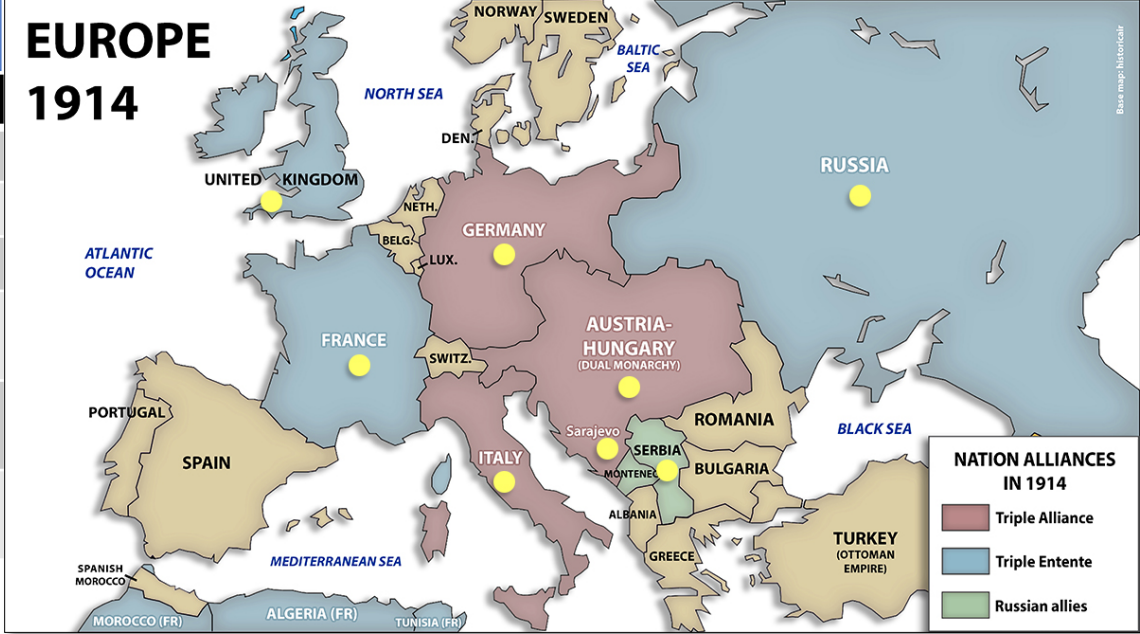


What caused the First World War?

Century: 20th (1914-1918)



Key terms	
Long term cause	Factors / causes which happen a long time before an event takes place
Short term cause	Factors / causes which happen just before an event takes place – usually a catalyst
Nationalism	The belief that your country is better than others. This made nations assertive and aggressive
Imperialism	The desire to conquer colonies, especially in Africa. This brought the powers into conflict: Germany wanted an empire. France and Britain already had empires.
Alliances	A group of countries who promise to support and protect each other. Rival groups have rival alliances
Militarism	An emphasis on military ideals and strength. Wanting your country to have a strong army and navy

Important People	
Archduke Franz Ferdinand	A member of the Austrian Royal Family - nephew of Emperor Franz Josef . Heir to the Austrian throne (next in line to be the Emperor / ruler of Austria-Hungary)
Gavrilo Princip	Gavrilo Princip was born in Bosnia in 1894, became a member of the Black Hand – a Serbian terrorist organisation that wanted to hurt Austria and get it out of Bosnia.

1914

- June 28**– Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Gavrilo Princip
- July 23**– Austria-Hungary demands Serbia pay for the assassination of Franz Ferdinand.
- July 28**– Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Russia begins mobilizing its troops
- August 2nd-4th**– Germany invades Luxembourg and then Belgium. It declares war on France at the same time.

- July 5**– Germany gives Austria-Hungary a “blank cheque”.
- July 26**– Russia begins to get its troops ready to help defend Serbia
- August 1**– Germany declares war on Russia.
- August 4**– Germany refuses to uphold Belgian neutrality and invades. Britain declares war on Germany.

What were the Great Powers concerns in 1914?

Britain	Germany’s growing military and naval strength. Germany was also producing more goods.
Germany	Jealousy of Britain. Fear of having hostile neighbours (France and Russia).
Russia	Rivalry with Austria-Hungary. Russia was keen to increase its influence in the Balkans.
Austria-Hungary	Many regions in the Empire wanted their independence. Russia was prepared to support these regions. Huge rivalry with Russia.
Italy	To try and remain neutral in the event of a major European war
France	Wanted revenge after losing an earlier war to Germany and losing the territory of Alsace-Lorraine

Key Questions: Can you answer them all?

- Who made up the Triple Alliance and Triple Entente?
- How did the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand lead to the outbreak of the First World War?
- What was the most important cause of WW1?

Want to explore further?

Books: *Peter Hart: The Great War*, *Max Hastings: Catastrophe: Europe Goes to War 1914*.
 Article: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/nov/08/first-world-war-causes-deliberate-accident>
 Youtube: Crash Course World History 209 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cd2ch4XV84s>