



REVISION – WORLD WAR ONE



3 periods 1914-1918(1921):

1. *Causes of WWI*
2. *WWI*
3. *Results of WWI*

1. CAUSES OF WWI:

LONG TERM CAUSES

- **The arms race**
- **Imperialism**
- **Kaiser Wilhelm and Weltpolitik**
- **Alliance system:** 1873: *Dreikaiserbund* (Germany, A-H, Russia) / 1879: *Dual Alliance* (Germany, A-H) / 1882: *Triple Alliance*(Germany, A-H, Italy) / 1887: *Reinsurance Treaty* (Germany, Russia) / 1892: *Franco-Russian military agreement and Alliance* (1894) / 1904: *Entente Cordiale* (France, Britain) / 1907: *Triple Entente* (France, Britain, Russia)
- **Nationalism**
- **German-French tensions**
- **Economy:** Tension between Britain and Germany

SHORT TERM CAUSES

- **Bulgarian Crisis** (1878)
- **Tangier Crisis** (First Moroccan Crisis 1905)
- **Daily Telegraph Affair** (1908)
- **Bosnian Crisis** (1908-09)
- **Agadir Crisis** (Second Moroccan Crisis 1911)
- **Balkan Wars** (1912-1913)
- **Assassination in Sarajevo** (June 28th 1914)
- **The July Crisis** (1914)

Historians' views:

- **Article 231 – Versailles Treaty:** - Germany was responsible for the outbreak of WWI
- **H. Rothfels:** He stressed "**collective responsibility**"
- **Brandenburg:** France wanted revenge and Russia wanted to control the Balkans.
- **Sidney Fay** (American Historian): "collective responsibility".
- **Gerhard Ritter:** "Collective responsibility"
- **Fritz Fischer:** Germany started the war. Several key figures (esp. Bethmann-Hollweg) Weltpolitik / Germany encouraged A-H (Blank Cheque) / Clear German war aims / Domestic factors important (esp. fear of socialism)
- **Criticism of Fritz Fischer:** No clear German war aims / Domestic crisis not that important
- **Schmitt:** Alliance systems caused the war
- **AJP Taylor:** Lack of balance of power
- **Other Views:** Germany wanted a preventative war/ Germany wanted Weltpolitik, etc...

WAR AIMS:

- **Austria-Hungary:** "End South Slav nationalism"
- **Germany:** "September Program"
- **Britain and France:** Elimination of "Junker militarism", German navy, German colonies and the return of Alsace-Lorraine

- **Russia:** The Straits of Bosphorus and the Dardanelles
- **Italy:** South Tyrol, Fiume, Islands + Eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea

2. WWI:

Western Front:

- **German attack – Schlieffen Plan (August 4th 1914):** Did not succeed - Result: War of Trenches!
- 1915 – 1918 Stalemate. Verdun, Somme, Nivelle Offensive, USA enters the war 1917, Vimy Ridge, Russian revolutions...
- 1918 – President Wilson's 14 points, Ludendorff Offensive. 11.00 the 11/11 1918 – Germany accepts the armistice. WWI was over!!!

Eastern Front:

- *Battle of Tannenberg* and the *Battle of the Masurian Lakes* / *Galicia* / *Lake Naroch* / *Brusilov Campaign* / *Kerensky Offensive*

Southern Front:

- **Balkans / Italy / Ottoman Empire/Turkey** – Gallipoli / **The Middle East** - McMahon-Hussein Letters / Sykes-Picot Agreement / Balfour Declaration

Weapons...

- **New weapons / Trench warfare / Cavalry / War at Sea / War in the Air**

Home Front – Great Britain

- **Total war:** WWI was Britain's first total war
- **First volunteer army – BEF** (British Expeditionary Force)
- **Conscription 1916 - First Military Service Bill / Second Military Service Bill**
- **Conchies - "Conscientious Objectors"**
- **DORA - Defense Of the Realm Act**
- **Munition Crisis 1915. Lloyd George "Deliver the goods"**
- **Food Crisis 1917**
- **Women's Land Army**
- **Propaganda - DORA**
- **Opposition against the War:** Very little opposition against the war
- **WWI and British Women** - Before the First World War British women had a very traditional role. During the war she did a lot of "male jobs". In December 1917 all women over 30 were given the Right to vote in general elections. Did the war change anything else for women... **NO** the war did not change much but **YES** the attitude of women changed...

