

# World War One

YEAR 6 | SPRING 1



## TOTAL WAR

A war fought without limitations on targets or weapons



## POISON GAS

Introduced in 1915 for the first time in WW1



## MOBILISATION

Assembling and organising of national military resources to support a nation's defence or strategic objectives.

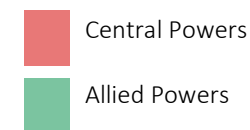
## OVERVIEW

World War I began in 1914, after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and lasted until 1918. During the conflict, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the United States. Thanks to new military technologies and the horrors of trench warfare, World War I saw unprecedented levels of carnage and destruction. By the time the war was over, more than 17 million people (soldiers and civilians) were dead. It would change Europe forever.



The Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary and their allies.

The Triple Entente: Great Britain, France and Russia.



## TECHNOLOGY



## Machine Guns

Used for the first time in WW1, these guns could fire up to 600 bullets a minute



## Artillery

Guns had a long barrel and shot almost directly at their target. Howitzers had a shorter barrel and a fired their projectiles in a curved trajectory. Mortars had a short barrel, a higher curved trajectory and were mainly placed in trenches.



## Tanks

Great Britain used tanks for the first time in 1916 in response to the stalemate brought about by months of trench warfare.



## Aeroplanes

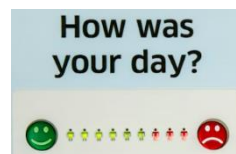
Initially, they were used mostly for reconnaissance. There went on to be a number of specialised types, including fighters, bombers, and trench strafers.

## KEY VOCABULARY



## CONSCRIPTION

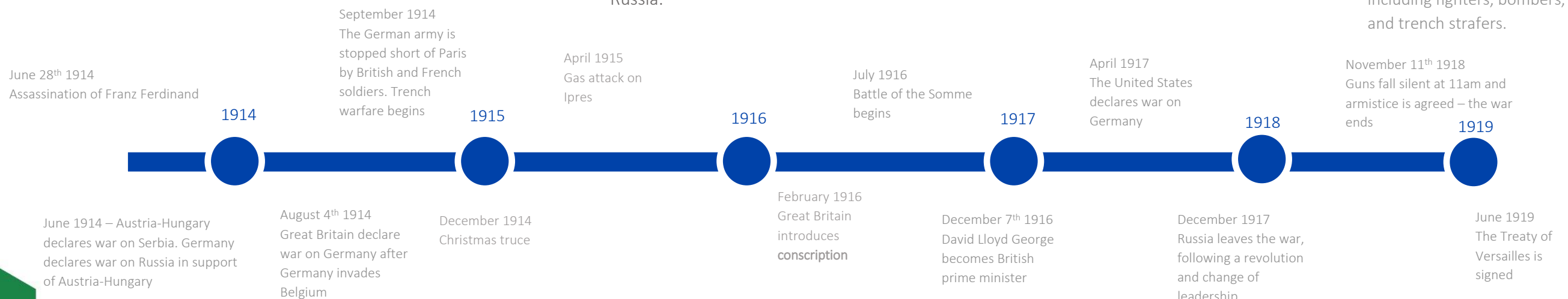
The act or process of forcing people by law to join the armed services



## MORALE

The confidence, enthusiasm, and discipline of a person or group at a particular time.

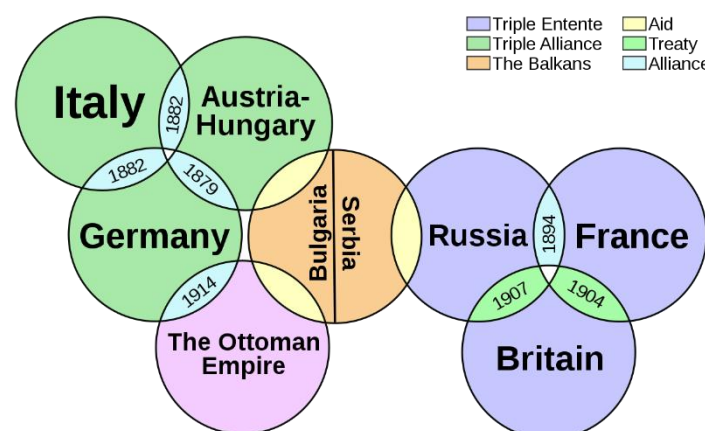
## TIMELINE OF WW1



## CAUSES OF WW1

There were several causes that led to the start of the war.

- One of the main causes was that many countries had formed **alliances** with one another, which meant that if one country was attacked, its allies would come to its aid (see below a simplification of the connections). This made it easier for a small conflict to escalate into a larger one, because more and more countries would become involved.



- Another cause was that there was a lot of tension and rivalry between different countries, especially in Europe. Some countries wanted to expand their territories or increase their power, while others wanted to protect what they already had. **This led to a build-up of tension and mistrust between different countries**, which made it more likely that a conflict would occur.
- Finally, there were also several specific events that led to the start of World War 1. One of these **was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary, which happened in 1914**. This event was used as a reason for Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia,



## TRENCH WARFARE

- Trench warfare was a type of fighting that happened during World War One. It involved the use of long, deep trenches that soldiers would use to protect themselves from enemy fire. These trenches were dug into the ground and could be several feet deep, and they often had walls made of sandbags or other materials to help protect the soldiers from bullets and shrapnel.
- During trench warfare, soldiers would spend long periods of time living in these trenches, sometimes for weeks or even months at a time. The trenches were often very cramped and uncomfortable, and the soldiers had to sleep and eat in them. They also had to deal with the constant threat of enemy attacks and the danger of diseases like trench foot, which was caused by standing in water-logged trenches for long periods of time.



- Trench warfare was a brutal and grueling way to fight a war, and it resulted in many casualties on both sides. It was also very difficult for either side to make much progress, because the trenches were so well-defended. This led to **stalemate**, which made the war a very long and drawn-out conflict, with both sides suffering heavy losses.
- Overall, trench warfare was a major part of World War 1, and it was a very difficult and dangerous way for soldiers to fight. It was also a key factor in the long duration of the war and the high number of casualties that were sustained by both sides.



## TREATY OF VERSAILLES

World War One ended at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1918—this became known as Armistice Day.

The leaders of the USA, Great Britain and France met in Versailles to decide what should happen next. The agreement was called the Treaty of Versailles.

Terms of the treaty included:

- Germany had to accept total blame for starting the war.
- They could not join the new League of Nations
- Some places Germany used to own were taken from them.
- Germany were banned from having an army of more than 100,000 men and from having any submarines or an air force.
- The country had to pay 132 billion gold marks to repair the damages of war. They became poor as a result – this was one of the factors that then feeds into the emergence of the Nazi party and World War Two.



National Geographic: WW1

Articles, videos, and interactive features; more about the war and its causes, as well as the people and events that were involved.



The Imperial War Museum

Stories and sources from throughout World War One



BBC Bitesize WW1

Further learning links to do with the project



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