

Why was Europe like dynamite in 1914?

How could this cause war?

National pride and patriotism could make people feel inspired to join a war to defend their country.

Nations that have been taken over by another country could see war as an opportunity to kick their invaders out.

Nationalism
Identifications with one's nation and support for it, even to the detriment of other nations.



Imperialism
When a country takes over another and imposes its rules onto the people.



Militarism
A country should maintain a strong military and use it to defend or promote national interests.



Alliances
A union or association formed for mutual benefit, especially between countries.

Long-term causes of WW1

If countries are well armed with new and powerful weapons, they may want the chance to show off their military power.

If one country gets attacked, the other countries in their alliance will jump in to defend them. This could snowball until lots of nations are involved.

The Schieffelin Plan



Created by General Schieffelin, Germany's plan to win the war aimed to quickly beat France by invading Belgium first, then fight Russia. It failed, and the war became slow, stuck in trench warfare and stalemates.

Trench Warfare



Hygiene

Hygiene was poor in the muddy trenches with diseases spreading quickly. Rats and lice were also a problem as well as Trench Foot.

Food

Food was basic such as bully beef and stew. However, for the poor, they had more access to food now than at home.

Danger

Soldiers were in constant danger, especially in the front lines. The constant stress led to many soldiers developing PTSD.



Blighty wound

Some soldiers found the conditions so unbearable that they would try to hurt themselves to be sent home.

The spark that lit the fuse! – The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

28th June 1914 - Franz Ferdinand and his wife were driving in an open topped car through Sarajevo in Bosnia. A member of the Black Hand Gang threw a bomb at the car but it missed and exploded under the car behind.



Later in the day, the Archduke decided to visit the people who had been hurt at the hospital. However, no one told the driver who took a different route through the city!



As the driver tried to turn around he stopped outside of a sandwich shop. Another member of the Black Hand, Gavrilo Princip, came out of the shop, pulled out a gun and shot both the Archduke and his wife – killing them both.



On 28th July Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia in retaliation. Russia then declared war on Austria-Hungary. Germany then declared war on Russia. France then declared war on Germany. Europe was now at war!



Archduke Franz Ferdinand - Heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Black Hand Gang – Wanted Serbian independence from Austria- Hungary