

## *First World War in history and today*

### **Linking the past to the present and expectations for the future**

Questions below are designed to make evident how the past is a part of our contemporary society. The questions can be answered individually, in pairs or in groups of three students.

#### Tasks:

#### **Who is to blame for the outbreak of World War One, and why?**

- 1 Discuss with a classmate or write an essay based upon some of the articles and your textbook

#### **National historiography**

- 2 a. Can you find any nationalistic tendencies in the texts from [Germany](#) and [England](#)?
- b. What do you think is impossible to write about the war in England and Germany today?

#### **World War III?**

- 3 What factors for a future World War can you find in the world today? Discuss what structural and personal factors that might spark another Great War?

#### **Trail the casualties of war on [gapminder.org](http://gapminder.org)**

- a. Select countries by clicking their names to the right. Start with selecting United Kingdom and Germany.
- b. Pose a hypothesis on how life expectancy and income developed in the time period of World War I. What do you expect to find?
- 4 c. Click play and see the results. How do the results match your hypothesis?
- d. Trail also Poland, Sweden and Spain. How were they affected by the war?
- e. Try to link the statistics in Gapminder to the texts you have read. How do you think the impacts of World War I can affect historical writing?
- f. Deselect all countries. Press play and follow the historic developments in the world. What do you find as interesting? Is the world becoming a better place?