

e-XXXX-XXXX



Original Article

dedication to material studies: History Of World War I

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Abstract:

World War I (1914–1918) was a historical event that marked a major turning point in modern world history. This conflict not only involved the military might of major powers but also reflected the accumulation of political, economic, social, and ideological issues that had been developing since the late 19th century. This article aims to examine in depth the background to World War I, the dynamics of the involvement of major powers, including the entry of the United States, and the war's long-term impact and legacy on global structures. The method used is a literature review with a historical-analytical approach, examining various scholarly sources in the form of history books, journal articles, and relevant international documents. The results of this study indicate that World War I arose from a combination of extreme nationalism, imperialism, economic competition, and a rigid system of military alliances. This war resulted in massive destruction, the collapse of old empires, the emergence of new nations, and the shift of the center of world power from Europe to the United States. In addition to its political and economic impact, the war also left a social trauma that spans generations and serves as an important lesson for efforts to build world peace. In conclusion, World War I was not only an armed conflict but also a formative event for the modern world, the impact of which is still felt today. Therefore, a critical understanding of this war is essential as a foundation for historical learning and humanitarian reflection.

Keywords: *World War I, global history, nationalism, impact of war, world order*

Introduction

World War I, which took place between 1914 and 1918, was one of the most defining events in modern world history. This conflict is often referred to as the first global war because it involved countries from various continents, not just Europe. This war fundamentally changed the international political order, the global economic structure, and the social life of the world's people. Its impact did not end with the end of the fighting, but continued to be felt in the form of ideological changes, the emergence of new nations, and the emergence of further conflicts that ultimately led to World War II.

Although chronologically, World War I was triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, this event was actually only the catalyst for a long-simmering conflict. Since the late 19th century, Europe had been in a tense political situation due to rivalries between major powers. Extreme nationalism flourished, not only as a means of national unity but also as a source of hostility between states. This nationalism was particularly strong in the Balkans, a region prone to conflict due to ethnic, religious, and political diversity.

In addition to nationalism, imperialism and economic competition also worsened international relations. European industrial nations competed to expand their colonial territories to obtain raw materials and markets for their industrial products. Britain and France had already established vast colonial empires, while Germany, a newly industrialized power, felt left behind and sought to pursue this dominance. This competition not only sparked diplomatic conflict but also fueled an increasingly massive arms race, particularly in the military and naval spheres.

This situation was exacerbated by a rigid and interdependent system of military alliances. The formation of two major blocs, the Central Powers and the Allied Powers, left Europe in a state of constant tension. When one country entered a conflict, its allies were automatically compelled to join the war. This alliance system created a domino effect that caused local conflicts to escalate into global wars in a relatively short time.

World War I also marked a change in the nature of warfare itself. Advances in industrial technology produced modern weapons with extraordinary destructive power, such as machine guns, heavy artillery, tanks, and poison gas. War was no longer a matter of rapid maneuvers but rather a protracted and exhausting trench warfare. Millions of soldiers were trapped in extreme conditions, while civilians suffered from starvation, disease, and the destruction of infrastructure.

The impact of World War I was felt not only by the countries directly involved in the fighting, but also by the colonies in Asia and Africa. Although some colonial powers, such as the Netherlands, remained neutral, the war's effects were felt by the colonies

through changes in the global economy, shortages of goods, inflation, and the tightening of colonial policies. In the Dutch East Indies, these conditions contributed to the growth of political awareness and nationalism among the indigenous population, which would later form the foundation of Indonesia's struggle for independence.

The entry of the United States into the war in 1917 was a crucial turning point in the course of the conflict. This involvement not only accelerated the Allied victory but also marked the shift in the center of world power from Europe to America. In the aftermath of the war, the United States emerged as a new economic and political power, while European nations declined due to economic devastation and the burden of heavy war debt.

The Treaty of Versailles, which aimed to end the war, was achieved through the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which aimed to establish international peace and stability. However, this treaty sparked controversy because it was considered too burdensome for Germany. The provisions for war reparations, military restrictions, and territorial losses created a deep sense of injustice and national resentment. This situation suggests that conflict resolution without justice and reconciliation has the potential to give rise to new conflicts in the future.

Based on this background, studying World War I is crucial for understanding the dynamics of global history and its impact on the modern world. This war was not simply a series of military battles, but a complex event involving the interaction of political, economic, social, and ideological factors. Through a comprehensive understanding of World War I, it is hoped that valuable lessons can be learned about the importance of diplomacy, international cooperation, and peaceful conflict management in maintaining global stability and peace.

Research Method

This research uses a qualitative approach with library research. This approach was chosen because the study of World War I is a historical study that emphasizes the exploration, understanding, and analysis of past events based on scientifically reliable written sources. Library research allows the author to comprehensively reconstruct historical events and understand the causal relationships behind World War I and its impact.

