



The Great War

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Mr. Monahan



What are the four
main
characteristics of
the Great War?



Characteristics

Of the Great War

- Total War
- Trench Warfare
- Modern Military Technology
- High Casualty Rates



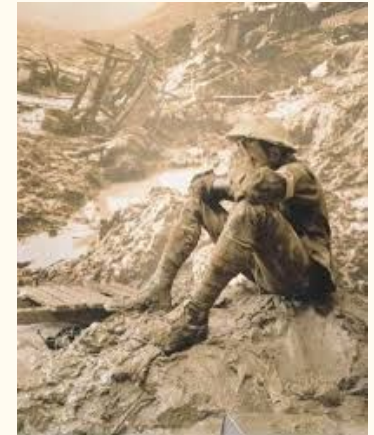
Guerre Intégrale, Totaler Krieg, Total War

1. Comprehensive mobilization of human and material resources towards conducting warfare
2. Stresses that there are no limitations when conducting warfare. Win at ALL cost.
3. First coined by French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau
4. The French military gave birth to this term at the defense of Verdun and expanded on it after the failed offensive of 1917



Trench Warfare

1. Warfare in which opposing armed forces attack, counterattack, and defend from relatively permanent systems of trenches dug into the ground.
2. Is resorted to when the superior firepower of the defense compels the opposing forces to “dig in” so extensively as to sacrifice their mobility in order to gain protection.
3. The trenches redefined “War is Hell” and caused extensive casualties.



Modern Military Technology

1. The Notables: Machine Gun, Tanks, Airplanes, Chemical Warfare
2. Designed to kill as many people as possible with as little risk for the operator as possible.
3. Changed the face of combat and resulted in the unprecedented loss of life.



High Casualty Rates

Allied Powers

Total Military Forces: 42.2 Million

Killed: 5.1 Million

Wounded: 12.8 Million

POW & MIA: 4.1 Million

Civilian Casualties: 600,000

TOTAL Military Casualties: 22 Million

Military Casualties Rate: 52.3%

Central Powers

Total Military Forces: 22.9 Million

Killed: 3.4 Million

Wounded: 8.4 Million

POW & MIA: 3.6 Million

Civilian Casualties: 1.6 Million

TOTAL Military Casualties: 15.4 Million

Military Casualties Rate: 67.4%

Assignment

Fill in the chart with information about your assigned Battle:

- Verdun
- Belleau Wood
- Tannenberg
- Somme



Verdun

German sieged French Forts at Verdun for ~10 months.

French Victory

- ~3 Million Soldiers
- French Casualties: 379,000
- German Casualties: 339-434,000
- ~306,000 Killed



Belleau Wood

U.S. forces stopped the German Spring Offensive of 1918.

U.S. Victory

- ~210,000 Soldiers (60,000 American)
- American Casualties: 9777
- German Casualties: Unknown, 1600 POW
- >1811 Killed



Tannenberg

Russian Invasion of East Prussia in 1914.

German Victory

- 380,000 Soldiers
- Russian Casualties: 170,000
- German Casualties: ~13,873
- ~45,000 Killed



Somme

British and French offensive on German forces at the Somme

Inconclusive

- 4.5 Million Soldiers
- Allied Casualties: 656,000
- German Casualties: ~500,000
- 300,000 Killed



What's the price of a
mile?

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Battle of Passchendaele

British and French offensive on German forces dug in on a **ONE MILE LONG** ridge.

German Retreat

- 4.2 Million Soldiers
- Allied Casualties: 260,000
- German Casualties: 260,000
- ~500,000 Casualties



Summary Thesis

Why did the Great War have such a high cost paid by the soldiers who fought it?

Remember: I believe Because