



**PRELIMINARY MODERN HISTORY**

**SHAPING OF THE  
MODERN WORLD**

**WORLD WAR ONE**

A CLAGGETT AND MACAULAY BOOKLET 2021





# Shaping the Modern World

## World War One

### Content

#### 1. Historical Context

- Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, Nationalism
- Assassination

#### 2. The Nature of World War One

- Outbreak of war
- Western and Eastern Fronts
- Experiences of soldiers in Battles
- Changing technology of war
- Civilians and Total war
- Recruitment, censorship, propaganda
- How the war led to Russian Revolution
- Reasons for Allied Victory

#### 3. Legacy of World War One

- Casualties
- Treaty of Versailles
- Commemoration

### How to use this booklet

Information is in black text, read all of it

Questions are in **blue text**

Extension work is in **red text**



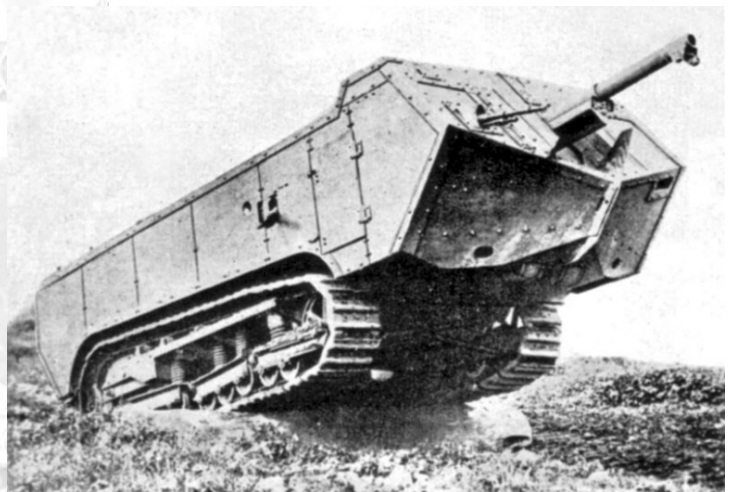
Podcasts and videos are labelled with the podcat!



## 1. Historical Context

Between 1914 and 1918 the first global war was fought. Mainly fought between European nations, the nature of Imperialism at the beginning of the Twentieth Century meant that this conflict would draw in people and nations from all over the world. After 4 years of fighting almost 10 million soldiers had died, and three great empires would be in ruins. This war was known as the Great War, The War to End all Wars, and ultimately World War One. An exhausted world tried to rebuild itself and ensure future peace through the creation of The League of Nations, but the seeds of World War Two had already planted, and within a generation another, deadlier war would begin.

WW1 would be like no other war before. New technology lead to massive slaughter, particularly in the trenches. Tanks, planes, machine guns, and chemical weapons combined to cause suffering on an unimaginable scale.



1. Study the photographs above. How do these photographs provide insight into the changing nature of warfare?





# THE GREAT WAR

## THE ONSET OF WAR

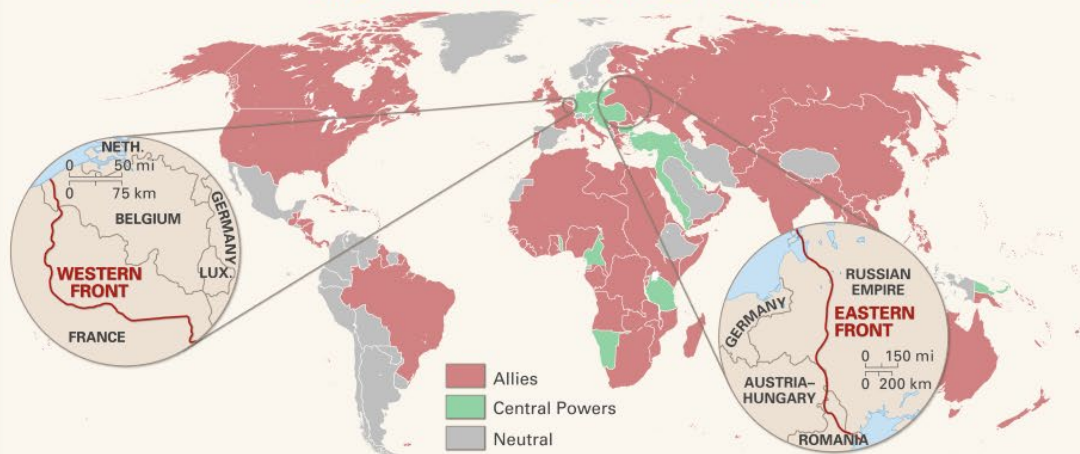
On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb nationalist.



## WAR FIRSTS

- chemical warfare
- gas masks
- flamethrowers
- steel helmets
- tank battles
- aerial warfare
- aircraft carrier
- IQ tests
- guide dogs
- a blood bank
- women enlisted
- filmed propaganda
- military use of X-rays
- wireless communication

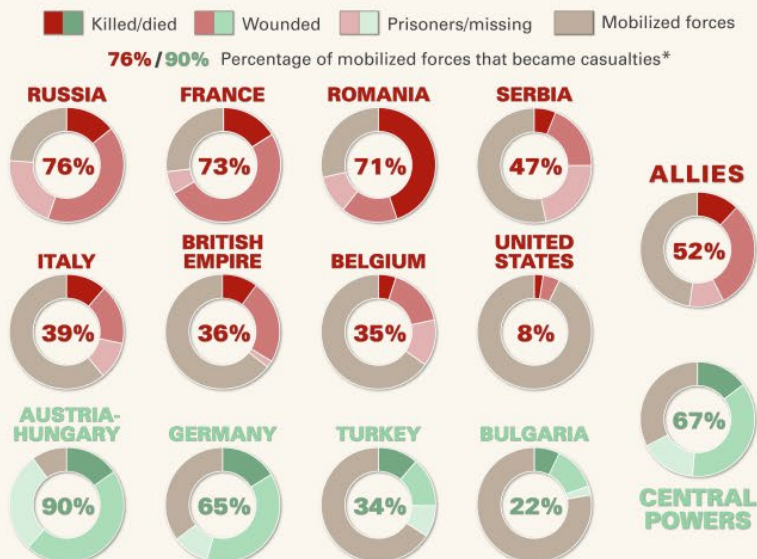
## THE WAR TO END ALL WARS



## TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS



## CASUALTIES OF MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED



\*Total casualties = killed/died + wounded + prisoners/missing.

## EUROPE BEFORE/AFTER



Sources: War Firsts, History Channel; casualty data, U.S. War Department.

© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.





Four key ideas would lead to the outbreak of war in 1914. You can use the acronym M.A.I.N. to remember them.

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Imperialism
- Nationalism



The Key to Victory



2. Define the words in bold.
3. Describe which of the M.A.I.N. ideas are represented in each cartoon.





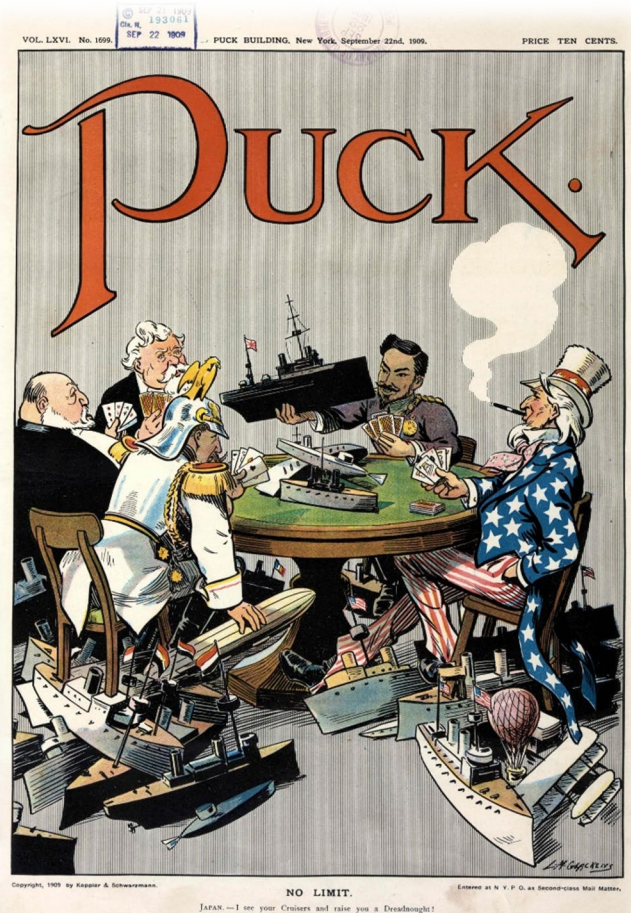
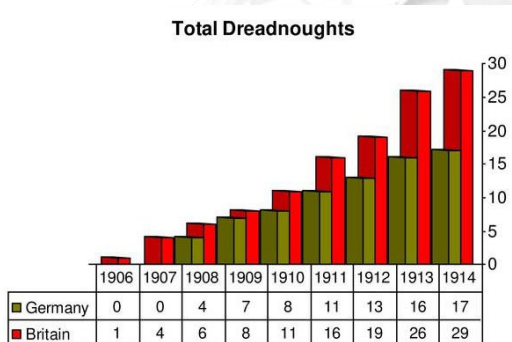
## Militarism

Militarism took a number of forms in the lead up to WW1. One form was an increase in military budgets, leading to larger armies, more ship building, and large armament expenditure.

Increasing the size of the military can mean nations are more willing to join a war. They perceive all the spending must be justified, and even slight provocations can cause conflict rather than diplomacy.

Great powers were busy building their navy during the pre-war years, in particular Great Britain, and Germany, but also France, Japan and the USA (see the 1909 Puck magazine cover- right).

A class of ship that was being built was the "Dreadnought" a large battleship, and one of the most powerful naval weapons. Germany and Britain began a Naval Arms Race to build the most Dreadnoughts. Ironically, despite the massive fleet buildup there were very few naval engagements between Germany and Great Britain.



NATION	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Great Britain	\$286.7m	\$306.2m	\$330.4m	\$345.1m	\$349.9m	\$374.2m
Germany	\$286.7m	\$306.8m	\$301.5m	\$303.9m	\$331.5m	\$463.6m
France	\$216m	\$236.4m	\$248m	\$277.9m	\$307.8m	\$363.8m
Russia	\$291.6m	\$315.5m	\$324m	\$334.5m	\$387m	\$435m
Italy	\$87.5m	\$115.8m	\$124.9m	\$133.7m	\$158.4m	\$142.2m
United States	\$189.5m	\$199m	\$197m	\$197m	\$227m	\$244.6m
Japan	\$93.7m	\$95.7m	\$100.2m	\$110.7m	\$107.7m	\$104.6m

Source: Jacobson's World Armament Expenditure, 1935

4. Using the three sources above, describe how militarism affected nations prior to WW1.





Another form of Militarism occurs when the military becomes an integral part of the government, or begins making political decisions. This can leave the civilian government out of the policy making progress and occurs when there is either direct military leadership running the country, or when the military simply ignores civilian politicians or rulers. In Germany Kaiser Wilhelm II was the leader of both the State and of the armed forces, whereas Great Britain had more civilian parliamentary control. An attempt to encourage civilian “patriotism” aimed at war participation often coincides with this kind of militarism.

“It is the soldier and the army, not parliamentary majorities and decisions, that have welded the German Empire together. I put my trust in the army.”

Wilhelm II, German Kaiser, 1891  
(pictured)

“The belief in war as a test of national power and a proof of national superiority added a scientific base to the cult of patriotism... In Britain, a real effort was made to teach boys that success in war depended upon the patriotism and military spirit of the nation, and that preparation for war would strengthen ‘manly virtue’ and ‘patriotic ardour’.”

Historian Zara Steiner

Militarism is the “domination of the military man over the civilian, an undue preponderance of military demands, an emphasis on military considerations”.

Historian Alfred Vagts

5. Using the sources above, write a paragraph explaining the role of the military in the German Government during this period.

**Extension 1. Podcat! What does the video say about Militarism?**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRcg\\_t2oJkc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRcg_t2oJkc)







## Alliances

Alliances ensured that if one country was in conflict, others would be drawn in to help. All of the great powers in Europe were involved in alliances or agreements, which meant a small conflict could easily become larger.

