

Modern Warfare and its Legacy

The "First" World War?



In the dry moat of the Tower of London, artist Paul Cummings placed 888,246 ceramic poppies; each flower represents a British and Commonwealth military fatality during World War I. By the end of WWI, an estimated 8.5 million people died worldwide from wounds or disease. © 2015 The Associated Press

From 1914 to 1918, a terrible war waged across the planet. The war was fought across the whole of Europe and Africa, deep into the Middle East, on several Pacific Islands and mainland China, and off the coasts of North and South America. Because of the breadth of the destruction, we now refer to this war as a World War—the First World War.

But was it really the first? Earlier wars involved many countries over multiple continents, such as the Napoleonic Wars and the **Seven Years War**. Yet, people at the time knew that something was new about this war. Compared to previous wars in their memory, it was more destructive and more deadly. It was also more modern, with technologies from the new century used to efficiently kill soldiers and destroy lands.

It was a **total war** because the war hit civilians and their property as well as soldiers on the battlefield. Because of this intensity, people at the time called it the Great War. Only after the start of another war in 1939, which divided the world along similar lines, did people refer to the war that began in 1914 as World War I.

Although World War I did set up many of the conflicts, alliances, and grievances that led to World War II, it was not merely a precursor to the later war. By the end of the war, an estimated 37 million soldiers were wounded, imprisoned, taken as Prisoners of War, or killed. This accounted for over half of the total amount of men and women mobilized throughout the war. This devastation shaped an entire generation. Moreover, the tactics and weapons of

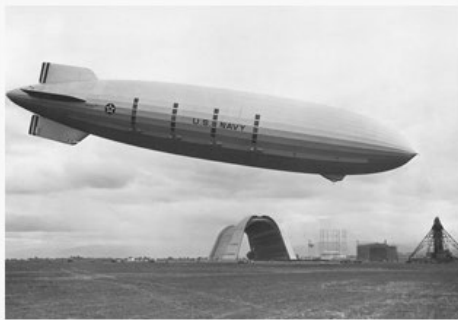
World War I are considered the start of truly modern warfare. In many ways, the battles fought today are shaped by the experiences of World War I.

After you complete this lesson, you will take on the role of a young soldier in the trenches and describe your experience.

What New Weapons and Technology Were Introduced During World War I?

In the 19th century, all European armies had similar weaponry. When the English fought the French, the winner was determined by the number of soldiers on each side and by the strategies chosen by the generals. When Napoleon's armies conquered Europe, it was because Napoleon was a brilliant general with a huge army, not because the French had superior warfare technologies.

Forty years before the onset of World War I, the European continent was mostly at peace. During peacetime, however, the empires continued to develop new and deadlier weapons. By the time Europeans turned their attention to Africa, their guns had improved so much that they were considered invincible. European weaponry turned nearly every battle into a massacre. When the European powers began fighting each other again in 1914, they brought the new weapons and tactics that they had developed for conquering Africa. However, these weapons and tactics were primarily defensive. Although the Europeans were the invaders in Africa, during their battles against African nations they needed only to hold their positions.



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World War I was the first war to make use of aircraft in battle. Airplanes were equipped with machine guns, and soldiers fought the first battles in the air. The **Zeppelin**, a kind of enormous blimp, was also vital to the war. A Zeppelin could fly much higher than the airplanes of the time and was extremely large, so it was hard for the enemy to shoot it down. Zeppelins were used for surveillance and to drop bombs.



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As combatants saw that traditional attacks were not successful against a well-armed trench, they began to develop new weapons that were invulnerable to bullets. Scientists on both sides created poisonous gases for this purpose. When the wind was right, poison gas was released. It would flow into the enemy's trenches and kill everyone who inhaled it, unless they were wearing gas masks, as shown in this photograph of Polish soldiers during World War I.

Aircraft

Gases

Tanks

Submarines

Machine guns



Public Domain

World War I saw the introduction of armored vehicles, called tanks. The armor on the outside of the vehicles protected the soldiers inside from bullets. A tank could roll into a battle unharmed, allowing soldiers to use the tank's machine guns to attack. Tanks were so successful in World War I that in the Second World War, tanks came better equipped with heavy artillery and were used more significantly in battle.

