

World History 3201

Unit I:

World War I (1914 – 1918)

Pgs. 32 - 65

Introduction:

- At the beginning of the 20th Century “all-powerful Europe” was heading towards a major conflict like the world had never seen.
- Also ... Europe was about to drag a large part of the planet into this conflict.
- Result ... this “**TOTAL WAR**” would weaken Europe at the expense of other “new” countries and create a new world order.

- Pity ... this war really wasn't necessary!!
- The 19th Century had been largely peaceful and had seen significant advances in:
 1. Economic expansion
 2. Gains for the working class
 3. Democracy???
 4. New colonies

- But ... behind this facade the Europeans were preparing for a major military confrontation.

1.1.1 - Terms

Imperialism:

- The policy of extending the authority of a nation over foreign countries through the acquisition of colonies.

Nationalism:

- A sense of national consciousness that fosters loyalty to one's country.
- Is characterized principally by a feeling of community among a people, based on common descent, language, and religion.

Colony:

- A territory that is controlled by another power/powerful nation.
- Imperialistic countries sought to control other regions of the world which became their colonies.

Triple Alliance:

- The alliance formed in 1882, between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.
- It's **purpose** was to **isolate France** in the event of war.

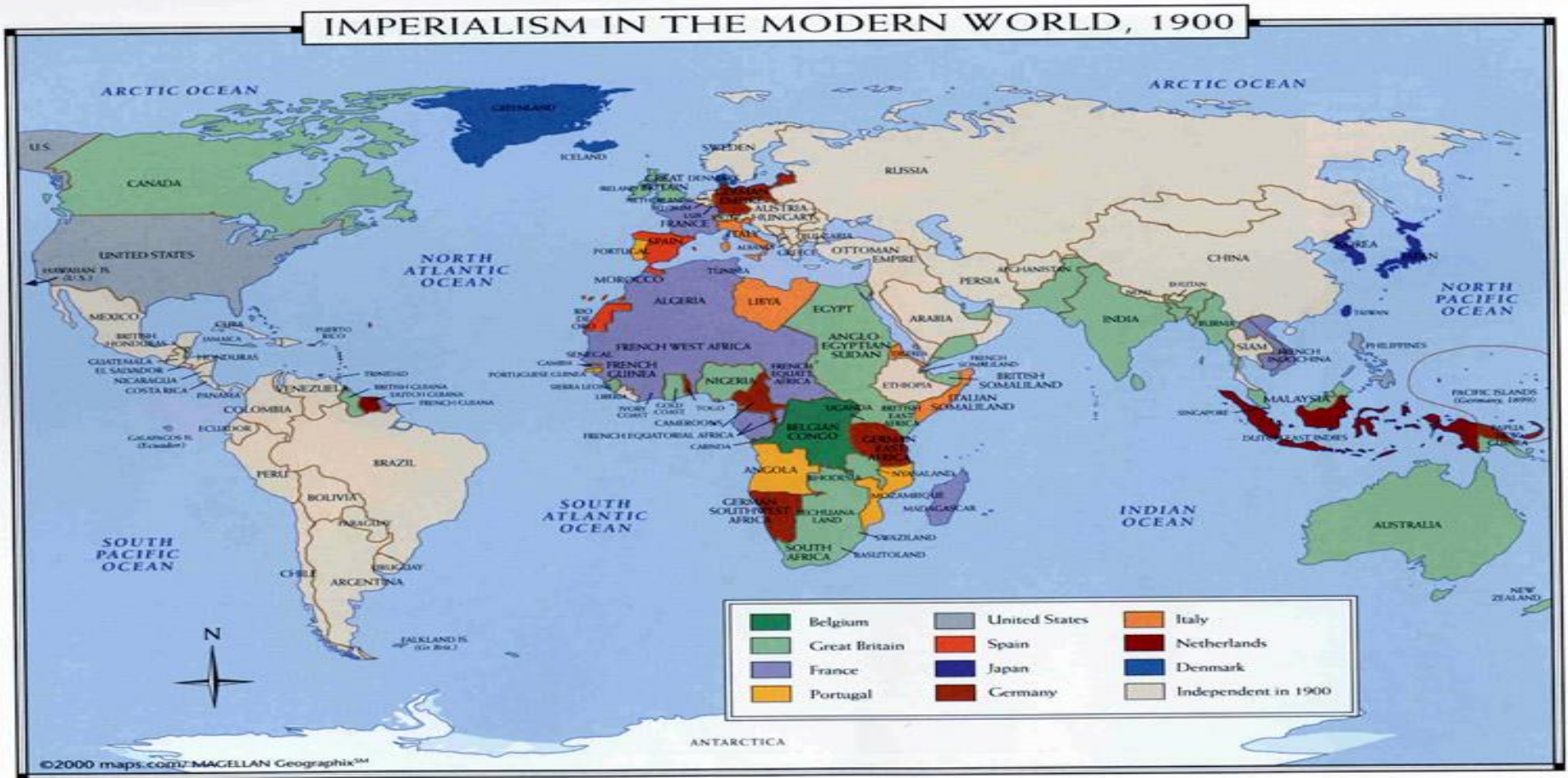
Triple Entente:

