

How did World War II differ from the Great War?

While both wars were fought worldwide and while both involved largely the same countries, there were several ways in which the two conflicts differed. Soldiers in World War I fought in trenches with machine guns, poison gas and heavy artillery as their primary weapons. As stated in the Remarque's portrayal of the war, trench warfare was truly horrific. Soldiers in World War II fought in far more fluid battlefield conditions with automatic weapons, tanks and airplanes as some of their primary weapons. While there was a racial component to World War I in certain geographic areas, World War II had a much more prominent genocide component as a result of the Holocaust carried out by Nazi Germany. And finally, while civilians died in the Great War, most of the deaths in the war were soldiers. That was not the case with World War II where civilian deaths far outweighed actual military casualties.