# What caused the outbreak of the Great War?

### Long term causes

Militarism - many countries built large armies and navies.

Alliances - the alliances formed fuelled tension and caused unease.

Imperialism - European nations were creating empires.

Nationalism - all countries were looking out for their own interests.

### Short term cause

28<sup>th</sup> June 1914- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand A member of the Austrian royal family and heir to the throne was sent to Sarajevo-the capital of Bosnia- a country which Austria had just taken over.

Assassinated by Gavrilo Princip - a member of the Black Hand Gang which opposed the Austrian takeover of Serbia. This led to the Austro-Hungarians declaring war on Serbia.

# Britain Germany France V Austria-Hungary Russia Italy

### Recruitment

Lord
Kitchener,
Minister of
Propaganda,
began a
propaganda
campaign to
recruit
soldiers for

war. He commissioned posters and pamphlets. By March 1916, 2.5 million men had volunteered to join up.

### Life in the trenches

Trench life was a horrific experience for soldiers.

Trench foot: The wet and muddy conditions caused feet to swell up and go black. The flesh would go rotten and be terribly pain.

Lice: They soon became infected with lice in the dirty trenches

Rats: The dirty conditions attracted rats to the trenches. They carried diseases.

**Toilets:** There was no running water or sewage pipes.

### What was the Schlieffen Plan?

One of the initial offensive attacks launched by the Germans and concocted by Field Marshal Alfred Von Schlieffen.

It was a plan to attack France on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 to capture France

Why did it fail?

The Russians were ready much earlier than the Germans expected and sent troops to the Eastern Front

Belgium refused the Germans permission to go through their country which slowed down the French invasion

The British arrived on 23<sup>rd</sup> August to resist the Germans – something they didn't anticipate.

## Key dates of 1914

**June 28** - Archduke Franz Ferdinand, prince to the Austria-Hungary throne, is assassinated

**July 23** - Austria-Hungary demands Serbia pay for the assassination of Franz Ferdinand.

**July 28** - Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Russia begins mobilizing its troops.

Aug 1 - Germany declares war on Russia.

Aug 3 - Germany declares war on France

Aug 4 - Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany.

History Knowledge Organiser HT5 - How did the Great War change Britain's position in the world?			