

Central Powers Collapse:

1917:

- Czar Nicholas of Russia abdicates → provisional govt.
 - Bolsheviks overthrow govt. and sign a treaty with Germany (“peace and bread”)
- USA declares war on Germany (angered by sinking of their neutral ships and passenger liners)

Germans could focus on Western Front → one last ditch effort to win the war

- Exhausted themselves and their supplies
- The “Hundred Days”

Armistice signed in a railway car in France

- fighting officially stops at 11am, Nov 11, 1918
- A CDN soldier was the last to die on the Western Front → by a sniper's bullet just before the armistice
↳ Private George Price

Canada on the World Stage:

Allies met with Germany at Paris Peace Conference to discuss the terms of peace

- Based on Canada's military record during war, Borden fought for Canada's place at the table and got it!
- US President Woodrow Wilson proposed his 14 Points (emphasized forgiveness)
 - but French and Belgium leaders wanted compensation for damages

Treaty of Versailles:

1. German “guilt clause”
2. German reparations = \$30 billion
3. Reduced German territory in Europe (Poland)
4. German army restricted to 100 000 (no U-boats)

** European economies in ruins → Germany couldn't afford reparation payments. Also, they resented the guilt clause!*

Borden fought to have Canada become a member of the
League of Nations

- Established by Treaty of Versailles
- Based on “Collective Security” (members cooperating in suppressing aggression)
- Many concerns about the League

The League was more idealistic than practical

- Nations couldn't work together
- No military force of its own to restrict aggression
- USA didn't join the League (although it was Wilson's brainchild!)

Aftermath of the War:

Crops and transportation systems ruined in Europe

Spanish Flu epidemic (est. deaths = 22 million worldwide)

- Public places and schools closed for months to try and stop the spread