

The Great War Begins

- ❖ First World War called the “Great War”
 - ❖ Was the **bloodiest war in history up to that time**
 - ❖ About **15 million** soldiers and civilians killed
 - ❖ **32 different nations involved**
 - ❖ Settlement of the war left more questions than it solved
 - ❖ Legacy of the war was international hatred, extreme nationalism, & economic depression
- ❖ **4 main long-term causes of the war**
 - ❖ Rise of nationalism
 - ❖ Imperialism
 - ❖ Military alliance system
 - ❖ Increased militarism
- ❖ **1 short-term cause**
 - ❖ **Assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand**
- ❖ **Nationalism = Often extreme devotion to one’s country**
 - ❖ Strong patriotism
 - ❖ People of ethnic or linguistic groups uniting to form countries
 - ❖ Desired freedom & self-determination
 - ❖ Many willing to go to war to attain goals
 - ❖ Examples – Poles, Germans, Serbs
- ❖ **Imperialism = policy & practice of forming & maintaining an empire for control of resources, markets, and territory**
 - ❖ Major Euro powers busy carving out empires for themselves
 - ❖ There was competition for control of colonies
 - ❖ French & Germans the strongest rivals
 - ❖ French feared growth of German Empire
 - ❖ Russians also playing the game
 - ❖ Looking to regain lost stature after Russo-Japanese War
 - ❖ Considered themselves leader of Slavic peoples
 - ❖ Including the Serbs
 - ❖ Serbia independent country but millions of Serbs under rule of Austria-Hungary
 - ❖ Russia a rival of Austria-Hungary in the Balkans
- ❖ **Military Alliance System – countries banded together through agreements to defend one another against attack**
 - ❖ **By 1914 – 2 major alliances**
 - ❖ **Triple Entente** (later the “Allies”)
 - ❖ **France, Great Britain, & Russia**

- ❖ Triple Alliance
 - ❖ Germany, Austria-Hungary, & Italy
 - ❖ Italy later bows out & Turkey joins
 - ❖ From then on known as Central Powers
- ❖ Militarism – maintaining strong military in preparedness for war
 - ❖ Euro powers wanted armies stronger than potential enemies
 - ❖ Most powers, including U.S., built up naval fleets
 - ❖ Concentrated on battleships
 - ❖ Set off an arms race
- ❖ Assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand – 6/28/14
 - ❖ He and wife shot by a Serbian – Gavrilo Princip
 - ❖ Member of the Black Hand – organization devoted to unifying all Serbs under one flag (nationalism)
- ❖ Austrians respond by declaring war on Serbia (7/28/14)
 - ❖ Had been given a “blank check” of support by Germany
 - ❖ Serbia a Russian ally – on 7/30/14 Russia mobilizes army
 - ❖ 8/1/14 – Germany declared war on Russia – felt threatened by Russian build-up
 - ❖ 8/3/14 – Germany declared war on France – Russian ally
 - ❖ 8/4/14 – Great Britain declared war on Germany
 - ❖ Very suddenly – the network of alliances led to a world war



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