

# **Our Parents' Perceptions of The War And The Role of Women**

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## INTRODUCTION

The present work is the synthesis of a research project about the different generations' perceptions about World War I and the role of women during the conflict.

Our group collected all the data concerning our parents' perceptions. We are eighteen students with thirty-five parents.

The work followed different steps: at first, we collected all the data, secondly we read and analysed such data in order to organize them according to a specific criteria: the frequency of the perceptions of the people interviewed is generally connected to themes and problems they had heard about.

Indeed, they did not live during World War I and, as a result, their image of the war is imaginary and mainly linked to what they have been told by parents, relatives and adults. In addition, their perceptions are also based on what they may have seen on the media, reading books, newspapers, magazines as well as watching photos, pictures and related material.

As a third step of our research, we have classified the data collected into six categories, the ones visible in the first appendix (**Appendix I**). The appendix also shows the frequency of the different perceptions collected according to quantitative data. Thirty-five (35) parents were interviewed but not all of them answered. Four did not feel like doing it for different reasons. In addition, some parents answered giving more than one perception about the war and the role of women. (**Appendix II**)

The work was meant to discover the most frequent perception about World War I that turned out to be the perception that sees the war as a waste of human lives (22), followed by a picture, an idea or an image of the war as an unreasonable fight (15), a life-and-death struggle (13), a defense of one's home country (5), a cause of division and estrangement (5) and last as an opportunity for scientific research (2). (Appendix II).

In order to make the findings of the research more accessible, the present work provides appendixes where you can see:

- a) A spider gram including the most frequent and meaningful keywords summing up the results of our research report (**Appendix III**);
- b) A histogram (**Appendix IV**);
- c) A pie chart (**Appendix V**)

The work also includes a section concerning the perceptions of the role of women during World War I.

Again, as for the general perceptions of the World War I, the present report provides the results of the data collected related to the idea of the role of women during the conflict.

The steps followed were the same of the first section.

The reading and analysis of data provided three categories that turned out as the most frequent in the perceptions of the interviewed (**Appendix VI**) and namely:

- a) The women who took care of the family;
- b) The women as substitutes for the man at work;
- c) The women as active actors for the frontline.

In order to make the findings of the research more accessible, the present work provides additional appendixes where you can find:

- a) A spider gram including the most frequent and meaningful keywords summing up the results of our research report (**Appendix VII**);
- b) A histogram (**Appendix VIII**);
- c) A pie chart (**Appendix IX**)

The data collected are given following the answers of the interviewed according to the alphabetical order of their surnames.

<b>EAgolli – Our Parents’ Perception of The War and The Role of Women</b>	
<b>The Perception of The First World War:</b>	
<b>My father Saimir:</b> “I think it was a dramatic period when people were really poor. The First World War brought to the death of many soldiers and innocent people. Besides, the people who managed to return from the war were not the same: some of them had lost an arm or a leg, so they could no longer gain a living for their families as they had done before the war. Therefore, the war produced misery: people had to make noteworthy efforts to survive. Indeed, the First World War was also compared to the end of the world for its violence and cruelty.”	<b>Mio padre Saimir:</b> “Io penso che fu un periodo drammatico e la gente era davvero povera. La prima guerra mondiale causò la morte di molti soldati e persone innocenti. Inoltre, le persone che riuscirono a fare ritorno dalla guerra non erano più le stesse: alcune di loro hanno perso un braccio o una gamba, quindi non potevano più provvedere al sostentamento della famiglia come facevano un tempo. Quindi la guerra portò miseria: la gente doveva fare notevoli sforzi per sopravvivere. Infatti, la Prima Guerra Mondiale fu comparata alla fine del mondo per la sua violenza e crudeltà.”

## The Role of Women

### **My father Saimir:**

"I think women's role was important during the Great War. Women stayed at home and took care of the family and children, while their husbands were involved in the war."

### **Mio padre Saimir:**

"Io penso che il ruolo delle donne fu importante durante la Prima Guerra Mondiale. Le donne stavano a casa e si occupavano della loro famiglia e dei figli, mentre i loro mariti erano coinvolti nella guerra."

## EAgolli – Our Parents' Perception of The War and The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

#### **My mother Meljana:**

"It was a difficult period because people were already poor and, after the war the situation became even more dramatic. Year were marked by several deaths and even the people who had managed to return from the war were often without arms or legs. In this way they could no longer work and support the family. A consequence of war was misery. It lasted for many years after. It was a privilege to have a piece of bread to eat or kerosene for lanterns.

People do not want to talk about the First World War because it was an event that had brutalized the population and was even compared to the end of the world."

#### **Mia madre Meljana:**

"Fu un periodo difficile poiché già le persone erano povere e lasciate a sé e, dopo la guerra, la situazione diventò ancora più drammatica. L'anno fu caratterizzato da tante morti e anche le persone che riuscivano a tornare dalla guerra tornavano senza braccia o gambe. In questo modo non potevano più lavorare e portare avanti la famiglia. Una delle conseguenze della guerra fu la miseria e fu permanente nel senso che restò per molti anni dopo la guerra. Era un privilegio avere un pezzo di pane per poter mangiare o la cherosene che usavano per le lanterne. La gente non voleva parlare della Prima Guerra Mondiale poiché fu un episodio che colpì brutalmente la popolazione. Veniva addirittura comparata alla fine del mondo."

## The Role of Women

#### **My mother Meljana:**

"The woman had to take care of the family and children. As for husbands, most of them, were fighting while women stayed at home."

#### **Mia madre Meljana:**

"La donna doveva sopperire tutto ciò che riguardava la famiglia e i figli. I mariti, la maggior parte di loro, erano a combattere quindi su di loro ricadevano tutti i problemi della casa e la gestione o meglio sopravvivenza dei figli."

## KBallarin – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My father Tiziano:**

“I think the First World War was a failing man’s mistake. Indeed, it caused negative consequences in people’s lives: destruction, famine, diseases and death.”

**Mio padre Tiziano:**

“Secondo me la Prima Guerra Mondiale è stata un disastroso errore umano. Infatti, ha determinato conseguenze negative per la popolazione civile: distruzione, carestia, malattie e morte.”

### The Role of Women

**My father Tiziano:**

“In my opinion, the women who belonged to a high rank in society (because of their marriage with a general or colonel of the army, or because they had studied) followed the dynamics of the war from a closer perspective.

Besides, women had to take care of their families and they were worried about their husbands’ and children’s lives.”

**Mio padre Tiziano:**

“Secondo me le donne altolocate (studiate o sposate con ufficiali o colonnelli dell’esercito...) seguivano le dinamiche della guerra da più vicino. Inoltre le donne erano dedite alla famiglia preoccupandosi della vita dei propri figli e dei mariti impegnati nella battaglia.”

## KBallarin – Our Parents’ Perception of The War and The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My mother Minka:**

“My perception of the First World War is the one of a conflict which involved a multitude of innocent men and women who were forced to fight against other men in terrible ways although the real purposes of the war did not regard them directly. Everybody should remember the First World War as a catastrophic event which caused many victims: lots of families lost their sons, husbands or brothers ...”

**Mia madre Minka:**

“La mia percezione riguardo la Prima Guerra Mondiale è di un conflitto che ha coinvolto una moltitudine di uomini e donne innocenti, costretti a combattere contro altri uomini in condizioni terribili per scopi che non li riguardavano direttamente. Ognuno dovrebbero ricordare tale conflitto come un evento catastrofico che è stato pagato con la vita di molte vittime: numerose famiglie hanno perso un padre, un figlio, un fratello, un marito...”

