

# Educational booklet



Ideas and tips for using the game  
in an educational setting





## How can Before the War be used in an educational setting?

Are you a history, geography or citizenship teacher? Or an English or German teacher? Discover all the educational and informative aspects of the Before the War game.

As well as being entertaining, the equipment and gameplay of Before the War were developed and tailored explicitly to draw players in and make them want to learn more.

These learning opportunities enable links to be drawn between the situations in the game and historical, political and economic concepts that can be approached from a variety of viewpoints.

At the same time, the game was designed as a "traditional" board game with the focus on fun. But it also aims to apply this entertaining angle to the transfer of knowledge, with the goal of creating a

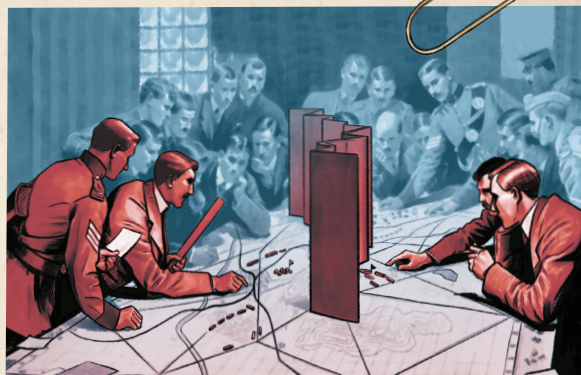
memorable background for the knowledge learners will gain in order to make it easier to understand.

So if you decide to use the game to support your teaching goals, this booklet is for you!

The following pages provide tips on how to make full use of the game for educational purposes with groups of learners.

There is also a glossary of the game equipment summarising all the historical concepts involved in Before the War.

Enjoy the read, and have fun with the game!





## A few examples of using Before the War with a group of learners

As we said above, the many allusions to historical, political and economic concepts in Before the War provide opportunities for reflection and explanations during the game based on the situations that arise.

Here are a few examples: \_\_\_\_\_

- When two players are negotiating an agreement, you can provide precise elements of historical or political context that may change the way they see things. This will help them to identify with the leaders they are playing.

- And to establish the transfer of knowledge, as the players really play the roles of the leaders they are studying.

- When an "action" card is played, you can quote a number of associated references to explain the leaders' roles and historical interest.

- This enables you to use the game and its mechanisms to illustrate what you are saying about the political, historical and economic issues you are studying.

- At the end of a scenario-type game, you can draw out the similarities and differences that emerged in comparison with real historical situations.

- This highlights specific historical and political facts by comparing them with the decisions and actions taken by the players during the game. What are the differences? What are

the similarities? What changed?  
What caused the change?

- You can ask learners/participants to play out the events as they actually occurred when they have acquired the associated knowledge.

- The game can thus be used as a learning tool in its own right to assess the knowledge acquired by the learners. Rather than just playing, the players can illustrate their knowledge throughout a game session.

- Building on the previous point, you could imagine a score separate from the game score, which you allocate to learners based on the actions they take when asked for suggestions by their player/partner during a game.

- This is a further opportunity to verify how much players have learned about the concepts covered.



## Our tips for using Before the War in an educational context

1. When the game is played by pupils, it is important to let them complete the game rather than returning to a non-interactive presentation of information.

2. It is likely that the number of learners will be higher than the number of players. One option is to form teams, but it can also be beneficial to offer non-players exercises based on watching how the game unfolds.

3. If you like, you can also use elements of the game separately. Here are a few examples:

- The "event" cards can be used for an alternative game in which learners have to provide dates, or locate them chronologically relative to each other.

- The "action" cards can be picked from the pack, and you can provide or ask for associated historical situations.

- The scenarios in the "Scenario Book", which contextualise and represent historical situations, can be altered by changing resource allocations, political regimes or any other element contributing to the balance of the situation. This can be a way of seeing what might have changed in relations between countries.

4. For scenario-type games, it may be interesting to limit or to increase the number of rounds in the game as required.

5. When you are comfortable enough with the mechanism of the game, you are free to adjust the scenarios or create entirely new ones to illustrate situations that relate to the knowledge you want to pass on.





## Glossary of game equipment

### 1913 Treaty of Athens:

- A treaty that settled the defeat of the Ottoman Empire following the second Balkan War, giving Thessaloniki and Crete to Greece.

### 1917 Revolution:

- The abdication of Tsar Nicholas II in March, against a background of popular revolt, was the starting point for a far-reaching reorganisation of Russia and the adoption of a new political system known as "Leninism" and then "communism".



### 1924 Treaty of Rome:

- The Treaty of Rome was signed on 27 January 1924 between Italy and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, in which Fiume was recognised as an Italian city. It was annexed on 16 March 1924.

### 1926 steel cartel:

- A cartel agreed between Germany, Belgium, France and Luxembourg to avoid overproduction with national production quotas.

