

An aerial, black and white photograph showing a town that has been almost completely destroyed. The buildings are reduced to rubble, with only skeletal remains and charred structures visible. A wide road or railway line runs through the center of the town, flanked by piles of debris. The surrounding landscape is also in ruins, with no trees or vegetation left standing. The overall scene is one of total devastation.

**World War I: A
Watershed Event
in Human History**

Research Questions

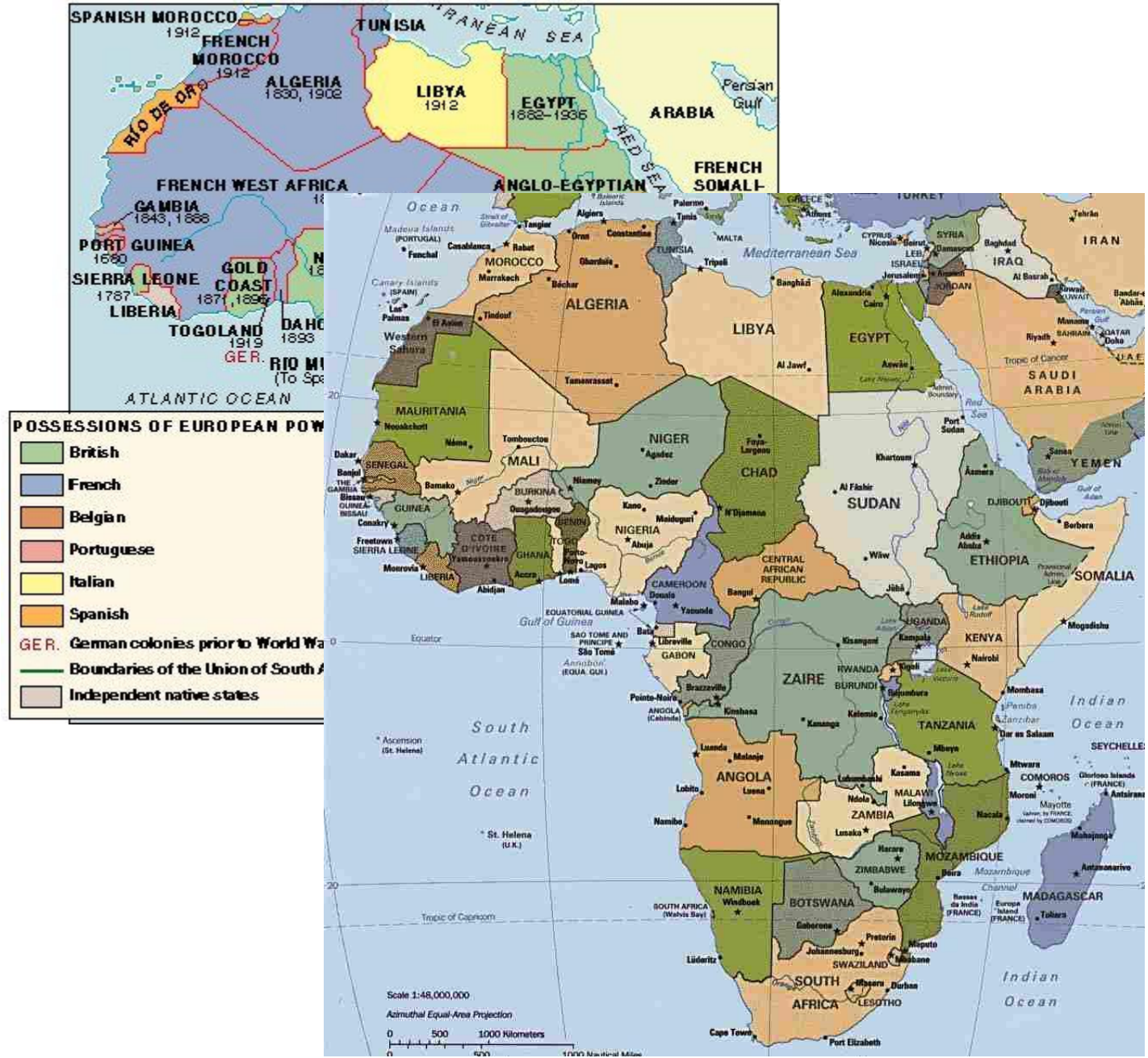
- Was World War I (WW1) a watershed event in human history?
- How did the world change after WW1?
- Which changed the world more, WW1 or World War II (WW2)?



