

Avoiding World War Proposal

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Background

- Serbia wanted to take Bosnia back from Austria-Hungary
- A group of Serb terrorists assassinated Franz Ferdinand, the Archduke of Austria-Hungary
- Serbia, Russia, France and Britain had started an alliance system and Austria-Hungary was with Germany, which had a strong military
- Germany was blamed for WWI because it had the strongest military of the Triple Alliance
- Germany and Austria-Hungary wanted to start a war with Serbia because the Serb terrorists assassinated the Archduke

Problem

We believe that the problem lies in the fact that several countries joined the war while it was taking place. Too many countries were joining alliances during WWI after it started. This increased the scale of the War, and caused it to expand dramatically. If the War was only between the Triple Alliance and Triple Entente, then the war would have been much smaller. The alliance system caused dozens of countries to get involved when they didn't have anything to do with how the war began.

Solution

The solution to avoiding World Wars in the future is for the leaders of each country to get together and sign a document that makes it impossible to join a war a certain period of time after it starts. This will limit the amount of countries who feel they should involve themselves in a war. Not only will this stop the expansion of wars, but will also stop countries bringing in different views in to the war that could be fought over. When USA entered the war in 1917, they brought new conflicts as well that were fought over. The best solution is to keep the alliance system (because it can't be limited), but stop neutral countries from entering the war while it's going on.

References

Europe's Last Summer by David Fromkin, pages 266, 281
Textbook, pages 780-781