## The Role of Women

**My mother Minka:**

"Since men were enlisted in the army, women had to work in order to support their families; they worked in the fields, looked after the cattle and were in charge of housework."

**Mia madre Minka:**

"Dal momento che gli uomini erano arruolati nell'esercito, le donne dovevano lavorare per mantenere la loro famiglia; lavoravano nei campi, si occupavano del bestiame e delle faccende domestiche."

## SCarrara – Our Parents' Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My father Renzo:**

"I think the First World War mainly meant: cruelty, misery, cold and cynicism. The victims of the war fought for their homeland and some of them were useful for medical studies. In addition, the war enabled people to meet different people and cultures."

**Mio padre Renzo:**

"Io penso che la Prima Guerra Mondiale significhi : crudeltà, miseria, freddo e cinismo. Le vittime della guerra hanno combattuto per la loro patria e alcune sono state utili per la ricerca medica. Inoltre, la guerra permise alle persone di incontrare l'altro."

## The Role of Women

**My father Renzo:**

"The women's role was important: they provided medical assistance to wounded soldiers and they also took care of their family."

**Mio padre Renzo:**

"Il ruolo delle donne era importante: le donne offrivano assistenza sanitaria ai soldati feriti e si prendevano cura della loro famiglia."

## SCarrara – Our Parents' Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My mother Sveva:**

"Misery, cold, cruelty and cynicism. Anyone who died in the war was in service for his homeland and science. The war was also a "cultural moment": corpses were studied in universities, especially in the medical sectors. The war also allowed people to meet the other."

**Mia madre Sveva:**

"Miseria, freddo, dolore, crudeltà e cinismo.. Tutti i morti hanno servito la patria e allo stesso tempo la scienza. La guerra è stata quindi anche un "momento culturale": sia per il fatto che i cadaveri venivano usati dalle università per gli studi di medicina, sia perché le persone hanno la possibilità di incontrare l'altro. "

## The Role of Women

### **My mother Sveva:**

"The role of women was fundamental and strategic: they delivered medication to soldiers and troops and took care of their families as well. "

### **Mia madre Sveva:**

"Il ruolo della donna fu fondamentale e strategico: portavano medicazioni ai soldati e alle truppe e accudivano le loro famiglie."

## ECavallari – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

#### **My father Fabrizio:**

"I immediately thought of Mount San Michele, a scenario of the Great War, on whose peak a cannon remembers fallen soldiers. I have the perception of a disastrous conflict, cause of many useless victims, because of the Italian generals' lack of preparation and incompetence.

In addition I associate the Great War to a song I learned at school: *the song of Piave* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VluxUjVSMW0>)

I remember that in the primary school, the teacher wanted my classmates and me to sing that song together. We liked it, since it is connected to the Italian counterattack against the Austrian army.

Although, two of my great-grandfathers had to fight one against the other, because one belonged to the Italian army, the other was called to fight for the Austrian army."

#### **Mio padre Fabrizio:**

"Subito penso al Monte San Michele, scenario della guerra, sulla cui cima un cannone ricorda i soldati caduti. Penso a un conflitto disastroso, motivo di molte vittime inutili, causate dall'incapacità e dalla scarsa preparazione dei generali italiani.

Inoltre associo la Prima Guerra Mondiale ad una vecchia canzone imparata a scuola: la canzone del Piave. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VluxUjVSMW0>)

Mi ricordo che durante le elementari la maestra voleva che gli alunni cantassimo quella canzone insieme. A noi piaceva perché la canzone del Piave ricorda il contrattacco italiano messo in atto contro l'esercito austriaco sulle rive del fiume Piave. Inoltre, i miei due nonni dovettero combattere l'uno contro l'altro, poiché uno apparteneva all'esercito italiano a quello austriaco."

## The Role of Women

#### **My father Fabrizio:**

"I agreed with my daughter's opinion: women's role was crucial during the Great War. Women were brave and skilled nurses and useful messengers. In addition the women who remained at home were essential to proceed with the society and the families. "

#### **Mio padre Fabrizio:**

"Sono d'accordo con il parere di mia figlia nell'affermare che il ruolo delle donne fu cruciale durante la Guerra. Le donne furono infermiere coraggiose e esperte, oltre che importanti messaggere. Furono infine indispensabili per portare avanti la famiglia e la società.""

## ECavallari – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My mother Katherine:**

“I was born in a small town in the northern countryside of Germany. The First World War did not have direct repercussions on those places but many families lost their men who were called on to fight for the German army. What I clearly remember is the crisis that followed that overwhelmed Germany and fomented nationalistic movements.

**Mia madre Katherine:**

“Sono nata in un piccolo paese situato tra le campagne della Germania del nord. La Prima Guerra Mondiale non ebbe ripercussioni dirette su quei territori ma molte famiglie persero i loro uomini, chiamati in guerra. Quello che ricordo chiaramente è la successiva crisi che sopraffece la Germania e fomentò il sentimento nazionalistico.”

### The Role of Women

**My mother Katherine:**

“I would like to underline the importance of women during the War once again. In particular, since my home town is next to the North Sea, I remember that women had to host many soldiers parties in their houses and farms while they waited for a call and had to be ready to leave for the French frontline.”

**Mia madre Katherine:**

“Mi piacerebbe sottolineare ancora una volta l’importanza delle donne durante la Guerra. In particolare, dal momento che il mio paese d’origine è vicino al Mare del Nord, ricordo che le donne ospitavano nelle loro case e fattore molte compagnie di soldati, i quali aspettavano prontamente la chiamata per andare al fronte francese.”

## LCicogna – Our Parents’ Perception Of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My father Alessandro:**

“In my opinion the war was a historical event which caused a lot of death and victims.”

**Mio padre Alessandro:**

“Secondo me la Guerra fu un evento storico che causò moltissimi morti e vittime.”

### The Role of Women

**My father Alessandro:**

“Women were usually engaged in manage their family at home.”

**Mio padre Alessandro:**

“Le donne erano spesso impregnate a gestire la propria famiglia a casa.”



**LCicogna – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My mother Debora:**

“My perception is very similar to my parents’ one; indeed my information about the war comes from them.

In my opinion the war was a historical event that brought many civilian deaths but an increase in the weapon industry. ”

**Mia madre Debora:**

“Le mi percezioni sono molto simili a quelle dei miei genitori, poichè le informazioni le ho ricevute da loro.

La guerra secondo me fu un evento storico che portò molti civili alla morte ma che incrementò l’industria d’armi.”

**The Role of Women**

**My mother Debora:**

“In my perception women waited with distress for their relatives at home during the war.”

**Mia madre Debora:**

“Nella mia percezione le donne aspettavano con angoscia i loro parenti nelle loro case.”

**FCisilino – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My father Fabrizio:**

“In the early post-war years, my grandfather had to emigrate to Argentina for lack of work, because in Italy there was misery and unemployment. At that time emigrants reached Argentina by ship, so they faced days and days of navigation.”

**Mio padre Fabrizio:**

“Nei primi anni del dopoguerra, per mancanza di lavoro mio nonno ha dovuto emigrare in Argentina perché qua in Italia c’era miseria e non c’era lavoro. A quei tempi gli emigranti raggiungevano l’Argentina in nave e quindi erano giorni e giorni di navigazione.”

