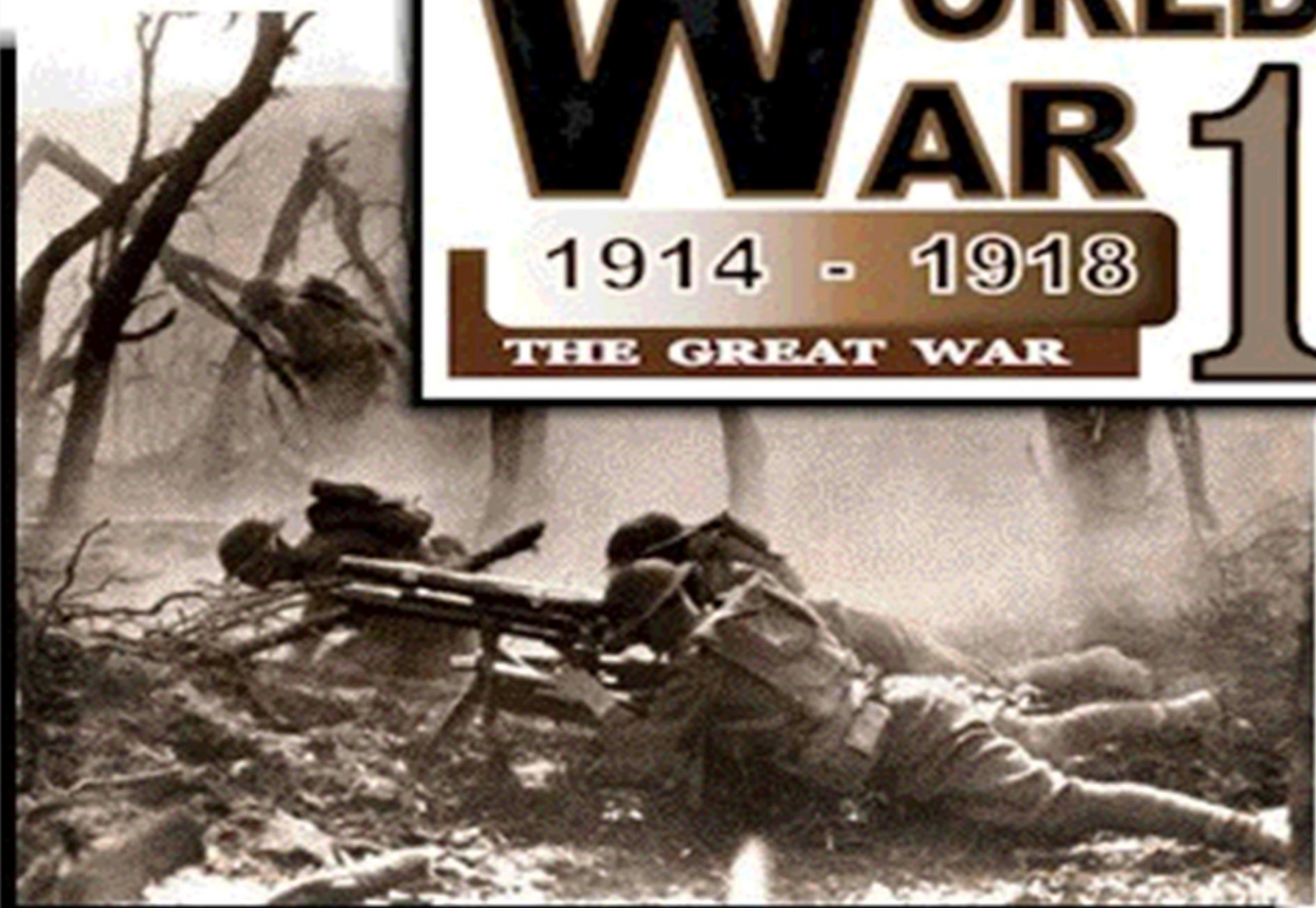


# WORLD WAR 1

1914 - 1918

THE GREAT WAR



# *World War 1: Causes*



☞ *While the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the immediate cause of the war, there were four underlying causes of WWI.*

☞ *They are:*

- a). Militarism: Military spending/build-up*
- b). Alliances: Friendships between nations*
- c). Imperialism: Empire building*
- d). Nationalism: Pride / Loyalty in one's homeland*



