



Fulton County Historical Society

237 Kingsboro Ave. Gloversville, NY 12078

fultoncountyhistoricalsociety.org | 518-725-2203

Introduction

World War I (WWI) was fought from 1914-1918 and involved many countries around the world. The length of the war, the number of countries involved, and the large number of deaths and amount of damage it caused was nothing like anyone had ever seen before. It was also called the Great War, because no one expected another war like it to happen ever again.

There were two sides in the war. The **Allied Powers** included France, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, and eventually, the United States. The **Central Powers** included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey.

The largest battles were fought in two areas. The **Eastern Front** was bordered by Germany and Austria-Hungary on one side and Russia and Hungary on the other side. The **Western Front** ran along Germany and Austria-Hungary on one side and France and Italy on the other.



<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWWentente.htm>



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Words and Terms to Know

Armistice - an agreement by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting; a truce

Eastern Front - an area of fighting bordered by Germany and Austria-Hungary on one side and Russia and Hungary on the other; troops from Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Russia, and the Balkans fought here

Western Front - an area of fighting bordered by Germany and Austria-Hungary on one side and France and Italy on the other; troops from Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, England, and the US fought here

Allied Powers - a military alliance that included Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, the United States, and others; the Allies were opposed to the Central Powers

Central Powers - a military alliance that included Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and others; the Central Powers were opposed to the Allies

Trench Warfare - a type of fighting that uses deep trenches, or long ditches, dug into the ground to protect the soldiers and also make it difficult for the opposing army to attack; fighting in these trenches usually protects soldiers from bullets and most artillery shells

Neutral - not helping or supporting either side in a war

Propaganda - a way to share information that tries to make people think or feel a certain way; it is usually political and always biased

Liberty Bonds - these were created by the government to help raise money for the war effort; by buying bonds, Americans were loaning the government money for the war, and the government would repay the loan after a certain number of years