3. RESULTS OF WWI:

- **President Wilson's 14 points (January 1918)**
- **Armistice – Germany (10 November 1918 – Armistice demands)**
- **Peace Treaties:**
 1. **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** (signed March 3rd 1918). Between **Russia** and the Central Powers.
 2. **Treaty of Bucharest** (signed May 7th 1918). Between **Romania** and Germany.
 3. **Treaty of Versailles** (signed June 28th 1919). Between **Germany** and the Allies.
 4. **Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye** (signed September 10th 1919). Between **Austria** and the Allies.
 5. **Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine** (signed November 27th 1919). Between **Bulgaria** and the Allies.
 6. **Treaty of Trianon** (signed June 4th 1920). Between **Hungary** and the Allies.
 7. **Treaty of Sèvres** (signed August 10th 1920). Between the **Ottoman Empire (Turkey)** and the Allies.
 8. **Treaty of Riga** (signed March 18th 1921). Between Russia and **Poland**.
 9. **Treaty between USA and Austria** (signed August 24th 1921)
 10. **Treaty between USA and Germany** (signed August 25th 1921)
 11. **Treaty between USA and Hungary** (signed August 29th 1921)
 12. **Treaty of Lausanne** (signed July 24th 1923). Between the **Ottoman Empire (Turkey)** and the Allies.

1. CAUSES OF WWI:

LONG TERM CAUSES

- **The arms race:** the British completed HMS Dreadnought in 1906. Germany started to build Dreadnoughts as well, because the dreadnought made every other contemporary battleship obsolete. Britain relied heavily on its navy, due to its island-based power and empire, meanwhile Germany could do without. Therefore Britain did not want to lose the arms race against Germany, and their relations worsened: _____

- **Imperialism:** In 1880 – 1914, the European nations scrambled over countries in Africa and Asia as a battle for wealth, growth, power and survival, although motives were complex. Problems between European powers in the imperialist struggle were solved through diplomatic agreements and therefore caused no direct aggression between these countries; however, it did intensify the rivalry between some European powers. The imperialist idea of struggle did also affect countries in Europe, as larger powers sought to annex territory from small powers (as in the Balkan Crisis) : _____

- **Kaiser Wilhelm and Weltpolitik:** Kaiser Wilhelm II wanted to make Germany a World Power and therefore introduced a new foreign policy in 1897, Weltpolitik. He claimed that the nation's industrial expansion required imports of raw materials from a network of colonies and started to expand the navy substantially. It was also thought that if Germany built a grand navy, then Britain might want to avoid a war with Germany. Weltpolitik brought confrontations against the other powers both verbally and through actions (for example the Daily Telegraph affair and the Morocco Crises). In the end it led other powers to regard Germany as a real danger to European Peace: _____

- **Alliance system:** Alliances started with the Dreikaiserbund 1873. The big step towards a divided Europe came in 1879 with Bismarck's Dual Alliance and the Triple Alliance (1882). These alliances were defensive, so the other powers did not need allies. After the Bulgarian Crisis, France and Russia became close, and a Triple Alliance (Britain, France, Russia) was created to check Germany. *New war plans* therefore had to be developed; Germany's Schlieffen Plan consisted of a swift attack to defeat France and then attack Russia. Britain later formed the Entente Cordiale with France. This alliance was tested by the Germans through the first Morocco Crisis, which made the Entente dislike Germany even more. The Balkan and Second Morocco Crisis strengthened the already established alliances, and so if a war started, many countries would inevitably be drawn into it.

Time line of alliances

- 1873: Dreikaiserbund (Germany, A-H, Russia)
 - 1879: Dual Alliance (Germany, A-H)
 - 1882: Triple Alliance (Germany, A-H, Italy)
 - 1887: Reinsurance Treaty (Germany, Russia)
 - 1892: Franco-Russian military agreement and Alliance (1894)
 - 1904: Entente Cordiale (France, Britain)
 - 1907: Triple Entente (France, Britain, Russia)
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- **Nationalism:** Large areas of both Austria-Hungary and Turkey were home to differing nationalist groups, and they wanted freedom from the states they lived in. The assassination

of Franz Ferdinand was due to nationalistic thoughts (conflict between Hapsburg and Serbia) : _____

- **German-French tensions:** Germany took Alsace-Lorraine from France in the Franco-Prussian war in 1870-1871, and France wanted it back due to the natural resources there. Germany started to get a better economy than France, and due to the Morocco Crises, France resented Germany even more, and made a plan to enlarge its army: _____
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- **Economy:** Tension between Britain and Germany since Germany now replaced Great Britain as the second strongest economy in the world (after USA): _____
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SHORT TERM CAUSES

