

CIE

Sample

STUDY GUIDE



The First World War, 1914 - 1918

31

STUDY GUIDE

The First World War, 1914 - 1918

CIE



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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons

-  **WHAT** questions cover the key events and themes.
-  **WHO** questions cover the key people involved.
-  **WHEN** questions cover the timings of key events.
-  **WHERE** questions cover the locations of key moments.
-  **WHY** questions cover the reasons behind key events.
-  **HOW** questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.
-  **IMPORTANCE** questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.
-  **DECISIONS** questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on **page 18**.

Page references

Tudor (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

This unit focuses on the course and key events of the First World War, from its outbreak in 1914 until the Armistice was signed in 1918.

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to investigate the nature of fighting and life during the First World War, and to develop an understanding of the course of events during the war, and how they ultimately led to the signing of the Armistice in November 1918.

Topics

This unit gives you the information you need to understand the following:

- ▣ The reasons why the war was not over by December 1918, including the failure of the Schlieffen Plan, the extent of the British Expeditionary Force's success and the introduction of the trench system.
- ▣ The reasons for the stalemate on the Western Front, including the nature of trench warfare and life in the trenches, the importance of new technological developments and the significance of Verdun and the Somme.
- ▣ The importance of other fronts, including the War at Sea, Russia and the Eastern Front, and the home fronts.
- ▣ The reasons for Germany's request for an Armistice in 1918, including the USA's 1917 entry into the war, the failure of the Ludendorff Offensive, the German Revolution of 1918, and the reasons for the signing of the Armistice.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

- 👤 Lord Kitchener.
- 👤 Field Marshal Foch.
- 👤 Field Marshal Haig.
- 👤 Admiral Jellicoe.
- 👤 Admiral Scheer.
- 👤 General Brusilov.
- 👤 General Ludendorff.





Key Events

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:

- ★ The Schlieffen Plan in operation.
- ★ The Battles of Mons, the Marne and Ypres.
- ★ The reaction to the stalemate.
- ★ The nature and problems of trench warfare.
- ★ The main battles of the war including Verdun and the Somme.
- ★ The nature of problems of trench warfare.
- ★ The impact of technological advances.
- ★ The Battle of Jutland and its consequences.
- ★ The use of convoys, submarines and the U-boat campaign.
- ★ The reasons for, and results of the Gallipoli campaign.
- ★ The impact of war on civilian populations.
- ★ Events on the Eastern Front and the surrender of Russia.
- ★ The German offensive and Allied advance.
- ★ The impact of American entry into the war.
- ★ Conditions in Germany by the end of the war.
- ★ The Kiel Mutiny and German Revolution.
- ★ The abdication of the Kaiser.
- ★ The Armistice.

Assessment

The First World War is one of the specified depth studies found in Paper 1, where you have a total of 2 hours to complete 3 questions. You must answer 2 questions from the core section of the paper and one question from a choice of two questions on your chosen depth study. Therefore, you will answer one question on the First World War if this is your chosen depth study. The question is comprised of 3 sections; a), b), and c).

-  Question a is worth 4 marks. This question will require you to describe key features of the time period. You will be asked to recall 2 relevant points and support them with details or provide at least four relevant points without supporting detail.
-  Question b is worth 6 marks. This question will require you to explain a key event or development. You will need to identify two reasons, support those reasons with relevant factual detail and then explain how the reasons made the event occur.
-  Question c is worth 10 marks. This question will require you to construct an argument to support and challenge an interpretation stated in the question. You will need to have a minimum of three explanations (two on one side and one on the other) in total, fully evaluate the argument and come to a justified conclusion. You will have the opportunity to show your ability to explain and analyse historical events using 2nd order concepts such as causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity and difference.
-  The First World War may also appear on Paper 4, a one-hour paper in which you will give an extended answer to one question about this topic. Check with your teacher to find out if you will be taking this option.

