



#14 Sec 4 1896-1945 Nationalism and the autonomy of Canada

M-A-I-N Causes of First World War

Considering overarching essential questions for this time period like:

How does government use its power?

And specific sub-questions like:

How could war have been avoided, or what was the single most significant cause that resulted in WW1?

How did political alliances and geographic and cultural factors influence the start and continuation of WW1?

How do individuals experience war, and how do those efforts affect the outcomes of wars?

Why were certain historical events “significant”?



Image source: What were the causes of World War One? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqhyb9g/articles/znhhjrj6>

Image source and more information at: What were the causes of World War One? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqhyb9g/articles/znhhjrj6>



Learning Intentions	Success Criteria	
To indicate the MAIN causes of the First World War	I can indicate the MAIN causes of the First World War	<input type="checkbox"/>

See related document collection under development:

[To describe the measures implemented by the government of Canada during war time.](#)

[To explain the Canadian war effort](#)

[To explain the different points of view on the conscription crisis of 1917](#)

>> General Instructions

The documents below are collected to support basic learning intentions listed in various colours. These learning intentions are drawn directly from the “historical knowledge” and the specific “knowledge to be acquired” in the Québec provincial program. These learning intentions are to be covered in two to three class periods including preparatory reading/viewing and follow up exercises. (i.e. a flipped approach could be used here where the teachers just use these materials to prepare a content overview, video, Powerpoint, etc.). A few sample learning strategies for students to use these documents may be *suggested*.

>> Student Site Page

Visit the main student site page [here](#).

First World War
The M-A-I-N Causes

Questions to ask yourself:
How does government use its power?
Some other sub-questions we will cover:
How could war have been avoided, or what was the single most significant cause that resulted in WWI?
How did political alliances and geographic and cultural factors influence the start and continuation of WWI?
How do individual experience war, and how do those efforts affect the outcome of wars?
Why were certain historical events “significant”?

What you will be able to do:
Indicate the MAIN causes of the First World War



>> Activity Suggestions:

Task 1 - Paraphrase, in your own words, the MAIN causes of the First World War.

A) As a class, watch an overview video to introduce the concepts. Here are a few you can choose from:

- The MAIN causes of the First World War https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da_qaN5g6XM
- The 4 M-A-I-N Causes of World War One in 6 Minutes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRcg_t2oJkc
- M.A.I.N. Causes of WWI. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tletwavDMgM>

B) In groups:

As a group try to write simple 1 to 2 sentence summaries of the four main causes described in the video. Note that there are extra spaces in an organizer for students to come back and add other “causes” if they feel it is necessary

- Each group is distributed a website/article from the list of “M-A-I-N causes - Articles and overviews” provided.
- Each student in the group takes a few minutes to scan through the site, articles and photos on their own.
- As a group, write a summary statement in simple language to describe the meaning of each of the 4 MAIN causes. Discuss and do the same if students feel there should be another cause listed.
-

Task 2: Establish Facts and Explain Causes



Sub-question- **How could war have been avoided, or what was the single most significant cause that resulted in WW1?**

Divide the group into partners or as trios. In the smaller team exam the documents included in this package. Come to an agreement on a “cause” of the war that you both agree is more important than another. Or, in other words, if that cause or situation didn’t exist or wasn’t a factor, could that have allowed the war to be avoided?

Discuss, share and debate with your class.



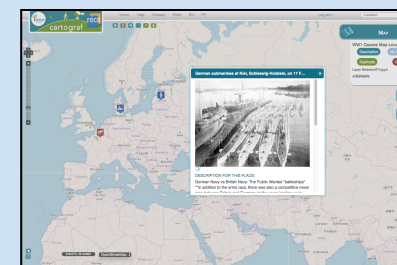
Task 3 : Investigate, then describe and situate Alliances and Key Events



Sub-question - *How did political alliances and geographic and cultural factors influence the start and continuation of WW1?*

Examine documents and online sources, to establish facts and events related to the formation of alliances leading up to World War One. Then on a blank map (use Cartograf or Google My Maps) outline, describe and situate the Alliances that led up to WW1. Also, when appropriate, map and describe key events and people to locations, explaining their significance. For example, students can indicate and describe two or three key Alliances that formed before world war one:

- Use Zones (polygon shapes and lines) to trace countries and/or alliances. In Cartograf there is then a place within each of these items to write descriptions and even to attach images.
- Using Points of Interest to locate, then include descriptions and even appropriate images: Students could identify 5 to 10 key locations, what “significant” event occurred there, and/or who was involved. For each location, students could also explain why they chose to locate their point in that exact spot.



Teachers note that for the map investigations a sample Cartograf map has already been started and already contains certain locations mentioned in our document collections. Indeed, this map also already contains some alliance zones with information. Feel free to duplicate and use that map as a starter map for other activities or for students to copy for this activity. Teachers can of course delete parts that you want them to do on their own.

Task 4: Explain Causes and



Sub-questions- *How could war have been avoided? How did political alliances and geographic and cultural factors influence the start and continuation of WW1?*

Concentrating on the key question suggestion, How does government use its power?, students could write an opinion paper or essay to answer the other two related questions:

How could war have been avoided, or what was the single most significant cause that resulted in WW1?

How did political alliances and geographic and cultural factors influence the start and continuation of WW1?



4 M-A-I-N causes - Articles and overview to read

The M-A-I-N acronym

"The M-A-I-N acronym is often used to analyse the war – militarism, alliances, imperialism and nationalism. It's simplistic but provides a useful framework." Visit source for causes: [The 4 MAIN Causes of World War One | History Hit](#)

"LONG-TERM CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I World War I began in June of 1914, and is considered to have five major causes that led to the outbreak of the war. These five causes include the four long-term causes (militarism, alliances, imperialism and nationalism) discussed in this reading and one short-term cause (the assassination of Franz Ferdinand). The four long-term causes each occurred in the years and decades before the actual outbreak of World War I, and all combined to set the stage for war in 1914. Most people think of these as the **MAIN causes of World War I** as an easy to remember acronym." Visit source for causes: [Long-term Causes of World War I - HISTORY CRUNCH](#)

Variations:

5 Key Causes of World War 1 (5th being Immediate Cause: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand)

"World War I, known as the "war to end all wars," occurred between July 1914 and November 11, 1918. By the end of the war, over 17 million people had been killed, including over 100,000 American troops. [Note: Close to 61,000 Canadians were killed during the war, and another 172,000 were wounded. [Source.](#)] While the causes of the war are infinitely more complicated than a simple timeline of events, and are still debated and discussed to this day, the list below provides an overview of the most frequently-cited events that led to war."

Visit source for causes: [5 Key Causes of World War I](#)

Top 10 Causes of World War 1

On June 28th, 1914, a Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand in the small Balkan city of Sarajevo. Europe had already witnessed a number of high-profile assassinations in the preceding years, assassinations that shocked everyone, but none of which led to a major crisis like this one. This was the incident that sent ripples all across Europe and set off a series of events that led to the Great War, an armed conflict so violent and massive that over 17 million people lost their lives in a period of just over four years. To pinpoint a single assassination as the cause of this war would be historically inaccurate and unfair, for a chain of events prior to and after the incident also played a part. Here is a list of the top 10 causes of the greatest war of the 20th century.

Visit source for causes: [Top 10 Causes of World War 1](#)

World War One: 10 interpretations of who started WW1. For students in History to compare different views for the causes...

Visit source for causes: [World War One: 10 interpretations of who started WW1 - BBC News](#)

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DOCUMENT PAGE # 1



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Militarism

Technologically driven. New weapons

“The pre-1914 armaments race was a product of broader technological forces at work in Europe since the mid-1800s, and that this wave of new technologies and the weapons it spawned were themselves products of a war-oriented culture embedded much more deeply in European history.”

Source: Technological Change and New Weaponry in the Context of European “Militarism” at [Arms Race prior to 1914. Armament Policy | International Encyclopedia of the First World War \(WW1\)](#)



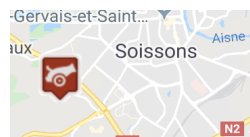
Guns like the Maxim Gun, the Lewis Machine Gun and the Vickers machine gun pictured above, “ would go on to become a mainstay of military forces on both sides of the war, claiming thousands of lives and fundamentally altering the way the armies fought.”

Image via [Wikimedia under Public Domain](#). Text source and more information at [The Deadliest Weapons Of The First World War/ Dec 19, 2017 by Malcolm Higgins](#)



“One of the great revelations of the First World War was the vast destructive power of artillery. Never before had so many guns of such range and power been put into the field. Mechanisation had increased the speed with which they could be brought to bear, allowing storms of destruction to be rained down upon opposing armies. When the Battle of the Marne ended on 15 September 1914, both sides had suffered over a quarter of a million casualties, most of them to artillery fire.”

Source: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com> Image source via [Wikipedia](#) and [Turning the tide in WWI](#)



[View Soissons battle location in Cartograf.](#)





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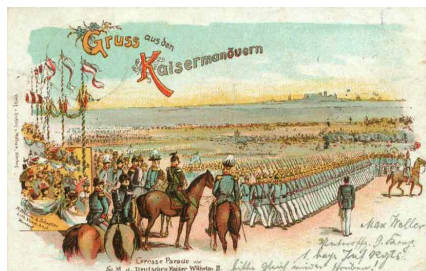
Militarism

Rivals in Europe over strength of armies and navies

"As the world entered the 20th century, an arms race had begun. By 1914, Germany had the greatest increase in military buildup. Great Britain and Germany both greatly increased their navies in this time period. Further, in Germany and Russia particularly, the military establishment began to have a greater influence on public policy. This increase in militarism helped push the countries involved into war."

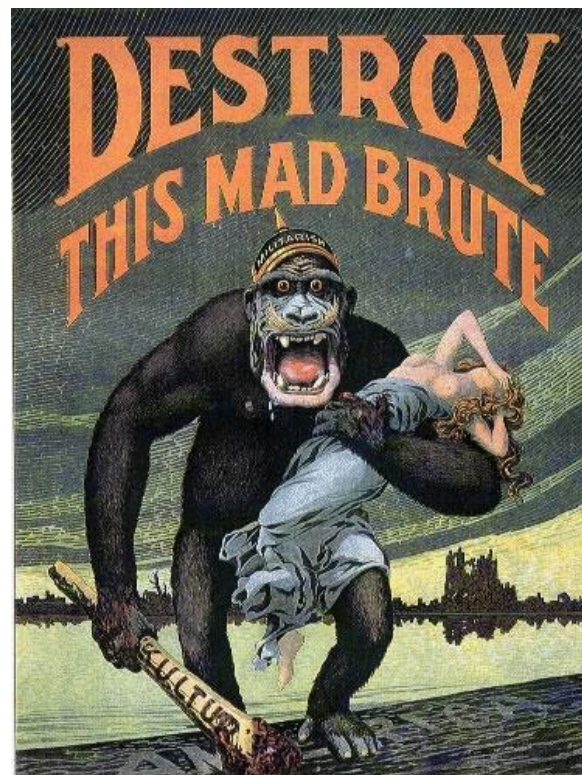
(Source: [WORLD WAR I RESOURCES](#))

