

AQA GCSE HISTORY

Conflict and Tension, The First World War (1894-1918)

Knowledge Organiser Pack

Student Name		Form	
History Teacher		History Group	



To understand the causes of the First World War, it's important that you know where the underlying tensions existed between the countries in Europe.

GREAT BRITAIN

 Britain's empire spanned 25% of the globe. It was their priority to protect and maintain their empire.

 Britain had the largest navy in the world.

 Britain was a wealthy trading nation.

RUSSIA

 Lost a war against Japan in 1905 so focused on rebuilding their army.

 Feared that Germany wanted to take Russian land.

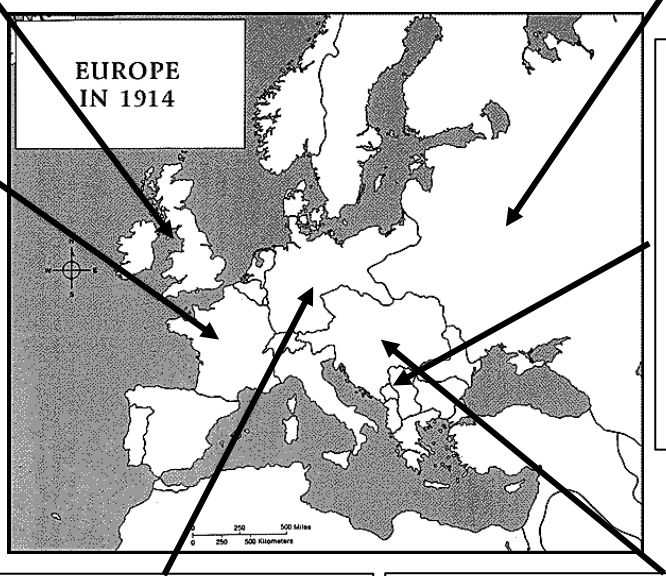
 Rivals with Austria-Hungary about who should control the Slavs.

FRANCE

 Germany had taken land from France in 1871 (Alsace-Lorraine). They were worried that Germany would try to take some more.

 Second largest empire.

EUROPE IN 1914



SERBIA

Had become independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1878.

Was determined to expand and free its people from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

GERMANY

 Germany wanted to become a world power.

 Germany had a small African empire. They wanted to expand their empire.

 Germany was becoming a major trading country and was becoming rich.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

 Had a large European empire.

 Was worried that the different nationalities within their empire would want to become independent.

 Was worried about the growing strength of Serbia.

Each of the major European powers aligned themselves with others to increase their influence and security. Two rival blocs formed: **The Triple Alliance** and the **Triple Entente**.

 An alliance is a union between two or more countries who agree to provide mutual support: this could be military or economic.

TRIPLE ENTENTE

 Great Britain

 France

 Russia



UK

Germany

Russia

France

Italy

Austria-Hungary

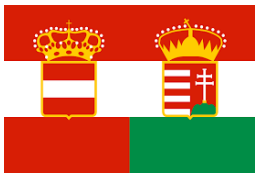
Triple Alliance

Triple Entente

Entente Cordiale

TRIPLE ALLIANCE

 Germany

 Austria-Hungary

 Italy

 **Franco-Russian Alliance 1894**

France and Russia agreed to support each other militarily if Germany attacked either of them.

 **Entente-Cordiale 1904**

Britain and France made agreements over land in Africa.

 **Anglo-Russian Agreement 1907**

Britain and Russia made agreements over land in the Middle East.

 **Triple Alliance 1882**

Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy agreed to provide military support if one of them was attacked by another power.

In order to understand how and why tensions increased in Europe during this period, it is important to identify what the foreign policy of some of the main countries were at this time.



BRITAIN AND SPLENDID ISOLATION

- In the late 1800s and early 1900s Britain was in Splendid Isolation.
- Britain felt they did not need economic and military allies.
- The British empire was the largest in the world, Britain was the richest country with the strongest navy.

WHY DID BRITAIN LEAVE SPLENDID ISOLATION?

1. Britain & France clashed over control of colonies in north Africa – Britain wanted to be on good terms with France.



2. Kaiser Wilhelm wanted Germany to be a global power and began building a navy.



3. The Triple Alliance was formed.



4. In 1894 the Franco-Russian alliance was signed: Europe was split in two.



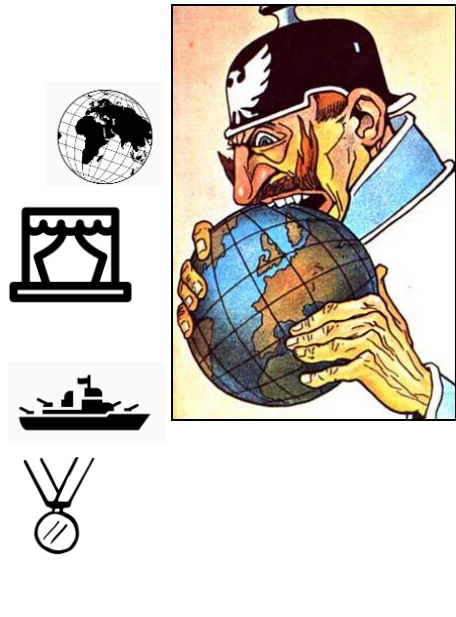
5. In 1895 Russia began to challenge British territory in China.

6. Germany publically condemned British actions in the Boer War. Britain need to make friends.



GERMANY’S POLICY OF WELTPOLITIK.

- In 1890 Wilhelm introduced his new policy of Weltpolitik which means **world policy**.
- It was a **determination that Germany should have an increasingly important role on the world stage**.
- Germany believed they would obtain this through **expanding their empire and developing their navy**.
- Wilhelm wanted Germany to be the greatest nation on earth.
- Many European powers were worried by this policy.



