

Introduction to World War I

Causes of World War I

- Neutrality was the original policy when the nations of Europe went to war with one another

- **First Cause of WWI: Nationalism**

- This means devotion to ones country
- How could this cause tension?

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- Ethnic groups wanted autonomy and independence

- **Second Cause: Imperialism**

- Controlling other areas for the sake of the mother country
- Raw resources were sent from the territories to the mother country

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Causes of WWI Continued

- **Third Cause: Militarism**

- Each nation wanted to be the greatest
- 1890: Germany was the mightiest nation on the mainland of Europe
- 1897: Wilhelm II expanded Germany to become a naval power. Who does this worry?

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- **Fourth Cause: Alliance Systems**

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- Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
- Eventually, they became the Central Powers: Germany, Austria, and the Ottoman Empire (Muslims)

The Spark that Ignites the Fire of War

- The Balkan Peninsula became a disputed area
- Russia and Austria wanted to control the Serbs
- The Balkans were the gateway to the Mediterranean
- Germany wanted a railway to the Ottoman Empire

- _____

- _____
- Princip wanted independence for Serbia, not control from a foreign power
- Austria declared war against Serbia
- _____

The Fighting Starts

- _____
- Russia came to defend Serbia from Austria
- Germany had an alliance system with Austria
- _____
- They knew France would aid Russia
- 8/3/14 Germany invaded Belgium. Britain declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- _____

Germany and her Enemies

- _____

- _____

- "No man's land" was the area between the trenches. Why is it called this?
- Battle of the Somme- July 1, 1916: Britain lost 60,000 troops in a single day; 1.2 Million died in the end.
- This grew into 3 years of trench warfare
