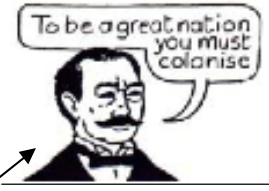


World War I

Long Term Causes



Imperialism

In 1900 nearly everyone would have agreed with this statement made by a French Politician. A large Empire was important not only for trade but also national prestige. The larger your empire, the more important your country was. In 1800 France and Britain both had large empires, and these continued to grow throughout the nineteenth century.

In 1870s Italy and Germany became united countries for the first time. They too wanted an overseas empire. The result was that in the years up to 1900 competition between European powers grew more intense. There was a scramble for territory, especially in Africa with its rich minerals and resources.

This competition for colonies (countries controlled by European power) caused several disputes. For example, in 1906 and 1911 Germany and France argued about who should own Morocco. However, none of these arguments lead to a war, but they did lead to resentment and cause bad relations between some European countries. Sources A and B below show the colonies that were controlled by each European power.

Source A



Questions:

1. What is the name of the United States foreign policy that says America will protect the western hemisphere?
2. What physical advantage did France & England have that allowed them to take so many colonies?
3. What physical disadvantage did Russia have that kept it from having colonies?
4. Given what you know, were all the places labeled Independent on this map actually free from the control of another country? Explain your answer.

Source B: European countries Empires in 1914.

	Population of country	Population of colonies	Area in km ² of colonies
Great Britain	40.8 million	390 million	27 million
France	39.6 million	63 million	11 million
Germany	63 million	15 million	2.5 million
Austria	50 million	none	none
Russia	139 million	none	none

“We have conquered for ourselves a place in the sun. It will now be my task to see to it that this place in the sun shall remain our undisputed possession, in order that the sun's rays may fall fruitfully upon our activity and trade in foreign parts... The more Germans go out upon the waters, whether it be in journeys across the ocean, or in the service of the battle flag, so much the better it will be for us.”

A speech by Kaiser Wilhelm II the North German Regatta

Arms Race

When the German Emperor Wilhelm II, known as the Kaiser in Britain, made the statement in Source C, everyone knew what he meant to do next and began to increase the size of their armed forces.

This led to an arms race in which each country tried to build a much bigger and better military machine than their enemy. Between 1870 and 1914, military spending by the main European powers increased by 300 percent!

After 1871 all the major nations except Britain brought in conscription, which meant that all men over the age of 18 were forced to serve a minimum period in one of their country's armed services.

Questions:

- Which country had the military advantage in 1913 according to source D?
- Which country had the naval advantage according to source E? Why?
- Why did the arms race take place?

Source D: European Military spending and the size of their armies, 1913 - 14.

Country	Soldiers	Money spent in millions.
Britain	750,000	50,000,000
France	1,500,000	40,000,000
Germany	8,250,000	60,000,000
Austria	750,000	22,500,000
Russia	1,250,000	15,500,000
Italy	750,000	10,000,000

Britain had one of the best-trained and equipped armies in Europe, even though it wasn't very big. Which other armed service do think Britain spent the vast majority of its money on?

In 1900 the only way to travel around the World was by ship. Whichever country 'ruled the waves' could rule the world. Great Britain had the largest navy in 1900. It had to be to protect the British Empire. However, Britain was beginning to realize that it did not have enough resources to protect its vast Empire. In particular, Britain was worried about the growing size of the Germany Navy.

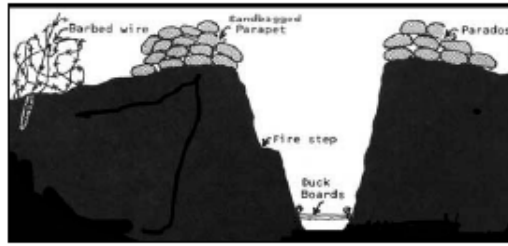
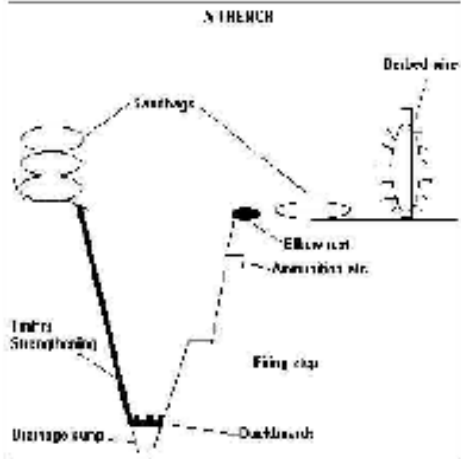
The British Government was determined that their navy should remain the biggest. Soon an arms race to build new battleships began between Britain and Germany. In 1906, Britain launched HMS Dreadnought, a new battleship that was stronger and faster than any other ship built before. Soon Germany also began to build 'Dreadnoughts' as well. The table below in Source E shows the results of this naval arms race.

Source E: German and British ships in 1914.