### 1929 Wall Street Crash:

- The economic crisis began with a stock market crash in the United States before spreading to other countries worldwide, causing unemployment, bankruptcies and poverty.

### 1933 anti-Jewish boycott:

- As soon as he acceded to the role of Chancellor in 1933, Hitler used his executive power to the full and applied his racist and antisemitic policies systematically. Following the boycott against Jewish businesses and intellectuals, he continued with the Nuremberg anti-Jewish laws in 1935 and triggered pogroms, including Kristallnacht from 9 to 10 November 1938, the beginnings of the Holocaust. In 1939, following the Anschluss, mobile units were set up by Himmler and Heydrich to execute Jews, Roma and all political opponents.

### 1938 Munich Agreement:

- Intended to resolve the problem of the Sudetenland, the Munich Agreement was a further step in Hitler's pan-Germanic policy and the progress towards the war.

### Anti-Semitism:

- Anti-semitism developed during the 19th century and grew stronger between the wars. It reached its height with the Nazi horrors and the unspeakable crimes of the Holocaust during the Second World War. This was a genocide in which several other states became complicit by adopting anti-Jewish laws or decrees.





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### Axis:

- The Axis was the alliance between Germany, Italy and Japan, established in 1936 and strengthened in 1940.

### Balkans War:

- The Balkans War raged in 1912 and 1913. Different ethnic groups in the region sought to exist and developed a nationalism that inevitably led to conflicts. It was in the Balkans, in Sarajevo, that the fragile balance of power in Europe collapsed, and the war then spread due to the interplay of alliances between the great powers.

### Battle of the Border:

- The Battle of the Frontiers took place in August 1914 on several fronts along France's borders with Belgium and Germany.

### Belval blast furnaces:

- This is a former steelworks converted into a site of tourism and culture. The blast furnaces and a space dedicated to the history of steelmaking recall its industrial past. They are part of a vast science campus belonging to the University of Luxembourg in Esch-sur-Alzette.

### Benelux:

- A customs union between three countries: Belgium (Be), the Netherlands (Ne) and Luxembourg (Lux), agreed in 1944 and ratified in 1948. The first economic union created in Europe.

### Berlin-Baghdad railway:

- 1903: Construction begins on the Bagdadbahn, a railway from Berlin to Baghdad. Germany and the Ottoman Empire were starting to build a military alliance. In 1914, the so-called Central Powers – the German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires and Bulgaria – constituted a coalition opposing the Entente.

### Blood transfusion by Albert Hustin:

- With his discovery of the anticoagulant sodium citrate in 1913, Albert Hustin, born in Ette, was able to combine the technique with the discovery of blood groups by an Austrian researcher to successfully carry out blood transfusions. He played an active part in opening the first Red Cross transfusion service in Belgium in 1934.

### Camp Marguerre:

- This camp, a base behind the German lines, was built on the orders of German captain Hans Marguerre in 1915. He created a concrete production facility and a camp for testing the uses of this essential material for trench warfare.

### Château de Rossignol:

- This museum, which opened its doors in 2021, tells the story of the Battle of the Frontiers around Rossignol. On 22 August 1914, in Rossignol alone, the human losses were terrifying: on the French side, 11,900 soldiers were incapacitated, including 2,800 who lost their lives. On the German side, 1,400 soldiers were killed. In the days after the fighting, the village was set on fire and around a hundred civilians were shot.



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### **Clervaux:**

- A key location in the Battle of the Bulge, the Clervaux Castle complex houses a museum dedicated to the German offensive. It is also home to the prestigious collection curated by the famous Luxembourg photographer Edward Steichen, "The Family of Man", which is listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World register.

### **Commission for Relief in Belgium:**

- Founded in Brussels in 1914, the Comité de secours et d'alimentation (relief and food committee) provided assistance in Belgium and northern France. Perfectly organised as a domestic mutual aid network supported by international backers, it compensated for shortages of essential products, provided temporary shelter for people made homeless and prevented malnutrition in the populations of the occupied regions.

### **Conscription:**

- Obligatory military service was introduced shortly before or during both world wars by countries that did not have professional armed forces.

### **Creation of the ECSC:**

- The Greater Region area forged great Europeans such as Robert Schuman. With the 1951 Treaty of Paris, he created the ECSC (the European Coal and Steel Community), initiated by Jean Monnet, which was the first supranational community and laid the foundations for the European Union. These two essential resources for economic recovery ensured temporary peace.

### **December 44 Museum – La Gleize:**

- A symbolic site in the Battle of the Bulge, La Gleize saw fierce fighting and the flight of Colonel Peiper's SS battle group during the night of 23 December. Before leaving, the group burned their vehicles, including Tiger II tanks. One rare example remains in front of the December 44 Museum, which conserves many items relating to the episode.

