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World Civilization II
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23: Film Response: World War I

Three things I have learned from this film.

What really started World War 1 was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary, this was knowledge for me; this War created social and economic conditions. This War took the lives of 16 million people including soldiers and civilians.

World War started due to the fact of German and Austrian leaders greedy and did not wanted to negotiate which led to the assassination of Archduke.

Even though the German submarine blockades of Britain received more attention, the British blockade of Germany was more effective resulting in possibility of 800,000 civilian deaths due to starvation. I also learned that the submarines are very useful in destroying merchant shipping during wartime, which do affect the network connection with modern Industrial economy basically depend on. Sadly, in one day the British lost sixty thousand men.

This was also knowledge gain for me, that Congress declared war against Germany. President Wilson cited Germany's violation of its pledge, since they wanted to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in North Atlantic and Mediterranean, and its attempts to entice Mexico in alliance against the US. Interesting enough the American soldiers used machine guns and bob wires as a weapon to fight in the war.

The war has influenced culture in many ways, the image of war are a major part of popular culture. The war helped defined nation. The war was glorious according to the film. The German soldiers were more defensive against Russia, so the war on Russia was a disaster. Approximately 13.3% of male died during the age of 15-45. As always diseases are always a major factor during or after the war such as Gangrene, influenza breakout and killing more people than how much was lost during the war.

I did not understand why the war was glorious, when so many lives were lost. Glad to know soldiers wrote about the war, which helped future mobilization of military.