

WORLD WAR I- CAUSES, COURSES, AND RESULTS

Causes:

1. Imperialism: Competition for colonies and resources.
2. Nationalism: Rise of nationalist sentiment in Europe.
3. Militarism: Build-up of military forces and alliances.
4. Alliance System: Complex web of alliances between European powers.
5. Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (1914): Sparked the war.

Short-term Causes:

1. Balkan Wars (1912-1913): Tensions between Austria-Hungary and Serbia.
2. German naval expansion: Challenged British dominance.
3. French desire for revenge: Against Germany for 1871 defeat.

Long-term Causes:

1. Unification of Germany (1871): Shifted European power balance.
2. Decline of Ottoman Empire: Created power vacuum in Balkans.
3. Economic rivalries: Trade competition and protectionism.

Courses:

Major Events:

1. Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (June 28, 1914)
2. Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia (July 28, 1914)
3. Germany invades Belgium (August 4, 1914)
4. Battle of the Marne (September 1914): First major battle.
5. Trench warfare (1914-1918): Stalemate on Western Front.
6. Introduction of new technologies: Tanks, planes, poison gas.
7. USA enters the war (April 1917).

Theaters:

1. Western Front (France and Belgium)
2. Eastern Front (Russia)
3. Italian Front (Italy and Austria-Hungary)
4. Balkan Front (Balkan states)
5. Middle Eastern Front (Ottoman Empire)

Results:**Human Costs:**

1. 37 million casualties (killed, wounded, missing)
2. 11 million military deaths
3. 6 million civilian deaths

Territorial Changes:

1. Dissolution of Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires.
2. Creation of new nations (Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia).
3. Redrawing of European borders.

Treaty of Versailles (1919):

1. War guilt clause: Germany accepted responsibility.
2. Reparations: Germany paid significant damages.
3. League of Nations: Established to prevent future wars.

Consequences:

1. Rise of fascist and nationalist movements.
2. Russian Revolution (1917): Led to Soviet Union's formation.
3. Redrawing of global power structures.
4. Set stage for World War II.

Key Players:

1. Woodrow Wilson (USA)
2. David Lloyd George (UK)
3. Georges Clemenceau (France)
4. Kaiser Wilhelm II (Germany)
5. Tsar Nicholas II (Russia)