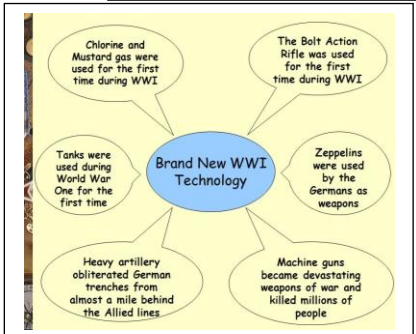
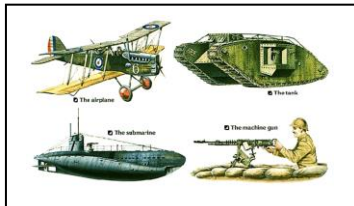
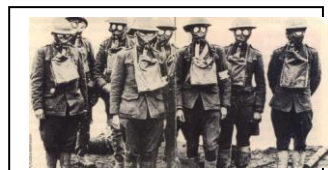
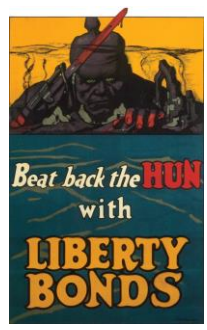
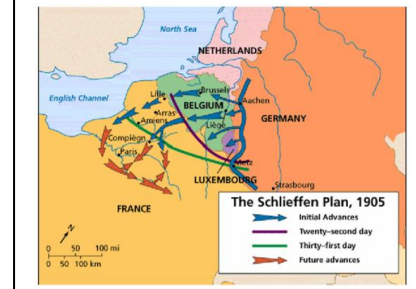


