

Timeline of Events from the Start of WW1 to Start of WW2

This Timeline is provided as a part of my Article:
Part II, History of the World and of World War 2;
6-1-2004, by Carl R. Littmann

~ TIMELINE ~

-----1914-----

06-28
-1914 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir-apparent to the throne of Austria-Hungary) is Assassinated in the city of Sarajevo. So is his wife "Sophie". (Sarajevo had a high ethnic Serbian population, but was a part of Austria-Hungary at that time. That irritated many Serbs.)

Seven trained assassins were involved. They were mostly trained and armed in Serbia, by a large and powerful "underground" organization, (in my opinion and others'). That organization also enjoyed great support in Serbia, and also in parts of Austria-Hungary that had many ethnic Serbs. ((Some Serbs, etc., were afraid not to support it; and it was, truly, a *terrorist* organization, in my opinion. (And it was not just a "word" to enhance political careers and increase government spending and power).))

In their first attempted assassination of the Archduke that day; the assassins slightly missed, and their bomb injured people in a parade car near the Archduke's, and also injured about 12 parade watchers. Later in the day (after a speech by the Archduke's); the conspirators' best shooter shot to death both the Archduke and his wife, while they were on their way to the hospital to visit the victims of the bombing earlier in that day. ((The chief assassins (Princip and Cabrinovic) were captured quickly. Their 'too stale' suicide pills, which they swallowed just before their capture, failed to work)).

((Optional: It seems ironic—that, the Russian Czar would ultimately be drawn into the conflict to come; and that, in a since, by the Czar's successful pursuit of the destruction of the *Austrian dynasty*, he would greatly hasten *his own destruction*. And also the Czar's entire family would be destroyed with him. That is because the ensuing war against Austria-Hungary and Germany would drastically increase hardships, deaths, and internal problems within Russia, itself; and hasten revolution there.))

07-28 - Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia after deeming that their

-1914 demands against Serbia have not been fully met, following the assassination. Austria-Hungary begins some firing against Serbia. (History deems that the “start of WW1”, (i.e., 7-28-1914).

((Prior to the above date, there was a huge amount of diplomatic discussions and maneuvering between many countries, and **no** shortage of warnings that “If you do this, I’ll do that, etc.--so think twice”. Those details are too extensive for me to cover here. (I think that it is a fallacy to believe that most wars are caused by miscommunications or lack of communications. Similarly, with WW2; Hitler was well warned about another World War if he attacked Poland, but he did anyway, and he got his World War promptly.))

07-30 - Russia finally declares a general mobilization (to aid Serbia against
-1914 *Austria-Hungary’s “over-reaction”*).

That came about eventually. The German Kaiser Wilhelm warned Russia about continued mobilization. Then the Tsar backed off temporarily, but shortly started up again, and held firm. (Note Tsar is often spelled Czar!)

07-30 - Germany also demands that France pledge that she will not enter
-1914 the likely coming war against Germany, and that France turn over
two French forts to Germany, to show her earnestness! (France declines, but just pledges that she will not, in any event, violate Belgium’s neutrality).

((In my opinions, per the above; Germany had shown one of the most amazing displays of arrogance in the world’s history! (No “competitive put-down” intended against any recent President, politician, or other modern ‘upstart’.) And I think the Kaiser, himself, signed the demand note to France. The Kaiser also signed an earlier note to Russia demanding Russia’s demobilization, even after Austria-Hungary had declare war on Serbia, and even after Austria-Hungary had begun firing on Belgrade, (Serbia’s capital.))

Germany would next ask Belgium’s for ‘free’ passage through Belgium to attack France, (and, indeed, did go through Belgium after Belgium refused). The Netherlands was not invaded by Germany during the war, and remained sympathetic to Germany during the war, and to the Kaiser after the war. (The Netherlands was likely concerned about Britain’s growing empire, British behavior during the Boer War in South Africa, etc., etc.) Tragically, I think that Germany’s military complex, its Chancellor, and its Kaiser were completely “out-of-control” and too “hyper”.

08-01 - Germany declares war on Russia, (having again, the day before,
-1914 demanded Russia's demobilization, and without Russia complying).

08-02 - Germany invades Luxembourg.
-1914

08-03 - Germany declares war on France.
-1914

08-04 - Britain informs Germany that a condition of war will exist between
-1914 Britain and Germany--if Germany does not agree to promptly
stop trespassing its army through Belgium. After Britain receives no
reply, Britain declares war on Germany (i.e., ref. 8-4-1914).

During the early part of war; Britain projected the belief that it would have enough "volunteers" to handle the war; but like many countries in many wars--had to eventually resort to (forced) "conscription".

Germany had now 'succeeded' in 'fueling' a great determination by three major countries to defeat Germany. Germany's military performance would be technically 'very good' and up to its 'grand' tradition. And it would come close to capturing Paris, (shortly after the war began and, again, near the end of the war), and to defeating all three major 'Allies'.

But gradually a ~2000-year old Chinese saying would become more applicable: "**The Fountainhead of a Mighty River Cannot Fill a Leaking Cup!**" ((The government of Germany did not understand that in WW1, nor in WW2. (Germany was very "sick" internally). I say that; but I am not naïve to the fact that Britain and others had competitive empires and commerce which they also looked forward to expanding at Germany's expense, (i.e., motives going beyond Belgium, and hardly as "pure" as defending "poor little Belgium".))

And, of course, almost all of Germany's overseas empire would become doomed shortly after WW1 began. Only in a few large areas in Africa (where Germany had substantial troops not greatly dependent on overseas shipments)--would Germany's overseas empire persevere until the end of the war. Germany might damage the British navy much, but the probability of eliminating most of the British navy was very poor.))

08-05 - Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia (i.e., Russia was siding with
-1914 Serbia, and Austria-Hungary was trying to advance against Serbia).

To keep my timeline short, I will not list many small countries which

entered the war, nor their date of entry, *nor* the myriad of battles fought.

08-10
-1914 - France declares war on Austria-Hungary, (for acting against **its** Allies).

The “war-block alliances” that were formed thus consisted mainly of Britain + France + Russia + Serbia against Germany + Austria-Hungary. And there would be many other countries joining the “French” side; and a relatively *few* joining the “German” side, as my timeline will show.

Note, when one country declares war on another; we will generally assume that the other usually reciprocates shortly. We will not list all detailed dates or events, especially the less important ones. (Europe had engaged in nearly every practice which George Washington had warned against, in his ‘Farewell Address’).

08-14
-1914 - Battle of the Western Frontiers begins.

About this time, a lot of battle areas erupted, which I will not cover. But the main point is that the “German side” (i.e., the Central Powers) were trying to fight battles on **both** the *Eastern front* and the *Western front* at the *same time*!! The British were able to land reinforcements by sea rather quickly to help the French. These factors prevented the “Central Powers” from defeating France with one fast “Preemptive strike”, through Belgium, as they had hoped. Thus, the Central Powers were not able to soon concentrate, without diversion, on the Western front. (i.e., thus, the old, quick Franco-Prussian war’s outcome would not be repeated by Germany in WW1).

08-23
-1914 - Japan declares war on Germany. (Thus, Germany’s far-Asian empire holdings are doomed even more quickly).

((Thus, after the WW1; Japan would be formally awarded Germany’s “Mariana Islands”, located about 1400 miles south of Tokyo; and other gains. That would occur, also, because Japan was still strong enough, after the war, to push hard for some of its wishes. Several other very helpful “Allies” were eventually weakened to impotence (or near impotence) at war’s end, and their ‘rewards’ were reduced accordingly (i.e., because of their poor end-condition). (“Welcome” to the realities of most wars; something George Washington well understood, and never ceased to detest).))

08-30
-1914 - First German air raid against Paris

10-29 - Turkey enters the war on the side of the Central Powers, (i.e., on

-1914 Germany's side, etc.) *Turkey* had some old scores to settle against Russia.

10-29 - The military technique of "trench warfare" sets in on the Western front.
-1914 (This type of warfare began to set in ~ 9-14-1914) My timeline is shortened by not listing the many land battles fought in WW1.

Trench warfare was an effective defensive method in WW1, and had been previously developed quite a bit during the American civil war. In that war, it caused Grant's advancing troops a large number of casualties at 'Cold Harbor' VA. Trench warfare was developed still further in WW1, and each side had several specialized-use trenches backing up their forward trench. Barbed wire was laid between the opposing forces, creating a deadly "no-man's land", there.)

12-08 - Naval Battle of Falkland Islands. German warships (after their success
-1914 in the "Coronel" battle) take on an even stronger British fleet near the Falklands. The over-worked German warships are thoroughly defeated. German Vice Admiral von Spee is killed, along with his two sons, and about 2200 other German sailors. The British demonstrate very effective and long-range gunnery, there.

12-21 - First German Air Raid on Britain. ((Earlier, in August 1914; Paris had
-1914 been bombed by Zeppelins (i.e., lighter than air, gas filled, "airships").))

WW1 saw the beginnings of such effective air fighting tactics as: flying "out of the sun" (i.e., with the glaring sun shining in the enemy's eyes, and not in yours); and obtaining a higher altitude than your enemy and then diving toward him. There were parachutes only for balloonists and airship crews during most of WW1. Near the end of WW1, parachutes were finally issued to airplane pilots--by some countries. ((Not, however, by England, where revolvers were issued to pilots (as a substitute, fast "short cut"--according to some pilots).))

Of course, generally; air raids did not reach near the magnitude during WW1 as they reached in WW2. That was because the number of airplanes was much less, and their horsepower and bomb loads were much less. There also arose in WW1—the use of ships to carry military "sea planes"; and these ships were able to fetch seaplanes out of the waters to service them. Thus, before the end of WW1; the plans were laid for our more modern "aircraft carriers" for the future.

