

1: History of the United Kingdom during the First World War - Wikipedia

World War I began in 1914, after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and lasted until 1918. During the conflict, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (the Central

Visit Website Did you know? As early as 1919, in his memoir and propaganda tract "Mein Kampf" My Struggle, Adolf Hitler had predicted a general European war that would result in "the extermination of the Jewish race in Germany. In the mids, he began the rearmament of Germany, secretly and in violation of the Versailles Treaty. After signing alliances with Italy and Japan against the Soviet Union, Hitler sent troops to occupy Austria in 1938 and the following year annexed Czechoslovakia. Hitler had long planned an invasion of Poland, a nation to which Great Britain and France had guaranteed military support if it was attacked by Germany. The pact with Stalin meant that Hitler would not face a war on two fronts once he invaded Poland, and would have Soviet assistance in conquering and dividing the nation itself. On September 17, 1939, Soviet troops invaded Poland from the east. Under attack from both sides, Poland fell quickly, and by early 1940 Germany and the Soviet Union had divided control over the nation, according to a secret protocol appended to the Nonaggression Pact. In fact, the Germans broke through the line with their tanks and planes and continued to the rear, rendering it useless. Hitler now turned his attention to Britain, which had the defensive advantage of being separated from the Continent by the English Channel. To pave the way for an amphibious invasion dubbed Operation Sea Lion, German planes bombed Britain extensively throughout the summer of 1940, including night raids on London and other industrial centers that caused heavy civilian casualties and damage. Arguments between Hitler and his commanders delayed the next German advance until October, when it was stalled by a Soviet counteroffensive and the onset of harsh winter weather. World War II in the Pacific With Britain facing Germany in Europe, the United States was the only nation capable of combating Japanese aggression, which by late 1941 included an expansion of its ongoing war with China and the seizure of European colonial holdings in the Far East. On December 7, 1941, Japanese aircraft attacked the major U. S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. Germany and the other Axis Powers promptly declared war on the United States. After a long string of Japanese victories, the U. S. Pacific Fleet won the Battle of Midway in June 1942, which proved to be a turning point in the war. On Guadalcanal, one of the southern Solomon Islands, the Allies also had success against Japanese forces in a series of battles from August to February 1943, helping turn the tide further in the Pacific. In mid-1944, Allied naval forces began an aggressive counterattack against Japan, involving a series of amphibious assaults on key Japanese-held islands in the Pacific. The approach of winter, along with dwindling food and medical supplies, spelled the end for German troops there, and the last of them surrendered on January 31, 1945. Soviet troops soon advanced into Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania, while Hitler gathered his forces to drive the Americans and British back from Germany in the Battle of the Bulge December January 1945, the last major German offensive of the war. An intensive aerial bombardment in February preceded the Allied land invasion of Germany, and by the time Germany formally surrendered on May 8, 1945, Soviet forces had occupied much of the country. Hitler was already dead, having committed suicide on April 30 in his Berlin bunker. Post-war Germany would be divided into four occupation zones, to be controlled by the Soviet Union, Britain, the United States and France. Heavy casualties sustained in the campaigns at Iwo Jima February and Okinawa April-June 1945, and fears of the even costlier land invasion of Japan led Truman to authorize the use of a new and devastating weapon—the atomic bomb—on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August. On August 10, the Japanese government issued a statement declaring they would accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, and on September 2, 1945, U. S. World War II proved to be the most devastating international conflict in history, taking the lives of some 35 to 60 million people, including 6 million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis. Millions more were injured, and still more lost their homes and property. The legacy of the war would include the spread of communism from the Soviet Union into eastern Europe as well as its eventual triumph in China, and the global shift in power from Europe to two rival superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—that would soon face off against each other in the Cold War. Start your free trial today.

2: HISTORY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Selected Highlights. Countdown to War. Read a single page summary of the origins of the First World War - the tangled secret alliances, the royal feuds, the personalities and the seemingly inevitable series of events in June and July which culminated in the outbreak of hostilities spanning four years.

Visit Website The assassination of Franz Ferdinand set off a rapidly escalating chain of events: Austria-Hungary, like many in countries around the world, blamed the Serbian government for the attack and hoped to use the incident as justification for settling the question of Serbian nationalism once and for all. The Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary then sent an ultimatum to Serbia, with such harsh terms as to make it almost impossible to accept. World War I Begins Convinced that Austria-Hungary was readying for war, the Serbian government ordered the Serbian army to mobilize, and appealed to Russia for assistance. On August 4, German troops crossed the border into Belgium. In the first battle of World War I, the Germans assaulted the heavily fortified city of Liege, using the most powerful weapons in their arsenal—enormous siege cannons—to capture the city by August 15. Leaving death and destruction in their wake, including the shooting of civilians and the execution of a Belgian priest, whom they accused of inciting civilian resistance, the Germans advanced through Belgium towards France. First Battle of the Marne In the First Battle of the Marne, fought from September 4–12, French and British forces confronted the invading German army, which had by then penetrated deep into northeastern France, within 30 miles of Paris. The Allied troops checked the German advance and mounted a successful counterattack, driving the Germans back to north of the Aisne River. The defeat meant the end of German plans for a quick victory in France. Both sides dug into trenches, and the Western Front was the setting for a hellish war of attrition that would last more than three years. Particularly long and costly battles in this campaign were fought at Verdun February–December and the Battle of the Somme July–November. German and French troops suffered close to a million casualties in the Battle of Verdun alone. This increased hostility was directed toward the imperial regime of Czar Nicholas II and his unpopular German-born wife, Alexandra. Russia reached an armistice with the Central Powers in early December, freeing German troops to face the remaining Allies on the Western Front. America Enters World War I At the outbreak of fighting in 1914, the United States remained on the sidelines of World War I, adopting the policy of neutrality favored by President Woodrow Wilson while continuing to engage in commerce and shipping with European countries on both sides of the conflict. In May 1915, Germany declared the waters surrounding the British Isles to be a war zone, and German U-boats sunk several commercial and passenger vessels, including the U.S.S. Lusitania. Widespread protest over the sinking by U-boat of the British ocean liner Lusitania—traveling from New York to Liverpool, England with hundreds of American passengers onboard—in May helped turn the tide of American public opinion against Germany. Germany sunk four more U.S. ships. Gallipoli Campaign With World War I having effectively settled into a stalemate in Europe, the Allies attempted to score a victory against the Ottoman Empire, which entered the conflict on the side of the Central Powers in late 1914. After a failed attack on the Dardanelles the strait linking the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean Sea, Allied forces led by Britain launched a large-scale land invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula in April 1915. The invasion also proved a dismal failure, and in January 1916 Allied forces were staged a full retreat from the shores of the peninsula, after suffering 250,000 casualties. The young Winston Churchill, then first lord of the British Admiralty, resigned his command after the failed Gallipoli campaign in May 1915, accepting a commission with an infantry battalion in France. British-led forces also combated the Ottoman Turks in Egypt and Mesopotamia, while in northern Italy, Austrian and Italian troops faced off in a series of 12 battles along the Isonzo River, located at the border between the two nations. British and French—and later, American—troops arrived in the region, and the Allies began to take back the Italian Front. The biggest naval engagement of World War I, the Battle of Jutland May 31–June 1, 1916, left British naval superiority on the North Sea intact, and Germany would make no further attempts to break an Allied naval blockade for the remainder of the war. Second Battle of the Marne With Germany able to build up its strength on the Western Front after the armistice with Russia, Allied troops struggled to hold off another German offensive until promised reinforcements from the United States were