Thesis: This paper argues that World War I (WW1) was a watershed event in human history for three major reasons.

1. Feudalism gave way to nationalism.

(<http://www.indepthinfo.com/history/great-at-war.htm>)



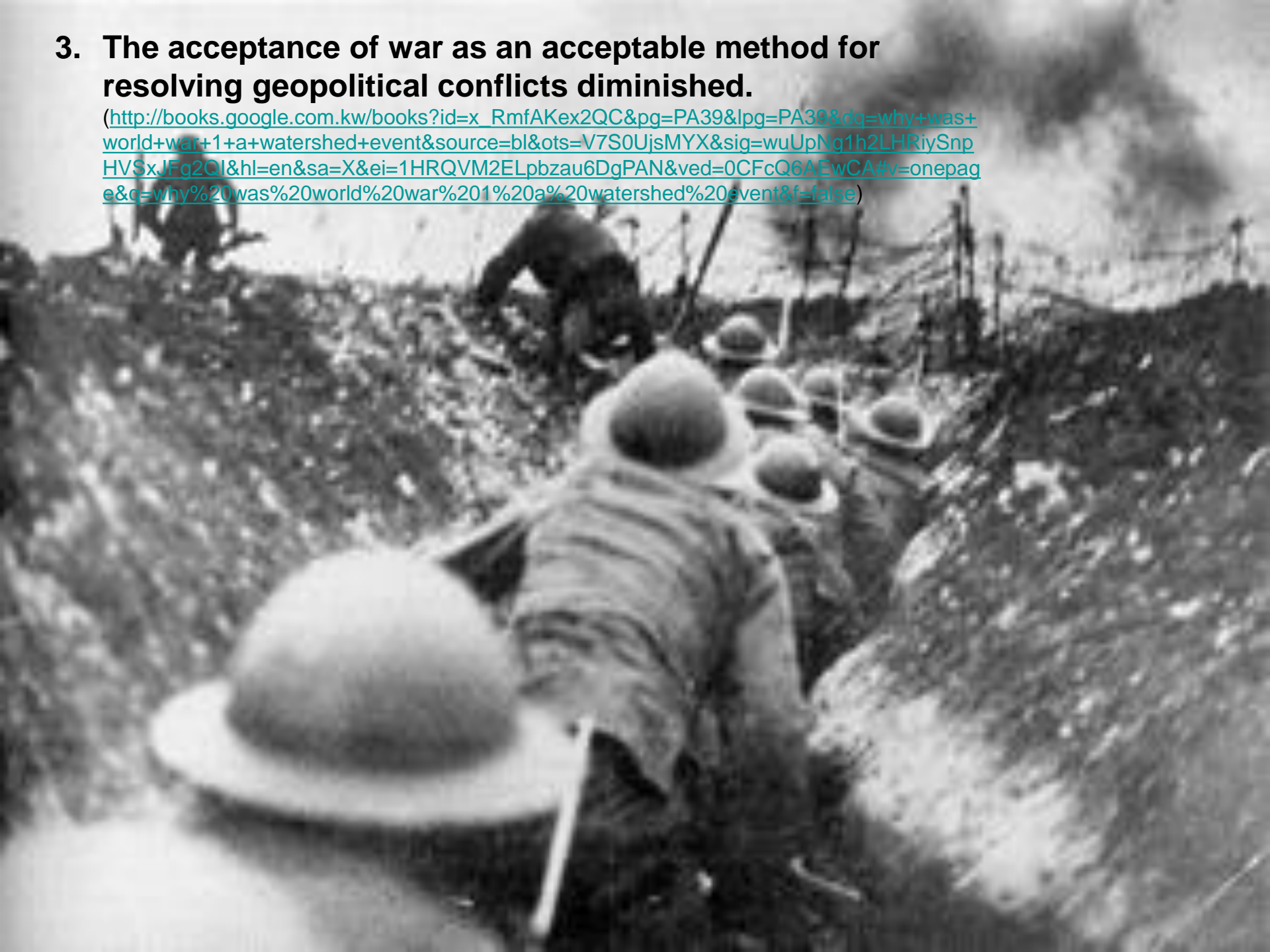
2. The nature of modern warfare changed.

