

Analyzing History – Causes of WWI

Militarism: The belief or desire of a government or people that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national interests



FIGURE 2- MAXIM GUN

TABLE 1-EUROPEAN ARMY SIZES

Size of European Armies 1880-1914		
Country	Army Size 1880	Army Size 1914
Germany	1.3 million	5.0 million
France	730,000	4.0 million
Russia	400,000	1.2 million
Britain	124,000	975,000

TABLE 2-NUMBER OF BATTLESHIPS CONSTRUCTED

Dreadnoughts (Modern Warships)	Britain	Germany
1906	1	0
1907	3	0
1908	2	4
1909	2	3
1910	3	1
1911	5	3
1912	3	2
1913	7	3
1914	3	1
Total	29	17

"Our future lies upon the ocean..."

-Kaiser Wilhelm II, German Leader

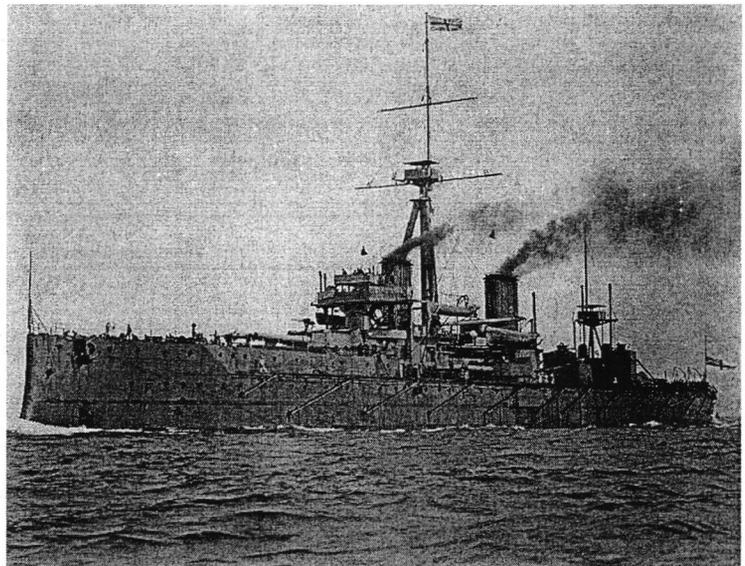


FIGURE 1 - BRITISH DREADNOUGHT

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Questions

1. Read the definition of militarism at the top of the page. In your own words explain militarism.

2. Look at Table 1. Does the data support the idea that militarism was a big part of national policy in the years leading up to World War I? Explain.

3. Examine Figure 1. How might the Maxim Gun change the way war is fought? (Hint: Think about the fighting style of previous wars – American Revolution, Civil War, etc.)

4. Read the quote from German leader Kaiser Wilhelm II. What does this quote imply about the importance of naval power?

5. Look at Figure 2. How do you think the invention of the Dreadnought battleship change naval warfare?

6. Finally, look at Table 2. Does this chart reflect what you would expect to see from you answers to questions 4 and 5?

7. Overall, what is happening in terms of military build-up in the years prior to WWI? How might that lead to the war beginning?

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Alliance: A union or association formed for mutual benefit, esp. between countries or organizations.

“Any **alliance** whose purpose is not the intention to wage war is senseless and useless.”

Adolf Hitler

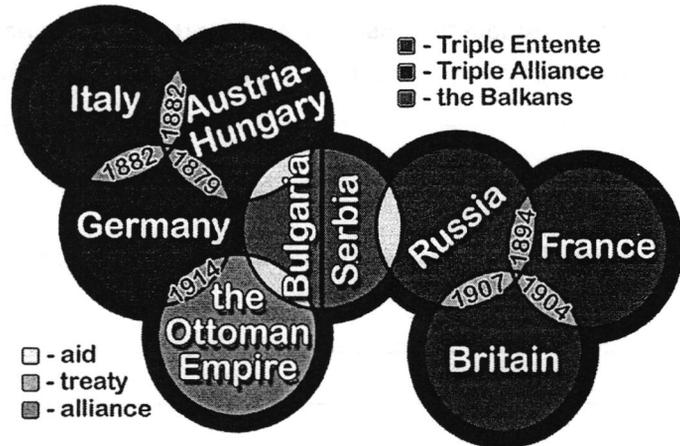


FIGURE 2 - "THE CHAIN OF FRIENDSHIP" BROOKLYN EAGLE, JULY 1914



FIGURE 1 - ALLIANCES OF WWI

TABLE 1 - STATISTICS OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

	Population	Land	GDP
Germany	67.0m	.5m km ²	\$244.3b
Austria-Hungary	50.6m	.6m km ²	\$100.5b
Italy	35.6m	.3m km ²	\$91.3b

