**Our grandparents’ 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 grandparents‘perceptions**; we are 18 students with 28grandparents.

The work followed different steps: at first, we collected all the data, secondly we read and analyzed such data in order to organize them according to a specific criteria: the frequency of the keywords that were used to describe the First World War.

Indeed, our grandparents did not live during World War I and as a result their perception of the war is based on the collective imaginary idea 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 classified the data collected into 11 categories, the ones visible at **Appendix I.**The table also shows the frequency of the different keywords collected according to quantitative data. Twenty-eight (28)grandparents were interviewed but not all of them answered since not all of themfelt like doing it for different reasons.

The work was meant to discover the most frequent keywords that were used to describeWorld War I. The words used that better describe the war experience are“*trench”* (28), followed by an image of the war as “*hunger*” (9), “*death*” (8), “*poverty”* (5), “*fear*”(5), “*destruction*” (3)and “*illness*” (2). Moreover grandparents also spoke of the war as“*suffering*” (2), “*danger*”(1), as an experience of “*cold*” (1) and,last but not least, as an experience of “*blood*” (1).

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

1. A spider gram including the most frequent and meaningful key words summing up the results of our research. (**Appendix II**)
2. A histogram (**Appendix III**)
3. A pie chart (**Appendix IV**)

The work also includes a section concerning the perceptions of the role of women during World War I. Again, as done for the general perception of the war the present report also provides a synthesis of the data collected related to the idea of the role of women in the same period.

 The steps followed were the same used in the 1st section. The reading and the analysis of data provided five (5) categories that turned out as the most frequent in the perceptions of the interviewed and mainly:

1. Family
2. Children
3. Fields
4. Care of soldiers
5. Work
6. Appendixes will be provided to synthesize the results of the interviews.

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| **EAgolli: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grand-grandmother (Safigje)**: “During The First World War Albania was invaded by Austria-Hungary. Since the army arrived in Albania a dark period went on for everyone with lots of difficulties. Houses were burnt and whole villages were reduced to ashes. In addition, those who opposed the will of the army were killed. Crops were all burnt and the result was poverty and misery. It affected the Albanian population for a long time. People had nothing to eat anymore. In order to feed the children women boiledroots of plants and trees with other plants that could be found in the nearby areas. It was a time of terror and for those who were at home (mainly women and children) as well as for those who were fighting. Men and young boys were killed regardless of any consideration for human life; some of them were taken prisoners.”**My grandmother (Aisha)**: “My father in law’s brother, Haxhi Aga, was killed while fighting together with all his companions. It was a dark period and that is the reason why all the people started to call the Austrians "*nemse*". Indeed the period was nicknamed “*the period of nemse*”. The word is unusual nowadays. It was meant to refer to a dark period of poverty. After burning almost all the villages the enemies moved to Greece.” | **Mia bisnonna (Safigje)**: “L’Albania fu invasa dall’impero Austria - ungarico. Da quanto l’esercito mise piede in Albania vi fu un periodo buio per tutti. I soldati bruciavano case e riducevano a cenere interi villaggi. I soldatiammazzavano tutti coloro che si opponevano alle volontà dell’esercito. Loro bruciavano i raccolti e quindi si ebbe come conseguenza la povertà e la miseria che caratterizzò la popolazione albanese per molto tempo. La gente non aveva più risorse per nutrirsi. Per nutrire i figli bollivano radici di piante e alberi insieme ad altre piante che potevano trovare nelle vicinanze. Era un periodo di terrore sia per quelli che stavano a casa (principalmente donne e bambini) sia per coloro che andavano a combattere. I soldati ammazzavano senza scrupolo tutti gli uomini e i ragazzi all’età di 15 anni; alcuni di loro venivano fatti prigionieri. “**Mia nonna (Aisha)**: “Il fratello di mio suocero Haxhi Aga andò a combatterli ma fu ucciso insieme a tutti i suoi compagni. Fu un periodo nero per tutti e la popolazione chiamava gli Austriaci “nemse”. Infatti il periodo fu sopranominato il periodo dei nemse. E’ un termine appartenente ad un lessico ormai inutilizzabile a giorno d’oggi che significava periodo buio e povertà. Dopo aver bruciato tutto andarono in Grecia.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandmother (Aisha):**“Woman stayed at home and generally had to take care of the children and the house. There were not women that went fighting like men. In short, their role was the traditional one: one of care and housework.” | **Mia nonna (Aisha):**“La donna stava a casa e doveva occuparsi dei figli e della casa. Non c’erano donne che andavano a combattere. Il loro ruolo è stato quello di educare i figli e occuparsi delle faccende della casa.” |
| **KBallarin: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandmother (Angela)**:“My father Bisutto Francesco (1893 -1967) was enlisted in the Italian army. In the specific, he fought during a conflict in Albania. I think about the First World War as a period of fear because of the death and loss of one’s relatives, and a period of hunger, since people were poor.”**My grandfather (Fernando)**:“My grandfather, Gioacchino Scarpa,fought during the First World War but I did not remember exactly what he did. However, my perceptions about the First World War are of people’s poverty and misery among people and fear of death.” | **Mia nonna (Angela)**:“Mio padre Bisutto Francesco (1893-1967) ha combattuto per l’esercito italiano. In particolare, ha combattuto nelle trincee in Albania. Pensando alla Prima Guerra Mondiale l’immagine che mi viene in mente èdi un periodo di paura, dovuto alla morte e alla perdita dei famigliari, e di un periodo di lotta per la fame, dal momento che la gente era povera.”**Mio nonno (Fernando)**:“Mio nonno Gioacchino Scarpa ha combattuto durante la Prima Guerra mondiale, ma non ricordo esattamente cosa abbia fatto. Comunque, le mie percezioni riguardo la Prima Guerra Mondiale sono: povertàe miseria tra la gente e paura della morte |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandmother (Angela)**:“Women had to take care of their families and their home. Some women were Red Cross nurses, so they looked after wounded soldiers in hospitals.”**My grandfather (Fernando)**:“Women were busy takingcare of their families and homes. Some of them put their lives to risk being into close contact with the soldiers: they brought the soldiers in the trenches food and water to the soldiers” | **Mia nonna (Angela)**:“Le donne dovevano curare la loro famiglia e la loro casa. Alcune donne erano crocerossine, quindi aiutavano i feriti negli ospedali.”**Mio nonno (Fernando)**:“Le donne si occupavano delle faccende domestiche e della cura della famiglia. Alcune donne erano in contatto con i soldati, rischiando la loro vita stessa: portavano rifornimenti di cibo e acqua ai soldati impegnati nel combattimento nelle trincee.” |
| **SCarrara: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandfather (Rino):** “I have not memories about that period because I had not already born. The first World War was fought by my grandfather, who I never met.”**My grandmother (Maria):**“I think war is one of the worst experiencesyou may live because it implies death and destruction. During the First World War my dad was two years old, and he would often tell me about the planes flying over his head while his mother tried to hideand protect him taking refuge under a nearby bridge.” | **Mio nonno (Rino):**“Non ho ricordi appartenenti a quel periodo poiché non ero ancora nato ed è stata una guerra combattuta dai miei nonni, che non ho conosciuto.”**Mia nonna (Maria):** “Credo che la guerra sia la peggior cosa che possa capitare all’uomo poiché genera solo morte e distruzione. Mio padre aveva due anni e mi raccontava spesso il ricordo che aveva degli aerei che passavano sopra la sua testa e il fatto che sua madre cercasse di nasconderlo e proteggerlo sotto un ponte.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandfather (Rino):** “The role of women were to take care of the family and of working in the fields.”**My grandmother (Maria):**“The role of women was one of care: the familyto look after but women also had to work in the fields.” | **Mio nonno (Rino):**“Il ruolo delle donne era quello di prendersi cura della famiglia e dei campi”**Mia nonna (Maria):**“Il ruolo delle donne era quello di prendersi cura della famiglia e dei campi” |

