

Stop the Mistakes 2

Conflict and torsion: the First World War, 1894–1918

This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of the Great Powers and other states. It focuses on the causes, nature and conclusion of the First World War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred, and why it proved difficult to bring the war to a conclusion. This study also considers the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and how they were affected by and influenced international relations.

Part one: The causes of the First World War

- The Alliance System: the Triple Alliance; Franco-Prussian Alliance; relations between the 'Entente' powers; the crises in Morocco (1905 and 1911) and the Balkans (1908–1909), and their effects on international relations.
- Anglo-German rivalry: British challenges to German Isolationism; Kaiser Wilhelm's aims in foreign policy, including Weltpolitik; colonial tensions; European rearmament, including the Anglo-German naval race.
- Outbreak of war: Slav nationalism and relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary; the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo and its consequences; the July Crisis; the Schlieffen Plan and Belgium; reasons for the outbreak of hostilities and the escalation of the conflict

Part two: The First World War: stalemate

- The Schlieffen Plan: the reasons for the plan, its failure, including the Battle of Marne and its contribution to the stalemate.
- The Western Front: military tactics and technology, including trench warfare; the war of attrition; key battles, including Verdun, the Somme and Passchendaele, the reasons for, the events and significance of these battles.
- The wider war: the war on other fronts; Gallipoli and its failure; the events and significance of the war at sea, including the Dardanelles, the U-Boat campaign and convoys.

Part three: Ending the war

- Changes in the Allied Forces: consequences of the Bolshevik Revolution and the withdrawal of Russia on German strategy; the reasons for and impact of the entry of the USA into the war.
- Military developments in 1918 and their contribution to Germany's defeat: the evolution of tactics and technology; Ludendorff's German Spring Offensive; the Allied advance during The Hundred Days.
- Germany surrenders: impact of the blockade; abdication of the Kaiser; armistice; the contribution of Foch and Clemenceau to Germany's defeat.