(Even as early as the American Civil War; observation balloons were connected to barges far below them. And the barge, with connected balloon overhead, was pulled by a powered boat, to the observation points. (That was a sort of aircraft carrier or airship carrier concept.)

-----1915-----

01-03 - First reported use of (Gas) Chemical Warfare (on the Eastern Front).
-1915 Germany used it there in shells that contained a “tearing agent”

On the Western front (4-22-1915), Germany released ~ 170 tons of poisonous Chlorine gas, killing and injuring many Allied troops. Soon, both sides were using increasing amounts of various poisonous chemical warfare. And near the end of WW1; one out of every four shells fired contained such chemicals. Even wearing a gas mask would not protect one from the more “advanced” chemicals used, as the war progressed. Chemical warfare caused many deaths even long after the war ended. Some chemicals seeped into foxholes and dwelled there—burning lungs and all tissues not covered, or not even coverable. Even “Private Hitler” was temporarily blinded by chemicals, and was “laid up” near the end of the WW1 for the duration of the war.

(Of course; without viable sea power, air power, or great artillery power, etc., to deliver great amounts of the exotic, destructive materials, such materials are practically useless).

01-18 - Japan’s ‘Twenty-one Demands’ against China
-1915

Japan, opportunistically, used its great power to keep a leasehold in China, which Japan had grabbed from Germany; and also expanded its special privileges in China. Pressure from the Allies caused Japan to modified its tough position slightly, but not enough to get China to later sign the Treaty of Versailles (which ended WW1). ((Japan’s continued insistence, regarding many of those demands, helped lead to the “*May 4th Movement*” (1919) in China; and that in turn to the growth of the Chinese Communist Party. Finally, during the “Washington Conference” (1921-22); Japan gave back its leasehold, and also any “ultra” special privileges that extended beyond the special privileges that the other “Powers” enjoyed.

~Jan. - An extremely popular, ‘silent’ Movie premiers in California under
-1915 the title “The Clansman”. Its thrust and spirit are much like that of the Ku Klux Klan’s. Sometime later, it runs under its better known title, “Birth of a Nation”. (“Technically”, the production “breaks much new ground”.)

Later, it received some favorable comments from President Wilson. The NAACP protested the film. And we shall see later, that a movie showing a different view of the birth of the U.S., “The Sprit of ‘76”—got its producer (Goldman) thrown in jail and the movie confiscated.

The mentality of the times was very mean, bigoted, and narrow, and (for example) lynchings were rather common. Much of that was made worse by Wilson--somewhat before WW1 and during WW1.

((However, Wilson commuted Goldman's sentence some years after WW1 ended. (Wilson never did commute Eugene Debs' sentence; he was the Socialist presidential candidate with pacifist views, and who may have drawn some votes away from Wilson.)) (Optional, if readers wish, I'll try to email them more details and my opinions on **President Wilson, and his Secretary of State, Bryan**, if possible.)

02-04 - Germany declares certain "British waters" to be unsafe War Zones.
-1915

03-11 - British announces Blockade of German Ports.
-1915

05-07 - The famous, very large British ship, **Lusitania**, is Sunk (while
-1915 transporting ammunition, along with its passengers, to Britain).

A German sub sunk it with only one torpedo, about 12 miles from Ireland. About 1,195 lives were lost out of the ~1,918 aboard the Lusitania. That included 128 Americans lives lost with it, and also 94 children. In my opinion, the ammunition which the Lusitania stored was a major contributor to its secondary explosion, and to how fast the ship sank. That also contributed to the great loss of life which resulted. The coldness of the ocean near Ireland, and the fact that the ship was not even escorted by a "fishing" boat, also complicated any rescue.

President Wilson (with Bryan's encouragement) resisted European pressure to declare war immediately. The U.S. was baited by some European papers—which claimed that America would lose all Europe's respect, if America did not promptly declare war. Wilson did demand, and did receive, from Germany a commitment to pay 2-1/2 million dollars reparations; and, in the future, a commitment to give "non-warships" a warning before sinking them. And Germany, thereafter, generally complied with that, for some time. (Secretary of State Bryan strongly favored maintaining U.S. neutrality, although Wilson was strongly pro-British, in his disposition and policy.)

Incidentally, it seems to me that how much reparations are paid to harmed citizens of one nation by another—is usually not determined by amount of harm done, nor the immorality of the act. But, instead, by the whims, prejudices, hates and loves of the political regime, in a strong position to extract the reparations.

I think it is important for the reader to note this: Germany claimed that the British blockage of their ports was causing starvation. Many British ships, which appeared “non-military”, had hidden (covered) guns just waiting for German subs to first warn them (thereby disclosing the sub’s presence) so that they could sink the sub. Or for the just-warned British ship to turn and ram the sub. Also, mines laid by the British did not give any ships, carrying goods to Germany, any active warning before exploding.

Further, any media tycoon, politician, or American (who demanded that Wilson declare war instantly”) could have, themselves, gone to England or Europe, transferred citizenship, and fought unconditionally for that ‘Allied’ cause. (And they didn’t have to load kids on an ammunition ship to clear the way, first). Nor to have denied (as I think the British and U.S. governments did deny at the time)--that the Lusitania was carrying dangerous ammunition, when it (in fact) was carrying that! The Lusitania and its passengers were warned against sailing into the English war zone before the ship left New York.

Optional, I side with the “Allies” more than Germany, regarding WW1; (especially against Germany’s ludicrous “pre-emptive” strike against France). But after the war began; I can not form a sensible, really “fair” paradigm--that Germany’s military methods were more “evil” than the Allies’, (with the exemption of Germany’s first starting the chemical warfare).

I think that denials about the circumstances (regarding the sinking of the Lusitania)—was one of the Allies’ most “Unfinest” hours! But, at least, the U.S. and Wilson won more respect among knowledgeable Europeans than otherwise, by not allowing the Lusitania affair to bait us into WW1 suddenly—and that is a great lesson for future generations! (i.e., regardless of the likeliness that many will ever learn it).

05-23
-1915 - Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary.

(We note that in WW1; Mussolini and Hitler ended up fighting on opposite sides, even though on different warfronts.)

~June
-1915 - U.S. *Secretary of State Bryan* resigns, in disagreement over Wilson’s non-neutral drift, including Wilson’s tough note to Germany.

Per above, William Jennings Bryan, (the former populist Democratic candidate for President)—resigned over Wilson’s non-neutral drift. Even before the “Lusitania affair”, Bryan had become concerned over

some of President Wilson's arrogant notes and behavior toward Latin America. Bryan was also concerned that any U.S. Companies, etc., that made loans to England during the war—would be greatly prone to pressure the U.S. to help England win, so that such loans would be repaid. (Incidentally, later on, when Wilson did declare war; Bryan did back that decision of Wilson's.)

end of -1915 - Serbia is finally overrun by the Axis. (*Germany and Bulgaria finally aided Austria-Hungary to achieving that.*)

-----1916-----

02-11 - Emma Goldman arrested for lecturing about birth control .
-1916

On many occasions; Goldman, Margaret Sanger, and others were arrested, (and, in many cases, jailed). And, of course, their endeavors and arrests began even before the above date and continued long afterwards—i.e., too many times to list here. Their persecution (of course) was backed by Wilson and many other 'Fed', State, and local Gov't officials; and by much of the public (educated by many bigoted religious leaders). Glib legalistic terms like "public nuisance" became concocted to attain "birth control clinics". Glib phrases like "*unauthorized* disbursement of *medical advice* and *devices*" were concocted to repress the circulation of information on birth control, and so on. (Incidentally, women did not even have voting right in those days!)

(Opinion: In my opinion the FDA and "our" Gov't health regulators have not improved much since then; and, in many ways, gotten much worse. And their "glib terms" about "protecting you" almost always mean grabbing much of your money through taxes, etc., to protect their own favorite big health cartels, institutions, politicians, and bigots; and to destroy your legitimate freedom. In recent years, it does not even satisfy some bigoted judges to allow the defense to argue a point, and afterward for the judge to tell the jury why the point should be disregarded. The judge, instead, does not even allow the point to be raised! The judge lets the jury hear only the stilted facts. Then the jury, of course, returns the wrong verdict; and most important of all—the judge then pretends that the jury, not the "impartial" judge, rendered the verdict! I call that a perfidious dirty farce!)

03-09 - Mexican rebel Pancho Villa raids New Mexico, ((and is pursued,
-1916 (shortly thereafter), into Mexico itself, by U.S. General John Pershing)).

04-24 - "Easter Rebellion"; 'Pro-Ireland' patriots declare Independence from
-1916 Britain, but are crushed.

The "rebels" took control of some government buildings, but Britain soon crushed the rebellion, killing many Irish and executing many many of there leaders. (Many Irish people were angry that Britain had put on "hold" their scheduled 'home rule', after WW1 had began).

05-31 - Battle of the Jutland; By far, the biggest naval battle in WW1, and it
-1916 results in a tie, approximately!

Germany came out slightly better (regarding technical results). But Germany had failed to win decisively! And only a very lopsided German victory would have prevented Britain from continuing to "rule the seas". Britain could still build, buy, and receive ships faster than Germany could; and the British naval blockage of Germany continued. And that would help insure that the British kept the edge.

09-15 - "Tanks" are introduced by Britain, (a new military invention). They
-1916 first see action on the "Somme battlefield". (Like airplanes, they would become much more important in WW2).

