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Supphanat Pongpasuth

World War I

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When we looked at our world in the past there have been many huge wars that nearly ended all human mankind. The First World War was introduced to us when Gravrilo Princip the Bosnian revolutionary that worked for the Serbian nationalist group assassinated Austrian Archduke, Franz Ferndinand in 1914.¹ After countries in Europe signed the alliances agreement, whenever one country gets attacked the country's alliances has to provide support immediately.² After the assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war with the Serbian that caused all the alliances of each to be involved.³ However, the involvement of women during the war changed their role in the society forever and the perspectives of men towards the women. Women started working because there were short numbers of men, joining in heavy industry and working with weaponries. As well as working in the armed force, not only in medical services, but also fighting. Hence, women were a big impact on recruiting soldiers because they would take part in the propaganda.⁴ One of the major contributions that World War I has contributed to humanity was changing women's role in the society and increasing their importance.

¹"Causes of World War One." *History on the Net Main Page*. Web. 2 Feb. 2012.
<<http://www.historyonthenet.com/WW1/causes.htm>>.

²"World War 1: Causes." *Course World Reference: High School Curriculum Resource*. Web. 2 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.courseworld.com/his/ww1.html>>.

³"First World War.com - Feature Articles - Who Declared War and When." *First World War.com - A Multimedia History of World War One*. Web. 2 Feb. 2012.
<<http://www.firstworldwar.com/features/declarationsofwar.htm>>.

⁴"Women in World War 1 - World War 1 and Women." *European History – The History of Europe*. Web. 2 Feb. 2012. <<http://europeanhistory.about.com/od/worldwar1/a/ww1women.htm>>.

Long time ago, women are refrained from certain jobs because they were seen as inferior from men. After the world war was presented, women were involved drastically in munitions because the British were short in weapons and ammunitions due to lack of labor.⁵ Therefore, munitionettes, or women that worked in munitions, has to work with different kinds of dangerous chemical and dealing with heavy machines. Naturally men would most suits this kind of jobs, but women has shown that they can employ in these categories as well. But, it has a great reward in terms of wage. They have measured that women produced nearly all the munitions.⁶ There has been a situation where the munitionettes died because of the chemical explosion in the factory called Trinitrotoluene.⁷ This case showed that women can work in harsh conditions and braved enough to stand with it.

Women also participated in the front line by joining the military or working as a medical staff during the war. Medical services were one of the best contributions in the front line that really help the country. These women were multitasking between acting as a soldier and nurse at the same time. They have to do something more than nurse because of the short numbers on men. Nurses will be put in a special training where you train with weapons and how to deal with cars; it's crucial because they have to protect their base when there's not enough military to patrol around.⁸ Very few women really fought as a soldier in the front line, but they tend to help more with the communications and the house keeping work.⁹ Therefore, the government could

⁵"Munitionettes." *Spartacus Educational*. Web. 2 Feb. 2012.

<<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Wmunitions.htm>>.

⁶"BBC - Schools Online World War One - H.Q. - Articles - Home Front." *BBC - Homepage*. Web. 2 Feb. 2012. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/worldwarone/hq/hfront2_02.shtml>.

⁷"Munitionettes." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 3 Feb. 2012.

<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munitionettes>>.

⁸"Women's Roles in the World Wars." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 3 Feb. 2012.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_roles_in_the_World_Wars>.

⁹"World War 1 Women in War Ww1." *Jimmythejock on HubPages*. Web. 3 Feb. 2012.

<<http://jimmythejock.hubpages.com/hub/World-War-1-Women-At-War>>.

recruit all the men as much as possible for the war. It was one of the best contributions that women can work in the front line and let the world know that how beneficial they could be.

During the war, propaganda started flying around on the streets throughout the cities. Basically it's a poster that created for some reason, the government wanted to persuade the civilians to stand up and listen to their messages. The messages in the propaganda stated in various ways, such as needed civilians to work for their country in the war.¹⁰ Women started appearing on the propaganda, to recruit the men to join the military, or even an inspiration to all the women to work for their country. It was really effective because the men that don't want to join got pressure from these women posters, and finally they have changed their minds.¹¹

Now women have shown that they are not the weaker side and can't work, during the First World War it changed many people's perspective towards women. They started working in munitions industry, which is a tough job and a harsh environment. They have contributed a lot to the nation by producing almost all the weapons and ammunitions. As well as enrolling in the army front line not only as a medic, but holding the gun beside those men too. All these women have a huge contribution toward their own country. Another significance contribution is participating in the propaganda posters, which have recruited a lot of men into the military. Therefore, we can say that women was one of the biggest contributions in World War I, we can't imagine that if these women didn't stand up, how our countries will look like today.

¹⁰"WWI and Propaganda Posters." *Antique Collectibles | Antiques Online | Vintage Furniture and More...* Web. 4 Feb. 2012. <http://antiques.lovetoknow.com/WWI_and_Propaganda_Posters>.

¹¹"Women in World War 1 - World War 1 and Women." *European History - The History of Europe*. Web. 4 Feb. 2012. <<http://europeanhistory.about.com/od/worldwar1/a/ww1women.htm>>.