



A collection of historical artifacts is displayed on a light-colored surface. On the left, there is a blue and white checkered board with several small, round, light-colored objects. Below the board are two medals: one with a red ribbon and a white star, and another with a blue ribbon and a white star. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples is positioned in the center. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular compass with a white face and a black needle. The text "1914-1918: The World at War" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, blue, serif font with a drop shadow.

1914-1918: The World at War

**Depth Study A: The First World
War 1914-1918
Pages 156-189
Mr. Corey**

A collection of historical artifacts is arranged on a light-colored surface. On the left, a portion of a chessboard with a blue and brown checkered pattern is visible, featuring several chess pieces. Next to it are two medals: one with a red ribbon and a white star, and another with a blue ribbon and a white star. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples lies across the scene. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass with a white face and black markings is partially visible.

Why did Germany ask for
an armistice in 1918?



What was the importance of America's entry into the war?

- ◆ The USA had maintained a policy of isolation throughout the nineteenth century, but effectively broke its policy of neutrality in 1914 when it agreed to a British request to stop selling arms to Germany.
- ◆ However, it did not agree to formally join the war against Germany and her allies until April 1917. The decision to declare war was a result of several factors.
- ◆ The Several factors are:
 - Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
 - Public Opinion
 - Zimmermann Note/Letter

A vertical collage on the left side of the slide featuring a compass rose at the bottom, a large ornate medal with a red and white cross in the center, and a blue ribbon with a circular emblem above it. The background of the collage is a textured, brownish surface with various small objects and patterns.

Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

- ◆ The policy of Germany was to sink any ship trying to get to Britain.
- ◆ This policy pushed America closer to the Entente powers.
- ◆ President Wilson was furious to US fatalities caused by U-boat attacks, culminating in 100 American deaths on the Lusitania in May of 1915
- ◆ Germany stopped for a while but resumed again in February 1917. Which in return turned public opinion.



Public Opinion

- ◆ With the development of mass communications and sea transport, the US developed closer links with Europe and therefore had no wish to see a single dominant power emerge victorious from the war, particularly if this dominant power represented political views at odds with the US belief in democracy.
- ◆ Public Opinion was also going down due to unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmermann.

Zimmermann Note/Letter

- ◆ The publication of a telegram intercepted by the British sent by the German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann to the German Ambassador to Mexico offering United States territory to Mexico in return for joining the German cause.






US Assistance

- ◆ Initially, US assistance was limited to bolstering the anti-submarine capabilities of her allies, sending destroyers and merchant ships, and assisting with mining operations in the North Sea.
- ◆ While US Land forces only arrived in small numbers, 300,000 were in France by March 1918, their presence helped to plug gaps created by Ludendorff's offensive launched on 21 March.
- ◆ The arrival of a further 800,000 soldiers between May and July 1918 allowed the Allies to transfer their more experience soldiers away from the quieter parts of the Western Front to combat the follow-up German offensives in June and July.

A vertical collage on the left side of the slide featuring a compass, a military medal with a blue ribbon, and a blue ribbon with a circular emblem.

US Assistance

- ◆ US forces never gained the key victory its commander General Pershing desired but their arrival provided a huge psychological boost to the Entente powers, coming as it did after a disastrous 1917 when the submarine campaign, the effects of Passchendaele and Bolshevik revolution threatened to push victory still further out of sight.
- ◆ This effect was compounded by the effects on the balance of forces on the Western Front:
 - German Army losing 1.75 million men between 21 March and 11 November.
 - Allies gaining an Ally who had managed to recruit 5 million soldiers by the end of the war.

A collection of military medals and a compass are arranged on a wooden surface. The medals include a red ribbon with a circular emblem, a blue ribbon with a circular emblem, and two silver Maltese crosses with central medallions. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses lies across the scene. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass is visible, showing cardinal directions and degree markings.

Why was the German
offensive of 1918
unsuccessful?

Why was the German offensive of 1918 unsuccessful?

