

# CAUSES of WWI

## M.A.N.I.A

### Militarism

**Definition:** the belief or desire of a government or people that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national interests

#### (A)

Militarism denoted a rise in military expenditure, an increase in military and naval forces, more influence of the military men upon the policies of the civilian government, and a preference for force as a solution to problems. Militarism was one of the main causes of the First World War.

After 1871, the war atmosphere created by the secret alliances led to an armaments race (arms race) among the powers. The race was particularly serious between 1900 and 1914, as the international situation became much worse than before. There was a significant rise in the army and naval estimates of the European powers in these years. As a result of the armaments race, all the European powers were prepared for a war by 1914

#### (B)

	1910-1914 Increase in Defense Spending
France	10%
Britain	13%
Russia	39%
Germany	73%

#### (C)

*"The belief in war as a test of national power and a proof of national superiority added a scientific base to the cult of patriotism... In Britain, a real effort was made to teach boys that success in war depended upon the patriotism and military spirit of the nation, and that preparation for war would strengthen 'manly virtue' and 'patriotic passion'."*

*Zara Steiner, historian*

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### Alliances

**Definition:** a union or association formed for mutual benefit, especially between countries or organizations.

#### (A)

In the years leading up to the war, the nations of Europe were constantly jockeying for power and making alliances. Germany made an alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy in 1881. These countries all agreed to protect each other in the event they were attacked by France. However, Italy then went and made a secret alliance with France saying they would not aide Germany. In response to Germany's alliances, France and Russia established an alliance in 1892. In 1904, Britain and France signed an agreement. The Triple Entente was formed between France, Britain, and Russia in 1907. Germany felt that this powerful alliance surrounding them posed a real threat to their existence and power in the region.

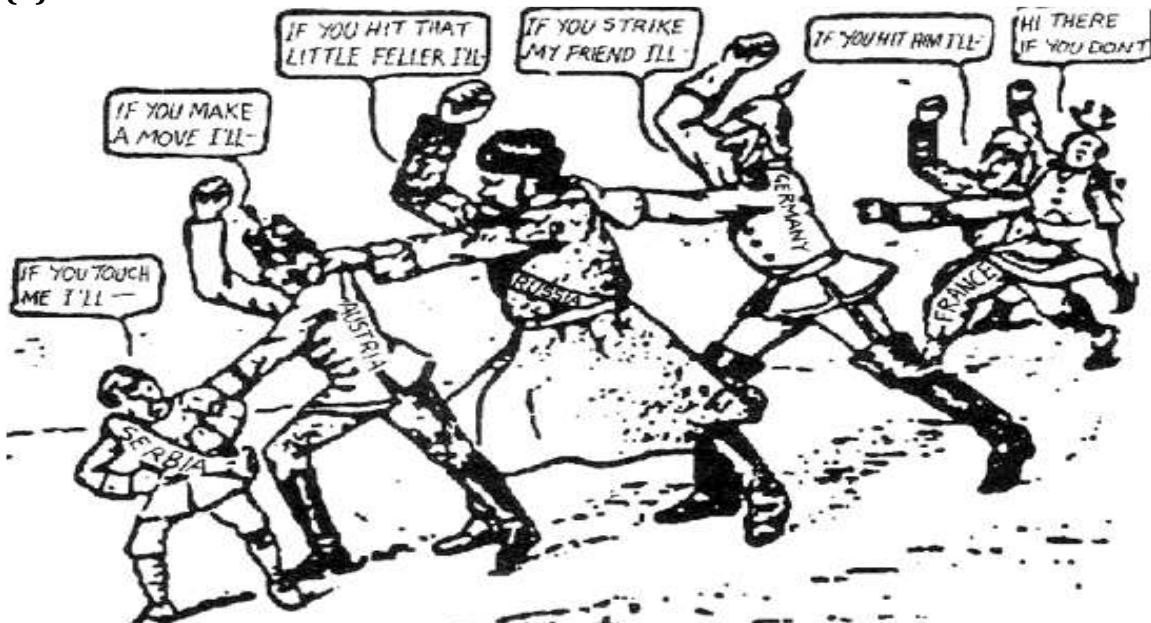
#### (B) Early WWI Alliances

The Triple Entente	Britain, Russia, France
The Triple Alliance	Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy

#### Later WWI Alliances

The Allied Powers	Britain, Russia, France, The United States Japan, Italy, Belgium, Brazil, Serbia
The Central Powers	Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire

#### (C) Political Cartoon



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## MA.N.I.A

### Nationalism

**Definition:** Nationalism is an extreme form of patriotism and loyalty to one's country.

#### (A)

Nationalists place the interests of their own country above the interests of other countries. Nationalism was prevalent in early 20th century Europe and was a significant cause of World War I. Most pre-war Europeans believed in the cultural, economic and military supremacy of their nation. Their attitudes and overconfidence were fuelled by things like jingoistic press reporting. The pages of newspapers were often packed with nationalist rhetoric and inflammatory stories or rumors about rival nations. Nationalism could also be found in other aspects of popular culture, including literature, music and theatre. Royals, politicians and diplomats did little to deflate nationalism – and some actively contributed to it with provocative remarks and rhetoric.

