**Conflict and Tension 1894 – 1918**

**Causes of the First World War**

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| **The alliance system (Triple Alliance/Triple Entente)**  Triple Entente – France/Britain/Russia  Triple alliance – Germany/Austria-Hungary/Italy  Germany Felt surrounded  They were secret which caused suspicion  They were for defence and protection  Entente Cordiale – a friendly agreement between Britain and France  Britain and France settled colonial disputes – Britain could have Egypt and Britain said would defend France’s North Sea Ports. | **Anglo German Rivalry**  Naval Race  Between Germany and Britain  Kaiser Said he wanted Weltpolitik – Germany to be a world power  Said he wanted “a place in the sun”  Said he wanted a big navy like Britain’s – passed Naval laws so Germany could build a big navy  1906 Dreadnought launched made all other battleships obsolete because bigger, faster, had bigger guns and better armour.  Germany stole plans  In 1908 Kaiser said he would build 4 new Dreadnoughts  Britain said “we want 8 and we won’t wait” because had to have twice as many battleships as any other country – this called 2 Power Standing. |
| **Kaiser Wilhelm II’s character and foreign policy**  He was an unstable man who had to prove he was the best at everything. No weakness could be tolerated in a future Kaiser. This had come from his upbringing where he had to prove he was the best despite a withered arm, some deafness and poor balance.  He had always been jealous of Britain's navy and empire and wanted his own to rival there's.  He said he wanted “a place in the sun “because most of Britain’s empire was in hot countries. He also believed in “Weltpolitik” which meant Germany becoming a World Power like Britain.  He was very militaristic and joined the army when 19 years old.  In public often dressed in military uniform.  He was the grandson of Grandson of queen Victoria and cousin of the English king but Britain saw him as a power mad enemy who want to take over there Empire | **European Rearmament (Germany/Austria-Hungary/Russia/France/Britain)**  Germany’s army was not the biggest in Europe, but most people thought it was the **best trained, equipped and most powerful**.  Austria Hungary had a **good sized** army but knew it **needed Germany to take on Russia in a war.**  **Austria-Hungary had been building up its army because it feared a war with Russia over who controlled the Balkans.**  The Russian Army was **badly equipped but huge**. Given enough time the Russians could **put millions of men a war**. Their plan was to defeat Germany and Austria-Hungary **through sheer weight of numbers.**  France had a **large and well-equipped army.** It main plan of attack was **Plan 17.** French troops would charge across the frontier with Germany and **attack deep into German territory forcing them to surrender.**  Britain’s military planners had been **secretly working with the French** Generals.  This led Britain into **setting up the British Expeditionary Force (BEF),** consisting of **150,000 highly trained and well equipped soldiers.** The BEF could go to France and fight alongside the French at short notice.  However, Britain still **saw itself as a naval power** and spent most of its **military spending building up its navy** and building new Dreadnoughts. They saw Germany as their main threat because Germany was also building a large navy. |
| **Pre-war crises (Morocco 1905/Morocco 1911/Bosnia 1908)**  **Bosnia**  Bosnia wanted to join with Serbia to form a Greater Serbia  Russia supported Bosnia and Serbia because they were protectors of the Slavs  Germany supported Austria-Hungary because AH supported them over Morocco in1905  AH got Bosnia  Terrorist groups started in Bosna to win their independence like the Black Hand  Russia backed down and the Tsar said he would build up his military so he wouldn’t have to back down again.  **Morocco 1905**  Morocco only independent country in Africa  France and Germany argued over who should control Morocco  The Kaiser rode a white horse through the streets of Fez  Britain supported France because at Naval base at Gibraltar  Kaiser wanted to test the Entente Cordiale  AH the only Great Power that supported Germany  France got Morocco  Kaiser backed down but no happy to do  Britain and France settled colonial disputes – Britain could have Egypt and Britain said would defend France’s North Sea Ports.  **Morocco 1911**  Rebellion in Fez against French rule  Kaiser supported the rebels by sending gunboat to Morocco called Panther  Britain supported France because at Naval base at Gibraltar  Mansion House speech by David Lloyd George warning Germany to re call Panther  AH the only Great Power that supported Germany  Meeting at Agadir Kaiser got 100 000 square KM of swampland in Congo  Kaiser had backed down twice over Morocco said wouldn’t back down again | **Kaiser Wilhelm II**  Brought up in Britain and was jealous of Britain’s Navy and Empire  Bought up by parents to be the best. Had to be a winner  Became Kaiser of Germany and sacked Bismarck.  Changed Germany foreign policy.  Helped Boers fight against Britain  Said he wanted Weltpolitik – Germany to be a world power  Said he wanted “a place in the sun”  Said he wanted a big navy like Britain’s – passed Naval laws so Germany could build a big navy  Made Britain come out of Splendid Isolationism |

