

Causes of the War

Militarism:

- The concept where countries thought military and fighting was the solution to all issues
- This always caused countries to try and increase their military strength
 - This also initiated many military races (e.g Britain England naval race)
- These races increased tensions between countries

Nationalism

- These are people who are very proud of their country
- This led to them being feeling contempt to the other countries
- This also sort of caused countries to want to win against one another
- In addition, people thought of war as the ultimate victory if successful

Imperialism

- The concept of people wanting to conquer more land and spread their country's culture around the war
- There was already a bit of tension between european countries fighting over african territory
- War is also a great opportunity for countries to get more land (if they do win)

Alliances

- Of course, the Entente and Alliance were the main reason all these countries joined in the first place
- Serbia was tied with Russia
- Austria - Hungary was tied with Germany
 - So when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia backed Serbia and Germany backed Austria-Hungary.
 - The Entente and Alliance were then put against each other

Economic Rivalry

- In addition to military races, the industrial revolution caused many countries to flex their industry on others.
- Countries often competed for materials and markets which increased tensions
- In addition, the war may allow countries to conquer resource rich areas.

The Spark

- The spark that really started the issue was the assassination of Archduke of Austria - Hungary Franz Ferdinand.
- Franz Ferdinand was visiting Austria and the extremist group the Black Hand assassinated him and his wife (shot by Gavrilo Princip)

Significant Battles of WW1

Ypres (gas): October 19, 1914

- First use of chlorine gas
- First Canadian action in WW1
 - Off the bat they showed that they were a force to be reckoned with in this war
 - Despite the gas attack, they were still able to fend off the Germans

Somme (tanks and blood): July 1, 1916 – November 18, 1916

- Fought because Haig wanted to break stalemate and French in Verdun were going under mutiny
- First use of tanks
- Representation of the pure bloodiness and gruesomeness of trench warfare
 - Britain had over 60k casualties ... ON THE FIRST DAY
 - Newfoundland battalion went from 800 to 100 ... ON THE FIRST DAY
- It also shows the futility of trench warfare, especially when there isn't much of a plan
- Douglas Haig just commanded his soldiers to fight without much strategic planning
- > 1.2 M casualties
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Vimy Ridge (Canada Success) April 9-12, 1917

- It is Canada's first solo battle
 - It was also a big victory so Canada started getting a fair bit of respect
- Basically shows that Canada is able to kick ass in war
 - The most successful battle of the entire Allied campaign
 - They captured more prisoners and looted more than any other British offensive
- It also shows the importance of careful planning and training
- British Douglas Haig contrasts very well with Canadian Arthur Currie
 - Canada was very successful in this battle because of Currie's excessive training and strategy
 - He introduced the creeping barrage where soldiers advance with supporting artillery behind
 - This thought contrasts with Haig as Haig didn't really put much thought in to the Somme.
 - You can see how important tactics are to be successful

Passchendaele (mud):

- July 31 - Nov 10, 1917
- Haig wanted to capture German u-boat port and had to go through passchendaele.
- Started with 10 day bombardment
 - Remember that this is third battle of Ypres

- So conditions were already pretty bad from past bombardments
- The 10 day bombardment completely obliterated the area and destroyed drainage systems
- After the bombardment, Ypres was hit with the worst rain in 30 years
 - Caused terrible conditions with waist high mud puddles
 - Machine guns and rifles were often clogged with mud and water
 - Tanks basically became useless
 - People and horse often drowned, sometimes in sleep
 - Soldiers were often walking over dead corpses without knowing
- Initially the battle was a stalemate between Germany and England
- By september, PM of England David Lloyd George opposed continuation, but Haig insisted and got ANZAC reinforcements
- In October, still no progress; Britain was getting depleted
 - Haig turned to Canada in October
 - Currie opposed, but obliged to the command anyways
 - Currie put a lot of planning and preparation
- Currie led 4 attacks
 - Oct 26 and 30 were unsuccessful
 - Nov 6 and 10 were successful -- credited to Canadians
- Significance:
 - Shows the terrible conditions that soldiers were forced to fight in
 - Shows the importance of careful planning and strategy
 - It is one of Canada's biggest triumphs

The Hundred Days:

