



WORLD WAR 1

1914 - 1918

THE GREAT WAR



Roots of the War

Explosive Material for WW1

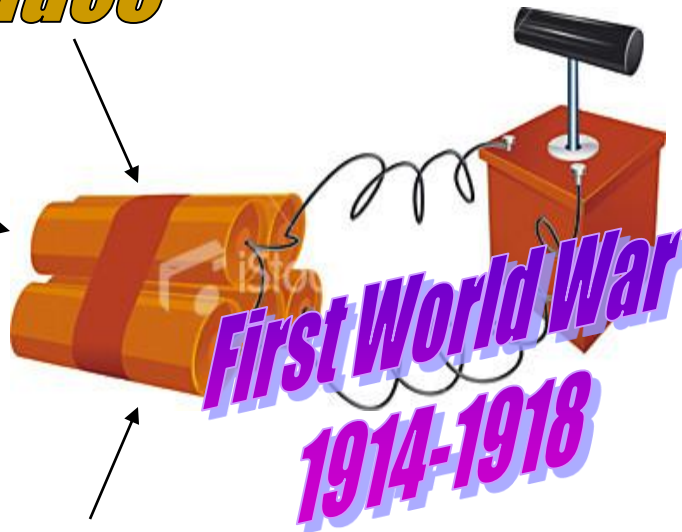
By 1914, these 4 long term causes only required a spark to explode into open conflict

Arms Race

Alliances

Economic Rivalry

Nationalism



Killing of Franz Ferdinand

*Short term cause
(The spark that set off the explosion)*

Nationalism

Nationalism : Overview

- *A sense of national consciousness that fosters loyalty to the country*
 - *It is also a desire of a subjugated people to throw off foreign rule and create their own nation*
 - *Strong force in Europe & other areas throughout the 18th & 19th centuries*
-

Nationalism : Overview

- *Nationalism can be a **positive force** for it can help unify a people (French Revolution, Canadian Confederation, Olympic Games)*
-

negative because it ...



A. Created an atmosphere of hostility in Europe.

negative because it ...

MIGHTIER YET!



In ships, tonnage and gun-power, the Navies of the British Empire are the most powerful sea force in the world — and another million tons of British warships are building

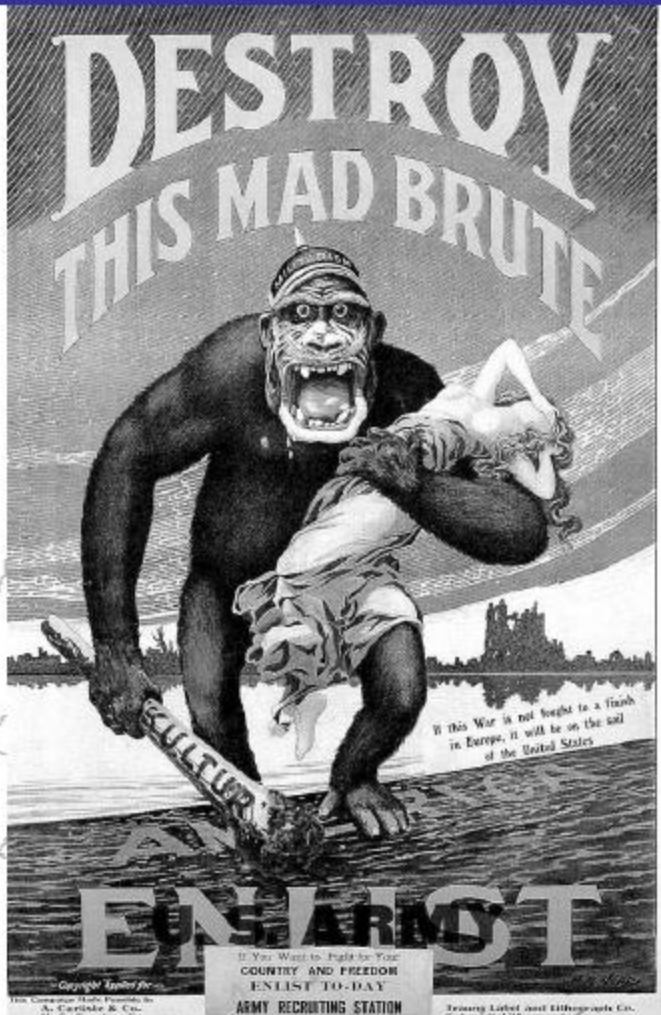


The life-line is firm
thanks to the
MERCHANT NAVY

B. Made some countries feel superior to others.



negative because it ...



C. Made people feel threatened & encouraged them to unite & prepare for war.

Nationalism : Overview

- *Extreme nationalism was causing problems in the early 20th century.*
 - **Some people seemed willing to take any action to support their nation, regardless of the effect on others including going to war or conducting terrorist activities to promote the interests of their homelands/ethnic groups**
-

Nationalism : Overview

- *So, what was the sources of nationalism for the countries of Europe in 1914?*

For France ...

- Wanted **revenge** for 1871 loss of provinces of **Alsace & Lorraine** to Germany & desire to regain control over coal/iron ore in this region
 - After 1871, created **large overseas empire** with colonies in Africa & Asia in order to regain national pride & prestige
-

**Region annexed by
Germany in 1871**



For France ...

Alsace-Lorraine is a

question of... nationalism





**... but helps
create a
feeling which
is...**

anti-German.

In Germany...

