

B.A. SEMESTER IV HISTORY PAPER II

HISTORY OF EUROPE 1848-1918

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TIME-LINE OF FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-1918)

PART I

28 th June, 1914	Archduke Francis Ferdinand, (Heir Apparent of Austria –Hungary) and his wife Sophia were assassinated in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, by Gavrilo Princip, member of Black Hand society.
July, 5-6	Austrian ambassador held talks with Kaiser William II at Potsdam. William II pledged his unqualified support: ‘Blank Cheque’ to Austria.
July, 18	Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Sazonov reprimanded Austrian ambassador at St. Petersburg not to insult Serbia.
July 23	Austria sends ultimatum to Serbia; the conditions of the ultimatum were harsh. Sir Edward Grey remarked that he “had never seen one state address to another state a document of so formidable a character.”
July, 25	Reply of Serbian govt.: Serbia refused to accept conditions that put a question mark on Serbian sovereignty.

July, 28	Austria pronounced that Serbian reply was unsatisfactory and evasive and ordered mobilization.
July, 29	Russia declared general mobilization.
July, 30	Theodore von Bethmann Hollweg, German Chancellor, asked Austria to negotiate, Count von Berchtold refused. William II wired Nicholas II to stop mobilization, had little effect.
July, 31	Germany presented a twelve hour ultimatum to Russia to demobilize, Russia did not comply, and Germany declared war on Russia.
July, 31	Germany delivered an ultimatum to France to declare neutrality within eighteen hours.
August 1	France began mobilization.
August 2	German troops occupied Luxemburg.
August 3	Germany declared war on France Presented twelve hour ultimatum to Belgium; Belgium refused, appealed for help to England.
August 4	German troops crossed border into Belgium. Britain declared war on Germany at midnight.

August 7	Montenegro joined Serbia against Austria-Hungary.
August 17	Japan presented an ultimatum to Germany (to withdraw German warships & from Chinese & Japanese waters, give the leased territory of Kiaochow before September 15), Germany refused.
August 23	Japan declared war on Germany.
Sept, 6-9, 1914	Battle of Marne. French checked German advance: Race to the Sea.
October 29	Turkey bombarded Russian ports on the Black sea, Russia declared war on Turkey.
Nov. 5	France & England declared war on Turkey.
Oct.-Nov 1914	German attack Liege forts (Belgium), burning of the library of the University of Louvain (Battle of the Frontier)
	The Battle of Ypres Western Frontier extended from Nieu port & Ypres to Aisne River to Verdun to Belfort to Swiss Frontier.

	Falkenhayn, Chief of the German General Staff, offset French offensive in Champagne
Feb, 1916 to July 1916	German attack on Verdun.
Spring 1916	<p>Allied Conference presided over by Joffre. The Conference decided to launch simultaneous attack on Western Front and Eastern Front by Allied Forces.</p> <p>Conrad von Hotzendorf (Austria) transferred his troops from the Russian front and opened a drive from Tyrol.</p> <p>Italians checked Austrian attack in Tyrol.</p> <p>British & French attack on Somme.</p> <p>General Luigi Cadorna, Italian General opened offensive in Istria on the Isonzo front, Gorizia a key point was captured.</p>
March 1916.	Great Britain persuaded Portugal to seize German vessels; when Germany declared war, a Portuguese army joined the Allies on the Western Front.
August 1916	<p>Rumania entered into war against the Central Powers.</p> <p>Italy declared war on Germany.</p> <p>Germany failure in Verdun and the weakening of the Austrian army convinced</p>