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| **ECavallari: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My German grandmother (Lore)**:My German grandmother was born in 1941. Her perception of the First World War isconnected to the memory of her grandfather. Indeed, she told me that“my grandfather Klaus Bartelz, born in 1876, had to go to the French frontline. He came back insane and shocked. He was no longer able to work his fields alone. He always needed to be accompanied by his sisters. He lived in my home, and he never told anything about the War.” | **Mia nonna tedesca (Lore)**:Mia nonna tedesca è nata nel 1941. La sua percezione della Prima Guerra Mondiale è connessa al ricordo di suo nonno. Come mi ha raccontato infatti, suo nonno, Klaus Bartelz, nato nel 1876, fu chiamato a combattere sul fronte francese. Al suo ritorno, era mentalmente instabile: non poteva più lavorare nei campi da solo e doveva essere sempre accompagnato dalle sue sorelle. Viveva nella stessa casa di mia nonna ma non parlò mai di quello che era successo al fronte. |
| **The Role of Women** |
| No perception. | Nessuna percezione |
| **FCicogna: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandmother (Luciana)**:”The war in the city was not perceived like the war at the front line. Indeed ordinary life in town was not influenced by the war. The only thing they listened about the war were the booming of cannons. Usually when people talked about the First World War they mentioned The Carso: they generally said blood rivers were flowing.” | **Mia nonna (Luciana)**:”La guerra in cittànon èstata percepita come la guerra al fronte. Infatti la vita quotidiana fu influenzata dalla guerra. L’unica cosa che sentivano delle guerra erano i boati dei cannoni. Le persone quando parlavano della guerra nominavano sempre il Carso in quanto dicevano che scorrevano fiumi di sangue.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandmother (Luciana)**: ”Women had to take care of the family and children since men were fighting. Some of them were red Cross nurses and helped soldiers at the front line. Indeed they provided soldiers with water and food.” | **Mia nonna (Luciana)**: “Le donne dovevano occuparsi della famiglia e dei figli in assenza degli uomini. Alcune di esse erano crocerossine e aiutavano i soldati al fronte. Inoltre fornivano cibo e acqua ai soldati.” |

