

## Theme: Conflict (June 2006)

Conflicts between groups of people have threatened peace in many nations and regions.

Task:

Identify one conflict that has threatened peace in a nation or region and

- Discuss one major cause of that conflict
- Identify two opposing groups involved in the conflict and discuss one viewpoint of each group
- Discuss the extent to which the conflict was or was not resolved

You may use any major conflict from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Crusades, the French Revolution, **World War I**, the Russian Revolution, the Chinese civil war, the partition of India, the policy of apartheid in South Africa, the Rwandan civil war, and the Bosnian War. You are not limited to these suggestions.

### World War I

- Discuss one major cause of that conflict
  - Militarism
    - Glorifying the military
    - Led countries to believe that their neighbors were preparing for war
  - Imperialism
    - Competition to have access to resources
    - Want a favorable balance of power – more colonies than other countries
  - Nationalism
    - Desire to overthrow the oppressor
    - Want to create an independent country
  - Alliances
    - 1873 – League of Three Emperors
      - Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia
        - Agree to maintain neutrality in the events of a war
    - 1879 – Dual Alliance
      - Austria and Germany make another alliance
    - 1881 – Triple alliance
      - Italy added
    - League of Three Emperors broke down but Germany kept alliance with Russia
      - Became the Reinsurance Treaty
    - Kaiser Wilhelm comes into power and allows the Reinsurance Treaty to lap
      - France seizes this opportunity and enters into an alliance with Russia in 1894
    - 1904 – France signs and Entente with England
    - 1907 – France, Russia, England becomes the Triple Entente

- Identify two opposing groups involved in the conflict and discuss one viewpoint of each group
  - Short term cause → assassination of archduke Franz Ferdinand by Serbian nationalist group Black Hand
    - Austria-Hungary issues Serbia an ultimatum – agree to all terms presented to avoid war
    - Serbia refuses to allow Austrian officials conduct the investigation into the assassination
    - Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
    - Germany declared war on Russia and France
    - Germany invaded Belgium as part of the Schlieffen plan to avoid a two front war
    - Great Britain declared war on Germany
  - Serbia
    - Wants to overthrow its oppressor – Austria-Hungary
    - Many ethnicities in the Balkans
      - Serbs were the largest ethnic group
    - Serbia had an alliance with Russia
  - Austria-Hungary
    - Wanted to avenge the death of the archduke and wanted to stop anti-Austro-Hungarian sentiment in Serbia
    - Want to retain control of their empire
- Discuss the extent to which the conflict was or was not resolved
  - War was over in November 1918 but the underlying causes of the war were not resolved
  - Treaty of Versailles
    - More about revenge than about creating a lasting peace
      - Germany forced to accept sole responsibility for the war despite the immediate cause being a Serbian assassinated an Austro-Hungarian
      - Germany required to pay war reparations – 33 billion
      - Germany lost colonies
      - Germany's military was limited