Aircraft

Gases

Tanks

Submarines

Machine guns



Public Domain

A major new technology in naval warfare was the development of submarines, or U-boats as the Germans called them. These underwater ships cruised beneath the surface of the water. When submerged, they were undetectable, sometimes even from radar. Submarines were very stealthy and were used for spying and surprise attacks. After a German U-boat sunk the British cruise liner *R.M.S. Lusitania*, killing over 1,000 civilians, including more than one hundred Americans, the United States was ready to enter the war.

Aircraft

Gases

Tanks

Submarines

Machine guns



Public Domain

The World War I machine gun was a belt-fed gun capable of firing 600 bullets per minute. Its firing range was more than 1,000 yards. Machine guns and field artillery effectively stopped any **frontal assaults**.

Trench Warfare and New Weapons



World War I was truly a global conflict. Here Australian troops are seen in a trench, wearing gas masks, on the Western Front. Public Domain

Victories in the colonies typically were achieved with fewer resources than were needed on the continent. But when the European armies adopted the same defensive tactics that had proven successful in Africa for war in Europe, the result was stalemate. Thinking only of holding their ground, the armies dug long lines of **trenches**, or deep narrow ditches in the ground. Some of these trenches remained there for the duration of the war. Some front lines moved only several yards over the entire course of the war.

For years, the trench line on the Western Front barely moved and millions of young Europeans died. Instead of bringing the easy victory to which Europeans had grown accustomed, the defensive tactics of colonial warfare made World War I a disaster for everyone.

As the war progressed, the combatants realized that more offensive weapons were needed. The development of aircraft artillery, poison gases, tanks, and submarines shaped the progress of the war as much as the colonial tactics influenced its start.

Listen to a poem about the horrors of gas warfare during World War I

Dulce et Decorum est

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through the
sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame, all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.—
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,

As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.
In all my dreams before my helpless sight
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.
If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs
Bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.

How Were the Western and Eastern Fronts Different?

At the start of World War I, the Central Powers were surrounded by countries aligned with the Allied Powers. To the west, the Central Powers had to contend with France, Great Britain, the United States (starting in 1917), and other Allied forces. To the east, the Central Powers were bordered by Russia and Romania. The Central Powers' armed forces had to split their attention between enemies on both sides. As a result, a two-front war emerged—the Western Front and the Eastern Front. How did the war unfold on each front?

Western Front



*In this photo from the Western Front in 1916, British forces prepare for an attack from a French trench. You can see the conditions of the trenches in which soldiers of both sides lived during the long years of trench warfare on the Western Front. The trenches were crude ditches, dug into the dirt, with walls over the heads of the soldiers. Perpendicular trenches allowed communication and supplies to come from the rear to the front. The trenches were muddy, dirty, and unpleasant. Many died from sicknesses contracted while living in the trenches.*Public Domain

The Western Front opened with Germany's invasion of Luxembourg, Belgium, and parts of France at the very start of the war. In the Battle of the Marne, the French stopped the advancing German troops. But while the French stopped the advance, they couldn't make the Germans retreat, either. This was the end of significant troop movement on the Western Front.

Both sides dug in, literally. In a long, meandering line from Lorraine to Belgium's coast, the two sides dug defensive trenches. In theory, these shallow networks of tunnels would provide temporary protection for the troops before they advanced on the enemy's line. But both sides proved unable to successfully attack the other side's trenches. For the remainder of the war, the Western Front remained basically unchanged.

Failure to advance the frontline did not stop the trenches from being among the deadliest battlefields in history. Using outdated tactics, the generals repeatedly tried to rush the enemy's trenches. The result was always massive loss of life. Some of the most deadly offensives were the Battle of Verdun with 700,000 casualties on both sides, the Battle of the Somme with more than a million casualties, and the Battle of Passchendaele with 600,000 casualties.

Soldiers often died when they weren't engaged in battle. The trenches were damp, cold, and unsanitary. Disease was rampant, and thousands of soldiers died just from the poor conditions.

To try to break the **stalemate**, each side introduced new weapons. In 1915, at the Second Battle of Ypres, the Germans released poisonous chlorine gas. The horrible deaths of those who inhaled the gas forced the German troops to retreat, allowing the Germans to gain a small amount of land. Soon after, both sides began using poisonous gases. However, the gases were difficult to control and soldiers would often inhale their own side's gases. Poison gases remain one of the most enduring and gruesome cultural memories of the war.

