

# Paper 1:B - WWI 1894-1918

## Module 1: The Causes of WWI



### Part 1: The causes of the First World War

#### 1B: 1.1

- The Alliance System: the Triple Alliance; Franco-Russian Alliance; relations between the 'Entente' powers;
- The crises in Morocco (1905 and 1911) and their effects on international relations.
- Balkans (1908-1909) and their effects on international relations.

#### 1B: 1.2

- Anglo-German rivalry: Britain and challenges to Splendid Isolation;
- Kaiser Wilhelm's aims in foreign policy, including Weltpolitik/colonial tensions
- European rearmament, including the Anglo-German naval race.

#### 1B: 1.3

- Outbreak of war: Slav nationalism and relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary; the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo and its consequences, including the July Crisis.
- The Schlieffen Plan and Belgium (brief - detailed in next guide)

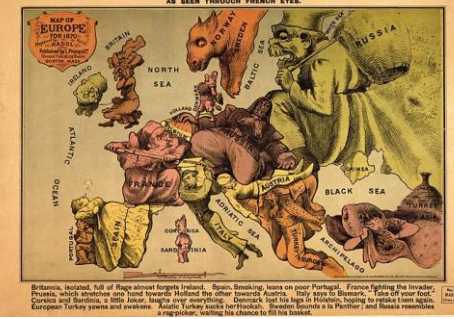


# 1B.1.2.1 and 1.2.3: Germany's aims, the impact on Britain and the alliance system

## Splendid Isolation - What is it?:

In the late 1800s, many people in the British government believed that Britain didn't need any economic allies because of the size and strength of the British Empire. They could get everything they needed. This was reinforced by the **two-power standard**, in which Britain had allocated **£20m (£1.2bn in today's money)** to **strengthen the navy**.

## LATEST WAR MAP OF EUROPE, AS SEEN THROUGH FRENCH EYES



## Challenges to Splendid Isolation:

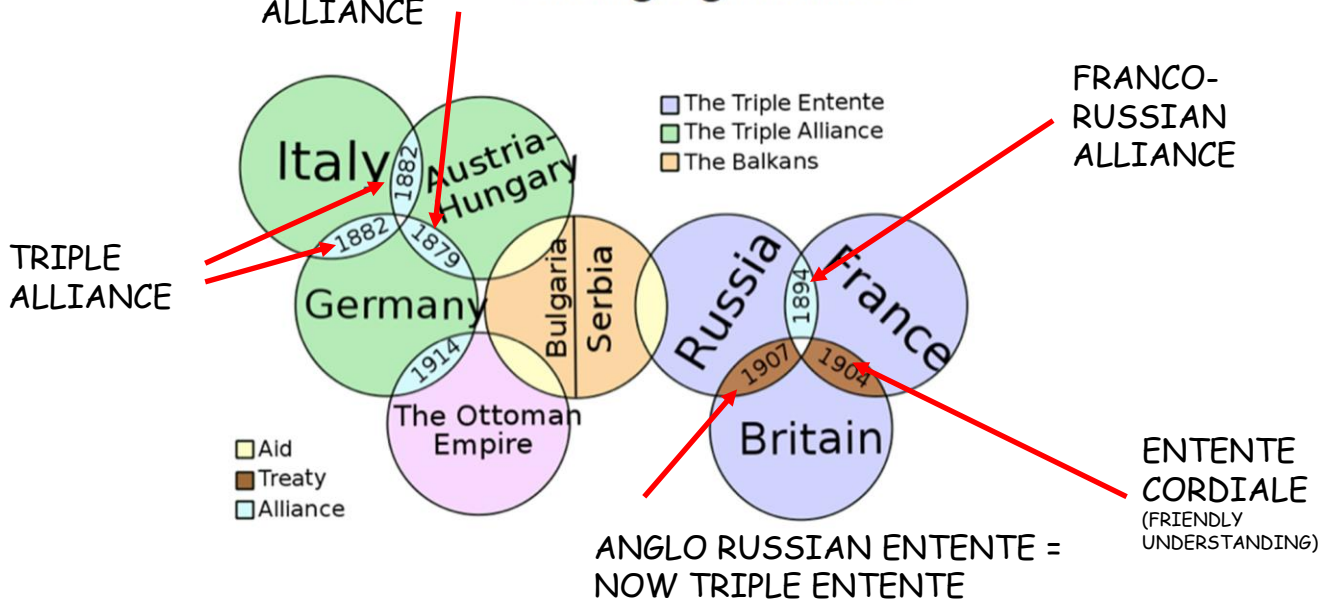
- The **Dual and Triple Alliance** with Germany's increasing strength meant that Britain's global status as leader was being challenged.
- In 1898 the Kaiser passed the **Navy Laws** - this meant that the two-power standard was becoming unrealistic.
- France and Russia signed the **Franco-Russian Alliance in 1892**.
- Germany had supported the Boers in South Africa against British rule in the **Boer War (1899-1902)**.

