

World War I Begins



The MAIN Causes Of WWI

- M**ilitarism - building up armed forces, esp in preparation for war.
- A**lliances - agreements to defend and/or help another country.
- I**mperialism - building a trading/colonial empire.
- N**ationalism - having extreme pride in your country.

In the years leading up to WW I, Germany built a world-class army and navy.

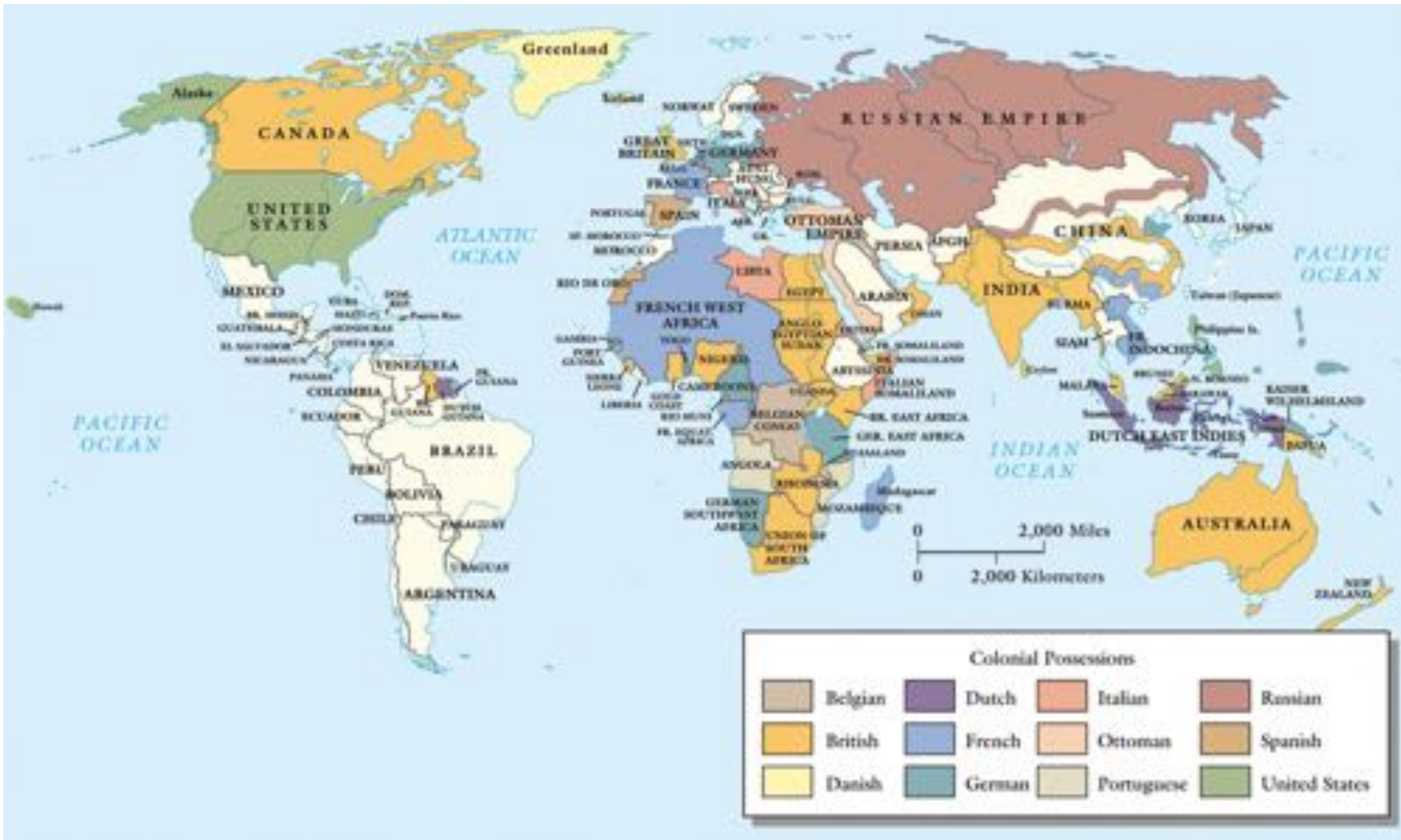


in the late 1800s and early 1900s
Germany developed a high-powered and
thriving industrial economy

they used this wealth to invest heavily in
their military

World War I gave Germany an
opportunity to show the world the
military it had built.

