

## HISTORY HL FINAL NOTES

- **Causes of the First World War:**

- **Short term causes**

### 3 POSSIBLE OPTIONS

#### 1905: The Moroccan Crisis

- Germany's failed attempt to help moroccans gain independence and expose the Entente Cordiale weaknesses caused:
  - Strengthening of Entente Cordiale
  - Britain and France created a military alliance
  - Germany became a key threat to British interests
  - Threat of war ended peaceful relations in Europe-> more countries considered war as outcome of crisis which led to the creation of war plans
  - German had only shown a loss of pride and failure of Weltpolitik
  - The first Moroccan Crisis caused the creation of the Anglo-Russian Entente (1907) -> Triple Entente was established
    - Germany felt encircled -> grew closer to Austria Hungary.

#### Bosnian Crisis (1908)

- Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Serbia had plans to include it in "Greater Serbia"
- They had access to sea
- Russia also had plans of annexation -> AH was faster
  - Outrage in Serbia -> rise of nationalist sentiments
  - Russia was humiliated-> massive rearmament programme to retain international influence and domestic political stability.
  - Damage to AH-Russian relations
  - Strengthen AH-German relations
    - Germany will support AH if went to war with Serbia (which happens and leads to World War because of German and AH enmities with others
    - Aiding AH expansion Germany and AH seemed increasingly aggressive
  - Increase of mutual suspicion and hostility between Ger, AH and Russia

#### Second Moroccan crisis

- France sends troops to Morocco-> Sultan's request
- Germany sees this as a beginning of French takeover of Morocco-> sends gunboat to Agadir to demand compensation
  - Whole French Congo->ambitious
- British assume it as threat of war->rise to worries that Germans would acquire Agadir as naval base: threat to self interests
- Agadir Crisis becomes an Anglo German crisis
  - German public opinion was hostile to settlement and criticized government's handling of crisis
    - Failure and humiliation of Weltpolitik
  - Strengthening of Entente cordiale

- Naval negotiation
- Increase in hostility between Britain and Germany

- **Long-term causes**

#### Imperialism (colonialism)

- European Great Powers sought for raw materials, new markets and cheap labour in colonies (Economic)
- Also sought to show dominance and power to other countries-> having the biggest colonial empire was a constant conflict
- German's created Weltpolitik -> create influence outside of Europe
  - Most colonies already occupied
- Lead to conflict with those with established colonial powers (Britain)
  - E.g. Kruger telegram (tensions between Ger and Brit)
- Caused the war because...
  - Colonial rivalry brought European powers into conflict over colonies and caused tension between them

#### Nationalism

- Nationalism came in two forms:
  - Members of nation which are proud and loyal-> this made them more willing to go to war believing their country would win (propaganda popular to arise these feelings during war) -> linked to imperialism
  - Nationalists movements
    - People with common language, history and culture wanted a free independent nation, free from foreign domination
- Caused war because...
  - Slavs in Austria Hungary wanted independence
  - Looked at Serbia for support
  - A.Hungary sees Serbia as threat
  - Russians protects Slavs
  - This Brings Russia and AH into conflict
  - It was a Black Hand nationalist who killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand as a rebellion for independence -> triggers war

#### Militarism

- Naval arms race created tensions between Britain and Germany
- Britain sees Germany as a new enemy -> Germany had increased their fleet
- Britain was now more willing to go to war with Germany (also colonial rivalry)
- The arms race
  - Massive build up of armaments by major European powers
  - Ability to go to war
  - Increase spending on armaments and introduced conscription
- The war plans
  - Countries made detailed plans in expectation of war
  - Swift mobilization and lightning offences
    - Schiften Plan (Germany)
      - Invade France through Belgium (Britain and Russia mobilize)
- Caused the war because:

- Increased in armaments caused other countries to feel threatened -> pressure to increase armament to protect themselves
- Increase in fear and suspicion
- Arming countries were confident to be victorious
- **Relative importance of causes;**
- **The Alliance system;**

<p>Franco Russian Alliance (1894)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● France + Russia</li> <li>● Military: Promised mutual assistance if either was attacked by Germany, immediate mobilisation if any of the Triple Alliance mobilised and promised mutual support in imperial disputes.</li> <li>● Political: Mutual support in imperial disputes (anti British)</li> <li>● Ended Bismarck's web of alliances.</li> </ul>
<p>The First Anglo Japanese Alliance (1902)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Between Britain + Japan</li> <li>● Britain had an ally in the Far East (against Russia), allowed the Royal Navy to bring back warships from this area.</li> <li>● Japan wanted a Western ally against Russia due to conflicts of interest over Korea.</li> </ul>
<p>Entente Cordiale (1904)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Between Britain + France</li> <li>● Settled the rivalry between the two countries over colonial issues in Sudan (Fashoda); Britain recognized France's takeover of Morocco and France recognized Britain's position in Egypt.</li> <li>● Set a new tone for AngloFrench relations.</li> <li>● Not a formal alliance</li> </ul>
<p>Anglo Russian Entente (1907)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Between Britain + Russia</li> <li>● Established as a result of The First Moroccan Crisis (1905), which split Europe into two large factions, leading to the fear of the Triple Alliance → Britain, France and Russia wished to complete the Triple Entente with an Anglo Russian Entente.</li> <li>● Resolved issues over territories in Persia, Tibet and Afghanistan and reduced British concern over security in India and the Far East.</li> </ul>

<p>Triple Entente (1907)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Between Britain + France + Russia</li> <li>● Franco Russian Alliance (1894) + Entente Cordiale (1904) + Anglo Russian Entente (1907) → everyone was already allies → Germany feel ‘encircled’, but it was because of their naval expansion that Britain had been forced into seeking agreements with its former colonial rivals.</li> <li>● Europe Was Divided Into Two Alliance Systems: the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente.</li> <li>● The completion of the Triple Entente had several effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Germany feel ‘encircled’, but it was because of their naval expansion that Britain had been forced into seeking agreements with its former colonial rivals.</li> <li>○ Europe was divided into two alliance systems: the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### How did the Alliance System cause the war?

- Bismarck’s Web of Alliances showed that Germany had not wanted to wage war from the start initial alliances were defensive, not aggressive. They sought peace while Germany consolidated her position, not war.
- Later on, Germany’s policy of *Weltpolitik* drew them into conflict with other countries
  - Germany didn’t really have colonies, they were already taken by the other powers and their late entrance to colonial rivalries resulted in conflicts.
  - Naval rivalry was an attempt to mount a challenge to Britain, prompting the British to seek alliances with their former rivals.
- However, the alliance system meant that Europe was divided into two groups, increasing tension between them. The alliance system also escalated and widened conflicts if a small conflict happened and a country’s allies stepped in, it would escalate into a European war.
- The alliance system contributed to the immediate cause of the war because it encouraged Germany to give Austria Hungary the blank cheque.
- However, it mostly served to escalate the war, not to cause it → shows that countries got involved not because of the alliance system, but because of self interests.
- Self Interests:
  - Germany wanted to distract its citizens from the problems at home, thought it would be a good time to go to war.
  - Austria Hungary wanted to go to war and to crush the Serbian threat.