



History Britain at War

First World War 1914–1918

Timeline of events

August 1914	Britain declares war on Germany
October 1914	First Battle of Ypres
Jan–Feb 1915	Ottoman Empire attacks Suez Canal
February 1915	Gallipoli Campaign begins
May 1915	Italy joins the Allied Powers
Feb–Dec 1916	Battle of Verdun
June–Sept 1916	Brusilov Offensive
July–Nov 1916	Battle of the Somme
April 1917	United States joins the Allied Powers
November 1918	Germany surrenders, and the war ends

Causes of the war

There were several long-term causes of the First World War.

- Countries had previously made alliances because war seemed likely. Britain had signed a treaty to protect Belgium and was allied with France and Russia. Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy were allies.
- Germany had an imperialist desire to conquer other countries.
- Countries including Germany, France, Russia and Britain practised militarism, growing their armies and developing weaponry.
- Nationalism was widespread in Europe, and the leading powers



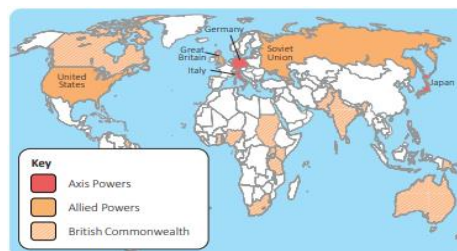
Second World War 1939–1945

Timeline of events

September 1939	Germany invades Poland, and Poland surrenders
April 1940	Germany invades neutral Norway
May 1940	Germany takes control of Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands
May–June 1940	Germany invades France and Operation Dynamo rescues Allied soldiers from Dunkirk
June 1940	France surrenders to Germany
July–Oct 1940	Battle of Britain
December 1941	Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, and the United States enters the war
July 1943	Allied forces invade Italy, and Italy later surrenders
June 1944	D-Day
May 1945	Germany surrenders (VE Day)
Aug–Sept 1945	The United States drops atomic bombs on Japan, Japan surrenders, and the war ends

Causes of the war

The Treaty of Versailles had devastated Germany. By the 1930s, unemployment and poverty in Germany were widespread. Adolf Hitler became Germany's leader in 1934 and claimed his Nazi Party would restore German pride and save the economy. He then invaded the surrounding countries. Britain and France tried appeasement rather than challenging this expansion. On 1st September 1939, German forces invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany.



Remembrance

Remembrance is the act of remembering and honouring the people who died as a result of the conflict. The poppy is a symbol of remembrance after poppies grew in the Western Front battlefields. Memorials, monuments and war cemeteries all serve to remind us of the sacrifice made by millions of people.



Glossary

alliance	A group of countries who have agreed to work together because of shared aims.
appeasement	Giving the opposing side something they have demanded to prevent further disagreement.
colony	A nation controlled by another country.
conscription	Forcing people by law to join the armed services.
genocide	The deliberate killing of large numbers of people from a particular nation or ethnic group, with the aim of destroying that nation or group.
imperialism	The desire to conquer and colonise other countries.
militarism	The belief that it is necessary to build up and use strong armed forces to gain power, money and land.
reparation	Payment made by a defeated country after a war to pay for damages it caused to another country.
stalemate	A situation in which neither side can get an advantage, and no action can be taken.