

Causes of World War I

- MANIA
- I. Long term causes of the war
- A. **Militarism**- the extreme buildup of a country's military power (its weapons, military supplies, soldiers, army, navy, etc)
- 1. Germany spent approximately 30 million pounds on weapons and supplies in 1890, upping its total to 110 million pounds spent in 1914.
- 2. Britain spent almost 80 million pounds on weapons and supplies in 1914 (50 million pounds spent on the navy alone)

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- **B. Alliances-** the partnership or agreement that countries make between each other. During World War I the following countries promised to help one another if they were attacked.
- 1. Triple **Alliance-** Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- 2. Triple **Entente-** Russia, United Kingdom, and France

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- C. **Nationalism**- a very EXTREME sense of patriotism that people have for their country. It is almost like making a “god” out of your country. People see their country as superior and care only for their country’s advancement in life.
- 1. **Italy** (in 1861) and **Germany** (in 1871) were unified as a country due to strong nationalism.
- 2. Serbia and other areas around it wanted to unify all Slavic people groups (with Russia seen as the father of them). They had strong **ethnic feelings** and Serbia wanted to create their own ethnic state.

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- D. **Imperialism**- the practice of a country seeking to extend its power over other countries for economic, political, or cultural reasons.
 1. Multiple countries had control of large areas of land in the late 1800's. The continent of Africa was dominated by other countries.
 2. **Colonies** were established by these countries for more power (more land was gained and more natural resources as well.)

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- II. Short term cause of the war
- E. **Assassination-** Archduke Franz Ferdinand (of Austria-Hungary) was murdered by a Serbian nationalist in 1914. Austria made demands to Serbia which Serbia did not fully meet. Therefore, on July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Other countries soon joined in because of their alliances.