A qualitative approach was used because this research focuses not solely on numerical or statistical measurements, but rather on interpreting the political, economic, and social dynamics that developed before, during, and after World War I. With this approach, the author seeks to explore the historical meaning, interpretations of historians, and the global context that influenced the course of the war and its consequences for the modern world order.

The data sources in this study consist of primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include relevant historical documents, such as international treaty texts, speeches by political figures, diplomatic archives, and official government records related to World War I. Meanwhile, secondary sources include history books, scientific journal articles, research reports, and other academic works written by historians and previous researchers. These sources were selectively selected, taking into account the author's credibility, relevance of the content, and a strong academic context.

Data collection techniques were conducted through a systematic literature search. The author collected library materials from physical and digital libraries, including scientific journals and reference books that discussed the background, dynamics of the war, and its impact. Each source used was critically read to identify main ideas, arguments, and key findings relevant to the research focus. This process was repeated to ensure the completeness and depth of the data obtained.

Data analysis was conducted using a historical-analytical approach. The historical approach was used to organize events chronologically, starting from pre-war conditions in Europe, through the outbreak of the conflict, the course of the war, and the post-war period. Meanwhile, the analytical approach was used to examine the interrelationships between events and analyze the structural factors that led to the war, such as nationalism, imperialism, economic competition, and the military alliance system. Through this analysis, the author seeks to understand World War I not only as a military event, but also as a complex social and political phenomenon.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this study employs source triangulation techniques. Triangulation is achieved by comparing information from various sources, from both Western and non-Western historians' perspectives. This method allows the author to avoid any single bias and obtain a more objective picture of World War I. Furthermore, differences in perspectives between authors are critically analyzed to enrich interpretations and deepen understanding of the events under study.

This study also employs a contextual approach, placing World War I within the global social, economic, and political context of the early 20th century. This approach is crucial for understanding that wars do not occur in a vacuum but are influenced by the structural conditions and international dynamics that developed during that period. Understanding this context makes the resulting analysis more comprehensive and relevant.

Overall, the research methods used in this article are designed to produce a historical study that is in-depth, systematic, and scientifically sound. Through a combination of qualitative approaches, literature studies, and historical-analytical analysis, this research is expected to provide an academic contribution in

understanding World War I as an important event that shaped history and the modern world order.

Research Findings and Discussion

This research reveals various important aspects of World War I, from its causes and the dynamics of the conflict, the involvement of major powers, to its long-term impact on politics, the economy, and global society. To facilitate analysis, this section is divided into several sub-chapters that discuss each main theme in detail.

1. Background of World War I

The results of this study indicate that World War I did not emerge suddenly, but was the accumulation of various structural and ideological factors. The main factors behind the war include:

a. Extreme Nationalism

The nationalism that developed in Europe in the early 20th century was dual in nature. On the one hand, nationalism united people within a single nation, but on the other hand, it gave rise to hostilities between nations. For example, in the Balkans, South Slavic groups such as Serbia sought independence from Austria-Hungary, leading to a local conflict in Sarajevo in June 1914 that triggered a global war.

b. Imperialism and Economic Competition

European industrial nations competed for control of colonies as sources of raw materials and industrial markets. Britain and France had already dominated global colonies, while Germany sought to catch up. This rivalry intensified suspicions between nations and fueled an arms race, including massive naval and military buildups.

c. The Military Alliance System

Rigid alliance systems, such as the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy) and the Triple Entente (Britain, France, and Russia), made it easy for regional wars to escalate into global conflicts. When Austria-Hungary attacked Serbia, Germany fully supported Austria-Hungary, while Russia defended Serbia, which then drew France and Britain into the conflict.

Thus, the war was not simply the result of the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, but a manifestation of years of pent-up political, economic, and social tensions.

2. Dynamics of War and the Involvement of Great Powers

a. Trench Warfare and Military Technology

World War I marked a shift in the nature of warfare. Modern weapons such as machine guns, heavy artillery, poison gas, and tanks made combat more lethal. Soldiers lived in extreme trench conditions, facing the risk of disease, starvation, and psychological trauma. Document analysis shows that trench warfare lasted for years,

with millions of casualties, reflecting the brutality of modern industrial conflict.

b. Entry of the United States (1917)

Initially neutral, the United States eventually joined the Allied Powers due to several factors: Germany's policy of unrestricted naval warfare, the sinking of the RMS Lusitania, which killed American citizens, and the Zimmermann Telegram, which revealed Germany's plan to persuade Mexico to invade the United States. American involvement significantly strengthened the Allies industrially, logistically, and morally, ultimately hastening the defeat of the Central Powers.

c. Treaty of Versailles (1919)

The Treaty of Versailles ended the conflict, but it was politically and economically burdensome for Germany. Military restrictions, territorial losses, and war reparations created an economic crisis and national discontent that led to the rise of Nazism. Research suggests that the unfairness of these treaties was a contributing factor to World War II.