### **Douaumont Ossuary:**

- Bishop Ginisty of Verdun was behind the initiative to build this ossuary, which gathers together the remains of anonymous soldiers found on the battlefield. Around 130,000 French and German bodies lie in rest here.

### **Dreadnought:**

- Before 1914, the British invested in new heavy battleships (dreadnoughts) in response to German naval expansion. Absolute mastery of the seas remained a necessity for the United Kingdom's survival.

### **Economic overproduction:**

- Overproduction was one of the factors that led to the Great Depression.

### **Economic recession:**

- An economic recession means negative economic growth and thus GDP lasting for several successive quarters. Recession cycles can vary in length.



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### **Fantômas affair:**

- In the 1930s, French counter-espionage revealed a spy network financed by Moscow whose leader was known by the alias of Fantômas. During a theft of automatic weapons from an arms factory in Châtellerault, Poitou-Charentes, the robbers were arrested – including Fantômas, a Pole who had been living in France since 1925.

### **First aircraft carrier:**

- The first time an aircraft took off at sea, it was an experimental flight by a Curtiss biplane piloted by Eugene Ely in 1910, taking off from the American cruiser Birmingham. In August 1912, the French auxiliary cruiser Foudre was converted into a seaplane carrier. During the Battle of Midway in the Pacific in June 1942, the Americans successfully broke the Japanese offensive with their three aircraft carriers, the Enterprise, the Yorktown and the Hornet. From then on, aircraft carriers became the centrepieces of the major navies.

### **First man-made antibiotic:**

- Many see penicillin, isolated in 1941 by Howard Florey and Ernst Chain, as the first antibiotic. But Prontosil, discovered by Gerhard Domagk, was used to treat bacterial infections nearly 10 years earlier. The discovery earned him the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1939.

### **Fordism:**

- A method of both management and organisation, Fordism introduced standardisation and the production line while advocating wage rises in proportion to productivity increases.

### **Fortified belt of Verdun:**

- After its defeat in 1870, France launched a huge programme to reinforce the fortified town of Verdun. The town was surrounded by two rings of forts between 1880 and 1914.

### **Fortified position of Liège:**

- Like Verdun, the city of Liège has a ring of 12 forts (expanded to 16 in 1940) to protect it and position it as Europe's first military barrier against threats from neighbouring countries. The forts resisted the German attacks of early August valiantly, surrendering one by one until 16 August 1914.

### **Geneva Convention:**

- The Geneva Conventions are fundamental treaties on humanitarian law signed in 1864, 1949 and 2005.

### **Gold standard:**

- The gold standard is a system in which monetary units are defined by reference to a fixed weight of gold. To guarantee convertibility, the quantity of money issued by the central bank is strictly limited by its gold reserves. The system operated from 1879 to 1914. It did not survive the economic and financial crisis engendered by the Great War.

### **Great strike:**

- The Great Strikes took place in May and June 1936 in several European countries. Workers occupied factories peacefully, which led to agreements on paid holidays.



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### **Hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic:**

- Hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic, involving an exponential increase in the cost of living together with a rise in unemployment and massive borrowing, spread across Germany from June 1921 to January 1924.

### **Industrial development of oil:**

- During the 20th century, the industrial exploitation of oil supported economic expansion in the post-war period.

### **Inter-Allied Memorial of Liège:**

- The Church of the Sacred Heart and the Inter-Allied Memorial Tower stand at the summit of Cointe hill. These two buildings symbolise the tribute paid by the allied nations to the resistance by civilians and soldiers at the Fortified Position of Liège.

### **Komintern:**

- Komintern was the Russian name of the Third International, the first institutional organisation of the international communist movement. Komintern lasted until 1943.

### **Kriegsspiel:**

- The "wargame" ("Kriegsspiel" in German) is used to train officers in a variety of military tactics using maps.

### **London Naval Treaty:**

- A treaty limiting the number of warships belonging to the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy, Japan and France, signed on 22 April 1930.

### **Maginot Line:**

- After the war, border defence remained a strategic goal, and in 1928 construction began on a fortified defensive line along all of France's borders as far as the Mediterranean.

### **Manhattan Project:**

- The code name of the research programme to produce the first atomic bomb, conducted by the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

### **Mardasson:**

- Designed in the shape of a five-pointed star, Mardasson Memorial is dedicated to the American troops who fought during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944–1945. Mosaics by the artist Fernand Léger decorate the crypt, a few metres from the monument.

### **Marshall Plan:**

- On 5 June 1947, the American secretary of state George Marshall unveiled an economic recovery plan for Europe, the United States' primary export market.

### **Massive unemployment:**

- The Depression in the 1930s led to massive unemployment, i.e. rapid growth in the number of people out of work over a short time.