Pre-WWI European Colonial Possessions



Franco-Prussian War

1870-71



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

The Three Emperors' League

1881

Germany's location between France and Russia was a problem

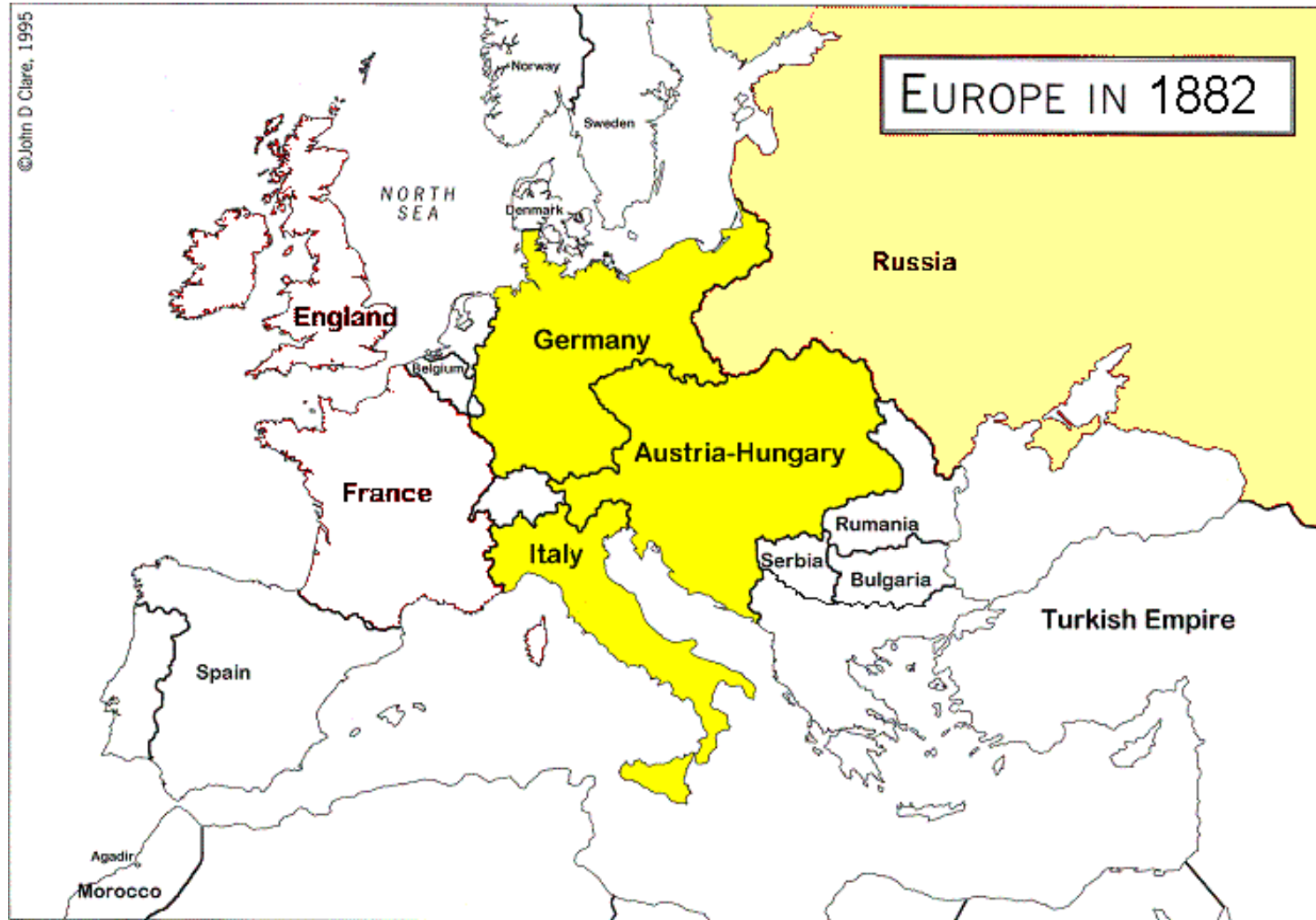


this made Germany vulnerable if a war broke out

1881: German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck created the Three Emperors' League with Austria-Hungary and Russia

