Causes of World War I

A filled Cornell notes example for history

Course	Unit	Date	Name
History	Europe 1900 to 1918	[Date]	[Name]

Cues and Questions	Notes
What does MAIN stand for?	Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, Nationalism: the four long-term causes.
Which alliances faced each other?	Triple Entente: France, Russia, Britain. Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy.
What was the spark?	Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914.
How did a local crisis spread?	Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 28 July 1914. Germany declared war on Russia on 1 August and on France on 3 August.
Why did Britain join?	Germany invaded Belgium on the way to France. Britain declared war on 4 August 1914.
Role of militarism	An arms race, including the naval race between Britain and Germany, and war plans built for speed.
Role of nationalism	Rivalries between the great powers, and Slavic nationalism in the Balkans that alarmed Austria-Hungary.

Summary

Long-term tensions from militarism, alliances, imperialism and nationalism meant one assassination in Sarajevo turned into a general war within weeks. The alliance system pulled the great powers in one after another, and the invasion of Belgium brought Britain into the war on 4 August 1914.

Review Questions

1. Which event started the July Crisis, and where did it happen?
2. Which countries made up the Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance?
3. Why did the German invasion of Belgium bring Britain into the war?

Example page written for this guide. Turn each cue into a question you could be asked in an exam.