

World War I

1914-1918

Europe

- 1914 –1918
- Tensions among European nations were high – threatening the peace within Europe.
- War among European nations would erupts by August of that year.

Causes for Tension

- Nationalism
- Imperialism
- Militarism
- Rival Alliances

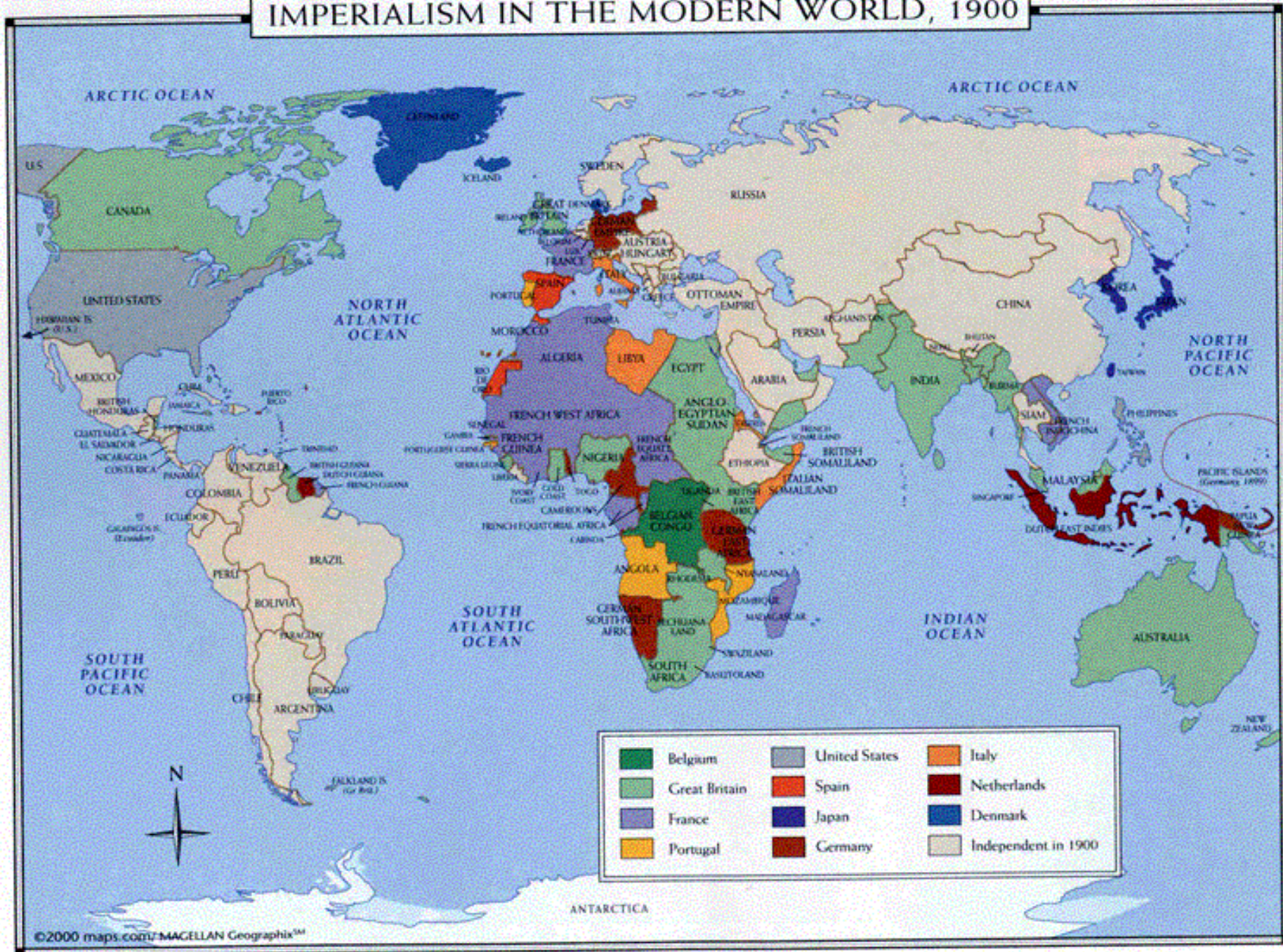
Nationalism

- **Nationalism**: the pride in or devotion to one's own country, fueled much of the tension in Europe.
- Nationalism called for freedom and self-government. People with a common language and culture wanted to overthrow foreign rule and form their own countries.
- Although nationalism encouraged unity as a people, it also set nation against nation. It created mistrust and even hatred among several nations.
 - France vs. Germany
 - Austria-Hungary vs. Serbia

Imperialism

- Between 1870 and 1914
 - Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia all competed for colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.
- Often these nations competed for power in the same region. This competition led to “small” wars.

IMPERIALISM IN THE MODERN WORLD, 1900



Militarism

- **Militarism**: The policy of building up strong armed forces to prepare for war was a third source of tension among European nations.
- As each European nation's military became more powerful, other nations felt like they had to expand their power. (Imperialistic competition/Reason #3)
- The race for military power strained the relationship of several European nations. (Cold War)

Rival Alliances

- Germany
 - To protect itself, Germany forms the **Triple Alliance**.
 - **Triple Alliance**: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.
- France
 - As a response to the Triple Alliance France forms the **Triple Entente**.
 - **Triple Entente**: France, Russia, and Britain.

Rival Alliances

- The alliance system created new dangers in Europe
 - As allies agreed to support one another in the event of an attack.
- A crisis involving one member an alliance also affected the nation's allies.
 - This meant that minor incident could spark a major war.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand

- A new crisis occurred on June 28, 1914.
 - Archduke Ferdinand and his wife visited Serbia.
 - Heir to the Austria-Hungary throne.
- They were assassinated by a Serbian nationalist.
 - Austria-Hungary was trying to gain control of Serbia, and Serbia did not want to fall under their control.

Declaration of War

- Austria-Hungary accused the Serbian government of creating the murder plot, and threatened to go to war with Serbia.
- Russia moved in to protect Serbia.
- Diplomats from each of the nations met to try to ease the crisis, but they had no success.
- On July 28, 1914
 - Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia

Allies Get Involved

- July 29, 1914
 - **Russia** ordered its forces to **mobilize**, or prepare for war.
- Germany ordered Russia to cancel its order to mobilize.
 - August 1: **Germany** declared war on **Russia** when it refused to halt mobilizing.
- **Germany** went on to declare war against one of Russia's allies – **France**.
- As the Germans were marching to war with France, **Britain** declared war on **Germany**.

Alliance Re-cap

- Austria-Hungary vs. Serbia
- Russia vs. Austria-Hungary
- Germany vs. Russia
- France vs. Germany
- Britain vs. Germany

The Great War

- Thus, what began in a local crisis in Sarajevo, Serbia exploded into a **world war!**