



AQA - GCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE

Conflict and Tension: The First World War, 1894–1918

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AQA - GCSE





Published by Clever Lili Limited.

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First published 2020

ISBN 978-1-913887-35-3

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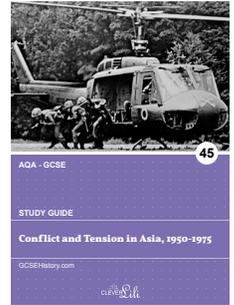
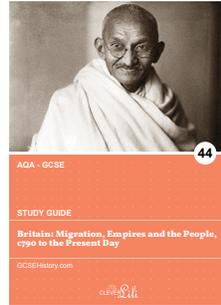
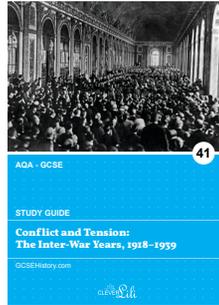
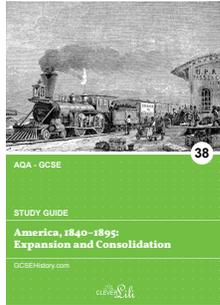
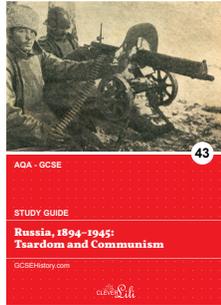
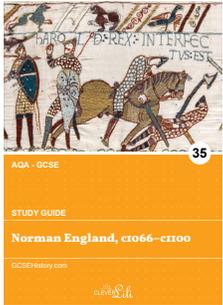
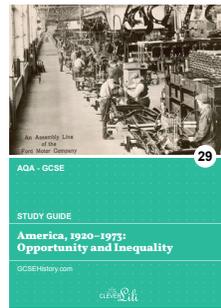
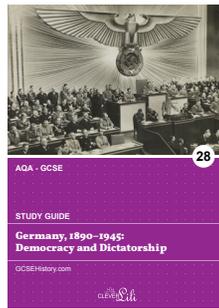
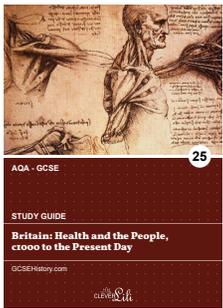
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons



WHAT questions cover the key events and themes.



WHO questions cover the key people involved.



WHEN questions cover the timings of key events.



WHERE questions cover the locations of key moments.



WHY questions cover the reasons behind key events.



HOW questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.



IMPORTANCE questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.



DECISIONS questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on page 17.

Page references

Tudor (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

Conflict and Tension 1894-1914: the First World War is a wider world depth study that investigates international relations. The course focuses on the causes and course of the First World War. It considers how and why the conflict occurred, as well as why it lasted so long.

Purpose

This study will help you to understand the complexities and diverse interests of different states alongside a study in the development of military tactics and technology. The course will enable you to analyse cause and consequence, making links between, and assessing the importance of, events in their historical context. It will also develop your critical evaluation skills.

Enquiries

Conflict and Tension 1894-1918: the First World War is split into 3 key enquiries:

-  Enquiry 1 examines the long and short term causes of the First World War.
-  Enquiry 2 looks at the development on the Western Front in 1914 and how the nature of trench warfare led to stalemate.
-  Finally, enquiry 3 is a study of the reasons why stalemate was finally broken in 1918 and Germany defeated.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

-  Kaiser Wilhelm II.
-  Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
-  Count Alfred von Schlieffen.
-  General Sir Douglas Haig.
-  General Erich von Falkenhayn.
-  General Erich Ludendorff.
-  Field Marshal Ferdinand Foch.

Key Events

Some of the key events and developments you will study on this course include:

-  The formation of the alliance system.
-  The Anglo-German naval race.
-  International crises in the Balkans and Morocco.
-  The assassination of Franz Ferdinand.
-  The establishment of the Western Front in 1914.
-  Key battles on the Western Front: Verdun, the Somme, and Passchendaele.
-  The development of new weapons.
-  The war at sea.
-  The Ludendorff Offensive.
-  The Allied 100 days.
-  German defeat and the armistice.

Assessment

Conflict and Tension 1894-1918: the First World War is examined on paper 1. You should spend 1 hour on this section of the paper. There will be 4 exam questions which will assess what you have learned from the course.

