

What were the **long term** causes of World War One?



Why and how did the First World War start?

Wars usually have a number of different causes. Some causes go back a very long time, perhaps years or decades. These are called '**long-term** causes'. But some causes may have happened only recently, within days, weeks or months. These are called '**short-term** causes'. Historians often like to divide the reasons why something happened into long-term and short-term causes. The information on these pages outlines the long-term causes of the First World War.



The **MAIN** Long Term Causes of WWI

As you watch the following clip, note down what each of the letters in MAIN stand for, and any other information you can add too.

Militarism

Alliances

Imperialism

Nationalism



Militarism

- People took great pride in their army and navy, it made them feel more powerful
- To make sure their army or navy was the best, they spent huge amounts of money
- Countries were prepared to use their forces aggressively to defend or promote their country
- This led to an **arms race**

Why might this lead to a war?



Alliances

- As each country grew more threatened they looked for friends – Allies
- Europe was split into two main alliances

Triple Entente: Britain, France & Russia

Triple Alliance: Germany, Austro-Hungary & Italy



Why might this lead to a war?

Imperialism

- Britain's empire was huge by 1914, other countries wanted big empires too
- This leads to imperialism where there is a race to gain control of other nations, especially in Africa
- This led to massive tension between the European powers and war was seen as the only way to stop it

Why might this lead to a war?



Nationalism

- At the start of the 20th Century, people started to take great pride in their country, some believing their country was far superior to another
- The best way to prove this would be by defeating your enemy

Why might this lead to a war?



Complicated Friendships



The image on the left shows the friendships and alliances between the 9 most powerful countries in the world in 1914.

Look at the image... what are your first impressions from the source?

Does anything strike you as odd?

Are you surprised by anything?

If you had to describe the alliances in one word what would you choose?

This is a modern redrawing of a cartoon published in the Brooklyn Eagle, July 1914. It was called 'The Chain of Friendship.'

1. Does it look like the artist thought that the Alliances were going to prevent war?
2. What do you think of the alliances?



Looking closer at Europe and the Alliance System, which alliance is strongest and why?



Of the four **MAIN LONG TERM** causes of WWI, rank them in order of most important (1) to least important (4). Write a short paragraph to justify your reasoning...



Quick Quiz:

What were the 4 main causes of tension leading to World War I?

Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, Nationalism

What countries formed the Triple Entente?

Britain, France & Russia

What countries formed the Triple Alliance?

Germany, Austro-Hungary, Italy

Of the four main causes of tension, which was linked to Empire building?

Imperialism

Of the four main causes of tension, which was linked to building the strongest army?

Militarism



What were the **Short term** causes of World War One?



Remember that the tension in Europe by 1914 was incredibly high, it would only take a relatively minor incident to trigger a conflict.

That trigger came when the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot by a **Serbian Nationalist** terrorist named Gavrillo Princip when he was visiting Sarajevo in Bosnia. Princip was part of the Black Hand Gang.





