

## Work

During the war millions of women worked in the factories and part of the war effort however once the war finished the government forced women out of work. Within 18 months, 75% of women who had worked during the war were fired.



For those women who still stayed in work, When women married they were often sacked (nurses had to leave when they got married) and women's wages were well below those of men.

The government also passed laws banning children under 14 from working whilst, great effort was put into finding work for veteran and disabled soldiers.

## The Economy

By the time the war ended in 1918, the British economy was on its knees. The war had cost over £3 billion and Britain's trade and industry was ruined.

To pay for the huge war debts, taxes were increased (25%) and loans were gained from America.



By 1920, Britain faced its worst economic situation in history. By 1921 unemployment shot up to 2 million (20 percent of workers).

The war started Britain's decline as the world's biggest economic power, it was soon replaced by America.

## History Knowledge Organiser HT6 - How did Britain change after The First World War?

### The Treaty of Versailles 1919

- Germany were forced to accept the blame for starting the war.
- Germany had to pay money back to the Allies for the damage caused by the war-a huge £6.6 billion
- Germany's overseas empire was taken away. This had been one of the causes of the war.
- Alsace-Lorraine was taken from Germany and given to France.
- The Rhineland was 'demilitarised'. The German army was not allowed in this area anymore.
- The German army was reduced from 2 million men to 100,000 men. Germany was not allowed an air force, any submarines and only 6 ships.
- Germany were not allowed to join the League of Nations.

## Politics

Prime Minister David Lloyd George and the Liberal Party managed to stay in power in 1918.

However they began to lose power in the 1920s and were overtaken by the Labour Party who first gained power in 1924.

In 1918, the government passed the **Representation of the People Act**. It gave the vote to women over 30 whilst all men over 21 were given the vote. It was not until 1928, that all women over the age of 21 were given equal suffrage. In 1924, the first female (Margaret Bonfield) became a Minister of Parliament..



AT LAST!

## Society

The government did try to improve the lives of British people as a result of the War, Lloyd George's promise of a country fit for heroes did begin.

- Around 200,000 new homes were built
- Old age pensions were increased
- Benefits increased for the unemployed
- A 'Ministry of Health' was set up to coordinate & improve healthcare across the country

However, the war affected British society with just under 1 million dead soldiers and thousands of casualties. Higher numbers of the upper class died in the war, causing the growth in power of the working class which helped the move towards the 'modern society'



**A LAND  
FIT FOR  
HEROES**