# MAIN CAUSES OF

# WW1

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## WORLD WAR ONE

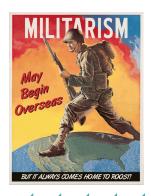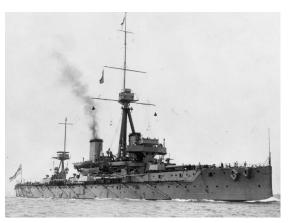## Booklet

# GERMANY

By Jessie 6(5)

# Part One: Militarism



Militarism: belief that a strong military force should be maintained and used aggressively to defend or promote national interests. (yourdictionary.com)

This picture was taken from <german culture.com.ua/germany-facts/german-military-in-world-wars/>. It explains that "Militarism may begin overseas", which means that a country can send massive armies to establish or fight for colonies.



**Primary Source:** This photograph above is from "germanculture.com.ua". The men inside are german soilders about 80 years ago. The "pointy ends" on their helmets were ideal to "scare off the enemy".

**Primary Source:** This is a British "Dreadnought", the first new class of warships. It has strong guns and fast modern turbine engines. However, at that time, Germany did not have those advanced warships. They responded by building their own. By 1914, the Brithish had 29 "Dreadnoughts" built, while Germany had 17. Both countries had spent a lot of money on the constuction of warships.

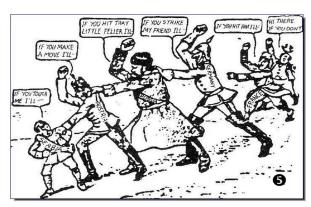| | Britain | France | Russia | Germany | Austria-Hungary | Italy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population (millions) | 46 | 40 | 167 | 65 | 50 | 35 |
| Steel production (millions of tons) | 7.9 | 4 | 4 | 17 | 2.6 | 3.9 |
| Merchant ships (millions of tons) | 20 | 2 | 0.75 | 5 | 3 | 1.75 |
| Foreign trade (millions of Euros per year) | 1 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 | n/a |
| Number of soldiers available (in thousands) | 711 | 1250 | 1200 | 2200 | 810 | 750 |
| Warships (including under construction) | 122 | 46 | 26 | 85 | 24 | 36 |
| Submarines | 64 | 73 | 29 | 23 | 6 | 12 |

**Secondary Source:** The data in the graph was copied from *Modern World History (second edition).* It shows that Germany had the most soilders, but the British had the most weapons. Money earned from foreign trade in Britain was the most, too. Britain also had the most warships, merchant ships and steel production, as France had the greatest number of submarines, while Russia had the greatest population.

We can learn about the military before World War I by studying these sources, because they show us what it is like back in time. We can see their weapons and uniforms and find out how they connect to the power of the country. Militarism is an important cause of World War I. The increase of miitary had contributed to World War I, too, because advancing weapons increases the hate of rival countries, which makes the rival countries build more weapons to fight.

# Part 2: Alliances



L'ÉTENDARD DES ALLIÉS.

Alliance: an agreement where each member country promises to help the other members if they are attacked (Modern World History)



IF YOU MAKE A MOVE I'LL—
IF YOU TOUCH ME I'LL—
IF YOU HIT THAT LITTLE FELLER I'LL
IF YOU STRIKE MY FRIEND ILL—
IF YOU HIT HIM I'LL—
HI THERE IF YOU DON'T

**Primary Source:** This cartoon is from *keystagehistory.co.uk.* It was called "The Chain of Friendship". The alliances are an important cause to World War I because countries help each other when there are attacked, which makes the war bigger and greater.

**Primary Source:** This is a photograph of the Triple Entente. The commanders of Britain, France and Russia are discussing their battle plans.

EUROPE 1914

Britain

Russia

Germany

France

Austria-Hungary

Italy

Serbia

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ROMANIA

BLACK SEA

TURKEY

Match Alliances in 1914

Triple Alliance

Triple Entente

**Secondary Source:** This map is from *www.europemaps.com.* It showed the Triple Alliance included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. The Triple Entente included France, Russia and Britain. Other countries, such as Spain, are neutral.

The allies of Germany are Austria-Hungary and Italy. Germany was in alliance with those two countries because it had won a war against France, and took the important industrial area of Alsace-Lorraine and, to guard against a revenge attack from France, formed alliances with those two countries (*Modern World History*). The three countries formed the Central Powers, or Triple Alliance.