-  Question 1 is worth 4 marks. This question will require you to examine a source, and explain its meaning in its historical context.
-  Question 2 is worth 12 marks. This question will require you to examine 2 sources, and assesses your ability to evaluate sources for a particular purpose.
-  Question 3 is worth 8 marks. It requires you to explain and analyse historical events in relation to cause and consequence.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

🧑‍🎓 Question 4 is worth 16 marks plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Here you will be required to make a judgement about the importance of an event or development in an extended response.

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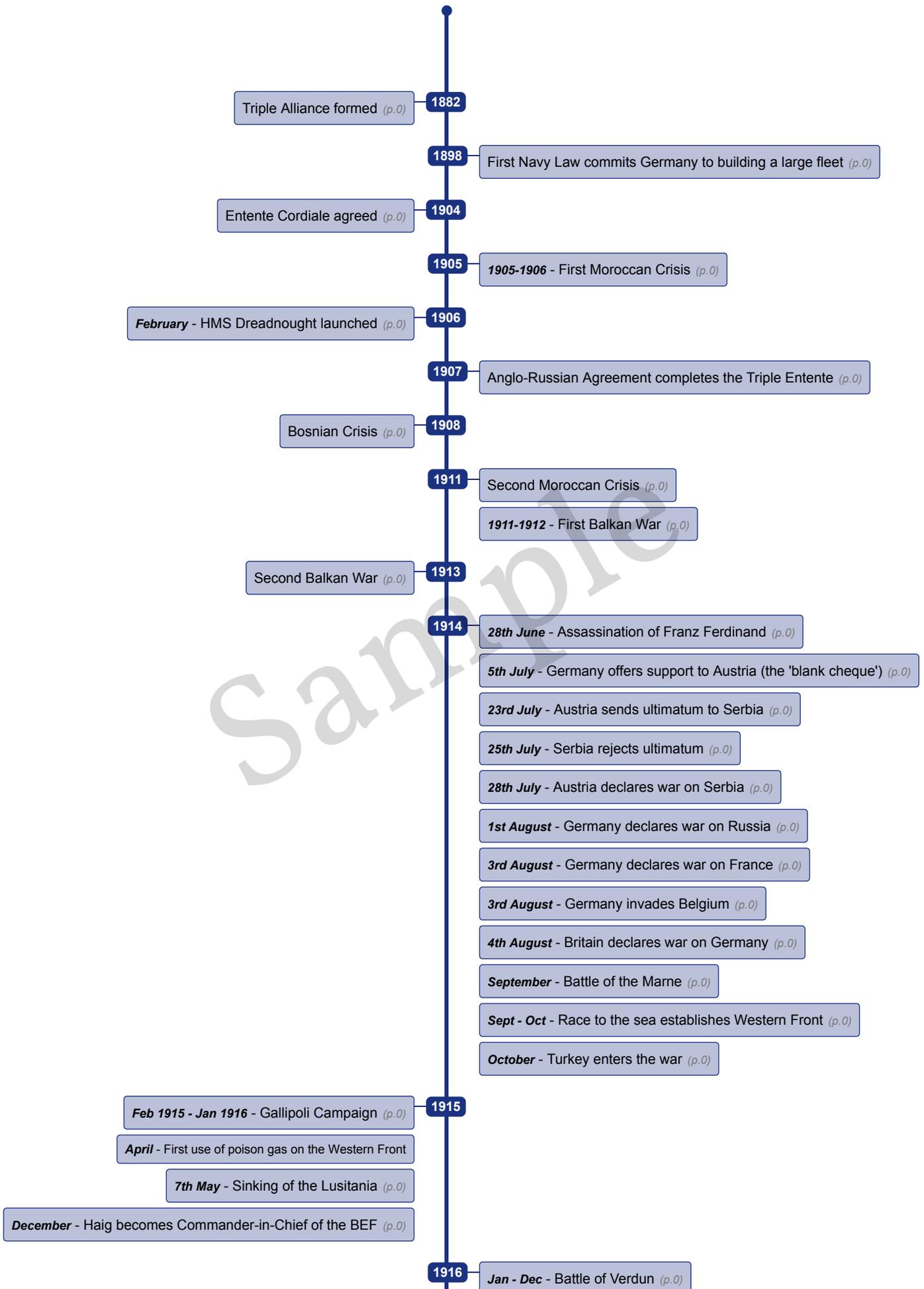


