



THE SLIDE INTO WAR

Within **SIX WEEKS** of a man being **ASSASSINATED**, **EUROPE** found itself at **WAR**.



Four and a half years later, **10 MILLION** people had **DIED**.

What Contributed to **WAR**?

Nationalism

Strong feeling of the importance of one's own nation.
Resentment about behaviour of, and threat from, neighbouring countries.
Dislike and suspicion of foreigners.



Cultural attitudes

Huge political power was held by European military leaders.
Lack of democratic control over the Military.
Serving as an officer in the military forces was seen as noble and glorious and past battles were celebrated.
Many thought "war is not the worst of evils".



Indifference of the ruling elite

War was seen as a normal means of solving disputes with little regard to the death and suffering of the combatants.

Unrest at Home



Rebellion by Protestants in Ireland

The Ulster men opposed Home Rule and raised a force (UVF) of 100,000 men. They imported arms and were supported by the Tory Party. British Army officers mutinied. Civil war in Ireland threatened.

Union activity and strikes

Unions were organising and workers were striking to improve the appalling working conditions in industrial Britain.

Suffragettes

The prolonged campaign of civil disobedience was becoming increasingly violent.

Ineffectual negotiating bodies

There were no effective international organisations that could mediate between countries in conflict.

Public support

Newspapers demanded rearmament and stirred up fear of foreign countries.
Books and articles warned of invasion.
People began to accept that war was inevitable.

Arms Race

Britain built a large fleet of Dreadnought battleships - Germany followed.
Germany, France and Russia built up their armies.
Armament manufacturers were selling arms to all nations.
Krupp, the German arms company, quadrupled in size in 40 years.



War Planning

There were many small wars in the years before.
Germany developed an aggressive stance fearing encirclement from Russia and France.
The German *Schlieffen plan* was of a rapid attack through Belgium.
Germany was prepared to make a pre-emptive strike before it lost the military advantage.
Germany encouraged Austria-Hungary to 'deal' with Serbia, knowing it might up the stakes and bring Russia into the war.

**However, all sides contemplated war.
All sides were willing to use war.**



Treaties

Britain + Belgium (*Treaty of London 1839*)
France + Russia 1894
Entente Cordiale - France + Britain, 1904
Triple Entente - France + Russia + Britain, 1907
Secret naval treaty Britain + France, 1912

Germany + Austria-Hungary, 1879
The Triple Alliance - Germany + Austria-Hungary + Italy, 1882
Germany + Bulgaria + Turkey

Economic interest and Colonisation

The major powers of Europe all sought to colonise countries around the world. Britain was in the lead.
These colonies fuelled their economies and produced great wealth.
Each country sought a greater share in the world markets.



Is there another way of solving the problems of independence movements and international disputes?