

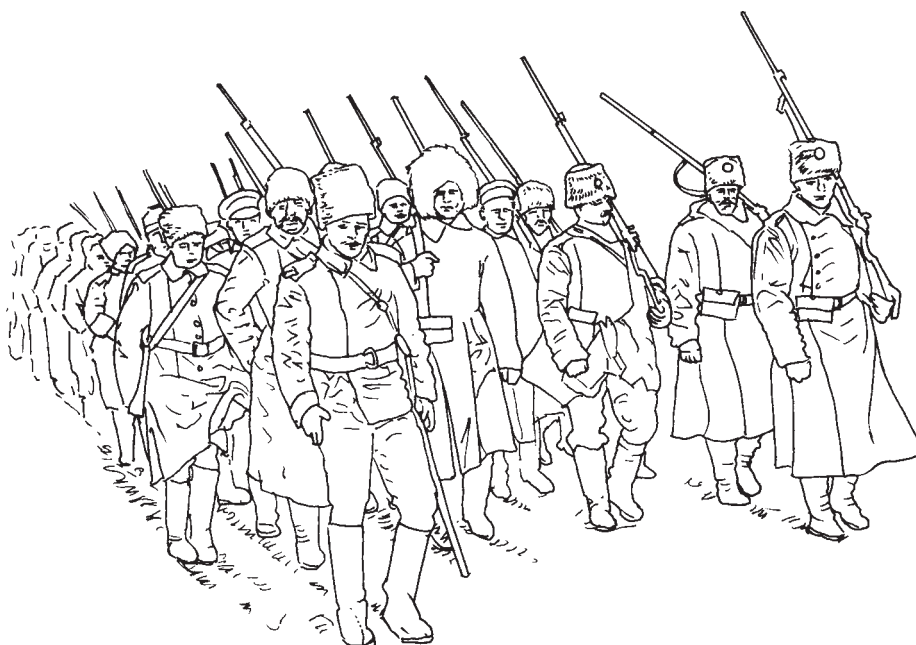
Secret instructions: Russia

Points to remember:

- 1 You are determined to protect the independence of Serbia. You will do almost anything to protect her. Ordinary people in Russia feel a deep friendship for the Serbs, who are of the same religion as they are.
- 2 Even so, you were shocked by the Sarajevo assassinations like everyone else. After all, you don't approve of royal assassinations – your Tsar Nicholas II might be the next one. (Nicholas needs no reminding – he saw his grandfather, Alexander II, murdered in 1881.) It seems pretty clear that Serbian government officials were involved, so you should advise the Serbs to apologise for this, at least.
- 3 If Austria-Hungary wants to go to war with Serbia, she will mobilise her Southern Army. This army could also be used against you. She might intend to attack Serbia, or you, or she could be bluffing. How can you be sure? What should you do to find out?
- 4 The last war you fought was in 1904 against Japan. It was a disaster. The Japanese defeated you easily, and it led to an attempt at revolution at home.
- 5 You have three armies (look at your map). If you are attempting to threaten, or bluff, Austria-Hungary, you only need to mobilise your Southern Army. But if you think that Austria-Hungary might really be about to attack you, you will need to mobilise your Central Army as well. But this army also threatens Germany, so you would need to reassure the Germans if you did.
- 6 If someone threatens you with war, be prepared to back down – after the war with Japan, you know that Russia is not really ready for war. On the other hand, you will lose face if you back down too often. In any war, you will need French and British support. You must check that you have got it before doing anything final.



Tsar Nicholas II



Russian army

Secret instructions: Serbia

Points to remember:

- 1 You know that members of your government were involved in the Sarajevo assassinations.
- 2 All Europe is shocked by what happened in Sarajevo. No one, not even Russia, will support you if you do not grovel to Austria-Hungary. This means that you will have to accept whatever she may demand as a result of the assassinations.
- 3 There are two things, though, which you must refuse if the Austrians demand them:
 - i That guilty Serbs should be tried in an Austrian court.
 - ii That Austrian officials or police should be allowed to carry out their investigations in Serbia.

If you were to agree to these two demands it would amount to accepting that from now on Serbia was a part of Austria-Hungary.

- 4 If these demands are made, you should refuse them and appeal to Russia for help.
- 5 Do not try to attack Austria-Hungary, even if you have Russian support. The Austrians would crush you long before the Russians were ready.
- 6 If you are attacked, defend yourself. Try to get British and French support – they are allies of Russia.

Secret instructions: Austria-Hungary

Points to remember:

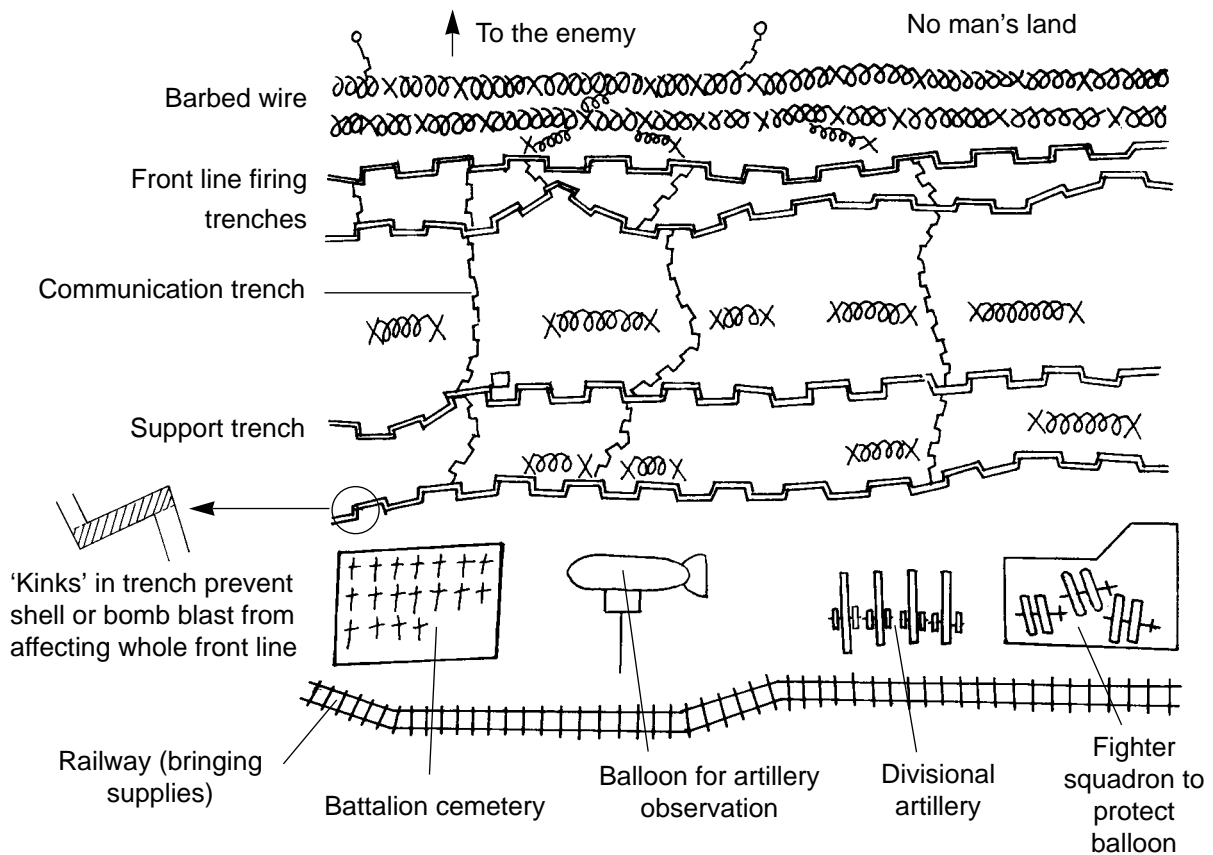
- 1 You are determined to use the Sarajevo assassinations to crush Serbia once and for all. You can do this by making a number of demands: at the very least, she should apologise to you. For once you will have international opinion on your side.
- 2 If you leave it to Serbia to try the guilty men, they will certainly get off. You must demand that they face trial in an Austrian court. You also cannot trust the Serbian police to hunt for the people behind the assassination. After all, if the Serbian government was involved, how can you trust their police? Insist that Austrian police go into Serbia to hunt for the guilty.
- 3 Serbia will kick up a fuss about this. If she gets out of these demands, the guilty men will get away and you will look a fool. You **must** insist that Serbia agrees to these demands, come what may.
- 4 Russia will stand behind Serbia. You cannot hope to fight Russia alone. Before you do anything that might annoy the Russians, therefore, make sure that you have Germany's support.
- 5 Germany sees herself as the major power in the Triple Alliance. You would like to show that you can take care of yourself. If Russia or Serbia suspect for a moment that you are afraid to act without Germany's help, they will never give you a moment's rest. So you must remember that you need Germany's help, but at the same time you should act as if you don't.

The Western Front: Trench Warfare

After a few weeks of heavy fighting, trenches appeared on all the fronts in Europe. Although they differed in certain respects – trench warfare in eastern Europe was not quite as extensive it was in France and Belgium – there were many similarities in the type of trench system that emerged. This was because trench warfare was caused by the same things, regardless of where it developed.



Look at the following diagrams and answer the questions.



Source 1: Bird's-eye diagram of a trench system

Questions

Look at Source 1.

- 1 How were the enemy prevented from getting close to the front-line trench?
- 2 Suggest ways in which soldiers could be helped to find their way from one part of the trench system to another.
- 3 Explain clearly in your own words why trenches were not dug in straight lines.

Unit 4: The Origins of the Second World War

National Curriculum Key Elements

2 Analysis of a range of ideas, beliefs and attitudes (a)

Activities

The purpose of this unit is to allow students to understand that there was a range of differing opinions about international and domestic affairs during the 1930s.

One aim of the exercise (**Student sheet 9**, pages 22 and 23) is to encourage students to avoid approaching this period with stereotypical assumptions about different countries. Anti-Semitism, for example, was rife in countries other than Germany; and there are other examples of views which one might not necessarily expect.

Student sheet 10 (page 24) can be used to show the expansion of Germany between 1935 and July 1939.

Follow-up work

There are a number of ways in which this exercise could be satisfactorily followed-up. A research homework might be set, in which students are asked to use textbooks and other sources of information in order to discover just how prevalent some of these views were and why. We all know, for example, that many Americans favoured isolationism in the 1930s; was this view justified and can students find any actual examples of it? For example, Charles Lindbergh, the trans-Atlantic flyer, or Senator William Borah of Idaho.

A small-scale role-play might be conducted in which the students use the opinions on **Student sheet 9** as role-slips to play the different characters. Each character would need to be given time to 'flesh-out' their role and to adduce additional arguments for supporting the opinions they hold. The rest of the class would then be invited to ask the characters questions. You might wish to encourage this by suggesting some of the more obvious questions to the class, ie:

- Why did the French and British characters seem to have drawn such different conclusions from the First World War compared to the Germans?
- What is the difference between the opinions expressed by the German characters, and how might they be accounted for?
- Why might a Soviet citizen in the 1930s feel obliged to express some of the views expressed by that character?

At the end of the questioning, students might be encouraged to embark on a piece of writing, commensurate with their ability, in which they describe and account for some of the opinions on domestic and foreign policy in the 1930s held in different parts of the world.