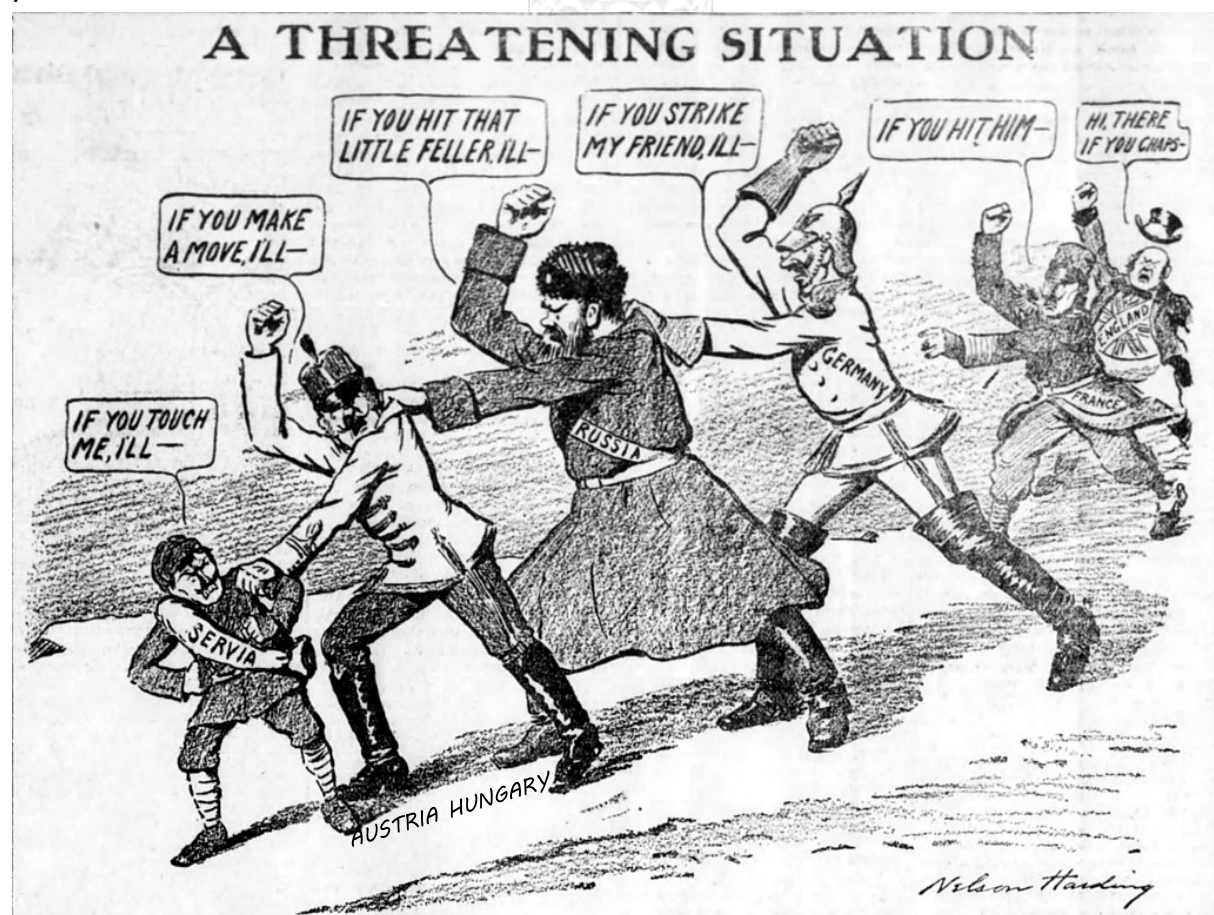
The most important alliances were:

**The Triple Alliance**      **Germany, Austria Hungary, Italy**

**The Triple Entente**      **France, Britain, Russia**

But many other countries had agreements with each other, such as Russia protecting Serbia

The Chain of Friendship



Cartoon published in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, in 1912 with the title "A threatening situation".

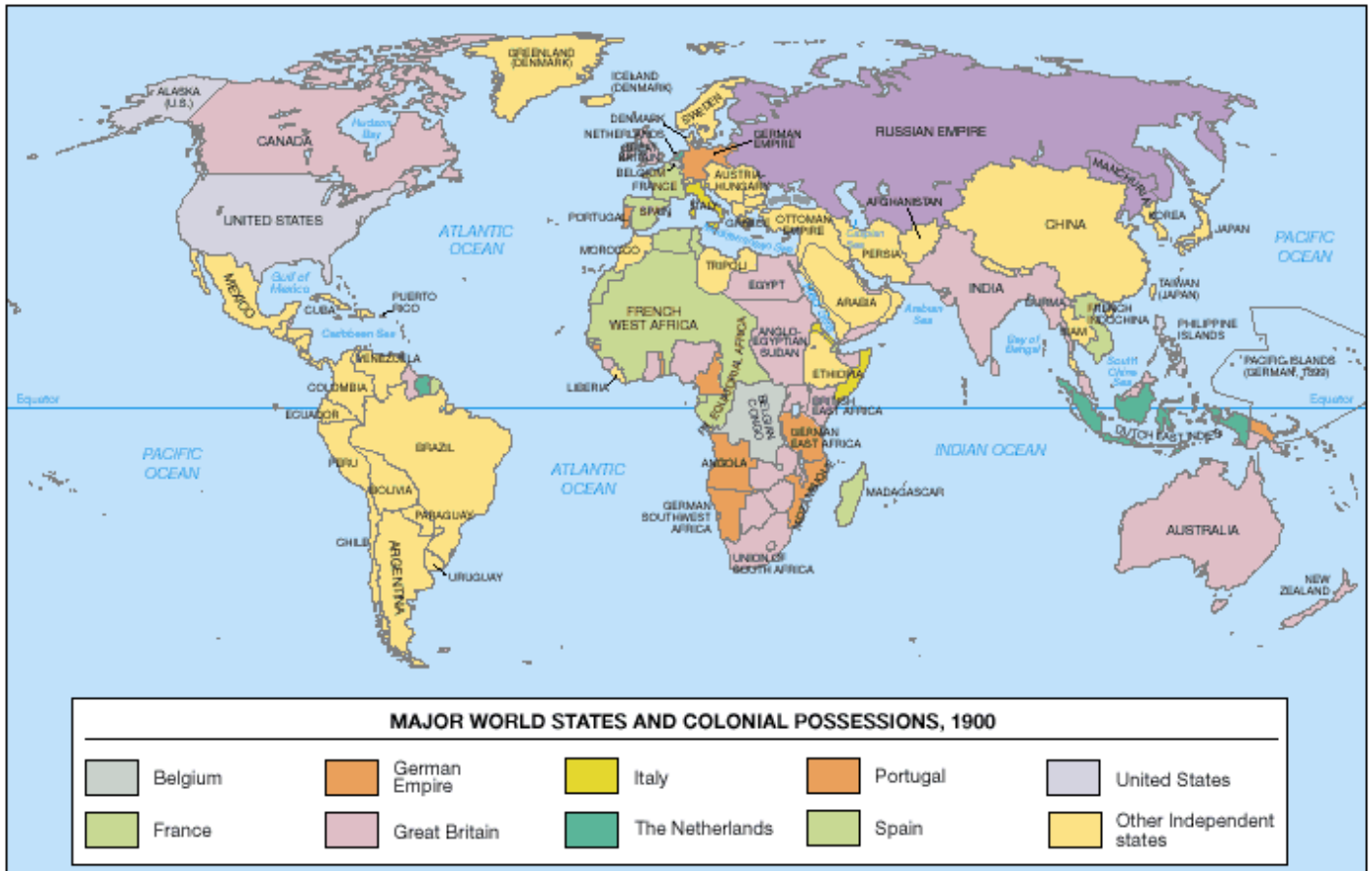
6. How does the cartoon provide insight into how alliances could lead to larger outbreaks of war?






## Imperialism

By the early 1900's European powers had carved up the world and created empires throughout the world. Britain had control of almost quarter of the world's population, France controlled large parts of South East Asia and Africa. Centuries old empires such as the Ottoman and Russian were in trouble, even as more recent empire builders such as Germany and Belgium were trying to expand and exploit people overseas. Conflict would occur as newer powers such Germany became rivals with older powers such Britain, but also tensions were arising with Empires with ethnic groups wanting independence.



 World Colonial Holdings, ca. 1914. The European powers, great and small, competed with each other for world empires and world influence by 1900.

7. What tensions were being created by imperialism?
8. What does the map show?

**Extension 2. Podcat!**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJJaltUmrGo>

## Nationalism

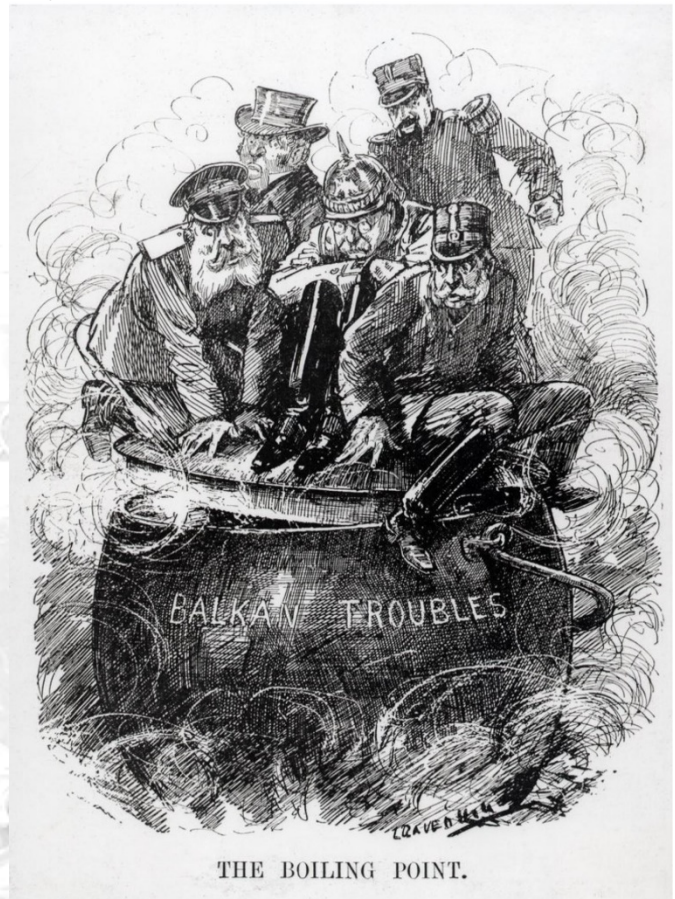


Nationalism is the support for your own country, sometimes at the expense of others.

It played two roles in the lead up to WW1. Stronger nations were competing with each other over imperial ambitions, such as Germany and Britain. While smaller subjugated nations or ethnic groups felt oppressed by the large imperial powers wanted independence.

A war in the Balkans in 1912 had thrown out the Ottoman Empire but competing imperial powers still wanted influence over the region. Tensions between Serbian and Slav nationalists, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire would be the spark that would lead to war.

Germany, France, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Britain attempted to keep the lid on boiling tensions in the Balkans to prevent a wider European war.



9. How did Nationalism lead to war? in your answer refer to the cartoons on this page.





## Assassination

With all that tension from the M.A.I.N. causes building, it only took a spark to ignite the war, That spark was the assassination of the heir to the Austria-Hungarian Empire the Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip. The assassination, caused by a Nationalist response to Imperialism, led to a chain of events in 1914 that caused the bloodiest war in history (to that time).

June 28 Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated.

July 5 Germany gives Austria-Hungary a “blank cheque”, a promise to back them in whatever they decide to do.

July 23 An Ultimatum was sent sent to Serbia by the Austria-Hungarian government with demands about the investigation which Serbia couldn't possibly accept.

July 28 Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, beginning the war.

August 1 With Russia mobilising its army to protect Serbia, Germany declares war on Russia.

August 3 Germany declares war on France, Russia's ally.

August 4 Germany invades Belgium, Britain declares war on France.

### 10. Describe how the assassination led to war.

#### Extension 3. Podcat!

##### Crash Course Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cd2ch4XV84s>

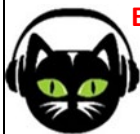
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFCpKtwCkI>

#### Extension 4.

##### Online Crossword puzzles

<https://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/world-war-i-crossword-1/>

<https://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/world-war-i-crossword-2/>







## 2. Outbreak of War

### 2.1 Outbreak of War

With war declared in late July and early August of 1914, European nations had no idea what was about to occur. European nations had largely been at peace for decades, and had not fought a war

against each other using the latest technology. Many expected the war to be brief, and “over by Christmas”. It was not.

#### 11. Using Sources 2.1 and 2.2 explain the attitudes towards the outbreak of war.

Plans had been made by nations long prior to war being declared, and the most famous was the German plan named after the Chief of the German General Staff, Count Alfred Von Schlieffen.

The Schlieffen plan took into consideration the alliance between Russia and France. Germany was right in the middle and if war was declared Germany could be fighting a war on two fronts. One in the East against Russia, and one in the West against France.

#### Source 2.1

“Well, I thought the same as everybody else. Everybody said ‘It’ll be over by Christmas and you’ve got to get out soon, otherwise you won’t see anything’. But I don’t know if it was my opinion, or if everybody was saying it.”

**Bill Haine, WW1 soldier**

#### Source 2.2

No one had any idea what were the implications of a nation at war. In fact there’d never been such a war to my knowledge. The idea that this would be a national war to the extent of the complete mobilisation of the country I don’t think it occurred to any of us. We thought it would be a quick clash as in 1870 when the Germans over-ran France so quickly.

**John Grover, WW1 soldier**

The Schlieffen Plan was based on the theory that the Russians, having such a large and unwieldy military, would take at least 6 weeks to mobilise. Germany, according to Schlieffen, would be able to attack France first, knock France out of the war quickly, and then reorganise in the East to face Russia.

That was the plan, and on August 3, 1914 Germany declared war on France.

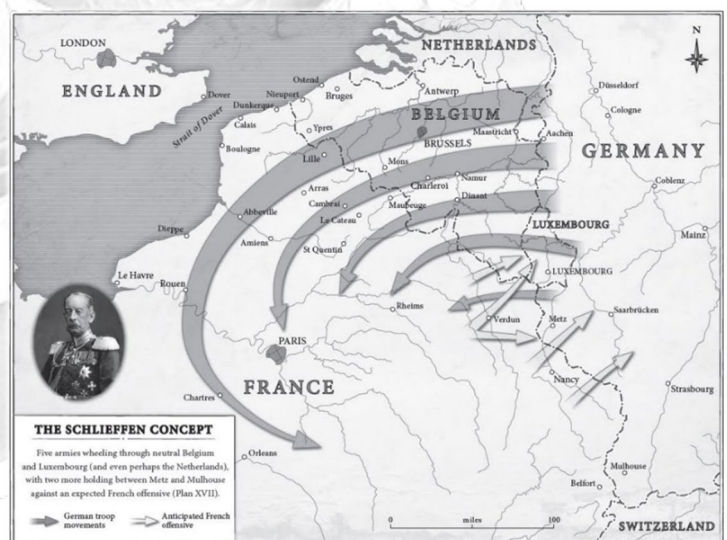


The Schlieffen

plan called for a sweeping movement through the Netherlands and Belgium. The German forces were to circle behind Paris and force the French to surrender. A number of factors would cause the plan to fail.

