World War I & II
Compare and Contrast
Similarities of the World Wars

There have only been two World Wars in the history of the world. Both Wars had a variety of things in common between them. They have been broken down into the seven topics most similar to one another: Powers Involved, collection of Allied Forces attempting to eliminate the German worldly threat, end results of the wars, economic benefits to the U.S., technological innovations during each war, horrible fighting conditions, and the CONFLICT CAUSED DEATH.
## Powers Involved in the World Wars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Powers Involved in World War 1</th>
<th>Powers Involved in World War 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allied Powers:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Allied Powers:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Russia</td>
<td>• Great Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td>• France</td>
<td>• Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Great Britain</td>
<td>• France</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Japan</td>
<td>• United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Italy</td>
<td>• China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• United States</td>
<td>• Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Belgium</td>
<td>• Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Serbia</td>
<td><strong>Axis Powers:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Central Powers:              |
| • Germany                    |
| • Austro-Hungarian Empire    |
| • Ottoman Empire             |
| • Bulgaria                   |

Most of the countries that fought in World War I also fought in World War II. Each side (Allied Powers, Central/Axis Powers) were comprised of mostly the same countries in both wars, although several nations such as Japan and Italy changed sides in between the conflicts. Note: Russia began allied with Germany in WW II, but changed sides after Hitler invaded The Soviet Union.
# Allies Quest to End German Worldly Threat

## World War I German Threat
- Germans led by Kaiser Wilhelm II.
- Wilhelm was the last emperor of Germany.
- Germany entered the War in support of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and after Russia mobilized forces against the empire.
- Allied Forces included Russia, France, Great Britain, United States, Japan, Italy, Belgium, and Serbia.
- 1914: War officially is on!
- 1918: Kaiser Wilhelm flees
- 1919: Allies get Germany to sign Treaty of Versailles
- Fighting is over

## World War II German Threat
- Germans led by Chancellor Adolf Hitler
- Hitler was the leader of the Nazi party
- Germany entered the War because of Hitler’s vision of the Aryan race, and that the surrounding countries and its people posed a threat to this “civilization”.
- Allied Forces included Great Britain, Poland, France, United States, China, Russia, Belgium
- 1939: War is officially on!
- 1945: Hitler commits suicide
- 1945: Atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Fighting is over
## End Results of the World Wars

### Results of World War I:
- Germany forced into depression and has to pay dues from War.
- Peace is reached through Treaty of Versailles.
- United States economy goes through the roof due to production of weapons and job openings.
- Arms stockpiled. Ready to use for next war (World War II).

### Results of World War II:
- Germany, ONCE AGAIN, forced into depression and debt.
- “Peace” is reached by atomic bombs and suicide of Hitler.
- United States economy is pulled out of depression by job openings produced by War.
- Arms stockpiled. Ready to use for next war (Cold War).

It should be noted that although the war was a terrible thing, it “forced” the United State’s economy to produced.
# Economic Boost of the World Wars to the United States

## Boost From World War I:
- Brought America into the roaring 20’s
- This era was characterized by the vast expansion of all aspects of American culture.
- Stocks rose rapidly.
- The rise of “modernity”, in which advances in technology made previously thought to be superficial aspects of life easily reachable.
- American towns started to quickly expand into metropolitan cities.

## Boost From World War II:
- Brought the United States out of the Great Depression.
- The next 10 years were characterized by massive population growth, homes built in “Suburbs”, and expansion into the Western United States.
- Stocks again rose rapidly.
- Education was placed at a premium.
- These “suburbs” were towns built off of the very cities that had been expanded after the first World War, such as New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia.
Technological Innovations During the World Wars

Technological Innovations of World War I:

- The tank, which was an incredible upgrade over cavalry, as it was more durable, had better armament, and destroyed everything in its path.
- The bomber plane, which later in the war was used by the Allies to destroy German submarine bases.
- Mustard gas and other poisonous gases, which was used by the Germans first to slow and disable their enemies.
- Anti-aircraft, which was a creation of necessity to combat enemy planes.
- Flamethrowers, which were used to clear out lines of enemies that had gone “over the top” in trench warfare.

Technological Innovations of World War II:

- Atomic bomb, used by the United States to attack Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The first “WMD”.
- The Messerschmitt Me 262, the first jet fighter, which was recognized as one of, if not the fastest plane during the war.
- British tanks in general, which were a large upgrade over WWI tanks because of their better weaponry and defense.
- Semi-automatic rifles, which were the first rapid firing handheld weapons ever used in warfare.
- Anti-armor warheads, which somewhat solved the problem of tanks, and were also used on any enemy vehicle.