# A. Militarism:



- ❧ *#1. Definition: policy whereby a country increases its spending on its military (men or weapons)*
- ❧ *It was thought that the only way to guarantee peace was to prepare for war.*
- ❧ *Based on the idea that if a nation is militarily strong, then no enemy would dare to attack it.*
- ❧ *If war does break out, the militarized nation is able to defend itself.*



- ❧ *#2 Militarism led to an arms race before 1914 as many countries tried to build a larger & more deadly war machine than its rivals.*
- ❧ *The size of armies & navies would determine who was more powerful.*
- ❧ *Prior to WWI, **Germany** contained Europe's strongest armies while **Great Britain** was the world's strongest naval power*





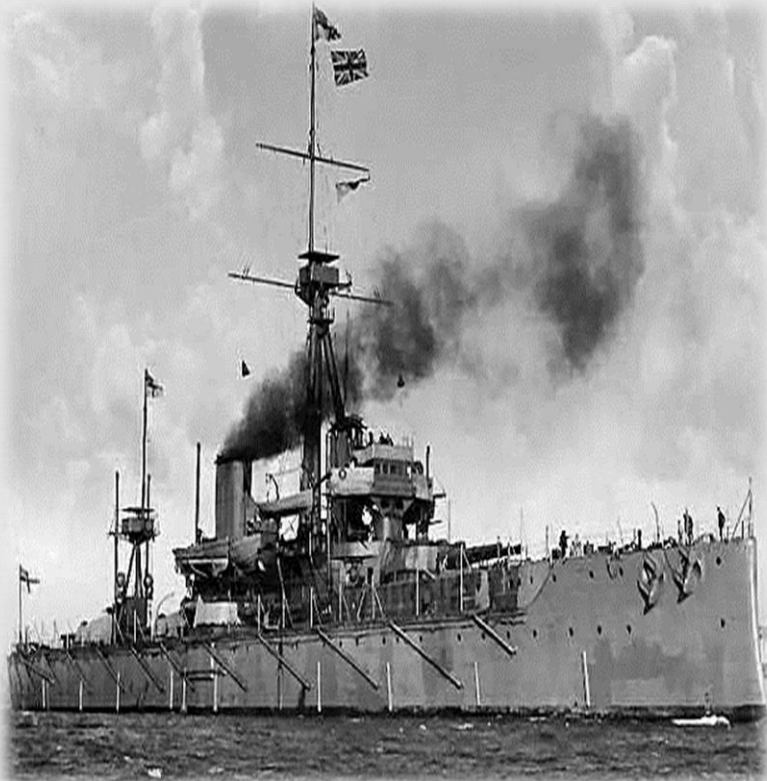
- ❧ *#3. Germany constructed large armies because it was surrounded by Russia & France which had formed a common alliance in the early 1890s*
- ❧ *The German army was accepted as being the biggest and the best in the world.*



