

Militarism & alliances

Militarism

- Britain had largest navy, strong naval tradition and since 1889 followed the law of two power standard (the Royal Navy to be at least equal to the naval strength of any two other countries)
- Germany had a strong military. After unification the Prussian army became the core part of the new Germany army. They were experienced (as had won Franco Prussian war 1870-1871) and professional.
- Germany increased the size of their army by 170,000 men by 1914
- Britain and Germany were locked in a naval race and were competing by increasing the size of their navy building dreadnoughts & superdreadnoughts
- Russia had the largest army but they were poorly equipped and had little training. Russia relied on money from their alliances with France to improve standards in the military
- New technologies developing in weaponry e.g. lighter machine guns, barbed wire and various types of gas were developed from 1860s onwards
- Between 1900-14 European military spending skyrocketed. The big European powers began defence and offensive spending-led by Germany

Alliances

The Dual Alliance, 7th October 1879, Germany and Austria Hungary.

What - Alliance which pledged the members to aid one another in case of an attack by Russia. Each state also promised neutrality to the other.

Why - A defensive alliance was sought between these two powers due to their common dislike and fear of Russia. Relations between Germany and Russia had also soured, with Russia resenting German and Austrian meddling in the Balkans.

The Triple Alliance 1882 Germany Austria-Hungary and Italy

What - Italy joins the alliance as it had been friends with Austria already for many years

Franco Russian Alliance, 1894, France and Russia

What - a military alliance that stated that if one of the countries of the Triple Alliance attacked France or Russia, its ally would attack the aggressor in question.

Why - France had been left diplomatically isolated since its defeat in the 1871 Franco-Prussian War and due to the policies of Otto von Bismarck. It needed allies. France and Russia both feared the combined power of the Triple Alliance .

Entente Cordiale, 8th April 1904, France and Britain

What- France and Britain agree to respect each other's empires and interests. This symbolised a positive improvement in relations between two countries who had been at war for centuries.

Triple Entente, 31st August 1907, Britain, France & Russia

What - The spirit of the three agreements stated that they had a 'moral obligation' to support each other. After WW1 broke out, the Entente powers signed a formal military alliance

Why - All three countries were worried by the actions of the Triple Alliance and wished to protect their empires/ wanted support against increasingly militarism.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) Why were Britain involved in a naval race?
- 2) What was important about the German army?
- 3) Why were Russia at a disadvantage?
- 4) What new weapons and technology was being developed before the war?
- 5) What evidence is there that militarism caused increased tension between European countries?
- 6) Who was in what alliance? When? Why?
- 7) What were each of the alliances most worried about?

Imperialism & foreign crises

The Bosnian Crisis 1908

Young Turk Revolution

Wanted to modernise the Ottoman Empire by overthrowing the Sultan. A-H wanted to prevent them from gaining control over Bosnian Herzegovina which they had been in control over since 1878

Serbia

Unhappy with Austro-Hungarian rule and wanted to take over Bosnia-Herzegovina. A-H planned to annex Bosnia-Herzegovina to prevent Serbian influence spreading.

1908 context

A-H annexed Bosnia, The Ottomans, Russia and Serbia objected. The Ottomans were technically in control of Bosnia as they had allowed A-H to administer them, they felt their territory had been seized. The Ottomans boycotted A-H's goods causing further tension.

Serbia objected and mobilised troops and demanded the annexation be reversed and looked to Russia for help. Russia accused A-H of betrayal and considered war, Germany made it clear to Russia that they would support A-H.

Consequences

- Serbia and Russia were humiliated and were determined to win the next dispute.
- Russia begins investing heavily in its armed forces.
- A-H saw Serbia as a real threat.
- A-H recognised that Germany would support them against Russia.
- Black Hand Gang formed

The Balkans

First Balkan War 1911-12

- The Young Turks fell from power in Turkey and the Balkans took the opportunity to attack the Ottomans.
- The 'Balkan League formed' (Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro-encouraged by Russia) attacking the Ottomans in 1912 with the aim to take land away.
- Ottomans were defeated by the Greek Navy which stopped the Ottomans transferring reinforcements down the Dardanelles Straight.
- The war ended after 7 months.

Consequences

- The Ottomans has lost most of their land and influence in the Balkans.
- Serbia became more powerful
- Macedonia divided between Greece and Serbia causing tension with Bulgaria.
- Albania declared independence backed up by A-H, angering Serbia who wanted to annex Albania.

