

**Social Science Department
Freshmen United States History I
June 8-12**



Greetings, Freshmen United States I Students! We hope you are safe and well with your families! Below is the lesson plan for this week:

Content Standard:

USI.T7.6. Explain the rationale and events leading to the entry of the U.S. into World War I (e.g., unrestricted submarine warfare, the sinking of the Lusitania, the Zimmerman telegram, the concept of “making the world safe for democracy.”)

Practice Standard(s):

2. Organize information and data from multiple primary and secondary sources.
3. Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning and evidence.
5. Evaluate the credibility, accuracy and relevance of each source.
6. Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning and evidence.

Weekly Learning Opportunities:

- Task 1: PowerPoint: *Long-Term Causes WWI*
- Task 2: Newsela Article: *Causes of WWI*
- Task 3: Stanford History Education Group Activity: *US Entry into WWI*
- Task 4: Video: *US Entrance into WWI*

Additional Resources:

- [Crash Course US History: WWI](#)
- [Website: What were the causes of WWI?](#)

Note to students: Your Social Science teacher will contact you with specifics regarding the above assignments in addition to strategies and recommendations for completion. Please email your teacher with specific questions and/or contact during office hours.



WORLD WAR I
AN INTRODUCTION:
LONG-TERM CAUSES

SWBAT:

- Explain the MAIN causes of World War I
- Identify the MAIN causes of World War I using source documents

1. Warm-Up
2. Key Vocabulary
3. Graphic Organizer: Causes of World War I
4. Visual Analysis Activity
 1. Review
5. Closer/ Ticket-to-leave

WARM-UP

Directions: Which statement do you most agree with?

- Write the number and explain your answer on your Warm-Up Sheet!

1) War should be avoided at all costs.

2) Wars should be fought only to save innocent lives.

3) War shows the power of a nation and the weakness of another.

4) War should be used to gain territory.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do countries go to war?

At the turn of the 20th century, the nations of Europe had been at peace for nearly 30 years. An entire generation had grown up ignorant of the horrors of war. Some Europeans believed that progress had made war a thing of the past. Yet, in a little more than a decade, a massive war would engulf Europe and spread across the globe.

KEY VOCABULARY

“THE STAGE IS SET FOR WAR”

- Alliance
- Colony
- Nation
- Great Powers
- Patriotism



M

A

I

N

CAUSE ONE: MILITARISM

- A policy of glorifying a country's military power
- European nations believed that in order to be “great,” they must have a powerful military; created sense of patriotism



CAUSE TWO: ALLIANCES

- A formal agreement or treaty between two or more nations to cooperate for shared specific purposes
- By 1914, all the major powers were linked by a system of alliances

ALLIANCES CONT.

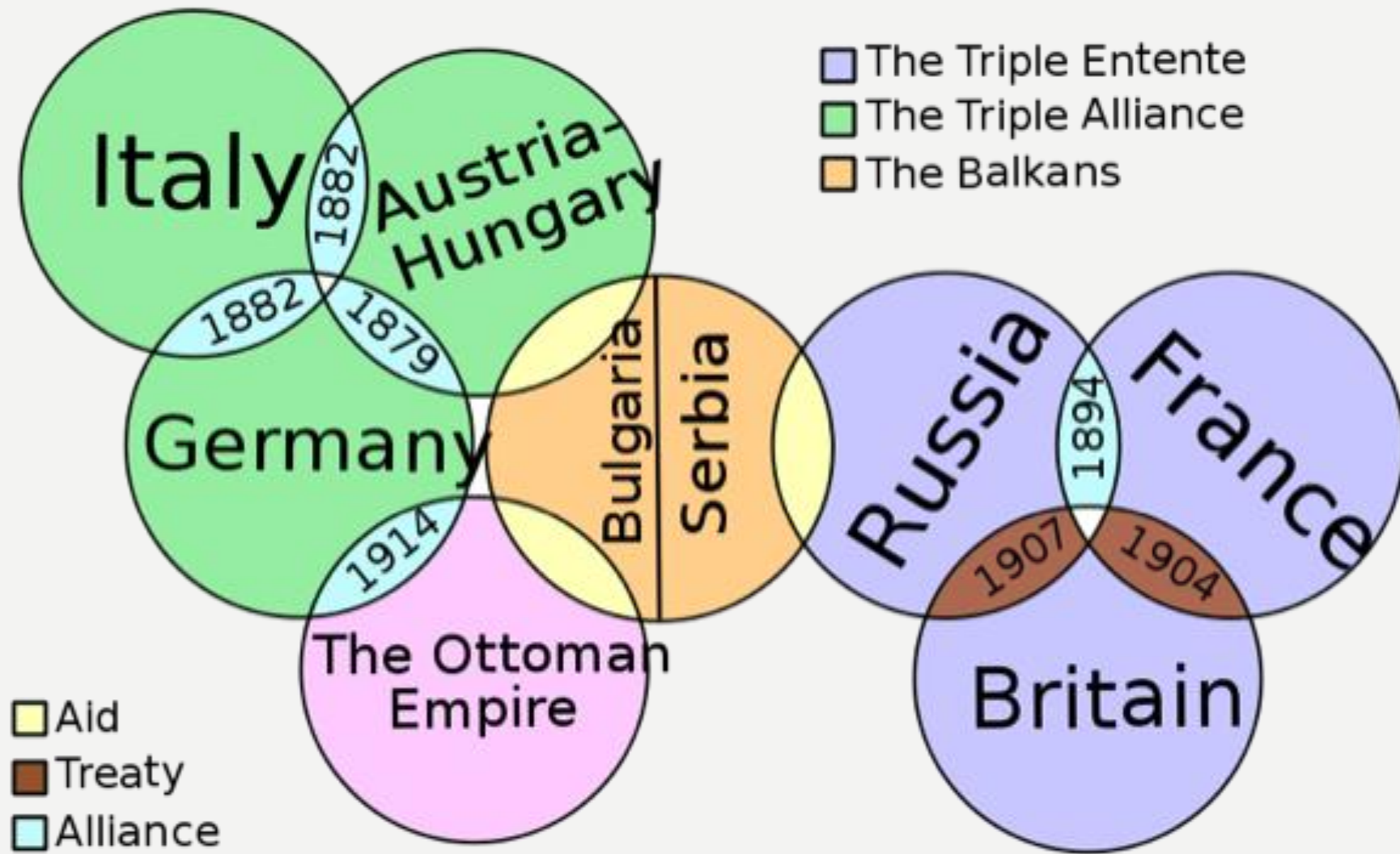
Triple Alliance:

A military alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy in the years before World War I

Triple Entente:

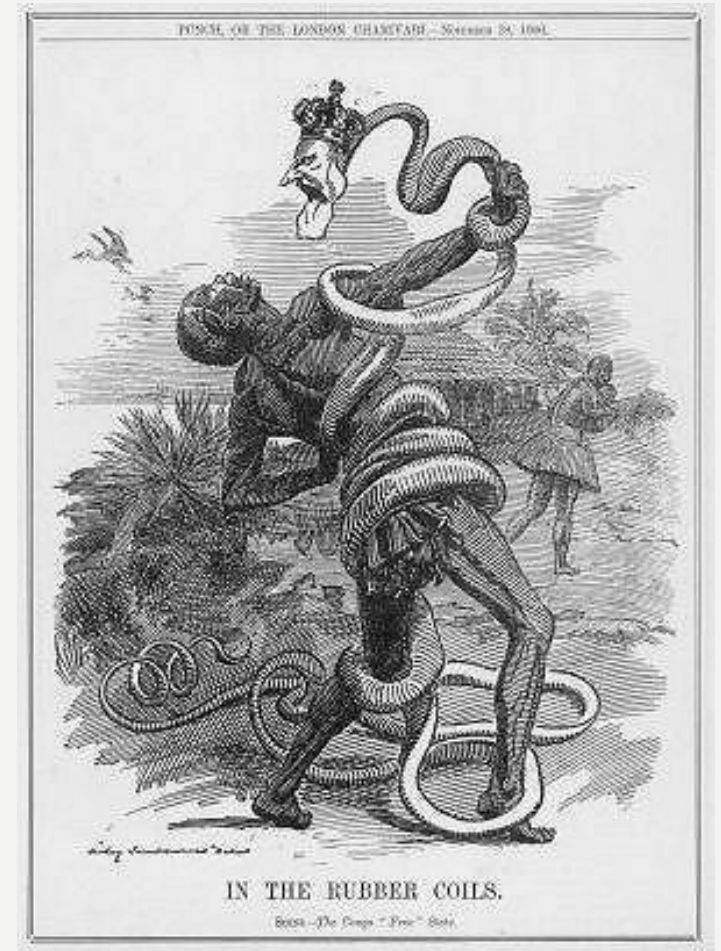
A military alliance between Great Britain, France and Russia before World War I





