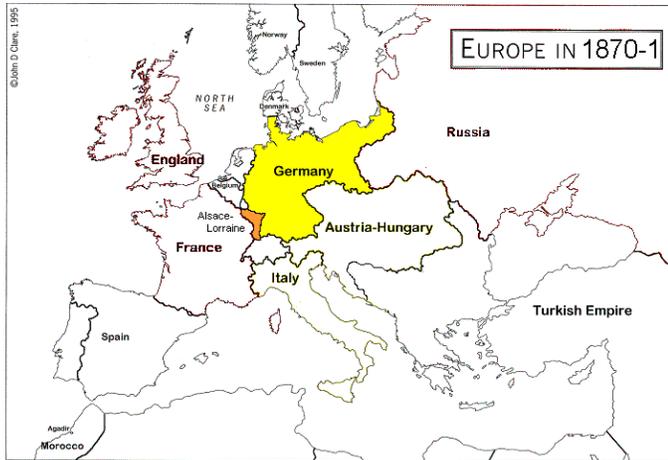


Alliances and the First World War

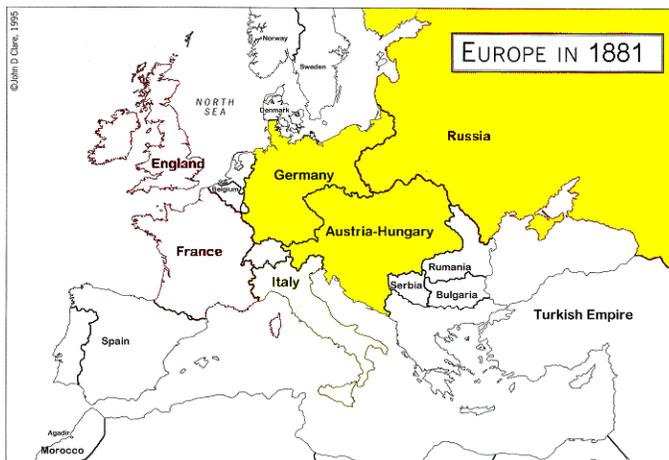
France and Germany hated each other
During the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War,
France tried to stop Germany from uniting ... but lost.



As a result of this war, France lost Alsace-Lorraine.
The French never forgave the Germans.
They wanted REVENGE.

Alliances and the First World War

Three Emperors' League, 1881



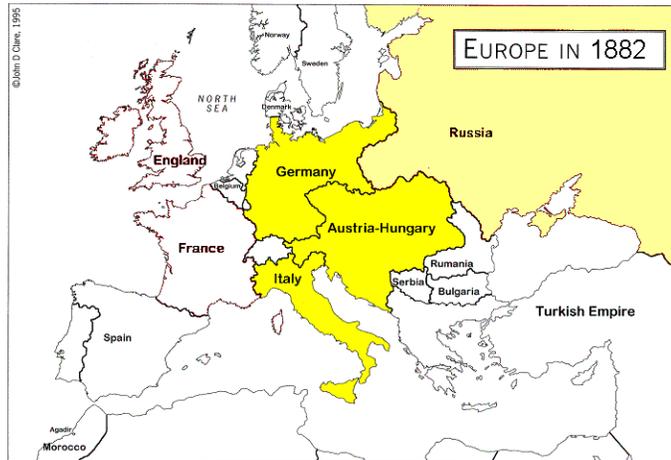
Germany's biggest problem was that it was located between two adversaries
(France and Russia)

- this made Germany vulnerable if it came to a war -

In 1881, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck attempted to solve this problem by
creating the **Three Emperors' League** with Austria-Hungary and Russia.

Alliances and the First World War

Triple Alliance, 1882

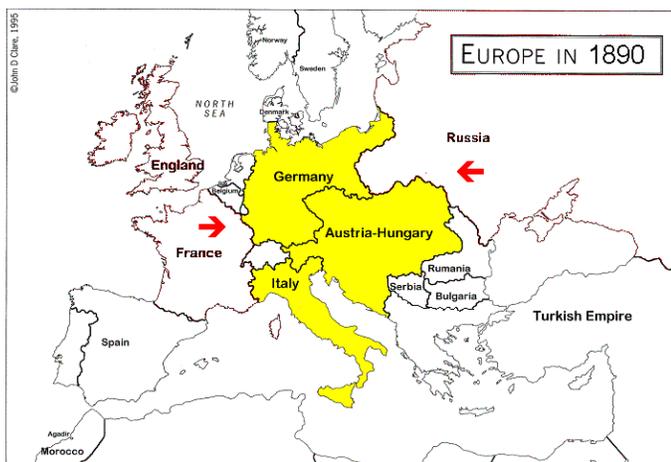


In 1882 Bismarck added an alliance with Italy (and Austria-Hungary again) with the **Triple Alliance**.