Triple Alliance

1882



then in 1882 Bismarck created the **Triple Alliance** with Italy
(and Austria-Hungary again)

Germany Is Encircled

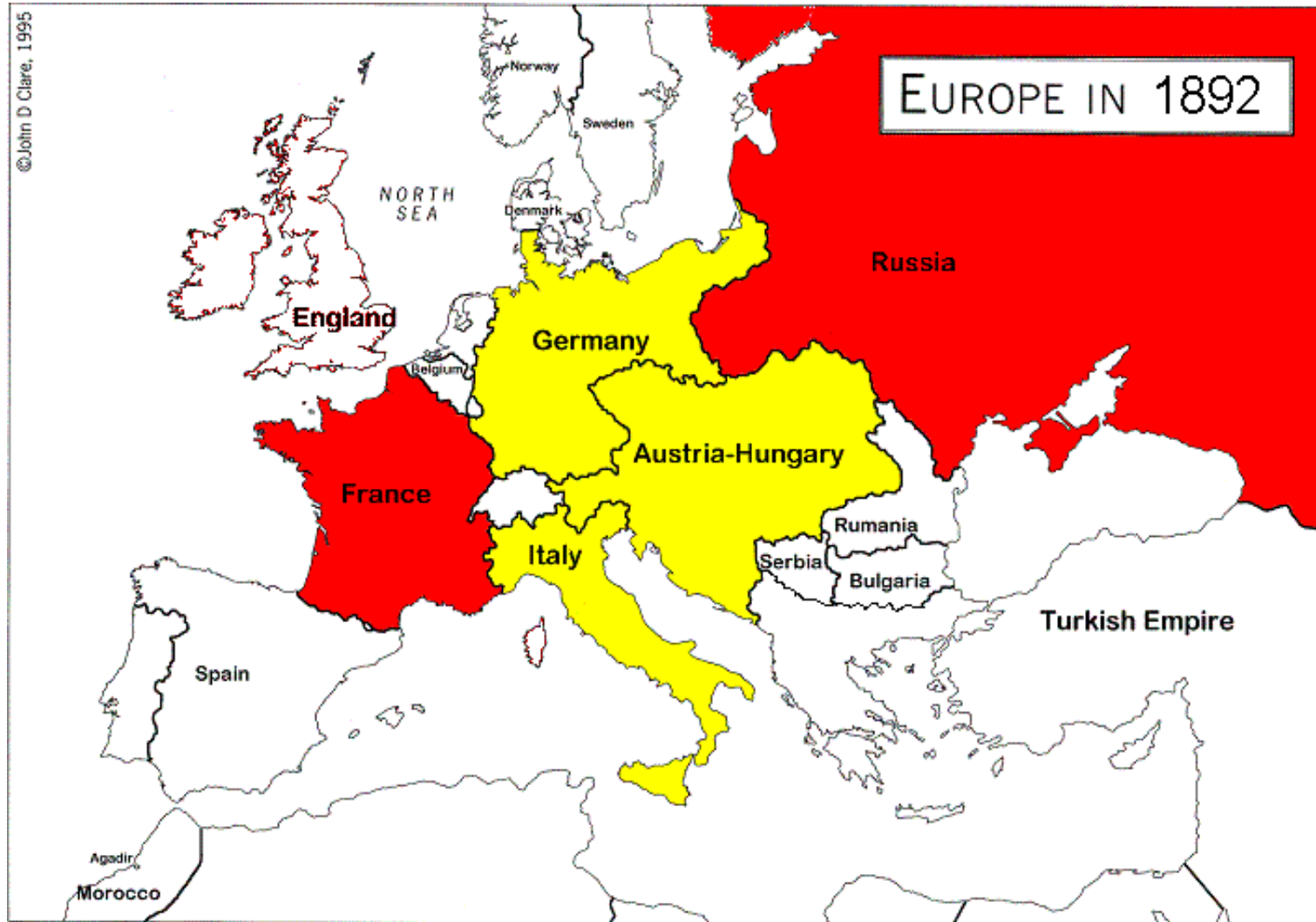
When Kaiser Wilhelm became the Emperor of Germany in 1888, he withdrew from the Three Emperors' League



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

Franco-Russian Alliance

1892



in 1892, Russia and France created the **Franco-Russian Alliance**

for defense only

Entente Cordiale, 1904

Britain and France created the **Entente Cordiale** (friendly relationship)



A cartoon on the Entente Cordiale from the German perspective, with John Bull staking off with the harlot Marianne (in what is supposed to be a Tricolour dress; see tincture), turning his back on the Kaiser. The tip of the scabbard of a cavalry sabre protrudes from beneath Germany's army overcoat, implying a potential resort to force.