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| **LCicogna: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandmother (Adriana):**My grandmother focused her telling on food. She told that “The soldiers that fought in the First World War were very hungry: they had not a lot of food, and suffered from hallucinations about food. Watching the stones, for example, they confused them with something to eat.”Such episodes seem to have shocked her hardly.**My grandfather (Luciano):**My grandfathertold me a story about the period that immediately followed the First World War. He told me that “When his uncle was five, he was playing with his brothers and they found a weapon. They thought it was a game and they started to play with it. One of them shot and hit my grandfather’s uncle.”Therefore, his perception of war was the one of a period where nobody were sure to survive, even if he was not fighting. Indeed his uncle died when he was still a child and he died for war without fighting.  | **Mia nonna (Adriana):** Mia nonna ha focalizzato il suo racconto sul cibo. Lei mi ha detto che i soldati che combattevano la prima guerra mondiale erano molto affamati, non avevano molto cibo e avevano le allucinazioni. Per esempio, guardavano le pietre in trincea, le scambiavano per cibo. Questo aspetto l’ha scioccata molto. **Mio nonno (Luciano):**Mio nonno invece mi ha raccontato una storia riguardo il periodo immediatamente successivo alla prima guerra mondiale. Mi ha raccontato che suo zio, quando aveva cinque anni, stava giocando con i suoi fratelli quando ha trovato un’arma. Loro pensavano che era un giocattolo cominciarono a giocare con questa. Uno di loro sparòe colpìlo zio di mio nonno. Quindi, la sua percezione di guerra èun periodo dove nessuno era sicuro di sopravvivere.Infatti suo zio morìda bambino in guerra, senza peròcombatterla. |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandmother (Adriana)**My grandmother told me “the women’s role was to look after and educate children. In addition they also took care of the soldier. | **Mia nonna (Adriana)**Mia nonna mi ha illustrato il ruolo della donna, la quale doveva occuparsi della crescita e dell’educazione dei bambini. Inoltre curavano i soldati. |

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| **FCisilino: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandmother (Clelia)**:”As for the 1918 I know that my grandfather (my mum’s dad) died of “spagnola” the Spanish epidemic at the age of 50 and 24 hours later his son, who was only 20, died too. When my parents were dating, my dad, who was refugee in Florence, sent photos and letters to my mother. He had fled during the war.They said that the king had visited the soldiers who were at the front line on the “Carso”.” | **Mia nonna (Clelia)**:”Della guerra del 18 so che èmorto mio nonno, il papàdi mia mamma, di 50 anni per la spagnola e in 24 ore anche il figlio di 20.Quando i miei genitori erano fidanzati, mio papà, profugo a Firenze, mandava foto e lettere a mia mamma, perchéera scappato in tempo di guerra.Dicevano che il re era stato a visitare i militari che erano al fronte sul carso.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandmother (Clelia)**:”My mum worked mending the soldiers ‘uniforms when they were returning from the frontline, along with the other women who were able to sew.” | **Mia nonna (Clelia)**:”Mia mamma, a Udine ha lavorato sulle divise dei militari che tornavano dal fronte, insieme alle altre donne che sapevano cucire.” |

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| **LDeSantis: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandfather (Antonio):**My grandfather said he “felt the consequences of the war even if he did not personally experience World War I since he lived d the post-war period. He said “his knowledge ofthe war is linked to the public opinion about the conflict of the Thirties. Some people thought that it was a useless war (because it was fought very far away from their homeland in Lazio): Other people saw the war according to a patriotic perspective.”My grandfather’s perception is one of “a war fought far away from their a political point of view because of the lack of information of the period. | **Mio nonno (Antonio):**Mio nonno, pur non avendo vissuto in prima persona la prima guerra mondiale, ha sentito sulla sua pelle le conseguenze avendo vissuto gli anni 30. Dunque conosce grossomodo l'opinione pubblica nei riguardi del conflitto dell’epoca. C'era chi lo considerava uno scontro inutile (poiché combattuto molto lontano dalla loro terra d'origine) chi invece vede il conflitto con un’ottica patriottica. La percezione generale di mio nonno è comunque quella di un conflitto combattuto molto lontano dalla loro terra e quindi molto confusa dal punto di vista politico a causa della disinformazione dell'epoca. |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandfather (Antonio):**My grandfather told me “his mother stayed at home during the war to look after the family; indeed her husband fought at the front. His aunt was a worker in a manufacturing textile industry | **Mio nonno (Antonio):**Mio nonno mi ha raccontato che sua madre restòa casa per tutta la durata della Guerra per gestire la famiglia in assenza di suo marito. Sua zia fu invece impegnata come operaia in un industria per la produzione di tessuti. |

