

1 | **when the war began, people realized offense wasn't actually dominant**

1.1 | defense was actually easier than offense

2 | **why not stop (why didn't they cut their losses)**

2.1 | pride

2.2 | sunk cost fallacy - both sides thought they might *just* be able to win

2.2.1 | maybe if one government can outlast another (if enemy is about to collapse) then it'll be over soon

2.3 | people had been expecting it

2.4 | this idea that the people who back down first will lose

2.5 | defending still seems riskier

2.6 | preempting being better assumes element of surprise, but everyone was expecting it

2.7 | prefer that the war happens on someone else's turf

3 | **defense is relatively easy**

3.1 | machine guns and trenches are too effective for cutting down foot soldiers

3.2 | no tanks to deal with barbed wire and machine gun fire

4 | **tanks**

4.1 | too little, too late

4.2 | unfortunately, europeans learn the wrong lesson and people leave thinking defense is better

5 | **ships**

5.1 | british and german dreadnaughts don't really do anything for the entire war (except one battle)

5.2 | **not about navies fighting each other, but rather about navies blockading each other**

6 | submarines

6.1 | **bad news bears for the british (bc britain relies on imports) and esp civilian ships**

6.2 | **total war: ignoring international laws, civilian lives are discounted**

7 | race to outlast the other country

7.1 | **'if we can last one day longer, then we win'**

7.2 | **mutinies everywhere**

8 | leveraging ethnic diversity

8.1 | **british ask arabs in the ottoman empire to help**

8.2 | **germans ask poles in russia to help**

8.3 | **germans try to get mexico to help (zimmerman telegram) but the US finds out and gets upset (oop)**

9 | germany's goals

9.1 | **create states between germany and russia**

9.2 | **want war reparations from france (even though they declared war on france first)**

9.3 | **want to increase power of their colonies**

10 | US involvement

10.1 | **churchill was upset that the americans didn't act sooner**

10.2 | **should the US have entered the war earlier**

10.2.1 | **maybe the victory wouldn't have been so decisive if earlier**

10.2.2 | **people didn't want to fight, willson was proudly reelected for not putting america into war**

10.2.3 | **not as much power/standing military was ready yet (barely any taxes at the time)**

10.3 | **why did the US want to join the war later**

10.3.1 | **ideological barrier drops**

10.3.2 | **public opinion sways**

11 | **military size / politics aren't determinative**

11.1 | **allied powers were much richer, but still was pretty even until US joined**