- Formed in 1907, between Britain, France, and Russia in response to the rising powers of the Triple Alliance.

Ultimatum:

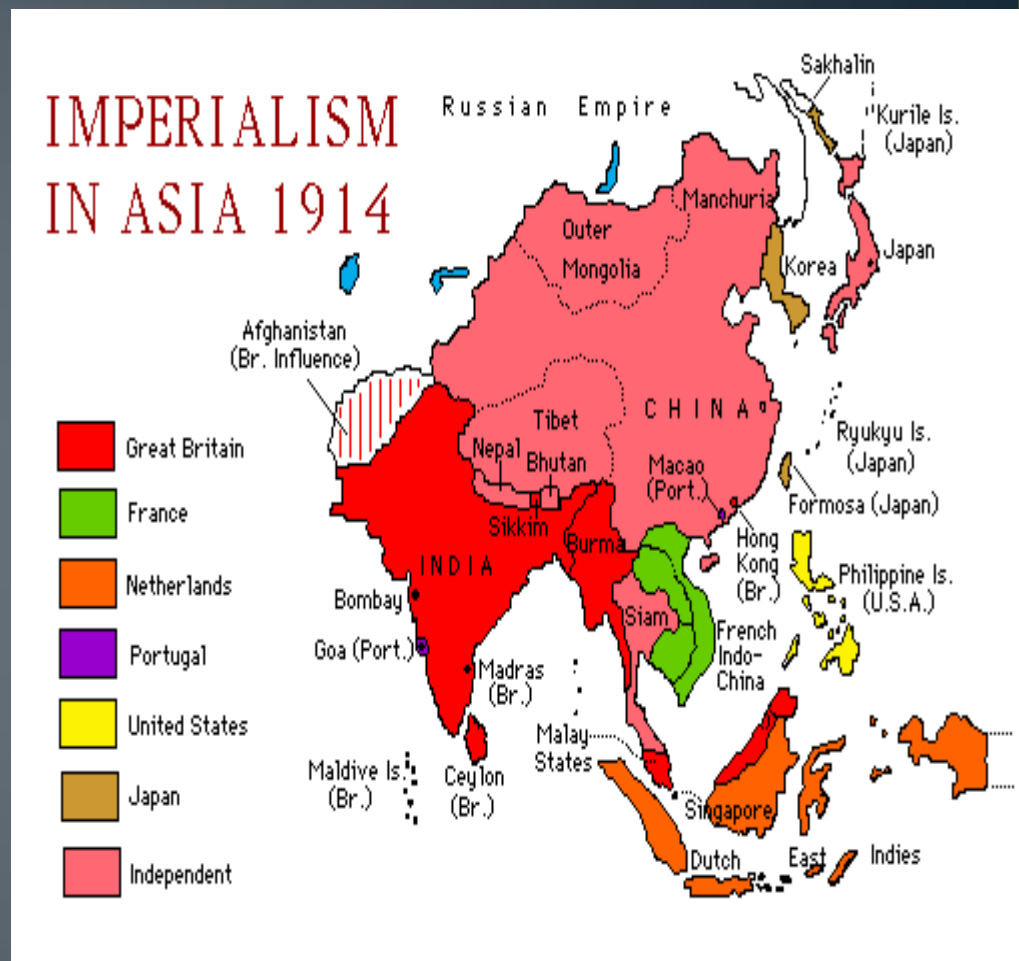
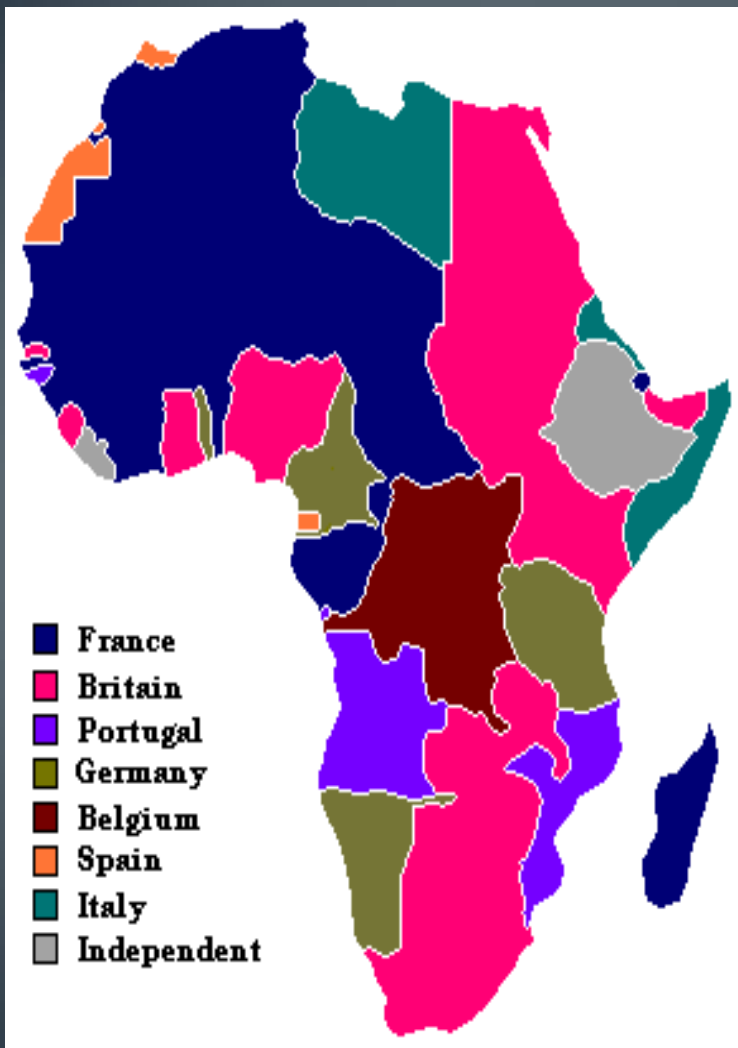
- A final proposal of terms which, when rejected, may end negotiations and results in war.

1.1.2: Imperialist Nations 1900 (pg.23)



1.13: Reasons for Imperial Expansion

- At the turn of the 20th Century many of the world's industrialized nations had already conquered territories around the world, particularly in **Africa** and **Asia**.
- Why did these nations need more territory?