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| **ADecorte: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandmother (Luciana)**: “I do not know much about the war but I know that it took away my grandfather, the father of my dad. My grandfather lived in Strassoldo and fought on the Russian front for Austria: During the retreat there was a lot of snow and he was wounded at his legs, and then we no longer heard about him because he was missing in Russia, so my grandmother remained left alone at the early age of 26 years. After a few year he was recognized as possibly dead and my grandmother was given a widow's pension of war. My grandfather's body was never found.”**My grandfather (Gabriele)**: “Richard, my dad, fought during the First World War, first in Russia and then in China for 7 years. He was under Austria’s power. He left from Ljubljana headed towards Minsk. Once he arrived there generals made a selection of soldiers to help Russians ‘families learn the knowledge of their and Chinese people treated them very well. At the end of the war he come back (from China to Italy) by ship. He arrived in Naples and from there he took the train to come home. It took him about a month’stravelling. Once he had arrived at Cervignano’s railway station he walked to Strassoldo’s mill: at my grandfather’s house. His dog Argus recognized him, while my grandmother did not, due to the fear and traumas of war he was extremely thin, he had a long beard and his hair had gone white. He was only 25 years old.My father told me several stories: one of them is the one when for example, one night he and his fellow soldiers, had gone into the forest to get wood to put on the trench, and he could hear the wolves howling around them. Moreover every time they went out of the rench it was extremely dangerous because the Germans fired off.” | **Mia nonna (Luciana)**: “Non so molto ma so che nella mia famiglia la guerra ci ha portato via mio nonno, il papàdi mio papà. Il nonno era di Strassoldo e combatteva sul fronte Russo per l’Austria, nella ritirata c’era la neve alta ed èstato ferito alle gambe e poi non si èpiùsaputo niente perchéèstato disperso in Russia, la nonna èrimasta sola a 26 anni. Dopo qualche anno ne hanno dato la morte presunta e alla nonna hanno dato la pensione di vedova di guerra, il corpo del nonno non èmai stato ritrovato.”**Mio nonno (Gabriele)**: “Mio papàRiccardo ha combattuto nella Prima Guerra mondiale, prima in Russia e poi in Cina per 7 anni. Era sotto l’Austria, èpartito da Lubiana fino a Minsk. Una volta arrivati la hanno fatto una selezione dei militari per aiutare le famiglie dei russi per far conoscere loro il mestiere e il nonno ha scelto, di andare in una famiglia di contadini perchécosi poteva prendere qualcosa da mangiare. Poi si è spostato a Nachino in Cina dove erano in una caserma nella quale i cinesi li trattavano molto bene. Al ritorno dalla Cina sono tornati in Italia e con la nave sono andati fino a Napoli e da li ha preso il treno per salire verso casa, ci èvoluto ben un mese di viaggio. Una volta arrivato alla stazione di Cervignano èandato a piedi fino a Strassoldo al mulino, dove abitava suo nonno e li il suo cane Argo lo ha riconosciuto, mentre la nonna no, infatti aveva la barba lunga e per la paura e i traumi della guerra a 25 anni aveva giài capelli bianchi. Ci sono moltissime storie che mio papà mi ha raccontato ad esempio di notte andavano nel bosco a prendere legna da mettere sopra alla trincea, e sentivano i lupi a distanza che ululavano, ogni volta uscire dalla trincea era un pericolo perchéi tedeschi sparavano. “ |
| **My grandmother (Edvige)**:“My grandfather fought in the war, he had been in Siberia for five years and when he came back home his daughter was not able to recognize him because my grandmother was pregnant when he left; and she called him Toni instead of Daddy.My husband’s parents, Peter and Rosalie got married in Czechoslovakia because my husband’s grandfather was a soldier in the Austrian army and had moved there to fight. My mother-in-law reached him there. She went to Gorizia by a farm cart, but the soldiers did not want her to pass the boundary. Thanks to a doctor who managed to help her, she finally was able to go to Czechoslovakia where she finally met my father-in-law. The doctor also gave her the wedding dress and was their wedding witness. They lived two years in Czechoslovakia and their first childwas bornthere. At the end of the war they came back to Strassoldo.” | **Mia nonna (Edvige)**:“Nella guerra ha combattuto mio nonno, èstato in Siberia per 5 anni, quando ètornato a casa sua figlia non lo ha riconosciuto, infatti la nonna era incinta quando lui èpartito; invece di chiamarlo papàlo chiamava Toni.I genitori di mio marito, Pietro e Rosalia si sono sposati in Cecoslovacchia perchéil nonno era militare dell’esercito austriaco e si era trasferito la, a combattere e la nonna lo ha raggiunto la. Èandata fino a Gorizia col carro trainato dai buoi, non volevano farla passare ma grazie a un dottore èriuscita ad andare in Cecoslovacchia; il dottore infatti l’ha portata fin là dove ha potuto incontrare il nonno. L’uomo ha comprato alla nonna il vestito per il matrimonio e ha fatto da testimone di nozze. Sono stati due anni in Cecoslovacchia e li è nato il primo dei suoi figli, finita la guerra sono tornati a Strassoldo. “ |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandmother (Luciana)**: “My grandmother worked by farmers while my grandfather was at war. What farmers gave her for lunch, she brought home to her son, because they were very poor. At the age of 14, her son become a shoemaker in order to gain something more to eat.I also know that at the beginning of the war, women gave their wedding ring for their home country.”**My grandfather(Gabriele):**“My mom saw my brothers and supported the family, when my dad was at war. She had a dairy in Aquileia and every morning brought milk in Grado and it was the only way to get something to living.” | **Mia nonna (Luciana)**: “Mia nonna mentre il nonno era in guerra andava a lavorare dai contadini, quello che le davano per il pranzo lo portava a casa per suo figlio, perchéerano poveri. Suo figlio all’etàdi 14 anni èandato a fare il calzolaio, per poter avere qualcosa in piùda mangiare. So, inoltre che all’inizio della guerra le donne davano la fede d’oro per la patria.“**Mio nonno (Gabriele):**“Mia mamma mentre mio papàera in guerra vedeva dei miei fratelli e manteneva la famiglia. Aveva una latteria ad Aquileia e portavano il latte a Grado ogni mattina, guadagnandosi cosìda vivere.” |

