World War I Begins

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Describe how imperialism, nationalism, and militarism pushed Europe closer to war.
- Identify the key event that sparked World War I.
- Trace how the alliance system drew nations into the war.



In the late 1800s, European countries were forming alliances with one another

The Triple Alliance- Germany, Italy, & Austria-Hungary AKA the central powers

Entente- Nonbinding agreement to follow common policies

The Triple Entente- Britain, France, Russia AKA The allies



What Caused WWI?**

Germany began to grow rapidly & expanded its economy & military, this worried Britain & France.

Militarism- The glorification of the military

Great powers began to build up their Armies & Navys & began an arms race

Nationalism erupted in the region & France sought to regain land lost in the Prussian War

The Balkan wars saw Turkey losing land to the Balkan states rising tensions in the region

What Caused WWI?

Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary announced he would visit Bosnia

This angered a Serbian Terrorist group called the Black Hand & they vowed action



Austria sends an ultimatum, final set of demands, for Serbia to investigate the assassination

Servia refuses some of the ultimatum & Austria declares war on July 28th, 1914



Alliance System & War

Most wars of the time were known as "summer wars" in that they were very quick

Alliances made WWI VERY complicated & would drag the war for years

Russia began to mobilize, prepare its army, to defend Serbia & Germany declared war

France supported Russia so Germany declares war on France