Nationalism gave citizens excessive confidence in their nation, their governments and their military strength. It assured them that their country was fair, righteous and without blame. In contrast, nationalist ideas demonized rival nations, caricaturing them as aggressive, scheming, deceitful, backward or uncivilized. It convinced many citizens their nation was being threatened by the plotting, scheming and hungry imperialism of its rivals. Nationalist and militarist rhetoric assured people that if war erupted, their nation would emerge victorious. In concert with its brothers, imperialism and militarism, nationalism contributed to a mass delusion that made a European war seem both necessary and winnable.

#### (B)

*“A new and aggressive nationalism, different from its predecessors, emerged in Europe at the end of the 19th century... The new nationalism engaged the fierce us/them group emotions – loyalty inwards, aggression outwards – that characterize human relations at simpler levels, like the family or the tribe. What was new was attaching these passions to the nation... In its outward-looking dimension, the new nationalism was fully a movement of the ‘age of imperialism’ – of the ‘great game’, the ‘scramble for Africa’, the enterprise of great powers.”*

*Lawrence Rosenthal, historian*

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## MA.N.I.A

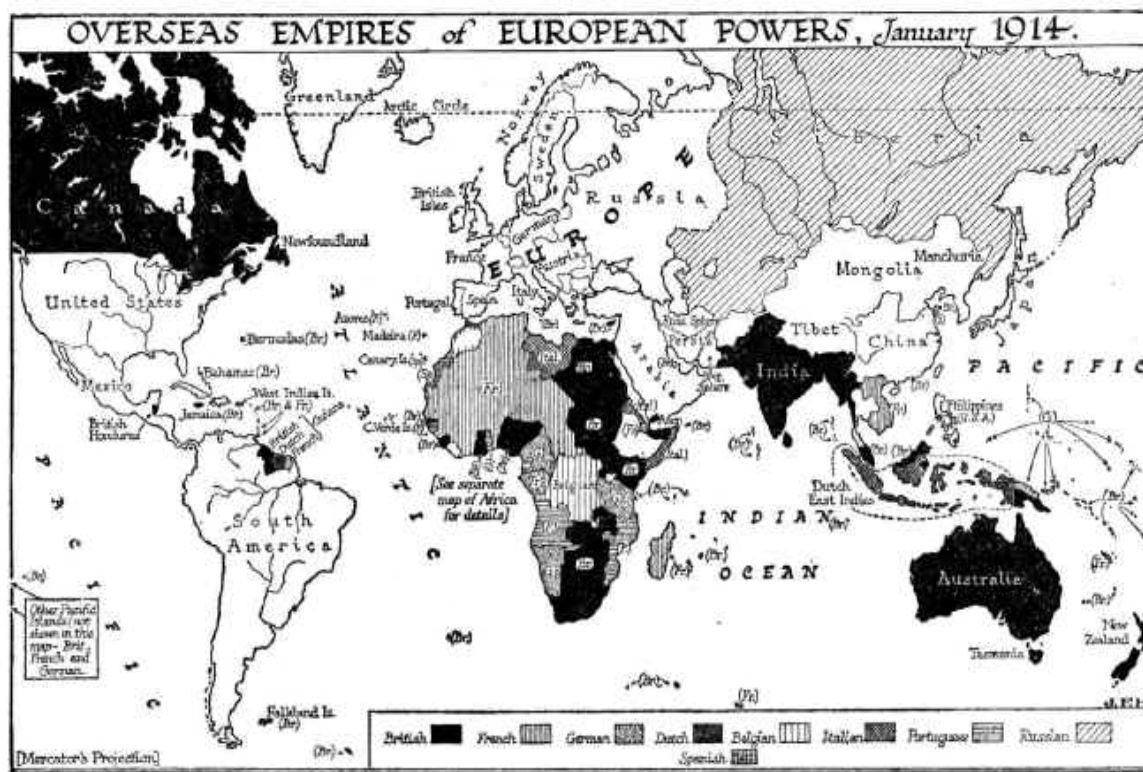
### Imperialism

**Definition:** a policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force.

(A)

Imperialism contributed to World War I. The amount of land that Britain and France owned in Africa led to a heightened rivalry with Germany, which sought to acquire colonies later on and only controlled small portions of Africa. Tensions rose during the fight for Africa in the late 1800s, when European powers France, Germany and Britain secured the remains of the continent. During this time, imperial rivalry was present along with powerful nationalism, helping to contribute to prewar tensions throughout Europe. Imperialism, an unequal relationship often found in the forms such as empires and forced upon other countries and individuals, led Europeans to keep a close watch on their access to markets, raw materials and returns on investments by taking straightforward political and military control on the undeveloped world.