It was not until 1918 that any progress was made on the Western Front. The **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk**, which ended the fighting on the Eastern front, allowed the Germans to concentrate their forces to the West and use new offensive tactics. The German Spring Offensive advanced their Western Frontline nearly 60 miles, the most movement on the Western Front since the start of the war. Then, in the second half of 1918, the Allied forces began slowly but steadily advancing their Western Frontline. This eventually led the Germans to realize that their defeat was inevitable; they would soon declare an armistice.

The Christmas Truce

One of the most famous stories about World War I comes from Christmas, 1914. For a week leading up to the holiday, up and down the Western Front, troops from both sides began setting up informal, localized truces. In some areas this was limited to allowing both sides to collect their dead and perform burials without fear of attack. But in other areas, young men from both sides met openly in no man's land to talk, trade souvenirs, sing Christmas carols, and even play soccer. These truces are remembered as a moment when humanity and fraternity triumphed over the aggression of war. In memory of this event today, many churches at Christmastime sing the carols "Silent Night" and "Stille Nacht" in both languages, English and German.

Eastern Front



The Russian army in 1917 moving to a new location on the Eastern Front. Notice the artillery being drawn by horses, and that some men are on foot and some on horseback. Public Domain

The Eastern Front of the war, fought in Central and Eastern Europe, did not feature the trench warfare that characterized the war in the West. This was partially because the front in the Eastern theater was far longer than in the West. The bigger space to defend meant that soldiers were more spread out, and the line was therefore easier to break. The front was far more fluid than in the West, with constant troop movements.

The war in the East began with the Russian invasion of East Prussia, which turned into a disaster for the Russians at the Battle of Tannenberg. But by the end of 1914, the Russians had regained the upper hand and they controlled all of Galicia, forcing the Germans to send more forces East to contend with the Russian advances.

In 1915, the Germans began focusing their energy on the Eastern Front, and Russia was forced to retreat. In 1916, Romania entered the war on the side of the Russians in an attempt to claim Transylvania from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was allied with Germany. Initially, the Romanians saw a lot of success. But in 1917, Russia withdrew from fighting following the Bolshevik Revolution, which was initiated by the collapse of the Russian economy from war costs. This left Romania on its own in the region. It soon signed an armistice.

In the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, March 3, 1918, Russia left the war and the Eastern front was ended. Russia's exit allowed for the **self-determination** and independence of several nations, including: Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, and Poland.

How Did World War I Affect the Russian Revolution?



A Bolshevik poster of the Russian Revolution hailing the coming of the world-wide Socialist revolution. © The Granger Collection / Universal Images Group / ImageQuest 2016

On the Eastern Front, the war proved transformational for Russia. The imperial monarchy of Russia brought the country into war despite poor preparation for a large conflict. The Russian forces lacked training, supplies, numbers, and morale. They lost battle after battle against the Germans. This showed the Russians that their country was no longer able to match the powers of Central and Western Europe. In addition, the economic effects of the war hurt the entire population.

In March 1917, a revolution in Russia overthrew the monarchy and established a provisional government. But this new government was not popular either. The Russians were tired of the long war. In the farthest reaches of the former empire, non-Russian groups like the Poles, Latvians, Finns, and Estonians were fighting for independence. In some cases, these nationalist movements were encouraged by the Germans who occupied their territories.

Into this power vacuum came the Bolsheviks. Discontent Russian soldiers latched onto propaganda that encouraged a revolt against their officers. In November 1917, the Bolshevik Revolution overthrew the provisional government, and Vladimir Lenin came to power. One of Lenin's first actions was to end Russian involvement in the Great War.

After Lenin and the Central Powers signed a treaty at Brest-Litovsk, the Bolsheviks cemented their hold on power. Much of the conflicts between Russia and the West in the coming decades arose out of these World War I events.

What Was Happening on the Home Front in the United States and Abroad?

At first, the United States tried to stay out of the war. But a series of events over the course of the war shifted American public opinion in favor of fighting.

