

## World War I Fact Sheet

(Courtesy of Wikipedia)

**World War I (WWI)**, which was predominantly called the **World War** or the **Great War** from its occurrence until 1939, and the **First World War** or World War I thereafter, was a [major war](#) centered in Europe that began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918. It involved all the world's [great powers](#),<sup>[5]</sup> which were assembled in two opposing alliances: the [Allies](#) (centered around the [Triple Entente](#) of [Britain](#), [France](#) and [Russia](#)) and the [Central Powers](#) (originally centered around the [Triple Alliance](#) of [Germany](#), [Austria-Hungary](#) and [Italy](#)).<sup>[6]</sup> More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilized in one of the largest wars in history.<sup>[7][8]</sup> More than 9 million combatants [were killed](#), largely because of great technological advances in firepower without corresponding advances in mobility. It was the sixth [deadliest conflict](#) in world history, subsequently paving the way for various political changes such as revolutions in the nations involved.<sup>[9]</sup>

By the war's end, four major imperial powers—the [German](#), [Russian](#), [Austro-Hungarian](#) and [Ottoman](#) empires—had been militarily and politically defeated and ceased to exist. The successor states of the former two lost a great amount of territory, while the latter two were dismantled entirely. The map of central Europe was redrawn into several smaller states.<sup>[14]</sup> The [League of Nations](#) was formed in the hope of preventing another such conflict. The European nationalism spawned by the war and the breakup of empires, the repercussions of Germany's defeat and problems with the [Treaty of Versailles](#) are generally agreed to be factors contributing to [World War II](#). April 6, 1917 is the date the U.S officially entered the conflict.

### Casualties

(Courtesy of History Learning Site (UK))

Country	Men mobilized	Killed	Wounded	POW's + missing	Total casualties	casualties in % of men mobilized
USA	4.3mill	126,000	234,000	4,500	350,000	8
Total Allies	42million	5 million	13million	4 million	22million	52%

## Pershing Park Facts

(Courtesy Wikipedia)

**Pershing Park** is a memorial park dedicated to [General John J. Pershing](#) located at [14th Street](#) and [Pennsylvania Avenue](#) NW in [Washington, D.C.](#), in the [United States](#). It was authorized by Congress on Nov. 7, 1966 (PL 89-786) and dedicated on May 14, 1981.

The area was an undeveloped tract of land covered with weeds and litter from the inception of the District of Columbia in 1792 until April 1957, when District officials proposed renaming the plot Pershing Square.<sup>[1]</sup> Legislation officially designating the plot as a Pershing Square subsequently was adopted by Congress later that year.<sup>[2]</sup> How to develop the square proved controversial, however, as different groups offered competing proposals for memorials to John J. Pershing, who had served as [General of the Armies](#) in [World War I](#).<sup>[3]</sup> These disagreements led to inaction, and by 1962 the square remained bare and often cluttered with trash.<sup>[4]</sup> In September 1963, District of Columbia officials finally planted grass and flower beds to temporarily beautify the square.<sup>[5]</sup>

In November 1963, the President's Council on Pennsylvania Avenue proposed a master plan for the redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue NW from the [White House](#) to the [United States Capitol](#). The master plan proposed constructing a National Plaza (also called the Western Plaza) which would have required the demolition of the Pershing Square, the [Willard Hotel](#) north of the square, and the two blocks of buildings and street east of these tracts.<sup>[6]</sup> The [American Legion](#), among others, kept pushing for a grand statue of Pershing for the square, but all plans for the park were suspended until such time as the Pennsylvania Avenue master plan could be finalized.<sup>[7]</sup>

### John J. Pershing Memorial in Pershing Park

National Plaza was never constructed. Instead, a much smaller [Freedom Plaza](#) was built which did not require the demolition of Pershing Park (as the square was now known). Designs for a statue and memorial to Pershing and design of the park were finalized in the 1970s, and Pershing Park constructed simultaneously with Freedom Plaza from 1979 to 1981.<sup>[8]</sup> During this period, the park was slightly enlarged due to the realignment of Pennsylvania Avenue NW along the area's north side. Pershing Park formally opened to the public at 11:45 AM on May 14, 1981.<sup>[9][10]</sup>

Pershing Park contains a statue of General Pershing by [Robert White](#), as well as memorial walls and benches behind him describing his achievements in World War I.<sup>[10]</sup> The park also contains a fountain, a pond (which turns into an [ice rink](#) in the winter), and flower beds.<sup>[10]</sup> The ice rink is managed by a concessionaire of the [National Park Service](#). Pershing Park is owned by the government of the District of Columbia, but is administered by the National Park Service since it is included in the [Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site](#).

Major support for Pershing Park came from the American Battle Monuments Commission of which General Pershing served as its Chair from 1923 until his death in 1948.

This information was compiled by:

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (founded Dec. 7, 1865)

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