



# THE CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

# Europe: Pre-WWI

## × In Western Europe:

1. Nations achieved greater economic power than most other countries as a result of industrialization
2. Governments and businesses wanted more overseas markets and raw materials
3. Military forces had big lead over other countries when it came to military technology



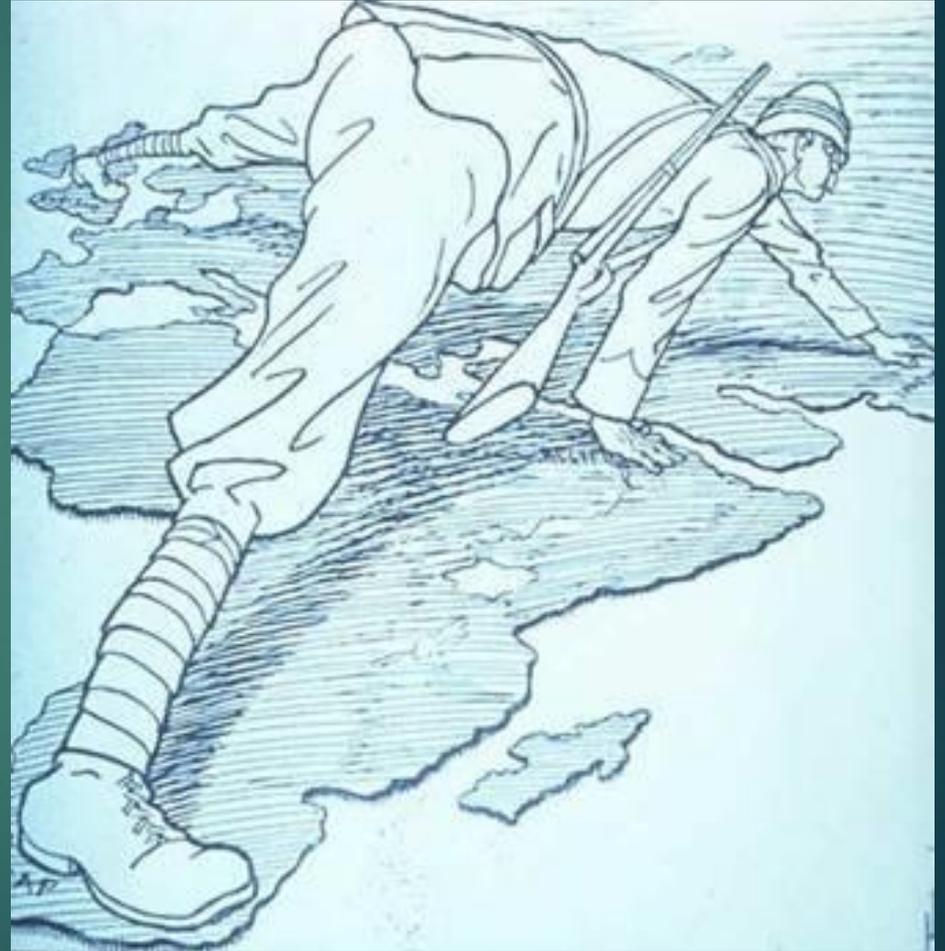
# Europe: Pre-WWI



- ▶ Late 1800's saw great droughts and famines in many parts of the world
- ▶ These disasters caused economic, social, and political disruption in African and Asian societies just when European power was the strongest

# Europe: Pre-WWI

- ▶ Europe's leaders competed with each other to dominate the modern world
- ▶ Their competition helped cause World War I



# Europe was not the only Power...

- ▶ Americans expanded their opportunities at home and abroad
- ▶ The Japanese government seized an empire in East Asia



# Causes of World War I

- ▶ **M**-Militarism
- ▶ **A**-Alliances
- ▶ **I**-Imperialism
- ▶ **N**-Nationalism

# Militarism



- ▶ Many of Europe's countries competed to have the largest military
- ▶ Having a large military made each country believe they would never lose

# Alliances



- ▶ The most powerful countries in Europe formed alliances to protect each other and their interests
- ▶ They believed alliances would prevent war

# Examples of alliances

## Triple Alliance

(Central Powers)

- ▶ Germany
- ▶ Austria-Hungary
- ▶ Italy

## Triple Entente (Allies)

- ▶ Great Britain
- ▶ France
- ▶ Russia



# Imperialism



- ▶ European countries competed to control world resources
- ▶ This threatened other countries who continued to increase military spending to defend their interests

# Nationalism

- ▶ Minority ethnic groups wanted to break away from old European empires
- ▶ Examples: Balkan region
- ▶ Slavic nations: Poland and Czechoslovakia

# Outbreak of World War I

- ▶ Occurred in Sarajevo, Bosnia (Part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire)
- ▶ Archduke Franz Ferdinand visited the region where Austria was very unpopular
- ▶ Gavrilo Princip (A Serbian Nationalist) killed the Archduke and his wife
- ▶ This event sparked WWI



# Events Leading Toward War



- ▶ Austria-Hungary sent an ultimatum to Serbia
- ▶ Russia defended Serbia to protect Russia's interests in the Balkan region
- ▶ Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia
- ▶ Russia declared war on Austria-Hungary
- ▶ Germany, allied with Austria-Hungary, declared war on Russia
- ▶ France, allied with Russia, declared war on Germany
- ▶ WWI begins

# Russian Nationalism



- ▶ Developed as a result of Russia's involvement in WWI
- ▶ The war severely strained Russian resources, causing unrest among the people
- ▶ Nicholas II was unable to help his people and stepped down as Tsar
  - ▶ This led other groups to attempt to seize power

# The First World War:

15

## ▶ Who?

### Central Powers:

Germany  
Austria-Hungary  
Ottoman Empire  
Bulgaria

### Allies:

Russia  
France  
Great Britain  
Italy  
Japan  
United States (1917)

# New War Technology & Tactics

- ▶ Technology dramatically changed
- ▶ Improvements included:
  - ▶ Trench Warfare
  - ▶ Artillery
  - ▶ Machine Guns
  - ▶ Poison Gas
  - ▶ Airplanes
  - ▶ Tanks
  - ▶ Submarines
  - ▶ Flamethrowers