**Nationalism is based on
a desire to become a
world power like
Britain.**



**FRUSTRATION!
FRUSTRATION!**



**FRUSTRATION!
FRUSTRATION!
FRUSTRATION!
FRUSTRATION!
FRUSTRATION!**

**When
Germany
finally
achieves its
unification in
1871, it's too
late.
There are no
more
colonies
available.**

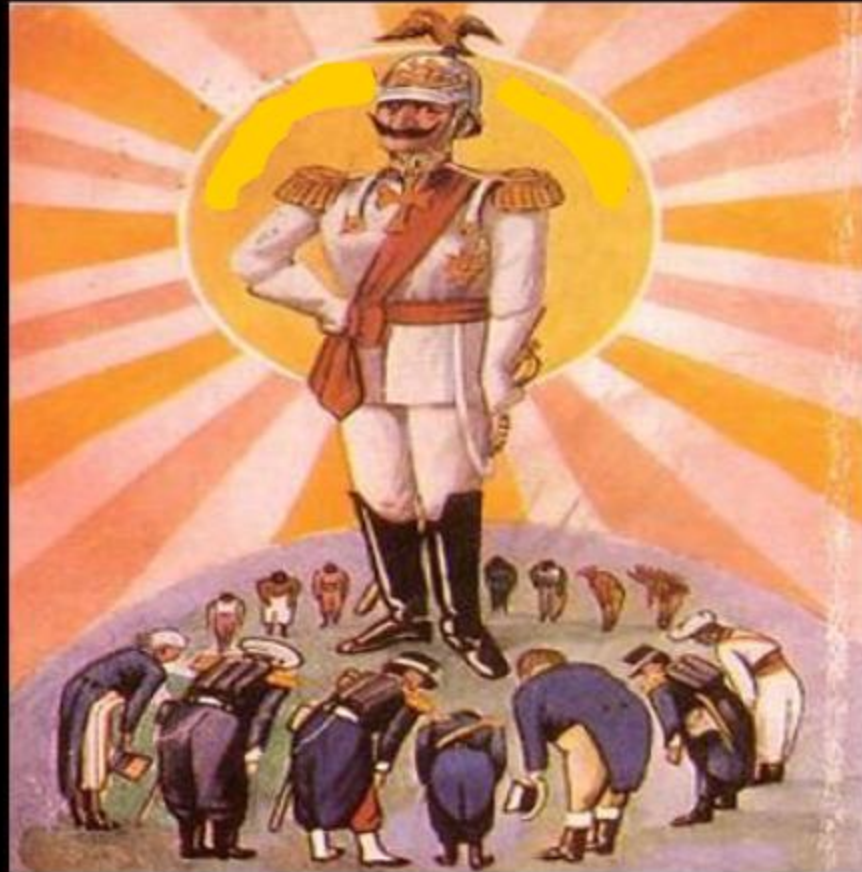
In Germany...

- Growing economic nationalism & strength as **strongest economy** in Europe (*e.g. coal & iron ore, etc.*)
- **Frustrated** by inability to attain colonies in Africa/Asia & believed Britain & France were preventing Germany from doing so
- **Pride in strength & ability of its army** (2nd largest /best in Europe)



Kaiser Wilhelm II

“My dream.”



A.

In AH....

... Ethnic nationalism is strong.

➤ **A type of nationalism based on...**





1.common religion

2.common language

3.common culture

4.common geography

**but not based on a pride
in a country as in
France or Germany.**



AH



AH...

**In 1914, each group
was fighting for its own
interests.**



AH...

- **Empire was in decay** as industrialization was not widespread
- **Feared** rise & growing power of **Serbia & its nationalism & its desire to create 'Greater' Serbia** that included Austrian controlled **Bosnia-Herzegovina** (populated by ethnic Serbs)

В. РУССИЯ (RUSSIA)



For the glory of Russia!

**Russia
wants to
take
advantage
of AH's
instability..**

Russian nationalists ask
Slavs living in the
Balkans to accept
Russia's involvement in
their affairs.

Atlantic Ocean



Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the Czech Republic's national flag. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes: a white stripe at the top, a red stripe at the bottom, and a blue stripe in the middle. The blue stripe is wider than the other two. The flag is shown waving, with some folds and shadows visible.

Why?

Same ethnic origins:

SLAVS!

At the same time ...

... **PAN-SLAVISM** is growing in
AH & in the Balkans.

- A movement fighting for the unification of all Slavs in one country (to be led by Russia!)



SLAVS



Russians

Macedonians

Bulgarians

Serbs

Croats

РУССИЯ (Russia)

- Also wanted to **increase its role in the Balkans** at expense of Austria-Hungary & Ottoman Empire

e.g. desired control of Constantinople (Ottoman Empire) & access to Mediterranean Sea from Black Sea

C.

In Britain ...

... its **empire is a source
of nationalism.**



Pax Britannica

(Peace of Britain)

World peace depends on Britain dominating the world.

Believed in '*splendid isolation*' – not being involved in alliances (from 1815-1914), but by 1900, Britain was threatened by Germany & made an informal alliance with France (Entente Cordial**).**

BRITISH EMPIRE, CIRCA 1900



The British Empire



**Territories in
North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia**



Pax Britannica

(Peace of Britain)

- Great **pride in its empire** (the largest in the world) & its Royal Navy (the best in the world)
- Britain was the **most powerful country in 1914**
- **Suspicious of German & Japanese desires** for territory & military/economic power

Nationalism

- *Nationalistic ideals were particularly dangerous within the Austria-Hungarian Empire*
 - *Many ethnic groups living within that empire wanted freedom & self government*
 - *One such group, the Serbs, wished to gain more political power in the Balkans & to eventually unite all Serbs into one nation - Yugoslavia*
 - *Serbia was supported by Russia...Russia was the traditional protector of the Serbs (Slavic race)*
-



GERMANY

RUSSIA

Danube

Czechs

Poles

Ruthenians

Slovaks

Germans

Hungarians

Romanians

Italians

Slovenes

Croats

Serbs and Croats
BOSNIA

Serbs

Danube
SERBIA

ROMANIA

ITALY

Adriatic Sea

MONTENEGRO

BULGARIA

ALBANIA

Nationalism

- *Nationalism was very strong in **Serbia** & many Serbs throughout the Balkans / Eastern Europe **resented** living under Austrian control.*
- *One area where this resentment was strongest was in **Bosnia – annexed by Austria in 1908***
- *By 1914, the **Black Hand** (Serbian-Bosnian terrorist group) had formed with the goal of **separating** Bosnia from Austria & **uniting** it with Serbia*
- *Like most terrorist groups, the **Bland Hand** was willing to go to the extreme for their cause.*