- **Bulgarian Crisis (1878):** Bismarck was the Chancellor that hosted the Congress that revised the San Stefano Treaty 1878. More tension between Russia and Germany, A-H.
- **Tangier Crisis (Morocco Crisis I, 1905):** France sends a police force to Morocco (against the “Treaty of Madrid” 1880). Kaiser Wilhelm II visits Tangier and treats the Sultan of Morocco as an independent monarch (not influenced of France). Spain, Italy, Russia, Great Britain and USA supported France, only A-H supported Germany.
- **Daily Telegraph Affair (1908):** Due to a published interview with the Kaiser (which never was edited by von Bülow), German, Japanese, Dutch and British relations deteriorated even more; Germans were then disliked by the British population, due to what Wilhelm II said.
- **Bosnian Crisis (1908-09):** European powers (mostly A-H and Russia) wanted to take some land of the collapsing Ottoman Empire. A-H told Russia that if Russia would accept the A-H annexation of Bosnia Herzegovina, then A-H would support Russian’s intent on controlling the Straits linking the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Russia was then humiliated, as there was no international conference about the straits, and Russia reconstructed their military. Serbia mobilized, Germany gave A-H the blank cheque, but Russia was not ready for a war, and therefore backed off, but assured Serbia, that Russia would help them next time. “Dress rehearsal for WWI”. (Serbia and Russia had an agreement).
- **Agadir Crisis (Morocco Crisis II, 1911):** When French troops occupied the Moroccan city of Fez, Britain and Russia protested (against the “Treaty of Madrid 1880 – again!!!). Germany formally claimed that they wanted to protect commercial interests in Morocco. They sent the gunboat Panther to Agadir. Even though Germany received some territory in French Congo, it was not good for Germany, as Britain was more threatened by their navy, and so Britain and France signed a Naval Agreement in March 1912. First military treaty between France and Britain.
- **Balkan Wars (1912-1913):** The Balkan League was formed of Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro in order to resist the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary. In 1912, they attacked the Ottoman Empire, and won. Serbia gained lots of land – some of it promised to Bulgaria. In 1913 Bulgaria attacked Serbia and Greece but was defeated. This increased the tension in the Balkans, and gave Serbia self-confidence but also Bulgarian resentment.
- **Assassination in Sarajevo (June 28th 1914):** A-H Archduke Franz Ferdinand is killed in Bosnian capital Sarajevo by the Serb nationalist group Young Bosnia (the Black Hand). Some indications that this group had connections with Serbia
- **The July Crisis (1914):** A-H takes the opportunity to suppress Serbia a little by sending them an ultimatum (Accept or we shall attack). This ultimatum is so extreme that it wouldn’t be possible for Serbia to accept it, still Serbia accepts most of the points. Germany

allowed A-H to attack Serbia (**Blank Cheque!**), hoping for a localized war, without Russian intervention. On 28 July 1914, War was declared by A-H on Serbia and on 21 July Russia started to mobilize (and due to the complex mobilisation system, it was nearly impossible to stop). Taking no risks, Germany declared war on Russia (1 August) and invaded Belgium (3 August) as part of the Schlieffen Plan, and also declared war on France, even though France didn't care about the Balkans. The following day, Britain declared war on Germany, because they had invaded Belgium:_____

Historians views:

- **Article 231 – Versailles Treaty:** - Germany was responsible for the outbreak of WWI: *"The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies."*
- **H. Rothfels:** He stressed "**collective responsibility**"
- **Brandenburg:** France wanted revenge and Russia wanted to control the Balkans.
- **Sidney Fay** (American Historian): He wrote 1930 that no European power wanted war in 1914 and that all, to greater or lesser degrees, must share the blame (collective responsibility).
- **Gerhard Ritter:** "The documents do not permit attributing a premeditated desire for a European war on the part of any government or people in 1914. Distrust was at a peak, ruling circles were dominated by the idea that war was inevitable. Each on accused the other of aggressive intentions; each accepted the risk of war and saw its hope of security in the alliance system and the developments of armaments."
- **Fischer:** apportioned chief responsibility to Germany for preparing and launching the First World War! Fischer had gone through the archives of four key German figures; the Kaiser, Bethmann-Hollweg (the Chancellor), Gottlieb von Jagow (the foreign secretary) and Helmuth von Moltke (the chief of the army's general staff). He especially concentrated on the aims and policies of these four men.
 1. *Germany was prepared to launch the First World War in order to become a great power.*
 2. *Germany encouraged Austria-Hungary to start a war with Serbia, and continued to do so, even when it seemed clear that such a war could not be localized.*
 3. *Once the war began, Germany developed a clear set of aims, already discussed before the war, to gain large territorial gains in central and eastern Europe, very similar to Hitler's later craving for Lebensraum in Eastern Europe.*

Fritz Fischer wrote a follow-up volume in 1969 entitled "*Krieg der Illusionen*" (War of illusions). This book concentrated on the German foreign policy between 1911 and 1914. It argued that the Kaiser's government cold-bloodedly planned the outbreak of the First World War from 1912 onwards. Two important aspects in the Fischer thesis were:

1. *The importance of the domestic factors in shaping Germany's foreign policy (the view before was that the external factors were more important..)*
2. *The new evidence of Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg's actions. Fischer saw Bethmann-Hollweg as the prime mover of German policy during the July Crisis of 1914 and a key figure in Germany's expansionist aims once war began! This was different than the cultured, responsible, well-meaning liberal statesman, who was surrounded by military hotheads during the July Crisis. According to Fischer Bethmann-Hollweg was no puppet of the German militarists...*

Fischer believes that the First World War was no preventative war, born of fear and desperation; it was planned and launched by Germany with the aggressive aim of dominating Europe.