## Out of isolation - How and why did Splendid Isolation end?

- **King Edward VII** was on holiday in the Mediterranean when he heard the French President was also holidaying in the region. He sent **4 battleships as a sign of respect**. This ultimately led to a visit to Paris and the signing of the Entente-Cordiale in 1904.
- This expanded further after the first Moroccan Crisis (see other page), as Britain created the **Anglo-Russian Entente in 1907** - meaning now there was a **Triple Entente**.

## DUAL ALLIANCE

## Entangling Alliances













## Germany's aims in the early 20th century

Germany became a new country in 1871 after the **Chancellor of Prussia, Bismarck**, united many states (including Prussia) to make Germany. This was following a series of wars with smaller states and surrounding countries, where Prussia won every time.











- A **Kaiser (King)** ruled it and had the power to be a dictator - even though the country had a **Reichstag (Parliament)**, he didn't have to listen to them (he even referred to them as a 'troop of monkeys, blockheads and sleepwalkers')
- The Kaiser pursued a policy of '**Weltpolitik (World Policy)**', the idea that Germany was gearing up to take over the world. He wanted his own '**place in the sun**' like Britain and didn't intend stopping until he achieved his goals. Rapid militarisation and industrialisation occurred as a result.

# 1B.1.1.1: Who were the Great Powers of before WWI? (the content here includes 1.2.3 as well - arms and naval race)

Essential statistics: Britain in 1914		
Population of Britain		41 million
Size of army		710,000
Battleships		122
Submarines		64
Air force		110 fighter and bomber planes, 6 airships
Number of colonies		56
Population of colonies		400 million
Size of the colonies		27 million square kilometres
Coal production per year		300 million tonnes
Steel production each year		11 million tonnes











- **3% rich, 25% middle class** and the rest were living in extreme poverty without sick pay, pensions and other essentials
- Over **400m people** living throughout the empire which covered **1/4 of the world and had 1/4 of the global population living within it.**
- USA overtaking as global superpower as the empire became less secure.
- Britain was 1<sup>st</sup> in naval strength, but behind with army.
- Only country without **conscription** before WWI (introduced in 1916)
- **Increased military spending by 13% between 1870-1914.**
- **Dreadnought in 1906** and super-dreadnought shortly afterwards
- Britain's plan for IF war broke out was to send a highly trained army unit from the south over to France as quickly as possible.
- Had the **Treaty of London (1839)** with Belgium (crucial when WWI broke out)
- Had the two-power standard in place for the navy. Britain's navy should be as big as the next two biggest navies combined!



Essential statistics: France in 1914		
Population of France		41 million
Size of army		1,250,000
Battleships		46
Submarines		73
Air force		132 fighter and bomber planes
Number of colonies		29
Population of colonies		58 million
Size of the colonies		11 million square kilometres
Coal production per year		40 million tonnes
Steel production each year		5 million tonnes

- Lost industrial **Alsace-Lorraine** to Germany in **Franco-Prussian war in 1872** = hatred of Germany.
- **40% of population were farmers** = poor industrial output
- Culture, fashion, science and film/cinema leaders of Europe
- Led Europe with car, planes and motorbike manufacturing
- Second largest empire (**11m sq/km and 60m people**, but it was in decline, as it was too big for them to manage.
- **Increased military spending by 10% between 1870-1914 (small)**
- Had '**Plan 17**' for IF war broke out - March through the Alsace-Lorraine and capture Berlin ASAP.