able to arrive. On July 15, , German troops launched what would become the last German offensive of the war, attacking French forces joined by 85, American troops as well as some of the British Expeditionary Force in the Second Battle of the Marne. The Allies successfully pushed back the German offensive, and launched their own counteroffensive just three days later. The Second Battle of the Marne turned the tide of war decisively towards the Allies, who were able to regain much of France and Belgium in the months that followed. Toward Armistice By the fall of , the Central Powers were unraveling on all fronts. Despite the Turkish victory at Gallipoli, later defeats by invading forces and an Arab revolt had combined to destroy the Ottoman economy and devastate its land, and the Turks signed a treaty with the Allies in late October Austria-Hungary, dissolving from within due to growing nationalist movements among its diverse population, reached an armistice on November 4. Facing dwindling resources on the battlefield, discontent on the homefront and the surrender of its allies, Germany was finally forced to seek an armistice on November 11, , ending World War I. Treaty of Versailles At the Paris Peace Conference in , Allied leaders would state their desire to build a post-war world that would safeguard itself against future conflicts of such devastating scale. As the years passed, hatred of the Versailles treaty and its authors settled into a smoldering resentment in Germany that would, two decades later, be counted among the causes of World War II. Civilian casualties caused indirectly by the war numbered close to 10 million. The two nations most affected were Germany and France, each of which sent some 80 percent of their male populations between the ages of 15 and 49 into battle. The political disruption surrounding World War I also contributed to the fall of four venerable imperial dynastiesâ€”Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey. World War I brought about massive social upheaval, as millions of women entered the workforce to support men who went to war, and to replace those who never came back. The severe effects that chemical weapons such as mustard gas and phosgene had on soldiers and civilians during World War I galvanized public and military attitudes against their continued use. The Geneva Convention agreements, signed in , restricted the use of chemical and biological agents in warfare, and remains in effect today.

3: World War I | HistoryNet

World War I (often abbreviated as WWI or WW1), also known as the First World War or the Great War, was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July to 11 November

The large allied air forces had taken the combat fight to the air, thus reducing the casualties on the ground. There were 55, airmen whose graves are unknown as their remains were never found. Their names appear on the memorial at Runnymede, England. A brief history of the First and Second World Wars TOP The challenges of air flight have intrigued inventors for centuries with attempts being made in hot air balloons, glider wings and by imitation of birds. February 23, marked the 100th anniversary when a Canadian, John A. McCurdy, made the first powered flight. Numerous attempts had been made for many years and finally, with a gasoline engine mounted on the fuselage of a bi-plane - the Kitty Hawk - was first successfully flown December 17, by Orville Wright when it was launched from a foot 18 meter rail on a sand flat in North Carolina, U. S. Germany tried to prevent the war from spreading but on July 30th, Russia announced it would mobilize. The German army en route to France marched through Belgium which then caused Britain to declare war on Germany August 4th, In May, Italy entered the war on the side of the Allies with the hope that the Italian front would help Russia on the Eastern Front. The Dardanelles was pulled into the war when the sea route between the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea was closed. Romania joined the Allied forces in August, Following the battles at Verdun, Ypres and Passchendaele; Britain and France saw hopes of victory shattered. On April 6th, 1918, the U. S. Weapons of aggression are developed quickly during wartime and the First World War introduced the aero plane, submarine, tank and automatic machine gun as well as poison gas first used by the Germans in April, during the Second Battle of Ypres. Britain ruled the seas with a very large, efficient Navy which caused supply problems for Germany. War in the air was in its infancy but some Canadian Army personnel who volunteered for air pilot training found that preferable to the ground fighting. Warfare in the wet and cold trenches resulted in much disease. Machine guns and large artillery guns Big Bertha caused death by the hundreds of thousands and much disfigurement of the wounded. Early air service was most dangerous not only because attempts with mounted machine guns shooting off propellers but also because the wings of planes might fall off in a steep dive. The aerodynamics of the early models was not perfected. The parachute development was initially non-existent until early and survivors who had to ditch were very lucky. The British flew Nieuports and Sopwith Dolphins. In 1917, Germany built the Junkers J 1, which was the first all-metal body and cantilever wings and then built the Fokker D V11 in 1918. It was known for its climbing ability; then there was the red Albatros and Jagdstaffel. In fact, pilots simply carried guns or had a second airman operating a machine gun to shoot at other planes. Kaiser Wilhelm gave up his throne on November 9th, and fled the Netherlands. On November 11th, 1918, the German Army accepted the armistice terms demanded by the Allies. Nearly 10 million soldiers killed and nearly 21 million were wounded. No one knows how many civilians died. Property damage was greater in France and Belgium than anywhere else as armies destroyed farms and villages when they passed through. Economies were in shambles. Governments borrowed heavily by selling War Bonds. Allies borrowed from the U. S. That caused wild inflation and shook the foundations of several governments. The Peace Settlement demanded that Germany be responsible for the war debts, particularly for the debts of major European Allies. Fliers, had now come home from overseas to Canada. In twos and threes and fives and tens they slipped quietly into town; unhonoured, no, but unsung. From ships and Pullmans, young men in uniform, wings on their breasts, wings underlaid on hundreds, if not thousands, of tunics with the ribbon-strips which bespeak dauntless courage. These were pioneer adventurers; airmen. Now, as civilians looking for jobs, they often found that too many men were seeking the same job, and unemployment was growing in leaps and bounds. The worldwide spread of Influenza of killed more people than did the war. The air force in Canada was non-existent, at least for a few years, until April 1st, when the Royal Canadian Air Force came into being. Government attitudes varied from apathy with little operational money to downright disapproval in when world economic conditions struck a new low level and the force was more than decimated. But like so many other nations with enormous expenses for unemployment relief and other urgent needs, Canada had chosen to