(B)



# CAUSES of WWI

## MA.N.I.A

### Assassination

**The assassination of Austria's Archduke Ferdinand** set into motion a series of international events that led to World War I. This one event is widely considered the most important event in leading up to war.

In the southern portion of Austria-Hungary was a region called Bosnia. Many of the Bosnians wanted to have their own country and not be under the rule of Austria-Hungary. The country of Serbia, just south of the Austria-Hungary border also wanted the freedom of the Bosnians. Serbia was an ally with the powerful Russian Empire and Austria-Hungary was allied with Germany. When Archduke Ferdinand announced his trip to Sarajevo, Bosnian nationalists (people who wanted Bosnia to be its own country) saw their opportunity to strike at the Austrian Empire. With help from the neighboring country of Serbia, assassins were recruited and trained to kill the Archduke as he traveled through the streets of Sarajevo. These assassins were members of a terrorist group called the Black Hand.

**The Assassination** On June 28, 1914 Franz Ferdinand and his wife were in the third car of a motorcade traveling through Sarajevo to the Town Hall. The Black Hand had several assassins positioned along the route. On the way to the Town Hall, the first assassination attempt occurred. A man named Nedeljko Cabrinovic threw a bomb into the car with the Archduke. However, the bomb bounced off the car and landed under the next car in the motorcade. The car with the Archduke was able to speed away and make it safely to the Town Hall. The assassins did not give up, however. On the return trip, the motorcade took a wrong turn. When the driver began to back up, another assassin named Gavrilo Princip happened to be right next to the car. He took advantage of this opportunity and began firing at the Archduke. He fired twice, hitting the Archduke once and his wife Sophie. The crowd jumped on Princip and he was arrested by the police. At the same time the car sped to the Governor's residence to get medical help. Unfortunately, Sophie was dead before they arrived and the Archduke died a few minutes later.

**Results and Why it Started WWI** The Austria-Hungary government saw the assassination as a direct attack on the country. They believed that the Serbians had helped the Bosnian terrorists in the attack. They made harsh demands on the Serbians which the Serbians rejected. At the same time, Russia began to mobilize their army to help protect Serbia. When Serbia rejected the demands, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. A few days later, Germany declared war on Russia to help its ally Austria-Hungary. Then France began to mobilize to help its ally Russia, and Germany followed by declaring war on France. World War I had begun

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/pBBOPsOhRaA>

## WWI Map



## Causes of WWI: M.A.N.I.A Organizer

### Militarism

Definition: the belief or desire of a government or people that a country should maintain a \_\_\_\_\_ and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national interests

(A) According to the text, what's one factor that led to an arms race in Europe?

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(B) What striking information is shown in the chart? How could this lead to an arms race?

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(C) According to the author what is one factor that led to the spread of militarism in Europe before the war?

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### Alliances

**Definition:** a union or association formed for \_\_\_\_\_, especially between countries or organizations.

(A) According to the reading, what was one secret alliance between two European countries?

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(B) **Fill in the missing countries**

The Triple Entente	Britain, Russia,
The Triple Alliance	, Austria-Hungary, Italy

#### Later WWI Alliances

The Allied Powers	Britain, Russia, France, Japan, Italy, Belgium, Brazil, Serbia
The Central Powers	Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire

(C) What point is the author of the political cartoon making about alliances?

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## Nationalism

**Definition:** Nationalism is an extreme form of \_\_\_\_\_ and loyalty to one's country.

(A) What are two examples cited by the text of nationalism being one of the causes of WWI?

\_\_\_\_\_

(B) According to the author, what was different about the "new type of nationalism spreading through Europe?"

\_\_\_\_\_

## Imperialism

**Definition:** a policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or \_\_\_\_\_.

(A) According to the text, a rivalry between Britain, France, and Germany was created over the imperialization of which continent?

\_\_\_\_\_

(B) According to the map, which country involved in WWI had the largest empire?

\_\_\_\_\_

After viewing both documents explain how imperialism was a cause of the war.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Assassination

### Short Answer

According to the text, why was Austria's Archduke Ferdinand assassinated by Bosnian nationalists?

According to the text, how was the assassination of Austria's Archduke Ferdinand the leading cause of WWI ?