Although the inventions were not necessarily related (although some ideas like the tank were improved upon), it is the IDEA of innovation that was shared in both wars.
Fighting Conditions of the Wars

Fighting Conditions of World War I:

• As a result of the trenches in WWI, soldiers, who lived in the trenches, were always covered in dirt and had an abundance of moisture and fungi on their bodies at all times, resulting in a variety of bacterial diseases.
  - Trench Fever: Up to 30% of British soldiers contracted the disease in the WWI. Characterized by severe headache, high fever, and extreme pain in the legs.
  - Trench Foot: Caused by constant exposure by a foot to wet conditions. Characterized by swelling of the feet, open sores, and blood constriction

Both Wars saw a large amount of bacterial infections, and the conditions for the soldiers were plain unbearable.

Fighting Conditions of World War II:

• Just like WWI, conditions for soldiers in battle was terrible. The only difference between the two, was that WWII’s conditions were called by fighting in the Pacific Islands.
  - Scrub Typhus A: transmitted by mites. Characterized by a rash, enlargement of the spleen, and swelling of the lymph nodes.
  - Malaria: Disease caused by mosquito bites that decimated U.S. troops. Characterized by flu symptoms and a fever.
World Wars=Death

World War I Devastation:

• Approximately 8 million people died because of the War.
• 1.7 million dead in Russia, another 5 million wounded.
• Even amongst all the dead, their were many people unaccounted for after the war. In Allied Powers Serbia, France, and Great Britain, approximately 874,000 citizens went missing, soldiers and innocent.

World War II Devastation:

• Approximately 52.2 million people died because of the War.
• In Poland, approximately 6.1 million people died. 6 million of these people were civilians.
• In many countries, the death tolls took out an unimaginable number of people from the country. Take Yugoslavia for instance. It ended the war with 11% less people than it began it with.

Although the numbers may be different, both World Wars had horrible effects on the World. Combined, Germany and Russia reported approximately 30.8 million deaths between the two conflicts.
Differences of the World Wars

The two World Wars also had many differences between them. They have been compartmentalized into their seven most striking, important discrepancies: the Holocaust, causes of the war, leaders, warfare tactics, location of the war, extreme racism, and technological differences.
The Holocaust Vs. Lack of Racism in World War I

**World War I: No Racism**

- Fighting in World War I was started because of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
- Fighting of countries was for nationalism and pride.
- Approximately 7,996,888 died in total of all fighting in World War I

**World War II: The Holocaust**

- Entire Holocaust was based solely on racism and “superiority” of Aryan race, according to Hitler.
- Targeted all groups of people other than Aryans, including but not limited to Jewish people and Gypsies. The Holocaust also targeted homosexuals.
- In just Poland alone, 6,000,000 innocent civilians died as a result of World War II, most of them targets of the Holocaust.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes of World War I:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Strife between Serbia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Serbia, a province of the</td>
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<td>Empire, wanted to become its own independent nation. The Empire would lose its</td>
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<td>reign of dominance if this happened.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Russia backed Serbia.</td>
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<td>• Germany backed the Empire.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Franz Ferdinand assassinated by Black Hand officials in 1914.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Russia mobilizes army, and Germans ask to stop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Russia: “No.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Germany declares war.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Allied Powers side with Russia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Central Powers side with Germany.</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Causes of World War II:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hitler sees world’s future dominated by the Aryan race.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• For this he needs to capture the land of the Slavs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In order for his empire to come to fruition, he feels the need to eliminate</td>
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<tr>
<td>any species of human not Caucasian or heterosexual.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Starts to put Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, etc. into concentration camps, all the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beginnings of his genocide.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• European Allied Forces start to fight the Axis Powers.</td>
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<td>• Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, and here comes the United States into World War II.</td>
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The Men Behind the Death… And Those that Saved the World: National Leaders of the World Wars

Allied Leaders of World War One:

• Woodrow Wilson, United States: Democratic President of the country. Oversaw two terms as leader, and was re-elected in the middle of the war.
  • David Lloyd George, Great Britain: Was made Prime Minister in 1916 after Henry Asquith. The “People’s Prime Minister”, and was a major factor in the dealings of the Treaty of Versailles.
  • George Clemenceau, France: Nicknamed “The Tiger” for his aggressive war tactics. Along with Wilson and George was one of the primary people to decide the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

-The winners were the ones who wrote the rules of the treaty! These somewhat harsh rules are part of the reason for WWII.