#### 12. Explain the reason for the Schlieffen Plan.

#### 13. Using the map and information above describe the plan.



**Extension 5 Podcast! Hear the voices of those who thought it would be over by Christmas**

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/voices-of-the-first-world-war-over-by-christmas>



Changes were made to the plan after Schlieffen retired which made it less effective. Under his replacement Helmuth von Moltke, it was decided that going through the Netherlands was unwise as keeping it neutral would keep supplies flowing to Germany. Moltke also split his forces to protect the south part of the border with France. Not going through the Netherlands led to a bottleneck in Belgium which slowed the German Army, and the split forces meant the forces that were supposed to swing through the north and encircle Paris were weaker.

Other factors which caused the Schlieffen Plan to fail include

- The weather. Hot conditions made it exhausting to march.
- Tougher than expected fighting in Belgium slowed the army down.
- Belgian partisan attacks made the Germans afraid and cautious
- 100,000 German men were transferred to the Eastern Front because Russia had mobilised more quickly than expected.

#### Source 2.3

Subsequently German military critics held that Moltke failed to capture Paris in 1914 because he had departed from the plan of the 'masterly strategic genius'.

This view was challenged by Dr Gerhard Ritter, who published in 1956, for the first time, the text of the full plan with its author's emendations and Moltke's comments. It is clear that there was not such a difference between the strategy of Schlieffen and Moltke as earlier historians had maintained. It may however be doubted whether the Schlieffen Plan deserves its high reputation, for its author had underestimated the strength of the Russians and the near panic that their advance would cause in Berlin, the power of Belgian resistance, the effectiveness of the British Expeditionary Force, and the importance of the French railway system in bringing up reserves.

A. Palmer, *Dictionary of Modern History*, Penguin, 1983, p. 257.

#### Source 2.4

[Moltke said] 'It will be very important to have in Holland a country whose neutrality allows us to have imports and supplies ... however awkward it may be, the advance through Belgium must therefore take place without the violation of Dutch territory' ... [thus] the threat of a British blockade had led Moltke to make a substantial modification in the Schlieffen Plan and one which probably doomed the German campaign in the west before it was ever launched. From the very start of the offensive in August 1914 the German first and second armies were faced with chronic supply problems, which they would not have encountered if the railways and roads of southern Holland had been at their disposal.

L. C. F. Turner, *Origins of the First World War*, 1970, pp. 62–4.

**14. Explain the reasons for the failure of the Schlieffen Plan.**

**15. Compare sources 2.3 and 2.4 as evidence for the failure of the Schlieffen Plan.**





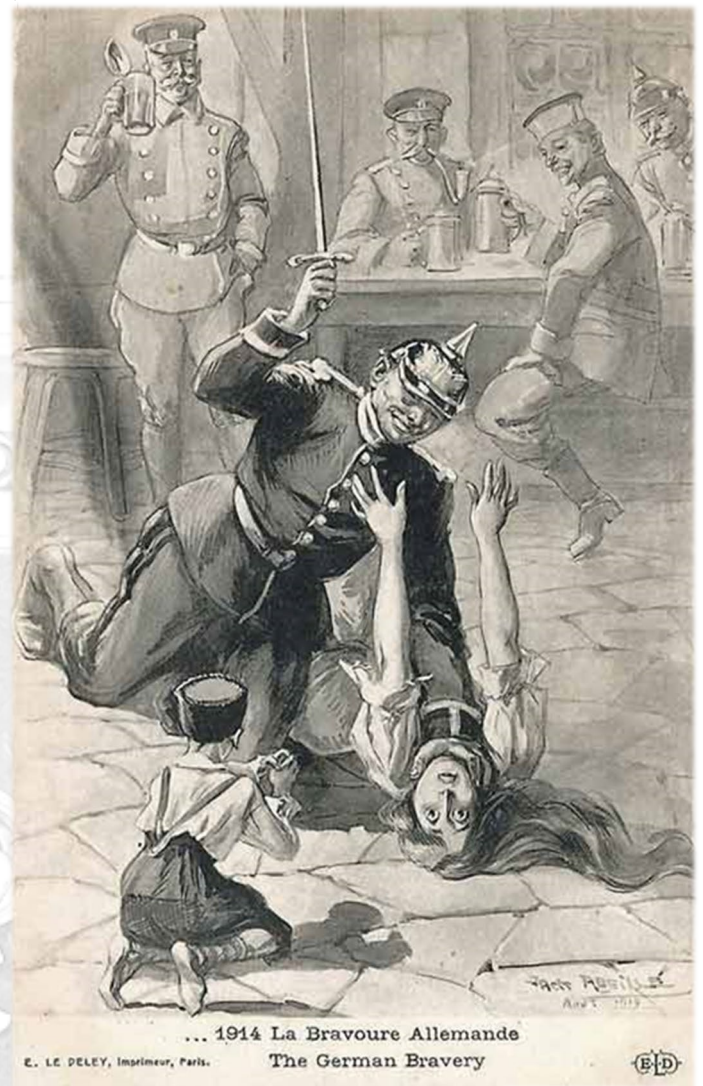


The British Expeditionary Force had travelled to protect tiny Belgium from the Germans. Part of the motivation for the British fighting in Belgium was the propaganda produced during 1914. Partly the propaganda showed a tough little Belgian standing up to the German bully, other propaganda included the creation of the atrocity stories.



THE KAISER RAVISHES BELGIUM  
New York World, 1914

Source 2.5



Source 2.6

Source 2.7

Nearly all the people I interrogated had stories to tell of German atrocities. Whole villages, they said, had been put to fire and sword. One man, whom I did not see, told an official of the Catholic Society that he had seen with his own eyes Germans chop off the arms of a baby which clung to its mother's skirts.

The Times (27th August, 1914)

16. Assess the value and limitations of sources 2.5, 2.6, and 2.7 as evidence for anti-German propaganda.





As the Schlieffen plan showed its weaknesses, the war was about to change from one of movement to one. The final battle in the early war of movement would take place near the River Marne.

The Germans had advanced into France during August 1914 and were less than 50km from Paris when they met stiff resistance from the French and the BEF. From September 6-12 1914 The First Battle of the Marne took place. The German attack was halted and the Germans were driven back to the River Aisne and began to dig in. The Schlieffen Plan had failed, Germany was about to face a war on two fronts.

Both the Germans and the French and British began to dig trenches. The trenches would grow longer and longer as the front line extended and as each side tried to outflank the other. Known as the "Race to the Sea", eventually the front line would stretch from the Swiss Alps to the North Sea. A series of trench systems, fortified with machine guns, artillery, and barbed wire. Trenches were not a new invention, but the combination of trenches and new weapons technology meant that neither side could be forced out and the war of movement on the Western Front would become a stalemate for most of the next four years.



17. Using sources 2.8 and 2.9 and your own knowledge, explain how the Western Front became a stalemate.





## 2.2 The Western Front

Germany had found itself, because of the failure of the Schlieffen Plan, in a war on two fronts. The Western Front against the French, the British, and other allies, would see a very different kind of fighting than on the Eastern Front against the Russians.

The Western Front is where most images of WW1 come from. After the Race to the Sea and the stalemate that took hold, the Western Front fighting became bogged down in trench warfare and became a war of attrition.

### Parts of a trench

- duckboards: to keep the soldiers' feet out of the mud
- sump: below the duckboards where water and mud could gather
- firestep: a raised platform for firing over the front of the trench
- sand bags: to strengthen and reinforce the trenches and absorb enemy gun fire
- barbed wire: to prevent the enemy from easily attacking a trench
- dugout and bunk hole: for sleeping
- ammunition shelf
- elbow rest: to assist in firing over the front of the trench
- parapet: the raised section at the front of a trench
- parados: a raised section at the back of the trench
- no mans land: the unclaimed area between two opposing trenches



Source 2.10

18. Research, then sketch a cross section of a trench and label the main parts from the list above.



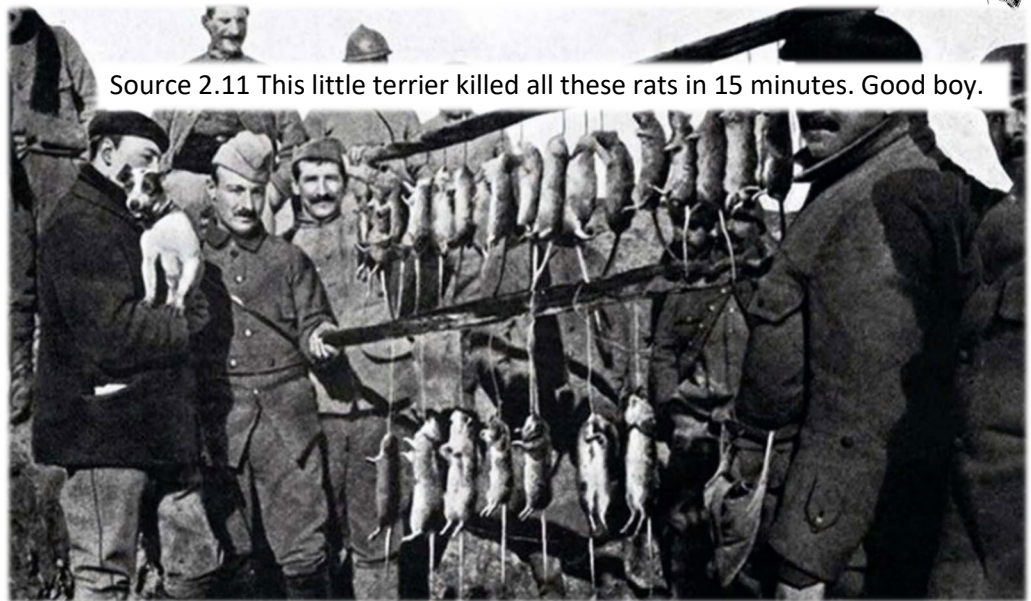
Extension 6. podcat! Life in trenches

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9E7xYLv8N2E>



### Other features of trenches

- Lice
- Rats
- Mud
- Ticks
- Flies
- Raw sewage
- Unburied bodies
- Trenchfoot
- Gangrene



Source 2.11 This little terrier killed all these rats in 15 minutes. Good boy.

19. Using the parts of a trench and other features of a trench list above, identify 8 features of trenches shown in Source 2.10



Source 2.12



Source 2.13

Source 2.13

"At stand-to one morning a flight of whizz-bangs skimmed the top of the trench. The man next to me went down with a scream and half his face gone. The sand-bag in front of me was ripped open and I was blinded and half-choked with its contents.

One got used to many things, but I never overcame my horror of the rats. They abounded in some parts, great loathsome beasts gorged with flesh. About the same time every night the dug-out was invaded by swarms of rats. They gnawed holes in our haversacks and devoured our iron rations. We hung haversacks and rations to the roof, but they went just the same. Once we drenched the place with creosote. It almost suffocated us but did not keep the rats away. They pattered down the steps at the usual time, paused a moment and sneezed, and then got to work on our belongings."

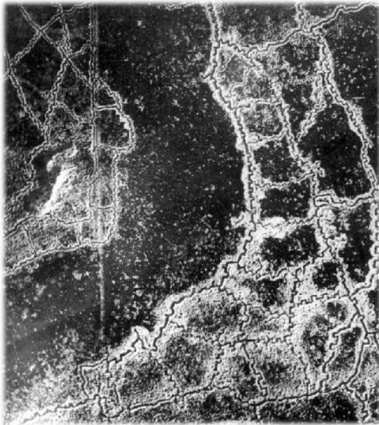
An extract from the memoir of Private Harold Saunders

20. Using ONLY Sources 2.12, 2.13 and 2.14 list the discomforts and dangers of being in a trench.





The trenches were not continuous straight lines, they were either zig zags or built with regular 90° corners. This a design that meant an exploding shell would not travel as far and hurt few soldiers, and so that if an enemy managed to reach the trench they wouldn't be able to fire up and down the length.



Source 2.15 Allied Trenches left, German Right



Source 2.16



Source 2.17

The frontline didn't contain just one line of trenches. There were numerous communication and support trenches stretched out far behind the main fire trench.

**21. Research, then sketch and label a trench line formation. Include Front line trench, support trench, and communication trench.**

Once the soldiers were settled into the trenches it became almost impossible for either side to make progress. Attempts to break the stalemate led to millions of deaths in fruitless and unsuccessful attacks.

One constant strategy was known as going over the top. This involved a shelling of the enemy trenches, followed by lines of men climbing out of their trench and walking or running towards the enemy through No-Man's Land. In the way would be barbed wire, shell craters, mud, shells from the enemy, bodies, and of course the enemy would be firing automatic weapons at them. This plan of attack was a complete disaster and was repeated over and over again for 4 years. The commanders of the armies couldn't sit and do nothing, and had few tactics against the new technology. So a bayonet charge into enemy fire was often resorted to.

**22. Using source 2.18 and your own knowledge, describe going over the top.**

Source 2.18

"At half past seven, Mister Morris pulled out his revolver, blew his whistle and said 'over.' And as he said it, a bullet hit him straight between the eyes and [ended] him. I went over, with all the other boys. But the barbed wire that was supposed to have been demolished, had only been cut in places... There were supposed to be no Germans at all there in that front line. We had annihilated them according to the theory."

[The Germans] "wound up their guns on automatic affairs and fired at these breaches in the wire. And, of course, they just mowed us down. And it seemed to me eventually, I was just one man left. I couldn't see anybody at all. All I could see was men lying [deceased], men screaming, men on the barbed wire with the bowels hanging down, shrieking. And I thought, what can I do? It was eerie. I was just alone in an isle of fire and smoke and stink."

**Unknown WW1 veteran**



Three major battles which were designed to break the stalemate took place at Verdun, The Somme, and Passchendaele.