Below are 5 of the main reasons for expansion:

1. Raw Materials:

- Increasing industrialization and a rising standard of living stimulated the need for raw materials (many from tropical areas).
- Countries needed to secure these raw materials to sustain and grow a strong industrial base at home.

- Therefore, the growing industrial nations needed to obtain lands where the raw material existed.
- Areas in Africa and Asia could supply things like lumber and minerals which were needed.

2. Cheap Labour:

- Countries would occupy territory to obtain workers.
- For example, Europeans needed labourers so they went to Africa and exploited the native population to obtain it.

- Many of these natives were uprooted from their villages and compelled to work in forced labour camps.
- The workers were used to directly gather the raw materials or work in the manufacturing of these goods.
- In turn, the conquering nation would increase profits.

3. Prestige & Power:

- Countries would take control of a territory in order to become more **POWERFUL** and increase national security by ensuring it did not fall into the hands of the enemy.
- Also the greatness of a nation came to be measured largely in terms of its colonial possessions.
- A country with many overseas territories strengthened its reputation throughout the world.

4. Markets:

- As industrialized nations grew they required not only the raw materials for productions **BUT** also the markets in which to sell their goods.
- In order to sustain their growth, imperialist nations conquered areas that would serve as new markets for products and services produced at home.

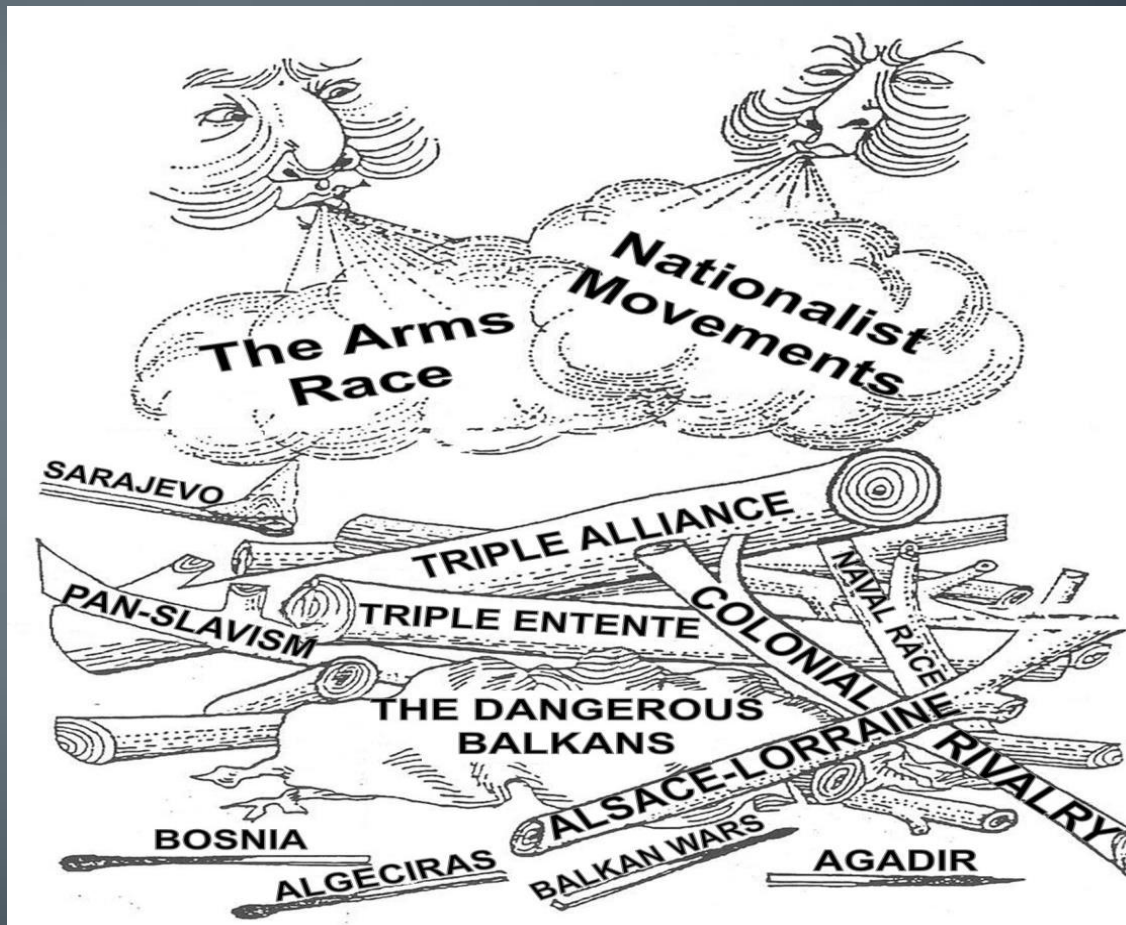
5. Religion/Humanitarianism:

- Many western nations thought of their civilization as **SUPERIOR** to those of Africa and Asia.
- They felt duty bound to “**uplift**” and “**enlighten**” those whom they considered the more “**backward**” societies of the world.

- This “**WHITE MAN’S BURDEN**,” as it was coined, also included the notion of converting these civilizations to *Christianity*.
- For conquering imperialist nations, this was their excuse used when they occupied and took over lands.

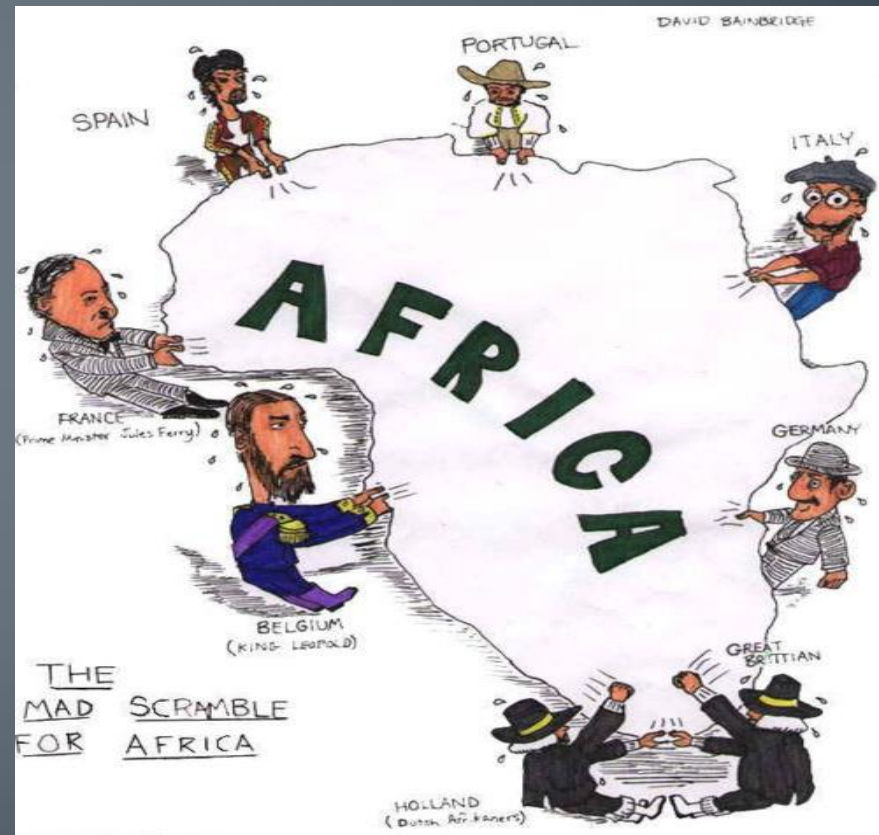
DBQ Time!!!!!!

1.1.4: Origins/Causes of W.W.I



- WW I may have started in 1914, but the roots to its causes had been growing for many years prior to that.
- It is generally recognized that there were 4 main contributing factors to the outbreak of world war in 1914.