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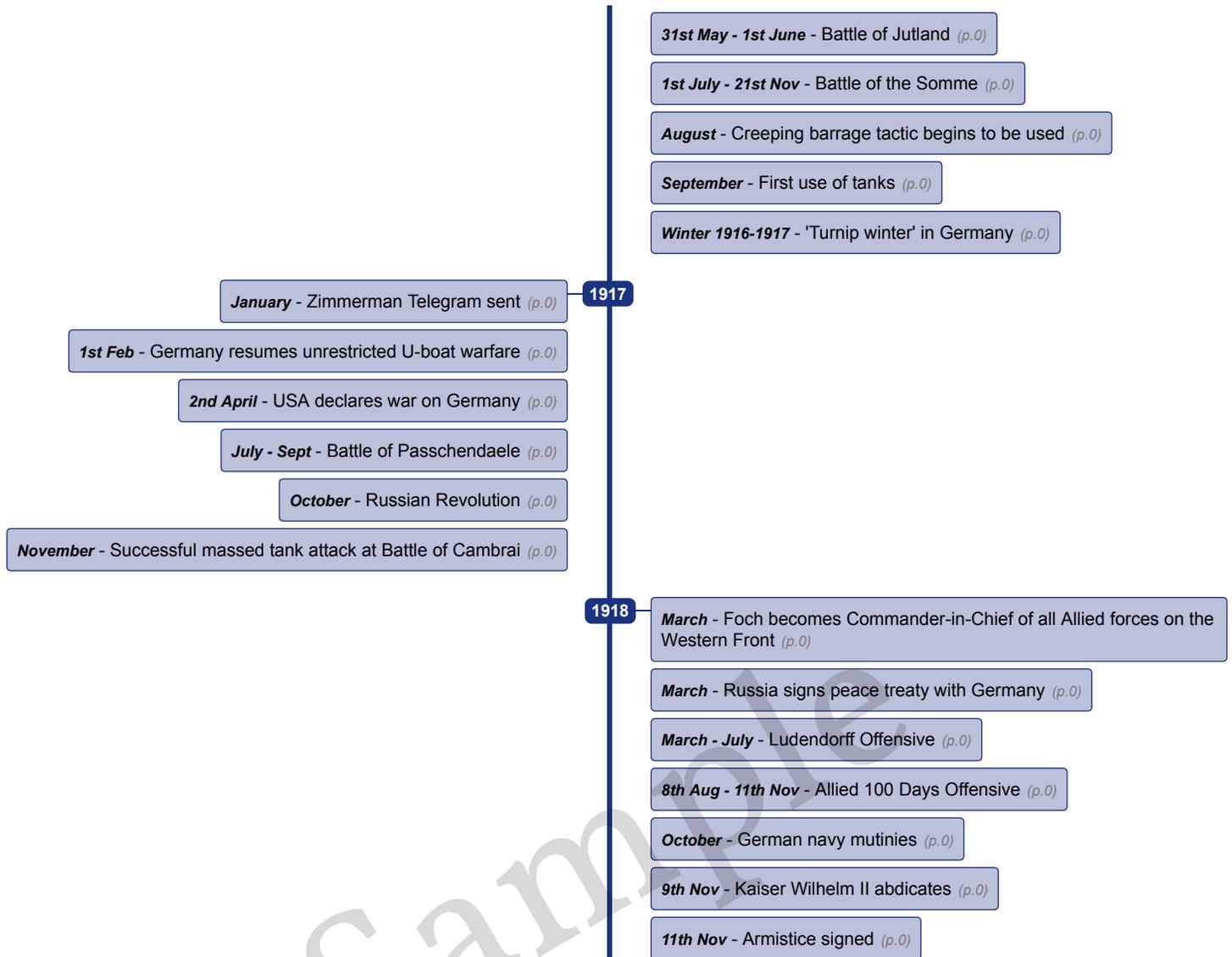
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CONFLICT AND TENSION, 1894-1918: FIRST WORLD WAR

TIMELINE



CONFLICT AND TENSION, 1894-1918: FIRST WORLD WAR





FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War was the largest and most widespread conflict in history up to that point



What was the First World War?

The First World War (also known as the Great War) was a global conflict that lasted from 1914-1918.



Who was on each side in the First World War?

The war was fought between the **Central Powers** (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire) and the **Allied Powers** (France, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, and Britain). The Allies were later joined by the USA and Italy.