"Militarism was an important force in several European nations before World War I. Military leaders had influence over civil governments and placed their interests and priorities first. Generals and admirals even acted as ministers and advisors. They influenced domestic policies and demanded increases in defence and arms spending. This trend led to an arms race, which gave rise to new military technologies. Militarism also shaped national culture, the media and public opinion. The press represented military leaders as heroes while painting rival nations as aggressors." Source: [Militarism as a cause of World War I Facts & Worksheets](#)



"Militaristic sentiment was not unique to Germany, but it garnered greater respect within their society due to the role the military played in establishing the empire. The glorification of Germany's armed forces was clearly manifest on a great deal of their postcards"

Source: Belligerents and Participants in World War One: The German Empire pt1 www.metropostcard.com/



"DESTROY THIS MAD BRUTE" is the caption of this World War I propaganda poster for enlistment in the U.S. Army. A dribbling, ape-like German wielding a club bearing the word "kultur" and wearing a pickelhaube helmet with the word "militarism" is walking onto the shore of America while holding a half-naked woman in his grasp (possibly meant to depict Liberty).[...] While England and France were depicted as "civilization," Germany was shown as a "mad brute"

Source: [Destroy this mad brute via NCPEDIA.org. Public Domain](#)





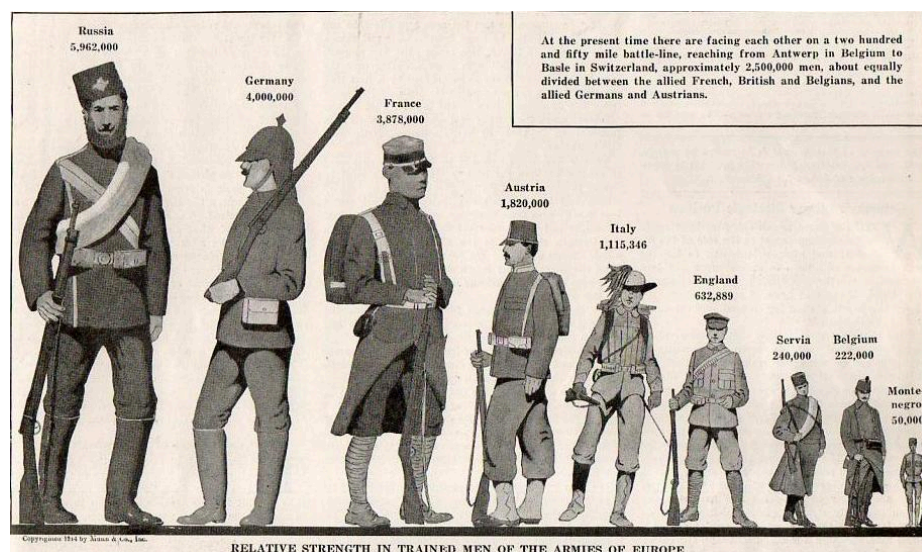
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Militarism

Army sizes: “Forces and resources of the combatant nations in 1914”

“Of all the initial belligerent nations, only Great Britain had a volunteer army, and this was quite small at the start of the war. The other nations had much larger conscript armies that required three to four years of service from able-bodied males of military age, to be followed by several years in reserve formations. Military strength on land was counted in terms of divisions composed of 12,000–20,000 officers and men. Two or more divisions made up an army corps, and two or more corps made up an army. An army could thus comprise anywhere from 50,000 to 250,000 men.”

Source: [World War I - Forces and resources of the combatant nations in 1914](#)



Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/> in public domain in the United States

Land forces of the belligerents, Aug. 4, 1914

	Country	Regular divisions (with number of field armies)	Other land forces	Total manpower
Central Powers	Germany	98 (8)	27 Landwehr brigades	1,900,000
	Austria-Hungary	48 (6)		450,000
Allied Powers	Russia	102 (6)		1,400,000
	France	72 (5)		1,290,000
	Servia	11 (3)		190,000
	Belgium	7 (1)	69,000 fortress troops	186,000
	Great Britain	6 (1)	14 territorial divisions*	120,000

* Restricted in 1914 to service at home

Source: [World War I - Forces and resources of the combatant nations in 1914](#)





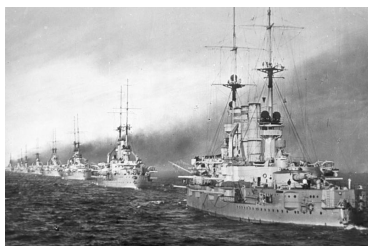
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Militarism - Navy buildup

German Navy vs British Navy: The Public Wanted “battleships”

"In addition to the arms race, there was also a competitive naval race between Britain and Germany in the years leading up to World War I. Britain had the largest navy in the world at the time, which it needed to maintain its vast colonial empire. Germany viewed the British navy as a threat and sought to develop its own navy to match the powerful British navy. Mostly Germany needed a strong navy to challenge British ships in the North Sea. The North Sea was Germany's only coastal access but was difficult for Germany since the North Sea was connected to Britain and the British navy dominated the area. Also related to the naval race was the development of the dreadnought. Britain developed and launched the dreadnought in 1906 which was the first battleship to be developed in the 20th century. The British dreadnought was notable for having larger caliber guns and for being faster on open water than any other earlier battleships. In response, Germany developed its own version of the dreadnought and worked to challenge the power of the British. By the outbreak of war in 1914, Britain had 29 dreadnoughts and Germany had 17."

