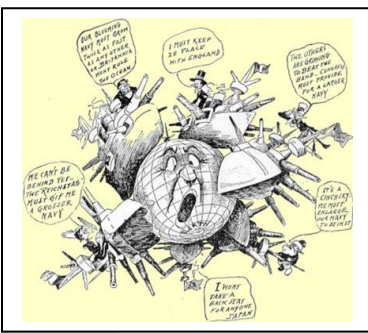
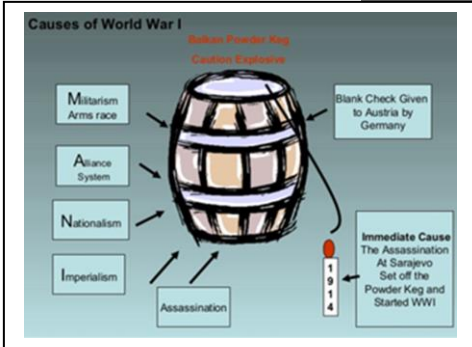


Aim #20: Why and how did World War I begin?

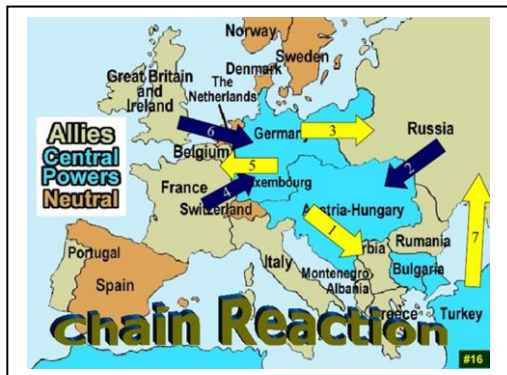
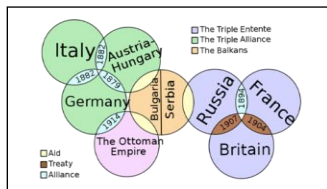


Mini Lecture

- Many interrelated factors led to the **Great War**, a conflict now called **World War I**, a global conflict from 1914-1918. These causes were long-term and short term.
- The specific and immediate incident that ignited WWI occurred on June 28, 1914 when a Serbian nationalist, **Gavrilo Princip**, assassinated the Austro-Hungarian **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** (heir to the throne) & his wife in Sarajevo, **Bosnia** (in the **Balkans**- "**the powder keg of Europe**").
- Austria-Hungary had annexed the Balkan province of Bosnia from the Ottomans in 1908. But Serbia badly wanted the Austrians out of the Balkans altogether.
- Princip was a member of the **Black Hand**, a secret organization committed to uniting Serbians throughout with Serbia proper. From the Austrian perspective, the Black Hand was a terrorist group- one with close connections to the Serbian military.
- Immediately following the assassination, the Austrians sent an ultimatum to the Serbian government: end all anti-Austrian agitation in the Balkans and allow Austrian officials to investigate the assassination in Serbia.
- The Serbian government rejected the **ultimatum**. Next, the Austrians asked their power ally, Germany, to help punish Serbia. Since Serbia was ethnically Slavic, it asked its ally, Russia, for help. Russia's & Germany's involvement changed a small, regional conflict into a large, global war.
- Princip's action led to the start of WWI, but tensions among the powers of Europe had been boiling for decades. These tensions had several long-term causes.
- Defined as "aggressive military preparedness," **militarism** celebrates war as a festive competition (rather than a deadly & serious matter) & the military. European powers had long been competing for dominance and one way to prove their strength was to invest in the military- by recruiting soldiers, building more ships, guns, & other military hardware.
- In their quest for power, European nations also formed secret **alliances** to protect one another when attacked. Countries that had joined these alliances were often sworn enemies of the members of other alliances. When the war started, most of Europe had joined one side or the other:
 - The **Triple Entente** (Allies in WWI) started w/ Britain, France, & Russia, (later U.S., China, Japan, & others joined)
 - The **Triple Alliance** (Central Powers in WWI) included Germany, Austria-Hungary, & Italy (Italy changed sides) & Ottomans joined.
- The alliances system developed because Europeans were bitter rivals for global power, each wanting overseas colonies- **imperialism**.
- The assassination of Archduke reflected the growth of **nationalism**. Multinational empires (Austrian & Ottomans) tried to defeat nationalist movements for independence among their ethnically diverse subject peoples. For example, Serbs & Arabs endured centuries of domination.
- These groups sought **self-determination**, the idea that people of the same ethnicity & culture should be united and should have the right form an independent nation-state. Militant nationalists among Serbs & Arabs fought on the Allies side, thus extending the boundaries of the Great War.
- In addition, nationalism created more tension among European powers because they each thought they were the best.



