**Chapter 19, Section 3: A Bloody Conflict**

**I. Combat in World War I** *(pages 592–594)*

**A.** By 1917 World War I had claimed millions of European lives. Americans, however, believed their troops could bring the war to a quick end.

**B.** Soldiers dug trenches as a means of protection from modern weapons. **“No man’s land”** was the space between the opposing trenches. Soldiers would charge the enemyby scrambling out of the trenches. This inefficient military move made soldiers easytargets. In major battles, both sides lost several hundred thousand men.

**C.** To break through enemy lines and reduce causalities, new technologies were created. Poison gas, first used by the Germans, caused vomiting, blindness, and suffocation. Tanks were unsuccessfully used. Airplanes dropped small bombs on the enemy and engaged in air battles.

**Discussion Question**

How did the nature of warfare change in World War I? *(The nature of warfare changed as troops dug trenches as a means of protection from modern weapons. New technologies were created to break through enemy lines. The technologies included rapid-fire machine guns, poison gas, tanks, and airplanes that dropped small bombs and that attached machine guns for air battles.)*

**II. The Americans and Victory** *(pages 594–596)*

**A.** “**Doughboys**” was a nickname for American soldiers. Although inexperienced, the American soldiers boosted the morale of Allied forces.

**B.** American Admiral William S. Sims proposed **convoys,** in which merchant ships and troop transports were gathered into groups and brought across the Atlantic by warships. The result was a reduction in shipping losses and ensured that American troops would get to Europe safely.

**C.** Although Russians supported the war effort, their government was not equipped to handle the major problems of the nation. In 1917 **Vladimir Lenin,** leader of the **Bolshevik Party,** overthrew the government and replaced it with a Communist one. Lenin pulled Russia out of the war and agreed with Germany to sign the **Treaty of** **Brest**-**Litovsk,** removing German armies from Russian lands in exchange for territory. This closed the Eastern Front for Germany.

**D.** In March of 1918, Germany launched a massive attack along the Western Front and pushed deeply into Allied lines. Americans troops captured the village of Cantigny, and with French assistance the German attack of Paris was blocked. The American and French troops held their ground.

**E.** In September 1918, American General Pershing put together the most massive attack in American history, causing one German position after another to fall to the advancing American troops.

**F.** On November 11, 1918, Germany finally signed an **armistice,** or cease-fire, that ended the war.

**Discussion Question**

Why did Russia pull out of the war? *(After Lenin overthrew the Russian government and set up a Communist government, he pulled Russia out of the war to focus on establishing a Communist state.)*

**III. A Flawed Peace** *(pages 596–597)*

**A.** In January 1919, leaders of the victorious Allied nations met to resolve the issues caused by the war. Wilson’s plan, called the **Fourteen Points,** addressed “the principle of justice to all people and nationalities.” The points proposed by Wilson included eliminating the general causes of the war through free trade and disarmament, open diplomacy instead of secret agreements, and the right to self-determination. The points required the evacuation of the Central Powers from all countries invaded during the war. The fourteenth point, known as the **League of Nations,** called for member nations to help preserve peace and prevent future wars.

**B.** The other Allied governments felt that Wilson’s plan was too lenient toward Germany. The **Treaty of Versailles,** signed by Germany, weakened Wilson’s proposal. The treaty stripped Germany of its armed forces and made it pay **reparations,** or war damages to the Allies.

**C.** The Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations were opposed by many United States lawmakers. The “Reservationists,” led by Henry Cabot Lodge, supported the League but wanted to change the treaty with amendments that would preserve the nation’s freedom to act independently. Wilson, exhausted by trying to sell his plan to Americans, suffered a stroke. The Senate refused to ratify the treaty. Instead, the United States negotiated separate peace treaties with each of the Central Powers.

**Discussion Question**

What were the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles? *(The treaty stripped Germany of its armed forces and made it pay reparations to the Allies. The sum was more than Germany could afford to pay. The Treaty also required Germany to acknowledge guilt for the outbreak and devastation caused by World War I.)*