

## US History World War I

### Learning Target:

*I can identify the four major causes of WWI and explain how they all interacted with each other to create a world war.*

### 1. The Causes of World War I

1. **Nationalism** – A devotion to the interests and culture of one's nation

- Spirit of nationalism would play a vital role in the outbreak of war
- Helped to start the war as well as intensify it

Balkans (The Powder Keg of Europe) –

- Nationalism very strong in the Balkans of central Europe – The Powder Keg
- Ruled by Ottoman Empire (Turkey) from 1400s into the 1800s

Independence in the Balkans –

- Greeks, Romanians, and Slavic countries like Serbia established independence

Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia) –

- Occupied by Austria-Hungary
- Newly independent Serbia saw Bosnia as its rightful territory
- 1908 – Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia creating open hostility
- Powder Keg becoming unstable

2. **Militarism** – The development of military strength by a country to use for diplomacy

Impact of militarism –

1. The development of an arms race between European countries
2. Increased military influence on nation's public policy

3. **Alliances** – Formed by European countries to aid one another in case of attack

Impact of alliances –

- Countries that formed these alliances were now bound to defend each other
- Germany, Austria, and Italy made up an alliance
- France, Russia, and Great Britain made up the other alliance

**4. Imperialism** – The quest for colonial empires to increase a nation’s power and wealth

What was the driving force behind imperialism?

- A need for markets (Industrial nations producing more than they consumed)
- A need for raw materials (Needed for industrial production)
- A need for power & prestige

Impact of imperialism –

- Increasing competition and desire for more power led to increased confrontation

Examples of imperialism –

1. Germany – Africa
2. Great Britain – India & Africa
3. France – Africa and French Indochina (Vietnam)
4. United States – Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico, Hawaii