

machine gun

a mounted gun
producing the
continuous firepower of
50 men

Marne

an early French victory
(September 1914) that slowed
down the initial German attack
but left them in control of
Belgium and northern France

militarism

an aggressive political position
focused on the role of the armed
services in maintaining the security
of the state and promoting its
interests beyond its boundaries

mortar

a short cylinder for
firing explosive shells

nationalism

a belief in the priority,
and often superiority, of
the interests of a
particular nation

parados

the rear wall of the trench

parapet

the forward side of the trench

Paris Peace Conference

took place at Versailles on the outskirts of Paris in 1919 where the Treaty of Versailles was concluded

Passchendaele

the site of the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917 which saw huge British casualties (300 000)

Plan 17

a French plan prepared in 1913 that hoped to break German defences by two separate offensives across the German border into Alsace-Lorraine

reparations

compensation in money and goods demanded by the British and French from Germany and her allies for causing the destruction and loss of life in World War I

Schlieffen Plan

the German army's plan for an offensive attack against France, proposing a massive attack against France going through neutral Belgium

shell shock

condition occurring in men continually exposed to the sound of shelling

shrapnel

metal fragments that sprayed out of hollow shells on detonation or the fragments of the shell casings

Somme

a British attack in June-November 1916 designed to relieve the pressure on the French at Verdun

stalemate

a situation where neither side could make a successful breakthrough on the Western Front

Stockholm Peace Conference

a conference planned by socialist parties in neutral countries, to be held in Stockholm in June 1917 in an attempt to end the war

total war

the heavy involvement and coordination of civilians in contributing to the war effort

Treaty of Versailles

treaty signed by the Allies and Germany in July 1919 which blamed the Germans for causing World War I and therefore responsible for massive reparations(compensation) to the Allies

trenches

chief feature of the Western Front running from Switzerland in the east to the English Channel in the west - originally designed as a temporary defensive position

Triple Alliance

the alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy

Triple Entente

the alliance of France, Britain and Russia

U-boats

highly successful German submarine fleet that had almost won the war for Germany in 1917 by cutting off much needed supplies to Britain

war of attrition

an attempt by each side to wear down the other by using all available resources on the battlefield and the home front, aimed to break the morale of the enemy

Western Front

the area of northern France and Belgium in which the greater part of World War I was fought

zeppelin

German airship named after the designer, Count von Zeppelin, used to bomb allied cities in France and Britain
