

KEYPOINT HOMEWORK HELP/REVISION FILES: HISTORY

SCHOOL



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THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

RECRUITMENT AND PROPAGANDA

KP1

BACKGROUND

When Britain went to war in 1914, the government realized that it would be important to keep the country united and determined to defeat the enemy. To do this it would be necessary to make sure that the government's wartime policies and regulations were supported by the public. Early in 1915 a secret **WAR PROPAGANDA BUREAU** was set up to produce posters, leaflets etc to provide everyone with a constant reminder of their duties in wartime.

In August 1914, the British expeditionary force of 100,000 men was sent to Belgium to resist the German invaders. Compared to European countries this was a tiny force and it soon became clear that the British army would have to become bigger than it had ever been before. Until 1916, the government relied on volunteers and most propaganda was designed to persuade men to enlist and to stir up anti-German feeling. As the war progressed propaganda was used for many other purposes which the government considered important to the war effort. Not all propaganda came from the government, newspapers magazines and commercial advertisements usually helped to reinforce government propaganda messages.

- Propaganda and recruiting posters encouraged many men to join up the main themes used were patriotism, fighting to defend families, not letting down your friends who had joined, feelings of shame for those who did not enlist etc.
- Recruiting propaganda was also aimed at women to persuade them to get their sons/boyfriends/husbands to join up and to be ashamed of them if they refused. Employers were also asked to put pressure on men to enlist.
- The government put out stories of German atrocities in Belgium. Popular newspapers usually accompanied by illustrations of evil Germans bayoneting babies or torturing nuns carried these stories. This type of propaganda continued throughout the war.
- Companies advertising their products often used illustrations of the war and soldiers to promote their products. Usually they showed smiling soldiers in grassy fields sharing cigarettes and chatting. This was a completely false picture of the trenches.
- After 1916 with the introduction of conscription for men, more and more propaganda targeted women. Millions of women were needed for war work. This type of propaganda usually stressed the importance of war work to the men at the front but in some cases women were enticed by the high wages and other benefits that were promised.
- The increasing shortages caused by the German U-Boat campaign began to cause serious problems. The government used propaganda to persuade people not to waste food, petrol etc. To do so would put sailors lives at risk and help the Germans
- When rationing was introduced in 1917, it was accompanied by a big propaganda campaign explaining how the system would work, why it was necessary and how it would be fairer to everyone. The Ministry of Food also published the names and sentences of those who broke the regulations
- Other uses of propaganda during the war were to sell government War Bonds, inform people of new regulations on alcohol sales and to persuade them not to drink too much. To encourage workers and remind them how important their work was to the war effort.

THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

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TRENCH WARFARE

KP2

BACKGROUND

When the Schlieffen Plan failed the Germans began to dig a line of trenches. The British and French did the same and by November 1914 the two sides occupied lines of trenches stretching from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border. This was the Western Front and both sides remained in the same positions until 1918. All attempts to break through failed.

British trenches were in Belgium and Northern France in the regions of Flanders, Artois and Piccardy. These areas were below sea level and drainage systems had been built to allow the land to be farmed. Constant shelling destroyed the drainage and the Germans blew up the sea walls and dykes that prevented flooding. As a result British trenches were regularly flooded.

- Trenches were built in a zigzag. There were usually three lines. The firing trench, the support trench and the reserve trench - all linked by communication trenches. Trenches were 2 meters deep with duckboards, fire steps, drainage sumps, and sandbag parapets. Barbed wire entanglements protected the front line trenches.
- Trenches were difficult for foot soldiers to attack. It was impossible to go round or surprise the enemy. Battles lasted a long time (months) and casualties were high.
- Living conditions in the trenches were awful. It was cold, wet and muddy. Rats, lice and flies were everywhere. The stench from dead bodies and latrines was sickening. The daily routine - cleaning weapons, repairing trenches filling sandbags and repairing wire and night patrols. Even in quiet times snipers and shells killed many.
- Battles usually involved - artillery bombardment / gas / infantry attack. This was intended to destroy the German wire and drive the enemy out of their trenches. This did not work. The wire was not destroyed, Germans sheltered until it was safe to return and set up machine guns. British troops were cut down in no-mans land.
- The effects on soldiers of this type of war were - deaths, wounds, blindness, disease and infections, shell shock, madness. Some were shot for cowardice.
- Despite the slaughter High Command continued to order attacks. This was a war of attrition and high losses were accepted as part of the plan to grind down the enemy.
- New technology made trench warfare deadlier

Barbed Wire - Trenches were protected by barbed wire entanglements.
Machine Guns - Could fire up to 1000 bullets per minute - an ideal defensive weapon.

