

Aim #20: Why & How did WWI Begin?



“The Associated Press ranked World War I as the 8th most important event of the 20th century. In fact, almost everything that subsequently happened occurred because of World War I: the Great Depression, World War II, the Holocaust, the Cold War, and the collapse of empires. No event better underscores the utter unpredictability of the future.

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraid=12&smtid=1>

WWI Introduction: [Bet You Didn't Know: World War I | History](#) (0:00-1:53)
[History Channel Video on WWI](#)

Immediate Cause



HEIR TO AUSTRIA'S THRONE IS SLAIN WITH HIS WIFE BY A BOSNIAN YOUTH TO AVENGE SEIZURE OF HIS COUNTRY

Francis Ferdinand Shot During State Visit to Sarajevo

TWO ATTACKS IN A DAY
Archduke Saves His Life First Time by Knocking Aside a Bomb Hurler at Auto.
SLAIN IN SECOND ATTEMPT

SERVIA GETS SHARP AUSTRIAN WARNING

Must Answer in 48 Hours Regarding Her Part in Archduke's Murder.

TROOPS READY TO MOVE

Ultimatum Is Approved as Means of Stamping Out Anti-Austrian Plots.





Militarism



Alliances

Imperialism



Nationalism

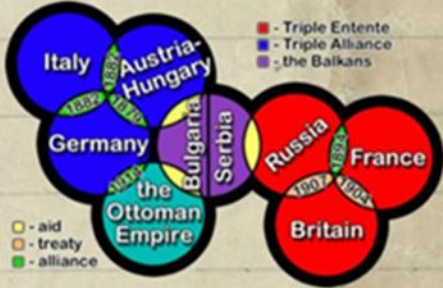


M.A.I.N Causes of WW1



Alliances

Countries signed treaties in which all countries involved promised to defend any 1 country involved that they would help. Countries promised to help each other.



Militarism

When a nation's army takes over a country's government. Every country wanted their army to be the most powerful.



Nationalism

The policy stating one nation can be viewed as separate from the interests of other nations or the common interests of all nations. Most nations had pride and they thought that all other nations should be run like theirs.

Imperialism

Some countries overpowered others by economic, political, and cultural means. From the industrial revolution in the 1800's, some European nations had a large control of other countries in the war.



There were four **MAIN** long-term causes of World War I.

Definition

MMILITARISM

Militarism is the **belief** that a country should have a **strong military force** and be prepared to **use it to aggressively promote its interests**.

ALLIANCES

Alliances are **agreements between nations** stating that each country will assist the other if they are attacked.

IMPERIALISM

Imperialism is the act of extending control over a foreign nation or territory.

NNATIONALISM

Nationalism is pride in one's nation and the accompanied development of patriotic feelings, shared histories, and efforts to protect national interests.

M.A.N.I.A.

Militarism: Building of weapons and army.

Alliances: Triple Entente and Triple Alliance.

Nationalism: Pride and strength in a country.

Imperialism: Competition for oversea colonies.

Assassination: Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand (1914)



Long Term Causes

- **Militarism**



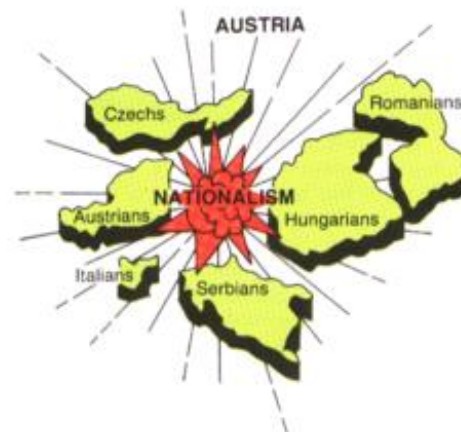
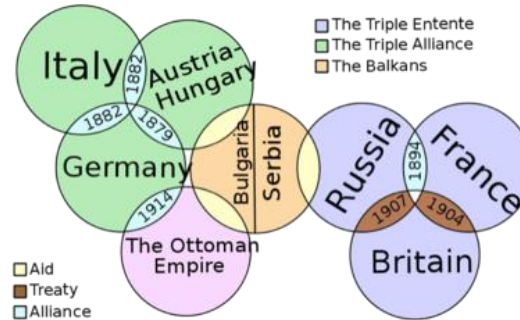
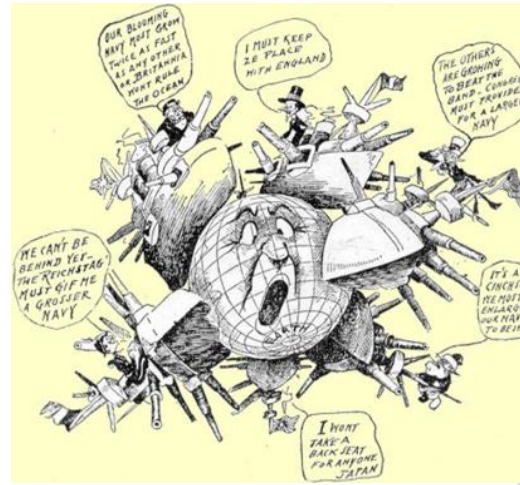
- **Alliances**



