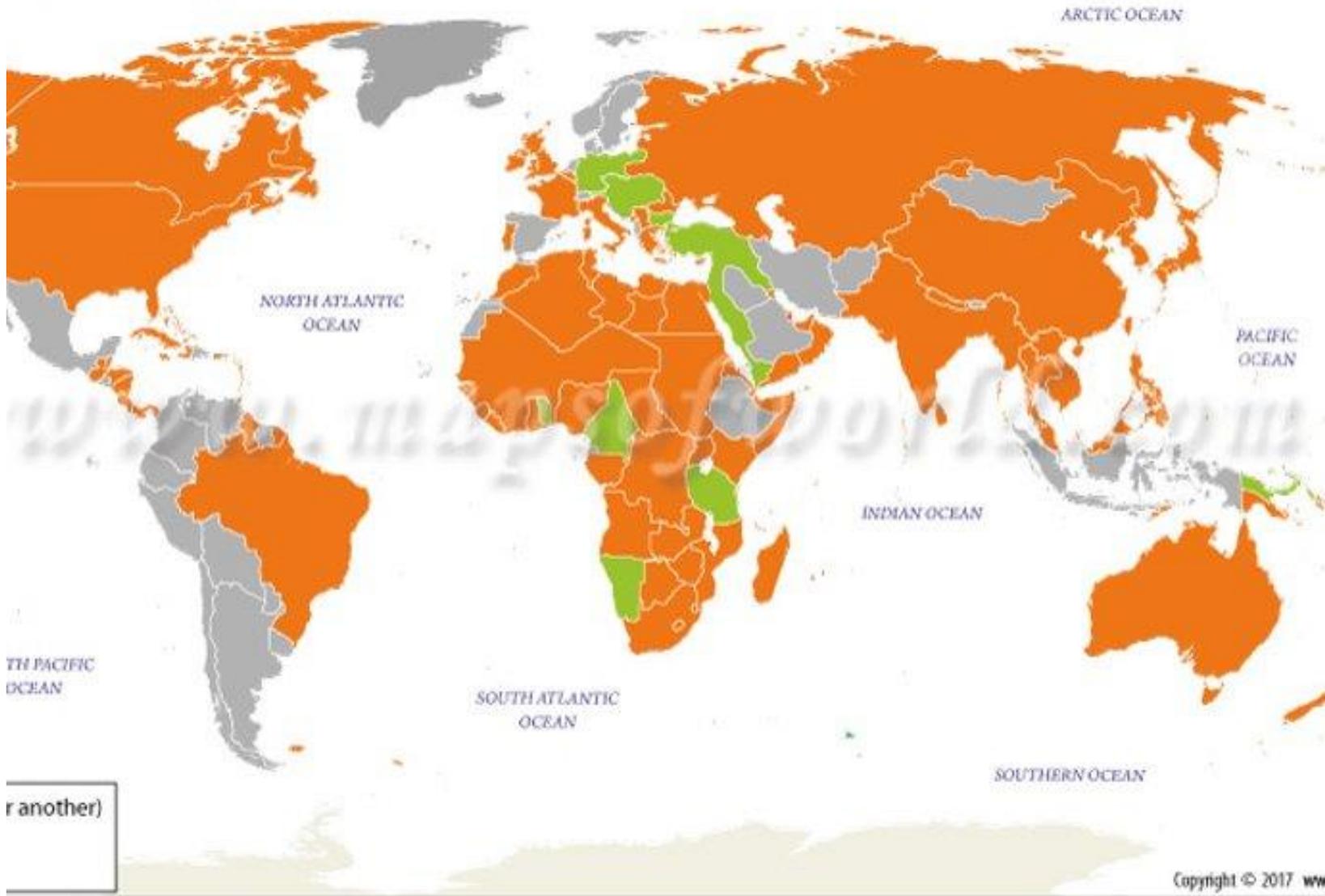


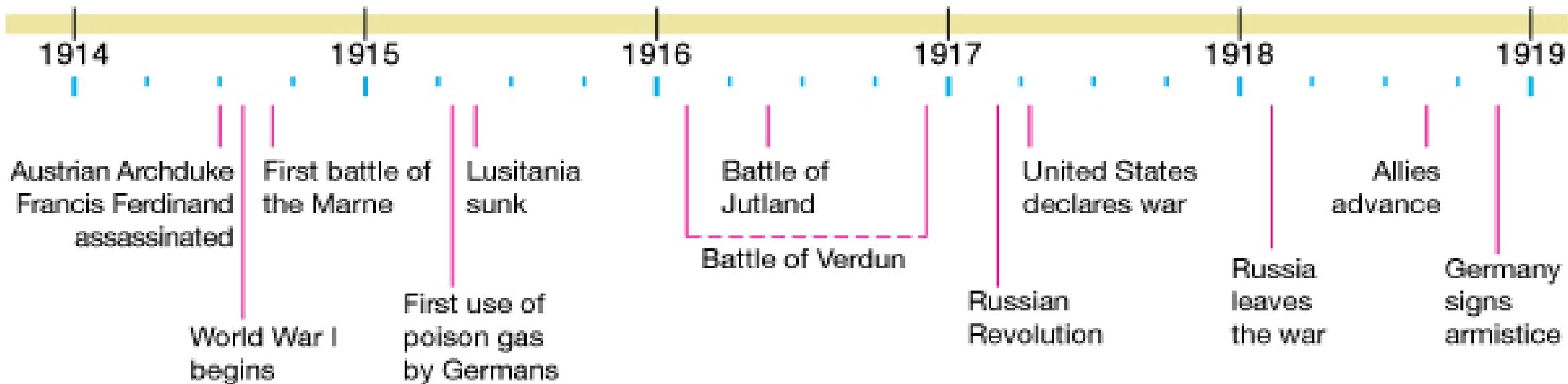
## WORLD MAP OF TERRITORIES CONTROLLED IN WORLD WAR I



# A World at War

# Important Battles of WWI

## Chief Events of World War I, 1914–18



# Battle of Jutland (May- June 1916)

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Largest naval battle of the First World War.

