

Compare and Contrast the Impact of World War One and World War Two

	Comparisons	Contrasts
Social / Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany was “the aggressor” in each war (Belgium WW1, Poland WW2) therefore has a propaganda disadvantage (commented on by Hitler in Chapter 6 Mein Kampf after WW1). • Britain used posters in both wars. She used personification in both wars as a propaganda technique – e.g. Kitchener in WW1 (Your country needs YOU!); Churchill in WW2 (“Let us go forward together”); in both wars too there was an emphasis on encouraging people to grow more food (e.g. Kitchen is the Key to Victory WW1; Potato Pete WW2) <p>Women were mobilised effectively in the workforce in both wars (examples); after both wars these gains were largely reversed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In WW2 a big contrast was the additional use of the spoken word, made possible by the development of the radio. • The message too was different; there was conscription existed early on so no need for recruitment posters (“What did YOU do in the Great War, daddy?”), and the fresh memory of WW1 meant there was no need to tell people about the horrors of war (Battle of Somme film); instead the main focus was on keeping morale high. • Evidence: quotes from Churchill’s speeches for Britain, those of Hitler and Goebbels in WW2.
Socio-Economic	<p>Germany recovered after both wars with American help: Dawes Plan (WW1) and Marshall Aid (WW2), both of which were partly motivated by a desire to stop the spread of communism.</p>	<p>Germany failed to economically prepare for WW1 as she had gambled on a short war; therefore shortages (K-Bread, Turnip Winter) and deprivation. However Hitler planned for WW2 much better (4-Year Plan).</p> <p>Germany only superficially recovered after WW1 – the Dawes plan was a loan, and when it was called in Germany collapsed (evidence); after WW2 the recovery in West Germany was stronger (evidence) because Marshall Aid was provided with no strings attached; it was also spread across Europe.</p>
	<p>Britain very similar impact both wars – economic bankruptcy (evidence). Britain responded similarly and effectively in both wars e.g. rationing, growing own vegetables (examples), mobilising women into the workforce (examples).</p>	<p>After WW1, Lloyd George failed to provide “Homes fit for heroes” but women made political gains (evidence).</p> <p>After WW2, Clement Attlee / Aneurin Bevan succeeded in building the Welfare State (NHS, council housing) but women failed to make any further political gains (except in France) (evidence)</p>
Political	<p>Russia, in both wars, initially suffered a great deal from German invasions (Tannenburg WW1, Barbarossa WW2)</p>	<p>Russia continued to collapse for the duration of WW1 (lost Ukraine, Baltic States, Russian Revolution, Civil War). However in WW2 the USSR turned the situation around and emerged more powerful – gained control of E. Europe (etc)</p>
	<p>In Britain, both wars led to drastic changes in the British party system.</p>	<p>The nature of the changes was very different. (a) World War One destroyed the Liberals as a political force (divided between Lloyd George and Asquith – George Dangerfield called this “The strange death of Liberal England”) and led to interwar Conservative dominance (“dominant party system”) - evidence; (b) World War Two secured the rise of Labour as a major political party to oppose the Conservatives (“two-party system”) - evidence</p>
	<p>After both wars Germany was torn between democracy and dictatorship.</p>	<p>After WW1, Germany’s politics was divided in a chronological sense (very democratic at first, but then a dictatorship later - evidence).</p> <p>After WW2, Germany’s politics was divided in a geographical sense - democracy (West Germany - FDR) and dictatorship (East Germany – DDR) - evidence</p>

Military	LAND	<p>WW1 – stagnation resulted from a technology being the master rather than the servant, confusing and bewildering the generals (“fighting machine guns with the breasts of brave young men” – Churchill, general Somme tactics)</p> <p>WW2 – movement resulted from Hitler being the master of the new technology rather than its servant – Blitzkrieg, Stuka Bombers, Panzers</p>
	SEA	<p>In WW1, the convoy system was essentially defensive (trying to “hide” the ships from the enemy) but in WW2 they additionally adopted an offensive strategy – breaking the Enigma codes to destroy UBoats, outgunning and outmanning the enemy in the Battle of the Atlantic.</p>
	AIR	<p>WW1 – Planes were used mainly in non-aggressive manner, for intelligence gathering; attacks of Zeppelins on Scarborough were of minimal military significance.</p> <p>WW2 – The war in the air was Planes were used as a direct military tool (e.g. Blitz of London, Dresden in Germany, Bouncing Bomb, Pearl Harbor, V1 / V2 rockets, Atomic Bomb).</p>
Diplomatic	<p>After both wars,</p> <p>(a) there were new countries in Europe; evidence</p> <p>(b) the colonies were mobilized in defence of the Empire; evidence</p> <p>(c) Both wars saw international organizations emerge to prevent war – League of Nations, United Nations.</p>	<p>However, beyond these surface similarities there are differences.</p> <p>(a) The new countries in Europe were democracies after WW1; they were communist satellites after WW2 (evidence). Germany remained a unitary state after WW1 (etc – terms of Versailles – just lost bits of land); it was divided after WW2.</p> <p>(b) After WW1, the major Empires of Britain and France were consolidated with fresh “mandates” (examples); after WW2 these Empires rapidly dissolved due to nationalism now being mature as a concept and the increased pressure of the USA upon old Europe to decolonise (e.g. India from the British Empire, Algeria from the French).</p> <p>(c) The United Nations was much more powerful than the League had been (evidence); after WW2 there were also organisations established on an economic basis (ECSC > EEC > EU, COMECON) and on a military basis (NATO / Warsaw Pact).</p>