

All Quiet on the Western Front



Erich Maria Remarque

A brief discourse on the causes of WWI from someone who is not a history teacher

- Militarism
- Alliance system
- Imperialism
- Nationalism

MILITARISM



Because Britain had a great navy, Germany wanted a great navy too. Germany and France competed for larger armies. The more one nation built up its army and navy, the more other nations felt they had to do the same.

ALLIANCE SYSTEM



Perception:
Building alliances = Building Peace

Reality:
**It's more like a street gang
establishing its turf**

**In the summer of 1914 there were two
alliances:**

***The Triple Alliance* composed of
Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy,
stood opposed to the *Triple Entente*
composed of Britain, France, and
Russia.**



IMPERIALISM



The colonial system disrupted world peace:

All the major European nations were competing to amass the most colonies.

NATIONALISM



Nationalism=patriotism

“Mine’s bigger than yours!”

- Army
- Navy
- Weapons
- Industry

ESCELATION

- **1800's – An era of progress and turmoil**
- **New Nations were created**
- **False sense of security**



CATALYST

- On June 28, 1914, Gacrilo Princip, a nineteen-year-old Serbian revolutionary, fired two pistol shots. One killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the nephew of Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary and heir to the Austrian throne. The other killed Sophie, his wife.
- Austria-Hungary held Serbia responsible. On July 5 Austria asked for and received from Germany a "blank check" of support for any action Austria-Hungary might take against Serbia.
- On July 23 Austria sent a series of demands to the Serbians. The demands were designed to humiliate and virtually destroy the Serbian nation. Still, Serbia agreed to most *but not all* of the demands.

- **Austria reacted on July 28 by declaring war on Serbia. The Russians prepared to defend Serbia. Germany sent a warning to Russia to stop mobilizing its army for war; the Russians ignored the warning, and Germany declared war on Russia on August 1. France came to the aid of its Russian ally by declaring war on Germany. The British hesitated, but when the Germans marched into Belgium, they declared war on Germany as well.**
- **Italy, the third member of the Triple Alliance, refused to back Germany and Austria-Hungary. Italy claimed the Triple Alliance was for defensive purposes only and Austria's declaration of war against Serbia was no defensive.**
- **So in August, 1914, the guns of the war went off. The system of alliances for keeping peace had brought the great nations of Europe into war with one another.**



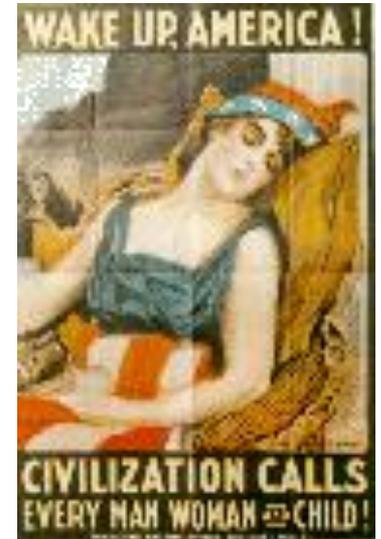
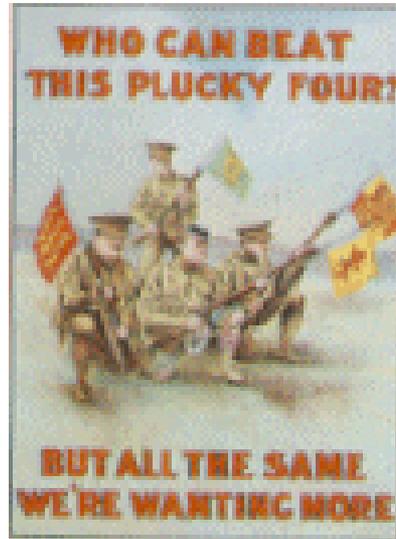
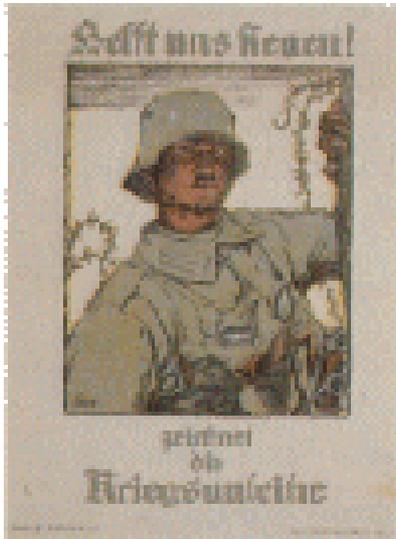
ALLIED POWERS

- Allied Powers included France, Great Britain, and Russia (and eventually the US)
- Central Powers included Germany, Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the Ottoman Empire

