

World War I Timeline of Major Events

1914	
June 28	Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, is assassinated in Sarajevo.
July 28	Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.
August 1	Germany declares war on Russia.
August 3	Germany declares war on France.
August 4	Germany invades neutral Belgium.
August 4	Great Britain declares war on Germany.
August 26 - 30	German army, led by Erich Ludendorff and Paul von Hindenberg, achieves victory on the Eastern front at the Battle of Tannenberg.
September 15	First trenches of the Western front are dug.

1915	
January 19	First German Zeppelin air raid on England.
February 4	Germany declares a submarine blockade of Great Britain.
April 22-May 5	Second Battle of Ypres marks first use of chemical weapons.
April 25	Allies begin assault on Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey.
May 7	Sinking of the passenger ship Lusitania.
May 23	Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary.
August 30	Germany responds to U.S. anger by ceasing to sink ships
September 5	Tsar Nicholas takes command of Russian armies.
December 28	Allies begin withdrawal of troops from Gallipoli.

1916	
Feb. 21-Dec. 18	The longest battle of the war, the Battle of Verdun, is fought to a draw with an estimated one million casualties
July 1 - Nov. 18	The Battle of the Somme results in an estimated one million casualties and no breakthrough for the Allies.
November 7	Woodrow Wilson re-elected President of the United States.
December 7	David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister of Britain.

1917	
February 1	Germany again declares unrestricted submarine warfare.
March 15	Tsar Nicholas II of Russia abdicates. Provisional government is declared.
April 6	The United States declares war on Germany.
April 16 - 29	The French Army launches the Chemin des Dames offensive, but fails to break through German lines. Mutiny breaks out amongst the French troops.
July 6	T.E. Lawrence and the Arabs capture Aquaba.
July 16-Nov. 10	Third Battles of Ypres, known as Passchendaele, results in minor gains, but still no breakthrough.
July 31	Major British offensive launched at Ypres.
November 7	Bolshevik socialists, led by Lenin, overthrow Kerensky's government.
November 10	British reach the village of Passchendaele.
December 3	The new Russian government, represented by Leon Trotsky, signs an armistice with Germany.
December 9	British capture Jerusalem.

1918	
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1918 – 1919	Two waves of influenza kill more people than did the war.
January 8	President Woodrow Wilson declares his 14 points as the path to world peace.
March 21	Germans launch the first of five major offensives to win the war before American troops appear in the trenches.
May 23	German shells land on Paris.
July 16-17	Former Tsar Nicholas II, and his family are murdered by the Bolsheviks.
August 8	Allied counteroffensives on the Somme push the German army back.
September 29	Allied troops break through German fortifications at the Hindenberg line.
October 28	Germany's sailors mutiny at port when asked to sail out to fight again.
November 9	Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates.
November 10	A German republic is founded.
November 11	At eleven o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the war ends as Germany and Allies sign an Armistice.
December 4	Woodrow Wilson sets sail for the Paris Peace conference.

	1919
1919	Demobilization of the armies.
1919 – 1921	Russian civil war fails to unseat the Bolsheviks.
January 10 – 15	A coup launched by German revolutionaries in Berlin is suppressed
June 28	Peace Treaty signed by German delegates and Allies in Versailles.
August – Sept.	Woodrow Wilson brings his campaign for the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles to the American people.