11~7 - Wilson wins the Presidency for a 2nd term. (It was close, but Wilson
-1916 "kept the U.S. out of war").

12~12 - Germany puts out feelers regarding a compromised end to the War.
-1916 England responds rather coolly; insecure about what seems to be Germany's successful military accomplishments and strong potential bargaining position.

(Especially retrospectively; it seems obvious that Germany should have "bit the bullet"; thrown some "trinkets" to it adversaries; and tried to work with the U.S., etc. And Germany would also have had to try to find a face-saving way to explain it all to the German public. Theoretically, that could have been done; but in practice, that would have taken foresight, wisdom, flexibility and a type of courage far beyond most leaders, including Germany's at that time).

12-31 - Germany declares an 'Escalation' in U-boat tactics, (no more warnings
-1916 to be given to ships in war zones shortly before she attacks them).

Germany felt that that "escalation" (--known *in some circles* as "*unrestricted*" warfare) was needed because of the growing success of Britain's blockage against Germany. That blockage was causing starvation in Germany, and many other shortages there; and a rising public discontentment (in Germany) with the continued long war.

Germany felt that its naval escalation might defeat the European allies, even if the U.S. entered. That is, Germany felt that (even if the U.S. entered)—the U.S. could not get massive, well trained, forces to France in time. And, with things going well on the Eastern Front, that Germany could make one last great push on the Western Front.

-----1917-----

02-03 - Wilson and the U.S. break-off relations with Germany, (using the
-1917 'escalated' German U-boat tactics as the main excuse).

(Such *breaks* generally are a prelude to an increased propaganda campaign against one's potential adversary and likely war to follow).

Feb., - "Zimmermann" Telegram affair; Britain intercepts and decodes a
-1917 German telegram suggesting that German diplomats in Mexico try to get Mexico to act militarily against the U.S., if there is a U.S.-German war. Wilson shortly makes good use of it for anti-German propaganda.

(Opinion: Since the Lusitania most inappropriately raised the "American" flag, shortly before it was torpedoed; one might be surprised about Britain's and Wilson's sudden, great 'interest' in making truly representative disclosures to the public—as to who was planning to attack whom, and under what conditions!)

(Semi-humorous remark: What if, instead; President Wilson had just thanked Britain for the tip; and responded that the U.S. had better keep 95% of its armed forces permanently stationed in the U.S., so that the U.S. could counter attack Mexico, etc, etc.—if Mexico took the Germany's suggestion.)

03-09 - British capture Baghdad.
-1917

This and similar successes were helped along by the British Colonel, T. E. Lawrence. He encouraged and helped the Arabs to revolt in certain regions then controlled by the Ottoman Empire (i.e., Turkey). Very roughly; the Turkish-controlled (but Arab-inhabited) region was about 100 miles wide and stretched along the Mediterranean Sea from Turkey to within about 100 miles of the British-controlled Suez Canal. (Of course Britain enjoyed a strong economic and political position in Egypt and other Middle East regions, many of which had much oil!)

There is a famous movie, entitled "Lawrence of *Arabia*"; but, of course,

“he was an *Englishman*” (to borrow a refrain from a famous English Opera song). And perhaps he might equally as well been called “Lawrence of *Oxford*”.

03-15
-1917 - Czar Nicholas II abdicates as Emperor of Russia (A Non-Bolshevik regime takes over and attempts to continue the war).

That followed many military defeats on the Eastern Front; and great suffering within Russia during the long conflict. Also, great turmoil, clashes, and unrest in Russia. At first, a Non-Bolshevik regime took over, and attempted to continue the war against Germany, etc. Also, to make some reforms in Russia--so that such continuation would be effective. Those war efforts were continued under various Russian generals, one after another: Alekseevas, Brusilov, and Kornilov. But, as we shall see; they generally failed, and great problems continued within Russia and escalated.

04-06
-1917 - President Wilson and the U.S. Declare War on Germany.

This actually occurred while Russia was still fighting on the Allies' side. (However, that was without the Czar; and not very effectively.) But Germany had now an even longer list of big counties at war against her: Britain + France + Russia + U.S. + Italy + Japan (along with their empires and coerced regions, such as India + N. China, to name a few) -- against Germany + Austria-Hungary + Turkey.

Yet, additional German progress was still made on the Western Front, and much greater loss of Allied ships was achieved--increasing Allied worry for some time. However, the Allies eventually devised a defensive tactic called the “Naval Convoy System”, which helped limit shipping loses. Yet, shipping loses still continued to be very high. But the Allies produced more ships to adequately replace its huge loses.))

04-13
-1917 - Wilson and Congress create the “Committee on Public Information” (CPI) to whip of the war spirit, discourage diversity, and bring about uniformity and narrow-minded thinking.

It sometimes would resort to racism, caricaturing Germans as Ape-like “Huns”, and calling them that. (In a sense, that is a little surprising because one of Queen Victoria's daughters had earlier married the German Kaiser.) Anyway, the CPI also helped get such laws passed as the “Sedition Act” and “Espionage Act”. (And one should begin wondering about the inherent dangers, when a government uses its great power and intimidation--to politically perpetrate its own great myths, flaws and cruelties, in perpetuity.)

05-10
-1917

- The British, wisely, introduce the “Convoy System” (to decrease the escalating German sinking of their cargo shipping).

One advantage of the “Convoy System”, I think, was that it minimized the number of submarines which got to “see” the large “flock” of convoy ships, before they passed. ((I say a “flock” of convoy ships, because humans (in a sense) seemed to be imitating animals, which had been forming “herds” for their own protection for millions of years, before humans.))

Optional: Such dense convoys also allowed warships to surround and protect such “herd” of ships. That would, at least, prevent subs from making a fast “above-the-surface” approach. And perhaps, if any peeking sub periscope was spotted; the periscope, and maybe the sub also, could be destroyed by Allied warships (i.e., which were protectively surrounded their large herd).

((Optional, cont’d...Also, mathematically; the “ocean surface area” (i.e., number of ship protected) increases with the “square” of the “parameter” around it (i.e., the number of ships surrounding it).)) That presumably means that ‘many more ships are protected’ with only a ‘slight increase in surrounding ships’. Of course, when a big fleet of ships suddenly arrived at some protected docks for unloading; that would cause a slight hardship and inefficiency at the port. But the Convoy System proved worth that inconvenience--because it prevented greater loss of cargo, ships and voyagers, in route. (Of course, some of the above is somewhat speculative--I am no expert.)

05-08
-1917

- “Selective Service” Act signed by President Wilson. (Of course, that is a “Military-Conscript Grabbing” Act, to use a somewhat more realistic term). (I realize that Congress ‘traditionally’ prefers glib, cozy, misleading terms, to obfuscate the more serious, important issues.)

Very Optional: Where possible I will reserve the term, “Selective Service”, for the elaborate *System* used by the Emperor of China to select his very rare Concubines. (Or by a lesser process by which a President or Congressmen do the same; although resulting in lesser ‘selectivity’, generally, than the old system in China.)

((Optional: I think my phrase, “*military-conscript picking*”, applies better, especially during “Wilson’s WW1”, than the words, “*Selective Service*”. (More about that later when we discuss the “Bonus Army” and the Great Depression.) The word “*Draft*” is also NOT an appropriate *term* for *conscription*. The “*Draft*” is generally applied to

the selection of great professional athletes, who are often offered millions of dollars to play, but can still decline the millions, and decline to play at all, and/or demand more. And even temporary “*Draft animals*”, who are required do hard work, say, for, a farmer – are still not put at risk by the requirement to kill other animals, or be killed by the other animals—as their job. So, I think, things should be called what they really are.))

~6-25
-1917 - First U.S. troops arrive in France.

11-07
-1917 - Lenin and the Bolsheviks seize power in Russia.

Dec.,
-1917 - **Soviet Russia** and *Central Powers* begin peace talks, and sign an Armistice.

(An armistice is a temporary cease-fire while constructive talks are attempted for a long-term peace treaty. But either side can break off “negotiations” and resume the shooting, if dissatisfied with progress or if the situation changes radically.) Lenin deemed Russia in too bad of shape to continue in the war, and with little or nothing to gain by continuing the war.

-----1918-----

01-08
-1918 - President Wilson announced his “14 point” peace plan (aims).

03-03
-1918 - Russia and Central Powers sign a harsh “peace treaty”, at Brest-Litovsk.

Lenin and Trotsky were hit with very harsh demands to give vast portions of Russia over to the Central Powers. Trotsky hesitated, but Lenin felt disaster was imminent for the Bolsheviks and all of Russia, when Germany got serious about renewing the fighting. Also, Lenin felt (correctly) that Germany would be forced (by soon-to-come setbacks on other war fronts) to give up most of its gains, anyway.

They even explained that to the Germans, but I think the Germans wanted to show their public--some appearance of big triumphs and big gains. And also, Germany likely wished to leave the Soviets more impotent than Russia would have been, even under its former Czar. (Incidentally, the city of ‘Brest-Litovsk’, where the treaty was signed, was formerly located in ‘Russia’, but now is in Brest, Belarus.)

