# 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**

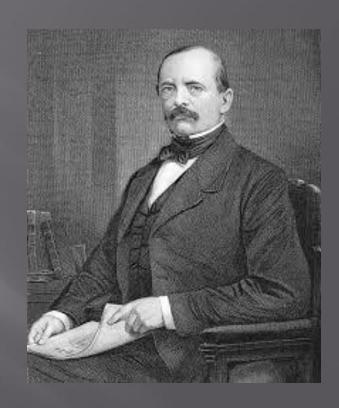
- A policy by which a country increases power by gaining control of other areas of the world.
- European nations competed fiercely for colonies in Asia and Africa
- Increased sense of rivalry

#### 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