CAUSE THREE: IMPERIALISM

- **Imperialism:** a policy in which a strong nation seeks to control other countries politically, economically, or socially
- The quest for colonies (like in Africa and in the Balkans) pushed European nations to the brink of war
 - Sense of rivalry and mistrust deepened as imperialism continued



CAUSE FOUR: NATIONALISM

- The belief that people should be loyal mainly to their nation rather than to a king or empire; **pride in one's nation**
- Caused intense competition between nations, with each seeking to overpower the other



NATIONALISM CONT.

- By the turn of the 20th century, a fierce rivalry had developed among Europe's Great Powers
- The following fueled rivalries:
 - **Economic competition** (Great Britain v. Germany)
 - **Territorial disputes** (France's loss of Alsace-Lorraine in Franco Prussian War),
 - **Independence demands** (Serbs, Bulgarians, Romanians)

CLOSER

**Which MAIN long-term cause ultimately caused World War I?
Why?**

Name:
Date:
Period:

Crisis and Conflict on the Global Stage

Directions: Read the article and fill in the chart at the end of the reading. Make sure you describe each cause thoroughly.

The first half of the twentieth century saw a number of catastrophic global events, which demonstrated that the world had grown more integrated than in the past. Between 1914 and 1945, the world experienced two world wars, a worldwide depression, the breaking up of imperial empires, the development of independence movements, and the emergence of two new global powers. At the same time, the world's population continued to grow at an unparalleled pace and new technologies were changing the nature of communications and science. Interestingly, as the world became more and more integrated, many countries tried to retreat from global integration, which had happened with tremendous speed during the nineteenth century. That is a lot of stuff to consider. As a historian, how do I go about making sense of this? And why was the first part of the twentieth century filled with these large catastrophic events?

There are three big themes that can help me make sense of these events and pull them together. The first is the role of the global political order. By this I mean how nations interacted with one another diplomatically and politically. The second theme is economics. Due to the Industrial Revolution and imperialism of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the world's economic output expanded tremendously and swiftly. This expansion caused a lot of strain within and between nations, which resulted in some countries looking inward to limit or hinder economic contact with other nations. The final theme is technological advancements. Again, the Industrial Revolution played an important role in advancing new technologies, but so did the military industrial complex.

A not-so-great war: Causes and consequences of the First World War

The First World War was the first major conflict to occur in Europe for almost 100 years. Though primarily fought in Europe, the war was actually fought on three continents (Europe, Asia, Africa) and in the Pacific Islands and included troops from every region of the world, although many were colonial troops. The map below gives us a sense of where the fighting took place.

Broadly speaking, there were four main long-term causes of the First World War: militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism. (I like to use the acronym MAIN to help me remember those long-term causes.) Each of these long-term causes was affected by at least one of the themes mentioned above. Let's break them down one at a time.

The first of our four long-term causes was militarism. For this particular cause, the issue was an arms race between European rivals, specifically Great Britain and Germany. Great Britain had the largest navy in the world, which made sense given all of the colonies it had around the globe, particularly those in Africa and South Asia. To secure its economic interests, Great Britain felt it needed this large navy to protect its trade routes and its merchant ships traveling to and from those colonies. Due to rivalries between the European powers, Germany announced in the early twentieth century that it too would build a very large navy to protect its colonial interests. Great Britain saw this as a challenge and a threat, and responded by building a new, more powerful battleship called the dreadnought. Of course, the Germans responded by building their own super battleships. New technologies in shipbuilding, which came about as a result of industrialization, made these larger and more powerful ships possible.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the European powers negotiated a whole series of political and military alliances, our second long-term cause. The idea behind these alliances was that it would deter any one nation from attacking another nation for fear of bringing more nations into the conflict. In the end, Europe was divided up into two major camps: the Triple Entente, which consisted of France, Great Britain, and Russia, and the Triple Alliance, which consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. Some of the other countries of Europe joined one or the other of the alliances.

