

The Causes of World War I

- Complex- long term causes and immediate sparks
- first example of modern total war
- problems on the inside ---> hostility on the outside

Imperialism: nations compete

- Austria- wants control over Bosnia, Herzegovina
- Serbia wants Bosnia
- Russia wants influence in the Balkans
- Germany and France compete for Morocco

Militarism and Nationalism: each nation believed that they were the best and that "might makes right"

Each nation seeking honor and glory

- France wanted revenge against Germany for 1870
- Germany and Britain competed in a naval buildup
- each nation had peacetime conscription laws
- most nations already had a strategy "just in case"
- new military technology and a need to shoot first
- mobilization plans, once set in motion, hard to stop

Secret Alliances: each nation had secret alliances and treaties with other nations: increase suspicion and distrust

- Three Emperors League (1873) G, R, A-H v. F
- Triple Alliance (1882) G, A-H, I v. R
- Reinsurance Treaty (1887) G, R
- Franco- Russian Alliance 1894
- Entente Cordiale (1904) R, F, E v. G, A-H
- Triple Entente 1907 R, F, E
- Austria – Russia "secret deal" 1908
- also- Germany ---> Austria-Hungary / Russia ---> Serbia

Key Points of Emphasis (Chapter 17 / Section A)

1. International anarchy manifests itself in many ways / examples
2. Anarchy is a function of sovereignty (built in)
 - a. self-help
 - b. power relationship
3. Alliances: symptom of larger problems: ironies
4. Opportunities for clashes
 - a. naval build up and arms race in general
 - b. Morocco
 - c. Balkans (Treaty of San Stefano 1878)
5. Secret negotiations and diplomacy
6. Internal issues / problems within each nation
7. Past history and the "mood of the times"
8. Security dilemmas (Dark Alley) and 0-Sum game

Sequence: June 28 – August 3, 1914

**June 28: assassination of Austrian Arch-Duke Francis Ferdinand
Excuse for Austria to put pressure on Serbia (Sarajevo)
Germany supports Austria: the so-called “blank check”**

**July 23: Austrian ultimatum to Serbia: 48 hour reply
Dynamic interplay between Serbia, Russia, France**

**July 26: partial mobilization by Austria to show seriousness
Therefore, Serbia rejects the ultimatum**

July 28: Austria declares war on Serbia

July 30: Russia mobilizes against Austria and Germany “just in case”

**Aug. 1: Germany demands that Russia halt mobilization
Russia hesitates, no answer = Germany declares war on Russia**

Aug. 2: France begins mobilization “just in case”

Aug. 3: Germany declares war on France and invades Belgium

Aug. 4: Britain declares war on Germany for violating Belg, neutrality

Aug. 6: Austria declares war on Russia

Key Issues: Chapter 17 / Section A

- 1. alliances**
- 2. geography: macro and micro (Balkans)**
- 3. nationalism, language, religion**
- 4. general eco. and pol. trends since 1815 through 1870s-1890s**
- 5. recent events and precipitating factors**
 - a. Franco –Prussian War (Alsace and Lorraine)**
 - b. Collapse of the Ottoman Empire**
 - c. Weakness of Austrian-Hungarian Empire**
 - d. Role of Russia and “pan-slavism”**