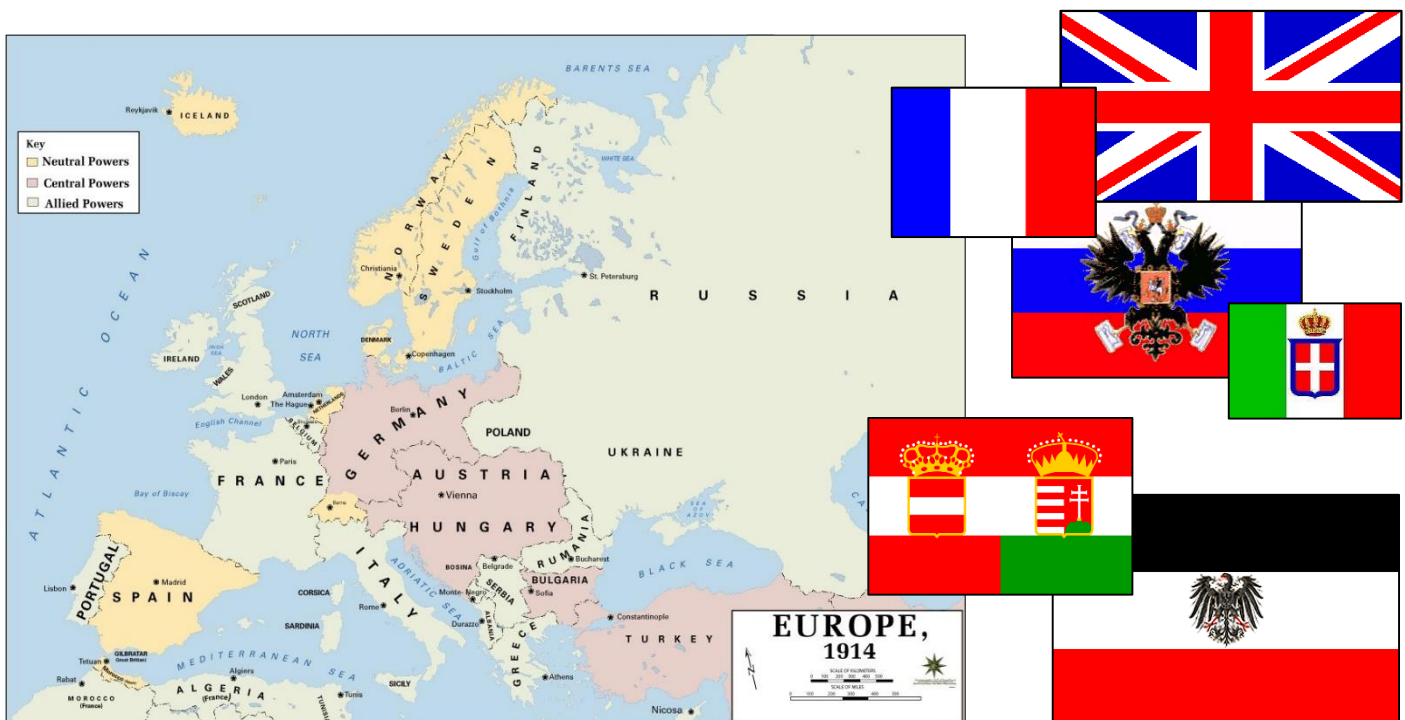


A2: The Origins & Course of the First World War: Key Events

Knowing and understanding the key events and facts from each topic is obviously essential. For Paper 2, Section A topics like WW1 1905-1918, you need to be able to expand on the sources with your own factual knowledge. Make sure you study the following list of key events and changes as part of your revision:

1.) The Major World Powers in 1914

Country	Britain	Germany	Russia	Austria-Hungary	France
Ruler	King George V 1910-1936	Kaiser Wilhelm II 1888-1918	Tsar Nicholas II 1894-1917	Emperor Franz Joseph II 1848-1916	President Raymond Poincarè 1913-1920
Population	40.8 million	65 million	159 million	50 million	39.6 million
Numb of colonies	56	10	n/a	n/a	29
Size of colonies	27 million sq. km	2.5 million sq. km	n/a	n/a	11 million sq. km
Population of colonies	390 million	15 million	n/a	n/a	58 million
Size of army	700,000 soldiers	4,200,000 soldiers	1,200,000 soldiers	800,000 soldiers	3,700,000 soldiers
Size of navy	388 ships	281 ships	166 ships	67 ships	207 ships
Coal output each year	292 million tonnes	277 million tonnes	36.2 million tonnes	47 million tonnes	40 million tonnes
Steel output each year	11 million tonnes	14 million tonnes	3.6 million tonnes	5 million tonnes	4.6 million tonnes



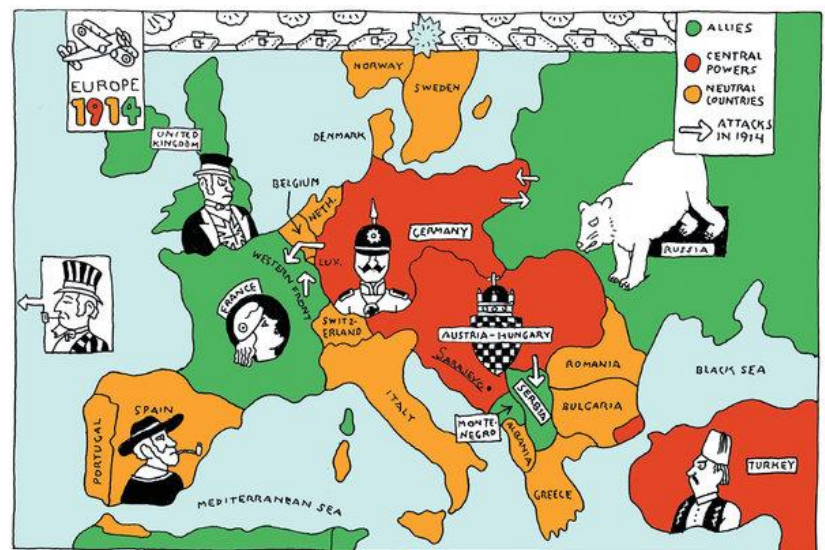
2.) Formation of the Triple Alliance - 1882

What?	When?	Who?	Why?
<p>Dual Alliance - defensive alliance which pledged the signatories to aid one another in case of an attack by Russia. Each state also promised benevolent neutrality to the other if attacked by another European power.</p>	<p>7th October 1879</p>	<p>Germany and Austria- Hungary</p>	<p>A defensive alliance was sought between these two powers due to their common dislike and fear of Russia. In 1878 Russia had defeated the Ottoman Empire in the Russo-Turkish War, gaining considerable influence over the Balkans. This angered Austria-Hungary who was Russia's chief competitor in the region. Germany Chancellor Bismark called an international conference (Congress of Berlin) to solve the tensions. The Treaty of Berlin that year provided Austria with Bosnia as compensation but relations between Germany and Russia had also soured, with Russia resenting German and Austrian meddling in the Balkans.</p>
<p>Triple Alliance - defensive alliance in which members promised to support each other in the event of an attack by any other great power or for Germany and Italy, an attack by France alone.</p>	<p>1882</p>	<p>Germany, Austria- Hungary and Italy</p>	<p>The Dual Alliance was extended in 1882 when Italy joined. Italy had been angered by the French seizure of Tunisia in 1881 as many Italians considered Tunisia as a potential colony. Italy felt compelled to join the Alliance despite the fact that Austria-Hungary had been Italy's traditional enemy and had fought 3 wars in the past 34 years!</p>



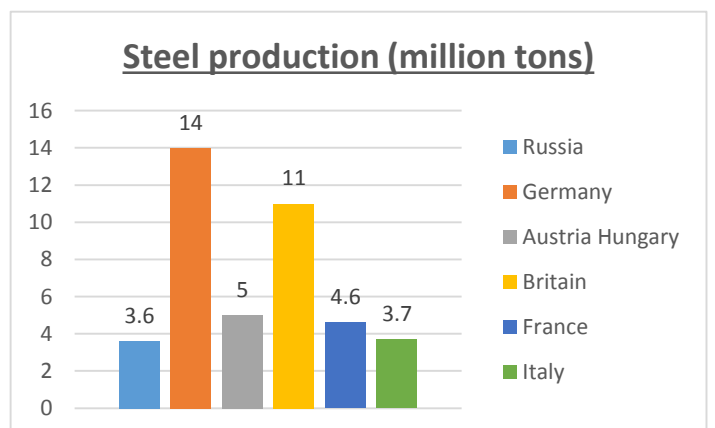
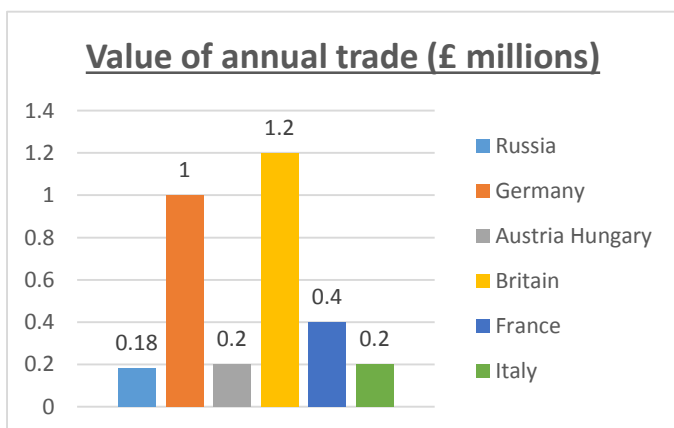
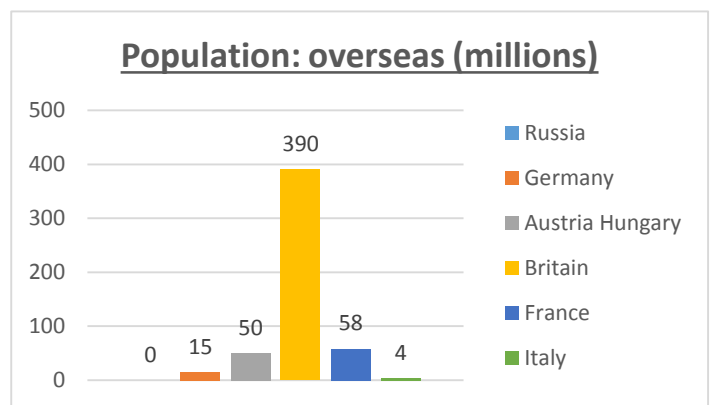
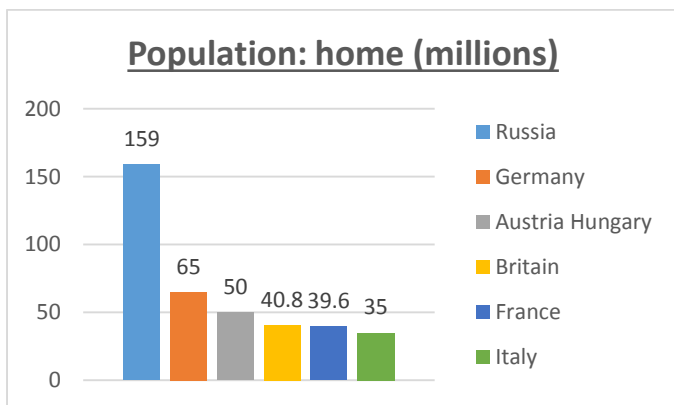
3.) Formation of the Triple Entente

What?	When?	Who?	Why?
Franco-Russian Alliance - a military alliance that stipulated that if one of the countries of the Triple Alliance attacked France or Russia, its ally would attack the aggressor in question.	Drafted on 17 th August 1892, final in 1894.	France and Russia	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 and despite political differences, they agreed to help each other if either of them was attacked.
Entente Cordiale (cordial agreement) - a series of agreements between Britain and France ending almost a thousand years of conflict between the two nations.	8 th April 1904	France and Britain	The agreements settled many colonial issues. France recognised British control over Egypt while Britain reciprocated regarding French control over Morocco. Britain ended its policy of 'splendid isolation' mainly due to a growing fear of isolation in the face of a newly aggressive Germany. However the Entente Cordiale was NOT a formal military alliance like the Franco-Russian Alliance.
Anglo-Russian Entente - an agreement ending colonial rivalries in Central Asia.	31 st August 1907	Russia and Britain	The Anglo-Russia entente ended colonial rivalries, particular over Iran, India, Afghanistan and Tibet. Both nations were rivals for power and resources in the region and this rivalry was known as 'the Great Game'. By the early 20 th century Britain was concerned by the cost of defending against a possible Russian invasion of India and sought to ease tensions. Following defeat in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 and attempted revolution at home, Russia also sought to ease tensions. The result was the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907.
Triple Entente - the end-product of the three previous agreements.	31 st August 1907	Britain, France and Russia	The Triple Alliance was not a formal agreement or military alliance. Rather, the entente was the combined result of the previous three agreements between Russia, France and Britain. 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.



