Wednesday, September 3:

Fronts Notes

## Eastern Front

1. Included Russia, Austrian, Germany, Serbia, Turks, etc.
2. 1914-1917 (Russia pulled out b/c of revolution)
3. Baltic to Black Sea
4. Western Front vs. Eastern: Eastern front was underdeveloped economically (railways, roads, etc.)
5. Most important after trenches reached stalemate on Western Front.
6. No trench warfare- much more fluid, moved (ground was frozen)
7. 1 out of 4 Russian soldiers fought with no weapons
8. 1915: Central Powers went on offensive. By mid-[1915](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1915) the Russians were pushed hundreds of km away from the borders of the Central Powers, removed threat of Russian invasion of Germany or Austria-Hungary.
9. At end of [1915](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1915) the main part of the front reached a line which did not change until the Russian collapse in [1917](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1917).
10. More recent Russian estimates give 900,000 battlefield deaths and 400,000 dead from combat wounds, or a total of 1.3 million (1300000) dead. 5% of men between the ages of 15-49
11. Brest-Litovsk treaty ended war b/t Russia and Germany, Russian lost 25% of land and population.

## Balkan Front

1. Ottoman Empire joins Central Powers
2. Australians, British, French, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Austro-Hungary
3. Allies need to get supplies to Europe, free the Balkans, attack Austria from the south (Dardanelles)
4. Didn’t work. Allies had to retreat

## Italian Front

1. 1915 Italy joins Allies, b/c promised land in Austria-Hungary
2. Fighting b/t AH and Italy
3. 1915-1917 was devastating fighting- Italian forces had advantage of numbers, but were outgunned.
4. Germany and Austria-Hungary joined and came within 50 miles of Venice. Britain and France had to send in emergency troops to stop the attack.

## Western Front

* + 1. Mainly French and German troops, USA joined in 1917
    2. Started by **Schlieffen Plan** in 1914. (Show on overhead)
       1. Rapid German [mobilisation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobilization), and the overwhelming sweep of German armies through Belgium to France.
       2. Inevitable that Germany would fight France and Russia. Led to Germany wanting to take France out before Russia could move.
    3. Stalemate. Line didn’t move
    4. Trench warfare, no-man’s land
    5. Battles-
    6. Marne (1914-1918) left Schlieffen plan in ruins. Sept 5-12, 1914
    7. Verdun (1916, 680,000 killed)- turned into aerial battlefield Feb. 21-Dec. 18 1916
    8. Somme (1 million killed in less than 5 miles of land), first use of tanks. July-Nov 1916

*Major Western Front Battles*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Battle** | **Year** | **Allies** | **German** |
| [1st Marne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Battle_of_the_Marne) | 1914 | 263,000 | 250,000 |
| [Verdun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Verdun) | 1916 | 377,000+ | 336,000+ |
| [Somme](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Somme_%281916%29) | 1916 | 623,907 | 465,000+ |