Source: [LONG-TERM CAUSES OF WORLD WAR at historycrunch.com](http://historycrunch.com) ”



Squadron of German Deutschland class battleships in a long line, ca. 1908 Wikimedia Commons/Bundesarchiv, DVM 10 Bild-23-61-51

License: CC-BY-SA via <http://vimyridgehistory.com/kit-5/foe/german-fleet/> (Archived [here](#))



A fleet of German U-boats ca. 1910

Wikimedia Commons/Bundesarchiv, DVM 10 Bild-23-61-20 / CC-BY-SA
via <http://vimyridgehistory.com/kit-5/foe/german-fleet/> (Archived [here](#))



[Click for Photo location in Cartograf map](#)





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Militarism: *German Kaiser Wilhelm II.....*

Was he determined to be great?

“Early Life of Kaiser Wilhelm, also known as Wilhelm II, was born Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albert in Potsdam, near Berlin, Germany, to Frederick III of Germany and Victoria (the future Empress Frederick), the eldest daughter of England's Queen Victoria, on January 27, 1859. Wilhelm was born with a withered arm. (Some historians believe that his insecurity over this handicap fueled his later erratic behavior.) His parents, particularly his British mother, tried to provide Wilhelm with a liberal education and a love of England. After Wilhelm II's grandfather, Wilhelm I, died in 1888, at the age of 90, Frederick III was named emperor. But Frederick III would only rule for 99 days. Following a long battle with throat cancer, Emperor Frederick III died on June 15, 1888. Wilhelm II succeeded his father, becoming Kaiser of Germany at the tender age of 29. The young kaiser dreamed of building Germany into a major naval, colonial and economic power. Determined to have his own way, he forced Chancellor Otto von Bismarck to resign in 1890, and took charge of domestic and foreign policy himself. A series of inept political moves and Kaiser Wilhelm's fear of being encircled by enemy states strained Germany's relations with Britain, France and Russia—moves that helped lead to World War I.”

Source: [Kaiser Wilhelm - Facts, WWI & Death - Biography](#)



Kaiser Wilhelm II inspects the German troops. Riga. Esplanade. 1917

Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/> under Public Domain



[Photo location in Cartograf map](#)





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Cause: Alliances forming:

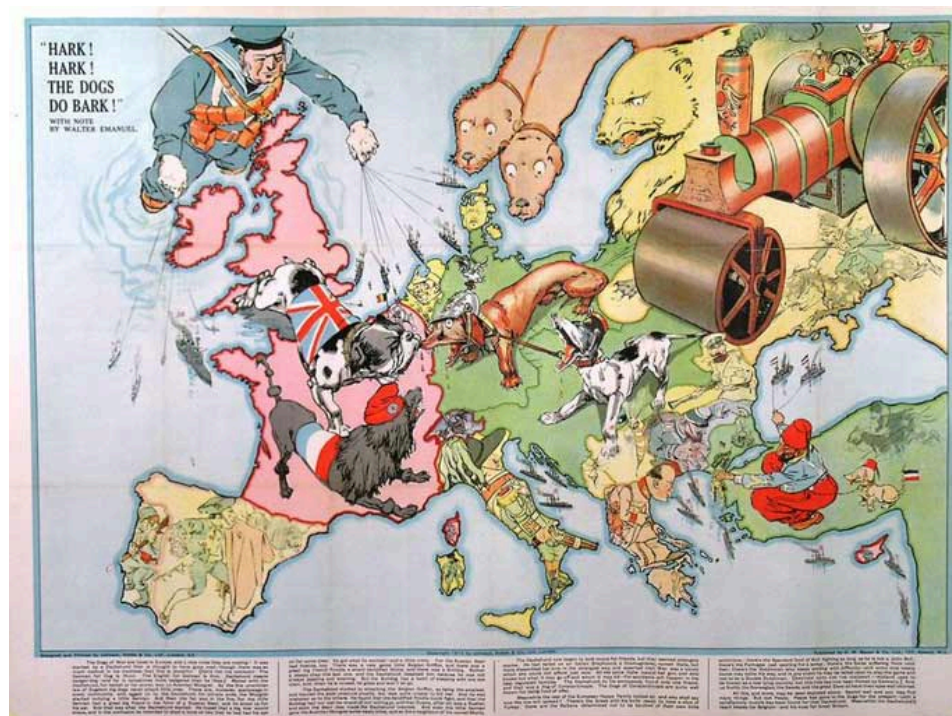
“There are a number of European alliances that contributed to the broad scope of World War I. Prominent among these are:

- the 1839 Treaty of London, which promised that the United Kingdom would protect Belgium's neutrality,
- the 1879 Dual Alliance treaty between Germany and Austria-Hungary to protect each other in the event of Russian attack,
- the 1892 Franco-Russian Military Convention that promised mutual assistance in the face of attack,
- the Triple Entente linking the United Kingdom and France (and later Italy),
- and the Triple Alliance linking Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy (at first).”