Sinking of the Lusitania	Zimmermann Telegram	Wartime Propaganda	Wartime Propaganda Examples
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In 1915, a German U-boat sank the *R.M.S. Lusitania*, a passenger ship sailing between Britain and New York City, claiming the United States was smuggling weapons on the ship. More than 1,000 passengers died, including 128 United States citizens. Some Americans began agitating for retaliation against Germany. President Woodrow Wilson issued a series of statements to Germany, declaring that any further "sinkings" would be seen as "deliberately unfriendly."

Despite Wilson's reluctance, the sinking of the *Lusitania* began the change in public opinion that would lead to war. It also better aligned the United States with Britain.

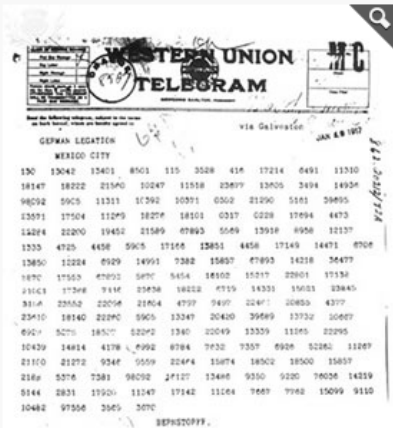


Lusitania: Sunk Without a Trace by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris.

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Sinking of the Lusitania	Zimmermann Telegram	Wartime Propaganda	Wartime Propaganda Examples
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Another contributing factor to U.S. involvement was the Zimmermann Telegraph, where Germany suggested to Mexico that it should declare war against the United States. The British intercepted this note, and its publication made many Americans very angry at Germany. Then, in March 1917, the Germans sank three American merchant ships. In response, the United States declared war on Germany, and officially entered World War I.



The Western Union copy of the Zimmermann telegram sent on January 19, 1917, by Count Bernstorff, the German Ambassador at Washington, D.C., to the German Imperial Minister at Mexico City.

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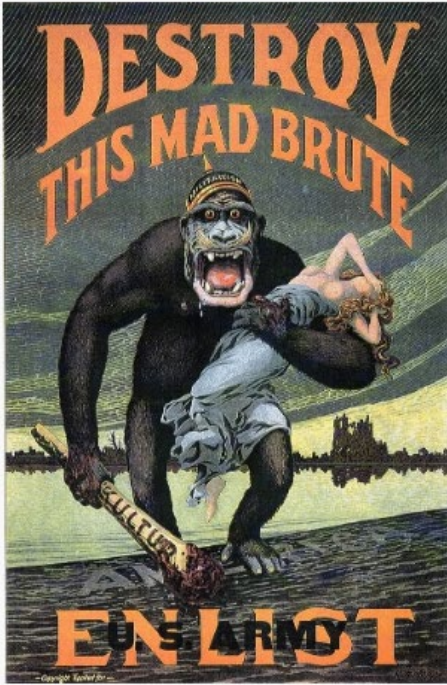
Sinking of the Lusitania	Zimmermann Telegram	Wartime Propaganda	Wartime Propaganda Examples
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Some of the American population was not fully convinced. To increase support for the war and the armed forces, the U.S. government used propaganda, or media intended to create feelings of support for the government. The United States was not the only participant in World War I to use propaganda to increase or maintain public support for the war. Countries aligned with both the Allied and Central Powers used propaganda.

A lot of propaganda in the United States focused on increasing enlistment in the armed forces. But the government also instituted the **draft**. Three million young men were conscripted to join the military. Propaganda was used to maintain support for the draft.

Other propaganda focused on encouraging the public to support the war effort at home. In many countries, women were encouraged to enter the workforce for the first time to replace men who were at war. Americans were told to grow "victory gardens" for food. In Germany, farmers were encouraged to provide food to combat widespread famine. In the United States, certain items, like sugar, were **rationed**—or given out in limited quantities—because the items were needed for the armed forces. Liberty Bonds and war stamps were sold to raise money for the war effort. In Germany and Austria-Hungary, posters persuading the public to support war loans flooded the home front. All these actions were framed to the public as a way to fight the enemy from home.