Why were Britain worried about Germany?	Why did Germany feel Weltpolitik was justified?
• In 1905 a huge fleet of German ships were being built. • Kaiser Wilhelm ignored Bismark’s friendly agreements he had made previously. • Britain felt Germany did not need a navy as they had no empire. • Military leaders were chosen to help Wilhelm rule. • In 1912 Germany expanded their army to make it the biggest in Europe.	• Germany felt surrounded and was insecure about their future so increased the size of the military. • Britain and France had huge empires. • Germany felt they needed to increase their navy to protect their trade.

Military leaders of the main European powers at this time, believed that war would be avoided if they built up their military. How and why did Europe increase their military?

THE NAVAL RACE

Britain felt their large navy was justified because: a) Britain was an island b) Britain had a large empire they needed to control c) Britain was far from self-sufficient and imported goods.

Germany formulated a plan to build the second largest navy. Tirpitz believed a navy for Germany was an “absolute necessity” and without which Germany would “go under”.

The guns could fire half ton shells

One of first ships to send electronic messages to guns.

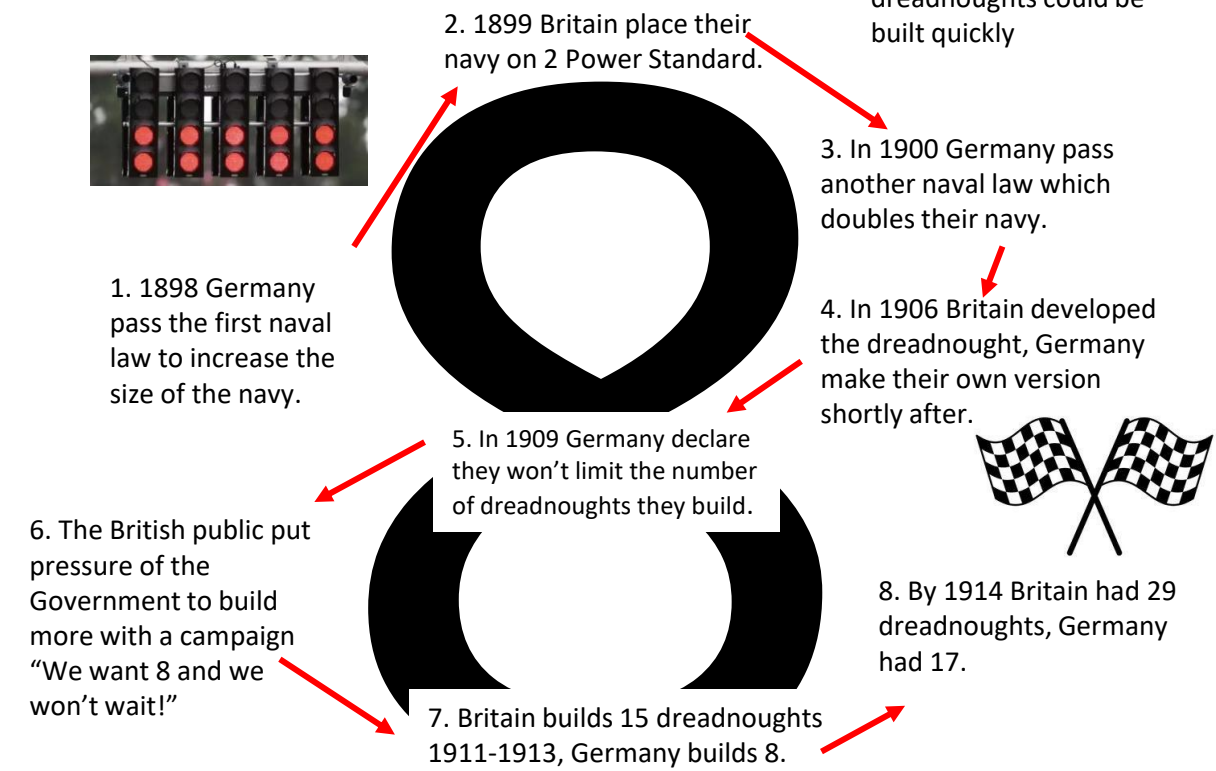


THE DREADNOUGHT

It could fire a distance of 10 miles

It could travel at 25mph

Britain's industry meant dreadnoughts could be built quickly



THE ARMS RACE ON LAND



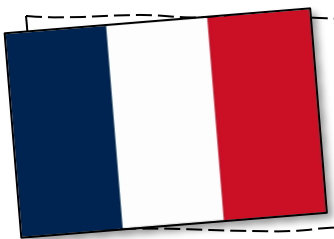
GERMANY

- Had introduced conscription
- Had developed a war plan: The Schlieffen Plan, in 1905.
- The German army was powerful and well-trained.
- Germany increased military spending 73% during this period.



FRANCE

- Had introduced conscription.
- Had developed a war plan known as Plan 17.
- Were in close but secret military talks with the British from 1912.
- Had 1 million men in their army in 1914.



RUSSIA

- Had introduced conscription.
- Russia had developed a war plan known as Plan 19.
- Had 1.5 million men in their army in 1914.
- It was a badly equipped army.



GREAT BRITAIN

- Was the only major European power to have not introduced conscription by 1914.
- Had the smallest army but were well-trained.
- Focused military spending on the navy to maintain the 2-power standard.



In 1905, Morocco was one of the only independent nations in Africa. France and Germany were both interested in gaining the territory. Tensions grew and resulted in France threatening war in the First Moroccan Crisis and Britain threatening war in the Second Moroccan Crisis.

THE FIRST MOROCCAN CRISIS, 1905

CAUSES



France wanted to take control of Morocco and Britain supported this.



Germany opposed this and said that they supported Moroccan independence.

Germany's aims.

- To gain some land.
- To test the strength of the Entente Cordiale.
- To show that Germany was fully involved in world affairs.