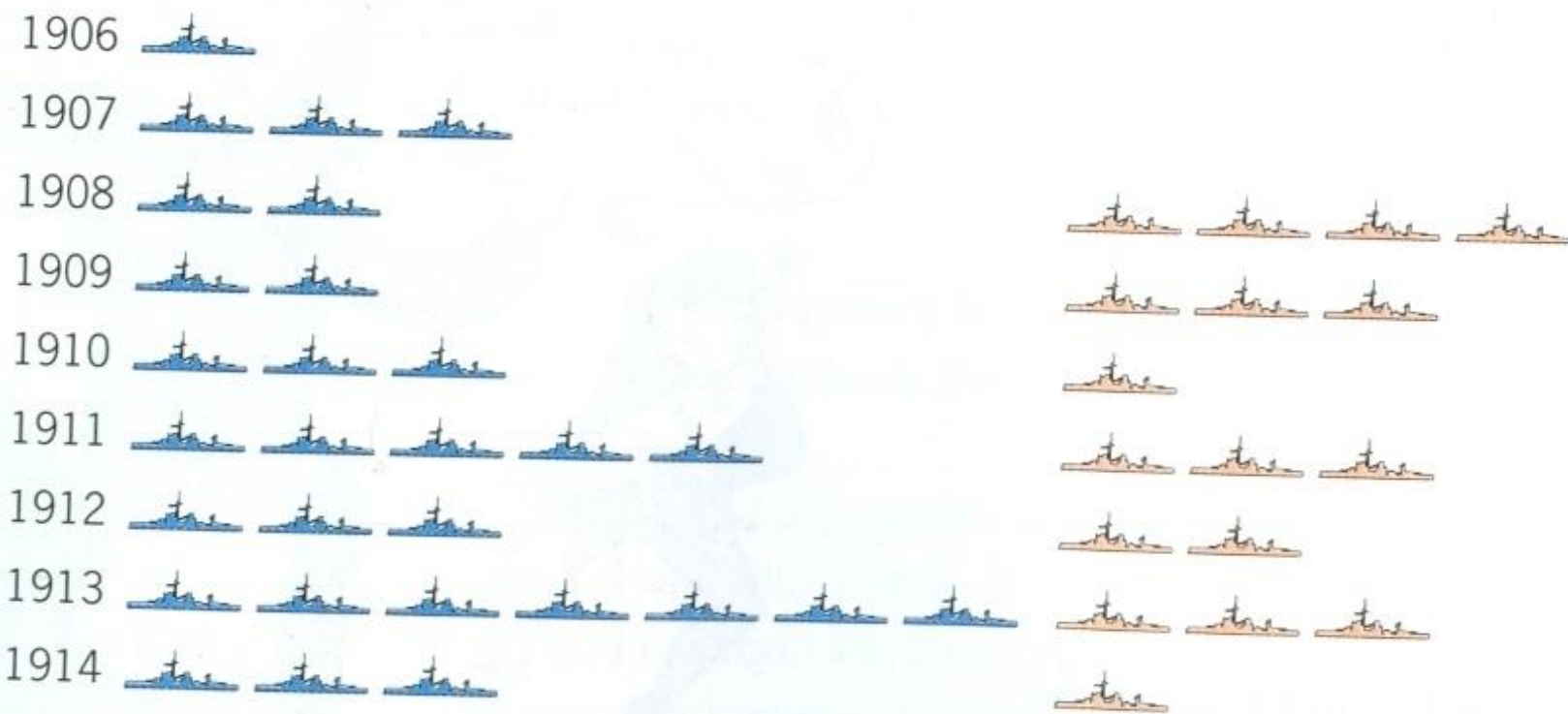


- ❧ *#4. As an island nation, Britain had traditionally maintained a large navy to protect trade routes & its overseas empire*
- ❧ *Germany also wanted an empire & began increasing the size of its navy in order to achieve this goal....this worried the British*
- ❧ *By 1910, a naval arms race had appeared between the two*





- ❧ *#5. In 1906, Britain launched the Dreadnought, the first all-big-gun battleship*
- ❧ *It made all other ships obsolete*
- ❧ *In the years prior to 1914, Britain & Germany competed to gain the upper hand for control of the seas*



Britain  Total built by 1914: 29

Germany  Total built by 1914: 17

Number of 'Dreadnoughts' built by Britain and Germany, 1906-14.

☞ *The graph shows the number of Dreadnoughts constructed by Britain & Germany prior to 1914*





Guns on rotating turrets can fire shells over 9 km in any direction

Fast modern turbine engines

Thick armour plating



# Products of Militarism



# B. Alliances:



- ∞ #1 Alliances are formed when countries band together against a common threat (they guarantee military assistance if a country is attacked by an enemy nation)*
- ∞ Between 1879 & 1907, the major European powers became caught up in a dangerous system of alliances*
- ∞ While they did provide security, alliances were very dangerous for they raised the possibility that a minor incident between two countries could lead to a general war between all alliance members*



❧ *#2 :In 1914 ,Europe had two main alliance systems:*

❧ *The Triple Alliance (“The Central Powers”) consisting of Germany, Austria-Hungary, & Italy*

❧ *The Triple Entente (“The Allies”) consisting of Great Britain, France, and Russia*

# Triple Entente

(the Allies)

France

1894

1904

Russia

Britain

1907

# Triple Alliance

(Central Powers)