**The outbreak of war**

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| **Assassination of Franz Ferdinand and consequences**  Assassination of Franz Ferdinand  Shot by Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo in 1914  Princip a member of the Black Hand  Black Hand wanted to form a Greater Serbia between Bosnia and Serbia  AH blamed Serbia for the future king’s assassination  AH sent 10 Point Ultimatum to Serbia  Serbia agreed to 9 out of 10 points accept point 6 which said they would have to let the AH army and police into Serbia  Serbia declared war on Serbia and started to shell their capital city Belgrade.  Serbia supported by Russia who said they were the Protectors of the Slavs  Germany gave AH a Blank Cheque and warned Russia to back down.  All these countries mobilised their armies and the war had started in the East  Germany now followed the Schlieffen Plan because they thought France would declare war on them and they would have to fight a war on 2 Fronts. | **Slav nationalism**  Austria Hungary (AH) was worried about the **spread of Nationalism** and wanted to eliminate it and destroy the Slav nation of Serbia. They thought that if they gave independence to **one country in their Empire then other countries would want independence** and this would cause a snow ball effect. As a result this region of Europe was **unstable because Austria-Hungary would use force** to keep its Empire together.  **Powder Keg of Europe because it was likely that war was going to take place.**  Serbia was too small to take on Austria-Hungary and looked to Russia for help. **Russia always thought of itself as the Protector of the Slavs but Germany supported Austria-Hungary.**  **Russia backed down when it became clear that Germany would go to war to support Austria-Hungary.**  This crisis was important because it proved to Austria-Hungary that they could always **rely on German support.**  The Bosnian Crisis was important because;  It **reassured AH they could rely on German Support**  Although Russia backed down in 1909 by 1914 **it had built up its armies and was determined not to back down again.**  Serbia never accepted the loss of Bosnia and was looking for revenge on AH.  **Terrorist groups like the Black Hand** were formed in Bosnia who wanted to get Bosnia to join with Serbia to form a Greater Serbia |
| **Relationship between Serbia and Austria-Hungary**  Nationalism – all countries were looking out for their own interests.  Austria had taken Bosnia by force in 1908.  (On October 6, 1908, the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary announces its annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, dual provinces in the Balkan region of Europe formerly under the control of the Ottoman Empire.)  Many Serbs lived in Bosnia.  Archduke Franz Ferdinand decided to visit Sarajevo, to inspect the Austria-Hungarian troops based there. 70,000 had been sent there to try to scare the Serbian government | **July Crisis (10 POINT ULTIMATUM)**   * ***Austria sends a 10 point ultimatum to Serbia*** * ***Serbia agreed to all but one (won’t agree to allowing Austro-Hungarian Army into Serbia)*** * ***Austria* declares was on *Serbia*** * ***Russia*, a friend of *Serbia,* declares war on *Austria-Hungary*** * ***Germany*, an ally of *Austria-Hungary*, declares war on *Russia*** * ***Germany* is afraid *France* might attack her so she declares war on *France*, she is afraid of being surrounded** * ***Germany* attacks *Belgium*, a friend of *Britain*, *Britain* declares war on *Germany* (Treaty of London).** |
| **Schlieffen plan and Belgium (Treaty of London)**  Schlieffen Plan  Developed by Germany in case they had to fight a war on 2 fronts – France in the West and Russian in the East  Said had to attack France first because Russia would take at least 6 weeks to get ready to fight  Depended on speed and surprise  Would got through neutral Belgium to avoid heavy French defence along French – German border  Britain had Treaty of London with Belgium to protect Belgium neutrality  Gave Germany ultimatum to get out of Belgium  Germany refused - Kaiser called the Treaty of London “a scrap of paper”  Britain really went to war to defend North Sea Ports of Belgium which could have been used to invade Britain and Germany had been building a large navy  Britain also went to war because of the sanctity of treaties – Britain was a country of honour would always keep our word  Schlieffen Plan made war bigger from war in east to war in west as well | **Britain entering the war**  The BEF lead by Sir John French landed in France on 23rd August 1914. They fought the Germans at the Battle of Mons.  They used 303 Lee Enfield Bolt action rifles which fired 14-15 bullets a minute.  The British troop’s fire was that accurate that the Germans thought they were against machine gun fire.  The troops at Mons were well lead by Lieutenant-General Douglas Haig.  Despite their early success the British didn’t have the numbers to stop the  Germans and fought an ordered retreat which did slow the Germans down. |

