The Road to World War I

Causes of WWI

Europe experienced ____________ from the 1870s through the early 1900s. However, the following powerful forces were pushing Europe towards _______

M___________  A___________  I___________  N___________

1. Alliances
Europe was made up of a system of ________________ that kept the __________________________ in Europe.

Nations agreed to __________ each other if attacked.

This meant that a war between two nations could ________________ into a global conflict.

Rival Alliances in 1914

2. Imperialism
The European powers, Russia, and Japan competed for ________________ power in the 1800s.

France and Germany competed for ________________ gains in Africa, while Britain and Germany competed ________________.

Because of their mutual ________________ with Germany, Britain and France formed close ties with each other.
3. Militarism
During the 1800s ________________ had increased around the world, making nations eager to use military force.

Most nations had built massive _________ and ___________ with the latest technology. Britain and Germany had the biggest _________ race.

4. Nationalism
Aggressive ________________ was the source of tension throughout Europe.
France was still upset over their humiliating defeat to ______________ in their 1871 war with Prussia.
Many French people wanted to take revenge against Germany, and regain ___________ and _______________.

Russia also promoted ________________ in the Balkans, which upset the multinational Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the “_________” Ottoman Empire.

Because of nationalism, the region was known as the “_________________________” of Europe.

The War Begins

The Spark
Not surprisingly, World War I began in Bosnia, which was the heart of the ethnically diverse ________________ powder keg.

Although inhabited by many ______________, Bosnia was not ruled by Serbia, but by ________________.

When Francis ________________, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, traveled through Bosnia in June of 1914, he was assassinated by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo ________________.
Princip’s assassination of Ferdinand is known as the “______________” that started the Great War.
A Chain Reaction

After the assassination Kaiser Wilhelm II of ____________
gave his ally Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary
“______________________,” or a blank check of support.

With Germany’s support, Austria gave Serbia a harsh
_________________________, or set of demands.

Serbia refused to _________ with some of the demands, so
Austria-Hungary declared ____ on Serbia on July 28, 1914.

Czar __________________ of Russia, a fellow _______________ nation and
ally of Serbia, pleaded with Austria not to attack the smaller country.

When the plea failed, Russia ____________________, or prepared its forces for
war against Austria-Hungary.

In response to Russia’s mobilization against their ally
Austria-Hungary, ___________ declared war on Russia.

Germany then declared war on ________________, another
ally of Russia.

To get to Paris, German troops invaded neutral ____________.

Belgium’s protection was guaranteed by ________________,
so the British joined the war against Germany.

The Ottoman Turks joined the Central Powers to combat
______________________________, which threatened their empire.

Italy joined the ________________ to gain Austrian-ruled lands that
were inhabited by Italians.

___________ joined the allies and used the war as an excuse to
seize ________________ outposts in China and islands in the Pacific.

In 1917 the United States declared war on Germany after it sunk the
__________________________.
## Major Powers in WWI

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