**The Role of Women**

**My father Fabrizio:**

“I do not know too much about the role of women during the war. All I know is that they worked in the fields in place of their husbands who fought at the frontline and had to provide to support the family alone.”

**Mio padre Fabrizio:**

“Sul ruolo delle donne durante la guerra non so molto, so solo che lavoravano nei campi al posto dei mariti che andavano a combattere al fronte e che dovevano provvedere a mantenere la famiglia da sole.”

**FCisilino – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

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**The Role of Women**

**My mother Rosanna:**

“I have no memories or perceptions about the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, but as for what regards women my dad told me that some women from Carnia handed over clothes, food and munitions to the soldiers who were fighting at the frontline.”

**Mia madre Rosanna:**

“Non ho ricordi o percezioni sulla prima guerra mondiale, per quanto riguarda le donne mio papà mi raccontava che le donne carniche portavano da vestire, da mangiare e munizioni ai soldati che combattevano al fronte.”

**LDeSantis – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My father Giuliano:**

“Since my grandfather had to fight as a soldier far away from his homeland, I think that the First World War brought destruction and, above all, it distanced the soldiers from their families.”

**Mio padre Giuliano:**

“Dal momento che mio nonno andò a combattere la guerra lontano dalla sua terra d’origine, penso che la prima guerra mondiale portò distruzione, ma soprattutto fece allontanare i soldati dalle proprie famiglie.”

**The Role of Women**

**My father Giuliano:**

“My grandfather told me that women used to work as workers in the industry.”

**Mio padre Giuliano:**

“Mio nonno mi raccontava che venivano anche impiegate come operaie nelle fabbriche.”

**LDeSantis – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My mother Carmela:**

“My perceptions come from my grandparents’ stories. They told me about a horrible war that made people leave from their homeland. Indeed, my grandparents used to live in Lazio, but when they joined the Army, they had to travel for over 700 km in order to reach the frontline. So, for me, war means death, blood and distance from my family . ”

**Mia madre Carmela:**

“Le mie uniche percezioni riguardano i racconti dei miei nonni; Racconti di una guerra orribile che li ha portati lontani dalla loro terra d'origine. Infatti i miei nonni vivevano a Frosinone, e quando sono andati a combattere la guerra hanno percorso oltre 700 km per raggiungere il fronte. Dunque la guerra per me significa morte, sangue e lontananza.”

**The Role of Women**

**My mother Carmela:**

“I know that women worked as nurses in the hospitals. ”

**Mia madre Carmela:**

“So che le donne erano spesso impegnate come infermiere negli ospedali”

**ADecorte – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My father Vanes:**

“All I know about the First World War comes from books and from my grandmother’s perception. She always told me about famine and about her marriage during the war in Czechoslovakia, because my grandfather was fighting there.”

**Mio padre Vanes:**

“Quello che so sulla prima guerra mondiale l’ho imparato soprattutto dai libri e dalla testimonianza di mia nonna paterna che mi raccontava sempre delle grandi carestie e di quando lei si è sposata durante la guerra in Cecoslovacchia, perché il nonno era in servizio militare con l’impero austro-ungarico e lo avevano trasferito là.”

**The Role of Women**

**My father Vanes:**

“I think women were important because they did men’s work during all the years of the war.”

**Mio padre Vanes:**

“Per quanto riguarda le donne penso siano state una figura importante perché hanno svolto il lavoro degli uomini durante tutta la guerra.”

## ADecorte – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My mother Laura:**

“All I know about the First World War is what I was told by my parents’ and grandparents’ stories. Thanks to them I could understand that it was a devastating war and that the poorest people were the ones who suffered more.”

**Mia madre Laura:**

“Quello che so della prima guerra mondiale l’ho appreso dai miei genitori che a loro volta hanno riportato i racconti dei miei nonni. Da queste testimonianze si percepisce che si è trattato di una guerra tremenda dove, come del resto in tutte le guerre, i più indifesi ne hanno fatto le spese.”

### The Role of Women

**My mother Laura:**

“I think women were important since they looked after their families and took care of children.”

**Mia madre Laura:**

“Per quanto riguarda le donne penso siano state fondamentali per mantenere unite le loro famiglie e far sopravvivere i figli.”

## GFedrizzi – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My father Livio:**

“The First World War was one of the most dehumanizing conflicts of history. The thought of being in trenches and to be obliged to attack the enemy, being aware to die, cannot be understood from a nowadays person.”

**Mio padre Livio:**

“La prima guerra è stata una delle guerre più disumanizzanti della storia. Il pensiero di essere in trincea e dover attaccare, andando incontro a morte quasi certa, per una mentalità di adesso è qualcosa di inconcepibile.”

### The Role of Women

**My father Livio:**

“Women had to take care of the family and children. They suffered for hunger because of the lack of men who could work. Without any workforce in the family, they had to do very hard work to feed their sons.”

**Mio padre Livio:**

“Le donne hanno dovuto proteggere la famiglia e i figli, patire tanta fame per la mancanza degli uomini. Mancando forza lavoro hanno dovuto sobbarcarsi di lavori difficili per sfamare i figli.”

**GFedrizzi – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My mother Angelica:**

“In my opinion the First World War was the most stupid and cruel conflict of the last centuries. Indeed it was fought by people who were obliged to go to the trenches without any scruple and reason.”

**Mia madre Angelica:**

“Secondo me la prima guerra mondiale è stato il conflitto più crudele e stupido degli ultimi secoli, perché è stato farà da gente messa in trincea senza uno scrupolo né un motivo.”

**The Role of Women**

**My mother Angelica:**

“Women were at home alone and they had to protect children and old parents. In the meanwhile they worried about their husbands who were fighting.”

**Mia madre Angelica:**

“Le donne erano a casa da sole e dovevano proteggere i figli e i genitori anziani, avendo anche il pensiero del marito che era in guerra.”

**LFormentin – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My father Ivan:**

“When I think about the First World War I imagine soldiers fighting for their homeland. But above all I think about its harshness and the struggle soldiers had to face both from the physical and the mental point of view.”

**Mio padre Ivan:**

“Quando penso alla Prima Guerra Mondiale immagino i soldati che combattono per la propria patria. Ma soprattutto penso alla sua asprezza e alle fatiche che i soldati dovettero affrontare sia dal punto di vista fisico che psicologico.”

**The Role of Women**

**My father Ivan:**

“Women used to take care of the children and worked in the fields as well.”

**Mio padre Ivan:**

“Le donne si prendevano cura dei bambini e lavoravano anche nei campi. “

## LFormentin – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My mother Francesca:**

“I think that the First World was a really harsh situation, especially for the soldiers who had to fight in the trenches at the frontline in order to defend their homeland. “

**Mia madre Francesca:**

“Penso che la guerra sia stata una situazione molto dura, soprattutto per i soldati che combattevano nelle trincee al fronte, per difendere il proprio territorio.”

### The Role of Women

**My mother Francesca:**

“Women had to work and at the same time look after their children. One of their main activity in that period was spinning cocoons.”

**Mia madre Francesca:**

“Le donne dovevano lavorare e anche prendersi cura dei bambini. Una delle principali attività di quel periodo era la filatura dei bachi da seta.”

## AGrando – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My father Maurizio:**

“Overlooking the huge number of victims, the 1<sup>st</sup> World War brought, problems at the frontline in soldiers’ life. They were and are incredible Inadequate hygiene conditions facilitated the diffusion of diseases. A soldier ought to be “strong” physically and mentality; one can say that in soldiers' life there was a sort of “natural selection” from which the ability of adaptation and survival at the frontline depended.