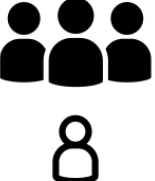
EVENTS



France were furious and threatened Germany with war.



A conference was held in Algeciras, Spain in January 1906 to settle the dispute.

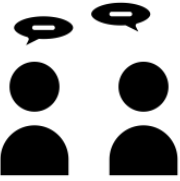


Out of the 14 nations in attendance, only Austria-Hungary and Morocco supported Germany.



France was given 'special rights' in Morocco including control of their economy and police.

RESULTS



Britain and France got closer and started having secret military talks.



Britain and Russia signed the Anglo-Russian Agreement in 1907.



Germany increased their military spending as they felt ganged up on.



The Triple Alliance was weaker as Italy did not support Germany.

THE SECOND MOROCCAN CRISIS, 1911

CAUSES



There was a rebellion against the ruler of Morocco.



France used this an opportunity to take over Morocco.



The Kaiser sent a gunboat, the Panther, to protect German interests in Morocco.



He also hoped that he would gain land.

EVENTS



Britain was worried that Germany wanted Morocco to challenge their naval base in Gibraltar.



This occurred during the naval race when tensions between Britain and Germany were high.



Britain were furious and threatened Germany with war.



Germany backed down.

RESULTS



Germany was given land in the Congo – this was mainly swamp.



Britain and France made secret navel agreements.



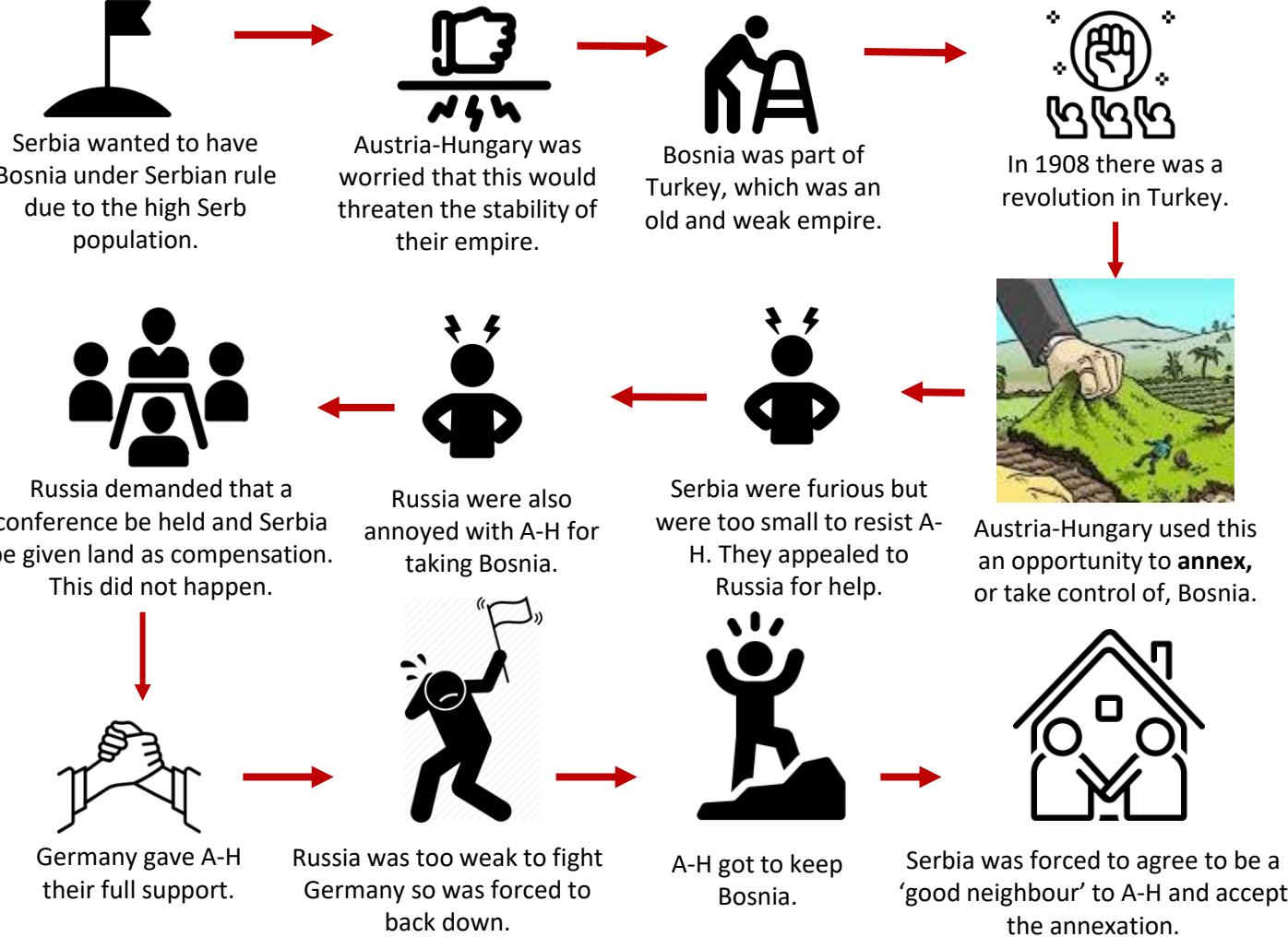
Germany did not want to back down a third time.



The Triple Alliance was weaker as Italy opposed German action.

The Balkans, an area spanning most of southern Europe, had been under the control of the Ottoman Empire. With Turkey becoming weaker ('the sick man of Europe'), many countries in the Balkans had ideas of independence and expansion, most notably of all – Serbia.

BOSNIAN CRISIS, 1908



KEY RESULTS

- A-H was confident now it had German support.
- Russia invested in its military.
- Russia promised that it would not let Serbia down again.
- Serbia was determined to challenge A-H.
- Black Hand Gang membership grew in Serbia.

