

Why did the First World War break out?

Task

Fill in the table and number the causes in order of importance, from the one you consider to be the most important cause of the war to the one you consider to be the least important. Explain why you consider your number one cause to be the most important factor in bringing about war.

Cause	How did it contribute to the outbreak of war?	Type of cause (political/ economic/ military)	short-term or long-term
Germany took Alsace-Lorraine from France in 1870.	This made France want to take revenge on Germany.	P	L
Rivalry over empires and industry.			
The naval and arms race.			
Europe was divided into two alliances.			
Austria and Russia competed for land in the Balkans.			
The Moroccan Crises of 1905-6 and 1911.			
The Balkan Wars of 1912-1913.			
Gavrilo Princip shot Archduke Franz Ferdinand on 28 th June 1914.			
Germany promised unlimited support to Austria-Hungary.			
Germany invaded Belgium as part of the attack on France.			

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1. Match the cause with the correct explanation in the table below by joining a line from one to the other. Write the correct answers in the spaces below.
2. Decide whether each cause is:
 - political** - to do with power or
 - economic** - to do with money and business or
 - military** - to do with armed forces and weapons
3. Decide whether each cause is **long-term** (it took place over a long period of time) or **short-term** (it happened quickly and led directly to war).

Cause	Explanation – How did this help lead to war?	Is this cause political, economic or military?	short-term / long-term
1. Germany took Alsace-Lorraine from France in 1870.	a. This made war more likely as the alliances agreed to help each other if any country was attacked or invaded.	political	long-term
2. Rivalry over empires and industry, especially between Germany and Britain.	b. This made Britain angry because Belgium was a neutral country.		
3. Gavrilo Princip shot Archduke Franz Ferdinand on 28 th June 1914.	c. Germany and Britain became enemies.		
4. Europe was divided into two alliances (groups of friendly countries).	d. This made France want revenge on Germany.		
5. Germany invaded Belgium as part of the attack on France.	e. This made all countries worried about the amount of weapons their enemies had, and want to build up more of their own.		
6. Both sides built up their stock of weapons in an arms race.	f. Austria blamed Serbia, and began to prepare for war.		

1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____ 4 ____ 5 ____ 6 ____

Task 4 - Complete the sentences

I think the most important cause of the First World War was ...

I think this because ...