July, 1914- August, 1915	Feb- Dec, 1916	January, 1917	June, 1919
The nations that make up the two major alliance systems in Europe declare war on one another.	The longest battle of the war, the Battle of Verdun, is fought to a draw with an estimated one million casualties.	A message, now known as the Zimmerman Telegram is sent from the German government to the German ambassador to Mexico authorizing him to promise Mexico a part of the United States that it previously lost if they supported Germany in the war. Many Americans supported the United States entering WWI after the telegram was discovered.	Peace Treaty signed by German delegates and Allies in Versailles, France.
June 28, 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife are assassinated in Sarajevo.	Sept. 15, 1914 The Battle of the Marne, first trenches dug on the Western Front.	July-Nov, 1916 The Battle of the Somme results in an estimated one million casualties and no breakthrough for the Allies.	Dec, 1917 After a revolution led by a group named the Bolsheviks and a man named Vladimir who took over the government, the Russians leave the war by signing an armistice with Germany.
April, 1917 The United States declares war on Germany and joined the British, French, and Russians. By 1918, two million US troops arrived in Europe. The newly fresh troops, supplies, and money from the USA provided the final push needed to defeat the Central Powers.			



Review Questions:

1. What was the short-term or immediate cause of WWI?
2. What were the long-term causes of WWI? Explain how each of the 4 led to tensions which led to WWI.
3. Was WWI inevitable?

Enduring Issue:

Conflict. Cooperation (Alliances) helped cause WWI?

What caused World War I?

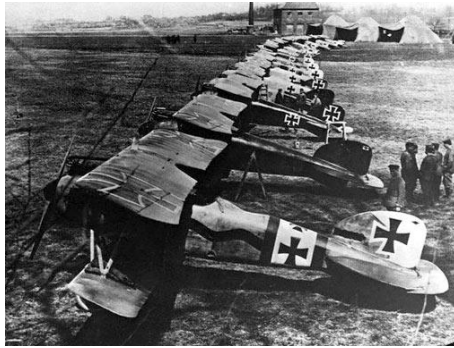
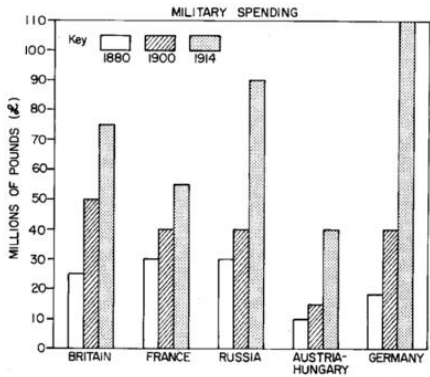
Causes of WWI

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?	

