

Causes of War

An analysis of a Swedish popular history magazine

What caused World War I? This important question can be answered in different ways. Peter Englund's text "[World War I – an inevitable disaster?](#)" has been selected for close analysis to illustrate the complexity of historiography.

Study questions

- 1 **According to the text, what caused World War I? Please describe several possible factors.**
- 2 **Create a timeline with the central events described in the text leading to World War I.**
- 3 **What factors do you consider most important for the outbreak of World War I? Discuss different alternative explanations, take a stand and motivate your conclusion.**
Was the First World War inevitable?
- 4 **a. Analyze the arguments in the text and make a conclusion on whether World War I could have been avoided.**
b. Compare your conclusion with a classmate, do you agree? Why, why not?
- 5 **How is it possible that France and Russia were part of the same Alliance after the Napoleonic wars?**