



1914–1945

Global Conflict



Frames in Unit 8 – Part 1

What were the causes, and effects, of the global conflicts that engulfed the world during the twentieth century? Let's see how our three frames can help us understand this question.



<p>0:12</p> <p><i>Trevor Getz speaking; photos of soldiers from World War I and World War II; photo of Jewish women and children being rounded up by Nazi soldiers</i></p>	<p>The First World War was called the war to end all wars, but the fact that we call it the First World War should give you a hint that it did not end wars. In fact, just 20 years after the first, the Second World War engulfed the world, and both wars witnessed horrific atrocities that stain the pages of human history.</p>
<p>0:35</p> <p><i>Timeline of the 30-year period of global conflict occurring between 1914 and 1945</i></p>	<p>Now history books often divide these two wars, and the 20 years of the interwar period in between, into three distinct events. But in this course, we ask you to think about them together as a single 30-year period of global conflict from 1914 to 1945. And of course, with the three frames, we can better understand the connections that link this period of global conflict. For example, we can begin to understand the causes of both wars through the community's frame.</p>
<p>1:10</p> <p><i>Satirical map of Europe highlighting the political turmoil of the region. Fishermen in each country are portrayed casting their lines into a neighboring country—an allegory to their interference into each other's affairs</i></p>	<p>As you learned in Units Four and Six, nationalism emerged as a transformative force in the long 19th century. But while helping people to unite, nationalism also caused resentment between states, resentment that simmered under European politics. In 1914, these nationalist tensions erupted into conflict, and as a result of the war several large Empires crumbled, while new nations emerged.</p>
<p>1:40</p> <p><i>Trevor Getz speaking; photo of a gathering of the League of Nations; photos of Hitler and Woodrow Wilson</i></p>	<p>But as the victorious powers carved up the spoils of war, they also attempted to create a new system of internationalism. They wanted to create organizations like the League of Nations, that would bind communities to each other in peaceful cooperation. However nationalist rivalries did not disappear. In fact, in many places nationalism intensified. Between the wars, racism, ethnic chauvinism, fear, and bitterness turned people against the populations of rival states abroad, and against minorities at home. And in the end, internationalism failed in the face of this extreme nationalism.</p>
<p>2:22</p> <p><i>Photos of the fascist leaders of Germany, Italy, and Japan during WWII</i></p>	<p>So in the 1930s, ideologies like fascism and authoritarianism gained increasing power in many countries, including Italy, Germany, and Japan. New leaders rose to power, and they called for a nationalism that advocated militarism and territorial expansion, and racist policies. These ideas about community laid the groundwork for the Second World War and the atrocities that followed, especially the Holocaust.</p>
<p>2:49</p> <p><i>Trevor Getz speaking; drawings of sunken ships from the First World War;</i></p>	<p>Now switching to the Network's Frame can help us to make sense of these atrocities, as well as the failures of international politics that led to them.</p> <p>The devastation of the First World War diminished global networks during the war. The exchange of ideas between opposing powers came nearly to a halt: people had</p>



<p><i>photo of European soldiers visiting one of their many colonies</i></p>	<p>less ability to travel, communications were censored, and distrust broke apart relationships across borders. The control of European empires over their distant colonies also diminished.</p>
<p>3:22 <i>Trevor Gets speaking; photos depicting the rebirth of networks following the end of World War II, featuring diplomats, doctors, and scientists gathered together</i></p>	<p>But at the end of the war networks and exchanges grew again. Relationships from the diplomatic to the personal resumed quite quickly, and colonialism was rapidly reasserted. Now, many leaders hope that networks of doctors and scientists and diplomats could work together for the betterment of all, and help prevent another war, but they learned ironically that ideas of extreme nationalism moved along the same kinds of networks as those of internationalism.</p>
<p>3:53 <i>Trevor Getz speaking; series of photos taken during World War I and II featuring destroyed cities, the industrial production of warheads and bullets, and the large-scale attacks that occurred via air and land</i></p>	<p>Can looking at production and distribution also help us to understand this period? Maybe. Many historians refer to the two world wars as total wars. The phrase total war indicates a war in which all of a society's political, social, and economic systems commit to warfare. The economic cost and devastation of two global, total wars reshaped patterns of production and distribution everywhere. I mean, in both wars nations raised armies in the millions, drawing from their colonies as well as their homeland, and production of consumer goods slowed everywhere as the war effort consumed resources for the tools of war. This sort of large-scale industrialized warfare had never been seen before, and in fact it only intensified between the wars.</p>
<p>4:45 <i>Trevor Getz speaking; photo of Winston Churchill, FDR, and Joseph Stalin seated together; side-by-side photos of two major products of wartime production: the tank and the atomic bomb</i></p>	<p>The threat of defeat by the Axis powers brought together leaders of the two great systems of production and distribution in the world. The western capitalist states and the Communist Soviet Union created a political alliance, and mobilized massive wartime production to win the war.</p>
<p>5:02 <i>Photo of tombstones in a graveyard; photo of two women sitting among the ruins of a crumbled building; Trevor Getz speaking</i></p>	<p>By 1945, this period of global conflict had killed tens of millions of soldiers and civilians, and left economies everywhere in tatters in its wake. The world was left with huge questions; was it possible to have national communities without extremism? Could international networks be built to avoid a future war? And what kind of production and distribution system would allow the world to rebuild? These were some of the issues facing governments and people everywhere at the end of the Second World War in 1945.</p>



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