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World History

CH 20/21

World War one (The Great War) was fought aggressively and therefore horrifically. Much of this was due to the undefined tactics of the then at the time “modern warfare”. This war however was expected to go much quicker. This chapter briefly goes into the general conflicts and how they were caused. Which in turn gave this war it deadly results.

The war started aggressively with many countries believing they had an offensive strategy that needed to be executed quickly. It was in this thinking that shows how much people were not aware of the changes that needed to take place in order to prevent the war from taking so many casualties. Many Europeans even thought that

“the boys will be home by Christ- mas,” (Ways of the World, 982), when in fact it last four long years since that quote. As the Germans would admit defeat in November of 1918.

Another one of the issues as to why the war took so long was the trench style warfare that took place. The different armies of each country had fortified their lands with systems of dugout maze-like corridors in order to prevent the flat lands from becoming an easy target of open wandering soldiers. The Trenches subconsciously kept the soldiers from advancing as well. A lot of this was due to the introduction of the machine gun. The machine gun brought ungodly firepower, it was like the bad child of the industrial revolution who grew up to destroy instead of create. .

This issue was a result of the industrial era quickly bringing forth new technologies that were never before tested mass scale. Many of these were technologies and devices such as: airplanes, barbed wire, chemical gas for warfare, machine guns, etc. These technologies paired with outdated warfare tactics led to around 10 million deaths. The chapter even mentions that double that number could be in wounded and lost soldiers who participated in the war.