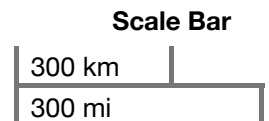


Triple Entente, 1907

In 1907 Britain, France, and Russia joined to make the Triple Entente

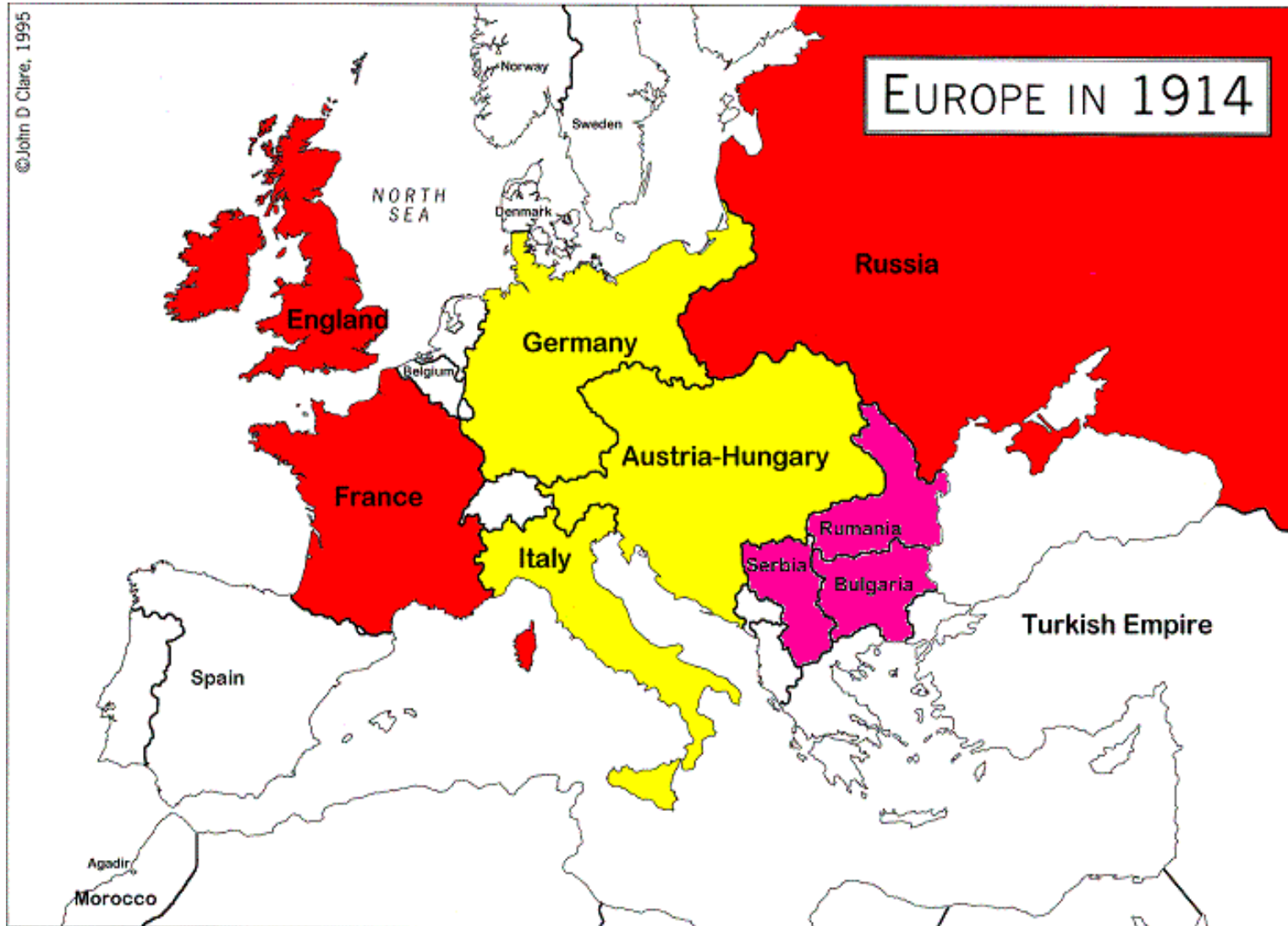
this allowed each country a way to protect itself and protected France against potential attacks from other mainland European countries

it allowed Russia extra time to catch up with the far more industrialized countries of the world