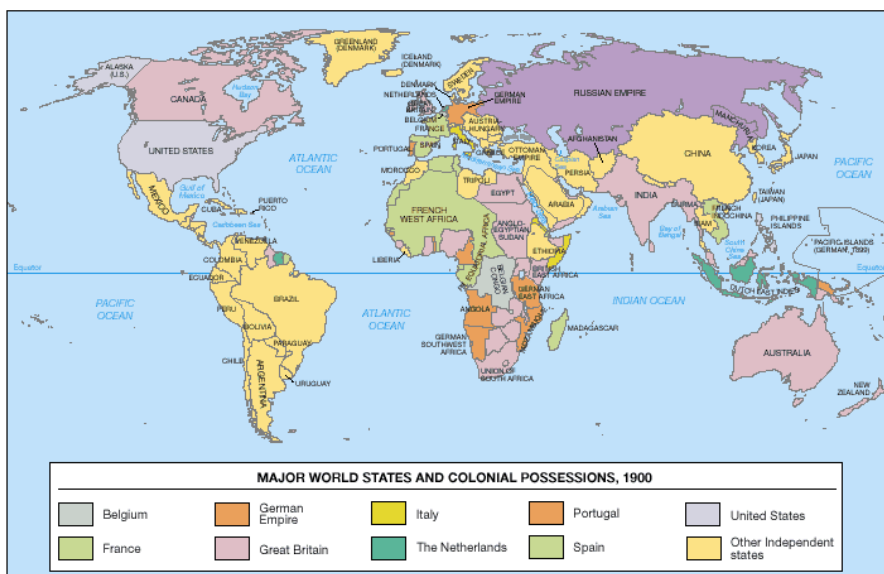
4.) Economic Causes of International Rivalry

Country	Strengths of Economy	Economic Threats and Weaknesses
Britain	Britain had been the first country in the world to go through an industrial revolution. In the 1800s Britain had become rich through the manufacture and sale of home-produced goods, exporting huge quantities of manufactured items to its colonies. In 1914 it still led the world in trade, finance, shipping, and had strong manufacturing bases and mining. The City of London was also the financial centre of the world. Britain had vast investments and reserves overseas which it could use to pay for supplies during World War One.	Britain was increasingly concerned about Germany whose growth rate, manufacturing output and GDP were beating Britain. British industry was slow to adapt to global changes and Britain relied on the Empire to support its economy. Britain feared a growing German navy which could endanger its control over its colonies and trade routes.
Germany	By 1914 Germany was producing more iron, more steel, more coal and even more cars than Britain. Germany was also showing a keen interest in gaining colonies, which would give it access to cheap raw materials and markets into which to sell its goods. By 1914 it controlled a staggering 90% of the world's chemical industry and also dominated in electrical equipment, dyes and pharmaceuticals.	As a major industrial nation, German made money by importing raw materials and exporting finished products abroad. The lack of overseas colonies and a small navy meant that Germany was vulnerable to blockade in a time of war. This would lead Germany to seek an overseas empire and larger navy, a move seen as threatening by the British.
Russia	From the 1890s onwards, the Russian economy was one of the fastest growing in Europe helped by French and British capital investment. Railroads and agriculture received investment along with a focus on the armaments industry. Growth averaged 9% in the 1890s and 5% in 1900-14 but this was from a very low base.	The Russian economy was the poorest of the major powers. 85% of the population were still peasants in 1914 who survived on subsistence farming. Russia had vast resources but these undeveloped due to the climate and transport.
France	Despite the fact that the French economy had been declining throughout the 19 th century, France could still rely on its large empire to provide resources and manpower. France was also mostly self-sufficient in food and energy resources. From the 1890s, France experienced an economic and industrial boom due to its growing colonial empire and increased its investments abroad, especially in Russia.	The French economy was still largely agricultural based and run by small family businesses. They struggled to out-match German industrial might or have the ability to leverage large investment loans like the British. Its growing colonial ambitions was bringing it into conflict with both Germany and Britain.
Austria-Hungary	Having industrialised relatively later than other countries, Austria-Hungary enjoyed high growth rates preceding 1914. It was the 4 th biggest machine manufacturer in the world and was a huge food exporter to Britain and Germany.	Although A-H experienced high growth, it was largely centred in Hungary and wealth was mostly concentrated amongst the landowning aristocracy. Austria also lacked an overseas empire to supply resources or an export market in times of war.
Italy	Italy, along with Russia, was unfortunately the poor man of Europe. The Italian economy did experience growth in the years before 1914 but mainly in the industrialised cities of the north. Southern Italy was intensely poor, agricultural and backward.	Italy was still a largely agricultural country and industrialisation had only affected the north of the country. Nearly 25 million people had emigrated between 1880-1914 leaving Italy with a shortage of manpower.



5.) Imperial Causes of International Rivalry

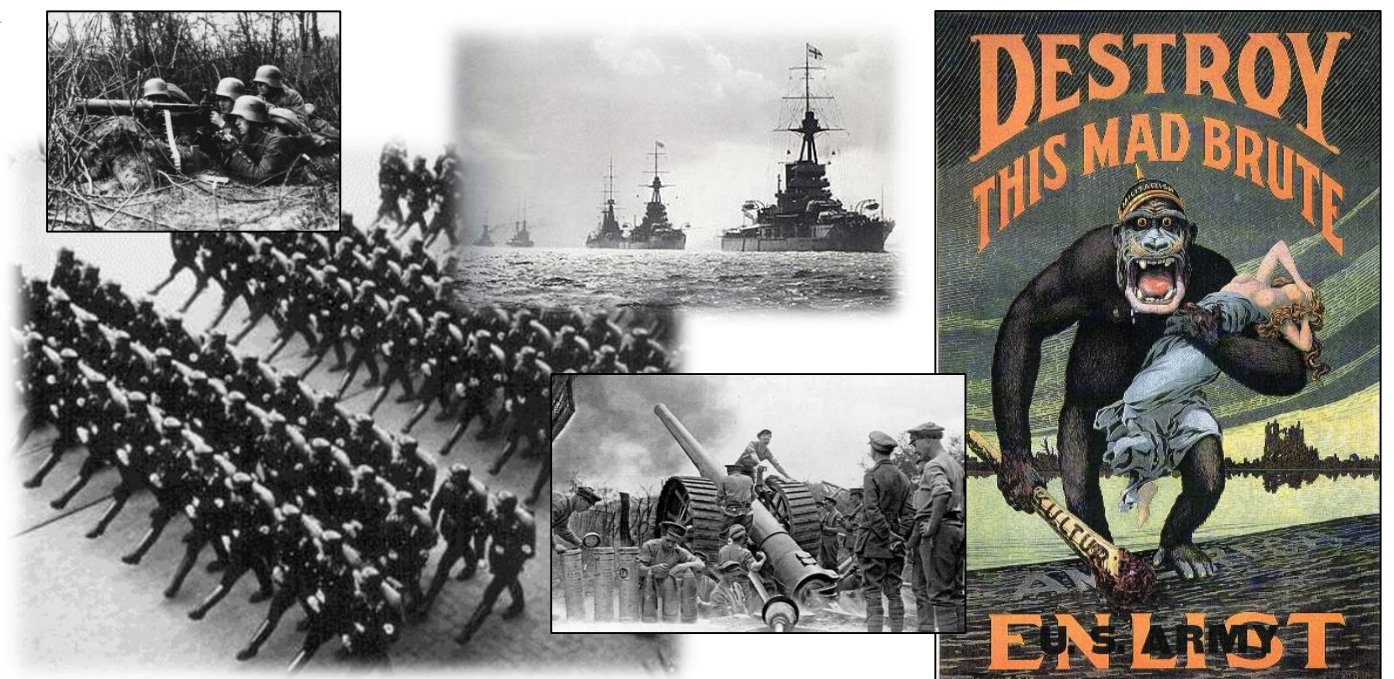
Country	Major Colonies Owned	Problems and Threats
<p>One of the issues that led to tension between the Great Powers in the early twentieth century concerned the ownership of land overseas - colonies. Colonies provided cheap raw materials for industry and were also a place where European countries could export their home-produced goods. It was thought that the more colonies a nation had, the more powerful it became. This is why under Kaiser Wilhelm II, Germany sought its own 'place in the sun'.</p>		
Britain	Britain had the largest empire in the world covering more than 11,400,000 sq miles and reigned over 400 million people. Colonies included: <i>India, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Egypt, Sudan, Rhodesia, Singapore, Malacca, Java, Burma, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, West Indies.</i>	Despite its size, the profits made from empire were declining by 1914 and the costs of defence were rising. The Irish in particular were demanding home rule. The Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902) had exposed British military weaknesses. Russia was threatening British interests in Central Asia (ended in 1907) and German expansion in Africa was beginning to worry the British. Britain's main concern was therefore in maintaining its supremacy in the world and preventing any one power from dominating Europe.
Germany	Germany had also been a continental land-based power and had grown rapidly in the 19 th century. The focus of Germany's expansion changed when Wilhelm II became Kaiser. He encourage a 'new imperialism' overseas. By 1914, Germany's main colonies were: <i>Namibia, Cameroon, Togoland, German East Africa, Shandong (China), German Samoa.</i>	Germany only had a small and poor empire but its desire for more colonies in Africa brought it into conflict with Britain and France. The building of a navy to rival Britain and the Kaiser's open support for the Boers in the South African War only served to push Britain towards France with the signing of the Entente Cordiale in 1903. This push for an overseas empire ultimately upset the balance of power internationally.
France	The French empire was the second biggest in the world and was able to provide France with manpower and resources throughout WW1. Its main colonies were: <i>Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Chad, Senegal, Vietnam, Laos and most of West Africa.</i>	Like Britain, the French empire was huge but by 1914 was draining French finances. Groups in Indo-China (Vietnam) were constantly rebelling and the cost of fighting was huge. The French also faced competition in Africa, especially from Germany. The Moroccan Crises (1905-6 + 1911) both nearly led to war between France and Germany.
Austria-Hungary	Austria-Hungary was the second biggest country in Europe in 1914 and the third most populous yet it did not have any overseas colonies. Instead, the empire was a multinational realm which ruled over the parts of these modern day countries: <i>Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.</i>	Austria-Hungary ruled over an empire of over eleven different nationalities and many of these wanted their own independence. The rising tide of nationalism in the Balkans were create a series of tensions and conflicts that would eventually led to war in 1914.
Russia	Like Austria-Hungary, Russia had no overseas colonies - it was a huge land-based empire. However Russia was seeking to expand into Manchuria (China), The Balkans and Persia (Iran). Russia also ruled over most of modern day Eastern Europe and the Central Asia Republics.	Russia's aim to expand into Central Asia brought it into conflict with Britain, especially in Afghanistan, Persia, Tibet and India. Russia also came into conflict with the Austrians in the Balkans, where Russia was encouraging Slavic nationalism and the rise of Serbia. In the East, its push into Manchuria brought Russia into conflict with Japan, leading to its defeat in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05). This defeat also led to Russia seeking peace with Britain in 1907 (Anglo-Russian Agreement).
Italy	Modern Italy had only been created in 1861 and as such, was one of the last powers to establish an empire. By 1914, Italy ruled over: <i>Eritrea, Somalia, Libya, Docecanese Islands (Turkey) and Tietsin (China).</i>	Italy's new empire was tiny and didn't really benefit them economically to any great extent. The weakness of the Italian military was also illustrated in its failed attempt to conquer Ethiopia in the First Italo-Ethiopian War of 1895-96. Italy's desire to conquer more lands from the crumbling Austro-Hungarian empire would lead it to join the Entente powers in 1915, rather than honouring its agreement to the Triple Alliance.



World Colonial Holdings, ca. 1914. The European powers, great and small, competed with each other for world empires and world influence by 1900.

6.) Military Causes of International Rivalry

<p>What is militarism?</p>	<p>The culture of militarism was persuasive in many European capitals prior to the First World War. Militarism generally refers to the domination of government and decision makers by military elites. Governments often became dominated by Generals and military planners who fuelled arms races by demanded increases in military spending. They also contributed to the mood of war by drawing up war plans and promoting military solutions to political and diplomatic problems.</p>
<p>Why was militarism strong in Germany?</p>	<p>Militarism was strong in Germany mainly due to the undemocratic nature of German government. The German army was formed from the old Prussian army and was therefore dominated by the Junkers, a small but powerful group of Prussian aristocrats. Prussia had been the most powerful of the Germanic states prior to unification, both in political and military terms. The Prussian army had been reformed and modernised by Field Marshal von Moltke in the 1850s. Under von Moltke's command the Prussians developed a rigorous training regime for officers; they also incorporated new weaponry and communication technologies into their military strategy. After 1871 the Prussian army formed the core of the new German imperial army. The Kaiser was the supreme commander of the army; he relied on a military council and chief of general staff, made up of Junker aristocrats and career officers. The Reichstag, Germany's elected civilian parliament, exercised very little say in military matters. In many respects the Germany military existed as a part of the government, rather than being a servant of the government. Therefore many events before 1914 were driven by the demands of German military planners and Generals.</p>
<p>What was the arms race?</p>	<p>It is natural for military leaders to be obsessed with modernising their forces and equipping them with new technology, and the decades prior to 1914 saw no shortage of this. One of the most significant developments were marked improvements in the calibre, range, accuracy and portability of heavy artillery. This would allow artillery shelling and bombardments to become standard practice, particularly after the emergence of trench warfare. Machine-guns, first developed in 1881, became smaller, lighter, more accurate, more reliable and much faster (some were capable of firing up to 600 rounds per minute). Millions of metres of barbed wire, an invention of the 1860s, would be mass produced and installed around trenches to halt charging infantry. Various types of poison gas - chlorine, phosgene and mustard - were developed. On the oceans, the development of the dreadnought - a large battleship, the first of which was launched in 1906 - prompted a flurry of ship-building and naval rearmament.</p>
<p>Rising military spending</p>	<p>European military expenditure skyrocketed between 1900 and 1914. In 1870 the combined military spending of the six great powers (Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Italy) totalled 94 million pounds. By 1914 this had quadrupled to 398 million pounds. German defence spending during this period increased by a massive 73 per cent, dwarfing the increases in France (10 per cent) and Britain (13 per cent). Russian defence spending also grew by more than one-third. Its embarrassing defeat in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5) prompted the tsar to order a massive rearmament program. By the 1910s, 45 per cent of Russian government spending was allocated to the armed forces, while just five per cent went on education. Every European power but Britain increased conscription levels to bolster the size of their armies. Germany alone added 170,000 full-time soldiers to its army in 1913-14. Germany also dramatically increased its navy: in 1898 the German government, largely at the Kaiser's behest, ordered the construction of 17 new vessels. The Germans also pioneered the construction of military submarines: by 1914 the Kaiser's navy had 29 operational U-boats. These developments caused alarm in Britain, and London responded by commissioning 29 new ships for the Royal Navy.</p>