- ◆ In January 1918, German prospects in the war were not good.
- ◆ They were still committed to a war on the Eastern Front, she had recruited all remaining reserves and the submarine campaign had failed to deliver a knock-out blow against Britain.
- ◆ Furthermore, the USA was expected to deliver large numbers of men to bolster her opponents in the west.
- ◆ General Ludendorff conceived of a plan to draw Allied forces away from Flanders, were he hoped to launch a decisive campaign designed to push the BEF into the sea.
- ◆ The decision to go ahead with “Operation Michael”, Germany’s last chance of victory, was made on March 10th, 1918.





Why was the German offensive of 1918 unsuccessful?

- ◆ The offensive started at 4am on 21st March.
- ◆ The German army amassed its troops south of Arras in the St Quentin sector.
- ◆ The offensive was, initially a huge success with German forces advancing 35 miles in the first three weeks.
- ◆ Subsequent attacks in June and July pushed the Allies within five miles of Paris before being stopped by a Franco-American counter-offensive.

Why was the German offensive of 1918 unsuccessful?

- ◆ The British had lost 178,000 including 70,000 men who were taken prisoner; the French lost an estimated 77,000 casualties.
- ◆ German casualties were even higher, suffering over 1 million casualties during the offensives of 1918.
- ◆ The reasons for the failure of Ludendorff's plan stem largely from its initial success.
- ◆ By breaking out of the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line, the Germans transformed a war of attrition into a war of movement a move which played into the hands of an enemy with more men, tanks and aircraft.



A vertical collage on the left side of the slide. At the top is a map with a compass rose. Below it is a blue ribbon with a circular medal. In the center is a large, ornate red and white cross-shaped medal. At the bottom is a circular compass rose.

Why was the German offensive of 1918 unsuccessful?

- ◆ In addition, the ground captured in the first weeks of the campaign now had to be occupied and defended, something Hindenburg realized he was unable to do after the 1916 Somme Offensive, hence his retreat and the shortening of his defensive lines.
- ◆ The successful French counter-attack at the Marne in July was critical in forcing the Ludendorff back onto the defensive: he called off his offensive in Flanders and was forced to fight a desperate rearguard action until the end of the war.

Why was the German offensive of 1918 unsuccessful?

- ◆ The French success demonstrated the shift in allied tactics, with surprise attacks and creeping barrages supporting infantry advances, reinforced by an overwhelming superiority of shells and tanks.
- ◆ Allied superiority in material was reflected in their numerical superiority.
- ◆ A serious influenza epidemic resulted in half a million cases in the Germany army, adding to the impact of the losses incurred since March.
- ◆ At the start of August, it was reported that only 2 of its 13 divisions were fit for action and further 5 good for defense.



Why was the German offensive of 1918 unsuccessful?


- ◆ These factors had an impact on German morale with alcohol abuse, shirking and desertion becoming a feature of what was previously a highly disciplined armed force.
- ◆ The turning point on the Western Front was the defeat at Amiens in August.
- ◆ A combined Allied infantry, artillery, tank and air offensive, coupled with precise intelligence of the location of enemy artillery resulted in an advance of 8 miles, described by Ludendorff as the “black day of the German army”




Why was the German offensive of 1918 unsuccessful?

- ◆ The tactical innovations displayed by the French at the Marne and the British at Amiens were significant in making the type of breakthrough which had eluded the Allies in 1916 and 1917.
- ◆ While casualties were still heavy between August and the end of the war, with the breaking of the Hindenburg Line at the end of September, it became a question of when, rather than if, Germany would surrender in 1918.




A collection of historical artifacts is arranged on a light-colored surface. On the left, a portion of a chessboard with a blue and brown checkered pattern is visible, featuring several chess pieces. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples lies across the middle. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass with a white face and black markings is partially shown. Several medals and ribbons are scattered around: a red ribbon with a circular emblem, a blue ribbon with a circular emblem, and two ornate silver medals with star-shaped centers and intricate designs. The text "Why did revolution break out in Germany in October 1918?" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a serif font with a drop shadow.

Why did revolution break
out in Germany in October
1918?



Why did revolution break out in Germany in October 1918?