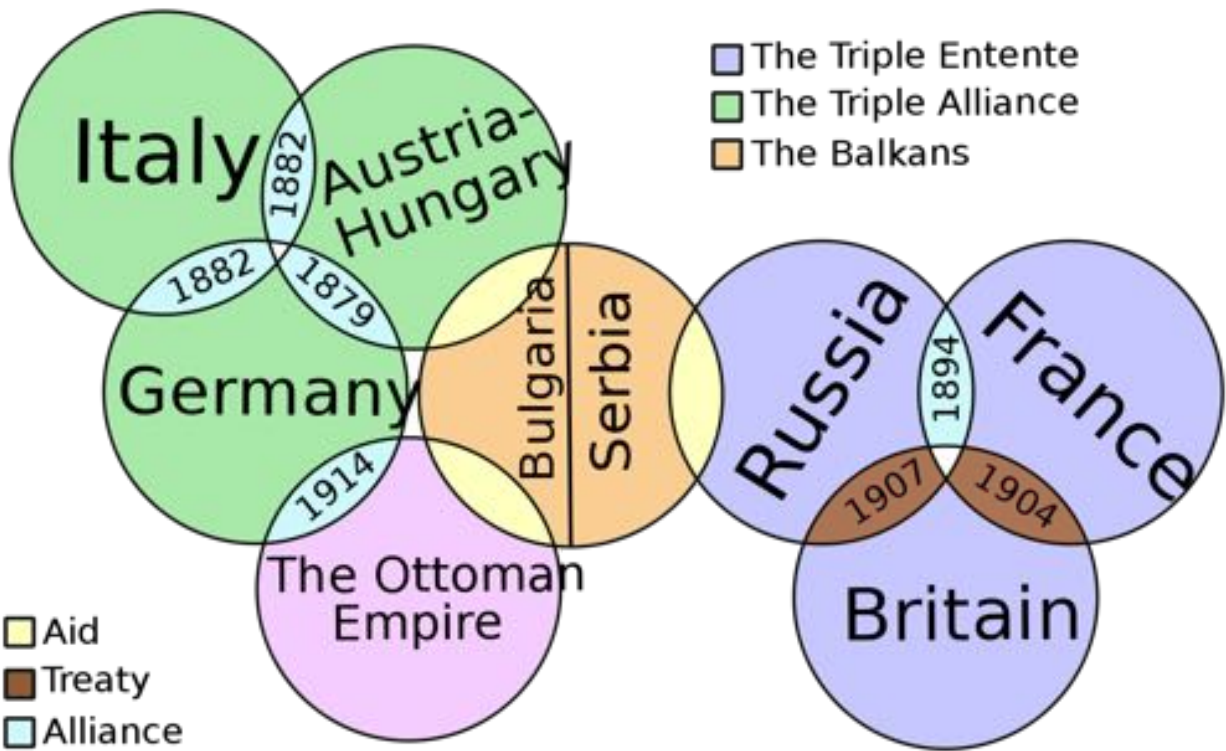
The Balkans

it was thought that this balance of power would keep the peace in Europe



although Russia was allied with Great Britain and France, it was also allied with Serbia, Rumania, and Bulgaria

