

Comparison of WORLD WAR I to WORLD WAR II – We will do all of WORLD WAR I first.

Trait	World War I (7/1914-6/1919)	World War II (9/1939-5/1945; Japan 9/1945)
Nations we join	Allies –France, Great Britain, Russia and more U.S. in 4/1917	Allies – France, Great Britain, USSR and more U.S. in December 7, 1941 France-a republic; Great Britain-constitutional monarchy; Russia-monarchy.
Nations we oppose	Central Powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire	Axis – Germany, Italy, Japan (for a while the USSR) Germany and Japan-fascist dictatorships; Japan-fascist acting but does not have a cult dictatorship since the emperor was considered a god.
U.S. government’s initial position	Officially neutrality	
Assets of nations on the Allies side	Great Britain-navy; France-manpower but it lost a generation. (Problem: Russia poor and ill-equipped; its defeat to Germany led to 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.)	
Assets of nations we oppose	Germany often compared to U.S. in 1890s. (Problems: Austria-Hungary, ethnically volatile. Ottoman Empire, very poor.)	
Technology	New technology: tanks, land mines, flame throwers, poison gas. Germany: submarine	
Traits of war	Trench warfare, attrition, high death counts	
Trade and U.S. banks	U.S. bankers made loans to France and Great Britain.	
Trade with belligerents	Great Britain blockaded the Central Powers from being able to buy. Only Allies were able to reach the U.S. and buy. Germany eventually resorted to submarine warfare to stop the British supplies.	
Trigger event for war	Assassination of an archduke of Austria-Hungary when visiting a nationalist area	
Trigger event for U.S.	Zimmerman Note	
Veterans when the war is over	Veterans return to no jobs for them and widespread unemployment and recession. Also terrorist bombings, race riots, strikes (20% of workers). Government & 1 st Red Scare.	
Attempt to stop a repeat of this war	League of Nations (US does not join.)	United Nations

In WORLD WAR I, How High Is the Casualty Rate?

American forces are used on the Western front.

Date	Br	Fr	Ger	Ru	US
1914	-	900K	-	-	
1915	73K D 240K W	330K D 1M W	170K D 680K W	-	
Total				3.6M D	113K D 51K war 62K disease