

The Challenging Road to Peace since The First World War



**In memory of the death of more than 10 million people
during the First World War 1914 -1918**

World War One was a catastrophe that should never have happened.

Have we changed our way of thinking and behaving?

Why do wars still happen? Have our politicians changed their way of thinking and behaving?

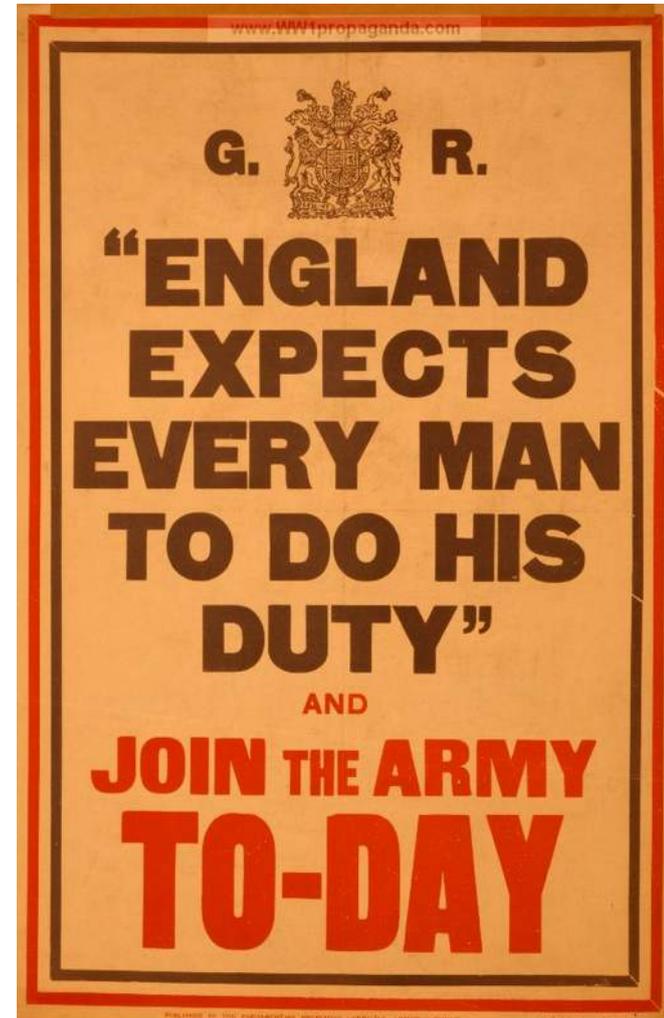
This presentation tries to promote learning from the past to create peace now.



**World War One was fought by nations for
Patriotism & National Interest.
All nations felt they had God on their side.**

Total war dead:

- 41.8 million fighting for Allies :
5 million died.
- 25.8 million fought for
Germany/Austria-
Hungary/Turkey:
3.9 million died.



War dead

- Average of 6,000 every day
- Britain at least 700,000
- France 1,400,000
- Half of young Frenchmen died.
- A third of young German men died.
- One in five of all Serbians died.



