

CONFLICT AND TENSION 1894-1918



REVISION BOOKLET



THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

What was Europe like before the war?

Great Britain

- Wanted to maintain their imperial and naval supremacy.
- Did not want to get involved in European affairs – they were in ‘splendid isolation’.
- Was a strong trading nation, which, by 1914 had been overtaken by Germany in chemical and steel

Russia

- Had a large but ill-equipped army.
- Had a long-standing rivalry with Austria-Hungary due to the high Slavic population in the A-H empire.
- Fought and lost a war with Japan in 1905 and therefore could not afford another one.

France

- Had a long-standing feud with Germany as they had been defeated in the Franco-Prussian War and had lost Alsace-Lorraine.
- Was not on good terms with Britain as they had squabbled over land in Africa.
- Was worried about the growth of the German military and industry.



Serbia

- Gained independence from Turkey in 1878.
- Wanted to join with Bosnia due to the number of Serbs living there.
- Believed in pan-Slavism. The biggest obstacle to this was the A-H empire where Slavs lived under Austro-Hungarian not Slavic rule.

Germany

- Unified in 1870.
- Bismarck wanted to maintain dominance through creating alliances but wanted to weaken and isolate France.
- Wanted to increase the size of their empire and navy.
- Was also worried about the growing size of the Russian army.

Austria-Hungary

- Had a large empire made up of several nationalities. It wanted to keep their empire strong.
- Wanted to take over the weakening Ottoman Empire (Turkey).
- Was worried about Serbia.

The Alliance System

- **The Triple Alliance 1882** - was arranged by **Bismarck** (the German Chancellor). Germany were aware that France would want revenge for its defeat in the Franco-Prussian War therefore the Triple Alliance was designed to a) alienate France and b) create a **military alliance** with Austria-Hungary and Italy in case of invasion from a foreign power.
- **The Triple Entente** consists of 3 separate agreements.
 - o **The Franco-Russian Agreement 1894** – had the intention of encircling Germany. This was a **military alliance** but these two countries only promised to defend the other if **Germany** attacked either of them.



- The Franco-Russian Agreement could only be signed after the **Reinsurance Treaty** between Russia and Germany had lapsed. Wilhem failed to renew it after Bismarck was dismissed meaning that Russia was now free to form alliance with another country.
- **The Entente Cordiale 1904** - was signed between Britain and France. The two countries agreed to stay on good terms and **settled colonial disputes** in Africa. Britain was following a policy of **Splendid Isolation** at this time – they did not want to interfere in European affairs and therefore these agreements are seen as a way of **preserving British supremacy** in areas that concerned them. Although this is not a military agreement **Germany saw this a threat that needed to be tested.**
- **The Anglo-Russian Alliance 1907** – another agreement that settled colonial disputes between Britain and Russia. This was signed following the first Moroccan Crisis where Russia supported France. This was **not a military agreement** but the result of these three agreements made Germany feel **encircled.**

What are the key differences between the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente?

How did the alliance system cause tension in Europe? (What specific events SHOW that the alliance system led to increased tension?)

German Foreign Policy – Weltpolitik

When Kaiser Wilhelm came to power in 1890, Germany had an incredibly small overseas empire.

Why did Germany have such a small empire?

How did this impact German Foreign Policy?

Germany felt threatened by the big empires of Britain and France and felt that Germany should have an empire of their own. Wilhelm's policy to achieve this was called 'Weltpolitik' or World Policy. Germany was looking for their '*Place in the Sun*'.

To achieve this, Wilhelm was inspired by the British Empire. He believed that Britain had gained their empire through their naval power and therefore believed that Germany needed to expand their armed forces to achieve their imperial ambitions.



How did Weltpolitik lead to war? Think of specific events.

Why did Germany feel that Weltpolitik was justified?

Why did Weltpolitik make Britain anxious?

The Arms Race on Land 1900-1914

- Strong armies were seen as a way of **preventing wars** from breaking out as they would act as a **deterrent**.

Explain this idea in your own words.

- All European powers **except Britain** had introduced conscription by 1914.
- All nations began to make war plans.

Why are the two points above significant when discussing militarism pre-1914?

The Anglo-German Naval Race

Britain needed a navy for three main reasons:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

- Britain introduced the **two power standard** in 1889 in order to **maintain their naval dominance**.
- In 1898 Wilhelm ordered Admiral Tirpitz to build up the German navy to rival Britain's. **Germany's Second Naval Law in 1900** meant that by 1906, the size of the German navy had doubled.
- In 1906, Britain introduced the dreadnought. By 1908, Germany had created their own version of the dreadnought.
- The dreadnought race reached a peak in 1909. The British public were demanding for 8 dreadnoughts to be made per year.

How did the naval race contribute to war?

The First Moroccan Crisis 1905-1906 (The Algeiras Crisis)

As part of the Entente Cordiale, Britain agreed that Morocco fell within the French 'sphere of influence'. However, **Kaiser Wilhelm decided to interfere and declared that he supported Moroccan independence**.

He did this for two reasons:

- 1) To try and increase German influence in Africa.
- 2) To test the strength of the Entente Cordiale.

This made France mad! Germany's declaration of support for Morocco led to France threatening war. Britain suggested that a conference be held instead.

Leading to the Algeciras Conference (Spain) in 1906

- Austria-Hungary and Morocco supported Germany, whilst Britain and Russia supported France.
- France was given joint control of the Moroccan police force, as well as control over politics and the economy.
- Germany were told that they had no say over Morocco and a result felt humiliated.

Key results of the Moroccan Crisis, 1905:

- 1) The Entente Cordiale was strengthened because Britain had supported France against Germany. They had succeeded in holding back German influence in Africa. Following the conference, France and Britain started holding secret military talks.
- 2) France had gained control over the economic and political affairs of Morocco. They also gained joint control of the Moroccan police force with Spain.
- 3) The Kaiser left the Algeciras Conference very bitter at how he had been treated by Britain and France, and the way German ambitions had been ignored.
- 4) In 1907, Britain and Russia signed the Anglo-Russian Agreement. Alongside the Entente Cordiale and the Franco-Russian Alliance, this formed the Triple Entente with Russia. This further threatened Germany because it felt that this new alliance was an attempt to surround it.

