

Overview

The making  
of the  
modern world

Text to come

chapter

7

7A

What factors shaped the  
modern world from 1750 to  
1918?

1 Text to come

7B

What were the key events of  
World War I?

1 Text to come

Source 1 xxxxx

# 7.1 What factors shaped the world from 1750 to 1918?

The years from 1750 to 1918 are some of the most interesting and significant in human history. During the period, enormous changes took place that affected the way in which people all around the world lived, worked and thought. It was a period of **empire building** that saw the **colonisation** of new territories such as Australia. It was also a period of rapid **industrialisation** that saw the spread of new technologies and birth of many new ideas and social movements. Towards the end of the period, in 1914, World War I broke out. By the war's end in 1918, the world was different. Once powerful empires were broken up and new nations were created in their place.

## What is the modern world?

Most historians agree that the modern world (also known as the industrial world) developed from the 1750s onwards. They use the term 'modern world' to describe this period mainly because the developments that took place from this time onwards are familiar to people in Western societies today – for example, systems of law and government still followed in countries like Australia, Britain and the United States all took shape at this time. Other examples include:

- the mass production of goods in factories
- the mass movements of people to cities and towns
- the establishment of trade unions and workers' rights
- mass migration of people from across Europe to colonies in the **New World**
- the start of rapid transport and mass communication
- organised public education and schools.

## The expansion of European empires

From the late 16th century onwards, major European powers – such as Britain, France, Spain and Portugal

– all competed to increase their control of new territories across the globe – a practice known as **imperialism**. Colonies were valued not only for the additional power and military advantages they could provide, but also because they delivered access to a range of raw materials like timber, cotton, coal and gold. These materials became the driving force behind the development of a range of industries in Europe. They also made imperial powers extremely wealthy.

Raw materials from **colonies** across the British Empire fuelled the **Industrial Revolution**. These materials included wool and gold from Australia; cotton, sugar and tobacco from the Americas; gold and diamonds from Africa; and spices, fabric and tea from India.

In addition to raw materials, the overseas colonies became valuable markets in which to sell the products manufactured from those raw materials for a profit (e.g. cloth made from cotton and cigarettes made from tobacco). In this way, European empires profited not once, but twice from their colonies around the world.

A comparison of world maps in 1750 and 1900 reveals how quickly European empires expanded their territories over a period of 150 years (see Sources O.1 and O.2).

Newly formed countries such as Italy and Germany aggressively looked for colonies at the end of the 19th century so that they could compete with the major powers in Europe such as Britain and France. This rivalry over colonies around the world was one of the key factors that contributed to the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

At the end of World War I in 1918, the British Empire reached its peak. By that time, it controlled approximately a quarter of the world's population and land mass. Many of these colonies were vital during World War I, as they provided local support and supplies for the British war effort.