BALKAN WARS, 1912 AND 1913

THE BALKAN LEAGUE

Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro and Greece joined together to form the Balkan League.

AIM: To force the Turkish Empire out of Europe.

Supported and encouraged by Russia who wanted access to a warm water port.

THE FIRST BALKAN WAR, 1912

- The Balkan League fought Turkey.
- The war lasted just 6 weeks.
- A conference was held in London to decide how Turkish land was going to be distributed.
- Balkan League countries all made gains.

THE SECOND BALKAN WAR, 1913

- Bulgaria were annoyed as they wanted more land.
- They attacked the other members of the Balkan League.
- Turkey and Romania joined in to try and get some land.
- It lasted 3 months.
- Bulgaria lost all the gains made in the first war.

KEY RESULTS

- Serbia had gained valuable military experience.
- Serbia had doubled in size.
- A-H were worried about Serbia.
- Serbia and Russia were allies.

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand which took place in June 1914 was the spark which ignited the Great War. Within six weeks, almost all of Europe had been dragged into the bloodiest war in history.

The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand



The Archduke who was heir to the throne in Austria and his wife Sophie were visiting Sarajevo in Bosnia



In a bid to appear friendly, the Archduke chose not to deploy the army on the streets.



The Black Hand Gang were a nationalist movement who aimed to unite all Serbs into "Greater Serbia".



With weapons smuggled in from Serbia, 7 assassins were ready for the Archduke's visit on 28th June 1914.



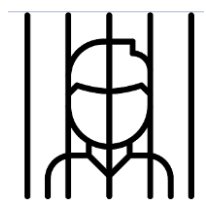
The first attempt to kill the Archduke failed, the grenade had a 10 second delay and bounced off the back of the car.



Whilst going to visit the injured in hospital the driver of the car took a wrong turn.

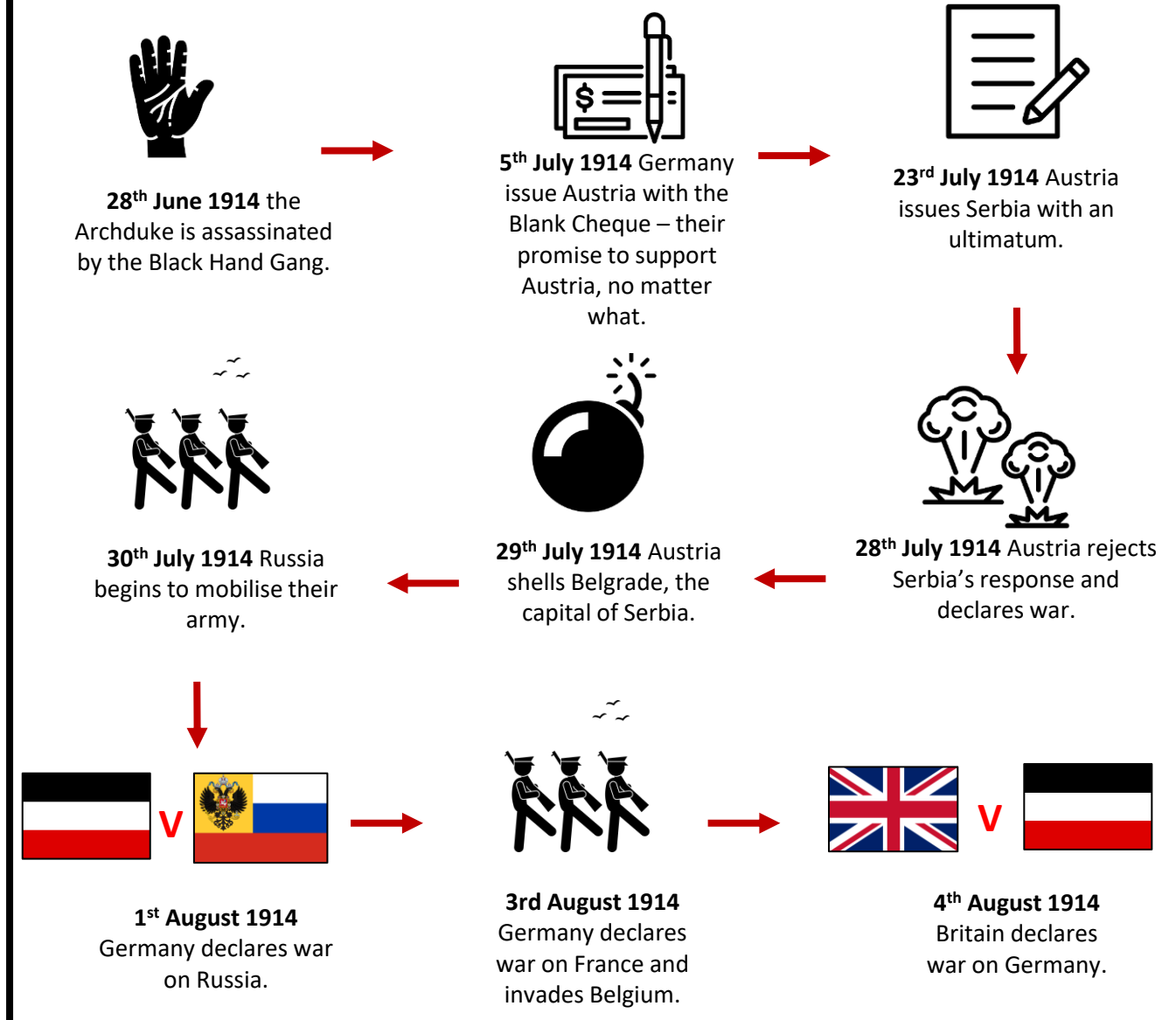


Gavrillo Princip happened to be standing on the corner and fired two shots. Killing both the Archduke and his wife.



