



# WWI

## 1914-1918

# CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WARS

## CAUSES OF WAR

### WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

#### CAUSE - ECONOMIC

**RAW MATERIAL:** Industrial revolution gave the bases for economic power before WWI. Countries that produced coal, iron and steel became dominant (USA, Great Britain and Germany). These countries would compete for economic superiority.

**TABLE: Relative shares of world manufacturing output, 1880-1913 (percentages).**

Country	1880	1900	1913
Britain	22.9	18.5	13.6
United States	14.6	23.6	32.0
Germany	8.5	13.2	14.8
France	7.8	6.8	6.1
Russia	7.6	8.8	8.2
Austria-Hungary	4.4	4.7	4.4
Italy	2.5	2.5	2.4

**RUSSIA – A SLEEPING GIANT:** Notice how the US and Germany surpass Great Britain. Russia's absolute output was behind the world leaders, but the country still contributed with a lot of iron and steel and if we consider the size of Russia it would just be a matter of time until the country would be able to use its vast resources.

**RAILROAD:** Another measure of economic strength is railroad construction. Russia possessed the largest overall railroad network, but it was due to its size (so the network was far less efficient than other countries railroads). The growth rate of the German railroad was notably impressive (increased 224% between 1870-1910) and it was very efficient – state controlled and partly built for military purpose.

**MILITARY TECHNOLOGY:** Another measurement of economic strength was the modern military technology. Germany had for years built up its military strength as well as the navy. Great Britain was especially concerned about the navy construction so between these countries a naval race developed ("**Dreadnought race**"). The years before WWI saw a wide spread militarism. The size of armies increased a lot and so the manufacturing of weapons (due to the possibility to mass produce). New weaponry, such as explosive shells, modern machine guns massively increased the rate, range and accuracy of firepower. Any country that had the economic means could invest in these weapons of mass destruction.

**IMPERIALISM:** National pride was one reason for building up great Empires abroad, but another reason was gaining raw material. The African and Asian continents therefore became a target for the European powers. In 1904-05 Russia and Japan fought a war about the influence over Manchuria, a district of China that was rich of raw material.

#### **CAPITALISM:**

Arguments for:

1. *Simple belief that industrialists had an interest in provoking war*
2. *Capitalist economic pressures were the driving force behind imperialist rivalries.*
3. *Anglo German Trade Rivalry*

Arguments against:

1. *Armaments manufacturers had markets overseas which might be lost in wartime.*
2. *Financiers needed stability.*
3. *Anglo-German commercial links were growing closed from 1904-1914.*

#### CAUSE – IDEOLOGY

# **WAR: WORLD WAR ONE**

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## **CAUSE - POLITICAL**

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## **CAUSE - TERRITORIAL**

**IMPERIALISM:** The British Empire constituted 20% of the world's territory around 1900. France had substantial interests in Africa and dominated Indochina. Germany had ambitions... Being a new nation (1871) and joining the colonization late Germany tried to make up for it by being very "*ambitious*". At the end of the 1800's the German Kaiser Wilhelm II accepted this new foreign policy – Weltpolitik! This would cause tension against both France and Great Britain (First and Second Moroccan Crisis)

**IMPERIALISM:** Another struggle for enlarging their Empires came in the Balkans where both Russia and Austria-Hungary tried hard to increase their influence (and territory). This struggle clashed into Balkan nationalism...

**REVENGE:** The district of Alsace-Lorraine (Elsass-Lothringen) had been lost by France to Germany in 1871. This district was rich in raw material – coal and iron, which now was needed in the industrial and military build-up. France wanted this region back!

# WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

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## CAUSE – “OTHER”

**NATIONALISM:** We saw a growth of national pride the decades before WWI. This manifested itself in many different ways – arms race, imperialism, economic competition,... Charles Darwin’s ideas about a process of natural selection where the “*fittest*” survive (Herbert Spencer’s idea) was transferred into political doctrines. Some nations were according to these ideas more fit than others and it was therefore their destiny to triumph over weaker nations. This is referred to as Social Darwinism. Governments all over Europe promoted nationalism in order to justify the growing military expenditure and as a counter act against growing socialism.