TABLE 2 - STATISTICS OF THE TRIPLE ENTENTE

	Population	Land	GDP
Russia	173.2m	21.7m km ²	\$257.7b
France	39.8m	.5m km ²	\$138.7b
Britain	46.0m	.3m km ²	\$226.4b

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Questions

1. Read the definition of alliances at the top of the page. In your own words explain what an alliance is.

2. Read the quote from Adolf Hitler. Even though Hitler was merely a soldier during World War I, this quote is very telling about the alliances created before the war. Explain what he means by this quote.

3. Look at Figure 1. Notice the years when these alliances are created. Which alliance was created first? Why do you think that is?

4. Now look at Tables 1 and 2, which countries were better equipped for war? Which ones were less prepared?

5. Based on this data, explain why the alliances were probably created in the order they were.

6. Finally, look at Figure 2. What does this political cartoon imply about the impact of alliances?

7. Overall, how might alliances become a possible cause of World War I?



Analyzing History – Causes of WWI

Imperialism: a system and pursuit of empire; process of accumulation and acquisition of land, resources, labor and profits

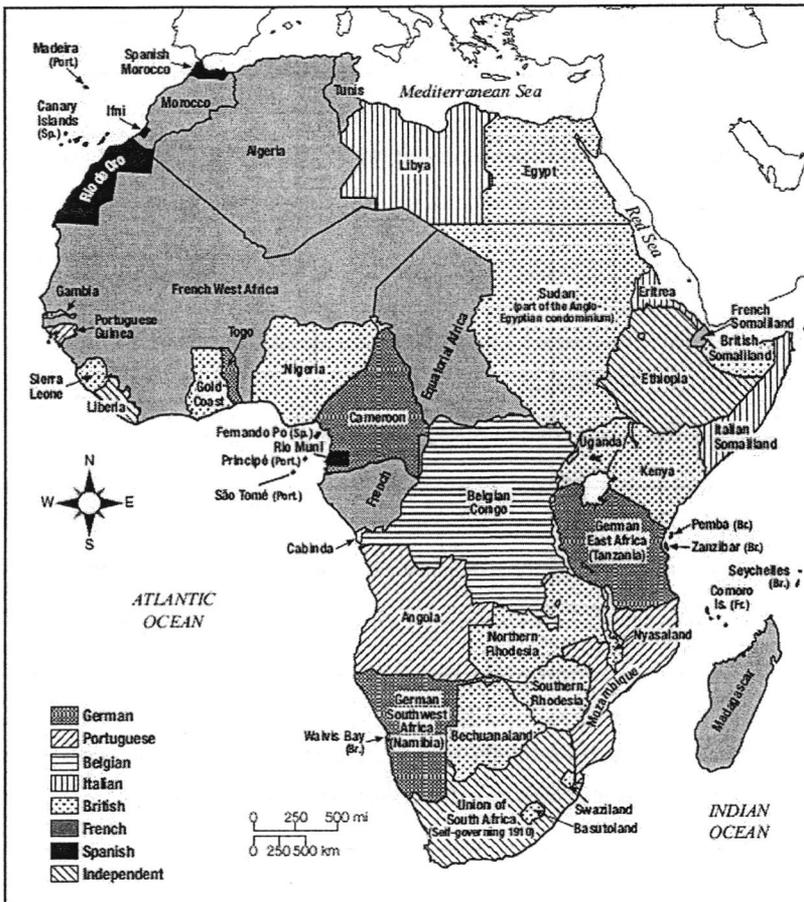
FIGURE 1 - BRITISH PROPAGANDA POSTER



"I contend that we are the first race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. I contend that every acre added to our territory provides for the birth of more of the English race...I believe it to be my duty to my God, my Queen and my country to paint the whole map of Africa red..."

