**VUS.9b World War I Notes**

American entry into World War I ensured Allied victory!

**General Causes of WWI**

Europe had become a “powder keg” ready to explode...

Nationalism: focusing on self- interest of each nation;

Imperialism: competition for colonies and control of trade

Militarism: increased arms race and using military as diplomatic tool

Alliance System: Europe formed two large “armed camps” (Allies and Central Powers)

**United States Tries to Stay Neutral**

There was strong sentiment to stay out of the war.

U.S. avoided involvement for 3 years.

President Wilson vowed to stay neutral in 1916...

**U.S. Joins the Fight in 1917**

German use of unrestricted submarine warfare was attacking American ships

Sinking of Lusitania; a passenger ship carrying Americans

Zimmerman Telegram which encouraged Mexico to attack the U.S.

American social and economic ties to Allied powers

Russia left the war under its communist revolution

To make the world “safe for democracy” (Woodrow Wilson)

**Americans Tipped the Balance**

Use of American resources at the front and behind the lines

Infusion of fresh troops boosted morale

Fighting stopped on November 11, 1918 with an armistice

**The 14 Points: Wilson’s Plan for a Lasting Peace**

Self-determination: that national boundaries be decided based on people, and they should establish their own governments

Freedom of Seas: open trading to all peaceful nations

No secret treaties or alliances should be formed

Mandate System: Colonial policies should consider the interests of the people

Arms should be reduced

League of Nations: to provide peaceful means of solving disputes rather than war

**Meeting at Versailles**

Britain, France and Italy wished to punish Germany and Austria

Central Powers and U.S.S.R. were not invited to attend the conference

Wilson was forced to concede (give in) most of his 14 Points!

**Treaty of Versailles**

Many new nations were formed as land was taken from the defeated nations

Mandates (captured colonies) were given to Allies to rule

Germany had to pay war reparations ($33 billion)

Germany had to sign a “war guilt clause”

The League of Nations was formed

**America Opposes the Treaty**

Felt it was too punitive

Objected to foreign policy decisions being made by international organizations (the League of Nations)

Senate refused to ratify the treaty

Senate refused to join the League of Nations!

**Weaknesses of the Treaty**

Germany was humiliated and destroyed

Allies had ignored the needs of the new Soviet government

International instability was created in the new nations and mandates

U.S. returned to isolationist policies