Second Balkan War 1913

- Bulgaria was unhappy with the territory taken by Serbia and Greece (Macedonia) and wanted to recover the province it has been promised.
- Bulgaria attacked Greece and Serbia
- Romania and the Ottomans attacked Bulgaria

Consequences

- Bulgaria lost most of its territories gained from the first Balkan war
- Damaged relations between Bulgaria and Russia (Serbia's ally)
- Bulgaria went on to support the Triple Alliance
- Now having only one alliance in the area Russia was forced to support Serbia unconditionally.
- Serbia had become vastly more powerful which worried A-H leading to war.

Moroccan Crises

First Moroccan Crisis (Tangier) 1905-6

- France was trying to increase its influence in Africa
- Germany wanted an empire and to protect their trade interests in Morocco
- Germany wanted to test the strength of the *Entente Cordiale*
- Kaiser Wilhelm II offered support to Sultan Abdelaziz challenging French influence in Morocco and ensuring independence.
- Germany wanted to isolate and embarrass the French so advised Morocco to ignore the French proposed governmental reforms.
- The German chancellor Bulow threatened war over the issue
- French troops began to mobilise
- The Algeiras Conference-Moroccan independence was ensured as France would not risk war with Germany.
- France gained control over governmental and financial issues in Morocco.

Consequences

- The Algeiras led to the demobilisation of French and German troops
- Germany was seen as a serious threat by the Triple Entente
- Strengthened the *Entente Cordiale*
- Anglo-Russian Entente formed in 1907
- Kaiser Wilhelm II felt humiliated which lead to the Second Morocco crisis.

Second Moroccan Crisis (Agadir) 1911

- France still keen to extend its empire including Morocco
- Anglo-German tensions were high (arms race) but Germany was still keen to enter into an alliance with Britain
- Germany was looking to extend its influence through its Navy-sending a gun boat to Agadir
- Britain tried to prevent France from sending troops to Fez
- Britain was concerned that Germany would up a Naval base at Agadir threatening their base at Gibraltar

Consequences

- Morocco lost its independence to France
- Germany was forced to back gaining territory in the Congo as compensation
- Pushed France and Britain closer together much to the annoyance of the Germans
- Britain and France promised to protect each other's interests

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) Which countries wanted control of Morocco in 1905 and why?
- 2) What was decided at the Algeiras conference?
- 3) Why did the Second Moroccan Crisis happen? What was different in the outcome from the 1st Moroccan crisis?
- 4) Why were Serbia unhappy with Austria Hungary's actions in Bosnia?
- 5) Why did Russia not take action in the Bosnian Crisis?
- 6) Who was in the Balkan League?
- 7) What were the causes and consequences of the 1st & 2nd Balkan Wars?

The Countdown to War

Anglo German naval race:

What happened?

- The German government passed four Fleet Acts between 1898 and 1912, providing funding for the construction of a larger navy.
- The British navy responded with a rearmament campaign, resulting in the construction and launching of HMS Dreadnought in 1906
- HMS Dreadnought was revolutionary in its design and was so powerful, it made all other naval ships redundant. This had the effect of altering the balance of power, as now Germany could match the power of the British navy if it could build more Dreadnought class ships. An arms race then ensued.
- The naval race between Britain and Germany generated huge public support on each side.
- The arms race was ended in 1912 by the German chancellor Bethmann Hollweg. Hollweg was concerned by the increasing size of the Russian army and needed to switch funding from the navy to the army.

How did it cause WW1?

- By 1914, Britain had built 29 Dreadnoughts whilst Germany had built 17. Germany had successfully built a fleet that according to its 'risk theory' could pose a significant threat to the British. As a result, there was only one major naval battle during WW1 – Jutland.
- The competition and fear generated by the naval arms race led Britain to view Germany as a threat, which only served to push Britain into a stronger military partnership with France and Russia.

The assassination of the Arch Duke,

What happened?

- Sarajevo was in Bosnia, the province that - to Serbia's anger - had been **annexed** by Austria-Hungary in 1908.
- Archduke Franz Ferdinand was heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. He was inspecting the army in Sarajevo with his wife Sophie. The royal couple arrived by train at 9.28am.
- Seven young Bosnian Serbs planned to assassinate Franz Ferdinand as he drove along the main road in Sarajevo, the Appel Quay. The first conspirator who tried to kill Franz Ferdinand threw a bomb at his car. He missed and was arrested. The Archduke escaped unhurt. He decided to abandon the visit and return home via a different route to the one planned. No one had told the driver the route had changed. On the way back, therefore, the driver turned into Franz Josef Street, following the published route and, when told of his error, stopped the car to turn around.
- Unfortunately, the car stopped in front of Gavrilo Princip, one of the conspirators, who was on his way home thinking he had failed. Princip pulled out a gun and shot at Franz Ferdinand, hitting him in the jugular vein. There was a tussle, during which Princip shot and killed Sophie. By 11.30am, Franz Ferdinand had bled to death.