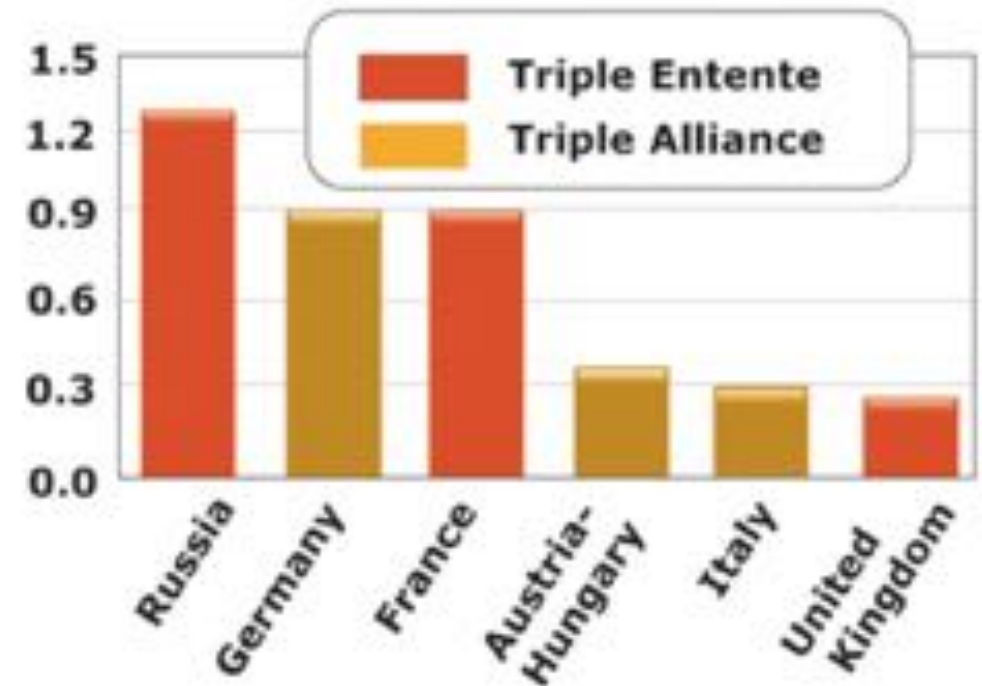
when trouble erupted in the Balkans in 1914 the nations realized these alliances were going to drag them into war...



- Aid
- Treaty
- Alliance



NUMBERS OF SOLDIERS (IN MILLIONS)



Language Groups in Pre-WWI Europe





Ethnic Groups of Austria-Hungary in 1910



The Spark

When Serbia gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1878 it laid claim to several regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina which were inhabited primarily by Serbs. However, in 1908, Austria-Hungary officially annexed all of occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. Serbians feared he would continue and even heighten the persecution of Serbs living within the Austro-Hungarian empire.

The Serbian terrorist organization the Black Hand had trained a small group of young men as operatives to infiltrate Bosnia and carry out the assassination of the Archduke. It is unclear how active the Serbian government was in the plot, but it was uncovered years later that the leader of the Black Hand, Colonel Dragutin Dimitrijevic, was also the head of Serbian military intelligence.

The spark that ignited WWI was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914.



“How Bad Directions (And A Sandwich) Started World War I”

Robert Siegel, Host of NPR’s “All Things Considered”

There are historic anniversaries and then there are historic anniversaries. The First World War began one hundred years ago this summer. It is a centennial that goes beyond mere remembrance. The consequences of that conflict are making headlines to this day. To underscore that, tomorrow and Wednesday, we’re going turn history on its head with the help of some historians.

We’re going to ask: What if the First World War never happened? Now, if that sounds like an unlikely exercise, compare it to an even more unlikely event, the one that actually occurred on June 28, 1914, in the city of Sarajevo. It was the spark that ignited a global conflagration, a moment in history that was dramatic, tragic, but in some ways, comic.

CHRISTOPHER CLARK: Its one of those subjects where no matter how many times you go through it, it never loses its magnetism.

SIEGEL: That’s Christopher Clark. He’s spent much time reviewing the events of that day in Sarajevo, and the events that led up to it. He’s author of *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went To War*. Clark says that despite warnings of a Serbian plot to kill the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the archduke and his wife went on a visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina. They had minimum security. And their motorcade route through the city had been published.

CLARK: The morning of the 28th of June, around about 9:00AM, the royal couple, Ferdinand, the heir apparent to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife, Sophie Chotek, turned up at Sarajevo Railway Station. Greeted by a smiling cheering crowd, they got into a beautiful sports car - a beautiful coupe, a Graf and Stift coupe - and proceeded to make their way in as part of an autocade - a cavalcade of automobiles - down along the Appel Quay, which is one of the main streets of Sarajevo.