The Italian soldiers’ equipment was less suitable than the one of the others; for example the German one. It followed that during the winter period, having more lightweight uniforms Italian soldiers died of cold because their uniforms were lighter than the ones of German soldiers..”

**Mio padre Maurizio:**

“Tralasciando il numero di vittime causato dalla guerra, la difficoltà della vita al fronte era ed è inimmaginabile. Basti pensare alla scarsa igiene che portava a malattie, le quali minavano la forza fisica e mentale necessaria ad un soldato in combattimento. Si può dire che ci fosse una selezione naturale da cui dipendevano le capacità di adattamento e di sopravvivenza al fronte. Molti italiani, per esempio, morirono dal freddo durante il periodo invernale, poiché le loro divise erano più leggere di quelle dei soldati tedeschi.”

## The Role Of Women

### My father Maurizio:

"Women were not considered suitable to military service so that they had others roles. At home they had to cultivate acreages and raise children, sometimes also old men that were not suitable to the military service."

### Mio padre Maurizio:

"Alle donne erano riservati altri compiti, dato che non erano considerate adatte alla guerra. Dovevano lavorare i terreni durante l'assenza dei propri mariti o padri, ad esempio, ed indubbiamente a loro spettava il dovere di crescere ed accudire i figli piccoli o gli anziani non più idonei al servizio militare."

## AGrando – Our Parents' Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

### My mother Ornella:

"The 1st World War was a terrible event, an experience that had to be enough for human being, to avoid the repetition of the same mistake. On the contrary human beings were unable to prove their intelligence and their perspective superiority over animals. and justifying his superiority instead animals. How can someone find out the courage to kill someone else whose life is at the same level than his one?"

### Mia madre Ornella:

"La prima guerra mondiale è stato un evento talmente aberrante, un esperienza che avrebbe dovuto bastare all'uomo per evitare di ripetere un così atroce conflitto. Invece l'uomo non è stato capace di dimostrare la sua intelligenza e la sua presupposta superiorità sugli animali. Come si fa a trovare il coraggio di uccidere un altro uomo come te?"

## The Role of Women

### My mother Ornella:

"As regards women, they had to take care of the family and especially gain something to eat for their own children. My great-grandmother, said that at dinnertime after she had cooked "polenta", everybody in the family, sat around the fire to smell its aroma. Sometime it also happened that there was a herring to cook but instead of eating it, after it was cooked, they used to season the cornmeal mash into the herring's gravy that was to be eaten the following days."

### Mia madre Ornella:

"Per quanto riguarda le donne, esse dovevano badare alla famiglia rimasta in patria e procurare da mangiare. La madre di mia nonna mi raccontava di come, una volta fatta la polenta, tutta si sedessero attorno al fuoco per annusarne l'odore. Raramente capitava anche che avessero a disposizione, per esempio, un'aringa, che utilizzavano cucinandola più volte per insaporire la polenta, mangiandola dopo più giorni."

## FPecorella – Our Parents' Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

#### **My father Corrado:**

"I have always perceived the First World War as a trench and attrition conflict. Soldiers had to fight for years and years and any moment at the front line sounded as eternity.

On the contrary, I lived during the Cold War, being able to perceive the significant difference between the two conflicts.

The latter was generally perceived as a never-ending risk, considered the presence of nuclear weapons and the influence of the media which meant gaining the awareness of war inside the home fireplace.

Moreover since I have lived in Puglia as long as my adulthood, I am able to realize the memory of the First World War is less fervent in Puglia than it is among the inhabitants of the North-East of Italy."

#### **Mio padre Corrado:**

"Ho sempre percepito la Prima Guerra Mondiale, quale un conflitto di trincea e di logoramento, in cui si combatteva per anni e dove ogni attimo sul fronte appariva come un'eternità.

Essendo vissuto invece nel periodo della Guerra Fredda, ho percepito la differenza abissale tra i due conflitti, l'ultimo dei quali era invece sentito dalla popolazione come un perenne rischio imminente di pericolo, data la presenza degli armamenti nucleari e dell'influenza dei media che portavano la consapevolezza della guerra all'interno del focolare domestico. Inoltre, essendo vissuto sino alla maggiore età in Puglia, ho potuto constatare che il ricordo della Prima Guerra Mondiale lì è meno fervido rispetto a quello degli abitanti dei Paesi del Nord - Est Italia."

### The Role of Women

#### **My father Corrado:**

"During World War I Women were obliged to take over in working areas where they had always been absent before the conflict.

Before they were only devoted to domestic care. However, it is worth underlining the process of working emancipation was not without difficulties since women's presence was not always positively welcome."

#### **Mio padre Corrado:**

"Le donne nella Prima Guerra Mondiale hanno avuto modo di subentrare in settori lavorativi ove prima erano assenti, in quanto dedite solo alle cure domestiche. È bene rammentare però che questo processo di emancipazione lavorativa non è stato però privo di difficoltà, in quanto tale presenza femminile non era ben vista."



## FPecorella – Our Parents' Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

#### **My mother Maria Grazia:**

"I think the war was due to the mass of workers' and farmers' turmoil. As a result men were forced to enlist as a possible remedy to such troubles.. Even if a nationalist ferment could be generally recorded, the Church opposed to the war.

An example is offered by the priests that were arrested for having led young people to repudiate the war and its brutality.

I think that, in order to have an objective perception of the Great War, you should not dwell on official documents only, but rather on the geo-political context of the whole of Europe."

#### **Mia madre Maria Grazia:**

"Secondo me la Guerra è stata fatta poiché le masse popolari contadine e operaie erano in subbuglio. Si è dunque ricorsi all'arruolamento forzato per sedare tali rivolte. Anche se erano tutti entusiasti, colti dal fermento nazionalistico la Chiesa era contraria alla guerra. Per esempio, i preti furono spesso arrestati per aver indotto i giovani a ripudiare la guerra e la sua brutalità. Sono dell'avviso che, per avere una percezione oggettiva, occorra non soffermarsi meramente sui documenti ufficiali, bensì sul contesto geo-politico dell'intera Europa."

### The Role of Women

#### **My mother Maria Grazia:**

"Instead of simply bringing food to the soldiers, some women also brought weapons, in exchange for some money they needed for the survival of their family.

They replaced their husband at work for some years, but once they came back home, women were called to take care of the family.

In particular, Italian women played a more passive role since they did not have the right to vote (they had to wait until 1946).

Unfortunately women were often victims of rape and did not see any radical step forward in the process of their emancipation during the war.

Propaganda used images representing their active role, but it simply a comfortable device. Indeed the only "war heroes" portrayed on monuments were male heroes."

#### **Mia madre Maria Grazia:**

"Alcune donne, invece che portare ai soldati solo cibo, portarono anche armamenti, in cambio del poco denaro che era loro necessario per la sussistenza della famiglia. Ricoprirono i ruoli dei coniugi per alcuni anni, ma al ritorno di questi, tornarono ad occuparsi solo dell'ambito domestico-familiare. Le donne italiane, in particolare, ebbero un ruolo più passivo, infatti il diritto di voto gli fu precluso fino al 1946.