Gavrillo Princip was sentenced to life in prison, he was too young to receive the death penalty. He died two years later from TB.

How did the assassination lead to war in 1914?





5. BATTLE OF YSER (October 1914)

- King Albert of Belgium ordered the flooding of the land by opening the canal locks.
- German Fourth Army forced to retreat on 29 October.



4. BATTLE OF THE MARNE (23 August 1914)

- Germany changed plan to head to Paris directly on foot.
- French troops arrived by rail and taxi to defend the capital.
- Combined British and French forces halted German advance along the River Marne.
- 250,000 French and 250,000 German soldiers died.
- Trenches dug for protection from 8 September – stalemate developed.



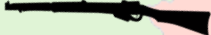
1. BATTLE OF LIÈGE (5-16 August 1914)

- First Belgian resistance encountered by Germany.
- Defended by a steep slope and 12 armoured forts with long-range heavy artillery.
- Slowed German advance by 4-5 days.



2. BATTLE OF MONS (23 August 1914)

- British Expeditionary Force (a small but very well trained force) engage German army.
- Used rapid rifle fire, causing Germans to believe they were under machine gun fire.
- Germany abandoned the plan to sweep around Paris to capture it as a result.

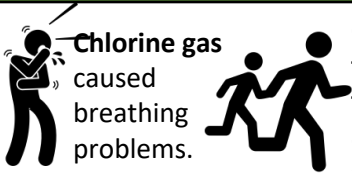
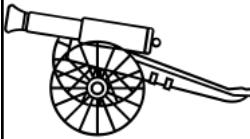
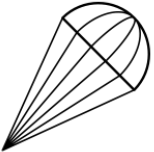
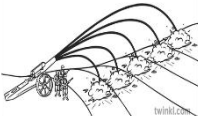


- Russian mobilization took only 10 days, much faster than the Germans had planned for.
- Germany was now fighting a war on two fronts and sent 100,000 troops to face the Russians in the east.
- Germany lost 13,000 troops at the Battle of Tannenberg.
- Russian armies caused Austria-Hungary to retreat and leave their weapons and supplies behind.

PLAN	REALITY
Belgium would not resist an invasion.	Belgium resisted the German army.
Britain would not honour the Treaty of London (1839) and defend Belgium.	Britain honoured their agreement to protect Belgian neutrality.
Russia would take at least 6 weeks to be ready for war and France would be defeated quickly.	Russia mobilized in just 10 days and were advancing towards Germany – this was now a war on two fronts!

RUSSIAN EMPIRE

World War One was a time of huge developments in both weaponry at tactics. The start of the war saw the use of cavalry, but advances in technology soon saw the use of poison gas, aircraft and tanks.

	What was it like at the start of the war?	How did it work?	How was it countered?	What were the limitations of the weapon?	How did the weapon develop during the war?
POISON GAS	First used by Germany in 1915 .	 Chlorine gas caused breathing problems. Caused fear and terror among soldiers.	 All British troops carried gas masks by April 1916 .	 Only 3000 British troops died from gas attacks.	 Mustard gas burned and blinded the victim.
AIRCRAFT	 Initially used for reconnaissance .	 In 1914, planes were dangerous and unreliable.	 Anti-aircraft guns were used to defend against aerial attacks.	 - Cramped - No parachute - Dangerous	 1915 planes were used as weapons as machines gun were mounted.
TANKS	 First used in 1916 at the Somme . More than half broke down or got stuck.	 Advanced ahead of the infantry, crushing barbed wire and firing guns .	 By 1918 : - Armour piercing bullets Artillery aimed at tanks.	 - Slow – only 5mph. - Difficult to move.	 1917 – Battle of Cambrai . Tanks used en masse and gained 5 miles of land.
UNDERGROUND WARFARE – TUNNELLING AND MINES		 Tunnels were dug underneath No Man's Land to attack (or lay mines in order to attack) the enemy.	 Miners would check oil drums filled with water for vibrations to see if enemy miners were nearby.	 - Tunnels could collapse - Meet enemy - Slow (a year to dig some)	 1917 – Battle of Messines . 19 mines detonated – 10,000 Germans killed..
ARTILLERY	 Artillery bombardment often used before an attack.	 To fire over No Man's Land with the aim of destroying enemy trenches. 60% of all wounds were from artillery	 1916 – Germans had counter-artillery units.	 - Inaccurate - Sometimes bombed own front lines/ killed own men	 Creeping barrage allowed men to cross No Man's Land under artillery cover.
MACHINE GUNS	Used from 1914 during Allied Offensives.	 - 10 bullets a second (rifle 15 per min) - 2750 metres - Crew of 2-4 - 40% of British wounds	 Artillery bombardment.	 - Heavy - Needed a crew	 By 1917 both sides had developed specially trained soldiers.

The Gallipoli landings were planned in order to open up a supply route to Russia to enable the allies to defeat Germany. But how and why did it fail?

THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

AIMS



The main aim of the Gallipoli Campaign was to create a **supply route to Russia**.



Hope that this would prevent Turkey supporting Germany & A-H and divert German attention from the Western Front.



Britain expected a quick victory over the Turkish and a strengthened Russia would end the war quickly.



Phase 1: 19 February 1915 British & French ships begin attack on Turkish forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles.



Phase 2: By 25 February the entrance was clear of Turkish forts and mines.



Phase 3: The main naval attack was launched on 18th March. British ships were shelled by Turkish forts. 3 British ships sunk, 3 severely damaged and the Navy withdrew.

Phase 4: 70,000 men were gathered for a land invasion on 25th April. These were mainly ANZAC troops. Turkey moved 84,000 troops along the coastline.



When the Naval campaign failed, the British were forced to plan a land invasion to clear the Turkish cliffs of shelling points.

