

Lexi Ives
Darien Middleton
Dan Vatterott

The Proposal

Background:

Before World War 1 there were many tensions in Europe. Nationalism, militarism, and imperialism played a lead role in the causes of World War 1. Austria-Hungary and Serbia, for example, were bitter enemies. When the Archduke of Austria-Hungary, Franz Ferdinand, was killed by Serbian hit men, it was just the excuse they needed to declare war. Europe was all but ready for war, with tensions between enemies on the rise. While countries like Great Britain and were gathering their mutual defense alliances, Germany was building up one of the largest armies ever to go to war. With Germany boasting their big and fairly advanced weapons, other countries felt uneasy about Germany's militant power and decided to build up their armies also. America, on the other hand, chose to stay out of European matters until 1917. Finally Europe was ready for what would turn out to be a World War on a major scale, which included total warfare.

Problem:

There were many factors in the cause of World War 1, mostly having to do with the uneasiness between countries and the alliances they created. Alliances such as the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente forced countries (such as France and Great Britain) into a war that initially had nothing to do with them. The conflicts between Austria-Hungary and Serbia gave Russia and Germany reason for military action, bringing everyone else along with them. Germany had been training his or her army for a war but nobody knew how strong it was going to be. The problem was the fact that surrounding countries were unsettled at the fact that Germany could at any time take over almost any country in the world. So in a rebuttal attempt the surrounding countries decided to try to build up their army as well. With all this uneasiness there was a clear distrust for their neighbors, which only added more tensions to an already volatile time. While all of this was going on in Europe, the United States are currently sticking to their

Isolation foreign policy. The U.S. neutrality was undermined by pro-British attitudes of president Woodrow Wilson. Britain wasn't exactly for all neutrality, they wanted to be on one side or another. When the German's sank the British liner the *Lusitania*, that sparked the U.S.'s entry into The Great War.

Solution:

Our proposal for avoiding another world war is to not be quite as involved with other countries, but not so much that you have absolutely no connections. Intricate, absolute alliances should be avoided. It should be each country's choice to enter a war. It should not be based off of treaties alone. From this we can conclude that, with all the past world wars, our best option would be to keep a political balance between alliances and isolationism.