The Agadir Crisis, 1911

- In 1911 the French helped to put down a rebellion in Morocco. This provided them with an opportunity to take Morocco.
- France offered **compensation** to countries that were concerned by these actions, however, the Kaiser sent a gunboat '*The Panther*' to the port of Agadir in Morocco.
- Germany claimed to be protecting their 'interests' in Morocco, but it was seen as a warlike over-reaction of Germany by Britain and France.
- Britain believed that Germany wanted to set up a naval base in Morocco to challenge their one in Gibraltar. David Lloyd George made the **Mansion House Speech** in which he declared

Key results

- 1) Once again, Britain and France had **stood firm** and Wilhelm had been forced to back down.
- 2) Wilhelm was determined that the next contest would not be one in which he looked foolish. Germany would be **unlikely to back down in any future crises**. Wilhelm said: '**these events have shown the German people where its enemy is**'.
- 3) Britain was becoming increasingly convinced that Germany wanted **European domination**.
- 4) Britain and France made a **secret naval agreement** whereupon Britain promised to defend the northern coast of France and France promised to defend the Mediterranean.
- 5) Italy opposed German actions at Agadir which pulled them further away from the Triple Alliance. Germany had to rely on Austria-Hungary more for support.

The Bosnian Crisis, 1908

Background to the crisis

- Serbia had recently become independent (treaty of San Stefano 1878), and they believed in **pan-Slavism**. As Bosnia had a high percentage of Serbians living within in, they wanted Bosnia so that Greater Serbia could dominate the Balkan region.
- The Balkans had been ruled by the Turkish Empire, however their power was declining (they were the 'sick man of Europe').
- Austria-Hungary also had ideas to take over Bosnia as if Serbia were successful in spreading their **nationalistic ideas** then this would **weaken** their empire as all the nationalities within it would also want independence.

The Crisis

- In 1908 there was a revolution in Turkey. Austria-Hungary took the opportunity to annex Bosnia and take it into their empire.
- Serbia was furious and appealed to their ally (their 'big brother') Russia for support. Germany had made it clear that if Russia intervened then they would declare war on Russia. As a result, both **Russia and Serbia backed down**.

Results for the Triple Alliance

- Austria-Hungary was confident as they had received Germany's support despite Germany not agreeing with their actions in Bosnia.
- Italy did not agree with Austria-Hungary's actions, so moved further away from the Triple Alliance.

Results for Russia and Serbia

- Russia was humiliated at having to let down Serbia, and promised not to let them down in the future. They also increased their military spending.
- Serbia's attitude against Austria-Hungary hardened. Membership of the Black Hand Gang increased.

The Assassination of Franz Ferdinand, 28th June 1914

- The Black Hand Gang – aims of Pan Slavism. The Black Hand Gang were keen to assassinate Franz Ferdinand before he became Emperor of Austria-Hungary.

Why?

Results of the assassination

28th June 1914 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne was assassinated by the Serbian group, the Black Hand Gang.



5th July 1914 - Austria-Hungary ask Germany for support. Germany issue A-H with the 'blank cheque' - a promise of unlimited support.



23rd July 1914 - Austria-Hungary issue Serbia with a 10 point ultimatum - agree to all 10 points or face war. Several Austrian generals see this as an opportunity to crush Serb nationalism and therefore it can be argued that the terms of the ultimatum were made deliberately hard in a bid to have a reason to declare on Serbia.



28th July 1914 - Serbia agree to 9 of the 10 points on the ultimatum. They did not agree to the sixth point - to allow A-H to carry out the investigation, but suggested that a neutral country oversee the investigation.



29th July 1914 - Austria-Hungary start to shell Serbia's capital, Belgrade.



30th July 1914 - Russia begins to mobilise its troops in support of Serbia.



1st August 1914 - Germany declare war on Russia.



3rd August 1914 - Germany declare war on France.



4th August 1914 - Germany's violation of the Treaty of London leads to Britain declaring war on Germany.

The Schlieffen Plan

What was the Schlieffen Plan?

The Schlieffen Plan was Germany's war plan. It was devised in **1905** and was designed to **avoid a war on two fronts**.

Britain's position in 1914.

Despite having alliances with France and Russia, Britain had made no firm promises to help them in war.

However, Britain had promised in 1839 to protect the neutrality of **Belgium** if she was ever attacked in **the Treaty of London**.

The Schlieffen Plan required the German army to attack France through Belgium. The German generals gambled that Britain would not keep her promise to defend Belgium.

How did the Schlieffen Plan lead to war?

- 1) It was a plan of **ATTACK**. This meant that as soon as Germany mobilised their troops they were at war. So Germany was at war with Russia on 1st August 1914, whereas Russia had just mobilised.
- 2) When making the plan, Germany had not considered a situation where they would be at war against Russia and not France (like what happened in 1914). As the plan said that Germany should be at war against France before Russia, Germany therefore declared war on France.
- 3) By going through Belgium, Germany violated the Treaty of London, which brought Britain into the war. When Britain entered the war, so did its Empire. Soldiers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Newfoundland, South Africa, Africa and India all fought for Britain in World War One. Therefore, Britain entering the war was significant as it **escalated the conflict**.

From Schlieffen to Stalemate

Why did stalemate set in on the Western Front?

•Belgian resistance to the German invasion won them many friends and gave the British and French troops time to mobilise.

•**23 August 1914: Battle of Mons.** The BEF had initial successes at the battle, holding the Germans up with rapid rifle fire. Although ultimately they were outnumbered and had to retreat to defend Paris.