# Aim #21: How was WWI fought?



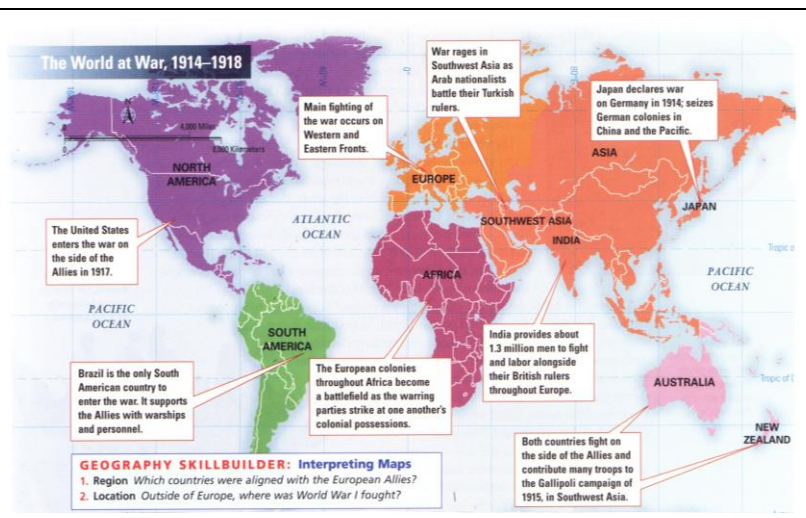
## Mini Lecture

- During the four years of WWI, most of the large nations of the world were pulled in making it a global war. Although, most battles took place in Europe, some occurred in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.
- The bloodiest fighting took place in France. Germany aimed to quickly defeat France (to avoid a 2-front war) & invaded through neutral Belgium (the **Schlieffen Plan**), but was stopped in September 1914.
- From then through 1917, both sides engaged in **trench warfare**, digging ditches from which they fought & lived in. Since each side had a strong defensive position, neither side could advance. Along w/ advanced killing technology, the result was a bloody **stalemate**.
- The Central Powers won major victories in Eastern Europe, defeating & occupying Serbia, stopped British attempt to capture Dardanelles (strategic waterway), and fended off Russian attacks.
- Anger & discontent among Russians led to a Revolution in 1917 which led Russia to withdraw from the War early 1918.
- During the first few months of the war, hundreds of thousands of young men enlisted in the military, dreaming of heroism. At the time, few people actually understood how brutal 20<sup>th</sup> century warfare could be. Only over the years of fighting would the horrific effects of new advances in war technology become apparent.
- To get an advantage on their opponents, both sides experimented w/ newer & deadlier methods & technology which resulted in greater devastation. Industrialization allowed for mass production of weapons and countries went into **total war** mode, employing all its resources (including controlling its economy & using **propaganda** to influence public opinion & keep morale high) towards the war effort.
- These new technologies included:
  - **Chemical weapons**; both sides used poisonous gas (chlorine, mustard) and as a result had to use gas masks. About 100,000 were killed by chemical weapons, 1 million injured, many suffering permanent damage to their lungs.
  - **Machine guns**; automatic, lightweight machine guns were able to fire 600 rounds per minute mowing soldiers down in “no-man’s land”.
  - **Submarines**; German U-boats could carry a dozen torpedoes and could stay underwater for two hours- they terrorized Allied shipping with unrestricted use.
  - **Barbed wire**; both sides used lines & bundles of barbed wire to protect their trenches from frontal infantry assaults. It was also strategically placed to funnel enemy attackers into kill zones where machine gunners awaited.
  - **Tanks**; It developed as a way to securely traverse no man’s land & break through barbed wire. They did not play a major role in the war because they often got stuck in mud & broke down.
  - **Airplanes**; Began as instruments of scouting, but later became weaponized, armed with machine guns & bombs.
  - **Mobile X-ray machines**; a mobile one was brought to battles and helped doctors treat the wounded.

## Review Questions:

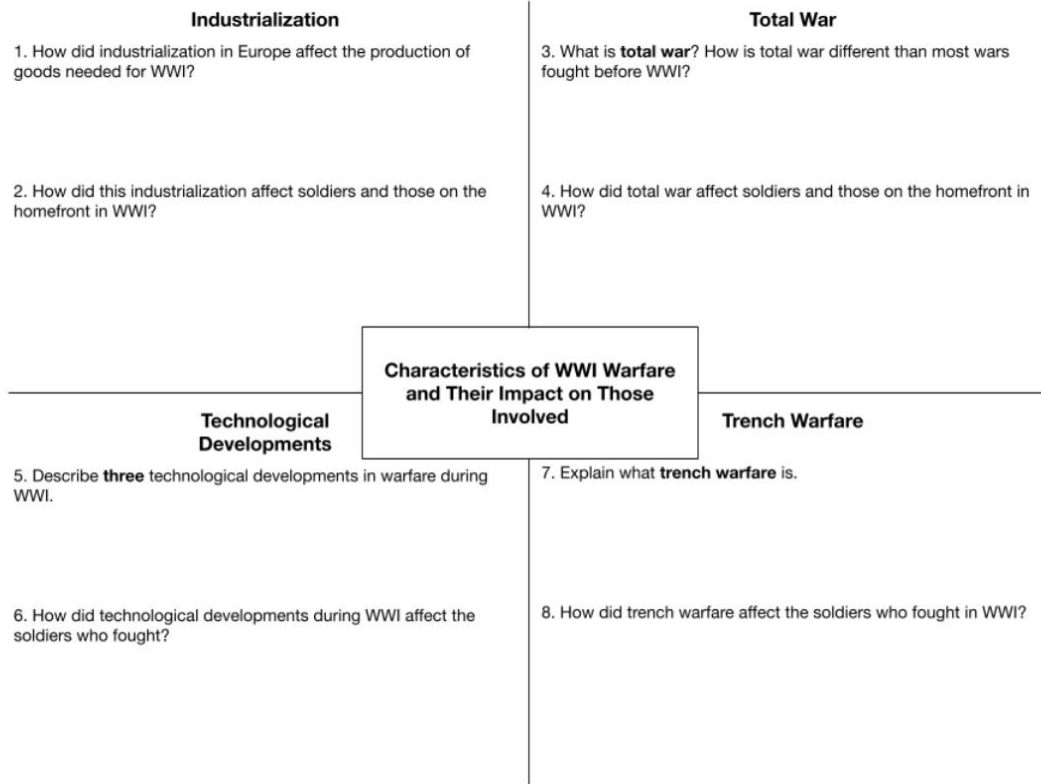
1. Why did a stalemate develop on the western front?
2. What made WWI much more deadly than previous wars? Explain.
3. What measures did wartime governments take to control national economies & public opinion?

