

1 **The Causes of WW1**

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Imperialism
- Nationalism
- Significant individuals

2 **Militarism 1.**

- Militarism – Glorification of military strength
- Germany was competing with the UK to build battleships.
- The British feared an attack on their Empire

3 **Militarism 2.**

- Germany was competing with Russia and France to expand their armies

1880 1914

- Germany 1.3m 5.0m
- France 0.73m 4.0m
- Russia 0.40m 1.2m

4 **Alliances**

- By 1914 all the major powers were linked by a system of alliances.
- The alliances made it more likely that a war would start.
- Once started, the alliances made it more likely to spread.

5 **Imperialism**

- All the great powers were competing for colonies / territory.
- The British feared Germany in Africa.
- The Austrians feared Serbia / Russia in the Balkans

6 **Nationalism**

- This was an age when all nations wanted to assert their power and independence.
- In Europe Slavs, aided by Serbia and Russia, wanted to be free of Austrian rule.

7 **Significant Individuals 1.**

- Kaiser Wilhelm II
- Built up German army and navy
- Aggressive foreign policy
- Determined to make Germany a top nation.
- Distrusted by other powers

8 **Significant Individuals 2**

- Count Berchtold
- Austrian Prime Minister.
- During the July Crisis, following assassination of Franz Ferdinand, decided on a very tough ultimatum for Serbia

9 **Significant Individuals 3**

- Bethmann Hollweg
- German Prime Minister
- Gave very strong support to Austria during the July crisis

10 **The Crisis 1.**

- 28 June 1914
- Heir to Austrian throne Franz Ferdinand visits Sarajevo.
- Capital of Bosnia, recently grabbed by Austria.
- Hotbed of Slavic nationalism

11 **The Crisis 2.**

- “Black Hand” terrorists attack the Arch Duke
- Bomb attempt fails in morning
- Gavrilo Princip shoots Archduke and wife in the afternoon.
- Austrians blame Serbia for supporting terrorists.

12 **The Crisis 3.**

- Austrians, supported by Germany, send Serbia a tough ultimatum.
- Serbia agrees to all but two terms of the ultimatum.
- Russia mobilizes her troops to support Serbia
- Germany demands that Russia stands her armies down.
- Germany declares war on Russia

13 **Why did Britain get involved?**

- Britain had Ententes with France and Russia.
- Only “friendly agreements” but French and Russians given impression Britain would fight.
- The Schlieffen Plan

14 **The Schlieffen Plan**

- Germany’s military plan to defeat France and Russia.
- “Knock out blow” aimed at France first.
- Avoid French defences by invasion of Belgium.
- Germans thought Britain would not intervene.

15 **Britain’s Reaction**

- 1838- UK had signed a Treaty to protect Belgium.
- Britain also scared of Germany controlling Channel ports.
- Did not want Germany to defeat France and dominate Europe. Britain next?
- UK issued ultimatum to Germany to withdraw troops from Belgium. War declared August 4 1914