

History Lecture # 18 Easterners

Monday, November 21, 2016 2:25 PM

A World War

- Not just occurring in Britain and France; the Western Front
- David Lloyd George
 - Prime Minister in Britain during WWI; not trust Haig
- Winston Churchill
 - Journalist turned Politician; prisoner of war and escaped, in charge of Royal Navy
- Easterners; the more countries that fall, then they will win
- Wanted to defeat Italy
 - Nothing was really achieved there
 - Replica of what it had been in the western front; trench warfare
 - Good idea in principle; didn't work in practice

The Dardanelles (Gallipoli)

- Great hope of the easterners
 - Answer to their problems
- Possibilities to open up campaign in turkey were endless
 - Capture capital city; balance both sides of power in the war
- Practical, good idea; will use the Navy
- However: British ships were destroyed
 - Needed to land troops onshore
 - Should be easy – "THE OTHER" → only stupid Turks
 - This was true: Turks didn't provide much interest
 - Only waited on the beach; didn't attack Kirthia
 - Next day: pushed off by Turkish defenders
 - Huge opportunity was lost
 - Battles of Krithia; by fourth day 4000 casualties
 - British decided to cut their losses and pull out
- Only successful part of the campaign was the retreat (by Julian Byng)
- Nothing was achieved; only about loss opportunities although it could have been so easy
- Yes; Germany had allies, but they weren't essential to the survival of the German Empire
 - Need to find a new way to defeat Germany
- Westerners were right: War had to be won in the west
 - As long as Germany occupied a lot of Belgium and northern France; they were winning

The Tactical Problem

- What they can change to make things right
 - i.e. learn from lessons; like from Battle of Elloi
 - Important not where they fight; but HOW they fight
- Problem comes down to the individual soldier
 - Plan has to account for what troops can actually do
 - Gear was so heavy; hard to move quickly
- Responses to catastrophes
 - Belief in God was gone
 - Other: glad to have been there
 - Wish he had died with his men

Conclusion

- Battles consist of individuals; they are the ones that lose their lives
- Impact of battle on individuals

Themes

- Pointlessness of war
- The Other; dangers of stereotypes and underestimating people
- Individualism