

CHAPTER

26

World War I and the Russian Revolution 1914–1924



WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

In Flanders Fields

Canadian John McCrae served as a military doctor on the Western Front in World War I. In 1915, McCrae wrote the following poem in the voice of those he had watched die.

“In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.”

—Dr. John McCrae, 1915

Listen to the Witness History audio to hear more about McCrae’s experience during World War I.

◀ American soldiers on a trench raid during World War I



The poppy became a symbol of remembrance for veterans after World War I.

Chapter Preview

Chapter Focus Question What caused World War I and the Russian Revolution, and what effect did they have on world events?



The sickle and hammer on this pin symbolize the Russian Revolution.


Section 1 The Great War Begins

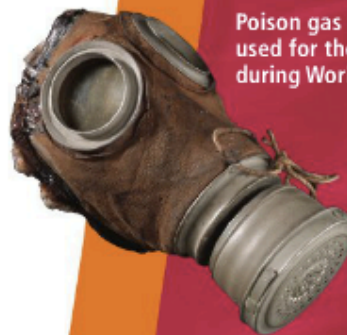
Section 2 A New Kind of War

Section 3 Winning the War

Section 4 Making the Peace

Section 5 Revolution and Civil War in Russia

Use the  **Quick Study Timeline** at the end of this chapter to preview chapter events.



Poison gas was widely used for the first time during World War I.

 **Concept Connector ONLINE**

To explore Essential Questions related to this chapter, go to PHSchool.com
Web Code: nad-2607

SECTION 1



▲ The assassin, Gavrilo Princip

◀ Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

The Spark

On June 28, 1914, Gavrilo Princip, a member of a Serbian terrorist group, killed Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie.

“The first [bullet] struck the wife of the Archduke, the Archduchess Sofia, in the abdomen. . . . She died instantly.

The second bullet struck the Archduke close to the heart. He uttered only one word, ‘Sofia’—a call to his stricken wife. Then his head fell back and he collapsed. He died almost instantly.”

—Borijove Jevtic, co-conspirator

The assassinations triggered World War I, called “The Great War” by people at the time.

Focus Question Why and how did World War I begin in 1914?

The Great War Begins

Objectives

- Describe how international rivalries and nationalism pushed Europe toward war.
- Explain how the assassination in Sarajevo led to the start of World War I.
- Analyze the causes and effects of the European alliance system.



By 1914, Europe had enjoyed a century of relative peace. Idealists hoped for a permanent end to the scourge of war. International events, such as the first modern Olympic games in 1896 and the First Universal Peace Conference in 1899, were steps toward keeping the peace. “The future belongs to peace,” said French economist Frédéric Passy (pa SEE).

Not everyone was so hopeful. “I shall not live to see the Great War,” warned German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, “but you will see it, and it will start in the east.” It was Bismarck’s prediction, rather than Passy’s, that came true.

Terms, People, and Places

entente

militarism

Alsace and Lorraine

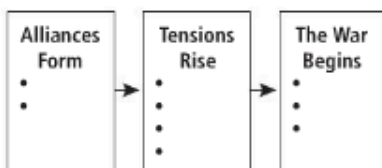
ultimatum

mobilize

neutrality

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Summarize As you read, use a chart to summarize the events that led up to the outbreak of World War I.



Alliances Draw Lines

While peace efforts were under way, powerful forces were pushing Europe towards war. Spurred by distrust of one another, the great powers of Europe—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Britain, France, and Russia—signed treaties pledging to defend one another. These alliances were intended to promote peace by creating powerful combinations that no one would dare attack. In the end, they had the opposite effect. Two huge alliances emerged.

The Triple Alliance The first of these alliances had its origins in Bismarck’s day. He knew that France longed to avenge its defeat in the Franco-Prussian War. Sure that France would not attack Germany without help, Bismarck signed treaties with other powers. In 1882, he formed the Triple Alliance with Italy and Austria-Hungary. In 1914, when war did erupt, Germany and Austria-Hungary fought on the same side. They became known as the Central Powers.