Source and video at: [Alliances leading to World War I \(video\) | Khan Academy](#)

See also interactive map at [Entente Cordiale | Historical Atlas of Europe \(8 April 1904\) | Omniatlas](#)



Source and larger version at:
A British cartoon of Europe in 1914.
via [The 4 M-A-I-N Causes of World War One | History Hit](#)



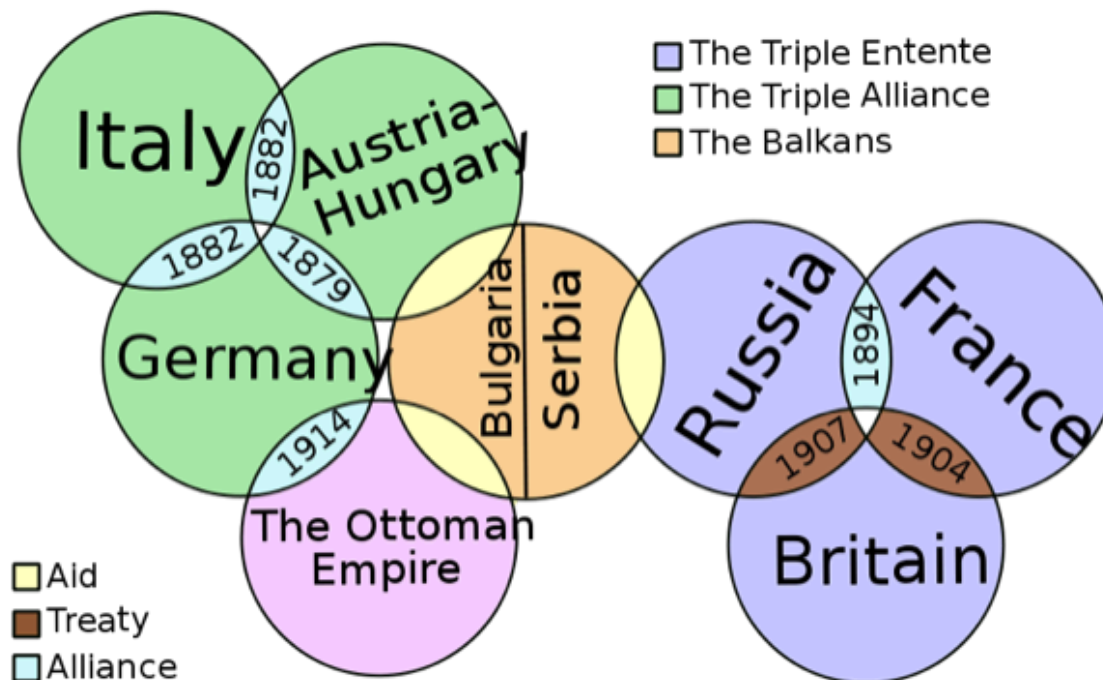


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Cause: Entangling Alliances forming

"In the late nineteenth century, the most powerful European countries maneuvered to create alliances. No single country dominated Europe at this time. Instead, several "Great Powers"—such as Russia, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Austria-Hungary—vied for the upper hand by making alliances with or against each other. Military defensive pacts and agreements, leaders thought, might tip the balance of power in their favor. Furthermore, alliances, they believed, would create peace through strength because an attack on one country would result in a massive response from its allies. This threat, the theory went, would deter attacks. In this way, the partnerships in Europe created a tense balance of power, like two equally strong sports teams facing off against each other. But the alliances might also transform a small crisis into a massive war by triggering a domino effect of countries promising to defend each other. Just before World War I, the Great Powers of Europe split into two main teams: The Triple Alliance (Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Italy) and the Triple Entente (Britain, France, and Russia)."

Source: Entangling Alliances at <http://webs.bcp.org/sites/>



Source: Alliance System Picture.png by [Jstarrett21](#) https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alliance_System_Picture.png under [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#)





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Cause : Alliances forming: Entente Cordiale between Britain France

"The *Entente cordiale* was a series of formal political agreements signed in 1904 that negotiated the peace between England and France. French for "warm understanding," the *Entente cordiale* of 1904 settled more immediate disputes between England and France in Egypt, Morocco, and elsewhere in Africa. Perhaps more famously, the series of agreements signed in 1904 contributed to the harmonization of relations between the two countries in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. But, as I show here, the *Entente cordiale* of 1904 also served as the culmination of a more informal—and precarious—entente that had slowly developed between the former enemies beginning in the 1830s and 1840s."

Source: **Kristi N. Embry, "The *Entente cordiale* between England and France, 8 April 1904"**



See video [8th April 1904: The Entente Cordiale](#) by HistoryPod

"By the *Entente Cordiale* both powers reduced the virtual isolation into which they had withdrawn—France involuntarily, Britain complacently—while they had eyed each other over African affairs. Britain had no major power ally apart from Japan (1902), and it was of little use if war should break out in European waters; France had none but Russia, soon to be discredited in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–05. The agreement was upsetting to Germany, whose policy had long been to rely on Franco-British antagonism. A German attempt to check the French in Morocco in 1905 (the Tangier Incident, or First Moroccan Crisis), and thus upset the *Entente*, served only to strengthen it. Military discussions between the French and the British general staffs were soon initiated. Franco-British solidarity was confirmed at the Algeiras Conference (1906) and reconfirmed in the Second Moroccan Crisis (1911)."

