

The M.A.I.N. Causes of WWI  
Introduction to the Great War

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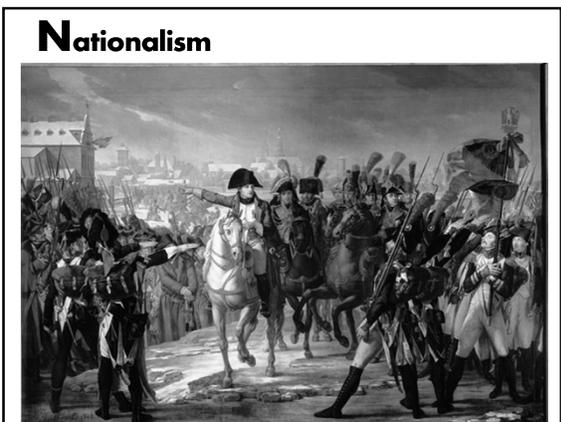
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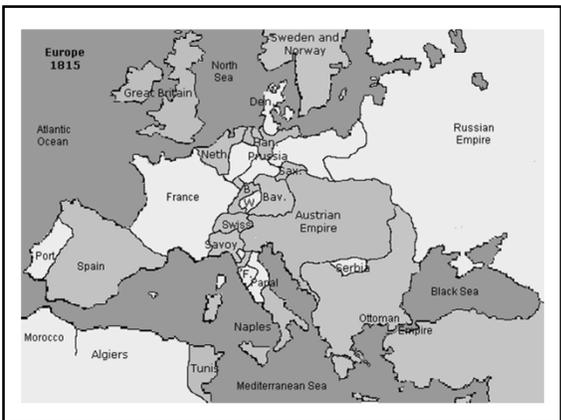
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### Militarism



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### Militarism



Otto von Bismarck

Nicht durch Reden und  
Majoritätsentschlüsse  
meinerzeit; sind die  
großen Fragen der  
Welt entschieden.  
Sondern  
durch Eisen und Blut.

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### Militarism



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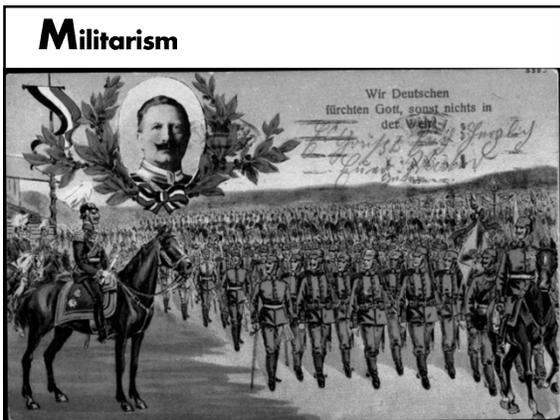
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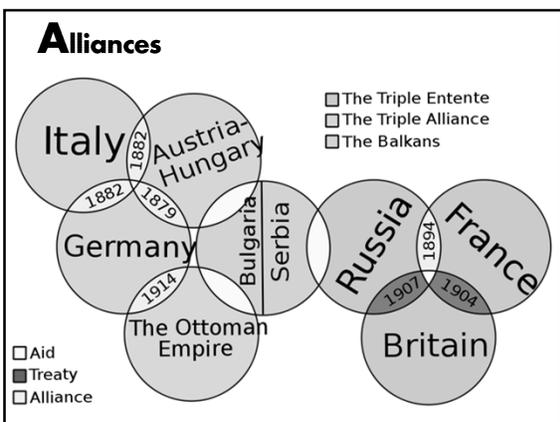
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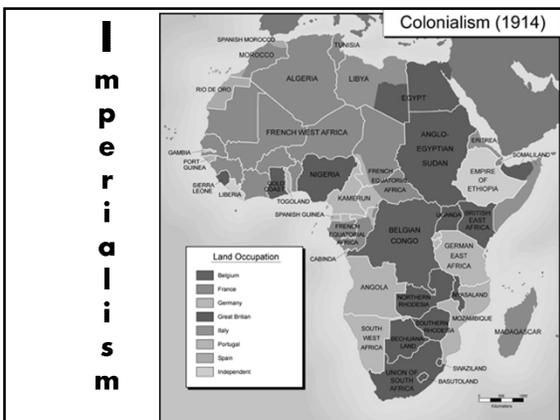
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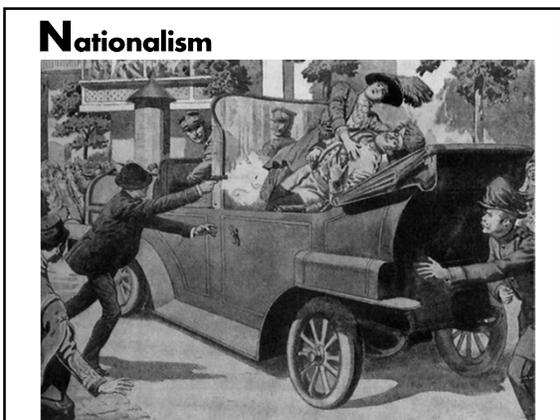
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(Flag of Austria-Hungary)

