INTRODUCTION

The Great War of 1914–1919 was a nearly global conflagration that included all the major powers of Europe, their colonies, and overseas allies. The immediate provocation was a relatively minor incident—the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire—but the causes were long-standing and much more complex. Pressure to seek war and resist compromise had been mounting in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, fed by aggressive nationalism, ambitious militarism, and complex national alliances. The war, when it came, was not what anyone expected.

- New kind of warfare. New technologies transformed the experience of war. Offensive battle plans stalled in the trenches, where soldiers were pounded by heavy artillery, trapped by machine-gun fire, and vulnerable to poisonous gas. Casualties were counted in the hundreds of thousands, and progress was measured in yards gained.

- Total war. World War I engaged civilian populations to an unprecedented degree. On the home front, women took up the work abandoned by recruits. Governments took control of wartime production, and propaganda campaigns demonized the enemy and glorified the war effort. Civilians were also targets of war through aerial bombing and naval blockades.

- The Russian revolution. The revolution was triggered by the war but sprang from the long-standing failure of the tsarist government to meet the needs of the Russian people. For a while it seemed that a liberal democracy might emerge, but within months the Bolshevik Party under the direction of Lenin overthrew the provisional government.

- Peace and unresolved questions. Armistice came in 1918, shortly after the United States entered the war. At the Paris Peace Conference, the victors, especially Britain and France, dictated harsh terms to the defeated Central Powers, dismantled their colonial empires, and imposed economic penalties. The bitterness engendered by the peace settlement virtually ensured that another conflict would follow.

OUTLINE

I. The drift toward war
   A. Nationalist aspirations
      1. Nationalism spread by the French revolution and Napoleonic Wars
         a) Self-determination suggested that each ethnic group had a right to a sovereign state
         b) Concept was ignored or opposed by dynastic powers
         c) Considerable nationalistic tensions in Ottoman, Hapsburg, and Russian empires
2. Slavic nationalism: stressed kinship of all Slavic peoples
   a) Ottoman empire shrank as first Greece, then others, gained independence
   b) Serbs of Austria-Hungary sought unification with independent Serbia
   c) Russians promoted Pan-Slavism in Austro-Hungarian empire
   d) Germany backed Austria-Hungary to fight ethnic nationalism

B. National rivalries
   1. The naval race between Germany and Britain increased tensions
      a) Germany’s rapid industrialization threatened British economic predominance
      b) Both states built huge battleships, called dreadnoughts
   2. Colonial disputes of the late nineteenth century
      a) Germany unified in 1871; came late to the colonial race
      b) German resentment and antagonism toward both France and Britain
      c) France and Germany nearly fought over Morocco in 1905
      d) Balkan Wars (1912–13) further strained European diplomatic relations
   3. Public opinion supported national rivalries
      a) Attitudes of aggressive patriotism among European citizens
      b) Leaders under pressure to be aggressive, to take risks

C. Understandings and alliances
   1. Rival systems of alliance obligated allies to come to one another’s defense
   2. The Central Powers
      a) Germany and Austria-Hungary formed a Dual Alliance in 1879
      b) In fear of France, Italy joined the Dual Alliance in 1882, thus, the Triple Alliance
      c) Ottoman empire loosely affiliated with Germany
   3. The Allies
      a) Britain, France, and Russia formed the Triple Entente, or the Allies
      b) Shifting series of treaties ended with a military pact, 1914
   4. War plans: each power poised and prepared for war
      a) Military leaders devised inflexible military plans and timetables
      b) France’s Plan XVII focused on offensive maneuvers and attacks
      c) Germany’s Schlieffen plan: swift attack on France, then defensive against Russia

II. Global war
   A. The guns of August: triggered a chain reaction
      1. June 1914, Austrian Archduke assassinated by Serbian nationalist
      2. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, July 28
3. Russia mobilized troops to defend its Serbian ally against the Central Powers
4. Germany: July 31, sent ultimatums to Russia and France, which were ignored
5. Germany declared war on Russia and France, invaded Belgium to reach France
6. August 4: to protect Belgium's neutrality, Britain declared war on Germany