## TRIPLE ENTENTE











Essential statistics: Russia in 1914		
Population of Russia		159 million
Size of army		1,200,000
Battleships		26
Submarines		29
Air force		360 fighter and bomber planes, 16 airships
Number of colonies		0
Population of colonies		0
Size of the colonies		0
Coal production per year		36 million tonnes
Steel production each year		4 million tonnes



- **160m people**, largest country in the world in terms of land
- **85% of population were rural peasants** (very poor)
- Bad working conditions and weak economy in cities = unhappy workers and poor industrial output
- Viewed as weak internationally after Russo-Japanese war in 1904
- **The Duma (Parliament)** struggled to change things because the **Tsar** sent them home whenever they tried (dissolved them)
- Liked **pan-Slavism**
- Russia had '**Plan 19**' for IF war broke out. Invade A-H from the East as quickly as possible

## 1B.1.1.1: Who were the Great Powers of before WWI? (the content here includes 1.2.3 as well - arms and naval race)











- Highly skilled and well educated workforce with good pensions, sick pay etc.
- Europe's biggest producer of **steel, iron, chemicals and electrical goods**. **2<sup>nd</sup> for coal after quadrupling output between 1880-1910.**
- Increasing problems with poor working conditions inside Germany meant workers unions were growing, **3m people had joined the largest union by 1914.**
- The Kaiser (King) could ignore the Reichstag (Parliament) if he wanted to. This led to internal opposition.
- They led in the arms race on land and army size
- They were second in the naval race after passing the Navy Laws between 1898-1912 to strengthen it quickly
- Increased military spending 73% between 1872-1914.** The largest increase of all countries.
- Responded to the dreadnought with the 'Rheinland'** (better version of the same boat)
- Tiny empire, including some land in East Africa, SW Africa and Cameroon. Ambitious though - Weltpolitik
- Had the **Schlieffen Plan** in place for IF war broke out.

Essential statistics: Germany in 1914		
Population of Germany		65 million
Size of army		2,200,000
Battleships		85
Submarines		23
Air force		246 fighter and bomber planes, 11 airships
Number of colonies		10
Population of colonies		15 million
Size of the colonies		2.5 million square kilometres
Coal production per year		277 million tonnes
Steel production each year		14 million tonnes

## TRIPLE ALLIANCE

(Italy wasn't a huge power and left WWI in 1915, so left out)



Essential statistics: Austria-Hungary in 1914		
Population of Austria-Hungary		50 million
Size of army		810,000
Battleships		24
Submarines		6
Air force		35 fighter and bomber planes, 1 airship
Number of colonies		0
Population of colonies		0
Size of the colonies		0
Coal production per year		47 million tonnes
Steel production each year		5 million tonnes

### Summary:

- Germany and Britain engaged in biggest arms race and naval, supported by others
- Germany was very ambitious to create larger empire (Weltpolitik)
- Britain and France's empires had peaked and were slowing
- Germany had the best industries
- Triple Alliance and Triple Entente formed due to fear of other countries' aims and ambitions
- Turkey was the 'sick man of Europe'** and had problems in its Empire
- All countries had plans for IF war broke out.

- Over 15 languages spoken in empire. **10m Germans and 9m Hungarians made up part of population.** Led to racial tensions. In **Prague in 1897, riots broke out between Germans and Czechs, 10 killed and 200 wounded.**
- Split powers between Budapest and Vienna.
- Ageing emperor Franz Joseph (84) was popular, but his government wasn't.
- Inside the empire there were lots of areas, like Bosnia, that wanted independence from them.
- Not many ambitions to expand the empire further away, as it was difficult enough to manage A-H as it was.
- Worried about growing Serbian power in the Balkans region.
- Had **Plan B and Plan R** in place for if war broke out, depending who joined in.

# 1B.1.1.2 and 1.1.3: The Moroccan Crises and Problems in the Balkans Two hotbeds of trouble!

## MOROCCAN CRISIS 1 (1905-06)

### Causes:

- Germany wanted to test France and the strength alliances (Franco-Russian and Entente Cordiale).
- Showing Weltpolitik ambitions.