- 04-28 - Princip (the assassin who ‘triggered’ WW1) dies of tuberculosis in
-1918 Theresienstadt prison in Austria. (ref. 6-28-1914--the start of my timeline.)
- 05-16 - Sedition Act (or Sedition Amendment) is passed (to add to the
-1918 Espionage Act of 5-15-1917, and whip up the war spirit).
- The persecutions, which that Act encouraged, continued long after the war.
- 06-01 - First major deployment of U.S. combat troops is successful, and
-1918 prevents the German drive on Chateau-Thierry from making significant gains. That combat occurred near Paris.
- ((Unlike WW2 and most other wars in which the U.S. was involved; the U.S. WW1 combat units, seemed to function very well, even when first deployed! That was a significant technical achievement for General Pershing and likely many others. (I am not expert enough on WW1 to know exactly how they achieved that). I know that they were not rushed to the front, without further training, after they arrived in France; although that delay irritated and worried the hard-pressed French. I also know that they avoided some communication problems and other problems by operating as pure “American” units, without mixtures of many foreign troops within their units.))
- According to what I have read; one of many problems that France faced was this: From the period of *late March to early August 1918*; the German drive got close enough to Paris, and held firm enough, so that parts of Paris were shelled during *that period*, (presumably by very long range guns).
- June, - Czechs along the Trans-Sibeian Railroad revolt and seize it. Fighting
-1918 breaks out between the Bolsheviks and Czechs, along the Railroad. The Czechs aid the Anti-Bolshevik “White Russians”, and Russia sinks more deeply into a “Civil War”, of sorts. (These Czechs were formerly prisoners of Austria-Hungary, but had been freed during fighting on the WW1 Eastern Front—I think.)
- Before the Bolshevik-Czech fighting broke out, about 12,000 Czechs had arrived in Vladivostok, and the Czechs were supposed to leave to help fight on the Western front; but they did not. The Soviets were concerned about the Czech’s motives and the other foreign “advisors”. There was a civil war going on in Russia at the time. And there was still ~48,000 Czechs strung out along the railroad at the time, I think.
- 06-23 - British forces arrive in the very northern Russian Seaport of Murmansk.
-1918 That occurred mainly to aid the Anti-Bolshevik forces, in the Russian

civil war. Murmansk is very far from the Western or former Eastern War Front, and just a little east of where the northeastern tip of Norway touches Russia.)

06-29 - Czechs seize control of Vladivostok. They ask for Allied support, supposedly to “free” their comrades along the Trans-Siberian railroad.
-1918

~7-16 - The already abdicated Tsar (Nicholas II) and his family are Executed
-1918 by the Bolsheviks at Ekaterinburg (Yekaterinburg), the capital of the Russian Ural mountain region. About a week later, “pro-White army” Czechs capture the city.

The “Red army” (Bolsheviks) was fighting the “White army” (strongly anti-Bolshevik). And, per above, the White army soon threatened the capture of that Bolshevik-held city (and the release of the Tsar). The Bolshevik then carried out the executions, and they hid the bodies to try to discourage any future ceremony or rallying at their resting site. (Recently, by conducting searches, DNA studies, etc.--the emperor and most of his family were found, and were re-entered at the long standing “Romanov” ancestral site.)

Note: I have read that the old Russian calendar does not correspond exactly with the West’s, regarding February; and possibly other problems are also involved. Hopefully, all my dates go by the Western Calendar, for simplicity and consistency in my articles.

Optional: One might ask, “Why didn’t the British king (or some Allied Royalty) invite the Tsar and his family to their country sometime after his abdication over a year earlier”? (Some “face-saving” excuse could have been given; like to have special doctors check a hemophiliac son, or etc.) Perhaps, however, the Tsar and his family might have declined such invitation, anyway; even though all the family might have been saved by, in effect, thus accepting asylum.

But, anyway; the above optional speculation is just a reminder to the readers to keep their minds creatively inquisitive. (And, incidentally, my speculation above—does not mean that I advocate using refugee status to wage war against the Country left behind; nor to abscond with its treasures; nor to help “bug” a political party in the new country—whichever party one detests.)

08-02 - Allied troops land at Archangel, Russia, (assisted by Allied and U.S. sailors). The Allies also assist in the formation of an anti-Bolshevik Russian Government—(according to many sources I have read).
-1918

(Archangel is another very northern Russian port. It is on the White

Sea, about 375 miles southeast of Murmansk, and far away from the Western and Eastern War fronts, etc.) That is different from the “Ukraine”; which is near Germany, and from which the Axis was supplying much of its needs.

08-16 - U.S. Troops and Allies *land in Vladivostok*, Russia, a port on the
-1918 “Sea of Japan”. That is on the Pacific Ocean side of Russia!

The intervention followed previous discussions and understandings between the remaining Allies. (Japan would be the last to withdraw its troops from Vladivostok, after the Bolsheviks had won the Russia civil war.)

It is difficult to see the “Allied” intervention in Vladivostok, and in Russia’s northern ports—except as an attempt to “re-mold” Russia into a political and economic semi-puppet of the “Allies” (i.e., rather than as an independent country). As is the case with so many actions of this sort; it does not “save” the lives of our troops, (and I don’t think it was intended to—i.e., it had quite sinister goals, instead). In fact, it actually diverted some Allied strength away from helping those on the challenging Western Front and near that, so it likely caused more loss of life of U.S. troops.

((And I think it is about high time (after 135 years or so) that Americans start contemplating the difference between our real “national security” and merely some *politicians’ “job security”*. And that includes many influential puppeteers who control those politicians, and their empires.))

And also very important is this: History should note that Wilson’s famous “Principles of Self Determination” were not torn up by a “right-wing Congress”, nor “Isolationists”; but were “torn up” and destroyed by a hypocritical Wilson, himself!

10-03 - Germany and Austria-Hungary send Wilson note asking for Armistice.
-1918

Wilson’s high-sounding principles of self-determination and the like are considered by many to have helped persuade Germany to “sue for peace”; and likely lessened the problem of ‘saving-face’ in the process.

The armistice did not formally go into effect for about a month, partly because Wilson insisted on dealing with a ‘Republic’ instead of an ‘Emperor system’. (That is what I have read at other websites).

One of many contradictions in Wilson’s policy that developed was this: Wilson insisted that the new German “Weimar Republic” sign the famous “War Guilt Clause” in the final peace treaty. (i.e., the clause

acknowledging that the “signer” and those whom the signer represented--accept of 100% of the blame for the war)). But if the pro-Republic Party was as guilty as the Emperor and his Party; why should Wilson have demanded that the armistice be delayed until the German ‘Emperor-system’ was replaced by a ‘Republic-system’? (i.e., that is, the Emperor would have then been representing the ‘just-as-guilty’ “pro-Republic advocates” quite appropriately.)

~11-3
-1918 - German sailors ‘mutiny’ at Kiel, Germany; (when ask to sail out and destroy the Allied blockage of Germany).

They felt that it was a waste of lives without a chance for success or constructive progress, (and that conclusion was likely correct). Incidentally, there had been mutinies or mass desertions somewhat earlier in the war, by Italian troops (on the Italian front), and by French troops (in May 1917 in France) during the “3rd Battle of Aisne”. In the opinion of the future General Joseph Stilwell, the spirit and caliper of French troops in WW1 was generally excellent.

These problems generally occurred when troops felt that they were just being ordered to repeat previously failed tactics (i.e., that had already brought upon themselves staggering numbers of casualties and without future improvement possible). ((We note that, as bad as the German Kiel mutiny may seem to some readers, they did *not* scuttle the ships, at least. But later, the “Scapa flow (scuttling) event” would be the ‘feat’ of other Germans; who would, strangely, be regarded as heroes in some circles.))

11-09
-1918 - German Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates (and flees to the Netherlands).

11-09
-1918 - A German Republic is proclaimed.

11-11
-1918 - An Armistice goes into effect.

There was considerable disorder in Germany during this period (which is typically when a society gets some breathing space, and really begins thinking about what their Gov’t has been up to).

11-14
-1918 - German Submarines are Interned by the Allies, as part of the armistice.

11-21
-1918 - All other major German warships disarm, and sail to Scapa Flow, near the Orkney Islands, about 25 miles north of Scotland (England).

Per the Armistice; this large surface fleet arrived at Scapa Flow, without ammunition, and with just a skeleton German crew to maintain them (until the final acceptance or rejection of a peace treaty). The British navy was supposed to keep an eye on their behavior until then, and act appropriately, depending on developments.

-----1919-----

Jan.,
-1919 - The 'Spartacist' Communist revolt is attempted in Berlin. ((It was put down by the "Weimar" Gov't (or whatever).)) The revolt's leaders (Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht) were captured and murdered on the way to prison.

Liebknecht had opposed the buildup to the war; and had opposed the war, after that. He had won a seat in the lower Prussian House while still in jail for his anti-war writings. He was later elected to the Reichstag. He was later expelled from the Socialist Democratic Party for his extremism.

01-16
-1919 - In the U.S.; the 18th Amendment is ratified (against 'intoxicating' beverages). If some people think moderate alcohol helps their own health, besides enhancing a fine dinner; its just too bad; "One size fits all"! (*Exception*--alcohol was still allowed for major organized religious Institutions to use for religious occasions. *That* is what I heard on a "Public Education TV" program.)

02-06
-1919 - Germany National Assembly meets at "Weimar".

02-14
-1919 - The draft of the "Covenant" of League of Nations is completed, (i.e., Wilson's 'brainchild').

Presumably, that was the International group of countries who were to be the judges and enforcers for the Treaty of Versailles and other 'World' law issues.

03-04
-1919 - Founding of the Comintern (a Communist international organization) at Moscow. A civil war was occurring in Russia at that time, and receiving foreign support.

April,
-1919 - Amritsar Massacre by British in India results in hundreds killed and over a thousand injured.

India had contributed much to Britain and the Allies' winning WW1. But after the war; I think that the British need to satisfy Indians with

progress toward independence decreased. And with it, the British need to accommodate the progressive pro-independence movement in India —also decreased.

05-07
-1919

- Treaty of Versailles submitted to the German delegation.