1914: Countdown to War : 1



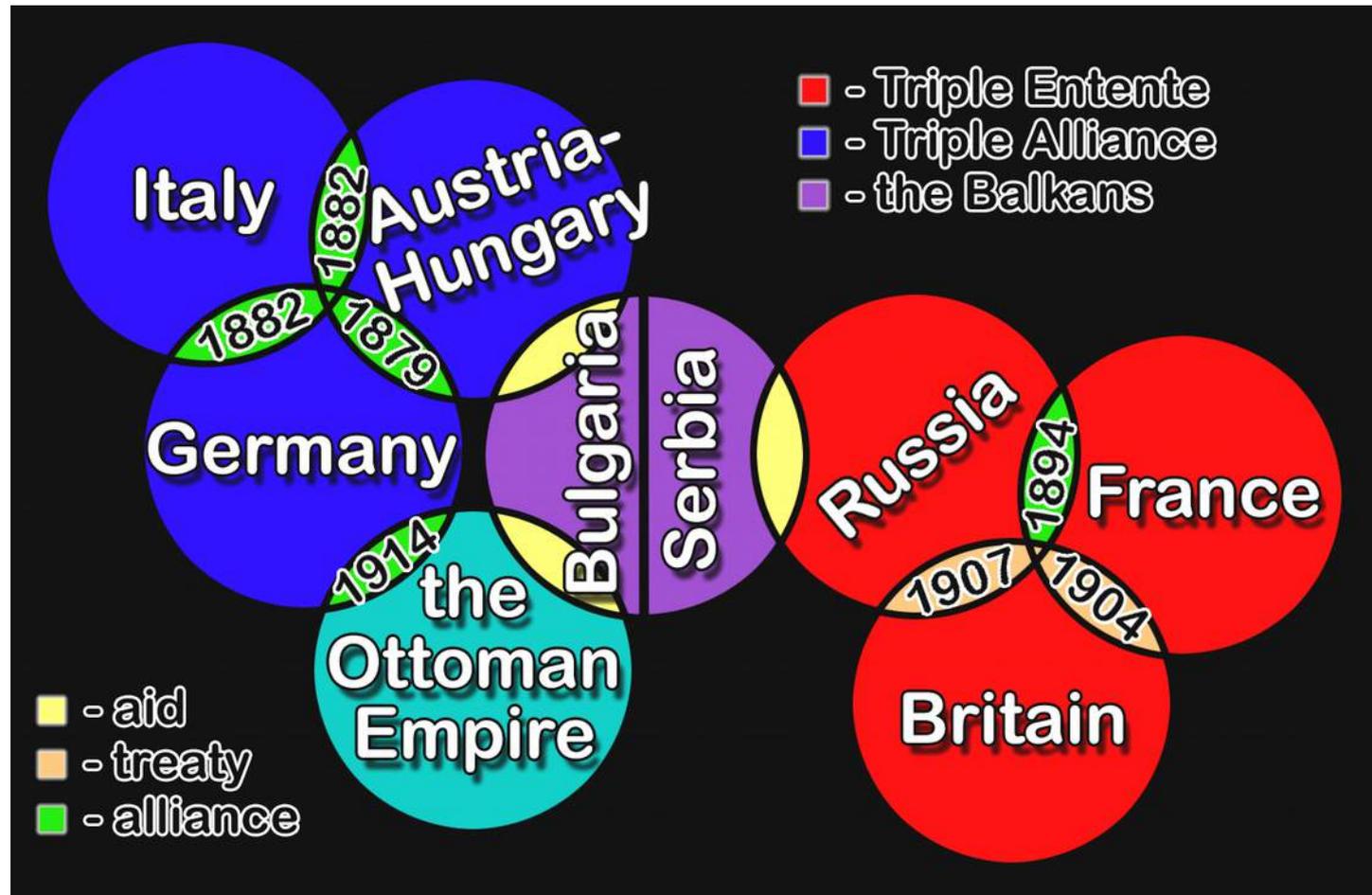
1914: The Slide into War

Within six weeks
of one man
being assassinated,
Europe was at war.



Four & half years later 10 million people had died.

