World War I: Causes and Effects

I. Causes of World War I
II. Modern War, Technology and the Human Cost
III. Meanings of World War I
Causes of World War I

1. Growth of German power in Central Europe challenged Great Powers (France, Great Britain, Russia).
2. International competition among European powers for colonies and economic markets.
3. Naval rivalry between Great Britain and Germany. Increase in size of European armies.
5. Nationalism.
Map of Europe
The Balkans in 1914
Events Leading to World War I

• June 1914- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo.
• July 1914-Austrians send ultimatum to Serbia with German support.
• July 1914-Austria declares war on Serbia.
• August 1914-WWI begins.
Archduke Franz Ferdinand
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, June 28, 1914
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, June, 1914
Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand - Painting

Princip
Europe at War in 1914

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Turkey
- Bosnia
- England
- France
- Russia
- Italy
- Serbia
War Fever and the Capitals

Paris, 1914
War Fever and the Capitals

Germany, 1914
World War I War Plans
German War Plans: The Schlieffen Plan
German War Plans: The Schlieffen Plan
French War Plans
British War Plans
Belgian War Plans
Liege Forts
Modern War

• Early German advances stop outside Paris in December 1914.
• War becomes stalemate neither side advancing.
• Artillery and trench warfare on 300 mile fronts.
• War of attrition.
The Western Front
Trench Warfare

Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack.

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it.

Concrete block house for a machine-gun.

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops.

Communication trenches allow resources to be brought forward while also exposing them to enemy fire.

No Man's Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross.

Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell.

A deep dug-out. German ones could be 1.5 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire.

PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS
Trench Warfare
The Trenches
War of Attrition

Attempt to win the war through a defensive strategy aimed at inflicting casualties on the enemy at a rate higher than your own losses.
Verdun, February–December 1916
Verdun: Before and After
The Somme-July-Dec, 1916
The Somme
Somme
Paul Nash, Menin Road
French Renault Tank
Comradeship of the Trenches
Comradeship of the Trenches
Comradeship of the Trenches
Wounded
Wounded
Langemarck Cemetery
"We're not making a sacrifice. Jesus, you've seen this war. We are the sacrifice”

British soldier at the Somme, 1916 writing home.
Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of tired, outstripped Five-Nines that dropped behind.
Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! -- An ecstasy of fumbling,
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime . . .
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under I green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.
If in some smothering dreams you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, --
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori. (How glorious it is to die for your country)
C.R.W. Nevinson, “Machine Gun” (1915)
Otto Dix, “Assault Under Gas” (1924)
William Roberts, “First Gas Attack at Ypres” (1918)
Albin Egger-Linz, “Those Who Have Lost Their Names” (1916)
Otto Dix, “Prague Street” (1920)