When did the First World War take place?

The First World War started on July 28th 1914, and ended on 11th November 1918.



Where did the First World War happen?

The First World War took place across the world, both on land and at sea. Most of the fighting occurred in Europe and Russia, although there were smaller battles in the Middle East, Africa and China.



Why did the First World War happen?

The war broke out due to a number of short and long term reasons, which can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ Militarism (p. 12).
- ✓ Alliances.
- ✓ Imperialism. (p. 13)
- ✓ Nationalism (p. 14).
- ✓ Economic rivalry.

DID YOU KNOW?

Use this mnemonic to help remember the MAIN causes of the war:

- ✓ Militarism
- ✓ Alliances
- ✓ Imperialism
- ✓ Nationalism



MILITARISM

Strong armed forces were important to maintain Great Power status



What is militarism?

Militarism is the idea that a country should have a strong military and be prepared to use it.



How did militarism lead to the First World War?

Due to the **alliance** system, countries grew afraid of being surrounded by hostile **states**. As a consequence, they increased the size of their armies and navies, which created more fear and led to an arms race.

DID YOU KNOW?

Alfred Vagts, a German historian, defined militarism as 'the domination of the military man over the civilian, an undue preponderance of military demands, an emphasis on military considerations.'



ALLIANCES

Alliances were used to balance power in Europe



What were the alliances in the First World War?

There were two pre-First World War **alliances**. The Triple Entente (p.0) consisted of Britain, Russia and France. The Triple Alliance (p.0) was formed by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.



How did alliances lead to the First World War?

In order to achieve security, countries often formed **alliances** to protect themselves. Tensions between alliances meant that, when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia in 1914, others felt obligated to join the conflict.

DID YOU KNOW?

Family loyalties were soon tested!

George V (England) and Wilhelm II (Germany) were actually first cousins! However, the family ties didn't stop there. George and Tsar Nicholas II were also first cousins and joined forces in the Triple Entente.



IMPERIALISM

The Great Powers were keen to protect their empires



What is imperialism?

Imperialism is the desire to acquire **colonies** and create an **empire**.



How did imperialism lead to the First World War?

Germany attempted to challenge the large overseas **empires** already held by France and Britain. This was an issue as **colonies** provided raw materials, and were markets for goods produced by the European powers that governed them. If they lost these, they lost money.



Who were the countries which followed a policy of imperialism?

The European powers and their overseas colonies in 1914 were as follows:

- ✓ Great Britain had 56 colonies, with a total population of 390 million.
- ✓ France had 29 colonies, with a total population of 58 million.
- ✓ Russia had 0 colonies, although it was looking to expand in the Balkans.
- ✓ Germany had 10 colonies, with a total population of 15 million.
- ✓ Austria-Hungary had 0 colonies, although it did control other European countries such as Bosnia.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Los Angeles Times on 20th July, 2003, Edward W Said wrote: "Every empire, however, tells itself and the world that it is unlike all other empires, that its mission is not to plunder and control but to educate and liberate."



NATIONALISM

Most Europeans felt a strong sense of pride in their countries



What is nationalism?

Nationalism is having strong support for your own country's independence and interests. This may lead to people believing their country is superior to others.



How did nationalism lead to the First World War?

When nationalism is too strong, it can lead to competition between countries. This inspired many people to support war and join up to fight in 1914. This is closely linked to imperialism (p. 13) as it promotes the idea of one 'superior' country ruling over others.

DID YOU KNOW?

It was an intensified form of nationalism that led to the outbreak of the First World War, though the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in June 1914.



THE GREAT POWERS

The most powerful of all countries



What were the Great Powers?

The Great Powers were the most powerful countries in Europe in the years before the First World War. Their competing foreign policies increased tensions between them which ultimately led to the outbreak of war in 1914.



Who were the Great Powers?

There were 5 Great Powers in 1914:

- Great Britain.
- Germany.
- France.
- Austria-Hungary.
- Russia.



What were the characteristics of a Great Power?

To be a great power in 1914 a country had to meet the following criteria:

- Be able to influence and control international affairs.
- Possess great **economic** strength.
- Possess great military power.
- Possess a stable and competent government.
- Rule over a large **population** of people.
- Control a large **empire** that possesses lots of resources.



Which countries were not considered Great Powers but were considered second-rate powers?