Ebbero comunque un ruolo di sottomissione nel corso della guerra, furono spessissimo vittime di stupro e non videro nessun cambiamento radicale nel loro processo di emancipazione. La propaganda fruì in larga scala di immagini che rappresentavano il ruolo attivo di queste, ma fu principalmente un escamotage. È infatti costatabile che le uniche statue a favore degli "eroi di guerra" furono unicamente maschili."

**SRijavec – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My father Roberto:**

“It was a useless war in which so many people were slaughtered without getting great benefits for the nation to which they belonged in return. The tactics of war turned out inadequate in front of the modern weapons possessed by armies.”

**Mio padre Roberto:**

“E’ stata una guerra inutile in cui tante persone in guerra sono state massacrate senza ottenere in cambio grossi benefici per la nazione alla quale appartenevano. Le tattiche di guerra erano inadeguate per le armi moderne che gli eserciti possedevano.”

**The Role of Women**

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**SRijavec – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My mother Maria Luisa:**

“I have no perception.”

**Mia madre Maria Luisa:**

“Non ho alcuna percezione.”

**The Role of Women**

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**SSgubin– Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My father Daniele:**

“I hated the period of military service. When I think of all those young people seventeen or twenty years of age, who had to leave their homes to go to war, I shudder. Yet they were obliged. The war was a duty you could not draw back. You die at war and it is not always true that the strongest wins.”

**Mio padre Daniele:**

“Ho odiato il periodo della leva militare e se penso a tutti quei ragazzini che a diciassette o vent’anni partivano di casa per andare in guerra, rabbrivisco. Eppure erano obbligati. La guerra era un dovere, non ci si poteva tirare indietro. Il guerra si muore, non è vero che vince il più forte. ”

## The Role of Women

### My father Daniele:

“Certainly women were not sent to the front. However, they had a house to manage, children to raise and had to do everything by themselves, relying on their forces only.”

### Mio padre Daniele:

“Sicuramente le donne non venivano spedite al fronte. Tuttavia avevano una casa da gestire, i figli da allevare e dovevano fare tutto da sole, contando solo sulle loro forze.”

## SSgubin – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

### My mother Nadia:

“If I think of the word “war”, I automatically associate it to the word “death”. In particular, thinking about the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, you easily realize there is so much ignorance about it: after a hundred years, no one is aware of its real facts. School should go deeper into the theme of war and in particular mention its disastrous consequences.”

### Mia madre Nadia:

“Se penso alla parola guerra associo in maniera automatica la parola morte. In particolare, pensando alla prima guerra mondiale penso che ci sia tanta ignoranza in materia. Perché a distanza di cento anni nessuno è a conoscenza dei fatti. A scuola si dovrebbe affrontare maggiormente il tema della guerra e in particolare parlare degli aspetti disastrosi che essa comporta. ”

## The Role of Women

### My mother Nadia:

“As a mother, I cannot imagine how difficult it must have been to grow up children without the help of a husband and surrounded by hunger and misery. Moreover feeling powerless in front of all that coincides with the word “war”. If we are here today, it is also thanks to our great-grandmothers who have endured all this in view of a better future. Surely, they did not go to war but they had an important role in the area of caret.”

### Mia madre Nadia:

“Da madre non riesco ad immaginare quanto difficile sarebbe allevare dei figli senza l’aiuto di un marito, vedere la fame e la miseria e sentirsi impotenti davanti a tutto quello che si chiama “guerra”. Se siamo qui oggi è anche merito delle nostre bisnonne che hanno sopportato tutto questo per un futuro migliore. Certamente non andavano in guerra ma avevano un ruolo importante anche nell’ambito dell’assistenza.”

**LSicco – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My father Valter:**

“I think that the First World War was a war fought by soldiers that didn’t really want to fight it and al the same did their best to survive. Indeed, in the Austrian Army there were some Italians who used to deceive Italian soldiers, speaking Italian. Therefore Italian soldiers, hearing people speaking Italian over their trenches and so thinking they were covered, used to come out of the trench and lost their life.”

**Mio padre Valter:**

“Penso che la prima guerra mondiale sia stata una guerra combattuta da soldati che non la volevano ma che erano disposti a tutto pur di sopravvivere. Infatti, all’interno dell’esercito austriaco vi erano anche italiani i quali utilizzavano l’italiano per ingannare i soldati che invece combattevano per l’Italia. Questi, sentendo parlare italiano oltre la propria trincea e pensando di essere coperti uscivano allo scoperto, rimettendoci la vita.”

**The Role of Women**

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**LSicco – Our Parents’ Perception of The War  
And The Role of Women**

**The Perception of The First World War:**

**My mother Elena:**

“In my opinion, the First World War is one that could have been avoided; it has claimed several people's lives probably not even interested in the reasons for which they were fighting.”

**Mia madre Elena:**

“Secondo me la prima guerra mondiale è stata una guerra che poteva essere evitata, che ha mietuto vite umane probabilmente nemmeno interessate ai motivi per i quali si combatteva.”

**The Role of Women**

**My mother Elena:**

“My grandmother was a Carnic carrier because she lived in a small village in Carnia near the border trenches. Indeed when she was only ten (10) she had to face the snow-, in the middle of the night. Even if the snow covered steep paths that led to the trenches, she had to carry supplies of food and weapons and hope not to be discovered by the enemy.”

**Mia madre Elena:**

“Mia nonna era una portatrice carnica poiché viveva in uno dei paesini carnici più vicini alle trincee sul confine con l’Austria e dunque già a soli 10 anni era obbligata ad affrontare in piena notte i percorsi ripidi ed innevati che portavano alle trincee, con scorte di cibo e armi, sperando di non essere catturata dal nemico.”

## CToso – Our Parents' Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My father Maurizio:**

“As I was not born yet, I do not remember about that period. In addition the First World War was fought by my grandparents and I have never known them. However in my opinion, war is the worst situation men have to deal with, as it spares no one (not even children) and it involves innocent people.”

**Mio padre Maurizio:**

“Non essendo ancora nato, non ho ricordi riguardanti quel periodo anche perché la Prima Guerra Mondiale fu combattuta dai miei nonni ed io non li ho mai conosciuti, ma sono del pensiero che sia la peggior situazione in cui l'uomo possa trovarsi, non risparmia nessuno, nemmeno i bambini e coinvolge tutte persone innocenti.”

### The Role of Women

**My father Maurizio:**

“I think that the role of women during the war is a substantial role for the continuation of life. Indeed, they had to work in order to take care of families, look after the children and pay attention to the welfare of the elderly. In addition, surely, there were women that left home together with their men in order to provide food, water and medical care to soldiers.”

**Mio padre Maurizio:**

“Io penso che il ruolo delle donne durante la guerra sia un ruolo sostanziale per il proseguimento della vita. Infatti, sono obbligate ad andare a lavorare per mantenere e accudire la famiglia, occuparsi della crescita dei figli e del benessere degli anziani. Poi sicuramente ci sono le donne che partono assieme agli uomini per la guerra con lo scopo di fornire cibo, acqua, cure mediche ai soldati.”

## CUrban – Our Parents' Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My father Loris:**

“To me, the First World War was a worthless waste of human lives, only because of the desire for supremacy of some powerful men. “

**Mio padre Loris:**

“Per me la prima guerra mondiale è stata un'inutile spreco di vite umane in nome di una folle idea di supremazia da parte dei potenti.”

## The Role of Women

**My father Loris:**

“During the First World War, women had a crucial role: they replaced men at work and they took care of their families, too.”

