**Phases of World War I**

1. **Phase I (1914) - First month of fighting**

* Germany invades through Belgium, Germany needs a fast victory 🡪 doesn’t want a war on two fronts (France in West and Russia in East)
* Britain joins the French on the western front and provides extreme western flank
* A “salient” is created – a bent trench line from the English Channel to Switzerland
* “Total War” – civilians are targets, war is hell, this won’t be over by Christmas
* Austria-Hungary is destroyed early by the Serbs and Russia suffers horrible losses

1. **Phase II (1915-1916) - Trench Stalemate**
   * Small advances on each side, but massive death and destruction for minimal gain
   * Technological advances on the battlefield – tanks, better airplanes, gas attacks
   * Growing feeling that this war will never end – both sides have dug in, few advances
   * Battle of the Sommes and the Battle of Verdun exploit the horrors of WWI
2. **Phase III (1917) Turning Points (Russian Revolution, Vimy Ridge and USA joins WWI)**
   * Russia deteriorates into civil war 🡪 Russian Revolution 🡪 Communists seize power
   * Germany antagonizes USA to the point that the USA declares war on them – unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmerman telegram push the USA too far
   * Canadians break the salient at Vimy Ridge
3. **Phase IV (1918) Germany’s Last 100 Days – Final Offensive of the War**
   * Germany has spent the last couple years on the defensive 🡪 they now throw everything they have at the Western Front, massive bloodshed but little gains
   * Germany can now see that the end is near
   * November 3rd, 1918 Austria-Hungary surrender
   * November 11th, 1918 Germany signs the armistice to end WWI
   * Treaty of Versailles is signed in Paris (1919) to formally end the First World War