

World War One: 1914-1918 | Reflection

The Graphic Novel *World War One: 1914-1918*, which depicts one soldier's experience of the war, highlights some important short term consequence of shell shock and the long term consequence of lost life and need for longstanding peace. In *WWI: 1914-1918* one of the soldiers experiences shell shock, a mental illness now known as PTSD. The soldier, Alex, always hears the sound of shelling, even when there is none. He also is always seeing his fellow soldiers die in front of him on repeat. As he said "I can hear them. I can always hear them. Big Johnny. Little Johnny. I see Danny dying all the time. Right in front of me. It never stops. It never stops!!" The main character, George, also had nightmares in which he would hear the screams of his fallen friends. This short term consequence also relates to the long term consequence of society's efforts to remember the horrors of war and prevent wars in the future. George comments on Remembrance Day "I will never forget those years. I couldn't if I tried." It shows the memorial with poppies which we continue to use to represent our annual Remembrance Day ceremonies. The Nelson Text discusses American President Woodrow Wilson's speech on the "Fourteen Points" a series of principles for long-lasting peace. They promoted free trade, democracy, self-determination for national minorities, and freedom of the seas. Woodrow Wilson also wanted to abolish secret treaties, reduce countries' arms supplies, and review colonial claims. Some of the short term and long term consequences of World War I were represented in the graphic novel *World War One: 1914-1918*, including the impact of shell shock on soldiers and the society's continued remembrance of atrocities of war as a means of preventing war in the future.