

Causes of World War 1



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Imperialism

- ❖ Definition: Imperialism is when a country takes over new lands or countries and makes them subject to their rule.
- ❖ Example 1: By 1900 the British Empire extended over five continents and France had control of large areas of Africa.
- ❖ Example 2: In 1911, Germany and France nearly fought over who would control Morocco, in northern Africa.

Alliances

- ❖ Definition: An alliance is an agreement made between two or more countries to give each other help if it is needed.
- ❖ Example 1: A number of alliances had been signed by countries between the years 1879 and 1914.
- ❖ The growing international rivalries had led to the creation of several military alliances among the Great Powers as early as the 1870s. This alliance system had been designed to keep peace in Europe.

Militarism

- ❖ Definition: Militarism means that the army and military forces are given a high profile by the government.
- ❖ Example 1: The growing European divide had led to an arms race between the main countries.
- ❖ Example 2: By 1914, all the Great Powers except Britain had large standing armies.

Nationalism

- ❖ Definition: Nationalism means being a strong supporter of the rights and interests of one's country.
- ❖ Example 1: The Congress of Vienna, held after Napoleon's exile to Elba, aimed to sort out problems in Europe.
- ❖ Example 2: Germany & Italy aimed to sort out problems as divided states in Europe.