Sample

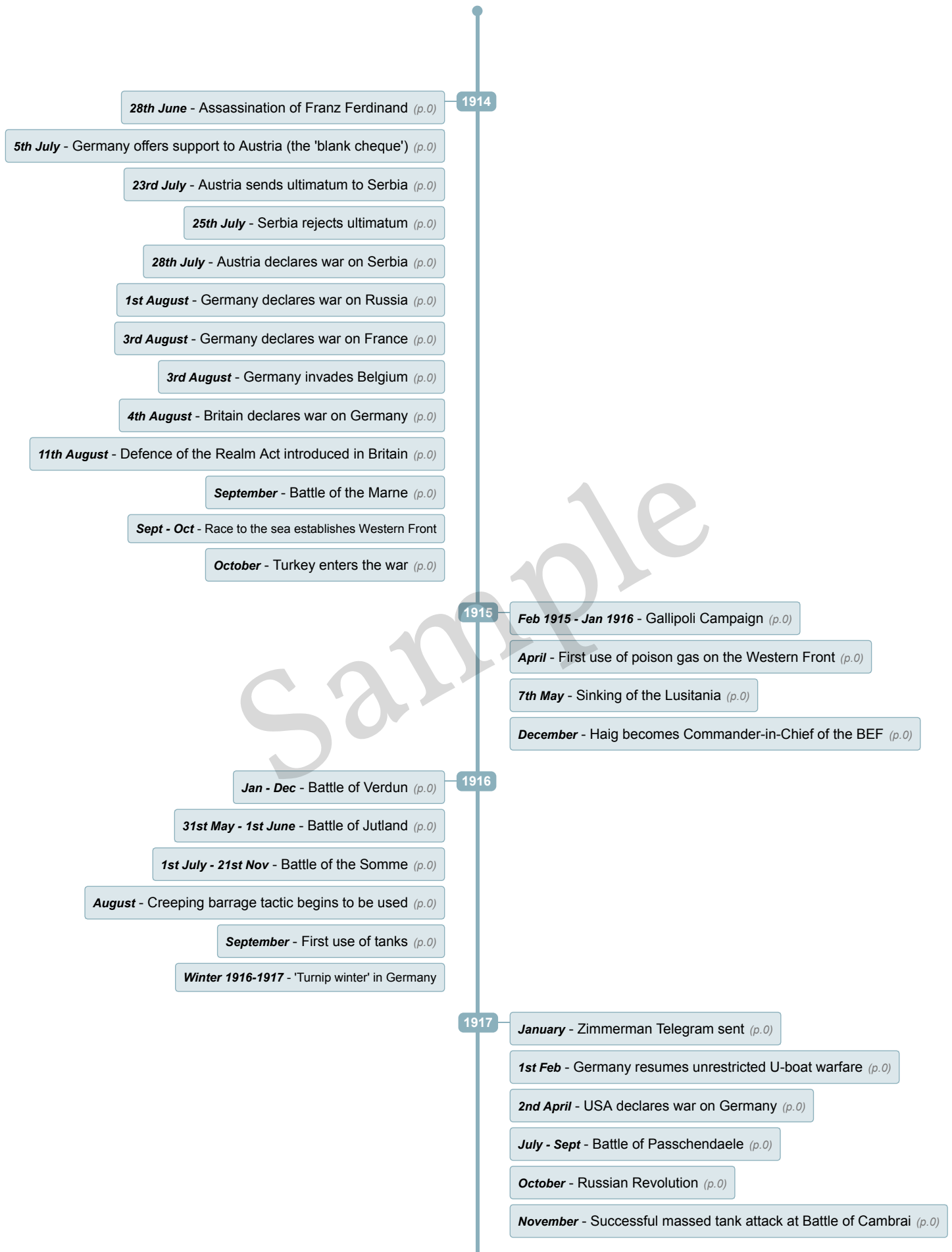


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Sample

THE FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914 - 1918

TIMELINE



1918

March - Foch becomes Commander-in-Chief of all Allied forces on the Western Front (p.0)

March - Russia signs peace treaty with Germany (p.0)

March - July - Ludendorff Offensive (p.0)

8th Aug - 11th Nov - Allied 100 Days Offensive (p.0)

October - German navy mutinies

9th Nov - Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates (p.0)

11th Nov - Armistice signed (p.0)

Sample

Sample



THE GREAT POWERS

The most powerful countries.



What were the Great Powers?

The Great Powers were the most powerful countries in Europe in the years before the First World War (p.0). Their competing **foreign policies** increased tensions between them which ultimately led to the outbreak of war in 1914.



Who were the Great Powers?

There were 5 Great Powers in 1914:

- ✓ Great Britain.
- ✓ Germany.
- ✓ France.
- ✓ Austria-Hungary.
- ✓ Russia.



What were the characteristics of a Great Power?