Strangely; it seems to have taken the “Allies” almost 6 long months to decide what to demand from the defeated Axis. Perhaps that unusually great time was required, because the Allies argued among themselves as to how to divide up the “spoils”. ((A tough imposed treaty, itself, would have seemed justifiable—since Germany had recently set such pattern by the ultra-tough terms they imposed on Soviet Russia. And Germany, earlier, had imposed tough terms on France (after the Franco-Prussian war). Hitler’s future argument (that the harsh terms of Versailles’ dwarfed anything Germany, etc., had ever imposed) --is nonsense!))

But, if any extra harsh conditions continued to be imposed by the long blockade (just because the Allies wrangled much among themselves) that aspect would have been inappropriate. ((If that happened; then it was unfortunate that the Allies did not, instead, first quickly decide what the Axis should give up; then the Allies could have gotten the Axis to sign OK on that. After that, the Allies could have taken as much time as they wanted to wrangle among themselves about how to divide the spoils.))

As it turned out; Italy left the conference extremely bitter that they were not awarded near as much Axis spoils as they thought their huge sacrifices (indeed huge) had earned them. ((That complaint did not originate with Mussolini, (who had fought on the side of the Italians and Allies against Germany in WW1; and therefore, in a sense, against Hitler, in WW1)).))

And I think Japan left somewhat angry about their ‘small’ rewards also. (For example, Australia was allowed to keep the large German holding of Northeastern New Guinea, after WW1. And, of course, Britain, France, and the Netherlands continued to hold or control the vast areas now known as India, Burma, Malaysia, Indochina, Indonesia, etc.)

06-21
-1919

- Germany ‘successfully’ *Scuttles Its Fleet at Scapa Flow*, near Scotland (England), to prevent it from falling into Allied hands. (Apparently, the German Admiral believed that Germany had rejected the peace treaty submitted to them, but Germany had just asked for a little more time.)

In my opinion, many of the scuttled ships, including some battleships,

were of higher quality than those which the U.S. lost at Pearl Harbor, when WW2 began. And I wish that Wilson and Britain had been on-guard against that also “pollutive” Scapa Flow scuttling, instead of sending troops far away, to interfere in Soviet Russia’s civil war.

06-28
-1919

- Germany finally signs the **Treaty of Versailles**, (The Peace Treaty formally ending World War 1)

Besides containing the famous “War-Guilt Clause”; the Treaty contained staggering, and not clearly limited, reparation requirements. A few years later; a war Reparations Commission set the amount at 33 billion dollars, (dwarfing the 1 billion which Germany imposed on France after the Franco-Prussian war). There was, historically, a lot of hatred and “unfinished business” to settle. About half the number of troops mobilized by some Allies (and in some cases more than half) ended up as casualties. And, of course, almost all the male population, who could be mobilized by the most hard pressed Allies, had been.

Again, although the treaty seemed harsh, it was not harsher than what Germany had imposed on Russia before Germany’s defeat. Again, the problem was not so much its harshness. The problem was that some harsh requirements were just impractical, and other aspects were very hypocritical, unrealistic, and contradictory.

Important Opinion: Consider putting a “price tag” on the vast and valuable territorial holdings which the “Allies” won from the Germans and Axis--in the oil-rich Middle East, in Africa, in the Pacific, in China, and elsewhere. Then one should likely draw the following conclusions: The Allies (albeit surreptitiously) had already received, in a sense, many Billions of Dollars, toward their Versailles’ claims! So I think that a more accommodating and patient attitude, regarding further monetary, etc., transfers --would have been appropriate, and based upon what was practical. (The U.S. politico-social system was very flawed, anyway; so that the public and low-ranked military would ‘never see’ much reparations ‘trickle down’ to them, anyway.)

Ultimately, the U.S. did NOT sign the Versailles Treaty, nor become a member the *League of Nations*, either. Congress would not go along with either. Instead, the U.S. eventually made its own very harsh, rather similar treaty with Germany and the Axis, which they all signed.

After the Versailles Treaty, the map of Europe began to look rather like it does ‘today’ (~2003). Austria-Hungary was spit up, and an independent Hungary was created. Many other independent nations were also formed out of much of Austria, leaving Austria much smaller. (Compared to Austria’s territorial loss, Germany’s loss of

territory was relatively small!)

Serbia thus became much bigger (i.e., became the big “Yugoslavia”). (But in the more recent 1990s; it was shrunk back to more like it was before WW1. In fact, it is arguable that U.S. Government usually leads the U.S. around in big circles, for its politicians’ interests or in the interest of other influential countries, and without any long-term moral consistency or worthy public objectives.)

Denmark, Netherlands, and Switzerland had remained neutral in WW1, and none of them incurred major boundary changes. (The Swiss, of course, historically steered a neutral policy, in the 20th Century, and for sometime, even before that.)

Finland, Poland, and a few small countries north of Poland became independent, following WW1 and Versailles.

Various separate territories were defined out of much of the middle east region, which the Ottoman-Turks formerly controlled before WW1. But these new territories, many rich in oil, were not given their independence; and were dominated mainly by Britain, instead. (That, despite the efforts, after the war; of *Lawrence ‘of Arabia’*.)

Optional: I have read that Wilson was greatly upset by the coolness of European leaders over “Wilson’s Principles”, after they had extracted U.S. support and had, thus, won WW1. Also, Wilson had a stroke, while vainly campaigning for Congressional backing for his League of Nations. It seems to me that one strong counter-stroke, that Wilson could have struck, was a reasonably early diplomatic recognition of Soviet Russia, even *without* the need for Congress’s approval. And also, that would have sent a strong message of displeasure to our European “Allies” regarding their self-serving manipulations and their continued foreign empires.

09-30 - Allies evacuate Archangel (and 2 weeks later evacuate Murmansk).
-1919

-----1920-----

04-01 - U.S. forces withdraw from Siberia. Russian civil war continues.
-1920 Japan continues to hold Vladivostok.

04-25 - Soviet Russia and Poland War begins over border disagreements.
-1920 - League of Nations grants Britain mandate to rule over Iraq.
Iraqis complain to U.S. President, who calls complainers 'ingrates.'

Iraqis revolt. Revolt suppressed by British force and bombers.
British draw Iraqis into bureaucracy to restore order.

08-18 - Ratification of the 19th Amendment, (Women get the Vote in the U.S.)
-1920

Nov., - A Republican trounces a Democrat for President, (receiving about
-1920 twice as many votes as the Democrat who endorsed the League of Nations).

By the end of 1937; three “Neutrality” treaties were passed by Congress. I think that was do to the very great resentment of voters over their Government’s misleading them about WW1 and about the prospects.

-----Events 1921 and beyond-----

03-18 - Treaty between Soviet Russia and Poland formally sets borders and
-1921 ends war.

05-20 - Germany signs a treaty with China, seeking relations based on
-1921 “equality”.

07-29 - Adolf Hitler becomes head of the “Nazi” Party (i.e., Germany’s
-1921 National Socialist German Workers’ Party)

1921 - Washington Conference and its various treaties, (A requirement of
-1922 one of the treaties was that Japan withdraw from the Chinese Province of Shandong, aka old Shantung.)

Japan had taken Shandong from Germany during the early part of WW1; and it was now agreed to allow its reversion back to China. Also, China was to get more control over its tariffs; and no Western country or Japan was to enjoy more special privileges in China than another. (Of course, the above did not apply to “British” Hongkong and many other areas deemed as historical exceptions.)

Various Powers were assigned relative ratios of warships--a sort of “balance of power”. ((But I think that it ultimately turned out to be more a ‘balance of stupidity’, as those ratios tended to cause escalating rivalry, jealousy, and creative cheating--as time passed. And also the development of still more efficient weapons. (Optional: And the Universities in each country may as well have offered courses on such topics as “Principles of Un-Principled ...Behavior”; or “Principles and *lack* of Practices” of)

03-10 - The British arrest Gandhi in India, for ‘Sedition’; and he does some
-1922 ‘jail time’. (This happened too many times to list in this timeline—

during India's struggle for independence.)

04-16 - Treaty of Rapallo between Germany and Soviet Russia--i.e., aka USSR.
-1922 Germany becomes the first country to recognize Soviet Russia. They also settle all mutual claims on the basis of "no gains" from WW1.

It was negotiated by Walter Rathenau of Germany, and Chicherin of Soviet Russia. ((Foreign minister Rathenau's reward for it was to be assassinated in Germany by 'Nazi-istic' elements masquerading, as extremely 'nationalistic patriots', as usual. But, of course, the thing these extremists feared most was that Germany would make progress and become an improved country under someone other than themselves (i.e., improved under non-extremist, reasonable leadership)! In the 'Nazi-istic' scheme of things; egotism and ambition took priority over the real well-being of Germany! (If such extremists thought broadly; they would realize that their WW1 war, especially against France, was morally indefensible—which is why they have to assassinate their targets, instead of arguing with them.) And they carried out many assassinations, indeed. And we shall note that fascism escalated around the world.)

06-24 - German Foreign Minister Rathenau of Germany is Assassinated (A
-1922 'Nazi-istic' act against the 'Weimar regime' that governed Germany during the 1920s. Also, see above treaty event, 4-16-1922 .)

10-25 - Japan finally leave Vladivostok.
-1922

10-28 - The fascist, Mussolini, is invited to form a Coalition Government in
-1922 Italy by King Victor Emmanuel III, following Mussolini's famous 'March on Rome'.

Mussolini gradually turned Italy into a fascist dictatorship. He was aided by the general feeling--that Italy was cheated out of its 'fair' share of spoils from WW1, (feelings which he further incited). Also, by impatience over the poor conditions and inefficiencies in Italy—such as the 'trains not running on time'.