**23. Research and complete the following table**

	Verdun	Somme	Passchendaele
Dates			
Reason for the battle			
Tactics and strategy used			
Conditions/terrain/weather			
Allied casualties			
Central Powers casualties			
Territory won or lost			

<https://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/western-front/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/battle-of-verdun>

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/battle-of-the-somme>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/battle\\_passchendaele.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/battle_passchendaele.shtml)







The war, despite early assurances, would not be over by Christmas, and a strange thing occurred on Christmas 1914. After 5 months of slaughter a Christmas Truce on parts of the frontline. It would not occur again on the Western Front and was frowned upon by military leaders.

#### Source 2.19

Christmas Day,

Darling dear,

As I cannot be with you all, the next best thing is to write to you for so I get closer.

We have had a seasonable weather day – which means sharp frost & fog & never a smich of sun. I went to church with two of my battalions in an enormous factory room, and after lunch took down to the North Staffords in my old trenches at Rue du Bois Mother's gifts of toffee, sweets, cigarettes, pencils, handkerchiefs and writing paper.

There I found an extraordinary state of affairs. This morning a German shouted out that they wanted a day's truce, and would one come out if he did. So very cautiously one of our men lifted himself above the parapet and saw a German doing the same. Both got out, then more, and finally all day long in that particular place they have been walking about together all day giving each other cigars and singing songs. Officers as well as men were out, and the German colonel himself was talking to one of our captains.

My informant, one of the men, said he had had a fine day of it and had smoked a cigar with the best shot in the German army, [who was] not more than 18. They say he's killed more of our men than any other 12 together, but I know now where he shoots from and I hope we down him tomorrow.

I hope devoutly they will. Next door the two battalions opposite each other were shooting away all day. And so I hear it was further north, 1st RB playing football with the Germans opposite them, the next regiments shooting each other.

I was invited to go and see the Germans myself but refrained as I thought they might not be able to resist [shooting] a general...

**General Walter Congreve**



Source 2.20 A re-enactment of the Christmas Truce



Source 2.21 A football game in no-man's land

**24. Compare sources 2.19, 2.20, and 2.21 as evidence for the Christmas Truce, 1914.**



## 2.3 The Eastern Front

The Eastern Front had a very different kind of fighting than the static trench warfare of the Western Front.

The fighting on the Eastern Front was mainly between the Central Powers (the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires) and the Russian Empire. Later, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers and Romania joined Russia.

The Eastern Front covered a larger area than in the West, stretching for over 1,000 miles north-to-south and hundreds of miles east-to-west. A trench system similar to the Western Front was never developed because neither side had the manpower to cover such a distance in depth. This resulted in more a war of movement, where attackers might penetrate 50 or 60 miles before being stopped.

Technology and resources were poorer on the Eastern Front apart from the German forces. Russia had a large army, but they were low on resources and industry to make the most of them. The Austro-Hungarian army was better equipped but many were disloyal to the Empire and wanted their own independent nations.

Just as in 1914 on the western front a Christmas truce was held, something similar reportedly happened in the East in 1916. There is an story that during the winter of 1916 – 1917, huge packs of Russian wolves attacked soldiers on both sides. The wolves caused so much trouble that a temporary truce was called so the Russians and the Germans could deal with them. Unfortunately, the story is likely an **apocryphal** one.



### Source 2.22

“As a last resort, the two adversaries, with the consent of their commanders, entered into negotiations for an armistice and joined forces to overcome the wolf plague. For a short time, there was peace. And in no haphazard fashion was the task of vanquishing the mutual foe undertaken. The wolves were gradually rounded up, and eventually several hundred of them were killed. The others fled in all directions, making their escape from carnage the like of which they had never encountered.

**The New York Times report for July 1917 describing another incident**



### Extension 7 Podcat!

**The Russians were famously defeated by Germany at The Battle of Tannenberg.**

<https://youtu.be/JidDI60nBqw>

25. Why was the fighting on the Eastern Front different to the Western Front?

26. What does source 2.22 tell you about the reliability of newspapers during war?





## 2.4 Changing technology of war

Part of the reason for the massive loss of life was the inability to counteract new technologies developed prior to and during WW1, and the fact that those new technologies were increasingly deadly in warfare.

### Tanks

A terrifying new invention, deployed after the war had become a stalemate on the Western Front, was the tank. Deployed for the first time by the British in 1915, it was initially slow and ineffective. Not any faster than walking pace, it was prone to breaking down, catching fire, and exploding. Used more effectively later in the war by both the British and the French, it was primarily an instrument of terror which demoralised the enemy rather than a way to win the war. As numbers increased they were useful, but not decisive in the battles near the end of the war. The Germans would learn the most from tank warfare during WW1 and they would prove a devastating weapon in the next world war.



Source 2.23 A British Tank



Source 2.24 The German A7V Sturmpanzerwagen

Source 2.25

"The effectiveness of the tank was severely curtailed, even into 1918, by the evolving nature of its technology, its limited speed and its mechanical unreliability. The British Mark V... was the first that could be controlled by one man, but carbon monoxide fumes could poison its crew."

**Hew Strachan, historian**



## Gas

Although banned by treaty since 1899, both sides used chemical weapons during WW1. The French used tear gas grenades near the beginning of the war, but deadlier chemicals were used by both sides as the stalemate on the Western Front continued.

Chlorine gas was used in large quantities by the Germans. During the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium on April 22, 1915 5000 cannisters were opened causing over 6000 French deaths. Gases such as chlorine and phosphene would burn the lungs and cause extreme pain and often death. Gas masks limited the effectiveness of these chemicals.

Another commonly used chemical was known as mustard gas. Less deadly, but it would cause burning and blistering on any exposed skin.



Source 2.26 Chlorine gas being released



Source 2.27 Gas masks, even animals had them



Source 2.28 Mustard gas injuries

27. Using sources 2.23-2.29 to support your answer, compare the effectiveness of tanks and chemical weapons during WW1.

### Extension 8 Podcat!

A short video about how gas and gas masks were used.

[https://youtu.be/rk6\\_O\\_exW1Q](https://youtu.be/rk6_O_exW1Q)



### Source 2.29

"The use of chemicals left an abhorrent image of helpless soldiers in makeshift gas masks, struggling for breath, or ranks of soldiers blinded by mustard agent attacks. In reality though, chemical weapons caused relatively few deaths and injuries compared to conventional weapons. When the war was over, chemical weapons had caused less than 4 per cent of all casualties... One could ask why they have gained such a fulsome reputation when their use did not fundamentally affect the course of World War I, or arguably of any war since then."

**Eric Croddy, writer and chemical weapons expert**







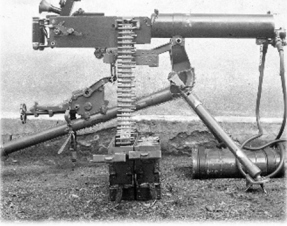


Other new, or improved upon technology, had a greater or lesser impact on the outcome of the war.

28. Visit the links below and complete the table about the effectiveness of each technological advance and how they were used.

<https://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/sea-and-air/>

<https://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/weapons/>

Technology	Use and effectiveness
<b>Aeroplanes</b> 	
<b>Battleships</b> 	
<b>Flamethrowers</b> 	
<b>Artillery</b> 	
<b>Machine Guns</b> 	



## 2.5 Civilians and Total War

### Home front

Unlike most wars in the past that European nations had been used to, WW1 would not just be a battle between armies, it would involve every level of society. The Government would enact laws that would be unacceptable in peacetime, controlling the economy, nationalising industries, seizing land for food production, all in aid of the war effort. A war that affects the population as a whole would become known as "Total War".

One week after war was declared, the British government introduced the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) was introduced to give the government significant control over the population and the economy. Provisions were made to court martial (a military trial) people who broke the regulations of the Act, and 10 people were executed, all foreigners.

### Rationing

Due to the amount of food being sent to the Western Front for the soldiers, and because of German U Boat (submarine) attacks on the shipping of imported food rationing was introduced in Britain.

Ration books were issued and families could only shop at a designated butcher or baker. Sugar, meat, flour, and dairy items such as butter and milk were all restricted. The government took over unused land to grow fruit and vegetables, and people were encouraged to do so in their own gardens. Cheating the ration could mean being sent to prison and even feeding stray animals or birds with stale bread was illegal.

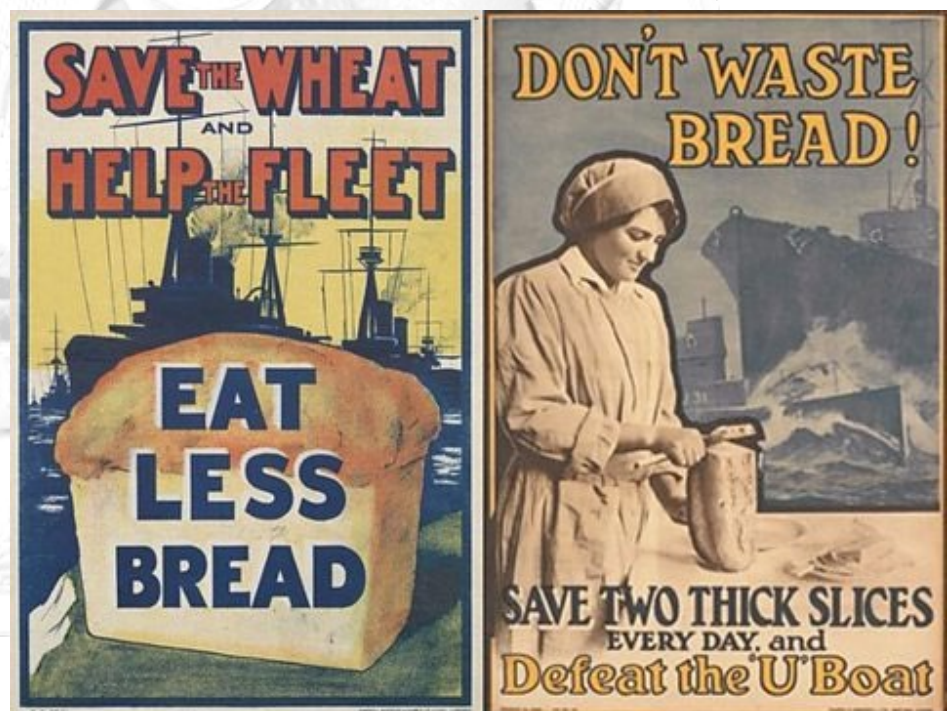
29. How does Source 2.30 provide insight into Government powers during WW1?

### Source 2.30

When introduced the Defence of the Realm Act 1914, or DORA for short, was a simple act. It was passed in order to control communications, the nation's ports and subject civilians to the rule of military courts. It was amended six times during the course of the war, eventually being used for everything from banning narcotics to censoring the press. It introduced a wide range of changes in society including prohibition, rationing, the introduction of British Summer Time and the widening of police powers. It was even used to ban bonfires, whistling in the street and flying kites!

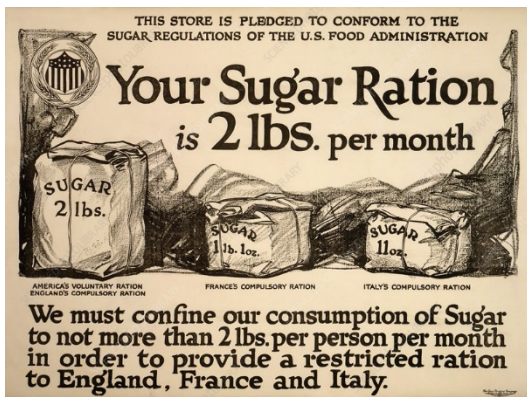
One of the key amendments to DORA allowed the Government to seize factories and land to produce the huge amount of munitions and weapons that were needed to win the war. This led to concentration of workers in urban areas, as well as the need for women to enter the workforce in large numbers. The resulting upheaval proved a catalyst for some of the key social changes in Britain during the 20th century.

[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)



Source 2.31 Wartime Posters to save bread.





Source 2.32 Sugar allowance. 1 pound is 453g

**DEFENCE OF THE REALM.**  
**MINISTRY OF FOOD.**

**BREACHES OF THE RATIONING ORDER**

The undermentioned convictions have been recently obtained:—

Court	Date	Nature of Offence	Result
HENDON -	29th Aug., 1918	Unlawfully obtaining and using ration books -	3 Months' Imprisonment
WEST HAM -	29th Aug., 1918	Being a retailer & failing to detach proper number of coupons -	Fined £20
SMETHWICK -	22nd July, 1918	Obtaining meat in excess quantities - - -	Fined £50 & £5 5s. costs
OLD STREET -	4th Sept., 1918	Being a retailer selling to unregistered customer -	Fined £72 & £5 5s. costs
OLD STREET -	4th Sept., 1918	Not detaching sufficient coupons for meat sold -	Fined £25 & £2 2s. costs
CHESTER-LE-STREET -	4th Sept., 1918	Being a retailer returning number of registered customers in excess of counterfoils deposited - - -	Fined £50 & £5 5s. costs
HIGH WYCOMBE -	7th Sept., 1918	Making false statement on application for and using Ration Books unlawfully - - - - -	Fined £40 & £6 4s. costs

Enforcement Branch, Local Authorities Division,  
MINISTRY OF FOOD,  
September, 1918.

Source 2.33 Ration breaches were publicly published.

### 30. How useful would sources 2.31, 2.32, and 2.33 be to an historian studying rationing in WW1?

#### Censorship

One aspect of government control that affected both the soldiers at the front as well as the wider home population was censorship.

Soldiers' letters and postcards were checked and censored by an army of women recruits who checked the writing for negativity or military secrets. Journalists were initially banned from the front, although a couple did go anyway and were threatened with execution for reporting negatively about the war.