7.) Nationalism and Rivalry in the Balkans

Country	Background	Aims in the Balkans
The Ottomans	Since the 1600s, most of the Balkans (a poor, mountainous region of south-east Europe) had been part of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottomans were Muslim rulers of what is now modern day Turkey. By the 19 th century the Ottomans were in decline: Greece (1832), Serbia (1878), Montenegro (1878) and Romania (1878) had all won their full independence. Other states became semi-independent like Bulgaria (1878) and the Ottomans were forced to let Austria-Hungary 'administer' Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1878.	<p>The primary aim of Ottoman foreign policy was to prevent revolutions and the collapse of its European Empire. Essentially, the Empire was too big and too expensive for the army to keep control everywhere. It was facing a growing tide of nationalism from the many ethnic groups within the Empire like Bosnians, Serbs and Croats who all wanted their independence.</p> <p>The Ottomans also faced competition in the Balkans from Russia and Austria-Hungary who were both trying to extend their influence in the area. Russia in particular was actively supporting and encouraging Slavic independence.</p>
Austria-Hungary	Austria-Hungary had a large and scattered Empire in central Europe with its capital in Vienna. It was ruled by the Habsburg family and is often referred to as the 'Habsburg Empire'. The Empire ruled over 11 different nationalities like Slavs, Czechs, Serbs, Bosnians and Croats.	Like the Ottomans, Austria-Hungary wanted to both extend and preserve its power in the region and stop the growth of Balkan nationalism as it threatened to break up the empire. Since its independence in 1878, Serbia had been keen to extend its influence in the Balkans. Many Serbs lived in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and wanted to unite with Serbia. If this happened, other ethnic groups might also seek their independence from the empire like Czechs and Croats. Austria-Hungary was therefore keen to confront the growing power of Serbia and take advantage of the weakening Ottoman Empire.
Russia	<p>Russia was a huge country and empire that shared a southern border with the Ottoman Empire across the Black Sea and the Balkans.</p> <p>Russia had been at war with the Ottomans several times in the 19th century. In 1877-78, Russia had supported the Bulgarians and other Slavic nationalities in rising up against the Ottomans by sending troops and supplies.</p> <p>Russia saw it as an opportunity to gain influence in the area.</p>	<p>Russia's primary concern was to gain access to the Mediterranean Sea for trade. To reach the Mediterranean, Russian ships had to sail through the narrow Dardanelles straight, controlled and closed off to them by the Ottomans. Russia was therefore determined to establish pro-Russian governments in the Balkans, which would allow their ports to be used to transport Russian goods in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>The Russian were also Slavs and many Slavs in the Balkans were Christian and belonged to the Russian Orthodox Church. Russia was keen to promote Slavic nationalism and help Slavic people win their freedom from the Ottomans. If this also threatened the break-up of Austria-Hungary then more the better.</p>



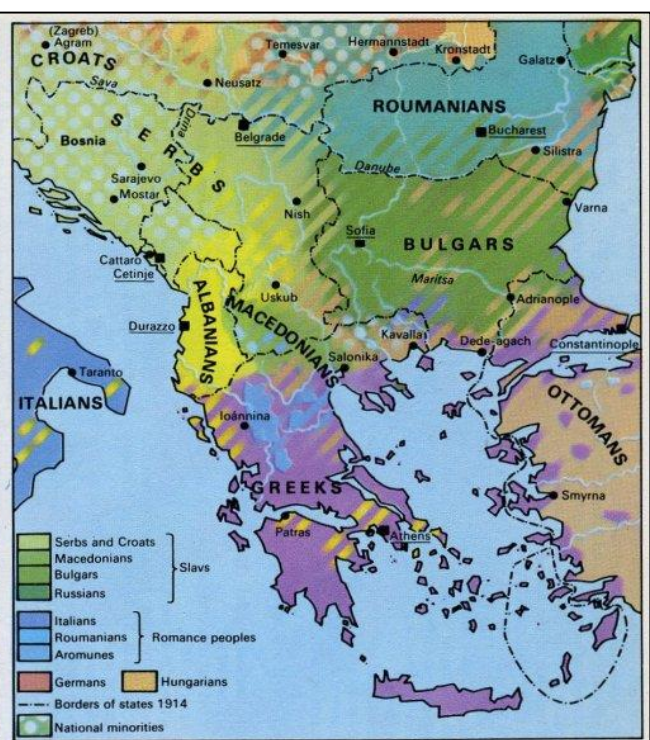
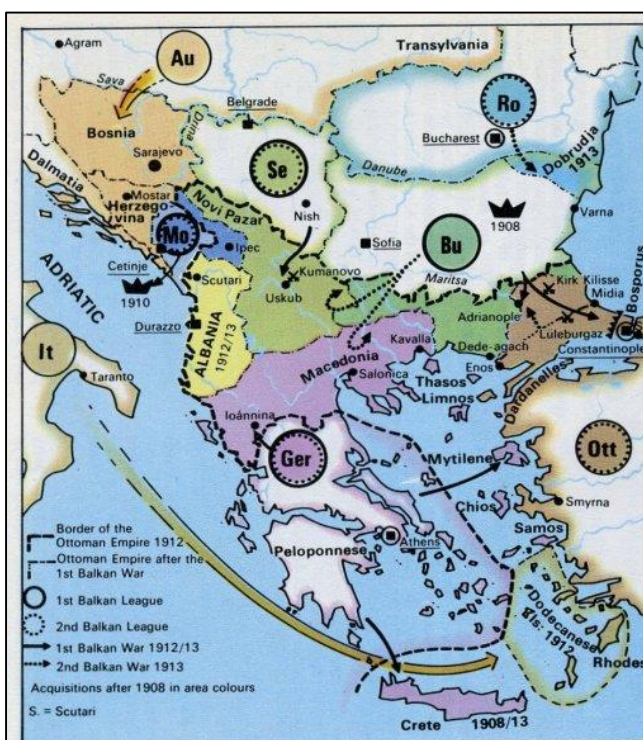
8.) The Bosnian Crisis: 1908

Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>Young Turk Revolution, April 1908 - Group of army officers in Turkey overthrow the rule of Sultan Abdul Hamid and introduce a series of reforms to modernise the Ottoman Empire. Austria-Hungary was alarmed at the prospect of a stronger, modernised Turkey and wanted to prevent the Ottomans from recovering the province of Bosnia-Herzegovina which Austria-Hungary had been allowed to administer since 1878.</p> <p>Serbian Nationalism - Serbia was unhappy with the status quo and wanted to take over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Relations with Austria-Hungary deteriorated over the issue and by 1907, Austria-Hungary was planning to annex Bosnia-Herzegovina to prevent Serbian influence from spreading.</p>	<p>On 6th October 1908 Austria-Hungary announced the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and made it an official territory of the Habsburg Empire. The Ottomans, Serbia and Russia all objected to the annexation.</p> <p>Despite the fact that the 1878 Treaty of Berlin had given Austria-Hungary special rights to 'occupy and administer' Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Ottomans still technically owned and ruled the provinces and considered that their territory had been seized. The Ottomans protested and launched a boycott of Austro-Hungarian trade goods but was too concerned with Bulgaria's declaration of independence on 5th October to do anything about the annexation of Bosnia Herzegovina.</p> <p>Serbia strongly objected to the annexation as it had designs of its own on the province. It hoped to bring Bosnian Serbs into Serbia. On 7th October Serbia mobilised its army and demanded that the annexation be reversed. It asked Russia for help to stop the annexation.</p> <p>Russia responded by accusing Austria-Hungary of betraying its confidence and considered war. On 22nd March 1909, Germany made it clear to Russia that unless it agreed to the annexation, it would 'let things take their course' and support Austria-Hungary if war occurred.</p> <p>Russia backed down in the face of this threat, as did Serbia, and the crisis ended when Austria-Hungary agreed to pay the Ottomans compensation of £2.2 million for the annexation.</p>	<p>Serbia and Russia were humiliated and were determined to win the next dispute. Russia begins to invest heavily in its armed forces.</p> <p>Austria-Hungary begun to see the Serbs as a real threat and was reassured by the fact that Germany had stood by it - this encouraged Austria-Hungary to become even more assertive in the region.</p> <p>The 'Black Hand' terrorist organisation was created in Serbia which would later assassinate Franz Ferdinand.</p>



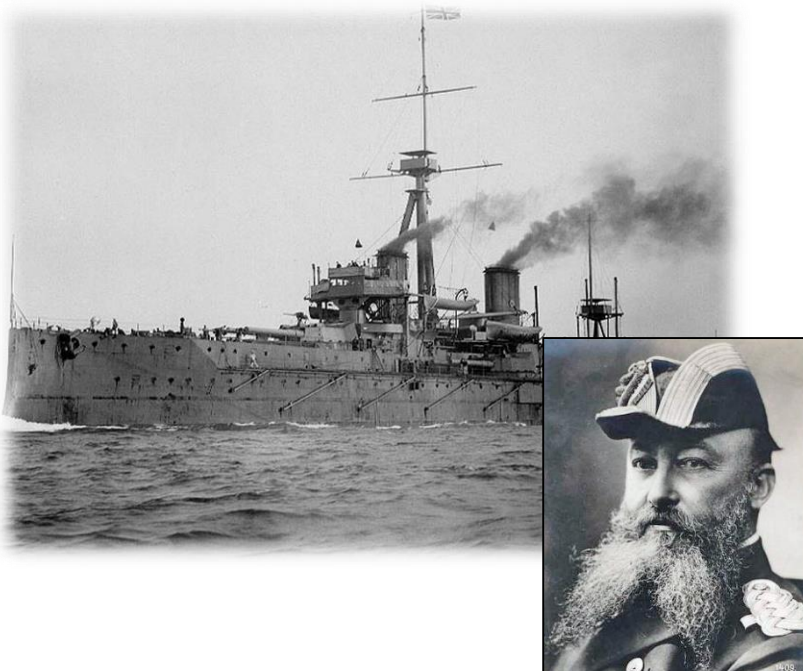
9.) The Balkan Wars: 1912-13

	Causes	What happened?	Consequences
The First Balkan War	<p><u>Fall of the Young Turks</u> - After defeat to Italy in the Italo-Turkish War of 1911-12, the Young Turk group fell from power in Turkey. The Balkan countries saw this as an opportunity to attack the Ottoman Empire.</p> <p><u>Formation of the Balkan League</u> - With the encouragement of Russia agents, a series of loose agreements between Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro formed into an alliance. All four powers wanted to take land away from the Ottoman Empire.</p>	<p>The First Balkan War broke out on 8th October 1912 when the Balkan League (Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro) attacked the Ottoman Empire.</p> <p>The Ottomans were primarily defeated by the actions of the Greek navy, which prevented the Ottomans from transferring reinforcements from the Middle East to Europe, across the Dardanelles Strait.</p> <p>The war ended seven months later with the Treaty of London. The Ottomans had lost virtually all of its Balkan possessions.</p>	<p>Turkey lost nearly all its lands in Europe and over 2.5 million Muslim Ottoman Turks were forced to flee to the Turkish heartland.</p> <p>All four Balkan League powers extended their lands in the Balkans, making Serbia especially more powerful.</p> <p>The province of Macedonia was divided amongst Serbia and Greece, angering the Bulgarians which would led to another war.</p> <p>Albania used the confusion of war to declare independence. This was backed up by Austria-Hungary in the London Conference which ended the war. This angered Serbia who was hoping to gain access to the Sea by annexing Albania.</p>
The Second Balkan War	<p>Bulgaria was unhappy with the territory it gained in the First Balkan War. It had been promised part of the province of Macedonia, which was eventually taken by Serbia and Greece. This angered Bulgaria into using force to recover these provinces.</p>	<p>The Second Balkan War broke out on 16th June 1913 when Bulgaria attacked Serbia and Greece.</p> <p>The Bulgarian offensive was repulsed by the Serbian and Greek armies and they counter-attacked in to Bulgaria. Romania and the Ottomans also attacked Bulgaria.</p> <p>It ended in the Treaty of Bucharest with Bulgaria loosing most of the territories it had gained from the First Balkan War.</p>	<p>Bulgaria's aggression against Serbia (Russia's main ally in the region) had permanently damaged relations between Russia and Bulgaria. Bulgaria would go on to support the Triple Alliance in WW1.</p> <p>Russia now only had one ally in the region - Serbia - and felt obliged to support Serbia unconditionally. This would led to Russia's willingness to back Serbia without question in 1914 - leading to WW1.</p> <p>Serbia gained huge amounts of land in the wars and became vastly more powerful. This worried Austria-Hungary. Both sides now realised that only a war could resolve tensions between each other.</p>



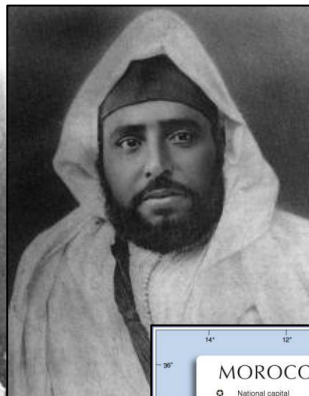
10.) Anglo-German Naval Race: 1906-1912

Causes	What happened?	Results
<p>Kaiser Wilhelm II was a keen sailor and jealous of the British fleet. He wanted to build his own ocean-going fleet to compete with the British. There was also the belief that a deep-sea fleet was needed in order to secure colonies and protect imperial trade.</p> <p>Germany also feared a British naval blockade of its coastline. In 1897, the British foreign office had threatened to blockade the German coast if Germany intervened on the side of the Boers in the African Boer War. A stronger navy might prevent the British from doing this.</p> <p>British naval policy was the 'two-power standard'. The British navy would always try to be as big as the next two biggest navies combined. So as Germany began to enlarge her fleet, Britain was obliged to follow its policy and build more, resulting in a race.</p>	<p>German Grand Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz, Secretary of State of the German Imperial Naval Office, championed and persuaded the Parliament to pass four Fleet Acts between 1898 and 1912, providing funding for the construction of a larger fleet. The aim was to be at least 2/3 the size of the British fleet, big enough to inflict serious damage, therefore the British wouldn't 'risk' a confrontation with the German fleet.</p> <p>The British navy responded with a rearmament campaign, resulting in the construction and launching of HMS Dreadnought in 1906 - 17,900 tons; 526 feet in length; ten 12 inch guns; eighteen 4 inch guns; five torpedo tubes; 11 inch armour; top speed 21.6 knots.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The naval race between Britain and Germany generated huge public support on each side. The British public coined the slogan, 'We want eight and won't wait!', referring to the number of dreadnoughts they wanted the government to build.</p> <p>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. He also wanted to ease tensions with Britain, as Germany was becoming increasingly isolated.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>



