

The Killing Front, 1914-1918

1. Introduction:
 - a. WWI still the Great War, much more important to UK history than WWII:
 - b. 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 compared
 - i. Similarities
 - ii. Differences
 - (1) Numbers killed and wounded larger

years	length	soldiers killed	wounded	civilians
1914-18	4	750-908,000	2-2.5 mill.	1,400
1939-46	6	270-300,000	600,000	60-70,000
2. Causes of the war
 - a. "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." British Foreign Minister Sir Edward Grey, 3 Aug. 1914
 - b. Diplomacy: the end of isolation and the making of alliances 1902-1914
 - i. already two groups
 - ii. Britain feels isolated
 - iii. Joseph Chamberlain's approach to Germany, from 1901
 - iv. Instead *rapprochement* with France and United States
 - c. Anglo-German Military Rivalry
 - i. Admiral Tirpitz insists on a large German Navy
 - ii. Why stay in a naval race?
 - iii. Public Support for military arms race
3. Course of the war
 - a. Trigger
 - i. June 1914, Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand
 - ii. 4 Aug. 1914, British Empire enters war
 - iii. Schlieffen Plan
 - b. Western Front
 - i. Sept. 1914, 1st Battle of the Marne
 - ii. Oct.-Nov. 1914, British at Ypres (Belgium) halt German advance
 - iii. Spring 1915, trench war, Alps to English Channel
 - iv. limited technology (none are decisive in war)
 - c. Search for a Back Door
 - i. French want British to open up new front
 - ii. attack on Ottoman Empire
 - d. Home Front
 - i. allotments, pub hours, rationing
 - ii. Spring-May 1915, unrestricted sub war
 - iii. 1916, universal conscription
 - iv. British blockade versus sub war, 38% of merchant fleet lost
 - v. 1917
 - vi. 1918
 - vii. 1919, Paris Peace Conference
4. consequences: legacy of the Somme
 - a. Accounting for massive casualties?
 - i. inability of General H.Q. to develop new tactics
 - ii. Strategies
 - (1) result?
 - b. Somme, July 1916—test case
 - i. late 1915, Douglas Haig (1861-1928) replaces Sir John French as

- ii. Commander-in-Chief of B.E.F.
 - iii. at Somme, Haig hopes for a *breakthrough*
 - iii. 7:30 a.m., 1 July 1916, long lines of assault divisions start slowly forward, mist, support of artillery, smoke, and overhead machine gun fire
5. consequences: home front
- a. Change in role of labor
 - i. Decline in domestic servants
 - ii. Women's role in war
 - b. increase in state regulation
 - i. poorest of working class better off under wartime allocations than before
 - c. Rise and then fall of Lloyd George Liberals
 - i. After failure at Gallipoli, 1915
 - (1) 3-party coalition lead by PM Asquith
 - ii. 1916, Press campaign for new PM
 - (1) popular choice, D. Lloyd George, asked to lead coalition
 - (2) under Lloyd George, Cabinet not Commons runs "total war" effort
 - iii. 1818, "coupon" election
 - (1) Lloyd George and the Unionists
 - d. Shift in international balance of power
 - i. 38% of Britain's merchant marine shipping had been sunk
 - (1) Replaced by USA as leading merchant marine and naval power
 - ii. Changing role in Middle East (next Paris Peace Conference)