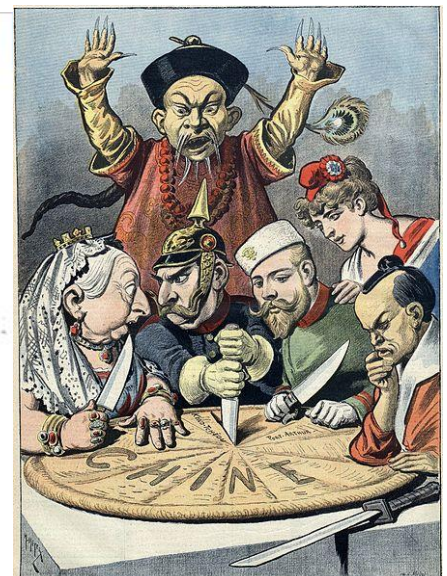
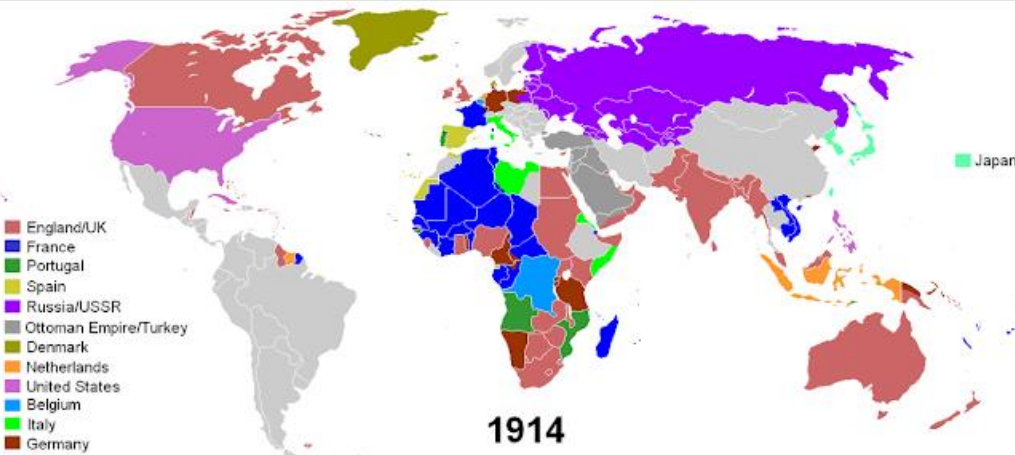
Militarism

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.



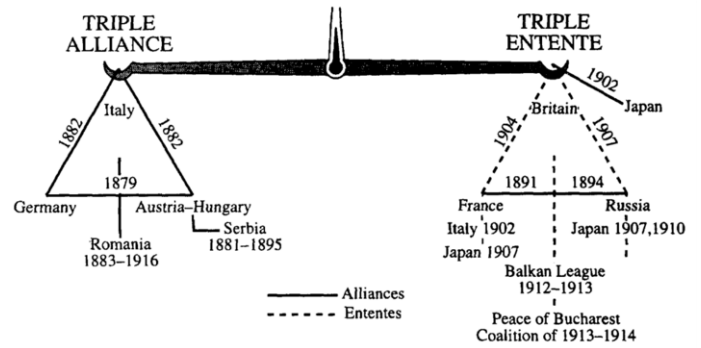
Imperialism

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.



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.

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



Source: Fairchild Memorial Gallery, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University

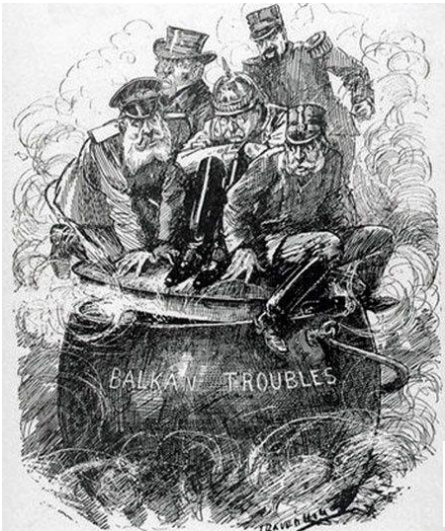


German soldiers being cheered in Lubeck during their advance to the front lines in 1914 during World War I. The concept of the "Spirit of 1914" by Johann Plenge identified the outbreak of war as forging national solidarity of Germans.

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.



Political cartoon published before WWI.



The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

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



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

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



Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria



Gavrilo Princip