

EQ: What were the main causes
of WWI?

Page 2 in your spiral

The Causes of WW1

•M

•A

•I

•N

•S

Others have made a handy acronym to help remember the causes.

What do you think the letters might stand for?

Brainstorm with a partner.

The Causes of WW1

- **Militarism**
- **Alliances**
- **Imperialism**
- **Nationalism**
- **Significant individuals**

Militarism

- Find the **definition of militarism** in your book on page 216, copy into your notes
- **European “arms race”- race to create a large, powerful standing army**



Militarism

- Germany was competing with Russia and France to expand their armies

	1880	1914
• Germany	1.3m	5.0m
• France	0.73m	4.0m
• Russia	0.40m	1.2m

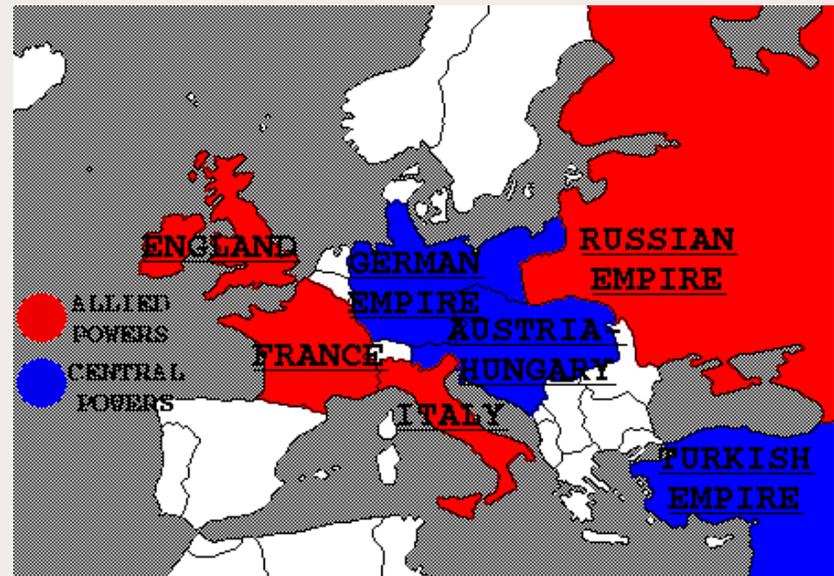


NATION	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Great Britain	\$286.7m	\$306.2m	\$330.4m	\$345.1m	\$349.9m	\$374.2m
Germany	\$286.7m	\$306.8m	\$301.5m	\$303.9m	\$331.5m	\$463.6m
France	\$216m	\$236.4m	\$248m	\$277.9m	\$307.8m	\$363.8m
Russia	\$291.6m	\$315.5m	\$324m	\$334.5m	\$387m	\$435m
Italy	\$87.5m	\$115.8m	\$124.9m	\$133.7m	\$158.4m	\$142.2m
United States	\$189.5m	\$199m	\$197m	\$197m	\$227m	\$244.6m
Japan	\$93.7m	\$95.7m	\$100.2m	\$110.7m	\$107.7m	\$104.6m

Source: Jacobson's World Armament Expenditure, 1935

Alliances

- **By 1914 all the major powers were linked by a system of alliances.**
- The alliances made it more likely that a war would start.
- Once started, the alliances made it more likely to spread.



Alliances

Triple Alliance

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-
-

Triple Entente

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-
-

Alliances

Triple Alliance

- Great Britain
- France
- Russia

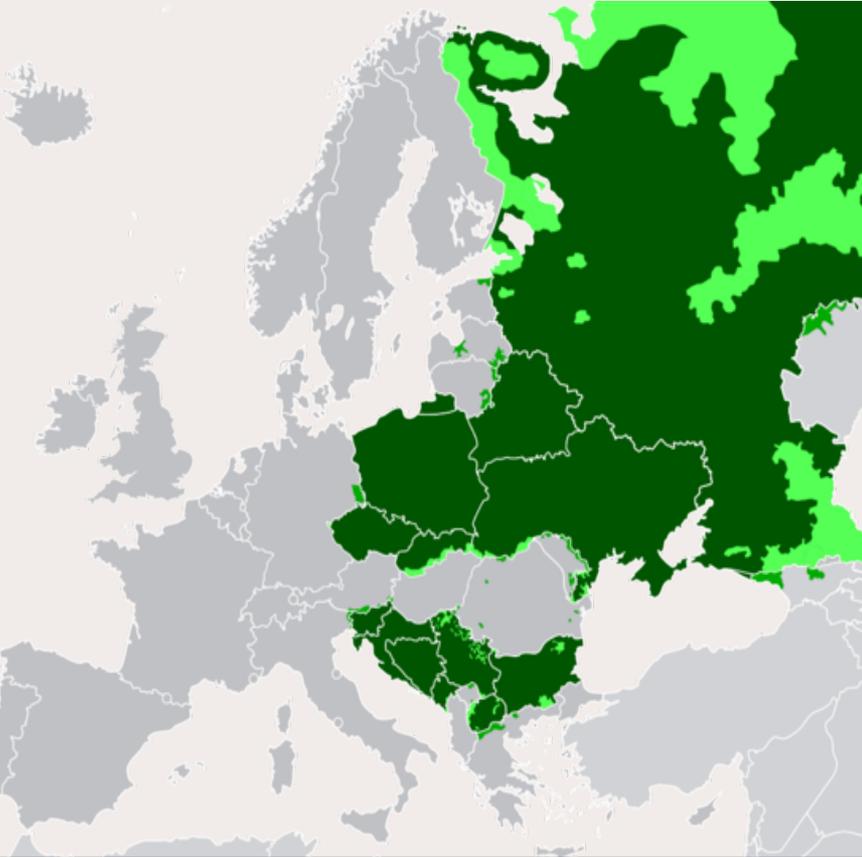
Triple Entente

- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy

Imperialism

- All the great powers were competing for colonies / territory.
- **The British feared Germany in Africa.**
- **The Austrians feared Serbia / Russia in the Balkans**

Slavs



Definition: A member of a group of peoples in central and eastern Europe speaking Slavic languages

Today, a large number of Slavic languages are still spoken including Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Polish, Serbian, Slovak, Russian, and others.

Nationalism

- This was an age when **all nations wanted to assert their power and independence.**
- Example: **Slavs wanted to be free of Austrian rule.**



Serbia's
national
flag

Significant Individuals

- **Kaiser Wilhelm II**
- **Built up German army and navy**
- **Aggressive foreign policy**
- **Determined to make Germany a top nation.**
- **Distrusted by other powers**

“Germany must have its place in the sun”
“The world belongs to the strong.”



Significant Individuals

- **Count Berchtold**
- **Austrian Prime Minister.**
- **During the July Crisis, decided on a very tough ultimatum for Serbia**



“Were the Serbs to agree to all the demands, this would not be to my liking”

Significant Individuals

- Bethmann Hollweg
- German Prime Minister
- Gave very strong support to Austria during the July crisis while Kaiser was cruising on his yacht



“The Austrian demands are moderate. Any interference by Britain, France and Russia would be followed by incalculable consequences”