

## CAUSES OF World War One

Although it was the assassination of the Austrian archduke, Franz Ferdinand that led to the outbreak of world war one in August 1914, the actual causes of the war were more complicated.

### Alliances

An alliance is an agreement made between two or more countries to give each other help if it is needed. When an alliance is signed, those countries become known as Allies. A number of alliances had been signed by countries between the years 1879 and 1914. These were important because they meant that some countries had no option but to declare war if one of their allies declared war first.

1879 The Dual Alliance Germany and Austria-Hungary made an alliance to protect themselves from Russia

1881 Austro-Serbian Alliance Austria-Hungary made an alliance with Serbia to stop Russia gaining control of Serbia

**1882 The Triple Alliance Germany and Austria-Hungary made an alliance with Italy to stop Italy from taking sides with Russia**

1894 Franco-Russian Alliance Russia formed an alliance with France to protect herself against Germany and Austria-Hungary

1904 Entente Cordiale This was an agreement, but not a formal alliance, between France and Britain.

**1907 Triple Entente This was made between Russia, France and Britain to counter the increasing threat from Germany.**

1907 Anglo-Russian Entente This was an agreement between Britain and Russia

**1914 Triple Entente (no separate peace) Britain, Russia and France agreed not to sign for peace separately.**

### Imperialism

Imperialism is when a country takes over new lands or countries and makes them subject to their rule. By 1900 the British Empire extended over five continents and France had control of large areas of Africa.

The amount of lands 'owned' by Britain and France increased the rivalry with Germany who had entered the scramble to acquire colonies late and only had small areas of Africa. France had recently been given Morocco by the British. Morocco's bid for independence was supported by Germany

## **Militarism**

The growing European divide had led to an arms race between the main countries. The armies of both France and Germany had more than doubled between 1870 and 1914 and there was fierce competition between Britain and Germany for mastery of the seas. The British had introduced the 'Dreadnought', an effective battleship, in 1906. The Germans soon followed suit introducing their own battleships. The German, Von Schlieffen also drew up a plan of action that involved attacking France through Belgium if Russia made an attack on Germany.

## **Nationalism**

Nationalism means being a strong supporter of the rights and interests of one's country. The Congress of Vienna, held after the Napoleonic wars left both Germany and Italy as divided states. It was nationalism the reunification of Italy in 1861 and Germany in 1871. France was angry because the settlement at the end of the Franco-Prussian war had given Alsace-Lorraine to Germany. Large areas of both Austria-Hungary and Serbia were home to differing nationalist groups, all of whom wanted freedom from the states in which they lived.

## **QUESTIONS**

What is meant by the term alliance?

2. Which countries were allied by the Triple Alliance?

3. Which countries were allied by the Triple Entente?

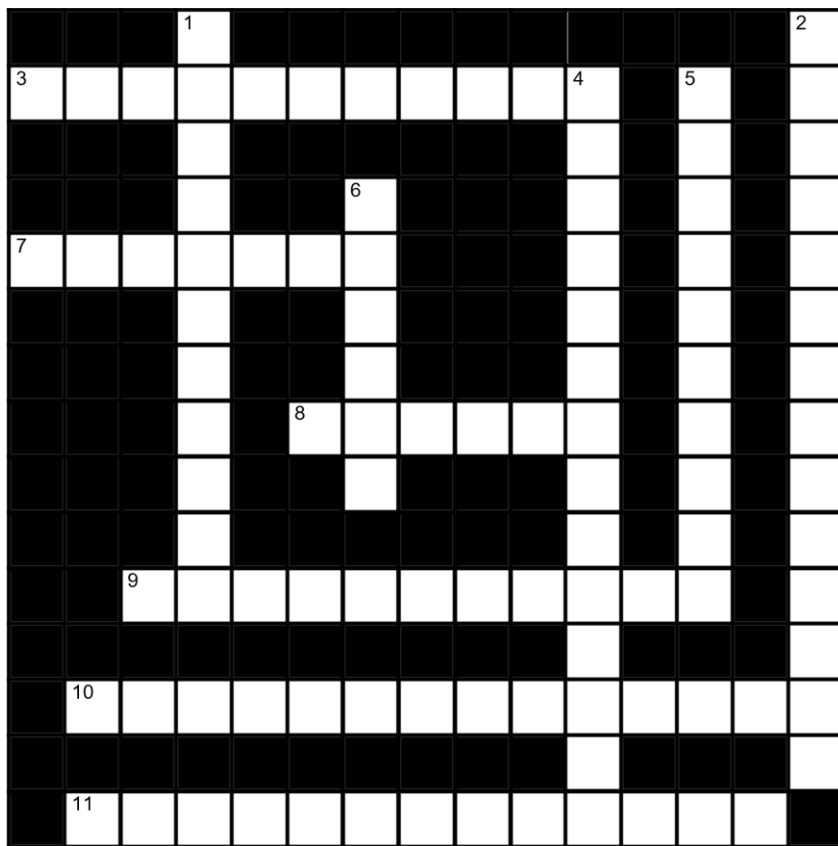
4. Why was Germany annoyed by Imperialism?