## Check your learning 7.1

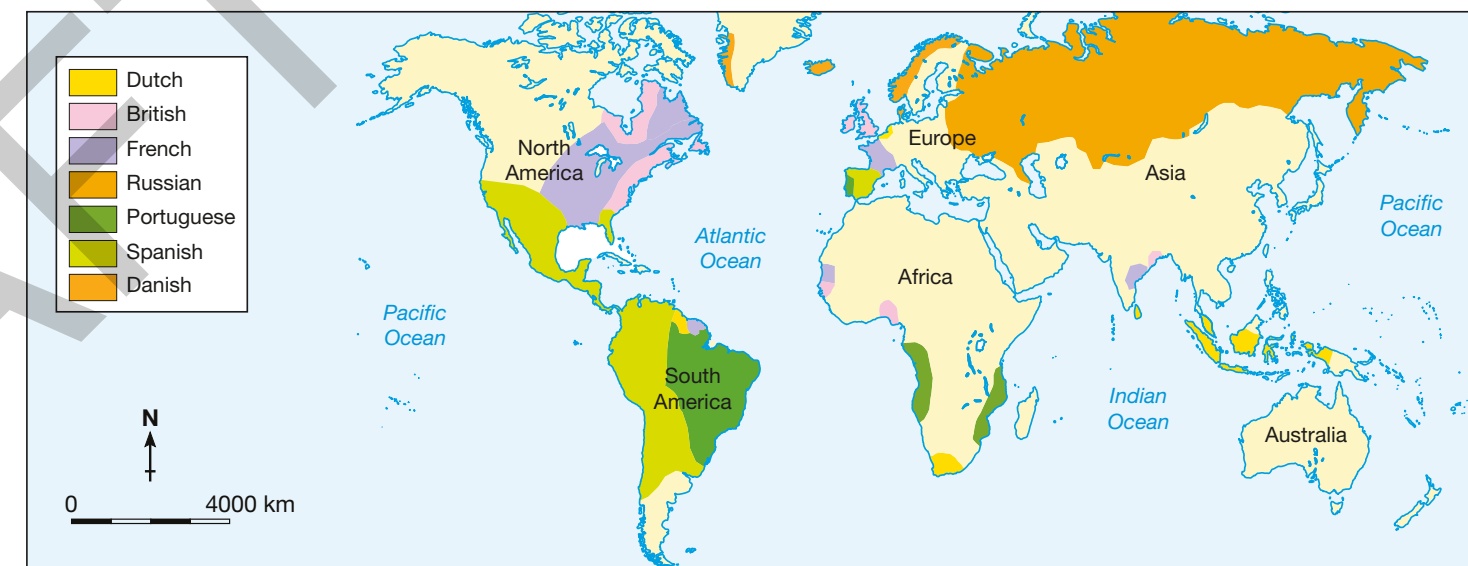
Remember and understand

- 1 What is meant by the term 'modern world'? When do most historians agree it began?
- 2 Why were distant colonies such important assets to European powers during the 19th century? In what ways did imperial powers profit from them?
- 3 What percentage of the world's total population and land mass did Britain control by 1918?

Apply and analyse

- 4 Examine Sources O.1 and O.2.
  - a List the three European powers that controlled the most overseas colonies in 1750.
  - b List the three European powers that controlled the most overseas colonies in 1900.
  - c What changes in European empires and territories took place between 1750 and 1900?

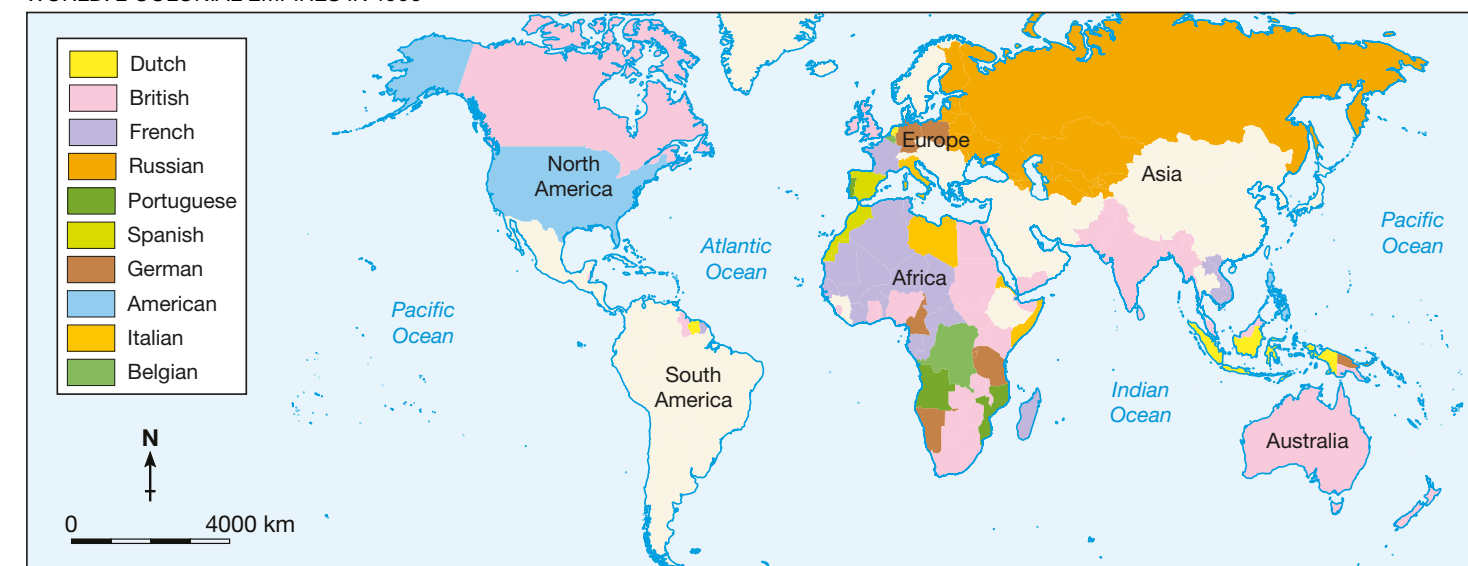
WORLD: COLONIAL EMPIRES IN 1750



Source 1

Source: Oxford University Press

WORLD: 2 COLONIAL EMPIRES IN 1900



Source 2

Source: Oxford University Press



## 7.2 How did technological developments contribute to change from 1750 to 1918?

### Depth study 1 Making a better world?

This depth study offers the choice of three options:

- The Industrial Revolution
- Progressive ideas and movements
- Movement of peoples.