**Stalemate**

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| **The Schlieffen plan**  Schlieffen Plan  Developed by Germany in case they had to fight a war on 2 fronts – France in the West and Russian in the East  Said had to attack France first because Russia would take at least 6 weeks to get ready to fight  Depended on speed and surprise  Would got through neutral Belgium to avoid heavy French defence along French – German border  Britain had Treaty of London with Belgium to protect Belgium neutrality  Gave Germany ultimatum to get out of Belgium  Germany refused - Kaiser called the Treaty of London “a scrap of paper”  Britain really went to war to defend North Sea Ports of Belgium which could have been used to invade Britain and Germany had been building a large navy  Britain also went to war because of the sanctity of treaties – Britain was a country of honour would always keep our word  Schlieffen Plan made war bigger from war in east to war in west as well | **Battle of the Marne**  The French were on the defensive at this stage of the war.  The Germans supreme commander Molke had to pull 100 000 troops out of their advance on Paris because the Russians had mobilised far more quickly than expected and had already invaded Germany.  This slowed down the advance and weakened the Hammer.  German troops were also running out of food and equipment.  Von Kluck, the German commander in the Field, decided he could not swing round Paris according to the original plan, so he advanced straight towards it.  The German troops were on foot and the French were being delivered to the battle by train, lorry and taxi.  The Germans were weary, outnumbered and the French were fighting to save their country.  The Battle of the Marne was a turning point.  The German Generals realised they could not break through enemy lines.  They decided to out flank them (get round the end of enemy lines).  The Charge began on the 12th October and became known as the Race to the Sea.  As the Germans charged West towards the Sea, the British and French moved troops (by train) to block them whenever the Germans were about to break though. |
| **Technology of war (artillery/machine guns/poison gas/tanks/aircraft)**  Artillery was the biggest killer of WWI; responsible for 75% of enemy deaths.  WW1 was an Artillery war. Artillery caused the most casualties in the War and not machine gun fire. This was mainly caused by bombardments by large heavy guns.  The Artillery had 2 main jobs;  1 to destroy enemy positions and defences so they could be captured  2 to destroy enemy guns.  At the beginning of the war guns were not very accurate. Firing from well behind their own lines, artillery often bombarded their own front line trenches before they got their range right. By the end of the war artillery was much more powerful and more accurate. By 1918 artillery tactics were extremely sophisticated. By now the British and developed the Creeping Barrage. Artillery was the key weapon of the war.  At the start of the war machine guns were very large and heavy so they were not very useful in attack but they were a devastating good defensive weapon. A machine gun could fire 8 bullets a second or more. During an infantry charge it could cut down a whole brigades in minutes. This meant that any attack on the enemy lines would cost lives. Machine guns proved to be devastating in the Battle of the Somme against the British.  The first poisoned gas attack was in April 1915. The Germans releases Chlorine which wafted on the wind across no man’s land into the British Trenches. There was panic as the soldiers retched, coughed and struggled to breathe.  From that on gas attacks became a regular feature of the war. | **Trench warfare**  Both sides dug trenches to protect themselves. At first these were just ditches, but it soon became clear that the soldiers would be in them for some time.  Once in the trenches they would be able to keep each other pinned down with machine gun fire. |