•**August and September 1914** – the Germans had to face the Russian army on their eastern border in two large battles (the Battle of Tannenberg and the Battle of Masurian Lake respectively). 100,000 Germans were redirected from the west to the east. Germany suffered huge losses

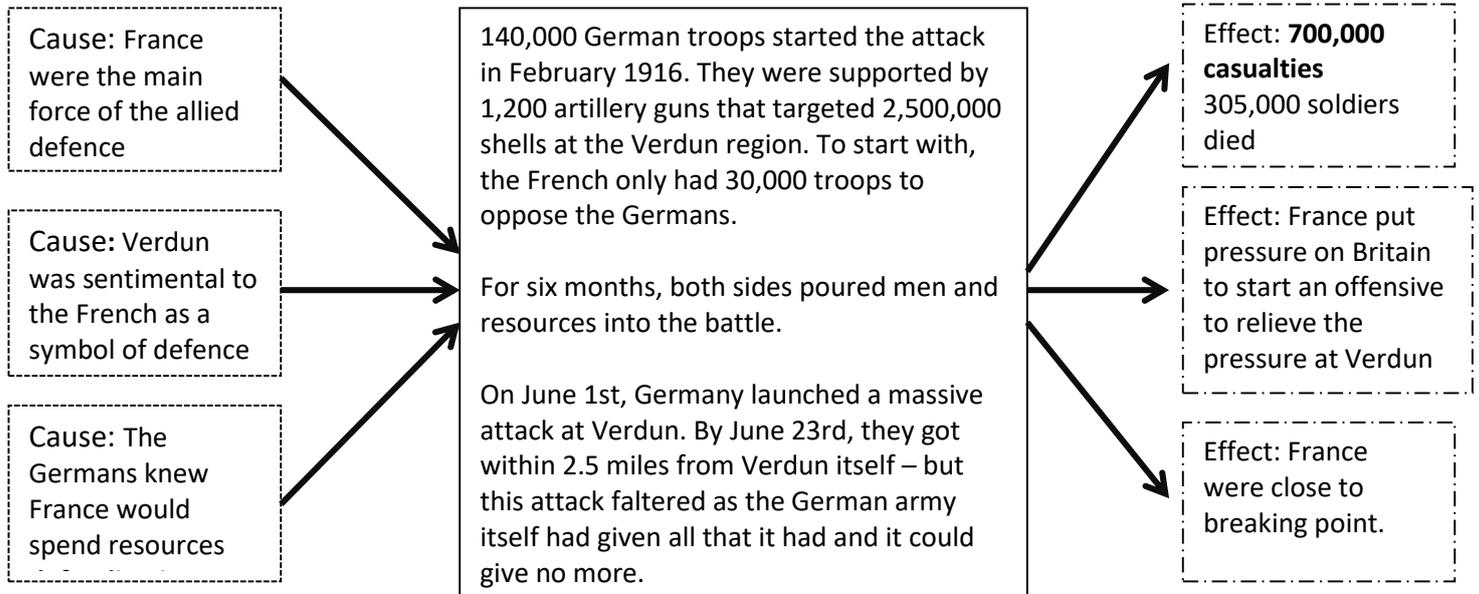
•**Neither side made any progress and by the 8th September troops on both sides were digging trenches.** The war of attack and movement had now become one of defence and stalemate.

•**Battle of the Marne September 1914** – German advanced directly to Paris on foot, whereas the French troops arrived by rail, some by taxi! The combined British and French forces stopped the German advance along the line by the River Marne, and then pushed them back.

	Description of the weapon	Initial use	How was it countered?	Were there any limitations of the weapons?	How did the weapon develop during the war?
Gas	Poison gas.	First used in 1915 by the Germans. Chlorine gas caused coughing, retching and breathing problems.	Gas masks were carried at all times. Only 3000 British troops died from gas attacks.	Accuracy—wind could blow gas off course.	Mustard gas—burned, blinded or slowly killed victims over 4-5 weeks.
Aircraft	In 1914, planes were primitive, unreliable and dangerous. High losses.	Used for reconnaissance (spying) over enemy trenches.	Other planes	Too small to carry parachutes. Couldn't carry large bombs. Poorly trained pilots.	1915 = planes used as a weapon as machine guns were mounted and dog-fights developed. Air-planes massively improved in this time.
Tanks	British invention first used in 1916 at the Somme. They advanced ahead of the infantry, crushing barbed wire and firing machine guns.	More than half broke down before they reached the German trenches at the Somme.	1918—Germany had developed armour piercing machine gun bullets and aimed field guns at tanks.	Initially only moved at walking pace (4mph) difficult to manoeuvre and unreliable.	1917—Battle of Cambrai, tanks successfully blasted through enemy lines. Successfully used in tactics, e.g. creeping barrage.
Underground warfare	Underground tunnels were dug underneath No Man's Land to attack the enemy.		Miners used an oil drum filled with water to check for vibrations to see if enemy miners were nearby.	The tunnels could collapse; you could meet an opposition tunnel; it could take up to year to dig a tunnel; mines could detonate incorrectly.	
Artillery	Heavy guns that fired from a distance. Caused the most casualties in the war.	Purpose was to destroy enemy positions and to destroy enemy guns.	Other artillery	Accuracy was a problem—often bombed their own front lines whilst experimenting with range.	Tactics developed—creeping barrage allowed men to cross No Man's land whilst being covered by their artillery. Artillery got larger and accurate.

Why did Falkenhayn choose Verdun?

What happened during the battle of Verdun?



The Battle of the Somme, July – November 1916

The British were pressured by France to launch an attack at the Somme so they could;

- **relieve the pressure on the French** at the Battle of Verdun, hopefully drawing German soldiers and resources away from Verdun to fight on the Somme.
- **Break through enemy positions** and work towards breaking the stalemate
- **Weaken the German Army** through attrition warfare

Why was the first day of the Somme the bloodiest day in the British war?

The Plan

Week long artillery bombardment of German trenches to destroy their defences (barbed wire/machine guns/artillery)

Infantry walk across No Man's Land and take the German trenches

The cavalry sweep up the rest

The Reality

The bombardment had warned the Germans an attack was coming. They were able to take shelter in their reinforced bunkers.

