

**CONSIDER:** *The ways in which a modern war effort affects a nation's people and economy, even though the war is being fought on foreign soil; the potential significance for women of these changes in employment.*

## Revolutionary Propaganda

This 1922 poster (figure 15.4) celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Russian revolution reflects some of the message and appeal of the Communists during the revolution of 1917 and the years that followed. Here Lenin, in a worker's suit, tie, and cap, stands on a globe as if leading a worldwide Communist revolution. He proclaims, "Let the ruling class tremble before the Communist revolution." Behind him the rising sun marks the glorious dawn of the communist era. To his left and right, together in alliance, are agricultural and industrial workers—the revolutionary mainstays and beneficiaries of the new order—carrying a banner proclaiming, "Proletariat of All Countries, Unite." Below are the tools of their trades and symbols of Russia's Communist revolution—the hammer and sickle.

**CONSIDER:** *What might be particularly appealing about this poster; what image of the Russian revolution it incorporates.*



FIGURE 15.4 © Sovfoto/Eastfoto



## Secondary Sources

### Germany and the Coming of War

Hartmut Pogge von Strandmann

*In an attempt to understand the origins of World War I and why it lasted so long, many scholars focus on the role of Germany, but differ greatly on what the underpinnings of German involvement were. In the following selection Hartmut Pogge von Strandmann analyzes what made war acceptable to the German population and what sustained the war efforts for four years.*

**CONSIDER:** *Ways in which forces for war within Germany were part of Europeanwide developments; why, according to the author, there was support for the war effort in Germany;*

Source: From Hartmut Pogge von Strandmann, "Germany and the Coming of War," in *The Coming of the First World War*, p. 123, eds. R. J. W. Evans and Hartmut Pogge von Strandmann. © 1988 Oxford University Press. Reprinted by permission of Oxford University Press.

*how this analysis of Germany compares to Stromberg's analysis for the origins of the war.*

However strongly the political and military leadership was influenced by the public and its political debates, the war was not started for domestic reasons nor to defend a social status quo. The concept of expansion based on a military victory found enough support to command a consensus among the military, political, and business leaders of Wilhelmine Germany. The drive to the east and to the west was underpinned by an imperialist culture which spread the virtues of Social Darwinism, the conquest of markets, the penetration of spheres of influence, competition between capitalist partners, the winning of living-space, and the rising power of the state. Buoyed up by an assumed military superiority, general economic strength and particular industrial vigour, widespread optimism and a mood of belligerence, the military and political leaders found, when they made the decision to push for war, that this