

# WELCOME TO HISTORICAL TIME CAPSULE CAPSULE



Welcome to a unique journey through time! This capsule is a gateway to the past, preserving the stories, artifacts, and memories that define our shared history. Explore the moments that shaped generations, marvel at relics from a bygone era, and connect with the legacy of those who came before us.

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**Major Political Leaders of World War I**

Wilhelm II was the German Emperor (Kaiser) and King of Prussia from 1888 till his abdication in 1918. Known for his fiery speeches and militaristic manner, Wilhelm dreamed of building Germany into a major naval, colonial and economic power.

A popular and towering figure in Britain, Herbert Kitchener was a veteran imperial commander who had commanded the Egyptian and Indian Army. He served as Consul General to Egypt from 1911 to 1914, from where he was recalled and given a cabinet post as Secretary of State for War. In this capacity Kitchener convinced the cabinet that Britain would require a large army to outlast a war that will go on for years. Utilizing his fame and the famous "Your country wants you!" recruitment poster with his face, Kitchener organized the largest volunteer army in Britain, expanding from 20 to 70 divisions in two years with close to 2 million volunteers.

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French attack from a trench at the [Battle of Verdun](#), 1916 British artillery in action at the [Battle of the Somme](#), 1916 U.S. troops and Renault FT tanks during the [Hundred Days Offensive](#), 1918 German machine gun crew wearing gas masks, 1918 Ottoman Arab camel corps leaving for the [Middle Eastern front](#), 1916 Aftermath of the Russian [siege of Przemyśl](#) in Austria-Hungary, 1915

World War I[b] or the First World War (28 July 1914 – 11 November 1918), also known as the Great War, was a global conflict between two coalitions: the Allies (or Entente) and the Central Powers. Fighting took place mainly in Europe and the Middle East, as well as in parts of Africa and the Asia-Pacific, and in Europe was characterised by trench warfare; the widespread use of artillery, machine guns, and chemical weapons (gas); and the introductions of tanks and aircraft. World War I was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, resulting in an estimated 10 million military dead and more than 20 million wounded, plus some 10 million civilian dead from causes including genocide. The movement of large numbers of people was a major factor in the deadly Spanish flu pandemic.

Date 28 July 1914 – 11 November 1918  
(4 years, 3 months and 14 days)

**Location**

- Europe
- Middle East
- Africa
- Pacific
- Atlantic
- Mediterranean and Adriatic

**Result**

Allied Powers victory (see [Aftermath of World War I](#))

**territorial changes**

- Partition of the Ottoman Empire, dissolution of Austria-Hungary, transfer of German colonies and territories to other countries
- Formation of new countries in Europe and the Middle East, such as Poland, Yugoslavia, Weimar Germany, Soviet Russia and Soviet Union, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Hejaz, and Yemen

**Belligerents**

**Allied Powers:** France, United Kingdom and Empire, Russia[a], Italy (from 1915), United States (from 1917), Japan and others ...

**Central Powers:** Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria (from 1915) and others ...

**Commanders and leaders**

See Main Allied leaders  
See Main Central leaders

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From top to bottom, left to right:

World War II[b] or the Second World War (1 September 1939 – 2 September 1945) was a global conflict between two coalitions: the Allies and the Axis powers. Nearly all the world's countries participated, with many investing all available civilian resources in pursuit of total war. Tanks and aircraft played major roles, enabling the strategic bombing of cities and delivery of the only nuclear weapons ever used in war. World War II was the deadliest conflict in history, resulting in 70 to 85 million deaths, more than half of which were civilians. Millions died in genocides, including the Holocaust, and by massacres, starvation, and disease. After the Allied victory, Germany, Austria, Japan, and Korea were occupied, and German and Japanese leaders were tried for war crimes.

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Throughout World War II the principal Allied heads of state were Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin, and Winston Churchill. The three Axis leaders included Hideki Tojo, Benito Mussolini, and Adolf Hitler. Not all of these leaders would live to see old age. World War II's notable leaders are much more well-known than those in the Great War. Their rise to power made them critical leaders during the war, whether through determination, force of personality, or political acumen. Each had different reasons for seeking power.

Few names are more synonymous with World War II than Adolf Hitler. The German dictator was the mastermind that caused the war. His hatred of Jews, Communism, and the economic ruin of Germany from the Versailles Treaty are only several reasons for his actions. Austria-Hungary by birth, Hitler ruled Germany in 1933 after being elected President. He brutally but skillfully consolidated his power quickly. Opponents were sent to concentration camps, jailed or killed.

Churchill was Great Britain's wartime Prime Minister, known for his speeches. He was elected in 1940 and came to power at Britain's lowest ebb, the Battle of Britain. Never considering surrender, he was always looking for ways to defeat the Axis. Churchill's political skills were formidable. He called for supporting Joseph Stalin to keep Germany focused in the East. He and President Roosevelt created a friendship, which in turn helped Britain gain American aid. At home, his speeches kept Britons inspired to keep fighting.

Date 1 September 1939 – 2 September 1945[a]  
(6 years, 1 day)

**Location**

**Major theatres:**

- Europe
- Pacific
- Atlantic
- Indian Ocean
- South-East Asia
- China
- Japan
- Middle East
- Mediterranean
- North Africa
- Horn of Africa
- Central Africa
- Australia
- Caribbean
- North and South America

**Result**

- Allied victory (see also [aftermath of World War II](#))

**Commanders and leader**

**Main Allied leaders:**

- Joseph Stalin
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Winston Churchill
- Chiang Kai-shek

**Main Axis leaders:**

- Adolf Hitler
- Hirohito
- Benito Mussolini

**Casualties and losses**

• Military dead: • Over 16,000,000	• Military dead: • Over 8,000,000
• Civilian dead: • Over 45,000,000	• Civilian dead: • Over 4,000,000
• Total dead: • Over 61,000,000	• Total dead: • Over 12,000,000
• (1937–1945)	• (1937–1945)
• ...further details	• ...further details