### Events:

- Kaiser visits **Tangier**, riding through on a white horse, supporting Moroccan independence.
- **Algeiras (Spain) conference:** All support France apart from A-H - Germany humiliated.

### Consequences:

- Stronger French alliances + militarisation.
- Anglo-Russian Agreement signed in 1907 = Triple Entente.
- Germany angry.

## Moroccan Crises



## MOROCCAN CRISIS 2 (1911)

### Causes:

- Rebellion against **Sultan Mulay Hafid** over French control. **Strikes and riots in Fez.**

### Events:

- **French send 20,000 troops.**
- **Germans send a gunboat called 'Panther' to show objection.**

### Consequences:

- British and French work more closely because worried about a possible German **navy base in Gibraltar.**
- France fully controlled Morocco.
- Italy fell out with Germany.
- Britain builds navy even faster.
- **Germany gets a little land in the Congo** for backing down, but left humiliated.

## Troubles in the Balkans (The Balkan Crisis, 1st Balkan War and 2nd Balkan War)

A The Balkans in 1900



Look at how much land Turkey (Ottomans) lost as a result of troubles in the Balkans!

E The Balkans after the First and Second Balkan Wars



### Balkan Crisis (1908-09)

- **CAUSE:** Some countries like Greece and Serbia has won their independence from Turkey already
- **CAUSE:** 1908 - a rebellion begins in Turkey
- **EVENT:** A-H use this as an opportunity to **take Bosnia from Turkey (Annexed)**
- **EVENT:** Russia called for an international conference to prevent this, as they believed in **Pan-Slavism**, but A-H backed Germany.
- **CONSEQUENCE:** Italy didn't support A-H in doing this, the Triple Alliance was weakened.
- **CONSEQUENCE:** Formation of the **Black Hand** and firming up of Serbia's Pan-Slavic alliance with Russia.

### Balkan War 1 (1912-13)

- **CAUSE:** Italian-Turkish war in North Africa led to Italy seizing Libya and islands in the Aegean sea
- **EVENT:** **Balkan League (Serbia, Montenegro, Greece Bulgaria)** use this as opportunity to fight for independence from Turkey
- **EVENT:** **50 day war with 500,000 men**, Turkey lost and agreed to withdraw after a **peace conference in London.**
- **CONSEQUENCE:** Loss of Turkish power in the Balkans
- **CONSEQUENCE:** Disagreements over borders and greed led the Bulgarian King to declare war on Greece and Serbia.

### Balkan War 2 (1913)

- **CAUSE:** Bulgarian King's imperialistic aims after the First Balkan War
- **EVENT:** Turkey and Romania joined Serbia and Greece in their fight against Bulgaria, and won
- **CONSEQUENCE:** Serbia gained the most and was now the most powerful country in the Balkans.
- **CONSEQUENCE:** Serbia wanted to unite with Bosnia and vice versa, seeing themselves as one people
- **CONSEQUENCE:** A-H saw Serbia as a threat
- **CONSEQUENCE:** Bulgaria were substantially weakened

# 1B.1.3 (all points): The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the outbreak of WWI

Vivovdan.  
Remember our  
loss of  
independence to  
Turkey in 1389.  
#neveragain

Following the result of the Balkan Crisis (1908-09), Bosnia was under the control of Austria-Hungary.

In Spring 1914, the **Black Hand**, led by **Apis**, made a plan to kill Archduke Franz Ferdinand (FF). Over 2500 members

FF and his wife, Sophia, visited on **June 28<sup>th</sup> 1914** (also **Vivovdan**). They were to visit the army who were about to start military exercises on the Serbia/Bosnia border

**Nedjeljko Vabrinovic** (one of the **7 Serbian student assassins** studying in Bosnia) threw a bomb at his car, but it bounced off, exploded and **injured 16-20 people**.

FF carried on to give a speech at the town hall and then set off to the **hospital at approx. 11:00am**. The driver didn't know the route had been changed.

