

# CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

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# Nationalism

- ▣ A deep devotion to ones nation.
- ▣ Caused intense competition among nations
- ▣ Many people became willing to fight for their country due to their increased pride.

# Imperialism

- ▣ A policy by which a country increases power by gaining control of other areas of the world.
- ▣ European nations competed fiercely for colonies in Asia and Africa
- ▣ Increased sense of rivalry

# Militarism

- ▣ Glorifying military power and keeping an army prepared for war was known as **militarism**
- ▣ Military experts stressed the importance of being able to quickly mobilize, or organize and move troops in case of a war.

# Alliances


- ▣ Prussia's chancellor, **Otto Von Bismarck** attempted to isolate France.
- ▣ In 1879, Bismarck formed the Dual Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- ▣ 3 years later, Italy joined, forming the **Triple Alliance**



# Alliances cont.

- ▣ Kaiser Wilhelm II became ruler of Germany in 1892
- ▣ Wilhelm let his nation's treaty with Russia lapse
- ▣ Russia then formed an alliance with France
- ▣ Britain created an entente with France and Russia, the **Triple Entente**.



 *European Alliances on the Eve of World War I. Alliance systems divided Europe into two great blocs with few countries remaining neutral.*

# 4 **MAIN** Long Term Causes of WWI

- ▣ **M**- Militarism
- ▣ **A**- Alliance
- ▣ **I**- Imperialism
- ▣ **N**- Nationalism



# Crisis in the Balkans

- ▣ The Ottoman Empire, which included the Balkans was in rapid decline
- ▣ Austria annexed to two Balkan areas with large Slavic populations, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▣ Tensions between Serbia and Austria rose

# On The Brink of War

- ▣ While visiting Bosnia in 1914, a Serbian nationalist shot and killed **Archduke Francis Ferdinand** of Austria-Hungary.
- ▣ Austria- Hungary declared war on Serbia.
- ▣ Russia, allied with Serbia, then declared war on Austria- Hungary.



# Surrounding Countries

- ▣ Britain was on board immediately
- ▣ Italy managed to declare itself neutral, but the Ottoman Empire took its place, forming with Germany and Austria- Hungary in an alliance called the **Central Powers**