-Cecil Rhodes

FIGURE 2 - EUROPEAN COLONIZATION IN AFRICA (1913)



Source: Les Rowntree et al., *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

	Britain	France	Belgium	Netherlands	Germany
Area in Square Miles	94,000	212,600	11,800	13,200	210,000
Population	45,500,100	42,000,000	8,300,000	8,500,000	67,500,000
Area of Colonies	13,100,000	4,300,000	940,000	790,000	1,100,000
Population of Colonies	470,000,000	65,000,000	13,000,000	66,000,000	13,000,000

Table 1 - Extent of European Colonialism

Source: Mary Evelyn Townsend, *European Colonial Expansion Since 1871* (Chicago: J.P. Lippincott Company, 1941), p. 19



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Questions

1. Read the definition of imperialism at the top of the page. In your own words, explain what the goal of imperialism is.

2. How does the propaganda poster in Figure 1 reflect that goal?

3. Use the Internet or a textbook to look up the Berlin Conference. What was the purpose of the conference? What was decided there?

4. How does the quote from Cecil Rhodes describe the British goals after the Berlin Conference?

5. Examine the map in Figure 2. Based on this map, which countries were most successful in their attempt to colonize Africa? Which countries were less successful?

6. Finally, look at Table 1. The table shows the total extent of European colonization around the world by land area and population. Which countries have the largest amounts of colonized land? Which countries have the least?

7. Imagine that you are the leader of one the countries that has less colonial power. How might you feel?

8. Now put it together. How might imperialism help lead to World War I?



Analyzing History – Causes of WWI

Nationalism: loyalty and devotion to a nation; **ESPECIALLY** : a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations

"Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first."

French leader, Charles de Gaulle

"Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind."

Albert Einstein

FIGURE 1 - GERMAN PROPAGANDA (1915)



L'ENTENTE CORDIALE ♥
1915

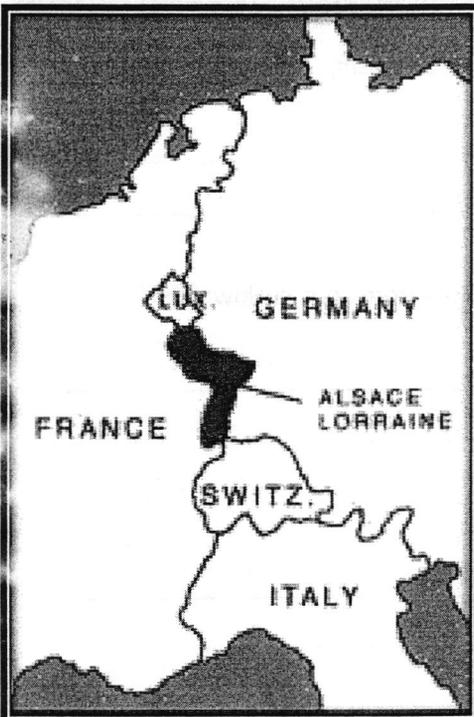


FIGURE 2 - ALSACE AND LORRAINE

"There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism...a hyphenated American is not an American at all. The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities, an intricate knot of German-Americans, Irish-Americans, English-Americans, French-Americans, Scandinavian-Americans, or Italian-Americans, each preserving its separate nationality, each at heart feeling more sympathy with Europeans of that nationality than with the other citizens of the American Republic."

Theodore Roosevelt

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Questions

1. Read the definition of nationalism at the top of the page. In your own words explain nationalism.

2. Nationalism is often confused with Patriotism. Read the quote from famous French leader, Charles de Gaulle and explain in your own words how he distinguishes between the two.

3. Look at Figure 1. In the picture a German eagle is looking down at Britain (depicted as a spider). How does this image reflect the results of nationalism on British goals as well as the nationalistic view that Germans have of themselves?

4. How does the quote from Albert Einstein reflect what you see in Figure 1?

5. Now read the quote from Teddy Roosevelt. Based on what you know about nationalism, is this quote more nationalistic or patriotic? Explain.

6. Finally, look at Figure 2. In 1871, Germany took the Alsace and Lorraine territory from France. How might nationalism help shape the French response to this loss of territory?

7. Overall, how might nationalism become a possible cause of World War I?



Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Analyzing History – Causes of WWI (Student Note Sheet)

Directions: While discussing the causes of WWI with your group, write down what each letter stands for and explain how each cause contributed to the start of WWI. (Note: You do not need to complete the cause you were originally assigned.)

M

A

I

N