Type of ship	Great Britain	Germany
Dreadnoughts	29	17
Pre-Dreadnoughts	40	20
Battle-cruisers	34	9
Cruisers	74	41
Destroyers	167	130
Torpedo boats	49	0
Submarines	75	21



Trench Warfare

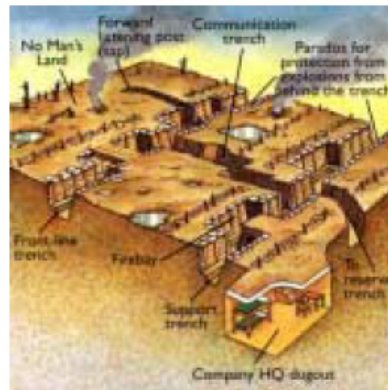


The Trench

Trenches were first dug by the British and French Armies in Northern France. The aim of trenches was to act as a barrier against the rapid advance of the German army from which a counter attack could be made. At first they were quickly and easily constructed using few materials other than sandbags and a shovel.

As it became obvious that the trench was not going to be the short-term barrier it was originally intended to be, networks of trenches were constructed. These trenches had to ensure the safety of the soldiers who would live, eat, sleep and fight there.

Often these trench systems were as close as 20 metres away from the enemy who would face them across No Man's Land.



Trench Rats

Source B: Stuart Dolden, 1920

The outstanding feature of the trenches was the extraordinary number of rats. The area was infested with them. It was impossible to keep them out of the dugouts. They grew fat on the food that they pilfered from us, and anything they could pick up in or around the trenches; they were bloated and loathsome to look at. Some were nearly as big as cats. We were filled with an instinctive hatred of them, because however one tried to put the thought of one's mind, one could not help feeling that they fed on the dead.

Source A: Punch, 1916



Equipment



When a British soldier went over the top to attack the enemy he had to carry all of this equipment through the mud, barbed wires and crater holes made by mines. They had to make sure that they did not get shot at the same time.

WEIGHT OF PACKS

The weight of the clothing, rifle, 100 rounds, trench tools, webbing, the pack, rations and water has been estimated at 55lbs. (24 kg.). This was the minimum. Spare underwear, shaving and washing kit, cigarettes and matches etc. had to be added. Often spare pieces of equipment like Verey flares, periscopes and wirecutters would be shared out.

HOME LEAVE

With 2 million men involved, just one week's leave a year meant the movement of 40,000 men daily. In 1916 some men had not had leave for 20 months.

Alliances

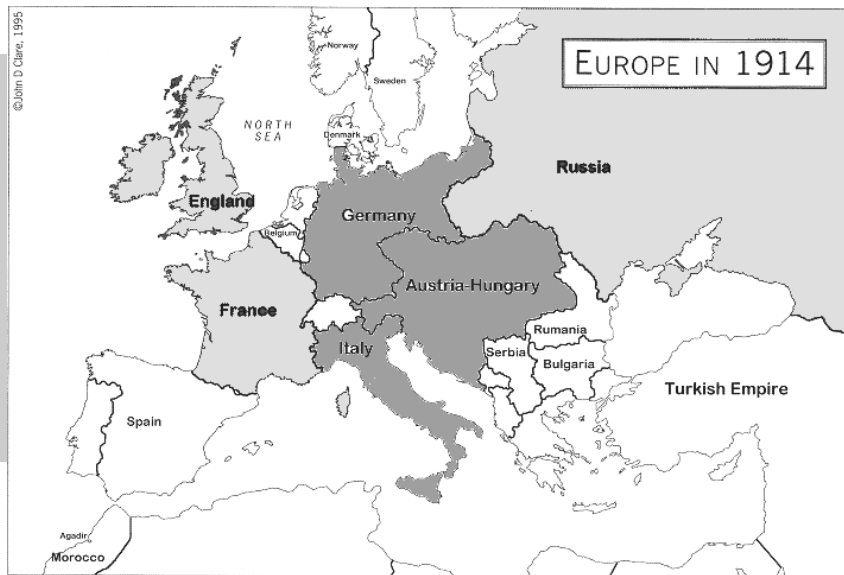
Between 1900 and 1914 the great powers of Europe became suspicious of each other and began to increase the size of their armed services. Eventually this turned into an arms race.

Both France and Britain were afraid of the Kaiser's ambition to build a larger German Empire. The only way that Germany could achieve this in 1914 was by attacking and taking other European countries colonies. Eventually, each of the great powers realized that if there was going to be a war they would need friends and allies to help them defeat their enemies.

They formed two gangs. These gangs were called alliances. The Map below shows the gangs or

Questions:

8. Which countries sided with England? With Germany?
9. Given what you know, why might Spain chosen to remain neutral?



Nationalism

These nations were filled with nationalism, or great national pride. They expanded their borders by building imperial colonies in Africa and Asia. Most Europeans believed their nation to be superior to any other.

It was the democratic belief that each nation had the right to become independent and to rule itself. But it also was believed that nonmembers of the nation should assimilate, be denied civic rights, be expelled, or even be killed.

Nationalism was hating some as an expression of loving others. To add to the murkiness, there was no agreement on what constitutes a nationality. Evidence suggests that the most widespread feeling in Europe at the time was xenophobia: a great deal of hostility toward one another.

Source D

Land of Hope and Glory,
mother of the free...
God who made thee mighty,
make thee mightier yet.

The words of *Land of Hope and Glory*, written by the English composer Elgar and sung by British people at the Prom concerts every year.

Germany, Germany above all,
over everything in the world,
When it steadfastly holds together,
offensively and defensively.

The words of the German national anthem,
Deutschland über Alles.

Questions

10. How are the British & German songs in source D similar and different to the American National Anthem?
11. In the space below, or on your paper, create a diagram to show how Imperialism, the Arms Race and Alliances lead to World War I