CENTRAL POWERS

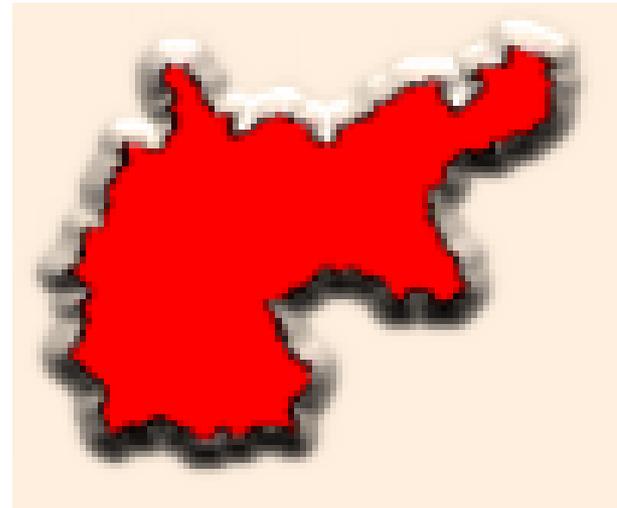
Life in the Trenches

- <http://www.firstworldwar.com/features/trenchlife.htm>



German Propaganda

- <http://www.firstworldwar.com/posters/germany.htm>



Trench Warfare

- <http://www.firstworldwar.com/photos/trenches.htm>

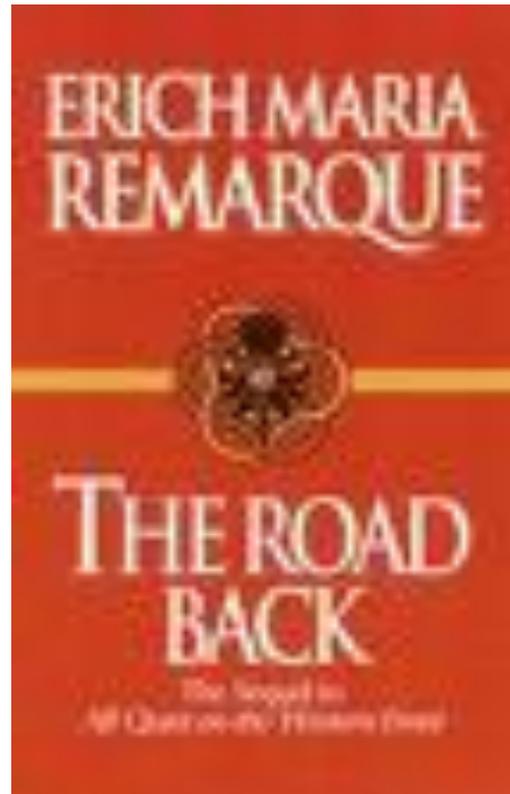
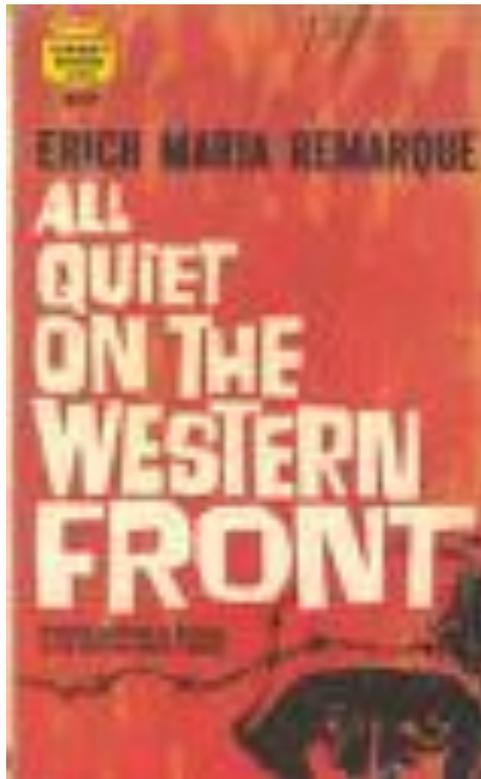


Erich Maria Remarque

- More than any other conflict, the Great War inspired writers of all generations and classes, most notably among combatants
- *AQWF* is an anti-war novel depicting the horrors of war from the point of view of the ordinary soldier
 - *"It is just as much a matter of chance that I am still alive as that I might have been hit. In a bomb-proof dug-out I may be smashed to atoms and in the open may survive ten hour's bombardment unscratched. No soldier outlives a thousand chances. But every soldier believes in Chance and trusts his luck."*

- Erich Maria Remarque studied at the University of Münster but had to enlist in the German army at the age of 18.
- He fought on the Western Front and was wounded several times.
- After the war, Remarque worked as a teacher, a stonecutter, and a test-car driver
- He became famous after his first novel, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
 - touched a nerve of the time
 - sparked off a storm of political controversy

