

## ESSAY EXAMPLE 1

# To what extent should Germany be held responsible for causing the First World War?

World War One, also known as the "Great War" was a war that could easily have been avoided, if it wasn't for the nationalistic views of Germany and their very sketchy leader (Wilhelm II). For almost a century to date historians have been trying to figure out who was responsible for the outbreak of such a controversial tragedy. But which country was the main trigger to the start of the war?

Archduke Franz Ferdinand, of Austria-Hungary was on a visit to, Sarajevo, the capital city of Bosnia. In June 1914 Ferdinand was a target by a Serbian terrorist group known as "The Black Hand." There was no direct link from The Black Hand to the Serbian government, but any Archduke murdered would still upset any nation. The assassination was a pathetic one and looked as if there was no planning involved, however the mission to murder Franz: Ferdinand was accomplished. This led Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia in July of 1914. Germany being a close ally to Austria-Hungary later entered the war with the mobilization of Russia.

Germany declared war on Russia in August 1914. At this point in time the war seemed to be getting more intense day by day with the great powers of Russia and Germany now at war. Germany was developing extremely fast in many ways, from economic progress to munitions. The month of August saw Germany, Russia, France and Britain's entrance to the war. Germany's ultimatum on France was the trigger for both France and Britain entering the war, however it didn't take long for Germany to gain almost complete control of France. There were many long, hard and tragic battles, with a lot of planning by the British and French generals to gain back France. The first months, of the war Germany proved to be a dominating, strong, and unbeatable nation at the time. The Western Front was easily controllable by the German troops however in the later years the tactics used by Russia and the Ally's to open the Eastern front soon tested the power of Germany.

Great Britain had always been ahead of the game in naval control and the battles at sea. Germany saw this as a threat to them so they also spent a lot of time in naval expansion and it didn't take long for them to test the almighty Royal Navy. David Lloyd George, England's Prime minister during the war was a very interesting character. Looking like a mad professor who likes to have fun, he also proved to be a very good prime minister. He indirectly came across to be very nationalistic and full of ideas to make Britain a strong leading nation in both Europe and the world with the colonial expansion that was undertaken. Lloyd George focused mainly on his aims to make his country better at the Versailles, opposed to helping a torn apart Europe get back on track. The promises he made to Italy, were never kept, and many other things Lloyd George said was just talk. This could come across in certain ways the Britain and the Ally's were responsible for starting the war as they could see the advantage of beating Germany and gain benefits by punishing Germany to an extreme limit so Britain could gain a lot more power in Europe.

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My opinion on who was responsible for the outbreak of the war seems to be the same as most peoples however I can also say that Austria-Hungry played a big role in the outbreak of the war. Germany was led by extremely nationalistic powers and their views of European dominance could come across as to extreme. Austria-Hungry were the first to declare war and could have dealt with the assassination of Ferdinand in another way opposed to declaration of war, as there was no evidence that The Black Hand was linked to the Serbian Government; if it was then it would be a different story. So I can conclude that Germany and Austria-Hungry were the ones held responsible for the outbreak of the "Great War"