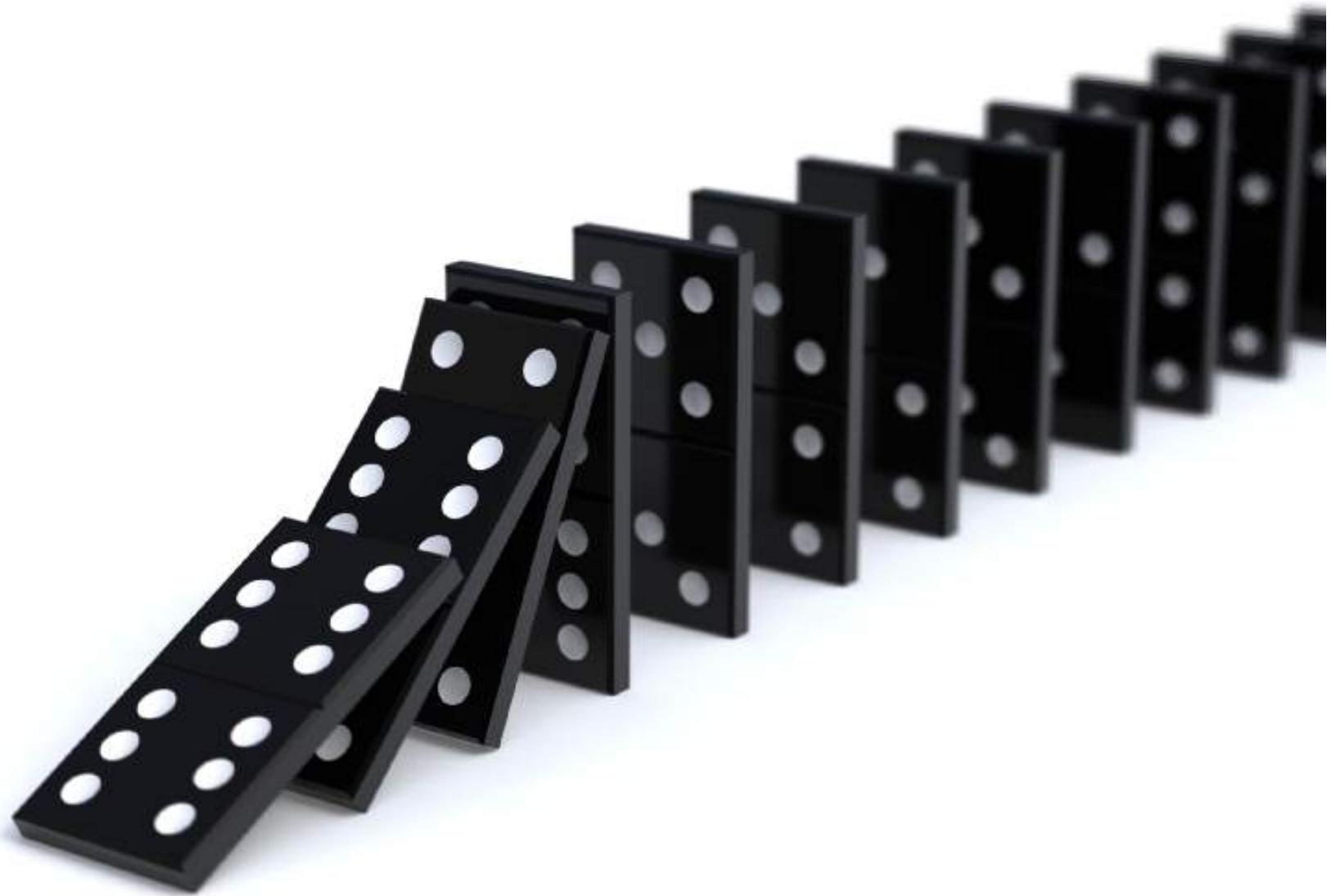
Treaties



- Britain + Belgium (*Treaty of London 1839*)
- France + Russia 1894
- *Entente Cordiale*, France + Britain 1904
- *Triple Entente* France + Russia + Britain 1907
- Secret naval treaty Britain + France 1912
- Germany + Austria-Hungary 1879
- Germany + Austria-Hungary + Italy =The Triple Alliance 1882

- Balkan countries want independence from Austro-Hungarian empire.
- In June heir to Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, assassinated in Sarajevo.
- Austro-Hungarians accuse Serbia of supporting terrorist assassins.
- Germany pledges support for Austria-Hungary.
- In July Austria-Hungary mobilises its army against Serbia.
- Russia pledges its support to Serbia.
- Austria declares war on Serbia with view to annexing it.
- Russia mobilises its army.
- August Germany mobilises its army.
- Germany declares war on Russia.