- **Imperialism**



- **Nationalism**



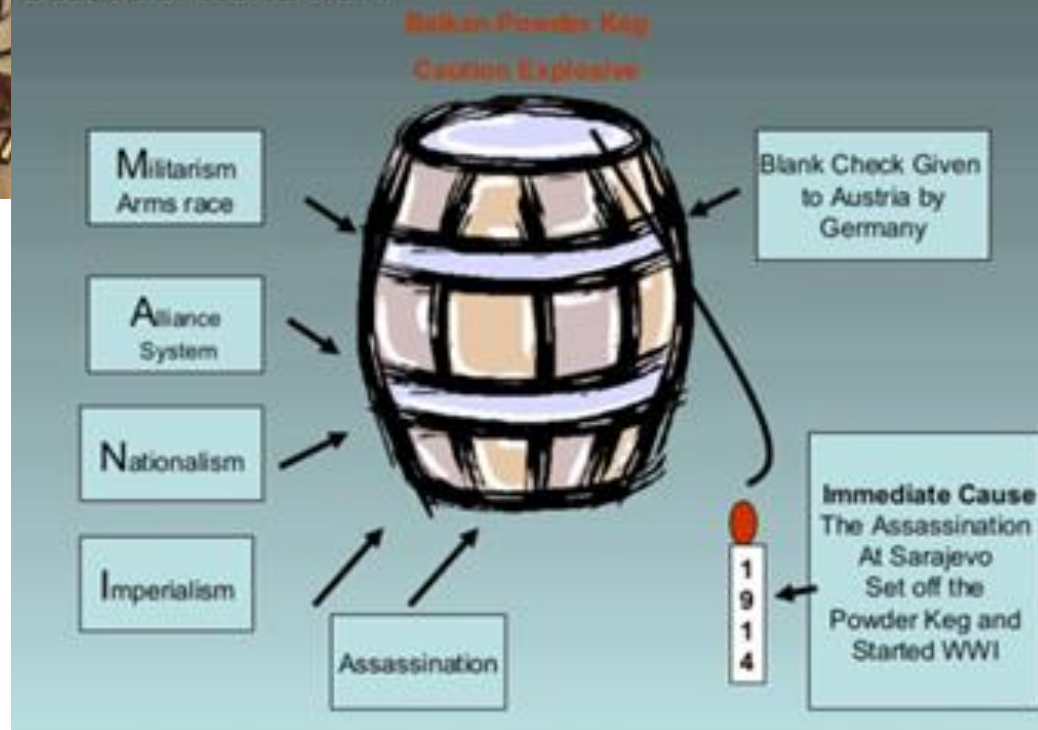
Balkans- “Powder Keg of Europe”



The assassination of Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand was the immediate, short-range spark that triggered the war.



Causes of World War I



Assassination



Outbreak of WWI- A Chain Reaction

1. Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for assassination & made harsh demands in Serbia