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| **GFedrizzi: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandfather (Lelio)**: From what my grandfather has been told, he tells about the First World War like “aperiod of hardship and difficulties both for those who went fighting with the Italian armyand for those who stayed at home. A lot of families were obliged to leave theirhousesand move to other cities becauseof the German invasion. They could bring with them just a few things necessary for their survival. Moreover, once they could come backhome they foundtheir houses burnt and plundered, falling in actual poverty.”Mygrandfather also remembersthat “even the people who had remained at home and had cattleand fields, hardly managed to survive because theirproperties were invaded by the army.The First World War has been a period ofsadness and loss because many peopledied fighting in the foxholes.**My grandmother (Maria)**: To my grandmother’s mind, the FirstWorld War has been “a period of hungerand misery. Some people stayed at homewhile others had to move to other cities.Those who moved,had to work to earnsomething to live, since they had lefteverything in their hometown.”She alsoremembers the three-years period was aperiod of suffering, of losses and of fear of the German army. | **Mio nonno (Lelio)**:Da ciòche gli èstato raccontato, miononno definisce il triennio dal 1915 al1918 come un periodo di disagi sia percoloro che sono stati chiamati acombattere al fronte, sia per coloro chesono rimasti a casa. E’stato un periododi grande sofferenza e dolore: in Friulihanno lasciato le proprie case assieme atutti gli averi, portando con sésolamenteil minimo indispensabile per potersopravvivere. Tornati a casa, hannotrovato le abitazioni incendiate dabombardamenti e saccheggiate,riducendosi a una condizione di miseria.Ricorda, anche, che tutti coloro che sonorimasti a casa,soprattutto chi non avevacampi o bestiame, hanno sofferto la famee la miseria a causa dell’invasione. E’stato anche un periodo di perdite, dalmomento che molte persone sono morte combattendo.**Mia nonna (Maria)**:Secondo mia nonna la prima guerramondialeèstato un periodo di grandefame e miseria. Alcuni sono rimasti acasa mentre altri hanno dovutotrasferirsi. Questi, dovevano lavorare perguadagnarsi da vivere perchéavevanolasciato tutto nel paese natale. Dallatestimonianza della nonna emerge ancheche il triennio èstato un periodo digrande sofferenza e pericolo a causadell’invasione dell’esercito nemico. |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandfather (Lelio)**:Talking about the role of women, my grandfather remembers“they used to spend looking after their little brothers.”To sum up, during the war women had an important role in the family area.**My grandmother (Maria)**:My grandmother told me “women used to work at home doing the housework. Some of them also used to work in their fields helping their husband.” | **Mio nonno (Lelio)**: Per quanto riguarda il ruolo delle donnedurante la guerra, mio nonno mi ha raccontato che esse si occupavano principalmente della casa e della famiglia.Anche le piùgiovani aiutavano in casa,specialmente con i fratelli piùpiccoli.Dunque le donne hanno avuto un importante ruolo nell’aspetto familiare.**Mia nonna (Maria)**: Per quanto riguarda il ruolo delle donnedurante la guerra, la nonna mi haraccontato che queste erano solitesvolgere specialmente lavori di casa.Alcune aiutavano anche i loro mariti nellavoro nei campi. |
| **LFormentin: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women**  |
| My grandmother **Maria** and my grandfather **Giuseppe**“The First World War was a very hard experience both physically and psychologically. Soldiers went to war and fought in trenches to defend their home country. We lived under the Austrian country and we were advantaged in comparison to Italy especially from the cultural and economic point of view.” | Mia nonna **Maria** e mio nonno **Giuseppe**“La prima guerra mondiale è stata una guerra molto dura e faticosa sia dal punto di vista fisico che psicologico. I soldati andavano in guerra e combattevano nelle trincee per difendere la loro patria. Noi siamo vissuti sotto il regime austriaco e rispetto all’Italia eravamo molto avvantaggiati soprattutto dal punto di vista economico e della cultura.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| Most women worked the fields while their husbands were busy at war and so they raised livestock silkworm. Silkworms were kept in the attics of houses on racks and fed with mulberry leaves. After spinning, cocoons were collected along by all the members of the family and so with the money got from the sale of silkworms people could pay the debts they had made with the shops. In the houses there was no water and so women had to go outto tap at a hand pump in a opposite courtyard that served several families. | La maggior parte delle donne lavoravano i campi in quanto i mariti erano occupati in guerra e si dedicavano all’allevamento del baco da seta. I bachi venivano allevati nelle soffitte della case su appositi graticci e alimentati con foglie di gelso. Dopo la filatura i bozzoli venivano raccolti assieme da tutte le persone della casa e amici disponibili ed infine con il ricavato delle vendite si pagavano i debiti contratti presso i negozi.Nelle case mancava l’acqua e bisognava andare ad attingerla in una pompa manuale situata in un cortile di fronte a disposizione di parecchie famiglie. |

