



Resource A

The Allies had larger empires, more money and more resources to fight with from 1914 onwards than the Central Powers. They were bound to win.

The Allies were joined by the United States of America from April 1917. America's great wealth and industry together with the millions of fresh soldiers it could send it to the Western Front meant that it was only a matter of time before the Allies won.

Some historians claim that the Allied naval blockade of Germany caused great shortages and hardship there. Over time it broke down the will of the German people to carry on fighting, leading to riots, strikes, mutinies and revolution.

Some historians claim that Allied commanders wore down the German army successfully between 1914 and 1918 on the Western front. They claim that this was one reason for the Allied victory of 1918.

Some historians claim that Allied commanders on the Western Front learnt from their mistakes and improved their tactics between 1914 and 1918. They claim that this was one reason why they defeated the Germans in 1918 itself.



The Allies added to the number of countries on their side throughout the War.

The Allied naval blockade of Germany trapped the German navy in port for most of the War. This led to mutiny by sailors in 1917 and 1918, leading to the German revolution and Germany's defeat.

The British introduced a convoy system in April 1917 which cut down the number of ships lost to German U-boats. Before then Britain had been within six weeks of running out of food.

German allies were much weaker than Germany itself. Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) and Bulgaria often needed German support which diverted German energy away from the Western front.

By 1918 the Allies were producing enough tanks and using them well enough in large numbers to help defeat Germany on the Western front.

The German policy of unrestricted submarine warfare (sinking ships trading with Britain without warning) failed. The British did not run out of food and it led to the USA declaring war on April 1917.

German offensives on the Western front, such as Verdun in 1916 failed to wear down the Allies enough to defeat them.



The Germans invaded neutral Belgium in 1914. This meant that the British declared war against the Central Powers. Germany would have stood a much better chance of winning the War had the British had stayed out.

The Germans failed to encircle Paris in 1914 and did not knock out France within six weeks as the Schlieffen plan had predicted. The Germans had to fight an exhausting two front war after all.

The German Spring offensives of 1918 were badly planned. By then the Germans did not have enough soldiers to replace those who were injured or killed. The morale of the German army cracked as a result.

The German government did not care enough about the morale of German civilians. Some historians claim that it spent so much time, money and effort on supporting the war effort itself that the morale of civilians cracked in 1918 as a result of shortages and hardship made worse by government decisions. This led to revolution and defeat.

Although the populations of the main Allied powers, Great Britain and France suffered during the First World War their morale stayed high enough for each country to stay in the War until it ended in victory.