Criticism of Fischer;

- *German policy before 1914 seems contradictory and lacking in clear aims.*
 - *No evidence that German leader help expansionist aims before the 'September Programme' (which Fischer uses to explain the German desire for war)*
 - *Places too much importance on the domestic crisis in the decision to launch a war in 1914 Both Bülow and Bethmann-Hollweg dismissed war as a solution to the socialist problem*
 - **Schmitt:** Alliance systems caused the war (due to chain reactions)
 - **AJP Taylor:** It was not the vulnerability of the alliance system that caused the war. Instead it was the lack of balance of power.
 - **Other Views:**
 - *Germany wanted a preventative war*
 - *Germany wanted to achieve their aims with Weltpolitik.*
 - *Germany wanted war to reorder the alliance system.*
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WAR AIMS:

- The only country that entered the war with a clear idea of what they hoped to gain by victory was **Austria-Hungary!** They wanted to "*end the challenge of South Slav nationalism!*" The other nations involved in the outbreak of WWI entered the war with more or less improvised, to some extent, clumsy war aims.
 - At first Germany portrayed the war as an attempt to "**escape strangulation by encirclement**". After the first victories we can see a clear change (to some extent because of the pressure from the public opinion, industrial and "Pan-German" interests). At **September 9th 1914 the Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg signed the "September Program"**. This program included **annexations and German expansion**. Some of the proposals were:
 - Germany should demand the fortress of Belfort and the ore fields of French Lorraine from France.
 - Germany should also demand ("possibly") the strategic coastal strip from Dunkirk to Boulogne - also from France
 - France should be forced to accept disadvantageous trade treaties
 - France should pay war indemnity
 - Belgium should hand over Liège, Verviers and possibly Antwerp
 - Luxembourg should become a German federal province
 - Russia should be "*pushed back as far as possible from Germany's eastern frontier*" but no specific details were mentioned
 - Britain and France ("*pushed by public opinion*") wanted:
 - Elimination of "*Junker militarism*"
 - Elimination of the German navy and the German colonial empire
 - France demanded the return of Alsace-Lorraine
 - Russia was promised the Straits (Dardanelle - Constantinople - Bosphorus) from the Ottoman Empire in March-April 1915 by Great Britain and France! In return they asked for compensation in Egypt and the Near East
 - Italy: South Tyrol, Fiume, Islands + Eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea
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2. WWI:

Western Front:

- **German attack – Schlieffen Plan (August 4th 1914):** Did not succeed;
 - Some last changes of the plan made the right flank weak
 - Belgian resistance
 - BEF (British Expeditionary Force) slowed German troops
 - German problems with reinforcements and material
 - French troops regrouped to defend Paris
 - France abandoned Plan 17 and regrouped their forces to defend Paris.
 - Russian troops invaded eastern Germany already in August
 - Result: War of Trenches!
 - 1915 – Stalemate – small offensives – huge losses. Gallipoli...
 - 1916 – VERDUN and SOMME – still stalemate (but some historians' claims that it was some success – why? The German army lost the best of its soldiers - especially their experienced non-commissioned officers / Britain got to try some new and more effective weapons + infantry and artillery tactics; Tanks, Creeping barrage, Artillery ambush...)
 - 1917 – Nivelle offensive. Catastrophe! General Pétain replaced Nivelle. US joined the war (Why? Since 1914 – lots of anti-German propaganda, Lusitania 1915, unrestricted German submarine warfare and the Zimmerman note). Battle of Vimy Ridge. Russian revolutions. Still stalemate. Why didn't the US reinforcement make a difference 1917? The Americans had not arrived in force - the French armies were still reeling from the mutinies of early 1917 - Russia decided to make peace with Germany (Russian Revolution!) so several 100.000 German troops were transferred to the western front.
 - 1918 – President Wilson presents his 14 points. The Allied blockade of the German ports had starved the German economy and USA now sent more troops. German last offensive – the Ludendorff Offensive. Broke the stalemate – first success, then failure. Why did the Allied troops succeed? The Allied army was large in numbers and they were well fed and well equipped. They were also supported by tanks, aircraft and improved artillery. At 11.00 the 11/11 1918 – Germany accepts the armistice. WWI was over!!!
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Eastern Front:

- **Battle of Tannenberg** and the **Battle of the Masurian Lakes** failed. Out of 150 000 Russian soldiers only 10 000 managed to escape.
- Russia managed to advance into **Galicia** in 1914 but at late Spring 1915 they were forced back during a joint Austrian-Hungarian and German campaign through the Carpathian Mountains and through Poland.
- In 1916 Russia launched a disastrous **Campaign around Lake Naroch** (Vilna area). This campaign was a desperate demand from France so some of the pressure at Verdun would be relieved.
- During summer 1916 Russia started its most successful campaign – the “**Brusilov Campaign**”. The Russian troops advanced far into Austrian-Hungarian territory. If Germany had not assisted the Austro-Hungarian troops together with some changes of the offensive by Russian Generals this campaign could have knocked Austria-Hungary out of WWI. Instead Russia got a huge offensive against them. They were forced to retreat. These military defeats were the personal responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief – Tsar Nicholas II. In March 1917 he was forced to abdicate.
- **Kerensky Offensive:** It was decided by Alexander Kerensky, Minister of War in the Russian provisional government, and led by General Brusilov. Such a decision was ill-

timed, because, following the February Revolution, there were strong popular demands for peace, especially within the army, whose fighting capabilities were quickly deteriorating. The Russian Provisional Government was greatly weakened by this military catastrophe, and the possibility of a Bolshevik coup d'état became increasingly real. Far from strengthening Russian army morale, this offensive proved that Russian army morale no longer existed. After the Bolshevik October revolution Russia negotiated a peace treaty – Brest-Litovsk March 1918. Russia left the war...

Southern Front:

- **Balkans:** The aim of the invasion of the Balkans was to help Serbia defeat Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria. It took over a year for the Austrian-Hungarian troops to push the Serbian troops to the south. In October 1915 a mixed force of British, French, Serb, Italian and Russian troops landed in the Greece city of **Salonika**. They were bogged down by Bulgarian resistance. Like at the western front a stalemate developed. The main hazard here was not the enemy, but disease (especially malaria and dysentery). It was not until September 1918 that the stalemate was broken. In the end it went fast. The Bulgarians were defeated in just two weeks! The most serious part of the fighting around Salonika was that it tied the best part of 1.000.000 British and French troops!
- **Italy:** When the war broke out 1914 Italy declared neutrality. In May 1915 Italy joined the war on the Entente side – after she had been promised Trento, South Tyrol, Trieste, Dalmatia and some other areas along the Adriatic coast. The Italian Campaign started with an attack along the line of the **river Isonzo**. Austria-Hungary occupied a line of mountainous defensive positions. Between June 1915 and August 1917 the Italian troops engaged in 11 separate battles along the **Isonzo River** without being able to break a stalemate situation. Italy lost nearly a third of her army strength and it was fairly easy for a few Austrian divisions to keep the Italian Army down. In October 1917 a combined German-Austrian/Hungarian **offensive at Caporetto** (near Kobarid in today's Slovenia) nearly defeated Italy. She lost territory, the morale was low due to the high casualties (over 300 000 men) and so was the ammunition. An allied campaign in the Balkans, an exhausted Austrian army and domestic problems inside the Dual Monarchy diverted the attack. This gave the Italians a chance to regroup. The enemy troops were stopped and a front-line along the Piave River stabilized. In June 1918 the Austrian-Hungarian tried to break this new stalemate without success. After some pressure from the allies Italy started an offensive in September 1918. It led to the **Battle of Vittorio Veneto** (October 1918) – the only clear Italian success. This victory led to a truce and later an Austrian-Hungarian armistice (November 1918). The war was over for the Dual Monarchy!
- **Ottoman Empire/Turkey:** Allied attack on Constantinople planned – It would open a sea route to the Russian front so that the Allies could get supplies to the Russians / It would establish a new front. Allied troops could march through the Balkans and attack Germany's principal ally, Austria-Hungary / It would relieve pressure on the Russian forces by drawing troops away from the Russian front. Battle of Gallipoli 1915 – the campaign was a failure
- **The Middle East:** When the Ottoman Empire/Turkey entered the war it threatened Britain's oil supplies in Persia and British land in Egypt. In the beginning of the war the Turkish soldiers had such success in **Mesopotamia** that the Allies had to send 600.000 troops here. Another half of million was sent to **Palestine**. Between 1916-1918 the Turks were driven back through Palestine towards Turkey itself (expert hit-and-run raiders harassed the Turks - many followed the leadership of "*Lawrence of Arabia*" - the Englishman TE Lawrence). The Turks were finally defeated at **Megiddo** in September 1918. Note the three different promises that were made by the British:

- **McMahon-Hussein Letters** (Great Britain – Sharif of Mecca)
- **Sykes-Picot Agreement** (Great Britain – France - secret!)
- **Balfour Declaration** (Great Britain – Zionist Federation)

When the Allies continued to advance the Turks surrendered on 3 November 1918.