Artillery - Safely positioned miles behind the lines could fire shells (or gas) with great accuracy and huge destructive power

Gas - The first type of gas was phosgene gas and later the more deadly mustard gas, which could cause suffocation, burns and blisters and blindness.

Tanks

Small Arms - Rifles could fire 20 rounds per minute and new weapons for trench warfare included hand grenades, flamethrowers and trench mortars

Aircraft - Mainly used for reconnaissance but were equipped with machine guns and 'dogfights' took place in the skies

THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

SCOTS ON THE WESTERN FRONT: LOOS AND THE SOMME

KP3

BACKGROUND

Scottish regiments played a very important part in the war. With only 8% of the population Scotland provided 13% of the British forces fighting in France. Scotland was also the birthplace of Douglas Haig who became Commander in Chief of British forces. Haig came from a rich whisky-distilling family from Berwickshire. Haig thought the Scots were the best troops in his army and often used them to lead in battle. Before taking overall command of British forces Haig had led the attack at Loos. He also put many Scottish units in the front line for the big battle on the River Somme in July 1916. When the British failed to break through the German lines at the Battle of the Somme many Scottish casualties were enormous. Loos and the Somme are only two examples of Scots in action. During the Great War Scot soldiers took part in almost every major battle. A lot of Scottish soldiers died at Ypres and the Battle of Passchendale in 1917. Almost every family in Scotland lost someone in the war.

LOOS

- A Scot, General Douglas Haig was in command of British forces. Of the soldiers who took part 30,000 were from Scottish regiments. Most were new recruits from Kitchener's New Army.
- Haig had serious doubts about the attack at Loos. He did not like the ground which was open and gave no cover from German machine guns. He also worried that stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery would not be enough and so he planned to use gas.
- The attack started with a four day artillery bombardment. Haig used gas to drive the Germans out of their trenches before the attack. The gas blew back and made it difficult to cross no man's land
- There was some success on the first day of the battle in breaking into the German positions. But the reserves had been held too far from the front and did not arrive in time to relieve Haig's exhausted troops. To make matters worse the artillery ran out of shells.
- There were no reinforcements and the battle eventually ended in failure. Out of 20,000 killed 7,000 were Scots – some battalions' casualties over 70%. Despite the failure Scots won a reputation as hard fighters - 5 Scots were awarded the VC.

THE SOMME

- On June 24 the artillery bombardment began. It lasted 8 days and used more heavy guns than had ever been used before. Haig believed this would destroy the barbed wire and that few Germans would remain alive in the trenches.
- On July 1, British infantry were ordered to attack. The soldiers were told that the German defences were destroyed and they should cross no man's land at walking pace. As they moved towards the German trenches British troops came under heavy machine gun fire. Those who reached the German defences found the barbed wire was not destroyed. On the first day of the Somme 58,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded.
- The artillery had failed to destroy the barbed wire or the concrete bunkers where the Germans sheltered. When the shelling stopped, they simply set up their machine guns and slaughtered the advancing British infantry. The 51st highland division alone lost 7,517 men on the first day
- Haig ordered the attacks to continue in the belief that the Germans were close to collapse. The battle did not end until November when heavy rain turned the battlefield into a sea of mud. Tanks were first used at the Somme but they were too few and too unreliable to make a difference.

THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

THE HOME FRONT

KP4

BACKGROUND

The First World War was unlike any previous war and required everyone to play his or her part if Germany was to be defeated. All the resources of the nation had to be mobilized for the war effort. To make sure this happened the government had to increase its powers and extend its control over many aspects of national life. In many respects, Britain was almost like a dictatorship during the war. This would have been unacceptable in peacetime but the public recognized that government control and regulation was necessary and there were few protests. Those who did oppose the government and its handling of the war had very little opportunity to make their voices heard due to the strict censorship laws which were introduced.