Economic Rivalry

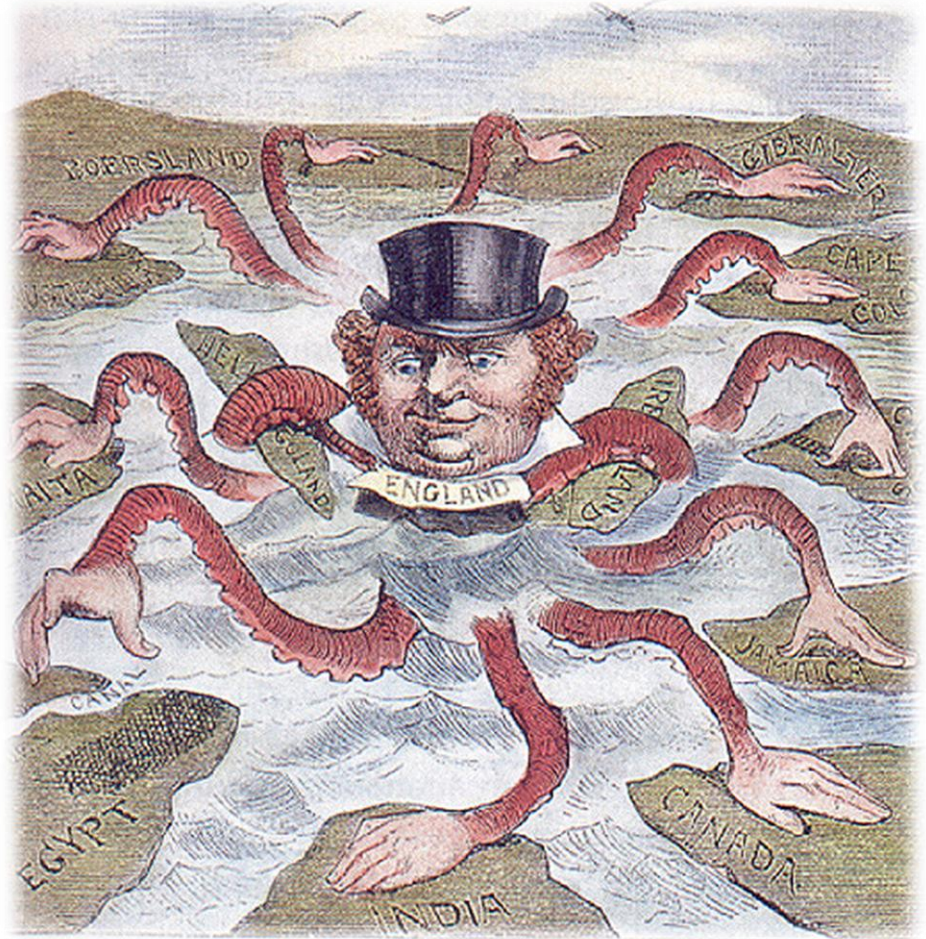
Definition

- *Competition between nations to produce the greatest economic growth*

- *Closely connected with imperialism form earlier this week*

- *God*
- *Gold*
- *Glory*

- *Prior to WW1, Britain & Germany were economic competitors*



Economic Rivalry

- *Formed in 1871, Germany was an upstart nation*
 - *Britain was a well establish economic superpower*
 - *Leading up to 1914, economic rivalry between them was intense*
-

Economic Rivalry

- *By 1914, Germany had surpassed British with steel production (natural resources from Alsace-Lorraine capture from France in 1871)*
 - *German manufacturing industry was more modern with the latest technology compared to many of the British factories which were older & often inefficient*
 - *Germany also had well educated scientists and engineers that were needed industrial expansion.....attributed to an excellent education system*
-

ARMS Race (Militarism)

Militarism

- policy whereby a country increases its spending on its military (men or weapons)
- *It was thought that the only way to guarantee peace was to prepare for war.*
- *Based on the idea that if a nation is militarily strong, then no enemy would dare to attack it.*
- *If war does break out, the militarized nation is able to defend itself.*



Militarism

- *Militarism led to an arms race before 1914 as many countries tried to build a larger & more deadly war machine than its rivals.*
- *The size of armies & navies would determine who was more powerful.*
- *Prior to WWI, Germany contained Europe's strongest armies while Great Britain was the world's strongest naval power*



Militarism : Armies

- *Germany constructed large armies because it was surrounded by Russia & France which had formed a common alliance in the early 1890s*
- *The German army was accepted as being the biggest and the best in the world.*



Arms Race

- *As an island nation, Britain had traditionally maintained a large navy to protect trade routes & its overseas empire*
- *Germany also wanted an empire & began increasing the size of its navy in order to achieve this goal....this worried the British, national security threat*