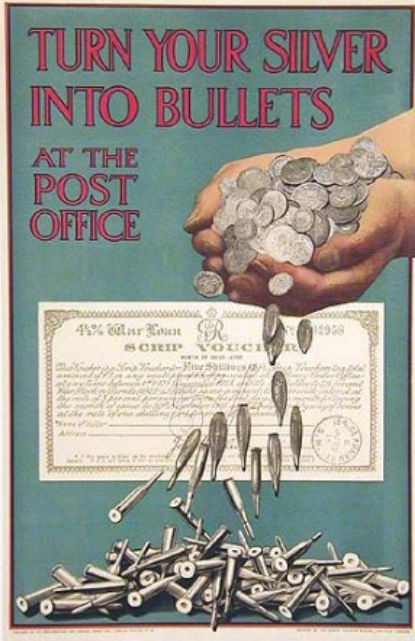
Sinking of the Lusitania	Zimmermann Telegram	Wartime Propaganda	Wartime Propaganda Examples
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Public Domain

Many World War I (WWI) propaganda posters vilified the enemy. This American poster shows Germany as an angry ape, clutching the innocent victim, "Liberty." Americans of German descent also faced discrimination and hostility. A lot of propaganda focused on villainizing the Germans. This ranged from German citizens being required to register with the government and carry identity cards to rejection of German goods.





This British poster draws a concrete connection between contributing money to the government and putting bullets into soldiers' guns.

Public Domain



Women were specifically targeted in many posters. This American ad focuses on Joan of Arc in order to emphasize the heroic role of women in winning wars. This ad does not seek to encourage women to enlist but to raise money through buying stamps.

Public Domain





Public Domain

Perhaps the most famous image in American propaganda, Uncle Sam, debuted in World War I. His authoritative yet approachable demeanor encouraged young men to enlist in the military.



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This German propaganda poster uses the horrors of war to encourage citizens to contribute monetary donations to the war loan. By showing one of their fellow citizens wounded during the war, the government hoped to inspire its people to do whatever they could to keep their soldiers safe.



Sinking of the Lusitania

Zimmermann Telegram

Wartime Propaganda

Wartime Propaganda Examples



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Many propaganda posters encouraged support of the war effort by uniting the population against a common enemy. This Italian poster shows a woman proving to be a challenge for a German or Austria-Hungarian warrior. The government was hoping to inspire the women on the home front to support the war against the Central Powers by making contributions to the war loan.



Sinking of the Lusitania

Zimmermann Telegram

Wartime Propaganda

Wartime Propaganda Examples



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The use of gas warfare meant that both sides had to find ways to protect their soldiers from the dangerous gases. Gas masks were soon born. A key part of a gas mask is an ingredient called activated charcoal, which is used to absorb some of the poisons from the gas before it harms the wearer of the mask. Scientists found that fruit pits could be used to create charcoal. This German poster encourages the public to save their discarded fruit shells and pits so the government could use them to produce better gas masks.





© 2012 Getty Images/Image Quest

In Britain, a large majority of men left their jobs in factories and other male-dominated industries to join the war effort as soldiers. However, industrial production of munitions and army supplies had to continue to meet the soldiers' needs on the battlefield. Many women, not just those in Britain, were called to the workforce. This strategy was used in the United States, Germany, and Italy, to name a few countries.



© 2012 Universal Images Group/Image Quest

During the war, farmers struggled to provide enough food for the people in Germany. With much of the government's focus placed on building the economy to support war industries, such as munitions and other supplies, farmers fought to meet the people's food needs. Famine was common in the region. The government issued posters to encourage farmers to continue to do their part.





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Money was needed to drive the war effort in all countries during World War I. Many countries looked to raise money through loans by having the public purchase war bonds or victory bonds. This strategy was used in Italy, as evidenced in this poster. The government used an image of a united Allied front to inspire citizens to contribute to the war effort.

How Did the Great Powers React at the End of the Great War?

When Germany was on the verge of surrender, the Allies began to formulate a post-war plan. In January 1918, President Wilson addressed the U.S. Congress and explained his **Fourteen Points**—his proposals for a post-war peace settlement. These points included the return of lands occupied by the Central Powers, the granting of sovereignty and self-determination to certain national groups, the reduction of arms, and the creation of a peacetime coalition of nations.