Source: [Entente Cordiale - Wikipedia](#)



Source Le Petit Journal via: [8 avril 1904, l'Entente cordiale, ou l'amitié Franco-Britannique](#) by Sébastien-Philippe LAURENS
(Assumed public domain from 1905)





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Entente with Russia? The *Triple Entente*!

"In 1882 Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed the Triple Alliance. The three countries agreed to support each other if attacked by either France or Russia. France felt threatened by this alliance. Britain was also concerned by the growth in the German Navy and in 1904 the two countries signed the *Entente Cordiale* (friendly understanding). The objective of the alliance was to encourage cooperation against the perceived threat of Germany. Three years later, Russia, who feared the growth in the German Army, joined Britain and France to form the *Triple Entente*. In contrast to the Triple Alliance, the terms of the *Entente* did not require each country to go to war on behalf of the others, but stated that they had a "moral obligation" to support each other. The Russian government was also concerned about the possibility of Austria-Hungary increasing the size of its empire. It therefore made promises to help Serbia if it was attacked by members of the Triple Alliance."

Source: [Triple Entente at https://spartacus-educational.com](https://spartacus-educational.com)



Russian poster from 1914.

The upper inscription reads "Concord". Shown are the female personifications of France, Russia and Great Britain, the allies of the *Triple Entente* during the First World War.

Source: [File:Triple Entente.jpg - Wikimedia Commons](https://spartacus-educational.com)



Germany and her allies	Joined war on Britain's side (with year in brackets)
Britain and her allies	Joined war on Germany's side (with year in brackets)

Illustration from Neil Demarco's *The Great War Triple Entente Resources in 1914*

Image via [Triple Entente at https://spartacus-educational.com](https://spartacus-educational.com)





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Cause: Alliances forming: Germany, Austria and Italy

"The Triple Alliance, was a secret agreement between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed in May 1882 and renewed periodically until World War I. Germany and Austria-Hungary had been closely allied since 1879. Italy sought their support against France shortly after losing North African ambitions to the French. The treaty provided that Germany and Austria-Hungary were to assist Italy if it were attacked by France without Italian provocation; Italy would assist Germany if Germany were attacked by France. In the event of a war between Austria-Hungary and Russia, Italy promised to remain neutral. This abstention would have the effect of freeing Austrian troops that would otherwise have been needed to guard the Austrian-Italian border. When the treaty was renewed in February 1887, Italy gained an empty promise of German support of Italian colonial ambitions in North Africa in return for Italy's continued friendship. Austria-Hungary had to be pressured by German chancellor Otto von Bismarck into accepting the principles of consultation and mutual agreement with Italy on any territorial changes initiated in the Balkans or on the coasts and islands of the Adriatic and Aegean seas. Italy and Austria-Hungary did not overcome their basic conflict of interest in that region, the treaty notwithstanding. On November 1, 1902, five months after the Triple Alliance was renewed, Italy reached an understanding with France that each would remain neutral in the event of an attack on the other. Although the alliance was again renewed in 1907 and 1912, Italy entered World War I in May 1915 in opposition to Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Triple-Alliance-Europe-1882-1915>



View video on [World War One - 1914 - https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLj5r2nZHB8) by Epic History



Images and timelines available at BBC.co.uk/bitesize



For other global contexts for Alliances, view World War I - summary of the "Great War" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLj5r2nZHB8>





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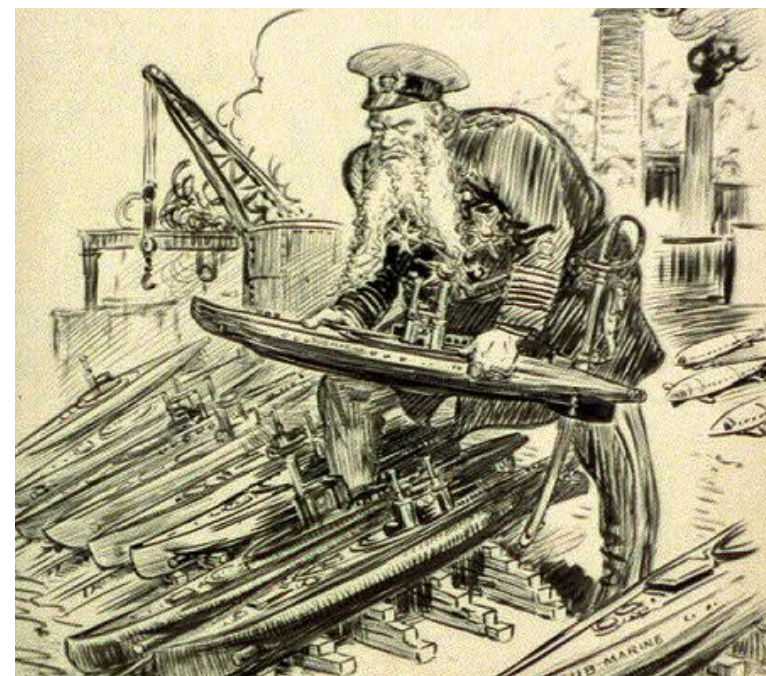
Cause: Imperialism