WE DEMAND STRICT PUNISHMENTS FOR THE ASSASSINATION! YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO RESPOND!

Austria-Hungary responded to the assassination by issuing a harsh **ultimatum** to Serbia. An ultimatum is a demand that, if not met, guarantees certain consequences.

For example:  
"If your room isn't cleaned by 5PM, you're grounded!"

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(Flag of Germany in 1914)

DON'T DO IT, MAN. BAD THINGS WILL HAPPEN...

All this made Germany very nervous...

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(Flag of Serbia)



LOL! NO WAY!

Serbia refused, obviously

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(Flag of Austria-Hungary)

GRRR! YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS!

Austria-Hungary responded by invading Serbia.

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(Flag of Germany in 1914)

SERIOUSLY MAN... YOU'LL TICK OFF THE RUSSIANS.

Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm and Tsar Nicholas of Russia were actually cousins, and sent telegrams to each other hoping to avoid a major war.

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I GOT YOUR BACK, BRAH!

(Flag of Russia in 1914)

Austria-Hungary's invasion of Serbia pushed the Russians to begin **mobilization** for war, to help Serbia.

Mobilization means getting the military ready to fight. In 1914, this took a while – especially for Russia.

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(Flag of Germany in 1914)

CRAP!...  
HERE WE GO!

Time for the Schlieffen Plan!

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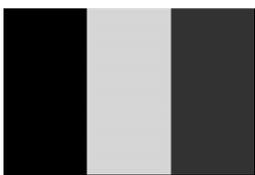
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EXCUSEZ MOI!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING???



Germany's Schlieffen Plan depended on sweeping through Belgium, who was officially **neutral** (wanting to stay out of the fight). The Belgians put up more resistance than the Germans expected, slowing them down and giving France more time to prepare.

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Belgian forces preparing for the German advance.

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STEADY ON,  
CHAPS!  
WE'RE ON  
THE WAY!



Britain, who had been warning Germany not to attack neutral Belgium, joined the war when the Germans invaded them.

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SACREBLEU!  
PLEASE  
HURRY!



The Germans eventually push into France. As they approached Paris, the French railways became too clogged to move troops. French taxis worked frantically to transport forces. Paris was successfully defended!

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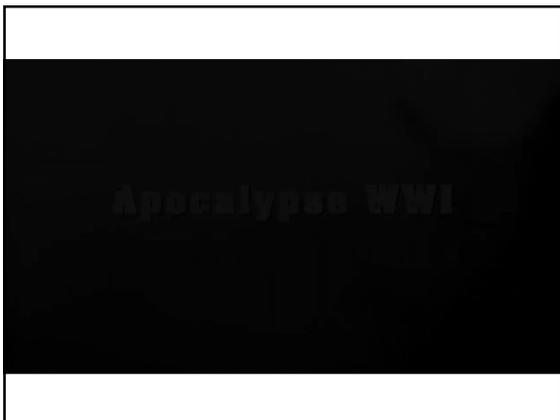
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(Flag of Germany in 1914)

**\*SIGH\*  
TIME TO  
DIG IN!**

With the German advance slowed to a halt, both sides formed battle lines and dug trenches. These lines would move very little for most of the war.

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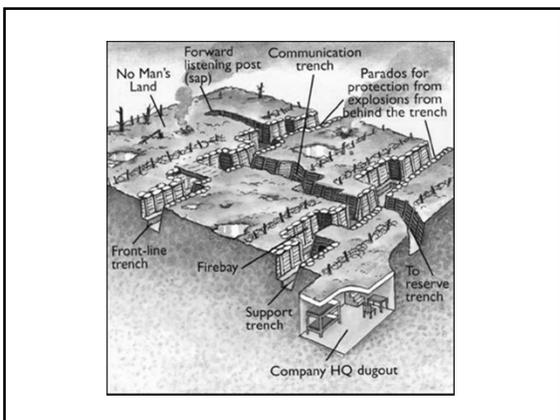
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