(<http://w3.salemstate.edu/~cmauriello/Course%20Development/WorldCIVII/Great%20War.htm>)



3. The acceptance of war as an acceptable method for resolving geopolitical conflicts diminished.

(http://books.google.com.kw/books?id=x_RmfAKex2QC&pg=PA39&pg=PA39&dq=why+was+world+war+1+a+watershed+event&source=bl&ots=V7S0UjsMYX&sig=wuUpNg1h2LHRiySnpHVSxJFg2Ql&hl=en&sa=X&ei=1HRQVM2ELpbzau6DgPAN&ved=0CFcQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q=why%20was%20world%20war%201%20a%20watershed%20event&f=false)



4. Because WW2 issued in the Atomic Age and the Cold War, some critics may argue that it changed the world more than WW1 did.
(<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bomb/filmmore/reference/interview/rhodes01.html>)
(http://www.upa.pdx.edu/IMS/currentprojects/TAHv3/Content/PDFs/Sherwin_Atomic_Bomb_Origins_ColdWar.pdf)





5. While WW2 did change the world, WW1 was the watershed event that made WW2 possible.

<http://www.diffen.com/difference/World War I vs World War II>

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007429>

Outline

I. Introduction:

A. Hook

How sweet and fitting it is to die for your native land:
Death pursues the man who flees,
spares not the hamstrings or cowardly backs
Of battle-shy youths.

--- Roman poet Horace (Odes iii 2.13)

(<http://ask.metafilter.com/93629/Best-poems-about-the-glory-of-battle>)

You smug-faced crowds with kindling eye
Who cheer when soldier lads march by,
Sneak home and pray you'll never know
The hell where youth and laughter go.

--- Siegfried Sassoon, English poet, writer, and WW1 soldier

(<http://themeagremenagerie.blogspot.com/2011/05/did-first-world-war-fundamentally.html>)

Outline

I. Introduction:

B. Background information

<https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/crash-course1/crash-course-world-history/nationalism-imperialism-globalization/v/crash-course-world-history-36>)

C. Thesis: This paper argues that World War I (WW1) was a watershed event in human history because it led to the rise of nationalism, it changed modern warfare, and it diminished the acceptance of war as an acceptable method of resolving geopolitical conflicts.

Outline (cont.)

II. First Argument: Feudalism gave way to nationalism.

<http://www.indepthinfo.com/history/great-war.htm>

III. Second Argument: The nature of modern warfare changed.

<http://w3.salemstate.edu/~cmauriello/Course%20Development/WorldCIVII/Great%20War.htm>

IV. Third Argument: The acceptance of warfare as an acceptable method of resolving geopolitical conflicts diminished.

http://books.google.com.kw/books?id=x_RmfAKex2QC&pg=PA39&lpg=PA39&dq=why+was+world+war+1+a+watershed+event&source=bl&ots=V7S0UjsMYX&sig=wuUpNg1h2LHRiySnpHVSxJFg2QI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=1HRQVM2ELpbzau6DgPAN&ved=0CFcQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q=why%20was%20world%20war%201%20a%20watershed%20event&f=false

Outline (cont.)

- V. Counterargument: Because WW2 issued in the Atomic Age and the Cold War, some critics may argue that it changed the world more than WW1 did.
 - A. It ushered in the Atomic Age.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bomb/filmmore/reference/interview/rhodes01.html>
 - B. It ushered in the Cold Age.
http://www.upa.pdx.edu/IMS/currentprojects/TAHv3/Content/PDFs/Sherwin_Atomic_Bomb_Origins_ColdWar.pdf
- VI. Refutation: While WW2 did change the world, WW1 was the watershed event that made WW2 possible.
http://www.diffen.com/difference/World_War_I_vs_World_War_II
<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007429>
- VII. Conclusion