At home newspapers were heavily censored. DORA stated "No person shall by word of mouth or in writing spread reports likely to cause disaffection or alarm among any of His Majesty's forces or among the civilian population." This meant the press generally avoided any negativity, both because of government pressure and because of self censorship. The public were often kept in the dark about military casualties and the use of poison gas on the battlefield. Even the horrendous casualties of a battle as well known today as the Somme was largely hidden from public knowledge. The worst single day casualties ever in British History, over 57,000, including almost 20,000 deaths, was reported as a victory.

#### Extension 9 Podcat!

A short video about the impact of DORA

[https://youtu.be/O8r\\_ByZOXjg](https://youtu.be/O8r_ByZOXjg)

#### Extension 10.

Read about censorship of newspapers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/jul/27/first-world-war-state-press-reporting>

### 31. Explain the role of censorship in WW1.



Source 2.34 Belfast News-Letter, July 1916

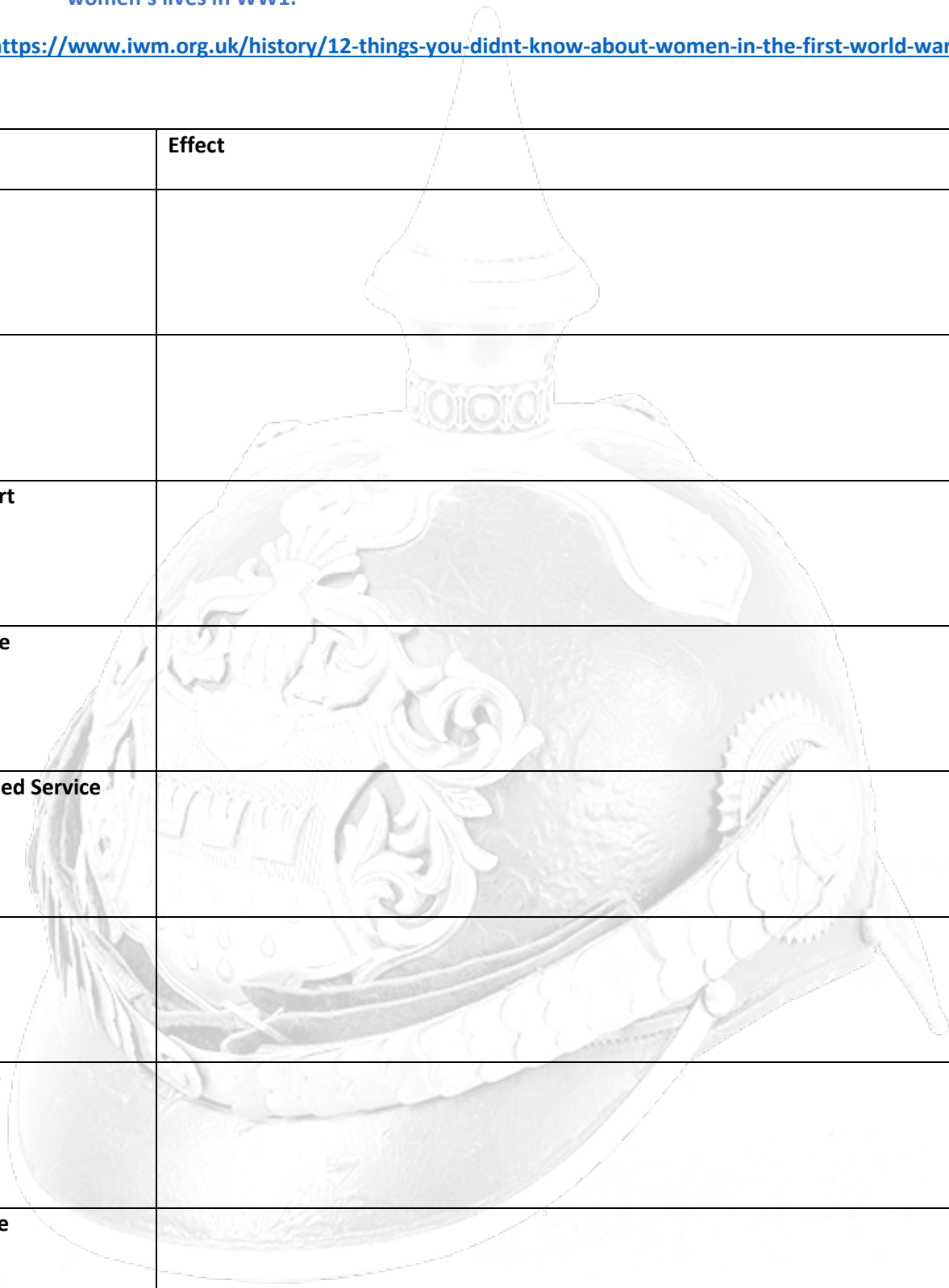




## Women

32. Visit the link below and complete the table about effect of some of the changes to women's lives in WW1.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/12-things-you-didnt-know-about-women-in-the-first-world-war>



Change	Effect
Work	
Police	
Transport	
Childcare	
Uniformed Service	
Football	
Suffrage	
Marriage	





Front line Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses, 1918



Front line Female Ambulance Workers, 1915



Women's Fire Brigade, 1916



Munitions factory worker, 1914



Women taking part in Anti-German riots

33. How useful would the five photographs above be to an historian looking at the roles of women during WW1?



## 2.6 Recruitment and Propaganda

While the numbers of volunteers at the beginning of the war were high, the enthusiasm after the war began to drag on started to fall away. To replace the staggering numbers of casualties recruitment campaigns were created. When volunteers began to run out the government created the Military Service Act to conscript young men.

### Source 2.35

There is no sin in volunteering. God means us to stand up for everything that's right, and if every Christian is going to stand out of the firing line because he thinks it's not for him, then what is left? It's a great mistake to say Christians shouldn't carry a rifle. I should hate to kill anybody, but then those carrying rifles are not murderers, they equally are human and don't love killing others, they do it because it's their duty. Especially in this war, where our cause is right, we didn't make the war, the blame doesn't rest on us, Germany forced it and will undoubtedly be punished by God.

**George Buxton, letter to brother (January, 1915)**

### Source 2.36

We had been brought up to believe that Britain was the best country in the world and we wanted to defend her. The history taught us at school showed that we were better than other people and now all the news was that Germany was the aggressors and we wanted to show the Germans what we could do.

I thought it would be the end of the world if I didn't pass (the medical). People were being failed for all sorts of reasons. When I came to have my chest measured (I was only sixteen and rather small) I took a deep breath and puffed out my chest as far as I could and the doctor said "You've just scraped through". It was marvellous being accepted.

When I went back home and told my mother she said I was a fool and she'd give me a good hiding; but I told her, "I'm a man now, you can't hit a man".

**Private George Morgan, 1st Bradford Pals, interviewed after the war.**



**34. Listen to the following podcat (or read the transcript at the same link) below then answer the following.**

**How useful would sources 2.35 and 2.36 be to an historian studying attitudes towards joining the military.**

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/voices-of-the-first-world-war-joining-up>

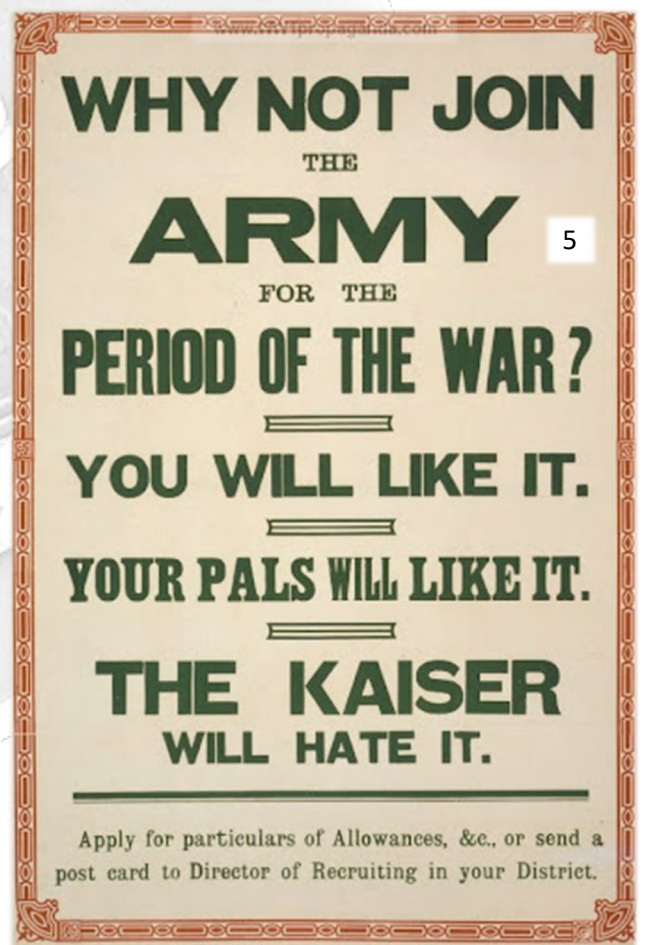
Although not needed in the first few months of the war, the Government quickly began Recruitment campaigns as the size of the war effort needed became apparent. War Minister, Lord Kitchener, started a recruitment drive within a week of war being declared. Over 30,000 men enlisted every day for the first few weeks and the size of the British army doubled by mid September from under 250,000 troops to over 500,000, and by January 1915, over a 1000,000. Speeches by men employed by the British War Propaganda Bureau such as journalist Horatio Bottomley (see below) helped to encourage early enlistment by promising an early end to the war.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to pull yourselves together and keep your peckers up. I want to assure you that within six weeks of to-day we shall have the Huns on the run. We shall drive them out of France, out of Flanders, out of Belgium, across the Rhine, and back into their own territory. There we shall give them a taste of their own medicine." **Horatio Bottomley at a recruitment drive**





35. For each of these 5 posters describe the origin, purpose and technique used to motivate people.





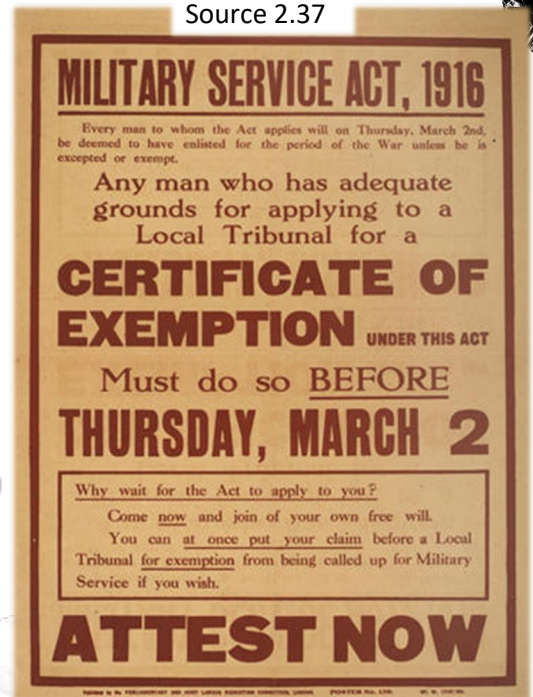
Despite the early rush to enlist, the number of volunteers had dwindled by 1916 and the Government felt compelled to introduce conscription. It was a divisive policy, but with the French Army showing poor morale the British Parliament felt the need to increase troop numbers.

Initially People could become conscientious objectors, but they were treated harshly, some even died in prison.

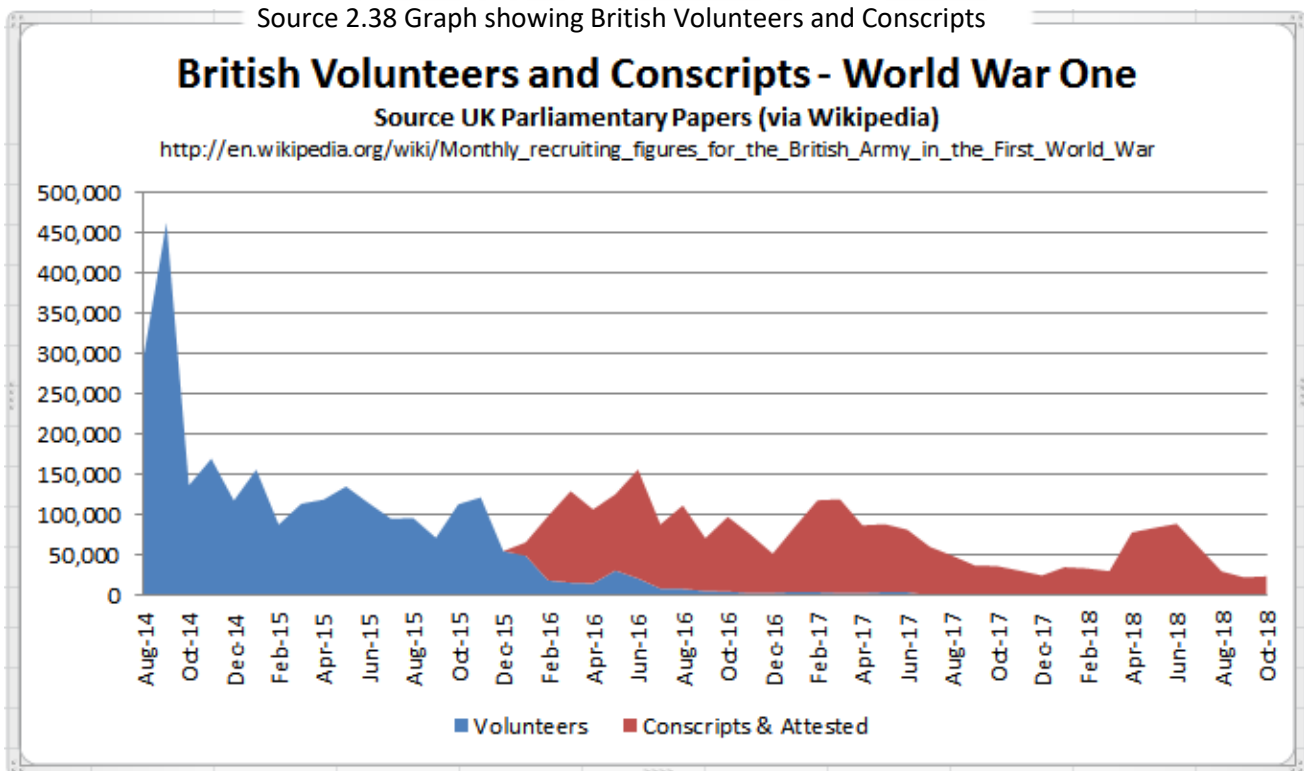
The Military Service Act was passed in January 1916 and was amended as the war went on

Initially conscription was for single men 18-41 years old, but had exemptions for some workers such as teachers, clergy, and the medically unfit. Later married men were included and in 1918 men aged up to 51 were included.

