

CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

Causes of WWI

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

The bedrock of any answer to the question *HOW* something happened is understanding cause and consequence. This process can be represented like this:



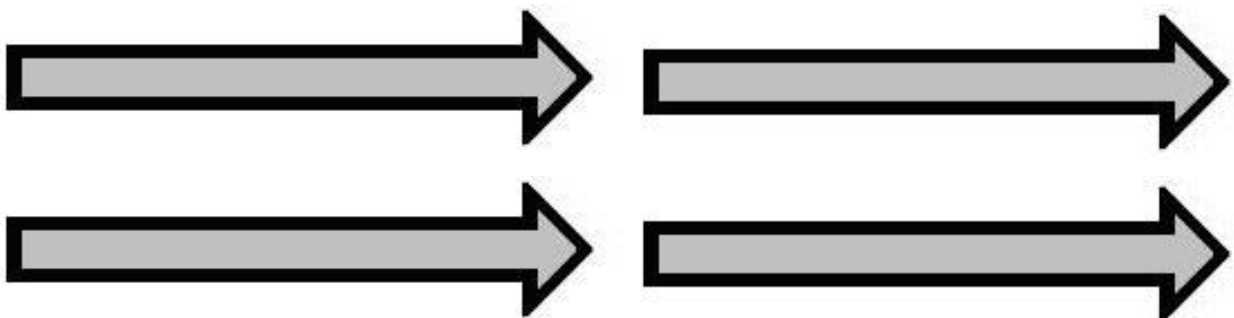
where the causal link is shown by an arrow; the box on the left is the cause (an event that happened/ what one side did), and the one on the right is the consequence (the event(s) it provoked/ what the other side did to try to counter it).

Sometimes, of course, an event can have more than one consequence:



Below are boxes giving facts about the causes of WWI. Cut the boxes up into cards and also cut out the two arrows. Use your ingenuity and the arrows to make up as many 'action–reaction' flow diagrams as you can – you should be able to create hundreds of them.

Each time you make up a flow diagram, describe your reasoning, taking special care to explain *HOW* the links worked to create the result they did.



28 June 1914: Gavrilo Princip assassinated Franz Ferdinand	A Serbian terrorist group called the Black Hand advocated Slav nationalism	The Black Hand trained Gavrilo Princip in bomb-throwing and marksmanship
Franz Ferdinand was in Sarajevo to review the troops	Six assassins lined up along the Appel Quay on 28 June 1914	Austrian chief of staff General Hotzendorf proposed war with Serbia 25 times, 1906–14
5 July 1914: Austria approached Wilhelm and got a promise of support	23 July 1914: The Austro-Hungarian government sent Serbia a tough ultimatum	25 July 1914: The Serbs agreed to the Austrian ultimatum <i>except</i> part of clause 6
30 July 1914: Tsar Nicholas ordered a general mobilisation	1 August 1914: Germany mobilised and declared war on Russia	2 August 1914: The Belgians refused Germany permission to go through Belgium
4 August 1914: Britain sent Germany an ultimatum	4 August 1914: Germany ignored Britain's ultimatum	4 August 1914: Britain declared war on Germany
Germany army chief of staff von Schlieffen spent nine years devising the Schlieffen Plan, 1897–1906	The Schlieffen Plan imagined a huge attack on France, going through Belgium	The Schlieffen Plan was Germany's only plan
Germany was allied to Austria by the Triple Alliance	Britain, Russia and France had formed a Triple Entente in case they were attacked	Germany was militaristic
Russia was allied to Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria	Russia had backed down in 1908, and had failed to support Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria	Britain's empire covered a fifth of the world

<p>A frenzy of militarism in Britain in 1909 had demanded eight dreadnoughts</p>	<p>The Germans were amazed that Britain would go to war for 'a scrap of paper'</p>	<p>Britain had a treaty agreement of 1839 to defend Belgium</p>
<p>The Russian army was growing fast, and stood at 1.2 million</p>	<p>There was a feeling in 1914 that war was inevitable</p>	<p>France hated Germany for conquering Alsace-Lorraine in 1870</p>
<p>Serbia – the strongest Balkan nation – was nationalistic and aggressive</p>	<p>Serbia in 1913 had promised to destroy Austria</p>	<p>28 July 1914: Serbia asked Russia for help against Austria</p>
<p>The Schlieffen Plan involved a complicated timetable of troop movements by train</p>	<p>Turkey was 'the weak man of Europe', and had lost power over the Balkan nations</p>	<p>The German standing army was 2.2 million men, with 6 million more reservists</p>
<p>1 August 1914: Kaiser Wilhelm tried to pause the German mobilisation, but it could not be stopped</p>	<p>German military strategists believed they could defeat France more easily than Russia</p>	<p>2 August 1914: Germany invaded Belgium</p>
<p>28 July 1914: Austria–Hungary declared war on Serbia</p>	<p>28 June 1914 was Serbia's National Day</p>	<p>The Austrians feared Slav nationalism</p>
<p>Britain had decided in 1904 to end 'splendid isolation'</p>	<p>In 1912 German General Moltke advised 'war the sooner the better'</p>	<p>28 July 1914: Austria–Hungary declared war on Serbia</p>