### **Michelin's illustrated guides to the battle-fields (1914-1918):**

- Very soon after the war, the population wanted to reflect and remember, visiting battlefields of which they knew nothing but where many had lost close friends and relatives. Remembrance tourism was born, and tourist guides were published to assist the pilgrims.



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### Motorisation of the war:

- The gradual development during the Great War of motor vehicles, armoured cars, trucks and then tanks on the battlefield.

### National Liberation Memorial Schumann's Eck:

- During the Battle of the Bulge, Schumann's Eck was an important strategic junction on the road between Wiltz and Bastogne. Many American and German soldiers lost their lives here during bitter fighting. The defensive system and the traces of the battle are still clearly visible in the woods, where a new remembrance trail has been created.

### National Museum of the Resistance :

- There are several national resistance museums in France, including the one in Champigny-sur-Marne. The Esch-sur-Alzette museum in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is being renovated and will open its doors in 2023.

### New Deal:

- The economic recovery programme introduced by President Roosevelt between 1934 and 1938 in response to the economic crisis.

### Nobel Prize:

- Prizes awarded to people working for the good of humanity since 1901 in five categories: peace, physics, chemistry, literature and medicine. They are owed to the Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel. Many famous figures have won in the different categories:

Pierre and Marie Curie, Romain Rolland and Albert Camus, Einstein, Georges Pire and the Red Cross.

### Operation Tungsten (secret):

Soviet economic espionage programme during the 1920s.



### Orient Express:

- Liège engineer Georges Nagelmackers created the Compagnie internationale des Wagons-lits in 1872 for rich passengers looking for fast, comfortable travel. In 1883, he launched the famous Orient Express line linking Paris with Vienna, and then with Constantinople, the gateway to the Orient. Luxury hotels sprang up at the terminuses of the major international links.

### Oslo Convention:

- A commercial agreement signed in December 1930 by the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg and Finland.

### Ottawa Agreements:

- The 1932 Ottawa Agreements covered mutual customs concessions between Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries. They were part of the political response to the global crisis of 1929, which saw a resurgence of protectionism.



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## Ouchy Convention:

- Customs agreement between Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

## Paid leave:

- Paid holidays were gradually accepted in the early 20th century, and were widely established from 1936 as a major social advance.

## Plan Z:

- The plan to re-equip and expand the German navy from 1935.



## Ration books:

- During the two world wars, the difficulty of keeping people supplied with food led to the introduction of restrictions and the issuing of ration books.

## Sabotage:

- Resistance activities included sabotage on railway lines, carried out by railway workers.

## Sarajevo attack:

- On 28 June 1914, Gavrilo Princip, a militant Bosnian Serb nationalist, assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire, Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie, who were making an official visit to Sarajevo. Princip hoped that his criminal attack would liberate the Bosnian Serbs from the empire and reunite them with Serbia. The event is considered to be the trigger for the First World War.

## Second Bureau:

- In the French armed forces, the Second Bureau of a staff is responsible for intelligence and espionage.

## SDN Appeal for Peace:

- The League of Nations was founded after the First World War in 1920. It originally included 45 countries, but proved itself unable to prevent conflicts, of which the most lethal erupted 20 years after its creation – the Second World War.

## Spanish flu:

- At the beginning of 1918, flu spread around the globe from central Asia. During the summer, the numbers of deaths among both civilians and soldiers reached catastrophic levels. The alarm was first raised in the Spanish press, which is why the outbreak is called the "Spanish flu".

## Standardisation:

- Introduced by Henry Ford, standardisation, also known as Fordism, involves a system of norms.

## Tank production:

- American and German tanks, the iconic weapons of the Battle of the Bulge, are conserved at former battle sites, sometimes restored with recognised expertise at Bastogne Barracks.

## Total mobilisation:

- Describes an armed conflict that mobilises all the state's available resources – its population, economy, politics and legal system. Everything is devoted solely to military objectives.



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### Treaty of Versailles:

- The signature of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919 brought the war to an end. Germany was designated as having primary responsibility for the First World War. In all, the country lost a tenth of its population and a seventh of its former territory. The reconquest of Alsace and Lorraine, France's principal war aim, pushed around 300,000 Germans into exile. The territories of Eupen and Malmedy were ceded to Belgium. The Saar basin became a League of Nations protectorate for 15 years.

### Trenches:

- The trenches, dug by the various armies once the front had stabilised, became a symbol of the First World War.



### Triple-Entente:

- A political alliance between France, the United Kingdom and Russia, in opposition to the Triple Alliance, uniting Germany, Austria and Hungary and temporarily including Italy.

### War propaganda:

- Like all propaganda, the information provided by governments during wartime is neither neutral nor objective. Its goal is to convince, not to tell the truth. It uses every medium – press, cinema, radio – to defend the national interest to the detriment of the enemy. A government engaging in propaganda tries to control everything.