According to 'history'; Benito Mussolini was originally a Socialist, opposed to Italy's imperial rule in Libya, and opposed to WW1. He thus regarded WW1 also as merely a war between Imperialists—(as did many other Socialists). Suddenly, he seems to have reversed himself about everything, and was expelled from the Socialist party.

He joined the Italian army; and fought on the side of the "Allies", in WW1, and against Germany and the Axis. ((Therefore, in a sense;

Mussolini was fighting against “Private Hitler’s side”; although they were stationed on different war fronts. That may not make any sense to the reader, nor certainly to me—especially because Hitler and Mussolini would become partners in WW2. But, in those days; there was still a reigning paradigm in wide and ‘distinguished’ circles that“It does not matter what a man fights for, ... as long as he fights for something!” And perhaps Mussolini thought that a ‘Roman’ (unlike a Greek) should ‘Do, Do, Do something’; and not ‘think’, ‘think’, ‘think’.)

((As for Hitler’s habit of pretending to be enraged by the “November Criminals—who ‘surrendered’ to the Allies” (after Ludendorff clearly told the Kaiser that his armies needed an armistice); we will note this: Hitler would later work closely with his “buddy” Mussolini—who actually did go way out of his way to fight against the Axis, during much of in WW1, not just one November month or one day. And as for generals Ludendorff and Hindenburg; they seemed to conveniently forget what they had indicated to the Kaiser—that the German military had, indeed, been militarily defeated. Those evasions were despicable; but I can’t say unpredictable. Those actions were simply an evasion of proper leadership responsibility; and involved lying and seeking a scapegoat, instead. And trying, thereby, to achieve face-savings and to establish one’s own self-serving dictatorship.))

Jan.,
-1923

- France and Belgium occupied the Ruhr River region of Germany (This is done after Germany’s delivery of reparations-related goods to France, i.e., coal, falls short).

The Rhine River flows through much of western Germany, 40 to 100 miles from where Germany touches the southern region of the Netherlands, Belgium, and little Luxembourg. The Rhine River also forms the border between southern France and Germany.

In the north, near the southern end of Netherlands; the “Ruhr” River branches off from the Rhine River, and the Ruhr flows eastward, deeper into Germany. This is a very resource-rich, industrial area. In that vicinity are many important cities such as Duisburg, Essen, Dortmund, and Dusseldorf.

After France and Belgium occupied that region, German labor responded with strikes and non-cooperation; and Germany printed large amounts of money to pay the strikers. This caused runaway inflation; and was utterly destructive to Germany’s economy. And it was made worse by Germany’s having to buy coal from Britain. It increased hatreds for years, and the occupation was expensive for France; which thus gained little.

During those years; instability in Germany fed escalated attempts by “right-wing” (Nazi) elements, to take over Germany. Eventually, an American plan, (i.e., the “Dawes Plan”) was put into effect, to bring a relative ‘peace and prosperity’ of sorts; but we shall see that even that worked only temporarily.

Optional Opinion (may be skipped):

Actually, I think that the non-cooperation by Germany, and their ceasing to even try to pay reparations--were mistakes. (And the Allies’ coarse method of trying to collect it all was also a mistake.) Germany had waged a war for ~ 4 years, involving many millions of low-paid, low ranked soldiers, and bringing much death and injury to them. Would, say, a lesser number of “soldier-workers” (~500,000), toiling less dangerously and less torturously (to mine and supply coal and/or other reparations)—have been too much to ask--by traditional reparations standards? No! And such labor, etc., could have supplied about a billion-dollars-worth of reparations per year, for about 4 years, (the same duration as the previous wasteful fighting, which was even worse). The “coal-related work” would have also “provided” employment. And say, after ~ 4 years -- then appeals might have been made to begin to phase-out reparations requirements. Thus, the tool of real “non-cooperation” could have been reserved for use only after prolonged good-faith cooperative efforts continued to go unappreciated.

11-08
-1923

- Hitler’s “Beer Hall Putsch” (Hitler and Nazis attempt a local takeover by force; and, from there, to take over all of Germany. But it is subdued by Germany forces.)

This occurred in a beer hall in Munich, a city in Bavaria, Germany. The Nazis also captured, there, “von Kahr”, the head of Bavaria, an important region in Southeast Germany. After von Kahr was released, he freely denounced the coup. Hitler and his Nazis were shortly, thereafter, put down by force, resulting in some deaths during the fighting that ensued. And Hitler served nearly one year, of his five-year sentence, for the ‘Putsch’, in jail.

While in jail; Hitler wrote his book, “Mein Kampf”, arguing that the German race was superior to all; and that its failure to gain that standing, and more, was due to international plots by the Jews. It was published 7-18-1925; but not translated into English until near the beginning of WW2.

Despite Hitler’s jail term; he gained fame in those “Weimar” years--

many of which were very hard years for Germans. And during those times; many German were resenting their government and the World Government (the League), and looking for quick face-saving answers and solutions. After the failed coup; Hitler changed his tactics some; and began focusing more on getting a 'political shoe in the door'; instead of 'knocking down the door' with one big paramilitary punch.

01-21
-1924

- Lenin, head of Soviet Russia, Dies, (at ~54 years old, 1870-1924).

Even though Tsar Nicholas II life was ended non-naturally (i.e., by execution)—it was only about 4 years shorter than Vladimir Lenin's 'natural' short life-span. (And, we shall see later, that the Tsar's life span was only 1 year shorter than German foreign minister Stresemann's.)

Lenin and Stresemann probably aged faster than normal due to a hard driving work style, under high-pressure; and perhaps that combined with their not getting enough nutrients under that stress. ((I would speculate it was a lack of enough anti-oxidants (vitamin C, etc.) and vitamins B6, B12, and folic acid.)) Perhaps, Lenin's poor long term prospects were also aggravated by an injurious assassination attempt in August 1918.

One reads that near the end of Lenin's life (or near the last of his many strokes)—that Lenin became very concerned about Stalin's faults. Stalin was known to be a likely successor for Lenin. Lenin felt that Stalin had a propensity to be over-dictatorial, without giving others' ideas fair attention and learning from them. (It seems likely that the problem of satisfactory transfer of power—was one of several problems that Soviet Russia would *not* solve satisfactorily.)

Sept.,
-1924

- The Allies' *Dawes Plan* is launched to help restore Germany's ability to resume Reparation Payments to the Allies. (It helped temporarily.)

Regretfully, most encyclopedias seem vague on details, and I am not a "forensic accountant" nor a forensic investigator of lobbying schemes. The Dawes Plan involved large loans to Germany by Western institutions and maybe individuals. Such things as Germany's railroad system were mortgaged to back the loans. It appears that the German Central bank, some other institutions, and tariff collection powers were turned over to Western control, to expedite payment of interest on the loans, and to help re-start the reparation program again. At least, the Dawes Plan ended the occupation of the "Ruhr" region, (but I think that some of the Rhine region continued to be occupied, per the Versailles treaty). Optional, among the many stories or poems about the Rhine, is the "Lorelei", by Heinrich Heine.

I have read that England and, perhaps, some other European countries, complained that they would love to pay back the U.S. for its loans, etc., incurred during WW1; but couldn't, until Germany completed its reparation payments to them. But I think, that besides the foreign territories Germany gave up after its defeat; that England, etc., had huge numbers of foreign territories, which they could have transferred to the U.S. And the U.S. could have granted these independence much faster, and the U.S. have still received some cash flow from that, lieu of loan repayment. Often (not necessarily excluding the present) I have wondered if U.S. leaders have an "independent" mind (i.e., not controlled by foreign leaders and systems, and for those foreign systems—very different from what Lincoln had in mind at Gettysburg).

Optional Opinion: The *Dawes "Program"* was largely the "brainchild" *Charles Dawes*, (1865-1951). Just a few years earlier, a somewhat similar "*program*" (but for a different application) was devised by *Charles Ponzi*, (1882-1949). And, I'm afraid that *Charles Dawes* and *Charles Ponzi*, would (by chance) have a bit more in common besides their first name, "*Charles*". Both their programs would fail; after, seemingly, impressive initial successes. And although Dawes' plan brought a longer period of apparent success than Ponzi's; both were flawed similarly (in a sense); and both failed spectacularly.

~1925 - Physicist Wolfgang Pauli theorizes that an atomic nucleus "spins".

Pauli, an Austrian physicist, and possibly others, studied ultra fine aspects of the spectrum of light emitted by atoms. They suggested that a nucleus spins (say, like a gyro).

Optional: But suppose the *spin* concept is combined with Rutherford's theory (developed in 1911)--that the nucleus is extremely small? And suppose those concepts are combined with Bohr's useful theory, (published in 1913), that some very small structures have a very high amount of angular momentum? (i.e., a large "quantum's worth"). All that seems to point to the possibility that even the non-hidden energy, which some nuclei have, may be ultra high; (i.e., of magnitude mc^2). So there may be, somehow, ultra-high energies in very small entities of matter and/or in the space surrounding them. (Optional: ref., see my first website article, *What We See and What We Don't See*.)

03-11 -1925 - Sun Yat-sen, (head of the Chinese Southern Government) Dies, (at ~59 years old, 1866-1925).

Sun was visiting Beijing in 1925, probably to try to achieve greater

national unity. And his liver cancer quickly escalated. (Sun, also, was a “workaholic” in pursuit of his strong political beliefs and convictions.) Early in Sun’s career; he had given up a good medical practice, to pursue his convictions, related to other broader, catastrophic national problems that he felt needed be tackled without postponement. Toward the end of his life, Sun was working with Soviet Russia, where possible, to help solve what he considered to be weaknesses in his own party and country. And communists were allowed to join his party, the Kuomintang, to pursue that.