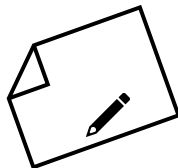
RESULTS

- Turkey was not knocked out of the war.
- Over 200,000 allied deaths (300,000 Turkish deaths).
- The campaign prevented the Turks from helping Austria-Hungary or Germany.
- Russia remained short of supplies.
- A few British submarines managed to attack Constantinople and sink Turkish warships and supplies.

WHY DID THE LANDINGS FAIL?



25th April landings were in the wrong place. Ships got lost. Troops were faced with cliffs.



Battle plans were made using sketches of the coastline and didn't include location of guns and forts.



The terrain was difficult and the maps did not show areas such as Razor's Edge. It was impossible to progress.



The Turkish spirit was high, and they were committed to defending their homeland. They had good leaders who were fighting at the front. Germany provided support (machine guns & barbed wire).



Hygiene was poor due to water shortages. Soldiers only had access to 1-2 litres a day. Alongside overcrowding this led to disease.



Dysentery was common. 3 months into the campaign, more men were suffering from sickness than injuries.

The First World War was a succession of key battles, and these saw developments in tactics and use of weapons. There were many battles over the duration of the war but there were 4 key battles which had key causes, developments and consequences.

AIMS

Knock France (main allied defence) out of the war.



Force the French to defend the town and drain them.

Falkenhayn: "Bleed France white!"

BATTLE OF VERDUN – FEBRUARY-DECEMBER 1916



140,000 German troops. 1,200 artillery guns & 2.5m shells. French were outnumbered with only 30,000 troops – were pushed back quickly.



When the Somme started, Germany were pushed back. By 23 June, Germany was 2.5 miles from Verdun. 80% of French force fought. 6,000 vehicles a day arrived for defence.

RESULTS



Germany: 280,000
France: 315,000



Britain launched the Somme.



French army mutinies in 1917, no help in offensives.

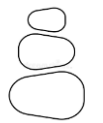
AIMS

To destroy German submarine bases.

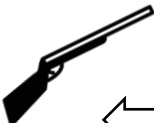


To destroy German morale for war.

BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE – JULY-NOVEMBER 1917



10 day artillery bombardment. Drainage systems destroyed. Initial Allied progress using stepping stones. Heavy rain in August 1917.



Soldiers and horses drowned. Rifles clogged with mud. Craters filled with water so soldiers lost cover. Tanks got stuck in the mud.

RESULTS



Submarine bases remained intact.



Gained approx. 4.5mi



Germany: 400,000
Allies: 300,000

AIMS

Relieve pressure on the French at Verdun.

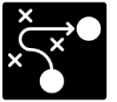


Weaken the Germans through **attrition** warfare.

BATTLE OF THE SOMME – JULY-NOVEMBER 1916



Week-long artillery bombardment to destroy defences. German defences not destroyed, Germans safe in dug outs. British infantry walked over No Man's Land.



Creeping barrage developed to protect advancing infantry. Tactics developed over time to reduce losses inflicted. German machine guns kill 20,000 and wound 40,000 on day 1.

RESULTS



Germany: 500,000
Britain: 620,000



Gained 7 miles.



Verdun held and France remained in the war.

EXTRA

AIMS

To attack the Hindenburg Line. (German defensive line)

BATTLE OF CAMBRAI – NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1917



Short artillery bombardment on morning of attack. 350 tanks were used. Infantry progressed using creeping barrage.



By the end of November, Germany counter-attacked. 5 miles gained on the first day. Germans were surprised at the speed of the attack..

RESULTS



Germany: 45,000
Allies: 44,000



9,000 German prisoners.



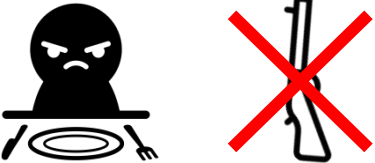
Allies learnt to use **tanks en masse**, combined with artillery and infantry.

Control of the sea was vital for both sides during the war. It was needed to ensure supplies were reaching people at home (both in Britain and Germany) and soldiers at the front. There were a number of small battles in the early part of the war but it was largely a stalemate as both sides were reluctant to use their navies.

BRITISH BLOCKADE OF GERMANY – 1914-1919

AIM

Starve out Germany and stop essential war supplies from reaching the country.



WHAT WAS IT?

- German ships blocked into own ports by the British navy and mines.
- Britain used **contraband lists** to stop supplies from reaching Germany by intercepting vessels suspected of taking goods to Germany.
- Britain declared the North Sea a **British ‘military area’ on 3 November 1914.**
- Neutral merchant ships agreed to dock in British ports** for inspection and then escorted through the British minefields.



RESULTS

- Lack of coal, oil and steel damaged German industry.
- Lack of medicines meant injured soldiers and sick civilians could not be treated, effects seen in the 1918 Spanish Flu (150,000 died).
- Lack of fertilized resulted in wide-spread food shortages.
- Average daily diet was of less than 1,000 calories a day.
- 763,000 Germans died as a result of starvation.
- Major anti-war riots broke out by as early as 1915.



THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND – MAY 1916

GERMAN AIMS

- Destroy the British Blockade.
- Draw out the British navy from their ports and engage both navies in battle.

EVENTS OF JUTLAND

German Plan

- Admiral Scheer felt that the best way to defeat the British Navy was to force it into open sea.
- A few German ships would act as bait in the North Sea, so the British would sail out to meet them. The rest of the German fleet would trap them from behind.

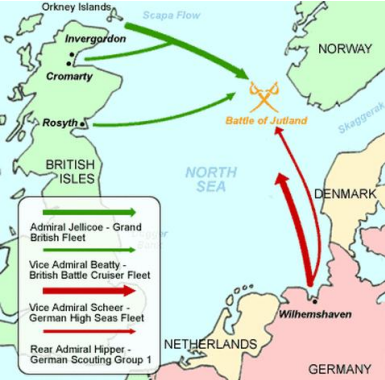
The battle

- The Germans followed their plan but the British had decoded German messages and knew what to expect. Despite this, a British ship was destroyed in 20 minutes of the start of the battle.
- When the rest of the British fleet arrived, the Germans sailed north. Rather than follow, the British planned to attack on their way home.
- The British fleet was hampered by poor communications between Admirals Beatty and Jellicoe, poor quality armour on their ships and poor visibility at night.