Weapons...

- **New weapons** revolutionized combat in World War One. Combat morphed from a rapid, noble and relatively ephemeral thing to a new model: trench warfare. This new style of warfare was brought about principally by new technology that arose from the furnaces and factories of industrial Europe. Principally, the weaponry can be divided in 8 types: Machine guns, Artillery (Big Bertha), Gas grenades (Chlorine, Phosgene and Mustard gas), transportation (trains, trucks,...), communication (radios, telephones – sometimes animals), tanks, air planes and new ships (Dreadnoughts, submarines, etc...).
- **Trench warfare:** In the trench war some new strategies were tried out; Creeping barrage and Artillery ambush
- **Cavalry:** The cavalry played an important role in the early months of the war, but when stalemate was established horses were too vulnerable. That's why the First World War came to see the end of the cavalry as a weapon of the modern army
- **War at Sea:** Most people had expected a confrontation between the new Dreadnought battleships. Instead war at sea became different;
 - War at sea became a cautious war with few real battles (Battle of Heligoland Bight (1914), Battle of Dogger Bank (1915) and the Battle of Jutland (1916). It was only the last one that was a major sea battle. Great Britain was victorious (even though the Germans managed to sink more ships!!!) and after this battle the German ships never left harbor again).
 - A tactical victory for Germany was when the cruiser Goeben managed to hinder the British Royal Navy to reach Constantinople - This forced the Turks to make a decision to enter the war as a German ally (otherwise they had been forced to make Goeben leave...)
 - The key objective of the war at sea was to gain control so that you could stop supplies getting to your enemy. The British Blockade of German ports was a crucial factor in the Allied victory.
 - The Germans used U-boats (submarines) with the new weapon, the torpedo, to enforce their blockade of Britain. They mostly sank merchant ships. At May 7th 1915 a German U-boats sank the British steamship *Lusitania* off the coast of southern Ireland. The ship sank in less than twenty minutes with the loss of 1198 persons including 128 Americans. The Germans asserted that the ship was carrying arms for the Allied troops but Britain and US assured that it was unarmed. The sinking of Lusitania caused a lot of popular anti-German feelings in the US. The US President Wilson demanded that Germany made reparations - Germany refused to accept responsibility but did make some reparation and they agreed to sink no more passengers liners without warning. This incident had another effect - it changed the general US mind about staying out of the war.
 - Beside the torpedo the mine was a new and devastating weapon. It came to play an important role. Due to mines (minefields) several British ships were lost in the Gallipoli campaign
 - The German method of unrestricted submarine warfare (adopted after the Battle of Jutland) nearly worked. At early spring 1917 Britain's supplies of food had reached crisis levels. The introduction of Convoys, mines, anti-submarine techniques + the fact that Germany could not maintain the high level of activity made Britain survive. The unrestricted submarine warfare also helped bringing the US into the war!

- **War in the Air:**

- In the early stages of the war the most important aircraft were airships. The German airships were more advanced and more widely used. These ZEPPELINS were a key weapon in the early war at sea. They could direct the warfare from high above. The British airships escorted ships and helped in the hunt for submarines.
 - In early 1915 Zeppelins were used as bombers. They raided some British towns. The actual damage was little; the Zeppelins could not carry too many or any heavy bombs, but they caused a psychological damage - civilians in Britain were no longer safe. When air defense improved and the airplanes developed the Zeppelins became very vulnerable.
 - Airplanes were extremely primitive at the start of the war. In the beginning they did the same job as observation balloons. Soon they got to do more; reconnaissance work over enemy trenches and photograph. Enemy aircraft's would be sent to shoot down these reconnaissance flights and soon the "dog fight" had emerged. In the beginning the pilots used pistols and rifles but in 1915 (April) they started to use mounted machine guns (famous planes; Sopwith Camel and Fokker Triplane. Some pilots became war heroes; Baron von Richtofen (the Red Baron) - he shot down 80 allied planes)
 - Airplanes that could drop bombs also developed. In 1918 both Germany and Britain had developed heavy bombers (Gotha and Handley Page)
 - The First World War saw an enormous progress in the development of air technology (In Britain there were two branches of air service in 1914; RFC and RNAS. In 1918 they merged into RAF). RAF went from 37 airplanes in the beginning of the war to 23.000 at the end!!! Still, the aircraft's were only a "side show" to the land war. It was mostly valuable at sea where they could attack and observe
 - After the war (in the 1920's) it was the "dog fights" and the pilots who became the popular object for the new film industry in Hollywood - not the horrors of the trenches or the waiting "games" at sea
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Home Front – Great Britain