You are required to choose ONE of these options and learn in detail about particular aspects of it.

In *Depth Study 1 – Making a better world?* you have the opportunity to learn about a number of key events and changes that took place between 1750 and 1918. These include:

- the **Industrial Revolution** (1750–1914)
- progressive ideas and movements (1750–1918)
- the movement of peoples (1750–1901).

### The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution first began in Britain around 1750 after a series of changes in farming practices paved the way for the country to increase its population and improve its production and manufacturing methods. These changes in farming methods – now referred to as the **Agricultural Revolution** – were gradual. They began in the middle of the 17th century and continued through the 19th century. Without them, the Industrial Revolution would not have taken place. One of the main features of the Agricultural Revolution was the fencing off of thousands of small areas of common land that had previously been used by local farmers to grow food. These smaller areas of land were joined to create larger farming areas. This process, known as the **enclosures**, benefited wealthy people who were granted rights to farm these larger areas of land for

profit. The enclosures, together with innovations in farming machinery and animal breeding, meant that more crops could be grown and animals could be raised by far fewer people. Overall, farming became much more efficient but this took place at the expense of poor people who relied on common land for their daily needs.

During the Agricultural Revolution, farm workers and their families were forced from their homes, and people moved away from rural villages to towns and cities in search of work. They became a new class of workers that fuelled the spread of the Industrial Revolution. They provided a much-needed labour force to operate the new factories and mills in rapidly expanding cities.

### Key inventions and innovations of the Industrial Revolution

The first industries that were transformed by innovations in the Industrial Revolution were related to the production of iron, coal, cotton and wool. Inventions and new practices in one industry tended to affect others. For example, the development of coal-powered steam engines led to an increased demand for coal. The expansion of new and deeper coal mines required better steam engines for the pumping machines that removed water from the bottom of mines. Improved steam engines could power hundreds of spinning and weaving machines and led to the spread of large factories and mills across England. As steam engines developed, they also powered new modes

of transport, including steam-powered trains and ships, and were later used to generate electricity.

### Living and working conditions

Working conditions for British factory and mine workers in particular were harsh and demanding during the Industrial Revolution. Men, women and children worked in unsafe conditions and for many hours – six days a week and up to 16 hours a day. Through the 19th century, demand for reforms to regulate working conditions grew louder in Britain, particularly for child labour. This led to a series of government inquiries and legislation that regulated the minimum employment age, wages and the length of the working week. By the 1870s, for example, no child under 10 could be employed in factories and education for children under 10 was compulsory.

Living conditions for factory workers were also appalling. Many workers lived in slum areas close to the factories where they were employed (see Source O.8). Families had no choice but to live in overcrowded conditions, often with no access to fresh water or proper sewerage. Consequences of these unhygienic living conditions included regular outbreaks of disease, a low life expectancy (just 29 years, in Liverpool in 1865) and a high infant mortality rate.



**Source 3** Textiles industry: The Spinning Jenny, invented in 1764



**Source 4** Manufacturing industry: The steam hammer, invented in 1840

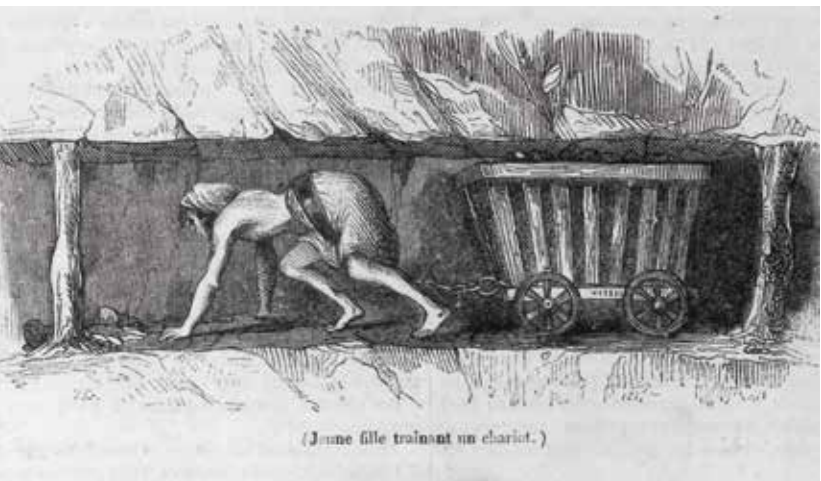


**Source 5** Transport industry: The steam train, invented in 1801



**Source 6** Communications industry: The telephone, first patented in 1876





**Source 7** This illustration shows a girl employed as a ‘hurrier’ at a coal mine. Her job was to pull heavy coal carts along dark, narrow tunnels, using a harness and belt.