When he was informed he began to turn around the car in **Appel Quay (street) outside Schiller's café**, when **Gavrilo Princip** saw them (by chance), drew his pistol and shot FF in the neck (jugular) and his wife in the stomach (in the abdomen) - killing them both.

A-H blamed the Serbian government, as some of the weapons were from the Serbian military. They asked for Germany's support and Germany gave them the **'Blank Cheque'** (full support, regardless of what they did)

**A-H gave Serbia a 48 hour ultimatum**, including demands which allowed the A-H Police into Serbia to catch the Black Hand. Serbia refused because they thought it was part of an A-H takeover. Russia began mobilizing.

**A-H declared war on Serbia on 28<sup>th</sup> July** and the Kaiser called his cousin, the Tsar of Russia, to ask him to reverse mobilizing his armies. The Tsar refused to call off preparations because he believed in pan-Slavism and supporting Serbia.

On **August 1<sup>st</sup> 1914**, **Germany declared war on Russia** whilst mobilizing and **then declared war on France on the 3<sup>rd</sup>** and began enacting the **Schlieffen Plan**.

The Germans marched their troops through Belgium, expecting them to be neutral (**outnumbered 10:1**), but they resisted, slowing down the German advance and allowing the French to get ready.

Britain used the **Treaty of London (1839)**, which they had signed with Belgium in case of German invasion, to justify the British becoming involved in WWI. In reality, they were worried about if Germany won - as they would become the most powerful nation in the world. Britain felt like it needed to stop them.



Thought the plan had failed. What luck?!? Pow Pow  
#FreeBosnia  
#Slavunification



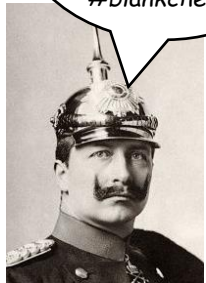
Our buddies in Serbia are Slavs, just like us. Also, A-H and Germany would increase their power if we don't help. Could be us next.  
#onepeoplemanynations  
#HungryforAustria



Oh pants. I guess we should probably stop Germany ruling the world. Why me?  
#scrapofpa  
#per



We will support A-H because they had our backs in Morocco '06  
#bros4life  
#blankcheque



Those sneaky Serb rascals. How dare they assassinate FF. Now is the time.  
#gottheexcusewe wanted  
#48hrwarning



Cousin Nic isn't backing down. Oooh Mr Schlieffen, where are you?  
#encirclethis  
#neutralBelgium



# Revision Guide - Tasks

## TASK 1:

- Explain, in detail, the benefits and drawbacks for Britain of being in 'splendid isolation', ideally thinking about political, economic, military and social reasons.
- Why did splendid isolation eventually come to an end for Britain?
- Explain what the Kaiser thought of democracy

## TASK 2:

Using pages 2 and 3 (after the front cover). Complete a table (or flashcards) similar to the one below. It focuses on 5 main areas;

Country	Strengths / positives	Problems / negatives	Army strength	Navy strength	OVERALL RANK (1-5)

You are aiming to rank order each country in terms of overall strength at the end of the activity

## TASK 3:

- For each cause (bulleted) in the Moroccan crises you need to explain why it was likely to cause a crisis
- For each consequence in both crises you need to explain why that consequence would likely be a negative thing for Germany

## TASK 4:

For any two of the Balkan Crisis or Wars, use the writing frame for Q3 on historyis.net to try and create a 'Write an account' answer. There is a model answer available from your teacher to compare this against, available by emailing them, afterwards.

## TASK 5:

- Create a storyboard of the assassination of Franz Ferdinand and the ensuing aftermath in 16 steps by using the template on the last page of this guide, the flow chart on the page before this and YouTube.
- For each country that becomes involved in WWI after the Austrians move on Serbia, explain why they became involved

## TASK 6:

- Review the entire revision guide creating revision flashcards or another revision activity which focuses on key S.P.E.D (Statistics, People, Events, Dates) and other key knowledge relating to each thing you need to know. Then get a friend or parent to quiz you.
- If you have friends (or acquaintances / people you know) then feel free to come and grab one of our departmental board games to use your flash cards as part of.

