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Sign up for our newsletter and discover travel experiences you really want to try. By subscribing, you agree to receive promotional emails. You can unsubscribe at any time. For more information, read our privacy statement. We were picked up right outside our Airbnb in Wroclaw at 10:30. The manager was a nice young man named Jakub (sorry if I slaughtered the spelling). It was a pleasant ride both ways and he told us all about life in Poland. We had a group of five and we were under the impression that it would only be us in the van, but there were also two other children on the tour. Not a big deal, but there may be other people on the ride with you, especially if you're not a big group. We stopped at a petrol station halfway through each drive. The tour guide was pretty good, no complaints. After the tour of Auschwitz I, Jakub gave us every sandwiches, snacks, and waters and drove us to Auschwitz-Birkenau II. The tour by Auschwitz-Birkenau II was decent. I will definitely recommend booking this tour if you want to see Auschwitz and don't want to deal with the pressures of driving yourself/taking trains. I've heard that taking the trains is very long process and you are cramps like sardines. Picked up in time by a gentleman named Bart, spoke excellent English, even stopped on the road to Auschwitz for a toilet break, as soon as we arrived, he made sure we had our correct tour guide, would be highly recommended, even if the tourist information tried to put us off using a website and charge us more, will use this website again for future holidays. thank you Bart, brilliant driving, very clean vehicle. We only have one day to visit Wroclaw so choose this method to see everything together, in an affordable way. The guide was very nice and informative and friendly. Every so often the guide lets us walk around that was nice and the tour was helpful, because we knew where to go back to certain places after seeing it on the tour picked up at hotel on time. We were offered to go on another day we assumed the host made our brilliantly excellent journey with 2 comfort stop Knowledgeable & informative. Nice transport nice travel an ran at all would recommend this host and enjoy the experience. Value for money Buenisimo! We were a mixed group of Spanish and English speakers, just for 2 days, and it gave us all the inside we needed to know about the city. We learned a lot and have many recommendations we could do. The manager had great knowledge and was super kind. Good time, recommended! Language English (UK) Danish Deutsch Deutsch (AT) Deutsch (CH) English Español Español (MX) Français Italiano Dutch Norsk Polski Portuguese Portuguese (BR) Suomen kieli Svenska Türkçe Die Burger 韩국어 U.S. Dollar € Euro ARS Argentine Peso A\$ Australian Dollar EUK pound Bulgarian Lev C\$ Canadian Dollar CLP Chilean Peso RMB Chinese Yuan COLS Colombian Peso knocks Croatian Kuna České Koruna Danish Kroner CHF Swiss Franc ₧ Thai Baht ₧ Turkish Lira ₧ Ukraine Iniai Hryvnia SU Uruguayan Peso ₧ Vietnamese Dong © 2008–2020 GetyourGuide • Made in Zurich & Berlin. Illustration by Hugo Lin, ThoughtCo. The Second World War, known as the war to end all wars, took place between July 1914 and November 11, 1918. By the end of the war, more than 17 million people were killed, including more than 100,000 U.S. troops. While the causes of war are infinitely more complicated than a simple timeline of events, and are still debated and discussed to this day, the list below provides an overview of the most common events that led to the war. FPG/Archive Photographs/Getty Images Countries around the world have always made mutual defense agreements with their neighbors, treaties they can draw up in battle. These scales meant that if one country was attacked, the allied countries were bound to defend them. Before World War II began, the following alliances existed: Russia and Serbia/Germany and Austria-Hungary and Romania and France and Britain and United States. World War I was the part of the Allies (Brazil, France, Italy, etc.) and Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria, etc.). Some countries were neutral while others were bringing in their own imperialist designs to expand their influence and education in their colonies. World War II, however, European countries made competing imperialist demands on parts of Asia, making them think of colonialism. Due to the raw materials these areas could provide, tension around which country had the right to exploit these areas was high. The increasing competition and desire for greater empires led to an increase in confrontation that helped push the world into World War II. The SMS Tegetthoff a dreadnaught battleship of the Austro-Hungarian Navy will be released on 21 March 1912 at Trafalgar, Austria. Paul Thompson/FPG/Archive Images As the world entered the 20th century, an arms race began, across the number of each country's warships, and the increasing size of their armies' countries has begun to educate more and more of their young men to prepare for the battle. The warship itself increased in size, number of guns, speed, method of propulsion, and quality weapons, started in 1906 with Britain's HMS Dreadnought. Terrifying was soon outside classified as the Royal Navy and Kaiserliche Marine quickly expanded their ranks with increasingly modern and powerful warships. By 1914, Germany had nearly 100 warships and two million trained soldiers. Great Britain and Germany both greatly increased their fleets during this period. Moreover, in Germany and Russia especially, the military institution began to have a greater influence on public policy. This increase in militarism has helped push the countries involved in the war. Austria Hungary in 1914. Mariusz Paazdiora Much of the origin of the war is based on the desire of the Slavonian peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina to no longer be part of Austria-Hungary, but rather to be part of Serbia. This particular essentially nationalist and ethnic uprising led directly to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, which was the case that tipped the scales after the war. But more generally, nationalism in many of the countries in Europe contributed not only to the beginning, but to the expansion of war across Europe and in Asia. As every country tried to prove their dominance and power, the war became more complicated and long lasting.

