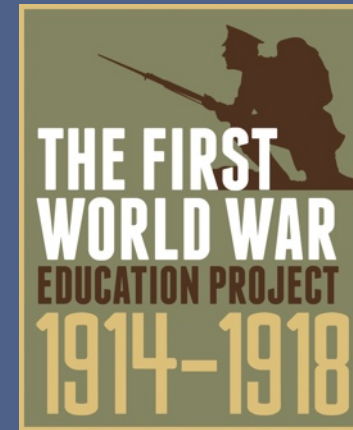


CAUSES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR



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museum
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Europe 1914

Britain

Germany

Russia

Belgium

France

Austria-Hungary

Italy

Serbia

Turkey

WHAT HAPPENED?

The incident that triggered the start of the war was a young Serb called Gavrilo Princip shooting the Archduke of Austria, Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo.

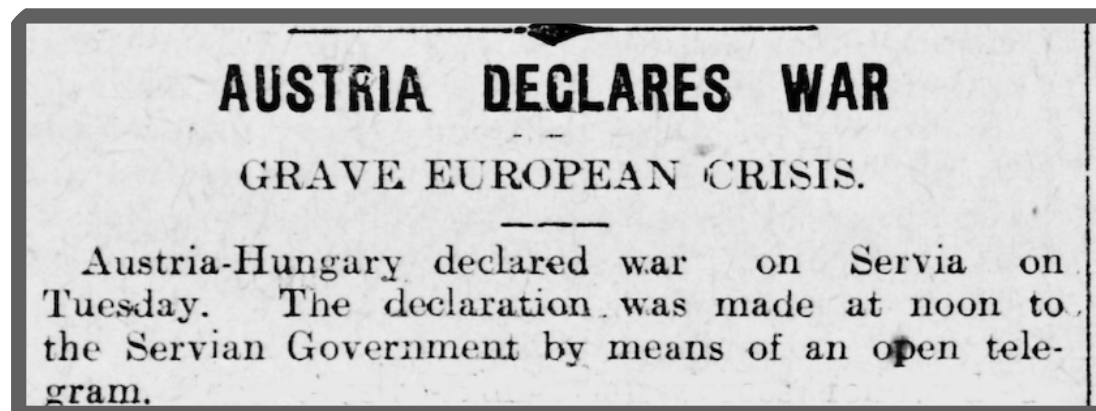
Gavrilo Princip



Franz Ferdinand



This led to...



The Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser, 31 July, 1914



The Cambria Daily Leader, 29 June 1914

HOW DID THIS INCIDENT CREATE A WORLD WAR?

Countries formed partnerships or alliances with other countries to protect them if they were attacked. After Austria Hungary declared war on Serbia others joined in to defend their allies.



Gavrilo Princip shoots the Archduke of Austria, Franz Ferdinand.



Britain and France have an agreement with Russia and join the war

Russia defends Serbia

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia

Germany defends Austria-Hungary

Italy has an agreement with Germany and Austria-Hungary but refuses to join the war.

TIMELINE - FIRST MONTHS OF WAR

28 June 1914 - Gavrilo Princip shoots the Archduke of Austria, Franz Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo

28 July 1914 - Austria-Hungary declares war against Serbia.

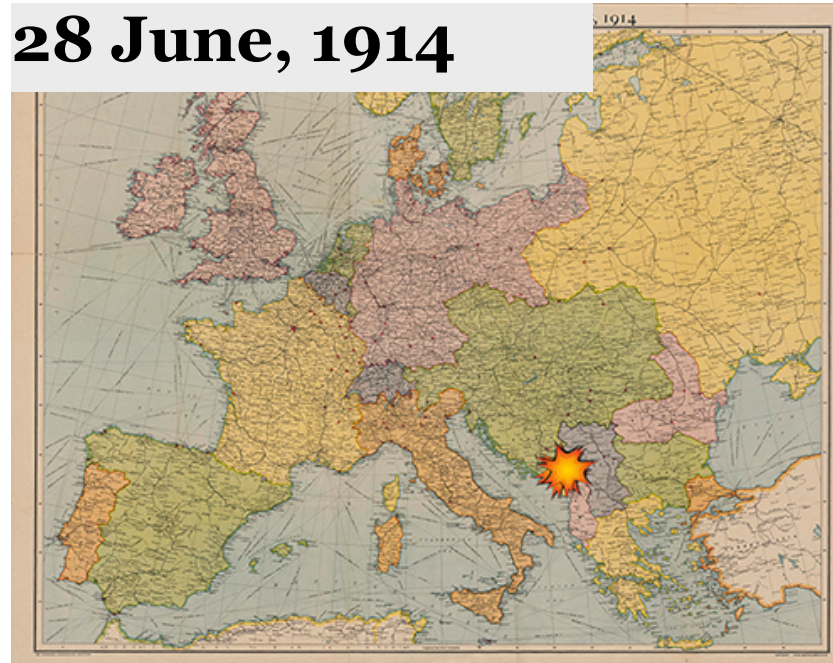
28 July 1914 - Russia prepares for war against Austria-Hungary to protect Serbia.

1 August 1914 - Germany declares war against Russia to support Austria-Hungary.

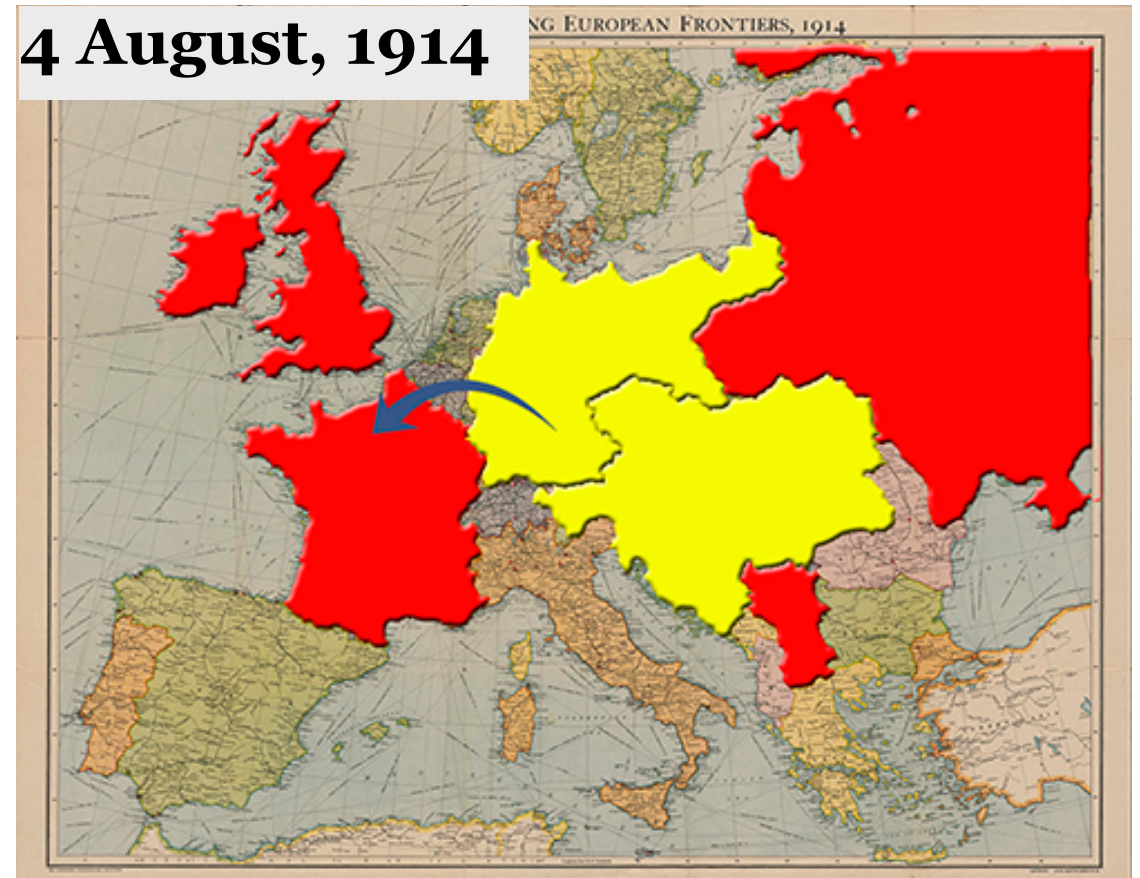
3 August 1914 - Germany and France declare war against each other.