**Mio padre Loris:**

“Le donne durante la prima guerra mondiale hanno svolto un ruolo molto importante, infatti andavano a lavorare al posto degli uomini che andavano a combattere e mantenevo le proprie famiglie.”

## CUrban – Our Parents’ Perception of The War And The Role of Women

### The Perception of The First World War:

**My mother Gianna:**

“The First World War had involved a lot of Countries and so I think it brought mainly destruction. It is also known as ‘the Great War,’ and maybe it was the real cause of the misery that followed.”

**Mia madre Gianna:**

“La prima guerra mondiale ha coinvolto tantissime nazioni di conseguenza penso che abbia portato grandi distruzioni. È conosciuta anche come la grande guerra e probabilmente è stata la causa di tutta la distruzione e la miseria che è venuta in seguito.”

## The Role of Women

**My mother Gianna:**

“I think that the role of women during the First World War is an important one: men were at the frontline and so women had to take care of the family and look after children and the elderly.”

**Mia madre Gianna:**

“Il ruolo delle donne penso che in guerra sia un ruolo fondamentale per il proseguimento della vita, considerando che gli uomini impegnati al fronte non erano presenti e di conseguenza la donna doveva accudire la famiglia, provvedere alla crescita dei figli e agli anziani.”

# OUR PARENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

## APPENDIX I: QUALITATIVE DATA

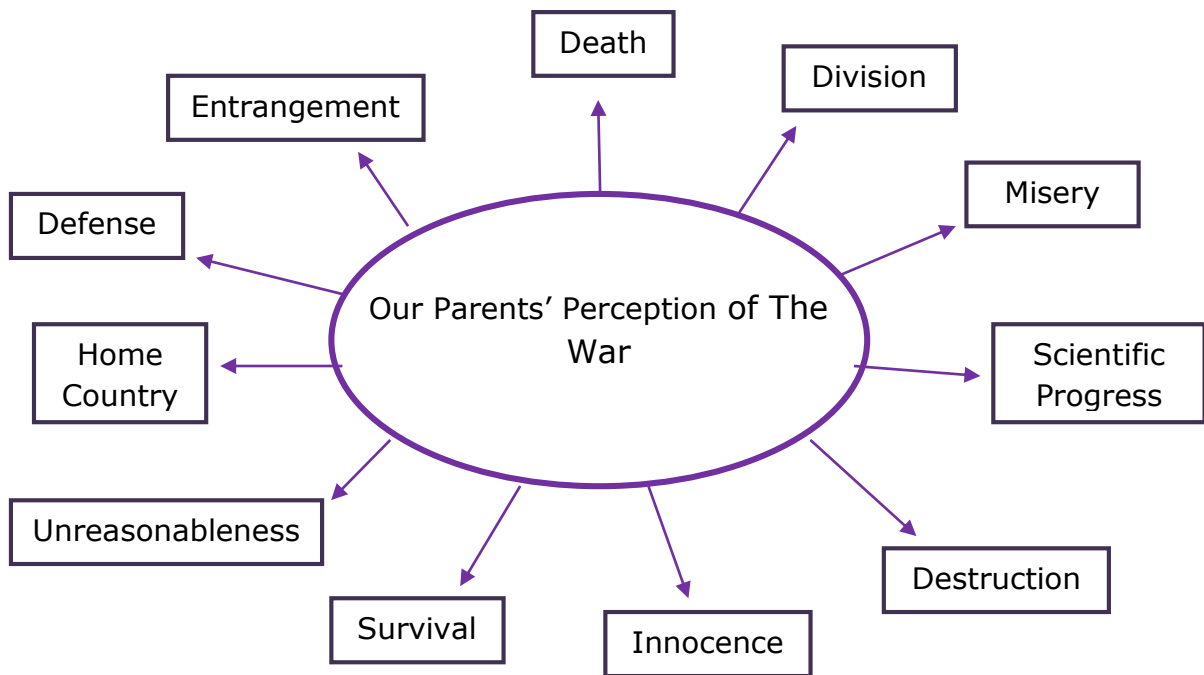
1. **LIFE-AND-DEATH STRUGGLE:** The person interviewed perceives the First World War as a fight where soldiers were obliged to join the Army. During the war, soldiers had to adapt to very difficult conditions and they also had to kill in order to not be killed.
2. **DEFENSE OF ONE'S HOME COUNTRY:** The person interviewed perceives the First World War as an opportunity for the soldiers to defend their home country and their culture.
3. **UNREASONABLE FIGHT:** The person interviewed perceives the First World War as an unreasonable fight. Indeed it has not brought any improvement neither from an economic point of view, nor from a moral one.
4. **WASTE OF HUMAN LIVES:** The person interviewed perceives the First World War as an horrible event that had led to the death of innocent people.
5. **CAUSE OF DIVISION AND ESTRANGEMENT:** The person interviewed perceives the First World War as an event that made men leave from their family and home country.
6. **OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH:** The person interviewed perceives the First World War as an event that brought scientific innovations.

## APPENDIX II QUANTITATIVE DATA

	Life-and-Death Struggle	Defense of one's home country	Unreasonable Fight	Waste of Human Lives	Cause of Division and Estrangement	Opportunity for Research
Number of Interviewed	13	5	15	22	5	2