RESULTS

- The Blockade remained in place (the Germans didn’t achieve their aim).
- The British suffered heavier losses which led to the Germans declaring victory.
- The German navy never set sail again and required major repairs which led to the British declaring victory.

Map of the Battle of Jutland



	Losses	
	Britain	Germany
Warships	14	9
Men	6,100	2,550

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNS

AIM

Germany made use of U-boats during the war, particularly focusing on attacking British and Allied cargo ships that were poorly defended.

Prevent supplies and imports from reaching Britain from the Empire and the USA.



DEVELOPMENTS

- February 1915;** Germany declared any ship in British waters (even neutral ones) would be attacked. An average of 1.9 ships were being sunk daily. (**UNRESTRICTED SUBMARINE WARFARE**).
- May 1915;** German U-boat **sunk** the British passenger ship the ‘**Lusitania**’. Killing 1,198 people, 128 of whom were American. Britain uses this for anti-German propaganda.
- US President warned Germany over the attack and Germany scaled back their U-boat campaign for a while.
- February 1917;** Germany **resumed USW** in a desperate effort to end the British Blockade.

RESULTS

- Amount of shipping destroyed in 1917 was more than double 1916. In March 1917, 25% of all British-bound shipping was sunk.
- In May 1917 Britain only had 6 weeks worth of basic goods left.
- America entered the war against Germany.
- Britain used Q-ships (warships disguised as supply ships) to trick the Germans.
- The Convoy System was developed where slow-moving supply ships were guarded by destroyer ships.

The events of 1917 saw crucial turning points in the development of the First World War. The United States was finally drawn into the war as a result of successive provocations by Germany. However, in the same year, a key ally in Russia left the war as a result of a revolution. What caused these events to happen, and what were the results?

ENTRY OF THE USA – APRIL 1917

AT THE START OF THE WAR...



The USA didn't take sides and followed **ISOLATIONISM**. They were officially neutral.



US banks lent billions of dollars to the Allies. This included the sale of food and weapons.



Ships transporting American supplies to Britain were a target for U-boats.

WHY DID THE US ENTER THE WAR?



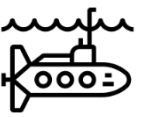
MAY 1915 – Sinking of the Lusitania

- German U-boat torpedoed British passenger ship off the coast of Ireland and sunk it.
- 1,200 passengers died, 128 were American – sparked anti-German riots.
- US President warns Germany to stop USW.



JANUARY 1917 – Zimmerman Telegram

- German foreign minister Zimmerman sent a message to Mexico.
- Proposing Mexico attack the US and Germany would support them in gaining lost land through financial and military aid (New Mexico, Arizona and Texas).
- Intercepted by the British and passed on to US government.



February 1917 – Resumption of USW

- The blockade had pushed Germany to desperation with starvation rife.
- Germany gambled and resumed USW to try and break the blockade.
- This angered the US as their ships were now targeted by the U-boat campaign.

The US declared war on Germany in April 1917.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF US INVOLVEMENT?



Fresh Troops

- Fresh troops were now available for the Western Front.
- 10,000 a day by mid 1918.



Supplies & Money

- The US supported the Allies with new supplies of weapons and food.
- US Navy supported the convoy system.
- US contributed money to the war effort.



RUSSIAN REVOLUTION – FEBRUARY 1917

WHY DID RUSSIA REVOLT?



Poor leadership by the Tsar and his advisors. Appeared unable to deal with problems.



Widespread food shortages led to starvation and disease.



By 1916 over 1 million Russians had been killed in the fighting.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1917?



- Riots and strikes against the war broke out all over Russia.



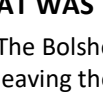
- Soldiers were ordered to fire on protesters but refused and joined in with the protesters.



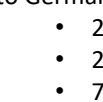
- Soldiers on the Russian front line mutinied and deserted their posts.



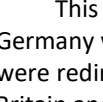
- In Petrograd, a worker's council (Petrograd Soviet) was established to organise a full-scale revolution.



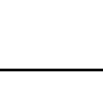
- With no remaining support, the Tsar abdicated on 15 March.



- A provisional government was created but the war continued – after another serious military defeat, thousands of soldiers deserted.



- In October 1917, a group called the Bolsheviks overthrew the provisional government and took control of Russia. These were led by Lenin who had been smuggled back into Russia by the Germans.



- The Bolsheviks promised to end the war quickly.

WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION?

- The Bolsheviks signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918. For leaving the war, Russia gave up huge amounts of land and resources to Germany;
 - 26% of Russia's population.
 - 27% of Russia's agricultural land.
 - 74% of its coal and iron ore.



This temporarily lessened the impact of the blockade.

- Germany was no longer fighting a 2-front war and 500,000 soldiers were redirected to the Western Front.
- Britain and France were worried as they lost a major ally.



Spring 1918 saw Germany’s last ditch effort to win the war before American troops arrived en masse and would contribute to the war effort. By August, the Allies (supported by fresh American troops and supplies) had launched their counterattack to push Germany back and attempt to secure a victory against the Germans close to defeat.

THE SPRING OFFENSIVE (LUDENDORFF OFFENSIVE) – SPRING 1918

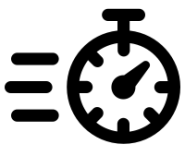
WHY DID GERMANY ATTACK IN SPRING 1918?



Russia was out of the war, weakening the Allies. 500,000 German troops were sent to the Western Front.



