

## I. Long term causes of WWI

1. Germany had economic and military potential
2. created discomfort for the other European Nations
3. Otto van Bismarck and Keiser Wilhelm I wanted to:
  - a) Isolate France
    - (1) to shift balance of power towards Germany
  - b) Ally with Russia
    - (1) To avoid a two front war
4. They accomplished this through diplomacy

Causes of WWI	
<b>N</b>	Nationalism
<b>I</b>	Imperialism
<b>M</b>	Militarism
<b>S</b>	System of Alliances

## B. Bismarck's web of alliances

1. The Dreikaiserbund or **Three Emperors' League** (1873)
  - (1) In US at this time are in the middle of reconstruction
  - b) Dreikaiserbund allied Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungry
  - c) Terms of treaty vague
    - (1) (surface treaty, not deep, but showing Germany's goals)
  - d) Served to keep France isolated
2. The **Dual Alliance** (1879)
  - a) Austria-Hungry & Russia came into conflict over Balkans, Dreikaiserbund collapsed.
  - b) Bismarck took its place by creating a treaty with Austria-Hungary & Germany to limit possibility of war between European powers, primarily defensive
  - c) Germany & Austria-Hungry agree to support each other if Russia attacks,
  - d) agreed to remain neutral of any other european power waged war on them
    - (1) Specifics, no longer vague treaty
    - (2) Russia (in Germany's eyes) is being bad, and isn't doing what they want, so Germany is trying to send a strong message to Russia, sending them a warning
    - (3) not threatening really, but communicating that Russia must play their game
    - (4) The dual alliance is having Germany creating a shift in the balance in power, forcing Russia into complying with what they want.
  - e) Russia then 'begs' to return to the Dreikaiserbund, thus making Germany the Alpha country
3. The **Three Emperors' Alliance** (1881)
  - a) Russia realized the power shift, and asks to rejoin the alliance
  - b) Russia feeling isolated turned back to Germany and Bismarck.
  - c) They revised the Dreikaiserbund treaty
  - d) Said that if Germany, Austria-Hungry or Russia was attacked by another power, they would remain neutral.
    - (1) Promised neutrality
  - e) Germany works to step in and resolve Austrian-Hungary & Russia conflict
    - (1) Sounds just like the Russo-Japanese War, with the Portsmouth Conference, when the US stuck in their nose into another problem
    - (2) Germany is exerting their power, and showing the power they retain
4. The **Triple Alliance** (1882)

- a) Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
  - b) Germany is realizing that they need to broaden the conflict
  - c) Picked Italy because by adding it, they're shifting the focus away from the Balkans, geographically isolating France, and strengthening Germany
  - d) Italy is easy to control
  - e) If any attacked by 2 or more powers that the others would assist them
    - (1) strange terms
    - (2) Russia is wondering why they were left out
    - (3) So Bismarck tries to reassure Russia
5. The **Reinsurance Treaty** (1887)
- a) Three Emperors' Alliance fell due to Balkan problems
  - b) Separate treaty with Russia drawn to avoid risk of war on 2 fronts
  - c) Bismarck wanted Germany stayed friendly with Russia
  - d) to maintain peace
  - e) Reassurance Treaty Lapses
    - (1) Why?
      - (a) Russia is not capable of stopping Germany
      - (b) Conflict: does not go away over the Balkans
        - i) At that time, if they don't act now, Russia could get stronger, so they were trying to finally end the conflict once and for all, before Russia grew stronger
      - (c) Weltpolitik, it was in the best interest of Germany not to be constricted
        - i) Provoking conflict
    - (2) Effect: Franco-Russian Alliance - 1894
      - (a) France and Russia agree to support each other if attacked by Triple Alliance
        - i) Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Germany
      - (b) France and Russia agree to mobilize
        - i) For preparedness
        - ii) Russia needs to depend on France, because of the political instability in France, if France decides not to mobilize, then Russia is in trouble.
    - (3) Bismarck's Goals are dismantled
      - (a) France is no longer isolated
      - (b) Two front war is a possibility
        - i) This bothered the Germans
        - ii) Germany didn't however retaliate, and by not doing anything, they were saying that they were ready to be number 1, the new dominant power.
- C. The New Course and **Weltpolitik**
- a) Have colonies, Imperialize, expand, more power, ect.
  - b) **Weltpolitik**: "Germany will get what it wants!", making the Germans feel happy, superior, and is just like the *Big Stick* policy
    - (1) Germany acting in her best interest, doing what's best for Germany

- (2) They want to industrialize, and they're going to dictate to the world what they want, who they are, and they're going to do it no matter what.
  - (3) Germans are becoming aggressive instead of diplomatic
  - (4) Diverting the Social/political Germany population away from domestic area, Domestic Diversion
    - (a) Meant to divert the conflict between the Junker and the Entrepreneurs/Capitalists, through giving them both what they want (the capitalists; the new markets, and the Junkers; the new land) uniting them.
    - (b) It also moves the conflict between the lower and upper class by *increasing* the standard of living in the poor through the increase of money into the working class, diverting the problem.
    - (c) Allowing them to co-exist.
  - (5) This is extreme nationalism, making everyone happy, diverting the issues, pushing Germany in a brand new direction.
  - (6) This is better for Germany (Weltpolitik) because during that time, under Bismarck, they weren't ready to take it to the next level, but now under Wilhelm II with their alliances, they re-evaluate and if they didn't take Weltpolitik then, they weren't going to become an industrialized nation.
2. Wilhelm II came to throne in Germany, and Bismarck replaced as Chancellor by Leo von Caprivi.
  3. They took German foreign policy on a new course that would overturn Bismarck's carefully neutral system.
  4. They sought to make Germany a colonial power and gain new colonies overseas
  5. This policy is usually known as **Weltpolitik** which was supported by various patriotic groups
  6. This shift from *Web of Alliances* to *Weltpolitik* put Germany against Great Britain, and Russia
- D. Imperialism – 1880-1905
1. Major cause of tension
  2. Land=\$=Power
  3. Scramble for Colonialism in Africa and Asia.
    - a) Motives
      - (1) Economic
        - (a) New Markets
        - (b) Resources
      - (2) Nationalism (Nationalistic Competition)
      - (3) White-Man's Burden (Civilize the uncivilized)
        - (a) (Social Darwinism)
        - (b) Want the other people to think that German's are better than the other counties. (Within other European countries as well)
  4. Main course of tension with the European powers was over colonial rivalries