In October, Germany agreed to negotiations based on the Fourteen Points. However, the Allies also demanded **reparations** from Germany. In the spring of 1919, the Paris Peace Conference convened to draft a final treaty called the **Treaty of Versailles**. The negotiations were led by the "Big Four" leaders: David Lloyd George of Britain, Woodrow Wilson of the United States, Georges Clemenceau of France, and Vittorio Orlando of Italy. Germany and the other defeated nations had no say in the terms of the treaty.

When the German delegation was presented with the Treaty, they were shocked by the severity of the terms. Germany was forced to accept "war guilt," and to pay a massive amount of money in reparations. The economic burdens created by these reparations, as well as general bitterness towards the harshness of the Treaty, contributed to the political environment in Germany that allowed Adolf Hitler to rise to power in the 1930s. The Treaty of Versailles also created the **League of Nations**, the precursor to the United Nations. Nations would join the League and agree to terms involving reduction of arms, arbitration of disputes, and open diplomacy. The League instituted a system for redistributing the colonial holdings of the defeated Central Powers.

With victory came the dismantling and taking of the losers' empires. Germany lost its African colonies, and the Ottoman Empire was broken up completely. The League deemed the former German colonies and Ottoman territories unready for independence. The member states of the League of Nations—that is, the winners of the war—were tasked with overseeing these lands. The League of Nations had formal control over the lands, but the territories' general affairs were administered by individual member-states according to **mandates**. The mandates gave a European member-state administrative control over a territory until it was considered ready for self-government. Some territories were placed under tighter control than others.

The mandate states, particularly Britain and France, jostled to receive control of lands that would benefit them. The effects of this mandate continue to shape the Middle East to this day.

The British mandate in Palestine is only one example of far-reaching consequences. For instance, the Belgian mandate of Ruanda-Urundi (today, the countries Rwanda and Burundi) created the political dynamics that led to the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Although the mandate system effectively redistributed the German and Ottoman colonial holdings, it was at great cost to the stability of those regions.

League of Nations—Text Version

Review the image description and text to learn more about the members of the League of Nations and their respective positions.

Image Description: Black-and-white photo of four white men in dark suits standing outside of a building. The men are engaged in conversation and look cordial. It is clear that these men are powerful by how their suits are nicely made and how well-groomed they are.

Narrator: At the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, the leaders of the "Big Four" met to discuss the terms of the end of the war. Shown here, from left to right: David Lloyd George of Britain, Vittorio Orlando of Italy, George Clemenceau of France, and Woodrow Wilson of the United States. Listen and watch as the four men discuss their ideas for how to promote peace in Europe following the war. They will discuss their different goals and viewpoints using quotes. The quotes are a fictional representation of a discussion the Big Four might have had during their time together.

[David Lloyd George] "It is of primary importance to both me and Britain as a whole for the British Empire to be maintained. The best way to do this is to secure a peace that would return Europe to the diplomatic balance that has existed essentially since the Conference of Vienna."

[Vittorio Orlando] "My biggest goal is to gain territory from these peace agreements. The Italian people feel that the Trentino, the Tyrol, Brenner, Trieste, and most of the Dalmatian Coast are rightfully part of Italy."

[David Lloyd George, Wilson, and Clemenceau] "I don't see how we can agree to those demands."

[Vittorio Orlando] "If the demands of the Italian people will not be met, then I'm afraid I will no longer be able to take part in this conference."

[President Woodrow Wilson] "I'm sorry to see Vittorio Orlando leave, but I do not intend to have his departure keep us from going to an agreement about how to keep the peace. I'm hoping that we can reach a settlement that will ensure an enduring peace. Approving the League of Nations is the best way to keep the United States engaged, and adopting the Fourteen Points is guaranteed to keep Europe free of conflict."

[French Prime Minister Clemenceau] "President Wilson, I agree with you that an enduring peace in Europe is the number one goal. However, I disagree with you about how to achieve this goal. The best way to ensure peace is to make sure Germany is so economically and militarily weak that it can no longer threaten the peace in Europe. I need assurances from you both that you will support me in my aim to hold Germany accountable for its actions. We need to seek reparations from Germany. I think doing so might help to keep the country weak for years to come."

How Did World War I Help to Usher in the Modern World?



