

World War I

The Great War
(1914-1918)

Causes

- **Militarism**
 - **Alliances**
 - **Imperialism**
 - **Nationalism**
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Militarism

- Build up of military strength
 - Each country knew they needed to have a powerful military to be great
 - Every country adopted mobilization (organization) plans
 - One country's action causes a dangerous European arms race
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Alliances

- Defense agreements among nations
 - Vow to help if one is in trouble
 - Otto Von Bismarck (German) began alliance to isolate France
 - Triple Alliance – Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
 - Triple Entente – Great Britain, France, Russia
 - - Friendly agreement, not alliance
 - During War
 - Allies – Great Britain, France, Russia, Japan, Italy (later on)
 - Central Powers – Germany, A-H, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria
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Imperialism

- Intense competition for land and markets leads to hostility
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Nationalism

- Tension in Europe leads to battles
 - Ethnic groups want their own nations
 - Battle in the Balkans
 - Slavs in Serbia and Austria-Hungary – own country wanted
 - A-H takes over
 - Russia cannot help Slavs – even though seen as protector of Slavs
 - Much tension between Russia and A-H for influence over Serbia
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The Spark

- The Assassination
 - June 28, 1914
 - Gavrilo Princip killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand of A-H and wife Sophie
 - Capital of Bosnia (Sarajevo)
 - Secret Nationalist group based in Serbia – The Black Hand
 - Austro-Hungarians held Serbians responsible
 - German Emperor Kaiser Wilhelm offered support to A-H of any action taken
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- The Ultimatum

- July 23, 1914
 - A final proposition, condition or demand
 - A-H gave Serbia an ultimatum
 - List of many demands
 - 48 hours or face war
 - Serbia's decision – agreed to most demands, settle others by international conference
 - Not good enough
 - War declared on Serbia
 - Countries mobilized and no one would back down
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- The World Becomes Involved
 - Russia supports Serbia
 - Germany – ultimatum to Russia not to join war, ultimatum to France to stay neutral
 - Both join on the side of Serbia – WAR declared by Germany on Russia, then France
 - Germany invades Belgium to get to France
 - Belgium asks Allies for help – join war
 - Great Britain
 - Entente with France and Russia
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