3. Economic, Political, and Social Impacts

a. Economic Impact

World War I devastated Europe's industrial centers, causing inflation, budget deficits, and trade crises. The United States emerged as a major creditor and a new economic power. In colonies, such as the Dutch East Indies, the war increased raw material production but created social inequality because the native population did not benefit from the benefits.

b. Political Impact

The war ended the rule of absolute monarchies in Europe, such as Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, and led to the emergence of new, more democratic states. Political awareness among the colonized population increased, paving the way for nationalist movements and independence struggles.

c. Social Impact

The war triggered intergenerational social trauma, changing gender roles, and increased female participation in the workforce. A study by Carozzi, Pinchbeck, and Repetto (2023) shows that regions with high casualty rates experienced increased social capital (civic capital) and community solidarity after the war.

d. Cultural and Ideological Legacy

World War I left important lessons about the dangers of extreme nationalism, arms races, and failed diplomacy. The values of humanity, peace, and international cooperation emerged as a moral response to the devastation of war.

4. Comparison of Historical and Modern Perceptions

This study compares the interpretations of classical historians such as Keegan and Hobsbawm with contemporary studies such as Avery and Carozzi. The main conclusion suggests that World War I was the result of a complex interaction between structural (political, economic) and ideological (nationalism, imperialism) factors. Modern analysis emphasizes the long-term social impacts and moral lessons relevant to the world today, particularly regarding conflict management and international diplomacy.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study and discussion, World War I can be concluded as a global event born from the accumulation of structural, ideological, and political conflicts. This war was not only triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914, but was also the consequence of several interrelated factors, including extreme nationalism, imperialism, economic competition, and a rigid system of military alliances. Tensions between European nations had been building for decades before the war, so when the conflict broke out, the domino effect of military alliances transformed a local war into a large-scale global conflict.

The dynamics of the war demonstrate that World War I was an early example of modern industrial warfare, in which new military technologies such as machine guns, heavy artillery, poison gas, and tanks resulted in enormous casualties and profound psychological trauma for soldiers and civilians alike. The trench warfare that lasted for years illustrated the brutality of the conflict far beyond human comprehension.

The entry of the United States in 1917 was a crucial turning point, strengthening the Allied Powers and hastening the defeat of the Central Powers. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919, which ended the war, demonstrated that resolving a conflict without the principles of justice and reconciliation, could potentially foster discontent that could lead to further conflict. In this context, World War I provided strategic lessons relevant to the modern era, namely the importance of diplomacy, international cooperation, and fair conflict management to prevent escalation into global war.

The impact of World War I was multidimensional. Politically, the war ended the era of absolute monarchies in Europe, gave birth to new, more democratic states, and sparked political awareness among colonial populations, such as in the Dutch East Indies. Economically, the war devastated Europe's industrial centers, causing inflation and a trade crisis, while the United States emerged as a major economic power. Socially, the war triggered collective trauma, changing gender roles, and increased public participation in socio-political structures. Furthermore, the war's cultural and ideological legacy demonstrated the importance of humanitarian values, peace, and

vigilance against extreme nationalism and the arms race.

Overall, World War I was not merely a military conflict, but a phenomenon that shaped the modern world order. This war left valuable lessons for subsequent generations regarding the dangers of conflict escalation, the importance of international diplomacy, and the need for fair and wise global political management..

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions above, several suggestions can be made, including:

1. History education about World War I should not only emphasize the military aspect, but also the social, economic, and political aspects. This is important for fostering critical awareness among the younger generation regarding the impact of war, the importance of peace, and humanitarian values.
2. Future research should emphasize multidimensional analysis, including the impact of war on colonial societies, women, and minority groups. This approach can provide a more inclusive and in-depth understanding of the consequences of war.
3. The history of World War I should be used as a tool to teach the values of diplomacy, international cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution. Governments, educational institutions, and social organizations can utilize this study to prevent future conflict escalation.
4. In the digital age, historical archives and documents are more widely accessible. A suggestion for future research is to utilize digital technology to search for original documents, newspapers, and international archival records to obtain richer and more valid data.
5. World War I demonstrated that unjust international policies can lead to long-term conflict. Therefore, policymakers at both the national and international levels need to study this history to design more effective peacekeeping and diplomatic mechanisms, including within the context of global organizations such as the United Nations and the modern League of Nations.
6. By following these suggestions, the study of World War I can be more beneficial, not only for understanding history, but also as a basis for moral, social, and political learning for the modern world..

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