1. Imperialism



2. Nationalism

- In the late 19th and early 20th centuries many of the nations of Europe were expressing strong feelings of nationalism that impacted the political climate within Europe.
- In France nationalistic feelings were high because of the German occupation of Alsace-Lorraine, which was populated mostly by French speaking people.

- In **Austria-Hungary** various ethnic groups (Serb, Croats, Slovaks, etc) were wanting their freedoms and were expressing their own pride causing conflict within the country.
- **German** nationalism was growing due to their strong economy and desire to obtain territory and catch up to the other industrialized nations like Britain and France.

- Finally **British** nationalism was centered on the idea of their duty to the throne and the country.
- As a result, tensions among and within nations were high as clashing ideas and desires created conflict.

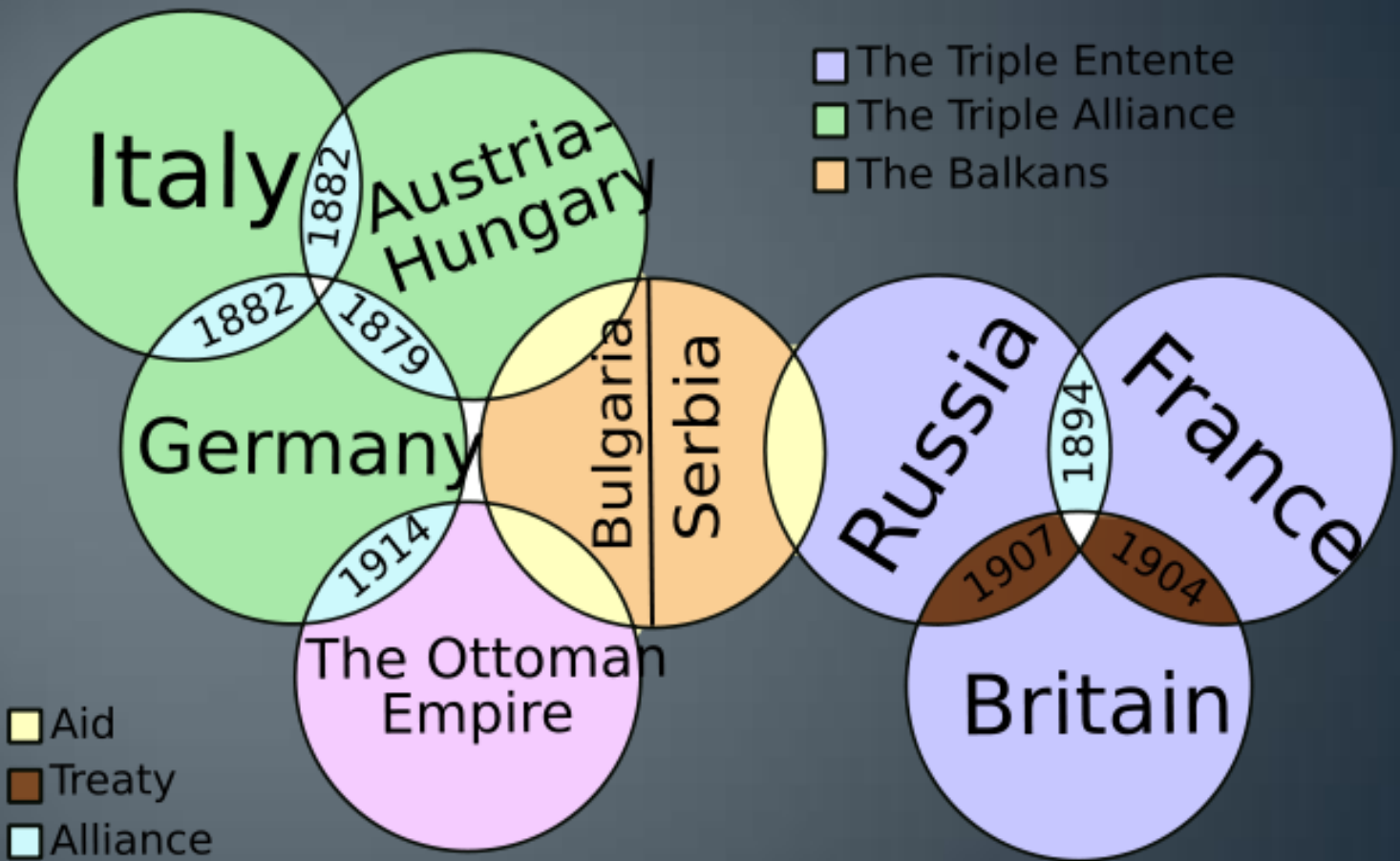
3. Militarism

- An arms race grew out of the desires of imperialism and growing nationalism.
- European nations increased their military might.
- Many nations increased their military expenditures by as much as 300% in the years leading up to the start of the war.

- Germany was making an effort to challenge Britain for naval supremacy and become the dominant power in Europe.
- However, Britain was not about to relinquish its position as the world's leading power and embarked on a large-scale armament program.
- At the same time France and Russia made significant moves to increase the size of their armies.

4. Alliance Systems

- In an attempt to protect the interests of nations and prevent war, countries formed military alliances.
- On one side there was the **Triple Alliance** and on the other the **Triple Entente**.



- Generally these alliances stated if one of the countries in the alliance were attacked then the others would support them.
- These alliances heightened tensions because any crisis affecting one nation affected its allies and it also raised the possibility that a single incident could lead to a general war.

1.1.4: German Alliances (Pre –WW1)

- **German Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck**, engineered a series of alliances between 1879 & 1887 which provided Europe with the illusion of peace and stability.
