World War I in Maps

WWI was fought worldwide, but most battles were fought in Europe.
Pre World War I Europe
The Western Front Stabilizes
The United States entered the "Great War" in April 1917, after the Allies and Central Powers had exhausted themselves in combat for over three years. Although the American Army quickly dispatched a division to France as the first element of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), American mobilization for war took months, and American participation initially had little effect on the war.

As U.S. units arrived in larger numbers after January, 1918, they assumed a role under French instruction and control in the Voges Mountain defenses, which accustomed them to trench warfare conditions. Similarly, seven American divisions also served with the British Army in Northern France. American units first fought in large operations while subordinated to French and British divisions or corps helping to halt the German "Pance Offensives" in the spring of 1918. American divisions then spearheaded the Aisne-Marne Counter-Offensive in July-August 1918.

In late August General John J. Pershing, commander of the AEF, activated the 1st American Army, and in September led it during the successful St. Mihiel Offensive, the first major action by an American Army. Fourteen days later, this Army struck again in the Meuse-Argonne offensive as a part of a coordinated Allied assault against German armies throughout France. Meanwhile, other American units assisted the British, French and Belgian offensives that slowly but steadily pushed the Germans out of France and to the peace table by 11 November, 1918. Ultimately, 29 divisions fought in the AEF in France, while separate regiments served in Italy, Northern Russia, and Siberia.