ignore the rumblings war until It was only through extreme enthusiasm in that the Canadian Air Force was revived. The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan agreement was signed by the Canadian government on December 17th, with Great Britain to build 60 airfields and 70 schools for pilot and aircrew training men from Australia, New Zealand Britain as well as Canada 25, per annum ground-crew and others for the war effort. Soon, many young men and women volunteered to join the air force to free the world of tyranny and these plans had to be revised upwards. During the years , it is estimated that over 60 million people died worldwide as a direct result of war. It is often said that the Second World War was simply a continuation of the First World War as the early conflict was not concluded properly giving rise to Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. Again, it can be considered that these young airmen numbering in the tens of thousands were pioneers in the field of aviation. Similar to the planes of the First World War, the Hurricanes and Spitfires were equipped with machine guns and bombs; new radio and radar equipment and the briefly trained pilots stepped from their training planes in Canada into the fighter planes in England, ready to meet the foe. Halifax and Lancaster Bomber pilots were trained to fly the two and four engine bombers with a payload to drop over Germany factories in bomber waves of or planes. Some fighter pilots had volunteered as part of the Royal Air Force for the Battle of Britain and took their training in Britain. Others, of the BCATP were trained here in Canada and then sent overseas making a significant contribution to the war effort. Jet engine airplanes were being developed in both England and Germany. When peace in Europe VE was finally declared on 6th May, , many pilots and aircrew returned home. Neither Russia nor the U. Of course, we all hope that there will be peace in our time.

4: World War I - Wikipedia

In the years leading to World War I there are five major powers within Europe - Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, France and Britain. The cast list is unchanged since the early 18th century (except that Prussia is now Germany), and the players are well used to the game of diplomacy in which.

Early Years Europeans were fighting heavily on two fronts before the U. This assurance was confirmed in the week following the assassination, before William, on July 6, set off upon his annual cruise to the North Cape , off Norway. Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, riding in an open carriage at Sarajevo shortly before their assassination, June 28, When the delivery was announced, on July 24, Russia declared that Austria-Hungary must not be allowed to crush Serbia. Though Serbia offered to submit the issue to international arbitration, Austria-Hungary promptly severed diplomatic relations and ordered partial mobilization. Home from his cruise on July 27, William learned on July 28 how Serbia had replied to the ultimatum. At once he instructed the German Foreign Office to tell Austria-Hungary that there was no longer any justification for war and that it should content itself with a temporary occupation of Belgrade. But, meanwhile, the German Foreign Office had been giving such encouragement to Berchtold that already on July 27 he had persuaded Franz Joseph to authorize war against Serbia. War was in fact declared on July 28, and Austro-Hungarian artillery began to bombard Belgrade the next day. Russia then ordered partial mobilization against Austria-Hungary, and on July 30, when Austria-Hungary was riposting conventionally with an order of mobilization on its Russian frontier, Russia ordered general mobilization. On July 31 Germany sent a hour ultimatum requiring Russia to halt its mobilization and an hour ultimatum requiring France to promise neutrality in the event of war between Russia and Germany. Both Russia and France predictably ignored these demands. On August 1 Germany ordered general mobilization and declared war against Russia, and France likewise ordered general mobilization. The next day Germany sent troops into Luxembourg and demanded from Belgium free passage for German troops across its neutral territory. On August 3 Germany declared war against France. In the night of August 3â€”4 German forces invaded Belgium. Thereupon, Great Britain , which had no concern with Serbia and no express obligation to fight either for Russia or for France but was expressly committed to defend Belgium, on August 4 declared war against Germany. Romania had renewed its secret anti-Russian alliance of with the Central Powers on February 26, , but now chose to remain neutral. Italy had confirmed the Triple Alliance on December 7, , but could now propound formal arguments for disregarding it: Thenceforth, they could be called the Allied , or Entente, powers, or simply the Allies. The outbreak of war in August was generally greeted with confidence and jubilation by the peoples of Europe, among whom it inspired a wave of patriotic feeling and celebration. The war was welcomed either patriotically, as a defensive one imposed by national necessity, or idealistically, as one for upholding right against might, the sanctity of treaties, and international morality.