**Source 8** People living in a 19th-century London slum. Conditions were often crowded and unsanitary.

Many writers of the time were appalled by the plight of the working poor whose work seemed unrewarding and whose lives were cut short by poverty, disease and injury. This period led to calls for social reform and also saw the formation of workers’ groups, such as **trade unions**.

Towards the end of the period, conditions improved for many people. Slums were torn down to be replaced by new houses that provided heating, running water and sewerage systems. There were also a number of other benefits for workers in cities brought about by the Industrial Revolution. For example:

- improvements in farming made food cheaper and more plentiful
- mass produced goods such as clothing and furniture became more affordable
- improved public transport allowed workers to live away from factories in the newly developed suburbs
- street lighting transformed city life, encouraging people to enjoy entertainment at theatres and in music halls at night.

Long-term impacts of the Industrial Revolution in Britain

The Industrial Revolution had significant impacts for Britain and its people. It transformed Britain’s economy, which became (for a time) the world’s leading economic and industrial power. Britain’s population quadrupled from an estimated 6.5 million people in 1750 to more than 27.5 million in 1850 as living standards improved and death rates decreased.

Britain changed from an agricultural society to an urban society, with most people living in towns and cities where work could be found. In the growing towns and cities, a ‘middle class’ emerged: people who were neither landowners nor workers, such as bankers, shopkeepers, teachers and administrators. Suburbs surrounding the cities later developed.

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Check your learning 7.2

- Remember and understand
- 1 Why was steam power so important to the Industrial Revolution?
  - 2 Name the four industries that underwent great change during the Industrial Revolution.
  - 3 What were the enclosures? What effect did they have on farmers using common land to grow food?
- Apply and analyse
- 4 In a class discussion, share your knowledge of working conditions for children during the Industrial Revolution. How do they compare with working conditions around the world today?
- Evaluate and create
- 5 Conduct some additional research and write a 250-word description of what life in a typical city in Britain would have been like for a factory worker during the Industrial Revolution.

# 7.3 What were the key events of World War I?

World War I fundamentally changed many aspects of Australian government and society. Our country's involvement in World War I also played an important part in the development of our idea of Australia as a **nation**, and our place in the world. Knowing about the history of Australia at war helps us to gain a clearer understanding about the world beyond our shores, and about how our own history, national character and identity developed. It can also be argued that a historical study of the causes of World War I is important in a world where there are weapons capable of mass death and destruction. Understanding how wars begin may be one of the keys to preventing them.

In *Unit 3 – World War I* you have the opportunity to learn in detail about:

- the main causes of the war and the reasons why men enlisted to fight
- the places where Australians fought and the nature of warfare (including the Gallipoli campaign)
- the impact that the war had on Australia and the world (including the changing role of women and the public debate around compulsory military service, know as **conscription**)

- the ways in which the war is commemorated (including debates about the nature and significance of the Anzac legend).

World War I was a horrific experience for those involved. The statistics are damning. It is estimated that 10 million people were killed and 20 million wounded as a result of actual combat. Although official statistics vary, most countries involved suffered horrendous losses. There are also civilian casualties to be taken into consideration. Australia lost over 50 000 men, a huge toll in a population of 4.5 million, it meant over 1 per cent of the population were victims of the war.

A study of World War I can sometimes be overwhelming given the complexity of the events and number of countries involved. The following tables provide a quick reference to some of the main issues and events of World War I and Australia's involvement in them. They provide an overview and summary of all content within the depth study and can be used to help you navigate the topic and guide your understanding of key points. Source 1 An Australia poster from 1917 encouraging Australians to enlist and fight in World War I



**Source 2** On 25 April 1915 members of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) landed on the beach at Gallipoli Cove in Turkey with troops from New Zealand, Britain, and France. This was the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. Each year it is commemorated on Anzac Day.