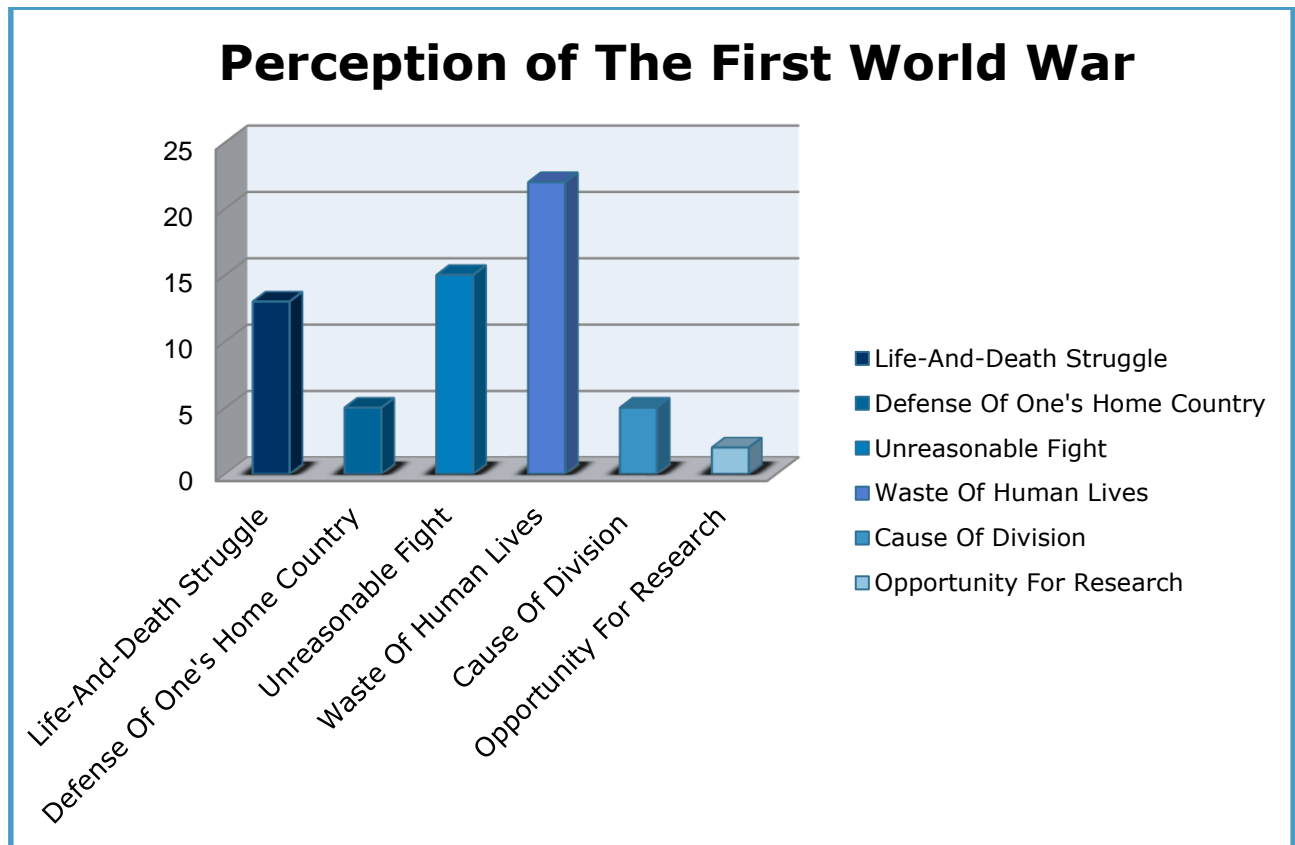
### APPENDIX III

### SPIDER GRAM

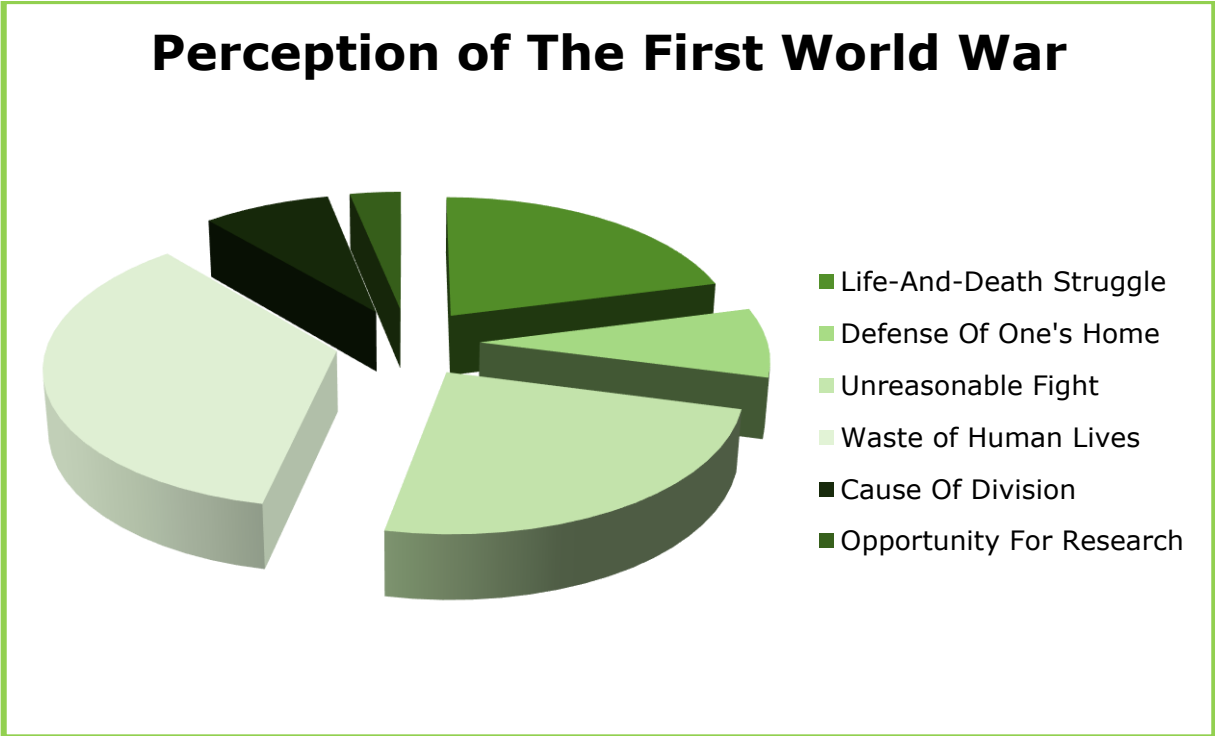


### APPENDIX IV

### HISTOGRAM







# THE ROLE OF WOMEN

## APPENDIX VI QUALITATIVE DATA

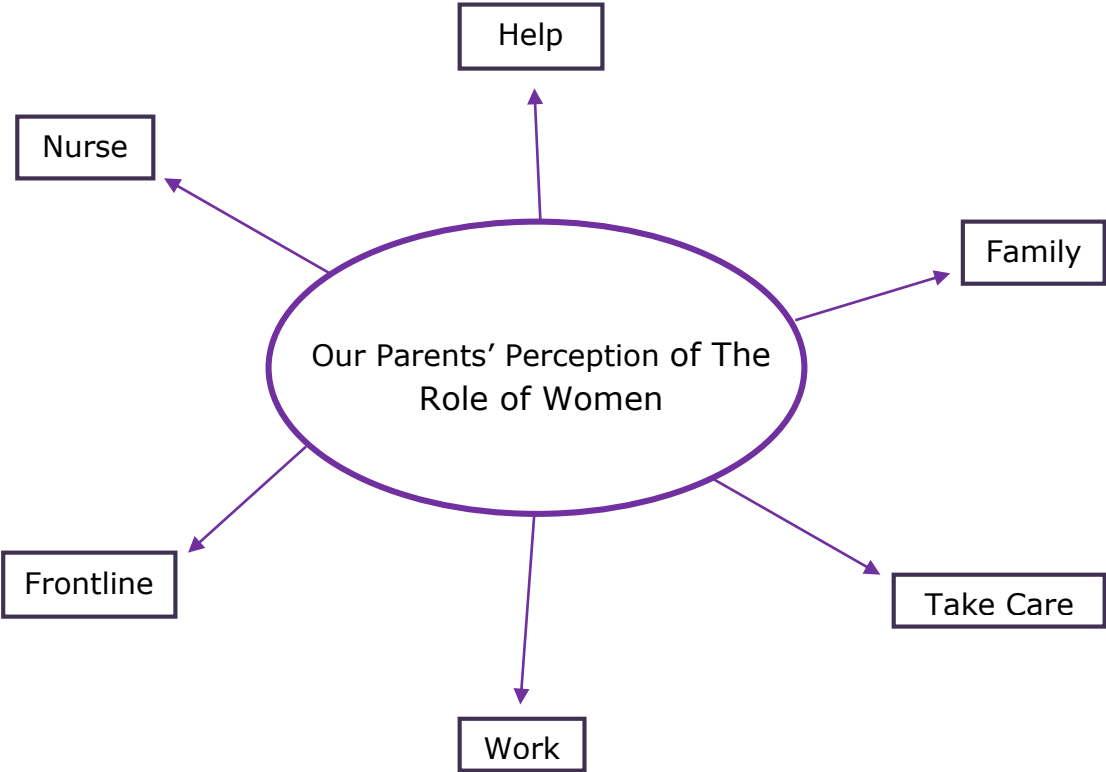
1. **TAKING CARE OF THE FAMILY:** The people interviewed think that during the First World War women used to take care of the family.
2. **SUBSTITUTION OF MEN AT WORK:** The people interviewed think that during the First World War women used to work in the place of men.
3. **HELP AT THE FRONTLINE:** The people interviewed think that during the First World War women used to help soldiers at the frontline in different ways.