The writer Gertrude Stein, shown here with Ernest Hemingway's young son, Jack, in Paris. Stein is credited with spreading the name the "Lost Generation." It is said that when she was unimpressed by a mechanic's work, the garage-owner told her that those who had been through the war were a "lost generation." Stein shared the phrase with Ernest Hemingway who used it in the epigraph of his classic novel, "The Sun Also Rises." Hemingway's novel tells about a community of young expatriates in Europe who were emotionally and physically damaged by the Great War. Public Domain

World War I was a total war, affecting not just battlefields and soldiers but also civilians, cities, and the countryside. Many parts of Europe, particularly along the Western Front, were destroyed.

By the end of the war, an estimated 8.5 million people died from wounds or disease. This is a far greater number than any previous war. As the war progressed, it grew increasingly mechanized and impersonal, with cannons and poison gas killing huge numbers of people without any face-to-face combat. This trend in warfare continues to the present day, as militaries today guide missiles and drop bombs from behind computer screens.

This massive loss of life transformed post-war society. Those who died or fought in the war became known as the "Lost Generation," a phrase coined by author Gertrude Stein and popularized by author Ernest Hemingway. Particularly in Europe, this generation was "lost" because so many of its men were dead or wounded, either physically or emotionally. Many survivors fled their home countries and became permanent expatriates, creating works of literature and art about the experiences of being part of a generation that was missing so many men.

The new balance of power in Europe following the war also led to the next great war, World War II. After centuries of conflict, Britain and France were now confirmed allies, reluctantly followed by the United States. Britain and France, once mighty, were hit far harder by the war than the United States, which joined late and didn't fight any battles on its own soil. Therefore, the United States had a faster recovery than its European allies. Today, World War I is a deeper part of the collective memory of the French and British than it is of the Americans.

Undoubtedly, the slowest recovery was Germany's, due to the requirements of the Treaty of Versailles. The damage done to Germany both by the war and by the treaty created so much unhappiness among the German population that Adolf Hitler soon came to power.

Review and Practice

Try this matching exercise to check how much you have learned from this lesson.

Select a word, then scroll to select the definition that you think matches it.

Word

Definition

Treaty of Versailles	media intended to create feelings of nationalism and support for the government
total war	a conflict affecting not just battlefields and soldiers, but also civilians, cities, and the countryside
propaganda	new leader of Russia after Bolshevik Revolution
Lenin	an international organization created to prevent another world war
rationing	the limiting of certain items or goods to the general public
Brest Litovsk	treaty that ended the fighting on the Eastern Front
Lusitania	Woodrow Wilson's proposal for a post-war peace settlement
League of Nations	The agreement that ended World War I, established new nations, and punished Germany for its actions
reparations	compensation paid by Germany for war damages
Fourteen Points	a passenger ship sailing between Britain and New York that was sunk by a German U-boat in 1915

Assignment:

What Do I Have to Do?

Imagine being stuck in a trench for months without any contact with your family, country, or the general comforts of home. This was indeed the case for many young soldiers during World War I. Many of these young men were teenagers just like you. How would you pass the time to save your sanity while still defending your nation?

With the advanced technology and social networking tools that we have today, we receive news as it happens. Imagine if we could have received tweets (similar to text messages) from the trenches giving us a play by play of what was happening on the Western Front?

For this assessment, you will create ten tweets from the trenches in World War I. Use the [Ten Tweets from the Trenches](#) to get started. As you create your tweets, be sure to put yourself in the shoes of a young soldier camped out in a trench on the Western Front. You may choose what side you wish to represent. What do you want to share with the world?

Tweets must include:

- a minimum of 100 characters, but no more than 140 characters
- details from the lesson that show your understanding of fighting conditions during World War I
- accurate use of **at least one** of the following key terms in **each** tweet (ten total in your submission):

aircraft
gas
machine gun
tank
trench
submarine (or U-boat)
Zeppelin

Christmas Truce
Treaty of Brest Litovsk
self-determination
Eastern Front
Western Front
Allied Powers
Central Powers

Consider these questions as you create your tweets:

- What nation are you fighting for?
- Why did you decide to fight for your nation?
- Was fighting in the war what you expected?
- Are you able to effectively fight against your enemy? Why or why not?
- What have you seen, heard, and smelled in the trenches?
- What do you know about the enemy?
- What are your goals if you make it out alive?
- How are you passing the time?
- What would you like to tell your family or the citizens of the nation that you are fighting for?