

Immediate Cause of World War One

- Assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne) and his wife Sophie in Sarajevo, Bosnia on June 28th 1914 by Serbian nationalists
- German promise of support to Austria to crush Serbia
- Russian mobilisation



Countdown to war

- **Why does war breakout in Europe in 1914?**

Europe and its people were ready for war. The psyche of the nations had been raised over the last 30 years to expect and welcome war.

“The more one reads of the memoirs and books written in the various countries of what happened before August 1914, the more one realises that no one at the the head of affairs quite meant war. It was something into which they glided, or rather staggered and stumbled”

Lloyd George, Britain’s wartime primeminister.