**BALKAN NATIONALISM:** The development of the Ottoman Empire during the 19<sup>th</sup> century has often been referred to as the “*Eastern Question*” and the Ottoman Empire has been called the “*sick man of Europe*”. The old Empire was falling apart. It started in the Balkans around 1830 when Greece declared independence (with help from the European Great powers – Britain, France, Russia). The weakness of the Ottoman Empire got Russia’s and Austria-Hungary’s attention. In the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century we can see several smaller nations becoming semi-independent (later independent) with some support from either one of these two powers. In return for the help they increased their influence in this region. When Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina 1908 the tension grew between the two big powers and Russia’s ally in the Balkans – Serbia. The influence of the two big powers and Serbia’s ambitions would lead to two (three) Balkan Wars...

**ALLIANCE SYSTEM:** The Alliance System had many different motives. The start of it was Otto von Bismarck’s (German Chancellor) idea when he wanted to protect the newly founded German State 1871. He therefore constructed a complicated system of diplomatic alliances which was based on Germany always having the advantage as well as different diplomatic options. In 1879 the **Dual Alliance** was formed between Germany and Austria-Hungary. It was enlarged in 1882 when Italy joined the alliance (after being upset with France about colonial businesses – especially Tunisia) – The **Triple Alliance**! In 1887 Germany (Bismarck) made a secret treaty with Russia (**Reinsurance Treaty**). When WWI broke out 1914 Germany and Austria-Hungary would be abandoned by its third partner Italy.

In 1890 the new German foreign office under von Holstein decided to not renew the secret treaty with Russia. This led to a new alliance between France and Russia – against Germany (1894)! Great Britain did not want to get entangled in European affairs but when they started to feel threatened in the colonies they made an agreement with the old English archenemy France. This agreement – Entente Cordiale – was about colonial influence spheres (France agreed on letting go of Egypt and Great Britain was positive to Morocco becoming part of the French colonial system). After some diplomatic agreements with Russia about Persia, Great Britain accepted Russia as a third partner in an alliance – the **Triple Entente**. This alliance was weak, and nobody knew if these countries would support each other in case of a major conflict.

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## LONG-TERM CAUSES

- **Alliance System**
- **Nationalism**
- **Imperialism**
- **German foreign policy**
- **Economy**
- **Militarism**
- **Military Plans**

# **WAR: WORLD WAR ONE**

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## **SHORT-TERM CAUSES**

- **Moroccan Crisis 1905**
- **Bosnian Crisis 1908**
- **Moroccan Crisis 1911**
- **First Balkan War 1912**
- **Second Balkan War 1913**
- **The “will to make war”**
- **Arms race and militarism**
- **War plans**
- **The assassination in Sarajevo June 1914**

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## **IMMEDIATE CAUSE**

- **The assassination in Sarajevo June 1914**
- **July Crisis 1914**
- **German “blank check”**
- **Austrian ultimatum to Serbia**
- **Austrian declaration of war**
- **Russian mobilization**
- **German ultimatum to Russia**
- **German ultimatum to France**

# CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WARS

## PRACTICES OF WAR – IMPACT ON THE OUTCOME

### WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

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TYPE OF WAR (Civil War; War between states; Guerrilla War; Limited War; Total War)

#### TOTAL WAR

- *Total war aims*
- *Government control increased*
- *Civilians affected by the war*
- *Full use of weapons and technology*

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#### TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

**War at Land:** Defensive – trench warfare

**Land:** Artillery

**Land:** Machine guns

**Land:** Hand grenades

**Land:** Flamethrower

**Land:** Gas grenades (chlorine gas 1915 Battle of Ypres; phosgene gas, mustard gas)

**Land:** Barbed wire

**Land:** Tanks

**Land:** Transportation (trains, trucks, horses...)

**Land:** Communication (radios, telephones, dogs, pigeons...)

**War in the Air:** Reconnaissance, fighters for air and land commissions, bombing

**Air:** Engines got stronger, mounted weapons – machine guns led to “*dog-fights*” and ground attacks, bomb planes

**Air:** Airships (Zeppelins), smaller airplanes, bigger bomb planes – even an air carrier at the end of the war

**Air:** Anti-aircraft (cannons, grenades, barrage balloons...)

**Air:** Airplanes at Sea

**War at Sea:** Blockades...

**Sea:** Dreadnoughts and other surface naval ships, Merchant ships, Q-ships and submarines

**Sea:** Anti-submarine (mines, depth charge, sonars, hydrophones, convoy system...)

**Sea:** Surface ships (mines, cannons, machine guns...)

**Sea:** Radio, radio telegraph

**Sea:** Air carriers (**Ark Royal** – a British sea plane carrier used in the Gallipoli campaign; **Furious** – built as battle cruiser was remodeled to become an air carrier with a big flight deck on top of the ship)

# WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

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## THEATRE OF WAR: AIR

Between 1914-1918 we see an enormous development in aircraft technology. Still – WWI was not affected very much by the war in the air.