4 August 1914 - Germany attacks France through Belgium. Britain declares war against Germany to defend Belgium.

28 June, 1914

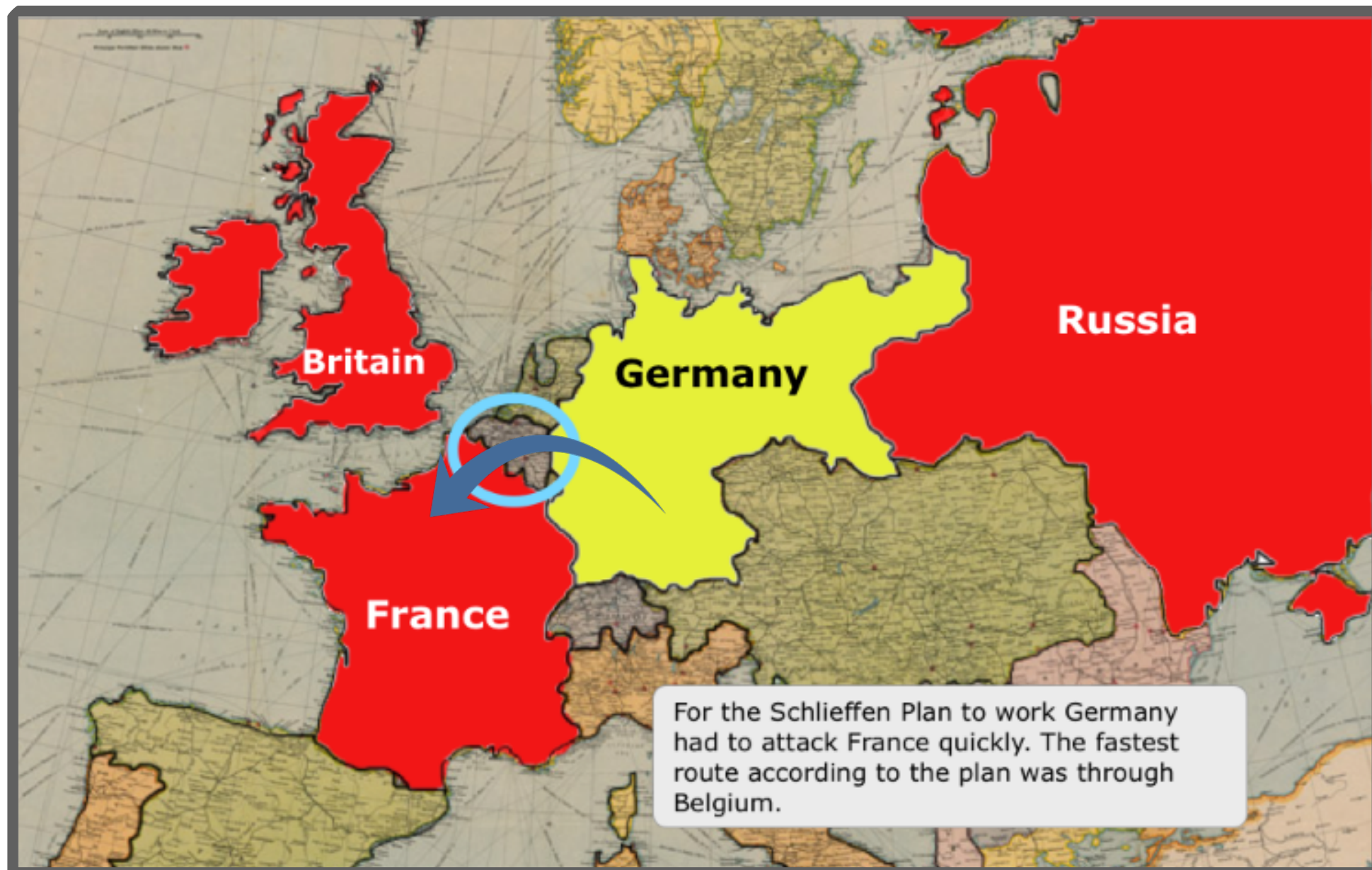


4 August, 1914



WAR BEGINS - THE SCHLIEFFEN PLAN

The Germans had been preparing for war for years and had devised a plan known as the 'Schlieffen Plan' to attack France and Russia. For this plan to be successful they had to attack France quickly through Belgium and hope that Russia didn't have time to mobilise its army.



THE SCHLIEFFEN PLAN

Britain had an agreement with Belgium that dated back to 1839. This agreement stated that Britain would defend Belgium if it was attacked. This was the reason given to explain why Britain joined the war.