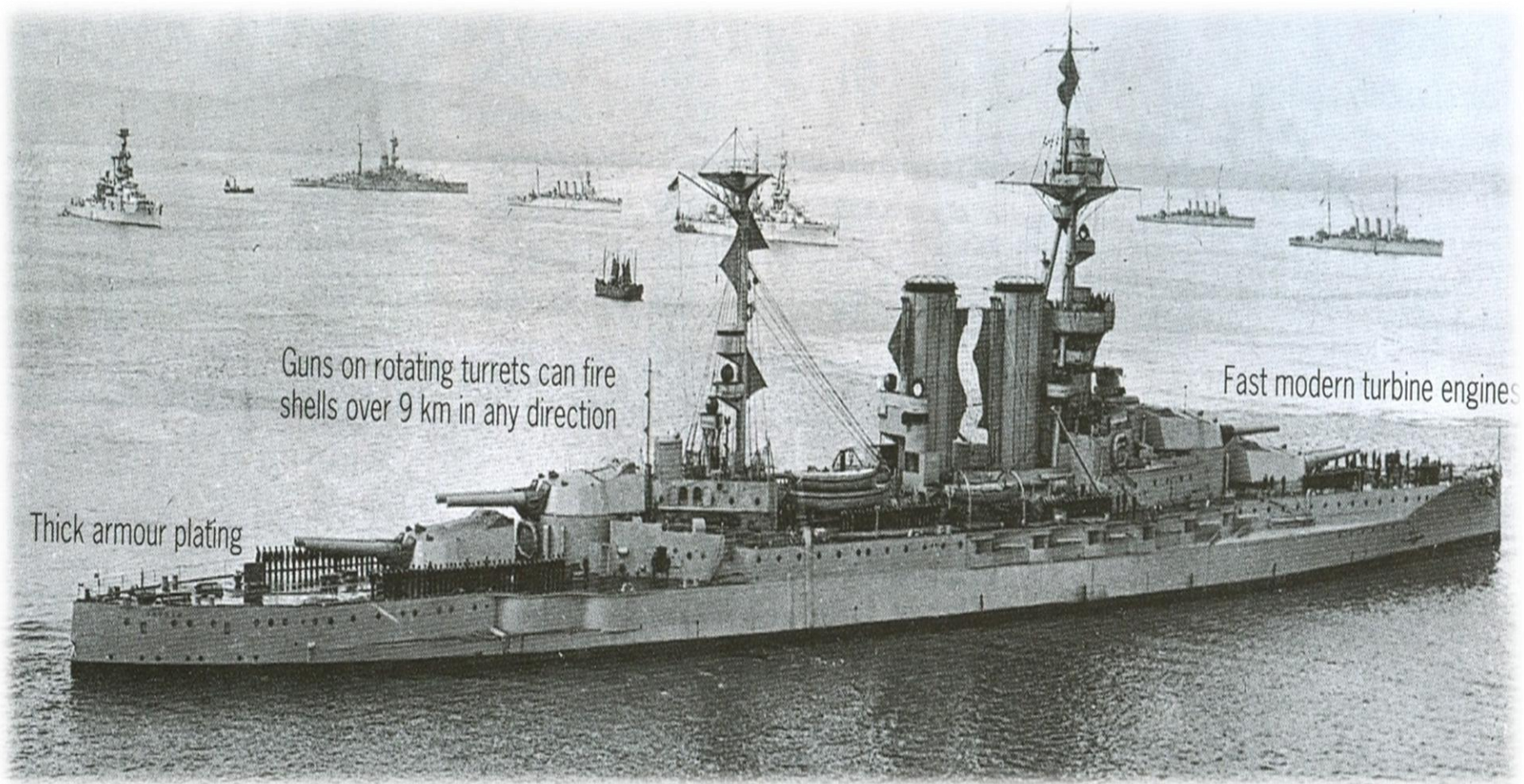


Arms Race: Dreadnought

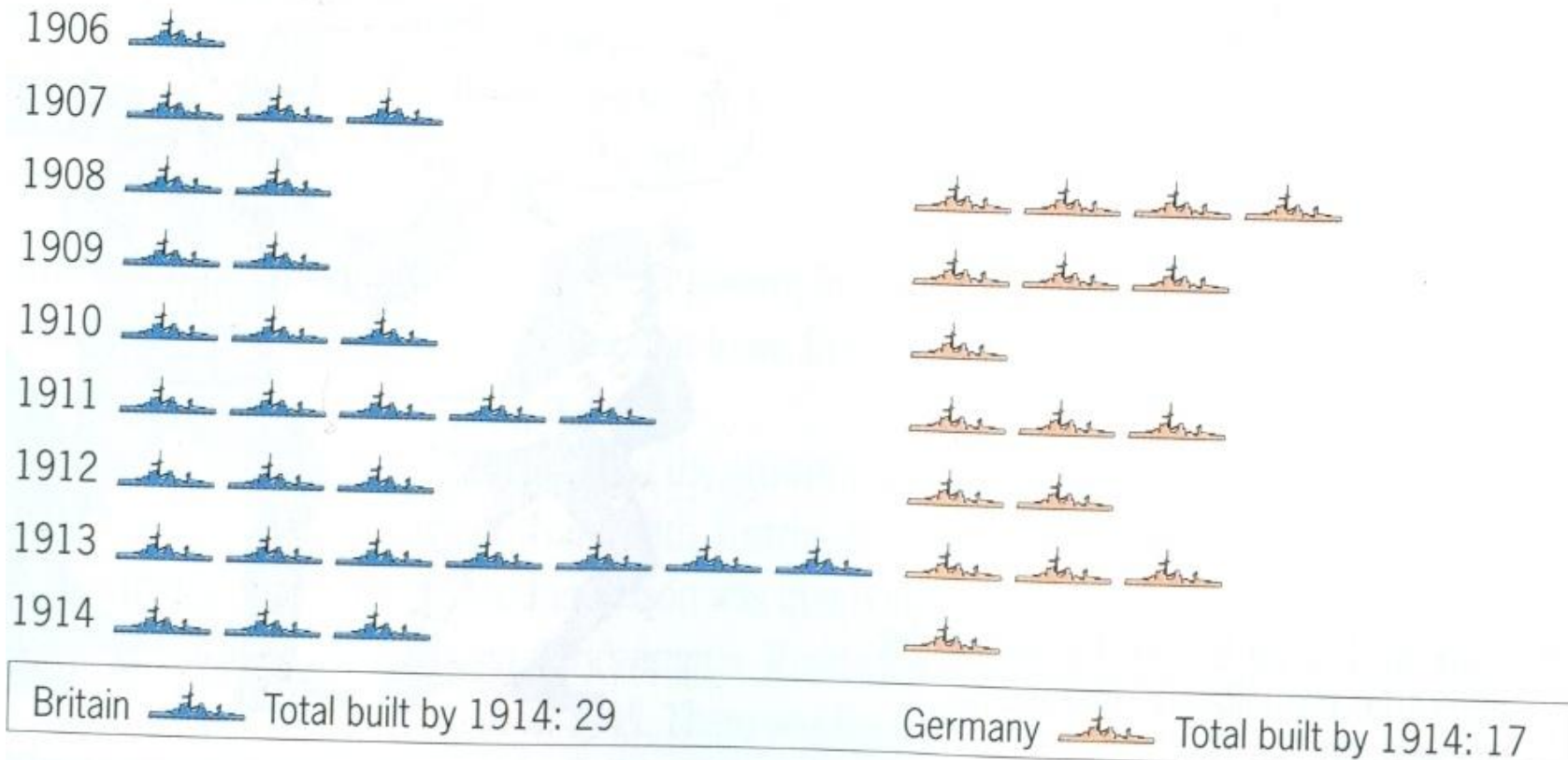
- In 1906, Britain launched the Dreadnought, the first all-big-gun battleship, which made all other warships obsolete,
- Gaining numerical superiority with this weapon would provide a control with command of the seas
- *Both Britain and Germany launched major battleship programs prior to 1914*