5. Nationalist competition (also known as Social Darwinian belief) became popular in the countries at this time.
6. Germany's desire to make its influence felt outside of Europe was to bring conflict with more established Colonial powers, particularly Britain
7. 1896, the Kaiser caused Britain great offense on his response to Jameson Raid, which was a failed British attempt to incite a rising against the Boer Republics in southern Africa
  - a) The Kaiser called it an illegal operation
8. The coverage of this in the British press turned the British peoples against the German peoples
- E. Jameson's Raid – 1895
  1. British incite Revolt against the Boers in South Africa
    - a) Boers were Dutch settlers in South Africa
    - b) Britain saw South Africa, and the Boers who were “mis-managing” the country, and Britain tried to incite a revolt with the natives against the Dutch to come in later and achieve control of the area
  2. Revolt fails, Boers put down the revolt
  3. German Response: sent a telegram to congratulate the Boers on victory against GB, and was a poke against GB.
    - a) Germany is testing the water.
- F. The Emergence of the alliance system
  1. Admiral von Tripitz (Germany)
    - a) In order to become a power and to follow on Weltpolitik, the Germany Navy must compete with GB
    - b) Believes that they don't have a strong navy because they have restricted water access, they're a mostly land locked country
    - c) **Naval Law: 17** ships will be built by Germany, to **put them on par with the British Navy**
      - (1) 1897-1904
    - d) Followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Naval Law
      - (1) 1900
      - (2) To **increase funding** to naval operations/German Navy
  2. British Response: series of alliances
    - a) 1902 – Anglo-Japanese Alliance
      - (1) **British** response: **dreadnaught**, they make these huge superior ships, “nothing to fear”, unsinkable, high armor plating, sophisticated arms, make 8 of these, making other ships obsolete
        - (a) extremely expensive
      - (2) Think that Germany is threatening, so they expand their navy, leading to an arms race
      - (3) Ally with them to have an alliance in the East, giving them a naval basis in the Pacific, could bring their ships into Japanese ports
      - (4) **Germany**, to compete, creates submarines, u-boat
      - (5) **British** do not build submarines (they do, but not a lot) because of financial crisis from dreadnaughts

- (a) and because submarines are underhanded and cowardly, they don't like it. They philosophically don't build them
  - (6) This is a naval race, leading to
    - (a) financial crisis
  - (7) Cares about the east because GB also has colonies in the east and needs to protect them.
  - (8) Germany also has influence in China, and Germany had other Samoan islands
- b) Entente Cordiale
  - (1) Friendly treaty between Britain and France
- c) 1907 – Anglo-Russian Alliance
- d) Triple Entente
- 3. Germany's policy of *Weltpolitik* brought conflict with Britain in many ways
- 4. Germany strive to be a rival navally to Britain, which lead to the British responding to the bill passed for this to happen in Germany as a threat
- 5. Now, Britain needed to have alliances because of Germany challenging them
- 6. British made an alliance with Japan, and set up an **entente** (not a formal alliance, it settled the rivalry between the 2 nations) with France
- 7. 1907, Britain and Russia reached an agreement over their relationship with Persia, Tibet, Afghanistan.
- 8. Russia, France, and Britain were now joined together in the Triple Entente
- 9. German Naval expansion this forced Britain into seeking an agreement with it's formal colonial rivals
- G. The Naval Race
  - 1. Germany's maritime challenge to Britain started a naval arms race
  - 2. Britain launched super battleship in 1906
  - 3. Naval race changed the mood within the British population itself, as Germany as the new enemy
- H. British Alliance System
  - 1. Form an alliance system to aid and protect their colonies
    - a) India
    - b) Egypt
    - c) Hong Kong
    - d) Australia
    - e) South Africa
  - 2. All give Money
  - 3. Anglo-Japanese alliance - 1902
    - a) Allowed British Navy to use Japanese ports
    - b) Britain can't be as focused on just Europe as Germany because they have so much influence in the east, which moves the war to a global scale
    - c) British strength needed in the Pacific
  - 4. Entrant Cordial
    - a) France and Britain
    - b) Not a formal treaty, not a formal alliance, settles any dispute over colonial possessions
    - c) France doesn't have to fear the British, and vice versa

- d) Begins a relationship between two former intense foes.
- I. Anglo-Russian Alliance – 1907
  - 1. To protect British holdings such as India, Afghanistan and Persia
  - 2. They already have their other colonies protected, so they're in great shape colonial wise.
  - 3. The Balance of Power (by Britain allying with Russia) moves towards the British
  - 4. Germany is now surrounded on three sides (France, GB, and Russia)
- J. Triple Entente comes from it
  - 1. Great Britain, Russia and France
  - 2. Collective security
    - a) Strength in numbers, Britain might be weak by themselves, but together they're strong (Three Musketeers philosophy)
- I. System of Alliances
  - A. Kaiser Wilhelm I, Otto von Bismarck
    - 1. 2 Goals
  - B. Kaiser Wilhelm II, Leo von Caprivi
    - 1. Shift in focus