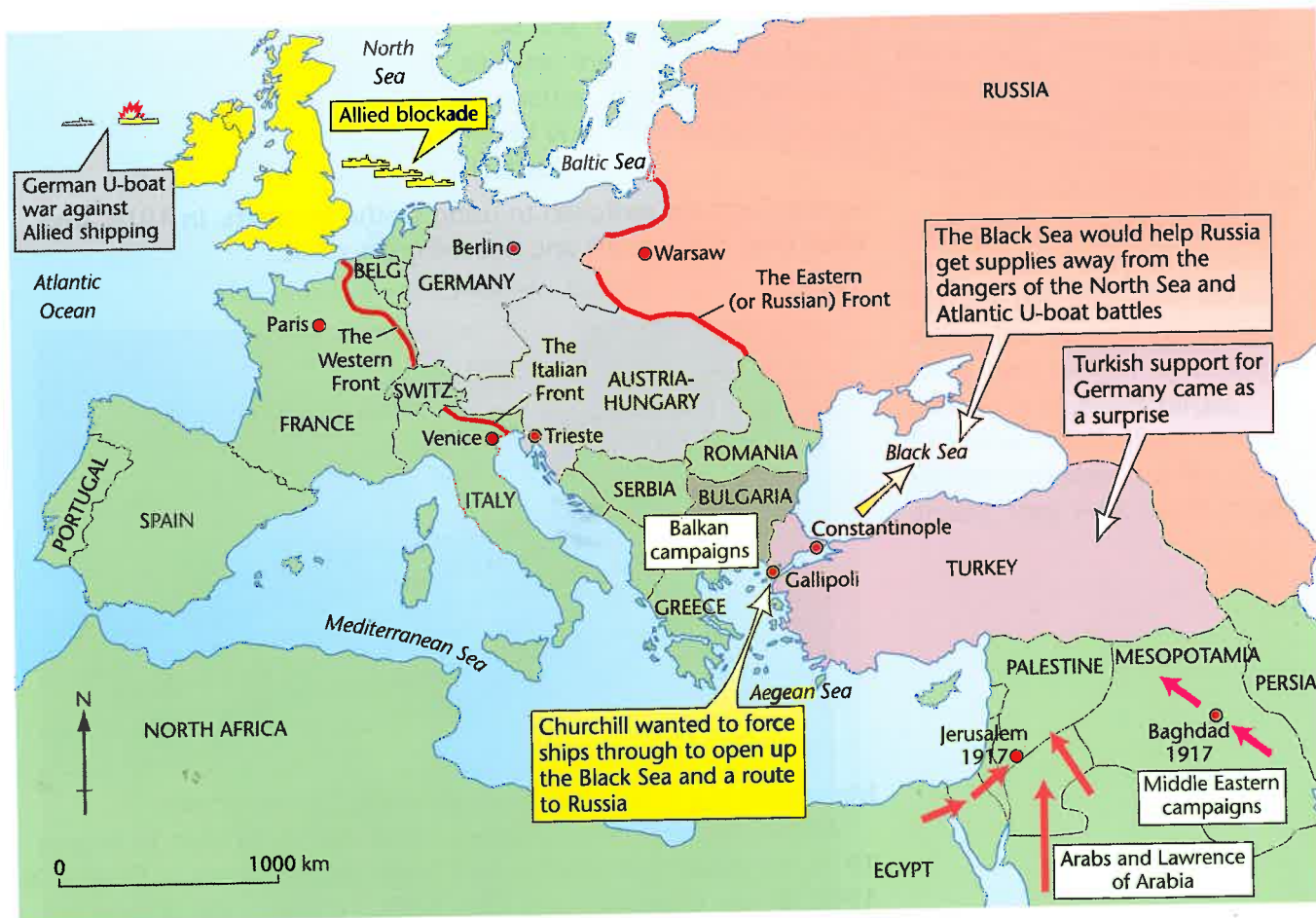


THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

In October 1914, Turkey joined the war on the side of the Central Powers. In the following year the British launched a campaign on the peninsula of Gallipoli in an attempt to knock the Turks out of the war.



Why was the campaign launched?

The plan was the idea of the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill.

- By early 1915 Russia desperately needed help from Britain and France. The only real possibility was through a narrow stretch of sea, the Dardanelles, then the Sea of Marmara, both controlled by the Turks, into the Black Sea.
- The British hoped that the Gallipoli campaign would break the stalemate on the Western Front. They would capture Constantinople, the capital of Turkey and knock Turkey out of the war. This, in turn, would encourage the neutral countries close to Turkey, such as Greece, Romania and Bulgaria, to join the Allied side. They would attack and defeat Austria and leave Germany isolated and unable to continue the war.