These are the signatures and seals of the representatives of the Six Powers to the "Scrap of Paper"—the Treaty signed in 1839 guaranteeing the independence and neutrality of Belgium. "Palmerston" signed for Britain, "Bulow" for Prussia.

The Germans have broken their pledged word and devastated Belgium. Help to keep your Country's honour bright by restoring Belgium her liberty.

ENLIST TO-DAY

TENSION IN EUROPE

The shooting of Archduke Franz Ferdinand wasn't the only reason these countries declared war against each other.

There had been tension between some countries in Europe for years.

The main causes of the tensions were:

- ☼ The royal cousins
- ☼ Nationalism
- ☼ Different alliances
- ☼ The arms race
- ☼ Competition for land abroad



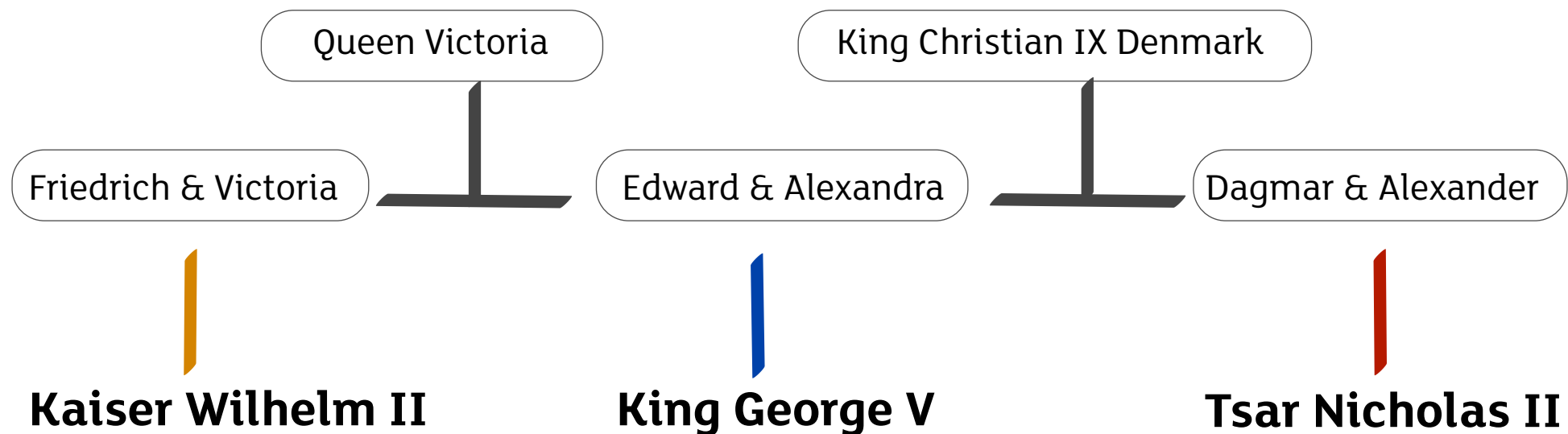
What can we learn about the causes of The First World War from this cartoon?