- **Total war:** WWI was Britain's first total war - it affected all people in one way or another. It was also the first time British civilians were killed by enemy action (about 1500 civilians were killed from air raids by German Zeppelins. 119 in Scarborough December 1914 and later several East Anglian towns as well as air raids against London!).
- **First volunteer army – BEF** (British Expeditionary Force): Recruitment offices were put up in every town / "Stirring speeches" were made by government ministers / Leaflets, posters and other propaganda material was widely spread / Anti-German propaganda was also spread (the Press published stories of German atrocities - babies butchered in Belgium, nurses murdered, German factories making soap out of boiled-up corpses, etc...). Success at first – Half a million men had signed up the first month / By 1916 over two million men had enlisted
- **Conscription 1916:** all single men between 18 and 40 had to register for active service (= **First Military Service Bill**). Why? The number of volunteers was falling / The demands for more troops was increasing / There was an uneven distribution from different work groups which caused problems within agriculture and some industries (example; coalminers. Several volunteers had to be sent back home) / There was an unfair distribution. Not all groups took an equal responsibility - some groups avoided the war. In May 1916 came the **Second Military Service Bill**. This one included all married men as well.
- **Conchies - "Conscientious Objectors":** Some objected due to religious reasons, other political, etc... They had to appear in front of a **TRIBUNAL** to prove that they had a genuine reason for objecting the war. The TRIBUNAL then decided what should be done: Some were sent to prison / a few were sentenced to death / other went to the front and worked in field hospitals or as stretcher bearers. Since the Conchies were usually poorly

treated very few people refused to fight. About 16 000 men were Conchies out of a possible 8 million. This included 50 MP's... (Members of Parliament...)

- **DORA:** When the war started in 1914 **DORA** was introduced (**DORA** = **Defense Of the Realm Act**). **DORA** gave the government special powers such as the right to take over industries or lands which were needed for the war effort, or to censor newspapers. The first thing the government did was taking control of the coal industries.
- **Munition Crisis 1915:** The stalemate on the Western Front meant a huge demand for shells, bullets and armaments. The resources were inadequate. To be able to deal with this crisis a **COALITION GOVERNMENT** was formed. **Lloyd George** was made **MINISTER OF MUNITIONS**. He introduced several different measures to "*Deliver the goods*". He tried to force skilled workers to stay in key industries (instead of accepting the best pay) / He also brought women into the workforce. The trade unions protested against both these measures. They made the government promise to not lower the wages and also that the women would not be kept on when men returned after the war... Lloyd George accepted these terms. To be able to employ more women and do something about the munitions crisis the government also opened their own munitions factories.
- **Food Crisis 1917** - due to the unrestricted submarine warfare. German submarines sunk every 4th British Merchant ship. The effect of this was; - Bread prices went up - but not the wages. Richer people hoarded supplies. Poorer people could not afford the basics which led to strikes and political unrest. The Government reacted: The government raised the wages for industrial workers / Voluntary rationing (after 1918 rationing of sugar, butter, meat and beer. This increased the populations' health...) / Fixed price on bread (nine penny loaf) / Posters and Recipe books with the use of less flour
- **Women's Land Army** – Another way to make sure that Great Britain was fed was to use DORA to take over land and turn it over to farm production. The government did that and then they set up Women's Land Army to recruit women as farm workers.
- **Propaganda - DORA** - took control of the newspapers and other media. The propaganda was used: to keep up morale / to encourage people to support the war effort / to create hatred and suspicion of the enemy
- **Opposition against the War** - During the early years there was very little opposition against the war. It was some socialists and pacifists that protested but the vast majority supported the war. When conscription was introduced some more people protested (Conchies) - although they were still quite few (around 16.000 men refused to enlist out of a possible eight million soldiers). After the Battle of Somme (July-November 1916) the public opinion started to change. The government was now publicly criticized about the way the war was being fought. In December 1916 Prime Minister Asquith stepped down and Lloyd George took over. The criticism continued (like the poem "*Soldiers Declaration*" by the poet **Siegfried Sassoon** which was read out loud in the House of Commons in 1917 + published in The Times and Daily Mail). Some socialists criticized the war but the critics were a minority - most people were of the opinion that the war should be pursued to a final victory...
- **WWI and British Women** - Before the First World War British women had a very traditional role: they could not vote / they had traditional women jobs: dress-making, cleaning, servants... / lower payment / the main role was to raise children and take care of the home / women should not have any leading positions. WWI introduced women into "male jobs" as; farm labors, steel workers, road repairs, bus drivers, grave diggers, ship builders and especially munition workers (which was dirty and dangerous; fires, explosions, toxic...). In December 1917 all women over 30 were given the Right to vote in general elections - as thanks for the war effort (the government had to revise the voting system because millions of men in the trenches and in the navy were deprived of the right to vote since they didn't live in Britain permanently... When they did this several women leaders

stepped forward and demanded the Right to vote). Did the war change anything else for women...