The Triple Entente included Britain, France and Russia because they all fear the power of Germany. France had also developed a close friendship with Russia, while Britain changed its concerns to Germany, because itself and France had reached a number of agreements, and Russia was not that powerful anymore.
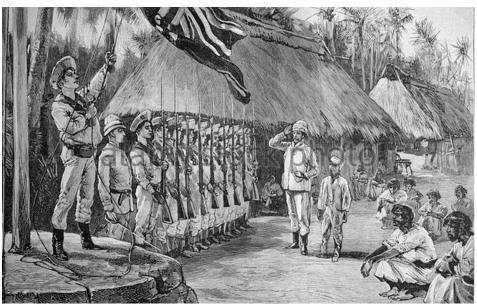
The allies were important because when a country is attacked, allies can help you defend. If a country has allies, it can be more powerful, too, because it can combine forces to attack other countries for more land, wealth and power.

# Part 3: Imperialism



Imperialism: policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force (Bing Dictionary)

**Primary Source:** This cartoon shows that the European countries wanted as many oversea colonies as possible.



**Primary Source:** This drawing, from alamy.com, showed the colonies of the British. The soldiers were expressing to the Africans that the land is theirs now.

THE WORLD
IN
1914

CANADA
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
GREAT BRITAIN
GERMANY
FRANCE
ITALY
RUSSIA
AFRICA
INDIA
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND

TRIPLE ENTENTE
British Empire
French Empire
Russian Empire
TRIPLE ALLIANCE
German Empire
Italian Empire
Austro–Hungarian Empire

**Secondary Source:** This map, from *bbc.co.uk*, displayed the colonies of Europe. British had the most colonies, which is why it's steel production is so great.

The colonies help support the European countries a lot. First, colonies can pay taxes to the government, which makes colonies wealthier. Secondly, the resources of oversea places such as minerals and coal are very great. The resources can then be sold for money. Also, colonies help countries "show off". It helps the country look strong, great and powerful.

# Part 4: Nationalism



Nationalism: Too strong loyalty or devotion to a nation that it will force war or great argument with other countries to make one's country the best



This poster, from *http://www.ww1propaganda.com*, shows a man holding a sword with his other arm around his wife and baby. The text, in German, says "War loans help the guardians of your happiness". This poster was created by the German government to make people join the army.
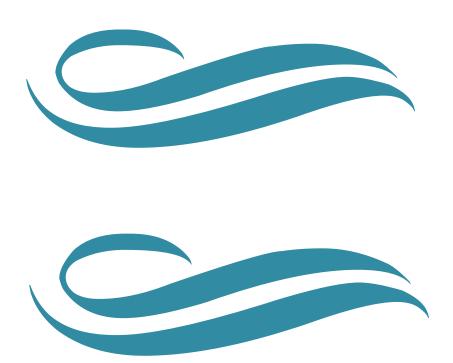
The mood of Germany before the war began was tense, furious, but somehow enthusiastic, because all believed that the war would end soon with a great victory. I don't think it will change, because the alliances are already formed and tension is building and building.

# PART 5: ARE PARAGRAPH

The long-term causes that led to the outbreak of World War I are militarism, alliances, imperialism, nationalism, jealousy and rivalry. Each country had strong military forces and believed that they will win, so war began. But if a country was invaded by even stronger military forces, it would not be able to defend itself. This is why alliances were formed. But alliances can make the war larger and larger, when more and more countries get involved. Imperialism is another great long-term cause of World War I. Countries can fight easily for small colonies. But war would not start easily if there were no nationalism. "He was very ambitious for Germany. He wanted Germany to be recognised as the greatest power in Europe by older European states" (Walsh 9). This is a quote from the profile of Kaiser Wihelm II, the German leader that time, and is a great example of nationalism. "One of the most significant causes of tension in Europe was the naval rivalry which developed after 1900" (Walsh 8). This quote shows that rivalry is an important cause of World War I, too , because there are very few places left that can be founded to conquer for colonies. There are a variety of long-term causes that led to World War I.

# Works Cited

Walsh, Ben. *Modern World History*. London: Hodder and Stoughton Limited. (1996).

# THE END

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