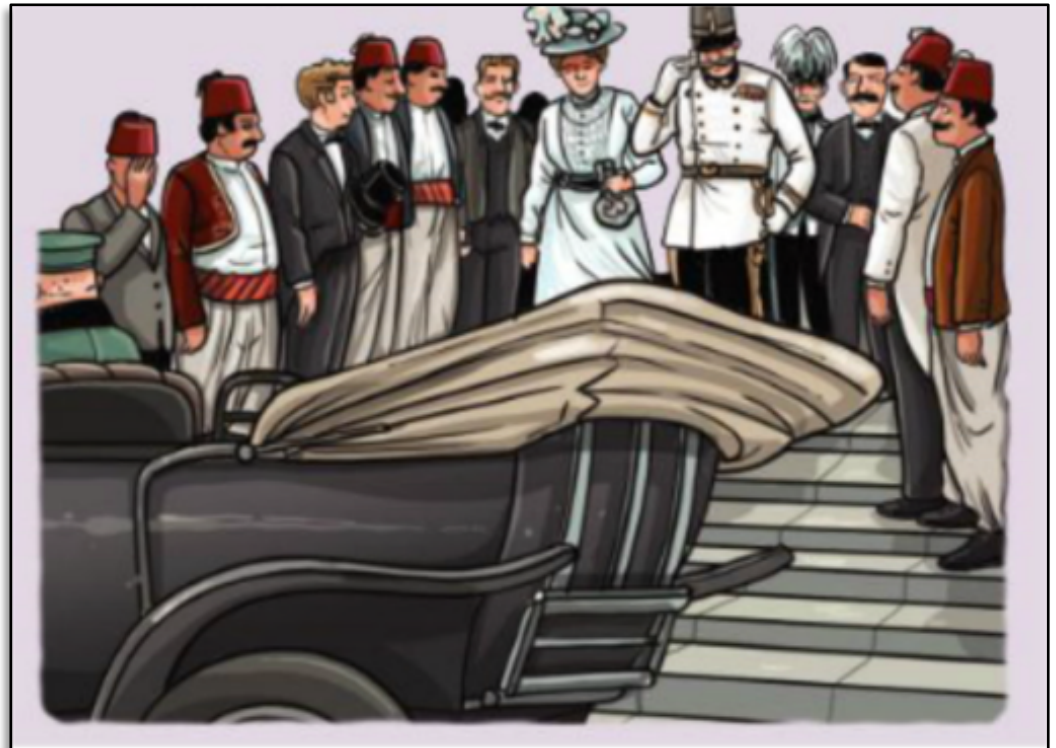
How does this assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand link to the MAIN long term tensions in Europe by 1914?



Why did Princip and the 'Black Hand' gang assassinate Ferdinand?

On 28th June 1914, Ferdinand visited Sarajevo (in Bosnia) with his wife Sophie. Bosnia was part of Austria-Hungary, but only since 1908 when it had been annexed (join) by Austria-Hungary.

Many Bosnians were still unhappy about this as they wanted to join with Serbia. Many other Serbians wanted to Bosnia to join them too. The 'Black Hand' gang took drastic actions to highlight their cause. Ferdinand's visit to Sarajevo was their chance...



So, what happened on 28th June 1914 in Sarajevo?

I

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Sophie arrived at Sarajevo train station at 9:28am. They were driven towards the town hall to meet the mayor. Crowds lined the streets and the car drove slowly so that the royal couple could wave to the people.



So, what happened on 28th June 1914 in Sarajevo?

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Seven Black Hand assassins waited for the car by the Cumurja Bridge. As the car passed, one of the Serbians threw a bomb at the royal couple. The bomb missed its target and exploded beneath the car behind, injuring several people. The Archduke's car sped off to the town hall.



So, what happened on 28th June 1914 in Sarajevo?

3

The Archduke cancelled the rest of the visit, but decided to check on those injured by the bomb before he went home. At 11:00am, he again got into the car – but it drove much faster this time! As it passed Schiller's Café, the driver was informed that he'd taken a wrong turn. He stopped to turn around.



So, what happened on 28th June 1914 in Sarajevo?

4

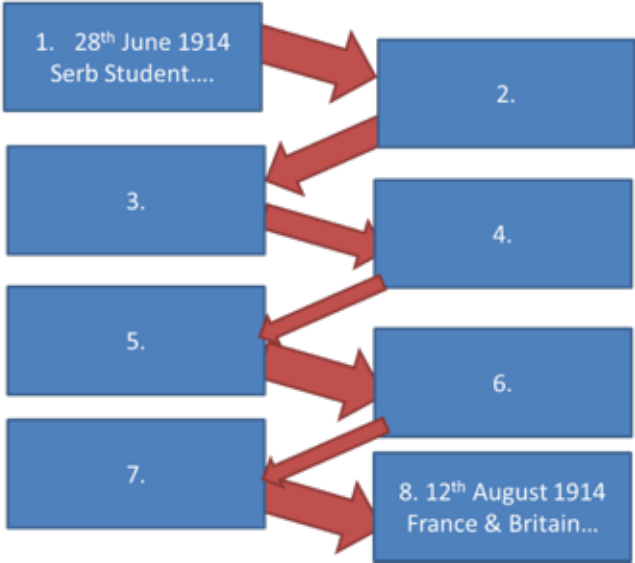
After the bomb attack, the assassins had split up and run into the crowds. By coincidence, one gang member – 19-year-old Gavrilo Princip – was standing outside the café. He took out a pistol, walked towards the car and fired two shots. Ferdinand was hit in the throat; Sophie was shot in the stomach. Both were killed.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfO7TduevHA>