5. Which armies had increased in size between 1870 and 1914?

6. Describe the Schlieffen Plan. (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lHeMPV5VDR4>

## Crossword



### Across

- 3 British battleships introduced in 1906 (11)
- 7 A crisis in this country in 1904 nearly led to war (7)
- 8 This congress had led to Germany and Italy being divided (6)
- 9 When a country takes over new lands or countries (11)
- 10 German plan to invade France through Belgium (10,4)
- 11 Agreement between Britain, Russia and France (6,7)

### Down

- 1 Being a strong supporter of the rights of one's country (11)
- 2 His assassination triggered World War One (5,9)

4 Agreement between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy (6,8)

5 When the army are given a high profile by a government (10)

6 Austria-Hungary took over this Balkan state in 1908 (6)

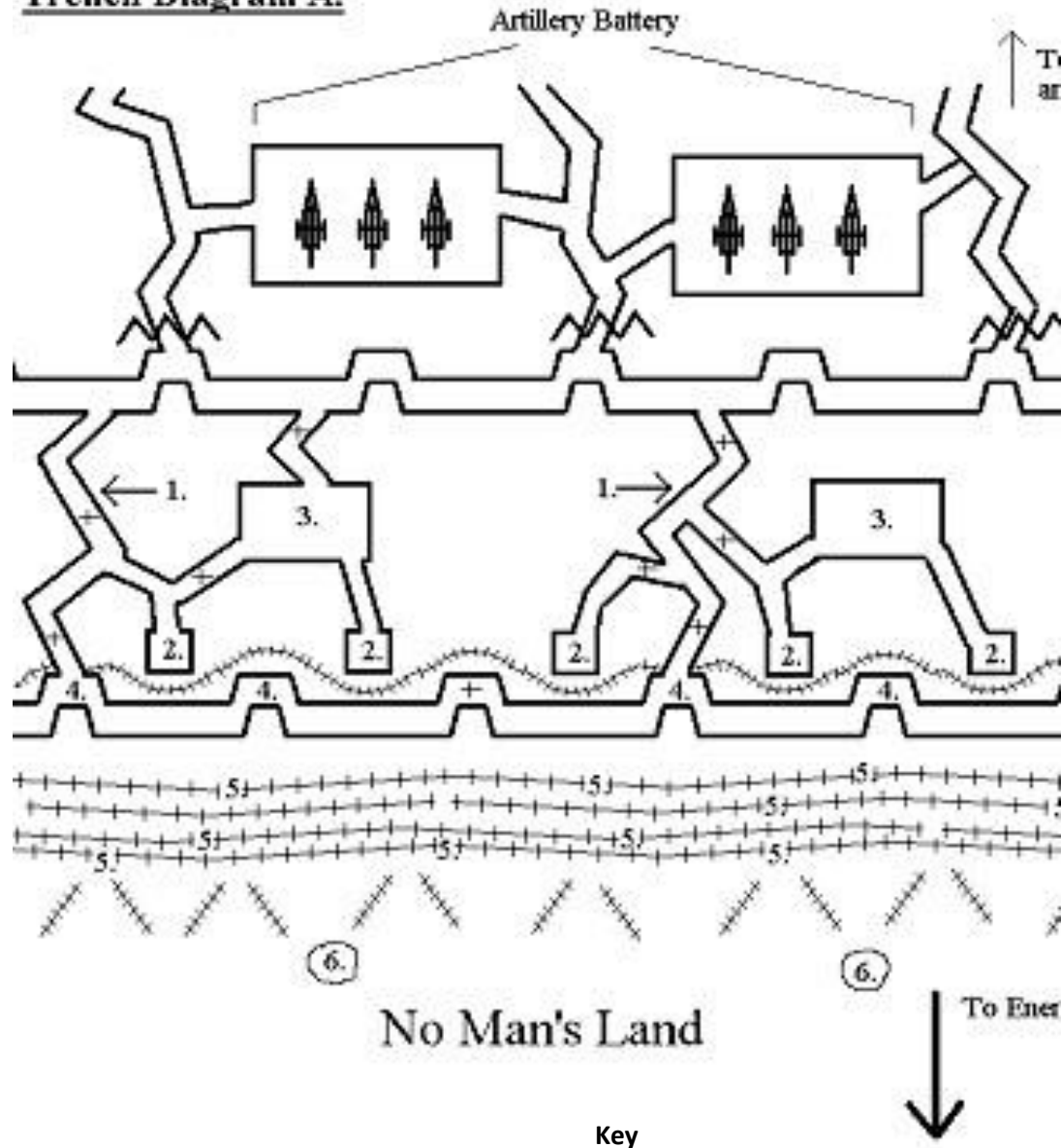
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IMPERIALISM	NATIONALISM	DREADNOUGHT
MILITARISM	SCHLIEFFEN	ALLIANCES
WORLDWAR	COLONIES	ARMSRACE
GERMANY	BALKANS	BELGIUM
CAUSES	CRISES	EMPIRE
SERBIA	TRIPLE ENTENTE	
AUSTRIAHUNGARY	TRIPLE ALLIANCE	

# What is a Trench

Trench warfare characterized much of the fighting during World War One, particularly in the Western Front, and was often complicated with many interlinking lines of trenches.