Our third long-term cause, imperialism, touches on our political and economic themes. The historians Jerry H. Bentley and Herbert F. Ziegler sum up the issue nicely:

Economic rivalries fomented colonial competition. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, European nations searched aggressively for new colonies or dependencies to bolster economic performance...Virtually all the major powers engaged in the scramble for empire, but the competition between Britain and Germany and that between France and Germany were the most intense and dangerous...German imperial efforts were frustrated...by the simple fact that British and French imperialists had already carved up most of the world. (973-74)

Bentley and Ziegler confirm something I suspected, which was that the European countries sought colonies, in part, as an outlet for their manufactured goods. Germany, which was new to the colonial scramble, was also an economic powerhouse. Because of this, Germany's desire for colonies was perceived as a threat by Great Britain, whose industrial dominance had been in slow decline by the end of the nineteenth century.

The last of our long-term causes, nationalism, was one of those slow, simmering issues that had flared up from time to time during the nineteenth century. This was particularly true in the European countries that had many minority groups. For example, the Austro-Hungarian Empire consisted of several ethnic groups including Slavs, Czechs, and Poles; Arab nationalists in the Middle East sought independence from the ruling Turks of the Ottoman Empire; and nationalist groups within the Russian Empire wanted to separate into their own countries. To further complicate matters, many people living in the colonial territories ruled by the Europeans were rallying around nationalist ideas in order to force the European rulers out. One example of this would be the efforts of Mohandas K. Gandhi and the Indian National Congress to free India from Great Britain's rule.

The event that launched the First World War was the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. It was from this single event on June 28, 1914 that in short order Europe and other parts of the world were thrown into the most cataclysmic war the Earth had ever seen. One of the reasons why this war was particularly horrific was because military technology had progressed much faster than the strategies of war. The historians J. R. and William McNeill describe the role technology played in this conflict:

Military medicine had progressed to the point where doctors could keep gigantic armies free of epidemics long enough that they could engage in the prolonged slaughter of trench warfare. Heavy artillery and poison gas made life in the trenches living hell, while the machine gun made climbing out of them extremely lethal. (289)

As a consequence of the war, the old political and economic order of Europe was destroyed. In Russia, a revolution overthrew the czar, replacing him with an ineffectual provisional (temporary) government. That government was overthrown by a coup d'état nine months later and replaced by a communist government. The Ottoman Empire was also overthrown by a revolution, replacing the Muslim empire with secular government. For the defeated Austrians and Germans, a lot of territory was redistributed to create (or in the case of Poland, recreate) new European states like Czechoslovakia, Lithuania, and an independent Hungary. Even among the victorious allies of the Triple Entente, once strong nations collapsed due to the cost and strains of the war. A good example of this was Italy, whose weak constitutional monarchy ultimately succumbed to a fascist dictatorship under the leadership of Benito Mussolini.

Causes of World War I

Cause	Description

Document A: Woodrow Wilson Speech #1 (Modified)

The people of the United States are drawn from many nations, and chiefly from the nations now at war. It is natural and inevitable that some will wish one nation, others another, to succeed in the momentous struggle.

Such divisions among us would be fatal to our peace of mind and might seriously stand in the way of our duty as the one great nation at peace, the one nation ready to play a part of mediator and counselor of peace.

The United States must be neutral in fact, as well as in name, during these days that are to try men's souls. We must be impartial in thought, as well as action.

Source: *President Woodrow Wilson, in a speech before Congress, August 19, 1914.*

Vocabulary

mediator: someone who helps two groups reach an agreement

impartial: taking no sides

Document B: Woodrow Wilson Speech #2 (Modified)

Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent people cannot be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind.

The German policy has swept every restriction aside. Ships of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom of the ocean without warning. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken.

I advise that the Congress declare the recent actions of the Imperial German Government to be, in fact, nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States.

Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved.

The world must be made safe for democracy. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek not material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind.

It is a fearful, but right thing to lead this great peaceful people to war. We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts – for democracy, for the right of [people] to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations.