2. Serbia refused to comply with demands

3. Austria-Hungary declared war on July 28

4. Russia, a Slavic nation & friend of Serbia backed Serbia

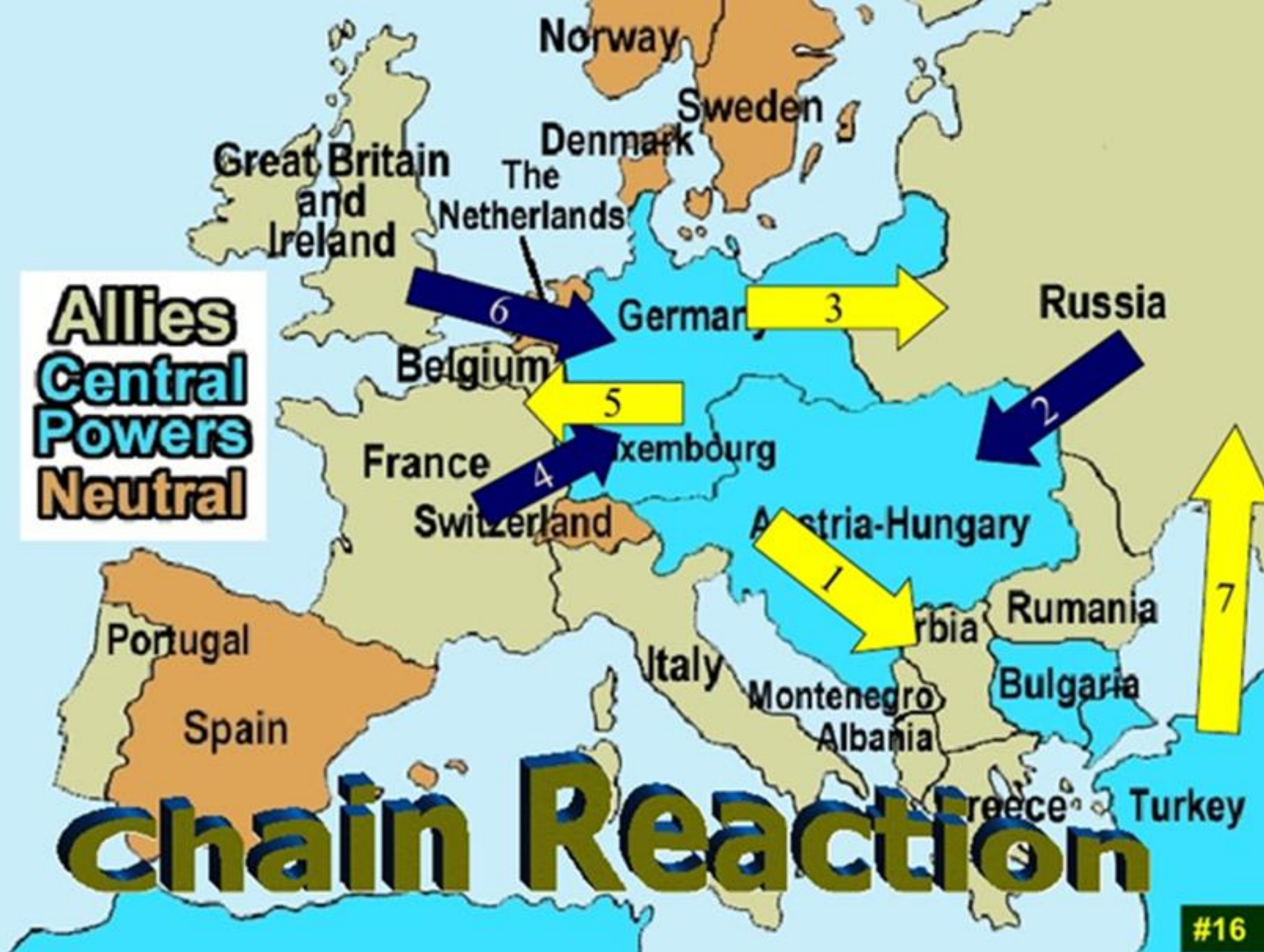
5. Germany, ally of Austria-Hungary, declared war on Russia