Germany jealous of the British Empire

"The country and nation of Germany was formed only in 1871 out of the main German territory of Prussia in the East under Otto von Bismarck and the coming together of a number of well known but smaller and independent German speaking states like Hanover, Bavaria, Württemberg and Baden after a decisive military victory against France in the 1870 Franco Prussian war. The Prussian leaders in Berlin were almost immediately encouraged to expand their territories even further. At the same time the Turkish Islamic Ottoman Empire was becoming smaller as peripheral territories in the Balkans like Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece saw their chance and fought to gain their independence from the Muslim Ottoman occupiers. The Christian Austro Hungarian Empire who had been fighting the Ottomans for 500 years then saw their opportunity to annex as many as possible of these Balkan states under a Catholic Christian flag. [...]

The new enlarged Germany was jealous of Britain's world wide Empire and dominance of the seas and had built up their Navy in an attempt to match England's and a trained standing army of nearly a million men waiting for an excuse to grab some more territory in Europe particularly from France but not hungering after any British territories. Additionally Germany felt hemmed in by the alliance (Entente) by a strengthening Russia in the East and France, the latter who wanted revenge for their losses in the Franco Prussian war."

Source: [WWI Background to the war - History of England](#)



"Alfred von Tirpitz (1849-1930) was secretary of the navy during the reign of Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany. Ruthless and determined, he argued repeatedly for the build-up of the navy. By the outbreak of World War I, his efforts had transformed the German navy from a defensive force designed to protect the coast line into a powerful rival to the British fleet, far surpassing other naval powers of the world." Text source: [Alfred Von Tirpitz | Encyclopedia.com](#)

Cropped image probably of Alfred von Tirpitz. From New York Herald, July 20, 1915, via [Preparing answers to our "notes" | Library of Congress](#)





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Cause: Imperialism: Africa was being carved up too Railroads and plantations

"During the 19th and 20th centuries, European powers held significant territories across the globe. The largest empire was Britain, which had control over Canada in the Americas, colonies in Africa spanning South Africa to Egypt, India and modern-day Sri Lanka and Burma on the Asian continent, the islands of Hong Kong, parts of the Caribbean and Pacific Islands, as well as the Oceanic nations of Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, to name just some.

Other imperial nations of the 19th century included Russia, which held territories in Eastern Europe, France, which held territories primarily in South East Asia, the newly unified Germany, which maintained control over countries primarily in Africa [...]

Imperialism as a cause of WWI: Along with a heightened sense of nationalism that occurred with the above mentioned nation states, imperialism and its associated rivalries is considered to be a primary contributing factor to the outbreak of WWI.[...]



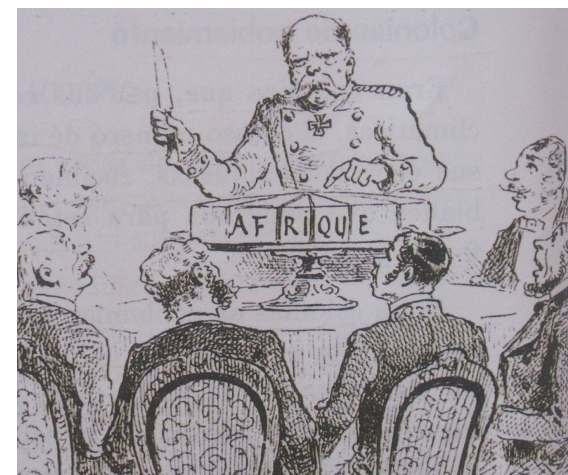
A representation of British imperialism in Africa, 'from Cairo to the Cape'

Britain had been building its empire since the 17th century. Come the 19th century, industrial Britain sought to maintain and expand its colonies in order to increase the importation of raw materials such as timber, rubber and cotton, and expand manufacturing and exportation of finished products. The increase in trade and enforcement of imperial power was facilitated by Britain's navy, which was considered the finest in the world. Other nations emerged as imperialistic newcomers in the mid-19th century and leading up to WWI.

In the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815) and the Congress of Vienna 1814-1815), empire building and international relations between the major powers (the Austrian Empire, France, Prussia, Russia and Britain) were increasingly put to the test. Imperialist competition for power, influence and prestige grew and is most famously exemplified in the Scramble for Africa of the 1880s and 1890s."

Image source: [Imperialism as a cause of World War I](#)

Text source & more information at [Imperialism as a Cause of World War I Facts & Worksheets by schoolhistory.co.uk/](#)



Cartoon about the Berlin Conference, original title: "Cutting Africa up at the Berlin Conference", Subtitle: THE BERLIN CONFERENCE - To each his part, if he is wise. Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>



See also the video [CAUSES OF WWI - IMPERIALISM by Lex Carruthers](#)

See also:

[A 'World' War: the global dimensions of World War I](#)





Learning Intentions	Success Criteria	
To indicate the MAIN causes of the First World War	I can indicate the MAIN causes of the First World War	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nationalism of larger Nations

"Many Europeans, particularly citizens of the so-called Great Powers (Britain, France and Germany) were convinced of the cultural, economic and military supremacy of their nation. According to historian Lawrence Rosenthal, this sentiment was:"

