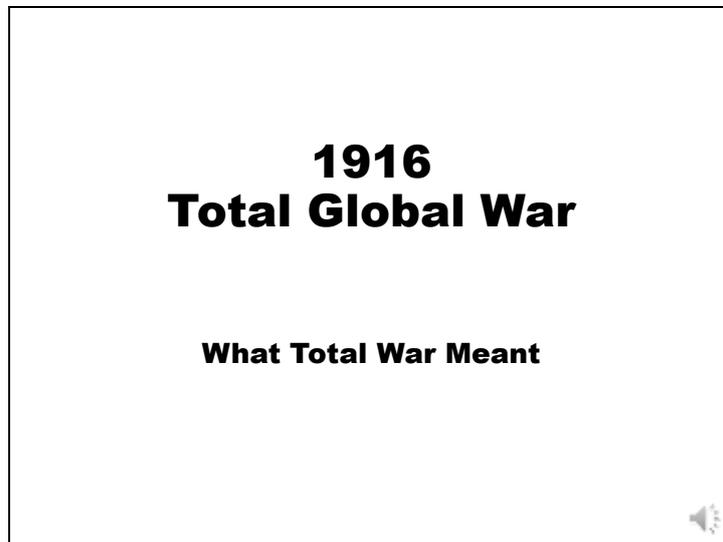


Slide 1



1916 was the '**watershed**' year in the Great War – this was the period when the perceived nature of the conflict evolved from being viewed as a heroic 'Boys Own' jaunt to a horrible experience that was now becoming total and global .

Over the course of the first 17 months of the Great War the public reaction in each of the European nations involved was initially one of broad excitement as declarations of war were made, with most people fully supportive of their respective country's objectives and efforts.

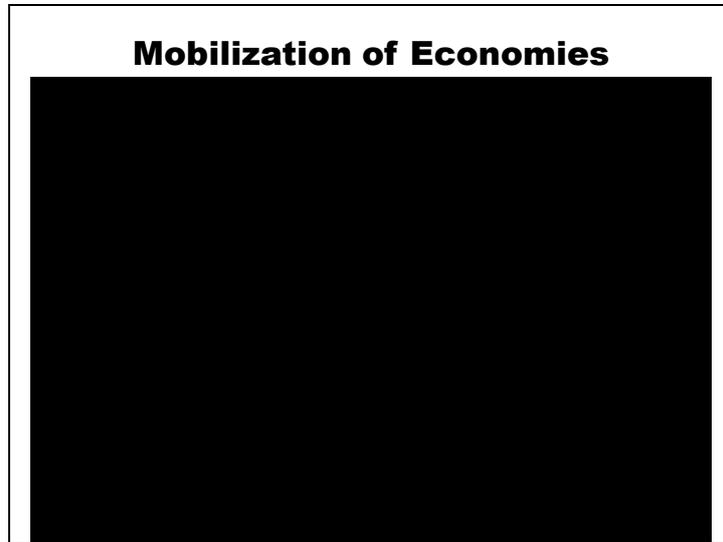
By 1916 however, after appalling casualties had been incurred by all countries, that public sentiment of initial exhilaration had run its course.

During 1916, more level headed / thinking individuals in the various nations came to the realization that the war would now be a long lasting event and that because of the enormous sacrifices already made, a grim determination would be necessary to see it through to a successful conclusion.

It was in this context that each of the major belligerent governments in 1916 made decisions that *formally mobilised all sections of their societies to contribute towards the war.*

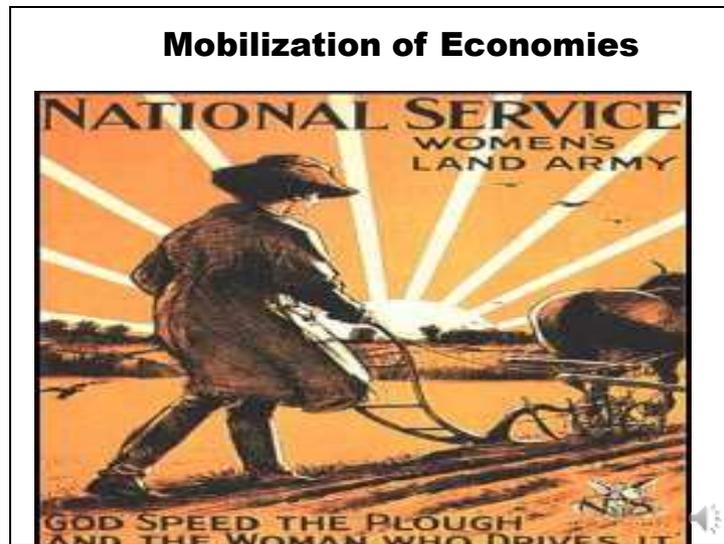
In Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, the Governments of each of these hitherto bastions of democracy began making draconian laws and implementing policies that were dictatorial in nature, more akin to those of the autocratic German system of government they had previously and vigorously despised.

