

World War I

Headings	Notes
THE CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the years before 1914, Europe was dominated by empires that were competing for power and territory as well as deteriorating international relations. There were a number of issues that were driving these European powers apart: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagreements over colonies in Africa and Asia. Military arms races – particularly between the rapidly industrialising Germany and the industrialised Britain over their naval fleets. Competition between the Habsburg Empire (Austria-Hungary) and the Romanov Dynasty (Russia) for influence in the Balkans (south-east Europe) as the Ottoman Empire slowly collapsed which resulted in the emergence of new states such as Serbia. These issues saw the creation of a system of alliances (an agreement between states to aid each other in wartime). <div> <div> The Entente Powers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Britain (and Ireland) France Russia (until October 1917) Italy (from 1915) The United States (from 1917) </div> <div> The Central Powers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany The Austro-Hungarian (Habsburg) Empire The Ottoman Empire (Turkey) </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the 28th June 1914, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie were assassinated by Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist, in Sarajevo (capital of modern day Bosnia-Herzegovina). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Austrians blamed the Serbia for his death and declared war on them in August. Russia, an ally of Serbia, declared war on Austria. Germany, who had encouraged Austria to take a hard line on Serbia, declared war on Russia. France, an ally of Russia, went to war with Germany. When Germany invaded Belgium to get to France, Britain (who had promised to protect Belgium) declared war on Germany. All the Imperial superpowers of Europe were now at war.
Keywords	Summary
Habsburg Empire Romanov Dynasty Ottoman Empire Entente Central Powers Alliances Archduke Franz Ferdinand Balkans	Gavrilo Princip Serbia Germany France Britain Belgium

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WORLD WAR I LIFE IN THE TRENCHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both sides expected the war to be over within months with British soldiers telling their families they would be home by Christmas. However, the war quickly developed into a stalemate (neither side could win) that would drag on for four years. The Germans, who had almost defeated the French in the first few weeks, had to split their forces between the Eastern Front (Russia) and the Western Front (France and Britain) so they could not defeat either. Nor were the French and British able to drive the German army out of Northern France. Along the Western Front, soldiers dug networks of deep trenches to protect themselves from enemy fire and shelling. The strip of land between the opposing armies (no man's land) was quickly churned up, with many locations turning into a deep, sticky, dangerous mud which would last for the entire war. Trenches and shell craters were often full of foul water which led to the quick spread of diseases. To take enemy trenches, soldiers had to climb up and out of their trenches (go 'over the top') and march across No Man's Land; these men were met with barbed wire, machine-gun fire and shelling, making World War I battles incredibly bloody.
CONDITIONS IN THE TRENCHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disease spread easily especially in wet weather and due to lack of toilets. Weather such as rain, snow and freezing fog made it very difficult for soldiers to live and fight as trench foot and frostbite kicked in. Rats carried diseases and ate the dead bodies of soldiers who had yet to be buried. Soldiers were also suffering from mental health issues due to what they witnessed fighting.
CONDITIONS AT HOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men were gone to war so women worked in the factories making clothes and weapons. Birth rates dropped. Shortages of food were caused by the war at sea and over land. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliveries could not reach their destination and over 2 million Russians died of starvation. After the war nations hated each other because of the war. This affected the punishments received in post-war negotiations.
Keywords	Summary
Stalemate Eastern Front Western Front Trenches No Man's Land Over the top Trench foot Frostbite	

