

GLOBAL EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR I

1. The map of Europe was redrawn. 4 empires disappeared - Russian, Turkish, Austro-Hungarian, German - and 7 new states were created.
 - Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania gained independence from Russia
 - an independent Poland was created (from Russia, Austria and Germany)
 - Czechoslovakia was created from Austria-Hungary
 - Yugoslavia was created from Serbia, Montenegro and Austria-Hungary
 - Rumania doubled in size
 - separate states of Austria and Hungary were formed
 - British and French empires in Middle East expanded
 - Britain given mandate over Palestine and Mesopotamia
 - France given powers over Syria and Lebanon

2. Very high casualties - (8.5 million soldiers and 6 million civilians dead; approx. 21 million people wounded)
 - Europeans referred to the dead as the 'lost generation'
 - many Europeans were disillusioned, demoralized and discouraged after the war - they lost faith in the old order of society and the traditional authorities
 - the old social system and class system was destroyed
 - the 19th century world of grandeur, glory, elegance and empire was lost.
 - there were radical changes in all aspects of art - literature, drama, painting, music, architecture
 - artists and philosophers abandoned the old and explored the new

3. Widespread labour unrest on international scale. - influence and spread of ideas of socialism and communism from Russian revolution - increased pace of industrialization
 - increasing demand for rights, freedom and respect for workers

4. Severe economic crisis and depression in Europe.
 - economy of Europe had been dependent on overseas investment
 - much of this was lost during and after the war
 - (Britain lost 1/4 of foreign investments; France lost 1/3; Germany lost all)
 - Many European industrial areas had been devastated by war
 - loss of much international trade (many nations too poor to buy goods)
 - Europe lost position as banker and workshop of world

5. Beginning of new era of financial prosperity and strength for the U.S.

- tremendous growth of American industry during war
- relatively few losses in comparison with Europe
- American loans to Europe for rebuilding after the war
(in 1914 - U.S. owed \$4 billion to European investors.
by 1919 - Europe owed U.S. \$3.7 billion
by 1930 - Europe owed U.S. \$8.8 billion)
- U.S. replaced Europe as banker and workshop of the world
- New York City new international financial centre

6. Loss of overseas colonies of European nations.

- prestige of European white masters had been severely damaged by the war - many colonials (Indians, Africans, Chinese) had fought in Europe or worked as labourers behind the lines) they saw the war first-hand and returned home with new attitudes and ideas of freedom, independence and nationalism
- no longer subservient to the whites
- gradual independence of many colonies throughout 20th C.