Slide 2



Youtube – Joshua Cole - 2 minutes 34 secs

Slide 3



One of the most significant of these changes involved the regulated mobilization of women, an occurrence which undoubtedly initiated a most significant contribution to the emancipation of women on their long journey for equality - a quest that continues to this day.

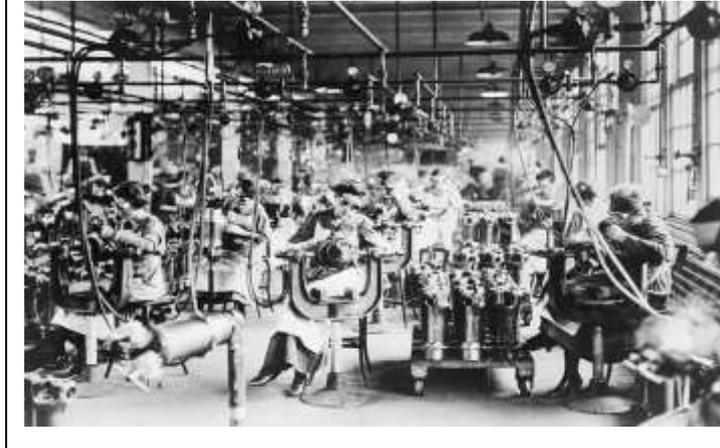
By July of 1916 wide-spread *labour shortages* caused the French government to adopt an official policy of using women wherever possible to replace male workers called up for military service.

Between 1914 and 1918 some 684,000 French women were employed in French armaments factories, while tens of thousands of others worked in textile, clothing and footwear industries, agriculture, transport and stevedoring.

However, as with their male counterparts, working women were exploited: hours were long, working conditions were often primitive and inflation of enhanced war time rates of pay still managed to significantly raise the real cost of living.

Slide 4

Women in the Workforce

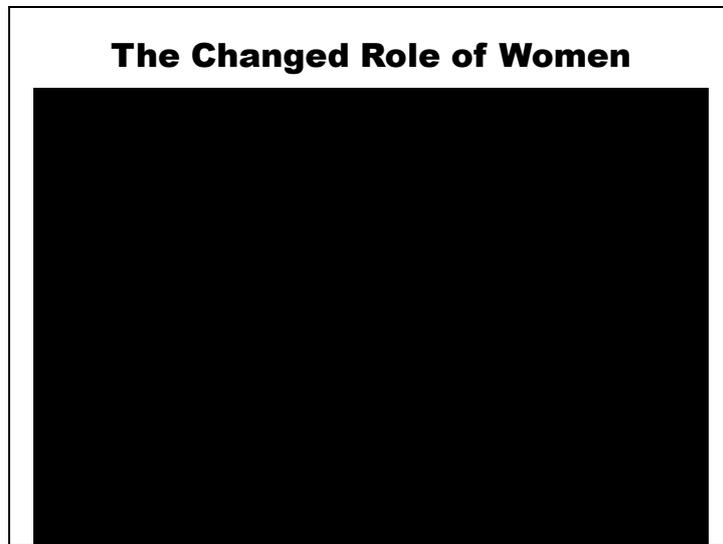


Women working in the Welding Department of the Lincoln Motor Co., in Detroit, Michigan, ca. 1918. #

Discussion topic: The women in this photo are employed in relatively high skilled trades of the day.

What problems would this phenomena have created in the post war era?

Slide 5



Youtube – The Changed Role of Women in WW1 -16 minutes

Slide 6

Indentured Colonial Labour



Chinese labourers > Stevedoring

Slide 7



Rail & Road construction activities in France were vital for supplying Allied troops.

The French & British Empires in the early 20th century were thought by many to provide a virtually limitless supply of man power for both military and civilian demands.

French colonies and protectorates were tapped to meet labour shortages in the motherland's industries and agriculture as well as the increasing demands of the military to provide logistical and transport supply services within the rear French lines.

Recruitment for these requirements was systematised in early 1916 when the French War Ministry established a '**Colonial Labour Service**' which virtually conscripted men from French territories around the world.

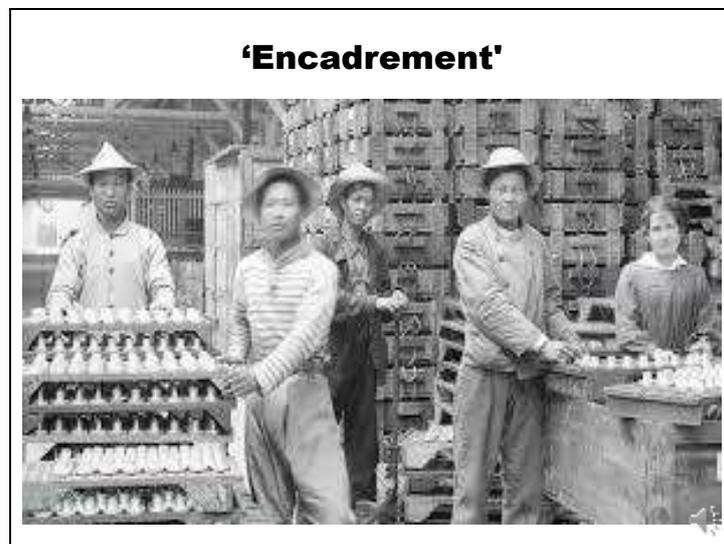
This included more than 130,000 from North Africa, nearly 50,000 from Indochina and some 40,000 from China.