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THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Battle of the Somme took place in France, near the Somme River. The Battle started on the 1st June 1916 and lasted until the 18th November 1916. The armies involved were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British Empire (Military commander: Douglas Haig) The French Third Republic (Military commander: Ferdinand Foch) The German Empire (Military commander: Max von Gallwitz and Fritz von Bellow) General Haig was highly criticized for so long, because he carried on with the battle when 20,000 people had already died on the first day of the battle. The aim of the attack was to break through German lines and defeat the German army. It was also hoped that the attack, started by the British, would allow the French Army to strike back on its own front. About 1,738,000 shells were fired at the Germans before gun fire fighting in hopes to destroy the German trenches and barbed wire placed in front of the trenches. It is estimated that 1.1 million soldiers lost their lives, out of the 3 million soldiers who fought. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The French lost 200,000 men, the British lost 420,000 while the Germans lost 500,000. The Battle of the Somme symbolised the horrors of warfare during World War I. This was the battle that involved the new advanced technologies including gassing, machine guns & shelling.
A NEW ERA IN WARFARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World War I saw the introduction of new military technology, including the first use of aeroplanes for reconnaissance, aerial combat and bombing. German submarines (U-boats) attacked any ships (military or civilian) in enemy waters. The British invented the tank to try to break the stalemate on the Western Front. The first use of chemical weapons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phosgene – six times more deadly than chlorine gas. Responsible for 85% of chemical weapons fatalities during WWI. (slow acting poison) Chlorine Gas – first used 22 April 1915. A greenish-yellow cloud that smelled like bleach. Killed soldiers by asphyxiation. Mustard – caused severe blistering on it's victims. Caused blindness (slow acting poison) Within six months of fighting, medics observed a set of symptoms among the trenches that they called 'shell shock', now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Symptoms included: anxiety, nightmares, tremors, confusion, memory loss and sudden hearing/sight loss.
Keywords	Summary
The Battle of the Somme British Empire Mustard Gas French Republic Tanks German Empire Shell Shock Aeroplanes PTSD Phosgene Gas Chlorine Gas	

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THE END OF THE WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bloody conflict dragged on for over four years. Attempts by the Entente Powers to break the stalemate by attacking in 1915 failed during the Battle of Gallipoli. The Russian government was overthrown in October 1917 by the Bolsheviks (communists) led by Vladimir Lenin – ending Russian involvement in the war. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> However, the US entered the war on the Entente's side in 1917. The arrival of one million American troops eventually turned the tide in their favour. Germany and its allies surrendered in November 1918.
THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE 1919	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Entente Powers dictated the terms of the peace treaty to Germany and its allies when they met for a 'peace' conference at Versailles, outside Paris, throughout 1919. The Big Three leaders were: Woodrow Wilson (US President), Georges Clemenceau (French Prime Minister) and David Lloyd George (British Prime Minister). All three wanted different results from the negotiations. Wilson wanted a just peace to prevent future wars which outlined his views in his 'Fourteen Points' speech when the US entered the war, seeking to reduce the size of armies, establishing the right to self-determination (<i>the right of a people or nation sharing a common language and culture to govern themselves independently</i>). Wilson also wanted a new organisation, the League of Nations, set up to maintain peace. Clemenceau blamed the Germans for starting the war, therefore wanting to punish Germany. France lost 1.4 million men in the war and suffered billions in damages, therefore demanding compensation for all they lost. They also sought to prevent Germany becoming a threat again Lloyd George also wanted Germany punished to appease people at home in Britain. He saw the peace treaty as an opportunity to expand the British empire and boost the British economy, both at the expense of Germany. Negotiations lasted six months before the Treaty of Versailles was agreed in June 1919. The German representatives were not given a chance to seek any changes; they were given the ultimatum of sign the Treaty or return to war.
Keywords	Summary
Bolsheviks Vladimir Lenin Woodrow Wilson Georges Clemenceau David Lloyd George Fourteen Points Self-determination Treaty of Versailles	

