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Edexcel - IGCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE



The Origins and Course of the First World War, 1905–18

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The Origins and Course of the First World War, 1905–18

Edexcel - IGCSE





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contact@cleverlili.com

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons



WHAT questions cover the key events and themes.



WHO questions cover the key people involved.



WHEN questions cover the timings of key events.



WHERE questions cover the locations of key moments.



WHY questions cover the reasons behind key events.



HOW questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.



IMPORTANCE questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.



DECISIONS questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on page 18.

Page references

Tudor (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

The Origins and Course of the First World War investigates why and how the world went to war in 1914. The course focuses on the causes and course of the First World War, examining 1905–1918. You will focus on crucial events during this period, and study the different political, economic and military changes that occurred.

Purpose

This study guide will help you to understand the complexities of the First World War. You will investigate themes such as militarism, nationalism, alliances and imperialism, while also exploring the role of economics, government and the military. This guide will enable you to develop the historical thinking skills of causation and consequence, similarity and difference, and change and continuity.

Topics

This study guide is split into five key areas.

- 📖 The Alliance System and International Rivalry.
- 📖 The Growth of Tension in Europe.
- 📖 The Schlieffen Plan and Deadlock on the Western Front.
- 📖 The War at Sea and Gallipoli.
- 📖 The Defeat of Germany.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied in this course include:

- 👤 Kaiser Wilhelm II.
- 👤 Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
- 👤 Winston Churchill.
- 👤 Alfred von Schlieffen.
- 👤 Sir Douglas Haig.
- 👤 Erich Ludendorff.

Key Events

Some of the key events and developments you will study on this course include:

- 📅 The formation of the alliance system.
- 📅 The Anglo–German naval race.
- 📅 International crises in the Balkans and Morocco.
- 📅 The assassination of Franz Ferdinand.
- 📅 The establishment of the Western Front in 1914.
- 📅 Trench conditions.
- 📅 The development of new weapons.
- 📅 Key battles on the Western Front: the Somme and Passchendaele.
- 📅 The war at sea.
- 📅 The Ludendorff Offensive.
- 📅 The Allied 100 days.
- 📅 German defeat and the armistice.

Assessment

Origins and Course of the First World War forms the first half of paper two. You will have a total of 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the paper. You should spend 45 minutes on the First World War section of the paper. There will be 3 exam questions which will assess what you have learnt on the First World War course.

- 👤 Question 1 is worth 6 marks. This question will require you to describe TWO key features of a certain aspect of the First World War. For example, you could be asked to describe two key features of the Gallipoli campaign.

- 👤 Question 2 is worth 8 marks. This question will require you to analyse two sources before explaining how far the sources support each other. It requires you to cross reference both sources, highlighting similarities AND differences, before concluding on the extent of support. You should aim to include three mini paragraphs explaining how the sources support each other, how they contradict each other before offering your own conclusion. For example, 'How far does Source A support the evidence of Source B about the threat posed.'
- 👤 Question 3 is worth 16 marks. This question will give you a historical interpretation and you will then need to argue how far you agree or disagree with the statement on your chosen question. The focus of the question will always be different, focusing on one of the 2nd order concepts such as causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity and difference. For this question you must use the interpretation alongside the sources from question 2. For example, 'Extract C suggests that Germany was mainly responsible for the outbreak of the First World War. How far do you agree with this interpretation?'