**Propellers and engines:** The technique the Wright brothers used to get an airplane into the air was called a “pusher” technique. The engine was placed so the propeller faced backwards and thereby pushed the aircraft forward. WWI marked the end of pusher aircrafts – instead the propeller was put in front of the engine to be able to “pull” the airplane up (referred to as “tractor” design). The engines changed also – from air cooled engines where the pistons were arranged in a circle around the crankshaft (where the pistons rotated around the stationary crankshaft). During WWI another engine – in-line water cooled engines with stationary pistons was developed. They were heavier and had more power than the rotary engines.

**Observation and reconnaissance:** At the beginning of the war most of the airplanes were used for reconnaissance. The pilots started to carry firearms and fired on each other a bit into the war. Then technicians tried to mount guns on the planes. This gave the airplanes a new function. Still the reconnaissance function was important through the war.

**Fighters with machine guns:** To mount a machine gun at an airplane was a problem. The machine gun is heavy and therefore needed to be mounted on the body of the airplane. If it faced forward the propeller became an obstacle. In 1915 Anthony Fokker (Dutch engineer) designed a synchronized gear that made it possible for the pilot to shoot forward between the blades of the propeller. Fighter airplanes would be involved in battles against each other in the air (“dog fights”) and they would be used to shoot on enemy troops (land commissions).

**Bomb planes:** At the very beginning of WWI German airships (Zeppelins) had managed to fly over to Great Britain and drop bombs. This was a horrifying experience for the British that now realized that they could be reached by air. A huge Navy was not enough to protect Great Britain anymore. The German airships were huge and slow and therefore did not become much of a problem when the British created anti-aircraft cannons and grenades (if they were in reach ordinary guns and machine guns could shot them down). The bombs were dropped by hand and aimed by the eye but at the end of the war mechanic bombsight was common. Although the German strategic bombing campaign against Britain was the most extensive of the war, it was largely ineffective, in terms of actual damage done. Only 300 tons of bombs were dropped, resulting in 1,414 dead and 3,416 injured. At the end of the war a few heavy airplanes designed for bomb missions had been developed.

**Famous pilots:** Probably the most famous German pilot of WWI was Manfred von Richthofen (the “Red Baron”). When he died in April 1918 his fly squadron was taken over by another skilled pilot – Hermann Göring. Albert Ball was arguably the British Empire’s most beloved fighter pilot during World War I. One of the most famous US pilots was a racecar driver named Eddie Rickenbacker.

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## THEATRE OF WAR: LAND

**Western Front:** 1914: Schlieffen Plan, Battle of Marne – *War of Trenches*, Battle of Ypres; 1915: Battle of Ypres (gas) – smaller offensives; 1916: Battle of Verdun, Battle of the Somme; 1917: Nivelle Offensive, Battle of Vimy Ridge, USA joined; 1918: German Offensive (Peace Offensive / Ludendorff Offensive), allied counter-offensive, Armistice!

**Eastern Front:** 1914: fast Russian mobilization – Battle of Tannenberg & Battle of Masurian lakes, Russian offensive in Galicia; 1915: German and Austrian-Hungarian counter-offensive through the Carpathian Mountains and Poland; 1916: Brusilov Offensive; 1917: Russian revolution in February, Russian Offensive (Kerensky Offensive), Russian revolution in October, Peace negotiations; 1918: short German Offensive, Russian Armistice – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

**Italian Front:** 1915: Italy enters the war on the Entente side, War of Attrition – Isonzo River; 1916: War of Attrition (Isonzo River); 1917: German + Austrian-Hungarian Offensive – Battle of Caporetto – Piave River; 1918: Piave River, Battle of Vittorio Veneto, Armistice!

**Balkan Front:** 1914: Slow Austrian-Hungarian Offensive through Serbia; 1915: Bulgaria joined the war – continuing offensive through Serbia, Entente and Serbian troops stuck in Salonika – stalemate; 1916: Salonika...; 1917: Salonika...; 1918: Entente Offensive through Serbia, Bulgarian and Hungarian Armistice!

**Ottoman Empire:** Mesopotamian and Caucasus Offensive; 1915: Dardanelles Campaign (Gallipoli), McMahon-Hussein Correspondence, Sinai and Palestine Offensive; 1916: Arabian Revolt starts, Sykes-Picot Agreement; 1917: Mesopotamian Campaign, British Offensive in Palestine; 1918: Battle of Megiddo – Ottoman Armistice!

