



Did public opinion drag Britain into war?

July 1914 was a tense and difficult period in Europe. Frantic messages were sent between the governments of the great powers, including Britain and Germany. In one of these messages, the British Foreign Secretary said that if Germany invaded Belgium, 'it would be extremely difficult to restrain public feeling in this country'.

In this case study you are going to look at public opinion in 1914 and see whether you think public opinion took Britain into war.

You will probably find it helpful to study the [Background](#) before you start looking at the sources.

Use the [Worksheet](#) as you look through the sources.

Sources



Resolutions of
Labour Party
branches, 1914



Diary of a factory
worker, September
1914



Photographs of
volunteers, 1915



Extract from 'War
Against War', 1914



Posters on
recruitment,
September 1914



Note on recruitment,
December 1914