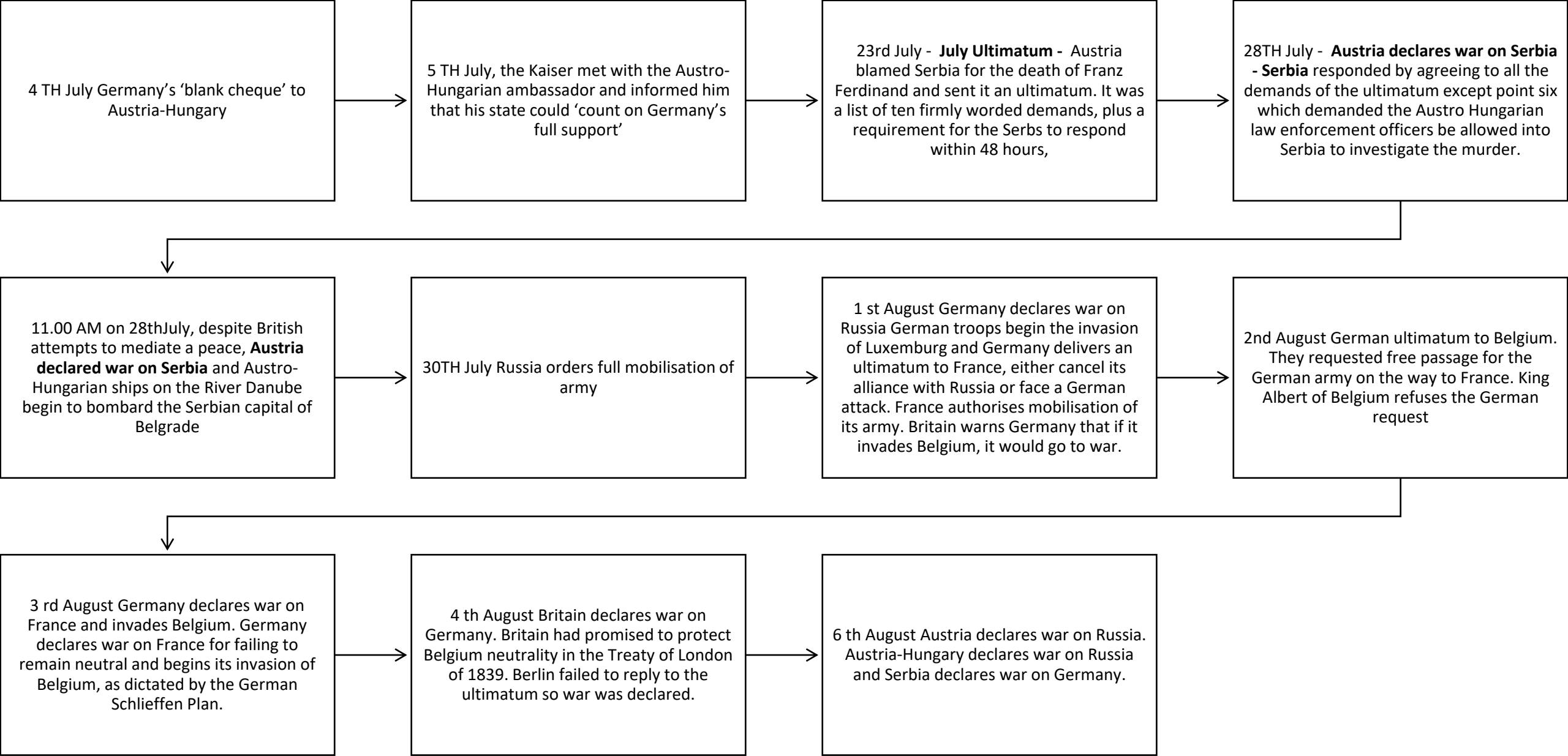
How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) Which countries were involved in the naval race & why?
- 2) What is the importance of the dreadnought?
- 3) Why did the naval race end?
- 4) Why was Franz Ferdinand important?
- 5) What role did Gavrilo Princip play?
- 6) What was the ultimatum?
- 7) How was each country involved in July/ August 1914 ?

The Countdown to War



Reasons for Stalemate

Weapons:

What was the problem?