## Enduring Issue: Technology



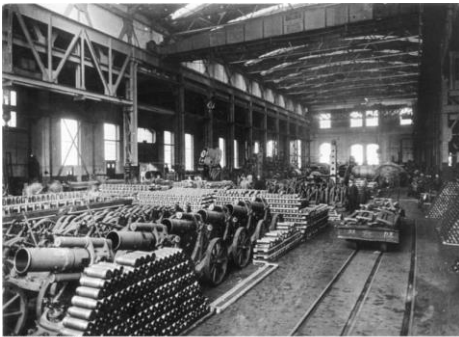
## What was war like in WWI? How did it affect those involved? WWI Warfare Document Exploration

**Directions:** As you examine the text, images, and video provided about the characteristics of WWI warfare, complete the graphic organizer below.



### Industrialization

By the late 1800s, the process of industrialization had transformed most of Europe. Factories and densely populated urban areas dotted the landscape and railways connected them together. Advances in industrial production made manufacturing faster, and enabled factory owners to produce more complicated goods with precision. Factories used **assembly lines** to speed up production. With an increase in support and money from governments during the war, factories could **mass produce** guns, tanks, airplanes, automobiles, ammunition, and replacement parts needed for the war effort.



German munitions (weapons) factory, 1916.

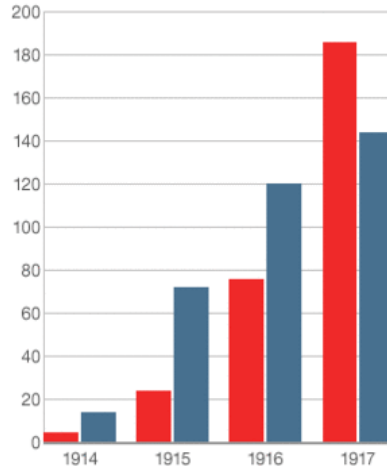


Women munition workers stacking cartridge cases in the New Case shop at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, 1918.

### Winning the war in the factories

British and German World War I explosive production

Tonnage (thousands) ■ Britain ■ Germany

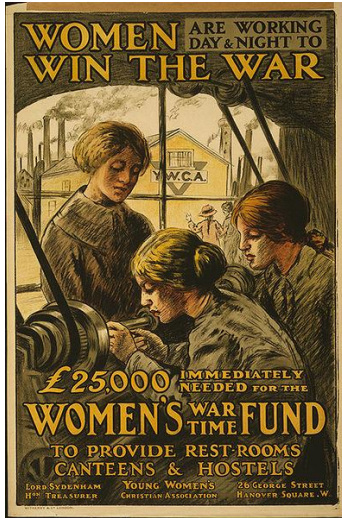


The chart above shows industrial output in Great Britain and Germany over the course of the war. Note how the British produced more goods as they started to have more success against the Germans.

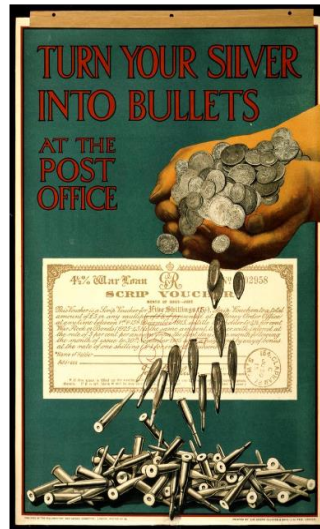


## Total War

A total war is a military conflict in which nations are willing to make any sacrifices necessary to win. In a state of total war, a nation will mobilize, or make use of its total available military, technology, and human resources to be victorious. In a state of total war, there are no limits to the weapons used, the territory or combatants involved, or the goals. Total war is considered the most extreme form of warfare because both civilians and soldiers are targets. In addition to dedicating time and money to build new war technologies, European women at home were mobilized to work outside of the home to replace men who went off to war. Additionally, those at home were asked to make the sacrifice of rationing. Rationing was a policy of strictly distributing food to ensure that soldiers had enough food. Sugar, meat, flour, butter, margarine and milk were tightly controlled and families were urged to consume less. During the war, propaganda posters were used to influence people's decisions and to increase support towards the war effort.



War poster: Women are Working Day and Night to Win the War / Witherby & Co. London, 1915



During World War I, the British government relied heavily on loans to finance the cost of the war. This 1915 poster encourages British citizens to give metal and money to the war effort.