The artillery shells had failed to destroy the barbed wire and actually made it more difficult to cross No Mans Land.

The artillery stopping signalled to the Germans that an attack was coming. They re-emerged from their bunkers to their **machine guns** (which were still in tact)

The development of the machine gun meant the Germans were able to mow down the waves of British infantrymen. **60,000 British troops were killed or injured.**

A total waste or a necessary sacrifice?

Some historians have argued that the Somme was a **necessary sacrifice** and the lessons learnt there ultimately won Britain the war. Others argue that it was a **waste of human life** by commanders who were too stubborn to change tactics.

Sort these outcomes into positives and negatives of the Somme and write your answer on your sheet.

500,000 well-trained German soldiers killed	Verdun was saved and France remained in the war	The Somme claimed the biggest loss of British soldiers in one day (20,000)	The British losses were mainly civilian recruits and had little impact on the army	The Somme helped to develop new tactics such as the creeping barrage.
Only 7 miles of land gained	The Germans suffered significant damage to their trenches	The Somme failed to break through the German lines	The Somme showed the Home Front how brutal dangerous the war was	Britain managed to regain key strategic areas such as Beaumont Hamel.
Commanders learnt from the mistakes of first day when planning future attacks	The battle ended with neither side taking any significant advantage		Haig thought the sacrifice of men was necessary in a war of attrition; that the nation must be 'taught to bear losses'.	

'Why was the Battle of Passchendaele a failure for the British?'

The artillery barrage before the battle was a tactic used throughout the war. The Germans knew exactly what was coming next.	The artillery barrage had ruined the drainage areas of Passchendaele; many areas flooded badly.	Before the rain, Britain had managed to capture land from the Germans, who actually start to retreat. The rain slowed British progress which gave the Germans time to recuperate and fight on.	Attrition was the only option for the generals. It was either fight, or surrender, which wasn't an option. Death was considered necessary due to a lack of alternatives.
In August 1914, the Passchendaele area suffered the worst rainfall in 30 years.	Shell craters were full of water – making it impossible for soldiers to advance.	The German army used mustard gas against the British soldiers who were trying to advance.	The Russian Revolution of October 1917 meant that Germany no longer had to fight on the eastern front and could redirect their men to Passchendaele.
This was a war of attrition – so if the British lost fewer soldiers than the Germans – it would be deemed a victory.	General Haig's tactics and strategy didn't change during the entire battle.	French soldiers were mutinying at this time and therefore were not launching any offensives. It was down to Britain to do this. Failure to launch the Passchendaele offensive when they did could have resulted in Germany leading a counter attack that could have won them the war.	Not all of the four million shells fired in the artillery barrage exploded.

Death counts at Passchendaele: British - 310,000 Germans - 260,000
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Read through the cards that are all to do with the failure of the Battle of Passchendaele.

Decide what categories to put the cards in, e.g. the weather.

Colour code the different categories using the key below.

Was Passchendaele a failure for Britain?

Explain your answer below:

- =
- =
- =

The Battle of Passchendaele, July – November 1917

On July 18th 1917, a heavy artillery barrage was launched at the German lines. This lasted for ten days. Three thousand artillery guns fired over four million shells. Therefore, the German army in the area fully expected a major Allied attack - so any vague hope of surprise was lost.



The Battle of Cambrai, November – December 1917

- The attack started at 06.20 on November 20th 1917. The Germans were surprised by an intense artillery attack directly on the Hindenburg Line.
- 350 British tanks advanced across the ground supported by infantry – both were assisted by an artillery rolling barrage that gave them cover from a German counter-attack.
- The bulk of the initial attack went well. The 62nd Division (West Riding) covered more than five miles in this attack from their starting point. Compared to the gains made at battles like the Somme and Verdun, such a distance was astonishing.
- While losses did not equate to the Somme or Verdun, the British lost over 44,000 men during the battle while the Germans lost about 45,000 men. 9,000 Germans were taken as prisoner.

Gallipoli, April 1915

The main reason for landing at Gallipoli was:

Though Russia had a large army it was unable to provide them with enough supplies. The landings at Gallipoli were an attempt to create a supply path through the Dardanelles to Russia by capturing Gallipoli and Constantinople (Istanbul).

If Russia was able to receive supplies from the Allies, she may be able to help defeat Germany, and the Allies thought that they could easily defeat the Turks.



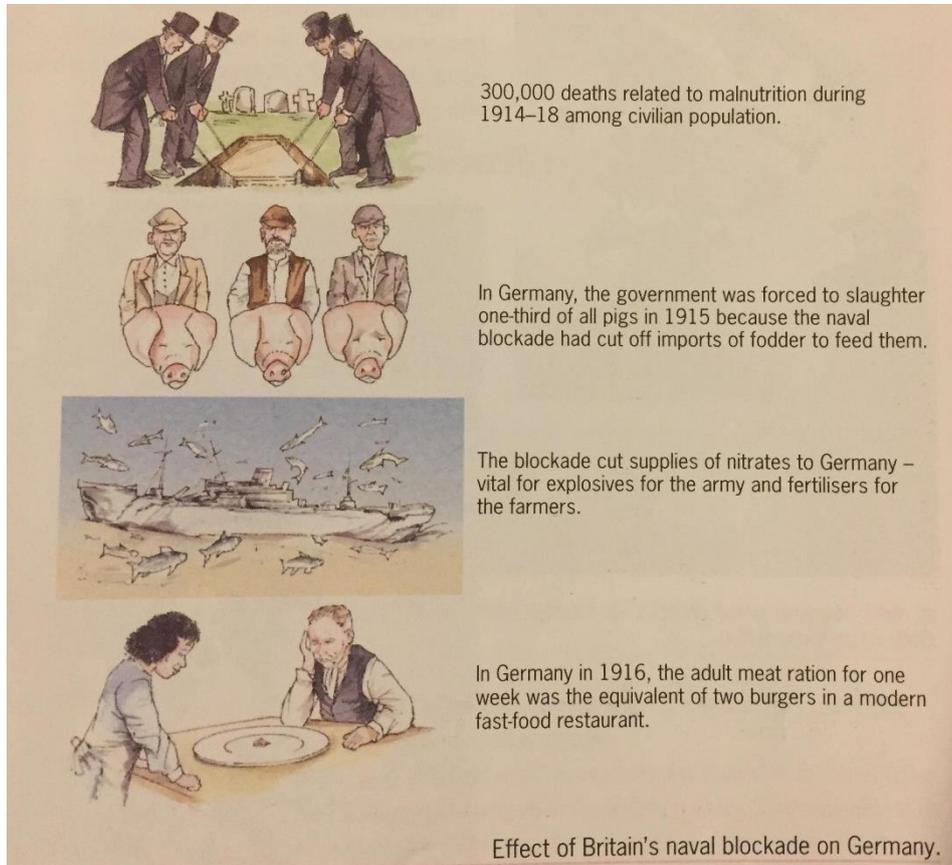
Why was Gallipoli a failure for the Allies?