Sample

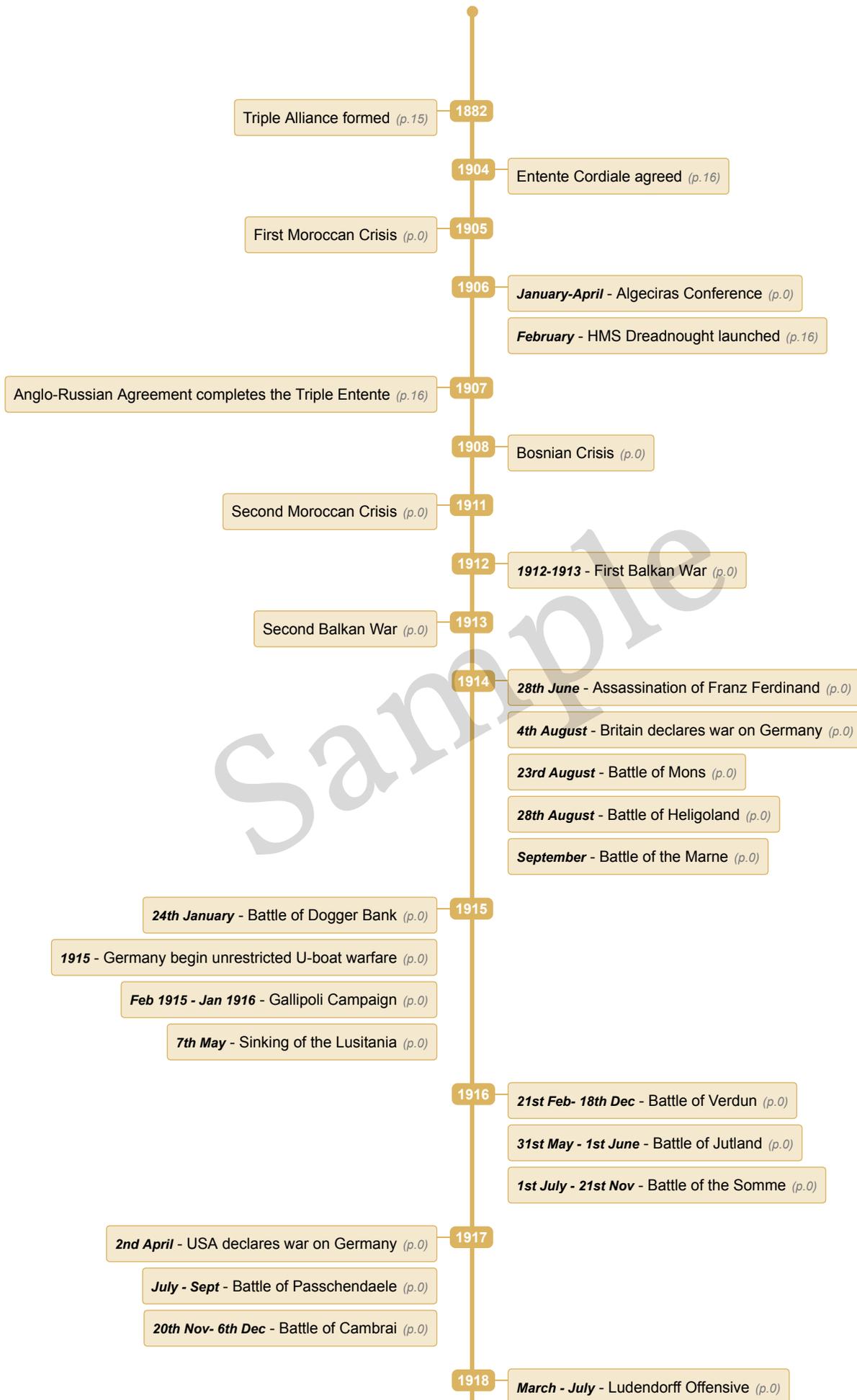


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Sample

ORIGINS AND COURSE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

TIMELINE



8th Aug - 11th Nov - Allied 100 Days Offensive (p.0)

October - German navy mutinies

9th Nov - Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates (p.0)

11th Nov - Armistice signed (p.0)

Sample



THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War would become the largest and most widespread conflict in history up to that point. However, it also inspired great advancements in science and technology.



What was the First World War?

The First World War (also known as the Great War) was a global conflict that lasted from 1914-1918.



Who was on each side in the First World War?

The war was fought between the **Central Powers** (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire) and the Allied Powers (France, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, and Britain). The Allies were later joined by the USA and Italy.



When did the First World War take place?

The First World War started on July 28th 1914, and ended on 11th November 1918.



