

Key Dates: **1839, Treaty of London** - Britain promises to protect Belgium neutrality.

1879, Dual Alliance - Germany and Austria - Hungary promise to support each other if threatened.

1882, Triple Alliance - Italy persuaded to sign agreement extending the Dual Alliance.

1894, Franco - Russian Alliance - France and Russia respond to the signing of the Triple Alliance.

1904, Entente Cordiale - Britain signs a friendly agreement with France to help if needed (not to fight).

1907, Triple Entente - This was really a friendly agreement between Britain and Russia (Anglo - Russian Agreement).

June 1914 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated.

July 1914 - War declared on Serbia by Austria Hungary.



By the end of this Half Term I should know:

How land grabbing (imperialism) and the 'Scramble for Africa' increased tension in Europe.

Why alliances were formed between the powers in Europe and how this led to paranoia.

How the arms and naval race took Europe to the brink of war.

How significant the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was, as spark or trigger for war.

How the Germans planned to use the Schlieffen Plan avoid a war on two fronts.

How the Schlieffen Plan failed and led to a long war.

Key Terms

Treaty of London - Britain promises to protect Belgium neutrality.

Triple Alliance - Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.

Triple Entente - France, Russia and Great Britain.

Arms and Naval Race - A race between countries to build up military and weapons.

Long term causes - Issues that can span many years, which slowly build tension.

Short term causes - Issues that act as a catalyst (spark) that ignites a conflict.

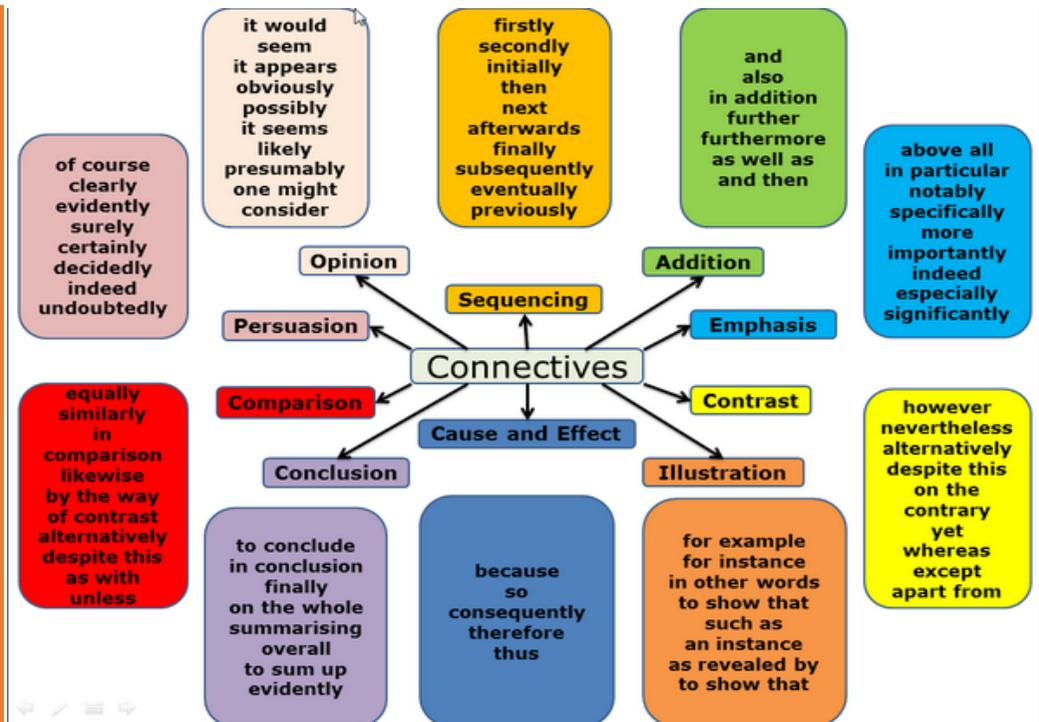
Dreadnought - New generation of battleships that made all previous ships obsolete.

