Why War in 1914?

- textbooks often point towards 'Franz Ferdinand', but in reality, he was not that important...
- the Archduke of Austro-Hungary who was assassinated by Serbian freedom fighter Gavrilo Princep in 1914
  - 'Black Hand' terrorist group
- caused war to be declared, but really, the situation was already set – he was **"the spark that lit the fuse..."**

- there were four main causes to WWI that most historians believe to be true

i) **Nationalism**
- simply means that "citizens of a country believe in themselves"
- usually think one of two things:
  - they were the best around
    - eg. Germany wanted to beat its European rival, the British
  - they shouldn't be ruled by others and should kick them out with force
    - eg. Bosnia did not like being ruled by Austro-Hungary and were fighting

ii) **Imperialism**
- simply means "countries taking over other countries"
  - eg. Germany expanded in 1914 and tried to take over Europe
  - eg. Britain had taken over lots of overseas colonies, and used them to gather resources in the upcoming war (led Germany to want them too...)

iii) **Militarism**
- simply means "the growth of militaries"
    - huge arms races (navies, armies, armaments, air forces) became the root of foreign policies
    - believed in 'Balance of Power'
        - European control was a tricky business
        - in order to be sure that no one got too powerful, others had to keep up
            - eg. if Germany builds a new battleship, Britain builds two, then Germany builds two more, and so on...
    - problem is, eventually you have a MASSIVE force rearing for an excuse to fight with anyone...

iv) **System of Alliances**
- simply means "teaming up with others"
- you did this for a few reasons:
    - reduce vulnerability to future attack
    - reduce the threat of being taken over
    - to have allies/supplies/soldiers in times of need
- Europe was divided up into two opposing factions...
    - **Triple Entente**
        - Britain (and its colonies, like Canada)
        - France
        - Russia

    - **Triple Alliance**
        - Germany
        - Austro-Hungary
        - Italy

- in 1914, each side fights with the goal of destroying the other...