



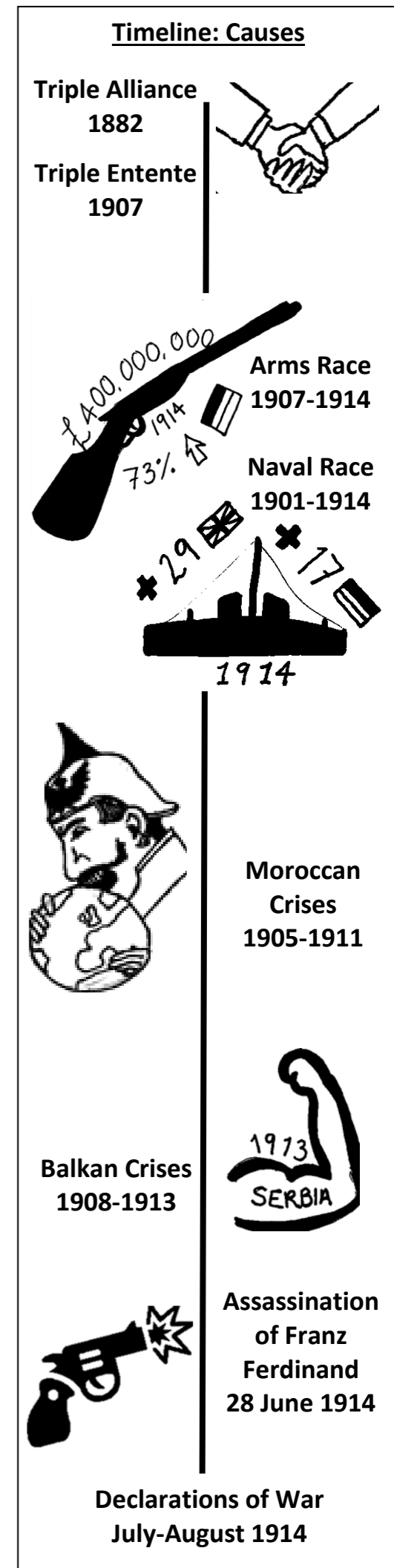


Conflict and Tension: World War One 1894-1918

Part 1: Causes

Causes		Evidence	Explanation	Consequence
M	Militarism 	Arms Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The powerful countries of Europe built up their armies, spending £400,000,000 in 1914 combined. All (except Britain) introduced conscription (compulsory military service). They also created war plans: Germany's Schlieffen Plan (created in 1905) aimed to avoid a war on two fronts by defeating France first before turning to face Russia, who (Germany believed) would take 6 weeks to mobilise (prepare) for war. All of the great European powers had war plans (e.g. France's Plan 17 involved marching straight to Berlin). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1914 all the powerful countries in Europe were fully prepared and weaponized for a long and bloody war. The Schlieffen Plan assumed that France would join the war with Russia – by planning to invade France, the Germans had forced France to join.
		Naval Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Britain had the world's biggest navy in 1900. Germany wanted a larger navy. Britain created the dreadnoughts (powerful warships) in 1906. Germany competed by building their own dreadnoughts (Rheinland). The British responded by building the superdreadnought. By 1914 Britain had 29 new dreadnoughts and Germany had 17. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict between Britain and Germany was made almost inevitable as both competed to expand their navy. The war would be a war at sea, as well as a land war.
A	Alliances 	Triple Entente	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Britain (including its empire), France and Russia formed an alliance in 1907. All three were concerned about the rising power of Germany – especially France and Russia which shared borders with Germany. France had lost a war against Germany (Franco-Prussian War) in 1870 and feared another defeat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany was surrounded with France to the west and Russia to the east. If one country in the alliance went to war or was invaded, all three would join the war. War would be global.
		Triple Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed an alliance in 1882. When it came to the war, Italy did not participate (but later joined the Entente because it wanted to take land away from Austria-Hungary). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If one country in the alliance went to war or was invaded, all three would join the war. War would be global.
I	Imperialism 	Moroccan Crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany wanted control over Morocco (where France already had influence). The Kaiser promised to support the Sultan (ruler of Morocco) against France. This led to the Algeiras Conference (1906), where all the powerful European countries (except Austria-Hungary) sided with France. In 1911 Germany sent the warship "Panther" to help stop a rebellion in Morocco. France and Britain saw this as a sign of war and the European countries again sided with France against Germany. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Triple Entente was strengthened as Britain and Russia supported France. The Triple Alliance was strengthened (Austria-Hungary supported Germany) and weakened (Italy did not). Germany was humiliated and would not back down again.
		Weltpolitik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The idea that Germany should create a large empire (like Britain and France). Kaiser Wilhelm II pursued this policy by building up the German military and navy and attempting to add countries to the German Empire (e.g. in Africa). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany's empire-building alarmed Britain and contributed to the naval race. It led to conflict between France and Germany over Morocco.
N	Nationalism 	Balkan Crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Turkish Empire was weak and small countries in the Balkans began to break away and formed the Balkan League against Turkey. Austria-Hungary took advantage of these rebellions and seized Bosnia. This angered Serbia because many Slavic people in Bosnia and Serbia believed in Pan-Slavism (the idea that all Slavic people should be in the same country). Russia promised to help all Slavic people against Austria-Hungary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia's promise to help all Slavic people led to conflict with Austria-Hungary, which wanted to expand its empire. Racial tensions in the Balkans (like Pan-Slavism) led to instability and violence, which could lead to war.
		Assassination & Ultimatum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assassination of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand by the radical Serbian group the Black Hand led to Austria making an ultimatum (a list of demands) to Serbia. Serbia refused to give Austria control over the Serbian police and Austria declared war on Serbia. This then triggered the alliance systems and by early August all the major countries of Europe were at war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The alliance system was triggered: Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia joined to help Serbia, Germany declared war on Russia to help Austria-Hungary, France declared war to help Russia, and Britain joined to help Belgium.



