

THE REASONS FOR THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

- Militarism – there was a trend to possess massive armies and navies (for example, the Anglo-German naval race. The competition was won by Great Britain, which managed to construct a completely new battleship - HMS Dreadnought [1906]).
- Imperialism and the colonial conflicts (for example, the First Moroccan Crisis and the Second Moroccan Crisis [Two Moroccan Crises] – a dispute between France and Germany).
- Industrialization. Neo-mercantilism - an economic doctrine that emphasizes the need to decrease imports by moving toward self-sufficiency.
- The Alliance system:
 - a) The Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
 - b) The Triple Entente: Great Britain, France, Russia
- Nationalism
- Unrest in the Balkans:
 - a) The Bosnian Crisis (1908). Austria-Hungary occupied two Balkan provinces: Bosnia and Hercegovina since 1878 (the Congress of Berlin). In 1908, Austria-Hungary annexed two provinces. The provinces were largely populated by Serbians, so the annexation angered Serbia, with Russia giving support to its protests.
 - b) The Balkan Wars:
 - The First Balkan War 1912-1913, between the Balkan League and the Ottoman Empire. The Balkan League won the war, and according to the Treaty of London, the lion's share went to Bulgaria.
 - The Second Balkan War 1913. Bulgaria was defeated and lost its gains.As a result of the war, Serbia became a strong state. Austria-Hungary saw Serbia as a threat and an enemy.
- The direct trigger for the outbreak of WW1 was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was assassinated with his wife during a state visit to the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo. He was assassinated by Gavrilo Princip a member of the secret Serbian organization. Austria-Hungary accused Serbia of the murder and sent an ultimatum to Serbia. If Serbia had accepted it, it would have meant the loss of independence by Serbia. It was unlikely to be accepted. Serbia accepted only 8 demands. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Serbia was backed by Russia. The local war transformed into total war.