

# World War I Begins

Unit 5

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## Standard:

**US.26** Explain the causes of World War I in 1914 and the reasons for the initial declaration of United States' neutrality. (G, H, P)

# Causes of World War I

**M-** Militarism

**A-** Alliances

**I-** Imperialism

**N-** Nationalism

# Militarism

- **Militarism**: the belief or desire of a government or people that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national interests
- There was an arms-race
- Because Britain had a large navy, Germany wanted a large navy too. Germany and France competed to build larger armies

# Alliances

- It was thought the alliances would promote peace. Each country would be protected by others in case of war
- In the summer of 1914 there were two alliances:
  - The Triple Alliance composed of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
  - The Triple Entente composed of Britain, France, and Russia

# Let's Discuss!

Why did European Nations  
form alliances during this  
period?

# Imperialism

- Gathering colonies is known as **Imperialism**
- The purpose of imperialism was to build up national wealth and influence by owning colonies
- Both France and Britain had many colonies in Africa and Asia. In the 1880s and 1890s, Germany and Italy decided they wanted a colonial empire too. This global competition for land caused confrontations and conflicts in many places.

# Nationalism

- **Nationalism**: the belief that one's own nation or culture is superior to all others
- Led European nations to compete to build the largest army and navy
- Gave groups of subject peoples the idea of forming independent nations of their own. Serbians, Czechs, Slovaks, Bosnians and many other peoples living under the rule of the Ottoman or Austro-Hungarian Empires wanted freedom from "foreign" rule

# The Shot Heard Round the World

- In June 1914, Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Throne, was assassinated by Gavrilo Princip (a Bosnian)
- This would trigger the start of WWI

## Turn and Talk:

Do you think the US should be concerned about the assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand?

# Assignment:

Complete the “The Lusitania, The Arabic Pledge, The Sussex Pledge and Unrestricted Submarine Warfare” Reading and DBQs

## Exit Ticket:

- 1. What single event triggered the start of WWI?**
  - a. The bombing of Pearl Harbor
  - b. The assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand
  - c. Germany invaded Poland
  - d. The death of the Tsar of Russia
- 2. All of the following were reasons for the U.S. entering WWI EXCEPT:**
  - a. Unrestricted submarine warfare
  - b. Militarism
  - c. The Invasion of Poland
  - d. Alliances