- The Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) was passed by Parliament in August 1914. The government could make new laws without asking parliament. The government could impose martial law if required and railways and docks came under military control. As the war progressed DORA allowed the government to introduce many other new laws.
- Special constables were recruited to assist the police and army. Air raid precautions and black out regulations were introduced. Vehicles had to be immobilised if there was a threat of a German invasion. The army could requisition horses and vehicles for military use.
- German citizens living in Britain were arrested and imprisoned without trial until the war ended.
- Censorship of newspapers was introduced and some anti war newspapers were closed down
- The government took over the running of mines and railways.
- A Ministry of Munitions was set up and the government built factories to produce weapons, shells etc.
- Workers could be told to work in factories making vital war supplies. Strikes became illegal in important war industries. The government reached agreement with trade unions on the dilution of labour to allow women to do skilled work.
- Compulsory Military Service for all men aged 18-41 was introduced in 1916. All men and women aged 18-65 had to register at labour exchanges for war work
- Licensing hours were introduced, beer was watered down, and people were not allowed to buy rounds of drinks.
- British Summer Time was introduced to allow a longer working day
- The Government took powers to control rents, prices and wages.
- Farmers were ordered to turn more land over to the production of grain crops.
- Rationing was introduced in 1917. Every household was given a ration card that they had to use to buy sugar, meat, tea, butter etc. There were heavy fines or even prison sentences for those who broke the regulations.
- Attitudes to the war changed. At first it was popular. After 1916 the slaughter of so many young men made many people question whether their deaths were worth it.

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CONSCRIPTION AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

KP5

BACKGROUND

In August 1914 war was very popular - crowds cheered, wave of patriotism. Everyone thought it would be a short war - "all over by Christmas. Many people were caught up in the wave of patriotism and did not think about what war meant. Opponents of the war did not speak out because they did not want to seem unpatriotic. Government propaganda and newspapers whipped up anti German feeling. British newspapers and politicians had portrayed Germany as a bully and a threat to peace long before war broke out. Many people believed Britain had a duty to defend Belgium against the German invasion.

- When war broke out over 1 million men volunteered for the army. Kitchener's recruiting campaign was a big success. The war was seen as a great adventure.
- Young men thought it would be a great adventure and joined the army. They were encouraged by propaganda or by wives, mothers and girlfriends. Many of them spoke of not wanting to miss out. They had no idea of how bad conditions were in the trenches.
- It soon became clear that the war would last for a long time. The army suffered huge losses at the Somme in 1916. More and more recruits were needed to replace those who had been killed. No one knew how long the war would last.
- Soldiers on leave told how bad conditions were in the trenches. Families no longer encouraged their sons to enlist. Women no longer encouraged men to join up as they did at the start of the war. In 1916 compulsory military service was introduced for men aged 18 years to 41 years.
- By 1916 many volunteers had been killed and men were no longer keen to join up. The government was forced to introduce conscription under the Military Service Act.
- Compulsory Military Service for all men aged 18-41 was introduced in 1916. All men and women aged 18-65 had to register at labour exchanges for war work.
- Under the Military Service Act some men were excused service. Those who were mentally or physically disabled or unfit ; men who were working in essential war industries; men whose families would suffer extreme hardship; and men who objected to military service for religious or moral reasons.
- Some men refused to serve in the army because they had moral objections to killing. They were 'conscientious objectors'. Some agreed to serve as stretcher bearers at the front. Others were 'absolutists who refused to help the war effort in any way. Many were jailed and treated very harshly by the authorities and often by their families, friends and neighbours.
- A system of tribunals was set up to decide who would be excused service. All around the country there were Local Tribunals and in London there was a Central Tribunal which judged appeals.
- Most of the tribunals were made up of military men, local councillors and businessmen. They were not very sympathetic to men who applied to be excused military service. Most men were refused exemption and handed over to the army.
- Conscientious objectors who refused to obey orders were taken before a court martial. They were then put in a military prison or in some cases taken to the Western Front where they were given field punishments such as being tied to a gun wheel under shell-fire.

THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

POLITICS AND PROTEST

KP6

BACKGROUND

At the start of the twentieth century the Scottish economy was thriving and the traditional heavy industries were making healthy profits. Scotland was a rich country but the wealth was not fairly distributed. The living and working conditions in Scotland's industrial areas were among the worst in Europe. Many families still lived in overcrowded slums and struggled to get by on very low wages. In the years before the Great War trade unionism and socialism became deep rooted in Scotland. Ordinary working people recognized that the only way to improve their lives was by collective action and solidarity. By 1914 Socialist political parties such as the Labour Party, the Independent Labour Party (ILP) and the more extreme British Socialist Party were well organised and had gained a lot of support in Scotland. Trade Union membership had also increased and there were frequent strikes. When war broke out the problems which faced working people became worse and this led to strikes, protest action and political opposition to the government and to the war itself.