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5: First World www.enganchecubano.com - A Multimedia History of World War One

Lots of history books have been written on World War 1 facts and why it started. But it all boils down to the fact that Europe had split into two large families of countries. The Allies " the British Empire, France, Belgium, Russia and later, the USA " were in one family.

For more information, click to see the Casualties of World War I. The outbreak of war between European nations was the result of several factors: This would increase German influence in the world and likely allow the country to expand its colonial holdings. Russia was rebuilding and modernizing its large army and had begun a program of industrialization. They formed an alliance for self-protection against the Russian bear. France, still stinging over the loss of Alsace and part of Lorraine in the Franco-Prussian war, made an agreement allying itself with Russia in any war with Germany or Austria-Hungary. Britain, after finding itself friendless during the Second Boer War in South Africa " allied itself with France and worked to improve relations with the United States of America. Russia, with many ethnic groups inside its vast expanse, made an alliance with Serbia in the Balkans. As its ability to exert control over its holdings in the Balkans weakened, ethnic and regional groups broke away and formed new states. Rising nationalism led to the First and Second Balkan Wars, and As a result of those wars, Serbia increased its size and began pushing for a union of all South Slavic peoples. Serbian nationalism led year-old Gavrilo Princip to assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir apparent to the Habsburg throne of Austria-Hungary, and his wife, Sophie. Austria-Hungary, urged on by Germany, sent a list of demands to Serbia in response; the demands were such that Serbia was certain to reject them. Russia came in on the side of the Serbs, Germany on the side of the Habsburgs, and the entangling alliances between the nations of Europe pulled one after another into the war. Although diplomats throughout Europe strove to settle matters without warfare right up to the time the shooting started, the influence military leaders enjoyed in many nations won out"along with desires to capture new lands or reclaim old ones. Combat in the First World War German military planners were ready when the declarations of war began flying across Europe. They intended to hold off the Russians in the east, swiftly knock France out of the war through a maneuver known as the Schlieffen Plan, then throw their full force, along with Austria-Hungary, against the Russians. The Schlieffen Plan, named for General Count Alfred von Schlieffen who created it in , called for invading the Low Countries Luxembourg and Belgium in order to bypass to the north the strong fortifications along the French border. After a rapid conquest of the Low Countries, the German advance would continue into northern France, swing around Paris to the west and capture the French capital. It almost worked, but German commander in chief General Helmuth von Moltke decided to send his forces east of Paris to engage and defeat the weakened French army head-on. In doing so he exposed his right flank to counterattack by the French and a British Expeditionary Force, resulting in the First Battle of the Marne, September 6"10. Despite casualties in the hundreds of thousands, the battle was a stalemate, but it stopped the German drive on Paris. Both sides began digging a network of trenches. The First Battle of the Marne was a window onto how the rest of the war would be fought: The centuries-old method of massed charges to break through enemy positions did not work when the men faced machine guns, barbed wire, and drastically more effective artillery than in the past. The next four years would see battles in which millions of artillery shells were fired and millions of men were killed or mangled. Click here to read about some of the costliest battles of the First World War. Deadly new weapons were responsible for the unprecedented carnage. New Weapons of World War I Among the lethal technological developments that were used for the first time or in some cases used for the first time in a major conflict during the Great War were the machine gun, poison gas, flamethrowers, tanks and aircraft. Artillery increased dramatically in size, range and killing power compared to its 19th-century counterparts. In the war at sea, submarines could strike unseen from beneath the waves, using torpedoes to send combat and merchant ships to the bottom. Click here for more information on Weapons of World War I. War on the Eastern Front On the Eastern Front, the German general Paul von Hindenburg and his chief of staff Erich Ludendorff engineered strategies that gave them dramatic victories over Russian armies. The war became increasing unpopular among the Russian people. As hoped, Lenin