B. Mutual butchery
1. War was greeted with enthusiasm on all sides; was expected to be brief
2. The western front
   a) German invasion of France halted along the River Marne for three years
   b) Trenches on the western front ran from the English Channel to Switzerland
   c) Italy entered war with Allies, maintained defensive line against Austria-Hungary
3. Stalemate and new weapons
   a) New technologies favored defensive tactics over offensive tactics
      (1) Poisonous gas: introduced by Germans, used by both sides
      (2) Eight hundred thousand casualties from mustard gas
   b) Armored tanks used to break down trenches toward end of the war
   c) Airplanes used mainly for reconnaissance
   d) Submarines used especially by Germans against Allied shipping
4. No-man's-land littered with dead, the grim reality of trench warfare
5. On the eastern front, battle lines more fluid
   a) Austrian-German forces overran Serbia, Albania, and Romania
   b) Russia invaded Prussia 1915, but was soon driven out
   c) Russians' counterattacks in 1916–1917 collapsed in a sea of casualties
6. Bloodletting: long, costly battles
   a) At Verdun: French "victory" with 315,000 dead, defeated Germans lost 280,000
   b) At the Somme, Britain and Germany saw losses of 420,000 each
7. New rules of engagement
   a) Civilians became targets of enemy military operations
   b) Air raids against civilians; naval blockades common

C. Total war: the home front
1. On the home front: the economy mobilized to support the war effort
   a) Governments militarized civilian war production
   b) Imposed wage and price controls
   c) Extended military draft in Germany from ages sixteen to sixty
2. Women served the war by entering the workforce
a) Took over jobs vacated by soldiers
b) Did hazardous work with explosives, shells, TNT
c) A liberating experience, especially for middle- and upper-class women
d) Women granted the vote in Western nations after the war

3. Propaganda campaigns to maintain national support for the war
   a) Included censorship and restrictions on civil liberties
   b) Criticism of the war regarded as treasonous
   c) Propaganda designed to dehumanize the enemy

D. Conflict in east Asia and the Pacific
   1. Expansion of the war beyond Europe
      a) European animosities extended to the colonies
      b) British and French forces recruited colonials into their armies
      c) Eventually, Japan, United States, Ottoman empire entered the war
   2. Japan entered war with the Allies, 1914
      a) Seized German-leased territory in China
      b) New Zealand and Australia likewise seized German-held lands in the Pacific
   3. The Twenty-One Demands
      a) Japan advanced its imperial interests in China
      b) The Twenty-One Demands were designed to reduce China to Japanese protectorate
      c) Britain intervened, prevented total capitulation of China to Japan

E. Battles in Africa and southwest Asia
   1. The war in sub-Saharan Africa
      a) Allies targeted the four German colonies in Africa
      b) Togoland fell quickly, but not the others
      c) Many Allied soldiers and workers died from tropical diseases
   2. Battle of Gallipoli, 1915, in Ottoman Turkey
      a) British decided to strike at the weakest Central Power, the Ottomans
      b) Battle of Gallipoli a disaster, with 250,000 casualties on each side
      c) Weakened ties of loyalty between Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Britain
   3. The Ottoman empire lost ground after Gallipoli
      a) Lost Caucasus to Russians
      b) Successful Arab revolt aided by British
III. The end of the war

A. Revolution in Russia

1. February Revolution of 1917: uprising against shortages, mounting deaths in the war
   a) Facing mutinies, Nicholas II abdicated throne
   b) Provisional government established

2. Struggle for power between provisional government and Petrograd soviet
   a) New government passed many liberal reforms
   b) Did not undertake land reform, did not withdraw from the war

3. V. I. Lenin (1870–1924) stepped into unstable situation
   a) A revolutionary Marxist, exiled in Switzerland
   b) Saw importance of a well-organized, disciplined party for revolution
   c) German authorities delivered Lenin to Russia, 1917, to take Russia out of war
   d) Headed radical Bolshevik Party: demanded power to soviets, withdrawal from war

4. The October Revolution
   a) Minority Bolsheviks gained control of Petrograd soviet
   b) Bolsheviks’ slogan “Peace, Land, and Bread” appealed to workers and peasants
   c) Armed force seized power from provisional government in name of all soviets