RENT STRIKES

- By 1915 there was a housing shortage in Glasgow as thousands of workers came to work in the war industries. Landlords tried to increase rents and threatened evictions. The Glasgow Women's Housing Association was formed to resist evictions and organize rent strikes.
- Mobs of women blocked closes to prevent evictions. Sherriff's Officers and police were often assaulted. John Wheatley and the Independent Labour Party supported the rent strikes. People thought it unfair and unpatriotic for landlords to profit from the war. The government was forced to intervene and imposed a freeze on rents until the war ended.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

- In 1915 skilled engineers Weir's Engineering went on strike for an extra 2 pennies an hour. The strike spread and soon 40,000 engineers were on strike. William Weir the Managing Director called them unpatriotic. Eventually the workers won a pay rise of one penny.
- The Unions were also angry because unskilled workers were employed to do skilled work. The government made a law which said skilled workers could not change jobs without an employer's permission and had to do compulsory overtime.
- The Clyde Workers Committee led by Davie Kirkwood and Willie Gallagher was set up to oppose these regulations. They accused employers of taking advantage of the war to increase profits. The government ordered Gallagher, Kirkwood and other leaders to be arrested and exiled to Edinburgh under police supervision.

OPPOSITION TO THE WAR

- Many people were opposed to the war and organised opposition. Helen Crawford led the women's Peace Crusade which had branches all over Scotland and held an anti war protest in Glasgow attended by 14,000 people. Chrystal MacMillan of Edinburgh set up the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
- Most Trade Union Leaders and the Independent Labour Party opposed the war and conscription. Davie Kirkwood, Willie Gallagher, John Wheatly, Manny Shinwell and James Maxton were all conscientious objectors opposed to the war.
- The most famous of the anti war leaders was John Maclean of the British Socialist Party. He tried to persuade people not to join the army and said soldiers who shot other soldiers were murderers. Maclean was arrested and tried under the Defence of the Realm Act. MacLean became legendary when he was put in prison where his health suffered and he died within months of his release.
- Although the opponents of the war attracted a lot of publicity a big majority of the Scottish people supported it and were determined to carry on until Germany was defeated.

THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

WOMEN AND THE WAR

KP7

BACKGROUND

Before the war women had been treated as second-class citizens in Britain. There were many jobs that only men could apply for and women were paid less than men even when they did the same work. Most important of all women did not have the right to vote. Since 1903 the Women's Social and Political Union had been campaigning to get votes for women. The government was opposed to this. At first suffragettes campaigned peacefully. They held meetings and sent out petitions and pamphlets. They questioned M.Ps at public meetings. They put up posters, sent letters to newspapers and published their own newspapers. Marches and rallies were held to get publicity. When this did not work they began to use militant tactics. In Scotland the militant suffragettes took the following action:-

- They firebombed public buildings and burned down the stand at Ayr racecourse
 - They slashed the Kings portrait in the National gallery.
 - The Wallace sword was stolen by suffragettes.
 - They assaulted police officers.
 - Suffragettes assaulted the Prime Minister when he visited Scotland.
 - They smashed windows disrupted political meetings and set fire to post boxes.
 - They protested by chaining themselves to railings and interrupting political meetings.
 - Suffragettes who were arrested and sent to prison went on hunger strikes.
- When war broke out Mrs Pankhurst the suffragette leader ended the campaign and urged all suffragettes to help in the war effort. Thousands of women took over jobs of all kinds, as more and more men were needed on the western front.
 - The government used propaganda to persuade women to volunteer for work. They were told they would be helping their sons, brothers or fathers at the front.
 - Women worked in almost every type of job -drivers, delivering milk and mail, managing businesses, engineering and all other work done by men.
 - Women made up the workforce in munitions factories making the millions of shells needed for the war. This was very skilled and extremely dangerous work.
 - Many women volunteered to serve as nurses. This often meant working close to the fighting and dealing with men who had suffered horrific wounds.
 - Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADS) were formed. They provided support to the army as nurses, drivers, cooks, clerks, and mechanics and often worked overseas.
 - The food shortages caused by the German U-Boats led to the setting up of the Women's Land Army - many women worked on farms producing vital food supplies.
 - Women's branches of the armed services were formed during the war. Women did not actually fight but they did carry out important work to assist the fighting troops.
 - Many women's organizations such as the WRVS organized collections of food and tobacco to send to troops at the front. Often they would knit gloves and scarves.
 - For many women the war was a liberating experience. For the first time they were able to get out of the house and learn new skills and earn good wages.
 - In 1918 the contribution that women had made to the war effort was recognized and women over thirty were given the right to vote. In 1928 this was extended to all women over 21 years.

THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

INDUSTRIAL CHANGE	KP8
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BACKGROUND

In 1914 Scotland's main industries were ship building, engineering, coal, iron and steel and textiles. Glasgow and the Clydeside area was the main industrial center although there were important industries such as Jute production in Dundee and the rubber works in Edinburgh. Coal mining was long established in Fife, Ayrshire and the Lothians. Clydeside was almost perfect for shipbuilding. There were coalmines and iron-works nearby to supply the materials to make the ships. Engineering was an important industry with many skilled workers. The river Clyde was wide and deep enough to launch very large ships. By 1914 over 25% of the world's ships were made in a Clyde shipyard.

When war broke out in 1914 Clydeside was vital to the production of war supplies and munitions. Scottish shipyards had full order books building both warships and merchant vessels. New munitions factories were set up by the government. Steel mills were producing twice as much as before the war. The rubber company in Edinburgh was working 24 hours a day. Dundee jute mills were working full out. Coal mines and railways made big profits. Thousands of people flooded into Glasgow to work in the war industries and unemployment in Scotland almost disappeared.

- Although Scotland seemed to be a world leader in shipbuilding and engineering other countries were catching up fast and developing new technologies such as diesel engines and welding. Scottish shipyards still relied on steamships and metal riveting. The boom years of the war put off the need to modernize but this did not last for long.
- In the years after the Great War Scottish industry faced hard times. Shipbuilding, coal, iron and steel and textiles had been in decline since markets were lost during World War I. Other countries could produce these things more cheaply. Scottish industry was old fashioned and could not compete with foreign producers.
- **Shipbuilding** was the most important industry in Scotland and thousands of jobs depended on it. Many shipyards had to close because of foreign competition. Government spending on ships for the navy was cut to save money. Jobs were also lost in all of the industries that provided materials for the shipyards – iron, steel and coal as well as in companies that helped to fit out ships with carpets/furniture/pottery/cutlery etc.
- **The coal industry** lost markets to foreign competitors during the war. Coalmining declined because other countries could produce coal more efficiently. New sources of energy such as electricity and oil meant less demand for coal. Mines were badly equipped and the owners did not invest in new machinery etc. The decline of shipbuilding and other industries meant less coal was needed to make iron and steel. About 70% of Scottish coal mines were losing money.
- **The iron and steel industry** was hit hard by the decline in shipbuilding and the loss of markets during World War I. Countries like America, Japan and Germany could produce iron and steel more cheaply than Scotland.
- **Textiles** suffered because of cheap cotton from Japan, America and India. Synthetic materials such as rayon and nylon also reduced the demand for cotton cloth.
- In the 1920s unemployment was highest in areas where shipbuilding was concentrated. Whole communities suffered shops and businesses closed making unemployment even worse. The skills of Scottish workers did not match the new growth industries such as chemicals, electronics and automobiles and the old factories were not suitable for light industry.
- Throughout the 1920s and during the depression of the 1930s Scotland suffered badly from high unemployment. Recovery only came in the late 1930s when rearmament began.

THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

RED CLYDESIDE

KP9

BACKGROUND

In 1914 Clydeside and the city of Glasgow had the largest concentration of heavy industries in the world. Shipyards, ironworks, cotton mills, and engineering works were all served by the coal mines Central Scotland. Many of the workers were highly skilled and had a long tradition of Trade Union organisation to protect their wages and working conditions. There had been many successful strikes in the shipbuilding and engineering industries. Clydeside was also a region where socialist and communist ideas had taken root and flourished and the new Independent Labour Party had a lot of support. When war broke out in 1914 Clydeside became a vital center for the production of warships, munitions and other war materials. The official Trade Unions agreed to cooperate with the government to maintain the production of war supplies. However many workers on Clydeside believed that the employers were using the war as an excuse to make excess profits and to attack the hard won rights of their employees. The Clyde Workers Committee (CWC) was set up in 1914 by ordinary shop stewards and led by Willie Gallacher and Davie Kirkwood.

