| *An Inspector Calls***is set in 1912** | *An Inspector Calls***was written in 1945.** | **Images** |
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| The First World War would start in two years. Birling's optimistic view that there would not be a war is completely wrong. | The Second World War ended in Europe on 8 May 1945. People were recovering from nearly six years of warfare, danger and uncertainty. | War graves |
| There were strong distinctions between the upper and lower classes. | Class distinctions had been greatly reduced as a result of two world wars. | Upper and lower classes |
| Women were subservient to men. All a well off women could do was get married; a poor woman was seen as cheap labour. | As a result of the wars, women had earned a more valued place in society. | Housewife |
| The ruling classes saw no need to change the status quo. | There was a great desire for social change. Immediately after The Second World War, Clement Attlee's Labour Party won a landslide victory over Winston Churchill and the Conservatives. | Clement Attlee |