The development of weapons such as the machine gun meant old methods of fighting & tactics were useless. Weapons such as poisonous gas, heavy guns to try and destroy trenches, flame throwers caused mass casualties and so most soldiers remained in trenches rather than risking crossing no mans land to gain territory unless there was a big attack. How did it cause stalemate?

- Machine guns were ideal defensive weapons. They could fire up to 600 rounds a minute and were able to cut down lines of attackers, causing huge casualties.
- The German Maxim Gun accounted for 90 % of allied victims in the Battle of the Somme.
- Gas masks were invented allowing the use of gas to become less effective, flame throwers were unreliable and were very likely to explode.
- Heavy guns did destroy trenches but were not effective to barbed wire so did not help the soldiers across no mans land

Trench warfare:

What was the problem?

After the battle of Marne, the German commanders realised they had to hold on to the land gained, this is where the ideas of trenches developed. This was the easiest way to defend the German troops against the advancing British and French soldiers. The British and French soldiers also started to realise they could not break through these trenches and were suffering huge loses of men so built their own trenches. The Germans also held the highest ground which gave them an advantage when attacking

Why did it cause stalemate?

In the First World War infantryman were supposed to attack quickly through gaps in the enemy trenches. This proved difficult/ impossible against Trenches that were defended by barbed wire and sandbags. Mud made cavalry charges ineffective as horses would be killed by machine guns. Soldiers were ultimately told to stay in their trench and defend it unless there was a big attack.

Failure of the leaders:

Who were the leaders and their roles?

The commanders who were used in WW1 were experienced but used old tactics which were not based around trench warfare or tested against the new weaponry. Many (Haig etc) used cavalry charges which did not work to break through the enemy lines.

How did the leaders cause stalemate?

- Trench warfare was a new kind of fighting. No one really knew how to win a war like this. So the generals fell back on the ideas they had successfully in past wars, such as mass cavalry or infantry attacks.
- The commanders on both sides persisted for three years with the belief that using large numbers of troops in an attack would achieve a breakthrough against machine guns and barbed wire.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) What new weapons were developed and how did they change the way that war was fought?
- 2) What were the failures of the leaders?
- 3) Why were trenches so important?
- 4) What evidence is there that WW1 was primarily a war of defence?

Reasons for Stalemate

Battle of Marne:

The First Battle of the Marne started when a gap appeared in the German line just outside of Paris. Poor communication between the two German commanders left the German army weak and exposed. The British and the French troops were able to cut through the middle of the German army who were then worried that they would be attacked from all sides.

How did it cause stalemate?

The Germans withdrew northward from the Marne and made a firm defensive stand along the Lower Aisne River. The German commander ordered his troops to dig trenches so that they could have some cover from machine gun & artillery fire. Once, they had created cover they were at an advantage over the attacking troops who quickly realised that they would also need to dig trenches for cover to survive.

Failure of the Schlieffen Plan:

What was the plan?

Count von Schlieffen drew up the Schlieffen Plan in 1905 when he was German Chief of Staff. In a general European war, Germany would face France in the west and Russia in the east, and would need to defeat France within six weeks before Russia mobilised her troops. As most of the French army was stationed on the border with Germany, the Schlieffen Plan aimed for the quick defeat of France by invading it through neutral Belgium and moving rapidly on to capture Paris. The Germans did not believe that Britain would go to war over their 1839 treaty with Belgium, which they described as a 'scrap of paper'. Even if Britain did defend Belgium, the Kaiser believed that there was no need to fear the British Expeditionary Force, which he called a 'contemptible little army'. Having defeated France, Germany would then be able to concentrate her efforts on defeating the Russians in the east rather than having to fight on two fronts at once.

Why did the plan fail?

The Belgians put up greater resistance than expected and the British honoured their treaty and helped the Belgians and the French to resist the German forces. This slowed down the invasion which meant that Germany missed its deadline to take control of France before Russia mobilised. Russia mobilised more quickly than expected and so the German General Von Moltke sent some of the troops from the invasion to the east to deal with the Russian army.

Why did it cause stalemate?

- The Battle of Marne signalled the failure of the Schlieffen plan. Von Moltke was replaced as a German commander by Erich Von Falkenhayn on 25th October 1914. The new commander introduced a change in tactics which was focussed on holding on to the land they had already taken rather than taking more.
- The German's dug-in along the River Aisne, building machine gun posts and trenches. This marked the beginning of Trench construction along the Western Front
- The German's were forced to revert to Plan B, the race to capture the Channel Port which meant that they focussed on extending the trenches to the sea rather than invading and taking more land.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) What were the aims of the Schlieffen plan?
- 2) Why did the plan fail?
- 3) Why were trenches dug?
- 4) What evidence is there of a failure from the German commanders?
- 5) Why is the Battle of the Marne so important?

