



How did trade blockades in World War One cause starvation in Lebanon?

Narrated by Carine Torbey

1. To War with Bread and Bullets

In Mount Lebanon, two hundred thousand people perished during World War One, not from armed conflict, but from starvation and disease.

[Contributor – Sami Cortas – Resident of Lebanon] You used to see people dead on the street – on the road – with bloated stomachs because of the famine and the hunger

[Carine's narration continues] What happened here is just one example of how the war wreaked havoc around the globe.

At the start of the twentieth century, the world was linked by networks of trade, the like of which the world had never seen. For the first time, war on one continent could have repercussions around the globe.

The First World War started as a purely European War. But in the months and years that followed, it spread to be a truly global crisis, as countries from across the world were dragged into the conflict - in the Americas, in Africa, in Asia, and here in the Middle East.

This is the story of how ordinary men and women felt the impact of the world's first total war.