THE ROYAL COUSINS

The royal leaders of Germany, Britain and Russia were close relatives. Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, King George V of Britain and Tsar Nicholas II of Russia were cousins.

FAMILY TREE



THE ROYAL COUSINS

**Tsar
Nicholas II**

Russia

A difficult
relationship

**Kaiser
Wilhelm II**

Germany

A good
relationship

Didn't like each
other

**King
George V**

Britain

These cousins ruled over millions of people, not only within their countries but also as part of their vast empires. In 1914, King George V was the head of state for about 400 million people within the British Empire.

NATIONALISM

Nationalism can mean many things. At its worst it can lead people to believe that their country is better than other countries. It can also make leaders assertive and aggressive.

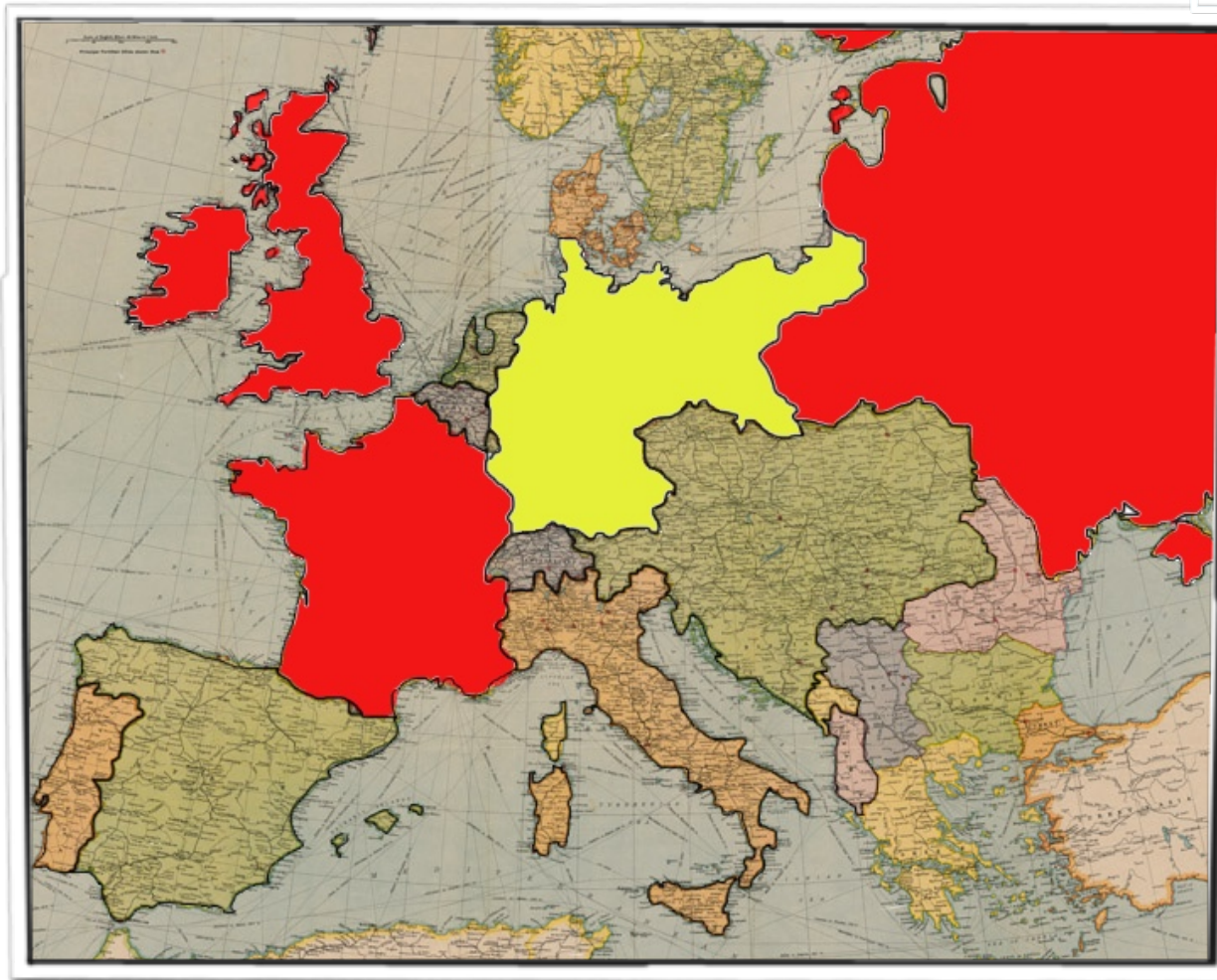
The largest countries in Europe all believed that they would win if they went to war.