The Battles

The Battle of Verdun

The Battle of Verdun was the longest battle of the First World War. The Germans under Falkenhayn attacked Verdun due to its historical significance. It was surrounded by 60 forts and was seen as the strongest city in France.

The aim was not to take the city from the French but to force the French to commit so many resources to defend it. Falkenhayn was convinced that France would never give up on Verdun and would commit as many troops as it could. The aim was to 'bleed France white' by killing as many French soldiers as they could and by forcing them to deploy resources from other areas on the Western Front.

The Attack

As usual the battle began with an artillery barrage of 2 million shells. 1 million Germans attacked 200,000 French forcing them to retreat to just 8km away from Verdun.

The French General Petain was given orders by the French Prime Minister that 'they shall not pass.' French tactics were now the same as Germany's; kill as many Germans as they can. 259 of 330 French infantry units fought at Verdun and the one road into Verdun (known as the Sacred Way) was used by 6000 vehicles a day.

Aftermath

Due to the large number of casualties, the battle became known as the 'meat grinder' and the French demanded the British open up a new battle at the Somme to take German resources away from Verdun.

Germany fired 23 million shells at Verdun and killed 315,000 French soldiers compared to 280,000 losses of their own. Verdun didn't fall and the French and German casualties were similar. Neither side won, neither side lost, the Battle of Verdun is a prime example of a war of attrition.

The Battle of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme took place between 1st July 1916 and 18th November 1916 with 3 million men taking part. It was the largest battle of the Western Front. 1 million men were killed or wounded and is one of the bloodiest battle in history.

The Battle

The Somme was a direct response to the French defence of Verdun. A British offensive on the Somme would divert attention from Verdun. The Battle began on 24th June with a huge bombardment by the British guns. Haig's plan was to bombard the German trenches for 1 week and then follow it up with infantry on the 1st July. The bombardment was to be so fierce that the British soldiers should be able to walk over No Mans Land to the German trenches. Despite 1.5 million shells being fired in a week it failed. The Germans knew the attack was going to happen as their spotter planes saw the movement of men and weapons. The Germans pulled their men back to shelter in concrete bunkers and stretched barbed wire in front of their trenches.

Once the bombardment stopped the Germans emerged from their dugouts and waited for the attack to begin. The British with their heavy packs and orders to walk towards the trenches, were sitting ducks. The machine gun fire from Germany cut down 60,000 casualties (20,000 dead) in just one day.

Despite these loses, Haig kept sending men over the top with minimal changes to tactics (tanks were used by were not effective) and the breakthrough never happened.

Aftermath

Britain and France lost approximately 620,000 soldiers and Germany lost 500,000. Haig was criticised for his tactics but labelled the 'Butcher of the Somme'.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) Why was Verdun chosen as a focus for the German attack?
- 2) How is Verdun an example of 'a war of attrition'?
- 3) What were the consequences of the Battle of the Verdun?
- 4) Why is the Somme known as 'the bloodiest battle' of WW1?
- 5) What mistakes did General Haig make in the Battle of the Somme?

The Battles

The Battle of Passchendaele

The battle of Passchendaele, also known as the Battle of Ypres took place between July and November 1917.

Before the battle there had been a varying number of attacks by the British and French. Britain had pushed back the Germans at Arras and Messines and the Canadians had seized Vimy Ridge but the French had been devastated by the Germans during the Nivelle Offensive.

After the Nivelle Offensive the French Army mutinied and hundreds of mutineers were shot to maintain discipline.

The Battle

The aim of the offensive was to capture the Belgian ports in the North which were being used by German submarines. The assault began with 4.5million shells launched from 3000 guns over 10 days.

However the area was beset with heavy rainfall and the explosions turned the area into thick mud filled craters. Soldiers had to carry boards and lay them down in front of them just to move forward and any slip into the mud proved fatal.

The Aftermath

Britain lost 30,000 within a week, the artillery failed to destroy the German trenches and the British used the same tactics of the Somme of continual attack after attack. Britain did move forward, about 8km, but the cost was high, 400,000 dead or wounded.

The battle is best remembered for a quote from one of Haig's officers who saw the conditions of the battlefield and remarked 'God did we really send men to fight in that.'

