

Enquiry Question: Was the assassination really the cause of WWI?



1882 - The Triple Alliance formed.	1906 - Britain launched the first dreadnought battleship, leading to an arms race.	1907 - The Triple Entente forms (bringing together previous alliances between France, Britain and Russia)	1908 - Austria-Hungary annexes (takes over) Bosnia	28 June 1914 - The assassination of Austro-Hungarian heir Franz Ferdinand	5 June to 31 July - the July Crisis. Countries in Europe trigger the great alliances which will lead to war.	1st to 3rd August - Germany declares war on Russia then France	4th August - Britain declares war on Germany after they attack Belgium
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Key Words	Definitions	What do I need to know? (Linked to PLC statements)	
Alliance	A defensive agreement with other countries	1. How alliances created tension in Europe.	Two major defensive alliances are formed at the end of the 19 th century: the Triple Entente of Britain, France and Russia as well as the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. The treaties were signed in secret, leading to suspicion. As relations deteriorated, smaller disputes become much larger. Each nation forms alliances due to their worry about other nations increasing their strength e.g. Britain worried about Germany's growing power.
Entente	An agreement to settle differences		
Balance of Power	The belief that the relative size and power of the two alliances would prevent war	2. How militarism created tension in Europe.	Britain saw Germany as the main threat to her position as the dominant world power. Germany, led by Kaiser Wilhelm II , was determined to elevate Germany to a similar position as their rivals and have himself 'a place in the sun' (Empire). As a result, they begin developing a large navy . Britain was suspicious of Germany so began building Dreadnought battleships to protect their island nation and the colonies of the Empire. This led to tension as it appeared each side were preparing to attack the other.
Militarism	The desire to have the biggest and best military.		
Arms/ Armament/ Arms race	Weapons; when countries compete to have the biggest and best militaries.	3. How imperialism created tension in Europe	Britain had the largest empire by 1914 (controlling a population of 390 million!), and other countries were envious of how powerful they were. European nations were all trying to expand their empires, particularly in Africa due to its large amounts of natural materials. This ' scramble for Africa ' raised tensions as Europeans were arguing over who would control where. Austria-Hungary hoped to expand their empire and wanted control of Serbia in the Balkan area . This caused tension with Russia who saw herself as a protector of Serbia and wasn't going to allow Austria-Hungary to expand their empire further.
Weltpolitik	Kaiser Wilhelm II's 'world politics' policy of expanding the German empire		
Imperialism	The desire to grow a country's empire by taking over new territories	4. How nationalism created tension in Europe	Countries that are controlled by others as part of their empire often want to gain independence and rule for themselves. The Black Hand Gang were a group of Serbian nationalists led by Gavrilo Princip . They were angry about Austria-Hungary controlling areas in Bosnia which they said should be part of a Greater Serbia . On 28 th June 1914 Gavrilo Princip shot and killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand , the heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire on his visit to Sarajevo, Bosnia . They wanted to show Austria-Hungary that they were not welcome or wanted and that the Bosnians and Serbs wanted to be free from Austrian rule.
Empire	A group of countries ruled over by one ruler or government		
Nationalism	Love for your own country and a desire for your country to rule itself	5. Explain how the assassination led to war	Franz Ferdinand's assassination kick-starts a chain reaction that leads to war. The alliances of Europe are triggered and one by one countries across Europe declare war on each other. Austria-Hungary attacked Serbia as they wanted to crush their resistance and control them. Russia attacked Austria-Hungary as they saw themselves as protectors of the Serbs. Germany attacked Russia as they now had an excuse to go to war and show off their might.
Black Hand Gang	A terrorist group of Serbian nationalists formed in 1911 committed to gaining Serbian independence from Austria-Hungary		
Ultimatum	A set of demands, which, if rejected, will result in a breakdown in relations	M	Militarism – countries of Europe building up their militaries.
		A	Alliances – countries forming alliances which increased suspicion and tension
		I	Imperialism – the desire to take over more land to expand Empire's
		N	Nationalism – being proud of your country and wanting to be independent from foreign rule