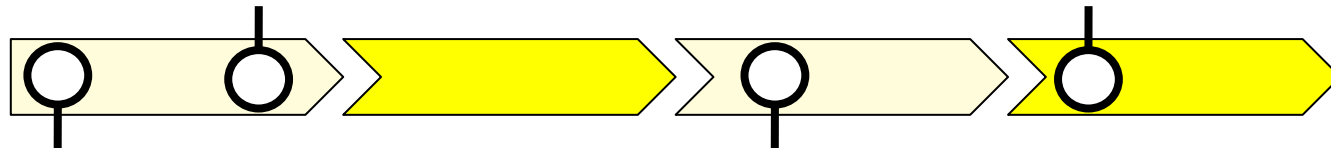


- The Western Front was the main theatre of war during WWI, stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss border, primarily through Belgium and France.
- Trench Warfare was characterised by a network of trenches and became a stalemate where both sides experienced high casualties with little territorial gain.
- Key battles on the Western Front including the Battle of the Somme and the Battle of Ypres, all marked by significant loss of life.

- Initially, the war was seen as a heroic struggle, with a focus on bravery and sacrifice. Later interpretations criticised the war as unnecessary, emphasising the massive loss of life and questioning the decisions of military leaders.
- More recent interpretations focus on the war's complex causes and long-term impacts, including shaping the 20th century and leading to WWII.

How have interpretations of the First World War changed since 1918?

What was the Western Front?



What were the causes of the First World War (1880-1914)?

- European nations built up massive military forces, creating a tense and competitive environment.
- The Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance, meant that a conflict involving one country could quickly involve others.
- The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary by a Serbian nationalist triggered a chain reaction of events, leading to the war.

What were the key features of trench warfare (1914-1918)?

- Soldiers faced extremely harsh conditions which led to diseases and poor morale.
- Trench warfare led to a stalemate which resulted in prolonged fighting.
- The use of machine guns, artillery, poison gas, and tanks aimed to break the stalemate, but often resulted in massive casualties.

alliance A relationship in which people, groups or countries agree to work together.



appeasement Policy to calm tensions and prevent a war.



Dictatorship A type of government where a small group of people rules with almost unlimited power.



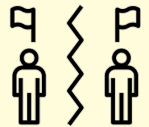
imperialism Extending a country's power through gaining colonies.



militarism A belief that a country should use military force to gain power.



nationalism A strong attachment to a particular country or nation

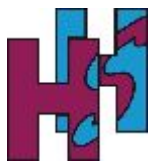


Rearmament The growth in the military.



Western Front An area where Allied and German soldiers fought during WWI.



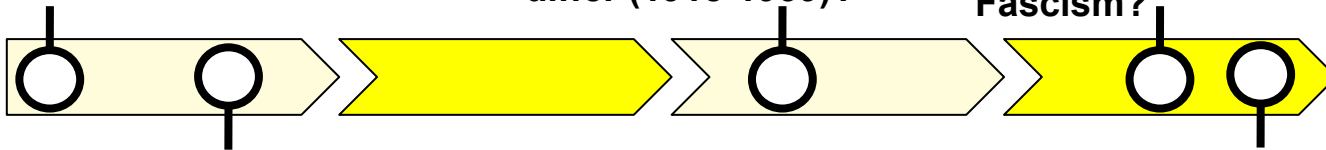


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- Later the war's massive loss of life was criticised.
- More recent interpretations focus on the war's complex causes and long-term impacts, including its role in leading to WWII.

- Democracies had elected governments with political parties.
- Individual freedoms and the rule of law were upheld. Dictatorships centralised power, suppressed protest, controlled the media, and used propaganda and violence to maintain control.

- Communists want a classless society based on common ownership and seek to abolish private property and replace it with a state-controlled economy.
- Fascists promote nationalism and the complete authority of the state. Fascism allows private property but with strong state control.

How have interpretations of the First World War changed since 1918?



How did democracies and dictatorships differ (1918-1939)?

Differences between Communism and Fascism?

What was the Treaty of Versailles?

- The 1919 treaty caused Germany to suffer significant territorial losses, military restrictions, and pay large reparations payments.
- The treaty's harsh terms contributed to economic hardship and political instability and helped pave the way for WWII.

What were the key features of Germany between the Wars 1918-1939?

- After WWI, Germany established the democratic Weimar Republic, but it faced significant political and economic challenges.
- This turmoil and instability contributed to the rise of extremist parties like the Nazi Party.
- Adolf Hitler's rise to power in 1933 marked the end of the Weimar Republic and the beginning of a totalitarian regime that pursued aggressive expansionist policies and led to WWII.

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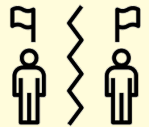
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