| **Conditions in the trenches (over the top / frontline)**  **Lice -** They were a constant source of irritation and could be cracked with fingernails or ‘popped’ with a burning candle.  Lice were so common because men in the front-line rarely, if ever, washed. Normally a soldier spent 4 days in the frontline, 4 days in support and 8 in reserve. It was not unusual for men to go over a month without washing! This also led to diseases such as dysentery.  **Rats -** Trenches were infested with rats because there were no cats and plenty of rotting corpses. They stole food from soldiers and ate the corpses of their comrades. As a result the rats grew huge and soldiers spent theirs nights hunting them with shovels.  **Daily food - mostly** tinned meat called bully beef, bread, biscuits and jam. This was of poor quality and eating the same thing every day added to the often dull nature of trench life.  **Gas -**a constant fear for men in the frontline. Chlorine gas destroyed the lung tissues so men couldn’t breathe and mustard gas blistered the skin and caused blindness.  **Shell Shock -** a type of nervous exhaustion. Men would live in a state of terror, for many their lives would never be the same and they would never recover. Many ended up in mental hospitals for the rest of their lives.  **Trench foot -** meant that feet often swelled to two or three times their normal size and went numb. Skin would peel off as boots were removed. In some cases they had to be amputated. | **A soldiers life**  **Adventure** *-* most soldiers were ordinary working-class men. They had not travelled much before the war. The fighting took them to France, Belgium, the middle East and Africa.  **Excitement** – Some men actually enjoyed the risk and thrill of war.  Challenge – Most people like a challenge. War was the ultimate challenge. Soldiers achieved things they had never dreamed possible. E.g. an act of bravery of simply putting up with pain and hardship.  **Discipline -** Soldiers who disobeyed orders, fell asleep on sentry duty of deserted were court-marshalled and sometimes executed. A total of 3,080 British soldiers were condemned to death and 346 actually had the sentence carried out.  **Leisure Time** - Officers worked very hard to make sure that soldiers got a chance to rest and recuperate. On average a battalion could expect to spend 10 days a month in the trenches and this included time ion the reserve trenches which could be a mile from the front line and therefore safer. Troops normally spent 3 days a month in the most dangerous section of the front line trenches. However, during a major assault, like the Somme, troops could be in the front line much longer. Soldiers spent about 60% of their time out of the Trenches. Many of them took up correspondence courses. Many went sightseeing in France. There were football and other sports teams. There was usually a concert party every week.  **Humour** - Soldiers produced many humorous newssheets and other publications often poking fun at their commanders. E.g. the Wipers Times written and published in the trenches was a very popular comic newssheet. |
| **War at sea (Blockades/U-Boats/Convoys/Battle of Jutland**  **U-Boats**  Germany made very effective use of its small U-boat fleet (only 23 at the start of the war).  At first, the Germans stuck to the rules of war by sinking only merchant ships belonging to Britain and her allies.  This resulted in a small number of sinking’s: only ten by Feb. 1915.  From Feb. 1915 the Germans declared that any ship in British waters (even neutral ones) would be attacked – this was unrestricted submarine warfare  Sinking’s shot up – in August 1915 alone, U-boats sank 42 merchant ships.  **Q ships – warships disguised as merchant**  **ships to attack submarines.**  **Jutland**  This was the biggest sea battle of the war, fought between the British fleet of Admiral Jellicoe and the German fleet of Admiral von Scheer.  Von Scheer decided to take his fleet out to sea to break the Royal Navy blockade of Germany which was causing such hardship among German civilians.  Unfortunately for Jellicoe, the battle went Germany’s way. Three British battle cruisers were blown apart when their magazines were exploded by German shells (see next slide)  German gunfire was both more accurate and more damaging because of a design fault in the British ships.  The British losses were 14 ships and 6000 sailors; the Germans 11 ships and 2500 sailors.  However, the Germans had a much smaller fleet and could not afford these losses, so Scheer broke away from the battle and returned back to port.  In the *short term* – it was German victory: they sank more ships and killed more British sailors.  But, in the *long term*, it proved to be a British victory because the German fleet never came out to sea again. It spent the rest of the war bottled up in its ports at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven.  This left control of the seas to the Royal Navy and the British blockade remained in force.  