6. Germany declared war on France, ally of Russia

7. Germany invaded Belgium on August 3, so that Germans can enter France more easily

8. Great Britain declared war on Germany

Allies
Central Powers
Neutral

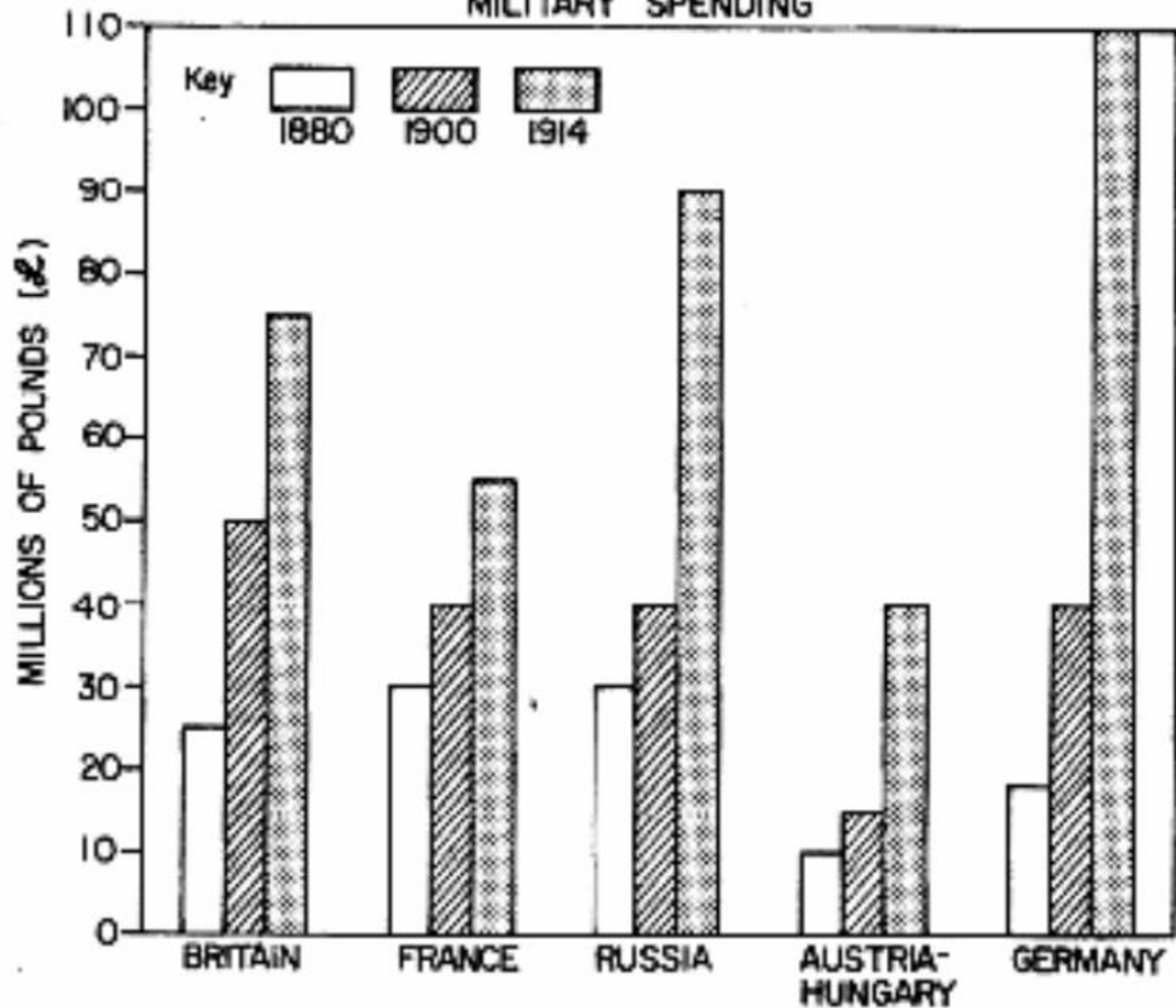




"Α Χαίτη θῆ Φριενδςχιπ" - Βγθθκλγη Σαδλε, ΙΙΧΙΙΥ

Ιῆ Λυσττια αττασκς Σετβια, Ρυσσια ωιλλ φαλλ υρθη Λυσττια,
Γετωναη υρθη Ρυσσια, αηδ Φταησε αηδ Σηδλαηδ υρθη Γετωναη.

MILITARY SPENDING



Defense Estimates of the Great Powers, 1870–1914

(in millions of pounds)

	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
Germany	10.8	20.4	28.8	41.0	64.0	110.8
Austria-Hungary	8.2	13.2	12.8	13.6	17.4	36.4
France	22.0	31.4	37.4	42.4	52.4	57.4
Great Britain	23.4	25.2	31.4	116.0	68.0	76.8
Italy	7.8	10.0	14.8	14.6	24.4	28.2
Russia	22.0	29.6	29.0	40.8	63.4	88.2

Source: A.J.P. Taylor, *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe: 1848–1918*, Oxford University Press (adapted)

Causes of WWI

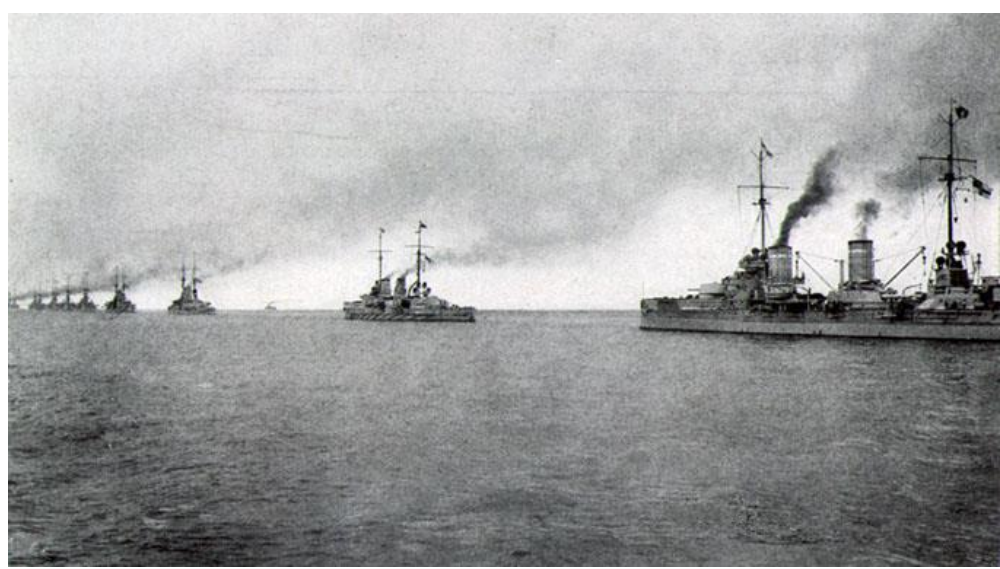
Directions: Use the information on the following pages to fill in the graphic organizer below.

