

The U.S. in WW1

Causes of WW1 in Europe

Europe Pre – WW1



Immediate Cause

The **assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand**, a member of the Austria-Hungary's ruling family, was the spark that ignited WW1.

A group in neighboring Serbia helped carry out the assassination, and this **led Austria to invade Serbia**.

That brought in **Russia, which had a treaty to help Serbia**.

Next, **Germany came to the aid of Austria-Hungary**.

France and Great Britain then joined to help Russia.

Within a few weeks, **all of Europe was drawn into the war**.

Although the **assassination sparked the war**, there were **many underlying causes**:

THE BIG IDEA? A small conflict in the Balkans becomes a world war because of the system of alliances.

Nationalism.

A feeling of **pride in one's country** is called nationalism.

Nationalism **also** describes the idea that **each distinct nationality**(a group of people who speak the same language and share the same customs) is **entitled to its own government and homeland.**

Both types of nationalism contributed to the outbreak of WW1.

For example, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia each **tried to prove their nation's importance** to the world by **building up armies and weapons.**

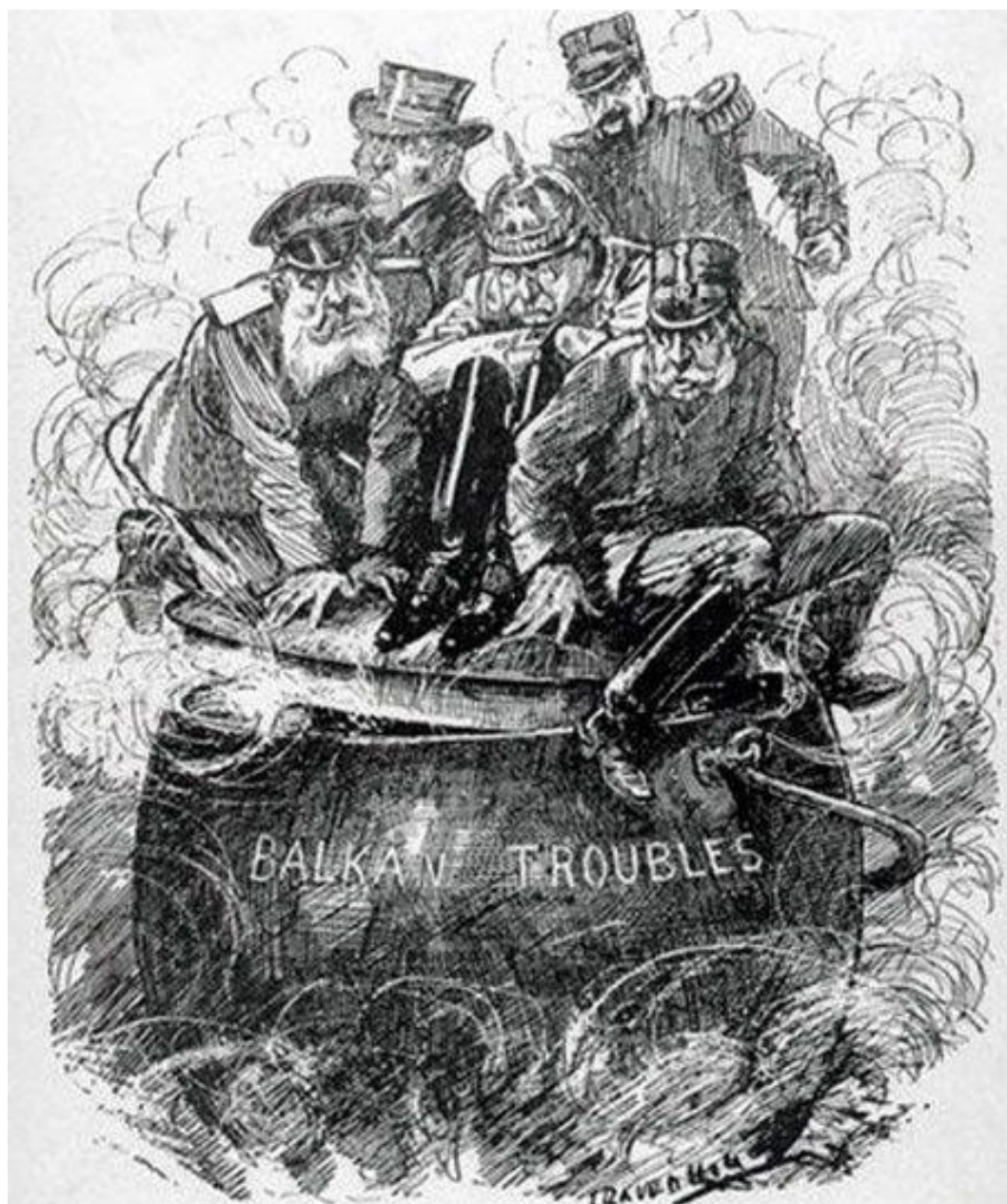
Nationalism, cont.