helped fuel the rising revolutionary fervor. The tsar was deposed and executed with his family in the March revolution. When the new government failed to bring about a rapid peace, it was overthrown in November by a socialist revolution led by Lenin, following which Russia signed a peace agreement with Germany. War in the Mountains Fighting in the high elevations of the Balkans and Alps created additional agony for soldiers fighting there: Serbia, whose countryman had fired the shots that gave rise to the slaughter taking place in Europe, was invaded twice by Austria-Hungary but repulsed both attempts. In the autumn of 1914, a third invasion came. This time the Hapsburgs were joined by Germany and Bulgaria. The outnumbered Serbs gave ground. Ultimately, the Serbian Army only escaped annihilation by a demanding march through Albania to the Adriatic Sea, where the French Navy rescued the survivors. Romania remained neutral until August when it joined the Allies and declared war on Austria-Hungary in hopes of securing additional territories including Transylvania. As the poorly trained Romanian army advanced into Transylvania, German forces invaded and occupied Romania itself, quickly knocking the country out of the war. Italy, wooed by both sides, entered the war on the Allied side in May 1915. What gains the Italians made in the war were wiped out by a rout that began at Caporetto in October and unhinged the entire line. An attempted invasion on the Gallipoli Peninsula resulted in a bloody repulse, but war in the interior of the Ottoman Empire met with greater success. Arab groups seeking to overthrow the empire waged a successful guerrilla war in the Mideast, led by Prince Feisal, third son of the Grand Sharif of Mecca. The revolt was aided by British liaison officer T. Lawrence of Arabia, who became known as Lawrence of Arabia. When the war ended, the Ottoman Empire was broken up. England and France drew borders for new countries in the Mideast without regard for ethnic and religious factions. The centuries-old tensions between the native inhabitants of the region led to many of the problems causing turmoil in the Mideast today, another irony of the War to End War. Africa was home to a sideshow of the European fighting. European nationals and colonial troops of both sides fought against each other, but the German colonies were widely separated and unable to support each other. In German East Africa Tanzania an aggressive general named Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck waged a guerilla campaign against his British opponents until after the armistice was signed in Europe that ended the Great War. In the waters of the Pacific Ocean German commerce raiders found prey among merchant vessels of Allied nations. Japan joined the Allies war effort on August 23, 1914, ostensibly in fulfillment of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of 1902. Accomplishing that goal while supporting large armies engaged in warfare proved impossible for Germany, but World War I saw the last great battles fought entirely between surface ships. Jutland would prove to be not only the largest naval battle up to that time but the last in which fighting would take place only between surface ships. The most significant advance in naval warfare to come out of the Great War was the development of submarines, which the German Imperial Navy called Unterseeboots undersea boats. That got shortened to U-boats, a name that became synonymous with submarine. Subs could hide beneath the waves in shipping lanes to attack merchant or combat ships with torpedoes without ever being seen. Germany engaged in such unrestricted warfare until U-201 sank the British passenger liner Lusitania off Ireland in May 1915. Over 1,200 lives were lost, including Americans, and the US threatened to break diplomatic relations with Germany. The Imperial Navy subsequently instituted strict regulations for U-boat attacks, but those went by the boards in as the Germans tried to cut off supplies to Britain and starve the island nation into submission. It was a bad decision. Italian aircraft were used for reconnaissance and small-scale bombing during the Italo-Turkish War of 1911-12. Aircraft during World War I continued to be used primarily for reconnaissance, including photo-reconnaissance missions. Pilots began shooting at each other with pistols and rifles. Soon various schemes were attempted to attach machine guns to planes. Early war planes were very light and used small engines with top speeds of less than 100 mph. On many designs the engine was in the rear and pushed the plane through the air. Changes might occur within weeks; in the decades following the war, such changes would take years. Zeppelins were also used for reconnaissance and for bombing over land and sea. While the war on the ground was a miserable existence in muddy, rat- and disease-infested trenches, and millions of lives might be spent to gain a few miles of territory, the war in the air captured the imagination of the world. Using this exciting new technology to maneuver through the skies and engage the enemy in one-on-one dogfights in which skillful pilots could rise to the status of ace gave the air war a sense of glamour that still hangs over the pilots of World War I. America was drawn into the conflict

by the Zimmerman telegraph and unrestricted submarine warfare. On January 16, 1917, Foreign Secretary of the German Empire Arthur Zimmermann sent a coded message to the German ambassador in Mexico City, Heinrich von Eckart informing him Germany would return to unrestricted submarine warfare on February 1, a policy that might cause America to declare war. The code was broken, and the contents of the telegram published on March 1. Two weeks later German U-boats sank three American vessels. Wilson asked Congress on April 1 to authorize a declaration of war against Germany, which it did four days later. War was declared on the other Central Powers shortly thereafter. When American troops and war materiel began arriving in Europe later in 1917, it unalterably shifted the balance of power in favor of the Allies. A final German offensive began on May 21, 1918, an attempt to win the war before the full weight of American strength could arrive. An Allied operation that became known as the Hundred Days Offensive pushed the enemy back to the German border by September. The German navy mutinied. Ludendorff, architect of many German victories in the east, was dismissed. Riots broke out, often led by German Bolsheviks. Prince Max, Chancellor of Germany, authorized negotiations for peace terms and stipulated that both military and civilian representatives be involved. He then turned his title over to Friedrich Ebert, leader of the Socialist Democratic movement. Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated on November 9. An agreement between the combatants called for all guns to fall silent on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Yet, even on the morning of November 11, before the designated time for the armistice to begin, some field officers ordered their men to make attacks, which accomplished little except more bloodshed. The Armistice A series of peace treaties were signed between the combatant nations, but the most significant was the Treaty of Versailles, signed on July 28, 1919, five years after Austria-Hungary had declared war on Serbia. Germany had hoped Woodrow Wilson would be a moderating factor that would allow for more generous peace terms, but the nations that had lost millions of young men to the weapons of the Central Powers were in no mood to be forgiving. As a result of the various treaties, the Ottoman Empire was dismantled. Austria-Hungary was broken into separate nations and forced to cede lands to successor states such as Czechoslovakia.

6: A brief history of the First and Second World Wars

From scathing verses on the horrors of life in the trenches to laments on the tragedy of a lost generation, the First World War inspired some of British poetry's most poignant and affecting work.

Isolation was a long American tradition. Since the days of George Washington, Americans struggled to remain protected by the mighty oceans on its border. When European conflicts erupted, as they frequently did, many in the United States claimed exceptionalism. When the Archduke of Austria-Hungary was killed in cold blood, igniting the most destructive war in human history, the initial reaction in the United States was the expected will for neutrality. As a nation of immigrants, The United States would have difficulty picking a side. Despite the obvious ties to Britain based on history and language, there were many United States citizens who claimed Germany and Austria-Hungary as their parent lands. Support of either the Allies or the Central Powers might prove divisive. In the early days of the war, as Britain and France struggled against Germany, American leaders decided it was in the national interest to continue trade with all sides as before. A neutral nation cannot impose an embargo on one side and continue trade with the other and retain its neutral status. In addition, United States merchants and manufacturers feared that a boycott would cripple the American economy. Great Britain, with its powerful navy, had different ideas. A major part of the British strategy was to impose a blockade on Germany. American trade with the Central Powers simply could not be permitted. The results of the blockade were astonishing. Trade with England and France more than tripled between and , while trade with Germany was cut by over ninety percent. It was this situation that prompted submarine warfare by the Germans against Americans at sea. After two and a half years of isolationism, America entered the Great War. Since the Russians decided to quit the war, the Germans were able to move many of their troops from the eastern front to the stalemate in the West. The seemingly infinite supply of fresh American soldiers countered this potential advantage and was demoralizing to the Germans. American soldiers entered the bloody trenches and by November , the war was over. Contributions to the war effort were not confined to the battlefield. The entire American economy was mobilized to win the war. From planting extra vegetables to keeping the furnace turned off, American civilians provided extra food and fuel to the war effort. The United States government engaged in a massive propaganda campaign to raise troops and money. Where dissent was apparent, it was stifled, prompting many to question whether American civil liberties were in jeopardy. In the end, the war was won, but the peace was lost. Two dangerous decades of political isolationism followed, only to end in an ever more cataclysmic war. This megasite boasts several essays in these categories and many more, all illustrated, all outstanding. If you visit only one site, make this the one.