European Alliances and Military Build-Up, 1914

Geography Interactive
For: Audio guided tour
Web Code: nap-2611



Map Skills By 1914, most of Europe was divided into two armed camps, the Allies and the Central Powers. Millions of troops stood ready for war.

- Locate** (a) Germany (b) Alsace-Lorraine (c) the Balkans (d) Serbia
- Regions** Why would Germans worry about the alliance between France and Russia?

- Synthesize Information** Based on the information on the map, which alliance do you think had the greater military advantage in 1914?



The Triple Entente A rival bloc took shape in 1893, when France and Russia formed an alliance. In 1904, France and Britain signed an **entente** (ahn TAHNT), a nonbinding agreement to follow common policies. Though not as formal as a treaty, the entente led to close military and diplomatic ties. Britain later signed a similar agreement with Russia. When war began, these powers became known as the Allies.

Other alliances also formed. Germany signed a treaty with the Ottoman empire. Britain drew close to Japan.

- Checkpoint** What two large alliances took shape before the beginning of World War I?

Rivalries and Nationalism Increase Tension

The European powers jealously guarded their **status**. They competed for position in many areas. Two old empires, Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Turkey, struggled to survive in an age of nationalism.

Vocabulary Builder

status—(STAT us) *n.* high standing, rank, or prestige

Vocabulary Builder

overseas—(OH vur SEEZ) *adj.* across the sea; foreign



Competition Economic rivalries helped sour the international atmosphere. Germany, the newest of the great powers, was growing into an economic and military powerhouse. Britain felt threatened by its rapid economic growth. Germany, in turn, thought the other great powers did not give it enough respect. Germany also feared that when Russia caught up to other industrialized nations, its huge population and vast supply of natural resources would make it an unbeatable competitor.

Overseas rivalries also divided European nations. In 1905 and again in 1911, competition for colonies brought France and Germany to the brink of war in Morocco, then under France's influence. Although diplomats kept the peace, Germany did gain some territory in central Africa. As a result of the two Moroccan crises, Britain and France strengthened their ties against Germany.

With international tensions on the rise, the great powers began to build up their armies and navies. The fiercest competition was the naval rivalry between Britain and Germany. To protect its vast overseas empire, Britain had built the world's most respected navy. As Germany began acquiring overseas colonies, it began to build up its own navy. Suspicious of Germany's motives, Britain in turn increased naval spending. Sensational journalism dramatized the arms race and stirred national public opinion against rival countries.

The rise of **militarism**, or the glorification of the military, also helped to feed the arms race. The militarist tradition painted war in romantic colors. Young men dreamed of blaring trumpets and dashing cavalry charges—not at all the sort of conflict they would soon face.

Nationalism Aggressive nationalism also caused tension. Nationalism was strong in both Germany and France. Germans were proud of their new empire's military power and industrial leadership. The French were bitter about their 1871 defeat in the Franco-Prussian War and yearned to recover the lost border province of **Alsace and Lorraine**.

In Eastern Europe, Russia sponsored a powerful form of nationalism called Pan-Slavism. It held that all Slavic peoples shared a common nationality. As the largest Slavic country, Russia felt that it had a duty to lead and defend all Slavs. By 1914, it stood ready to support Serbia, a proud young nation that dreamed of creating a South Slav state.

Germany's Glorious Military

Eager crowds watch a cavalry regiment, or group of troops serving on horseback, ride through Berlin in August 1914. Germany's army was known to be highly trained and well disciplined, making it a formidable fighting force. *How are the people pictured showing pride in their military?*





Two old multinational empires particularly feared rising nationalism. Austria-Hungary worried that nationalism might foster rebellion among the many minority populations within its empire. Ottoman Turkey felt threatened by nearby new nations, such as Serbia. If realized, Serbia's dream of a South Slav state could take territory away from both Austria-Hungary and Turkey.

