

Knowledge Organiser – 5 – Was WWI the war to end all wars? (Modern period)

1905
Schlieffen Plan

1907
Alliances
formed in
Europe

1912-1913
Balkan
Wars

1916
Battle of Somme



1918
Germany
surrender

1839
Treaty of
London

1906
Austria-
Hungary
annexed Bosnia



1911
Agadir
Crisis

June 1914
Archduke Franz
Ferdinand is shot

1917
USA join on the
British side of the
war

Key people, ideas and developments

1	Long term causes	The four long term (existed for a long time) causes of WWI spells out the word MAIN. Militarism, alliances, imperialism and nationalism.
3	Bosnian Crisis	Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia. Germany supported this, but Serbia and Russia were angry.
4	Balkan Wars (1912 & 1913)	An example of a medium term cause of WWI was the wish of the countries in an area of south-east Europe called the Balkans to become fully independent from the Ottoman Empire (this was an empire run from modern-day Turkey). There was a peace conference in 1912, but the countries were unhappy. The second Balkan War started in 1913.
5	Treaty of London	An agreement between in Europe to respect the neutrality of Belgium. This means all of the countries promised not to invade Belgium or involve Belgium in any wars.
6	Schlieffen Plan	The Schlieffen Plan was a 'just-in-case' battle plan stating that Germany could invade via Belgium.
7	The Moroccan Crises	It was accepted by Europe that Morocco was part of the French Empire. But, in the Tangier Incident, Kaiser Wilhelm II went to Tangier (in Morocco) and made a speech emphasising Morocco's independence from France. This made France angry.
8	Treaty of Versailles	The most important peace treaty that brought WWI to an end. It essentially blamed Germany, demanded reparations, cut down Germany's army and navy.

2	Short term causes	The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand is considered to be an important short term cause or trigger for WWI due to the alliances formed by the countries involved.
8	Trench Warfare	A type of fighting in which opposing troops fight from trenches (ditches) facing each other. Life was hard in the trenches and soldiers faced problems like trench foot.
9	The Home Front	People who are working towards the war effort in their home country while soldiers are fighting abroad. During WWI lots of women took jobs in factories to help produce weapons to use in the trenches.
	General Haig	General Haig has been argued to be the 'butcher of the Somme' due to the high number of deaths during this battle. He wanted everyone to accept that war is hard and soldiers must die.

Key terms

10	alliance	Agreement or friendship between countries.	
11	militarism	Desire for a large/great army and navy.	
12	imperialism	The desire to build or strengthen an empire.	
13	nationalism	Belief that your country is the greatest.	
14	autocracy	Most of the power in the hands of one individual.	
15	annexation	When one country takes over another country and starts running the country for themselves.	