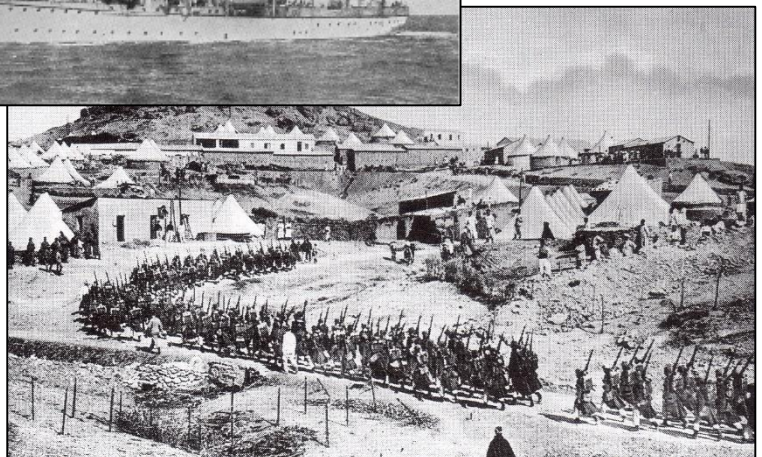
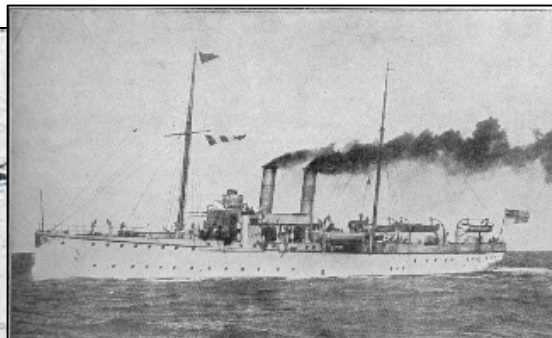
11.) First Moroccan (Tangier) Crisis: 1905-6

Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>Morocco was one of the last independent countries in North Africa. France was trying to increase its influence in Morocco and sought to turn the country into one of its colonies. Germany was looking for an opportunity to increase its empire in Africa and also sought to protect its commercial interests in Morocco.</p> <p>Germany also sought to increase tensions between France and the UK, in an attempt to test the strength of the recently signed 'Entente Cordiale' (1904). The issue of Morocco seemed to be the perfect opportunity to challenge the French.</p>	<p>On 31st March 1905, Kaiser Wilhelm II landed at Tangier, Morocco and conferred with representatives of Sultan Abdelaziz. He declared support for the independence of Morocco - challenging French influence in Morocco.</p> <p>The Sultan subsequently rejected French-proposed government reforms and under the advice of the Germans, issued invitations to a major world conference to advise him on necessary reforms. The Germans sought to isolate and embarrass the French.</p> <p>The French foreign minister (Delcasse) responded by saying there was no need for a conference. The German Chancellor (Bulow) threatened war over the issue. By mid-June, the French army began to mobilise however the French Premier (Rouvier) refused to risk war with Germany over the issue and agreed to attend the conference. Delcasse resigned.</p> <p>The Algeciras Conference (Spain) began on 16th January and ended on 7th April 1906. The only country that supported Germany was Austria-Hungary, and the Entente Cordiale between France and Britain held firm. Germany was forced to accept a face-saving compromise agreement: Moroccan independence was agreed but France gained control over Moroccan political and financial affairs.</p>	<p>The Algeciras Conference solved the crisis and both France and Germany demobilised their armies.</p> <p>However relations between the Triple Alliance and Triple Entente countries was damaged - Germany was now seen as a serious threat.</p> <p>It also strengthened the Entente Cordiale as Britain had defended France in the crisis and Britain began detailed military discussions with the French. It also drew Britain closer to the Russians, resulting in the Anglo-Russian Entente in 1907.</p> <p>Kaiser Wilhelm II was angry at being humiliated and was determined not to back down again, which led to the Second Moroccan Crisis.</p>



12.) Second Moroccan (Agadir) Crisis: 1911

Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>France was still keen to extend its empire and take over Morocco. When a rebellion broke out against the Sultan in April 1911, France had the perfect pretext to launch a takeover, using the excuse of 'protecting European lives and property.'</p> <p>Anglo-German tensions were also high in 1911. The naval arms race between Britain and Germany was at its height and Britain was concerned that Germany was seeking to use its navy to extend its influence in Africa.</p> <p>Germany was keen to form an alliance with Britain and wanted an opportunity to 'test' the relationship between Britain and France, possibly intimidating Britain into an alliance.</p>	<p>Despite the Act of Algeciras (1906) and the Franco-German Accord (1909), which both guaranteed Moroccan independence, in April 1911 France sent troops to Morocco to 'put down' the rebellion against Sultan Abdelhafid in Fez. This was interpreted as a hostile act by Germany.</p> <p>Germany responded by sending the gunboat <i>Panther</i> to the Moroccan port of Agadir on 1st July 1911 under the pretext of 'protecting German trade interests'.</p> <p>Britain tried to restrain France from sending troops to Fez but Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, said 'what the French contemplate doing is not wise, but we cannot under our agreement interfere', so Britain backed-up the French.</p> <p>Britain was also worried as they believed Germany might try to turn Agadir into a naval base, threatening Britain's base, Gibraltar, in nearby Spain. On 21st July 1911, David Lloyd George gave a speech warning Germany to back-off: 'If Britain is treated badly where her interests are vitally affected, as if she is no account in the cabinet of nations, then I say emphatically that peace at that price would be a humiliation intolerable for a great country like ours to endure.'</p> <p>Despite the stand-off, Germany was forced to back down and accept the French takeover as a financial crisis was effecting the German economy. In the ensuing negotiations, Germany accepted a French Morocco but in exchange, France gave Germany control of 275,000 km of territory in the African Congo.</p>	<p>Negotiations concluded between France and Germany with the Treaty of Fez (4th November 1911) and France subsequently established a full protectorate over Morocco on 30th March 1912, ending Morocco's formal independence.</p> <p>The Kaiser's attempt to drive a wedge between Britain and France failed. British fear and hostility of Germany increased, and the crisis only served to draw Britain closer to France.</p> <p>The result was a secret naval agreement where the British Royal Navy promised to protect the northern coast of France from German attack, while France concentrated her fleet in the western Mediterranean and agreed to protect British interests there. This allowed Britain to concentrate on opposing the German High Seas Fleet in the North Sea.</p>

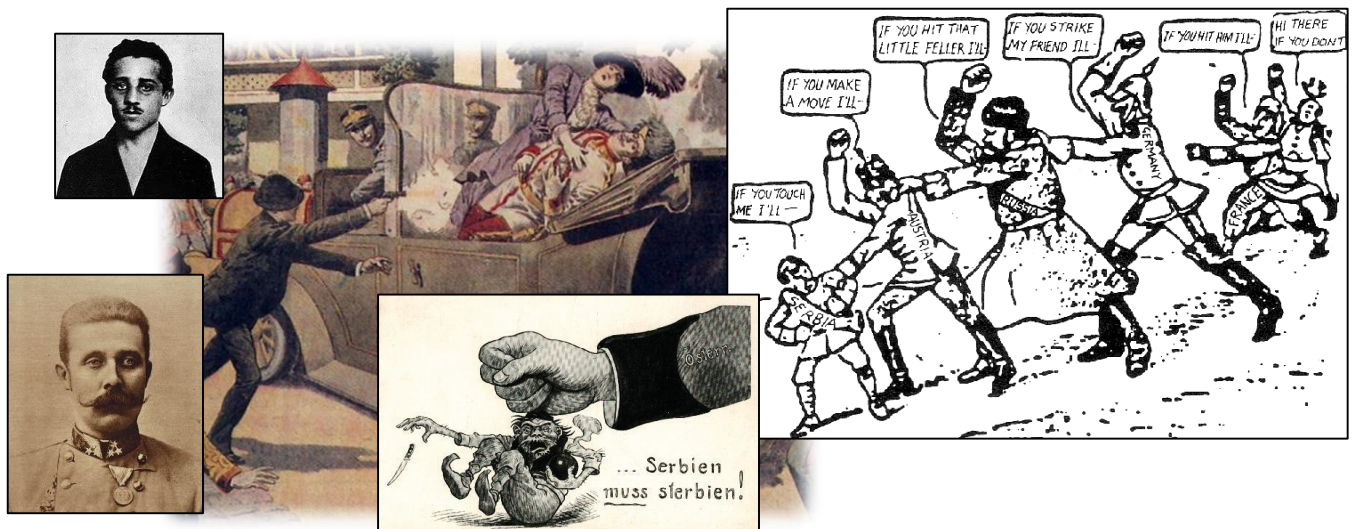


13.) The Assassination of Franz Ferdinand and the Countdown to War: June-Aug 1914

Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>Serbia objected to the annexation of Bosnia by Austria-Hungary in 1908, in which Serbia was powerless to stop Austria-Hungary. Many ethnic Slavs lived in Austria-Hungary's southern provinces (particularly Bosnia) and Serbia hoped to bring these areas into its growing kingdom. This emboldened nationalistic elements in Serbia to consider assassination as a means of attacking Austro-Hungarian control in the region.</p> <p>Serbian success in the Balkan Wars of 1912-13, in which Serbia conquered Macedonia and Kosovo from the Ottoman Empire, enlarged the Serbian state, further increasing Serbian power and confidence - further emboldening nationalists to strike at Austria-Hungary.</p>	<p>On 28th June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, were shot dead in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, by Gavrilo Princip, one of a group of six assassins.</p> <p>The assassins were part of a group called the 'Black Hand', supported by Nationalistic Serbian military officers. The group was supplied by Serbian intelligence with bombs and pistols and were also trained by them.</p>	<p>The assassination triggered a series of events known as the 'July Crisis' which led directly to war.</p>

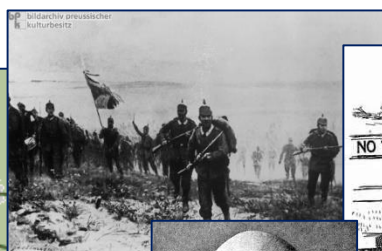
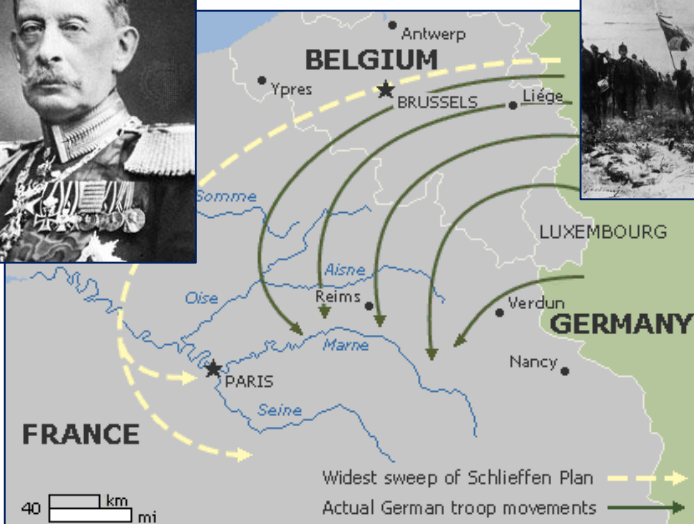
The Countdown to War

4 th July	Germany's 'blank cheque' to Austria-Hungary	On 4 th July, Kaiser Wilhelm II declared he was entirely for 'setting accounts with Serbia' and instructed the German ambassador to Austria to stop advising restraint. On 5 th July, the Kaiser met with the Austro-Hungarian ambassador and informed him that his state could 'count on Germany's full support' even if 'grave European complications' ensued. This seemed to imply that Germany would back-up Austria-Hungary militarily if it decided to invade Serbia, regardless of whether Russia tried to defend Serbia (which the Kaiser believed wouldn't happen).
23 rd July	July Ultimatum	Austria blamed Serbia for the death of Franz Ferdinand and sent it an ultimatum. It was a list of ten firmly worded demands, plus a requirement for the Serbs to respond within 48 hours, otherwise the Austrian ambassador would leave Serbia. The demands were worded in a way that Serbia would find hard to agree with. Winston Churchill called the ultimatum, 'the most insolent document of its kind ever devised.'
28 th July	Austria declares war on Serbia	Serbia responded by agreeing to all the demands of the ultimatum except point six which demanded the Austro-Hungarian law enforcement officers be allowed into Serbia to investigate the murder. Serbia viewed this as a breach of its sovereignty and refused. At 11.00 AM on 28 th July, despite British attempts to mediate a peace, Austria declared war on Serbia and Austro-Hungarian ships on the River Danube began to bombard the Serbian capital of Belgrade. In Russia, partial mobilisation was ordered for the districts bordering Austria-Hungary.
30 th July	Russia orders full mobilisation of army	Nicholas II, under pressure from his army generals, orders the full mobilisation of the army. The German ambassador in St. Petersburg informs Nicholas that Germany would mobilise if Russia did not demobilise at once.
1 st August	Germany declares war on Russia and invades Luxemburg	Russia refuses to halt the mobilisation of its army and Germany uses this as a pretext to declare war. At 7.00 PM, Germany troops begin the invasion of Luxemburg and Germany delivers an ultimatum to France, either renounce its alliance with Russia or face a German attack. France authorises mobilisation of its army. Britain warns Germany that if it invades Belgium, it would go to war.
2 nd August	German ultimatum to Belgium.	Germany send an ultimatum to Belgium, requesting free passage for the German army on the way to France. King Albert of Belgium refuses the German request. Italy declares neutrality!
3 rd August	Germany declares war on France and invades Belgium.	Germany declares war on France for failing to remain neutral and begins its invasion of Belgium, as dictated by the German Schlieffen Plan.
4 th August	Britain declares war on Germany.	At 7 PM, Britain delivers an ultimatum to Germany to stop its invasion of Belgium by midnight. Britain had promised to protect Belgium neutrality in the Treaty of London of 1839. Berlin failed to reply to the ultimatum so war was declared.
6 th August	Austria declares war on Russia.	Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia and Serbia declares war on Germany.