	Rumania to join the Allied Powers.
August–December 1916	Rumania was defeated by the Central Powers.
March, 1917	General Robert Nivelle (France) opened an offensive against the German trenches on the Western Front along the Aisne River.
October, 1917	Austro-Hungarian forces defeated Italian army at Caporetto; Italian forces retreated to Piave River, close to Venice.
20 Nov.1917	British attack on Cambrai, tanks were used for the first time: their utility was revealed.
March, 1918.	Germans attacked the British trenches in the valley of Somme and reached Amiens.
April, 1918	Germans attacked British west of Lille.
<p>When the Germans overran the British lines and found them littered with provisions of every sort, they were seized a sudden feeling of hopelessness. German soldiers perceived that the real truth about the war had been withheld from them, and that the enemy, who had been represented as being in the last stage of want and inanition, was rioting in luxuries to which Germans had long been strangers. By many channels this sudden awareness of deception spread backward from the front and contributed to make the German revolution.</p>	
May, 1918	Germans attacked French along the Aisne and marched Chateau-Thierry, only forty

	<p>miles from Paris.</p> <p>Result: Germans achieved the position as it had been in 1914.</p>
June, 1918	<p>Austrian forces launched attacks on the Italian army along the river Piave, but failed. Military successes of the Central Empires ceased.</p> <p>Germany halted by the British on the Somme and by French at the Marne</p>
July, 1918	<p>Second Battle of Marne, Allied Victory. (Deadly 2 week's combat). Germans drove back northward across the Aisne River.</p>
October, 1918	<p>Germans had been cleared out of France and were compelled to relinquish a large part of Belgium.</p> <p>Italians under General Diaz drove Austria from the Piave and pursued them into Istria.</p>
October, 1918	<p>Czech and Yugoslav deputies in the Austrian Parliament proclaimed their right to self determination.</p>
October 18, 1918	<p>Formal declaration of Czechoslovak Republic by Thomas Masaryk.</p>
October 19, 1918	<p>Croatian Diet voted to break its ties with Hungary and join Serbia in creating a national union of all the Yugoslavs.</p>
October, 1918	<p>1. General Louis Franchet D' Esperey (French) threatened Hungary from</p>

	<p>South. Rumanians renounced the humiliating Treaty of Bucharest (March 1918) and attacked from the East.</p> <p>2. Ottoman Empire and Dual Monarchy of Austria Hungary Surrendered.</p> <p>Prince Maximilian of Baden, new chancellor, began negotiations with Allies. Ludendorff resigned and went to Sweden. William II abdicated and fled to Belgium. Republican and Socialist government under Friedrich Ebert.</p>
November 11, 1918	Armistice signed with the new government.
German South West Africa	
September 1914	General Louis (S.A.) started a military campaign for German south west Africa. (revolt of Boers in south Africa crushed by Botha and General smuts).
July 1915	German South West Africa brought under British control.
GERMAN EAST AFRICA	
August 1914	Dar-es-Salaam port seized by British German General von Lettow–Vorbeck commanded the loyalty of the natives and was adept in military operations.

August 1916	General Smuts conquered a large port German East Africa.
Nov. 1918	General von Lettow-Vorbeck surrendered.
GERMAN COLONIES IN PACIFIC	
August 1914	New Zealanders captured German Samoa. Australia seized New Guinea, Kaiser Wilhelmeland, Bismarck Archipelago.
Oct, 1914.	Japanese warships seized the Lodrones, Coraline Islands, Kiachow (China)
NAVAL WARFARE	
Nov. 1914	British squadron defeated by the German fleet off the coast of Chile near Coronel.
Dec, 1914.	German fleet destroyed near the Falkland Islands by the British squadron.
31 May 1916 - 1 June 1916	Battle of Jutland (North Sea) British losses both in terms of ships & men was greater, but the German fleet thereafter restricted herself to their harbor.
31 January 1917	Declaration of resumption of unlimited submarine warfare by Germany.
January – June 1917	German submarines sank nearly four million tons of allied shipping.
June - December 1917	Two and a quarter million tons of Allied shipping was destroyed.
January - June 1918	Less than 2 million ton of Allied shipping

was destroyed.

- Shipbuilding pushed in England.
- Vigilance of the British and the American navies.
- Convoy and Patrol systems jointly developed by U.S. & England. The destruction of the Allied shipping by German submarines gradually declined.