









Imperialism & Militarism

- The cause of World War I was a complicated combination of factors that grew out of the European Industrial Revolution.
- As industrialization swept across Europe in the 19th century so too did an insatiable demand for raw materials and new markets.
 - These demands pushed Europe into the second phase of imperialism that culminated in the almost complete colonization of Africa, Asia, and Australia.
 - As the Europeans scrambled to conquer territory and establish colonies they came into conflict with each other, old land based powers like the Ottomans and Russians, and new powers like the Americans and Japanese.
- This competition for colonies combined with the manufacturing capacity brought by industrialization led to massive military build-ups.
- Militarism in industrialized nations created an intense competition to outgun rivals through the mass production of the tools of war.
 - Militarism brought instability, leading European states to form military alliances aimed at balancing the power among rival states and maintaining peace in Europe.
 - However, these alliances tended to be secret and unstable which had the effect of intensifying competition and distrust.
 - This intensification, competition, and distrust fostered nationalism among both the great powers of Europe and suppressed ethnic groups like the Slavs.



European Nationalism

- European nationalism in the early 20th century became a force for unification and division. This contradiction proved to be very dangerous as the century progressed.
 - As a force for unification, nationalism drove the cause of empire both at home and abroad.
 - The German, Austro-Hungarian, Russian, and Ottoman Empires clung to lands inhabited by minority ethnic groups.
- Just as the threat of foreign domination inspired nationalism among the German people in the 19th century, in the 20th century this same force inspired Slavic nationalism.
 - In the early 20th century the Slavic population of Europe was divided into a few small independent states like Serbia and larger empires like Austria-Hungary.
 - Serbia rose as the principal advocate for Slavic unity, much like Prussia had been for German unification.
- In June of 1914, a ultra-nationalist Slavic organization called the Black Hand organized and successfully carried out the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian crown prince Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
 - The Black Hand hoped that this assassination would weaken Austria-Hungary's hold on its Slavic territories and help create a unified Slavic state.
 - Instead, it caused World War I.

Alliance System

- While Austria-Hungary knew that the Serbian government had not been directly involved in the assassination, this did not stop them from directing their anger towards Serbia.
 - Austria-Hungary made a series of humiliating demands of Serbia.
 - Serbia turned to its ally Russia who promised to support them in the event of an invasion.
 - Austria-Hungary turned to its ally Germany, Germany promised support.
- Austria-Hungary invaded Serbia, the tangled network of military alliances kicked in and the world was at war.
 - Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria fought together as the Central Powers and Britain, France, Italy, Russia, Japan, United States and several others formed the Allied Powers or the Entente Powers.

ENTENTE POWERS

FRANCE
RUSSIA
GREAT BRITAIN
SERBIA
JAPAN (from 1915)
PORTUGAL (from 1916)
ROMANIA (from 1916)
UNITED STATES (from 1917)

VS

CENTRAL POWERS

GERMANY
AUSTRIA HUNGARY
OTTOMAN EMPIRE
BULGARIA (from 1915)
