

US History

World War I

Learning Target:

I can summarize how the Allies were able to win WWI.

9. The End of World War I

German Offensive for Victory (March 21, 1918) –

Statistics –

- 1 million Germans launched a massive offensive
- Offensive included “Big Bertha” –
Guns capable of firing a 2,100-pound shell almost nine miles

United States Forces Merge –

- By late May Germans had pushed Allies back to Marne River, 50 miles outside Paris
- In response US General Pershing agreed to allow US troops to fight under the command of French Marshal Ferdinand Foch

Paris Saved –

- US forces turned the tide against the Germans
- US and French troops stopped the Germans at Chateau-Thierry –June 3, 4
- German advance was halted and Paris was saved

Final German Assault at Reims –

- July 15, 1918 – Germans launched a final assault at Reims
- Allied lines held and the Allies counterattacked under Foch 3 days later
- Allies pushed German lines back and changed the tide of the war

Allied Offensive for Victory (Summer 1918) –

- Marshal Foch ordered an entire Allied offensive of the western front
- Pushed deep into German-held territory for 3 months
- Offensive led by fresh American troops

American Contributions to the Offensive –

- Helped in several major battles
- Chateau-Thierry, Belleau Wood, & the Second Battle of the Marne
- Launched attacks Saint-Mihiel and the Argonne Forest area

Germany Surrenders –

German Morale –

- Repeated hammering during the Allied offensive took its toll on Germany
- German morale greatly suffered
- Fall 1918 mutinies broke out in German army & navy
- Germany surrendered with no truly decisive Allied victory and no Allies in German territory – lost the will to fight

Germany Surrenders –

- Nov. 9 –
 - Kaiser Wilhelm gave up his throne
- Nov. 10 –
 - German representatives arrived at Allied headquarters to hear the terms of the armistice

Armistice Terms –

- Germans had to evacuate Alsace-Lorraine, Belgium, France and Luxembourg
- Germans had to surrender massive amounts of military equipment
- Peace conference set for Jan. 1919 in Paris