

World War I

“The War to end all Wars”

1914 -- 1918

Causes of WWI – MANIA!

- Militarism – policy of building up a strong military to prepare for war
- Alliances – agreements between nations to provide aid and protect one another
- Nationalism – extreme pride in one's country
- Imperialism – when one country takes over another country economically and politically
- Assassination – the killing of the Arch Duke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungry

World Expenditures for Armaments

(In millions of dollars)

Figures in italics prepared by the author, all others from Jacobson's "World's Armament Expenditure."

	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908
Great Britain.....	374.2	349.9	345.1	330.4	306.2	286.7
France.....	363.8	307.8	277.9	248.0	236.4	216.0
Germany.....	463.6	331.5	303.9	301.5	306.8	286.7
Italy.....	142.2	158.4	133.7	124.9	115.8	87.5
Russia.....	435.0	387.0	334.5	324.0	315.5	291.6
Total Great European Powers.....	1,778.8	1,534.6	1,395.1	1,328.8	1,280.7	1,168.5
All Other European Countries.....	515.0	445.0	404.6	385.3	371.4	338.9
Total Europe.....	2,293.8	1,979.6	1,799.7	1,714.1	1,652.1	1,507.4
United States.....	244.6	227.0	197.0	197.0	199.0	189.3
Japan.....	104.6	107.7	110.7	100.2	95.7	93.7
TOTAL.....	2,643.0	2,314.3	2,107.4	2,011.3	1,946.8	1,790.4
Rest of the World.....	264.3	231.4	210.7	201.1	194.7	179.0
GRAND TOTAL.....	2,907.3	2,545.7	2,318.1	2,212.4	2,141.5	1,969.4

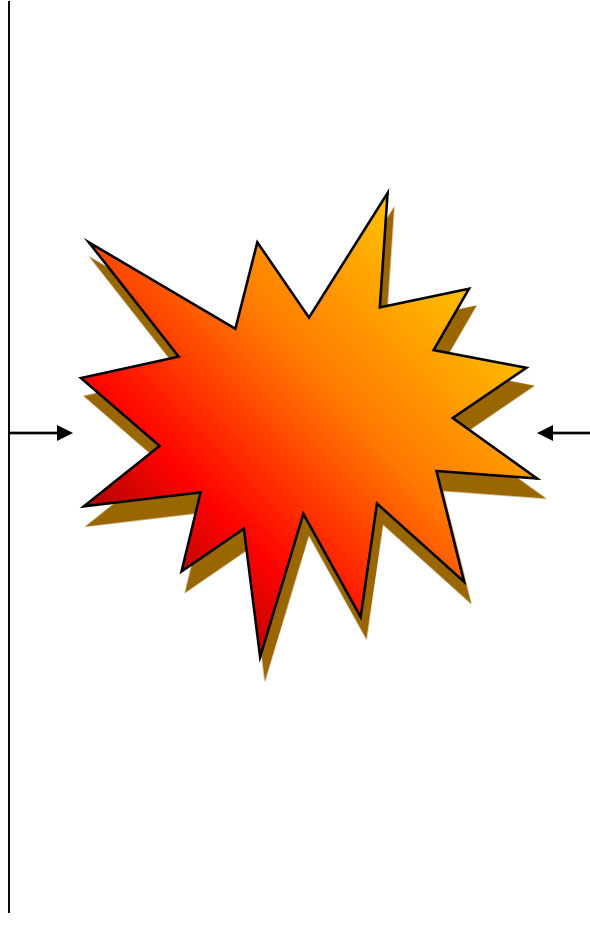
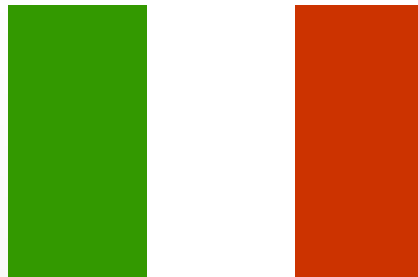
Grand totals: 1907—1,833.1; 1906—1,687.5; 1905—1,562.1; 1904—1,446.0.

The figures in the above table represent the United States dollar as evaluated before January 31, 1934.