Cause of WWI	Definition	How did this cause contribute to the start of World War I?
M Militarism	What is militarism ?	
A Alliances	What is an alliance ?	
N Nationalism	What is nationalism ?	
I Imperialism	What is imperialism ?	
A Assassination	What does assassination mean?	

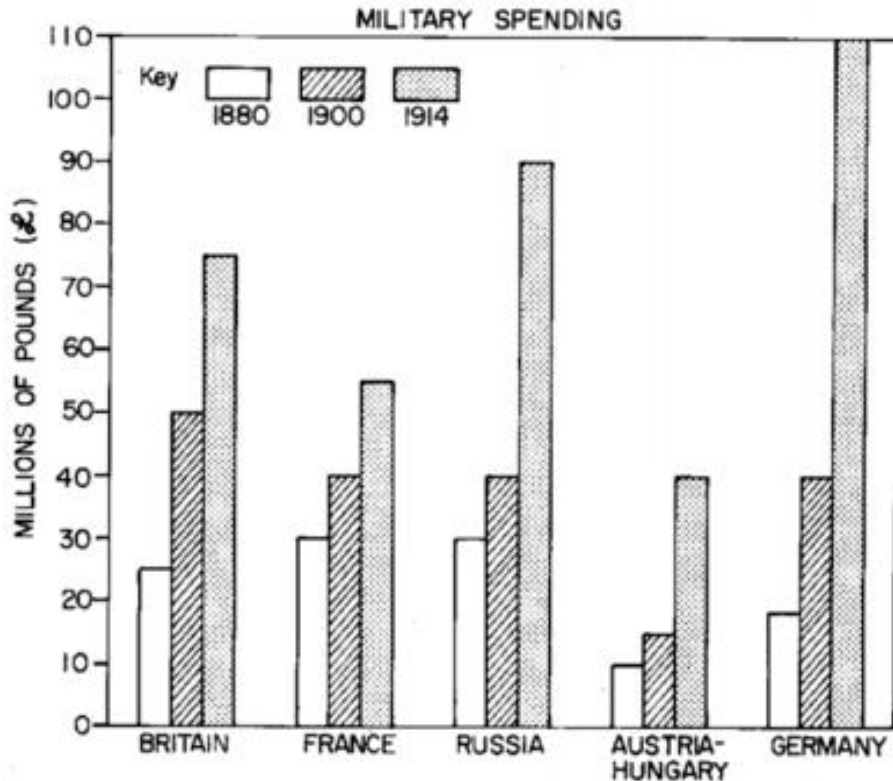
Militarism

▶ [Causes of WW1: Militarism](#)

Militarism is the belief that a country should have a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote its interests. Leading up to World War I, imperial countries in Europe were strong proponents of militarism. They spent more and more money on military technology, employing more troops, and training their soldiers. They found that to gain colonies it helped to be militarily superior to the people they colonized and the other industrialized countries they were competing with. As tensions in Europe increased leading up to 1914, European countries raised and prepared large armies, navies, and airforces to protect their homelands.



