

## Worldwide War:

### Belligerents of WWI:

| Allied (Entente) Powers   |          | Central Powers   |
|---|----------|--|
| <p><b>France, British Empire</b> (including <u>Canada, India, and Australia</u>), <b>Russian Empire</b> (1914-1917), <b>Serbia, Italy</b> (1915-1918), <b>Japan, Romania</b> (1916-1918), <b>Belgium, Greece</b> (1917-1918), <b>Portugal</b> (1916-1918), <b>Montenegro</b> (1914-1916), <b>Brazil</b> (1917-1918), <b>USA</b> (1917-1818),...</p> | <b>X</b> | <p><b>Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria</b> (1915-1918)</p> |

Most of the action of WWI was in Europe, but the effects were **worldwide**.

Not all the fighting in the WWI took place on the main Western and Eastern Front. There were other, less important battle-grounds in different parts of the world, sometimes referred to as “**the side-shows**”. The fighting on these secondary fronts was often as hard and as dangerous as it was anywhere else, but the outcome of the battles never had the same influence on the war as a whole as did the great struggles in France and Russia.

**Italian Front:** Italy, former member of Triple Alliance, entered the war in 1915 on the side of the Allies in the hope of gaining Trieste and Trentino from Austria-Hungary.



1915-1916: unimportant changes. The Italians never succeeded in pushing the **Austrians** back more than 15 km. Then in 1917 the disaster struck. The **Austrians**, supported by units of the **German army**, mounted a strong offensive and defeated the Italian army in a great battle of **Caporetto**. The Italians panicked and retreated 70 miles in 7 days. The advance was stopped at the River **Piave**. Only prompt help from Britain and France saved many Italians from total collapse.

For many months after Caporetto the Italian army had to stay on the defensive while it recovered its strength. Only in the closing weeks of the war in autumn of 1918 was it strong enough to move forward again. Austria-Hungary surrendered in November 1918.

**The Balkans:** A new front opened because Serbia was under attack from Austria-Hungary. **Bulgaria entered war in 1915**. Triple Alliance gained direct connection with Turkey. Fights in the Balkans made **Greece to enter the war on the side of Triple Entente** (1917-1918). Bulgaria defeated in September 1918.

## Middle East:

There was a deadlock on the Western Front in 1915, and a search began to find other battle fronts. Britain favored an attack on Turkey. Turkey had an extensive empire. The Turks were able to threaten the **Suez Canal** and Britain's position as the protector of Egypt, and also the important oil supplies which came through the port of Basra.

**The Gallipoli campaign** (April 1915 – January 1916): took place at Gallipoli peninsula in the Ottoman Empire from 25 April 1915 to 9 January 1916, during the First World War. A **joint British and French operation** was mounted to capture the Ottoman capital of Istanbul (Constantinople) and secure a sea route to Russia. The attempt failed, with heavy casualties on both sides. Results: All Allied troops had been pulled out of Gallipoli by the end of January 1916. Over half the total force of half a million had become casualties and nothing had been gained.



On the Left: **T. E. Lawrence:** (**Lawrence of Arabia:**) was a British Army officer renowned especially for his cooperative role during the Arab Revolt against Ottoman Turkish rule of 1916–1918. Even though Lawrence had no military experience, he developed **highly effective strategy of partisan war for the irregular soldiers he led.** Bomb attacks on the main Turkish supply route, the **Damascus-Medina railway** and the ducts had a great success and the

rebels led by him took over Akaba in 1917. This helped British army to invade Palestine in October 1917.

The main Turkish-held cities of **Baghdad** (Mesopotamia was part of the Ottoman Empire. It was important to stop the Turks invading British-controlled Egypt, and attacking British oil supplies in Persia. British troops pushed the Turks out in 1917), **Jerusalem** and **Damascus** fell to the British, and the Turkish army was finally destroyed at the **Battle of Megiddo in September 1918.**

**Turkey<sup>1</sup> surrendered in October 1918.** Turkey was disarmed and the free transit through straits of the Black Sea was enabled.

**Africa:** Guerilla methods were also successfully used by the Germans in Africa. Togoland fell easily to the British in 1914, and the Cameroons were occupied by the British and French in 1916. German South West Africa was also occupied but German East Africa was much harder to conquer and was obtained by Britain in 1918.