**Source 3** New weaponry such as machine guns and poisonous gas changed the nature of warfare from previous wars.

## An overview of the causes of World War I, why men enlisted and where Australians fought

<b>Causes of World War I</b>	See Unit XX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long-term factors contributing to the outbreak of conflict in 1914, including nationalism, rivalry over colonies, the arms race in Europe, Europe's alliance system and military plans</li><li>• Events leading to war after the 'July crisis', which followed the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand</li></ul>
<b>Where was World War I fought?</b>	See Unit XX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major campaigns involving Australian forces: Gallipoli Campaign (Turkey) 1915; campaigns on the Western Front (France and Belgium) 1916–1918; campaigns in the Middle East 1916–1918</li></ul>
<b>Australia's entry into World War I</b>	See Unit XX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Varied reasons motivated men to enlist, including loyalty to Britain, spirit of adventure, experience of war unknown to most Australians</li></ul>

## An overview of significant campaigns and the scope and nature of warfare

<b>The Gallipoli Campaign</b>	See Unit XX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landing of troops at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915</li><li>• Attacks and counter attacks by ANZAC and Turkish soldiers over 8 months, including fighting at Lone Pine and the Nek</li><li>• Withdrawal of ANZAC troops in December 1915</li></ul>
<b>The Western Front</b>	See Unit XX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defensive warfare using machine-guns, trenches and barbed wire.</li><li>• Series of attacks and counter-attacks using artillery fire, then infantry charges involving close fighting with rifles, bayonets and grenades</li><li>• Appalling conditions for soldiers living in the trenches</li></ul>
<b>The nature of warfare in World War I</b>	See Unit XX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theatres of war in WWI: the Middle East, the Western Front and the Eastern Front in Europe, the North Sea, Turkey, northern Africa</li><li>• New weapons technology – machine guns, heavy artillery, poison gas, tanks, planes and Zeppelin airships</li><li>• New communications technology – telephone, wireless radio</li><li>• Both sides evenly matched, resulting in stalemate on the Western front</li></ul>