<p>The battle plans were made using sketches of the coastline made by military officers. These sketches didn't include the location of Turkish machine guns, trenches and forts.</p>	<p>The Turks positioned themselves on top of the cliffs that provided them with an excellent position to fire on the landing forces.</p>	<p>The Turkish troops had good leadership who were fighting at the front.</p>	<p>The Turkish soldiers were armed with German machine guns that could fire 600 rounds per minute.</p>
<p>The Turkish troops were well organised and well disciplined—far from the mob that Britain thought they would be.</p>	<p>The British had poor organisation. For example, the soldiers were given guns that had different ammunition.</p>	<p>The beach was further protected by reinforced barbed wire. This was incredibly difficult for allied troops to cut through.</p>	<p>The maps did not show areas such as the Razor's Edge—this was a sheer ridge which made it impossible for the ANZAC troops to reach the high ground. This made it impossible for them to progress.</p>
<p>The Turkish trenches followed the line of the cliffs.</p>	<p>Hygiene was poor due to water shortages. This, coupled with overcrowding, led to disease.</p>	<p>The Turkish spirit was high. They were committed to defending their home land.</p>	<p>The only escape from Turkish fire on the beaches was for the allied soldiers to go up the cliffs.</p>
<p>Britain had to transport all the supplies for 70,000 men by boat as trench warfare had begun.</p>	<p>Dysentery (an infection of the bowel that leads to severe diarrhoea) was common. Men were weak. 3 months into the campaign, more men were suffering from sickness than they were injuries.</p>	<p>The Turks had access to the high ground and artillery. Most allied deaths were as a result from shellfire.</p>	<p>Bodies were left to decompose as it was too dangerous to go and retrieve them. They bloated in the sun and led to flies being everywhere.</p>
<p>The Turks used snipers which contributed to low morale for the allies. They were under constant threat of being killed which contributed to psychological pressure.</p>	<p>There were huge water shortages. The allies dug a well to try and access water but this was undrinkable. The soldiers had access to 1-2 litres of water a day when it is believed that they needed 20 litres of water a day to maintain normal efficiency in that heat.</p>	<p>The latrines that were dug were poorly prepared and rapidly filled up. In some instances this meant that the allies re-dug foul land.</p>	<p>The Royal Navy tried to bomb Turkish forts in the Dardanelle Straits in March 1915, but all this did was warn Turkish forces that the Allies were thinking of attacking there.</p>
<p>The landings on 25th April were in the wrong place. The ships got lost and landed a mile away from the correct beaches. Instead of a shallow beach, the landing force was faced by steep cliffs and Turkish defenders who were well dug in.</p>	<p>Britain didn't send their best ships or men as they wanted them to fight on the Western front.</p>	<p>The situation was made worse when Bulgaria entered the war on the side of Germany. This would mean that Germany would now have a direct land route (via Bulgaria) to Turkey, enabling Germany to supply heavy siege artillery which would devastate the Allied trench network.</p>	<p>Categorise the reasons for the failure of Gallipoli.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> =</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> =</p>

The War at Sea

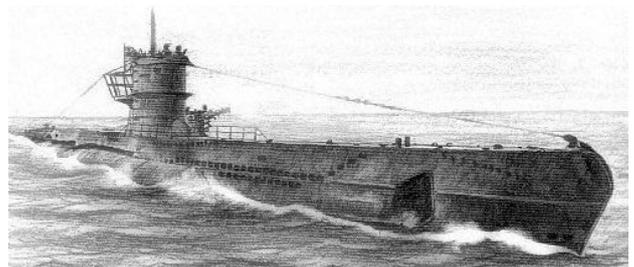
The British Blockade

- From 1915, the British imposed a blockade on Germany's northern ports. Coal and iron ore to make steel were plentiful, but resources like magnesium, oil, rubber and cotton—all essential for making ammunition) could not be obtained within Germany.
- The Blockade was in place until the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.



Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

- U-boats were developed and used by the Germans as a response to the blockade.
- Like Britain was doing to them, Germany hoped to stop any imports going in to Britain from the British Empire and USA.
- From Feb. 1915 the Germans declared that any ship in British waters (even neutral ones) would be attacked – this was unrestricted submarine warfare



How successful was the German U-Boat campaign?

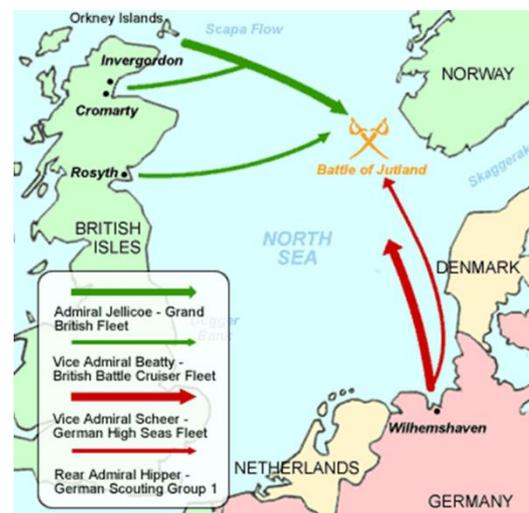
- In January 1915, before the declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare, 43,550 tonnes of shipping had been sunk by U-boats.
- The number of sinkings then steadily increased, with 168,200 tonnes going down in August 1915. Attacking without warning, German U-Boats sank nearly 100,000 tons per month, an average of 1.9 ships daily.