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| **AGrando: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandmother (Alma)**: “In the family we have never spoken about the 1st World War and I do not remember too much about what it was really said because I was too young. However, I perfectly remember my grandfather’s t story: he wasof Austrianorigin but he come to Italy so he altered his surname not to be accused of desertion by Austrian generals and sound Italian. At the time, every man was obliged to do military service. Austrian soldiers also obliged Italian farmers to carry weapons to the Austrian frontline in their carts. While he was marching, the territory was bombarded. Everybody ran away except for him. He wanted to save the oxen dragging his cart. Unfortunately, when Austrian soldiers came back patrolling they noticed him and understood their weapons were broken. They hit him with their carbines. The day after when he arrived home, he died because of traumas he had received.” | **Mia nonna (Alma)**: “In famiglia non si parlava molto della guerra e mi ricordo poco di quello che veniva raramente raccontato, anche perchéero piccola. Tuttavia mi èrimasta impressa nella mente la storia di mio nonno: lui aveva origini austriache ma venne a vivere in Italia, dove modificòil suo cognome affinché sembrasse italiano. In questa maniera i generali austriaci non potevano riconoscerlo e ritenerlo disertore perchénon si trovava al fronte: all’epoca infatti tutti gli uomini erano tenuti a prestare servizio. I soldati tedeschi peròobbligarono i contadini a portare con i carri le armi austriache sul fronte e proprio mentre era in marcia la zona fu bombardata. Tutti scapparono, ma lui rimase lìper cercare di salvare i buoi che trainavano il suo carro. Purtroppo però, quando alcuni soldati austriaci in ricognizione videro che le armi erano distrutte, lo ritenerono responsabile e lo picchiarono. Il giorno dopo, tornato a fatica a casa, morìper le botte che aveva preso.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandmother (Alma)**:“Women tried to bring up their children as they could.” | **Mia nonna (Alma)**:“Le donne cercavano di crescere i figli come potevano.” |

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| **FPecorella: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women**  |
| **My grandfather (Leonardo)**:In his interview my grandfather focused the attention on “the condition of illiteracy of the South of Italy which regarded mor than the ninety percent of the population and therefore involved "sending innocent young illiterate people to die at the frontline".**My grandmother (Agata)**: “I think it has been a ferocious war where many innocent people lost their fathers, husbands, brothers and beloved ones. I have had only the opportunity to live the most vivid consequences of World War II, but I have some memories concerning my father.He always told me not to forget even once fear may wear off, and above all, he added we must keep in mind all those who have been buried for having been sent to war to be later bombed and slain, whether young or old. I have a distant relative who, despite being seriously ill, was thrown into the flames of war, and died just two weeks later, without the chance to use the necessary drugs and assistance he needed.” | **Mio nonno (Leonardo)**: Mio nonno materno si è soffermato sulla condizione di analfabetismo del meridione che investiva oltre il 90 % della popolazione e che quindi comportava il “mandare giovani innocenti analfabeti a morire al fronte”.**Mia nonna (Agata)**: “Penso sia stata una ferocissima guerra dove tantissime persone innocenti hanno perso padri di famiglia, mariti, fratelli, persone amate. Io ho avuto modo di vivere solo le conseguenze più vivide della Seconda Guerra Mondiale, ma ho alcune memorie di mio padre. Egli mi diceva sempre di non dimenticare; anche quando la paura svanisce, e soprattutto allora, bisogna tenere a mente tutti coloro che sono stati seppelliti per essere stati mandati a farsi bombardare, trucidare, giovani o vecchi indistintamente.Ho un lontano parente il quale, pur essendo molto malato, è stato gettato tra le fiamme della guerra, ed è morto appena due settimane dopo, in assenza dei suoi farmaci e delle assistenze di cui aveva bisogno.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandfather (Leonardo)**: He did not speak of the role of women saying that without any doubt he was aware they, too actively participated in the war. They also risked life exactly like men. An example may be the one of Red Cross nurses.**My grandmother (Agata)**:“A mother has to feed her own children and therefore going to work was a necessity, otherwise they would starve in misery. Millions of men died, but women had to take care of the ones who came back (spouses, siblings, parents) in a state of poverty, which would not have been as extreme as if they had remained at homeand the family woul not have broken up.  | **Mio nonno (Leonardo)**: Non ha saputo approfondire il tema del ruolo delle donne, affermando univocamente di essere conscio che anch’esse abbiano partecipato attivamente alla guerra, rischiando a loro volta la vita, al pari degli uomini, come nel caso più noto e rilevante delle Crocerossine.**Mia nonna (Agata)**: “Una madre deve dare da mangiare ai propri figli; andare a lavorare fu una necessità, altrimenti sarebbero morti di fame, di miseria. Furono gli uomini a morire in milioni, ma le donne furono spesso quelle che permisero il ritorno di coniugi, fratelli, genitori, in una condizione di povertà, ma non estrema come sarebbe stata se fossero rimaste a casa a fare solo le faccende domestiche e a permettere il disfacimento del nucleo familiare.” |
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| **SRijavec: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| No perception | Nessuna percezione |
| **The Role of Women** |
| No perception | Nessuna percezione |