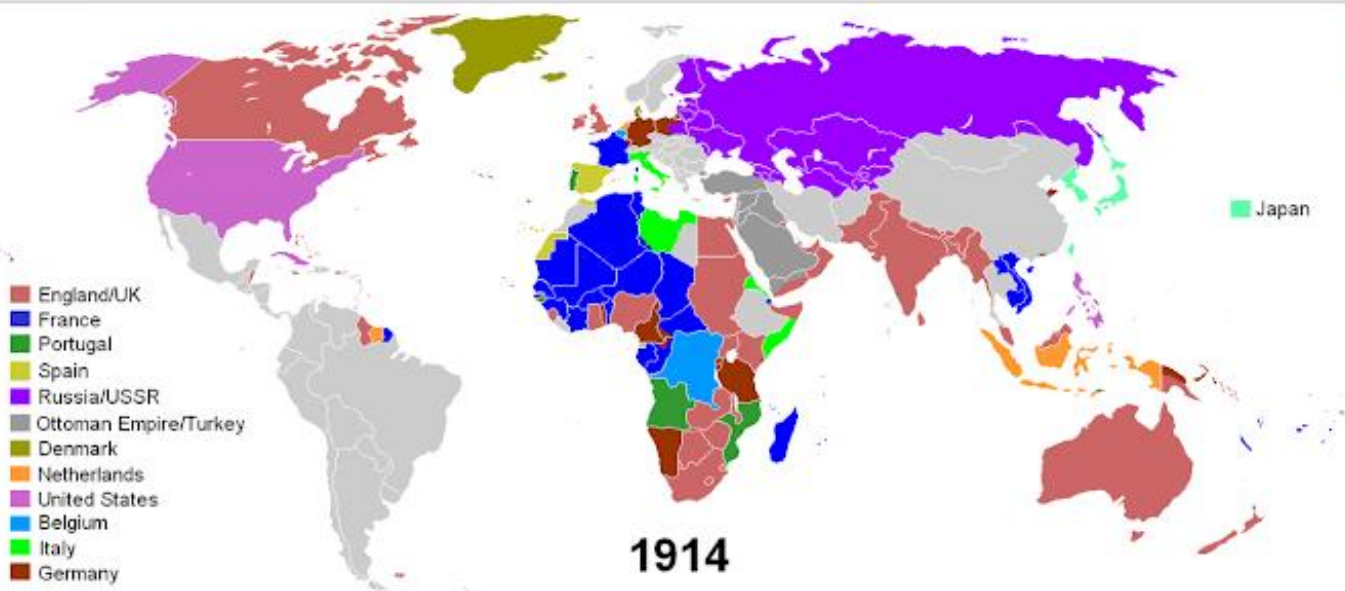
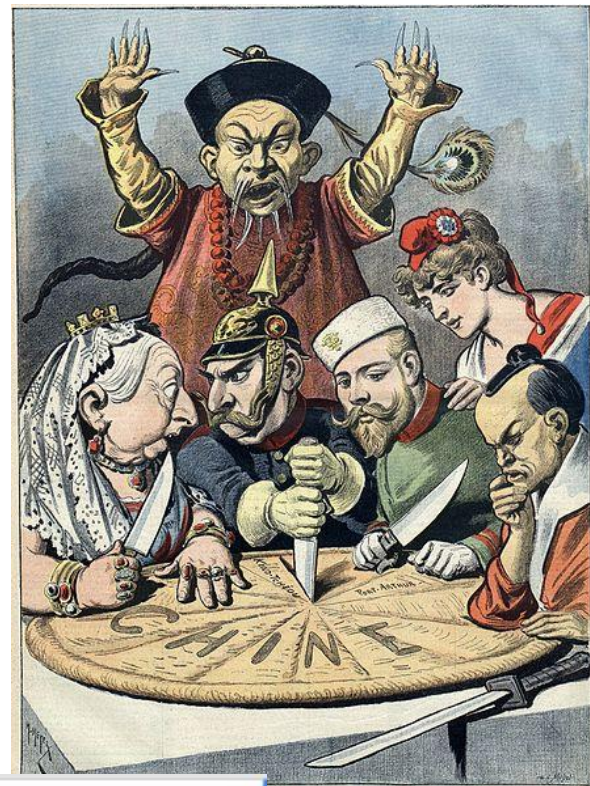
A battleship squadron of the German High Seas Fleet; the far right vessel is a member of the *Kaiser class*. 1917.



German planes used in WWI, March 1917

Imperialism

European countries competed with each other all over the world in the 1800s and early 1900s. They fought one another at sea and used treaty negotiations to claim colonies and spheres of influence in Africa and Asia. The search for raw materials to fuel industry and markets to buy goods in far-flung corners of the world led to increased tension in Europe.