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) What is another name for the Battle?
- 2) What mistakes were made in the Battle?
- 3) How is the Battle similar to the Battle of the Somme?
- 4) What were the consequences of the Battle?

Battle of Gallipoli

Gallipoli Campaign – The Initial Attack

The aim of the Gallipoli for the allies was twofold.

- 1) Open up a route through the Dardanelles Strait to help supply Russia and
- 2) Distract the Germans who were allies of the Turks who were to be attacked.

Opening up a third front might weaken German and Austrian resistance on the Eastern and Western Front. If resistance on the Eastern and Western front was weakened, the allies could launch attacks to try and smash the German and Austrian soldiers and win the war. A two front war could possibly become a three front war.

Plan of the attack

Winston Churchill believed he could defeat the Turks without needing soldiers. The British Navy could sail up the Dardanelles and force Constantinople, the capital to surrender or face shelling from the ships.

The Initial Attack

On the 19th February 1915, the British and French ships began their attack with initial success. Some forts were shelled by the allies and abandoned by the Turks. Mines protecting the straight were cleared by Minesweepers and the path up the straight was clear.

On the 18th March the main naval attack began which was met by a hail of fire from the Turkish forts on the shoreline sinking three ships and a new line of mines had been laid sank 3 and damaged 3 more. The rest of the ships retreated.

Churchill came to the conclusion that a land invasion was required to clear the forts and on the 25th April 70,000 soldiers landed on the Gallipoli beaches despite warnings from Greece it would take nearly double that amount. However unknown to the allies, the Turks knew the attack was coming and moved 84,000 troops to coast and told them to prepare for invasion.

Gallipoli – The Land Campaign

Under the command of Ian Hamilton allied troops landed on the Gallipoli coastline on the 25th April. Despite some initial success when they landed, the allies were forced to dig trenches to protect themselves from the Turks who were firing at them from clifftops and forts on the beaches. This meant the Gallipoli campaign resorted to trench warfare similar to that on the Eastern and Western Front.

Life in the Gallipoli Trenches

In the heat of the Turkish summer sun, life in the trenches was horrendous. The allies struggled to source water and food was often contaminated by flies and rats.

In total 80% of the allied army contacted dysentery which led to severe diarrhoea.

The allies continued to land troops on Gallipoli to try and force a breakthrough such as Sulva Bay but the Turks continually beat the allies back.

This continued until October when Hamilton was replaced by Munro. After inspecting the Gallipoli front and the cold Turkish winter beginning (leading to frostbite and even death for some soldiers) the order was given to withdraw. It is said the only success of the Gallipoli campaign was that 80,000 soldiers were evacuated without a single death.

Aftermath

The effects of the Gallipoli campaign were disastrous. The campaign did not weaken resistance on the East or Western Front, the Turks stayed in the war and now Bulgaria had joined the war on the side of the Germans and Turks. The allies lost 200,000 men and Russia was still short of supplies.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) What were the aims of the Gallipoli campaign?
- 2) What was the plan?
- 3) How did the plan fail?
- 4) What were conditions like in the land campaign?
- 5) What were the consequences of the campaign?

War at sea and the Battle of Jutland

The War at Sea

For both Germany and Britain it was essential to control the sea. Because Germany and Britain both relied on imports for their foods, control of the sea would mean your side continued to get their food, whilst the enemy could be starved of theirs.

The Naval Blockade

Britain established a naval blockade in the North Sea in 1914 and announced any ship entering the blockade would be stopped or sunk. This would in effect block the German coast in the north of Germany and prevent them from getting supplies.

It worked:

Coal, Oil, Steel and Fertilisers couldn't get into Germany. Food was in short supply and approximately 420,000 Germans died of starvation throughout the war.

Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

The German tactics throughout the war at sea was to use their U-Boats (submarines.) Because their navy could not escape their ports due to the blockade, the only option available to Germany was sail underneath it. The Germans twice declared 'unrestricted submarine warfare' whereby they declared that any shipping sailing towards Britain would be sank on sight by the German U-Boats. This was somewhat successful, in 1917 it was alleged that Britain was only 6 weeks away from running out of food. However, such tactics often targeted American ships. The sinking of the American ship, the Lusitania would bring America close to involvement in the war. Anti- German feeling was rising and many American citizens called on Woodrow Wilson to declare war. He didn't but he also didn't forget the incident.

With German ships remaining in their ports, the British were able to sail across the North Sea to France and the Atlantic Ocean to the U.S.A without much concern. However in May 1916, Germany hatched a plan to try and break the blockade under the Command of Admiral Scheer.