The effect of the blockade was devastating on civilian morale (and so on the morale of the troops, as well): 750,000 German civilians died during the war as a result of the poor diet forced on the by the blockade. | **Key battles of WW1 (1916 Verdun / 1916 Somme / 1917 Passchendaele)**  **Verdun**  The Battle of Verdun started on February 21st 1916 and ended on December 16th in 1916.  The Battle of Verdun in 1916 was the longest single battle of World War One.  The casualties from Verdun and the impact the battle had on the French Army was a primary reason for the British starting the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 in an effort to take German pressure off of the French at Verdun.  The Germans began a determined battle to capture strategic French Forts around Verdun.  The Germans realised that the French were leading the Allied war effort at this stage. Commander Falkenhayn hatched a plan - to wear down the enemies strength until resilience was no longer possible – ‘Bleed France Dry’.  The German’s tactic FAILED.  Both sides suffered roughly equal terrible losses.  For 6 months both sides poured men and resources into the battle.  Attacks led to counter attacks and by July 1916 700,000 men had fallen. These losses weakened both sides.  By the end of the Summer the French were near breaking point.  As fighting at Verdun stretched on and on, German resources were stretched thinner by having to confront both a British-led offensive on the Somme River and Russia’s Brusilov Offensive on the Eastern Front.  In July, the Kaiser, frustrated by the state of things at Verdun, removed Falkenhayn and sent him to command the 9th Army in Transylvania; Paul von Hindenburg took his place.  By early December, under Robert Neville, who had been appointed to replace Philippe Petain in April, the French had managed to recapture much of their lost territory, and in the last three days of battle took 11,000 German prisoners before Hindenburg finally called a stop to the German attacks.  **Somme**  The battle lasted from 1 July – 18 November 1916.  Took place in France and was one of the biggest battles of the First World War.  60,000 **British** casualties on first day of battle alone.  1,738,000 shells were fired at the Germans in the initial bombardment.  In July 1916, the French army was close to collapse.  After the high casualty rate at the Battle of Verdun many troops were refusing to fight.  If the Germans attacked again then the French Army would be defeated and the allies would lose the war.  General Haig was ordered to divert the Germans away from Verdun by launching an attack on the Somme.  **General Sir Douglas Haig –** leader of the British Army at the Somme. His nickname became “The Butcher of the Somme”.  Generals were 10 miles behind the fighting. They didn’t know how the battle was going.  The 7 days of artillery bombardment failed to kill many Germans because they were in underground dug outs  The constant shell fire turned the land into mud which made it harder to cross for the British soldiers.  **Passchendaele**  The Battle of Passchendaele, fought July 1917, is sometimes called the Third Battle of Ypres. For the soldiers who fought at Passchendaele, it was known as the ‘Battle of Mud’. Few battles summarise World War One better than the Battle of Passchendaele.  Haig’s main aim was a breakthrough to the coast of Belgium so that German submarine pens could be destroyed.  Admiral Jellicoe had already advised both Haig and the British government that the loss of shipping (primarily merchant) could not be sustained and that Britain would face severe problems in 1918, if such losses continued.  Haig’s plan, to sweep through Flanders to the coast, did not receive support from Britain’s Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, but as the Allies had no other credible plan, he gave his agreement for Haig to carry out his plan.  Heaviest rain the region had seen in thirty years. The area in Flanders became effectively a swamp.  Tanks, sent forward to help the infantry, simply got stuck. Infantry soldiers found movement very difficult. The impact of the artillery bombardment had destroyed the drainage systems of the region which greatly added to the problem.  The shell craters made by the Allied shelling filled with water and did not allow advancing men the opportunity to hide in them. The fields through which men should have gone became impassable. |