There were 4 second-rate powers in 1914:

- Italy.
- The Ottoman Empire.
- Japan.
- The USA.

Sample



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REMAINING PAGES REMOVED.
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Sample

GLOSSARY

A

Abdicate - to give up a position of power or a responsibility.

Alliance - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.

Allies - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

Ammunition - collective term given to bullets and shells.

Annex, Annexation, Annexed - to forcibly acquire territory and add it to a larger country.

Armistice - an agreement between two or more opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.

Artillery - large guns used in warfare.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

Assassination - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

Attrition - the act of wearing down an enemy until they collapse through continued attacks.

Autocrat - a ruler who has absolute power over their country.

B

Blockade - a way of blocking or sealing an area to prevent goods, supplies or people from entering or leaving. It often refers to blocking transport routes.

Box barrage - The firing shells at the enemy on three sides to prevent them retreating or sending reinforcements into a battle.

C

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Casualties - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

Cavalry - the name given to soldiers who fight on horseback.

Central Powers - Germany and its allies during the First World War.

Civilian - a non-military person.

Colonies, Colony - a country or area controlled by another country and occupied by settlers.

Convoy - a group of ships or vehicles travelling together, usually protected by armed troops.

Counter-attack - an attack made in response to one by an opponent.

Creeping barrage - a slowly advancing artillery bombardment which attacking troops can follow for protection.

D

Deadlock - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Dreadnought - A battleship, which was more powerful in firepower and defence than prior models.

Dud - a bomb, shell or mine that fails to explode.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Empire - a group of states or countries ruled over and controlled by a single monarch.

Encircle, Encirclement - a military term for enemy forces isolating and surrounding their target.

F

Famine - a severe food shortage resulting in starvation and death, usually the result of bad harvests.

Foreign policy - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

Front - in war, the area where fighting is taking place.

H

Heir - someone who is entitled to property or rank following the current owner or holder's death.

I

Imperial, Imperialisation, Imperialism, Imperialist - is the practice or policy of taking possession of, and extending political and economic control over other areas or territories. Imperialism always requires the use of military, political or economic power by a stronger nation over that of a weaker one. An imperialist is someone who supports or practices imperialism and imperial relates to a system of empire, for example the British Empire.

Import - to bring goods or services into a different country to sell.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrialisation, Industrialise, Industrialised - the process of developing industry in a country or region where previously there was little or none.

Infantry - soldiers who march and fight on foot.

K

Kaiser - the German word for a king or emperor.

L

Lord, Lords - a man of high status, wealth and authority.

M

Mandate - authority to carry out a policy.

Merchant ships - unarmed ships used for carrying supplies and goods.

Mine - an explosive device usually hidden underground or underwater.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Mobilisation - the action of a country getting ready for war by preparing and organising its armed forces.

Morass - an area of swampy or very wet and muddy ground which is difficult to cross.

Mutiny - a rebellion or revolt, in particular by soldiers or sailors against their commanding officers.

N

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

Naval supremacy - when a navy is that strong, enemies are unable to attack; sometimes referred to as command of the sea.

No man's land - the land between the opposing sides' trenches in the First World War.

O

Offensive - another way of saying an attack or campaign.

P

Province, Provinces - part of an empire or a country denoting areas that have been divided for administrative purposes.

Psychological - referring to a person's mental or emotional state.

Q

Quagmire - an area of swampy or very wet and muddy ground which is difficult to cross.

R

Rationing - limiting goods that are in high demand and short supply.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reconnaissance - observation of an enemy in order to gain useful information such as its position, strategy or capabilities.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Riots - violent disturbances involving a crowd of people.

Rolling barrage - a slowly advancing artillery bombardment which attacking troops can follow for protection.

S

Sabotage - to deliberately destroy, damage or obstruct, especially to gain a political or military advantage.

Salient - in military terms, a piece of land that protrudes into enemy territory; also known as a bulge.

Slavic people, Slavs - the main ethnic group of people living in Eastern Europe.

Splendid isolation - a British foreign policy in the 19th century which aimed to focus on the British Empire and keep Britain out of European wars.

Stalemate - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Strategy - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

U

U-boat - the German name for a submarine.

Ultimatum - a final demand, with the threat of consequences if it is not met.

W

Weltpolitik - Germany's pre-First World War foreign policy which aimed to turn Germany into a global power by acquiring overseas colonies and developing its navy.

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