Where did the First World War happen?

The First World War took place across the world, both on land and at sea. Most of the fighting occurred in Europe and Russia, although there were smaller battles in the Middle East, Africa and China.



Why did the First World War happen?

The war broke out due to a number of short and long term reasons, which can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ Militarism (p. 12).
- ✓ Alliances.
- ✓ Imperialism. (p. 13)
- ✓ Nationalism (p. 14).
- ✓ Economic rivalry (p. 14).

DID YOU KNOW?

The war had a different name at the time!

It was known as the 'Great War'. Some even referred to it as the 'European War' due to the majority of participants and fighting taking place in Europe.



MILITARISM

Strong armed forces were important to maintain and challenge Great Power status. These led to an arms race between countries as they tried to get the upper hand on their rivals.



What is militarism?

Militarism is the idea that a country should have a strong military and be prepared to use it.



How did militarism lead to the First World War?

Due to the **alliance** system, countries grew afraid of being surrounded by hostile **states**. As a consequence, they increased the size of their armies and navies, which created more fear and led to an arms race.



DID YOU KNOW?

Many countries overestimated the strength of their armed forces.

In Britain, many observers believed that the war would be over by Christmas due to their military strength.



ALLIANCES

Alliances between countries were littered across Europe and the world as powers scrambled to find allies. With alliances, came combined strength and a great chance of success.



What were the alliances in the First World War?

There were two pre-First World War **alliances**. The Triple Entente (p. 16) consisted of Britain, Russia and France. The Triple Alliance (p. 15) was formed by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.



How did alliances lead to the First World War?

In order to achieve security, countries often formed **alliances** to protect themselves. Tensions between alliances meant that, when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia in 1914, others felt obligated to join the conflict.

DID YOU KNOW?

Family loyalties were soon tested!

George V (England) and Wilhelm II (Germany) were actually first cousins! However, the family ties didn't stop there. George and Tsar Nicholas II were also first cousins and joined forces in the Triple Entente.



IMPERIALISM

'Should the worst happen...Australians will stand beside the mother country to help and defend her to our last man and our last shilling.' Andrew Fisher, 1914.



What is imperialism?

Imperialism is the desire to acquire **colonies** and create an **empire**.



How did imperialism lead to the First World War?

Germany attempted to challenge the large overseas **empires** already held by France and Britain. This was an issue as **colonies** provided raw materials, and were markets for goods produced by the European powers that governed them. If they lost these, they lost money.



Who were the countries which followed a policy of imperialism?

The European powers and their overseas **colonies** in 1914 were as follows:



- ✔ Great Britain had 56 colonies, with a total population of 390 million.
- ✔ France had 29 colonies, with a total population of 58 million.
- ✔ Russia had 0 colonies, although it was looking to expand in the Balkans.
- ✔ Germany had 10 colonies, with a total population of 15 million.
- ✔ Austria-Hungary had 0 colonies, although it did control other European countries such as Bosnia.

DID YOU KNOW?

Britain had a vast empire by the start of the First World War.

The British Empire stretched across the world with countries such as Canada and Australia, along with a number of countries within Africa, Asia and the Middle East. This included around 412 million people and 23% of the world's population.



NATIONALISM

'I think a curse should rest on me — because I love this war. I know it's...shattering the lives of thousands — and yet — I can't help it — I enjoy every second of it.' Winston Churchill, 1916.



What is nationalism?

Nationalism is having strong support for your own country's **independence** and interests. This may lead to people believing their country is **superior** to others.



How did nationalism lead to the First World War?

When **nationalism** is too strong, it can lead to competition between countries. This inspired many people to support war and join up to fight in 1914. This is closely linked to imperialism (p.13) as it promotes the idea of one '**superior**' country ruling over others.

DID YOU KNOW?

Germany wanted to unite all Germanic-speaking people under one country.

Pan-Germanism (Pangermanismus in German) was the nationalist idea that helped to motivate Germany's entry into the First World War. It was particularly interested in the lands east of Germany.