1914: Countdown to War : 2



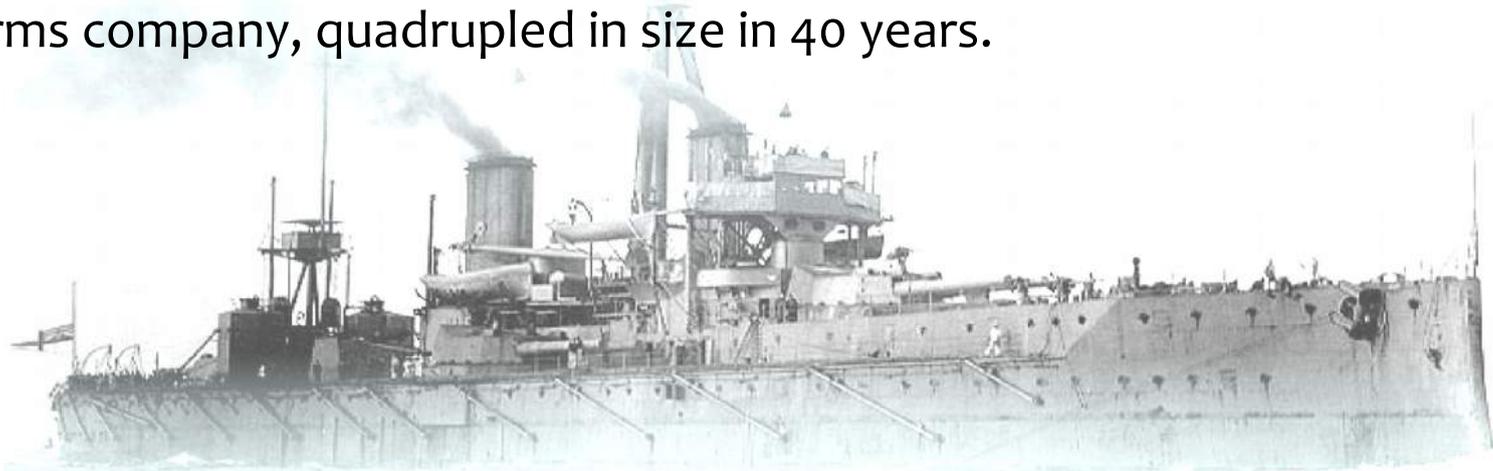
- Russia calls on France to honour treaty.
- France mobilises army.
- 3rd August Germany declares war on France.
- 4th August Germany invades Belgium en route to invading France.
- Britain comes to Belgium's aid under terms of 1839 Treaty of London.
- 4th August 1914 Britain declares war on Germany.
- 6th August Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.
- 15th August Russia invades Germany.
- Japan, honouring the Anglo-Japanese Alliance (1902), declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.

What other ways of solving the problems of independence movements and international disputes are there?

What contributed to War?

1. Arms Race

- Britain built large fleet of 'Dreadnought' battleships.
- Germany followed to protect trade routes.
- Germany, France & Russia built up large armies.
- Armament manufacturers were selling arms to all nations. Krupp, the German arms company, quadrupled in size in 40 years.



2. War Planning

- There had been many small wars in years before WW1.
- Germany feared encirclement from Russia & France.
- Germany encouraged Austria-Hungary to 'deal' with Serbia.
- All sides thought war a solution.

3. Cultural attitudes

- Huge political power held by European military leaders.
- Lack of democratic control over the Military.
- Serving as an officer in the military forces seen as noble and glorious and past battles were celebrated.
- Many thought 'war is not the worst of evils' and that it was a 'great adventure' and glorious.
- Honour, national pride, respect for 'authority', obedience and duty strongly felt.