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| **SSgubin: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women**  |
| **My grandmother(Enni)**: “Onorina, my mother-in-law, told me she used to go on the dung heap in search of potato peels because poverty and hunger were rife. The foreigner was perceived as such: he was strongly characterized because of the vivid national and patriotic feeling of the time that has now disappeared. “**My grandmother(Daniela)**: “You cannot make comparisons between the First and Second World War; there was no technology and soldiers used the mules to move around.To tell the truth, my grandparents did not speak willingly of the 1st World War sinceit was a period of pain. They suffered from hunger and lice.” | **Mia nonna (Enni)**: “La nonna Onorina mi raccontava che andava sul letamaio in cerca di bucce di patate perché la miseria e la fame dilagava. Lo straniero era percepito come tale, ovvero veniva connotato in maniera molto forte nel senso che era vivo e forte un sentimento nazionale e patriottico quasi scomparso ai giorni nostri. “**Mia nonna (Daniela)**:“Non si possono fare paragoni tra la Prima e la Seconda Guerra Mondiale, non esisteva tecnologia e i militari usavano i muli per spostarsi. In realtà i nonni non parlavano tanto volentieri della Grande Guerra, è stato un periodo di sofferenza. Hanno patito la fame e ipidocchi.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandmother(Enni)**: “The role of women was very important. Indeed, women have taken care of needy people, brought messages and those who were not married were Red Cross nurses. They sacrificed a lot because men were in the trenches.”**My grandmother(Daniela)**:“Reflecting on the role of women, I can think about the Carnic Bearers. Maria Mentil, one of them, was killedby a sniper They leftfor the mountains with the so-called "*gerla*", a kind of large woodsy basket, women carried on their shoulders throughout the journey. It contained tablecloths, weapons, food and supplies for the soldiers who had to build trenches besides fighting.” | **Mia nonna (Enni)**:“Il ruolo della donna è stato molto importante. Infatti le donne hanno assistito, portato messaggi e quelle che non erano sposate facevano le crocerossine. Si sono sacrificate tantissimo anche perché gli uomini erano in trincea.”**Mia nonna (Daniela)**: “Pensando al ruolo della donna mi vengono in mente le Portatrici Carniche. A Passo Pramosio è stata uccisa da un cecchino Maria Mentil, una di queste portatrici che partivano per i monti con la “gerla”, una specie di grande cesta di legno che tenevano sulle spalle per tutto il viaggio e che conteneva tovaglie, armi, cibo e rifornimento ai militari che oltre a combattere dovevano costruire le trincee.” |
| **LSicco: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women**  |
| **My Grandmother (Mariapia)**:“I cannot distinguish what I have really lived from what they have told me about the war. During the war, I suffered from a lot of hunger.”**My grandmother (Adelina)**: “The fear of the enemy during the war was always present and I suffered from real hunger.” | **Mia nonna (Mariapia)**: “Non riesco a dividere ciò che ho vissuto realmente da ciò che invece mi hanno raccontato della guerra. Durante guerra ho sofferto tanto la fame.”**Mia nonna (Adelina)**:”La paura del nemico durante la guerra era costante e si soffriva tanto la fame.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My Grandmother (Mariapia)**: “Women stayed at home to look after the family and took the place of their husband at work.”**My grandmother (Adelina)**: “My mother was a Carnic carrier. She lived in a village near the border with Austria and she was obliged to do that. In the night, she carried food and weapons to the soldiers in the trenches. Terror is the word to describe the activity. It was strong because the danger of being captured by the enemy was always there. Night temperatures were ruthlessly low, and often snowy, making the soil very slippery. It was reallysteep and the load to carry was very heavy.” | **Mia nonna (Mariapia)**: “Le donne rimanevano a casa a prendersi cura della famiglia e prendevano il posto del marito nel lavoro.”**Mia nonna (Adelina)**:”Mia mamma era una portatrice carnica. Abitava in un paesino vicino al confine carnico con l’Austria ed era obbligata a farlo. Portava in piena notte scorte di cibo ed armi ai soldati nelle trincee. Il terrore durante quest’attività ero fortissimo poiché il pericolo di essere catturate dai nemici era enorme. La notte le temperature erano spietatamente basse, e spesso nevicava, rendendo il tutto molto più scivoloso. Erano terreni molto ripidi e il carico che le portatrici dovevano portare era molto pesante.” |

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| **CToso: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women** |
| **My grandfather (Antonio)**:“I was not born yet but my dad told me that when the planes crossed the sky, all the people had to hide under the dam to look for protection. They had to stay there for a long time, and suffer because they were hungry and besides they had to watch their comrades die.”**My grandmother (Lucia)**:“My dad left his family very young to go and fight, together with the other men of his town with the intention of making one single Italy but when he came back he never wanted to talk about what he had seen, what had happened and what he felt inside. It was too big a trauma for him, something impossible to erase.” | **Mio nonno (Antonio)**: “Io non ero ancora nato ma mio papà mi ha raccontato di quando passavano gli aerei e si dovevano nascondere tutti sotto la diga per ripararsi e di quanto dovevano starci, di quanto soffrivano la fame e di quanto faceva male vedere un amico morire in parte a te.”**Mia nonna (Lucia)**: “Mio papà era partito per la guerra molto giovane assieme ad altri uomini del paese con l'intento di unire tutta l'Italia ma quando è tornato indietro non ha mai voluto più parlare di quello che aveva visto, di quello che era successo e di cosa si portava dentro. E' stato un trauma troppo grande per lui, impossibile da cancellare.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandfather (Antonio)**: “Women were the main resources for soldiers at war: they helped them in case of injuries. Therefore their role was essentialout of the battlefield of course.”**My grandmother (Lucia)**: “Women had to fight with poverty and despite they had nothing, they had to work hard to be good mothers and work to feed all the children and look after the family.” | **Mio nonno (Antonio)**: “Le donne portavano le risorse principali ai soldati in guerra e li aiutavano in caso di ferite. Il loro ruolo era essenziale, ovviamente fuori al campo di battaglia.”**Mia nonna (Lucia)**:“Le donne dovevano combattere con la miseria, pur non avendo niente dovevano darsi da fare per essere delle brave madri, dovevano lavorare per sfamare tutti i figli e portar avanti la famiglia.” |

