

NEED TO KNOW

Causes of World War I



WHAT?

An escalating of tensions leading to World War I

WHEN?

1870-1914

[CLICK HERE](#) to view an e-lecture on this topic.

WHERE?

Throughout Europe

WHO?

Otto von Bismarck (Alliance System)
Archduke Franz Ferdinand (of Austria-Hungary)

2ND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Between 1850 and 1914, the Second Industrial Revolution brought about rapid technological advancement, leading to a period of European dominance at the turn of the 20th century.

Britain & Germany were Europe's most industrialized nations.

THE M.A.I.N. CAUSES:

Militarism

Anglo-German
Arms Race

DREADNOUGHT
(Battleship)

Alliances

Triple Alliance (1882)
Germany, Austria, & Italy*

Triple Entente (1907)
Britain, France, & Russia

**Italy would enter the war on the side of the Entente in 1915.*

Imperialism

Imperial rivalries gave nations another forum for competition, driving the powers of Europe to assert themselves across the globe.

Nationalism

Ethnic groups demanded their own independent nations – especially diverse nationalities ruled by Austria-Hungary.

Nationalism also made people more prone to support warfare against other nations in defense of perceived national interests.

TROUBLE IN THE BALKANS

The **Balkan Peninsula** had for centuries been a borderland between the Ottoman and Austrian Empires. The rise of nationalism and the decline of the Ottoman Empire brought instability to the region.

In 1914, a group of **Serbian nationalists** known as the **Black Hand** orchestrated the assassination of **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, during his visit to **Sarajevo**.

Russia, the largest **Slavic** nation in Europe, intervened against Austria to protect Serbia, while Austria activated its alliance with Germany. The alliances were invoked and Europe was at war.



Map by [Olahus](#)

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