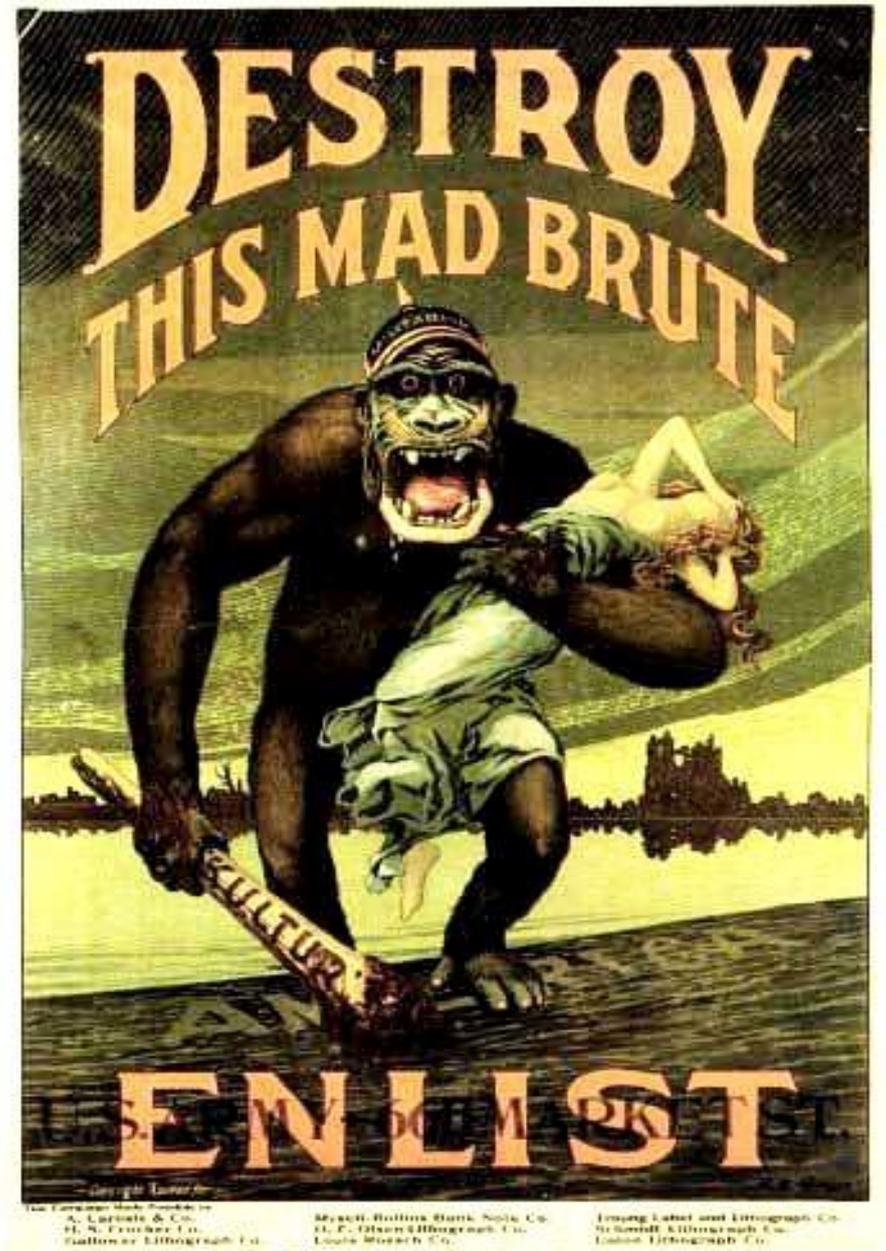


4. Nationalism

- Many had a strong feeling of importance of their own nation.
- Resentment of behaviour and threat from other countries
- Dislike and suspicion of foreigners

5. Public support

- Newspapers demanded rearmament & stirred up fear of foreign countries.
- Books & articles warned of invasion.
- People began to accept that war was inevitable.



