

Avoiding War Proposal

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Background: The contributing factors to the start of WWI are the tension between military powers and alliances between powerful European countries. The two main alliances were the Triple Entente; which was composed of Britain, France, and Russia and the opposing alliance, the Triple Alliance, composed of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. Serbia opposed Austria-Hungary because they did not want Bosnia to become a part of Austria-Hungary and would rather have Bosnia unite with Serbia.

Problem: The Austro-Hungarian Arch-Duke, Franz Ferdinand was visiting Bosnia at the time, in hopes to ease tension and appeal to the Bosnians. The Black Hand, (an elite group of Serbian assassins with the hope to restore Greater Serbia) was supported by the Serbian government and plotted the assassination of Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand. After the murder was complete, Austria-Hungary accused Serbia for the glorification of the assassination and demanded condemnation of the perpetrators and permission for Serbia to be under the control of Austria-Hungary. Serbia refused to meet Austria-Hungary's demands leading to war being declared on Serbia. Russia was then drawn into the conflict, a response to their commitment to aid Serbia if war were to break out. As Germany was allied with Austria-Hungary they entered the war by default as enemies with Russia, United Kingdom, and France. The most important factor for allowing WWI would be the numerous alliances that were formed leading up to the war. The alliances were significant to the war because without them. The war wouldn't have been nearly as huge as it was. After the assassination of the Archduke Austria-Hungary would have destroyed Serbia after they refused their demands if only Russia had not involved themselves, pulling in other countries by default. Along with the alliances the build up of militaries across Europe also had a major effect on WWI by increasing tensions between alliances.

Solution: There needs to be mutual respect between countries and compromises need to be made without any aggressive actions taken. Like the treaty of Versailles leaders need to come together and work on a proposal that benefits all parties. Unlike that treaty the blame should be fairly distributed instead of blaming a single country like in WWI. When an agreement is reached countries need to take an incentive to try and prevent further hostility and/or tensions.