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## THEATRE OF WAR: SEA

Naval race between Germany and Great Britain before WWI (building of Dreadnoughts)

**Atlantic Ocean and North Sea:** Only one main surface battle in the North Sea – the Battle of Jutland 1916 – otherwise blockades – Allied (British) surface blockade against Germany. German unrestricted submarine warfare against allied ships outside the British Isles. The Allied blockade against Germany is counted as one of the main reasons for the Allied victory! (and the German unrestricted submarine warfare brought was one of the reasons the US joined the war)

**Mediterranean:** Some limited sea combat between the German, Austrian-Hungarian Navies against the French, British, Italian and Japanese(!) navies. 1915 – British Navy tried to sail towards Constantinople (Winston Churchill was the First Lord of the Admiralty). This plan failed and turned into the Battle of Gallipoli instead – which also failed!

**Black Sea:** The war started with the Ottoman Fleet bombarding several Russian cities in October 1914. Germany had given the Ottoman Empire two modern navy ships – the battlecruiser SMS Goeben and the light cruiser SMS Breslau under German Command. The Combat at Sea between the two sides in the Black Sea went on through the war until Russia accepted an armistice at the end of 1917.

**Baltic Sea:** The main combat in the Baltic Sea was between Germany and Russia. Russia fought defensively and mostly tried to cut the Convoys off that sailed from Sweden to Germany. Already in 1914 a German light cruiser had been sunk in the Gulf of Finland. Russian divers scoured the wreck and recovered a German Naval codebook which they passed on to their British Allies. Britain would therefore be aware of most of the German naval movements within the North Sea after this.

**Indian Ocean:** A number of German ships stationed overseas would be engaged in raids against poorly defended seas – such as the SMS Emden that raided the Indian Ocean (sinking/capturing around 30 British merchant ships and warships + bombarding Madras and Penang) until it was sunk.

**Pacific Ocean:** A smaller German fleet won the Battle of Coronel outside Chile before they were defeated and destroyed at the Battle of the Falkland Islands 1914 in the South Atlantic. Allied fleet captured several of the isolated German colonies in Samoa, Micronesia, Qingdao and German Guinea.

**Africa:** Allied naval and land forces defeated the German colonial troops in Togo and Cameroon in 1914. In German East Africa German land troops managed to hold out longer through guerilla warfare...

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## MOBILIZATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

**MOBILIZATION:** 65 million men had been mobilized during WWI. This is an enormous human resource...

**GREAT BRITAIN – MILITARY SERVICE:** As soon as the war broke out Britain started a massive recruitment campaign. Good result! Half a million men had signed up the first month and by 1916 over two million men had enlisted. Still it was not enough so Britain introduced Conscription in 1916.

**WOMEN:** In Britain, France, USA (after 1917) and Germany women joined the workforce. It was not until 1915 the serious recruitment of women into industries began.

**WOMEN IN GREAT BRITAIN:** In Great Britain the unions were against women entering “*men’s jobs*” – it would lower the status and the pay of the work and the unions were worried that the men would not get their jobs back after the war was over. The agreement was that women in the workforce was just a “*temporary*” solution and they would not be trained up as fully skilled tradesmen. So 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 wages of women remained low all through the war.

**US WOMEN DURING WWI:** Around one million women entered the workforce during WWI. Technology made it possible for these women to take a greater role in society and manage their lives at home. With increased use of household conveniences such as iceboxes and indoor plumbing, women of the early 1900s could divide their time between home and business. For the first time many American women found themselves leaving their homes every day to work in factories and offices in cities and on farms in the rural countryside. For example, members of the Women's Land Army, known as farmerettes, spent days handling the heavy work required to raise food and livestock after local men joined the military.

**US WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES:** World War I marked the first war in which American women were allowed to enlist in the armed forces. While thousands of women did join branches of the army in an official capacity, receiving veterans’ status and benefits after the war's close, the majority of female involvement was done through voluntary organizations supporting the war effort. Additionally, women made an impact on the war indirectly by filling the workforce, becoming employed in the jobs left behind by male soldiers



# WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

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## MOBILIZATION OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES

**FINANCING A WAR:** Russia, Italy and France borrowed heavily from the British and the Americans. The British borrowed massive amounts from the USA. All combatants also borrowed from their own people through “war bonds” / “war loans” which should be paid back with some interest after the war was over. Germany raised almost entirely their money for the war through loans and government saving bonds.