6. Ineffectual negotiating bodies

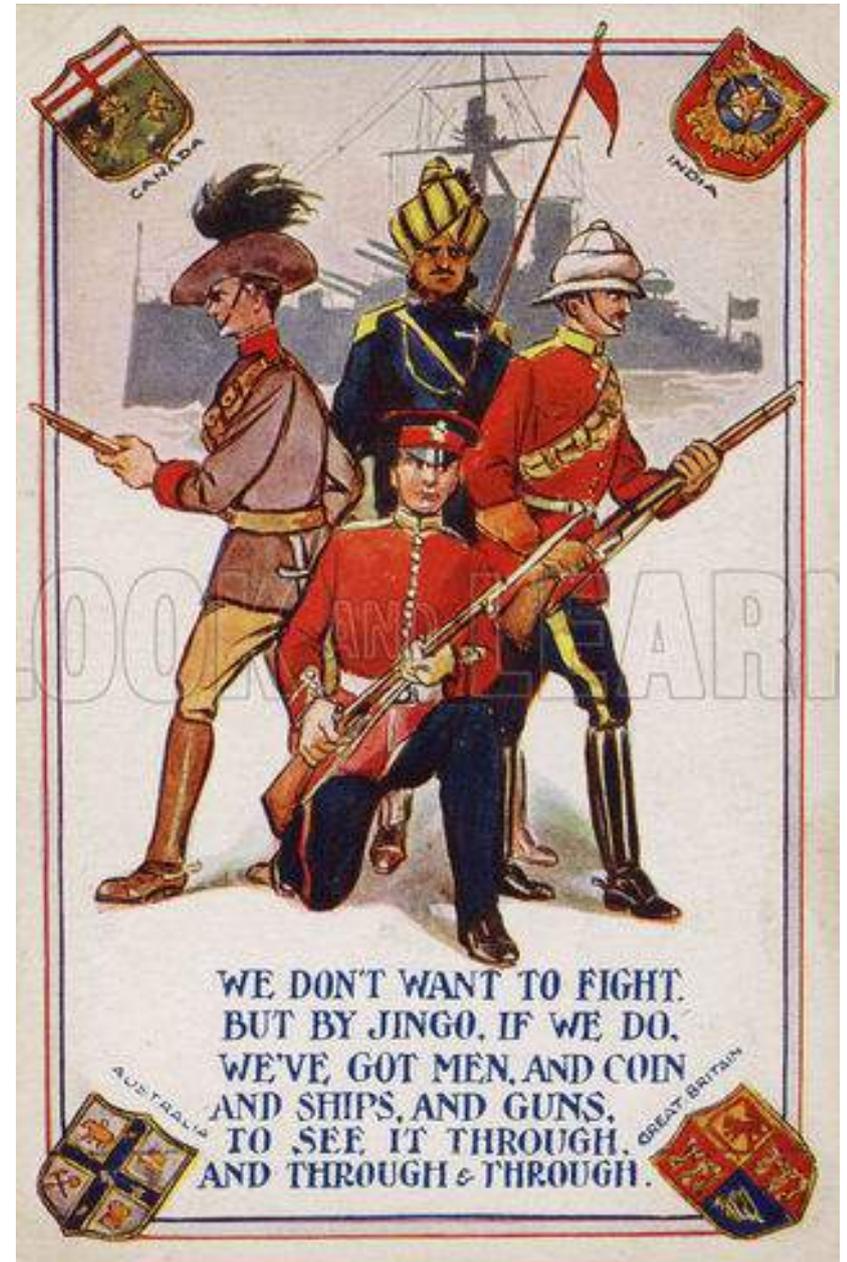
No effective international organisations that could mediate between countries in dispute

7. Economic interest & Colonialism

Major powers of Europe sought to colonise countries around the world. Britain was in the lead.

These colonies fuelled their economies and produced great wealth.

Each country sought a greater share in the world markets.



9. Unrest in Britain

- Rebellion in Ireland
- Fair pay and conditions at work: Unions were organising strikes to improve the appalling conditions.
- Democracy: Women wanted the vote & struggled for equality. Suffragettes
- The prolonged campaign of civil disobedience was becoming increasingly violent.

10. Indifference of the ruling elite?

- War was seen as a 'normal' means of solving disputes with little regard to the death and suffering of the combatants.
- War had the 'advantage' of bringing people together under the flag of nationalism & patriotism and 'solving' internal problems at home.

Recruiting soldiers

Within six months one million men had volunteered.



Famous Poster of Kitchener



Men in 1914 queueing to enlist

Why did the men rush to enlist?

Why did men enlist?

"...to see what war was like, to get a gun, to see new countries and to feel like a grown man,"



In the war 2,400,000 British men enlisted.

THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1916,

APPLIES TO UNMARRIED MEN WHO, ON AUGUST 15th, 1915, WERE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER AND WHO WILL NOT BE 41 YEARS OF AGE ON MARCH 2nd, 1916.

ALL MEN (NOT EXCEPTED OR EXEMPTED),

between the above ages who, on November 2nd, 1915, were Unmarried or Widowers without any Child dependent on them will, on

Thursday, March 2nd, 1916

BE DEEMED TO BE ENLISTED FOR THE PERIOD OF THE WAR.

They will be placed in the Reserve until Called Up in their Class.

MEN EXCEPTED:

SOLDIERS, including Territorials who have volunteered for Foreign Service;
MEN serving in the NAVY or ROYAL MARINES;
MEN DISCHARGED from ARMY or NAVY, disabled or ill, or TIME-EXPIRED MEN;
MEN REJECTED for the ARMY since AUGUST 14th, 1915;
CLERGYMEN, PRIESTS, and MINISTERS OF RELIGION;
VISITORS from the DOMINIONS.

