

The Great War: A Symposium of Remembrance



Remembrance Day with Colin Tribble J201 8th Sapphire

In accordance with the 1918 armistice signed by members of the Entente and the Central powers in the early morning of November 11th, 1918, hostilities in the First World War ended on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month. To commemorate the end of the atrocities of the Great War, people in countries around the world celebrate Remembrance Day, or Poppy Day as it is popularly called, by taking a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m. on November 11th, and by pinning a red poppy to their lapels. We will explore the remembrance of the Great War by considering the significance of the red poppy as a symbol of sacrifice. We will also take some time to learn about a few of the many monuments erected to commemorate the Great War, and to discuss the significance of Remembrance Day in general.

“Over By Christmas?” Why World War I Became the First “Total War” with Ali Weiss L104 7th Topaz

“The war will be over by Christmas,” the British press assured the nation in 1914. In fact, the war in many Europeans’ eyes was a *good* thing: it was needed to “clear the air,” as many said, which had become too clouded and tense over the issues of imperialism and nationalism. Yet the war turned into a four-year plague of destruction that marked the lives of everyone in Europe. It was the closest the world had ever gotten to a “Total War,” one that made no distinction between soldiers or civilians and where the front line was *everywhere*. The immensity of the devastation, the catastrophic death rate, and the unspeakable horrors wrought by new weapons shocked Europe to the core. In this class, we will learn why this happened, what it looked like, and why it is so important to remember today, one hundred years later.

WW I aviation: Flying Vehicles and their Role in the Great War with Mark Hurwitz F101 7th Topaz

The Most Important Chemical Reaction of All Time with Aron Walker F102 8th Emerald

Leading up to World War I, Fritz Haber, a German scientist from a Jewish family, invented arguably the most important chemical reaction of all time: the synthesis of ammonia from atmospheric nitrogen. Roughly half of the nitrogen in your body comes from Haber-Bosch reactors; few industrial reactions have had as much economic, environmental, and geopolitical significance as ammonia synthesis. Today, most countries, including the US,

depend on the Haber process to avert famine; without it, billions would starve. For pioneering perhaps the greatest single chemical contribution of humanity, Haber won the 1918 Nobel prize.

But many protested this award, vehemently, because Haber did not stop with ammonia. To support Germany during World War I, he developed an entire program of chemical warfare, personally supervising the killing of thousands in the trenches of Europe, and ushering in the age of weapons of mass destruction. After his death, the institute he founded developed Zyklon B, the killing agent in Nazi gas chambers to which many of Haber's family and friends ultimately succumbed.

In this short class we will explore the chemistry of ammonia synthesis and how this reaction made possible the modern world. We will also look at the mechanism and implications of chemical weapons and examine the ethics of doing science for your country in times of war.

A Farewell to Forms, Arms, and More with Mark Schoeffel J202 8th Topaz

Come find out about how modernist fiction and poetry were catalyzed by and transformed through the war. We will look at a few passages of verse and see how minimalism and intentionally designed artistic effects of fragmentation and displacement begin to grow out of the dislocation and utter devastation of the Great War's wake.

"The First World War and Its Discontents" with Dan Cristiani E101 7th Ruby

"How did the First World War reveal the dark side of human nature? How did it show us to be creatures instinctively driven by violence and aggression? Freud's psychology is as much as anything a product of the Great War. We will look at this disconcerting theory of the human psyche, and we will ask about its implications for today."

Visual Arts with Lucy Wallace 8th Ruby

Learn about changes in the visual arts in the early 20th century, and how they connect to historical events. We will talk through a few Modernist paintings and compare them to works of earlier art movements, specifically focusing on German expressionism (Street, Dresden by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner).

Inventions with Charlie Love, Toby Frank, and Robby Voorhis 7th Sapphire

During WWI, many inventions were conceived and put into effect. From portable X-rays to Airplanes and Tanks, inventions played a key part in deciding the outcome of the war. Behind the scenes, many scientists and engineers worked to create these key machines and technology. We'll explain tanks, airplanes, and other weapons, as well as the inventions that were used behind the lines of battle.

Conquest and Colonialism in the Context of the Great War with Carla Pugliese

From Peter O'Toole's starring role in *Lawrence of Arabia* to the young Mel Gibson's turn in *Gallipoli*, Hollywood has made much of the drama of imperial troops and colonial battlegrounds in the Great War. But what's the truth behind these silver screen adaptations? We'll explore how the global empires of Late Imperial Europe turned the Great War into a truly global conflict, and how the outcome of the conflict still reverberates in wars and rebellions around the world.