**WAR PRODUCTION:** Weapon industries and technological improvements. Due to the advanced industrial level there was a mass production of weapons in most countries. This had a big impact on the warfare – and the amount of casualties.

**WAR PRODUCTION – GREAT BRITAIN:** The British war production was very much under government control. Key industries such as coal mining and shipping was nationalized. 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**

A 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.

**WAR PRODUCTION – GERMANY:** German industrialist Walter Rathenau tried to bring the German industry under the control of the German War Boards to oversee the production. This did not succeed very well since the military (who had the political control) interfered all the time.

**GOVERNMENT CONTROL – GREAT BRITAIN:** Great Britain introduced **DORA (Defence 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. 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*

**BRITAIN:** 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 (DORA) 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*

**GOVERNMENT CONTROL – FRANCE:** In France the President proclaimed that France was under siege and therefore specific laws (emergency decrees) were used. In the beginning of the war eight of the French departments were put under military control. Later this number was increased to 33 departments.

**GOVERNMENT CONTROL – GERMANY:** German economy was in 1914 completely reliant on outside trade. The economy was not ready for a long war and Germany would remain badly organized throughout the war. WWI meant more government control of goods and production – but the executive power was given to the commanding generals of Germany’s 24 military districts. This meant that the army controlled the German general economic policy.

**GOVERNMENT CONTROL – RUSSIA:** Russia was an autocracy where the Tsar (Nicholas II) had absolute power. In 1906 a Duma (parliament) had been set up. Even if they did not have any real power the Tsar used the war to rule without their support. In 1915 he also took control over the military effort by taking the position as Commander-in-Chief.

RATIONING:

# CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WARS

## EFFECTS OF WAR

### WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

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#### SUCCESS OF PEACEMAKING

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#### FAILURE OF PEACEMAKING

**NOTE:** The discussion among historians about the Treaty of Versailles:

- *The war guilt issue*
- *Disarmament clauses*
- *Reparations*
- *Loss of key resources*
- *Territorial changes (issue of self-determination)*
- *Removal of colonies*
- *League of Nations*

# WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

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## TERRITORIAL CHANGES

**Russian Empire** (lost Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine who became independent)

**Austria-Hungary** (losses of territory that became Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia + Transylvania, Istria, Galicia, Trieste, South Tirol, Trentino, some Dalmatian islands, Dalmatian coast, Bosnia-Herzegovina)

**Ottoman Empire** (lost Sudan, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Armenia + some areas in Asia Minor – the last area would be retaken by Turkey in 1922-23)

**Germany** (lost Alsace-Lorraine, Eupen-Malmedy, Memel, part of Silecia, parts of East Prussia, Poznania, city of Danzig and all its colonies)

**Bulgaria** (lost Western Thrace, Dobrudja and four areas in Macedonia)

**France, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Romania and Denmark** gained territories

**Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia** were founded – new states

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## POLITICAL IMPACT

**COMMUNISM** rule was established in Russia 1917-18. In Germany and Hungary communists also tried to take over power through revolutions – these attempts failed. The success in Russia and the failed attempts would lead to a “red scare” after WWI. For several years the new Russian Communist State was diplomatically isolated.

**ITALY:** Italy felt deceived at the Peace Conferences after WWI. The country did not receive all the areas it had been promised in 1915 which was the main reason for joining the war. The Italian soldiers had been promised land and jobs when they returned home – this promise was not kept either. Many returned to poverty, poor living conditions and unemployment. There was a huge difference between rich industrialists and poor workers and wealthy landowners and poor peasants. The post-war depression together with all these problems brought Italy to the edge of a civil war.

**POLITICAL UNSTABILITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE:** Central and Eastern Europe was divided into several different nations. The new Austrian state became a political unstable republic. Hungary was formally a constitutional monarchy, but the regent was more or less a conservative dictator. Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia were constitutional monarchies where the kings would enhance their own power the coming years. Poland established a conservative military dictatorship in the middle of the 1920's to counter socialists. The only stable, multi-party republic was Czechoslovakia.

**GERMANY:** The start of WWI had a certain impact on Germany's biggest political party – SPD (German Socialists). The war split this party into three: SPD, Independent Socialists and International Socialists (“*Spartacists*” → KPD – German Communist Party). Germany had become a Republic by the end of the war (a few days before the war ended Wilhelm II abdicated and fled to Holland where he would live for the rest of his life). This was on paper one of the most democratic nations in Europe, but the young nation had no democratic traditions. After the war the Spartacists would try to launch a revolution in Berlin. SPD would join the government and fight the revolutionaries. This would split the leftists for many years. Germany faced riots, revolution attempts and a collapsed economy after WWI!

