

Topic 5: The Impact of New Technology

There were several advances in technology throughout the war. However, each and every them were especially effective.

What effects did submarines have about the war?

- At first, German submarines (or 'u-boats') were really feared because of the British
- Three British warships were sunk by one German submarine in September 1914. In May 1915 the Lusitania was sunk.
- But the genuine challenge from German submarines was faced in 1917. At the beginning from the year the Germans had 120 submarines sailing and in April 1917 in excess of 875,000 tonnes of shipping was sunk. This immediately changed naval strategy and David Lloyd George, the best minister, ordered the Admiralty to produce escorts for convoys sailing through the Atlantic.
- In the tip, this convoy system would be a great success as well as the threat in the u-boats was defeated.

How important were aircraft?

- When the war began, aeroplanes were an extremely new invention and none in the countries involved had many planes.
- The main job created by aircraft early inside the war was reconnaissance - finding out the location where the enemy troops were.
- There were air raids on Britain, which made the British public very angry. However, the British soon found methods for limiting the effects with the raids - as an example, searchlights, anti-aircraft guns and barrage balloons - so these folks were not crucial towards the war overall.
- The Germans also used Zeppelins (large inflatable flying machines) to bomb Britain in 1915. However, these were filled with inflammable hydrogen and big, therefore, the British soon developed planes that might shoot them down easily.
- There were developments in fighter planes through the war on both parties (by way of example, guns which are synchronized to fire throughout the propeller on the plane) and neither side really gained a tremendous advantage.
- Even with the end with the war, aircraft continued to be not thought being a vital weapon of war. Aircraft were lightly armed and might not do enough injury to major military targets to customize the course of an battle hugely. Large planes were expensive to build in large numbers and may not carry enough bombs making it worth it. Overall, therefore, the war within the air had not been very important in deciding who won the war.

How important was Gas?

- Poison gas was used at Ypres in April 1915 and proved a deadly weapon. 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed.

Topic 6: the Eastern Front

Often, when individuals think of World War One, they or her think with the trenches around the Western front. However, it's important to remember that there was clearly a crucial battle happening from the East between Germany and Russia.

What were the important thing events around the Eastern Front?

- In 1914, the Russians attacked Germany to accept the pressure off France and Britain inside West.
- In their early battles, the Russians were heavily defeated. The Germans took 135,000 Russian prisoners and also the disgraced Russian commander committed suicide.
- The Russian army made better progress against Austria-Hungary, but by 1915 it absolutely was struggling. Germany had come towards the aid of its ally and through the end from the year the Russian army had retreated 500 kilometres and another million men have been killed.
- In June 1916, the Russians launched the Brusilov Offensive making it rapid progress from the space of three weeks. However, Brusilov had few troops in reserve along with the Germans begun to push the Russian advance back. What had looked so promising resulted in defeat
- In October 1917, the Communist Party seized power within the Russian Revolution. The communists were determined to end the war as quickly as possible and signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany in March 1918. This would have been a total defeat for Russia, which gave away immeasurable land and cash to Germany, and agreed that German troops could occupy the Ukraine.
- After the end of the war inside east, the Germans could transfer German regiments through the Eastern Front on the Western Front for his or her surprise offensive in France. However, the USA had joined the war by now and yes it was in its final stages (see topic 7).

Why was the Eastern Front very important?

Even though Russia pulled out with the war in 1917, the Eastern Front was essential because;

- The Russian attack in 1914 helped to defeat the Schlieffen Plan given it forced the Germans to withdraw troops on the Western front before they defeated France.
- It meant how the Germans were forced to fight a war on two fronts for most with the war - something they always needed to avoid.
- The Brusilov Offensive caused the withdrawal of German troops through the battles of Verdun along with the Somme in 1916, which gave some relief towards the British and French.