

# World War I-“Total War”



When the Great War broke out in 1914, Europe had not been involved in a major conflict in over 40 years. Many Europeans were excited about going off to war, thinking of it as an adventure, or a vacation with friends. What these young men didn't realize was that this would be a very different war from the ones in the past. During the great wars against Napoleon, many people could go on living in their towns as if the world were still at peace. But during the First World War, very few people living in the warring countries were not affected by the fighting. The war of 1914 became known as the first “total war” in history.

**The Industrial Revolution had a major effect upon military technology:**

*“When dirigibles (airships similar to blimps) began to drop bombs over London and submarines began to sink merchant ships, war had invaded the civilian sphere and the battle line was everywhere....”*

**The Role of civilians:**

*“The energy and morale of the civilian (non-soldier) became just as important as the spirit of the man in the trenches. During the war, rationing made sure that everyone had enough food, but not more than they needed. Families received books of tickets for a specific amount of food. This made sure that food wasn't wasted and that the soldiers on the front would have enough to eat. People organized themselves to collect scraps of useful materials, such as grease metal, bottles, and rubber. Factories were converted to produce war materials such as bombs, ammunition, and guns. All citizens whether at home or on the front were seen as fighting the war.”*

**How was WWI different from wars in the past?**

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## Role of Women

In Europe, wives of soldiers went to work because they could not support themselves and their children on the low salaries of their husbands, away at war. Patriotism or their feelings for their loved ones at the battlefield drew some women out of the home and into the workplace. With growing numbers of men joining the British armed forces during the First World War, the country was desperately short of labor. The Government decided that more women would have to become involved in producing food and goods to support their war effort. *“Shells made by a wife may save a husband's life”* was posted in public places.



**Use the video clip to answer the question:**

**What kinds of jobs did women perform during WW1?**

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<b>Numbers of Women working in Great Britain</b>	<b>July 1914</b>	<b>July 1918</b>
As Employers (bosses)	430,000	470,000
In industry	2,178,600	2,970,600
In domestic service (working at home)	1,658,000	1,258,000
In commerce (trade, merchants, etc)	505,500	934,500
In national and local government, including education	262,200	460,200
In agriculture	190,000	228,000
In employment of hotels, public houses, theatres, etc.	181,000	220,000
In transport	18,200	117,200
Other	542,500	652,500
Altogether in occupations	5,966,000	7,311,000
Not employed but over 10 years old	12,946,000	12,496,000
Under 10 years old	4,809,000	4,731,000
Total Females in Britain	25,721,000	24,538,000

**Discuss the change in women in domestic service, industry, and the total females in Britain (provide the change in numbers and explain why you think each change occurred)**

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## **Propaganda**

Propaganda consists of the ideas or information that is spread deliberately to influence people's thoughts or actions. The information given may be true. However, it is usually only one side of an issue. Propaganda techniques date back as far as Roman times but up to this time had never been as widely used as during World War I. European nations used these propaganda techniques to persuade civilians and military alike to think in a manner that would most help them win the war.

### **Four Techniques of Propaganda:**

1. Propaganda often presents half-truths, or only those facts that support a particular cause. It is one-sided.
2. Propaganda uses name calling.
3. Propaganda identifies a cause with a famous person or noble idea -- religion, motherhood, innocence, etc.
4. Propaganda shows the other side in the worst possible way – as blood-thirsty murderers, babykillers, etc.

**DIRECTIONS:** With a partner, watch the slideshow of the WWI propaganda posters. How would these posters encourage people to join the war? ***The slide will change in one minute!***

<b>Propaganda Poster</b>	<b>Intended Message</b>
<b>Poster A</b>	
<b>Poster B</b>	
<b>Poster C</b>	
<b>Poster D</b>	