| **War on the other fronts (Gallipoli and its failure)**  Winston Churchill, the First Sea Lord (in-charge of the Royal Navy) persuaded the Government that an attack should take place on the Dardanelles Strait, a narrow stretch of water linking the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara, which then gave access to the Black sea. This was an attack on the Turks, an ally of Germany and would also, get supplies through to Russian to help them against Germany and Austria-Hungary.  In March 1915 warships began their assault and bombarded the forts that lined the strait. But as the ships entered the strait a combination of mines and shell fire from the forts on the shore doomed the attack. The allied commanders decided to launch a land assault to capture the peninsula before the naval operation could succeed.  In April a force of British, French and ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand) troops attacked the Helles Beach. The Turks, supported by German troops, had the strengthened the defences and had dug trenches on the hills overlooking the beaches where the Allies were likely to land. The allied troops fought bravely, and did capture a few trenches, but it quickly became clear that they would not be able to remove the Turks from the Peninsula.  The allied troops also dug in, but conditions for both side were dreadful. In the blistering summer heat, and the decaying corpses along the front line, on both sides, disease was rampant. Neither side could break the deadlock, even with more troops. Another landing was made at Sulva bay, but it also failed to break through he defences of the Turks.  By November there was a new problem for the Allies – Frost bite. The troops were extremely ill-equipped from the harsh winter. By December it was clear that there was no prospect of success. The decision was taken to pull out. The withdrawal was well organised, but the campaign was seen as a failure, and Churchill was humiliated. |  |

**Ending the war**

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| **Changes in Allies Forces (USA joining)**  Americans were divided in their loyalties (ex. British-Americans, Irish-Americans and German-Americans)  President Woodrow Wilson did not want foreign problems to disrupt his Presidency (1916- “He kept us out of war!” re-election slogan)  Americans still liked the idea of being ISOLATIONISTS (keeping out of the war).  Neutrality stopped when $$$ came into the picture!! Although the US supplied materials to both sides, it supplied MUCH more to the Allies. Overall the increase in trade greatly helped “neutral” America.   * Unlimited Submarine (u-boat) warfare   According to international law civilian ships must be warned before sinking – allowing for passengers to escape to safety.  Germany was not doing this!   * The sinking of the Lusitania   May 7, 1915 U-boat sank the British Liner killing 1,198 people  128 were Americans.  United States furious!  Germany said the liner was carrying ammunition and explosives   * The Zimmerman Telegram   March 1917 The Zimmermann telegram released  If the U.S. entered War against Central Powers, Mexico should attack the U.S. and receive as a reward: Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. | **Russian revolution**   * **Big** - Russia was too big to rule. In 1913, it stretched 4,000 miles from Europe to Alaska, and comprised 125 million people. * **Backward** - Russia was backward. It had few roads and limited industrialisation. Most people were still peasants. * **Weak** - Russia was militarily weak. It had lost a war with Japan in 1904. * **Disunited** - Russia had many different nationalities, languages and religions. * **Autocracy** - the government of Russia, which Nicholas ruled over alone, was far too much work for one man.   March 1917 Tsar Nicholas II forced to give up his throne.  Oct 1917 Lenin – declared Russia were not going to fight and opened negotiations. This led to peace with Germany in March 1918. |
| **Military developments in 1918**  German situation desperate in early 1918.  Allies blockade of German ports had starved the economy of raw materials and the population (including soldiers) of food. USA sending tanks and materials to France. Allies had increasing numbers of tanks which could deal with the terrain more effectively.  German aircraft could no longer attack targets in England with impunity.  Oct 1918 RFC (Royal Flying corps) had over 20,000 aircraft.  Germany no longer a ‘quality fighting machine’. | **Ludendorff and German spring offensive 1918**  In the spring of 1918, Ludendorff ordered a massive German attack on the Western Front. The Spring Offensive was Germany’s attempt to end World War One. With 500,000 troops added to Germany’s strength from the Russian Front, Ludendorff was confident of success:  By the spring of 1918, the Allies knew that there would be a major German attack – they just did not know where it would come. The British reinforced their positions near the coast while the French strengthened their positions to the south of the British.  On March 21st, 1918, Luderndorff launched the offensive. In just five hours, the Germans fired one million artillery shells at the British lines held by the Fifth Army – over 3000 shells fired every minute. The artillery bombardment was followed by an attack by elite storm troopers. These soldiers travelled lightly and were skilled in fast, hard-hitting attacks before moving on to their next target. Unlike soldiers burdened with weighty kit etc, the storm troopers carried little except weaponry (such as flame throwers) that could cause much panic, as proved to be the case in this attack.  