14.) The failure of the Schlieffen Plan: Aug-Dec 1914

What was it?	What did it need to succeed?	Why did it fail?	Effects
<p>Germany had long feared a war on two fronts, with France to the west and Russia to the east. In 1905 Count von Schlieffen, the Chief of the German General Staff, prepared a plan to avoid having to fight on both fronts at the same time.</p> <p>He believed that due to the terrible state of the country's road and its inefficient railways, Russia would take about six weeks to mobilise. In the meantime, the German armies would quickly knock France out of the war and then deal with Russia.</p> <p>The border with France was well defended by strong French fortresses however French defences along the Belgian frontier were weak - however Belgium was a neutral country whose neutrality was guaranteed by the Great Powers including Britain (1839 Treaty of London).</p> <p>Von Schlieffen decided to attack through Belgium as the Belgium army was small. The main French armies attacked through Alsace-Lorraine, the German armies would sweep through Belgium and into northern France.</p> <p>The French would realise their mistake too late by which time Paris would have been taken and the French armies surrounded. With the fall of the capital, all French enthusiasm for the war would collapse and their armies would surrender.</p> <p>Schlieffen did realise that Britain might join the war but he believed that France would be defeated before the British army could land in Europe and make any impact.</p>	<p>The plan made several assumptions:</p> <p>The Belgian would not resist, or if they did, they would be easily defeated and the German armies would quickly advance through the country.</p> <p>The French would attack through Alsace-Lorraine and would be too slow to realise their mistake and disrupt the German Plan.</p> <p>Russia would take at least six weeks to mobilise and Germany would only need to send, at first, a small force to the east.</p> <p>The British Expeditionary Force would arrive too late to stop the German advance.</p>	<p>Belgian Resistance - The Belgians, using their forts, resisted and slowed down the German advance. On 3rd August an army of over one million Germans marched into Belgium. Deep concrete forts protecting Antwerp, Liege and Namur delayed the Germans. Heavy guns had to be brought up to pound the defences to rubble. Antwerp did not surrender until October. Belgian resistance gave the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) time to arrive.</p> <p>Changes to the Plan - Von Schlieffen died in 1913 and his dying words were 'keep the right wing strong'. He urged that the right wing of the German army should be six times stronger than any other. The new German commander, von Moltke, ignored this advice and the army was not strong enough to carry out the plan. The German armies that invaded Belgium were 100,000 soldiers short because von Moltke sent additional forces to reinforce the Russian Front. Schlieffen also wanted a wide sweep through the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium. This was changed to a narrower sweep attack through Belgium and Luxembourg. In addition, German armies were supposed to encircle Paris. This plan was abandoned in early September and they moved to the east, leading to the Battle of the Marne.</p> <p>The BEF - The Kaiser had dismissed the BEF as a 'contemptible little army'. However the BEF, under the command of Sir John French arrived on 18th August, more quickly than the German expected. It was small but excellently trained. Von Moltke had to transfer troops from the Eastern Front to face the BEF. On 23rd August, the BEF met the Germans near the Belgian town of Mons. The BEF were outnumbered and had to retreat but they delayed the German advance. Three days later there was a further battle at Le Cateau. Again the British retreated but the German were slowed down.</p> <p>German Exhaustion - The advance through Belgium and into northern France took its toll on the German soldiers.</p> <p>French Resistance - The French attacked Alsace-Lorraine and suffered heavy casualties. The delays achieved by the Belgians and British gave the French time to move their troops towards Paris and make a stand at the Marne River on 5th-19th September 1914. Taxis and buses transported every available soldier from Paris to the front line. British reconnaissance balloons spotted a gap between two German armies, and the BEF and French armies counter-attacked into this gap. The battle lasted over a week and the German armies were forced to fall back to a safe position 60km north of the River Aisne.</p>	<p>The Battle of the Marne signalled the failure of the Schlieffen Plan. Von Moltke was replaced as German commander by Erich von Falkenhayn on 25th October 1914.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Germans were forced to revert to Plan B, the race to capture the Channel ports.</p>

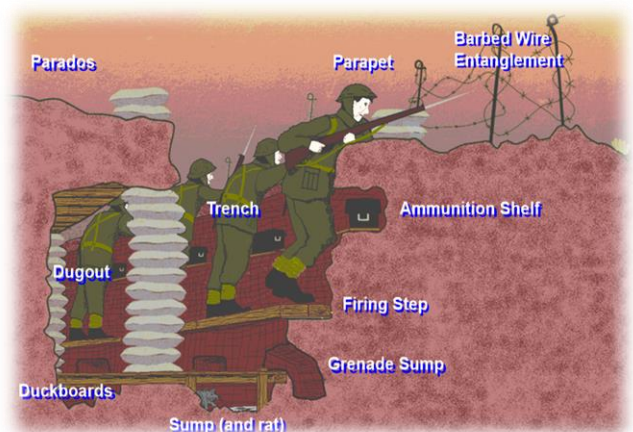
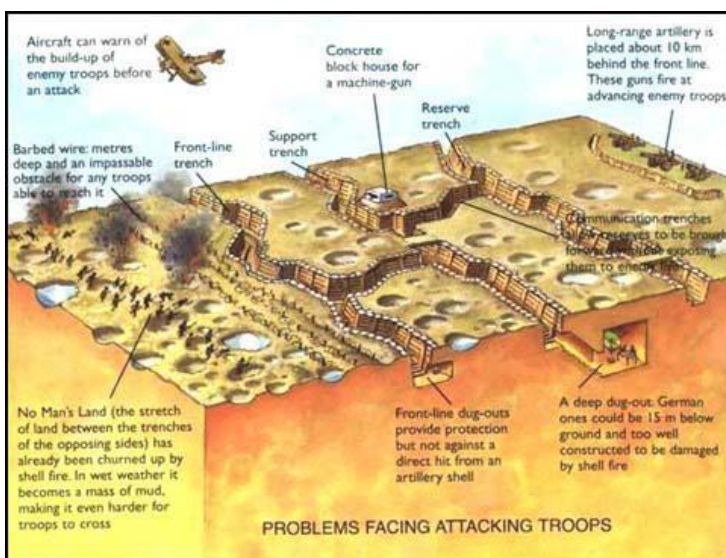


15.) What was the Trench System?

Reason for the construction of the Trench System

After the Battle of the Marne in September 1914, the Germans were forced to retreat to the River Aisne. The German commander, General Erich von Falkenhayn, decided to hold onto the occupied lands of Belgium and France at all costs - victory in the west still seemed possible or at the very least, the more land they held the better chance for a negotiated peace. Falkenhayn ordered his men to dig trenches to provide them with cover against the advancing British and French troops. The Allies soon realised that they could not break through this line and they also began to dig trenches, to prevent the Germans from advancing further. By the end of 1914, the trenches stretched from the North Sea to the Swiss Alps. The Germans generally held the highest ground as they were first to decide where to stand and fight. This gave them a tactical advantage. Trenches were usually about seven feet deep and six feet wide.

Element	Description
Barbed-Wire	Thick barbed wire entanglements were used to protect the front line trenches. Barbed-wire was usually placed far enough from the trenches to prevent the enemy from approaching close enough to lob grenades in. They were also used to channel attacking infantry into machine-gun fire. Barbed-wire entanglements were virtually impassable.
Communications Trench	Communications trenches connected the front-line trenches to the support and reserve trenches and provided the only protected way to the front-lines. They were dug at an angle to those facing the enemy to ensure better protection for the men, equipment and food supplies being transported.
Duck-boards	Duck-boards were wooden planks placed on the bottom of trenches and across other areas of muddy or waterlogged ground. Most of the land on the Western Front was only a couple of feet above sea level and standing in water caused Trench Foot after a while. Duck-boards were used to keep the base of trenches and other routes dry.
Dugouts	Dugouts were protective holes dug out of the sides of trenches. The size varied and some could house over ten men. They also served as the daily living quarters for the troops and their refuge from attack. They could be as deep as ten meters below ground level. Some dugouts were reinforced with concrete to provide deep bunker protection from artillery attacks although this was often on the German side, who had the advantage of higher and dryer ground.
Fire-Bays	Front-line trenches were not dug in straight lines. This was to prevent the enemy from firing straight along the line into the trench. The French tended to build zig-zag trenches however the British army preferred a system where each trench was dug with alternative fire-bays and traverses. Fire-bays were sections of trench where the troops did their shooting. Each fire-bay was protected at the side by a barrier of earth and sandbags.
Fire-Step	The fire-step was a step 2 or 3 feet high which allowed a soldier to see and shoot through the parapet of a trench.
Front Line Trench	The front-line trenches were the first line of defence in the trench system and the most dangerous areas for soldiers to defend. Almost every day, enemy shells would fall on the trenches and snipers would often try to pick-off visible soldiers. It is estimated that one-third of all casualties on the Western Front occurred in the trenches. The British army worked on a 16 day timetable. Eight days in the front line, four days in the reserve trench and four days at a rest camp a few miles away from the trenches.
Listening Posts	Listening posts were areas in no man's land where soldiers were sent at night to spy on enemy defences. Craters were often used for this purpose. They were connected to the front-line trench by a narrow passage called a sap.
Machine-Gun Posts	These were defensive positions used to house machine guns. The German often built concrete 'pillboxes' or blockhouses to give their machine-guns extra protection. With very thick walls, German machine-gun posts were very difficult to destroy by artillery barrages.
No Man's Land	This was the ground between two opposing trenches. On average the distance was 230m but could be shorter. Soldiers crossing no man's land faced difficult terrain, full of waterlogged shell-holes, dead bodies and barbed wire.
Parados	The Parados was the rear-side of the trench and was often protected by two-three feet of sandbags. Soldiers were instructed to build the parados higher than the parapet so that the defenders were not outlined against the sky and easy targets for German snipers.
Parapet	The front of the trench, protected by sandbags with gaps for soldiers to fire their weapons through.
Reserve Trench	Reserve or support trenches were dug parallel and behind the front-line trenches in case the front line should be captured. They were also a resting place for the troops. In some places, there were even third or fourth lines of trenches.
Sandbags	Sandbags were filled with earth and were used to absorb any bullets or shell fragments. Soldiers in 'filling parties' were expected to fill sixty bags an hour. A typical bullet would penetrate up to fifteen inches into a sandbag.



16.) Life in the Trenches

Element of Life	Description
Daily Life	Soldiers would spend on average 10 days a month in the firing line. 60% of their time was spent behind the lines. Most days were very monotonous and boring and seemed to pass very slowly. Men sat around reading or smoking or playing chess. Some wrote letters home. When not in the front line, soldiers were sent back to billets a few miles away. Here men could undergo training, eat fresh food, have baths and get new clothing. Football matches and concerts were also organised. Letters could also be sent home for free. These were checked by a censor before being posted. Anything that might help the enemy or reduce morale on the home front was crossed out with a blue pencil.
Food	Troops did not go hungry although there was little variety in their diet. They often ate 'bully' or corned beef with ten men sharing a loaf of bread. In an emergency there were always hard biscuits, Cooking facilities were very basic. Some troops had no hot meal for weeks on end. Food was generally prepared in pots, making it all taste the same. Water was brought in petrol cans to the front, where chloride of lime was added to kill germs. In winter, men even melted snow and ice to make tea. The British army tried to give its soldiers a daily intake of 4000 calories. Tobacco was widely available. Many soldiers actually put on weight and had a far better diet then back at home.
Hygiene	Diseases were common as men crowded together in unhygienic conditions. Everyone had lice - in his hair, body and clothing. Men were occasionally deloused but the lice would reappear within a few days. Rats were everywhere, feeding on rotting bodies and horse carcasses. Occasionally there were epidemics. Germs in food and water led to typhoid, cholera and dysentery. Trench foot was the biggest problem - caused by a lack of circulation in the feet and legs. If untreated, it led to gangrene and amputation. Later in the war, soldiers were provided with thigh-high rubber waders and whale oil, rubbed into the feet. By mid-1915 trench foot had been almost eliminated.
Healthcare	Each battalion (700-1000 men) had one Regimental Medical Officer with a team of medical orderlies and stretcher-bearers. A Regimental Aid Post (RAP) was usually set up in the reserve trench for lightly wounded soldiers. More serious cases were sent to the Advanced Dressing Station.
Comradeship	Firm friendships were built by men who fought alongside each other. There was a real sense of 'being in it together'. Soldiers shared the same experiences and helped each other ease the fear and insecurity of life. A shared sense of humour made the suffering more bearable. In the early years of the war, 'Pals Battalions' were formed in which friends from the same area joined together and served together. Men often served alongside friends, neighbours and workmates. This increased their desire to 'stick it out' and not let their friends down.
Weather	Trenches were exposed and soldiers had to put up with extremes if weather - snow and frost in the winter and rain at any time of year made conditions miserable. A metre of water in the bottom of trenches was not uncommon. Soldiers who stood in water for a long time developed trench foot, and in some cases, the foot had to be amputated.
Dangers	It is estimated that about one-third of all deaths and casualties occurred in the trenches. Soldiers faced numerous problems. Enemy marksmen known as snipers waited for an unwary soldiers to pop his head above the parapet. Enemy artillery bombardment occurred most days and many died from flying splinters and debris. Poisonous gas which was first used by the Germans in 1915 caused death and a range of injuries. Many soldiers suffered from shellshock as a result of the constant strain of living under shellfire. Early in the war, the army did not understand that shell shock was a form of mental illness, and many men, unable to fight, were shot as cowards.