Arms Race: Dreadnought



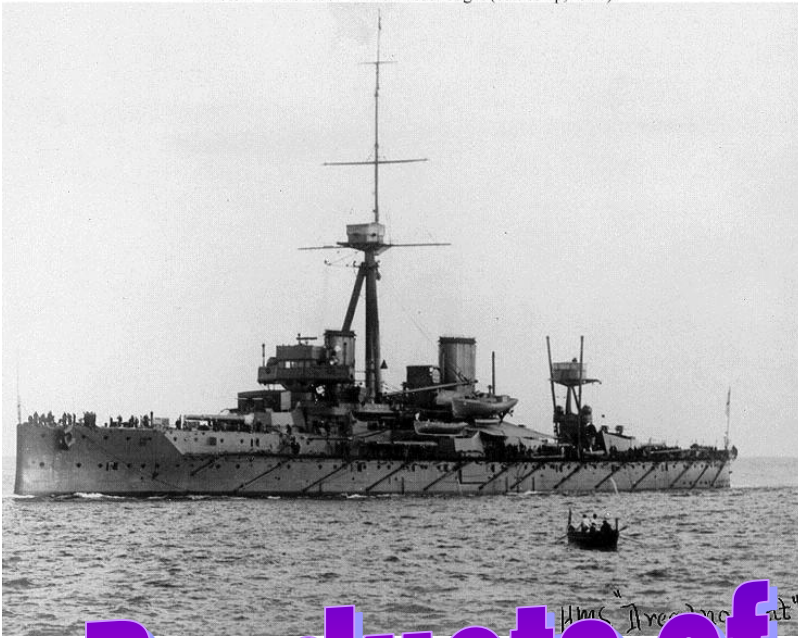
Arms Race : Navies



Number of 'Dreadnoughts' built by Britain and Germany, 1906-14.

Arms Race Significance?

- Threatened by German naval expansion & suspicious of German intentions, Britain decided that it needed friends
 - It sought alliances with its formal rivals, France and Russia
-



Products of Militarism



A System of Alliances

Alliances: 1914 Overview

- *Alliances are formed when countries band together against a common threat (they guarantee military assistance if a country is attacked by an enemy nation)*
- *Between 1879 & 1907, the major European powers became caught up in a dangerous system of alliances*
- *While they did provide security, alliances were very dangerous for they raised the possibility that a minor incident between two countries could lead to a general war between all alliance members*

Alliances: 1914 Overview

- *In 1914, Europe had two main alliance systems:*
 - *The Triple Alliance (“The Central Powers”) consisting of Germany, Austria-Hungary, & Italy*
 - *The Triple Entente (“The Allies”) consisting of Great Britain, France, and Russia*
- *So how did all of this develop?*

Bismarck & Alliances

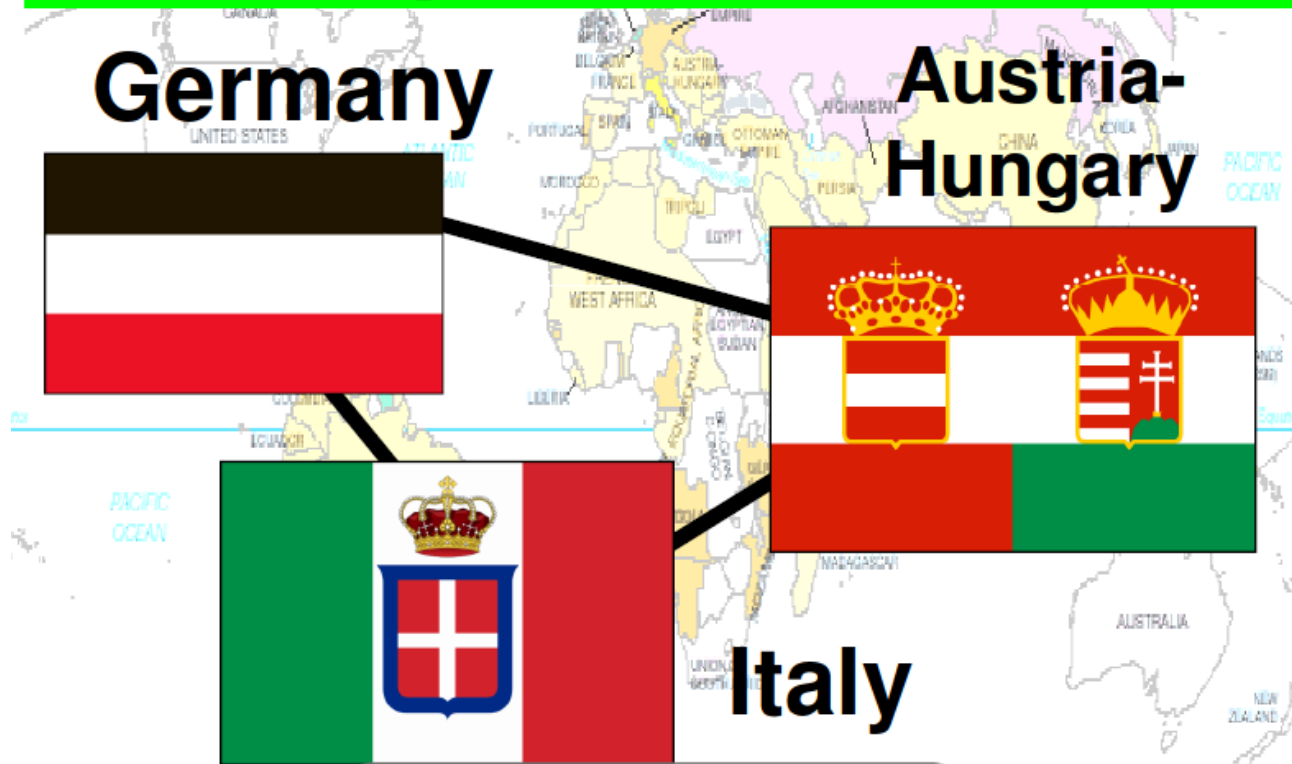
- Otto von Bismarck was German Chancellor who formulated German unification in 1871 by defeating France in the Franco-Prussian War
 - To guarantee his countries security, he signs treaties & creates alliances with other European countries
 - Bismarck's ultimate goal was to isolate France
-