And hardly had they got about a third of their way across the city, but a young man called Nedeljko Cabrinovic threw a bomb that he was carrying which didn’t hit the royal couple, but exploded under the next car. So already things are starting to go rather badly wrong.

SIEGEL: Yeah, not a good omen for the trip right there.

CLARK: Not a great omen. And, in fact, we're entitled to ask ourselves why at this point the archduke didn't simply call the visit off. And that was proposed by some members of his entourage. They said, you know, surely we should now leave - this is not a safe situation. But he hated being told what to do. He was a very irritable man and he said don't be ridiculous. This man is obviously and imbecile, he was obviously taken to the asylum, we'll continue with the tour as planned.

SIEGEL: And critically, a member of the auto or the motorcade was injured by that bomb blast and taken to the hospital.

CLARK: Absolutely. In fact, among those who were injured in the car behind - the third car behind Franz Ferdinand and his wife was his adjutant who was carrying with him the text of Franz Ferdinand's own speech, the one he was supposed to give when he reached the city hall at the other end of the Appel Quay. And this was a problem because it meant that the text of the speech was covered with blood, and was actually rather hard to read.

SIEGEL: So, the motorcade has had a bomb thrown at it. The archduke's adjutant has been injured and taken to the hospital. And the archduke treats it as another day at the office and we must proceed with this vital visit to Sarajevo. But I gather he decides that they should stop off at the hospital and see his man who's been injured first.

CLARK: Well, in the meanwhile, they go to the city hall where they meet with various dignitaries. And, at this point, a very comical moment occurs. The unfortunate mayor, a man called Mehmet Fehim Efendi Curcic was his name, and it fell to Curcic to give a welcoming speech to Franz Ferdinand and his wife. Curcic was a very nervous man at the best of times. But he was especially nervous on this day because, of course, he had heard the bomb going off. He had been told what had happened.

And he had this text which he was too nervous to alter. His text began with the words: "All of the citizens of the capital city of Sarajevo find that their souls are filled with happiness, and they most enthusiastically greet Your Highness's most illustrious visit," et cetera, et cetera, whereupon he was interrupted by the furious Franz Ferdinand who burst out saying, what, this is how you welcome visitors by throwing bombs at them?

(LAUGHTER)

CLARK: And poor Curcic, of course, you know, fell silent. And, at this point, his wife was seen whispering to Franz Ferdinand. History will never reveal what she said, but we can assume it was something along the lines of "No, no, dear. It's not his fault. Let him continue." And, at which point, he said "Very well, you may continue." And so the speech went on. Franz Ferdinand then replied with his own speech, which he had to wipe because it was covered with the blood of his adjutant.

And then they got back into the car. At this point, somebody asked “Is there going to be another attempt on the life of His Highness?” And Potoirek, the governor of the province turned to this man and said “Don’t be ridiculous. Do you think Sarajevo is full of assassins?” That was a rhetorical question but, in fact, the correct answer was yes, because there were seven assassins who had gathered in Sarajevo that day to carry out their work.

SIEGEL: And already, by the time that the bomb was thrown, at least some member of the party had backed out and didn’t proceed with his part of the deal.

CLARK: Absolutely. Several of these young men - they were scarcely more than boys really, very inexperienced - they simply froze with terror as the car approached. One of them ran away. Another one just remained stock-still, unable to move.

SIEGEL: Well, after the archduke’s meetings at City Hall, I gather it’s decided to change the route for the autocade. But someone forgets to tell the drivers.

CLARK: Yes, they’re all chatting about the route out of the city and it’s agreed that they shouldn’t turn right onto Franz Josef Street, which leads through the narrow lanes of the Bazaar District because, if there was going to be another attack on Their Highnesses, then that is the place where this is likely to happen. But they’re talking about this in German and the driver of the first car is Czech, and so is the driver of the second car. They don’t understand what this conversation is about. And nobody bothers to translate for them. It’s a very Austro-Hungarian problem.

And the cars take off again. They make their way down the Appel Quay and then the first car swings into Franz Josef Street, immediately followed by car number two with Franz Ferdinand and his wife in it. And it’s at that point that something absolutely extraordinary happens. They’re on the original planned and advertised route, so that is where Gavrilo Princip has placed himself in front of the Schiller’s general store. He’s under - standing under the awning in the shadow waiting for this happen.

