

# *The First World War*

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Author – John Keegan

1. In 1914, who controlled the largest empire in terms of population and land mass? Germany, France, or Britain?
2. What three major powers constituted the Entente?
3. By the end of World War I, about how many persons had died?
4. By the end of the war in 1918, about how many Frenchmen had died? From what units did most come? And what age groups?
5. About what percentage of German men between ages 19 and 22 died in the war?
6. What country lost the largest percentage of its population in the war? How many soldiers died? How many civilians?

7. Keegan attributes the Turkish genocide of Armenians not to the war, but rather to what?

8. Pre-war Europe was dominated by what form of government? Where did exceptions occur?

9. What economic and industrial developments led Europeans to believe no war would come at this time?

10. Keegan comments on the similarities in outlook amongst educated classes of Europeans. What were some of those important similarities?

11. How did Russia's railroads differ from those elsewhere in Europe? And why is that significant?

12. Before the war, what Europeans travelled, and how and why did they travel?

13. Describe the relationships (and relations) amongst the chief European monarchs.

14. When did the Holy Roman Empire begin and end?

15. What chief proposal by Tsar Nicholas 2 came from the 1899 Hague Conference? How effective was it?

16. Minorities amongst the populations of Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia posed several threats to those nations. What kinds of threats?

17. What is a magazine rifle? Why was its development significant?

18. Consider the typical German conscript: how long and in what various capacities would he likely serve?

19. What is a military division? How many existed in Europe before the war began? Why is that significant?

20. Describe the significance of radio and telegraph to World War I communications.