

Knowledge Map: World War One

Summary: From 1914-1918, Europe and the world were embroiled in the war that was supposed to “end all wars”. This topic looks at the causes of World War One, the fighting itself, the Russian Revolution and the reasons for German surrender in November 1918. This topic uses historians’ interpretations, namely Christopher Clark’s *Sleepwalkers* and Orlando Figes’ *A People’s Tragedy*, to better understand the topic and the academic debates that exist around it.

Key events		Key People	
1905	Schlieffen Plan to invade France and Belgium written up by Germany.	Franz Ferdinand	Archduke of Austria-Hungary.
June 1914	Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.	Tsar Nicholas II	Last Russian Tsar.
August 1914	Britain joins WWI.	General Haig	British general in charge of the Battle of the Somme.
July – November 1916	Battle of the Somme.		
February 1917	February Revolution in Russia that saw the removal of the Tsar and abolition of the monarchy.	Kaiser Wilhelm II	Last Emperor of Germany.
October 1917	October Revolution and the creation of a communist dictatorship.	Lenin	Leader of the Bolsheviks and first communist leader of Russia.
November 1918	Armistice that ended fighting in WWI.	Woodrow Wilson	US President during WWI.

Key terms

‘Sleepwalkers’	The idea that European countries didn’t intend for a war in 1914.
Trench Warfare	Defensive form of warfare that dominated WWI where soldiers would mainly fight out of trenches in the ground.
Western Front	Front of fighting in France and Belgium 1914-1916.
Revolution	Overthrow of a political/economic system.
Armistice	Something that brings an end to fighting in a war.
‘Pincer Movement’	Military manoeuvre whereby a certain point is taken through encircling and cutting off the enemy.
Alliance	A union between two or more countries based on shared interests.
Assassination	Where a person of importance, for example a politician, is killed.