- These are as the name suggests the last hundred day push of the WW1
- It was a big allied success and as the finishing blow on Germany
- It is called "the black day of the German Army"
- This was successful for 2 main reasons:
 - The anti submarine campaign by the allies were finally successful
 - They were able to form a blockade and prevent Germany from getting any food and resources
 - The US also decided to join -- so the fresh new soldiers were able to kick butt
- It is also important to note that this was actually led by the Canadians
 - Remember that the Canadians have developed a legacy of being a skilled army from Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge, but mainly Vimy ridge
- In total the allies advanced 13 km
 - Gained hella ton more ground in those 100 days then in the entirety of the war combined
 - This contrasts with most other battles who usually caused changes of 91 m, or 0.091km
 - It allows us to see the futility of trench warfare and how truly pointless it is

Battle on the Home Front

Total War

- War participation from all aspects of society
 - Kids, females and seniors

Attitude of War

- Very minimal knowledge of what war was like throughout the topic
- Through propaganda, war was considered romantic and heroic
- Most of this comes from books and songs
- In addition, soldiers and citizens felt that it was their duty to go and fight in the war

Organizing Effort

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Government needed money

- First introduction of income tax (largest tax)
- Business tax, luxury items tax
- Victory bonds
- Fun fact: debt before war 493 M,
 - Debt after war 2.43 B
 - At the worst times, war costed > 1M a day.

Get army and train

- In 3 months, 30 000 soldiers were trained
- There was also a lot more weaponry being made:
 - Machine guns
 - Poison gas
 - Tanks

Improving public enthusiasm about war

- Poster Propaganda
 - Used to spread ideas to public
 - They targeted kids as well
 - Convinced men to enlist
 - Convinced public to support war efforts
- Billboards and newspapers were the biggest forms of media at that time
 - Newspapers will often tell of the “terribleness” of the Germans
 - They also talk about the heroism of the Canadian army as well

- A lot of things were connected to “victory”
 - “Victory gardens”, “victory bonds”
 - This made the public believe that every contribution they made actually helped in the war effort

Something about hoarding

Farming and Industry

- 1 in 4 families had someone in war
- Europe was failing, so Canada needed bigger output -- expected to double farmland
- Big in cheese, big in pork and beef
- At the start of the war there were no skilled munition workers and very minimal weapon factories
- By 1917, there were over 600 factories and 300 000 workers
- A lot of these workers were females and seniors as well
 - This shows how this war can be considered a total war as women and seniors usually weren't the ones doing work or contributing at the time
- In the beginning, these weapons were made only for us, but we eventually started giving some to allies as well (I assume this boosted our economy).

Women started to play a bigger role:

- Used to be domestic, but now factory jobs were needed
- “Guardians of society”
- Since men were already leaving for war, lots of job opportunities for females in factories
- Lots of men left leaving farms empty as well
- They also worked as streetcar drivers and government workers as well
 - These are all jobs they didn't usually have
- They were also expected to do other “jobs” to aid in the war effort:
 - Raise money
 - Don't waste food
- Despite all this that happened in the war, when it ended, women were expected to go back to their domestic jobs
- Some women were given the right to vote for the first time
 - Wartime Elections Act/Military Voters Act
 - Allowed women to vote if they had a male relative in the army

Halifax Explosion

- Great reminder that the war may very well come to Canadian land as well
- It is also a great example of how the government is able to control the media

- They are able to censor info and the general public didn't really know that much about it

Discrimination

- This is one of the darker times in Canada's history
- German, and Austro Hungarians were targeted as "enemy aliens"
- Propaganda was used to make the public believe this as well
- Considered "White man's war"
 - Very minimal Asian and Black contribution
 - They were also treated poorly if they did join the army
 - There was minimal Indigenous involvement as well; despite the fact that they were amazing snipers
- Pacifists were also treated poorly at this time (pacifists were people who disagreed with concept of going to war)

Internment Camps:

- The Germans and Slavs were interned
- Involved these ppl put into very cramped living spaces
- Did labour
 - Bridges
 - Construction
 - Mining
- Ppl who were interned also lost their right to vote
- In total there were 8579 ppl interned, 24 camps, and 156 children
- This is one of the darker times in Canada's history as it contradicts our current philosophy of multiculturalism
- They also played a key role in the development of our country as well (national parks)
- **War Measures Act**
 - It basically let the government to do anything they need in times of war as well
 - It is important to remember that this was passed probably because in a time of panic, the ppl end up turning to the government
 - Let's the government to imprison anyone without challenge in times of war
 - Suspend any rights they want to
 - Introduce taxes (e.g income tax)
 - Internment camps
 - Immigrants can be deported as well
 - Create laws that make public aid in the war (e.g rations)