To be a great power in 1914 a country had to meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Be able to influence and control international affairs.
- ✓ Possess great **economic** strength.
- ✓ Possess great military power.
- ✓ Possess a stable and competent government.
- ✓ Rule over a large **population** of people.
- ✓ Control a large **empire** that possesses lots of resources.



Which countries were not considered Great Powers but were considered second-rate powers?

There were 4 second-rate powers in 1914:

- ✓ Italy.
- ✓ The Ottoman Empire.
- ✓ Japan.
- ✓ The USA.

DID YOU KNOW?

The First World War was what we call a 'total war' because the entire population and all of the resources of each nation had to be used to try and win the military struggle.



BRITAIN

The British bulldog.



What was Britain like in 1914?

In 1914 Britain was the wealthiest country in the world. However, its dominance was under threat from other industrialising countries.



What was British foreign policy in 1914?

Britain's foreign policy had experienced significant change by 1914 (p.0):

- ✓ In the late nineteenth century, Britain had avoided getting involved in European affairs through its policy of 'splendid isolation'.
- ✓ In the early 1900s, Britain abandoned this 'splendid isolation' due to the growing threat from Germany.
- ✓ Britain became part of the Triple Entente (p.0) by 1907.
- ✓ Imperialism was strong in Britain. It possessed the world's most powerful (p.14) navy and largest merchant fleet.
- ✓ Britain wanted a balance of power (p.14) in Europe and always put the defence of the empire first.



What was the British economy like in 1914?

By the start of the twentieth century, Britain was the wealthiest country in the world.

- ✓ London was the centre of global finance.
- ✓ Much of this wealth came from the empire, which was the largest in the world in 1914.
- ✓ However, the economy was in decline as Germany and the USA were overtaking Britain in areas such as coal and iron production.



What was the British government like in 1914?

Britain a constitutional monarchy whose head of state was King George V.



What was the population of Britain in 1914?

Britain ruled over 41 million citizens internally and another 390 million subjects in its colonies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Another character that is often used to represent the British 'bulldog' spirit is 'John Bull'. He was portrayed as a plump, wealthy farmer wearing a union flag waistcoat.



FRANCE

The French cockerel.



What was France like in 1914?

France was economically strong in 1914 and had the second-largest empire in the world, with many trade links.



What was the foreign policy of France in 1914?

Much of French **foreign policy** centred on the threat from Germany:

- ✓ France wanted revenge on Germany for her defeat in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, and to regain the rich **provinces** of Alsace and Lorraine that had been lost after the war.
- ✓ France, therefore, signed military **alliances** with Russia and Britain to protect herself from German attack.
- ✓ Militarism was important in France as she underwent large scale rearmament before 1914 to rival Germany.



What was the French economy like in 1914?

France was an **industrialised** nation by 1914 (p.0):

- ✓ It had well developed **industries**.
- ✓ It was a leader in science and technology.
- ✓ It possessed a large **agricultural** sector.



What was the French empire like 1914?

France's **empire** played an important role in its **economy**:

- ✓ It had the second largest **empire** in the world after Britain.
- ✓ It was a strong trading nation.
- ✓ Much of its wealth came from its Asian and African **colonies** but despite this the **economy** was weaker than Germany's.



What was the French government like in 1914?

France was a **republic** with an elected head of **state** and an elected prime **minister**.



What was the population of France in 1914?

France ruled over 40 million citizens internally and another 58 million subjects in its **empire**.



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Sample

GLOSSARY

A

- Abdicate** - to give up a position of power or a responsibility.
- Abolish, Abolished** - to stop something, or get rid of it.
- Abolition** - the act of abolishing something, i.e. to stop or get rid of it.
- Agricultural** - relating to agriculture.
- Agriculture** - an umbrella term to do with farming, growing crops or raising animals.
- Alliance** - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.
- Allies** - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.
- Ambassador** - someone, often a diplomat, who represents their state, country or organisation in a different setting or place.
- Ammunition** - collective term given to bullets and shells.
- Amputate, Amputation** - to surgically remove a limb from someone's body.
- Archaic** - to be very old or old-fashioned.
- Aristocrat** - a person who belongs to the aristocracy.
- Armistice** - an agreement between two or more opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.
- Artillery** - large guns used in warfare.
- Assassinate** - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.
- Assassination** - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.
- Attrition** - the act of wearing down an enemy until they collapse through continued attacks.
- Autocracy** - a system of government where the ruler has absolute power over their country.
- Autocrat** - a ruler who has absolute power over their country.