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| **CUrban: Our grandparents’ and other adults perception of the war and role of women**  |
| **My grandfather (Adelio)**: “The First World War brought destruction; here in Friuli, people suffered greatly. At that time, my dad was eighteen; he had been wounded near the river Piave. On the other hand, my grandfather and my uncle had to emigrate to Piemonte. In addition, an aunt of mine was killed by a shot of a machine gunwhile she was cooking cornmeal mush.”**My grandmother (Vittorina)**: “If I think about the First World War, I immediately think about the love for our birthplace. All grandparents and even my dad (who fought at only 18 years of age), joined the army and wanted to fight in order to make one single Italy.They wanted to get rid of Germans. Therefore, they left their homes, without clothes, and without weapons. They suffered from Caporetto’s defeat, but later they managed to raise again and win.” | **Mio nonno (Adelio)**: “La prima guerra mondiale ha portato distruzione soprattutto da noi, qui in Friuli hanno sofferto molto. In quegli anni avevo mio papà diciannovenne che è stato ferito sul Piave invece mio nonno e il fratello di mio papà hanno dovuto emigrare in Piemonte subito dopo finito il conflitto. Addirittura ho una zia che mentre faceva la polenta la sera, èstata uccisa dai colpi delle mitragliatrici.” **Mia nonna (Vittorina)**: “Se penso alla prima guerra mondiale, penso all’amor di patria. Tutti i nonni, e anche il mio papàche ha fatto la guerra a 18 anni, sono andati in guerra e volevano unire l’Italia, volevano scacciare i tedeschi e quindi sono partiti in guerra senza vestiti, senza armi, senza niente. Hanno fatto la disfatta di caporetto e dopo si sono rialzati con grinta e hanno vinto.” |
| **The Role of Women** |
| **My grandfather (Adelio)**: “The women that lived in Carnia used to bring food and munitions to the soldiers. So the role of women during the First World War was something extraordinary and of exceptional importance”**My grandmother (Vittorina)**: “While men fought away from home, women had to dig the ground and look after the children. There was extreme poverty and it was terribly cold. Women were definitely brave.Besides, they were very good mothers and wives because they managed to live with almost nothing.” | **Mio nonno (Adelio)**: “Le donne carniche hanno portato da mangiare e munizioni ai soldati che stavano al fronte. Il ruolo delle donne nella prima guerra mondiale èstato qualcosa di formidabile.”**Mia nonna (Vittorina)**: “Gli uomini erano via e le donne dovevano andare a zappare i campi, dovevano mantenere i figli. C’era miseria, freddo e le donne erano molto coraggiose, molto brave come mamme e come mogli perchénon avevano niente.” |

**OUR GRANDPARENTS’PERCEPTION OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

**Appendix I: Keywords**

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| **THE WAR** | **FREQUENCY** |
| **Illness** | 2 |
| **Death** | 8 |
| **Destruction** | 3 |
| **Poverty** | 5 |
| **Hunger** | 9 |
| **Fear** | 5 |
| **Suffering** | 2 |
| **Danger** | 1 |
| **Cold** | 1 |
| **Blood** | 1 |
| **Trench** | 28 |

**Appendix II: Spidergram**

**Appendix III: Histogram**

**Appendix IV: Piechart**

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN**

**Appendix I: Keywords**

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| **ROLE OF WOMEN** | **FREQUENCY** |
| **Family** | 10 |
| **Children** | 3 |
| **Fields** | 3 |
| **Care of soldiers** | 7 |
| **Work** | 2 |

**Appendix II: Spidergram**



**Appendix III: Histogram**

**Appendix IV: Piechart**

**SYNOPSIS**

Dopo aver analizzato le interviste siamo stati in grado di individuare le parole chiave che caratterizzano la percezione della prima guerra mondiale e quella del ruolo della donna per coloro che sono nati prima del 1950. Per quanto riguarda la percezione della prima guerra mondiale le parole utilizzate piùfrequentemente sono: trincea (43%) fame (14%), morte (12%), terrore (8%), povertà(8%) e distruzione (5%). Analizzando invece i termini piùin evidenza a proposito del ruolo delle donne, essi risultano: famiglia (40%), la cura dei malati (28%), figli (12%), campi (12%) e lavoro (8%). Risulta quindi chiara l’idea che questa generazione ha delle donne in quel tempo: esse dividevano il loro tempo tra la cura della famiglia e dei malati, inoltre sostituivano gli uomini al lavoro o nei campi.Riguardo la guerra invece risulta come un luogo di terrore, carestia e dolore.

Analyzing the interviews, we have been able to spot the key words of the perception of the First World War and the role of women of those who were born before 1950. The more frequent words about the perceptions of the First World War are: trench (43%), hunger (14%), death (12%), fear (8%), poverty (8%) and destruction (5%). The more frequent words about the role of women are: family (40%), care of wounded people and soldiers (28%), children (12%), fields (12%) and work (8%). Studying these data, the idea of this generation about the role of women is about work and family; the idea about the war is fear, pain and poverty.