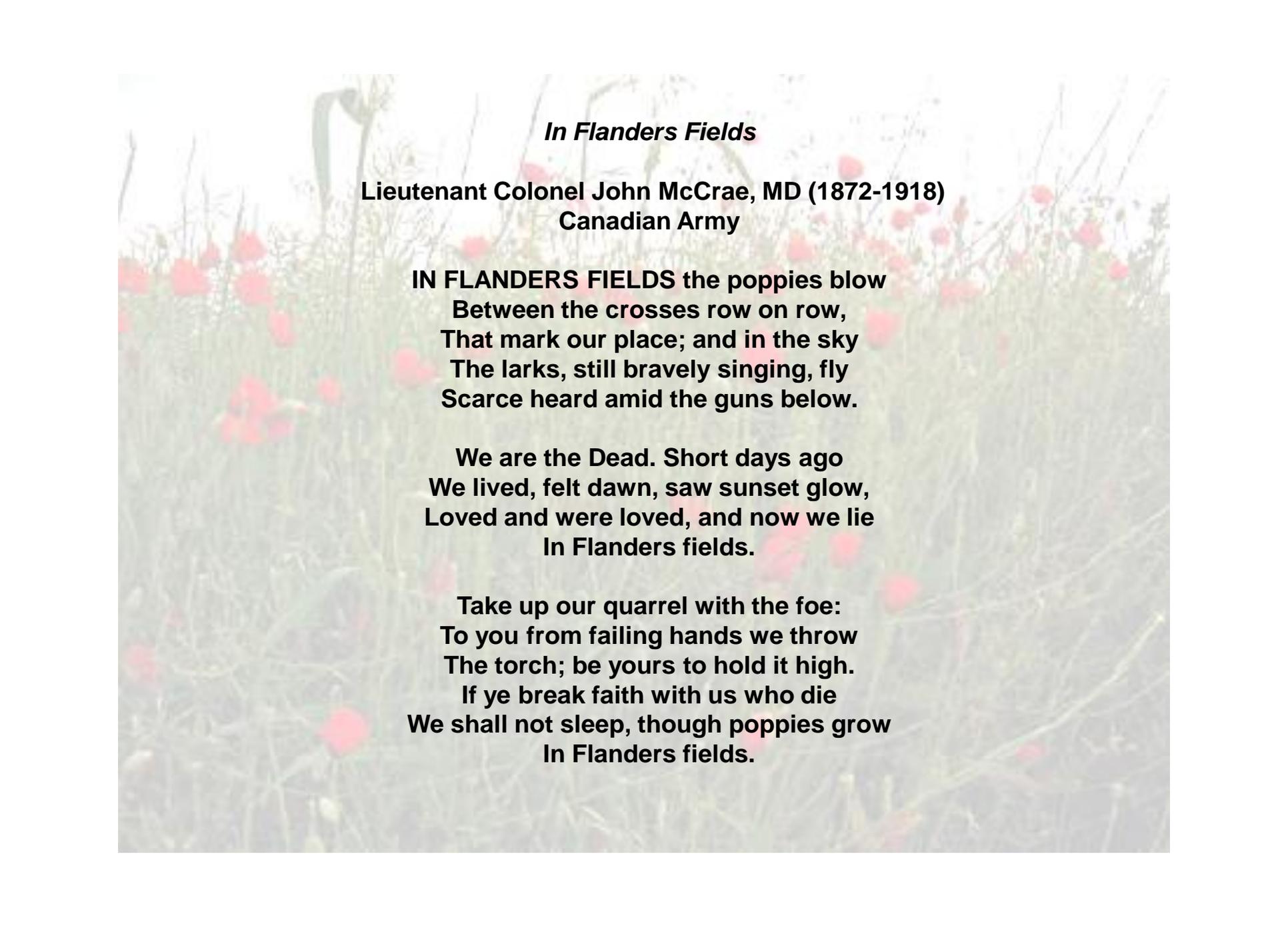
- *AQWF's* sequel, *Der Weg Zuruck* (*The Way Back*), deals with the collapse of the German Army after the war and the fate of the surviving heroes



- In the 1930s Remarque's books were banned in Germany by the government.
- *All Quiet on the Western Front* was among the works consigned to be publicly burnt in 1933 by the Nazis. Stores were ordered to stop selling his books.
- Remarque was accused of pacifism.
- In 1938 Remarque lost his German citizenship; he had moved to Switzerland in 1932, and in 1939 he emigrated to the United States, where in 1947 he became a citizen.

Most Famous WWI Poem: “In Flanders Fields”

- <http://www.inflandersfields.be/#gedicht>



In Flanders Fields

**Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)
Canadian Army**

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**