World War I, also called First World War or Great War, an international conflict that in embroiled most of the nations of Europe along with Russia, the United States, the Middle East, and other regions.

Enjoy the Famous Daily The diplomatic drift towards war: The cast list is unchanged since the early 18th century except that Prussia is now Germany, and the players are well used to the game of diplomacy in which alliances formed for defensive purposes turn into aggressive partnerships as soon as a new war develops a circumstance considered almost inevitable sooner or later in the atmosphere of national rivalry. However the 19th century has introduced one new element in the form of very much shorter wars. And the German nation is both more hungry for immediate success on the international stage than its rivals, and more nervous about succumbing to hostile alliances. The reasons are numerous. Germany has recently been transformed by Bismarck from a relatively minor player to potentially the most powerful nation in continental Europe. But as a late arrival on the world stage, it has no empire to match those of Britain, France and Russia. Nor, unlike them, has it a great navy - the most tangible symbol, perhaps, of international power. German nervousness is increased during the s when alliances among the European powers seem to be slipping beyond German control. Bismarck worked on the assumption of hostility from France eager to avenge the loss of Alsace and Lorraine and a neutral stance from Britain historically the great rival of France. He therefore concentrated his efforts on creating alliances with his eastern neighbours, Russia and Austria-Hungary. To these he added Italy, a new nation on the verge of great power status within Europe. As a result, while Austria-Hungary and Italy remain constant allies the three nations become known from as the Central Powers of Europe, Bismarck is constantly having to patch up or renew the alliance with Russia under the pressure of international events. The new Kaiser, recognizing the incompatibility of Russia and Austria-Hungary as allies, breaks off the alliance with Russia. As a result Russia and France, both equally alarmed by Germany, begin secret negotiations - which result in the Franco-Russian alliance of Then, even more surprisingly, in France and Britain agree an unprecedented Entente Cordiale. And by this time many, particularly in Germany, feel that such a conflict cannot be far in the future. All the major nations have been preparing for such an eventuality, but Germany has done so in the most deliberate fashion. The strategic drift towards war: To this end much pride is placed in the plan devised by Admiral von Tirpitz to provide the nation with a High Seas Fleet to match the naval forces of Britain. In he persuades the politicians to pass a Navy Law providing for a fleet of 16 battleships. Two years later a new Navy Law revises the figure to 38 battleships, with a completion date of for the full fleet. Germany follows suit, upgrading its production line to the new standard. Meanwhile the German strategy for the army in the event of war is both more secret and more illicit. It is the work of Alfred von Schlieffen, chief of the general staff from to During the second half of the s, when France and Russia are in alliance and it is accepted that a war must be fought on both fronts, Schlieffen devises a two-stage plan. France will then be defeated in time to redirect the full German might against Russia. Tirpitz argues for delay to give him more time to build up the fleet. His view prevails, but it is agreed that it will be essential to wait for not much more than two years. The other four players in this dangerous game are also now following suit. There is no evident reason for war. But policy, as if by stealth, seems to be making it inevitable. Five weeks to war: This is a highly dramatic event, though less unusual than now since the turn of the century assassins have claimed the lives of a president of the USA, a king of Portugal and a king of Greece. But it is certainly not due cause for a world war. The first reaction to the outrage at Sarajevo is from Vienna. To the Austrian emperor and his advisers the immediate requirement is to destroy the influence of Serbia, the mainstay of Slav resistance to Austria-Hungary in the Balkans. But the danger is that an invasion of Serbia may provoke Slav solidarity and thus war with Russia. So an urgent question is sent on July 4 to Berlin. Within two days an answer comes back in the affirmative. The Austrian emperor should deal with Serbia as he thinks fit. Germany nevertheless hopes that Russia will hold back, leaving the Serbian crisis as a local affair between Vienna and Belgrade. Subsequently the Kaiser even sends telegrams to the Tsar urging this course of action. But if Russia does intervene, there will be one advantage to Germany. The subsequent war can be presented to the world as the

result of Russian aggression. For three weeks there is a deceptive lull, partly owing to disagreements in Vienna and partly because Serbia makes conciliatory efforts to defuse the situation. Then suddenly, on July 28, Austria-Hungary declares war on its small neighbour. The following day, removing all chance of further diplomacy, an Austrian flotilla on the Danube bombards Belgrade. In response Russia mobilizes her army, thus inevitably triggering the urgent launch by Germany of the Schlieffen Plan - for if Russia gains the advantage of amassing troops in the east, there will be no time for the preliminary defeat of France in the west. With her options thus seemingly reduced by strategic demands to only one, Germany impetuously declares war on Russia on August 1. Two days later she also declares war on France. During the night of the same day, August 3, German armies cross the border into Belgium, to begin the flanking movement which is intended to bring them rapidly down into northern France and so once again echoes of to Paris. This action brings in the fifth of the European powers. But the violation of the neutrality of Belgium introduces an element which the Germans have either overlooked or have considered insignificant. Under this obligation Britain declares war on Germany on August 4. For the first time in years all the major powers of Europe are at war. A mere five weeks and three days have passed since the unexpected event at Sarajevo.

8: Routledge Studies in First World War History - Routledge

Read the essential details about the causes and events of WW1. Index Menu. Sections include Timeline, Outbreak, Allied Forces, Central Powers, Important Battles, Political Leaders, Trench Warfare, Women at War, Weapons.