Trench Diagram A.

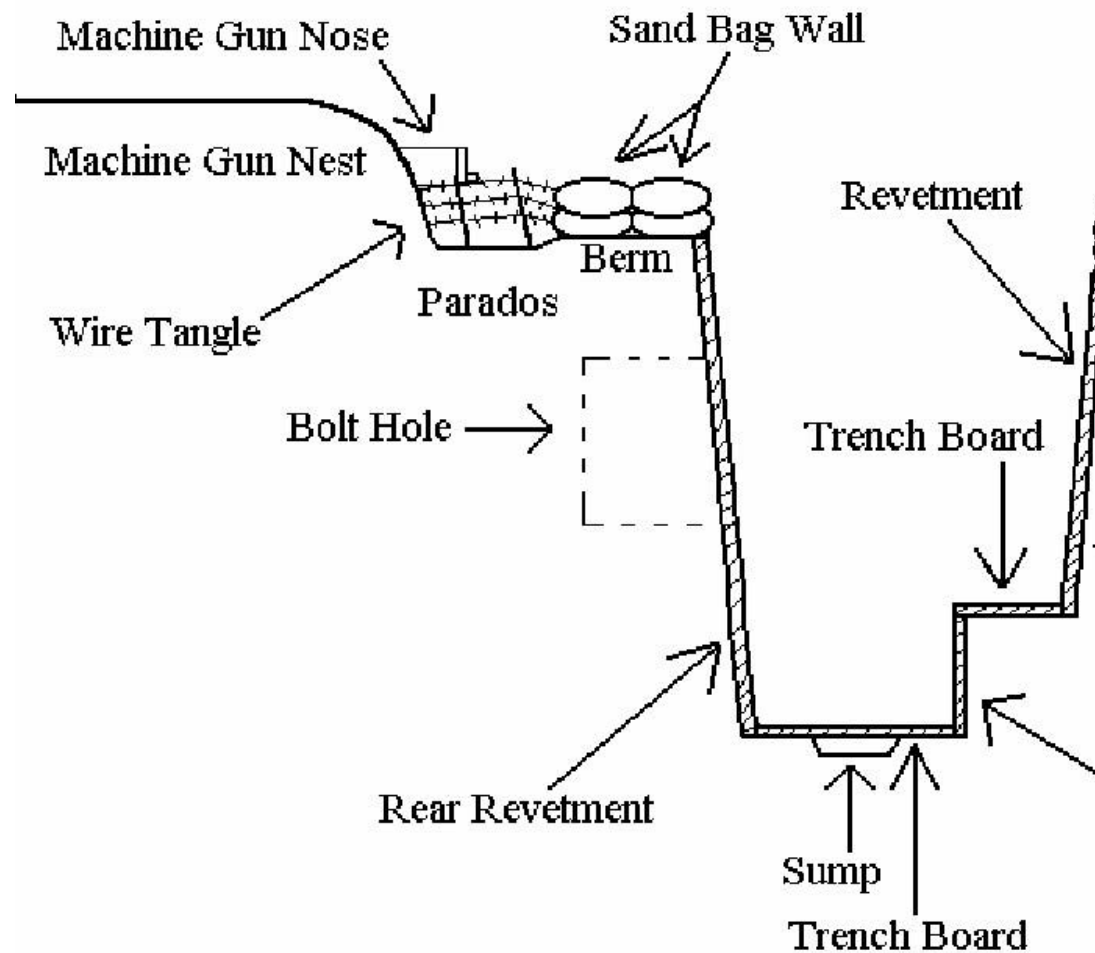


- 1. Communication Trench
- 2. Machine Gun Nest

3. Underground Bunker
4. Traverse
5. Wire Break
6. Listening Post
7. + represent Trench Block

- a. What links the front line and support trenches?
- b. Why are blocks placed in trenches?
- c. Why are machine-guns placed just behind the front line? Why are they so close?
- d. Why is there wire between the front trench and the machine-guns?
- e. Look at the barbed wire in No-Man's Land that is at angles to the front trench and also look at the position of the machine-guns.

## Trench Diagram B.



- What prevents bullets striking a soldier's chest when he is on the trench board?
  - What is the purpose of the sump? What was normally placed over it?
- C Barbed wire entanglements were often 40 yards (36m) from the front trench. Consider what would be their main defensive function?