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### **<sup>1</sup> What was going on in Turkey in 1915-1918?**

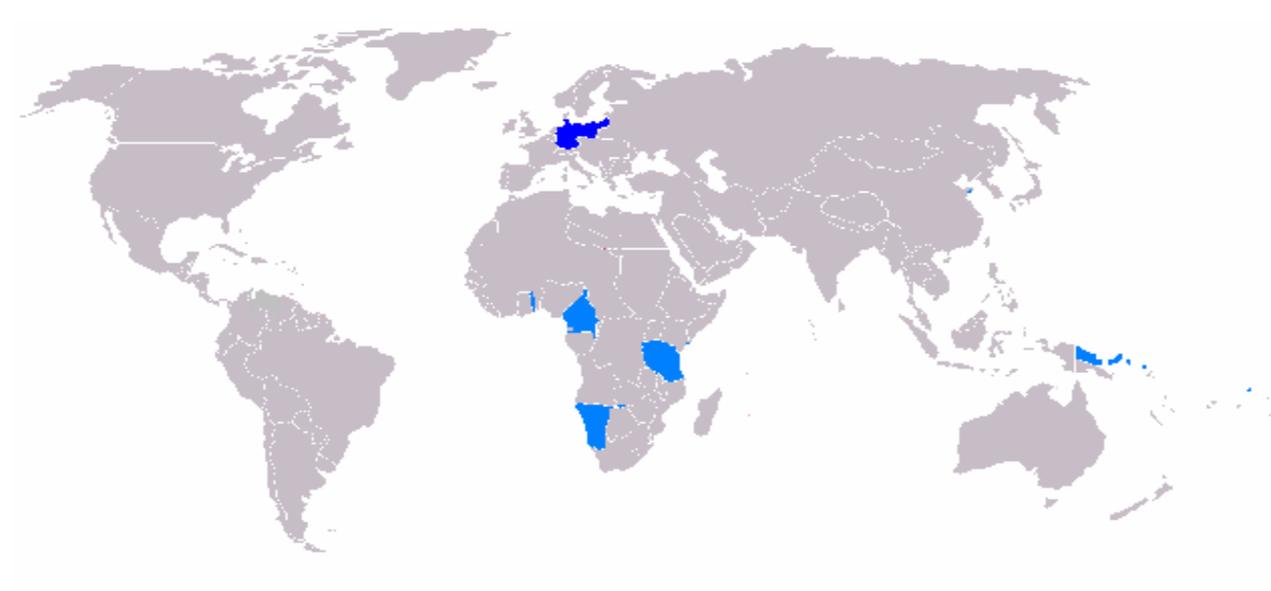
The **Armenian Genocide** also known as the **Armenian Holocaust**, the **Armenian Massacres** and, by Armenians, as the **Great Crime** - refers to the deliberate and systematic destruction of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire **during and just after World War I**. It was implemented through wholesale massacres and deportations, with the deportations consisting of forced marches under conditions designed to lead to the death of the deportees. **The total number of resulting Armenian deaths is generally held to have been between one and one and a half million.** Other ethnic groups were similarly attacked by the Ottoman Empire during this period, including Assyrians and Greeks, and some scholars consider those events to be part of the same policy of extermination.

It is widely acknowledged to have been **one of the first modern genocides**, as scholars point to the systematic, organized manner in which the killings were carried out to eliminate the Armenians, and it is the second most-studied case of genocide after the Holocaust. The word *genocide* was coined in order to describe these events.

The starting date of the genocide is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915, the day that Ottoman authorities arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. Thereafter, the Ottoman military uprooted Armenians from their homes and forced them to march for hundreds of miles, depriving them of food and water, to the desert of what is now Syria. Massacres were indiscriminate of age or gender, with rape and other sexual abuse commonplace. The majority of Armenian diaspora communities were founded as a result of the Armenian genocide.

**The Republic of Turkey, the successor state of the Ottoman Empire, denies the word *genocide* is an accurate description of the events.** In recent years, it has faced repeated calls to accept the events as genocide. To date, twenty countries have officially recognized the events of the period as genocide, and most genocide scholars and historians accept this view.

**Map: German colonies:**



Asia: Japan had made a treaty with Britain in 1902, and during WWI attacked some Germany's colonies in the East.

Germany lost the area of China which it controlled, and Japan seized German island possessions in the Pacific Ocean. There was a furious response in the official German war news: *“Woe to you, Japan. England has betrayed the white races in the surrender of TsingTau (see the map above) to be Japanese. There is no honour for England or Japan in having taken TsingTau, which was defended by only 6000 Germans, with tenfold superiority. The day of reckoning with Japan will be long postponed but our time will come.”*