17.) New Weapons and Technology

Weapon	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
Gas	Gas was first used in August 1914 when the French deployed tear gas to slow the Germans in Belgium but failed to kill them.	Chlorine - caused tremendous panic and killed the enemy by choking and damaging the lungs, so victims' lungs filled and they drowned.	Chlorine - visible and soldiers were able to prepare for it. Also did not kill in huge numbers and wind could blow it back!
	Poisonous gas was first used in the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915, where the Germans deployed chlorine against the French. When the gas reached them, the French ran away however the German failed to capitalise.	Phosgene - Killed the enemy due to lung damage. It did not have a strong smell like Chlorine therefore soldiers inhaled large amount before realising.	Phosgene - Did not kill in huge numbers and could be dispersed or returned by the wind.
	By 1918, more than 63 types of poisonous gas had been used. It is estimated that the Germans used 68,000 tons of gas, the French and British 36,000 and 25,000 respectively.	Mustard Gas - Blistered the skin, ate the flesh and caused internal and external bleeding/blindness. It was almost odourless, colourless and difficult to protect against.	Mustard Gas - Remained in the soil for weeks after so made capture of infected trenches a hard task. It did not kill in huge numbers and took 12 hours to take effect.
Tanks	Tanks were first used by British forces in September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme but only had limited success. British commander-in-chief Douglas Haig decided to use them against the wishes of the commander of the tank corps, who wanted to only use them when the army had huge numbers of the new machines. Haig wanted to use 50 immediately to be able to boast some success on the Somme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrified and caused panic amongst enemy defenders Could drive over barbed wire and allow infantry to follow Could traverse difficult terrain Provided a morale boost to infantry soldiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow Extremely hot inside Difficult to manoeuvre Difficult for commanders outside to communicate with the tank crews Soon became stuck in the mud Mechanically unreliable Machine Guns could penetrate the armour
	On 15 th September 1916, 49 tanks began the attack at Flers, on the Somme. 17 broke down on the way to British lines; another 9 failed to work and 5 others became stuck in ditches. 18 tanks moved slowly into no man's land and were able to capture their objectives. Many Germans fled, terrified of the new weapon. Over the next 3 days, 4 miles were gained on a narrow front. However bad weather and a shortage of tanks meant initial successes could not be built on.		
	The first major success came at the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917. The entire British tank corps of 474 tanks was involved in action against the Germans. They broke through German lines, and the supporting infantry were able to capture 10,000 German prisoners, 123 guns and 281 machine guns. However the success was not sustained because there were insufficient infantry reserves to follow up the breakthrough.		
Aircraft	In the August 1918 (Battle of Amiens) Offensive, 604 tanks assisted the Allied advance of 32 km on the Western Front however by the fifth day, less than 50 were still working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aircraft were very effective at reconnaissance. Spotting enemy artillery positions and guiding their own artillery onto target became their main role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak armour and could be shot down easily Couldn't carry many bombs Slow speeds
	First flight was in 1903 and by 1914, aircraft technology was still poor. Huge numbers of aircraft were built during the war but they were not hugely effective. They could perform a range of tasks however they were slow and could not carry large numbers of bombs. At first, pilots even had to use pistols to defend themselves. Eventually, machine-guns were fitted that could fire between the propeller blades.		
	Aircraft were used to: destroy enemy aircraft; observe enemy trenches; take aerial photographs; direct artillery fire; machine-gun enemy soldiers; bomb enemy trenches; destroy enemy bases; observe troop movements.		
	Aircraft were often unreliable and could be easily shot down. Britain lost 1270 between March-May 1917. Nearly all pilots were under the age of 25 and most had only 30 hours of training. Pilots lived short lives.		



18.) Why was there a Stalemate for Three Years?

Reasons	Explanation
The Trench System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the First World War infantrymen were supposed to attack quickly through gaps in the enemy trenches. This proved impossible against trenches that were defended by barbed wire and sandbags. Mud made cavalry charges ineffective.
The Machine Gun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 1916.
The Failure of New Weapons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several new weapons were developed but none was successful in helping to achieve a breakthrough. The invention of the gas mask reduced the effectiveness of poisonous gas. The early tanks were slow and cumbersome, and many broke down. They were not used effectively until 1918. Heavy guns could cause considerable damage to enemy trenches but could not destroy the barbed wire or achieve a breakthrough. If anything, they made the task of the attacking side even more difficult, since no man's land became badly churned up by the bombardment, thus slowing the advancing troops. The flame-thrower was unreliable and quite likely to explode and kill the soldier using it.
The Commanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 used successfully in past wars, such as mass cavalry or infantry attacks. The French commander, Marshal Joffre, believed that the 'spirit' of the French soldiers would see them across no man's land. 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.



19.) The Battle of the Somme: July - Nov 1916

Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>The Allied war strategy for 1916 was decided at the Dec 1915 Chantilly Conference. An Anglo-French offensive for summer 1916 was planned for the Somme River valley, as it was the area of the front where the French and British armies met, however it was also the area in which the German defences were strongest.</p> <p>Haig believed in a policy of attrition or wearing down the Germans by constantly attacking</p> <p>The British secretary of State for War, Lord Kitchener, had launched a major recruitment campaign in 1915. As a result, the British army was strengthened by about one million new recruits.</p> <p>The German attacked the French fortress town of Verdun in February, and the French were desperate for help. The Somme was re-planned as a diversionary campaign to relieve the pressure off the French.</p>	<p>The offensive was preceded by a week long bombardment, with 1500 guns shelling the German lines continuously. The barrage did not destroy the barbed wire and only informed the Germans of an impending attack. They further strengthened their defences.</p> <p>When the shelling ended, the Germans, who had been sheltering in deep dug-outs, quickly took up their posts at the machine guns.</p> <p>The first British soldiers went 'over the top' at 7.30 AM on 1st July 1916. They were there would be no survivors and told to walk in line towards the enemy, carrying heavy packs.</p> <p>It went terribly wrong. The machine guns opened fire, killing 20,000 and injuring 40,000 on the first day alone. Despite heavy losses, Haig continued the battle. In September tanks were used. Also, the villages of Beaumont Hamel and Beaucourt were captured using the new tactic, the creeping barrage. Bad weather called it off in November 1916.</p>	<p>The British and Imperial forces had over 400,000 casualties. Germany suffered nearly 700,000 casualties.</p> <p>The Germans had been pushed back a little, 7 miles!</p> <p>Haig was blamed and called 'the Butcher of the Somme.'</p> <p>Verdun had been relieved and the French army saved.</p>

Why was the Battle of the Somme a disaster?

<p>Failing Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.75 million Shells were fired at German positions although 1/3 were duds and did not explode. Haig did not have enough artillery cannons to destroy the trenches.
<p>Poor Leadership and Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haig ignored reports that the barbed-wire had not been cut by the artillery bombardment. Haig attacked the strongest part of the German lines. Soldiers were told to walk across no man's land in straight lines carrying heavy pack. Haig failed to call off the attack despite the heavy casualties.
<p>Factors outside British Control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Germans had built deep bunkers underground which protected German soldiers from the artillery bombardment. 700,000 French soldiers had fallen defending Verdun and the French army could not spare enough soldiers to contribute to the Battle of the Somme. The Germans were skilled soldiers who were able to setup their machine guns in 5-minutes.

The composite image includes three main elements:

- Map:** A detailed map of the Somme region in France, showing the British front line (solid red line) and German lines (dashed red lines) from July 1st to the end of the battle. Key locations like Arras, Amiens, and the Somme river are marked. The map also shows the positions of various British and German corps and armies.
- Photograph:** A black and white historical photograph showing soldiers in a trench, some standing and some crouching, with rifles and machine guns visible.
- Portrait:** A color portrait of General Douglas Haig in his military uniform, wearing a peaked cap.

20.) Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele): Jul-Nov 1917

Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>Haig needed to take the pressure off the French and prevent their military collapse. Some of the French troops has mutinied in April and May 1917 after the failed Nivelle Offensive.</p> <p>The Russians were suffering badly and were about to leave the war, potentially leaving the Germans free to transfer troops to the Western Front.</p> <p>He still believed in attrition. He was convinced that the Germans had been greatly weakened by the offensives of 1916 and were on the verge of collapse. He was also personally committed to a 'war-winning' offensive in Flanders.</p> <p>He was convinced that he could achieve a quick breakthrough at Ypres. The British could then advance north and capture the Belgian ports of Zeebrugge and Ostende, which were being used by the Germans as U-boat bases.</p>	<p>The main attack was proceeded by an attack on Messines Ridge, south of Ypres on 7th June where 19 huge mines were detonated, destroying the ridge but alerting the entire German army.</p> <p>An Initial bombardment of over 4.5 million shells from 3000 guns was launched on 18th July 1917. It lasted for ten days.</p> <p>The first attack took place on 31st July 1917. There was no breakthrough and, within a week, the British had lost 30,000 men, By October the fighting had reached the village of Passchendaele, about 11km from the starting point.</p> <p>On 6th November Canadian troops finally captured the village and then, because it was so late in the year and the conditions on the battlefield were getting worse, the offensive was called off.</p>	<p>The British lost 250,000 men during the battle. Haig reputation was further discredited.</p> <p>The British gained 11 km of ground.</p> <p>The Germans lost over 300,000 soldiers and had been successfully diverted from the French further South, who were still recovering from the failed Nivelle Offensive.</p>

Why was the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) a disaster?

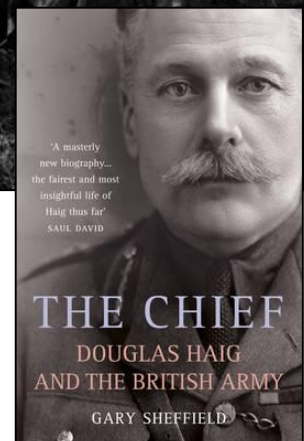
Failing Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artillery bombardment failed to destroy the German defences. • Tanks and cavalry couldn't move in the thick mud of the terrain.
Poor Leadership and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The German positions were on ridges above the town of Ypres that overlooked the British positions. The Germans knew the British were planning a major attack. • Initially bombardment on the 18th July gave away the element of surprise. • Shelling churned the soil and destroyed the drainage system, flooding the terrain which made it impossible to advance. • Main attack should have been at the Messines Ridge. Why did Haig wait a month?
Factors outside British Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heaviest rain for 30 years turned the soil into a quagmire and prevented further advances. • Mud clogged the rifles and immobilised tanks. Men and horses drowned in their hundreds. • Shell holes just filled with rain water and provided no cover for advancing troops who couldn't keep up with the creeping barrage and were gunned down in their thousands. • Heavy rain meant planes could not spot artillery targets for the British. • The Germans used mustard gas for the first time which totally confused the British troops.



21.) What part did Haig play in the Stalemate?

Sir Douglas Haig was appointed commander of the British forces on the Western Front in December 1915. He has been criticised by many people and was nicknamed the 'Butcher of the Somme' because of the heavy casualties during the Somme offensive. He was blamed for his failure to break the stalemate.

Evidence for the 'Butcher'	Evidence against the 'Butcher'
<p>Haig believed in a policy of attrition, which meant wearing the enemy down with constant attacks even if it meant heavy casualties</p>	<p>Haig faced a difficult task. Trench warfare was a new kind of fighting.</p>
<p>Source A - Haig writing in 1919 <i>In the course of the struggle, losses are bound to be heavy on both sides, for in this the price of victory is paid. There is no way avoiding this although our total losses in the war may have been greater than were to be expected.</i></p>	<p>Source D - Haig writing in 1919 <i>We attacked whenever possible, because a defensive policy involves the loss of the initiative. The object of all war is victory and a defensive attitude can never bring this about.</i></p>
<p>Source B - A letter written to the Daily Telegraph in November 1916 <i>We are slowly but surely killing off the best of the male population of these islands. Can we afford to go on paying the same sort of price for the same sort of gain?</i></p>	<p>Source E - A historian writing in 1991 <i>If the criterion of a successful general is to win wars, Haig must be judged a success. The cost of the victory was appalling, but Haig's military methods were in line with the ideas of the time, when attrition was the method all sides used to achieve victory.</i></p>
<p>Source C - From a school textbook about the First World War, 1998 <i>The High Command, and especially Haig, could not think of any other form of warfare except to throw into battle large numbers of men, month after month. Haig's method of winning the war was clumsy, expensive in loss of life and based on a misreading of the facts.</i></p>	<p>Source F - From a modern world history textbook, written in 2001 <i>Haig believed that the key objective of his offensives were achieved. The Battle of the Somme saved Verdun and the French army. Passchendaele took the pressure off a French army close to breaking point. Some of Germany's best troops were killed in both 1916 and 1917, preparing the way for the Allied successes of 1918.</i></p>



22.) The Gallipoli Campaign: 25th April – 9th Jan 1916

Causes	What happened?	Results
<p>The attack on Turkey was the idea of Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, who saw the attack at Gallipoli as a way of breaking the stalemate on the Western Front. He believed that if the Allies knocked the Turks out of the war they could open up an alternative front against Austria & Germany.</p> <p>The troops could not be spared for the campaign so a naval campaign was proposed, with Allied ships sailing through the Dardanelles to the Turkish capital, Constantinople.</p> <p>The naval attack began on 18th March 1915. The Turks had put mines in the water, and 3 battleships were blown up, forcing the Allies to call off the campaign. It had failed because the Allies had not used proper minesweepers to clear the Dardanelles.</p>	<p>The Allies now changed their plan to landings on the Gallipoli peninsula. Troops would be used to capture the Turkish forts that guarded the Dardanelles. They would attack the west coast of Gallipoli, cross overland and capture the forts from behind. The attack was launched on 25th April 1915, using a combination of British, ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) and French troops led by Ian Hamilton.</p> <p>The attack started with a British amphibious landing on five beaches at Cape Helles, while the Anzacs landed further north at Anzac Cove. The problem was that the Turks were already on all the beaches and mowed down thousands of advancing troops. The soldiers did manage to secure a foothold on the beach and dig in, resulting in a stalemate like the one on the Western Front.</p> <p>In August the British tried further landings at Suvla Bay, taking the Turks unawares but the British commander delayed the advance and the Turks managed to prevent any breakthrough inland.</p> <p>The condition were terrible. Water was scarce & food was often contaminated causing widespread dysentery. Of 7 ANZAC battalions examined in September 1915, 78% of men had dysentery & 64% skin sores. The dead were littered between trenches, rotting in the sun, until both sides agreed a temporary ceasefire to bury the dead on 20th May. In Winter temperatures drop and snow blizzards swept over men without overcoats. On 28th November 15,000 died of exposure.</p> <p>The Allies decided to call off the attack in December 1915. From 12th onwards, groups of men were secretly lead away at night to waiting boats and ferried away. More than 83,000 escaped without a single death.</p>	<p>To most the campaign was a disaster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey was not knocked out of the war. • Bulgaria joined the war on the side of the Central Powers. • Churchill resigned due to the campaign's failure. • There were 213,000 Allied deaths. • There were 300,000 Turkish deaths. <p>However the campaign did have some minor achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The campaign diverted the Turks from their attack on Egypt and attempts to seize the Suez Canal. • No troops died during the evacuation. • A few British submarines sailed into the Black Sea and destroyed several Turkish warships.

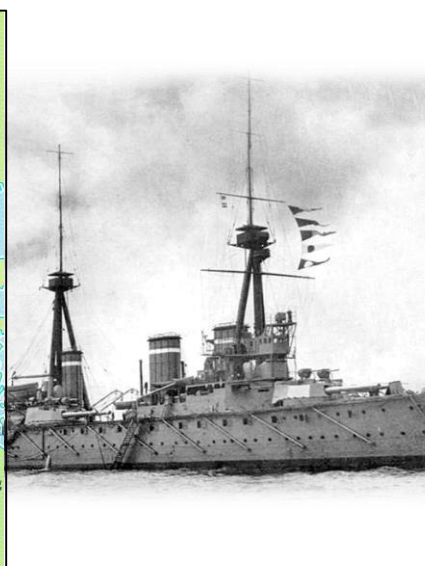
Why was the Gallipoli Campaign a Disaster?