Germany

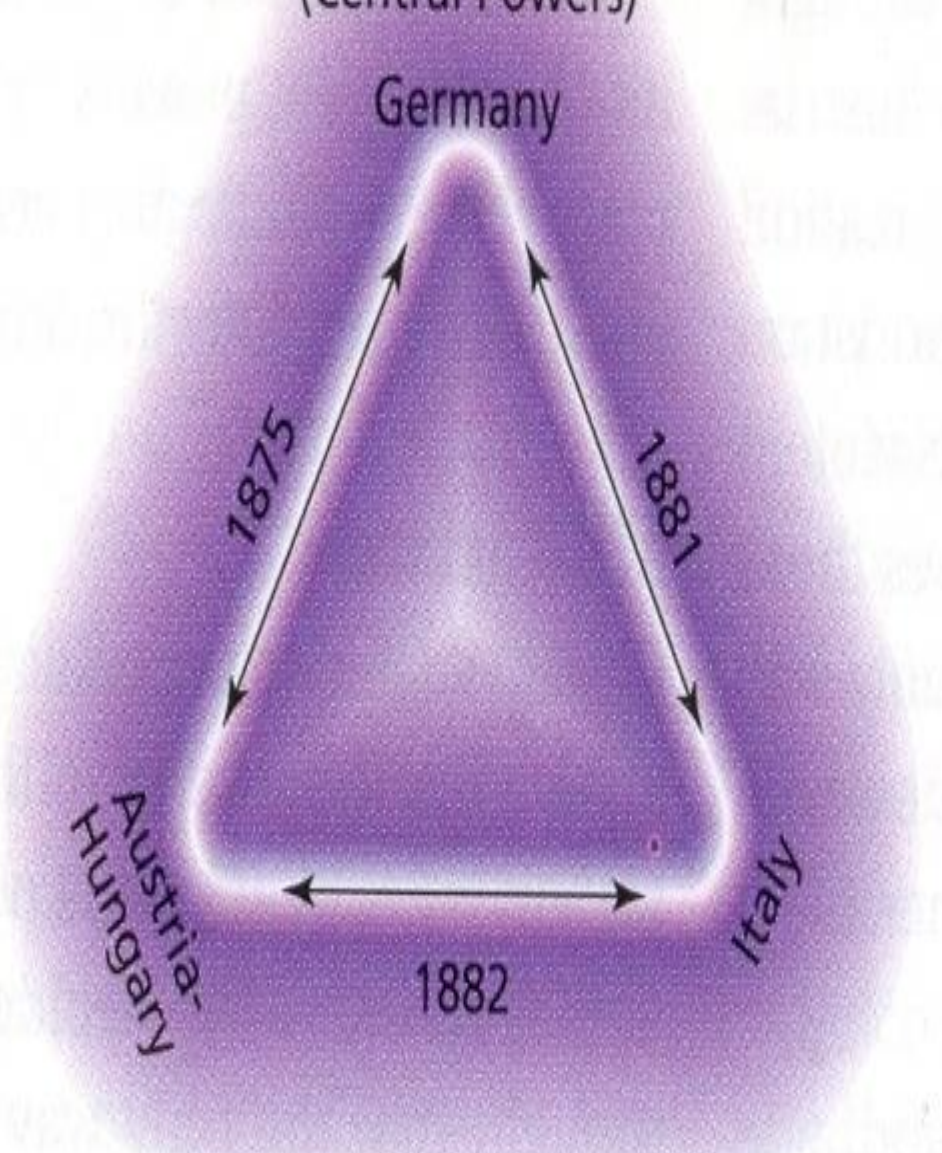
