

Year 9 History: Topic 1

Causes and Events of the First World War

Causes of the First World War:

Assassination of Franz Ferdinand – on the 28th June 1914 the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne was killed by a Bosnian Serb, Princip

The Alliance System – Europe's main powers had formed two rival alliances. In 1914 following the assassination these two power blocs went to war

The Triple Entente – Britain, France and Russia

The Triple Alliance – Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy (Italy joined the Entente powers in 1915, Turkey joined the Alliance the same year)

Nationalism – there was a growing belief in nationalism across Europe, this fuelled the war and led many people to fight

Imperialism – Europe's main powers had global empires. When they went to war in 1914, so did people in their Empire. E.g. Indians, Australians and Canadians fought alongside the British forces

The Arms Race – massive military spending made war more likely to start and the First World War longer when it did begin

German-British Rivalry – Germany was a growing world power keen to rival Britain and its Empire. Germany and Britain were involved in a naval arms race

Europe in 1914

Key Individuals

Archduke Franz Ferdinand – heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary

Gavrilo Princip – Bosnian Serb assassin and member of the Black Hand Gang

Kaiser Wilhelm II – Emperor of Germany

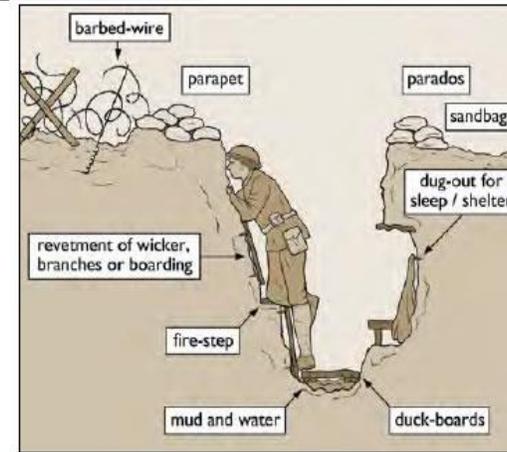
Tsar Nicholas II – Emperor of Russia. Overthrown in Revolution of 1917 and executed in early 1918

David Lloyd-George – British Prime Minister from 1916

Field Marshal Douglas Haig – commander of British forces from 1915 onwards



Trench Warfare



Key Vocabulary

Assassination – politically motivated murder

Attrition – battles planned to wear down the enemy

Trench – network of defences (see above)

Stalemate – deadlock, neither side able to breakthrough

Western Front – front lines running through Belgium and France

Battle of the Somme – July 1st-November 1916. British attack which saw very high casualty rates

Conscription – policy of forcing men to serve in armed forces (from 1916)

Propaganda – information (often biased) made to influence opinion. Often produced by government