By the end of the first day of the attack, 21,000 British soldiers had been taken prisoner and the Germans had made great advances through the lines of the Fifth Army. Senior British military commanders lost control of the situation. They had spent three years used to static warfare and suddenly they had to cope with a German onslaught. Gough ordered the Fifth Army to withdraw. The German attack was the biggest breakthrough in three years of warfare on the Western Front. Ironically, the British gave up to the Germans the Somme region – where so many British and German soldiers had been killed in the battle of 1916.  However, the Germans experienced one major problem. Their advance had been a major success. But their troops deliberately carried few things except weapons to assist their mobility. The speed of their advance put their supply lines under huge strain. The supply units of the storm troopers simply could not keep up with them and those leading the attack became short of vital supplies that were stuck well back from their positions. |
| **Allied advance 100 days**  May to August the Germans made no progress. It was clear they had run out of time and resources. Germans ended trench warfare but allies benefitted. Large amount of resources coming from USA.  8th August – German army ‘black day’ – allies counter attacked along much of the Western front.  By October Germans were in full retreat. | **Germany surrendering – impact of blockade**  Germany's civilians began to suffer malnourishment from the winter of 1916 onwards, while the food situation in Austria caused riots and, eventually, actual starvation in some areas. A wish to retaliate and to break Britain’s command of the seas motivated Germany to launch its campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare in 1917. The result was to make the blockade even more complete, by provoking the United States to join the Allies.  Although the German U-Boat campaign had led to food shortages in Britain the British naval blockade that prevented supplies from getting into German ports hit Germany harder. An influenza epidemic hit the German cities causing large numbers of deaths amongst a people already weakened by food shortages. Strikes and demonstrations paralysed Berlin and in November the socialists tried to seize control. After the failure of his offensive Ludendorff resigned and then sailors in the German fleet mutinied.  November 1918 Germany’s allies were surrendering. In Northern ports German sailors rebelled. In Berlin crowds marched through the streets. |
| **Abdication of the Kaiser (Germany)**  Resignation / Leaving  Only option to restore order in Germany. Rioting in the German cities – no hope of winning the war.  German generals wanted the Kaiser to give more power to politicians so they could ensure a fair end to the fighting. 9/11/1918 – Germany became a REPUBLIC. No monarch but an elected President. | **Armistice**  The Armistice of 11 November 1918 was greeted with great joy. The **people of Europe** wanted lasting peace, and also to make Germany pay for the damage done, and revenge.  The **Germans** had expected that the peace treaty would be based on President Wilson's **Fourteen Points**. The six key principles of the Fourteen Points were:   1. Setting up a League of Nations 2. Disarmament 3. Self-determination for the people of Europe - the right to rule themselves 4. Freedom for colonies 5. Freedom of the seas 6. Free trade   The **Big Three** expected to base the peace treaty on the **terms of the armistice**, which were much harsher:   1. German army disbanded, and Germany to give up its navy. 2. Allied troops to occupy the Rhineland. 3. Reparation for damage done and war losses. |
| **Roles of Sir Douglas Haig and Marshal Foch**  **General Sir Douglas Haig –** leader of the British Army at the Somme. His nickname became “The Butcher of the Somme”.  Commanded British Armies from 1915 to the end of the war.  Reputation damaged at the Battle of the Somme  Overall proved successful in 1918  Actively promoted new strategies and technologies which helped the Allied victory  In Spring 1918 he led the resistance against the German offensive.  Captured nearly 200,000 prisoners and nearly 3,000 guns.  Despite the Somme, after the war he was seen as a war hero.  **Marshal Foch -** One of the leading French generals in the early years of the war.  Late 1916 he was removed after the failure of the Allied offensives.  1917 he was recalled to become the Chief of the General staff  Summer 1918 he was given the title of Marshal Foch and planned with Haig the grand offensive against Germany.  After the war he received many decorations and honors from Allied countries. |  |