In 1912, several Balkan states attacked Turkey and succeeded in taking a large area of land away from Turkish control. The next year, the Balkan states fought among themselves over the spoils of war. These brief but bloody Balkan wars raised tensions to a fever pitch. By 1914, the Balkans were called the “powder keg of Europe”—a barrel of gunpowder that a tiny spark might cause to explode.

✓ Checkpoint How did international competition and nationalism increase tensions in Europe?

The Powder Keg Ignites

As Bismarck had predicted, the Great War began in Eastern Europe. A regional conflict between tiny Serbia and the huge empire of Austria-Hungary grew rapidly into a general war.

Assassination in Sarajevo The crisis began when Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary announced that he would visit Sarajevo (sa ruh YAY voh), the capital of Bosnia. Francis Ferdinand was the nephew and heir of the aging Austrian emperor, Francis Joseph. At the time of his visit, Bosnia was under the rule of Austria-Hungary. But it was also the home of many Serbs and other Slavs. News of the royal visit angered many Serbian nationalists. They viewed the Austrians as foreign oppressors. Some members of Unity or Death, a Serbian terrorist group commonly known as the Black Hand, vowed to take action.

The archduke ignored warnings of anti-Austrian unrest in Sarajevo. On June 28, 1914, he and his wife, Sophie, rode through Sarajevo in an open car. As the car passed by, a conspirator named Gavrilo Princip (GAV ree loh PREEN tseep) seized his chance and fired twice into the car. Moments later, the archduke and his wife were dead.

Austria Strikes Back The news of the assassination shocked Francis Joseph. Still, he was reluctant to go to war. The government in Vienna, however, saw the incident as an excuse to crush Serbia. In Berlin, Kaiser William II was horrified at the assassination of his ally's heir. He wrote to Francis Joseph, advising him to take a firm stand toward Serbia. Instead of urging restraint, Germany gave Austria a “blank check,” or a promise of unconditional support no matter what the cost.

Austria sent Serbia a sweeping **ultimatum**, or final set of demands. To avoid war, said the ultimatum, Serbia must end all anti-Austrian agitation and punish any Serbian official involved in the murder plot. It must even let Austria join in the investigation. Serbia agreed to most, but not all, of the terms of Austria's ultimatum. This partial refusal gave Austria the opportunity it was seeking. On July 28, 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia.

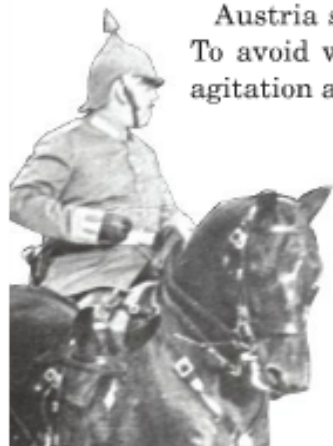
✓ Checkpoint What happened because of the assassination of Francis Ferdinand and his wife?

BIOGRAPHY

Kaiser William II

“All the long years of my reign,” William II (1859–1941) complained, “my colleagues, the monarchs of Europe, have paid no attention to what I have to say.” As kaiser, he fought to win respect for himself and his empire.

William's rivalry with other rulers was in many ways a family feud. He and George V of Britain were cousins, grandchildren of Queen Victoria. Tsar Nicholas II was a cousin by marriage. When war broke out in 1914, the kaiser blamed “George and Nicky.” “If my grandmother had been alive, she would never have allowed it!” **How did the kaiser's desire for respect influence his policies?**



Reasons for Entering the War, July–August 1914

Country	Allied With	Reasons for Entering War
Austria-Hungary	Germany	Wanted to punish Serbia for encouraging terrorism
Germany	Austria-Hungary	Stood by its one dependable ally, Austria-Hungary
Serbia	Russia	Attacked by Austria-Hungary after assassination of Archduke
Russia	Serbia, France, Britain	Wanted to defend Slavic peoples in Serbia
France	Russia and Britain	Wanted to avoid facing Germany alone at a later date
Belgium	Neutral	Invaded by Germany
Britain	France and Russia	Outraged by invasion of Belgium



Chart Skills Who started the war? During the war, each side blamed the other. Afterward, the victorious Allies placed all blame on Germany, because it invaded Belgium. Today, historians still debate who should bear the blame for a catastrophe nobody wanted. **Using information from the chart, describe why Russians might feel that Germany started the war.**

Alliances Kick In

The war between Austria and Serbia might have been another “summer war,” like most European wars of the previous century. However, the carefully planned alliances soon drew the great powers deeper into conflict.