Axis Dictators of World War II:

• Adolf Hitler, Germany: Leader of the Nazi party in Germany. Oversaw the Holocaust and believed in the “superiority of the Aryan race.
  • Benito Mussolini, Italy: Fascist leader who was a devoted supporter of Hitler. Killed by firing squad by partisans… then dragged around the city.
  • Francisco Franco, Spain: Although Spain was allied with the Axis Powers, they were not heavily involved in WWII. Franco oversaw the revolution in Spain prior to the World War. Died of a heart-attack.
World War I Fighting Tactics:
• World War I was militaristically characterized by trench warfare.
• This method of battle was extremely deadly, and all of the fighting on the Western Front moved just 11 miles during the war.
• World War I also saw the use of tanks for the first time, as well as machine-guns.
• When War began, bayonet charges by infantry were often used, but plans had to be adjusted after heavy casualties suffered at the hands of machine-gun operators.

World War II Fighting Tactics:
• The most defining military tactic of WWII was island hopping.
• Island hopping was a method of warfare used in the Pacific stage by the U.S. in which marines would capture small islands one at a time, using them for air bases or anchorages and shortening the distance from their forces to Japan.
• Took the tank idea of WWI and created bigger, faster, deadlier tanks. This characterized by German tactic of Blitzkrieg, in which tanks would go in and devastate buildings or fortresses, then infantry troops would finish the job off.
• Saw the first widespread use of airplanes in battle.
The Three Fronts of World War I:
• The areas of fighting in World War I were Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and North Africa.
• Germany was in altercations on the east and west ends of the continent, and therefore had to split up their resources. Their plan to quickly finish the Western Front then divert their attention to the east did not work, stretching their resources thin and leading to their eventual downfall.
• World War I saw much of the conflict in a confined area. The war in the trenches moved a total of 11 miles by the end of the fighting.

The Three Fronts of World War II:
• A vital front of World War II was all of Europe. This stage was dominated by all of the European nations involved and the United States.
• The Pacific was a new front to the World War scene. This conflict was between Japan and the United States. (Note: The Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor was what prompted the United States to enter World War II.)
• Africa was also a front of WWII. This stage was used as European fighting was at a stalemate, and was occupied by various European nations.
• WWII fighting was literally all over the world and far more expanded than World War I.
The Role of Women in the World Wars

Role in World War I:

• While more women were working than before the war, it was still not as much as desired. In a country like Great Britain for example, only about 25% of women had actual jobs, very few of which were involved with the military.
• Nursing was the one and only job that a women could have to help the military.
• Of the few rights women had, they were age dependent, and women were still looked at as second-class citizens to a male-dominated society.

Role in World War II:

• In the Soviet Union, a place were there was an immediate threat of war on Soviet soil, women working in industry increased 60%.
• In the United States, although there was not a threat of war on American soil, eventually the female work force came about. They were encouraged by numerous propaganda tricks pleading them to join the cause.
• In the beginning of World War II, Nazi’s avoided women as a working force, but by the half-way point of the war, the German woman work force had become 300,000 stronger.
• In the US women were gaining more and more rights and more free privileges to do things previously contained to the male sex.
Technological Differences Between the World Wars

Technology in World War I:

- Excluding the development of the machine gun, all weapons were slow. For instance, the first Anti-aircraft gun shot three rounds every minute.
- First tanks were primitive and slow-moving.
- The first fighter planes were not often used because of their overall inaccuracy and inefficiency.
- U-boats primarily contained to Germany.

Technology in World War II:

- All armaments of the second World War were faster, more efficient.
- Smarter weapons, including many new warheads. Saw the advancement of the first heat-seeking and remote operated missiles.
- The first fighter jets were made. These planes were much faster, better armed, and more accurate than the planes of WWI.
- The Allied Powers of the war had now gained the technology of the U-boat, made positive modifications to it, and unleashed it on the Axis Powers.
What is the Deal With the World Wars?

- World War I and World War II are more different than each other. This is because the concept the fighting was behind. In the first World War, the conflict started because a nation (Serbia) was fighting for its independence. In the second World War, the fighting was done over a man's hate of anything other than a Caucasian heterosexual male.

- There are many patterns between the two World Wars. The most noticeable of these are the technological innovations of the two eras. Both wars brought about the need for new weapons and technology, and in turn this production helped the economies of the countries making the arms.

- Even though both wars were horrible in the death they brought about, World War II was far worse, because of the sheer numbers, and the deaths of the innocent. Comparatively, WWII saw 6.5 times the number of people die than WWI, including people from the Holocaust and the dropping of the atomic bombs.

- The wars were two of the most negative times in the history of the world. There was so much death and destruction during this time that it must of made it unbearable for people to deal with life. World War II was the worst showing of racism ever recorded. It is my wish in my lifetime to never have to deal with a World War, because I personally could not bear all of the death.