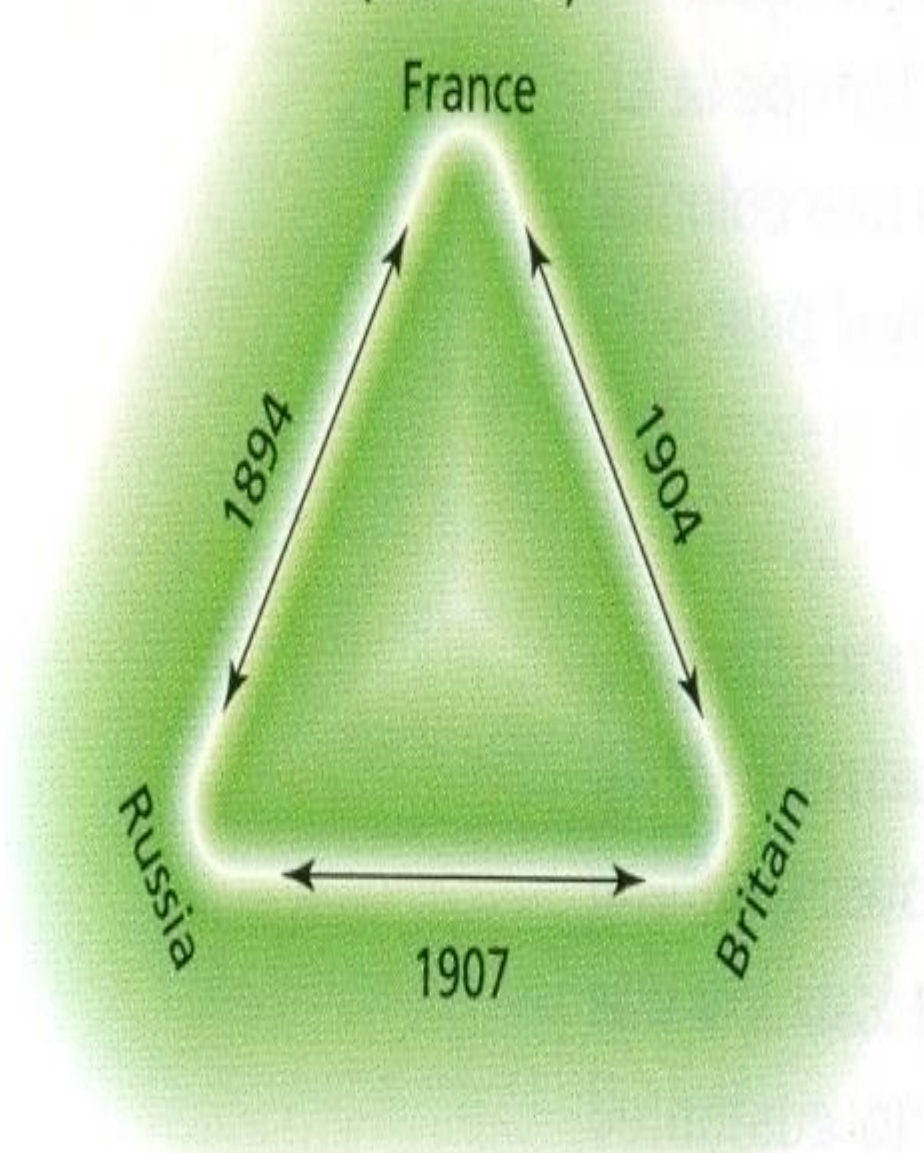
1875

