

The Great War



Factors Contributing to the War

Inability to Adjust to Change

- Industrialization → led to competition
- Nationalism → threatened stability
- Result: Nations sought insulation from enemy attack in three ways:
 - Colonies
 - Alliances
 - Armies & weapons

Imperialism in Africa & Asia

- Moroccan Crisis: Germany threatened to take Morocco from France
- Boer War: Britain clashed with Dutch settlers in South Africa
- Russo-Turkish War: (Russia gained access to warm-water ports of the Mediterranean)
- Russo-Japanese War: (Blocked in Europe, Russia sought Manchuria and lost to Japan.)

German Alliances Divided Europe

- Germany's plan to isolate France:
 - Dual Alliance: Germany+Austria (1879)
 - Triple Alliance: Germany+Austria+Italy (1882)
 - Reinsurance Treaty: Germany+Russia (1887)
- France and Russia signed a military alliance
- Two armed camps:
 - On one side: Germany+Austria
 - On the other side: France+Russia

British Alliances

- Britain feared Germany so made an alliance with France (1904).
- Triple Entente: Britain+France+Russia (1907)

Security → Maintain Alliances

- Triple Alliance: Germany+Austria+Italy
- Triple Entente: Britain+France+Russia

1914 Crisis in the Balkans

- Powder Keg: quarrels between nationalist groups over internal boundaries
- Serbia, supported by Russia, wanted to unite with Serbians in Austria-Hungary and create a Greater Serbia.
- Austria, supported by Germany, opposed this for fear that other ethnic groups would demand self-rule.

Immediate Cause of War

- Archduke Ferdinand of Austria assassinated
- Supported by Germany, Austria sent an ultimatum to Serbia:
 1. Anti-Austrian activities in Serbia must cease.
 2. Austro-Hungarian officials would enforce.
 3. Disloyal Serbian gov't officials would be fired.
- Serbia did not agree to 2.
- Austria declared war on Serbia.

The World Went to War

- Serbia called on its ally Russia for help.
 - Russia began to mobilize.
 - France gave its support.
- Germany declared war on France (crossed neutral Belgium on way to French front).
- Britain declared war on Germany.

The Great War: Opposing Sides

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|------------------|-----------------|
| • Central Powers | • Allies |
| – Austria | – Serbia |
| | – Russia |
| | – France |
| – Germany | |
| | – Britain |
| – Ottoman Empire | – Japan |
| – Bulgaria | – Italy |
| | – China |
| | – United States |

During the course of the war:

- Millions of people on both sides were killed.
- Britain and France were severely weakened.
- Three dynasties (Hohenzollerns, Hapsburgs, and Romanovs) fell apart.
- Communism took over in Russia.
- Anti-imperialism grew stronger in Asia, Middle East, and Africa.
- United States became most powerful nation.