

Name:

Period:

National Rivalries and Secret Alliances

Throughout the 19th and 20th century, European nations participated in what is known as “New Imperialism”, conquering lands throughout Asia and Africa for economic gain and expansion of empire. But what does this have to do with the outbreak of World War One? Let us consider the possible conflicts that occurred due to the spread of empire, increasing feelings of nationalism, and leaders who cannot let go of old feuds.

By _____ most of Europe was divided into _____ with millions of troops at the ready.

These two _____ were created and planned in _____. These countries signed many _____ And _____, pledging to protect and defend each other. History shows that these alliances

were created out of the feeling of _____ of rival nations. While these alliances were meant to be a way to _____, they would ultimately have the opposite effect.

Make a prediction: Why would the formation of secret alliances cause problems throughout Europe?

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

THE TRIPLE ENTENTE

Economic Rivalries helped sour the international atmosphere. Germany, the newest of the great powers, was growing into an economic and military powerhouse. Britain felt threatened by its rapid economic growth. In turn, Germany thought that other world powers did not give it enough respect. Germany also feared that Russia, with its massive size, manpower, and resources would ultimately catch up to industrialized Europe, making it an unbeatable competitor.

Overseas rivalries also divided European nations. In 1905, and again in 1911, competition for colonies brought **France** and **Germany** to the brink of war in Morocco, a French colony. This is known as the **Moroccan Crisis**. While European Diplomats were able to maintain peace, Germany did obtain African territory from these agreements. As a result, Great Britain and France would strengthen their ties against Germany.



H.H. Asquith, the British
Prime Minister

Germany Emperor Wilhelm II

International Tensions are on the Rise: The great powers continued to build up their armies and navies. The fiercest competition was a naval rivalry between **Great Britain and Germany**. To protect its vast overseas empire, Great Britain had built the worlds most respected navy. As Germany began to acquire overseas colonies, it also began to develop its own navy. Britain, suspicious of German motives, began to increase naval spending and continued to build up its naval forces. Journalists sensationalized the event, referring to it as the great **Arms Race**. This stirred public opinion against rival countries.

The rise in **Militarism** also helped fuel the arms race. Young men dreamed of riding into battle with blaring trumpets and cavalry charges. The war was romanticized. These men did not anticipate the horrors they would face in the coming years. The public wanted this war.

How did international competition increase tensions in Europe?

What European rivalry was the greatest? What did this rivalry lead to?

How did Militarism Fuel the Arms Race? How did Journalists contribute to the push for war?

Nationalism is basically an overabundance of patriotism, and nationalism was a big part of the buildup to the war. On the one hand, nationalism fed into, and was fed by, imperialism. All of the nations of Europe wanted to show how powerful they were. More directly, the Slavic people in Bosnia and Herzegovina desired no longer to be a part of Austria-Hungary. The Austrian-Hungarian Empire was a huge group made up of many different ethnic and language groups. The nationalistic desires of one of these groups led to the direct catalyst for the war. **Russia**, the largest of the Slavic states, sponsored a nationalistic idea of **Pan-Slavism**. This meant that all Slavic people shared a common nationality. The Russians saw themselves as the big brother to these smaller, and newly independent Slavic nations.

Nationalism was also strong in both Germany and France. Germans were proud of their new and powerful empire and industrial leadership. The French were still bitter about their loss during the Franco-Prussian war. France wanted to regain the land they lost in the border province of **Alsace and Lorraine**.

How did the rise of nationalism throughout Europe contribute to the increase of tension in Europe?

How did nationalism promote and form new alliances throughout Europe? Why?

Predict: What will the rise of nationalism in the east lead to? What might happen as nationalistic tension continues to build?

Turkish Cavalrymen raise their flags and ride into battle in Eastern Europe.