Russia and France Back Serbia After Austria’s declaration of war, Serbia turned to its ally, Russia, the champion of Slavic nations. From St. Petersburg, Nicholas II telegraphed William II. The tsar asked the kaiser to urge Austria to soften its demands. When this plea failed, Russia began to **mobilize**, or prepare its military forces for war. On August 1, Germany responded by declaring war on Russia.

Russia, in turn, appealed to its ally France. In Paris, nationalists saw a chance to avenge France’s defeat in the Franco-Prussian War. Though French leaders had some doubts, they gave Russia the same kind of backing Germany offered to Austria. When Germany demanded that France keep out of the conflict, France refused. Germany then declared war on France.

Germany Invades Belgium By early August, the battle lines were hardening. Italy and Britain still remained uncommitted. Italy chose to stay neutral for the time being. **Neutrality** is a policy of supporting neither side in a war. Britain had to decide quickly whether or not to support its ally France. Then, Germany’s war plans suddenly made the decision for Britain.

A cornerstone of Germany’s military policy was a plan developed years earlier by General Alfred von Schlieffen (SHLEE fun). Germany’s location presented the possibility of a two-front war—against France in the west and Russia to the east. The Schlieffen Plan was designed to avoid this problem. Schlieffen reasoned that Germany should move against France first because Russia’s lumbering military would be slow to mobilize.



However, Germany had to defeat France quickly so that its armies could then turn around and fight Russia.

To ensure a swift victory in the west, the Schlieffen Plan required German armies to march through neutral Belgium and then swing south behind French lines. The goal was to encircle and crush France's army. The Germans embarked on the plan by invading Belgium on August 3. However, Britain and other European powers had signed a treaty guaranteeing Belgian neutrality. Outraged by the invasion of Belgium, Britain declared war on Germany on August 4.

Once the machinery of war was set in motion, it seemed impossible to stop. Military leaders insisted that they must mobilize their forces immediately to accomplish their military goals. These military timetables made it impossible for political leaders to negotiate instead of fight.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How did the alliance system deepen the original conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia into a general war?

Reaction to the War

Before the war, many countries were troubled by domestic problems. For example, Britain struggled with labor unrest and the issue of home rule in Ireland. Russia wrestled with problems stirred up by the Revolution of 1905. The outbreak of war brought a temporary relief from these internal divisions. A renewed sense of patriotism united countries. Governments on both sides emphasized that their countries were fighting for justice and a better world. Young men rushed to enlist, cheered on by women and their elders. Now that war had come at last, it seemed an exciting adventure.

British diplomat Edward Grey was less optimistic. As armies began to move, he predicted, "The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."

- ✓ **Checkpoint** Why were young men on both sides eager to fight when World War I started?

War Enthusiasm

People cheered as soldiers marched off to war. In this photograph, a woman is giving a soldier an apple to eat on his journey.



SECTION

1 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-2611

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Summarize** Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: Why and how did World War I begin in 1914?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Analyze Information** Why did European nations form alliances?
4. **Identify Central Issues** Why might the Balkans be called the "powder keg of Europe"?
5. **Recognize Causes** How did Austria's government react to the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand?
6. **Determine Relevance** What role did geography play in the outbreak of World War I?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Identify Causes and Effects Choose a specific event from the section and identify one cause and one effect of the event. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Why did this event happen? (cause)
- What happened as a result of this event? (effect)

Record your ideas in a chart that shows their cause-and-effect relationships.