<p>Bad Planning and Leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The failed naval attack on the Dardanelles Straight was a disaster and alerted the Turks giving away the element of surprise. • Detailed planning was not undertaken by senior commanders. No attempt was made to work out how many soldiers and guns were needed. • Sir John French refused to allow any experienced commanders to leave the Western Front, starving the campaign of experienced leadership. Hamilton's only intelligence consisted of a 1912 manual on the Turkish army, old maps and a tourist guidebook.
<p>Failing Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warships used in the campaign were out of date and were of no help to the soldiers on land. Lack of minesweepers. • No airforce help or naval artillery support.
<p>Other Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Turkish defence organised by German general Otto Liman von Sanders was unexpected and fierce. • Turkish soldiers occupied well dug in positions on hills and ridges above the beaches making it almost impossible for the Allies to push in land.



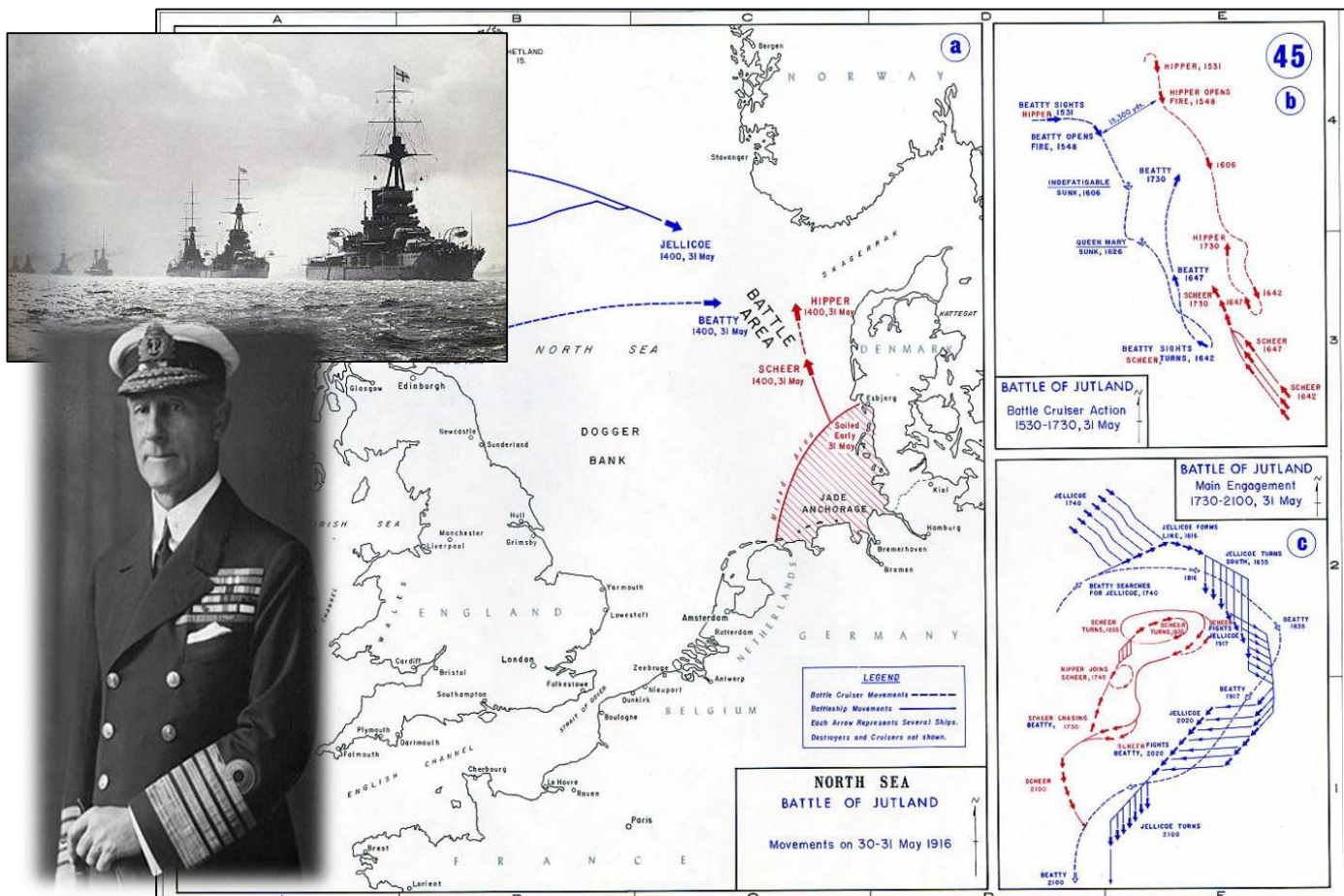
23.) Key Events of the War at Sea: 1914-1915

British Navy		German Navy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British had the largest fleet, with 29 Dreadnoughts. These were anchored at Scapa Flow, a protected and sheltered bay in the Orkney islands, and at Cromarty. The battle cruisers were at Rosyth. The British also had a long naval tradition, having controlled the seas throughout the 19th century. Britain had one more advantage. Early in the war a German cruiser, <i>Magdeburg</i>, was sunk by Russian ships in the Baltic Sea. The body of a German officer was found clutching the German naval code book. From then on Britain was able to decode German messages and knew when enemy ships were leaving port. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The German fleet was smaller, with only 17 dreadnoughts in 1914. The German High Seas fleet spent most of the time at its base in Wilhelmshaven. Germany had no naval tradition. The Kaiser had built up the navy in the preceding 14 years. <p>Germany did have several advantages over Britain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The German ships were of superior design, especially in the quality of their steel armour protection. The German gunners proved themselves to be superior marksmen. Most German shells, unlike their British counterparts, exploded on hitting enemy ships. 	
Event	What happened?	Results	
<p>British Naval Blockade: August 1914 - July 1919</p>	<p>One of the first things Britain did on the outbreak of war was to order a naval blockade of Germany. This meant stopping all ships heading for German ports and turning back or sinking any found to be carrying food or supplies such as oil, steel or chemicals. During the war, about 12,000 ships were intercepted while fewer than 80 slipped through. By 1916 there were serious food shortages, which led to riots in a number of German towns. Some Germans called the winter of 1916 the 'turnip winter' because turnips seemed to be the only food that people could get to eat.</p>	<p>British Victory It is estimated that between 400,000-800,000 German civilians died as a result of starvation caused by the blockade.</p>	
<p>The Battle of Heligoland Bight: August 1914</p>	<p>This was the first naval battle of the First World War, and it took place in August 1914. Fast British destroyers deliberately sailed close to the German coast. They were pursued by more powerful German cruisers, which sailed into a trap - the British battle cruiser fleet under Admiral Beatty was waiting for them further out at sea. Three German cruisers and a destroyer were sunk. This gave great encouragement to the British public at this very early stage of the war, and Admiral Beatty became a popular hero.</p>	<p>British Victory Britain: 1 ship damaged, 35 killed, 55 wounded. Germany: 6 ships sunk, 6 ships damaged, 712 killed, 149 wounded, 336 captured. Result: German navy instructed to remain in port.</p>	
<p>German Raids on the East Coast: December 1914</p>	<p>In December 1914 the Germans decided to raid the east coast of Britain. This would (a) strike a blow at the morale of the British people and the reputation of the British navy and (b) force the navy to spread out its fleet along Britain's North Sea coast. This, in turn, would allow the German fleet to target single British ships without having to face the full 'Grand Fleet'. The first raid was on Hartlepool at 8.10 AM on 16th December. Whitby and Scarborough were also shelled that day and about 500 civilians were killed or wounded. The British public was outraged and, at first, criticised its own navy for failing to protect its coastline. One British headline said, 'Germans creep out to attack east coast'.</p>	<p>German Victory? Britain: 137 killed, 592 injured, 3 ships damaged. Germany: 3 damaged ships. Result: Public outrage towards the German navy, recruitment boost in England.</p>	
<p>The Battle of Dogger Bank: 25th January 1915</p>	<p>On 24th January 1915 the British intercepted German radio signals suggesting the German battle cruiser fleet was sailing to Dogger Bank to attack the British fishing fleet. Admiral Beatty's battle cruisers lay in wait and, in the ensuing battle, two German battle cruisers were sunk. The German fleet had been taken by surprise and there were no further raids on the British coast. But the battle was not a total success for the British. Beatty's flagship, <i>HMS Lion</i>, was damaged and had to slow down, enabling remaining German ships to escape.</p>	<p>British Victory Britain: 2 ships damaged, 15 killed, 32 wounded. Germany: 2 ships sunk, 954 killed, 80 wounded, 189 captured. Result: Raids on England were stopped but German ships escaped.</p>	



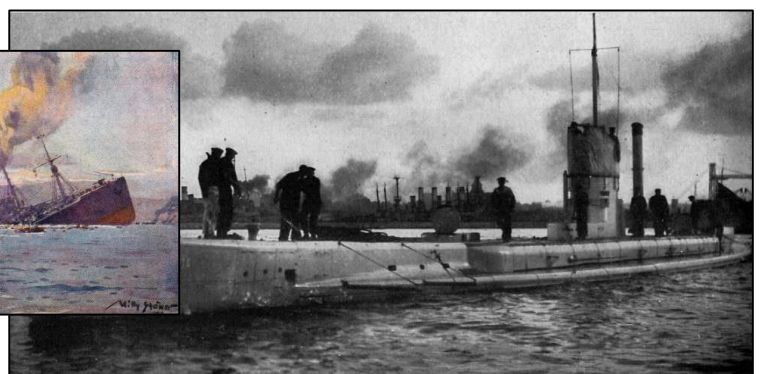
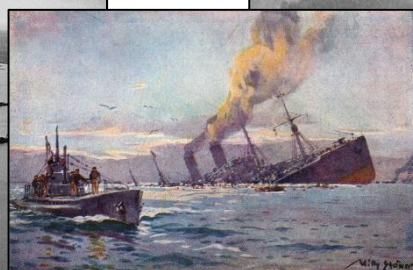
24.) The Battle of Jutland: 31st May 1916

Causes	What happened?	Results
<p>In an attempt to end British control of the sea and the blockade of Germany, Scheer planned to lure the British battle cruisers into a trap using his own cruiser fleet.</p> <p>British Admiral Jellicoe, commander of the British Grand Fleet, had decoded the German message and come up with a plan of his own.</p>	<p>On 31st May 1916, Beatty arrived first off the coast of Jutland because his ships were faster and he had less distance to travel. His cruisers fought against the German cruisers led by Hipper.</p> <p>It soon became clear that the Germans could fire their guns more accurately and that there was something seriously wrong with the British ships. The armour plating on the gun turrets was too thin, which meant that they were easily destroyed by direct hits.</p> <p>Two British cruisers blew up and at that moment the great battleships of Scheer's fleet arrived. Beatty was in trouble and he steered north to lure Scheer towards Jellicoe's fleet. The Germans followed the trap as Jellicoe's fleet of dreadnoughts opened fire.</p> <p>Scheer and Hipper, realising they had sailed into a trap, turned for home as night began to fall. Jellicoe did not chase them until it was too late. By morning, the Germans had escaped safely to port.</p>	<p>British Victory?</p> <p>The Germans had the best exchanges but the British fleet was simply too large.</p> <p>Britain = 14 ships sunk, 6094 killed, 674 wounded, 177 captured.</p> <p>Germany = 11 ships sunk, 2551 killed, 507 wounded.</p> <p>Britain Won = The Germans had fled the battle and the German navy rarely went to sea again, leaving the British blockade untouched. A US newspaper said of the battle, 'The German fleet has assaulted its jailor, but it is still in jail.' The Germans was forced to resort to unrestricted U-boat warfare, which brought the USA into the war.</p> <p>Germany won = The German inflicted the greater losses and the British suffered heavier casualties. German gunnery and ship design was also shown to be far better in battle.</p>



25.) German U-boat Campaign & Anti U-boat Measures

Date	What happened?	Results
1914: Initial Campaign	The initial aim of the U-boat campaign was to sink capital ships of the British Grand Fleet, thereby reducing the Grand Fleet's numerical superiority over the German High Seas Fleet. In October 1914 the first attacks on merchant ships began	Allied Losses = 312,672 tonnes German Losses = 5 U-Boats
1915: War on Commerce	In February 1915, the German government decided to broaden its attacks on merchant ships supplying Britain. There were about 15,000 sailings each week to and from British ports, and the Germans felt they had to try and cripple the British war effort. They indicated that U-boats would attack any ship, regardless of country, in British waters. This became known as unrestricted submarine warfare. The threat to British food and other supplies from the USA was evident. On the 7 th May 1915, the passenger ship Lusitania was sunk with the loss of 1198 lives, some were US citizens. There was an outcry in the USA and the Germans were forced to scale back their operations.	Allied Losses = 1,307,996 tonnes German Losses = 19 U-Boats
1916: The High Seas Fleet	The Germany navy spent most of 1916 trying again to trap the British Grand Fleet, without success. U-boats continued to harass Allied shipping in the Mediterranean and American waters.	Allied Losses = 2,327,326 tonnes German Losses = 22 U-Boats
1917: Resumption of Unrestricted U-boat Warfare	In February 1917 Germany decided to begin unrestricted submarine warfare again in the hope of bringing Britain to its knees. It was a gamble because there was always the chance that the USA might enter the way if US vessels were attacked on a regular basis. The Germans had great successes in 1917. By April Britain had only six weeks' food supply left. In response to the new submarine programme, the USA declared war on Germany on 6 th April.	Allied Losses = 6,235,878 tonnes German Losses = 63 U-Boats
1918: End of the War	By 1918, the establishment of the convoy system had ensured that Allied ships were protected and U-boat losses increased dramatically. By the Autumn, it was clear that Germany would not win and on 24 th October, all German U-boats were ordered home.	Allied Losses = 2,666,942 tonnes German Losses = 69 U-Boats
How did Britain manage to defeat the U-Boat threat?		
Q Ships	This was first used in 1915. It looked like a harmless cargo vessel, but it carried powerful guns disguised as freight or even as cabins on deck. When a U-boat surfaced to search the ship, the crew would wait until the enemy was on deck, making it impossible for the submarine to dive quickly. Then the guns would be revealed and the U-boat sunk. This only worked for a short period. U-boats soon stopped surfacing.	
Horned Mines	These were large round metal containers packed with explosives. Several spikes or 'horns' stuck out - if a ship touched a horn, the mine would explode. By 1918 both the English Channel and the North Sea had been closed off by rows of deadly mines under the surface, however U-boats would surface at nights and sail over these mines. Not until 1918 were searchlight fitted across the Channel.	
Depth Charge & Hydrophone	A depth charge was a container about the size of a large oil drum, packed with explosives. It was dropped in the sea above a suspected U-boat and could be set to explode at a certain depth. Some ships were fitted with hydrophones. Sounds travel easily under water and an operator with headphones could hear a nearby submarine engine.	
The Convoy System	This proved the most successful idea and was introduced in June 1917. A convoy was a group of ships sailing together and protected by fast warships such as armed trawlers or destroyers fitted with depth charges and hydrophones. From June 1917 to November 1918, 16,539 ships sailed in convoys and only 154 were torpedoed. In addition many more U-boats were sunk whilst attacking the convoys.	
Raids on U-boat Bases	The British attempted to block off the U-boat bases at Ostend and Zeebrugge using block ships which were sunk at the entrance to the harbours. These two attacks, in early 1918, had limited success and did not completely block off the ports.	