## Technological Developments

Advances in industrial production and competition between countries led to technological and scientific achievements that were used in World War I. Below are some of those that made the greatest impact.

Watch [History.com video on technological developments in WWI](#)

### Machine Guns



British Vickers machine gun crew during the Battle of Menin Road Ridge, World War I (Ypres Salient, West Flanders, Belgium).

Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is public domain

### Chemical Warfare



A Canadian soldier with mustard gas burns, ca. 1917-1918.

Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is public domain

### Submarines



British R-class submarine, 1910

Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is public domain

### Airplanes



German Albatros D.IIIs of Jagdstaffel 11 and Jagdstaffel 4 planes parked in a line at La Brayelle near Douai, France.

Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is public domain

The first use of chemical weapons of mass destruction were during World War I. The use of chemical weapons such as chlorine and mustard gas were not only a threat to soldiers but also civilians and those who worked to manufacture these weapons. The French were the first to use chemical weapons during the First World War, using tear gas. The German's first use of chemical weapons were shells containing xylyl bromide, an early form of tear gas, that were fired at the Russians near the town of Bolimów, Poland in January 1915.

Source: Adapted from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2376985/>, <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-31042472>

### Tanks



Mark II Tank Number 598 advancing with Infantry at Vimy, April 1917.

Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is public domain



## Trench Warfare

At the start of the war, both sides thought that WWI would be fought in the open like previous wars had been. Once they realized how accurate and effective the new artillery and machine guns were, they needed a new tactic. Both sides dug a series of trenches to protect themselves from enemy fire. Most of WWI, especially in the Western Front in France and Belgium, was fought through trench warfare. One side would attack by climbing out of their trench, over the dangerous section known as “no man’s land,” and into the opposing trench to fight the enemy. Later, the other side would do the same thing to win back that trench, gaining only a small amount of land and losing a lot of soldiers to machine gun fire, grenades, and gas. This resulted in a **stalemate**, a position in which neither side could win.

Watch [History.com video on trench warfare in WWI](#), [this scene from the film All Quiet on the Western Front](#)

### Voices of Soldiers

“We have been in camp near the wood at Écurie for some days now and a more miserable existence it would be hard to imagine. There is nothing but unrest and uncertainty and everyone here is absolutely fed up to the teeth.”

- Private Archie Surfleet, February 8th, 1918

“Bombardment, barrage, curtain-fire, mines, gas, tanks, machine-guns, hand-grenades — words, words, but they hold the horror of the world.”

- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

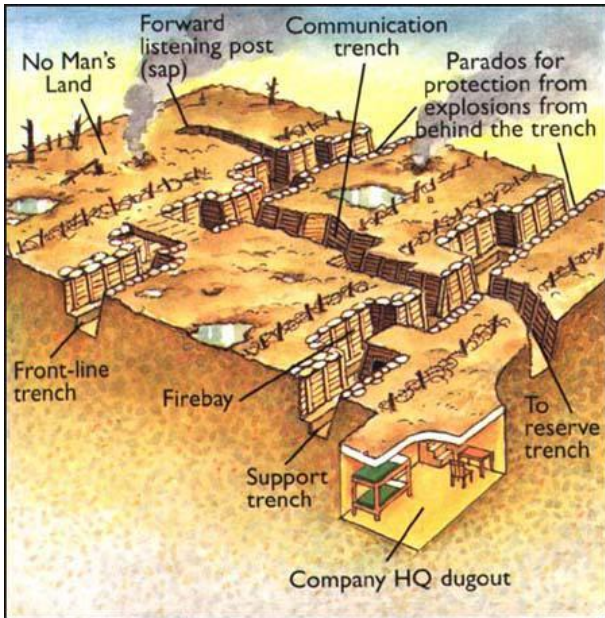


Illustration from Neil Demarco *The Great War*



French soldiers in a trench northwest of Verdun, 1916



A ration party of the [Royal Irish Rifles](#) in a communication trench during the Battle of the Somme. The date is believed to be 1 July 1916, the first day on the Somme, and the unit is possibly the 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles (25th Brigade, 8th Division).



No Man's Land, Flanders Field, France, 1919.