

Participation of Women: Thousands of women replaced men in factories, offices, and shops. Women built tanks and munitions, plowed fields, paved streets, and ran hospitals. They also kept troops supplied with food, clothing, and weapons. Although most women left the work force when the war ended, they changed many people's views of what women were capable of doing. Women also saw the horrors of war firsthand, working on or near the front lines as nurses.

Russian Revolution: In 1917 there were two revolutions in Russia – **February Revolution and October Revolution.**

The February Revolution led to the end of rule of Czar and establishment of a provisional government. The October Revolution resulted in the overthrowing of the provisional government in a coup by the Bolsheviks and consequent establishment of a communist state of Russia.

As a result, Russia quit WW I (Bolsheviks were against Russian participation)

In November 1917, Communist leader Vladimir Ilyich Lenin seized power. Lenin insisted on ending his country's involvement in the war. One of his first acts was to offer Germany a truce. In March 1918, Germany and Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which ended the war between them.

From 1918-20 a civil war was fought between the Bolsheviks and the Whites (Mensheviks who wanted genuine democracy).

Bolsheviks emerged victorious and thus the communist revolution reached its stability in 1920.

Russia's withdrawal from the war at last allowed Germany to send nearly all its forces to the Western Front. In March 1918, the Germans mounted one final, massive attack on the Allies in France. As in the opening weeks of the war, the German forces crushed everything in their path. Later, German forces started to weaken with time. The effort to reach the Marne had exhausted men and supplies. **Sensing this weakness, the Allies with the aid of nearly 140,000 fresh U.S. troops launched a counterattack.**

In July 1918, the Allies and Germans clashed at the Second Battle of the Marne. With the arrival of 2 million more American troops, the Allied forces began to advance steadily toward Germany.

Soon, the Central Powers began to crumble. First the Bulgarians and then the Ottoman Turks surrendered. In October, revolution swept through Austria-Hungary. In Germany, soldiers mutinied, and the public turned on the kaiser.

On November 9, 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm II stepped down. Germany declared itself a republic. A representative of the new German government met with French Commander Marshal Foch