1881

Austria-Hungary

Italy

1882



# Map Activity



- Using your blank map of 1914, complete the following activities*
- a. Label countries of the Triple Entente*
  - b. Label countries of the Triple Alliance*
  - c. Label neutral European countries*
  - d. Develop a map legend to indicate each of the countries just labeled*
  - e. Develop a title for your map*

# Europe and the Alliance Systems, 1914

(Prior to World War I)

- The Triple Entente
- The Triple Alliance
- Neutral States





- ✧ Politicians at the time called this system of alliances the 'Balance of Power'
- ✧ They believed that the size & power of the two alliances would prevent either side from starting a war



# 'Balance of Power' cartoon analysis



A modern redrawing of an American cartoon published in the *Brooklyn Eagle*, July 1914. The cartoon was called 'The Chain of Friendship'.

# C. Imperialism:



- ❧ *#1. Imperialism is the policy of establishing colonies away from the homeland & building an empire*
- ❧ *It involved the domination by one country of the political, economic, or cultural life of another country or region*
- ❧ *#2. Colonies provided raw materials, markets for goods, & military strength for many European countries.*





- Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, the United States all wanted to colonial empires.
- Spheres of Influence:** a region where one power claims exclusive investment / trading privileges



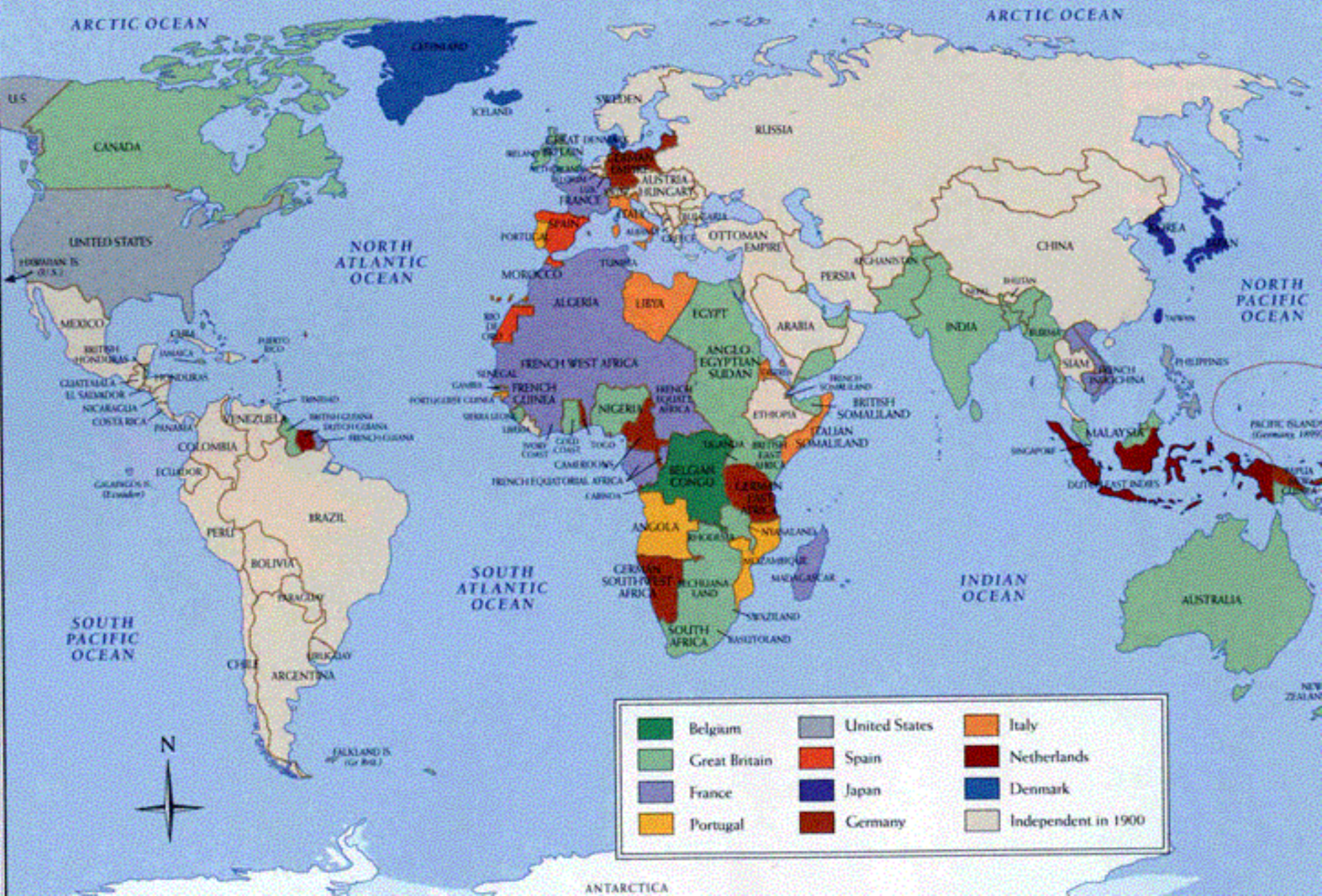


❧ *Imperialism led to frequent quarrels among the great powers of Europe in all parts of the globe.*

❧ *Arguments over colonies & trade constantly threatened peace.*



# IMPERIALISM IN THE MODERN WORLD, 1900



# D. Nationalism:



- ℞ #1. a feeling of deep loyalty to one's people & homeland*
- ℞ #1. Desire of a subjugated people to throw off foreign rule and create their own nation*
- ℞ Strong force in Europe & other areas throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries*