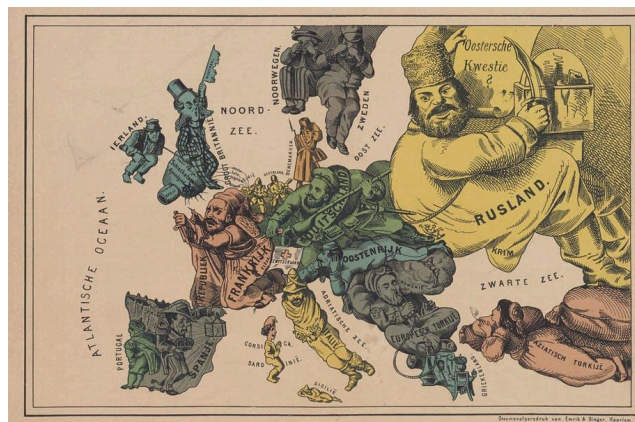
"...a new and aggressive nationalism, different from its predecessors, [that] engaged the fierce us-them group emotions – loyalty inwards, aggression outwards – that characterise human relations at simpler sociological levels, like the family or the tribe."

Source: "Nationalism as a cause of World War I" Authors: Jennifer Llewellyn, Steve Thompson <https://alphahistory.com/>

"National Interests All of the Great Powers of Europe had national interests that they hoped would be achieved by going to war." See list at source: <https://www.warmuseum.ca>

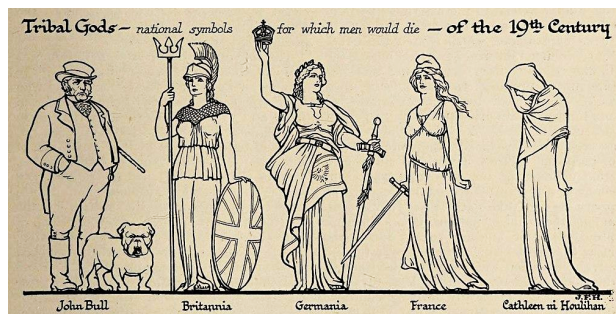
"Rising Nationalism was a fundamental underlying cause of World War I. Before discussing how nationalism raised tensions in Europe, let's clarify the definitions of a "nation," a "state," and a "country". Though people often mistakenly equate the two, a "country" is not the same as a "nation." Nations typically share a common language, history, and cultural traditions. So, a nation is like an ethnic group historically connected to a territory or a homeland. [...]"

Source: Nationalism by Vern Cleary <https://webs.bcp.org/sites/vcleary>



European stereotypes: a Dutch satirical cartoon of Europe from 1870.

Original source https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Humoristische_Kaart_van_Europa_1870.jpg. Retrieved from "How national stereotypes killed the European dream of 19th century philosophers"



"The First World War was the first war in which the mass media played a significant part in disseminating news from the Fighting Front to the Home Front. It was also the first war to target systematically produced government propaganda for the general public. All the belligerents were therefore compelled to recognise that they had to justify the righteousness of the war and, to this end, themes such as patriotism and nationalism played an important role."

Image source: [File: Tribal Godes of the 19th Century, HG Wells' Outline of History - Wikimedia](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tribal_Gods_of_the_19th_Century.jpg)

Text source: Propaganda for patriotism and nationalism

by Davide Welch at [Propaganda for patriotism and nationalism | The British Library](https://www.thebritishlibrary.org/propaganda-for-patriotism-and-nationalism)





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Nationalism of larger Nations, and of of Independence from them!

“As the Great Powers of Europe beat their chests, another form of nationalism was on the rise in southern and eastern Europe. This nationalism was not about supremacy or empire, but the right of ethnic groups to independence, autonomy and self-government. With the world divided into large empires and spheres of influence, many regions, races and religious groups sought freedom from their imperial masters. In Russia, more than 80 ethnic groups in eastern Europe and Asia had been forced to speak the Russian language, worship the Russian tsar and practice the Russian Orthodox religion.

For much of the 19th century, China had been ‘carved up’ and economically exploited by European powers. The failed Boxer Rebellion of 1899-1900 was an attempt to expel foreigners from parts of China. Later, resentful Chinese nationalists formed secret groups to wrest back control of their country.

Nationalist groups contributed to the weakening of the Ottoman Empire in eastern Europe by seeking to throw off Muslim rule.”

Source: “Nationalism as a cause of World War I” Authors: Jennifer Llewellyn, Steve Thompson
<https://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/nationalism/>

Animations of area at

Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire 1300 - 1923

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuwanQyGKHw> and

The Liberation of the Balkan peoples from the Ottomans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyySenaVbng>



Source: The Liberation of the Balkan peoples from the Ottomans
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyySenaVbng>

Nationalism: Large nations proud, small wanted freedom (esp. In Balkans where Austria ruled...)

“Though Bosnia and Herzegovina were still nominally under the control of the Ottoman Sultan in 1908, Austria-Hungary had administered the provinces since the Congress of Berlin in 1878, when the great powers of Europe awarded the Dual Monarchy the right to occupy the two provinces, with the legal title to remain with Turkey. As the provinces were coveted by many—in fact, both Austria and Hungary wanted Bosnia and Herzegovina for themselves—the decision was more or less a stopgap to preserve the delicate balance of power in Europe. To make matters more complicated, the largely Slavic population of the two provinces had nationalist ambitions of their own, while their fellow Slavs in nearby Serbia yearned to annex them to further their pan-Slavic ambitions.”

Source: <https://www.history.com/>



