



Resource G

How did the Allied Powers react to the German spring offensive of 1918?

- **By the end of March 1918 the United States rushed 250,000 fresh troops to defend the Western Front.**
- **The British reinforced their armies** with troops from Britain itself and with soldiers who had previously been fighting the Turks (German allies) in the Middle East.
- **All Allied forces were united for the first time under the command of a French general, Marshal Foch.** This meant that Allied armies could be co-ordinated more efficiently with fewer delays or misunderstandings.
- **The Allies learnt to take advantage of German weaknesses.** For example, in July when the Germans attacked for the last time on the Western Front the French chose to let them advance first knowing that the German army could not keep their soldiers supplied with enough food or other resources. The French then waited for the right moment to counter-attack the demoralised German troops with huge losses for the Germans.
- **The Allies at last had enough tanks to use in mass attacks.**
- Previously Allied offensives usually started with a bombardment of the enemy frontline by heavy guns. This gave a direct warning to the Germans that an attack was coming and always gave them time to prepare. The Allies now changed this pattern. **They bombarded the Germans at the same time as they attacked with tanks and infantry. This took the Germans by surprise and meant they were less well prepared and easier to defeat.**
- **From July to November the Allies pushed back demoralised German troops who retreated towards the German frontier.**
- **The Allies won a crucial victory at Amiens on August 8 the 1918.** General Ludendorff described it as “the black day of the German Army”. Large numbers of German soldiers surrendered and the general recorded examples of soldiers shouting “You’re prolonging the war!” at officers trying to rally them.