MEN WHO MAY BE EXEMPTED BY LOCAL TRIBUNALS:

Men more useful to the Nation in their present employments;
Men in whose case Military Service would cause serious hardship owing to exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position;
Men who are ill or infirm;
Men who conscientiously object to combatant service. If the Tribunal thinks fit, men may, on this ground, be (a) exempted from combatant service only (not non-combatant service), or (b) exempted on condition that they are engaged in work of National importance.

Up to March 2nd, a man can apply to his Local Tribunal for a certificate of exemption. There is a Right of Appeal. He will not be called up until his case has been dealt with finally.

Certificates of exemption may be absolute, conditional or temporary. Such certificates can be renewed, varied or withdrawn.

Men retain their Civil Rights until called up and are amenable to Civil Courts only.

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL MARCH 2nd.
ENLIST VOLUNTARILY NOW.**

For fuller particulars of the Act, please apply for Leaflet No. 64 to the nearest Post Office, Police Station, or Recruiting Office.

CONSCRIPTION WAS NEEDED

- Within 18 months, 700,000 British and French soldiers had been killed.
- 500,000 had been killed or wounded in Gallipoli.
- In the planned battles of 1916 it was estimated another 500,000 would die.
- There were not enough volunteers.

Conscription to replace the dead

- January 1916 Military Act enlisting all unmarried men aged 18 to 41 years old. Extended to married men in May.
- Many men were exempted, because of essential war work: e.g: miners, railway workers, armaments industry, family business, farm work.
- Many were rejected because of their poor physical condition or ill health. They were often given non combatant duties.
- Many had conscientious objections, usually on religious grounds.
- The law did not apply to Ireland in recognition of the independence movement. Ireland did supply 140,000 volunteers of whom 35,000 died.
- By 1918 Britain was running out of men to replace the dead and wounded.

“YOU MUST FIGHT!”

Loss of life and those wounded was staggering

- First day of Battle of the Somme half of British force of 120,000 were killed or injured.
- 1,000 dead per mile: one dead and two wounded every four feet
- Battle over four & half months : 420,000 British & 194,000 French casualties
- There were about 600,000 German casualties
- Acceptance of slaughter by High Command. Sir Douglas Haig said “If I attacked with say 450,000 men the War Office should be prepared to provide 50% wastage of that number in two months”.
- Commanders in the field were looking on the new recruits as ‘expendable stores’.

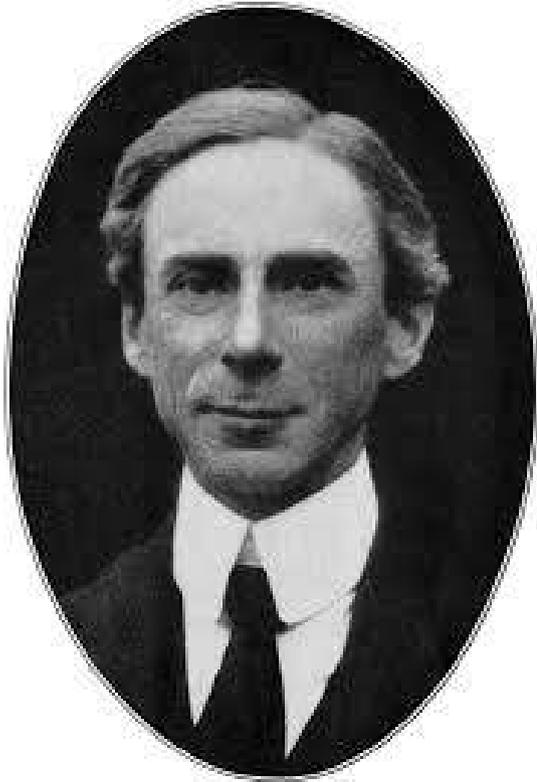




Speaking up against War

Sylvia Pankhurst 1882 -1960

A suffragette who lived in the East End of London and worked with the poor and the dispossessed. Campaigned strongly against the war and supported Conscientious Objectors.



Bertrand Russell, 1872 - 1970

“I knew that it was my business to protest, however futile protest might be.

I felt for the honour of human nature, those who had not been swept off their feet should show that they stood firm.”



'The Glorious Dead'



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

End

End