B

- Bankrupt** - to be insolvent; to have run out of resources with which to pay existing debts.
- Blockade** - a way of blocking or sealing an area to prevent goods, supplies or people from entering or leaving. It often refers to blocking transport routes.
- Bolshevik, Bolsheviks** - was a Russian radical Marxist revolutionary group, founded by Vladimir Lenin and Alexander Bogdanov in 1903. A Bolshevik is someone who is a member of that party.
- Bourgeoisie** - the capitalists who owned the means of production, i.e. land, banks and factories, in Marxist ideology.
- Box barrage** - The firing shells at the enemy on three sides to

prevent them retreating or sending reinforcements into a battle.

C

- Campaign** - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.
- Casualties** - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.
- Cavalry** - the name given to soldiers who fight on horseback.
- Ceasefire** - when the various sides involved in conflict agree to stop fighting.
- Censorship** - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or unacceptable is suppressed.
- Chancellor** - a senior state official who, in some countries, is the head of the government and responsible for the day-to-day running of the nation.
- Civil rights** - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.
- Civilian** - a non-military person.
- Claim** - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.
- Coalition, Coalitions** - a temporary alliance, such as when a group of countries fights together.
- Colonies, Colony** - a country or area controlled by another country and occupied by settlers.
- Communism** - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.
- Communist** - a believer in communism.
- Conscription** - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.
- Consolidate** - to strengthen a position, often politically, by bringing several things together into a more effective whole.
- Constitution** - rules, laws or principles that set out how a country is governed.
- Constitutional monarchy** - political system in which a monarch's powers and authority are limited by a constitution.
- Convoy** - a group of ships or vehicles travelling together, usually protected by armed troops.
- Corrupt** - when someone is willing to act dishonestly for their own personal gain.
- Council** - an advisory or administrative body set up to manage the affairs of a place or organisation. The Council of the League of Nations contained the organisation's most powerful members.
- Counter-attack** - an attack made in response to one by an opponent.
- Coup** - a sudden, violent and illegal overthrow of the government by a small group - for example, the chiefs of an army.

Creeping barrage - a slowly advancing artillery bombardment which attacking troops can follow for protection.

Culture - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

D

Deadlock - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Debt - when something, usually money, is owed by a person, organisation or institution to another.

Decree - an official order with the force of law behind it.

Democracy - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

Democratic - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

Deportation - the act of deporting someone.

Deterrent - something that discourages an action or behaviour.

Dictatorship - a form of government where an individual or small group has total power, ruling without tolerance for other views or opposition.

Dud - a bomb, shell or mine that fails to explode.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Empire - a group of states or countries ruled over and controlled by a single monarch.

Encircle, Encirclement - a military term for enemy forces isolating and surrounding their target.

Extreme - furthest from the centre or any given point. If someone holds extreme views, they are not moderate and are considered radical.

F

Famine - a severe food shortage resulting in starvation and death, usually the result of bad harvests.

Fasting - to deliberately refrain from eating, and often drinking, for a period of time.

Federal - in US politics this means 'national', referring to the whole country rather than any individual state.

Foreign policy - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

Front - in war, the area where fighting is taking place.

Frontier - a line or border between two areas.

G

Gangrene - the death of body tissue due to either lack of blood or serious bacterial infection.

H

Harvest - the process of gathering and collecting crops.

Heir - someone who is entitled to property or rank following the current owner or holder's death.

Home front - a term covering the activities of civilians while their nation is at war, including the effect it has on their everyday lives.

I

Idealist - someone who believes in idealism and works towards the perfect world.

Illiterate - unable to read or write.

Immigrant - someone who moves to another country.

Immigration - the act of coming to a foreign country with the intention of living there permanently.

Imperial, Imperialisation, Imperialism, Imperialist - is the practice or policy of taking possession of, and extending political and economic control over other areas or territories. Imperialism always requires the use of military, political or economic power by a stronger nation over that of a weaker one. An imperialist is someone who supports or practices imperialism and imperial relates to a system of empire, for example the British Empire.

Import - to bring goods or services into a different country to sell.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industrialisation, Industrialise, Industrialised - the process of developing industry in a country or region where previously there was little or none.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

Infantry - soldiers who march and fight on foot.

Inflation - the general increase in the prices of goods which means money does not buy as much as it used to.

Infrastructure - the basic physical and organisational facilities a society or country needs to function, such as transport networks, communications and power.