During the war H. He specifically adopted Windsor as the surname for all descendants of Queen Victoria then living in Britain, excluding women who married into other families and their descendants. George compensated several of his male relatives by creating them British peers. The system for titling members of the royal family was also simplified. The cabinet agreed but the king was worried that public opinion was hostile and said no. It is likely the tsar would have refused to leave Russia in any case. He remained and in he and his family were ordered killed by Lenin, the Bolshevik leader. His role in the war, although limited, led to his great popularity among veterans of the conflict. From left to right: Sims , USN Other members of the royal family were similarly involved. Internment in the United Kingdom during the First World War The Aliens Restriction Act, passed on 5 August, required all foreign nationals to register with the police, and by 9 September just under 67, German, Austrian and Hungarian nationals had done so. It rescinded a military decision of 7 August to intern all nationals of enemy states between the ages of 17 and 42, and focussed instead only on those suspected of being a threat to national security. By September, 10, aliens were being held, but between November and April few arrests were made and thousands of internees were actually released. Public anti-German sentiment, which had been building since October following reports of German atrocities in Belgium , peaked after the sinking of the RMS Lusitania on 7 May The incident prompted a week of rioting across the UK, during which virtually every German-owned shop had its windows broken. The reaction forced the government to implement a tougher policy on internment, as much for the aliens own safety as for the security of the country. All non- naturalised enemy nationals of military age were to be interned, while those over military age were to be repatriated, and by only a small number of enemy nationals were still residing at liberty. London army volunteers await their pay at St. In , the British had a small, largely urban English, volunteer force [79] of , soldiers, almost half of whom were posted overseas to garrison the British Empire. In August , 74 of the infantry battalions and 12 of the 31 cavalry regiments were posted overseas. No decisive victory ever came. In August , the High Seas Fleet tried a similar enticement operation and was "lucky to escape annihilation". Aerial photography was attempted during , but again only became effective the next year. Planes did not carry parachutes until , though they had been available since before the war. The formation of the new service however would make the under utilised men and machines of the Royal Naval Air Service RNAS available for action across the Western Front , as well as ending the inter-service rivalries that at times had adversely affected aircraft procurement. George and the Dragon. Higher recruitment rates were seen in Wales and Scotland, though in the case of the Welsh and Irish, political tensions tended to "put something of a blight upon enlistment". As a result, conscription was introduced for the first time in January for single men, and extended in Mayâ€”June to all men aged 18 to 41 across England, Wales and Scotland, by way of the Military Service Acts. Dundee, where the female dominated jute industry limited male employment had one of the highest proportion of reservists and serving soldiers than almost any other British city. The policy of relying on volunteers had sharply reduced the capacity of heavy industry to produce the munitions needed for the war. Conscription Crisis of In April legislation was brought forward which allowed for extension of conscription to Ireland. The reaction was based particularly on the fact that implementation of conscription in Ireland was linked to a pledged "measure of self-government in Ireland". The strike was described as "complete and entire, an unprecedented event outside the continental countries ".

9: America in the First World War [www.enganchecubano.com]

The instability created in Europe by the First World War () set the stage for another international conflict-World War II-which broke out two decades later and would prove even more.

Enjoy the Famous Daily War in the west: Confronted at Mons on August 23 by a much larger German army, the British Expeditionary Force fights a successful rearguard action and retreats south again to escape encirclement. Meanwhile the initial French effort has been wasted in a drive east through Lorraine. By August 22 this is halted by the Germans, bringing France massive numbers of dead and wounded in the region of , a foretaste of the ghastly statistics which will characterize this war. After this disaster the French redirect their efforts northwards to counter the threat from Belgium. The German intention has been to sweep to the west of Paris and thus encircle the city. Opposition in Belgium and northern France has been sufficient to confine the German thrust to the east of the capital. Nevertheless by September 3, a month after their invasion and well within their schedule, German armies cross the river Marne. To safeguard against the likely fall of Paris, the French government moves south to Bordeaux. The Germans are within 30 miles of the capital when a mainly French force finally halts and then rolls back their relentless advance. During four days of fighting Sept. This reversal means the collapse of the Schlieffen Plan in the west, depending as it did on a rapid conquest of France. Meanwhile it has proved equally defective in the east, where the Russians make early advances. These advances prompt the German high command, in late August, to transfer four divisions from Belgium to the eastern front. So the army which is forced back over the Marne is smaller than intended. It is also much more vulnerable than it should be. With the tide turning, the German forces hurry back to the river Aisne to regroup. They then move west in a second attempt to outflank the Allied armies. By this time Britain, France and Russia are known as the Allied Powers, after signing a treaty in London on September 5 in which each guarantees not to make a separate peace treaty with the Central Powers. The Allies also move west, to frustrate the German flanking movement. The point at which the two armies reach the sea becomes the northwest end of a mile line of demarcation. By November the line is fixed. It runs roughly along the French and Belgian border and then down the French and German border to Switzerland. The only part of this terrain which is flat and therefore hard to defend is in the northwest, among the fields of Flanders. Here, in the winter of , each side begins feverishly building trenches. These become permanent defensive structures, more like cramped underground barracks than mere shelters from bullets and shells. War in the east: As a result early gains are made, with Russian armies advancing into east Prussia and into Galicia the northeast corner of Austria-Hungary. This move has the desired short-term effect, causing the Germans to withdraw four divisions from Belgium for the eastern front. But events soon suggest that Russia has entered the field unprepared. Disaster strikes before the end of the month. The large Russian army in east Prussia is ill-fed and exhausted. And Russian commanders incautiously send each other uncoded radio messages which are intercepted by the Germans. The result is that a much smaller German force is able to effect a devastating pincer movement during August to encircle the Russians at Tannenberg the site also of a famous medieval battle. About half the Russian army is destroyed, including the capture of 92, men. The Russian general, Aleksandr Vasiliyevich Samsonov, shoots himself. Further south the Russians have slightly more lasting success in their invasion of Austria-Hungary. By the end of much of Galicia is still in their hands. Further south again, the Austrians prove ineffective in their attempts to crush their tiny neighbour Serbia in the regional dispute which sparked the wider conflict. The local campaign begins in mid-August when an Austrian army invades Serbia, but within a fortnight - and with a loss of some 50, men - they are driven back by the Serbs. Another invasion is more successful, three months later, when the Austrians succeed in occupying Belgrade for two weeks from Nov. But by the end of the year the Serbs have again recovered all their territory. Although there is more movement on the eastern front, particularly on the open plains between Germany and Russia, the outcome at the end of the first calendar year of the war suggests that here too there will be no easy or quick victory. Both sides begin to look for new allies. The search for support: But the Central Powers are the first to win an unexpected ally. Before the outbreak of war Germany has spent much diplomatic effort in befriendng the Young Turks who