Source 2.37



Source 2.38 Graph showing British Volunteers and Conscripts



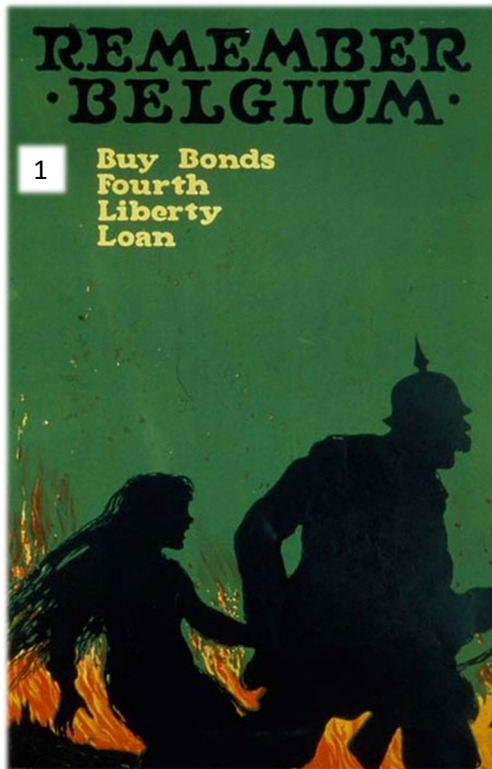
36. Use sources 2.37 and 2.38 to explain conscription in Britain 1916-1918.



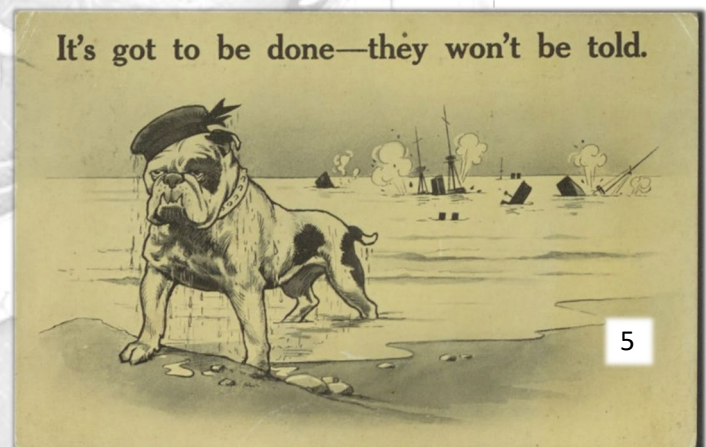
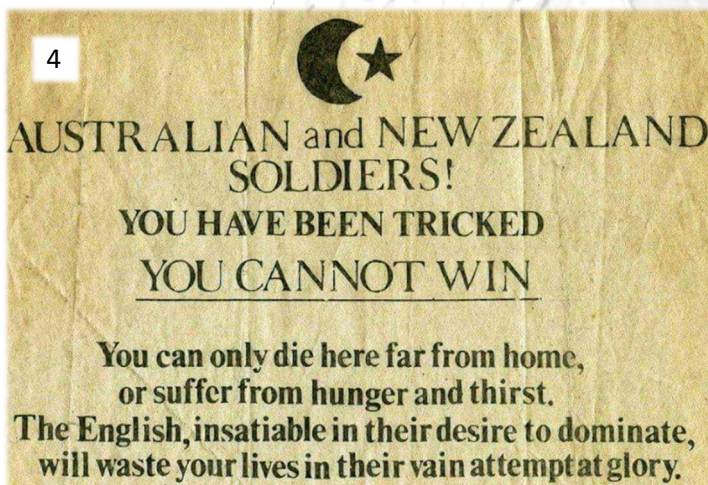


Aside from recruitment posters, other propaganda was used during the war from all sides.

37. For the following sources explain the origin, motive, and audience for the propaganda.



"We pass through Evergicourt. There is a dull smell in the air, as if lime were being burnt. We are passing the great Corpse Utilization Establishment (Kadaververwertungsanstalt) of this Army Group. The fat that is won here is turned into lubricating oils, and everything else is ground down in the bones mill into a powder, which is used for mixing with pigs' food and as manure.." Various English, French, and Belgian newspapers reported that Germans were using corpses as a resource in 1917 at a "corpse factory". These reports are known as "atrocities stories".



Extension 11 Podcat!

A short video about the changing view by historians about German Atrocities stories.

<https://youtu.be/Xiy7RUqQuak>



## 2.7 Russian Revolution

While the Western Front became a war of attrition in the trenches that the Germans were going to eventually lose, especially after the influx of American troops in 1917, on the Eastern Front it was the Russian Empire having difficulties.

While the Russian army was large, it was poorly supplied and did not have adequate weapons or ammunition. With up to a third of Russia's military age men fighting in army, mostly from the peasant class, there were massive food shortages because of the lack of farm work being done. Russian casualty figures are difficult to calculate because of poor record keeping, but By 1917 an estimated 2-3 million Russian soldiers had been killed. Tsar Nicholas II had declared himself Supreme Commander of the Russian army and was taking blame for Russian losses, and the affect on the civilians.

Russia had already had unrest in the previous decade, with events such as Bloody Sunday already staining the Tsar's reputation. After massive wartime demonstrations, with hundreds of thousands of protestors, Russia was on the verge of Revolution. After striking workers in Petrograd were joined by soldiers to protest in March 1917 Tsar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate and a Provisional Government was set up in his place.



Tsar Nicholas II, Supreme Commander, WW1

### Source 2.39

"Untrained troops were ordered into battle without adequate arms or ammunition. And because the Russian Army had about one surgeon for every 10,000 men, many wounded of its soldiers died from wounds that would have been treated on the Western Front. With medical staff spread out across a 500 mile front, the likelihood of any Russian soldier receiving any medical treatment was close to zero"

**Alan Woods, Tsarist Russia and the War 2005**

### Source 2.40

"In recent battles a third of the men had no rifles. These poor devils had to wait patiently until their comrades fell before their eyes and they could pick up weapons. The army is drowning in its own blood."

**General Alexei Brusilov**

### Source 2.41

"...there was now a barrier between him and his people, and that if Russia was still united as a nation it was in opposing his present policy. The people, who have rallied so splendidly round their Sovereign on the outbreak of war, had seen how hundreds of thousands of lives had been sacrificed on account of the lack of rifles and munitions; how, owing to the incompetence of the administration there had been a severe food crisis."

**George Buchanan, the British Ambassador in Russia, speaking to the Tsar**

**38. How useful would sources 2.39 and 2.40 be for a historian studying the problems faced by the Russian army?**





The Provisional Government, which lasted from March until the Bolshevik Revolution in October was determined to stay in the war. This government was aware of the unpopularity of the war but felt it should honour the treaties with its allies, and hoped to gain territory, such as Constantinople after the war.

To assist with the war all-women battalions were created. Called Death Battalions because they were created to fight to the death.



Women's Death Battalion 1917

#### Extension 12 Podcat!



**A short video about Maria Bochkareva and the 1st Russian Women's Battalion of Death**

<https://youtu.be/cndgoEd3fkk>

The war effort impacted already limited resources and alienated the population for the new government. Increasing agitation from Bolsheviks would lead to the overthrow of the government with the Bolshevik promise of "Peace, Land, and Bread".

#### Extension 13 Podcat!



**Peace, Land, and Bread Sing along!**

<https://youtu.be/KZbho6AsBOc>



With the increasing weakness of the Provisional Government, Vladimir Lenin, leader of the communist Bolshevik Party decided to take action. On October 24, 1917, the Bolsheviks, supported by armed factory workers, known as the Red Guards, took control of the railway station, the State Bank, and the telephone exchange. The next day the Red Guards surrounded, then stormed The Winter Palace, the seat of the Provisional Government. The Provisional Government was arrested and the event became known as the birth of the Soviet State.



Storming the Winter Palace (with, according to a 2012 Victorian exam, the help of a Battle Tech Marauder) 1917.

39. Visit and read the link below, then answer the question which follows.

**How World War I Fueled the Russian Revolution**

<https://www.history.com/news/world-war-i-russian-revolution>

**Using source 2.41 and your own knowledge explain how WW1 helped to bring about the Russian revolution.**

The Bolsheviks had promised “peace, land, and bread”, and the first of those promises was immediately kept. The Bolsheviks signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with the Central Powers on March 3, 1918. This briefly gave Germany control of Russian territory which would become Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Germany’s defeat a few months later would lead to these countries becoming independent, although later they would come under the influence of the Soviet Union. As for land and bread, there would be difficulties as the Bolshevik government took control and Soviet policies began to be implemented.





## 2.8 Reasons for Allied Victory

With the Russians out of the war, Germany no longer had to fight the war on 2 fronts. With troops from the Eastern Front sent to the west, the Germans prepared for a large offensive which would help determine the outcome of the war.

Named "Operation Michael" the German offensive was a last attempt to push through the allied lines and win a favourable outcome. Starting in March 1918 and continuing into April, this offensive gained a large amount of ground, but cost so many men the Germans they would not be able to mount another large offensive again. The Germans were heading for defeat and there were a number of reasons for the Allied victory.

### The Numbers

In a war of attrition, the side with the most numbers of people and resources is usually going to win, given both sides have similar technologies. The numbers were never going to look good for the Central Powers.

The British could call upon its entire global empire as well as former colonies like Australia and Canada. Russia despite its poor resources and the eventual surrender to Germany, had enough of a population to keep Germany occupied in the East for over 3 years. And eventual arrival of the Americans in 1917 certainly helped in the final year.

Despite Germany's superior industry at the beginning of the war, it just wasn't able to compete for as long as the Allied Powers could.

resources	Central Powers	Allied Powers
population (in millions)	115.2	265.5
steel production (in millions of metric tons)	17.0	15.3
army divisions available for mobilization	146	212
modern battleships	20	39

British and German naval strength, August 1914

type	British	German
dreadnought battleships	20	14
battle cruisers	9	4
pre-dreadnought battleships	39	22
armoured cruisers	34	9
cruisers	64	41
destroyers	301*	144
submarines	65	28

\*Including Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand destroyers of all classes.

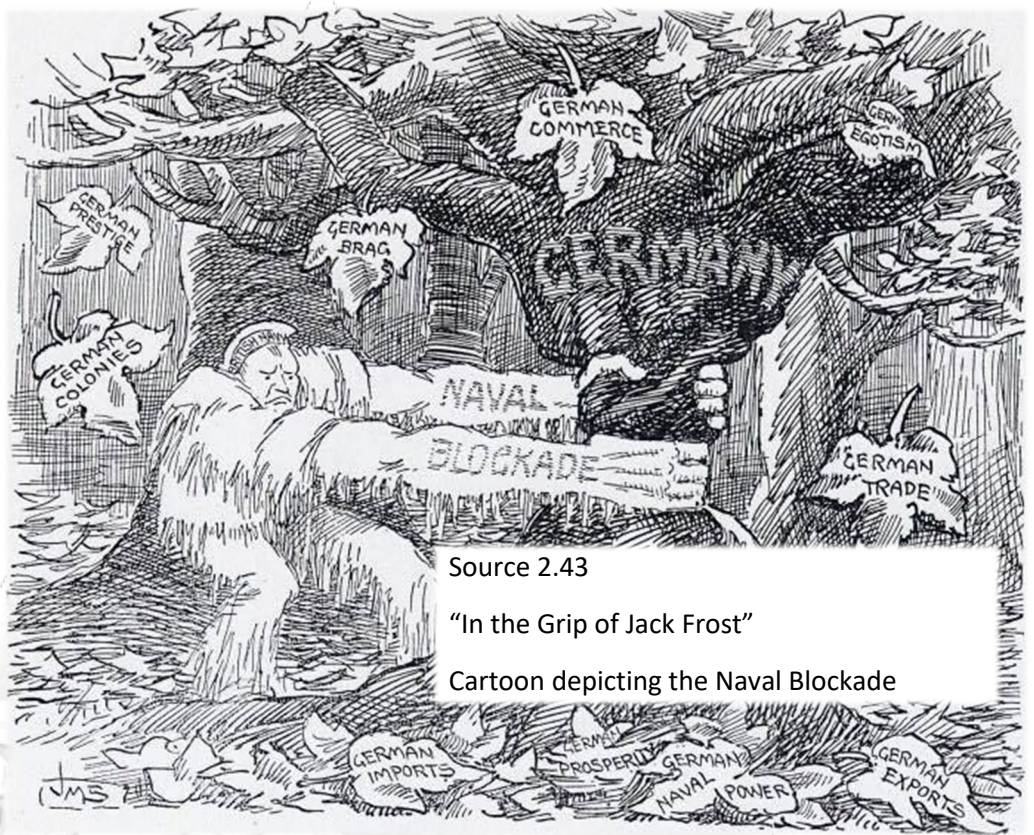
Source 2.42

The numbers according to Britannica.com



## The Blockade

Affecting Germany's ability to keep fighting was its lack of access to resources. This was due to an effective Naval blockade by the Royal Navy. The British blocked cargo access to German ports for much of the war, by confiscating goods headed to Germany before they reached there. The British also blacklisted companies and nations that traded with Germany. The Germans responded by using U-Boats to try to sink Allied shipping, which was one of the reasons America was brought into the war, US ships like the Lusitania were sunk.