In many cases their leaders were overconfident and wanted to appear powerful and strong.



ALLIANCES

Tensions between a number of European countries started to mount at the beginning of the twentieth century. This led to many countries creating alliances that included a promise to defend each other if they were attacked.



The Triple Entente: Britain, France and Russia (red) surrounding Germany (yellow).

THE TRIPLE ENTENTE

France, Russia and Britain agreed to a pact in 1907 known as the Triple Entente. **One of the main reasons for the Triple Entente was to prevent Germany from becoming too powerful in Europe.**

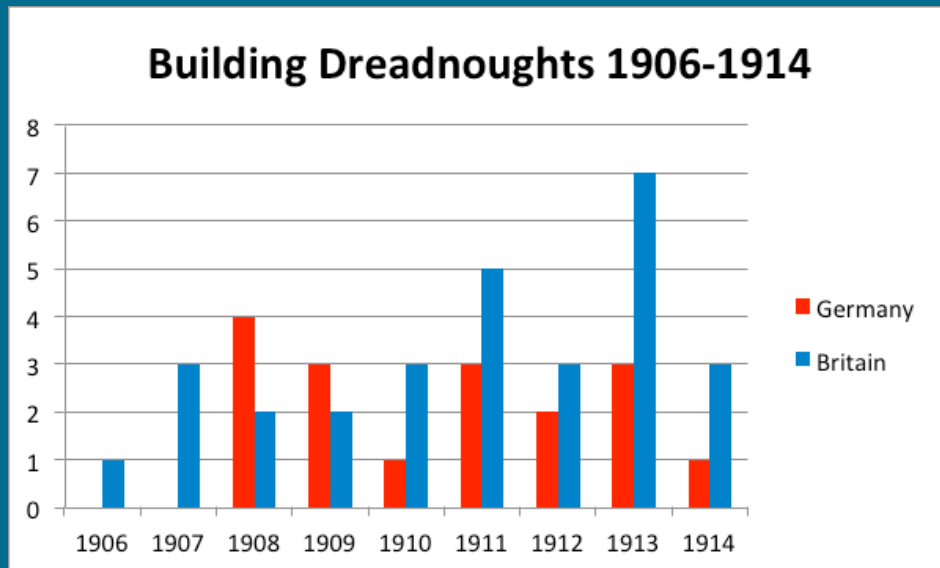
THE ARMS RACE

BRITAIN VS GERMANY

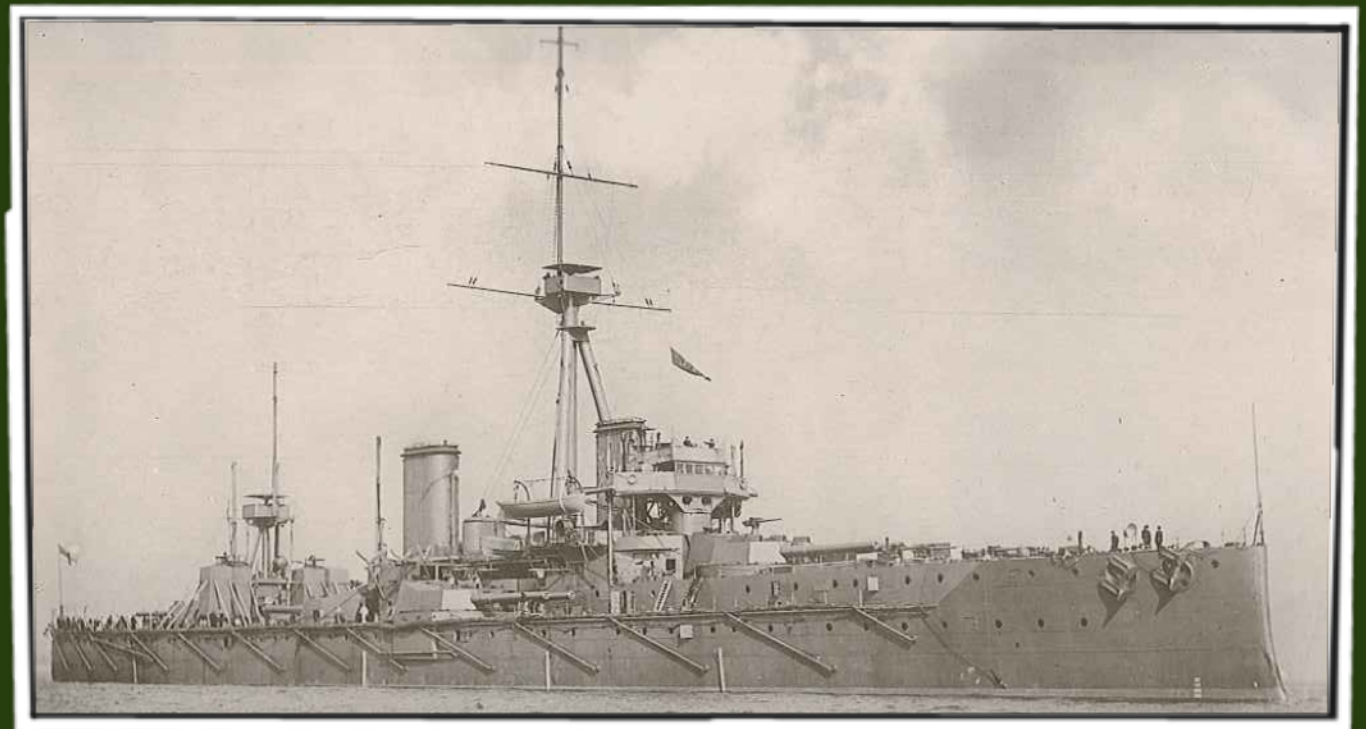
Britain had the largest navy in the world at the beginning of the 20th century, but Wilhelm II and Germany were eager to change that. Germany decided to build a fleet of warships to compete with Britain.



This chart shows the number of Dreadnoughts in Britain and Germany between 1906 and 1914.



This is H.M.S Dreadnought. Germany and Britain built as many of these powerful ships as they could. Each Dreadnought had at least 10 guns, and these guns had enough power to sink any boat.