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TERMS OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The War Guilt Clause placed blame solely on Germany for starting the war. 2. Germany would pay £6.6 billion (€350 billion in today's money) in reparations to the victors. 3. Germany surrendered all its colonies. 4. Germany lost territory in Europe. 5. The German armed forces were reduced to 100,000 men and only six naval ships and they were banned from having an air force, tanks or submarines. 6. Germany and Austria were forbidden to unite. 7. The League of Nations was set up. 8. To protect France's security, the Rhineland (the border area between the two countries) became a demilitarised zone (Germany was banned from putting troops in the Rhineland).
CONSEQUENCES OF WORLD WAR I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Habsburg (Austro-Hungarian) and Ottoman (Turkish) Empires were abolished, resulting in the creation of new states in Central & Eastern Europe and the Middle East due to Wilson's belief in the right to self-determination. These new states included: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Finland.
NEW STATES	
RISE OF NAZISM AND FASCISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The German people humiliated and betrayed by the signing of the treaty, rejecting the idea that they were solely responsible for the war and resenting the loss of territory & military limitations. • There was also a lot of anger in Italy as they did not receive the land they had been promised when entering the war. • This anger and resentment in Germany and Italy would lead to the rise for new extreme nationalist ideologies of Nazism and fascism.
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reparations imposed on Germany crippled its economy, taking 92 years to pay off. • There was mass unemployment across Europe as Germany was Europe's largest economy, meaning wider Europe took a long time to recover. • Coupled with the Great Depression of 1929, the ongoing economic hardships added to the bitterness felt at the end of the war.
RISE OF COMMUNISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia had been devastated by the war. In 1917, the Russian Tsar was overthrown. The world's first communist government came to power under Vladimir Lenin.
Keywords	Summary
War Guilt Clause Reparations League of Nations Demilitarisation Nazism Communism Fascism Great Depression 1929	

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilson had hoped that the League of Nations would prevent future wars by settling disputes peacefully and encouraging collective security, meaning to work together to stop aggression. However, the US refused to join while Russia and Germany were not allowed to join. This meant that three of the world's most powerful states were not members, making it difficult for the League to operate and eventually leading to the failure of the League.
IRELAND AND WORLD WAR I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carson and the Unionists supported the war to maintain their union with Britain and hopefully receive special treatment after the war. Thousands of Ulster Unionists joined the British army.
SPLIT IN THE IRISH VOLUNTEER FORCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Redmond, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, made a speech in Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow where he asked IVF members to join the British army in the hope that this would benefit Ireland during negotiations after the war. The IVF split into two factions over the issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Volunteers – 175,000 men agreed with Redmond and felt that supported Britain would benefit Home Rule. Irish Volunteers – 11,000 men disagreed and were led by Eoin MacNeill. They intended to stay in Ireland and make sure Home Rule happened.
IRISH SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 250,000 Irishmen (nationalist and Unionist) fought on Britain's side in World War I with between 30,000 and 50,000 killed. Aside from political and religious beliefs, many Irishmen went to war because times were hard at home and they needed to earn money. Nationalists joined the 16th (Irish) Division in regiments such as the Irish Guards, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Unionists joined the 36th (Ulster) Division. Irish soldiers fought at the Battle of the Somme in France, Passchendaele in Belgium and Gallipoli in Turkey.
Keywords	Summary
League of Nations	
John Redmond	
Woodenbridge	
National Volunteers	
Irish Volunteers	
16 th Division	
36 th Division	

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Keywords	Definition
Alliance	An agreement between states to aid each other in wartime
Archduke Franz Ferdinand	Prince of Austria-Hungary (Habsburg Empire) who was assassinated in 1914
Armistice Day	Germany surrendered on November 11th, 1918 at 11am
Battle of the Somme	Deadliest battle of WW1
Central Powers	Germany, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Ottoman Empire
Grenades	Hand held bombs which could be thrown at an enemy
Imperialism	a policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonization, use of military force, or other means; usually ruled by a monarch or emperor
League of Nations	Set up to try to keep peace in Europe. America pulled out while Germany and Russia not allowed to join. No army
Machine Guns	developed to shoot multiple bullets in a minute at an enemy line
Nationalism	identification with one's own nation and support for its interests.
No Man's Land	The strip of land between the opposing armies' trenches
November Criminals	The German people blamed the German government
Paris Peace Conference	Meeting after WW1 to decide how to avoid a future war
Poison gas	Chloride gas which would burn enemies from the inside out
Reparation	compensation payments paid by the loser to the victors after a war
Self-Determination	The right of a people or nation sharing a common language and culture to govern themselves
Stalemate	Neither side could win
The Entente	Britain (and Ireland), France, Russia (left Oct 1917), Italy (from 1915), United States (from 1917)
Treaty of Versailles	Treaty that blamed for World War I, forced to pay for the war, lost its colonies and army capped
Trenches	Deep pits in a narrow line dug into the ground so that soldiers could shelter from gun fire
U-Boats	German submarines
Yugoslavia	Set up after WW1; made up of modern-day Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia