

World War I

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Background:

- **Militarism** is a massive military build-up which was caused by a desire to protect overseas colonies from other nations. All sides became anxious and *ready to act on first sign of trouble. All the countries before world war one almost doubled their spending in weapons and military. Britain and Germany had a competition for the mastery of the seas.*

- **Alliances-** (partnerships)

Triple Alliance (Central Powers)-Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
Triple Entente- France, Russia, Great Britain

They believed no single nation would attack another sense other nations allies would join the fight.

BUT this caused trouble because some countries had no option but to declare war if one of their allies declared war first

- **Imperialism** created rivalry among nations of Europe because many began a quest to build empires. Germany, France, Russia, Great Britain all saw themselves as great imperial nations. *By 1900 the British Empire extended over five continents and France had control of large areas of Africa. With the rise of industrialism countries needed new markets. The amount of land 'owned' by Britain and France increased the rivalry with Germany who entered the scramble to acquire colonies late and only had small areas of Africa.*

- **Nationalism-** (a strong devotion to one's national group or country) causes power struggles within countries and tensions within themselves and among other countries.

This caused uproars in the states that they lived in.

Problem:

- Killing of Archduke Ferdinand and his pregnant wife on June 28, 1914. (spark)
- War was initially only between Serbia and Austria-Hungary because of the assassination.
- Alliances caused tensions between other countries. But, some countries didn't have a say in whether or not they were going to fight because they were not a part of an alliance.
- Nationalism leads to the problem of alliances. One country becomes very strong in what they believe in and gains popularity between other countries, however not everyone is always happy and some tend to disagree and start arguments in their own country.

Solution:

The UN, or someone of that authority over the different countries in the whole, should approve alliances. There should be restrictions and laws about who should be able to fight in a war if it's not their war to fight.