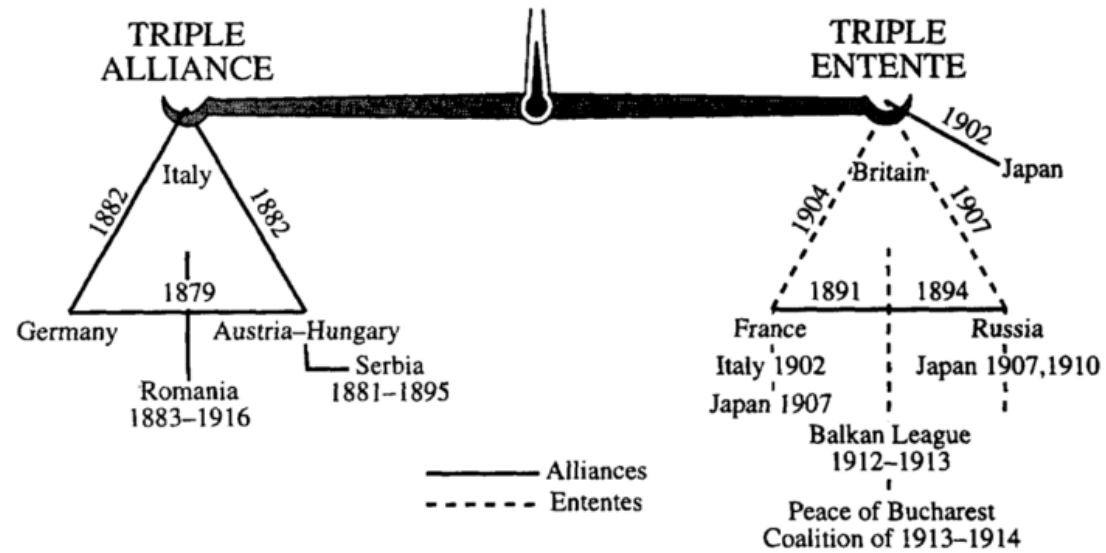


Alliances

To increase their own nations' security, European powers signed treaties with one another forming alliances.

Alliances are agreements between nations stating that each country will assist the other if they are attacked. On the verge of World War I, there were two large alliances.

One alliance was called the Triple Entente (French for alliance), sometimes called the "Allied Powers" and it consisted of the United Kingdom (Great Britain), France, and Russia. In addition, Russia was allied with some Slavic countries in the area of Europe known as the Balkans including Serbia. The other was called the Triple Alliance and is sometimes referred to as the "Central Powers" these included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. As the war continued, the Ottoman Empire joined this group and Italy left this alliance to join the other Triple Entente.



[▶ Causes of WW1: Alliances](#)

Nationalism

In the 1700s and 1800s, nationalism brought revolution and unification to Europe. Groups of people with common languages, histories, and cultures like the Italians and Germans fought to create their own countries out of older empires. Leading up to the World War I, people in Europe started to define themselves based on their nation and in opposition to others. Pride in one's country was at an all time high. Some ethnic groups that wanted to unify but were a part of the few empires left in Europe, like the Austrian Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire, created tension by declaring their desire to rule themselves.

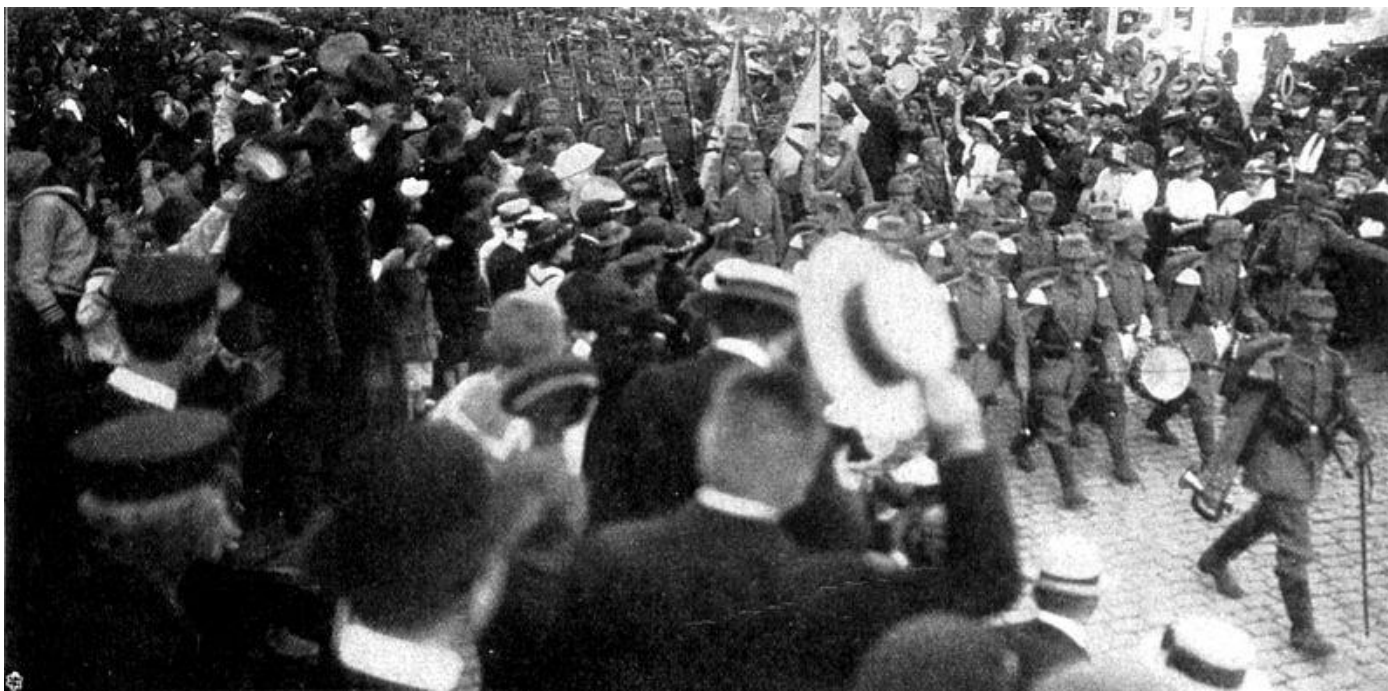


[Nationalism and WWI | History Channel](#)



