Quote Analysis – independent interpretation

DIRECTIONS:

Why is World War I considered the first modern war? The featured quote on the chapter cover addresses this question.

First, spend 5 minutes exploring the chapter cover page and introduction. After 5 minutes, you will be asked to analyze the military chaplain’s quote. Then, you will partner up with a classmate and share your interpretations. Lastly, partner groups will share their thoughts with the class.

CHAPLAIN’S QUOTE:
“The heroism of the foot soldier is defeated by the steelworker of the colossal factory who builds the huge cannons and by the engineer who mixes the long-irritating gases in the back of his laboratory. The forces of matter annihilate the forces of bravery.”

Read the featured quote again. And again, if necessary. Then, answer the questions below.

1) What does “annihilate” mean?

2) Is the military chaplain’s tone positive or negative? Explain using at least 2 sentences.

3) How can a factory or laboratory defeat a soldier’s heroism? What does the military chaplain mean by this? Explain using at least 2 sentences.

4) “World War I was the first modern war.” Why would the military chaplain agree with this statement? Explain using at least 2 sentences.
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4) "World War I was the first modern war." Why would the military chaplain agree with this statement? Explain using at least 2 sentences.
DIRECTIONS:

Why is World War I considered the first modern war? The featured quote on page 1 addresses this question.

First, spend 5 minutes reading and clicking through page 1. After 5 minutes, you will be asked to analyze the military chaplain’s quote. Then, you will partner up with a classmate and share your interpretations. Lastly, partner groups will share their thoughts to the class.

CHAPLAIN’S QUOTE:
“The heroism of the foot soldier is defeated by the steelworker of the colossal factory who builds the huge cannons and by the engineer who mixes the long-irritating gases in the back of his laboratory. The forces of matter annihilate the forces of bravery.”

Read the featured quote again. And again, if necessary. Then, answer the questions below.

1) What does “annihilate” mean?

To destroy, crush, overwhelm

2) Is the military chaplain’s tone positive or negative? Explain using at least 2 sentences.

POSSIBLE ANSWER: Negative. The chaplain is uses words like “defeated” and “annihilate” to describe how forces greater than what a solider can withstand are preventing the soldier’s bravery to show

3) How can a factory or laboratory defeat a soldier’s heroism? What does the military chaplain mean by this? Explain using at least 2 sentences.

POSSIBLE ANSWER: The weapons produced in a factory or lab are so powerful that any human action alone is not enough to stop them. These weapons rely on more than the brute strength and savvy decision making of a solider on the battlefield.

4) “World War I was the first modern war.” Why would the military chaplain agree with this statement? Explain using at least 2 sentences.

POSSIBLE ANSWER: Modern wars used advanced weapons and chemicals created not by soldiers, but by factories and scientists. The outcome of modern wars relied not so much on the bravery of the soldiers, but on what side had superior technologies.