

# • Schlieffen Plan

- a German war plan to win a "2-front war"
- geographically, Germany was in between 2 powers of another alliance (Triple Entente, France & Russia)

- named after German general who designed it, Alfred von Schlieffen

- plan based on 2 ideas

1) Germany would use a quick strike attack through Belgium, into northern France, and take Paris w/in 2 months

- 2) Russia was slow to organize/mobilize, use all German troops against France, then move them against Russia

- everything depended on speed

- German troops would be transported by railroad

— Germans relied on the superiority of the German soldier

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— the plan fails

— the Belgian army was tougher than expected

— Russians mobilize faster than expected

— a German general pauses in N. France

importance

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# • Trench Warfare of WWI

- defensive warfare  
tactic that dominated

## • WWI

- based on soldiers  
protecting themselves  
in dug out "trenches"

- soldiers went

• "over the top" or...

● basically climbing out of the trench to charge enemy

- soldiers crossed "no mans land" or... the area of land

● between each sides trenches

- soldiers fired at charging enemy soldiers from the protection of their trenches

# importance

- 1) demonstrates how military thinking was not as up to date as the new weapons technology
- 2) hand to hand combat didn't work as a major strategy any longer
- 3) the front lines became "static" or...

the front lines rarely moved for the entire four years of the war

4) the side with more troops would ultimately have an advantage

5) literally millions of deaths



- - defensive tactics were better than offensive tactics in this war
- - Trench Warfare becomes the dominant strategy of WWI
- - Schlieffen Plan eventually succeeds, however, not until 1940 in WWII
- when Hitler makes it work



## HIGHLIGHTS OF CIVILIZATION

### The Automobile Revolution

The First Battle of the Marne caught the popular imagination because Paris taxicabs rushed 6,000 French soldiers to the front lines in a matter of hours. This spectacular troop movement represented the first major use of motorized transport in the history of warfare. In 1916 at the Battle of Verdun, motor convoys helped supply one-half million French troops and 150,000 draft animals at the fighting front and played a decisive role in the French victory. These wartime events pointed to one of the important technological changes of the 20th century—the automobile revolution.

Europeans pioneered in the development of the automobile in the late 19th century. However, an American industrialist, Henry Ford,

turned the automobile from a luxury item for the wealthy few to the accepted form of transportation for everybody. Ford did this by using assembly-line, mass-production methods to build cars that were reliable and inexpensive. Ford's famous Model T touring car first sold in 1908 for \$850. By 1915 Ford's Detroit plant was producing a thousand Model T's a day, and the price fell to \$440.

The automobile changed people's lives forever. An Indiana woman interviewed in the 1920s told how most people felt about the change: she said, "We'd rather do without clothes than give up the car."

*A motor convoy approaches Verdun (below). Motorists jam a park in St. Louis in the 1920s (right).*