- ❧ *Nationalism can be a **positive force** for it can help unify a people (French Revolution, Canadian Confederation, Olympic Games)*
- ❧ *Nationalism can be a **negative force** for it can threaten existing political structures (ethnic groups in Austria-Hungary & the Ottoman Empires struggled for independence throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries)*



*∞ Extreme nationalism was causing problems in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.*

*∞ #2. Some people seemed willing to take any action to support their nation, regardless of the effect on others including going to war or conducting terrorist activities to promote the interests of their homelands/ethnic groups*



# Nationalism

- ❧ *Nationalistic ideals were particularly dangerous within the Austria-Hungarian Empire*
- ❧ *Many ethnic groups living within that empire wanted freedom & self government*
- ❧ *One such group, the Serbs, wished to gain more political power in the Balkans & to eventually unite all Serbs into one nation - Yugoslavia*
- ❧ *Serbia was supported by Russia...Russia was the traditional protector of the Serbs (Slavic race)*



GERMANY

RUSSIA

Czechs

Poles

Ruthenians

Danube

Slovaks

Germanans

Hungarians

Italians

Slovenes

Romanians

ROMANIA

Croats

Serbs and Croats

BOSNIA

Danube

SERBIA

BULGARIA

ITALY

Adriatic Sea

Serbs

MONTENEGRO

ALBANIA



- ❧ *Nationalism was very strong in **Serbia** & many Serbs throughout the Balkans / Eastern Europe **resented** living under Austrian control.*
- ❧ *One area where this resentment was strongest was in **Bosnia – annexed by Austria in 1908***
- ❧ *By 1914, the **Black Hand** (Serbian-Bosnian terrorist group) had formed with the goal of **separating** Bosnia from Austria & **uniting** it with Serbia*
- ❧ *Like most terrorist groups, the **Bland Hand** was willing to go to the extreme for their cause.*

# Video Time



❧ Europe Prior to WWI: Allies and Enemies - 9:47

❧ From Balkan Troubles to WWI - 7:36

# The Spark:



- ❧ *With an analysis of our four long term causes now completed, lets look at the spark which triggered the First World War*
- ❧ *The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914*
- ❧ *Within a month following this assassination, all of the major countries of Europe would be at war.*



# Assassination of Franz Ferdinand



*"The Balkan region was like a Powder Keg ready to explode."*

- ✧ The incident that set off the explosion occurred on **June 28, 1914** when the heir to the Austrian throne, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** and his wife was assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian terrorist group known as the "**Black Hand.**" (**Gavrilo Princip**)
- ✧ Almost immediately Austria blamed the Serbian government for the attack.



Franz Ferdinand



# Video Time:



☞ A Shot that Changed the World - 8:11



# July Crisis



- ☞ *The July Crisis 1914 refers to the series of events that occurred in the month immediately following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand which led to the outbreak of war in Europe*
- ☞ *The events of this crisis also illustrates the dangers associated with the system of alliances*

# Timeline Activity:



- ❧ **June 28** - Archduke Franz Ferdinand is killed
- ❧ The Austro-Hungarian (A-H) govt blamed Serbia for the archduke's death & attempted to crush Serb nationalism
- ❧ **July 6** - The German government announces its full support for A-H if it decides to take reprisals against Serbia
- ❧ **July 23** - With the support of Germany, A-H sent the Serbian govt an **ultimatum** of 15 demands (A ultimatum is a demand by one govt that another govt accept its terms or face war)



- ☞ **July 24** - The Serbian government appeals to Russia for help against the proposed attack by the A-H army
- ☞ **July 26** - Russia promises to aid Serbia if it is attacked by A-H
- ☞ **July 28** - Austria refused the Serbian reply to their ultimatum & attacked
- ☞ **July 31** - Russia mobilized its armed forces in support of Serbia. This includes sending troops to its borders with A-H & Germany



- ❧ **August 1** - Germany declared war on Russia
- ❧ **August 3** - Germany declared war on France
- ❧ **August 4** - Germany marches into neutral Belgium in order to attack France (**Schefflien Plan**)
- ❧ **August 4** - Britain defends her 1839 treaty to protect Belgium and declared war on Germany
- ❧ *With Britain at war, Canada is at war!!!*

# Video Time:



⌘ How Europe Spiraled Into the Great War I - 7:23