- The Independent Labour Party (ILP) and the British Socialist Party (BSP) opposed the war and they had a lot of support on Clydeside. There was a popular campaign against conscription on Clydeside led by John MacLean of the BSP and James Maxton of the ILP.
- The government passed a law called the Dilution of Labour Act which allowed unskilled workers and women to do skilled work. The CWC opposed this and organised strikes in munitions factories. They also opposed the Munitions Act, which prevented skilled workers changing their jobs. There were many strikes for higher wages to meet the rising cost of living during the war.
- Thousands of people moved into Glasgow during the war to work in the munitions factories and this led to a housing shortage. Landlords tried to increase rents and evicted families who could not pay. Women began to organise tenants' strike committees to organise a campaign of non-payment of rents.
- Workers in factories and shipyards threatened to strike and John Wheatly enlisted the support of the Independent Labour Party. The government did not want war production disrupted and ordered a return to pre war rent levels and imposed a rent freeze.
- In January 1919 the working week was reduced from 57 hours to 47 hours. Unions believed this would not absorb the huge numbers who were returning from the war. Glasgow already had 24,000 unemployed. The CWC demanded a reduced working week of 40 hours and called for a general strike. In Glasgow 40,000 workers answered the strike call.
- At a CWC rally in George Square Glasgow police tried to break up the crowd. The workers fought back with bottles and iron fence rails - the police lost control and fled. The communist Red Flag was raised in George Square and there were running battles in the streets.
- The gates at Maryhill Barracks were locked in case the soldiers joined the strikers. Overnight 10,000 English troops were sent to Glasgow and there were tanks on the streets. The leaders of the CWC were arrested and order was restored.
- The strike lasted only 16 days and failed to spread much beyond Glasgow - only in the Belfast shipyards was there any real support. The lasting effect of the Red Clydeside years was that it made Glasgow a stronghold of the Labour Party from 1920 until the present day.

THE ERA OF THE GREAT WAR 1910-1928

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

SCOTLAND AFTER THE WAR

KP10

BACKGROUND

Scotland lost a higher percentage of soldiers than any other country. During the Great War 680,000 Scots enlisted in the army and 120,000 of these men were killed. This was a loss of %. The losses for the other countries of the United Kingdom (England, Wales and Ireland was around 14%). There was hardly a town, village or family which did not lose some of its best young men. The sense of loss was felt by the whole nation and people were determined that the young men who sacrificed their lives should not be forgotten.

The soldiers who did come back expected life to be different after the war. They had been promised 'a land fit for heroes'. They expected jobs, decent housing and a chance to build a better future for themselves and their families. Some things did change. All men over 21 and women over 30 were given the vote. However the country faced serious economic problems. Scotland's traditional heavy industries had boomed during the war but after 1918 shipbuilding, coal, iron and steel and textiles went into decline leading to very high unemployment. For many Scots the only way out of poverty was to emigrate and start a new life in another country. This situation persisted throughout the 1920s and 1930s and it was not until Britain began to rearm that the Scottish economy recovered and unemployment fell.

- Monuments to those who died in the war were put up in every town and village in Scotland. Each usually had a bronze or brass plate with the names of the dead. In many churches schools, golf and bowling clubs etc plaques with lists of dead pupils or club members were displayed.
- The public donated money for a National War Memorial. This was opened in Edinburgh Castle in 1927 as a focus to commemorate all of Scotland's war dead. In the National War Memorial holds the Book of Remembrance containing the names of all Scots who died in the war.
- In 1921 the British Legion, Scotland was set up and Field Marshal Douglas Haig was its patron. Poppy day was started soon after to raise money for war wounded. Remembrance Sunday became a national event and a minutes silence in honour of the war dead was held.
- After 1918 unemployment in Scotland increased quickly. Government orders for warships and munitions stopped and the old industries could not find new customers. Markets had been lost during the war and other countries were making ships and producing coal and steel much cheaper than Scotland could.
- Many new industries such as automobiles, chemical and electronics grew in the 1920s. But the skills of the Scottish workers and the old factories and shipyards were not suitable for light industry. Most of the new jobs created went to the Midlands and the South of England.
- In 1918 unemployment in Scotland was only 2% by 1930 this had risen to 27% more than a quarter of the working population did not have a job. Unemployment was not only a problem in the industrial areas. Farming was more mechanised so there were fewer jobs and the Highlands continued to suffer from a lack of employment.
- The government had no solution to this problem and encouraged people to emigrate to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. This would reduce unemployment and provide people with the chance of a better future. To encourage people to leave the government offered free passage on a ship to ex-servicemen.
- The 1920s saw the highest ever emigration from Scotland. By 1930 8% of the population had left to start a new life abroad.