While many historical trends were slowly at first gradually begin to take shape, the cultural and oriental reaction in Europe to World War I was swift and all-encompassing. The ideas of man's inevitable progress toward the perfection of science and the necessity of freedom for peace—ideas that had slowly permeated into the European consciousness since the dawn of the Enlightenment—shattered in 1914 as they culminated in one of the bloodiest and brutal wars Europe had ever seen where death was used as a tool by sophisticated technology such as poison gas and incendiary bombs. Europe was left profoundly disillusioned with the idea of life and its fellow men.

This effect of disillusionment can be seen through the works of many artists of Europe. Between the wars, the poet Siegfried Sassoon wrote of the profound lack of connection that Europeans felt with each other and with God, comparing their lives as a condition between death and life, with no faith in it. Philosophers such as Heidegger feared a similar end to society that Heidegger referred to in the notion of Dasein and Being, or the complete dehumanization of man as his purpose is reduced to that of a technological tool—a means to.
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relic an end. It is clear that both of these cultural

reaction can be traced to the rise of scientific

method, touting efficiency and reduced the value of human

comity. This would have been worse were it not for profound logic and reason to fill in any solution

in possibly related warfare necessitated military solving

intelligently prior genes represented the highest standards of

technology, hence to the poets and philosophers of the

era that reason was not enough to save mankind, and

that in fact, in modern war, it itself was destroy "".

While the intellectuals of the era reacted to

their disillusionment by rejecting the Enlightenment and

selfish intellectual trade by firm reliance on reason, the

masses took a far more dogmatic approach. The

Germans, perhaps in the best example.

the most rigid inflation, devaluation and Germany was

implied into repaying its war debt. Germany grew

dissatisfied with the Weimar Republic. Far from

enjoying this new freedom, the German people rejected it,

flocking instead to authoritarian leaders such

K isler. By losing this freedom, Germans no longer

had to fear what felt like isolation and relative in a terrifying, powerful world. Emotion was not of

course limited to Germany. To the Herren Erich von
Culture everywhere extolled an ideal seemed to be an escape from freedom. Authoritarian governments rose in many states. Fear of Russia and anti-Semitism became universal. The people were scared of the idea of freedom, industrialization, and scientism -- ideas they had seen exploited in a chaotic era. Since they trusted each other and subordinated themselves to a leader who could eliminate the red menace all fear of pain.

The first World War stirred Marxist flames into Picasso's jagged line, Debussy's peaceful round into Stravinsky's struck rightness. World War I disillusioned society, leaving the intellectual speechless to connect anything but the most intimate they had felt and this society, clinging to whatever leaders could ease their fear of freedom. Malleen's table had culminated in mustard gas, Jableen's broom had culminated in steel bullets, antitank projectile, tanks, and Ford's social contract had found new to suffering and dying. The Enlightenment had failed.
As the great war ended, and Europe dusted itself off after the massive conflict that had noticeable changes during the inter-war years, Europe would go from the economic activities of a once great continent to a depression it cannot (and then to an) unstable region. By 1937, much of old Europe had faded away. The changes in culture and society would mark Europe for years to come.

During the First World War, the economies of Europe had been a "beehive" of activity. The factories were active in the armaments industry, miners mined for metals and materials needed for the war effort. Even farmers produced as much as they could in order to feed the vast armies and populations on ration. When the war ended at Versailles, the various economies of both Allied and Central Power nations were forced to switch immediately over to a peace time setting. The factories began to close because there were no enemies or bullets to make, and mines closed down due to lack of demand for their materials. Due to these factors, unemployment began to rear its ugly head. Through the interwar period, especially during the 1920s and the era of depression, unemployment became a major problem in European society. Without the armies to support, the workers across Europe began to wander as the factories
Close. The workers began to look elsewhere for answers and would, unfortunately, in nations such as Germany, find their answers in extremist politics.

Politically, European society became more extremist. Germany, for example, began to blame each other for the problems. During the interwar years, communists blamed the conservative conservatives. Nazis blamed the Jews. In France, many problems were blamed on the new popular front government. It seems as though Europe was in search of a scapegoat. Every nation seemed to be divided as the opinions on both sides became more extreme. For Germans, society and culture had suffered due to the treaty of Versailles. To the French, it was the Germans who destroyed their farmland, burned their cities, and killed their relatives. The effects of the first World War would push the societies to extremes. German society embraced Nazism. Italian society would look to the Fascists. Russian society looked to Stalin.

What was one of the greatest changes in European society? However, the new presence of women during the war, because the men had left to go fight, many women went to work in the place of their husbands. When the war ended, the men came back to their jobs and women were left wondering "what next?" The women's rights movement began to take shape. If a woman could work or in a...
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factory, why could she not vote? Through the years between the two world wars, women were granted the right to vote. Beginning with the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe and the U.K. in Western Europe, the suffrage began to be granted to one of Europe's oppressed groups.

The First World War changed the face of European culture and society forever. Women, now empowered, the governments were forced to deal with unemployment and the events that would lead to the Second greatest world tragedy, the Holocaust, had been set in motion.