Source: Fairchild Memorial Gallery, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University

British poster encouraging young men to enlist in the army to defend their country.



German soldiers being cheered in Lubeck during their advance to the front lines in 1914 during World War I. The concept of the "Spirit of 1914" by Johann Plenge identified the outbreak of war as forging national solidarity of Germans.

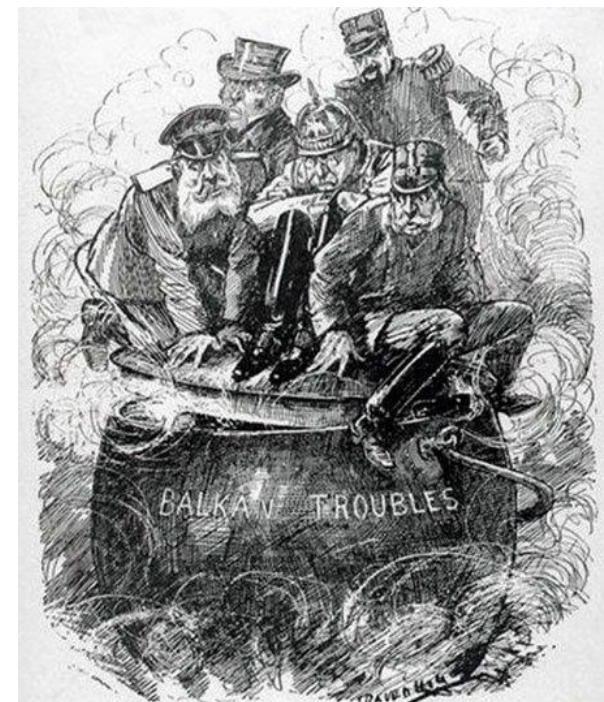
Assassination in the Balkans

The Balkans- the Powder Keg of Europe

In 1914, the Balkan Peninsula, in southeastern Europe, was a particularly tumultuous region: Formerly under the control of the Ottoman Empire which was declining in Europe, the area was under the influence of two competing powers, Russia and Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary, a large and diverse empire, was starting to lose control of its most nationalistic regions (Germans in Austria, Magyars in Hungary). In the Balkans, one of the most active ethnic groups were the Serbians who were ethnically similar to many Russians and referred to themselves as Slavs, or Slavic people. In 1908, Austria-Hungary annexed the twin Balkan provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This grab for territory and control angered the independent Balkan nation of Serbia – who considered Bosnia a Serb homeland – as well as Slavic Russia.

Upstart Serbia then doubled its territory in back-to-back Balkan wars (1912 and 1913), further threatening Austro-Hungarian supremacy in the region. Meanwhile, Russia had entered into an alliance with France – who were angry over German annexation of their lands in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870-71 – and Great Britain, whose legendary naval dominance was threatened by Germany’s growing navy. This Triple Entente, which squared off against the German-Austro-Hungarian alliance, meant that any regional conflict had the potential to turn into a general European war. As a result, the Balkans were known as the “powder keg” of Europe. A powder keg is a container for gunpowder which can erupt if there is a spark.

The Balkans in 1913



Political cartoon published before WWI.

The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

▶ Watch the [History Channel's Outbreak of WWI](#) video



Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria.



Gavrilo Princip

Declarations of War in Europe After The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Date	Declarer	On
1914		
July 28	Austria-Hungary	Serbia
August 1	Germany	Russia
August 3	Germany	France
August 4	United Kingdom	Germany
August 6	Austria-Hungary	Russia
	Serbia	Germany
August 11	France	Austria-Hungary
August 12	United Kingdom	Austria-Hungary
November 1	Russia	Ottoman Empire
November 2	Serbia	Ottoman Empire
November 5	United Kingdom, France	Ottoman Empire
1915		
May 23	Italy	Austria-Hungary
August 21	Italy	Ottoman Empire
August 27	Italy	Germany

The first page of the edition of the *Domenica del Corriere*, an Italian paper, with a drawing of Achille Beltrame depicting Gavrilo Princip killing Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo. July 12, 1914.