Conscription

- Later in the war, there were many less ppl volunteering for army (1917 ish):
 - They saw returning soldiers dying and severely injured
 - Jobs at war factories already gave very high paying job
 - Farmers were worried about farms

- The French still felt disconnected from war
 - Treated poorly
 - Didn't feel welcome because most things were in English
 - Not as patriotic about helping the British
- This is where conscription is supposed to help
- Initially Borden rejected this idea
- However, his mentality of "Our first duty is to win at any cost" changed his mind and made him think of conscription as a must
- **Military Service Act**: the law making conscription for overseas service mandatory
 - When this act was passed, there were actually some riots in Quebec
 - This shows how the French felt a bit disconnected

Thus he "rigged" the 1917 election to make sure ppl get conscripted

- Military Voters Act and Wartime Elections Act
 - **Military Voters Act** let male soldiers have the right to vote
 - **Wartime Elections Act** let any female relatives to soldiers in the war to be able to vote
- Of course, these ppl increased the voters who supported conscription
- There was a bit of a divide in between relatives of soldiers in comparison to those uninvolved
 - Thought of it as unfair that their relatives were participating but not others
 - Theoretically, it should increase the chance that their relatives at war return alive
 - Of course, to those involved in the war, more ppl should increase the chance of winning

Big ideas:

- War brings out the best and worst in people
 - There was a big boost in industry
 - Canada was no longer viewed as a baby following Britain
 - However, there was lots of discrimination and prejudice
 - A lot of death and fear
- Men and women both changed a lot
 - Women changed because they were introduced to trades
 - Men because war

Air and Sea War

Pilots

- Pilots were often honoured more and considered more glorious than the trench soldiers
- Because they worked with this "fancy" new technology
- They got fancy uniforms, proper food, proper sleep
- However, being a pilot was considered "suicide service"

- Half of the casualties from flying was from crashes due to mechanical issues
- Parachutes weren't even provided at the time
- Pilots called their planes "flying coffins"

New Weaponry:

- Tanks:
 - Heavily armoured chariots weapon
 - It played a big role in British success as it was ideal for just ramming through no mans land
- Zeppelins:
 - Blimps that were able to drop bombs
 - Not only did they attack soldiers but they bombed civilians as well
 - This became one of the major characteristics of warfare of the new century
 - Canadian airships were successful at taking them down with fire producing bullets
- U-boats
 - Probably one of the biggest successes of the German army
 - Because Britain got a lot of their resources from Canada, the U boat were able to sink them and make life harder for England

Treaty of Versailles

- In total, there were 32 victorious countries in the first world war
- The three biggest ones were the US, the UK and France
- The meeting was held in Versailles, near Paris. Fitting considering most of the battles happened in the French area

Mindset of the countries:

- French really wanted to crush Germany
- Britain did agree that Germany should pay, but they were willing to compromise
- US was thinking about a fair treaty because they didn't want to cause some political drama
- If you think about it, this correlates to the amount of damage each of these countries took in the war:
 - France took big damage to their army and people, and their land was destroyed as well
 - Britain's army was severely affected but their land was generally left untouched
 - US didn't really get damaged that much. They were basically only taking dubs as their main campaign was the Hundred Days

Terms of the Treaty

- The terms can be split into three categories: Economic, Territorial, Military
- Economic:
 - Basically, they made Germany pay for everything
 - About 32 B

- Territorial
 - Germany lost control of all their colonies
 - Turkish empire broke up and formation of czechoslovakia
 - Eastern Germany was given to Poland, creating the Polish corridor pissing off a lot of Germans
 - The territory of Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France
 - France was also given control of the Saar coal mines for 15 years
- Military:
 - German army reduced to 100 000
 - No submarines → reduced navy
 - No tanks, heavy guns
 - No airforce
 - Demilitarize the Rhineland area (western border)
- There is also the War Guilt Clause
 - Germany was forced to sign a statement accepting that they were the cause of the entire war and that they were responsible for all the damages and losses
 - After treaty many German newspapers had headlines such as “Today’s German’s honour is being put to its grave”
 - Was huge shock to the German people as German propaganda was portraying the idea that Germany was winning the war