The Dual Alliance 1879



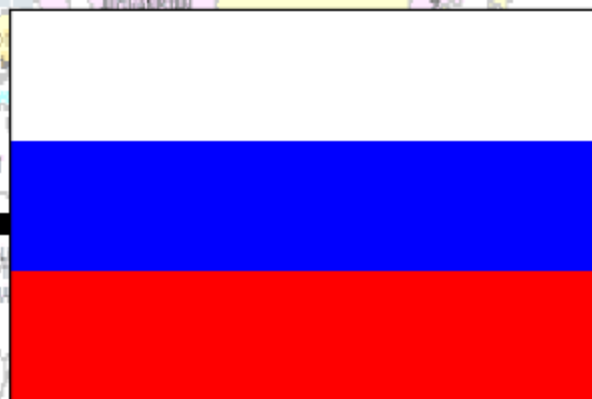
- If one is attacked, the other will come to its aid

The Triple Alliance 1882



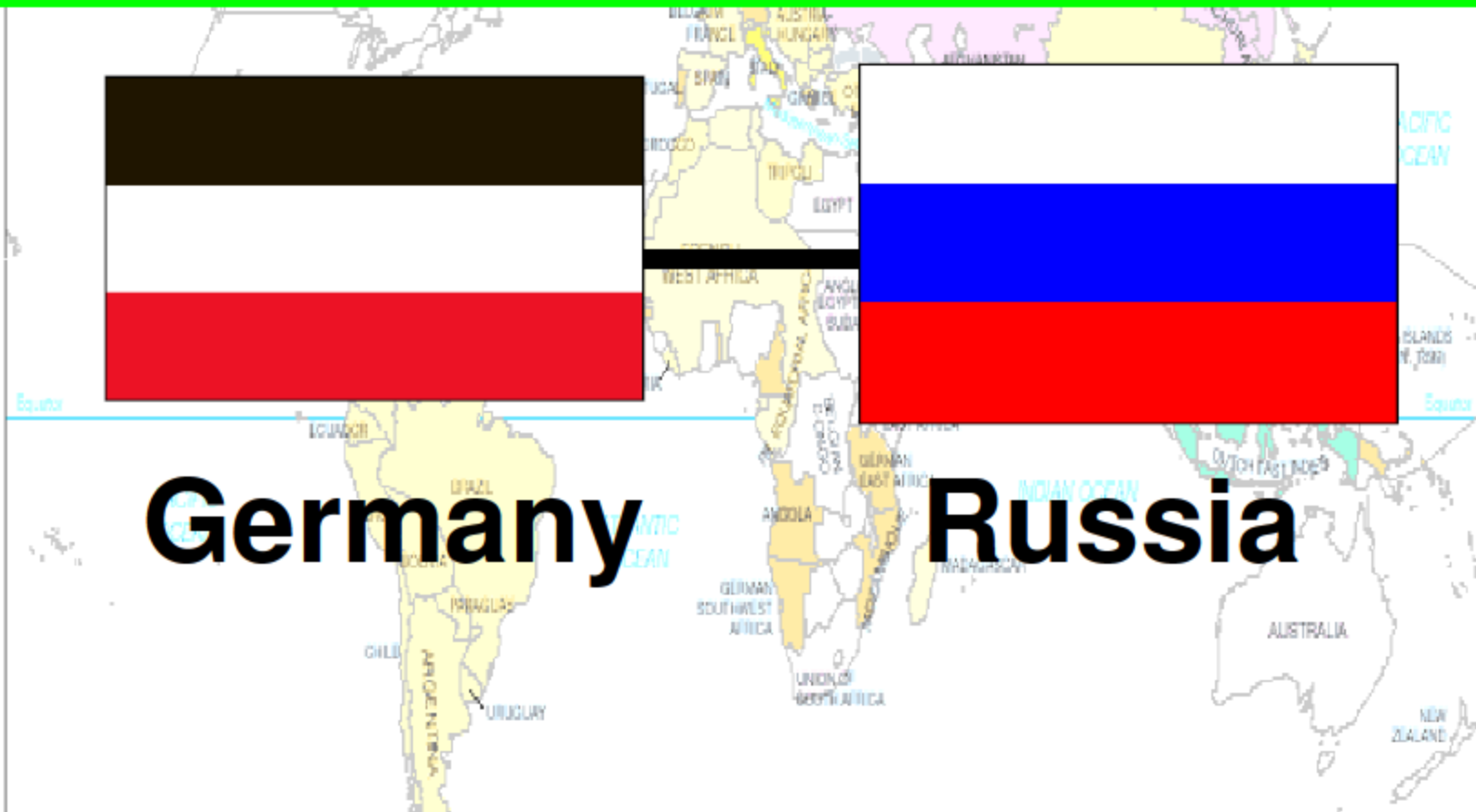
- If one European power (France, Russia, Britain) attacks one, the other will come to its aid

