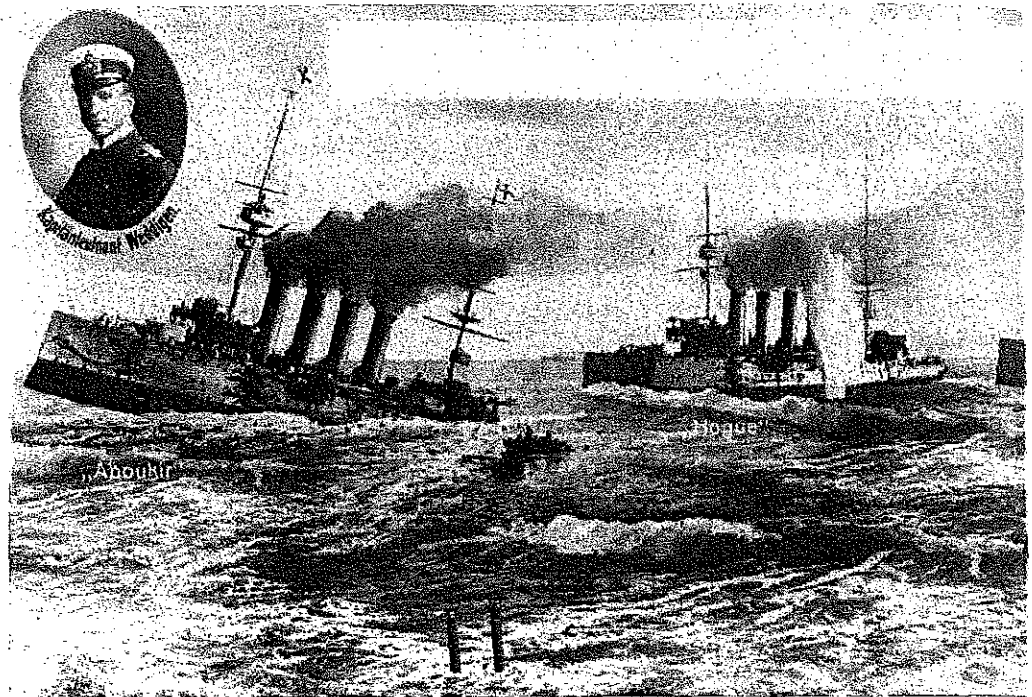


For Question 1



Sinking of British ships Hogue and Aboukir.

**total war**  
 a conflict that is unlimited in scope and in which each combatant uses every possible resource imaginable to completely destroy its enemies, including propaganda that demonizes the enemy to gain citizen support for the war

**chemical weapons**  
 the use of toxic chemicals to injure or kill enemies; in the Great War the chemical weapons were primarily tear gas, chlorine gas and mustard gas

**Hague Convention**  
 peace conferences of 1899 and 1907 that outlined the rights and duties of belligerents during wartime

In retrospect, the Great War is often considered the beginning of an era of **total war** in terms of its geographic scope and the ways in which technology was applied to military applications. The development and use of long-range artillery, **chemical weapons**, U-boats and airplanes extended military conflicts across three continents, into the seas and through the air.

The stalemated condition of the eastern and western fronts led to some of the deadliest battles in history. During the Battle of Verdun (February to December 1916), 300,000 French and German troops were killed and another 750,000 wounded. At the end of the battle, the front line remained almost exactly where it was when the fighting began. The Battle of the Somme (July to November 1916) included the single worst day in terms of casualties in British military history—20,000 men dead and 40,000 wounded out of 100,000 who began the battle. More troops came, and when the battle ended four months later, British, French and German casualties numbered 1.1 million and the Allies had gained seven and a half miles of ground.

Although specifically outlawed by the **Hague Convention**, more than 124,000 tons of chemical weapons were produced and almost 51,000 tons used during the Great War. The French used chemical weapons first, employing tear gas in the trenches on the western front; but the first full-scale chemical warfare occurred at the Second Battle of Ypres on the western front in April 1915 when the Germans used chlorine gas. By the end of the war, chemical weapons caused about 85,000 fatalities and 1.2 million injuries to military personnel on both sides.

When the Great War began, aviation was a brand new field (the first flight occurred in 1903) and certainly not seriously integrated in any nation's military. Initially, planes were used by the British, French, Russians and Germans but only for reconnaissance missions to figure out



German aeroplane at Huj, Palestine, 1917.

exactly where the enemy lines were. These were very dangerous missions because the planes had to fly low to capture useful photographs, putting the planes in range of anti-aircraft artillery. Because the air was about the only front that was not stuck in stalemate, countries began pursuing aviation technology for military use. By October 1915, the French had the first fighter planes in the air (with fixed machine guns); and after capturing one of the French planes, Germany quickly improved upon the model. By 1916, custom fighter planes routinely engaged in air battles to defend air space for each country. Offensive airplanes, bombers, were developed in 1914 and used by the Germans, Russians, British, Italians and French. Bombers enabled the fighting to move behind the stalemated fronts, attacking the civilian population of the enemy to cause confusion and fear.

Many elements of this war specifically targeted civilians. Naval blockades and U-boats cut off trade, leading to poverty and starvation across Europe and Russia. All vital resources were directed for military use, leaving civilians with limited access to coal, oil, medical supplies and transportation equipment. Colonists were shipped from their home countries to trenches on the western front, and women and children across Europe left home and school to work in factories. In the Ottoman Empire, where nationalism ran high, the government led by the Young Turks took advantage of the worldwide war to engage in ethnic cleansing at home. From 1915 to 1918, an estimated 1.5 million ethnic Armenians (out of approximately 2.5 million in the Ottoman Empire in 1914) were deported or died as a result of the twentieth century's first **genocide**.

And this is how it dragged on until 1917, when two events occurred that completely changed the war: (1) the Russian revolution in March ignited a period of political unrest, and (2) the United States officially entered the war in April.

**genocide**

the mass extermination of a national, racial, religious or ethnic group