Near the end of his life, he was also plagued with the thoughts and burdens--that China had not achieved a unity even close to that of Soviet Russia’s or the other Powers’; nor had China achieved independence from the imperialism of the Powers. And, perhaps, his own party still had too many anti-progressive elements to succeed in bringing about the big needed national changes. ((Perhaps, a reminder of the validity of that concern came—when Liao Chung-kai, (a progressive party leader) was murdered, about 6 months after Sun died. Liao’s assassination was probably carried out by reactionary elements)).

10-16
-1925 - The “Locarno Pact”; Germany and the Powers recognize borders of of Countries in Western Europe; (My date may be only approximate.)

1926 - Chiang Kai-chek (Sun’s ‘successor’) launches a military-backed “Northern Expedition” to unified China. It is mostly successful.

After that; he expelled the Chinese Communists from ‘his’ party and government; and tried (with some success) to ‘eliminate’ them (1927). The Communists still, however, dominated some regions; and in 1930 Chiang began a more organized war against them.

09-08
-1926 - Germany admitted to the League of Nations

That followed improvement in economic and political relations with the Allies, and the 1925 “Pact of Locarno”.

~Fall,
-1929 - The “Young Plan” replaces the more difficult “Dawes Plan”, easing some Dawes’ requirements. (Stresemann agrees to it--his last major public act before his death.)

It allowed Germany ~58 years to repay reparations, and it made the repayment schedule more flexible. I believe that it reduced somewhat the total reparations required. And it returned various “regulatory institutions” of Germany--back to Germany’s control. However, because of the great economic “Depression” later in 1929; the Young

plan failed quickly. In 1931, President Hoover suspended the reparations requirement until better times (hopefully) returned.

((I have read that the total reparations paid, prior to Hitler's annulling its continuance, was about 3-1/2 billion dollars I do not know how many billion dollars worth of loans had been made to Germany up to that time; nor the value of all the Western projects that had been started or completed in Germany during the Dawes and Young plans periods. But I have read, from several sources, that the West's loans and projects to Germany greatly exceeded the monetary reparations paid by Germany, during this period!))

10-03
-1929

- German foreign minister and Nobel Prize winner, Stresemann, Dies.

Following two strokes and a heart attack; Gustav Stresemann died at only 51 years old, due to years of "stress", work pressures, and concern over the direction of Germany and the World. He plainly saw the weaknesses and fragility of the Dawes and Young Plans, etc. His health had begun to deteriorate even in 1928.

10-28
-1929

- The famous "Stock Market Crash" on 'Wall Street'.

My opinions: According to a 2000 year-old Chinese saying ...
"The fountainhead of a mighty river can not fill a leaking cup!"

Suppose that even at the beginning of 1929—that Germany had handed the "Hoover Government" in the U.S.—a \$10 billion reparations payment. I think that little would have 'trickled down' to common U.S. citizens. And the little that might have—would have been taken from them "by hook or crook", due to a flawed political, economic, judicial, and social system. And, to make matters worse; that was not mainly Hoover's fault; and I think that he was a competent engineer and a "well-meaning fellow for his time".

Of course, many farmers and some others groups were encountering hard times, even before the stock market "crashed". And after the 'crash'; economic problems spread greatly and escalated. ((I believe that was made worse, because, in those days--people's bank deposits were not insured. Also, that access to highly dependable savings instruments (such as short-term government bonds or the like) was probably not as easy for the "middle class" as it is today. Those problems might have contributed to people placing too much of their spare cash in speculative investments, instead. Also older citizens, had seen great and hurtful inflation during WW1; and they may have hoped to lessen its effect on their cash purchasing power by resorting to more speculative investments than otherwise.

Also, the verdict of most historical “experts” is that the Government unwisely responded to the Crash by then “tightened” up the money supply and flow, instead of “loosening” it. And, thus; that “deflationary” action just aggravated the problem or “panic”; instead of dampening it and beginning to correct it. The “Reserve Reserve System” was created by legislation in 1914 (although that is not shown in my above timeline). And most experts think that it failed to respond correctly to lessen the Crash.

Interruption for a bit of philosophizing:

What had really happened in Western History, even before the “Great Depression”, is that their “democracy”, culture, and social systems had failed spectacularly, (whether due to subversion, not enough democracy, or for other reasons). Extremist fascism and militarism would follow the Depression, and escalate over much of the world, and that was a colossal evil! But to give philosophers like Lao Tzu their due; it might be partly seen as evil forces trying to fill a vacuum, made available by default.

- March, -1930 - Weimar Government of Germany falls--as hard times hit Germany. (Shortly thereafter, former German General von Hindenburg rules by decree). Nazi political power continues to grow.
- 01-31 -1931 - Terms of the 1930 “London Naval Conference” go into effect. This limited the number of warships of various Countries’ navies (but not their deadliness). It lasted until 12-31-1936, when Japan refuses to renew it.
- ~April, -1931 - Spanish Monarch Alfonso leaves Spain; ‘liberals’ and ‘conservatives’ vie for powers. (Eventually, a civil war would erupt.)
- 09-18 -1931 - Japan expands further into Manchuria by occupying Mukden (aka as ‘old’ Shenyang).
- This was an escalation of the policy of imperialism and of securing more resources. And in particular, choosing the path of “weakest resistance”. Grabbing Manchuria would not much disturb the other strong naval Powers, nor their close Allies in Asia and the Pacific. So, the ‘interests’ of the other Powers would be left alone—for at least a while, anyway.
- ~1932 - The existence of the “Neutron” is established by James Chadwick, in England. It is a very penetrating, neutral “nucleon”, which can be ejected from an atomic nucleus, under certain circumstances.
- ~Jan., - Indian National Congress declared Illegal by Britain; they arrest the

- 1932 leader of India, Gandhi, again.
- 05-15 - Japanese Premier and party leader (Inukai, Ki Tsuyoshi) is assassinated
-1932 by Japanese naval officers.

That eliminated the last major advocate for civilian authority (instead of military authority) for the governing of Japan.

- 05-29 - Throngs of unemployed former (WW1) soldiers gather in Washington
-1932 D.C., to ask Congress to pay some 'Retiree' benefits early. (i.e., the **Bonus Army**)

In 1924, these former soldiers had been granted promissory certificates granting them benefits (bonuses) payable in 1945. But because of the 'Depression'; they were unemployed, desperate, and in need of something for the depression years. About 20,000 of these unemployed (known as the "Bonus Army") had gathered in Washington at the peak of the protest. A lesser amount dwelled in a "tent-city" which they had built, there. The Hoover administration did little more than offer them a free one-way ticket out of Washington D.C.

Finally (7-28-1932); Hoover had army troops, under General MacArthur, forcefully evict them, out of the city. It is generally conceded that, although that may have increased Hoover's and Mac Arthur's status in some circles, it greatly decreased Hoover's popular support in his coming re-election bid against Roosevelt.

Optional: Traditional pay to Army (at least to non-officers during the Civil War, WW1, and WW2) seems low to me. For "Privates": (Civil War ~\$13/month); (WW1 ~\$40/month); (WW2 ~\$50/month).

- 09-15 - Japanese-Manchukuo Protocol; Manchuria becomes a puppet State of
-1932 Japan.

Some websites also give 9-15-1932 for the date that the Japanese installed Pu Yi as the (puppet) head of "Manchukuo". Pu Yi had been, previously, the last Emperor of the "Manchu" Dynasty, which was the last dynasty to reign over China. It had finally been overthrown in 1911. (Other websites give the end of 1934, or beginning of 1935, for the start of "Pu Yi's reign" over Manchukuo.)

- 11-08 - Franklin D. Roosevelt (i.e., FDR) defeats Hoover, and FDR assumes
-1932 the Presidency in 1933. (Many blamed Hoover and the Republicans for the Great Depression.)

~1933 - Roosevelt diplomatically recognizes Soviet Russia (a.k.a. USSR)

Britain and France had recognized the USSR earlier, in 1924, and even Japan in 1925; but I think that the U.S. has almost always been plagued with a strong, troubling, and mysterious propensity toward “reactionary government”! That goes back at least to the time that Maryland tried to block Union troops from getting to Washington D.C., near the beginning of the Civil War. (In fact, the election victory of Lincoln was a “fluke”, historically, anyway.)

Often, politicians have lagged far behind the public’s desire for progress. Often the U.S. government has devised tricks, such as the 3/5 th rule, to reward the South for its slavery, to retard progress. So, perhaps; the appeal of Indian lands and Slave labor, and/or the like—has usually been the most dominating *political* factor. (And, perhaps, that was Thomas Paine’s worst fear, and the fear of some others, who had continued to favor the old American “Articles of Confederation” instead of the U.S. Constitution.)

Even today (~2003); I suppose that a President could win an ‘election’ by just getting a little more than one third of the popular vote, while ‘his’ challenger got nearly twice that many. But such winner would have to plan smartly--to get at least the bare majority vote in half the “*key*” States. And then it would not matter if his challenger got everyone’s vote in all the remaining States. Such are just a few of the many subtle tricks, schemes, and loopholes in some political systems.

~1933 - Mexico seizes foreign-owned oil property; Britain breaks relations with Mexico. Roosevelt does NOT break off U.S. relations, and seeks to solve disagreements through compromise, and not intimidation.