The Sinking of the Lusitania, 1915

- German U-boats sank a passenger British liner, the Lusitania, in 1915. The liner was clearly marked as a civilian ship, not a navy vessel.
- German U-Boats fired torpedoes at the passenger liner off the coast of Ireland, causing it to sink in just 18 minutes.
- 1198 passengers were killed; 128 were US citizens.
- President Wilson told Germany to abandon submarine warfare; he rejected the German arguments that the British blockade was illegal and cruel and issued Germany an ultimatum: that any future sinkings would be seen as 'deliberately unfriendly' and therefore would require a response from the US.
- The Kaiser, fearing America entering the war on the allies side, demanded that German U-Boats stop attacking American ships, even if they were bringing imports in to Britain.

The Battle of Jutland, 31st May 1916

- It involved 250 ships and around 100,000 men.
- It was also the first and only time that the British and German fleets of 'dreadnought' battleships met each other in battle.
- Over the course of the battle there were periods of intense action and inaction.
- In the end, **6,000 British and 2,500 German sailors** were dead. **The British lost 14 ships to the Germans' 11.**
- But **Germany failed to fulfil any of the objectives** laid out before Jutland and the damage done to the German fleet had a more significant impact on its fighting strength. The British on the other hand were again ready for action within hours.

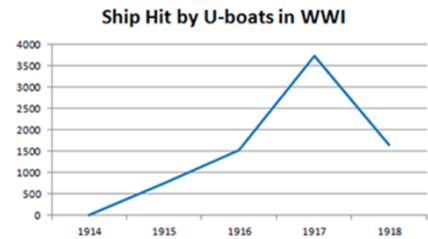


Although the Germans had avoided the complete destruction of their fleet, **they were never again able to seriously challenge British control of the North Sea.**

Unrestricted Submarine Warfare Continues

- By 1917, Germany was reaching desperate levels as a result of the British blockade.
- The Kaiser and his generals decided on an all-out gamble in 1917 to win the war
- This included cutting off supply lines to Britain through resuming Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, which included destroying American ships
- The gamble of starving Britain in to submission nearly worked; by May 1917 Britain only had 6 weeks' worth of basic goods left.

- The desperation of the Germans to destroy ships heading for Britain ultimately led to their downfall.
- America had a lot of sympathy with the Allies and the memory of the sinking of the *Lusitania* was still with many Americans. There was also lots of anti-German sentiment in America which was only made worse by the reintroduction of unrestricted submarine warfare.
- Germany resumed their policy of unrestricted submarine warfare on 1st February 1917. On 3rd February, President Wilson severed all diplomatic relations with Germany, and the US Congress declared war on 6th April.



The Russian Revolution, October 1917

The Causes, Events and Effects of the Russian Revolution			
<p>In October 1917, the Bolsheviks, led by <u>Lenin</u>, took over control of the government. The Bolsheviks believed that wealth should be distributed fairly across the country and that Russia should leave the war.</p>	<p>The Germans <u>made harsh demands</u> in the treaty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 34% of Russia's population - 32% of Russia's agricultural land - 54% of Russia's factories 	<p>There was massive <u>internal political unrest</u> in Russia. The Tsar (the monarch) and his family were deemed to be weak and there was frequent political disagreement in the government.</p>	<p>The Bolsheviks signed a peace treaty with Germany. In March 1918 both sides signed the <u>Treaty of Brest-Litovsk</u>.</p>
<p>At home the war caused <u>terrible shortages</u>. Many ordinary Russians couldn't afford to keep warm or to feed their families. Many starved.</p>	<p>Russia was suffering <u>higher casualties</u> than any other country – if it had continued fighting millions more would have perished.</p>	<p>Many historians believe the war would have continued until one side was nearly completely obliterated in military and economic terms. <u>Russia withdrawing brought the war closer to an end</u>.</p>	<p>During the First World War, the Russian people were angry and bitter as <u>1.7 million of their soldiers were killed over two years</u>.</p>
<p>Germany was able to <u>move some soldiers</u> across to the Western Front</p>	<p>Things were made worse by the fact WW1 caused <u>huge unemployment</u> in Russia. The country was, industrially, behind the UK in 1917. For every 1 Russian factory, there was 150 in the UK.</p>	<p>In March 1917, tsar Nicholas <u>abdicated</u> the throne. He was replaced by a <u>provisional government</u> who were also very unpopular as they decided to keep Russia <u>fighting in the war</u>.</p>	<p>Tsar Nicholas had also taken over command of the army. He had no military experience and was a poor military leader. <u>He was therefore held responsible for the deaths and failures of the war</u>.</p>

