Chapter 7

World War 1
Foreign Policy

• **Foreign policy:** a course of action that a sovereign nation takes in its conduct with other nation-states or international organizations.

• Sometimes, conflicts can arise because of contending national interests. Political leaders and governments that believe one of their primary responsibilities is to provide their citizens with an adequate standard of living.

• The problem that can arise from this goal is that there is a finite quantity of resources available to satisfy the needs and wants of nation-states. Most nations must deal with other nations in order to meet their people’s needs and wants, including security, and it is in this way that foreign policy comes into play.

• **What happens when they don’t “get what they want” or they don’t agree on how to reach their goals?**
World War 1 - Overview

• **What:** The first global scale war involving multiple nations
• **When:** Began in June 1914 and ended in November 1918
• **Where:** Occurred mostly on the continent of Europe
• **Why:** M.A.N.I.A.
• **Who:** Various Nation-States
  • Allied Powers = Great Britain, France, Russia (later Italy and US)
  • Central Powers = Germany, Austria-Hungary, The Ottoman Empire
• **How:** Huge scale attacks with new deadly technology including mechanized weapons, chemical weapons, long range artillery and air power
• **Other:**
  • Also known as the “Great War”
World War 1 - Causes

Militarization
Alliances
Nationalism
Imperialism
Assassination
World War 1 – Causes – Militarization

• **Arms Race:** building up armaments “*What if we are attacked by others? We must keep up, if not surpass and be stronger. We must continue to develop our technology.*”

• **Symbols of Prestige and Status:** this became of increased importance for governments, therefore they increased their spending on it. “*How can we allow [nation-state] to be stronger than us? We must show them that we no less.*”

• **Balance of Power:** if one country increased military strength, so would the others. “*In order to make sure [nation-state] does not feel that they are the strongest, we must balance out the power and be on par with their military strength.*”
World War 1 – Causes – Alliances

• **Security Measure:** taken as a precaution “If [nation-state] attacks us tomorrow, we have other nation-states that will have our back. They have arms they will help us.”

• **Deterrent:** a thing that discourages or is intended to discourage someone from doing something. “If we band together, [nation-state] will not risk taking us all on as it would harm them in more than one way. Going to war with us, would mean going to war with the others as well.”

• **Agreements:** many allies were tied together through agreements or obligations, meaning they would have to enter a war. “[Nation-state A] is going to war with [nation-state B]. I must also go to war with [nation-state A] because we signed the [agreement].”
World War 1 – Causes – Alliances

**Triple Alliance (Central Powers)**
- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy
- (later) Turkey

**Triple Entente (Allied Powers)**
- Britain
- Russia
- France
- (later) Italy

- Brought together by the “Dual Alliance”
- Brought together by the “Entente Cordial” (friendly relations” agreement between Britain and France
- Britain and Russia have their own agreement
World War 1 – Causes – Nationalism

• Pride in one’s country is very strong at this time in Europe. This is reflected in several things: anthems, politics, ethnocentrism, etc.

• War is seen as a source of pride for nations. “Look what I can take on.”

• **Germany**: wanted to become a superpower, and in order to do this, they needed: more colonies, a large army, and a navy comparable to Britain’s. Germany wanted to pursue it’s “place in the sun.”

• **France**: lost territory during the Franco-Prussian war to Germany and wanted it back. Morocco also wanted freedom from France and Germany supported this sentiment.

• **Britain**: believed in their identity as the ”Great British Empire” and disliked the tension between the countries who wanted to rival their power “The sun never sets on the British Empire.”
World War 1 – Causes – Nationalism

• **Serbia**: becomes an independent country in 1878. Many Serbians and people of Slavic background are spread out in other countries under Turkish and Austrian rule.

• Serbia desires all Serbs to be under it’s control and has Russia’s backing of this policy of Panslavism

• This nationalism movement leads to the creation of terrorists groups and rebellions against Austrian-Hungarians in the Balkans
World War 1 – Causes – Imperialism

- **Imperialism**: A policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force.
- European powers competed for control of colonies that possessed raw materials and strategic importance
  - Recall the “Scramble for Africa”
THE MAD SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA
World War 1 – Causes – Assassination

- June 28, 1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary is assassinated by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip. Princip belong to a “terrorist” group fighting for independence from Austria-Hungary.
National Interest = Internationalist Problem
The Domino Effect
1917, USA declares war on Germany & Russia has a revolution and leaves the war.

1915 Italy joins the Triple Entente

1914

Russia

Austria-Hungary

1914

When Britain is at war Canada is at war. There is not distinction. Prime Minister Laurier

Canada

Germany

France

Britain

Japan

Britain, allies with France & Russia who are now both involved, enters the war. This also in part due to a treaty with Belgium to protect their neutrality (the one Germany just ignored.

France, allied with Russia enters the war- Germany invades neutral Belgium making their way to Pairs

August: Germany backs the dual Alliance with Austria - Hungary after Russia refuses to stop mobilizing troops. and enters the war.

Russia under the "Pan Slavism" policy defends Serbia and mobilizes troops.

After the assassination Austria- Hungary issued Serbia an ultimatum. Unsatisfied with the response received from Serbia Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. July 1914
The Schlieffen Plan

• Consider Germany’s location on the map...
• Germany is facing a multi-front war, so they devise a plan before the Russian troops can be on the western and eastern fronts (a battle they knew they would lose)
• Carrying through with the Schlieffen Plan takes German troops through Belgium, this violating their neutrality... Which brings Britain into the war
Then What?

• Germany loses.

• World War One ended at 11 am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918. Germany signed an armistice (an agreement for peace and no more fighting) that had been prepared by Britain and France.

• Germany is forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles at the Paris Peace Conference. Essentially, this treaty forces Germany to acknowledge and take blame for all of the death and destruction caused during the war...

  • What could go wrong?