- **NO:**
 - When the post-war depression set in and factories closed women lost their jobs (especially in the munition factories)
 - Even if the industries continues the women had to leave because the men who had served in the war came back
 - The unemployment became high and this hit women much more than men
 - Women were expected to go back to more typical women jobs with lower pay
 - Two years after the war it was fewer women in the work force than there had been before the war
 - Men were now aware of the possibility of women doing men's job so they became even more protective of their jobs - a harder attitude towards women...
 - **YES** (the war did not change the actual work situation for women but their attitude changed):
 - Younger women said they gained confidence
 - Some working-class women felt they could stand up for themselves
 - Less women accepted going back to jobs like domestic servants
 - Some middle-class women changed their behavior and their way of dressing - short dresses, short hair, smoked cigarette, drank cocktails (they became known as "flappers")
 - In 1919 some professions opened up for women - educated women could become lawyers and architects + women were now allowed to serve in a jury
 - In 1921 contraceptive advice was legally available to women
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3. RESULTS OF WWI:

- **President Wilson's 14 points (January 1918):**
 2. There should be no secret diplomacy between states. All international treaties should be openly negotiated, and all their terms should be published.
 3. The use of the high seas should be freely available to all nations without restriction.
 4. Economic barriers to international trade should be removed.
 5. All states should agree to a reduction in armaments.
 6. All states should work towards the dissolution of their colonial empires, and the independence of the territories that they had colonized.
 7. German troops should evacuate all occupied Russian territory.
 8. German troops should evacuate all occupied Belgian territory.
 9. Alsace and Lorraine should be returned to France.
 10. The frontiers of Italy should be readjusted in such a manner as takes account of the nationality of the inhabitants.
 11. The nationalities governed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire should be allowed to determine their independent political futures.
 12. German troops should evacuate all occupied territory in Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and the independence of those states should be guaranteed.
 13. The nationalities governed by the Ottoman Empire should be allowed to determine their independent political futures, and the Dardanelles should be opened permanently to international shipping.
 14. An independent state of Poland should be created with access to the sea.
 15. An international association of nations should be formed to safeguard peace and to guarantee the independence of all states, great and small.
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- **Armistice – Germany (10 November 1918 – Armistice demands):**

1. Effective six hours after signing.
2. Immediate clearing of Belgium, France, Alsace-Lorraine, to be concluded within 14 days. Any troops remaining in these areas to be interned or taken as prisoners of war.
3. Surrender 5000 cannon (chiefly heavy), 30,000 machine guns, 3000 trench mortars, 2000 planes.
4. Evacuation of the left bank of the Rhine, Mayence, Coblenz, Cologne, occupied by the enemy to a radius of 30 kilometers deep.
5. On the right bank of the Rhine a neutral zone from 30 to 40 kilometers deep, evacuations 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. Surrender of 5000 locomotives, 150,000 railway coaches, 10,000 trucks.
8. Maintenance of enemy occupation troops through Germany.
9. In the East all troops to withdraw behind the boundaries of August 1, 1914, fixed time not given.
10. Renunciation of the Treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest.
11. Unconditional surrender of East Africa.
12. Return of the property of the Belgian Bank, Russian and Rumanian gold.
13. Return of prisoners of war without reciprocity.
14. Surrender of 160 U-boats, 8 light cruisers, 6 Dreadnoughts; the rest of the fleet to be disarmed and controlled by the Allies in neutral or Allied harbors.
15. Assurance of free trade through the Cattegat Sound; clearance of mine fields 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. Armistice lasts 30 days.

- **Peace Treaties:**

1. **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** (signed March 3rd 1918). Between **Russia** and the Central Powers.
 2. **Treaty of Bucharest** (signed May 7th 1918). Between **Romania** and Germany.
 3. **Treaty of Versailles** (signed June 28th 1919). Between **Germany** and the Allies.
 4. **Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye** (signed September 10th 1919). Between **Austria** and the Allies.
 5. **Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine** (signed November 27th 1919). Between **Bulgaria** and the Allies.
 6. **Treaty of Trianon** (signed June 4th 1920). Between **Hungary** and the Allies.
 7. **Treaty of Sèvres** (signed August 10th 1920). Between the **Ottoman Empire (Turkey)** and the Allies.
 8. **Treaty of Riga** (signed March 18th 1921). Between Russia and **Poland**.
 9. **Treaty between USA and Austria** (signed August 24th 1921)
 10. **Treaty between USA and Germany** (signed August 25th 1921)
 11. **Treaty between USA and Hungary** (signed August 29th 1921)
 12. **Treaty of Lausanne** (signed July 24th 1923). Between the **Ottoman Empire (Turkey)** and the Allies.
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