- Causes =
- Events =
- Effects =

The Spring Offensive (The Ludendorff Offensive), 1918

- 1) **21st -25th March 1918** - In the spring of 1918, Ludendorff ordered a massive German attack on the Western Front. The Spring Offensive was Germany's attempt to end World War One. With **500,000 troops added to Germany's strength** from the Russian Front, Ludendorff was confident of success. On March 21st, 1918, Ludendorff launched the offensive. In just five hours, the Germans **fi red one million artillery shells** at the British lines held by the Fifth Army – over 3000 shells fired every minute. The artillery bombardment was followed by an attack by **elite storm troopers**. These soldiers travelled lightly and were skilled in fast, hard-hitting attacks before moving on to their next target. Unlike soldiers burdened with weighty kit etc, the storm troopers carried little except weaponry (such as flame throwers) that could cause much panic, as proved to be the case in this attack. By the end of the first day of the attack, **21,000 British soldiers had been taken prisoner** and the **Germans had made great advances. Germany was now within 5 miles of Paris.**
- 2) **26th-28th March 1918** The army found that it **ran out of supplies as it advanced**. Horses, that should have been used in the advance on Amiens, were killed for their meat. Between March and April, the Germans suffered **230,000 casualties** but they were **still advancing on Allied territory**. The German Army simply could not sustain such casualties. As the Germans advanced to Amiens, they went via Albert. Here the German troops found shops filled with all types of food. Such was their **hunger and desperation for food that looting took place** and the **discipline** that had started with the attack on March 21st soon **disappeared**.
- 3) **29th March 1918** At this time, American troops poured into the Western Front. By the end of March, **250,000 American troops had joined the conflict**. However, the impact of the Americans was hindered by the fact that the American General Pershing would not allow his troops to be commanded by either French or British officers.
- 4) **June 1918** - By June 1918, the German army had been severely weakened by the large number of casualties it had suffered and the troops within the army became exhausted **and many refused to advance any further**. Supply lines were stretched and the soldiers were finding it difficult to receive supplies.
- 5) **15th July 1918** - On July 15th, 1918, Ludendorff ordered the last offensive by the German Army in World War One. It was a disaster. The Germans advanced two miles into land held by the Allies but **their losses were huge**. The French Army let the Germans advance knowing that their supply lines were stretched to the limit. Then the French hit back on the Marne and a massive French counter-attack **led by the French general Ferdinand Foch took place. Between March and July 1918, the Germans lost one million men.**

The Hundred Days

8th August to 11th November 1918 - the Allied forces made large advances across the Western Front and German forces began to retreat, leading to the end of the war.

The Battle of Amiens, 8th August 1918

- The Allies launch a huge offensive, using American support
- Co-ordination of artillery, tanks (500), planes and infantry.
- Managed to launch a **surprise** attack.
- By the end of the day, the Allies have gained 7 miles and the Allies had taken 17,000 prisoners and 330 guns.
- Total German losses were estimated to be 30,000 men, while the Allies had suffered about 6,500 killed, wounded and missing.
- The collapse in German morale led Erich Ludendorff to dub it "the Black Day of the German Army"
- The start of the 'Hundred Days Offensive' and sent the Germans into retreat

The End of the War – Why did Germany lose the war?

Read through all the factors below. They all contributed to the end of the war in November 1918. Categorise them into the following categories: the role of USA, German mistakes, the events of 1918.

<p>The British blockade of German ports has had a massive impact on the morale of Germany. The German army are struggling for supplies to keep their war effort going. They have even resorted to looting conquered trenches and taking supplies (including boots) from other dead soldiers.</p>	<p>In March 1918, General Ludendorff launched one last major German offensive in the hope of winning the war. There was initial success – the Germans managed to advance 64km and Paris was in range of heavy gunfire. However, they army had lost 400,000 in the process and had no reserves that they could call upon.</p>	<p>The Allies had put a blockade on German ports at the start of the war. This starved Germany of raw materials and food for both its civilian population and its soldiers.</p> <p>By November 1918, Germany's allies were surrendering and German sailors mutinied at Kiel. These mutinies spread.</p>
<p>In August 1918, the Allies counter-attacked. This became known as the German army's 'black day' due to the amount of land lost to the Allies. By late September, they had reached the Hindenburg line and by October, the German army was in retreat.</p>	<p>In February 1917, things were getting desperate for Germany and they restarted their policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, attacking and destroying many American ships suspected of carrying supplies to the Allies.</p>	<p>The German forces lost men at an incredible rate, compared to the number of men the Allies were getting. The Spring Offensive had cost the German army dearly meaning that the number of German troops was falling at a rapid rate. By the end of the war, Germany had less than a million soldiers</p>
<p>By October 1918, there had been a huge increase in the Royal Flying Corps, which had over 20,000 aircraft.</p>	<p>September 1918: The surrender of Bulgaria deprives Germany of essential oil supplies – the war machine now starts grinding to a halt. By early November, both Turkey and Austria-Hungary has surrendered.</p>	<p>America found out that Germany had tried to ally with Mexico against them. The US then declared war on Germany in April 1917.</p>
<p>No ceiling was imposed on war profits made by businesses, nor were these profits even taxed before 1916. Therefore, the government could only cover 16% of its costs through taxes, when Britain was able to cover about a third.</p>	<p>The Allies started to co-ordinate their military, using tanks, artillery, planes and infantry harmoniously during their attacks. This development of the 'combined arms' offensive proved difficult for German forces to defend against.</p>	<p>The Allies were receiving tanks and heavy guns from America. By mid-1918, 50,000 American troops were arriving in France every month. By summer 1918 there was around 1 million American troops in Europe.</p>
<p>American troops had to be trained and equipped. They did not arrive on the western front until the summer of 1918.</p>	<p>The British government had ordered there to be better searchlights, anti-aircraft guns and planes. This meant that German planes no longer could fly to England easily.</p>	<p>German troops in 1918 did not compare well to the state of the army in 1914 – there was poor discipline and they were badly supplied and fed. Progress in 1918 was hindered by soldiers stopping to loot food and supplied from captured trenches and villages.</p>
<p>America provided the Allies with food and money to spend on war materials.</p>		

The abdication of the Kaiser

- Riots had spread from the Kiel naval base to many German cities.
- The army generals wanted the Kaiser to give more power to the politicians so that they could negotiate a fairer end to the fighting.
- The Social Democrats (the largest political party in Germany) threatened to resign from government.
- On 9th November 1918, the Kaiser abdicated and Germany became a **republic**.

