March 24th, 2008

World War I (continued)

1) Naval War
2) Air War
3) Home Front
4) Allied Victory

WWI - single most important event for modern world.

Keegen - Face of Battle.

Naval War - Gallipoli campaign. Ended in catastrophe. Winston Churchill took the blame.

Most important encounter was battle of Jutland. Coast of Denmark. Germans lost 5 ships. Kept their navy bottled up after that. Great irony. Germans intimidated by British.

Undersea warfare - submarines. Germans had

best submarine Fleet & technology. Offense becomes important. Usually Defense was important. Subs could not dive deep, noisy Diesel engines & had to surface Frequently.

Enemies made use of convoys, depth charges & better intelligence reduces threat. British - room 40 breaks German code.

German command decides to attack all vessels from all countries with subs. Eventually causes US to enter the war. US supplied British with goods. May 1915 - British ship Lusitania - great loss of life including Americans. Held arms. 128 Americans die. Zimmerman telegram - German Foriegn minister - Zimmerman - sends to Germans consulate in Mexico City. Urges Mexicans to Fight US. Intercepted by British. April 1917 - US declares war on Germany. Single most important consequence of the naval war. Made a huge difference. Healthy, well supplied soldiers with the worlds largest industrial base behind them.

Air War - infancy, Wave of the Future. Zeppelins & blimps used First. Named after Count Zeppline. Used for reconnasance & light bombing. Slow, large targets. Fighter aircraft - bi-wing & single wing. Open cockpits - pistol & rifle, Machine guns Finally are perfected. Fokker - Dutch engineer perfects machine gun fire between propeller blades. Garos - armoured the propellor - richocoted bullet killed him. About 50,000 airmen killed in WW I. Susceptable to ground fire. Aerial combat very dangerous. Americans had an air corp too. Red Baron squadron was famous German squadron. Goring was a German pilot

too. Went on to lead air corp in 3rd Reich. Strategic bomber forces built in 30s & 40s by British, US & Germany. Built to overcome stalemate of trench warfare.

Civilians were still safe in WWI. 60,000 British civilians killed WW II.

Home Front - battle front was an extension of industry & economy via the home front. Stalemate tests countries via transportation systems, banking, food production, etc. Germany took on the world. Allies blockade Germany & prevent raw materials from entering.

Attitude of 1914- upbeat, pervasive, workers, middle & upper middle class joined hands. Socialists predicted that workers would sabotage war effort. Did not happen.

Many saw war like Olympic games. British Rupert Brooke - pro war - made holy by war.

Every country put aside domestic differences to pull together for war effort. Called "Civil Peace" or peace of the castle → called Burgfrieden. Civil truce not designed for the long run. Troop deaths & civilian privations broke down civil truce. Food shortages caused by allied blockade.

Ersatz- substitutions - margarine for butter. Alternatives to tobacco, etc. Government controlled more economic production as war dragged on. For Britian too. PM David Lloyd George had almost dictatorial power over country & economy. Price setting, rationing, govt. confiscation of crops & munition

plants. Regulating pub hours. Highly centralized economy. Similar situation in France. In Germany Ludendorff & Hindenburg are central figures. Russia too. where wife became leader. Centralization not easy to take apart. Property tax in Britain ends great country estates.

Social changes - women enter work force on a massive scale. Middle class women also enter the work force. Women grow more confident. Expect more rights - especially right to vote. Happened in Germany, Britain & US. Not in Italy & France. Promiscuity increases in Europe during WWI. Scope of promiscuity broadens. Morals slip. lots of war babies, new orphanages.

Internal migration increases - Paris & Marseille become industrial cities. Black migration in US. Labor concessions in Germany. Unions become more powerful in Germany. Inflation - Germans took out loans & simply printed more money to cover increased costs, especially labor.

Cynicism produced by war. View of human condition changes. Sun Also Rises, Great Gatsby - clearer view of human condition.

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