## QUANTITATIVE DATA

	Take Care of the Family	Substitution of Men at Work	Help at the Frontline
Number of people Interviewed	24	13	10

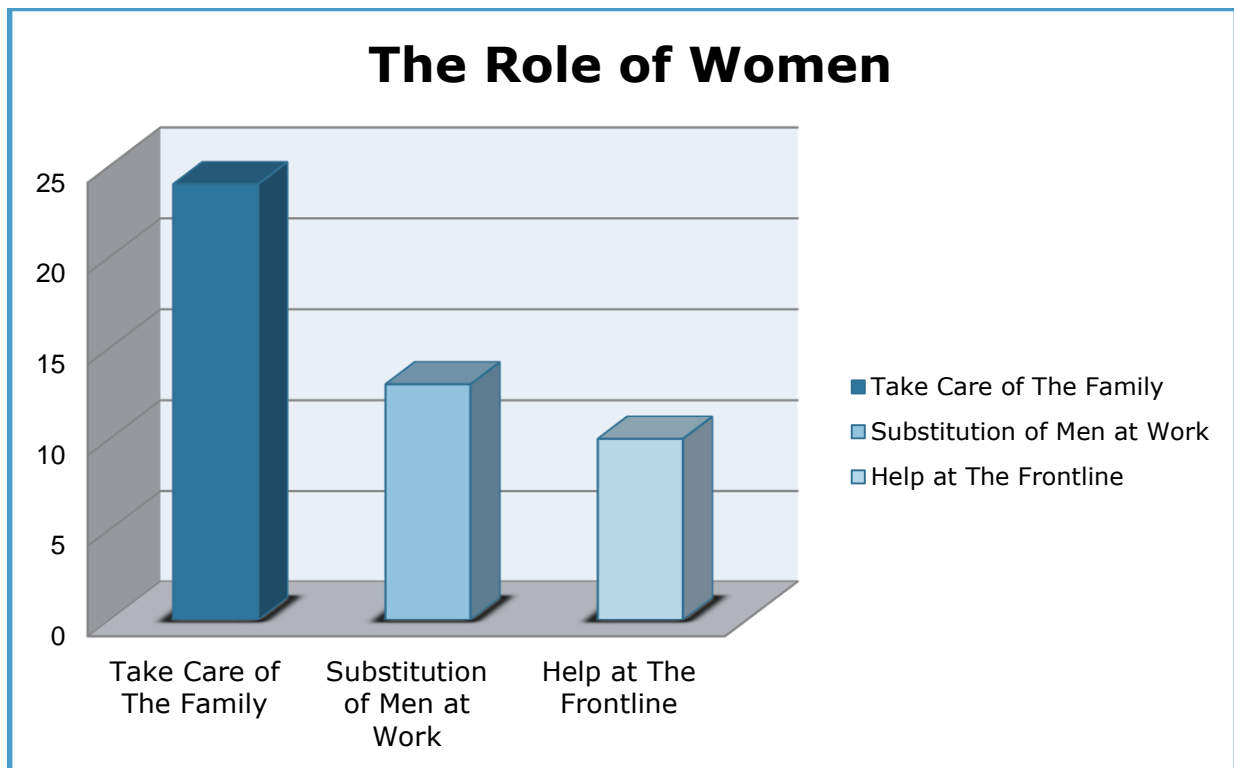
**APPENDIX VII**

**SPIDER GRAM**



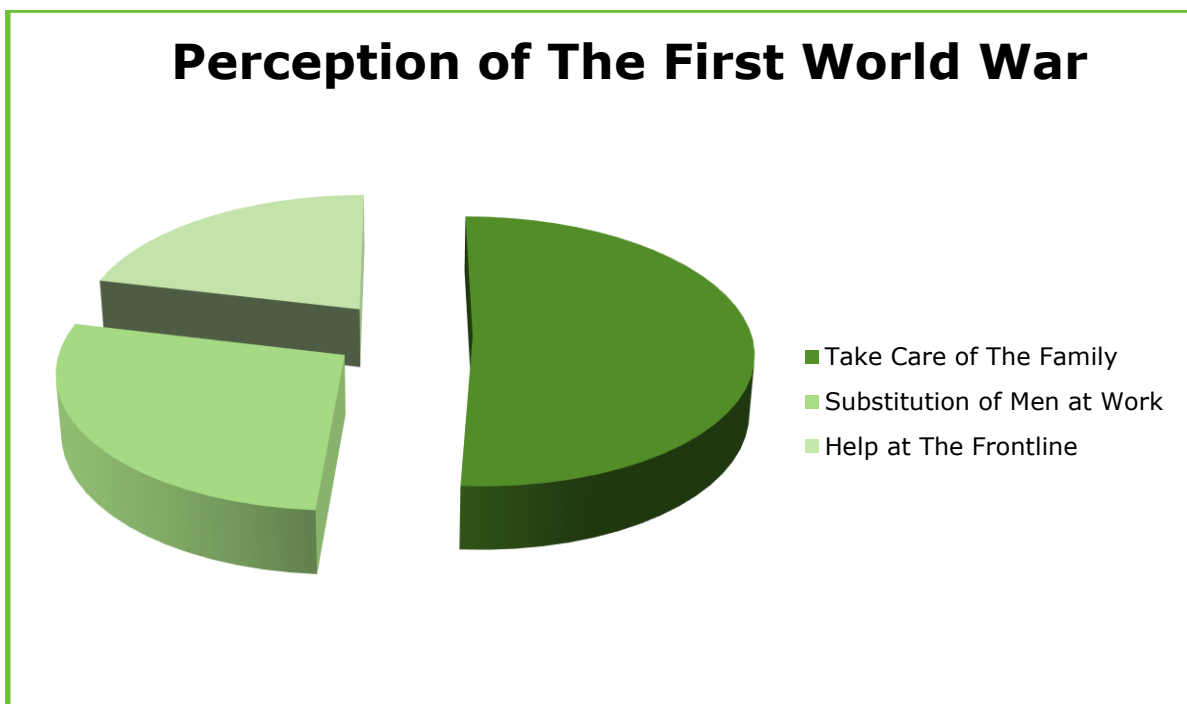
## APPENDIX VIII

## HISTOGRAM



## APPENDIX IX

## PIE CHART



## **SYNOPSIS**

### ***Our Parents' Perceptions of The War***

Analyzing the data collected, the reader can notice that most of the parents' perceptions of the war are related to a waste of human lives. Therefore, the World War I is perceived as an unreasonable fight that has caused destruction, estrangement, division and misery. Each person interviewed highlighted the negative aspects of the conflict, although they did not go in depth and considered the specific historical events. As a result, they agreed on some general features of the War.

On the other hand, a few parents considered the First World War as an opportunity for soldiers to defend their country and protect their families. Moreover, some parents' perceptions are related to the possibility war gave to achieve a scientific progress.

### ***Our Parents' Perceptions of The Role of Women***

The data collected showed that the parents' opinions and perceptions about the role of women during the First World War converge on a main idea: women had a relevant role, indeed they took care of their families while their husbands were fighting at the frontline. Furthermore, women replaced men at work and also gave their help at the frontline through supplies of food and weapons.