Scheer's plan was 4 fold:

- A few German ships would sail into the North Sea to act as bait to draw out the British.
- The British Navy would then hopefully come out in force to attack the German Ships.
- The rest of the German fleet would then sail up behind the British ships and attack them.
- This would trap the British between the initial group of ships and the main body of the German fleet allowing the British to be destroyed.

Battle of Jutland

The Germans launched their plan on the 31st May 1916. However, unfortunately for the Germans, the British had managed to acquire a German code book and knew about their plan.

The British therefore did not send out their entire fleet to attack Scheer's bait. They sent a small force to meet Scheer's fleet and waited for the main German fleet to arrive.

When the fleet arrived from Germany, the British fleet began to sail towards them. Scheer aware that his plan had not worked ordered his fleet to sail north to avoid being destroyed by the British fleet. The British fearing it may be another attempt at trap did not follow.

The Battle of Jutland was short and neither side was victorious.

Germany claimed they won the battle as they destroyed more British ships and more British sailors were killed. However the German Navy withdrew back to Germany and never challenged the British Navy again.

As a result the blockade was not broken and Germany continued to suffer food shortages which led to wide spread resentment against the Kaiser and the war in general.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) Why was control of the seas important?
- 2) What is the naval blockade?
- 3) What was the impact of the blockade?
- 4) How were submarines used? Did this change during the war?
- 5) What was Admiral Scheer's plan?
- 6) What happened in the Battle of Jutland?
- 7) What were the consequences of the Battle?

Russia Leaves the War and the U.S.A. enters the war

Russia Leaves the War

Despite early success, the Russian army suffered two huge defeats to Germans at the Battle of Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes.

Russia's leader, Tsar Nicholas II went to the front to try and lead his army but he was a hopeless military leader and many blamed him personally for the defeats his army suffered.

To make things worse, with the Tsar away at the front, his wife was ruling Russia alongside a very unpopular advisor called Rasputin.

With 15 million men in the armed forces, Russia did not have enough men to grow food or mine resources. Food and power were in short supply and the Russian people were suffering. This, added to 1 million dead soldiers on the battlefield led to the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The Tsar abdicated his throne and after the failure of provisional government, Vladimir Lenin and his supporters the Bolsheviks seized power and set up a new government. They declared they would make peace with Germany.

Aftermath

The Germans forced Russia to sign the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, which gave good farmland and resources to Germany and broke the alliance with Britain and France.

With Russia now withdrawn from the war, Germany were no longer encircled and could move all their soldiers to the West to fight Britain and France and farmland and resources gained from Russia helped ease the naval blockade of Germany by the allies. The tide was beginning to turn in Germany's favour.

U.S.A enters the War

Originally, when war broke out, the USA refused to take sides. America did however sell food, weapons and other goods to Britain and its allies and lent Britain 2 billion dollars of war loans.

However, with German unrestricted submarine warfare attacking American ships, anti-German feeling began to surface in America. This escalated when the Germans sank the American passenger liner the Lusitania that killed 128 Americans. Despite this the American President, Woodrow Wilson refused to get involved in the war.

This changed when in 1917 America discovered that Germany had been trying to persuade Mexico to attack the USA with the help of German money and weapons. Mexico would keep Texas, Arizona and New Mexico and Germany would keep America away from Europe.

Mexico however refused to attack America and America declared war on Germany. With America's richness in material, money, men and oil, their involvement was a huge boost to France and Britain.

Although Germany were to benefit from Russia leaving the war, they faced with a devastating blow. If Germany were unable to defeat the French and British before American troops were in Europe they knew they would not be able to win the war. The Germans devised a plan called the Ludendorff Offensive to try win the war before America were able to arrive.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) Why did Russia leave the war?
- 2) What was the impact of Russia leaving on Germany?
- 3) Why did the USA not join the war in the beginning?
- 4) How important was the sinking of the Lusitania?
- 5) What was the Zimmermann telegram?
- 6) Why did America join the war?
- 7) What was the impact of America joining the war?

The Spring Offensive and the Hundred Days

The Ludendorff Offensive

To try win the war before America could commit significant ground troops, the Germans devised the Ludendorff Offensive.

The Germans planned to attack a number of points around the city of Arras in France. Britain had just taken control of this section of the line and the trenches were of poor quality and weaker than other areas of the front.

The Germans planned to use a 'hurricane' bombardment, a short 5 hour artillery bombardment using 1 million shells, 3 thousand shells per minute. The Germans would then deploy their specially trained storm troopers to try breaking the British lines and surround the British troops.