Conflict and Tension: World War One 1894-1918

Part 2: Events

Invasion of Belgium

Causes:

- Germany's **Schlieffen Plan** involved marching through Belgium to attack France before Russia could mobilise (get ready for war).
- Britain** had a 75-year old agreement to protect Belgium.

Events:

- Belgian resistance** – Germans held up for 5 days at **Liège**.
- BEF** (British Expeditionary Force) defend the Belgian city of **Mons**.

Consequences:

- Britain** committed to the war.
- Schlieffen Plan fails** - no quick attack on Paris.



Battle of the Marne

Causes:

- Germany held up in **Belgium** - Britain and France reposition.

Events:

- Germany was stopped **40km** from Paris by Britain and France at the **River Marne** and forced to **retreat**.
- 2 million soldiers fought and **½ million killed/injured** in one week.

Consequences:

- Schlieffen Plan fails**.
- Troops dig in to protect their position - **trench warfare begins**.
- Stalemate** (when neither side can advance) led to tactics of **attrition** (wearing down the enemy).



Gallipoli Campaign

Causes:

- Distract** Germany and reduce pressure by opening a new front.
- Allow **supplies** to travel up the Black Sea to **help Russia**.

Events:

- Amphibious** (sea to land) landing by British and British Empire troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey.
- Turkish resistance** led to digging of trenches (horrific conditions).

Consequences:

- British **evacuation** of 80,000 men.
- 200,000** Allied deaths.
- Bulgaria** joins the Triple Alliance and Turkey stays in the war.



Battle of Verdun

Causes:

- Germany targeted "**the strongest city in France**" – **Verdun**, which had 20 large forts and 40 smaller forts.
- Protecting this important city would "**bleed France white**" (attrition).

Events:

- The attack involved 1 million Germans and 23 million shells.
- Despite the destruction of Verdun and losing 310,000 men (compared to Germany's 280,000), France claimed victory.

Consequences:

- Battle of the Somme** planned to distract the Germans from Verdun.



Battle of Jutland

Causes:

- Aim to **control the seas** to protect supply routes/**blockade** the enemy (stop their supplies).
- Naval Race**.

Events:

- Germany lures the British navy out. Britain counterattacks.
- Britain lost more ships (14-9) but Germany fled and stays in port.

Consequences:

- German navy stays in port for the rest of the war, but **Unrestricted Submarine Warfare** begins.
- British **blockade** of Germany continues.



Battle of the Somme

Causes:

- The French needed help to save **Verdun**. An attack at the River Somme would help distract and wear the Germans down (**attrition**).

Events:

- 3 million men involved and **1 million** were killed/injured. **60,000** British casualties on the first day.
- British **artillery bombardment** followed by a charge across **No Man's Land** under a **creeping barrage** failed (**concrete bunkers/machine guns** saved the Germans).

Consequences:

- Verdun** saved. Germans weakened.



Battle of Passchendaele

Causes:

- Inspired by a series of successful Allied advances.
- Fear of Russian withdrawal.

Events:

- Artillery bombardment** of 4.5 million shells lasting 10 days.
- Ground attack limited by **muddy** conditions, though Britain did capture 8km of territory.
- 400,000 British casualties and 300,000 German.

Consequences:

- Germans pushed out of Passchendaele.
- Battle called off due to conditions.



War on the Eastern Front

Causes:

- Russia** declared war on **Austria-Hungary** to help **Serbia**. Germany defended Austria-Hungary.

Events:

- Some **Russian success** against **Austria-Hungary**.
- Heavy Russian losses** at the battles of **Tannenberg** (250,000) and **Masurian Lakes** (250,000) against **Germany**.

Consequences:

- Impact on the Russian **home front** (starvation, low morale, poverty, destroyed landscape) contributes to **revolution** and **surrender**, 1918.