American troops had not yet arrived in Europe but were on their way.



Germany had a small window of opportunity to make a breakthrough, but had to act fast!

LUDENDORFF’S PLAN



Launch an attack at several points on the British and French lines.



Hurricane bombardment: Five-hour artillery bombardment of a million shells just before the ground attack.



Storm troopers: Fast moving, heavily armed soldiers (flame throwers and machine guns).

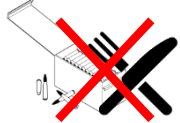
GERMAN RESULTS



Within 5 miles of Paris.



500,000 men lost during the offensive.



The advance was faster than the supply chain could manage – soldiers ran out of supplies and food which led to poor morale and discipline.

ALLIED RESULTS



Surprise attack caused panic in British lines.



Some soldiers surrendered.



21,000 British taken prisoner.



20,000 killed and 35,000 wounded.

WHY DID THE SPRING OFFENSIVE FAIL?



Fresh US troops: March – 250,000 June – 50,000 a week.



Supplies couldn’t keep up with the demand.



German forces were exhausted by 1918.



French counterattack at the Marne in July 1918.

HUNDRED DAYS OFFENSIVE – AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1918



General Foch appointed Commander-in-chief’. Unified command structure.



Focus on a series of attacks across the front line rather than one large offensive. ➔ Overstretch the enemy and wear them down.

BATTLE OF AMIENS



- 8th August 1918.
- British, Australia, Canadian and French forces.
- Over 400 tanks supported the offensive.

- Took 11km on the first day, 8km over week.
- Allied losses at 6,500.
- German losses:
 - 30,000
 - 17,000 taken prisoner.

BATTLES OF THE HINDENBURG LINE



- September 1918.
- Germans had been pushed back to their reinforced concrete defensive line.

- 28,000 German losses.
- 15km of land gained including the control of Sedan which had a railway hub.
- 26,000 US troops died.

ALLIED BREAKTHROUGH & GERMAN RETREAT



- French and US forces broke through the Hindenburg Line by early October.



When in full retreat, the Germans;

- Burned bridges
- Poisoned water wells
- Destroyed roads
- Left behind heavy guns and supplies.



Collapse of the German army resulted in most German Generals accepting the war should be ended.



ADVANCES IN THE AIR



Aircraft were first used for reconnaissance.



During the war, planes were made of stronger materials.



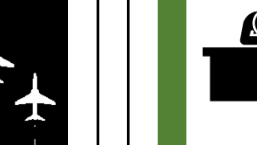
Interrupter mechanism weaponized planes.



Improved radio communication between pilots & ground.



Fighter & bomber planes supported troops (Amiens 1918).



Groups of 2/3 at the start of the war changed into formations.

ADVANCES AT SEA



Hydrophone had been developed by 1918, able to detect submarines several miles away.



Dazzle camouflage distorted U-boat abilities to see target ships.



Aircraft carriers launched small 'floatplanes' using catapults.



Q-ships used to trick the Germans, first in 1915. These were military ships disguised as merchant ships.

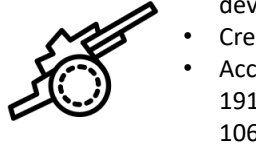
ADVANCES ON THE BATTLEFIELD

TANKS



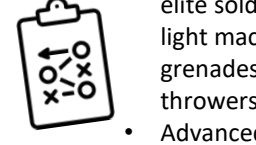
- Battle of Cambrai in 1917; 400 tanks crossed no man's land.
- 1918; Germans developed guns that penetrated tanks, also used anti-tank trenches.

ARTILLERY



- Shells to destroy barbed wire developed.
- Creeping Barrage perfected.
- Accuracy and size improved, by 1918 the Germans could fire 106kg shell 130km.
- Anti-aircraft guns were developed to shoot down planes.

TACTICS

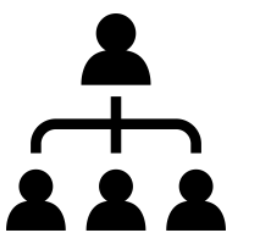


- Specially trained team of elite soldiers, armed with light machine guns, grenades and flame throwers.
- Advanced ahead of the main attack to locate German machine gun posts.

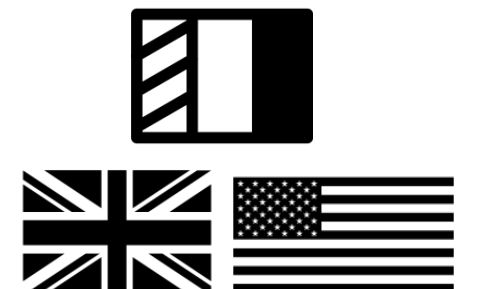
ADVANCES IN COMMAND



Ferdinand **Foch** appointed Commander-in-Chief.



Unified Command Structure:
Direct all British (and Empire), French and American troops.



END OF THE WAR – AUTUMN-NOVEMBER 1918



Autumn 1918
Situation for Germany is hopeless, widespread anti-war feeling with soldiers in full retreat on the Western Front.



Kiel Mutiny – October 1918
Sailors at Kiel were ordered to make a last-ditch attempt to attack the British fleet. They refused and revolted.

Revolutions spread across Germany over the next few days.



9 November 1918
Revolutions reach Berlin and the government ask the Kaiser to abdicate (resign), but he refuses.

By noon on 9 November 1918 the Kaiser abdicates as German Emperor, the German Republic is declared.

New government declare that they are willing to sue for peace.



11 November 1918
Armistice signed – the new German government meet with the Allied forces and sign an armistice. The Allies did not wish to negotiate.

Terms of Peace:

- Cease all hostilities
- Leave the occupied territories
- Repatriate allied prisoners of war
- Establish a demilitarized zone
- Surrender all heavy arms, airplanes and trains.

This was to prevent any attempt by Germany to continue the war.