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World War I
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World War I started in 1914 and ended in 1918. European countries snatched the benefits of one another in diplomacy and military. They dreaded they would be weaker than other countries. World War I was the result of conflicts between the Austria-Hungary and Serbia because the death of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand.¹ It began when the Triple Entente, Russia and France mobilized forces to help Serbia. The Triple Alliance, Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy then declared the war to Russia and France. German moved the troop to attack France through Belgium which was supported by England. So England declared war to Germany because they infringed Belgium's sovereignty. At that time, the European Great Powers have been divided into two parts. The Central Power included Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. The Allied Power was France, Russia, England, Serbia, Italy, America, China, Japan and Thailand. The war ended when the countries in The Central Power lost many times and it affected German's battle plan than Germany was feeble.² People and soldier lives during the war had changed and they were suffered tremendously.

The World War I caused terrible livelihood of people. Not only soldiers but also ordinary people in the community during the war. Militants were never recovered from their experience in the War.³ Their minds had been buried with the sounds of banging, bombing and gun shooting, the picture of thousands death of strangers and

¹ Michael Duffy. "The Causes of World War One." *First World War*. 22 Aug. 2009. <<http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm>>

² Watin Santi. "The World War I." *Go To Know*. 24 Feb. 2007. <<http://www.gotoknow.org/posts/247778>>

³ Wikipedia contributors. "Aftermath of World War I." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 8 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aftermath_of_World_War_I>

friends, the feeling of fear and frightened, the mourning of people, the suffering of survival and the loss of normal social lives. The experiences that people will never face in their normal life. They had shell shock and were known as The Lost Generation.⁴ They missed their life time while they were in the field. They did not wake up in the morning and went to work as a middle age men. Neither had club sandwiches during lunch break nor warm dinner with families at home. Many women were left unmarried because many men died during the war because they went out to serve their countries. Women became single moms and looked after their kids alone. Kids became rough especially boys because they were grown up with a brutal situation and girls underwent the guns and bombs experiences. The death of men in the battle was more than the death from diseases. Compare to World War Two that people mostly died from the disease than fighting. Females and kids were suffered with the waver of their living without their family leaders. During the period of war, soldiers and polices became powerful. They abused the poor people in many ways. They robbed their money and bullied the women.⁵ They did not fear of laws or any people. It was harmful to live a normal life each day.

Everything was at a pause. Most activities were discontinued. There were no entertainment such as dramas on television, movies in theater or plays in the town hall but only news report about the war status and the situation of the fights. People were afraid of coming out of their homes or even attacked in their homes. They had no enjoyable time in daily life. Education was deteriorated because kids and teachers did not go to school. Some of the study sources has been wrecked. There was no technology like today so they could not learn through the internet at home.

⁴ Joanna Bourke. "Shell Shock during World War One." *BBC*. 10 Mar. 2011. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/shellshock_01.shtml>

⁵ James Joll. *The Origin of the First World War*. 1984. p.58-62.

Communications were cut and it was hard to contact each other. Kids had no ground to play or no friends to meet. Everyone kept themselves in the safe place. The foods and resources were scarce. Crops and farms had been destroyed and were hard to grow. Good foods were very rare during the time. People were grabbing and stealing for their survival.⁶ The world's population decreased rapidly. They lived on their hope and fear. They have no way to escape, only be alert and kept themselves alive at the end of one day.

Many businesses were stopped especially the one commerce internationally. All economies were affected by this fight. The world faced economic downturn. The politics change appeared such as the form of democratic government in Bulgaria and the socialist and communist political systems in some parts of Germany. Countries also lost their overseas territories. France lost ground to the invading German during the war. They suffered a high loss of life, destroyed industrial region and economic devastation. Italy has grown the socialist party and it led to violent protests in the country. The communism in Russia attempted to reassert authority over pre-war territories lost to the Central Powers. Spain and most European nations suffered greatly in postwar economic downturn.⁷ They were unable to continue their business or it was hard to recover. There was less development throughout the world. As for the United Kingdom, they were weakened because of the high loss of lives and financial damage and the difficulty of controlling overseas empire. They were distracted so Ireland began the independence movement toward them. No civilization appeared in the period of World War One. Developments were ruined and stopped. People were depleted to create or conceive new things.

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. "Aftermath of World War I." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 8 Feb. 2013. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aftermath_of_World_War_I>

⁷ N.A. "Effect of World War I on Each Country." *Woldology*. N.D. < http://www.worldology.com/Europe/world_war_1_effect.htm>

In conclusion, war creates a sad experience to everybody involved especially the poor. Families are separated and the society is deteriorated. A deteriorated society would have negative consequences to everybody living in it. Even when we are prosperous but the society is bad, we could not live happily⁸. People will hurt each other and we may be one of the victims in such society. Our children may grow up without future. Economy will face the low development or the downturn. We should empathize each other in this cruel situation of the world. We should help to fight against war and abusive usage of power. The rich and the powerful should consider helping the society by taking care of the poor and do not take advantage from each other. Without everybody helping each other, the world would be a bad place to live for everybody.

⁸ Cowper et al. *World War I and Its Consequences*. 1990. p.23-25.