- It was the only time that the British and German fleets of 'dreadnought' battleships actually came to blows.
  
- Importance:

British victory

battle confirmed British naval dominance and secured its control of shipping lanes, allowing Britain to implement the **blockade** that would contribute to German defeat in 1918.



# Battle of Verdun (Feb-Dec 1916)

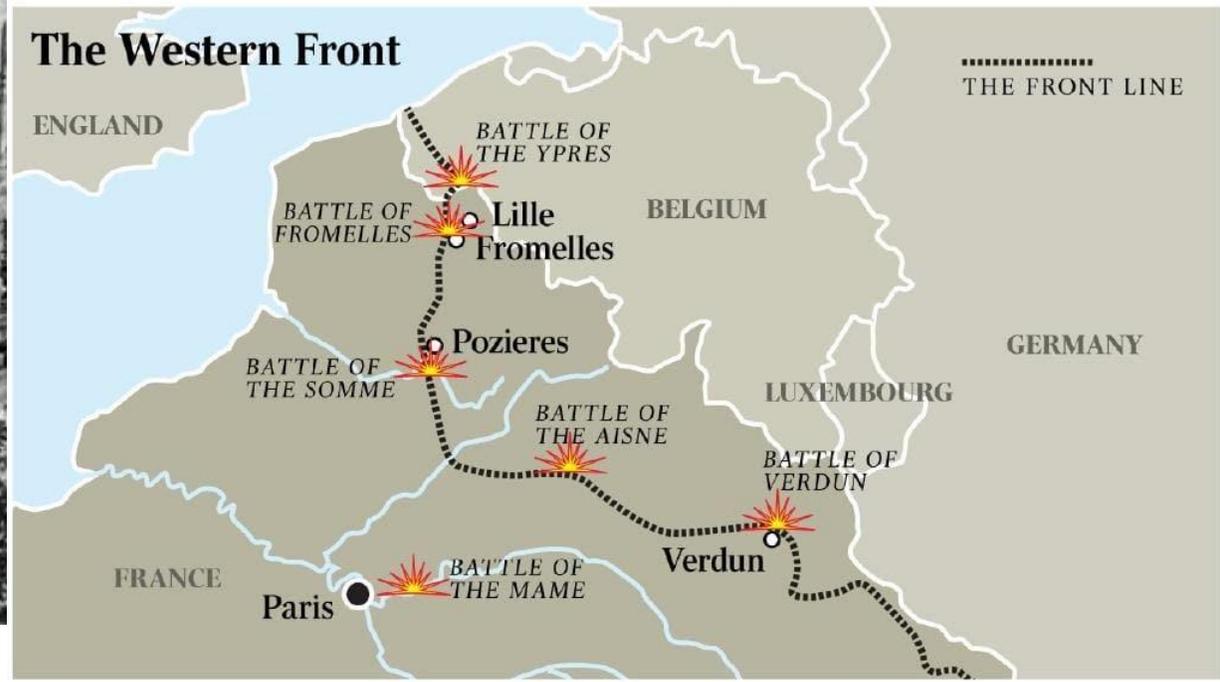
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- Longest battle of WWI.
  - It was also one of the costliest. It began in February 1916 with a German attack on the fortified French town of **Verdun**, where bitter fighting would continue for most of the year.
- The Germans had lost over 430,000 men killed or wounded and the French approximately 550,000.
- French victory by the end of the year

# Importance of Verdun

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- The trauma of this loss not only affected French political and military decision-making during and after the war, it had a lasting effect on French national consciousness.
- Verdun also had serious strategic implications for the rest of the war. The Allies had planned to defeat Germany through a series of large coordinated offensives, but the German attack at Verdun drastically reduced the number of French troops available.
  - Britain had to take the lead



# Battle of the Somme (July-Nov. 1916)

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- Goal was to achieve a final Allied victory over Germans after Verdun
- Did not go as planned - More than one million men from all sides were killed, wounded or captured. British casualties on the first day – numbering over 57,000, of which 19,240 were killed – make it **the bloodiest day** in British military history.
- Battle of attrition- brutality
- Tanks enter the war

# Importance

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- Has come to represent the loss and apparent futility of the war.
- But the Allied offensive on the Somme was a strategic necessity fought to meet the needs of an international alliance.
- Led to strategies that would ultimately win the war for the allies



# 2nd Battle of Marne (July-Aug. 1918)

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- last major German Spring Offensive on the Western Front during World War I.
- It failed when an Allied counterattack led by French forces overwhelmed the Germans, inflicting severe casualties.
- German army was severely run down and loosing strength
- **Importance**
- The German defeat marked the start of the relentless Allied advance which culminated in the Armistice with Germany about 100 days later.

