

IB History: Unit 2 World War I

The purpose of this unit is to examine the underlying causes, course and the major outcomes of World War I. You will learn about the technology that changed the nature of warfare and helped make for a new version of war called total war. The concept of total war helps explain the all-encompassing nature of this war on the society and on the world. The home front became essential to both sides of this conflict as it became clear that industrial efficiency and production would make for victory or defeat. The First World War caused empires to crumble and set a new direction for the 20th century. World War I is recommended for detailed study under topic 1: causes, practices and effects of wars in IB History.

Approximate time: 4 cycles.

While not meant to be an exhaustive list, the boxes below provide some key questions, terms and people to help in your study of this unit. Some of the terms from the previous unit are also relevant, too.

SL/HL Key Terms

Treaties

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March, 1918)
Treaty of London (1839)
Reinsurance Treaty (1887)

Concepts

total war
limited war
self-determination
arms race
nationalism
Weltpolitik
battle of attrition
stalemate & deadlock
neo-mercantilist
home front
balance of power
autocracy
deterrence
imperialism

Locations

Eastern Front
Western Front
Balkans
Austria-Hungary
Germany
Great Britain
France
Japan
Belgium
Canada
Russia
United States
Ottoman Empire (Turkey)

Alliances & Ententes

Triple Alliance
Triple Entente
Central Powers
Allied Powers

SL/HL Key Terms

Conflicts

Balkan Wars

New Technologies

heavy artillery
gas
tanks
submarines (u-boats)
zeppelin
dreadnought

Strategic Ideas

Plan XVII
Schlieffen Plan
rationing
propaganda
censorship
blockade
conscriptio
convoy system
mobilization
trench warfare

Other

Black Hand
ultimatum
annex
no-man's land
blank check
shell shock
Bolshevik
mutiny
pacifist
shrapnel
armistice
alliances
élan vitale

SL/HL Key People

German

Otto von Bismarck
Kaiser Wilhelm II
Prince Max von Baden
General Paul von Hindenburg
General Erich Ludendorff
Foreign Minister, Arthur Zimmermann
Karl Marx
American
President Woodrow Wilson
General John J. Pershing

British

Prime Minister David Lloyd George
Winston Churchill
General Douglas Haig
Foreign Secretary Edward Grey

French

Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau
Marshal Ferdinand Foch

Russia

Tsar Nicholas II
General Alexander Samsonov
Gregory Efimovitch (Rasputin)
Vladimir Lenin
Leon Trotsky

Serbian

Gavrilo Princip

Austria-Hungarian

Archduke Franz Ferdinand
Emperor Franz Joseph I

HL Key People

Canadian

Sir Wilfrid Laurier
Sir Robert Borden
Henri Bourassa
Minister of the Militia, Sam Hughes
Brigadier-General Arthur Currie
Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

American

Bernard Baruch
George Creel
Herbert Hoover
Jeannette Rankin
Rear Admiral William S. Sims
JP Morgan
Theodore Roosevelt
Jane Addams
William Jennings Bryan

HL Key Terms

American

neutrality
Congress
American Expeditionary Force (AEF)
Selective Service Act
Associate power
Sussex pledge
Republican
Democrat

Canadian

Dominion
Battle of Beaumont-Hamel
Battle of Vimy Ridge
Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)
Halifax Explosion - 1917
income tax
Military Voters Act
Wartime Elections Act
Military Service Act
Cabinet
Liberal
Conservative

SL/HL Lessons

1. Background to War
2. Short-Term Causes of WWI
3. WWI Essay and Historiography
4. WWI and Total War
5. WWI and the Fronts
6. Seminar #2: 1914-1918 The Year Exemplified
7. Germany and Total War
8. War Aims and Goals for Peace
9. Russian Revolution
10. Russia's Provisional Government
11. Impact of WWI

HL Lessons

1. United States Entry into WWI
2. Canadian Entry into WWI
3. Canadian Contribution to WWI

SL/HL Key Battles

Western Front

Battle of Mons (Aug. 23, 1914)
Battle of the Marne (Sept. 5-9th, 1914)
Battle of Ypres (Oct. 12 - Nov. 11, 1914)
Battle of the Somme (July 1st - Nov. 18th, 1916)
Battle of Verdun (Feb. 21 - Dec. 18th, 1916)
Battle of Passchendaele (Sept 20th - Oct. 12th, 1917)
Battle of Vimy Ridge (April 9 - 12th, 1917)

Eastern Front

Battle of the Masurian Lakes (Sept 9 - 14th, 1914)
Battle of Tannenberg (Aug. 26-30th, 1914)

Other Fronts

Battle of Gallipoli (April 25th, 1915 - Jan. 6th 1916)
Battle of Jutland (May 31st, 1916)