- These diplomatic initiatives were motivated almost entirely by Bismarck's wish to isolate France.



A. Dual Alliance, 1879

- Bismarck and the Germans signed the **Dual Alliance** with **Austria-Hungary**.
- The members of this alliance promised that if any one of them should be attacked, they would wage warfare together against the aggressor.

B. Triple Alliance, 1882

- Bismarck, negotiated the **Triple Alliance** with Austria-Hungary and Italy.
- The members of this alliance promised that if any one of them should be attacked, all three would wage warfare together against the aggressor.

C. Reinsurance Treaty, 1887

- Bismarck persuaded Russia to sign a secret Reinsurance Treaty.
- Whereby Germany pledged its support to the Balkans while Russia assured Germany of its neutrality in the event of a French attack on Germany.

Note:

- Bismarck had achieved his goal of isolating France and securing Germany.
- 1888: **Kaiser Wilhelm II**, Germany's new leader took over as chancellor and allowed Russian treaty to lapse.
- 1907: Britain ends its century-old policy of "splendid isolation" to join France and Russia in the "Triple Entente"
- Europe was now divided into **TWO** hostile camps, tensions grew the arms race continued..... all that was needed was "the spark"!

1.1.5: Chronology of the steps to war

1. **June 28** – Archduke Ferdinand of Austria assassinated in Bosnian city of Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb nationalist.
2. **July 23** – Austrian government gives Serbia 48hr ultimatum; does not agree on all terms; begins to mobilize.
3. **July 28** – Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia; Serbia turns to Russia for help
4. **July 29** – Czar Nicholas agrees to help Serbia and mobilizes army
5. **August 1** – Germany declares war on Russia; France mobilizes army
6. **August 2** – Germany invades Belgium as part of Schlieffen plan for attacking France
7. **August 3** – Germany declares war on France; Britain gives **Germany an ultimatum to halt invasion of Belgium**
8. **August 4** – No reply from Germany; Britain declares war on Germany; Canada automatically at war as part of British empire; US declares neutrality