Bettmann/Contributor The immediate cause of World War II that made the above items in the game (alliances, imperialism, militarism and nationalism) was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary. In June 1914, a Serbian-nationalist terrorist group called the Black Hand sent groups to sneak the Archduke. Their first attempt failed when a driver threw a grenade at their car. Later that day, however, a Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip shot the Archduke and his wife as they drove through Sarajevo, Bosnia, who was part of Austria-Hungary. They died of their wounds. The assassination was in protest against Austria-Hungary's control over this region: Serbia wanted to take over Bosnia and Herzegovina. The assassination of Ferdinand led to Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia. When Russia began mobilizing to defend its alliance with Serbia, Germany declared war on Russia. So begins expanding the war to include all those involved in mutual defense alliances. The Second World War saw a change in warfare, from the hand-to-hand-style of older wars to the inclusion of weapons that used technology and removed the individual from near-battles. The war injured extremely high casualties of more than 15 million and 20 million injured. The sight of warfare will never be the same again. It was the Big One. The Great War. The war all wars. The massacre on both sides was so horrific that no rational person could become pregnant from another such conflict. Just to make sure, they even negotiated a treaty to lower war forever: the now notorious Kellogg-Briand Treaty signed from 1928, 1928, were meant to reject war, with all disputes peacefully established in the future. Tragically, twenty years after the end of the first Great War, the world was back on it on a scale that had dwarfed earlier wars. Nevertheless, the First World War was the first modern war and spared - except a very desirable - a small library of war literature. In fact, some of the best anti-war writing of any era has its inspiration from the Great War. As always, my choices (in alphabetical order) are led by some simple criteria: 1) with so few choices, general accounts prone to trump specific studies, and 2) intelligent and involved always trumped intelligent and difficult. If you think we've missed something indispensable - and surely we -- let us know. Top Ten World War Books All Silence on the West Front, served by Erich Maria Remarque in the German army during the war and was wounded five times. Some consider it the greatest war novel of all time. Honourable Mention: Company K, by William March. A Farewell to Weapons, by Ernest Hemingway When poor vision kept him out of service, voluntarily offered the eighteen-year-old Hemingway to serve as ambulance driver in France and later Italy. His wartime love story is often cited as the greatest American novel to come out of World War II. The First World War, by Hew Strachan The best one-volume history of the war from one of its leading historians. This is an abbreviated version of a larger, multivolume project. Honourable Mention: The First World War, by John Keegan. Goodbye to everything: An autobiography, by Robert Graves English poet Graves' bitter version of his life was named by scholar and critic Paul Fussell the best memoir of World War II. The Great War and Modern Memory, by Paul Fussell Winner of the National Book Award and considered one of the twentieth-century's 100 Best Non-Fiction Books. Fussell challenges the way we think about the war in this landmark study. The guns of August, by Barbara Tuchman Tuchman caught the Pulitzer prize and have international recognition with this classic account of the opening month of the Great War. Honourable Mention: The Zimmerman Telegram, by Barbara Tuchman Once an Eagle, by Anton Myrer The award-winning novel of two wars and two very different army officers. A favorite among military professionals, it is on the army chief of staff's list of recommended reading and the marine commander's reading list. It doesn't get much better than that. The price of glory: Verdun 1916, by Alastair Horne a classic version of one of the battles representing the horror of trench warfare. More than one million men have died fighting for a piece of land little larger than the combined Royal Parks of London. A storm in the Ypres Salient, 1914-1918: Tragedy and triumph to those West Front, door Winston Groom Romanist (Forrest Gump, Better Times These) and historian, Groom chronicle another of the templates of ditch warfare. The World Crisis, 1911-1918, by Winston Churchill Churchill's brilliant version of the war years when he served in various hats: First Lord of Admiralty, an infantry commander in France, a member of parliament and the Minister of Munitions. As usual with Churchill, beautifully written. A former history professor, Tom Miller is a novelist and essayist. His reviews and essays appeared in numerous books, magazines, and newspapers, including The Encyclopedia of Southern History, American History Illustrated, the Chicago Tribune, and the Des Moines Register. He is also a former army officer and Vietnam veteran. Show full article