

History 3490
20th Century Europe
Paper Assignment

Vera Brittain
Testament of Youth

Assignment:

Write a 5-8 page paper exploring one of the following questions.

I. For those who lived through it the First World War stood as the watershed in European History, irreparably separating the postwar world from what had existed before it. Vera Brittain writes in great detail about her life as a middle class woman over a 25 year period. Select one aspect of British society and discuss how it is altered by the war. Some possibilities are: education, women's roles in society, politics, religion, patriotism, and the class system. You may also select another topic if you wish.

II For her time Vera Brittain had an unusually close relationship with four young men who fought on the western front. She, herself worked in hospital close to the front, and dealt with the wounds of hundreds of combat veterans. How does she portray the effects of the war on those who experienced it first hand?

Your papers should be typed and double spaced. You may use sources other than the reading if you wish, but they must be properly cited. Citations should follow The Chicago Manual of Style guidelines.