ECONOMIC RIVALRY

Money was a driving force for the start of the First World War. The more money a country had, the more powerful it could become.



What is economic rivalry?

Economic rivalry is the tension created from competing with others to gain wealth for your country.



How did economic rivalry lead to the First World War?

Economic rivalry is the competition between countries to gain more wealth. It created tension between the **alliances** in the years before 1914.

DID YOU KNOW?

War needed money but war also created money for the winners!

The prizes for winning a war could be huge! Britain's and America's GDP grew 20% even during the war. However for France, where the majority of fighting took place, their GDP shrunk by 40%!



THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

'We see the European Great Powers divided into two great camps. On the one side Germany, Austria, and Italy have concluded a defensive alliance, whose sole object is to guard against hostile aggression' General Friedrich von Bernhardi, 1914.



What was the Triple Alliance?

The Triple Alliance was an agreement between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy, to provide military support to each other.



When was the Triple Alliance created?

The Triple Alliance was formed in May 1882.



Who was in the Triple Alliance?

The Triple Alliance consisted of three of Europe's great powers in 1914: Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.



Why was the Triple Alliance formed?

The Triple Alliance provided mutual support for the smaller countries; it was a chance to have a more powerful **ally**. For Germany, the **alliance** provided protection against **encirclement** by France and Russia.

DID YOU KNOW?

Three's a crowd....well not in this case.

The Triple Alliance was originally called the Dual Alliance when agreed in 1879. When Italy joined in 1882, it became the Triple Alliance.



THE TRIPLE ENTENTE

The second of two 'camps' of the European powers. Later to form but equally as powerful, the rifts in European relations were now cemented.



What was the Triple Entente?

The Triple Entente was a military **coalition** between the Great Britain, France and Russia against any potential enemies.



When was the Triple Entente created?

The Triple Entente was created in 1907 when Russia joined Britain, who had previously united in the Entente Cordiale in 1904.



Who were members of the Triple Entente?

The Triple Entente consisted of three of Europe's great powers in 1914 - Russia, France and Great Britain.



Why was the Triple Entente formed?

The purpose of the Triple Entente was to protect its members against the growing threat of Germany and to support each other if there was a war.

DID YOU KNOW?

All for one and one for all!

The Triple Entente was underpinned by a series of agreements which unified the Allies. For example, it was agreed that no individual country could seek separate peace deals.



THE NAVAL RACE

Britain begins to consolidate and expand its domination of the seas. It had the least to gain but the most to lose!



What was the naval race?

The naval race was a competition between Germany and Britain to have **naval supremacy**. The race was 'run' between 1906 and 1914.



Why did Germany want to challenge the British navy and start the naval race?

Britain relied on its navy to keep sea routes open to its **empire** and protect its **economic** interests. Germany wanted to become a world power, and Britain saw this as a threat to its own empire.



What ships were the focus of the naval race?

In 1906 Britain launched a new battleship, HMS Dreadnought. It was the most advanced warship of the time: faster, more heavily armoured and with bigger guns than previous warships. Germany built its own **dreadnoughts**, which led to a naval arms race between the two countries.



Who won the naval race?

Between 1906 and 1914 Britain built 29 **dreadnoughts**, compared with Germany's 17.

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THIS IS A SAMPLE.
REMAINING PAGES REMOVED.
PLEASE PURCHASE THE BOOK FOR FULL CONTENT.

GLOSSARY

A

- Abdicate** - to give up a position of power or a responsibility.
- Agricultural** - relating to agriculture.
- Alliance** - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.
- Allies** - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.
- Ambassador** - someone, often a diplomat, who represents their state, country or organisation in a different setting or place.
- Ammunition** - collective term given to bullets and shells.
- Amputate, Amputation** - to surgically remove a limb from someone's body.
- Annex, Annexation, Annexed** - to forcibly acquire territory and add it to a larger country.
- Armistice** - an agreement between two or more opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.
- Artillery** - large guns used in warfare.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

Assassination - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

Attrition - the act of wearing down an enemy until they collapse through continued attacks.