Source 2.43

"In the Grip of Jack Frost"

Cartoon depicting the Naval Blockade

### 40. Compare Source 2.42 and 2.43 as evidence for the success of the Allies over the Central Powers

Another factor which contributed to Germany's inability to call up reserves in 1918 was the outbreak of what became known as Spanish flu. Likely brought to Europe by American soldiers it devastated all sides in the war, but after the failure of Operation Michael in April 1918, Germany was less well equipped to weather the outbreak of disease.

### 41. Using what you have, and also from the link and video below.

Make a list of reasons for the Allied Victory

<https://www.historyhit.com/defeat-to-victory-western-front-1918/>

<https://youtu.be/-gGEyRkXfc>

Source 2.44

"The viruses don't care where they come from, they just love taking advantage of wartime censorship, Censorship is very dangerous during a pandemic."

"Ludendorff is famous for observing [flu outbreaks among soldiers] and saying, oh my god this is the end of the war, his soldiers are getting influenza and he doesn't want anybody to know, because then the French could attack him."

Carol R. Byerly, author of *Fever of War: The Influenza Epidemic in the U.S. Army during World War I*.







## The Armistice

With the dire conditions on the front, and the population of Germany facing starvation, Kaiser Wilhelm II was being pressured to abdicate. In November with the military telling him he no longer had their support, and with naval mutinies and strikes and riots taking place, his abdication was announced without his say so by the Chancellor Prince Max von Baden on November 9, 1918.

In France, a politician representing Germany, Matthias Erzberger, sat down with French Generals to arrange a ceasefire. It was signed in a railway carriage on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> November, to come into effect at 11am that day.

The conditions were harsh, but Germany had little choice but to surrender. Because the Kaiser had abdicated and politicians signed the armistice, many Germans were told that their proud military was “stabbed in the back” by weak politicians and businessmen, especially Jews. This lie would haunt Europe for decades to come.

**Extension 14 Podcat!**

**Armistice**

<https://youtu.be/fQsROah6InA>

Source 2.45

1. Armistice to come into effect six hours after signing.
2. Immediate removal of German soldiers from Belgium, France and Alsace-Lorraine, to be concluded within 14 days. Any troops remaining in these areas to be interned or taken as prisoners of war.
3. The surrender of 5000 artillery pieces, 30,000 machine guns, 3000 trench mortars and 2000 planes.
4. Evacuation of the left bank of the Rhine, Mayence, Coblenz and Cologne, occupied by the enemy, to a radius of 30 kilometres deep.
5. On the right bank of the Rhine, a neutral zone from 30 to 40 kilometres deep, evacuation within 11 days.
6. Nothing to be removed from the territory on the left bank of the Rhine ... all factories, railroads, etc. to be left intact.
7. The surrender of 5000 locomotives, 150,000 railway coaches and 10,000 trucks.
8. The maintenance of enemy occupation troops through Germany.
9. In the East, all troops to withdraw behind the boundaries of August 1st 1914.
10. Berlin to renounce the treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest.
11. Germans to offer unconditional surrender in East Africa.
12. Germans to return the property of the Belgian Bank, Russian and Rumanian gold.
13. The return of prisoners of war without reciprocity.
14. The surrender of 160 U-boats, eight light cruisers, six Dreadnoughts; the rest of the fleet to be disarmed and controlled by the Allies in neutral or Allied harbours.
15. The assurance of free trade through the Cattegat Sound; clearance of minefields and occupation of all forts and batteries, through which transit could be hindered.
16. The blockade remains in effect. All German ships to be captured.
17. All limitations by Germany on neutral shipping to be removed.
18. The armistice to last for 30 days.



**42. What does source 2.45 reveal about the attitudes towards Germany at the end of the war?**



"All the News That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times.

VOL. LVIII. NO. 22,226. NEW YORK, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1918. TWENTY-FOUR PAGES. TWO CENTS

## ARMISTICE SIGNED, END OF THE WAR! BERLIN SEIZED BY REVOLUTIONISTS; NEW CHANCELLOR BEGS FOR ORDER; OUSTED KAISER FLEES TO HOLLAND

**WAR ENDS AT 6 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING**

The State Department in Washington Made the Announcement at 2:45 o'Clock.

**ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED IN FRANCE AT MIDNIGHT**

Terms Include Withdrawal from Alsace-Lorraine, Disarming and Demobilization of Army and Navy, and Occupation of Strategic Naval and Military Points.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Nov. 11, 2:45 A. M.—The armistice between Germany, on the one hand, and the allied Governments and the United States, on the other, has been signed. The State Department announced at 2:45 o'clock this morning that Germany had signed.

The department's announcement simply said: "The armistice has been signed."

The world war will end this morning at 6 o'clock, Washington time, 11 o'clock Paris time. The armistice was signed by the German representatives at midnight.

This announcement was made by the State Department at 2:50 o'clock this morning.

The announcement was made verbally by an official of the State Department in this form:

"The armistice has been signed. It was signed at 5 o'clock A. M. Paris time, (midnight, New York time), and hostilities will cease at 11 o'clock this morning, Paris time, (6 o'clock, New York time.)"

The terms of the armistice, it was announced, will not be made public until later. Military men here, however, regard it as certain that they include:

Immediate retirement of the German military forces from France, Belgium, and Alsace-Lorraine.

Disarming and demobilization of the German armies.

Occupation by the allied and American forces of such strategic points in Germany as will make impossible a renewal of hostilities.

Delivery of part of the German High Seas Fleet and certain number of submarines to the allied and American naval forces.

Disarmament of all other German warships.

**SOON FLEES WITH CHAIRS**

Hindenburg Also Believed to be Among Those in His Party.

**ALL ARE HEAVILY ARMED**

Armistice Signed with Allies in France at 6 o'clock.

**ON THEIR WAY TO DE STILES**

Belgium: Tell to Them, "Are You on Your Way to Paris?"

LONDON, Nov. 11.—(Reuters.) The Kaiser, Emperor of Germany, is believed to have fled to Holland, according to reports from the Dutch frontier. The Kaiser is believed to have fled with a small party of his staff, including the German Chancellor, Prince Max of Baden, and the German Foreign Minister, Count von Seeliger. The Kaiser is believed to have fled to Holland, where he is believed to be under the protection of the Dutch government. The Kaiser is believed to have fled to Holland, where he is believed to be under the protection of the Dutch government.

**BERLIN TROOPS JOIN REVOLT**

Ride: Shell Building in Which Officers Vainly Resist.

**THURSDAY DEMAND REPUBLIC**

Proclamation: Flag of Royal Prussia—Prussia's Palace Also Seized.

**GENERAL STRIKE IS BEGUN**

Disarmament and Police: Soldiers—Prussia's Palace Also Seized.

**GERMAN DYES STOPS NEW WARSHIPS BEING WIPED OUT**

Join the Reds.

**PRINCES MAY BE EXILED**

Prussia's Palace Also Seized.

**THE KAISER'S FLEEING**

The Kaiser is believed to have fled to Holland, where he is believed to be under the protection of the Dutch government. The Kaiser is believed to have fled to Holland, where he is believed to be under the protection of the Dutch government.

43. How useful would the information in these three pictures be to an historian studying the Armistice?







### 3. Legacy of WW1

#### 3.1 Casualties

World War One was the largest scale conflict the world had ever seen at the time, and also resulted in the highest number of casualties from any previous war. Participating countries lost large sections of their population, some losing almost a whole generation of young men.

Most casualties were caused by artillery, machine guns, and poison gas. The advent of new weaponry and the failure of military strategy to evolve accordingly, meant that even on a 'quiet' day of battle hundreds of soldiers could be killed. The heaviest loss of life for a single day occurred on July 1, 1916, during the Battle of the Somme, when the British Army suffered 57,470 casualties.

In total, over 8.5 million men died as a result of the war, over 21 million were wounded, and 7.7 million were taken prisoner or went missing. This means that over half of the 65 million men who served in WW1 were casualties. This would have a lasting effect on the countries involved for many years to come.

Source 3.1 – Armed Forces Mobilized and Casualties in WW1

country	total mobilized forces	killed and died	wounded	prisoners and missing	total casualties	percentage of mobilized forces in casualties
Allied and Associated Powers						
Russia	12,000,000	1,700,000	4,950,000	2,500,000	9,150,000	76.3
British Empire	8,904,467	908,371	2,090,212	191,652	3,190,235	35.8
France	8,410,000	1,357,800	4,266,000	537,000	6,160,800	73.3
Italy	5,615,000	650,000	947,000	600,000	2,197,000	39.1
United States	4,355,000	116,516	204,002	4,500	323,018	8.1
Japan	800,000	300	907	3	1,210	0.2
Romania	750,000	335,706	120,000	80,000	535,706	71.4
Serbia	707,343	45,000	133,148	152,958	331,106	46.8
Belgium	267,000	13,716	44,686	34,659	93,061	34.9
Greece	230,000	5,000	21,000	1,000	27,000	11.7
Portugal	100,000	7,222	13,751	12,318	33,291	33.3
Montenegro	50,000	3,000	10,000	7,000	20,000	40.0
total	42,188,810	5,142,631	12,800,706	4,121,090	22,064,427	52.3
Central Powers						
Germany	11,000,000	1,773,700	4,216,058	1,152,800	7,142,558	64.9
Austria-Hungary	7,800,000	1,200,000	3,620,000	2,200,000	7,020,000	90.0
Turkey	2,850,000	325,000	400,000	250,000	975,000	34.2
Bulgaria	1,200,000	87,500	152,390	27,029	266,919	22.2
total	22,850,000	3,386,200	8,388,448	3,629,829	15,404,477	67.4
Grand total	65,038,810	8,528,831	21,189,154	7,750,919	37,468,904	57.5

44. Using Source 3.1, answer the following:

a. Which country had the most soldiers killed?

b. Which country suffered the worst total casualties?

c. Which country had the highest percentage of mobilized forces in casualties?

d. According to the source, who suffered worse in terms of casualties in WW1 – the Allied or Central Powers? Explain your answer.

45. Using source 3.1 and your own knowledge, explain why casualty rates were so high in WW1. (refer back to 2.4 for information on weapons)



**Extension 15 Podcat!**  
**The Loss of Life in WW1 Visualized**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdxbV6BObEQ>



Even those that returned home from the war often suffered long term impacts. This was obviously true for any soldier who had been seriously wounded, and disabilities such as vision and hearing loss, disfigurement, and amputations were common among returned soldiers. However, an unexplained mental illness which manifested serious physical symptoms followed many soldiers home and greatly impacted their lives, families, and communities. At the time, this condition was known as “Shell Shock” and was little understood. Today, we understand this condition as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and our understanding of this disease and how to treat it is a direct result of its prevalence in soldiers who had returned from war, and the medical advances that were made during the course of their treatment.



Still from a 1917 documentary *War Neuroses: Netley Hospital* (1917)

#### Source 3.2

“It was while I was in this Field Hospital that I saw the first case of shell-shock. The enemy opened fire about dinner time, as usual, with his big guns. As soon as the first shell came over, the shell-shock case nearly went mad. He screamed and raved, and it took eight men to hold him down on the stretcher. With every shell he would go into a fit of screaming and fight to get away.

It is heartbreaking to watch a shell-shock case. The terror is indescribable. The flesh on their faces shakes in fear, and their teeth continually chatter. Shell-shock was brought about in many ways; loss of sleep, continually being under heavy shell fire, the torment of the lice, irregular meals, nerves always on end, and the thought always in the man's mind that the next minute was going to be his last.”

**Corporal Henry Gregory.**

#### Source 3.3

“By the end of World War One, the army had dealt with 80,000 cases of 'shell shock'. As early as 1917, it was recognised that war neuroses accounted for 1/7 of all personnel discharged for disabilities from the British Army. Once wounds were excluded, emotional disorders were responsible for 1/3 of all discharges. Even more worrying was the fact that a higher proportion of officers were suffering in this way. According to one survey published in 1917, while the ratio of officers to men at the front was 1:30, among patients in hospitals specialising in war neuroses, the ratio of officers to men was 1:6. What medical officers quickly realised was that everyone had a 'breaking point': weak or strong, courageous or cowardly - war frightened everyone witless.”

**Professor Joanna Bourke, *Shell Shock during World War One*, 2011**

46. Using source 3.2, describe how and why ‘shell shock’ could affect a soldier.

47. Assess the value & limitations of source 3.3 for an historian studying ‘shell shock’ in WW1.



**Extension 16 Podcat! Shell Shock - The Psychological Scars of World War 1**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvTRJZGWqF8>





### 3.2 The Treaty of Versailles

After the armistice was declared on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, it was necessary to create an official peace treaty between the participating nations to formally end the war. In January 1919, a Peace Conference was held in Paris in the Palace of Versailles (pronounced, 'ver-sigh') where the terms of the treaty were negotiated and set.

#### Source 3.4

" There must be justice for the dead and wounded and for those who have been orphaned and bereaved that Europe might be freed from Prussian despotism. There must be justice for the peoples who now stagger under war debts which exceed £30 billion that liberty might be saved. There must be justice for those millions whose homes and land, ships and property German savagery has spoliated and destroyed. That is why the Allied and Associated Powers have insisted as a cardinal feature of the Treaty that Germany must undertake to make reparation to the very uttermost of her power; for reparation for wrongs inflicted is of the essence of justice."

**Georges Clemenceau, 1919**

Many world leaders were in attendance, however, negotiations were dominated by the five major powers responsible for defeating the Central Powers: the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Japan. The 'Big Three' who had the most influence in these negotiations included Georges Clemenceau of France, David Lloyd George of Britain, and Woodrow Wilson of the United States.