Suddenly, the car is in front of him and, to his astonishment, the car stops because someone in the car is telling the driver “You idiot! You’re not supposed to go down this road! Stop the car and back up!” And just as the car comes to a halt, Princip steps forward. And he recalled later in his depositions to the court that time seemed to slow down. And he said, “I was filled with a strange feeling.” And he took these two shots.

And this same strange feeling also suffused the governor of the province, Potoirek, who recalls seeing the young man pointing his gun but not hearing the shots, seeing these two plumes of white smoke but being unaware of where the shots had been fired or whether they'd hit their marks. In fact, of course, if Princip had spent his entire life learning about human anatomy, he couldn't have placed his shots better than he did. They were both lethal. And she, Sophie Chotek, was already dying by the time the car pulled back onto the Appel Quay.

SIEGEL: The fact that Princip happened to be in front of Moritz Schiller's general store - I've seen it described as a delicatessen in some versions - where he'd just gotten a sandwich, I gather - the fact that he walks out of this food store at the very moment that the archduke's car stops, at that very spot - his colleagues having failed to do their part in the assassination plot - he must have felt as though destiny had visited him at that moment.

CLARK: He did but he wasn't a cruel, hard-hearted man. So he was also rather put off and disturbed by the fact that, as he put it, there was a lady in the car. He hadn't really reckoned with that and he hadn't intended to kill her. But, of course, he took both their lives.

I'd forgotten about the sandwich. I mean that adds a nice Clint Eastwood touch...

(LAUGHTER)

CLARK: ...to the scene. History does not relate whether the sandwich was completely eaten before or after the act took place.

SIEGEL: There are so many what-ifs including the big one, which is "What if after having a bomb thrown at your motorcade and having one of your top aides injured, what if you just decided right then and there this is not a good visit, let's stop?" Down to "What if you didn't make the right turn on Franz Josef Street, if you told the drivers where they were supposed to be going in the proper language?" Anything could have prevented that assassination that day.

CLARK: That's true. There are two ways of thinking of this. One is, you know, to focus on all those moments at which things could have panned out differently. But - and that's perfectly legitimate. On the other hand, you know, one mustn't forget if you send seven young men with guns and bombs into a small town, where some royal personnel are going to turn up, and whose route through the city has stupidly been publicly advertised for days in advance, without virtually anything in the way of security precautions, well, the likelihood of a success is not negligible.

SIEGEL: Well, Christopher Clark, thank you very much for talking with us about that very remarkable day in June 1914 in Sarajevo.

Alliances Draw the Continent Into War

Ferdinand's death at the hands of the Black Hand set in motion a mindlessly mechanical series of events that culminated in the world's first global war.

Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia: bring the assassins to justice!



Austria-Hungary sought assurances from her ally, Germany, that they would come to their aid



Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914

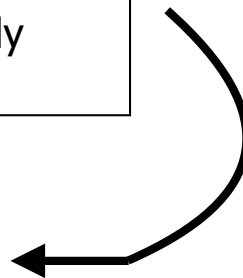


Russia announced mobilization of its army in Serbia's defense



Italy was committed to defend Germany and Austria-Hungary only in the event of a 'defensive' war; they argued that these actions were 'offensive' and as such, declared a policy of neutrality. The following year, in May 1915, Italy joined the conflict against her two former allies.

Germany viewed the Russian mobilization as an act of war against Austria-Hungary, and declared war on Russia on August 1st



WWI

Britain, obligated to defend neutral Belgium by treaty, declared war against Germany on August 4th - like France, Britain was by extension also at war with Austria-Hungary



Germany invaded neutral Belgium to reach Paris by the shortest possible route



France declared war on Germany and, by extension, on Austria-Hungary on August 3rd



The Schlieffen Plan

German General Alfred von Schlieffen's plan

Germany would carry out a rapid invasion of France by going through Belgium after France was defeated, the German invaders would move to the east against Russia



August 14, 1914 – Germany army advances into Belgium (Source of photo – Wikipedia)

Central Powers:

Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria

Allied Powers:

Great Britain, France, Russia, Serbia, Belgium, Japan, Montenegro
and Italy in late 1915



Men march through the streets of Berlin after the call for the mobilization of German troops in World War I.