These alliances kept Germany safe.

Alliances and the First World War

Germany encircled

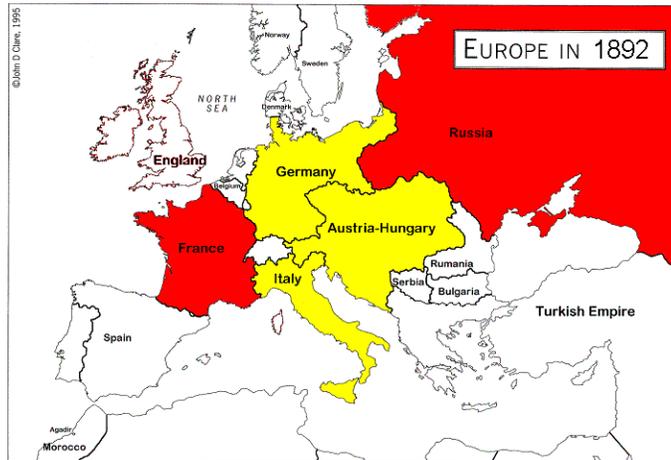


When Kaiser Wilhelm became the Emperor of Germany in 1888, he withdrew from the Three Emperors' League, ending the alliance with Russia.

He kept the Triple Alliance, but this did NOT solve the problem of Germany's encirclement .

Alliances and the First World War

Franco-Russian Alliance, 1892



In 1892, Russia and France created the **Franco-Russian Alliance**.
Although it was only a defensive alliance,
it was Germany's worst nightmare!

Alliances and the First World War

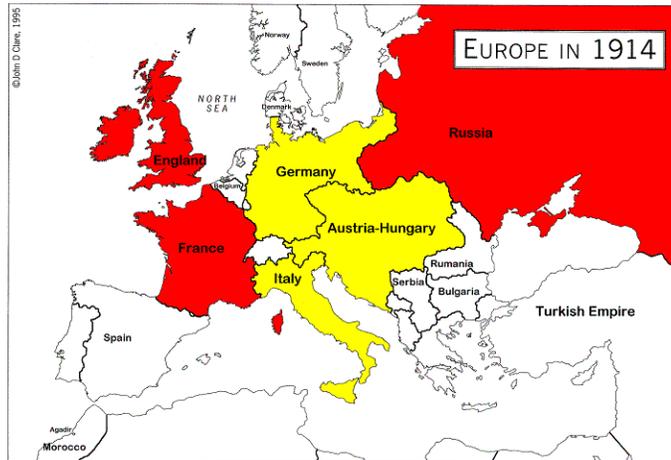
Entente Cordiale, 1904



France also created the **Entente Cordiale** (friendly relationship)
with Britain in 1904.

Alliances and the First World War

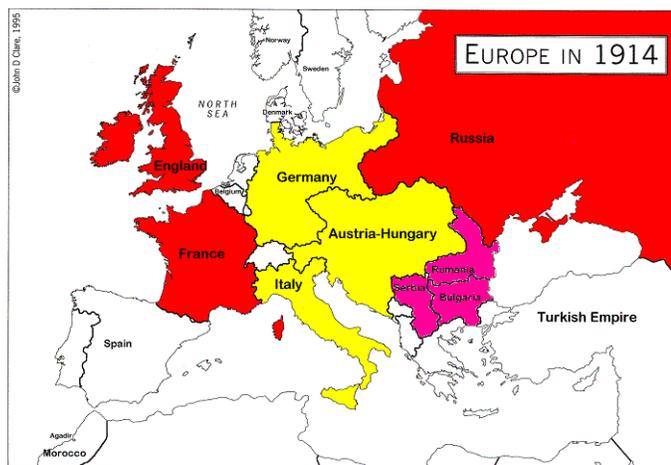
Triple Entente, 1907



In 1907 Russia joined Britain and France to make the **Triple Entente**.
By 1914 Europe had divided into two massive superpower blocs.
People thought this balance of power would keep the peace.

Alliances and the First World War

The Balkans



But Russia was also allied to Serbia, Romania, and Bulgaria.

When trouble erupted in the Balkans in 1914
the nations realized these alliances were going to drag them into war...