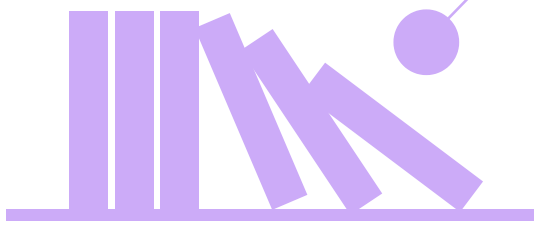# Cause & Consequence

1 What are Causes?

When we are thinking about an event in history, we are often looking for reasons to explain why the event happened - the reasons are what we call causes.

When we are trying to work out why an event happened, we find that there is usually *more than one* cause. There could be a range of causes. These causes can be, and often are, *interlinked*.

Not all causes are equal - some causes might be more important of influential than others. Causes can play different roles in why an event happened.

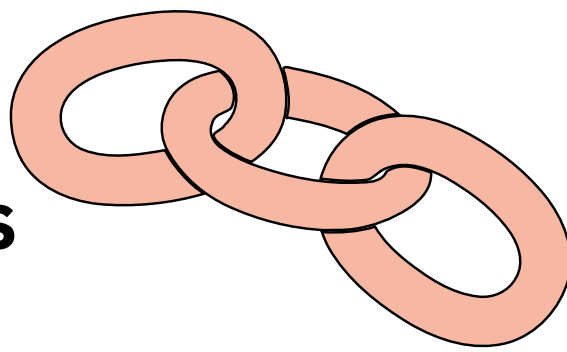*Causes are reasons that are directly linked to an event.*

2 What are consequences?

Consequences are the results or impacts of an historical event. *They are a direct result of an event.* They can be unintended or intended.

An historical event can have more than one consequence. *There can be a number of consequences* and these can be interlinked.

3 Links

Causes and consequences can be directly linked - *cause and effect*. It's helpful to be able to identify and explain the *relationship between the two.*
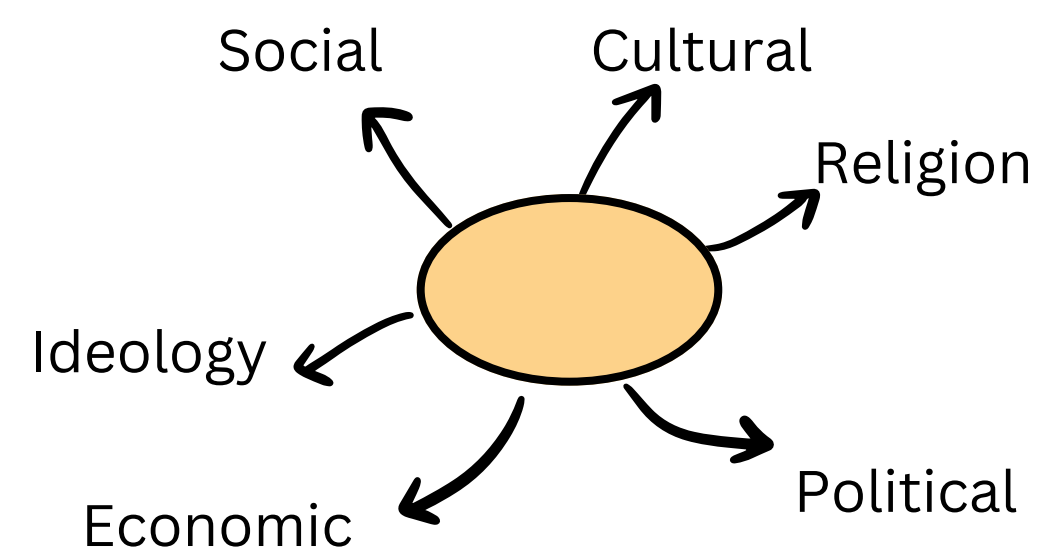
Recognise the relationships between key people, sets of circumstances, other events and developments.

4 Factors

You can put causes and consequences in different categories.

We sometimes call these factors. Here are some examples:

Social · Cultural · Religion · Political · Economic · Ideology

6 Useful phrases when writing about cause and consequences…

- Contributed…
- Sparked…
- Influenced…
- Brought about…
- This meant that…
- This led to…
- As a result of…
- Consequently…
- These are linked because
- In comparison with…
- Without X, Y would not have happened because…
- The most important reason for X was Y because…

5 Time

It's often useful to think about causes and consequences in terms of *short, medium and long term.*

There can be *short term* causes that lead up to a key event, for example someone's personal motivation, actions prior to the event.

Likewise, *long term* causes can contribute reasons as to why an event happens, for example long-held ideas or government policies.

The same applies when thinking about consequences. There can be immediate effects of an event. An event could also bring about long-term change with a lasting impact.

It's also important to remember causes and consequences aren't always linear or occur in isolation - they often *overlap* or occur at the same time.