

I. World War I (1914-19)

1. World War I (1914-19) is the first of the two wars caused mainly by supernationalist Germany.
2. One strange thing about the German Empire was that it did not include the German-speaking people of Austria, whose monarchs were excluded by the northern parts of Germany, and who had decided as a result to create an empire in southern Europe.
3. To do that, they had partnered with their neighbors, the Hungarians, and created a strange hybrid that no longer exists, “Austria-Hungary,” or the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
4. Even stranger was the fact that by the beginning of World War I, Austria and Germany had become allies. It was because they both had France and Russia as enemies.
5. Austria was particularly afraid of Russia, because both Austria and Russia wanted to conquer southeastern Europe. That part of Europe was populated by Slavs, a tribal people connected to Russia.
6. The southern Slavs wanted their own countries, and in June of 1914, a Slav shot the Archduke of Austria, Franz Ferdinand—the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne to try to terrorize Austria and keep them out of southern Europe. This was the “spark” that set off the “powder keg” that was Europe at that time.
7. Austria-Hungary intended to invade southern Europe, but Russia warned Austria that it would defend the Slavs.



The ultranationalist German Empire was established in response to Napoleon’s conquest of Germany. Its main rival was France, and it was allied to Austria-Hungary, because of a mutual enemy in the East: Russia. When Russia and Austria-Hungary collided over the fate of southern Europe, Germany under supernationalist leader Wilhelm II took advantage of the situation to initiate **World War I (1914-19)**.

8. Germany told Austria that it would support Austria in a war against Russia, and when Russia “mobilized” its army, Germany declared war on Russia. Germany then invaded Belgium, Luxembourg, and declared war on Russia’s ally, France.
9. Great Britain declared war on Germany, bringing the world-wide British Empire into the conflict.
10. Soon most of the world was at war!
11. American intervention in the war brought it to an end without any of supernationalist goals of Germany being achieved. By the Treaty of Versailles (1919) that ended the war, Germany was punished by being forced to pay huge fines for its role in the war. This, tragically, was part of the reason for renewed ultranationalism in Germany, that awaited the arrival of a new charismatic leader...

J. World War II (1939-45)

1. The charismatic leader who rebuilt Germany into an aggressive nation bent on war was Adolf Hitler.
2. Because most countries wanted to avoid war to the point of pacifism (peace at any cost), Hitler’s Nazi government saw a chance to dominate its hated neighbors.
3. When the opportunity arose, Hitler commanded the invasion of Germany’s neighbor, Poland, leading Britain and its European allies to grasp that a new war with Germany was inevitable and they declared war on it.
4. Germany easily conquered France, to everyone’s great surprise.
5. The *Battle of Britain* followed, with the German Air Force bombarding London and the rest of England, creating terrible destruction.
6. As in World War I, America was not initially involved, but was eventually dragged in, when Germany’s asian ally Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.
7. The American navy and marines gradually forced the Japanese out of their empire in the South Pacific, and on “D-Day” in 1944, the United States invaded continental Europe from its bases in Britain.
8. Russia was fighting Germany in the east, while America and its allies were able to push them back in the west. Unlike in World War I, the goal was the total conquest and subordination of Germany.
9. Germany unconditionally surrendered in May of 1945.

K. The Holocaust and the End of European Supernationalism

1. American and Russian soldiers discovered that one of the monstrous features of German Nazism was a program to exterminate all non-Germans within Germany. This was the most extreme form of supernationalism ever seen.
2. The main target of this extermination program were the Jews, whom Hitler had blamed for Germany’s defeat in World War I.

3. Jewish people, and anyone not considered to be a proper member of the German race, were rounded up and sent to concentration camps, where they were forced to perform slave labor, and then killed. Six million innocent Jews were killed that way.
4. What Germany had done become known as the *Holocaust*.
5. After Germany was conquered, all the highest ranking Nazi leaders were put on trial, and many were executed. The Germans were forced to face what their belief in supernationalism had produced, instilling their nation with a deep sense of shame.
6. The end of German supernationalism created the opportunity for the rise of the modern way of thinking that now dominates Europe: *supranationalism*.