



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.5.1**

## *Factors Leading to World War I*

**Specific Objective:** Analyze the arguments for entering into war presented by leaders from all sides of the Great War. Analyze the role of political and economic rivalries, ethnic and ideological conflicts, domestic discontent and disorder, and propaganda and nationalism in mobilizing the civilian population in support of “total war.”

**Read the chart and summaries to answer questions on the next page.**

Competition Among Nations—Late 1800s	
Rivalry	Example
Competition for markets and materials	Germany competed with Great Britain, Europe’s industrial leader.
Competition for colonies in Africa and Asia; imperialism	Great Britain was the leader in the race for colonies. Germany and France each sought to control Morocco, in northern Africa.
Competition for European territory	Austria-Hungary and Russia vied for influence in the Balkans.

**The Rise of Nationalism and Militarism**—**Nationalism**, a deep devotion to one’s own nation, fueled competition. It also encouraged the growth of **militarism**, the policy of glorifying military power and keeping an army prepared for war. In the 1890s, many European nations began building large armies.

**The Alliance System**—Each nation was required to support its allies. A conflict between any two countries could draw everyone into war. The Great Powers formed two alliances.

- In 1907, the **Triple Alliance** was composed of Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Italy. By 1915, the Ottoman Turks and Bulgaria had joined and it became known as the **Central Powers**.
- In 1907, the **Triple Entente** was composed of France, Great Britain, and Russia. Italy joined in 1915; the United States in 1917. These countries became the **Allies**.

**The “Powder Keg” Leads to Total War**—The Balkan Peninsula was called the “powder keg” of Europe because of its more than 400 years of ethnic and political conflict. After the Balkan Wars of 1912–1913, Serbia, a mostly Slavic country, nearly doubled its territory. Russia, also a largely Slavic country, supported Serbian expansion. Austria and Germany did not.

### **The Powder Keg Ignites in 1914**

- **June 28**—Archduke Franz Ferdinand—heir to the Austria-Hungary throne—is killed by a Serbian nationalist in Bosnia, an Austro-Hungarian province.
- **July 28**—Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Russia mobilizes to aid Serbia.
- **August 1**—Germany, an ally of Austria-Hungary, declares war on Russia.
- **August 3**—Germany declares war on France, Russia’s ally.
- **August 4**—Germany tries to invade France through neutral Belgium. Great Britain, France’s ally, declares war on Germany.



**PRACTICE**

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**Directions:** Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

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| <p><b>1 “Nationalism” is <i>best</i> defined as</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A belief in private property.</li> <li>B desire for territories overseas.</li> <li>C strong devotion to one’s country.</li> <li>D support for a strong army.</li> </ul> <p><b>2 Which countries made up the Triple Entente in 1907?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Austria-Hungary, Sweden, and Russia</li> <li>B The United States, Germany, and Russia</li> <li>C Great Britain, France, and Russia</li> <li>D Belgium, Germany, and France</li> </ul> <p><b>3 Why were the Balkans known as the “powder keg” of Europe in the early 1900s?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Several large explosions had taken place in its factories.</li> <li>B It had endured more than 400 years of ethnic and political conflict.</li> <li>C It produced both weapons and gun powder.</li> <li>D It had an unusual geographic shape that others wished to change.</li> </ul> | <p><b>4 The assassination of which leader led to the outbreak of World War I?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Otto von Bismarck</li> <li>B George Clemenceau</li> <li>C Archduke Franz Ferdinand</li> <li>D Kaiser Wilhelm II</li> </ul> <p><b>5 What did Russia, a largely Slavic nation, do after Austria-Hungary declared war on the Slavic nation of Serbia?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A declare war on Germany</li> <li>B pledge to remain neutral</li> <li>C prepare to send troops to support Serbia</li> <li>D try to negotiate a settlement</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Serbia must learn to fear us again.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p><b>6 The quotation, was spoken to the U.S. president in 1914, after the Austrian archduke was assassinated by a Serbian student. The quotation was spoken by a diplomat from</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A France.</li> <li>B Austria-Hungary.</li> <li>C Italy.</li> <li>D Great Britain.</li> </ul> |
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