WORLD WAR I PART 8 OF 9 · AGES 11–16

# CONSEQUENCES OF WORLD WAR I

*How the war of 1914–1918 changed borders, governments and lives, and what it left behind for the next generation.*

## Four empires fall

The German, Austro-Hungarian, Russian and Ottoman empires collapsed. Germany became a republic, and Russia's revolution led to the Soviet Union in 1922.

## The Treaty of Versailles

Signed on 28 June 1919. Germany accepted blame for the war, paid reparations, lost Alsace-Lorraine and was limited to an army of 100,000.

## The League of Nations

Founded on 10 January 1920 to settle disputes peacefully. 41 states attended its first Assembly, but the USA never joined.

## New countries in Europe

Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Finland, Estonia and Latvia emerged from the fallen empires. Border wars went on until 1923.

## A new Middle East

Ottoman lands came under British and French control; Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon later emerged. Many borders ignored local peoples.

## Calls for independence

Colonial soldiers and workers had served in huge numbers. In India and elsewhere, the war strengthened demands for self-government.

## The 1918 flu pandemic

As the war ended, flu infected about a third of the world's people. At least 50 million died (CDC), possibly up to 100 million (IWM).

## The road to another war

Resentment of Versailles in Germany helped the Nazi Party win support. On 1 September 1939 Germany invaded Poland, starting the Second World War.

## Remembering the war

In the UK and elsewhere, a two-minute silence is held at 11am on 11 November, the moment the Armistice began. The red poppy, which grew on the battlefields, became a symbol of remembrance.

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