Causes of WWI

**M – Militarism**

**A – Alliances**

**I – Imperialism**

**N – Nationalism**

* Nationalism
* Imperialism
* The Alliance System
* Militarism
* The Assassination of Archduke

**Nationalism**

* Nationalism means being a strong supporter of the rights and interests of one’s own country.
	+ This can be good and bad.

**Italy and Germany**

* During the Congress of Vienna (the meeting to put Europe back together after Napoleon was put into exile), the countries of Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia created a new Europe that left Germany and Italy divided and basically getting the raw end of the deal.
	+ Strong nationalist movements led to the reunification of Italy (1861) and Germany (1871)

**France**

* France lost land to Germany at the end of the Franco-Prussian War, which left nationalist groups in France dead-set on getting that land back.

**Austria Hungary & Serbia**

* There were opposing nationalist groups within these countries and each one wanted their own land and government.

**Imperialism**

* Imperialism is when a country takes over new lands or countries and then subjects the people to its rule.
	+ **The rise of Industrialism meant that countries needed new markets to get resources from and sell their goods.**
* Britain, France, and Germany had **growing rivalries** with each other over who ruled the lands in Africa. They quickly tried to claim the land for themselves (this is known as the Scramble for Africa)

**Alliances**

* An alliance is an agreement made between two or more countries to give each other help (financially, militarily, and through goods and services) when they need it.
	+ When an alliance is signed, those countries become known as allies.
* There were many alliances made between the years 1879 and 1914
	+ **These alliances were important to causing WWI because they meant that many countries had no choice but to declare war if one of their allies did first.**



**Militarism**

* Militarism is when a country or government places high importance on military forces.
* Building many weapons
* Enlisting many soldiers
* **Tensions that were growing in Europe led to an arms race (building more weapons than the enemy)**
* French and German armies doubled between 1870 and 1914
* Britain and Germany were **competition with each other** for who controlled the seas (invention of battleships)
* Countries began laying out war plans and maps of where to attack.

**Assassination**

* **The short-term cause of WWI was the assassination of Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife on June 28th, 1914.**
	+ Ferdinand was the heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne.
	+ **He and his wife were murdered in Sarajevo, Bosnia by a Serbian Nationalist, Gavrilo Princip, who worked for an organization known as the Black Hand.**
* Immediately following the assassination Germany pledged its full support to Austria-Hungary and pressured them to declare war on Serbia.
	+ France strengthened its backing of Russia.
	+ Austria-Hungary was convinced that the Serbian government was behind the assassination and **issued Serbia an unacceptable ultimatum**, and Serbia agreed *almost* entirely.

**The Domino Effect**

* Austria-Hungary still wasn’t satisfied, and declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914
	+ Russia, in support of their Allie Serbia, declares war on Austria-Hungary
	+ Germany declares war on Russia, and two days later on France.
	+ Germany’s invasion of Belgium (who declared it was neutral) to attack France, leads Britain to declare war on Germany.
	+ Thus, WWI had begun.

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