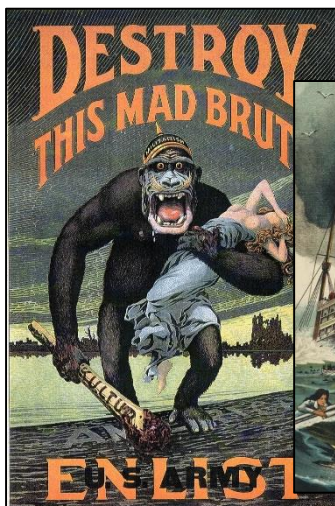
26.) Why did the USA enter the War in 1917?

Reason	What happened?	Results
The Sinking of the Lusitania	<p>At 3.10 PM on 8th May 1915, the British passenger liner <i>Lusitania</i> was sunk with the loss of 1198 lives including 128 Americans.</p> <p>Germany justified the attack by saying that the <i>Lusitania</i> was carrying munitions and was therefore a legitimate target. This was later proved by historian to be correct.</p> <p>However the British government was keen to portray this event as an atrocity in the hope that the USA might join the war on the side of the Allies. The British <i>Daily Express</i> claimed: 'It is simply an act of piracy. Noting more.'</p>	<p>President Woodrow Wilson demanded reparations from Germany and an assurance that such an attack would not recur.</p> <p>As a result of the US reaction, Germany cut back its attacks on merchant shipping and ended unrestricted submarine warfare, which ensured the USA's continued neutrality.</p>
The Zimmerman Telegram	<p>Britain intercepted a coded message sent from the German Foreign Minister, Zimmermann, to the German ambassador in Mexico. The message was to the effect that if the USA entered the war, then Mexico should ally itself with Germany.</p> <p>Germany was proposing financial aid to Mexico and, following a German victory, would return to Mexico its former territories of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, which were by the part of the USA. Germany was also hoping to create some form of agreement with Japan. If successful, these friendships would divert the USA's attention from the European war zone.</p>	<p>Britain gave the US government a translation of the message and it served to push the USA closer towards the Allies.</p>
Other Reasons	<p>Relations soured further between the USA and Germany in March 1917 when four US ships were sunk with the loss of 36 lives.</p> <p>The overthrow of Russia's Tsar Nicholas II in the same month meant that Wilson and others in the US government now felt more able to join Britain and France because they would not be allying with the autocratic government of Russia. They could put over the idea of a war being fought for democracy against the tyranny of Germany and Austria-Hungary to the people of the USA.</p>	<p>On 6th April 1917, the USA declared war on Germany.</p>

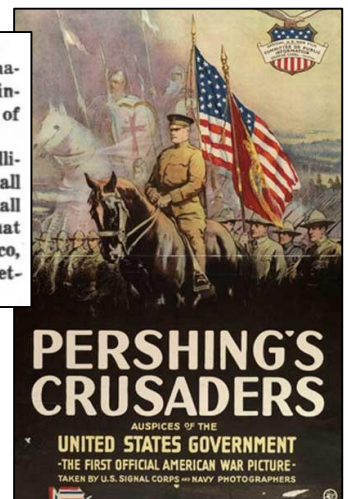
What was the US contribution to the Allied war effort?

From the beginning of the USA's involvement in the war, President Wilson stressed that it was seeking to remove the tyranny of autocratic governments like that of Germany. Britain and France saw the total defeat of Germany as paramount, and France, in particular, wanted to ensure that Germany would no longer be the most powerful country in Europe. The differing aims of the Allies were to become problematic at the end of war as they attempted to agree a peace settlement with Germany.

By the end of 1917, there were over 200,000 US soldiers in Europe but they were not as well trained as the British or French. The arrival of the US troops gave fresh impetus to the war-weary troops serving there. The USA troops in 1918 made important contributions in defeating the German Spring Offensive, and in the final three months of the war at St Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne. In total 4,355,000 US soldiers were mobilised for war, with 1,950,000 facing active service on the Western Front. Total casualties amounted to 318,203 with 120,144 killed and 198,059 wounded.





"Berlin, January 19, 1917.
 "On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.
 "If this attempt is not successful we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.




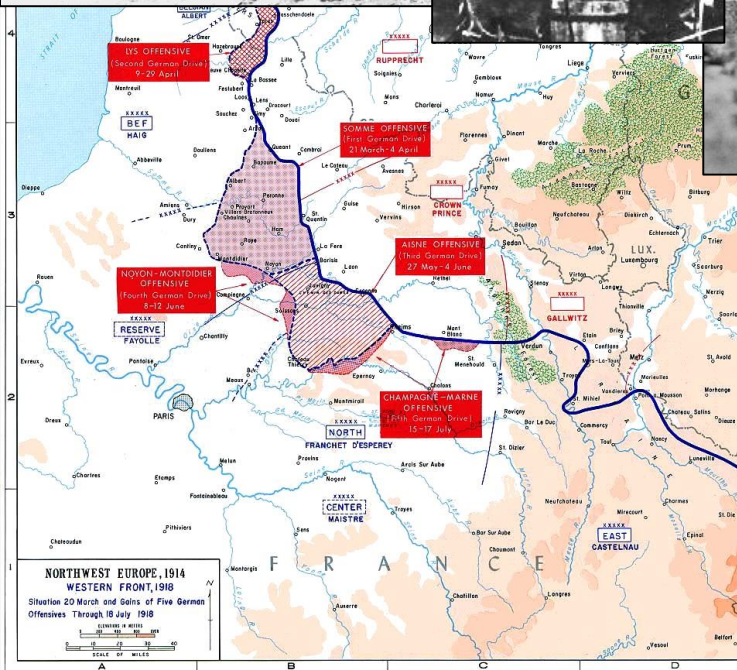
27.) German Spring Offensive: March 1918

Causes	What happened?	Effects?
<p>By the end of 1917, Germany's new High Command was aware that the longer the war went on, the less likely Germany was to win. They were also optimistic about the potential for success in 1918:</p> <p>Russia was forced to withdraw from the war in 1917 and signed a peace treaty with Germany March 1918. This enabled Germany to transfer over 500,000 troops to the Western Front.</p> <p>American troops were being sent to France and it wouldn't be long before American industry and manpower would begin to tell.</p> <p>The British Naval Blockade was seriously affecting German supplies. USA had stopped trading with Germany as had Sweden and Denmark - something had to be done.</p> <p>Germany's Allies Failing - Austria was in stalemate in Italy and Turkey was being pushed back in the Middle East. Germany would soon be fighting alone and needed a victory.</p>	<p>These causes persuaded General Ludendorff and Field Marshal Hindenburg to launch a dramatic attempt to win the war. Ludendorff's aim was to cut through the Somme and then wheel north-west to cut the British lines of communication. He intended to avoid the British strong points and sweep the British forces in order to cut them off from the French. The offensive was codenamed Operation Michael.</p> <p>The attack started on 21st March, using artillery and mustard gas. The Germans used specially trained 'stormtroopers' - small groups of soldiers that would surprise attack across no man's land, using cover to avoid mass casualties. They advanced 8 km on the first day and the British retreated in chaos. They eventually got to within 60 km of Paris.</p> <p>The problem was they were too successful - the supporting forces bringing supplies of munitions and food could not keep up with the advance.</p> <p>Many German soldiers actually wasted time looting French shops in the areas they captured for food due to malnutrition.</p> <p>The offensive failed to push through Allied defences completely, and the exhausted German soldiers could no longer press the attack and it was called off in July.</p>	<p>By the end of the offensive, 880,000 German casualties had been suffered and Ludendorff needed 200,000 fresh troops each month to continue the war. He was told the reserves could only supply about 300,000 for the whole of the next twelve months.</p> <p>The German High Command had made its gamble and now knew that defeat was not far away.</p> <p>The Germans had left the Hindenburg Line and were dangerously overstretched. This gave the Allies the perfect opportunity to counter-attack.</p>









NORTHWEST EUROPE, 1918
WESTERN FRONT, 1918
Situation 20 March and Gains of Five German Offensives Through 10 July 1918

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY
By FIELD-MARSHAL SIR DOUGLAS HAIG
K.T., C.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E
Commander-in-Chief, British Armies in France.

To ALL RANKS OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS.

Three weeks ago to-day the enemy began his terrific attacks against us on a fifty-mile front. His objects are to separate us from the French, to take the Channel Ports and destroy the British Army.

In spite of throwing already 106 Divisions into the battle and enduring the most reckless sacrifice of human life, he has as yet made little progress towards his goals.

We owe this to the determined fighting and self-sacrifice of our troops. Words fail me to express the admiration which I feel for the splendid resistance offered by all ranks of our Army under the most trying circumstances.

Many amongst us now are tired. To those I would say that Victory will belong to the side which holds out the longest. The French Army is moving rapidly and in great force to our support.

There is no other course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man; there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. The safety of our homes and the Freedom of mankind alike depend upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment.

D. Haig, F.R.S.
General Headquarters,
Thursday, April 11th, 1918.
Commander-in-Chief,
British Armies in France

28.) Why did Germany collapse in 1918?

Cause	What happened?
British naval blockade of Germany	This had a serious effect on the German war effort. Industry ran short of fuel and chemicals for explosives and gas. By the end of the second year of war, imports had fallen by almost half on 1913 levels. Agriculture was severely hit by the inability to import fertilisers. German ships were trapped in port. By 1916, food riots broke out in many German cities as people demanded more bread. In the 'turnip winter' of 1917, the supply of potatoes ran out. By 1918 starvation had hit millions of Germans and rationing was introduced. The constant queuing for food was eroding enthusiasm for the war. About 120,000 died of hunger in 1916 and this figure rose to 290,000 in 1918. By 1918 there were riots and strikes as the civilian population demanded an end to the war.
Entry of the USA into the War	The entry of the USA on the Allied side certainly hastened the end of the war. It forced Ludendorff to gamble. It greatly increased the morale of the Allied troops and gave the Allies the benefits of American industry and manpower, whilst denying these to Germany. In total, around 2 million American soldiers served on the Western front.
Impact of the Bolshevik Revolution	The impact of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia was also important because many socialists in Germany saw the chance to copy Lenin and remove the Kaiser. They saw the idea of establishing a socialist country as a real possibility, and there was an increasing number of strikes in October 1918. Workers' Councils were set up across Germany. A general strike was proclaimed for 9 th November in Berlin. German politicians were becoming worried - if they failed to change the government, there might be the danger of a communist revolution.
Role of Tanks	These proved a war winning weapon in 1918. They were used correctly by Haig on 8 th August 1918 to force a gap in the German trenches which was then exploited by infantry assaults.
Failure of Operation Michael	The failure of Operation Michael was the sign to the German High Command that they could not win the war. The Germans suffered over 800,000 casualties and no longer had the manpower to resist Allied counter-attacks, especially with the recent entry of nearly 2 million US soldiers. The Allied counter-attack launched on 8 th August 1918 pushed the Germans back on a 320km front. It was clear that an armistice had to be agreed otherwise the Allies would push them back into Germany.
Defeat of Germany's Allies	Germany's allies collapsed in 1918. Driven back by Serbian and French troops during 1918, the Bulgarian army surrendered on 29th September. A month later, on 30th October, the Turkish forces surrendered to combined British and Arab troops. On 3rd November the forces of the Austro-Hungarian Empire surrendered as Czech, Polish and other troops mutinied against the hated Austrians.
Revolution in Germany	Discontent in Germany due to food shortages and a serious flu epidemic which killed thousands led to the abdication of the Kaiser and a new German republic. In October 1918, German sailors at the Kiel naval base mutinied and refused to follow orders. The army was not sent to crush the mutiny and rebellions soon spread to Wilhelmshaven and other German cities. Chaos reigned and Kaiser Wilhelm II was forced to abdicate on 9 th November 1918. The new government of the Social Democratic Party led by Freidrich Ebert concluded an armistice with the Allies on 11 th November 1918.



KAISER ABDICATES
HEAD OF HOHENZOLLERN VACATES THE THRONE. AUTHOR OF THE WAR PAYS THE PRICE.

It was on the night of 9th Nov. that the Kaiser abdicated. The news spread like wildfire. The Kaiser fled to the Netherlands. The German people were overjoyed. The Kaiser's abdication was a turning point in the war. It showed that the German government was no longer willing to fight. The Kaiser's abdication was a result of the German people's demand for an end to the war. The Kaiser's abdication was a result of the German people's demand for an end to the war.

THE DAILY TELEGRAM
WORLD WAR IS OVER
Beaten Germany Accepts Armistice Terms and Hostilities Cease on All Fronts
MOON TAKEN BY BRITISH AS NEWS REACHES ARMY | ALL CROWNED HEADS OF EMPIRE HURRY ABDICATING
Kaiser, Crown Prince and Hindenburg Seek Refuge in Holland
IT'S OVER BOYS
WHEN PEACE CAME
GIVE UP 'DIVINE RIGHTS'

NORTHWEST EUROPE, 1918
WESTERN FRONT, 1918
FINAL ALLIED OFFENSIVE
Situation 23 September and Allied Advance to 11 November