The Armistice – November 11th 1918

- Negotiations about a ceasefire had been going on for a few weeks.
- The German government had expressed a willingness to proceed on the basis of Wilson's Fourteen Points – principles to guide the peace settlement based on fairness.
- However, following the Kaiser's abdication, the allies were keen to get an armistice signed. No negotiations took place and the German delegates were forced to agree to allied demands.
- There were many practical demands that were designed to ensure that Germany could not restart the war:
 - guns, machine guns, planes, lorries, trucks and railway engines were all to be handed over to the allies
 - allied prisoners were to be released
 - all territory occupied in France and Belgium was to be evacuated in a fortnight
- The armistice was signed at 5:00am but was due to take effect at 11:00am.
- The German government that signed the armistice were later accused of 'stabbing Germany in the back'. They had no choice but to sign the armistice, but the army generals did not see it that way.

	How important were individuals in the Allied victory? The roles of Haig and Foch Highlight the strengths of both men in one colour, and the weaknesses in another. Who do you think made a greater contribution to the outcome of the war? Why?	
Marshal Foch <ul style="list-style-type: none">- One of the leading French generals in the early years of the war.- Late 1916, after the failure of the Allied offensives, he was removed from his position as the French commander.- In 1917 he was recalled to become Chief of the General Staff.- Spring 1918, appointed as Commander-in-Chief of all Allied armies and spearheaded the plan that halted the Spring Offensive.- Summer 1918, given the title Marshal Foch, and planned with Haig the grand offensive against Germany from August 1918 onwards.		Sir Douglas Haig <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Commanded British armies from 1915 until the end of the war.- His reputation was adversely affected by the huge casualties at the Somme.- Overall strategy proved effective in 1918.- Actively promoted new strategies and technologies which helped the Allied victory.- Spring 1918, led determined resistance against the German Offensive.- In August 1918, working under the overall control of Foch, led the British army against the main German armies.- Captured nearly 200,000 prisoners and nearly 3,000 guns.

Big Fat WW1 Knowledge Test

- 1) Why did governments create alliances?
- 2) Which countries were in the Triple Alliance?
- 3) What was agreed as part of the Triple Alliance?
- 4) Why did France and Russia sign the Franco-Russian Alliance?
- 5) What was 'Splendid Isolation'?
- 6) Why did Britain leave 'Splendid Isolation'?
- 7) Why did Britain sign the Anglo-Japanese Alliance?
- 8) What was agreed as part of the Entente Cordiale?
- 9) What was agreed as part of the Anglo-Russian Agreement?
- 10) Why did Germany see these alliances as threatening?
- 11) How could alliances contribute to the outbreak of war? Provide one reason.
- 12) What was Kaiser Wilhelm's foreign policy? What were its aims?
- 13) How was Kaiser Wilhelm going to achieve these aims?
- 14) Why did Britain need a large navy? Provide 3 reasons.
- 15) Which was the only country to not have introduced conscription by 1914?
- 16) Why did Britain perceive Germany as their biggest threat? Be as specific as you can.
- 17) How many dreadnoughts did the British public demand to be made per year?
- 18) How many were actually made?

- 19) When do historians say that the naval race ended?
- 20) Who won the naval race? How many dreadnoughts did they have?
- 21) What reason did Kaiser Wilhelm give for getting involved in Morocco?
- 22) Why did he actually get involved?
- 23) What was decided at the Algeciras Conference?
- 24) Why did the Agadir Crisis begin?
- 25) How did the Kaiser respond?
- 26) What was the result of the Second Moroccan Crisis?
- 27) How did the relationship between Britain and France develop as a result of the crisis?
- 28) Why did Serbia want to control Bosnia?
- 29) Provide two results of the Bosnian Crisis.
- 30) Provide one result of the Balkan Wars.
- 31) Why was Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated?
- 32) What was the date of the assassination?
- 33) Who was he assassinated by?
- 34) How did Austria-Hungary respond to the assassination?
- 35) Why was Austria-Hungary confident at this point?
- 36) Who supported Serbia at this point and why?
- 37) When was the Schlieffen Plan devised?

- 38) What was the purpose of the Schlieffen Plan?
- 39) Provide 2 ways in which the Schlieffen Plan failed.
- 40) How did the Schlieffen Plan lead to world war?
- 41) In what year did the British soldiers get helmets?
- 42) In what battle were trenches dug?
- 43) Provide one weakness of artillery bombardments.
- 44) How did the use of aircraft develop throughout the war?
- 45) In what battle were tanks used successfully?
- 46) Why was Verdun a target for the Germans?
- 47) What was Haig's strategy at the Somme?
- 48) How many men died at the Battle of the Somme?
- 49) What went wrong at the Battle of Passchendaele?
- 50) What happened at the Battle of Cambrai?
- 51) What was the purpose of the Gallipoli landings?
- 52) Who fought at Gallipoli?
- 53) Provide three failures of the Gallipoli campaign.
- 54) What was the purpose of the British Blockade?
- 55) Was the blockade successful? Explain your answer.
- 56) What is a convoy?

- 57) What is the name of the American liner sunk by German U-boats in 1915?
- 58) How did America respond to this?
- 59) Why did Germany launch the offensive at Jutland?
- 60) What evidence is there that Britain won the Battle of Jutland?
- 61) What evidence is there that Germany won the Battle of Jutland?
- 62) When did the USA enter the war?
- 63) Provide two reasons for the USA entering the war.
- 64) What impact was the blockade having on the people of Germany?
- 65) Provide two failures of the German government during the war.
- 66) What impact did the Russian Revolution have on the war effort?
- 67) What was agreed as part of the Treaty of the Brest-Litovsk?
- 68) What was the Ludendorff Offensive?
- 69) What did the Germans achieve at the start of the offensive?
- 70) Why did it fail?
- 71) What was the 'Hundred Days'?
- 72) What was the outcome of the Battle of Amiens?
- 73) What was the Kiel mutiny?
- 74) Which of Germany's allies had surrendered by the start of November 1918?
- 75) Who was Marshal Foch? What had he contributed to the outcome of the war?

76) When was the armistice signed?

77) What do you think is the most important reason for the allies winning the war? Why?