

War Breaks Out

- Several nations in the Balkan Peninsula battle for territory--related ethnic groups in Austria-Hungary want to throw off Austrian rule
- Serbia wants Bosnia to break away and join with them
- June 1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne in Austria-Hungary, visits Sarajevo, Bosnia and is assassinated by a member of a Serbian terrorist group

- A-H threatens war against Serbia, Russia moves in to help Serbia
- A-H declares war on Serbia
- Russia prepares for war
- Germany declares war on Russia and France
- Britain declares war on Germany after Germany marches through Belgium

- Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Ottoman (Turkish) Empire
- Allied Powers: France, Britain, Russia, 21 other countries will eventually join

Trench Warfare

- Germany attacks first, both sides engage in trench warfare: shell enemy trenches then run across "no mans land" to attack
- Gas used as a weapon
- High numbers of casualties, but there is a stalemate for the first three years of the war