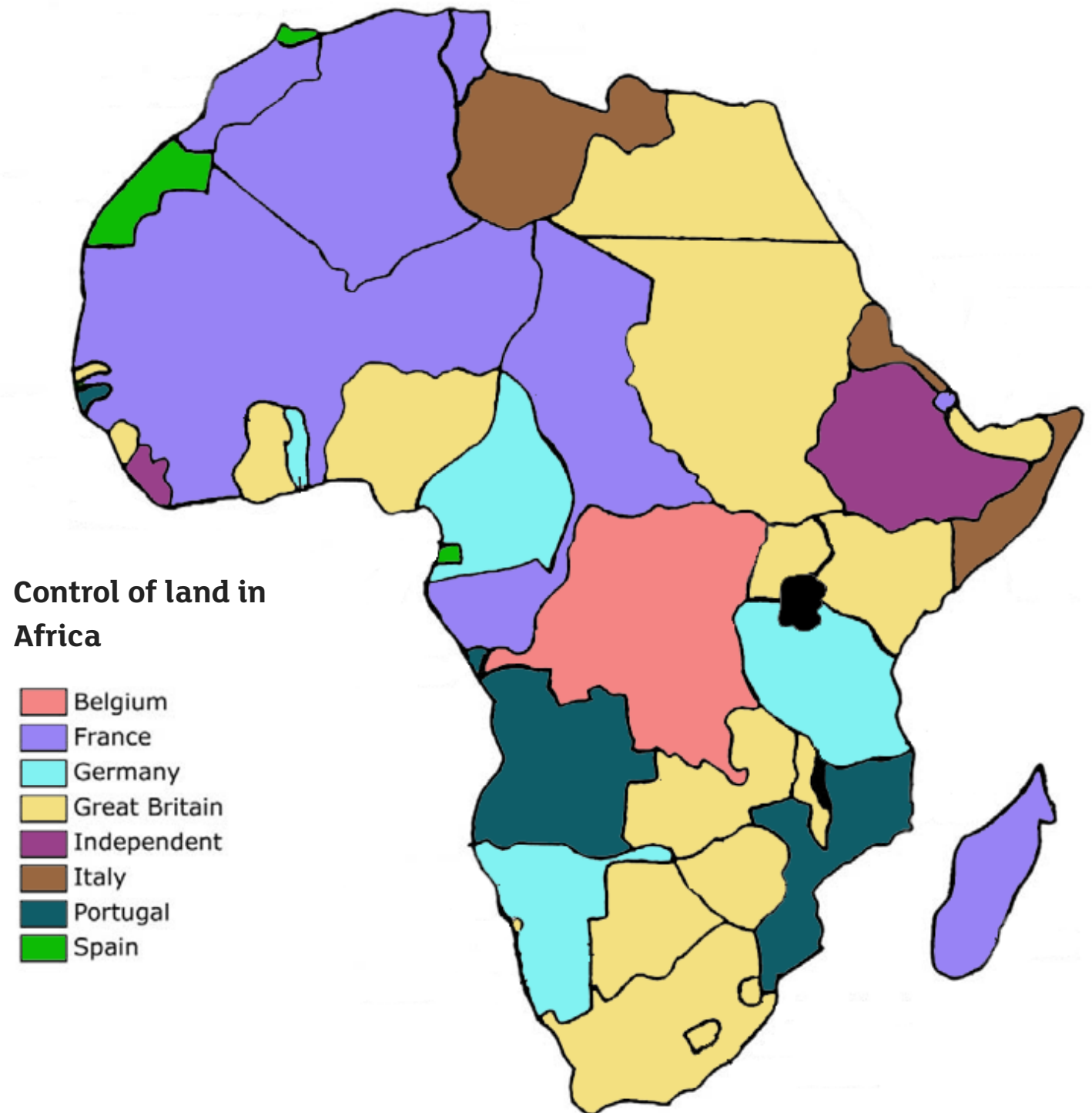
COMPETING FOR LAND ABROAD

Africa in 1914

At the end of the 19th century European countries were competing with each other to conquer land in Africa. By 1914 European countries ruled most of Africa, and only Ethiopia and Liberia were independent.

CONSEQUENCE

A number of European countries saw an opportunity to conquer land and make money from Africa. Kaiser Wilhelm II and Germany were determined to gain more land abroad to create a larger empire. **The competition for land in Africa created even more tension in Europe.**



CONCLUSION

There were many causes for the tensions in Europe before the war started, the main ones being:

- ✱ The royal cousins
- ✱ Nationalism
- ✱ Different alliances
- ✱ The arms race
- ✱ Competition for more land abroad

The spark

When Gavrilo Princip shot the Arch-duke Franz Ferdinand it gave countries that were looking for an excuse to start a war the perfect chance.

