**Chronology. A four year war? A chronological overview of Military conflict.**

**Introduction**

The First World War in British schools is often considered to be the 1914-18 conflict, starting with the British declaration of war on Germany in August 1914 and ending with the armistice of November 1918. However such a chronology reveals some complexities if one chooses to look at the chronology of war through different lenses, some countries joining later than 1914 and others making peace before 1918. Furthermore, Imperial conflicts and Balkan wars preceded 1914 and the consequences were much more enduring, notably in Germany, Russia and the Middle East. In this enquiry students will be encouraged to consider how far this was a conflict contained to 1914-18.

The questions we are going to consider today include

* When did the First World War begin?
* Did it begin at the same time for all the countries and regions involved?
* Did the start of the war originate in tensions between the Great Powers of Europe before 1914?
* When did the First World War end?
* Did it end at the same time for all the countries and regions involved?
* Should it mainly be regarded as a four year war?
* Are some of the conflicts of the First World War still unresolved?
* Should we consider the chronology of the war differently for different Empires, countries and regions involved?

**Take a look at the timeline of the war in different regions detailing just one of the major developments per year and then consider the statements in support of the idea that this was a four year war and those that suggest otherwise. Then respond to the question**

**“The First World War was a four year global conflict lasting from August 1914 to November 1918”**

**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

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| Chronology. A four year war? [A chronological overview](https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/305115/Key-Moments-in-the-First-World-War/) of military conflict and [Key Moments](https://historiana.eu/#/learning-activity/key-moments-in-the-war) from Historiana Euroclio project. | | | | | | | |
| **Events in the British sector of the Western Front** | Imperial conflicts proceed the outbreak of the FWW E.g. Morocco. | Britain declares war on Germany on 4th August 1914. The Battle of the Marne | Second Battle of Ypres. | Battle of the Somme. | In April 1917 America joined the FWW. The Third Battle of Ypres. | November 11th 1917 the Armistice is signed. | Irish Nationalists pursued their civil war against the UK for independence 1919-1921 |
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| **Events on the Eastern Front** | Balkan Crisis 1912 and 1913 has implications for Russian Balkan policy. | Battle of Tannenberg between Germany and Russia. | In May 1915 Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary.Gallipoli campaign Turkey. | The Brusilov offensive sees Russian progress but with difficult domestic effects. | Russia withdraws from the war in November after the Communist takeover of state. | Treaty of Brest Litovsk March 1918. Russian civil war till 1921 | Russian civil war till 1921 results in Communist Victory and the beginning of the Cold War. |
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| **Timeline** | **Pre 1914** | **1914** | **1915** | **1916** | **1917** | **1918** | **Post 1918** |
| **Events in the South East of Europe** | Crises in the First Balkan war 1912 and the second Balkan War 1913. | Austria declares war on Germany and Russia declares war on Austria. | In May 1915 Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary.Gallipoli campaign Turkey. | The Brusilov offensive was a Russian advance against Austro Hungary. | Russia withdraws from the war in Oct and began peace talks with Germany. | In September and October allied forces drive the Ottomans out of Palestine. | Ottoman Empire signs Armistice in October but ongoing conflict between Turks and Armenians. |
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| **Events in Asia and Africa** | The First and Second Moroccan crisis of 1905 and 1911 raised tensions in Europe. | German and British military begin conflict in East and West Africa. Japan joins the war against Germany. | Britain defeats German forces in South West Africa. | Germany withdraws from Lake Tanganyika. | America joins the war and takes action over a German warship in the South Pacific. | In November East Africa conflict comes to an end with Armistice. | The Amritsar massacre in India in 1919 led to the growth of Indian movement for Independence. |
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**Background information to consider how far the First World War should be considered as a Four Year War.**

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| **Evidence the First World War was a four year global conflict lasting from August 1914 to November 1918** | 1 On 4th August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany and what started as a conflict in the Balkans in June had now become a global war between the Triple Alliance and Triple Entente. | 2 The major battles of the First World War were fought mainly in Europe between the two opposing blocs on the Western, Eastern and Italian fronts. | 3 The major battles of the Western Front included the Battles of the Frontiers, Ypres, Somme and Cambrai and the Summer offensives of 1918 were fought between 1914-18. | 4 The four year global conflict came to an end with the German surrender and armistice signed on 11th November 1918. |
| **Evidence to suggest that the conflict between European Empires began in the years before 1914** | 1 Austro Hungarian, Russian and Ottoman rivalry in the Balkans were evident in the First Balkan War of 1912. | 2 Austro Hungarian, Russian and Ottoman rivalry in the Balkans were evident in the Second Balkan War of 1913. | 3 The Imperial rivalry between Germany and France/Britain was evident in the First Moroccan Crisis of 1905 | 4 The Imperial rivalry between Germany and France/Britain was evident in the Second Moroccan Crisis of 1911 |
| **Evidence not all of the main powers began the war in 1914, and some of them with drew before 1918** | 1 Italy did not support its alliance partners in 1914 and joined the war in 1915 on the side of the Triple Entente. | 2 America did not join the war in 1914. America joined the war in 1917 on the side of the Triple Alliance. | 3 America joined the war in 1917 on the side of the Triple Alliance. | 4 Russia began her peace negotiations with Germany after the the Bolshevik communist revolution of October 1917. |
| **Evidence to suggest that the conflicts in some areas lasted well beyond 1918** | 1 In the British Isles Irish Nationalists fought a Civil War for Independence from the UK between 1919-1921. | 2 In Russia there was a Civil War between Bolshevik communists and whites between 1918-21 | 3 After 1918 in place of the German,Russian, Austrian and Ottoman Empires emerged new countries that experienced recurrent conflicts into the 1920’s. | 4 Anti British Empire Independence movements began to emerge in India and in the Middle East after Britain and France imposed the Sykes-Picot settlement in the region. |

**Activity 1**

Look through the timeline and the statements which support different perspectives on the chronology of the FWW. then consider the following question and write four paragraphs which summarise your thoughts about the question using the evidence you have considered.

**“The First World War was a four year global conflict lasting from August 1914 to November 1918”**

**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

Introduction: There is a division of interpretation amongst historians with regard to whether the First World War should be considered as a four year conflict lasting from 1914-18.

* There is certainly evidence to support this view of the FWW between many of the major powers involved including Britain, France, Germany and Austria-Hungary. For example
* However there is also evidence to suggest that the conflict between European Empires began in the years before 1914. For example
* In addition not all of the main powers began the war in 1914, and some of them with drew before 1918. For example..
* Furthermore there is also evidence to suggest that the conflicts in some areas lasted well beyond 1918. For example..

In conclusion

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|  | **Emerging** | **Developing** | **Securing** | **Excelling** |
| **AO4 Historical interpretations** | * Describes the view given by an interpretation May spot some difference(s) between two interpretations. * May try to give a reason why a person gave the view they did. May suggest why two views are different. * May reach a judgement. | * Describes view given by an interpretation using details from the interpretation. Understands that there are different interpretations. * Gives reasons why an interpretation gives a certain view, thinking about Who When What Why. May suggest people give different views. * Reaches a judgement. | * Explains views given by interpretations by considering its content and style. Can compare different interpretations. * Explains why an interpretation gives a certain view considering two of: nature, origin or purpose. Can explain why two views differ. * Evaluates interpretations considering content and own knowledge. Reaches a clear judgement. | * Analyses the view given by an interpretation by examining its content and style. Confidently compares different interpretations. * Explains why an interpretation gives a certain view considering: nature, origin and purpose. Can explain why two views differ. * Evaluates interpretations analysing content and own knowledge. * Reaches a substantiated conclusion. |