B

Blockade - a way of blocking or sealing an area to prevent goods, supplies or people from entering or leaving. It often refers to blocking transport routes.

Box barrage - The firing shells at the enemy on three sides to prevent them retreating or sending reinforcements into a battle.

C

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Casualties - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

Cavalry - the name given to soldiers who fight on horseback.

Central Powers - Germany and its allies during the First World War.

Civilian - a non-military person.

Coalition, Coalitions - a temporary alliance, such as when a group of countries fights together.

Colonies, Colony - a country or area controlled by another country and occupied by settlers.

Convoy - a group of ships or vehicles travelling together, usually

protected by armed troops.

Counter-attack - an attack made in response to one by an opponent.

Creeping barrage - a slowly advancing artillery bombardment which attacking troops can follow for protection.

D

Deadlock - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Deterrent - something that discourages an action or behaviour.

Dreadnought - A battleship, which was more powerful in firepower and defence than prior models.

Dud - a bomb, shell or mine that fails to explode.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Empire - a group of states or countries ruled over and controlled by a single monarch.

Encircle, Encirclement - a military term for enemy forces isolating and surrounding their target.

F

Famine - a severe food shortage resulting in starvation and death, usually the result of bad harvests.

Fasting - to deliberately refrain from eating, and often drinking, for a period of time.

Free trade - the policy of trading between countries without any taxes, with the aim of increasing trade links.

Front - in war, the area where fighting is taking place.

G

Gangrene - the death of body tissue due to either lack of blood or serious bacterial infection.

H

Heir - someone who is entitled to property or rank following the current owner or holder's death.

I

Imperial, Imperialisation, Imperialism, Imperialist - is the practice or policy of taking possession of, and extending political and economic control over other areas or territories. Imperialism always requires the use of military, political or economic power by a stronger nation over that of a weaker one. An imperialist is someone who supports or practices imperialism and imperial relates to a system of empire, for example the British Empire.

Import - to bring goods or services into a different country to sell.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industrialisation, Industrialise, Industrialised - the process of developing industry in a country or region where previously there was little or none.

Infantry - soldiers who march and fight on foot.

K

Kaiser - the German word for a king or emperor.

L

Limb - an arm or leg.

Lord, Lords - a man of high status, wealth and authority.

M

Mandate - authority to carry out a policy.

Medic - someone who has medical knowledge but is not a doctor.

Merchant ships - unarmed ships used for carrying supplies and goods.

Mine - an explosive device usually hidden underground or underwater.

Mobilisation - the action of a country getting ready for war by preparing and organising its armed forces.

Morass - an area of swampy or very wet and muddy ground which is difficult to cross.

Mutiny - a rebellion or revolt, in particular by soldiers or sailors against their commanding officers.

N

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

Naval supremacy - when a navy is that strong, enemies are unable to attack; sometimes referred to as command of the sea.

No man's land - the land between the opposing sides' trenches in the First World War.

O

Offensive - another way of saying an attack or campaign.

P

Psychological - referring to a person's mental or emotional state.

Q

Quagmire - an area of swampy or very wet and muddy ground which is difficult to cross.

R

Raid - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

Rationing - limiting goods that are in high demand and short supply.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reconnaissance - observation of an enemy in order to gain useful information such as its position, strategy or capabilities.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Riots - violent disturbances involving a crowd of people.

Rolling barrage - a slowly advancing artillery bombardment which attacking troops can follow for protection.

S

Sabotage - to deliberately destroy, damage or obstruct, especially to gain a political or military advantage.

Salient - in military terms, a piece of land that protrudes into enemy territory; also known as a bulge.

Stalemate - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

Strategy - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

Symptom - an indication of something, such as a sign of a particular illness.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

U

U-boat - the German name for a submarine.

Ultimatum - a final demand, with the threat of consequences if it is not met.

W

Weltpolitik - Germany's pre-First World War foreign policy which aimed to turn Germany into a global power by acquiring overseas colonies and developing its navy.

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Sample