

Knowledge Organiser - The Coming of War

Timeline Of Key Events

1882	Signing of the Triple Alliance between Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy.
1904	Signing of the Entente Cordiale between France and Great Britain.
1905-06	First Moroccan Crisis (also known as the Tangiers Crisis) The Kaiser intervenes in Morocco, angering France. However the Kaiser is forced to back down and is humiliated at an international conference in 1906 at Algeciras.
1906	Britain begin developing the Dreadnought .
1907	Signing of the Triple Entente between France, Great Britain and Russia over concerns about Germany.
1908	Bosnian Crisis – conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia over Bosnia. Serbia ask Russia for support, but have to back down.
1911	Second Moroccan Crisis (also known as the Agadir Crisis) Germany send a gunboat (Panther) to Morocco. Forced to back down again, humiliated, but get land in French Congo.
1912-13	Balkan Wars – more tensions between Serbia and Austria-Hungary in Balkans. Serbia increase in size and strength after joining Balkan League and taking land from Ottoman Empire
1914	Assassination of Franz Ferdinand (28 th June) Heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne is assassinated by the Black Hand Gang from Serbia.
1914	Austria-Hungary are given the blank cheque by Germany.
1914	Austria-Hungary issue an ultimatum to Serbia, it leads to the declaration of war .
1914	The July Crisis – alliances are triggered and WWI starts, chain reaction as countries declare war on one another from 28 th July to 6 th August.

Key People/Groups

Kaiser Wilhelm II	King of Germany. He wanted to develop them into a strong power, with a focus on militarism, imperialism and nationalism, hence his use of Weltpolitik.
Archduke Franz Ferdinand	Heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. Assassinated by the Black Hand Gang in Sarajevo, Bosnia. He had wanted to reform relationships between Austria-Hungary and other countries.
Black Hand Gang	A political group funded by the Serbian government. Responsible for the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, Gavrilo Princip was the leader and the assassin.

Key Words

Militarism	The belief that a country should keep a strong military and be prepared to use it to defend national interests.
Alliance	A group of countries that are formally united or working together for a similar aim or common purpose.
Imperialism	Extending a country's influence by building a large overseas empire – usually using military force.
Nationalism	A feeling of being superior to other countries and following your own national interest above all else.
Arms Race	A race between rival countries to build up their weapons to be bigger and stronger than the other.
Colony	A colony is a country/territory under the complete control and occupied by another country or state.
Encirclement	Where a country is surrounded by others – in this case Germany was surrounded by the Triple Entente.
Weltpolitik	'World politics' – a more aggressive foreign policy aimed at increasing German military strength and overseas empire.
Dreadnought	A type of battleship introduced in 1906, larger, faster and equipped entirely with large-calibre guns.
Balkans	The Balkans are a group of countries in southeast Europe – key countries in WWI are Bosnia, Serbia and Austria-Hungary.
Blank Cheque	Given by Germany to Austria-Hungary signalling that they would be given unlimited support and resources.
Ultimatum	A final demand – in this case given by Austria-Hungary to Serbia, it consisted of ten clauses.
Assassination	The planned political murder of Franz Ferdinand.
Scramble for Africa	The occupation and colonisation of African territory by European powers at the start of the 20 th Century.