# Causes of WWI Revision Guide - Quiz

1. Which naval policy did Britain follow as part of 'Splendid Isolation'? Why was it abandoned?
2. Which King was invited to Paris by the President of France?
3. Which group did Germany support against Britain in South Africa between 1899-1903?
4. Who united the Germanic states to become Germany in 1871?
5. Which Treaty did Britain have with Belgium from 1839 and what was its nickname?
6. Which bit of land had France lost to Germany which made them bitter towards Germany before WWI broke out?
7. How did 40% of France's population generate income?
8. Which military plan did France have just in case WWI did break out?
9. Which country had the biggest army by 1914? How many?
10. Which country had the largest % increase in military spending between 1870-1914? How much?
11. Which country was the only one NOT to have conscription before WWI?
12. What problems did Germany have before WWI broke out?
13. What problems did Austria-Hungary have before WWI broke out?
14. Which alliance was being tested by Germany as part of the Moroccan Crisis?
15. Which city did the Kaiser ride through on his white horse to demonstrate his objection to French control of Morocco?
16. Which conference was held to try and resolve French and German tensions during the first crisis? Why do you think it was held here? (see mini-map)
17. What is the name of the Sultan of Morocco in 1911?
18. How many troops did the French send to try and crush the riots in Morocco during 1911?
19. What is the 'Panther' and why do you think Germany sent it?
20. Was Turkey (the Ottoman Empire) strong or weak by 1908? What evidence is there to support this?
21. What does Austria-Hungary do to Bosnia in 1908?
22. Which belief called for all Eastern-European countries to work together, perhaps under the leadership of Russia?
23. Which terror organisation set up to try and reverse what happened in Q21?
24. Which 4 country alliance/organisation formed to break free of Turkish control?
25. How many men were involved in the 50 day war?
26. How did Bulgaria start the 2<sup>nd</sup> Balkan war?
27. As a result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Balkan war, which country became the most powerful in the Balkan region?
28. Which country in the Balkan League became significantly weakened as a result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Balkan War?
29. Write a 20 word summary of what each Balkan crisis or war was about.
30. Which Serbian national holiday marks the day Turkey invaded Serbia?
31. How many members were there in the Black Hand by 1914?
32. How many people were injured by the failed assassination attempt?
33. Which café on which street did the Archduke's car turn around on?
34. Who killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophia?
35. What did Germany give Austria-Hungary following the assassination?
36. What did Austria-Hungary give Serbia following the Assassination?
37. Why couldn't / wouldn't Serbia agree with demands placed on them?
38. Why did Russia begin mobilising their troops?
39. Who called the Tsar of Russia to try and stop the mobilisation?
40. Which plan did Germany enact?
41. Why did it go wrong?
42. What is the official name for the 'scrap of paper' treaty used by Britain to justify getting involved in WWI?
43. Why did they need this justification (think about the nature of their agreements with France and Russia)?
44. Why do you think Britain felt like they needed to become involved? (consider what would likely have happened otherwise)

## P1:B - Some possible knowledge based exam Qs

### QUESTION 1: Practice papers available on [www.historyis.net](http://www.historyis.net)

1. Source A supports / is critical of the view that...  
How do you know? (4 marks)

### QUESTION 2: Practice papers available on [www.historyis.net](http://www.historyis.net)

How useful are sources B and C to an historian studying...

Explain your answer using both sources and your contextual knowledge (12 marks)

### QUESTION 3:

1. Write an account of how the Moroccan Crisis of 1905-06 led to increasing tensions (8 marks)
2. Write an account of how the second Moroccan Crisis of 1911 led to increasing tensions before WWI
3. 2018 - Write an account of how events in the Balkans in 1908 became an international crisis (8 marks)
4. Write an account of how the Balkan Conflicts of 1912-1913 increased tensions before WWI (8 marks)
5. Write an account of how the assassination of Franz Ferdinand led to an international crisis (8 marks)

### QUESTION 4:

2019 - 'The alliance system was the main cause of WWI'

How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer (16 marks)

'The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the main cause of WWI'

How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer (16 marks)

'Increasing imperialism in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was the main cause of WWI'

How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer (16 marks)