Each of the 'Big Three' negotiators had different ideas about what they wanted this peace treaty to look like. Woodrow Wilson wanted to secure lasting peace in a post-war world through diplomacy and international co-operation with the creation of the League of Nations', and also wanted to allow self-determination for countries previously occupied by the Central Powers. He outlined these terms in a document called his '[Fourteen Points](#)', which Germany had agreed to upon signing the armistice in 1918. America had joined the conflict late, and thus hadn't been as negatively affected by the war as other European nations that had fought for the whole 4 years on home soil.

Countries who were more directly affected by the war, France in particular, wanted revenge for the damage they suffered. French territory was decimated along the Western Front, and the French economy and society suffered immensely. Georges Clemenceau of France wanted to lay the blame squarely on Germany, and wanted them to pay for what they had done – both literally and figuratively.

His aim was to disarm Germany to the point where it would be incapable of ever going to war against France again.

Britain's leader, David Lloyd George, was somewhere in between. He was urged by public pressure to take a harsh stance against Germany, but at the same time he didn't want them to be totally disabled in case of a communist threat from the east.

**48. Using evidence from source 3.4 and your own knowledge, explain Clemenceau's perspective on the peace treaty.**

**49. According to source 3.5, what is the risk of imposing excessively harsh terms on Germany under the Treaty of Versailles? Use evidence from the source.**

#### Source 3.5

"You may strip Germany of her colonies, reduce her armaments to a mere police force and her navy to that of a third rate power, all the same if she feels that she has been unjustly treated in the peace of 1919, she will find means of exacting retribution from her conquerors..."

**Phillip Kerr, private secretary to David Lloyd George, 1919.**



**Extension 17 Podcat! Simple History | The Treaty of Versailles, What Did the Big Three Want?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrYhLNQMRro>



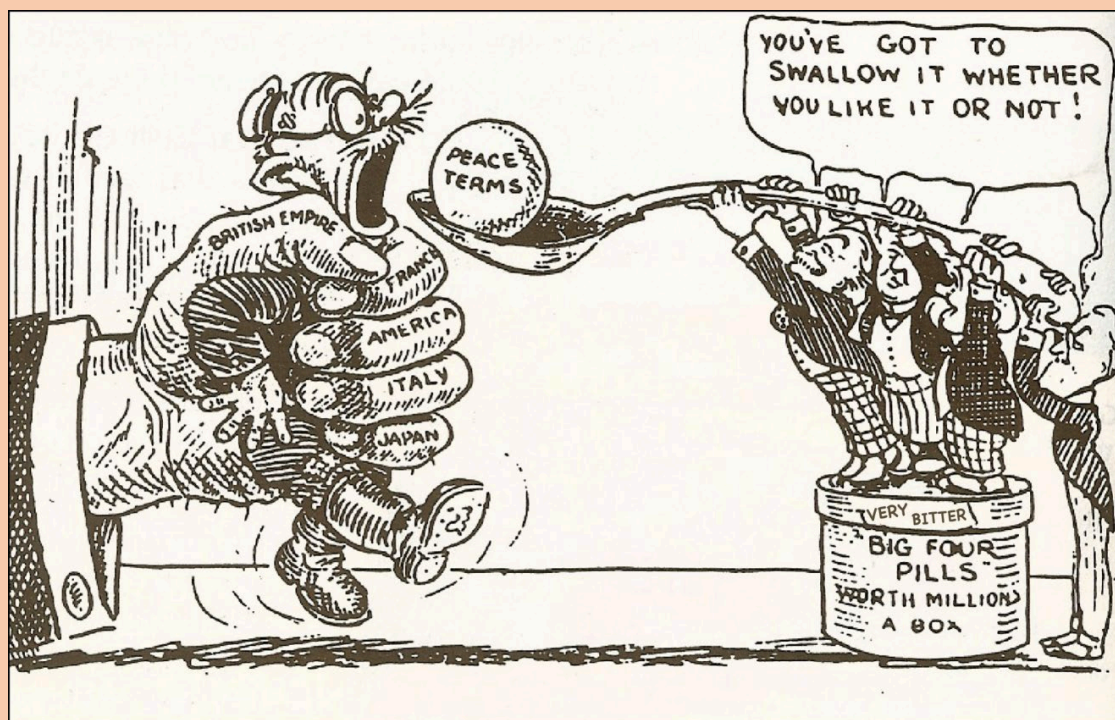
## The Terms of the Treaty

The terms of the treaty of Versailles were harsh, and impacted Germany greatly. Under the treaty Germany lost territory, most of its military, had to accept blame for the war, and pay money back to Allied nations as 'reparations'.

The final terms of the Treaty of Versailles were as follows:

- Germany was excluded from joining the newly established League of Nations
- Germany had to give up substantial areas of territory. The reduced Germany's European territory by roughly 13%, and stripped Germany of all its overseas territories and colonies.
  - The Rhineland (fortified territory to Germany's west, at the border of France) had to be demilitarised, and was occupied by Allied troops
  - The Saar (territory to the southwest of Germany, on the border of France & Luxemburg), with its rich coalfields, were given to France for 15 years
- Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria
- Germany had to cut its army down to 100,000 men, its navy down to only 6 battleships, and was not permitted to have an air force.
- Germany had to accept blame for starting the war – the 'War Guilt Clause'
- Germany had to pay 132 billion gold marks in reparations (equal to around \$530 billion Australian dollars today)

Source 3.6



Cartoon depicting Germany being spoon-fed peace-terms (treaty of Versailles) by the Council of Four. It was composed of Woodrow Wilson of the United States, David Lloyd George of Britain, Vittorio Emanuele Orlando of Italy, and Georges Clemenceau of France.

50. Explain what is happening in source 3.6, what is the main message of the cartoon?



Extension 18 Podcat! Simple History | The Terms of the Treaty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jycVFL8CNM>





## The impact of the Treaty

The most notable and significant legacy of the Treaty is its connection with the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party, and the beginning of WW2.

The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were deliberately harsh, not only to allow Allied countries to feel a sense of retribution, but also to ensure that Germany would be too weak to start another war in Europe. In 1919, Germany had no choice, they could either sign the treaty or be invaded by the Allies. They signed, and agreed to the terms.

However, the harshness of the treaty bred widespread bitterness and hatred toward the Allied nations in Germany, who had so ruthlessly stripped Germany of land, resources, military strength, and billions of dollars. An already weakened Germany was hit harder than most by the Great Depression in 1929, causing widespread unemployment and poverty. Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party played on this popular resentment in order to appeal to voters in the 1920s and 30s, claiming that Germany had been “stabbed in the back”, and promising to right the wrongs that had been done to Germany as a result of the treaty.

Destroying the Treaty of Versailles was one of Hitler’s main political objectives. From 1935 he began re-building Germany’s military, and he remilitarised the Rhineland in 1936 in direct violation of the treaty. The Allies did nothing to stop him, instead opting for a policy called ‘Appeasement’, where they made some concessions for Hitler and allowed Germany to violate some terms of the treaty in order to avoid another war. This policy failed to avoid conflict, and actually encouraged German aggression. Two years later Nazi Germany began territorial expansion, absorbing Austria and portions of Czechoslovakia. In 1939, Hitler invaded Poland, leading to the outbreak of World War 2 in Europe.

Source 3.7



Cartoon by David Low, which appeared in the British Newspaper Evening Standard, 8th July, 1936.

51. What can source 3.7 tell us about how the Treaty of Versailles was enforced?



Many historians claim that the impacts of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles is directly linked to the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, and that combined with the failure of the Allies to properly enforce its terms paved the way for the upsurge of German militarism in the 1930s, and ultimately the outbreak of World War 2.

3.8

"The onerous terms of the treaty laid the psychological and economic groundwork for the rise of the Nazi party, which capitalized on German resentment of the burdens imposed by the Allied powers after the First World War."

**Norman A. Graebner and Edward M. Bennett, *The Versailles Treaty and its Legacy: The Failure of the Wilsonian Vision*, 2014.**

Source 3.9

"This is not peace. It is an armistice for twenty years."

**Ferdinand Foch, former Commander in the French Army during WW1, 1919.**

52. Using source 3.8 and your own knowledge, explain how the Treaty of Versailles contributed to the outbreak of WW2.

53. How significant would source 3.9 be for an historian studying the impact of the Treaty of Versailles?

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations and The Associated Press

**THE SALISBURY TIMES**  
*The Shoreman's Daily*

VOL. XVI NO. 229 SALISBURY, MARYLAND, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1939 PRICE THREE CENTS

**GERMANY INVADES POLAND**

**Britain Will Fight, Chamberlain Says**

**Hitler's Supreme Council; Rules Germany In War**

Hess Goering Keitel

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS  
**EVACUATION OF LONDON CHILDREN**  
Today, Friday, Sept. 1, 1939  
The following train times are required for the evacuation of children, and will not be available for ordinary passengers.  
0.15 in. through A.R.R. Station.

**Italy Is Neutral, France Aids Poles**

London, Sept. 1.—(AP)—(Passed through British censorship)—Prime Minister Chamberlain declared tonight that unless Germany would suspend aggressive action and withdraw her forces from Poland, Britain would unhesitatingly fulfill her obligations to Poland.  
Chamberlain made the statement at an extraordinary session of parliament.  
If the reply to the last British warning is not





### 3.3 Commemoration

The significant impact WW1 had on the countries involved and the large-scale nature of war has meant that it is a widely commemorated historical event throughout the world to this day.

#### Remembrance Day

The armistice and the end of the war occurred on November 11 1918. Armistice Day later became known as Remembrance Day, and has been commemorated every year since the end of the war in many Allied countries, including Australia.

Source 3.10

#### “Remembrance Day now

Today, the commemoration of the November 11 armistice is marked in many countries across the globe (mostly those on the “winning” side of the war) under various names: Armistice Day, Remembrance Day, Poppy Day, *11 Novembre*, National Independence Day or Veterans Day. For some, the day is a public holiday.

Every state celebrating Remembrance Day grants different meanings to its commemoration. Speeches in France deplore the loss of lives and insist on the value of peace during official ceremonies. In Poland, however, the day marks the rebirth of the nation and a time to celebrate. In the US, the commemoration is centred on the veterans of all wars, while in Australia few people attend Remembrance Day. The crowds prefer attending Anzac Day on April 25 – a more patriotic service and a public holiday.

As the first world war fades further away in time, one way to keep remembering those who died in this conflict has been to progressively include the commemoration of the dead of more recent conflicts in Remembrance Day ceremonies, as is the case in the US, the UK and France. The commemoration therefore remains relevant to a larger population but also prevents the multiplication of special days for official state commemorations.

Today, as in the past, protests continue to be a component of Remembrance Day. Recently, a man was fined £50 in the UK for burning a poppy on Remembrance Day to protest against current deployment of British forces. The commemoration has also been mobilised by different far-right movements across Europe to advance their agendas.”

**Excerpt from the article “100 years since the WW1 Armistice, Remembrance Day remains a powerful reminder of the cost of war”, The Conversation, November 9, 2018.**

**54. Using Sources 3.10, explain how Remembrance Day commemorations differ across Allied countries.**

Remembrance Day has also been used by some as an opportunity for political activism, to protest the futility of war and nationalism. In France and Belgium through the 1920s and 30s there were large anti-war movements, and across Nazi-occupied Europe during WW2 Remembrance Day ceremonies were used as a sign of protest against German occupation, and to remind them they had been defeated in the previous war.

**55. Explain how Remembrance Day has been used as an opportunity for political activism. Refer to source 3.10 in your answer.**



**Extension 19 Podcat! Have a look at some primary source footage of Armistice Day festivities in Britain, 1918: <https://youtu.be/S1QSNP9ibBs>**



## The Poppy



Poppies have become a widely used symbol for the commemoration of soldiers killed in WW1. They are often visible at monuments and memorials, and during remembrance ceremonies. In Allied countries, it is customary to wear a poppy on Remembrance Day to as a sign of honour and respect.

Poppies became a symbol of remembrance because they were a common sight on the Western Front. They flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling, where many millions of soldiers were killed in battle. Their significance is also linked to John McCrae's well known poem, "*In Flanders Fields*" (Source 3.11), which was written during the battle of Ypres in France.



**56. Using source 3.11, explain the significance of the poppy in WW1 commemoration.**

### Source 3.11

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who did  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields."

**Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae, "*In Flanders Fields*," 1915.**



Frank Hurley, Australian lighthorseman gathering poppies, colour photograph (c1918).





## Memorials & Monuments

WW1 memorials commemorate the events and the casualties of World War I. These war memorials include civic memorials, larger national monuments, war cemeteries, private memorials and even structures like halls and parks, dedicated to remembering those involved in the conflict. Huge numbers of memorials were built in the 1920s and 1930s, with around 176,000 erected in France alone. This was a new social phenomenon and marked a major cultural shift in how nations commemorated conflicts.

Interest in WW1 and its memorials faded after World War II, and did not increase again until the 1980s and 1990s, which saw the renovation of many existing memorials and the opening of new sites. Visitor numbers at many memorials increased significantly, while major national and civic memorials continue to be used for annual ceremonies remembering the war.

Source 3.12



The Douaumont Ossuary, France.

*\* This memorial contains the remains of both French and German soldiers who died on the battlefield at Verdun, and is largest single French military cemetery of the First World War with 16,142 graves.*

Source 3.13



WW1 Memorial in Vácrtót, Hungary

57. Compare & contrast sources 3.12 & 3.13 as evidence of the use of memorials and monuments to commemorate WW1.



**Extension 20 Podcat! Take a look at some virtual tours here:**

**Australian War Memorial** <https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/learning-from-home/virtualvisit>

**National World War I Museum and Memorial** <https://joyofmuseums.com/museums/united-states-of-america/kansas-city-missouri/world-war-i-museum-and-memorial/>