- ◆ During the last two years of the war, the German political system seemed to move in two divergent directions.
- ◆ On the one hand, Generals Hindenburg and Ludendorff interfered in domestic affairs under the auspices of directing the country's war effort, to the extent that some historians refer to the period 1916-18 as the “silent dictatorship”.
- ◆ However at the same time, the Reichstag started to take a more active role in questioning the direction of the war effort and the composition of the government.
- ◆ By November 1918, these two trends converged to overthrow the Empire and create a new republic.

A vertical collage of historical military items. At the top is a compass rose. Below it is a blue ribbon with a circular medal featuring a starburst design. Further down is a large, ornate red and white cross-shaped medal with intricate scrollwork. At the bottom is a circular compass with a needle and degree markings.

Why did revolution break out in Germany in October 1918?

- ◆ The main long-term cause of the German revolution was war weariness.
- ◆ In July 1917, the Reichstag demanded a peace without major annexations and reparations, although it was not until the end of September 1918 that Ludendorff was willing to consider a “revolution from above” in order to prevent widespread mutiny and a possible revolution.
- ◆ The German revolution seemed to happen in two separate stages.
- ◆ The first stage took place between 3-26 October.

Why did revolution break out in Germany in October 1918?


- ◆ On 3 October, Prince Max von Baden, a liberal monarchist was appointed chancellor, and formed a new government consisting of liberal and socialist Reichstag members.
- ◆ He quickly asked President Wilson for an armistice, but Wilson insisted that any peace negotiations take place with true representatives of the German people, that is, not the generals or the Kaiser.
- ◆ On 26 November, the Kaiser created a series of measures called the October Reforms which radically transferred power from the elite to the Reichstag: the old system of government, established by Bismarck in 1871, had been overthrown and a parliamentary monarchy put in its place.



Why did revolution break out in Germany in October 1918?


- ◆ The trigger for the second stage of the German revolution was a mutiny of sailors at the main naval bases of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven.
- ◆ The mutiny was a reaction to a plan devised by Naval Supreme commander Admiral Reinhardt Scheer to end the war with a large naval assault on Britain's High Seas Fleet.
- ◆ Tired, hungry and aware that armistice talks were ongoing, most of the sailors either refused to return from leave or refused to set sail on 30 October.
- ◆ Soldiers' Councils were set up, which soon included industrial workers from Kiel among its number.






Why did revolution break out in Germany in October 1918?

- ◆ Within a week, riots had broken out across Germany, with Kurt Eisner establishing a Bavarian Democratic and Social Republic in Munich on 8 November, while the capital Berlin became the center of political intrigue which resulted in the abdication of the Kaiser.
- ◆ The issue of the Kaiser's position appeared to be the only obstacle to ending the war; President Wilson had stated that Wilhelm would not be allowed to participate in any peace talks.



Why did revolution break out in Germany in October 1918?

- ◆ Fearing imminent civil war, a delay to the end of the war, and more a radical socialist revolution, Prince Max announced Wilhelm's abdication on 9 November, and appointed SPD leader Friedrich Ebert as the new chancellor.
- ◆ Wilhelm fled to the Netherlands shortly afterwards.

A collection of military medals and a pair of glasses are arranged on a light-colored, textured surface. On the left, a blue and white checkered board with several small, round, light-colored pieces is visible. Below it, a blue ribbon with a circular emblem is attached to a silver star-shaped medal. To the right, a red ribbon with a circular emblem is attached to a silver star-shaped medal. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with a thin wire bridge is positioned diagonally across the center. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass with a white face and black markings is visible.

Why was the armistice
signed?



Why was the armistice signed?

- ◆ On 28 September, Ludendorff and Hindenburg agreed that Germany had no choice but to surrender.
- ◆ Failure to do so would likely result in the complete destruction of the German army and the invasion of Germany.
- ◆ By the start of November, German forces were in a state of permanent retreat, and morale had all but collapsed.
- ◆ The timing of the decision was influenced by events both on the western and other fronts.

Why was the armistice signed?

- ◆ The impact of the Allied breakthrough was compounded by the Bulgarian defeat at Monastir-Doiron, prompting a call for an armistice at the end of September, followed by Turkey agreeing to a peace deal on 30 October and Austria four days later.
- ◆ The defeat of the Central Powers was largely due to events on the Western Front.

