

WWI-THE LEAD UP TO WAR

Cause #1-Imperialism & Industrialization

- European powers needed new resources and new markets to fuel the industrial revolution
- These powers began to compete on a global scale for new colonies
- The scramble for Africa (1850-1914)
- Consequence: Tensions in Europe rose over disputed lands in Africa and across the world

Cause #2-Militarism

- Armies and Navies were greatly expanded from 1870-1914
- European powers copied the Prussian army system's organization and efficiency
- English Navy launched the Dreadnought
- German Navy worked to keep pace with the British Navy

Militarism

- Arms and troop build up was an endless cycle of bigger and better weapons being invented
- Many Generals were anxious to flex their new found muscles
- Attack was urged by many who felt they were at an advantage

Cause #3-Alliances

Triple Alliance

- Countries Involved
- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy
- Reasons for this alliance: Further isolation for France. Bismarck believes this alliance will assure Germany's future

1907 Triple Entente/Non-Aggression Pact

- France
- Russia
- Great Britain
- Reasons:
 - While this pact did not declare that the sides must fight alongside one another, they would most certainly not fight against each other
 - Two football teams are just waiting for the whistle to blow!

Problems for Germany

- Sides have now been drawn and Germany will have to fight a two front war
- Germany devises the Von Schlieffen Plan
- Germany will defeat France quickly on the western front before turning their attention to the slow mobilizing Russian Army
- In order to execute the plan Germany must march across Belgium

Belgium

- Belgium signed a neutrality act with Britain in 1840's
- Germany formally asks Belgium if their troops can march across Belgium to France
- Belgium says no and cites neutrality act that they signed with Britain

Cause #4: Growth of Nationalism

- Why does the growth of nationalism threaten Austria Hungary?
- Various factions within Austria desire independence
- The Balkans present the biggest threat
- Most people in this region are Slavic
- The Slavic people have strong ties with Russia

Nationalism

- Slavs in the Balkans are not getting the attention they desire for their cause
- The Black Hand (Terrorist Group)
- "Black Hand Contract"
- June 28, 1914 Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated by Gavrilo Princip
- This is the spark that lights the powder Keg

Trigger Reaction

- Austria-Hungary issues an ultimatum
- Austria-Hungary will conduct the investigation of the shooting
- The Serbian government will apologize for the shooting of the Arch-Duke
- Austria insists that all anti-Austrian propaganda be stopped immediately

What does Serbia say to Austria?

The Powder Keg is ready to explode!

- WWI Begins!