now form the government in Istanbul. Russia declares war on Turkey on November 1. France and Britain follow suit four days later. The other important European power as yet unaligned is Italy. For the first nine months of the war the Italians appraise the situation to decide where their best interests lie. By the spring of they have been tempted by an offer put to them by the Allies - that after the war they can take the remaining Italian-speaking parts of the Austrian empire Trentino and Trieste , together with German-speaking South Tirol thus straightening their Alpine border. With this agreed, the Italians declare war on Austria-Hungary in May , thereby committing themselves to prolonged trench warfare along the Isonzo river. It proves as futile and costly as the better-known Flanders version. Over the following eighteen months there are no fewer than ten battles of Isonzo, bringing little change of territory but half a million Italian casualties. In response to similar bribes, Bulgaria enters the war in September on the side of the Central Powers with the promise of receiving Serbian Macedonia. And Romania joins the Allies in August , tempted by the bait of several neighbouring parts of the Austrian empire. One small nation voluntarily enters the fray from the start. Portuguese troops in Africa immediately take steps to defend their colonies. But it is not until Portugal seizes German ships in Portuguese ports, in February , that Germany takes notice and declares war. Greece , the last European nation to enter the war, joins the Allies in November after more than two years of uneasy neutrality and bitter internal disagreements as to which side to support. Among them are Switzerland , the longest established of the neutrals, and the Netherlands - where the German violation of their neutral neighbour, Belgium, strengthens the local resolve to stay out of this conflict. Plans are immediately laid to breach the dikes if necessary, in the ultimate Dutch act of self-defence. The Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Sweden and newly independent Norway, take the same path. Denmark is particularly robust in her response. In Spain, where Liberals and Republicans incline to the Allies while Catholic and conservative groups favour the Central powers, the government contrives to maintain a steady impartiality throughout the war. But outside Europe there is one neutral country of major concern to all. The war at sea: From the very first week of the war a German light cruiser, the Emden, carries out a brilliant series of raids in the seas around India, preying on the British merchant and troop ships which are bringing supplies and men to the European theatre of war. Within a period of three months, until being sunk on November 9 off the Cocos Keeling islands by an Australian cruiser, the Emden either sinks or captures as many as twenty-three merchant vessels - while incidentally finding time to shell the British oil installations at Madras. Meanwhile the German admiral Graf von Spee is leading a small squadron of four cruisers across the Pacific towards South America. He shells a French base in Tahiti, before reaching the South American coast and joining up with another German light cruiser. Off Coronel, on 1 November , he is confronted by four British cruisers. Von Spee wins a decisive victory, sinking two of the British ships with no damage to his own. Von Spee continues round Cape Horn to attack the Falkland Islands, where he is unaware that two British battle cruisers, more heavily armed than any of his squadron, have recently arrived from Britain to join half a dozen cruisers at Port Stanley. Von Spee tries to escape but he is overtaken. In an engagement on 7 December , he and some other German sailors lose their lives when four of the five ships in his squadron are sunk. The British on this occasion lose only ten men. The last naval engagement of the early part of the war is again a British victory, this time much closer to home. The effect is to keep the German fleet in harbour for a year or more. But by this time German strategy has in any case shifted to a far more effective form of aggression - submarine warfare. For Britain this is relatively easy. A heavily mined English Channel can prevent vessels from reaching the North Sea and the Baltic from the south. And fleets can be on permanent patrol to protect the only other means of access, around the north of Scotland. Britain, by contrast, has the entire north Atlantic as access to the outer world. The only way to apply any sort of stranglehold here is by submarine warfare - a task which Germany now undertakes with astonishing success, given the very recent development of the submarine as a practical sea-going vessel. The first victim of a German submarine is claimed in a chivalrous encounter on 20 October A U-boat or Unterseeboot surfaces to confront the British merchant ship Glitra. The crew are ordered into their lifeboats, whereupon the German captain fires his torpedo into the empty vessel. But matters will not long remain so civil. Ships begin to be sunk without warning, including on 30 January two passenger liners, the Tokomaru and the Ikaria. In February Germany declares that all the waters round the British Isles are a war zone, in

which not even neutral ships will be immune from attack. Neutral countries, including the USA, are by now protesting at this high-handed damage to their trade. The Germans are not deflected. Even neutral cargo vessels plying between neutral countries continue to be sunk. And then, on 7 May, comes an event of a different order. The British passenger liner Lusitania which the Germans rightly claim is also carrying ammunition for Britain is sunk off the coast of Ireland with the loss of more than a thousand civilian lives, among them those of US citizens. American protests have no immediate effect two more passenger liners are torpedoed during but the incident has dangers for Germany. It begins a crucial shift in American perception, from committed neutrality to a growing sympathy for the Allied cause.

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