Timeline: Events

Battle of the Marne
September 1914



Trench Warfare and the Race to the Sea
September 1914



Gallipoli Campaign
February 1915-
January 1916

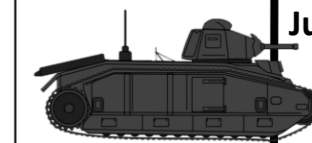


Battle of Verdun
February 1915-
December 1916

Battle of Jutland
May 1916



Battle of the Somme
July-November 1916



Battle of Passchendaele
July-November 1917



Technology and Tactics: Both sides tried to break the stalemate by trialling new technologies, weapons and tactics - though successes were limited until 1918, when the stalemate was broken by the German Spring Offensive (see Part 3).



Weaponry:

Start: Rifles, bayonets, grenades, machine guns and artillery were used. Poisonous gas was developed.

End: Guns became more powerful and accurate. Mining warfare developed. The use of weaponry became more effective, e.g. the creeping barrage was perfected.



Navy:

Start: Cautious use of ships (cost), except a few minor battles. Mainly used for blockades. U-boats used for Unrestricted Submarine Warfare.

End: British blockade of Germany succeeds.



Aircraft:

Start: Planes used mainly for reconnaissance (spying).

End: Planes used in combined attacks to support troops. Long-range bombing became possible.



Tanks:

Start: Tanks powered ahead, leaving troops behind and then had to retreat. Tanks often broke down.

End: Tanks used in combined attacks to support troops.



Infiltration Tactics:

Start: Artillery bombardments followed by mass troop advance across No Man's Land.

End: Elite troops storm in and shut down machine gun posts (etc), e.g. Germany's stormtroopers.

Conflict and Tension: World War One 1894-1918

Part 3: End

America was one of the richest countries in the world; huge **supplies** of coal, oil, iron, cotton, wheat and horses would boost the British-French war effort.

50,000 American troops arrive per week from June 1918. This would balance the loss of the Russians.

Germany now had a race against time to attack on the Western Front before American troops arrived.

USA joins

The British **blockade** of Germany made food and goods scarce. Food riots broke out and Germany responded by launching **Unrestricted Submarine Warfare**.

By winter 1918, the **blockade** combined with harvest failure brought about **revolution** in Germany. Citizens demanded an end to the war and the Kaiser's **abdication**.

War at Sea

Germany's **Unrestricted Submarine Warfare** led to the sinking of the passenger ship, the **Lusitania**, in May 1915. 128 American citizens died. This was the first step in the events which led to America joining the war. (America joined the war after discovering the **Zimmermann Telegram** - a secret message from Germany telling Mexico to invade the USA in January 1917).

Foch's new approach – launching a series of attacks at different points to wear down the enemy, rather than focusing on one large attack – proved successful during the **Hundred Days Offensive**.

The Tsar (king) of Russia abdicates in February 1917 and is replaced by a Provisional Government. Another **revolution** in October 1917 turns Russia into a communist country.

In March 1918 Russia signs the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** with Germany and officially pulls out of the war.

Russia leaves

Germany now no longer faced a war on two fronts.

After pushing Germany back during the Ludendorff Spring Offensive, Britain, France, Belgium and America launched a **counteroffensive** using Foch's new strategy of a series of attacks.

Hundred Days

By early October 1918 the Allies had broken through and the Germans were in full **retreat**, abandoning weapons and equipment. The collapse forced German military leaders to accept that the war should end.

Germany was pushed back to the line of concrete trenches built in 1917 as a last line of defence known as the **Hindenburg Line**.

General **Ludendorff** planned an attack against the **British** to force them, and France (who could not continue without Britain), to surrender before the USA arrived.

Ludendorff's Spring Offensive

Germany advanced **60km** but had lost over **220,000** men and did not have enough replacements. The stormtroopers had performed so well that they had left the **supplies** behind. Pillaging slowed them down and American troops began to arrive.

The plan involved the use of **stormtroopers** (elite German soldiers, carrying guns, grenades and flamethrowers, who would burst through the British lines and create panic), poisonous **mustard gas**, and a **hurricane bombardment** (1 million shells would be fired – 3,000 per minute).

The British were **outnumbered** and confused – thousands fled or surrendered and 55,000 were killed/wounded. The **stalemate had broken**.

German Surrender

Allied leadership

General Foch became the **Commander-in-Chief** of the British and French armies. Strategy would now be **coordinated**.

The War Ends

Revolution in Germany and the **mutiny** (refusal to follow orders) of the German navy led to the Kaiser's **abdication** (quitting). A new democratic government was formed under Friedrich Ebert and Germany signed the **armistice** (ceasefire) to end the war in a train carriage in France on 11th November 1918.



Timeline: End

Russian Revolution 1917 and withdrawal March 1918



USA declares war April 1917

Ludendorff's Spring Offensive March – July 1918



Foch becomes Commander-in-Chief March 1918

Hundred Days Offensive August – November 1918



Revolution in Germany Winter 1918

Kaiser abdicates November 1918



Armistice signed 11th November 1918