

WWI brought changes

- Political
- Intellectual
- Artistic

Napoleon defeated

Germany united to stave off Russia & stand between Russia & Austria-Hungary

Wanted to isolate France to cut off imperial ambitions

2 rival alliances formed

Beginning of war, most countries were ruled by dynastic empires

Changes –

Industrialization – Keeping up with the Joneses

Nationalism – social & scientific Darwinism

Recordkeeping = conscription

Military as “school of the nation.”

Germany had a standing army of 3,500,000 in 1914

Manpower – conscription – willingness to bear the cost (though eventually results in pessimism and rebellion)

All Europe except the UK

Technology improvements –

- Telephone,
- Telegraph
- Wireless
- Machine gun
- Chemicals
- Electricity

Germany population rose dramatically & Germany industrialized more aggressively than any other nation.

Russia defeated the Turks of the Ottoman empire – Germany steps in to prevent a

Russian takeover

Russians want a way to the sea

Russia/France ally against Germany

In the Balkans, small countries such as Serbia also feel the pull of nationalism; they want independence.

The independence front waits until Archduke Ferdinand – Nephew of the Hapsburg Empire comes to the Balkans and assassinate him.

August 1914 World War I begins

Germany knew it would be fighting a war on 2 fronts
Formulated the Shlieffen plan – Russia would be slow to mobilize – take France in 4 weeks and then turn German attention back to Russia
Soldiers heading out in August planned to be home for Christmas.

World War I was unlike any war before

- Volume
- Technology
- Impersonal means

Trench warfare

3 trenches deep
Up to 3 miles inward
Walls shored up by sandbags or wattling
Edges lined with barbed wire

Flame throwers

Mortars

Machine guns

Chemical Weapons

Chlorine gas

Phosgene

Cause rotting inside & out

Skin blistered

Mucous stripped from Bronchial tubes

Back home – direct intervention of the state in everyday life

Gov't directed economy

Rationing

Extra benefits to those supporting the war effort

Impact was different in each country –

UK

Russia

Austria

The overall attitude – Just send more men.

US strongly against involvement – no global sense
German U-Boats open engagement policy
Sinking of Lusitania – 128 killed

From US perspective – Germany couldn't win – UK naval dominance
Zimmerman telegram – Germany & Mexico allied

1917 – Russian Revolution
Bolshevik
Lenin
Stalin

Thomas Edward Lawrence
State of the Middle East

By the time WWI ended in 1918
10 million casualties
Men returned home deformed, disfigured & disheartened

The treaties were harsh and set up a cycle –
Germany paid Europe for damages
The US paid Germany to help out her starving citizens
The Europeans paid the US to thank them for their aid

The long-term results:
Loss of belief & hope

An age of rebellion – pleasure and purposeful joy
An age of industry – the land was utterly destroyed

Loss of belief in the idea that humanity was going somewhere, that we were improving/
could be improved

Depersonalization – question of the value of humanity

Loss of focus on beauty –

Horror of the war

No absolute standards

No rationality

Failure of logic

World no longer makes sense

Artist is not conduit for creation but for chaos

Failure of humanity

Art and propaganda fade in and out