PART 1 – WW1 Oversimplified – Notes

* The world in 1914 was a time of modern technology, culture, and fashion.
* Tensions between France and Germany were increasing, with France wanting to reclaim what was taken by Germany and Germany seeking to obtain more resources.
* The French and German empires were seen as "cool" by some, but others had declared their independence with the help of Russia.
* Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo, leading to a series of events that eventually led to war.
* Austria-Hungary accused the Serbian government of being involved in the assassination and declared war on Serbia, causing a chain reaction of war declarations between different nations.
* The Germans developed a plan to invade France by bypassing its defenses through Belgium.
* Belgium defended against the German invasion, leading to Britain entering the war.
* Trench warfare began on the Western Front, with opposing trench lines and a No Man's Land in between.
* Attacks in the No Man's Land were often bloody and resulted in thousands of casualties.
* Living in the trenches was difficult due to unsanitary and dangerous conditions.
* Fierce fighting continued for years, with millions of soldiers enduring the conditions and obeying their commanders' orders.

Part 2

* The purpose of the war was not to gain territory, but to lower morale.
* The Allies brought soldiers from their colonies to fight.
* The British imposed a naval blockade to stop Germany from importing goods.
* Both sides wanted to avoid a long and bloody war.
* New frontlines were established, including in Australia and Africa.
* Italy and Japan joined the Allies.
* The Ottoman Empire joined the war, which interested the British because of the oil in the Middle East.
* The Ottomans attempted to attack Russia and then the British in the Suez Canal, but were unsuccessful.
* The Ottomans blamed the Armenians for their military losses, leading to the Armenian Genocide.
* Germany used zeppelins, chlorine gas, and submarines to break the rules of modern warfare.
* The war intensified with battles in Verdun and the Somme.
* The Russians had initial successes but ran out of resources.
* Romania and Greece joined the war, resulting in territorial losses.
* Russia had a revolution and exited the war.
* The United States entered the war, causing concern for Germany.
* Germany launched a series of offensives but was eventually pushed back by the Allies.
* The Central Powers crumbled, with Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary, and Germany surrendering.
* The war ended with a peace treaty that held Germany responsible for the war and imposed penalties.
* Lessons were learned, but another war occurred approximately 20 years later.