Interim - in the meantime; during an intervening period.

International relations - the relationships between different countries.

K

Kaiser - the German word for a king or emperor.

L

Left wing - used to describe political groups or individuals with beliefs that are usually centered around socialism and the idea of reform.

Legitimacy, Legitimate - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

Liberal - politically, someone who believes in allowing personal freedom without too much control by the government or state.

Limb - an arm or leg.

Lord, Lords - a man of high status, wealth and authority.

M

Malnutrition - lack of proper nutrition caused by not eating enough of the right things or not having enough to eat. It can also be caused by the body not being able to use the food that is eaten.

Mass - an act of worship in the Catholic Church.

Massacre - the deliberate and brutal slaughter of many people.

Medic - someone who has medical knowledge but is not a doctor.

Merchant ships - unarmed ships used for carrying supplies and goods.

Merchant, Merchants - someone who sells goods or services.

Middle class - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

Mine - an explosive device usually hidden underground or underwater.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Mobilisation - the action of a country getting ready for war by preparing and organising its armed forces.

Monarchists - people in favour of living in a country governed by a monarchy.

Monarchy - a form of government in which the head of state is a monarch, a king or queen.

Morale - general mood of a group of people.

Morass - an area of swampy or very wet and muddy ground which is difficult to cross.

Mutiny - a rebellion or revolt, in particular by soldiers or sailors against their commanding officers.

N

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

No man's land - the land between the opposing sides' trenches in

the First World War.

O

Occupation - the action, state or period when somewhere is taken over and occupied by a military force.

Offensive - another way of saying an attack or campaign.

P

POW, Prisoner of war, Prisoners of war - somebody who has been captured and taken prisoner by enemy forces.

Parliament - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

Patriotic - a strong love of and support for one's country.

Peasant - a poor farmer.

Plague - a contagious disease that spreads rapidly.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

Prejudice - pre-judgement - when you assume something about someone based on a feature like their religion or skin colour, rather than knowing it as fact.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Production - a term used to describe how much of something is made, for example saying a factory has a high production rate.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

Province, Provinces - part of an empire or a country denoting areas that have been divided for administrative purposes.

Psychological - referring to a person's mental or emotional state.

Q

Quagmire - an area of swampy or very wet and muddy ground which is difficult to cross.

R

Radical, Radicalism - people who want complete or extensive change, usually politically or socially.

Raid - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

Rationing - limiting goods that are in high demand and short supply.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reconnaissance - observation of an enemy in order to gain useful information such as its position, strategy or capabilities.

Regent - the person who rules when the king is away, incapacitated or too young to rule.

Reparations - payments made by the defeated countries in a war to the victors to help pay for the cost of and damage from the fighting.

Republic - a state or country run by elected representatives and an elected/nominated president. There is no monarch.

Requisition - to take something, usually by official order, such as a government taking food from peasants.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Right wing - a political view with beliefs centred around nationalism and a desire for an authoritarian government opposed to communism.

Riots - violent disturbances involving a crowd of people.

Rolling barrage - a slowly advancing artillery bombardment which attacking troops can follow for protection.

S

Salient - in military terms, a piece of land that protrudes into enemy territory; also known as a bulge.

Slavic people, Slavs - the main ethnic group of people living in Eastern Europe.

Socialism - a political and economic system where most resources, such as factories and businesses, are owned by the state or workers with the aim of achieving greater equality between rich and poor.

Socialist - one who believes in the principles of socialism.

Soviet - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

Splendid isolation - a British foreign policy in the 19th century which aimed to focus on the British Empire and keep Britain out of European wars.

Stalemate - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Strategy - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

Strike - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

Symptom - an indication of something, such as a sign of a particular illness.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/

country.

The crown, The throne - phrases used to represent royal power. For example, if someone 'seizes the throne' it means they have taken control. Can also refer to physical objects.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

Tsar - the Russian word for emperor; can also be spelled 'czar'.

U

U-boat - the German name for a submarine.

Ultimatum - a final demand, with the threat of consequences if it is not met.

Upper class - a socio-economic group consisting of the richest people in a society who are wealthy because they own land or property.

W

Weltpolitik - Germany's pre-First World War foreign policy which aimed to turn Germany into a global power by acquiring overseas colonies and developing its navy.

Working class - socio-economic group consisting of those engaged in waged labour, especially manual work or industry, who typically do not have much money.

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