On your worksheet, number the Events of 1914 in chronological order.

Then write the events in your books in order either in a chain of events, or as the example shows you in the sheet.



The beginning of 1914 WWI 1918

On the 28th June 1914, one shot sparked a world war that cost the lives of over 9 million men. This was the beginning of the 'War to End all Wars'.



TASK:

Using all the information on this sheet, create a poster showing how the one shot led to war.

EVENTS OF 1914:

Lay your poster out like this



Start of WWI

By _____

1. You have to put the events in the right order!
2. Number each event - the first and last have been done for you.
3. Now create your poster.



28 June 1914
Serb student, Gavril Princip shoots Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand & his wife.

1

1st August 1914
Due to the alliances, Germany declares war on Russia

29th July 1914
Due to her Alliance, Russia mobilises to support Serbia

5th August 1914
Austro-Hungary declared war on Russia

By 12 August 1914
France and Britain declare war on Austro-Hungary

3rd August 1914
Germany declared war on France

4th August 1914
Germany invaded Belgium using the Schlieffen Plan, Britain declares war on Germany

28 July 1914
Unhappy at Serbia's response, Austro-Hungary declares war on Serbia

8

June
July
August
September
November

► **SOURCE C** Princip received a 20-year prison sentence for the murders. He died in prison in 1918, from a lung disease called tuberculosis.



Look at the timeline below to see how the assassination led to all-out war.

A timeline to war

28 July: Austria-Hungary blames Serbia for killing the Archduke, and attacks Serbia.

29 July: Russia, which has promised to protect Serbia against attack, gets its army ready to attack Austria-Hungary.

1 August: Germany, which supports Austria-Hungary, hears about Russian preparations for war. Germany declares war on Russia.

2 August: Britain prepares its warships.

3 August: Germany, which is more worried about the French army than about the Russian army, decides to attack France first. It declares war on France, hoping to defeat the French quickly, then turn to fight the Russians.

2 August: Germany asks Belgium to allow German soldiers to march through Belgium to attack France. Belgium says no. Germany marches into Belgium anyway.

4 August: Britain, which has a deal to protect Belgium from attack (dating back to 1839), declares war on Germany.

5 August: France declares war on Germany.

6 August: Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.

12 August: Britain and France declare war on Austria-Hungary.

Questions

Why did Austria Hungary attack Serbia?

Why did Russia prepare to attack Austria Hungary?

Why did Germany invade Belgium?

Why did Britain declare war on Germany?

What do all of these questions directly link to in our MAIN long term causes of WWI?

ALLIANCES



The shot heard around the world! The assassination triggered WW1 as it led to the alliance system being triggered like a domino effect. From 28th July to 12th August 1914, WW1 had begun...

Italy didn't stick to the agreements it had made before the murders. Instead it joined Britain, France and Russia's side in 1915. The countries that joined with the Triple Entente members (Britain, France and Russia) together became known simply as the 'Allies'. Those that joined with the remaining Triple Alliance members (Germany and Austria-Hungary) became known as the 'Central Powers'. In total, 32 countries joined the war and the major ones lined up like this:

Allies: • Britain and its empire • France • Belgium
• Italy (from 1915) • Serbia • Romania (from 1916)
• Portugal (from 1916) • Russia (until 1917)
• USA (from 1917) • Japan

Central Powers: • Germany • Austria-Hungary
• Turkey • Bulgaria (from 1915)