5. Russia withdrew from war, made a separate peace with Germany, lost one-third of Ukraine

B. U.S. intervention and collapse of the Central Powers

1. 1914–1916, United States under President Woodrow Wilson officially neutral
   a) American public opposed participation in a European war
   b) U.S. companies sold supplies, gave loans to Allies
   c) By 1917, Allied ability to repay loans depended on Allied victory

2. The submarine warfare helped sway American public opinion
   a) German blockade sank merchant ships, intended to strangle Britain
   b) 1915, Germans sank Lusitania, a British passenger liner, killing 1,198 passengers

3. United States declared war on Germany, 6 April 1917

4. Collapsing fronts after years of bloodletting
   a) April 1916, Irish nationalists attempted to overthrow British rule
   b) Central Powers: shortages, food riots, mutinies
   c) 1917, mutiny of fifty thousand French soldiers
   d) Spring 1918, massive Germany offensive on western front failed
   e) With fresh American troops, Allies broke the front and pushed the Germans back
f) Central Powers collapsed, one after another; accepted armistices November 1918

C. The Paris Peace Conference, 1919

1. In the end, the Great War killed fifteen million people, wounded twenty million
2. The Paris settlement was dominated by heads of Britain, France, and United States
   a) Twenty-seven nations with conflicting aims participated
   b) Leaders of Central Powers and Soviet Union not included
3. Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points: proposal for a just and lasting peace
   a) Included free trade, arms treaties, rights for colonials, an association of nations
   b) Most of the program rejected by Allies; Central Powers felt betrayed
4. The Peace Treaties, 1919
   a) French insisted on destroying German military
   b) Central Powers forced to accept war guilt and pay reparations for cost of war
   c) Austria and Hungary were separated and reduced; the new states were added to eastern Europe
   d) Overall, the peace settlement was a failure; left a bitter legacy
5. Ataturk: Mustafa Kemal, father of modern Turkey
   a) 1923, drove out occupying Allied forces, proclaimed Republic of Turkey
   b) Implemented reforms: emancipation of women, Western dress, European law
   c) Secular rule replaced Muslim authorities
   d) Constitutional democracy, although Ataturk ruled as virtual dictator until 1938
6. The League of Nations created to maintain world peace
   a) Forty-two members, twenty-six of them outside Europe
   b) The league had no power to enforce its decisions
   c) Collective security depended on all major powers, but United States never joined
7. Self-determination for ethnic nationalities: urged by Wilson at Paris Conference
   a) Basis for redrawning map of eastern Europe: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia
   b) Difficult to draw lines: German minorities left in Poland and Czechoslovakia
   c) Yugoslavia: land of southern Slavs, uneasy mix of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes
8. The mandate system
   a) United States opposed direct colonization; Allies proposed system of trusteeships
   b) Colonies of Central Powers divided into three classes of mandates
   c) Allies divided up Germany’s African colonies, Ottoman territories in southwest Asia
   d) Arabs outraged at betrayal by their British allies

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D. Challenges to European preeminence

1. Great War weakened Europe, set the stage for decolonization after World War II
   a) Economic crises: inflation, debt, loss of overseas investments, foreign markets
   b) Economic relationship between Europe and United States reversed; United States now creditor
   c) Loss of prestige overseas weakened European grip on colonies

2. Revolutionary ideas
   a) The war helped spread concept of self-determination
   b) Nationalist movements also sought inspiration from the Soviet Union

IDENTIFICATION: PEOPLE

What is the contribution of each of the following individuals to world history? Identification should include answers to the questions who, what, where, when, how, and why is this person important?

Archduke Franz Ferdinand
Kaiser Wilhelm
T. E. Lawrence
Mustapha Kemal (Ataturk)
V. I. Lenin
Woodrow Wilson

IDENTIFICATION: TERMS/CONCEPTS

State in your own words what each of the following terms means and why it is significant to a study of world history. (Terms with an asterisk are defined in the glossary.)

Dreadnought*
Balkan Wars 1912–1913
Allies
Central Powers*
Schlieffen Plan
Gallipoli
Bolsheviks*

_Lusitania_

Treaty of Versailles

League of Nations*

Mandate system*

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What goals and values were expressed in the various nationalistic movements of the early twentieth century? Which ethnic groups in particular asserted the right of self-determination?