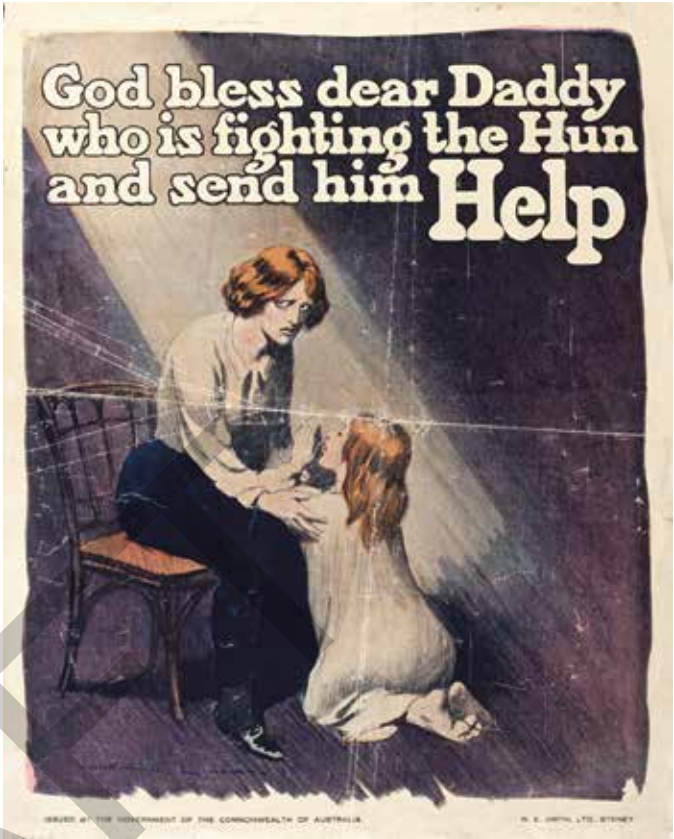


An overview of the impact of World War I on Australia at home		
The conscription debate	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During WWI, a decline in enlistments and heavy casualties on the Western Front caused Prime Minister Billy Hughes to call for two plebiscites (public votes) on compulsory military service (conscription) in 1916 and 1917, with both resulting in a majority of 'no' votes (see Sources 8.65 and 8.66)</li><li>The conscription debate was a hugely divisive issue in Australian society</li></ul>
Use of government propaganda	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During WWI, the government issued pro-conscription and anti-German <b>propaganda</b>, including flyers and posters. Propaganda was designed to glorify the efforts of Australian soldiers overseas, maintain public anger towards the enemy, motivate people to join the war effort and regulate their behaviour</li></ul>
Changing roles of women	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During WWI, women moved into previously male occupations to support the war effort, with an expectation they would return to domestic roles and traditional occupations after the war</li></ul>
Internment of 'enemy aliens'	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During WWI, people with German backgrounds or born in countries at war with Australia were interned (imprisoned) in remote camps to isolate them from the general public</li></ul>
War-time controls and censorship	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During WWI, extension of Commonwealth powers allowed the government to collect income tax, censor media and communications, control the movement of 'enemy aliens', among other war-time controls</li></ul>
Participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During WWI, Indigenous Australians attempting to enlist were initially turned away, but by 1916 changes were made so that 'half-castes' could enlist. Over 400 Indigenous Australians fought in the army, although at this time they could not vote and were not counted as Australian citizens</li></ul>



**Source 4** Tins of Fray Bento and Heinz eaten by soldiers during World War I

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**Source 5** An Australian propaganda poster produced in Australia around 1918. The poster was designed to encourage Australians to vote in favour of compulsory military service (conscription) in a public vote that was held in Australia during the war. The word 'Hun' is a derogatory term used to refer to Germans.

Check your learning 7.3

- Remember and understand
- How many Australian men died during World War I?
  - In your words, define the term 'conscription'. Why was the conscription debate in Australia so divisive?
- Apply and analyse
- What is propaganda and why was it used by the Australian government during World War I?
- Evaluate and create
- Search the Internet to find examples of Australian propaganda from World War I designed to achieve the following goals:
    - regulate the day-to-day behaviour of civilians
    - maintain public anger towards the enemy
    - motivate people to join the war effort.



# 7.4 The significance of World War I

World War I left Europe devastated. In January 1919, the victorious nations met at the Paris Peace Conference in France to come up with a plan for rebuilding Europe and ensuring peace in the future. After months of negotiations, the **Treaty of Versailles** was signed on 28 June 1919. This document officially ended World War I and forced Germany to accept responsibility for starting the conflict. It also ordered Germany to pay **reparations** to the Allied Powers.

As a result of the war, the map of Europe was redrawn. Four major European empires – the Austria–Hungary, the Russian Empire, the German Empire and the Ottoman Empire – were broken up and a number of new countries were created in their place. The ruling monarchies of these empires all lost power. The Russian Tsar was overthrown by a communist revolution in 1917; Austria–Hungary was broken up into a number of newly-formed states including Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia; and Turkey emerged as a modern,

secular republic after the break-up of the Ottoman Empire.

However, World War I was not only a historically significant event in Europe. Far away in Australia, the events and experiences of the war had major effects on our nation’s society and relationships with other countries. Australia had become a nation after Federation in 1901. Unlike many other countries, such as the United States and France, the founding of the Australian nation was achieved without the need for revolution. Instead, the Australian people created a nation founded on the principles of modern democracy through peaceful means. The events of World War I such as the ill-fated invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915, are often described our ‘coming of age’ as a nation and our ‘baptism of blood’. In many ways, World War I provided an opportunity to create a national story that expressed our national character and identity.



Source 1 Parade of Australian soldiers at the trenches on the Western Front, following capture of Pozières on 23 July 1916.

An overview of the significance of the wars to Australia		
Impact of the wars on returned soldiers and civilians	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Over 300 000 Australians served overseas during WWI, with around a quarter of a million servicemen returning to Australia at the end of the war. Many returned with physical or psychological injuries. Their care and families’ financial responsibilities fell on women in the community. The government established a Repatriation Department in 1917 to provide health, compensation, housing and job training for veterans</li></ul>
Commemorating the war	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commemoration services on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day both linked to WWI</li><li>Aspects of commemoration services still linked to WWI</li></ul>
Different perspectives on the ANZAC legend	See Unit xx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The birth of the ANZAC legend and its significance today</li><li>Differing perspectives on the place of Gallipoli in defining Australia’s national identity</li><li>Differing views on what Australia should most celebrate</li></ul>



Source 1 An Anzac Day parade, commemorating Australian soldiers who fought in World War I and all wars since

Check your learning 7.4

Remember and understand

1

What European empires disappeared after World War I?

2

Why do so many Australians regard the Gallipoli campaign as a significant event?

3

What is the Treaty of Versailles?

Apply and analyse

4

Why do you think the Gallipoli campaign has been described as Australia’s ‘coming of age’ and ‘baptism of blood’? Do you think these descriptions are accurate? Justify your response.