

## APWH|Unit 7 “Global Conflicts from 1900 to present” Reading Questions

### **UNIT 7.2|Causes of World War I, Conducting World War I (The First World War)**

#### Five Key Ideas

1. **A System of Alliances Led to a Global War** – A local conflict between **Serbia and Austria-Hungary** escalated into a **world war due to entangling alliances**.
  2. **Four Major Long-Term Causes Contributed to WWI** – **Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, and Nationalism (MAIN)** increased tensions among European powers.
  3. **World War I Marked the Decline of European Dominance** – The war **weakened European powers**, encouraged **colonial revolts**, and **increased U.S. influence**.
  4. **New Military Technology Made WWI the Deadliest War in History** – **Trench warfare, machine guns, poison gas, and tanks** resulted in **unprecedented casualties**.
  5. **The Treaty of Versailles Set the Stage for WWII** – Germany was **forced to accept blame, pay reparations, and lose territory**, creating **long-term resentment**.
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#### Key Concepts

- **Black Hand** – Serbian **nationalist group** responsible for the **assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand**.
  - **Triple Entente (Allies)** – Britain, France, Russia (later joined by the U.S., Italy, and others).
  - **Triple Alliance (Central Powers)** – Germany, Austria-Hungary (later joined by the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria).
  - **Self-Determination** – The idea that **ethnic groups should have their own nations**, leading to **nationalist conflicts**.
  - **Treaty of Versailles (1919)** – The peace treaty that **punished Germany, redrew borders, and set the stage for WWII**.
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#### Intro

1. What factors led to the outbreak of World War I?
  
2. How did European imperialism contribute to the war?

**Summary:** Europe’s imperial competition, alliance system, and military buildup led to tensions. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand ignited a global war.

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#### Immediate Causes of the Great War

3. How did the assassination of Franz Ferdinand trigger World War I?
  
4. Why did multiple nations quickly become involved?

**Summary:** The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (June 28, 1914) by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip led Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia, setting off a chain reaction.

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#### Long-Term Causes of the Great War

5. What were the four long-term causes of World War I?

#### **[Militarism]**

6. Why did European countries begin rapidly increasing their military strength before World War I?
  
7. How did the Industrial Revolution contribute to the militarization of European nations?

#### **[Alliances]**

8. What role did the alliance system play in escalating the war beyond a regional conflict?
  
9. How did rivalries between alliances lead to tension before 1914?

#### **[Imperialism]**

10. Why did European nations compete for colonies, and how did this competition create conflict?
  
11. How did imperialism cause resentment among nations and increase the likelihood of war?

**[Nationalism]**

12. How did nationalist movements threaten the stability of multiethnic empires like Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire?

13. In what ways did nationalism encourage war rather than prevent it?

**Summary:** Tensions had been growing for decades, driven by Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, and Nationalism (MAIN).

Allied Powers	Central Powers

**Consequences of the Great War**

14. How did WWI change global politics?

15. What were the major outcomes of the war?

**Summary:** World War I ended four major empires, redrew borders, and led to future conflicts. Germany faced harsh punishment, fueling resentment.

**UNIT 7.2 | Causes of World War I, Conducting World War I (The First World War)**

**Five Key Ideas**

- New Weapons and Tactics Made World War I Brutal** – Trench warfare, poison gas, machine guns, tanks, and submarines led to **high casualties** and prolonged fighting.
- Total War Meant Entire Societies Were Mobilized** – Governments controlled **economies, propaganda, and production**, making civilians an essential part of the war effort.
- The United States Entered the War in 1917** – The **Lusitania sinking and the Zimmermann Telegram** pushed the U.S. to **join the Allies**.
- World War I Was a Global War** – The war was fought in **Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Pacific**, involving **colonial troops** from around the world.
- The Treaty of Versailles Blamed Germany for the War** – The treaty forced **Germany to pay reparations, lose land, and reduce its military**, leading to **resentment that fueled WWII**.

**Key Concepts**

- **Trench Warfare** – Soldiers fought from **dug-in positions**, leading to **stagnation, disease, and high casualties**.
- **Total War** – Governments took **full control of economies and societies** to support the war effort.
- **U-Boats** – German **submarines used to attack Allied ships**, leading to U.S. involvement in WWI.
- **Zimmermann Telegram** – Germany’s **proposal to Mexico to attack the U.S.**, leading to American entry into the war.
- **Fourteen Points** – **Woodrow Wilson’s plan** for peace, including **self-determination and the League of Nations**.
- **Treaty of Versailles (1919)** – **Punished Germany harshly**, causing **economic problems and political instability**.

**Intro**

1. How did Wilfred Owen’s poem "Dulce et Decorum Est" reflect the reality of WWI?

2. Why did many Europeans initially support the war?

**Summary:** WWI began with enthusiasm, but quickly turned into a nightmare. British Pals Battalions encouraged men to fight with friends, but casualties were devastating.

**Changes in Warfare**

16. Why did many Europeans believe the war would be short?

17. How did new weapons change warfare during WWI?

**Summary:** Most European soldiers expected a quick victory, but new weapons made WWI long and deadly.

- Trench Warfare, Poison Gas, Machine Guns, Submarines (U-Boats), Airplanes, Tanks –*Neither side could gain an advantage, leading to a four-year stalemate.*
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### The United States Enters the War

18. Why did the U.S. remain neutral at the start of WWI?

19. What events pushed the U.S. to join the Allies?

**Summary:** The U.S. entered WWI in 1917 due to economic ties with the Allies, German submarine attacks, and the Zimmermann Telegram.

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### Total War

20. What is total war, and how did it affect civilians?

21. How did governments use propaganda during WWI?

**Summary:** WWI was a total war, meaning governments controlled economies, production, and society.

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### A Global War

22. How did WWI expand beyond Europe?

23. What role did colonial troops play in the war?

**Summary:** WWI was fought worldwide, with battles in Africa, the Middle East, and the Pacific.

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### Women and the War

24. How did WWI impact women's roles?

**Summary:** With millions of men fighting, women took on jobs in factories, farms, and the military.

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### The Paris Peace Conference

25. What were the major goals of the Paris Peace Conference?

26. What did Woodrow Wilson propose in his Fourteen Points?

**Summary:** The **Paris Peace Conference (1919)** set **harsh terms for Germany**, leading to **resentment and instability**.

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### The Treaty of Versailles

27. Why was Germany blamed for WWI?

28. How did the treaty impact Germany?

**Summary:** The Treaty of Versailles (1919) placed severe penalties on Germany, setting the stage for World War II.