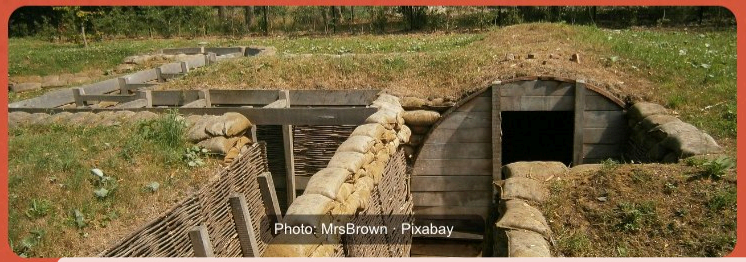


The First World War and the Peace Settlement

Why did a world war start, and did peace fix it? 1914–1919



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What could this be?

Why do people wear this red flower in November?



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From shooting to world war in 5 weeks

1

28 June: heir to Austria-Hungary shot in Sarajevo

2

28 July: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia

3

1-3 August: Germany declares war on Russia and France

4

4 August: Britain declares war over Belgium

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A truly global war, 1914–1918

- Fighting on land, at sea and in the air
- Western Front battles lasted months, not days
- Empires pulled soldiers from around the world
- Over nine million soldiers lost their lives



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Think, pair, share

Why did the shooting of one man lead to a world war?



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Why did war break out?



▶ 0:00 – 4:40

- Watch for how alliances linked countries
- Listen for Britain's reason to join

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Key words

alliance

promise by countries to defend each other

mobilisation

getting armies ready and moving for war

empire

many lands ruled by one powerful country

armistice

agreement to stop fighting

peace settlement

decisions by winners about borders and rules after war

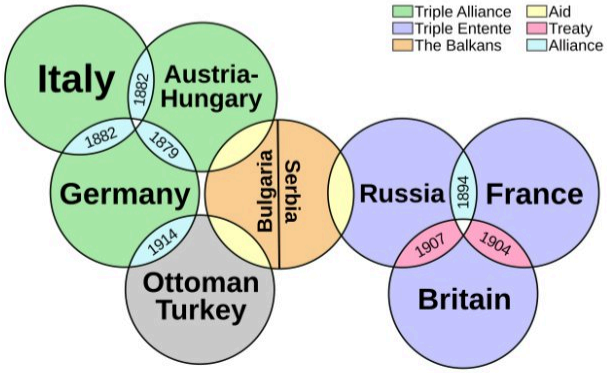


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From world war to peace deal



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Spot new weapons and total war at home
- Notice who meets in 1919 to decide peace

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Your task

In pairs, judge whether the 1919 peace fixed what started the war.

1. Pick two causes: alliances, empires, arms plans
2. Check: empires ended, borders redrawn at Versailles
3. Write one verdict sentence: will it last? Why?

10 min

In pairs

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Europe before and after

1914: empires in charge

- German, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman and Russian empires
- Alliances and big armies ready for quick war

1919: empires broken

- Four empires disintegrated after defeat and revolution
- Winners meet at Versailles to redraw map

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Did the peace settlement work?

Will the 1919 settlement keep peace in Europe?

A Yes: empires gone, so safer

B No: too harsh, will cause revenge

C No: too weak, will not stop dictators

Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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Exit ticket

1. One thing I learnt today about causes or peace...

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2. One question I still have about 1914–1919...

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