Standard: SS6H3 Explain conflict and change in Europe.

Element: a. Describe the aftermath of World War I: the rise of communism, the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of Nazism, and worldwide depression.
World War or the “Great War” was the first global conflict of its kind in the modern era.

It began in Serbia with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand I of Austria-Hungary, who was there on a diplomatic visit with his wife.

Shortly after this picture was taken Ferdinand was assassinated.
What ensued was a regional war between competing Germanic and Slavic countries. Preexisting defense pacts and political alliances in the region drew Western Europe into the conflict as well, particularly after German forces invaded Belgium and France.

Because of so many alliances between countries, the majority of Europe was forced into War one way or the other.
After 4 years and 3 months the **Central Powers** surrendered to the **Allies**.

Over 38 Million military and civilians lost their lives.

The **Allies** blamed the war on **Germany**.

The results of WW1 led to global economic crises, radical changes in government, and a decline in power from many European contrives.
During World War I, Russia did not do well.

Millions of people were killed, wounded, or missing.

Citizens did not have enough food.

Soldiers did not have enough clothes, shoes, or weapons.

Czar Nicholas II ignored the signs the people were unhappy...

In Russia there was only 2 social classes. The filthy rich and the filthy poor. The poor outnumbered the wealthy which led to the fall of the Czar.
In 1917, riots in the streets started from angry women, factory workers, and farmers shouting for change. They outnumbered police. The military was unable to keep the peace. Eventually even the Czars on military turned on him and him and his entire blood line executed. This event marked the beginning of the Russian Revolution.
After the execution of the czar, Vladimir Lenin took control of Russia. Under Lenin’s leadership, the Soviet Union was created 1922.
Lenin created the first Communist nation in history.

Country by country, Lenin expanded the size of the Soviet Union by taking over each country and changing their government to a communist dictatorship.

Lenin believed that communism was the best style of government for all countries. In communism all power is centralized in a single ruler.
Lenin’s belief system came from the German philosopher Karl Marx. Marx believed that capitalism and free markets divided people into classes three classes.

- Rich
- Middle
- Poor

Marx believed that the poor would one day overthrow their wealthy rulers and create a new society that would do best with vast government control.
The saying “better dead than red” referred to many people’s fear that Lenin would spread communism all over the world. This was a common fear during the Cold War.
After the **armistice** (formal cease fire) was signed in 1918, World War I officially came to an end in 1919 with the **Treaty of Versailles**.

This treaty explained what the **winners** would **gain** and what the **losers** would **lose**.

At the End of World War I leaders from the winning countries (Allies) met in Versailles, France to write a treaty.
The goal of the Treaty of Versailles was to punish Germany by making them a weak country so that they would never again be able to start another war.

It required Germany:

• Give up 1 million square miles of land
• Pay allies reparations (payment by a group of people for loss or damages)
• Split their army in half and
• Except blame for WW1

German officials were disagreed with harsh punishments, but had no other choice but to agree comply with the Treaty.
President Woodrow Wilson argued for less severe punishments for Germany, but the Allied officials had their minds set on making sure Germany would never become a great nation again.

This severe punishment fueled Germany’s anger and resentment of the allies and helped the rise of Nazism.