

Y9 History The First World War



Summary

War broke out in Europe in 1914 after a member of the Serbian Black Hand assassinated the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Because of the alliance systems in Europe at the time, the war was fought between the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria & Italy) and the Triple Alliance (Britain, France, Russia). Germany planned to win the war quickly by avoiding a war on two fronts with the Schlieffen Plan. However, when this plan failed, a stalemate formed across the Western Front with neither side able to gain land. This trench warfare was known for its unsanitary and dangerous conditions. As the war took place across land and sea, both sides developed new and improved weapons, leading to new injuries and thus developments in medicine. This was a total war, meaning civilians were also mobilised in the war

Key Figures

Otto Von Bismarck	Unified Germany in 1871 and was its first chancellor until 1890.
Archduke Franz Ferdinand	Heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. Assassinated by the Serbian Black Hand in June 1914. His death sparked the war.
Kaiser Wilhelm II	Emperor of Germany during the war and believed in achieving German supremacy by expanding its empire.
Douglas Haig	Responsible for the plan of the Battle of the Somme.
George V	King of England during the war.



Key Vocabulary

Imperialism	Extending a country's power by invading another country and taking their land and resources.
Alliance	A union formed between countries, promising to support each other in the event of war.
Treaty	An agreement between two or more countries
Trench	Long, narrow ditches dug into the ground, providing protection and shelter for soldiers.
Western Front	450 mile line of trenches across France and Belgium.
Stalemate	During the war, trench warfare developed because neither side were able to gain land themselves, or force the enemy to retreat.
Home Front	Civilians at home helped in the war effort by making weapons, rationing and keeping morale high.
Recruitment	The process of encouraging men to join the army and fight in the war.
Conscription	Compulsory enrolment (forcing men) to join the army.
Munitions	Weapons, ammunition and other military equipment.
Propaganda	Information, often biased or misleading, designed to persuade people to support the war.
DORA	Defence of the Realm Act, allowing the government to take over industries (e.g. railways).

Challenge— Do you think everyone in Britain experienced the First World War in the same way?

Which event do you think was the main cause of the First World War?

Other Resources

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/first-world-war>

Y9 Schoology page



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