- Poison gas- mustard gas could kill, burn, and blind victims.
- Submarines- German U-boats used torpedoes to sink ships
- Tanks – go over barb wire and no mans land
- Airplanes – bombing and fighting



United States

- President Wilson desired peace for the United States. Tried to influence other countries to end conflict without war.
- May 1915 German U-boat sank the British passenger liner Lusitania. Germany claimed it was carrying contraband and ammunition. Ship was had American passengers as well. 128 Americans. 1100 die.
- President Wilson remained at peace but prepared for war.



United States Continued

- Zimmerman note – Germany sent telegram to Mexico proposing an alliance. If US goes to war with Germany than Mexico declares war on US.
- Telegram was intercepted by British.
- April 1917 Congress declares war on Germany.



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SOME PROMISE!

April 1917

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFCWfyXSe70>