The **other type** of nationalism was found in the **Austro-Hungarian Empire**. There, **many national groups wanted their own countries** and were **willing to use violence** to get their way.

Some of these nationalists had assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand.

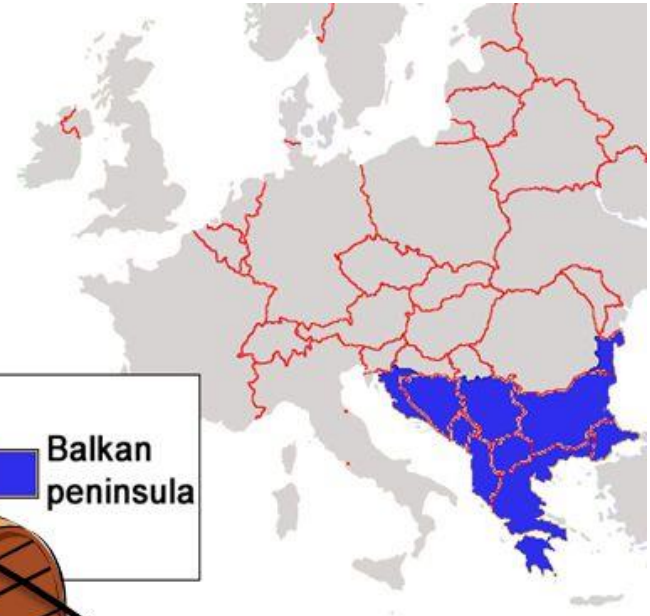
Nationalism and the Austro-Hungarian Empire



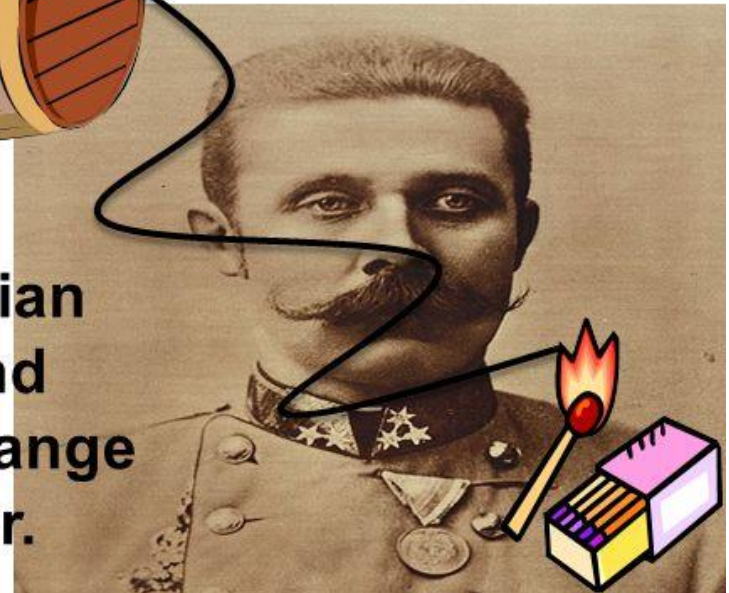




The Powder Keg of Europe



The assassination of Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand was the immediate, short-range spark that triggered the war.



Economic Competition and Imperialism

Many European nations were struggling to become great economic powers. As a result, there was much conflict.

For example, the **growing industrial strength of Germany threatened the British.**

Russian interests in Central Europe threatened the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Imperialism

European leaders also believed that one way of making a nation's economy stronger was **imperialism**(the taking of colonies).

Frequently European nations **competed over the same colonies**. This added to the harsh feelings between some European nations.

The System of Alliances

In order to protect themselves in case of war, **Europe divided into two large alliances in the 1890s.**

On one side stood **Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy**, which formed the Triple Alliance (later called the **Central Powers**).

On the other side stood **Russia, France and Great Britain**, called the Triple Entente (later called the **Allied Powers**).

World War One Alliances 1914





Alliances cont.

The members of each alliance **promised to help the other members** if they were attacked.

Any **dispute involving some** of the nation's from these alliances therefore **threatened to involve all the others.**

Europe in 1914



-  Triple Entente
-  Triple Alliance
-  Neutral throughout the war

By Mr. Field