**ARMENIANS - GENOCIDE:** WWI witnessed the century's first genocide. In the Ottoman propaganda Armenians had been presented as saboteurs and pro-Russian traitors. The Armenians therefore faced a massive deportation from Eastern Anatolia to the Syrian desert which caused around a million deaths. In the Balkans several attacks on different ethnic groups had also led to thousands of deaths in attempts of ethnic cleansings...

**USA:** The problems the country faced was a pandemic (Spanish Flu), fear of Communism, racial tension and “*Isolationism*”. The new President and the new government did not want to get involved (“*entangled*”) in European business where they would end up paying the bill – economically and with their vast resources.

# WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

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## ECONOMIC IMPACT

**COST OF WWI:** The countries involved in WWI had spent enormous sums of money at the war (British Empire spent an estimated \$23 billion; Germany spent \$19.9 billion, US spent \$19.9 billion and France spent \$9.3 billion). Russia, Italy and France borrowed heavily from the British and the Americans. The British borrowed massive amounts from the USA. All combatants also borrowed from their own people through “war bonds” / “war loans” which should be paid back with some interest after the war was over. Germany raised almost entirely their money for the war through loans and government saving bonds. When Germany was defeated the country was also bankrupt and thousands of Germans lost their savings. The victorious nations now had to plan how to pay back their loans to Britain and the USA.

**POST-WAR DEPRESSION:** The involved country went off the gold standard and printed more money to make up for the deficits. This created a disastrous inflation. Together with huge demands and unemployment most countries went into a deep post-war depression (except the USA). When they met in Paris to draw up the Peace Treaties there would be chance to compensate for some of these economic problems with demanding high reparation from the countries that lost the war (especially from Germany).

**GERMANY:** Germany had also lost a lot of resources and also faced an economic depression. When the demands of a big reparation came Germany protested and claimed that it would bankrupt the country. The German politicians printed more money and in 1922-23 Germany face a hyper-inflation.

**LAND DESTRUCTION:** Several areas (like north-east France) could not be used for many years due to the destruction of farmland as well as industries.

**USA:** The US economy was even stronger after WWI.

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## SOCIAL IMPACT

**LANDED ARISTOCRACY:** Before WWI the landed aristocracy still had a strong social position. WWI changed this. The old traditional social structure was gone. Several countries carried through land reforms (Austria-Hungary, Yugoslavia, Russia...) and in Prussia the old Junkers lost their political influence.

**WELFARE STATES:** Both Great Britain and France standards of health and welfare rose during the war. In Britain the Housing Act (1918) subsidized the building of houses and the Unemployment Insurance Acts (1920 and 1921) increased benefits for unemployed workers and their families. Trade Unions also considerably strengthen their role...

**WAR CASUALTIES:** Around 10 million men were killed during WWI. 8.5-9 million soldiers and 750 000 – 1 million civilians. The fact that the losses of life now also included a high number of civilians was something that pointed to a change in future wars.

**SPANISH FLU:** The human cost of the war was huge – the human cost in the Spanish Flu (Pandemic) was even bigger. Around 20 million people died in this pandemic between 1917-1919

**WOMEN AND WWI:** Women in many nations had been crucial for the war effort. During the war millions of women took up occupations which traditionally was monopolized by men. Middle-class women entered the workforce in greater number than ever before. With an independent income they received a certain social independence. The demobilization of millions of men pushed them out of the workforce and they thereby also lost the new social position. They could either accept the situation or go back to traditional women’s jobs or they could start to work for a change. In some countries we see a certain shift away from domestic service jobs for women to white-collar employment (part of this is due to an expansion within this sector – like many office jobs). Some women challenged the conventional role by living alone, cut their hair short, and took up smoking and wear new fashions. A nickname for these women were flappers.

**ENFRANCHISEMENT:** In 1917 Russian women got the rights to vote. In 1918 Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Canada and Great Britain followed. 1919 – Germany and in 1920 the USA.

# WAR: WORLD WAR ONE

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## DEMOGRAPHIC IMPACT

**FRANCE:** Some countries lost so many men within certain age groups that an already low birth-rate became even lower. This especially hit France.

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## CHANGES IN THE ROLE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

**GREAT BRITAIN:** 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*

**ENFRANCHISEMENT:** In 1917 Russian women got the rights to vote. In 1918 Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Canada and Great Britain followed. 1919 – Germany and in 1920 the USA.