

Long-Term Causes World War I

World War I

We are soldiers. It is a great brotherhood, which adds something of the good-fellowship of the folk-song, of the feeling of solidarity of convicts and of the desperate loyalty to one another of men condemned to death, to a condition of life arising out of the midst of danger, out of the tension and forlornness of death.

Erich Maria Remarque - All Quiet on the Western Front

Causes of War - long term- MAINE

- Militarism - glory of war and military spending
- Alliances: web of treaties to protect themselves
- Imperial tensions- competition for colonies
- Nationalism- many countries torn by tensions of different nationalist groups
- Europe at its peak- industrial and population



Militarism



- Militarism- the glorification of armed strength and the ideals of war.
- European nations militarized to protect colonies
- Militarism led to large sophisticated armies and navies with many new weapons
- Britain felt its navy had to be the size of the next two largest navies on the European continent
 - When Germany chose to expand its navy, Britain considered it a threat and began an arms race
 - By 1914 Russia had 6 million troops, Germany doubled the size of their army to counter the threat





System of Alliances

- Imperialism, Militarism and Nationalism all led to a sense that war was inevitable in Europe
- European powers set up alliances to back each other up in case of aggression from another country
- Germany, Austria and Italy- Triple Alliance (Central Powers)
- Russia, France and Britain- Triple Entente (Allies)
- Europe had all of its great economic, imperial powers armed with massive armies who glorified war and sought alliances to maintain or advance their international standings.

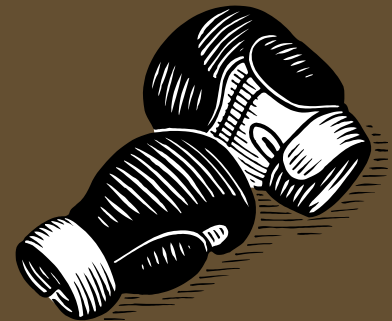
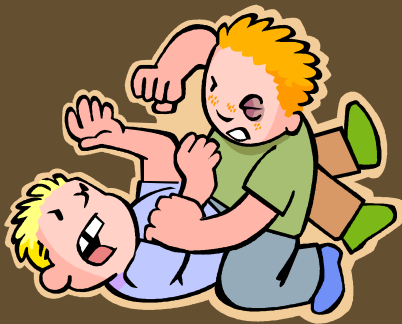


EUROPE 1914



Imperial tension

- To maintain strong economies European powers competed for colonies.
- The race for overseas colonies nearly led to war between European countries



Nationalism

- Two types: a) pride in one's country b) desire to break away from an oppressing power & be independent
- While nationalism contributed to uniting some nations (Germany and Italy), it also promoted ethnic turmoil in other areas
- Patriotic nationalism combined with militarism created tension and an atmosphere of aggression among European powers



Europe at its peak

- In 1914 European nations were the most technologically advanced, wealthiest societies on earth
- All aspects of life were affected by modernization
- Modernization created a feeling of superiority in Europe

Nationalism con't

- Austria Hungary was made up many different ethnic backgrounds, the Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Croats, and Serbs all resented Austrian power
- Nationalism increased tensions in prewar Europe





Archduke Francis Ferdinand



Crisis Event

- Archduke Francis Ferdinand was the heir to Austria-Hungary's throne
- He was assassinated by a terrorist group, The Black Hand. Their goal was for Bosnian Serbs to join larger Serbia (nationalism)
- The assassination intended to show rebellion against A-H's annexation of Bosnia
- A-H blamed Serbia for encouraging Bosnia Serbs to rebel

SHORT-TERM CAUSES OF WWI

- 1. Russia supported Serbia
- 2. A-H got support from Germany
- 3. Serbia issued an ultimatum—
investigation of assassination OR War
- 4. Serbia said yes to all but one of the
conditions
- 5. A-H declared war on Serbia
- 6. R., Fr., & G.,--Mobilized

Short-term continued . . .

- 7. G. & R. declared war on each other
- 8. G. invaded Belgium
- 9. Britain defended Belgium & declared war on Germany

- World War I 1914-1918