The Reinsurance Treaty of 1887



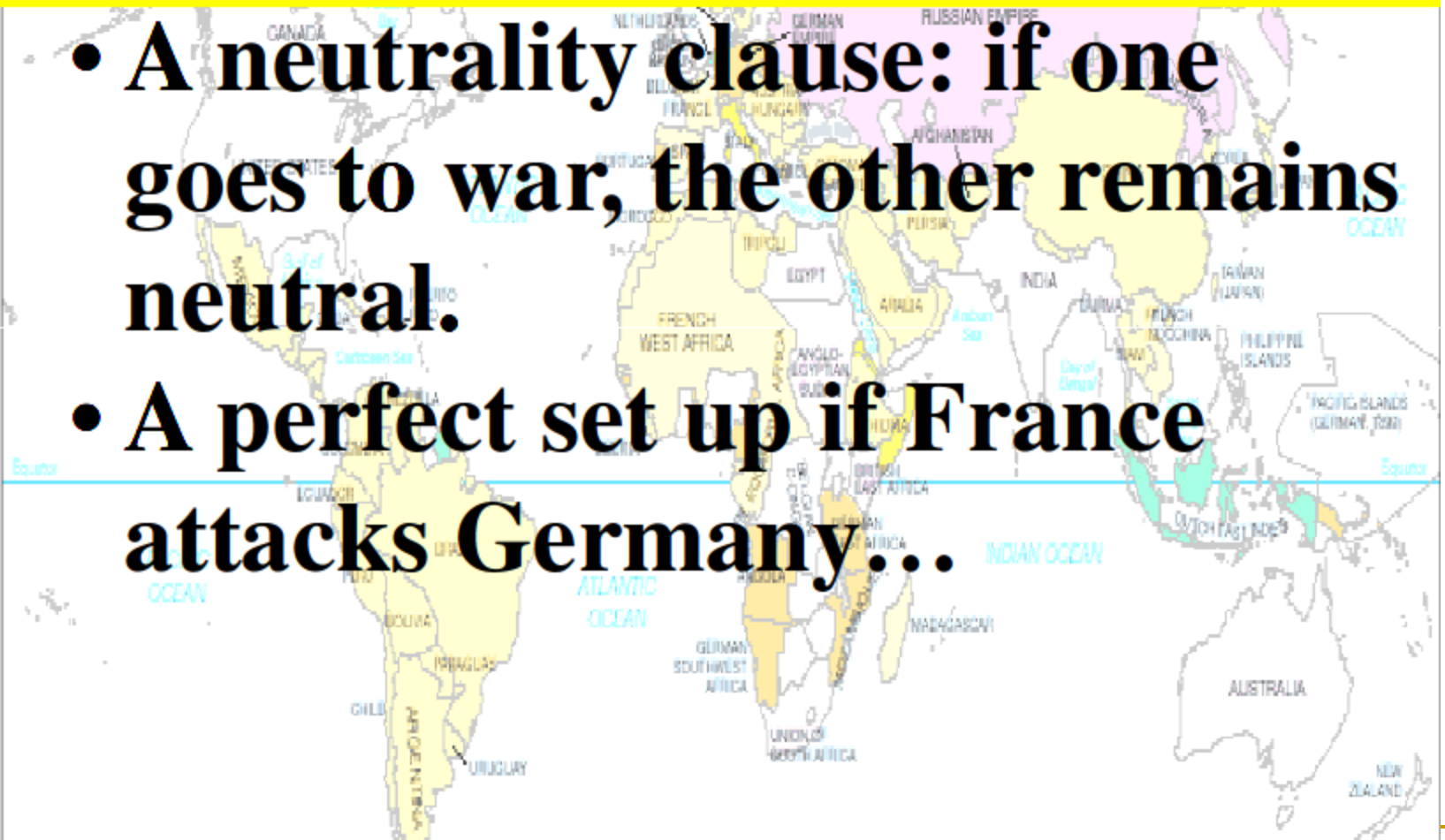
Germany

Russia



The Reinsurance Treaty

- A neutrality clause: if one goes to war, the other remains neutral.
- A perfect set up if France attacks Germany...



How does this avoid a war on two fronts?



Bismarck Alliances

- Bismarck also avoid conflict with Britain by not pursuing an overseas empire or constructing a navy
 - Bismarckian Diplomacy = French Isolation
 - Events in Europe will change very quickly when German Kaiser Wilhelm II takes command
-

William Pitt Rivers

- Colonel (1863-1918)
- General (1895-1918) II of
- He was a member of the PUNCH club in 1890



DROPPING THE PILOT.



And...

- **Kaiser Wilhelm II** decides not to renew the Reinsurance Treaty in 1890



A bad decision
mein freund.

Problem: Germany may be attacked on **two fronts** in a war (France & Russia)!

-
- By 1894, France & Russia had put aside long standing differences and had entered into a military alliance
-

WELTPOLITIK

- After Bismarck, Germany follows policy of ***Weltpolitik (world policy)***
 - A policy to create a large German **colonial empire**, build a **strong navy** (to rival Britain) & use foreign policy to strengthen power of monarchy over German people.
-

WELTPOLITIK

- Under Wilhelm II, Germany adopted a **bold & aggressive** approach to European & colonial affairs.
- Confrontational policy which **increased tension** in European affairs, primarily because the Kaiser began to make sudden interventions in major international issues.