In both North Africa and Indochina the French fabled notion of the 'Union Sacree' which supposedly united all French speaking peoples was at best tenuous.

Many colonial communities opposed the virtual forced conscription of their young men, and '**resistance**' movements were created in a number of their colonies.

A classic example was the fledgling resistance movement that developed in Indo China (Vietnam) which involved that nation's pre eminent freedom fighter and future leader – **Ho Chi Minh**.

Slide 8



According to Professor Keith Jeffery the policy of using indentured labour worried some officials in France and Britain, who were concerned that their 'natives' might see things and learn skills that could in the post war era cause them to become less compliant and make it more difficult to continue to subjugate them.

For those colonials who were indentured to help France, the authorities initiated a policy of 'encadrement' or supervision, which was designed to keep them as far away as possible from the ordinary French people.

Another concern of French authorities was that significant numbers of colonial men suddenly had contact with French women, and that therefore post war it might henceforth be difficult to maintain the traditional prestige of white women in the colonies.

Slide 9



During the Great War both The German and the Allied navies adopted blockade tactics in an attempt to deprive the other side of the food and raw materials that were vital for the production of war materiel and the sustenance of their armies.

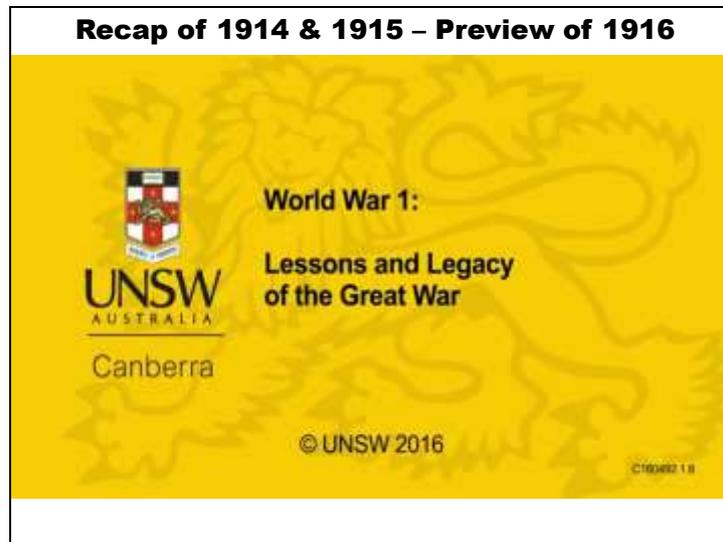
What is less well known about this tactic was that it severely impacted on the economies of many uninvolved countries around the globe, such as Chile and Argentina that were not actually involved in the war, but whose export trade was decimated, to the extent that it caused severe recessions in their developing economies.

Restrictions of Democratic Practices

- **Conscription – compulsory military service**
- **Strict censorship of information / misinformation provided by newspapers /**
- **Private correspondence subjected to review by ‘non-elected’ officials**
- **Non government boards controlled the manufacture & supply of clothing, food, ammunition etc to the military**
- **Alcohol restrictions – 6o’clock closing / No ‘shout’ laws**

Those seeking a more in depth consideration of the restrictions on democratic principles and practices might refer to my summary of the following book:
‘The Great Wrong War – New Zealand Society in WW1’ written by Steven Eldred-Grigg.

Slide 11



Overview of the Great War to end of 1915 – Dr John Connor

5 Minutes

1916 on the Western Front is dominated by two battles: Verdun and the Somme. On the 21st of February, the Germans attacked the historic fortress of Verdun, because of its symbolic importance to the French, meant they would defend it to the last. The battle continued until December. The front line barely changed in 10 months, but almost 700,000 men were killed, wounded, or missing. The soldiers endured artillery bombardments that had never been seen before. Both sides fired 10 million shells, the equivalent of 1.3 million tonnes of steel. The Battle of the Somme began on the 1st July and continued until November. The River Somme was at the junction of the British and French lines.

The attack was originally to have been a joint British-French attack, but as more French troops had been sucked into Verdun, the British were required to take a larger role. Almost 20,000 British and Irish soldiers were killed on the first day of the battle. They made little progress, because the German defenders were well dug in and protected from the British artillery bombardment. When winter forced the British to end the battle, the furthest advance was 11 kilometres. The killed, wounded, and prisoners lost on both sides numbered over 1 million. The Allies had planned a coordinated series of attacks in 1916. On the Eastern Front, the Russian offensive against the Austrians had initial success.

This led Romania to join the war on the Allied side. However, they were invaded, and most of the country was occupied by the end of the year. In December 1916, after the defeat of Romania, the German government made a public call for negotiated peace. But because they would not consider withdrawing from Belgium, any proposal was unacceptable to France and Britain.