2. How did the imperialistic rivalries of the European powers contribute to international tensions before World War I? Be specific.

3. Summarize the forces set in motion by the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand in 1914. When and why did the war begin?

4. What was the typical experience of the soldier in World War I? Explain how new technologies changed the experience of war.

5. What role did women play in the war effort? Were these changes long- or short-term?

6. How else did the war transform civilian life? Consider especially the enlarged role of the government.

7. Why did Japan enter WWI? What did it gain?

8. What factors caused the Russian revolutions in February and October of 1917? What changes emerged initially from these revolutions?

9. How did Lenin and the Bolsheviks come to power?

10. When and why did the United States enter the war? What did this move mean?

11. What was the intent of the League of Nations? What were the weaknesses of this body?

12. How did the mandate system work in the Middle East? Who profited most from this system?
INQUIRY QUESTIONS

1. Was World War I a preventable war, or were the nations of Europe committed to fighting even before the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand? Can you envision a realistic scenario by which the outbreak of war might have been averted?

2. What were the essential elements of Woodrow Wilson's peace program? Which of his Fourteen Points were included in the final peace treaties? Why was it so difficult to implement his vision?

STUDENT QUIZ

1. By the end of the nineteenth century, nationalistic movements resulted in independent sovereignty for all of the following except
   a. Bulgaria.
   b. Germany.
   c. Greece.
   d. Ireland.
   e. Italy.

2. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the catalyst that started World War I because
   a. he was a unifying force between Serbia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
   b. his death caused Russia to rush to the defense of Austria.
   c. his death caused Germany to rush to the defense of Serbia.
   d. his death ended plans for national self-determination within the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
   e. his death brought to a head the tensions underlying the alliances in eastern and western Europe.

3. The rivalry between Germany and Britain up to 1914 included
   a. an expensive naval race.
   b. competition for foreign markets.
   c. tariff wars.
   d. competition for colonies in east and southwest Africa.
   e. all of the above.

4. Dreadnoughts were designed primarily
   a. to be quick and agile and slip through an enemy blockade.
   b. to spy on one's enemies.
   c. to protect merchant shipping and conduct high-seas battles.
   d. to launch underwater attacks with unmanned torpedoes.
   e. all of the above.

5. The purpose of alliances such as the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente was
   a. to create a mutually advantageous free trade association.
   b. to provide mutual defense and support in case of attack.
   c. to cooperatively share resources in African colonies.
   d. to avoid war.
   e. all of the above.
6. The German Schlieffen Plan called for
   a. a quick invasion of Great Britain and destruction of the British navy.
   b. a quick invasion of Russia so that the war would be fought on only one front.
   c. a blockade of France to starve that country into submission.
   d. a swift knockout of France combined with defensive action against Russia.
   e. simultaneous invasions of France, Britain, and Russia with heavy reliance on the navy.

7. Which of the following was not a new military technology used for the first time in World War I?
   a. machine guns
   b. armored tanks
   c. airplanes
   d. poisonous gas
   e. nuclear submarines

8. Compared to the western front, fighting on the eastern front was
   a. more fluid, as the Germans made inroads into Russia.
   b. a deadlock, with German and Austrian troops trapped for months in trenches.
   c. more encouraging for the Allies, especially on the Balkan Peninsula.
   d. not as deadly, with far fewer casualties.
   e. over quickly.

9. In World War I, “no man’s land” was the
   a. battle line in eastern Europe and the Balkans.
   b. deadly territory between opposing trenches.
   c. killing field around Verdun.
   d. German route of invasion through Belgium.
   e. peninsula of Gallipoli.

10. What effect did World War I have on the status of women?
    a. The demands of total war actually reduced the opportunities for women.
    b. Women engaged in combat for the first time.
    c. Women in many countries received the vote in the years after the war.
    d. Women gained economic status that continued long after the war.
    e. All of the above.

11. The purpose of the Twenty-One Demands was
    a. to demand control of German-held islands in the Pacific.
    b. to reduce China to the status of a Japanese protectorate.
    c. to demand that the British turn over control of Hong Kong.
    d. to reduce Korea to the status of a Japanese protectorate.
    e. all of the above.