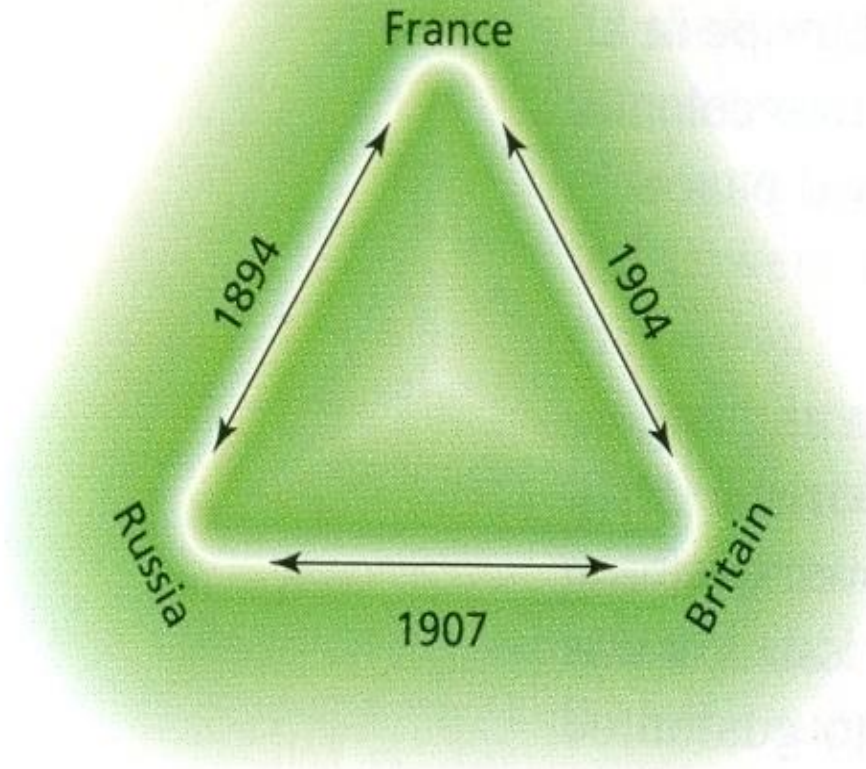


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- Seeing Germany as a major threat, In 1904, the British ended centuries of hatred towards their rivals across the channel and signed an alliance with the French.
 - By 1907, Britain had joined with France and Russia to form the Triple Entente
 - France & Russia agreed jointly to declare war on any nation that attacked either one of them.
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Alliances: 1914 Review

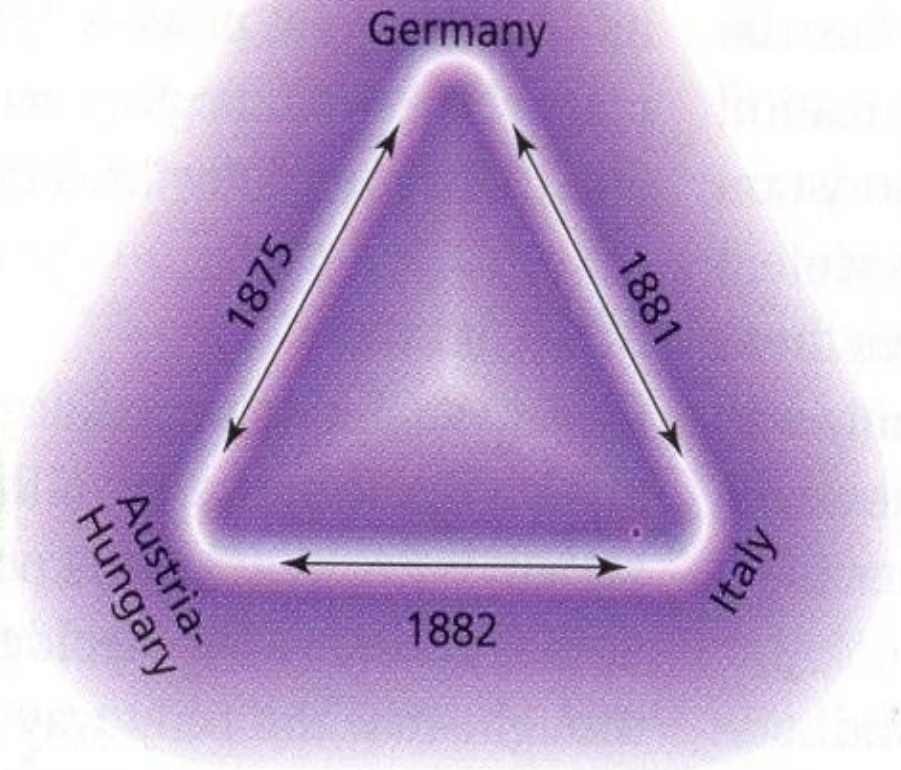
Triple Entente

(the Allies)



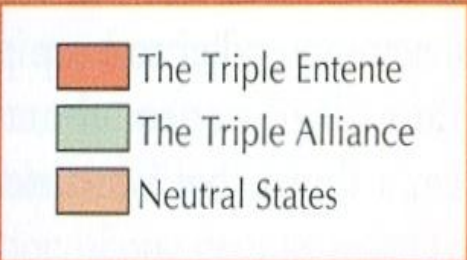
Triple Alliance

(Central Powers)



Europe and the Alliance Systems, 1914

(Prior to World War I)



- The Triple Entente
- The Triple Alliance
- Neutral States



'Balance of Power' cartoon analysis



A modern redrawing of an American cartoon published in the *Brooklyn Eagle*, July 1914. The cartoon was called 'The Chain of Friendship'.

-
- While alliances were formed to prevent war, the irony is that they actually sucked us into one
-

Immediate Cause

- *With an analysis of our four long term causes now completed, lets look at the spark which triggered the First World War*

- *The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914*

- *Within a month following this assassination, all of the major countries of Europe would be at war.*

