

**Unit II: Canada in W.W.I (pg. 63 – 102)**

**Chapter 3:**

**Causes of the First World War:**

Complete the following questions to help with your understanding of the cause which led to the outbreak of the First World War in the summer of 1914. Your answers are highlight in red on the slideshow.

***Part A: Militarism***

1. Define militarism: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 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. Based on the information contained in the slideshow, in what way was militarism an underlying cause of the First World War? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- The size of armies & navies would determine who was more powerful. Prior to WWI, \_\_\_\_\_ contained Europe's strongest \_\_\_\_\_ while \_\_\_\_\_ was the world's strongest \_\_\_\_\_.

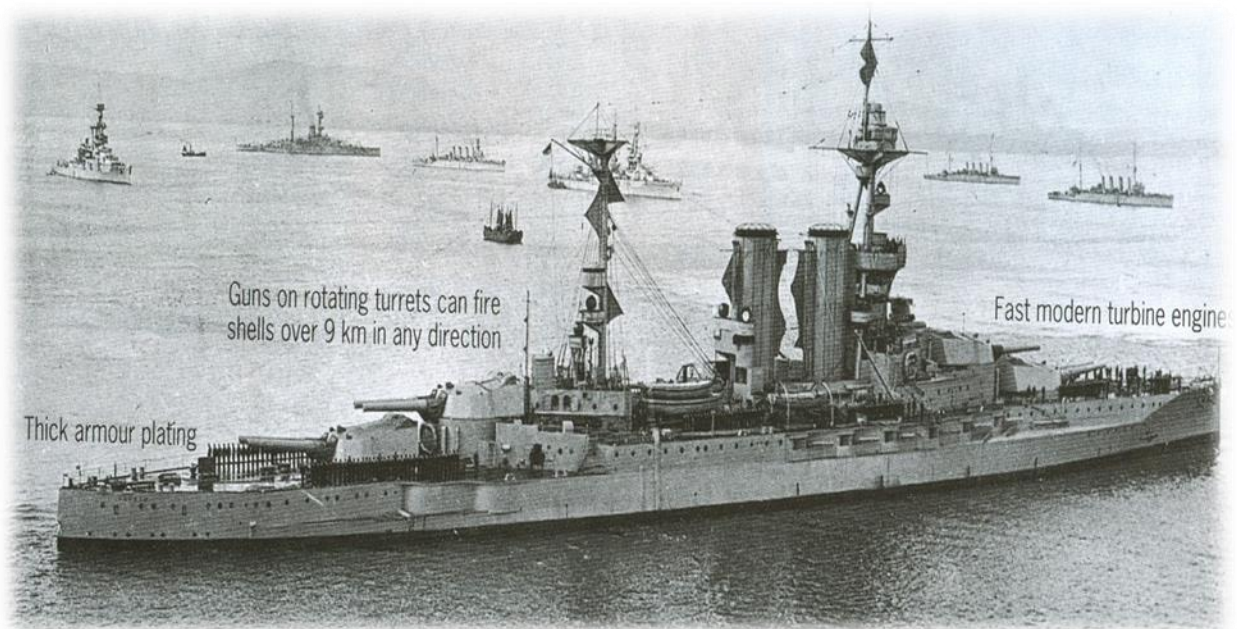
3. Why had Germany constructed large armies prior to the First World War? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- The German army was accepted as being the biggest and the best in the world.

4. Traditionally, why had the British needed a strong navy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 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. What was the 'Dreadnought' and how did its appearance in 1905 begin an arms race between Germany and Britain prior to 1914? \_\_\_\_\_

- 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



**Part B: Alliances**

1. Define alliances: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 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. Describe the two main alliances that existed in Europe at the outbreak of war in 1914.

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3. Complete the European alliances map activity.

- Politicians at the time called this system of alliances the ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’
- They believed that the size & power of the two alliances would prevent either side from starting a war

***Part C: Imperialism***

1. Define imperialism: \_\_\_\_\_

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It involved the domination by one country of the political, economic, or cultural life of another country or region

2. List the three main reasons why countries attempted to acquire overseas colonies in the years prior to the outbreak of the First World War: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, the United States all wanted to colonial empires.
- \_\_\_\_\_: 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.

***Part D: Nationalism***

1. Explain the two definitions for nationalism: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Strong force in Europe & other areas throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Nationalism can be a \_\_\_\_\_ force in helping unify a people (French Revolution, Canadian Confederation, Olympic Games)

- Nationalism can be a \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

2. How can extreme nationalism be a dangerous political force?

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

Why was nationalism a problem for the Austrian government in the years leading to the outbreak of war in 1914?

**Immediate Cause**

- With an analysis of our four long term causes now completed, lets look at the spark which triggered the First World War
- This was 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

**The July Crisis**

What was the July Crisis of 1914? \_\_\_\_\_

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