Black Hand - A Serbian based group of assassins who killed Archduke Ferdinand.

Gavrillo Princip - Leader of the Black hand group and the man who fired the bullets.

Schlieffen Plan - A plan formed by Alfred Von Schlieffen to avoid war on two fronts.

War on two fronts - Germany's fear of having to split its military forces in to two groups to defend its eastern and western borders from simultaneous attacks.





KHS—History Knowledge Organiser—Half Term 1 - Causes of WWI



Long term causes: A need for the major European countries to compete with each other during the 19th Century led to a focus on larger empires. As many of the world's countries had already been **colonised** attentions turned to Africa. These attempts to grab a piece of land became known as the '**Scramble for Africa**'. Over time these rivalries intensified and led to **paranoia**. As paranoia grew the countries began developing their war machinery (infrastructure). The countries of mainland Europe began **conscripting** troops into their armies and developing new weaponry and methods of warfare. Great Britain and Germany entered into a race to build a new type of battle ship (**Dreadnought**) which was so **sophisticated** it made all previous battleships obsolete. This development further increased paranoia as now they feared attacks. The countries now looked to 'friendly' nations for support and began making agreements and alliances with each other. This in turn increased paranoia even further as these alliances feared the potential power of rival alliances. Europe was on the brink of war, all that was needed was a spark to ignite it.

The road to war: The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his pregnant wife Sophie set off a rapid chain of events, as Austria-Hungary immediately blamed the Serbian government for the attack. As the large and powerful Russia supported Serbia, Austria asked for assurances that Germany would step in on its side against Russia and its allies, including France and possibly Great Britain. The Austro-Hungarians sent a list of ten demands to the Serbian government knowing that the Serbians could not agree to them all. The Austrian military had made over twenty requests to their government during the previous two years for permission to invade Serbia. The Serbians could only agree to nine of these, the tenth demand was to allow the Austrian Hungarian army to police Serbia. On July 28, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and the fragile peace between Europe's great powers collapsed, beginning the devastating conflict now known as the First World War.

Short term (Trigger) causes: The **spark** came on **28th June 1914**. The heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** and his **wife Sophie**, arrived at Sarajevo train station at 10am, ready for their **goodwill tour**. A group of young Serbian terrorists called the '**Black hand**' were waiting along the route to **assassinate** him. The first assassination attempts went badly wrong. **Nedeljko Cabrinovic** threw his bomb but forgot it had a ten second fuse and Ferdinand was unharmed. The Archduke's party carried on with the scheduled reception (dinner). After meeting in the park to discuss the failed assassination **Gavrillo Princip**, the **leader** of the Black Hand, wandered off. Unsure of what to do next he went to a **deli** and bought a **sandwich**. Whilst there he noticed the royal car down the street. The Archduke's car had taken a **wrong turn** on the way back to the station and had ended up in a side street in front of Princip. Raising his gun Princip fired **two shots** killing both Ferdinand and his wife Sophie. **Within a month** of this event a **war** had broken out in Europe that would lead to the deaths of millions of young men.

Avoiding war on two fronts: Germany believed war with Russia was extremely likely in 1914. If war broke out, Germany assumed France would also attack as she was an ally of Russia. If this happened, Germany would face a war on two fronts, on the Eastern front against Russia and the Western front against France and possibly Britain. This meant that Germany would have to divide its army into two military forces. Germany wanted to avoid this at all costs. Germany planned to defeat France rapidly and then turn to the eastern front for a major offensive on Russia. This was the basis for the Schlieffen Plan. By attacking France through Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg – the Benelux countries. Schlieffen planned to use 90% of German military forces to deliver a knock out blow to France. The remaining 10% would defend the eastern border of Germany against Russian attack. They also assumed that Britain would not keep to the Treaty of London and protect Belgium. However, in reality the Germans were held up by the Belgium army, backed up by the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) which arrived extremely quickly. Russia mobilised in just 10 days and Germany was forced to withdraw troops from the Schlieffen Plan to defend her eastern border.