The offensive was also known as the Spring Offensive or the Emperor's Battle and began on the 21st March 1918.

The Offensive Begins

The hurricane bombardment took place as planned and was the heaviest bombardment of the entire war. The Germans also used poison gas and then deployed the storm troopers as planned.

The British were shocked and surprised by the scale and quickness of the battle. It was unlike anything previously seen on the Western Front. 21,000 fled and surrendered, 20,000 killed and 35,000 were wounded. Stalemate had been broken for the first time since 1914.

Failure of the Ludendorff Offensive

The German Offensive had begun well. Germany advanced towards the River Marne where they had been turned around in 1914 and taken 60km of land. However, it had come at a cost. 220,000 men had been lost and the German reserves were unable to replace them. Germany were running out of men.

To make matters worse, the storm troopers had done too well. They had gone so deep into French land that it was taking too long to resupply them. With supplies short on the German front lines, the men actually stopped to loot the villages they had taken to search for food and supplies. This slowed down the advance and gave Britain a chance to catch their breath.

Unified Command

To counter the advance of the Germans the allies put all of their armies under the control of one man, Ferdinand Foch. Instead of France and Britain fighting individually, they now fought together as one army and began to fight back.

With American soldiers arriving at a rate of 50,000 per week and Germany exhausted, the allies began to prepare a huge counter attack that would push the Germans back and end the war.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) What was the Ludendorff Offensive?
- 2) Why was the Ludendorff Offensive initially a success?
- 3) Where did the Offensive go wrong?
- 4) Who was Ferdinand Foch?
- 5) What was the impact of the American soldiers arriving?

The Hundred Days continued & the Kiel Mutiny

The Hundred Days

With the Ludendorff Offensive stopped and new, fresh American troops and equipment arriving in France, the Allies prepared to launch a counter-attack, known as the Hundred Days Offensive.

The counter attack led by Commander in Chief General Foch consisted of Belgian, American, British and French armies attacking different parts of the German line hoping to stretch the German Army and wear down their defences.

The offensive began in August of 1918 and was an immediate success. On the first day alone, the allies took 11km of land and another 8km taken over the following week.

Casualty figures for the allies stood at just 6500 men whilst the Germans, already short of men, lost nearly 30,000 to death or injury and 17,000 taken prisoner.

The Hindenburg Line

After multiple breakthrough, the Germans retreated to a line of concrete trenches called the Hindenburg Line. The allies attacked the Hindenburg Line in September 1918 using 1.2 million American troops and by October 1918 the line had been broken.

Whilst the Germans tried to cover their retreat with gas, explosives and poisoned water supplies, they had lost too many men and too much equipment. For the German military commanders it was clear that the war needed to end.

The Kiel Mutiny

On 28th October, the German Navy in Kiel were ordered to attack the British in the North Sea and try break the blockade. The sailors in the German Navy committed mutiny and refused to follow the orders.

News of the mutiny spread and soon workers in factories were going on strike and soldiers, sent to break up the mutiny and strikes, joined in.

Workers councils were set up to run the towns independent of the Kaiser. and in just 6 days Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Munich were all under the control of the workers. The Kaiser had lost control and his army generals refused to support him. On 9th November he left Germany for the Netherlands and never returned.

The End of the War

Friedrich Ebert, leader of the SDP, took the role of leader of Germany until elections could be held and immediately sought an end to the war.

The Allies were in no mood to be lenient towards the new government and declared their terms for an armistice. The terms were harsh:

- All fighting to end within 6 hours
 - All land occupied in Alsace-Lorraine, Belgium and Luxembourg were to be evacuated within 15 days
 - The allies would occupy the Rhineland and seize 24 naval ships and Germany's railway network
 - The blockade would continue
 - Germany had to withdraw from Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Romania
- Germany were distraught at the terms but had little choice but sign them. At 5.10am on the 11th November the Armistice was signed and at 11am the war came to end. The war was over.

How do I learn this information?

- 1) Read the information through carefully and repeat
- 2) Fold over the dotted line and on another piece of paper write down what you remember
- 3) Go back to the original information and highlight what you got right
- 4) Repeat the process of covering, writing, checking and highlighting

Get somebody else to help you recall key information by asking the following questions:

- 1) What was the Hundred Days Offensive?
- 2) Why did the Germans retreat?
- 3) What was the reaction of the German armed forces?
- 4) Why was the Kiel Mutiny important?
- 5) What happened to the Kaiser?
- 6) What happened to end the war?