

# WHY DID GERMANY LOSE WWI?

## GERMAN WEAKNESS/FAILURE

1. The Schlieffen Plan failed which led to a "*War of Attrition*" - a war Germany had not prepared for. This brought along:
  - *Two-Front War*
  - *Great Britain joined the war*
2. Battle of Verdun was meant to wear France out - of the war. That plan failed as well
3. The unrestricted submarine warfare was planned to block Great Britain and force the country to seek peace. This plan also failed:
  - *USA joined the war partly because of the German submarine blockade*
4. Germany suffered from weak allies. They often had to send reinforcements to help the Austrian-Hungarian Army
5. The failure of the Ludendorff Offensive in 1918 was instrumental for the final defeat
6. An outbreak of the Spanish Flu 1918 made the situation worse in the German Army
7. The German economy was breaking down in 1918
8. The Allied Blockade of Germany which prevented much needed goods to reach Germany played an important role - Germany was starving in 1918
9. Germany had not been able to prepare the country as well as the Allies
10. German agriculture was hit hard by the war - production fell by 70% in some areas
11. The Peace negotiations with Russia 1917-18 took time and that delayed the German spring offensive 1918
  - *Part of the German Army had to stay in the East to enforce the treaty and occupy new areas (like Ukraine)*

## ALLIED STRENGTH/SUCCESSSES

1. The Allies had greater numbers of men and resources
  - *the "War of Attrition" therefore worked in favor for the Allies. The longer the war lasted the harder it was for Germany to win the war (especially after USA joined the war)*
2. Controlling the Sea was crucial. This meant that the Allies could force a Navy Blockade on Germany which caused German food and raw material shortages while Great Britain still could import food and other supplies
3. The British colonies and the USA was able to supply Great Britain with necessary products - with the help of the "*Convoy System*"
4. The British and French were particularly successful in mobilizing their economies and adapt it to the war
5. The Allied counter-offensive 1918 was a "*modern warfare*" that took advantage of all the technological and tactical developments and coordinated the use of tanks, artillery, airplanes and infantry
6. USA joined the war in April 1917 which brought over 2 million soldiers and the resources of the richest and most industrialized country in the world as an ally to Britain and France