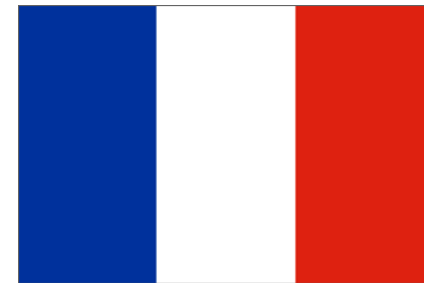
Militarism

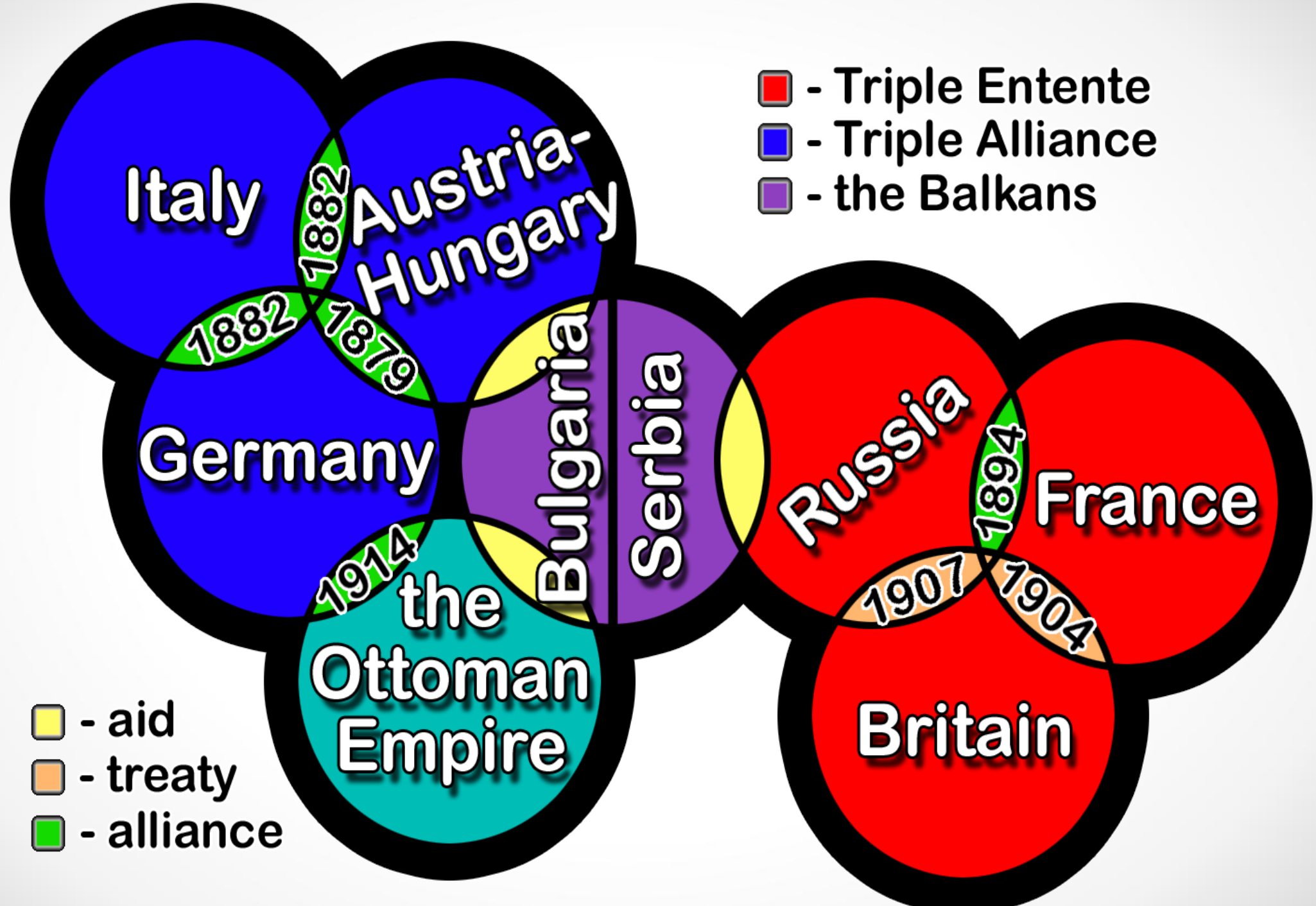
Alliances

Triple Alliance



Triple Entente





- - Triple Entente
- - Triple Alliance
- - the Balkans

- - aid
- - treaty
- - alliance



Nationalism

- Italy unifies as a nation in 1861
- Germany unifies as a nation in 1871
- French lose Alsace-Lorraine to Germany in 1871
- The various ethnic groups in the Balkans want their own Nation
- Austria-Hungary in danger of being torn apart by nationalist forces
- The Ottoman Empire was being torn apart by nationalists forces
- Outside Europe there were growing movements of independence
- Japanese nationalism and modernization

Imperialism

- England and France maintain large overseas empires to serve as markets for finished products, places to invest excess funds and to provide natural resources
- The United States lays claim to North and South America as its protector to keep European nations out (Monroe Doctrine)
- Germany locked out of foreign markets and without a colonial network champions anti-imperialism as a way to gain a foothold abroad (Wanting a “place in the sun”)
- Russia expands eastward and tried to expand South, but was thwarted by the other great powers of Europe



POSSESSIONS OF EUROPEAN POWERS

- British
- French
- Belgian
- Portuguese
- Italian
- Spanish
- GER. German colonies prior to World War I
- Boundaries of the Union of South Africa
- Independent native states



(B) 1914



Assassination – “The Spark”

- Austria-Hungary’s Archduke and his wife are assassinated by a Serbian nationalist group known as the “Black Hand”



The Questions

- 1) Summarize the main ideas of the Thesis.
- 2) What determination regarding war guilt was made in Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles?
- 3) What is the Fay thesis regarding war guilt?
- 4) What potential advantages did each of the following countries stand to gain in a general European war? (Serbia, Austria, Russia, Germany, France, England)
- 5) In what respect must each of the following share in the war guilt? (Austria, Serbia, Russia, France, England, Germany)
- 6) What country was an innocent victim of war?
- 7) Why might it be said that the path to war began as early as 1871?
- 8) What underlying causes of the war did the author identify?
- 9) Why was the "local war" Austria sought impossible?
- 10) Dozens of explanations have been advanced to explain the outbreak of World War I, How do these conflicting reactions help to explain the multitude of theses on this issue?
- 11) Do you find the Fay thesis valid? Why, or why not?

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