This “good neighbor” attitude was remembered well beyond 1933; and had positive effects going into WW2. Although Roosevelt did not prove to be a know-it-all Sage; it seems that, perhaps, for the first time since Benjamin Franklin or Lincoln—some ‘big wig’ was *trying* to provide bold, broad-minded, progressive leadership in the U.S.! (A 10-10-1933 Western Hemisphere Agreement was achieved, establishing non-interventionism. (This did not, however, inhibit the rise of various autocratic rulers in some Latin American countries, apparently.) Still, FDR’s “good neighbor” and good faith policies helped encouraged pro-U.S. cooperation from others, in FDR’s coming challenge to world fascism; instead of fanning further mistrust, indifference, or worse, which the Powers’ imperialistic policies had previously fanned.

~1933 - The Repeal of Prohibition of Alcohol gains more support; and the 21st

Amendment is ratified 12-5-1933, repealing the 18th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

01-30
-1933 - Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. Old President Hindenburg fades into a weaker and weaker 'figurehead'.

Mar.-
July,
-1933 - Hitler's Dictatorship becomes more and more absolute. Persecution and hatred are whipped up against Jews; and, eventually, no one tending to question or impede Hitler's escalating power is safe.

Concentration Camps are set up and opened, to eventually expedite mass murders. ((The above subject could occupy many books and museums (and, in fact, it does); but it is beyond the scope of this timeline--except to mention that.))

Many of Germany's top scientists escaped out of Germany, such as Einstein (~9-9-1933) and Haber (~4-30-1933). Haber (although baptized into the Christian faith and blond)--had Jewish ancestors; and so had to resign from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. He wrote to authorities that for over forty years he had selected his colleagues based on their ability, character and merit; and not on the basis of their grandmothers, and that he was unwilling to change. Fermi, whose wife was Jewish, left Italy in 1938.

Mar.,
-1933 - Japan exits the League of Nations.

May,
-1933 - Many former WW1 veterans, the 'Bonus Army', again marches on Washington, pressing for aid. Roosevelt pacifies them sufficiently by offering them paying jobs on various government 'New-Deal' projects.

10-14
-1933 - Germany exits the League of Nations.

07-25
-1934 - Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss killed by the Nazis during a Nazi uprising. Great social unrest was occurring in Austria, aggravated by the Great Depression.

Dollfuss had become more and more dictatorial, but was tending toward the fascist style of Mussolini, instead of the Nazi style of Hitler.

08-02
-1934 - German President Hindenburg, the famous WW1, General, Dies. He had become mainly a "figure head". About two weeks after his death, Hitler becomes "Fuehrer" of Germany.

Sept.,
-1934 - USSR admitted into the League of Nations.

10-16
-1934 - China's leader Chiang kai-chek finally uproots a major Communist foothold in central China, and the Communist begin their famous "Long March" to a more isolated region.

This fifth and most successful of the 'Chiang-Nationalist' offensives against the Communists--was aided by Chiang's capable German military advisors. It involved surrounding the main Communist controlled regions with "block houses" (strongly defended points). The Communists--seeing an eventual defeat coming if they stayed put—broke out; and traveled approximately in a large semi-circle along China's frontiers.

The Communists encountered many challenging problems, but eventually settled in isolated areas in or around "Yan'an", aka Yenan, in the northern region of Shaanxi Province, aka Shensi. They had lost the vast majority of their forces, in route; and had a lot of rebuilding to do. ((The details of the Communist escape (from Chiang's Nationalist forces) are beyond the scope of this timeline; except to mention one episode: They did get across the Yangtse River, using a lightly defended, damaged narrow suspension bridge. (About 70 years earlier; that river had blocked any escape of the anti-Manchu rebel, Shih Ta-k'ai. Shih was the head of the Western faction of "Taiping Kingdom" during the Taiping rebellion, against the ruling Manchu Dynasty. The Manchu Dynasty is also known as the Qing Dynasty; and Shih Ta-k'ai is also known as Shi Dakai,----per the modernistic 'Pinyin' language style of transposing).))

09-15
-1935 - German Jews striped of rights by the Nuremberg Race Laws.

01-27
-1936 - Congress passes a Veterans Bill giving Vets some direct monetary aid, and overrides an FDR veto by doing so.

The U.S. was still in an economic depression, and FDR did not think that the U.S. could afford that extra diversion. Many cuts had already been made in the U.S. defense budget, etc.

03-07
-1936 - Germany occupies the Rhineland, previously occupied by the French, under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

05-09
-1936 - Mussolini's Italian army completes its takeover of Ethiopia. The King of Italy is also proclaimed to be the King of Ethiopia.

The League of Nations condemned Italy for that. Mussolini, who had previously opposed Germany's rearmament and Germany's undue influence in Austria, began to change sides. From that point on, Mussolini more and more supported Hitler.

Historians and diplomats have often debated whether a more accommodating, less rude, response to Mussolini's Ethiopia takeover --would have improved the course of history. I do not see the main problem to be that the League, Britain, etc., "Spoke loudly and carried a little stick". But rather that there was a huge hypocrisy in condemning Italian imperialism while generally ignoring the continued imperialism of the other "Powers" who had defeated the WW1 Axis. In my opinion, this hypocrisy (i.e., a different standard for the Powers vs. the non-powers to follow) continues to be a major problem going into the 21st Century!

07-18
-1936 - Civil War begins in Spain.

This would be a long, tragic, and costly affair. On the one side were the so-called "Nationalists". They favored a rather autocratic rule, under a king, or the like, and courted the former aristocracy. Also, they favored the teaching of "rightwing", conservative religious values in the public schools. They overthrew the elected (although not very popular) government. Franco soon became leader of the Nationalists. The Nationalists received much backing from Germany and Italy.

Opposing them were the "Republicans" (no typologically mistake). (The meaning of terms, used in various countries, often changes with time.) They were a varied, rather non-cohesive coalition consisting of Socialist, "Leftists", Marxists, Anarchists, and pro-democratic advocates. They received significant backing from the Soviet Union.

08-01
-1936 - Olympic Games begin in Germany, although some people fear that will tend to legitimize Hitler's and Germany's behavior.

11-25
-1936 - Germany and Japan agree to the "Anti-Comintern Pact" (directed at combating Soviet Russia's influence, and preserving their own.)

12-11
-1936 - British King (Edward VIII) Abdicates so that he can marry an American, who is "divorced". (British rules are deemed to forbid their King from marrying a "divorced" woman.) Edward VIII's younger brother becomes King.

Optional Opinion: So far as I can determine; the woman that Edward VIII married had been divorced twice, but had not had a child through her previous so-called "marriages". I could be wrong about that. (But

if I am right about *that*; it seems to me possible that Britain locked itself, unnecessarily, into a new paradigm of stubborn snobbery, unnecessary hostility to meritorious non-British cultures, and non-naturalness. And also launched itself and its future “royalty” on a road toward disgrace, embarrassment, and toward making a spectacle of itself. And that sad future would far exceed any embarrassment caused by Edward VIII’s very non-ideal behavior during the slow switchover by Wallis Warfield Simpson—over to Edward. But I could be wrong about Wallis’s *not* having a child by previous marriage. And, anyway, the whole subject of “royalty” above, is a British internal matter, which I do not believe in interfering *with*! (I.e., the above is just how it appears to one American, at a distance.)

12-11
-1936

- Chiang Kai-shek, leader of China, is Kidnapped by forces of Chang Hsueh-liang, leader of Manchuria province, in order to get Chiang to start actively resisting Japan’s expansion into Manchuria, and to curb Chiang’s fighting the Communists, a drain on China’s energy.

That “kidnapping affair” was known as the “*Sian Incident*”. Chang, and many others, believed that Chiang’s main priority should be resisting Japan’s expansion into China, not destroying the Communist Chinese. Many believed Chiang Kai-shek to be overly obsessed with eliminating the Chinese Communists, relative to what realities called for. Although Chiang did not put any promises in writing to procure his release; most experts believe that he and/or his Kuomintang party did indicate that further Japanese encroachment would be challenged with force.

07-07
-1937

- Japanese and Chinese troop clash on the Marco Polo Bridge near Peking (aka Beijing).

In this Timeline, that will be considered **the “START OF WW2”**. The Japanese would shortly execute plans to capture Shanghai and Nanking (aka Nanjiang)--the capital of China under Chiang and the Kuomintang. Before the end of 1937, Japan would successfully capture those cities, and many other Chinese cities and regions, also.

(Japan had become “successfully industrialized” by the time of the Russo-Japanese war, while China remained mostly “underdeveloped”. In fact, China could *not* produce a single airplane or automobile before and even during WW2!)

Shortly after the Japan captured Nanking, Japan would execute over 300,000 people there and nearby. The victims were mostly innocent civilians; and the Japanese militarists carried out that “*Nanking Massacre*” to display their power and terror. Thus, the war in Asia and the behavior of Japan’s military become an even graver matter.

The reader might ask, “How can that be the start of WW², since such big Powers as Germany, Britain, France, Russia, and the U.S. had not declared war?” (I might add that even China, herself, did not officially declare war until many years later, i.e., until shortly after Pearl Harbor was attacked. China’s postponing a declaration of war—allowed FDR and the U.S. to provide material aid to China without violating a U.S. Neutrality Treaty, which did not allow such aid to countries officially at war against each other.) Also, in the spirit of consistency, we should note that 7-28-1914 is deemed the start of WW¹, even though some days followed that before some other Powers were drawn into it. Furthermore, even months followed before still other Powers were drawn into WW¹. And even a few years before the U.S. was drawn into it. (We also further note that the population of China and Japan in 1937 was about equal to all the Powers’ population in WW¹; so the conflict between the Japan and China certainly involved much of the world’s population.)

-----End of Part II, “History of the World and of WW²”-----

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