12. The Battle of Gallipoli was significant in that
    a. it sounded the death-knell of the Ottoman empire.
    b. it demonstrated that the British navy was no match for German dreadnoughts.
    c. this decisive battle finally broke the stalemate on the western front.
    d. this British-directed debacle cost the lives of many Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand troops.
    e. it demonstrated that, after the arrival of American troops, the Allies would win the war.
13. “Ten days that shook the world” is a reference to
   a. the Paris settlement of the Great War.
   b. the debacle at Gallipoli.
   c. the German thrust toward Paris in August 1914.
   d. the Russian revolution in October 1917.
   e. days in August leading up to the outbreak of the Great War.

14. In addition to fighting off Allied forces, the Ottoman empire faced insurrection from the
   a. Arabs.
   b. Egyptians.
   c. Greeks.
   d. Serbs.
   e. Turks.

15. Tsar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate when
   a. Bolsheviks stormed the Winter Palace.
   b. an assassination attempt revealed that his family was in danger.
   c. troops garrisoned in the capital mutinied.
   d. German forces seized the Ukraine.
   e. all of the above.

16. The provisional government lost the support of many Russians because it
   a. continued to use the police apparatus of the tsar.
   b. continued policies that discriminated against minorities.
   c. denied Russians the right to free speech and free press.
   d. promised to continue the war to victory.
   e. launched an all-out attack on the workers’ soviets.

17. Although he called himself a Marxist, Lenin, unlike Marx, believed that
   a. the revolution would be led by rural peasants, not industrial workers.
   b. the revolution would be led by a small, highly disciplined party acting on behalf of the workers.
   c. the revolution would be led by the intelligentsia acting on behalf of all Russia people.
   d. the revolution would not succeed until Russian workers were joined by workers all over the world.
   e. the revolution could not succeed if it alienated the church and the military.

18. A key factor in the U.S. decision to enter World War I was
   a. its long-standing friendship with Great Britain.
   b. the U.S. desire to acquire German colonies in the Pacific.
   c. American prejudice against German immigrants.
   d. the political ambition of Woodrow Wilson.
   e. Germany’s resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare against the United States.

19. At the Paris Peace Conference,
   a. the Allies agreed to let ethnic self-determination set the boundaries of the Middle East.
   b. Britain and France were determined to strip Germany of military power.
   c. Russia was forced to cede much of Manchuria to Japan.
   d. Woodrow Wilson gained acceptance of his Fourteen Points.
   e. all of the above.
20. Which of the following statements about the League of Nations is not true?
   a. It was conceived by Woodrow Wilson.
   b. It was rejected by the U.S. Congress.
   c. It was designed to solve international disputes through arbitration.
   d. It had no power to enforce its decisions.
   e. It was dominated by the countries of Europe.

MATCHING

Match these figures with the statements that follow.

A. Allied Powers in 1914  G. V. I. Lenin
B. Central Powers in 1914  H. T. E. Lawrence
C. Yugoslavia  I. Mustapha Kemal
D. Bolsheviks  J. Kaiser Wilhelm
E. Franz Ferdinand  K. Leaders of Paris Peace Conference
F. Woodrow Wilson

1. ___ Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes
2. ___ Britain, France, and Russia
3. ___ Britain, France, and the United States
4. ___ Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire
5. ___ Party of radical Russian revolutionaries
6. ___ British adventurer who organized Arab resistance to Ottomans during the war
7. ___ The last German emperor
8. ___ The first Turkish president
9. ___ Idealistic American president who failed to persuade his own Congress to support his vision of a League of Nations to impose collective security
10. ___ Radical leader who engineered the Communist takeover of the Russian revolution
11. ___ Austrian Archduke whose assassination sparked the First World War
SEQUENCING

Place the following clusters of events in chronological order. Consider carefully how one event leads to another, and try to determine the internal logic of each sequence.

A.

(_).__ France mobilizes in defense of its ally, Russia.

(_).__ The heir to the Austrian throne is assassinated by a Serbian nationalist.

