

The Causes of the First World War: *The Alliance System, Anglo-German Rivalry and the Outbreak of war*

KEY WORDS

Word War One: A global conflict involving the main European Powers and their empires from August 1914 to November 1918.

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.

Militarism: An emphasis on military ideals and strength. Wanting your country to have a strong army and navy.

Alliances: A group of countries who promise to support and protect each other. Rival groups have rival alliances.

Imperialism: The desire to conquer colonies, especially in Africa. This brought the powers in conflict: Germany wanted an empire. France and Britain already had empires.

Nationalism: The belief that your country is better than others. This made nations assertive and aggressive.

Triple Entente: Alliance between Great Britain, France and Russia.

Triple Alliance: Alliance between Germany, Italy and Austria-Hungary.

Western Front: Zone of fighting where Germany engaged armies to its west in WWI.

Trench Warfare: Is a type of land warfare using occupied fighting lines consisting largely of trenches, in which troops are significantly protected from the enemy's small arms fire and are substantially sheltered from artillery.

Prussia: Was a major military and economic power in Central Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries. Prussia included half of modern Poland and all but southern Germany.

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Archduke Franz Ferdinand: Next in line to be ruler of Austria-Hungarian Empire. Assassinated in 1914 in Bosnia.

Field Marshall Moltke: The chief of staff of the Prussian Army for thirty years, he is regarded as the creator of a new, more modern method of directing armies in the field.

Gavrillo Princip: Serbian Nationalist. Member of Black Hand. Assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

King George V: King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India 1910 - 1936.

Tsar Nicholas II: Leader of Russia 1894 - 1917

Kaiser Wilhelm II: Emperor of Germany, 1888 - 1918

Alfred von Schlieffen: Creator of the plan for German invasion of France through Belgium.

How do you know Question (4 marks)

- 1) Source C is critical of Britain's Entente Cordial with France. How do you know? Explain your answer using source C and your contextual Knowledge.

Factors Question (16 marks+ 4 SPaG)

- 1) 'The main reason for conflict in the Balkans was the weakness of the Turkey Empire.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- 2) 'Militarism was the main reason that war broke out in 1914.' How far do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer.

Write an account Question (8 marks)

- 1) Write an account of how Germany became a powerful and ambitious European State.
- 2) Write an account of how events in the Balkans during the summer of 1914 led to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Source Usefulness Question (12 marks)

- 1) Study sources A and How useful are sources A and B to a historian studying the aims of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Source C: A cartoon showing how, by 1915, Germany viewed the Entente Cordial that was signed between Britain and France in 1904; the eagle represents Germany.



Source Type

Author

Date

Purpose



Source A: The cover from a German journal published in 1909; it indicates that European countries are scared of Germany

Germany is a young and growing empire. She has a worldwide commerce which is rapidly expanding, and which patriotic Germans will not restrict. Germany must have a powerful fleet to protect her commerce and interests, even in the most distant seas. She expects those interests to go on growing, and she must be able to champion them manfully in any quarter of the globe.



Source B: Adapted from an interview with the Kaiser, published in the London Daily Telegraph, 28th October 1908; readers would have found the Kaisers buildup of arms alarming.

Key Events Timeline

KEY:

Militarism

Alliances

Imperialism

Nationalism

Splendid Isolation (1885- 1902)

Britain avoided permanent alliances as it was content alone. It was a rich, powerful country with an outstanding navy and huge empire that it didn't want to lose.

The Kaiser and Weltpolitik (1898)

The growth of the German navy began so that Germany could expand its empire.

Triple Entente (1907)

The mutual aid agreement between France, Britain and Russia was made.

(May 1914)

Field Marshall Moltke called for Germany to launch preventative war against Russia.

The Dual Alliance (1879)

The agreement that Germany and Austria-Hungary would come to the other's aid in the face of attack by Russia.

Schlieffen Plan (1905)

The German plan to quickly invade and defeat France was created by Von Schlieffen.

2nd Moroccan crisis (1911)

Germany sends gunboat in protest at French action, Britain and France feared Germany was building a Naval base and would start war.

War Begins (28th July 1914)

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Russia mobilises troops.

Invasion of Belgium (3rd August 1914)

Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany due to a pact that Belgium and Britain had called 'The Treaty of London' 1839 which meant that Britain would go to Belgium's aid when needed.

1900

1910

1905

1914

1915

The Triple Alliance (1882)

Italy joined Germany and Austria-Hungary's alliance in hope that it could gain power and support it expired in 1915.

Franco-Russian Alliance (1894)

France and Russia become Allies, they would now assist each other if Germany and the Triple Alliance attacked.

The Kaiser and Weltpolitik (1897)

The imperialist foreign policy adopted by the German Empire during the reign of Emperor Wilhelm II. The aim was to transform Germany into a global power.

1st Moroccan crisis (1905)

The Kaiser tells Morocco that Germany will support them instead of France at the Algeiras conference. Morocco wants the support of France, the Kaiser is humiliated.

The Black Hand Gang 1911

Serbian nationalist group 'The Black Hand' formed.

The Assassination of Franz Ferdinand (28th June 1914)

Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated by Gavrilo Princip of Serbian nationalist group 'The Black Hand.'

The July Crisis (23rd July 1914)

Serbia refused Austria-Hungary demand to pay compensation.

Balkans Crisis (1908-9)

Austria takes control of Bosnia when the Ottoman Empire crumbles, Serbian anger threatens to cause war and turns to Russia for help.

The Schlieffen Plan(3rd August 1914)

Germany declares war on France. Initiates Schlieffen plan..