Source: *President Woodrow Wilson, in a speech before Congress, April 2, 1917.*

Vocabulary

commerce: trade

feasible: possible

dominion: control or domination

material compensation: money

Document C: Textbook Excerpt on U.S. Entry into WWI

In January 1917, Germany reversed its policy on submarine warfare. It announced that it would sink on sight all merchant vessels, armed or unarmed, sailing to Allied ports. While realizing that their policy might bring the Americans into war, the Germans believed they could defeat the Allies before the United States became heavily involved. An angry president Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with Germany.

A few weeks later, a secret telegram- intercepted by the British government- set off a new wave of anti-German feeling. In late February the German foreign minister, Arthur Zimmerman, sent a telegram to Mexico with an offer to the Mexican government.

Newspapers published the secret Zimmerman telegram on March 1, and the Americans reacted angrily to the German action.

Source: *The American Journey*, New York: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Document D: Historian Howard Zinn (Excerpted from Original)

Howard Zinn was a historian and activist who is best known today as the author of A People's History of the United States, a book that tells American history from the perspective of people of color, women, and poor people. The book is very critical of the United States government.

President Woodrow Wilson had promised that the United States would stay neutral in the war. . . . But in April of 1917, the Germans had announced they would have their submarines sink any ship bringing supplies to their enemies; and they had sunk a number of merchant vessels. Wilson now said he must stand by the right of Americans to travel on merchant ships in the war zone. . . .

As Richard Hofstadter points out (*The American Political Tradition*): “This was rationalization of the flimsiest sort. . . . The British had also been intruding on the rights of American citizens on the high seas, but Wilson was not suggesting we go to war with them. . . .

The United States claimed the *Lusitania* carried an innocent cargo, and therefore the torpedoing was a monstrous German atrocity. Actually, the *Lusitania* was heavily armed: it carried 1,248 cases of 3-inch shells, 4,927 boxes of cartridges (1,000 rounds in each box), and 2,000 more cases of small-arms ammunition. . . . The British and American governments lied about the cargo. . . .

Prosperity depended much on foreign markets, it was believed by the leaders of the country. In 1897, private foreign investments of the United States amounted to \$700 million dollars. By 1914, they were \$3.5 billion. . . .

With World War I, England became more and more a market for American goods and for loans at interest. J.P. Morgan and Company acted as agents for the Allies and when, in 1915, Wilson lifted the ban on private bank loans to the Allies, Morgan could now begin lending money in such great amounts as to both make great profit and tie American finance closely to the interest of a British victory in the war against Germany.

Source: *Howard Zinn, A People's History of the United States, 1980.*

Guiding Questions

Name _____

President Wilson's Speeches

1. Read the first speech. Does Wilson think the United States should enter WWI? Why or why not?
2. Read the second speech. Does Wilson think the United States should enter WWI? Why or why not?
3. Contextualization: Use the 1917 speech to "imagine the setting." (a) What does Wilson accuse Germany of doing? (b) Do you think this is a good reason to go to war? (c) What additional information would you need to have before making a decision?
4. Close reading: Re-read the last two paragraphs of the 1917 speech. Why do you think Wilson added these paragraphs? How do you think these words made Americans feel?

Guiding Questions for Textbook:

1. What are TWO reasons that the textbook gives for why the U.S. entered the war?
2. Based on the reasons in Wilson's 1917 speech and in the textbook, do you think the United States had good reasons for entering WWI?

Guiding Questions for Howard Zinn:

1. Sourcing: Before reading the document, what do you predict Howard Zinn will say about the United States' reasons for entering WWI?
2. Close reading: Why does Zinn claim that Wilson made a flimsy argument?
3. Close reading: What does Zinn suggest are the *real* reasons the United States entered the war?
4. Close reading: What evidence does Zinn provide to support his claims that the United States was motivated by other reasons (besides German attacks on U.S. ships)?
5. Do you find Zinn's argument convincing? Why or why not?

Name:

Date:

Period:

[Video: US Entry into WWI](#)

Directions: Watch the video by clicking on the hyperlink above. Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

- 1.) Identify and explain the different political groups (and their views toward the war) that existed in the United States prior to its entrance into World War I.
- 2.) What was the initial response of the United States to World War I? What were the benefits and problems of this approach?
- 3.) Identify and explain the events that led to the United States entering World War I. Which of these events was most responsible for the US joining the war? Explain.