(_).__ Germany orders Russia to stand down and, when the tsar refuses, declares war on Russia.

(_).__ Russian forces prepare to come to the defense of Serbia.

(_).__ Germany activates the Schlieffen Plan to invade France by way of Belgium.

(_).__ A system of secret alliances commits the various nations of Europe to come to one another’s defense.

(_).__ Not satisfied with the Serbian response, the Austrian government declares war on Serbia.

(_).__ Britain declares war on Germany for violating Belgian neutrality.

B.

(_).__ After storming the headquarters of the provisional government, the Bolsheviks take control of the revolution.

(_).__ The new provisional government provides free speech and free press but does nothing to change the inequities of land distribution or to take Russia out of the war.

(_).__ The Bolsheviks end Russian involvement in World War I by signing a treaty with Germany.

(_).__ By 1917, the Russian people are exhausted by the war effort and are suffering food shortages.

(_).__ A parallel system of government emerges in the revolutionary councils, or soviets, organized by socialists in various cities across Russia.

(_).__ When his own troops mutiny, Tsar Nicholas II is forced to abdicate.

(_).__ Smuggled into Russia by the Germans, Lenin organizes the Bolshevik party, which soon takes over the Petrograd soviet.
C.

American banks make substantial loans and American companies sell considerable supplies to the Allies.

U.S. government declares itself to be officially neutral.

The German government tries to break the stalemate by sinking American supply ships with submarines.

World War I breaks out in Europe.

President Wilson reverses his position, and Congress declares war on Germany.

The long-standing stalemate on the western front suggests that the Allies might not be able to pay off war debts.

QUOTATIONS

For each of the following quotes, identify the speaker, if known, or the point of view. What is the significance of each passage?

1. “The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind. It is a war against all nations. . . . Our object now, as then, is to vindicate the principles of peace and justice in the life of the world as against selfish and autocratic power. . . . The world must be made safe for democracy.”

2. “Peace, Land, Bread.”

3. “Article 231. The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all of the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their [citizens] have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

   Article 232. . . . The Allied and Associated Governments ... require that [Germany] will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property.”

4. “Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.”

5. “Only in Communist society, when the resistance of the capitalists has been completely crushed, when the capitalists have disappeared, when there are no classes . . . only then ‘the state ceases to exist.’ . . . Only then will there become complete democracy, a democracy without any exceptions whatever.”

6. “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 gas-shells dropping softly behind.”
MAP EXERCISES

1. Compare the maps of Europe in 1914, before the war (Map 34.1, page 953 in the textbook), and in 1920, after the war (Map 34.2, page 970). Then answer the following questions.

- What new nations appear on the 1920 map that did not exist as sovereign states before the war?
- Consider Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, in particular. Which states had control of these lands before the war? Which states lost the most territory in the peace settlement?
- Explain how the 1920 map reflects the triumph of ethnic self-determination over the old multiethnic empires.

2. What interests seem to have directed the restructuring of the Ottoman provinces in southwest Asia after World War I (Map 34.3, page 973), the interests of self-determination or of empire?

CONNECTIONS

In fifty words or less, explain the relationship between each of the following pairs. How does one lead to or foster the other? Be specific in your response.

- Submarines and food shortages
- Total war and women’s suffrage
- Pan-Slavism and the Russian revolution
- Eastern Rebellion and Ataturk

FILMS

Gallipoli (1981). This riveting war drama traces the experiences of two young Australians, best friends played by Mark Lee and Mel Gibson, who enlist in the British army in World War I. Their journey across half a world brings them to the trenches at Gallipoli.


All Quiet on the Western Front (1979). Based on the classic German antiwar novel by Eric Maria Remarque. Here we see the Great War, both in the trenches and on the home front, from the German perspective.

Nicholas and Alexandra (1971). This three-hour production traces the reign of the last of the Romanovs up through the Revolution and the assassination of the royal family. Particular attention is paid to the domestic life of the tsar and his family, the illness of his son, and the influence of the corrupt monk, Rasputin.

Doctor Zhivago (1965). The story of a Russian doctor, his family, and his lover, caught up in the Bolshevik Revolution and the difficult years that followed. Starring Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, and Alec Guinness.