The Causes of WW1

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Imperialism
- Nationalism
Main Causes Of World War One

MILITARISM

ALLIANCES

IMPERIALISM

NATIONALISM
Imperialism

- All the great powers were competing for colonies / territory.
- The British feared Germany in Africa.
- The Austrians feared Serbia / Russia in the Balkans
Britain had managed to get some of the most valuable land in Africa. The most important gain was Egypt because of the Suez Canal. This provided a much quicker and safer route to India—the "Jewel in the Crown" of the British Empire.
France had also built up a large colonial empire, mostly in the north west of Africa. This had caused problems and there had been serious arguments over colonies such as Morocco and Tunis. Arguments over colonies caused bad feeling between Britain and France.
Germany entered the race for colonies late and did not have much territory of value.

Kaiser Wilhelm II was determined that Germany should have a powerful empire.
Even tiny Belgium had an African colony.

This enraged the German Kaiser who was determined to get territory for Germany.
Colonial Disputes

During the late 1800s, relations between Britain and France were strained by a series of disputes over African colonies.

Both nations hoped to control Egypt and Morocco and this caused many bitter arguments.
Nationalism

- This is the belief that your nation is better than all others.
- It is a feeling of superiority. It often leads to conflict with others.

![Serbia’s national flag](image-url)
The leaders of three of the most powerful nations on the planet are first cousins and the grandsons of Queen Victoria of England.
Militarism

- Germany was competing with Russia and France to expand their armies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1880</th>
<th>1914</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
<td>5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>½ million</td>
<td>4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>½ million</td>
<td>1.2 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Map of Europe showing Germany, France, Russia, and Austria-Hungary]
# Military Spending 1914

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Money Spent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>50 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>40 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>60 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria-Hungary</td>
<td>22 500 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>15 500 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>10 000 000</td>
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</tbody>
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Alliances

- By 1914 all the major powers were linked by a system of alliances.

- Once war started, the alliances made it more likely to spread.
1879 The Dual Alliance
Germany and Austria-Hungary made an alliance to protect themselves from Russia

1881 Austro-Serbian Alliance
Austria-Hungary made an alliance with Serbia to stop Russia gaining control of Serbia

1882 The Triple Alliance
Germany and Austria-Hungary made an alliance with Italy to stop Italy from taking sides with Russia

1914 Triple Entente (no separate peace)
Britain, Russia and France agreed not to sign for peace separately

1894 Franco-Russian Alliance
Russia formed an alliance with France to protect herself against Germany and Austria-Hungary

1904 Entente Cordiale
This was an agreement, but not a formal alliance, between France and Britain

1907 Anglo-Russian Entente
This was an agreement between Britain and Russia

1907 Triple Entente
This was made between Russia, France and Britain to counter the increasing threat from Germany.
The Spark

- 28 June 1914

- Heir to the Austrian throne Franz Ferdinand visits Sarajevo.

Seal of the Black Hand group
The Spark 2

- "Black Hand" terrorists attack the Arch Duke
- Gavrilo Princip shoots Archduke and wife in the afternoon.
The Spark 3

- Austria Hungary, supported by Germany, threatens Serbia.
- Russia mobilises her troops to support Serbia
- Germany demands that Russia stands her armies down.
- Germany declares war on Russia
Main Causes Of World War One

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Imperialism
- Nationalism
Militarism: Countries building up their army and navy

Alliances: Countries committing to support each other

Imperialism: Powerful countries taking over weak countries

Nationalism: Countries thinking they are better than everyone else

Spark: Assasination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand