

Causes of World War One: Summary Sheet

Name	Theme	Key Quote	Narrative	Analysis
Austria v. Serbia	Nationalism v. Imperialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1914 Assassination • 1878 Treaty of Berlin • 1908 Bosnian Crisis • 1912-13 Balkan Wars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1878 Treaty of Berlin : Serbia made independent, Bosnia placed under Austrian administration. Austria = uses imperialism (“Kultur”) as justification for rule; Serbia = uses Nationalism (“Pan-Slavism”) ▪ 1908: Austria annexed Bosnia. Serbia feels threatened, by Russia too weak after Russo-Japanese war to back her up. ▪ 1913: Second Balkan War. Serbia doubled in size. Austria feels threatened, but has no pretext to declare war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Both Austro-Hungary and Serbia were backed up by a world power: Germany on the one hand, Russia on the other. ▪ A war between Austro-Hungary and Serbia would likely draw in Germany and Russia. ▪ Russia's alliance with France meant that Germany had to anticipate a “War on Two Fronts” so she formed the Schlieffen Plan, which meant invasion of France via Belgium which in turn involved Britain.
Germany v. Russia	Alliance System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bismarck > Franco-Prussian War • Alsace-Lorraine • Dreikaiserbund • Triple Entente / Triple Alliance • War on Two Fronts > Schlieffen Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1871: Franco Prussian War : Germany formed “Dreikaiserbund” with Austria and Russia to defend herself against “Revanchist” claims of France to Alsace-Lorraine ▪ 1878: Treaty of Berlin creates tension between Austria and Russia over Balkans; Dreikaiserbund starts to collapse; Dual Alliance between Germany and Austria. Italy joins 1881 = Triple Alliance ▪ 1890: The “New Course” - Germany decides her future lies with Austria; makes overtures to Britain, snubs Russia ▪ 1894: Franco-Russian Entente ▪ 1904: Entente Cordiale ▪ 1907: Anglo-Russian Entente = Triple Entente 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Triple Alliance: Too binding. This military agreement gave birth to the Blank Cheque” and the “Schlieffen Plan” which was disastrous since they which relied upon declaring war as a first, rather than a last resort, against both countries. ▪ The Triple Entente: Too loose. The fact that this was an Entente, not a binding military alliance, meant that Britain’s position remained unclear throughout the July Crisis; had Grey made Britain’s position clearer, Germany may well have backed down.
Germany v. France	Colonial Rivalry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Place in the Sun” Speech • Anglo-French = Spheres of Influence • Morocco 1905 / Algeciras Conference • Morocco 1911 / 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1901: “Place in the Sun” speech – Kaiser announces Germany wants an Empire ▪ 1904: Entente Cordiale – Britain agrees to recognise French claims in Morocco ; France recognises British claims in Egypt ▪ 1905: 1st Moroccan Crisis – Britain stands by France against Germany at the Algeciras Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These crises created tension between Germany on the one hand, and France and Britain on the other. ▪ This meant that it was all the more likely that the alliance system would create a domino effect if a war broke out in the Balkans: Germany would have no hesitation attacking France, and Britain would have little hesitation in retaliating against Germany.

		Mansion House Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1911: 2nd Moroccan Crisis – Britain stands by France against Germany in the Mansion House Speech 	
Germany v. Britain	Arms race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kruger Telegram • Berlin-Baghdad Railway • Dreadnought • Peers v. People • Daily Telegraph Interview • Admiral Tirpitz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1896 : <u>Kruger Telegram</u> : Kaiser congratulates Boers on defeating the British ▪ 1898, 1900: German Naval Laws via Admiral Tirpitz ▪ 1906: Dreadnought makes other battleships obsolete ▪ 1908: <u>Daily Telegraph Interview</u> – Wilhelm calls the British “<u>Mad as March Hares</u>” ▪ 1911: Constitutional Crisis: A special “<u>People’s Budget</u>” to fund the naval race creates massive tensions between the Houses of Commons/Lords. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The naval race created massive Anglo-German tension. ▪ It was both a cause and a consequence of British refusal to support Germany during the Moroccan Crises (=symbiotic relationship). ▪ It drove Britain into the arms of France and hardened the alliance system.
General	July Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonel Apis • Blank Cheque • Ultimatum • Willy-Nicky Telegrams • Schlieffen Plan > AJP Taylor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 28/06/1914: Assassination of Franz Ferdinand (=Austria) by Black Hand Gang member Princip (=Serbia). ▪ Serbia rejected the Austrian ultimatum; Austria declares war after Germany gives Austria a “<u>Blank Cheque</u>”. ▪ Willy-Nicky telegrams: Kaiser and Tsar try to avert the crisis but dialogue breaks down when Russia mobilises and Germany has to activate the Schlieffen Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “Blank Cheque”, Russia’s early mobilisation and the “Schlieffen Plan” closed off diplomatic routes incredibly clearly.