



Bellringer:

What do you already KNOW?

➡ Discuss with a partner:

What do you know about the First World War?

What do you want to know?



# Causes of WWI and U.S. Neutrality

Ms. LUCO

IB HIST AM Yr 1

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## Learning Objective

SWBAT describe the movement from American neutrality towards engagement in World War I IOT analyze the origins and impact of U.S. involvement in World War I.



## Inquiry

How did the United States respond to the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914?



# The Great War

- Started on July 28, 1914
- Ended November 11, 1918
- Over 37 million total casualties
  - U.S. total casualties: 323,018
- Almost 22,000,000 wounded

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# Long Term Causes of WWI

**M** – Militarism

**A** – Alliances

**I** – Imperialism

**N** – Nationalism

**Defense Estimates of the Great Powers, 1870–1914**  
(in millions of pounds)

	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
Germany	10.8	20.4	28.8	41.0	64.0	110.8
Austria-Hungary	8.2	13.2	12.8	13.6	17.4	36.4
France	22.0	31.4	37.4	42.4	52.4	57.4
Great Britain	23.4	25.2	31.4	116.0	68.0	76.8
Italy	7.8	10.0	14.8	14.6	24.4	28.2
Russia	22.0	29.6	29.0	40.8	63.4	88.2

Source: A.J.P. Taylor, *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe: 1848–1918*,  
Oxford University Press (adapted)

## Militarism

policy of building up a strong military to prepare for war



# Alliances

agreements between nations to provide aid and protect one another in case of war

“ARTICLE 3. If one, or two, of the Contracting Parties should be attacked and become engaged in a war with one or more Great Powers (*France, Britain, Russia*), all Contracting Parties shall be bound to lend help and assistance with all their forces.”—**Article III of the Triple Alliance**

# Triple Alliance vs. Triple Entente

## Triple Alliance

Germany



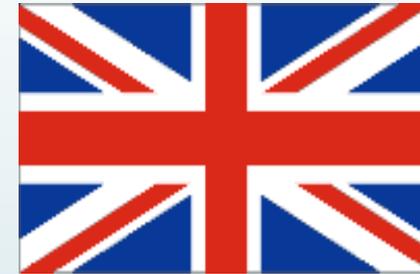
Austria-Hungary



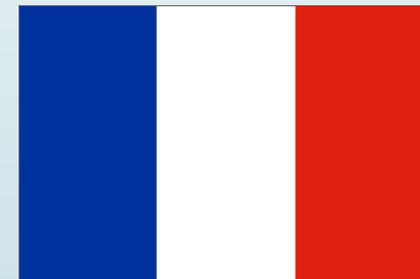
Italy



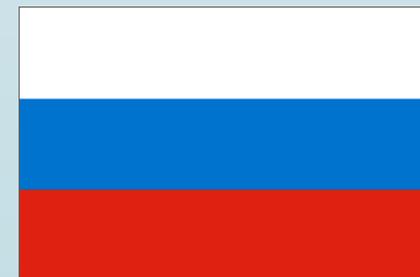
## Triple Entente



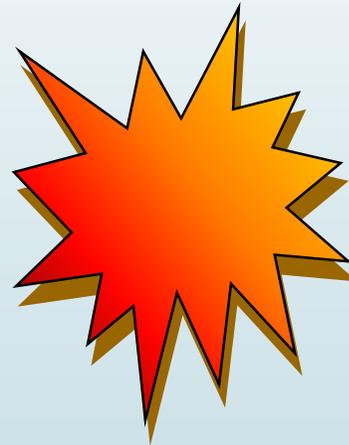
Great Britain



France



Russia



# Central Powers vs. Allies

## Central Powers

Germany



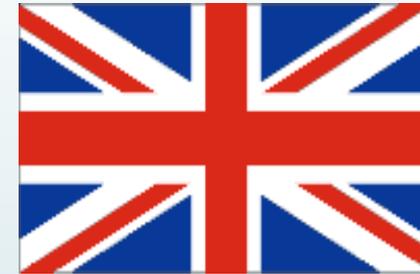
Austria-Hungary



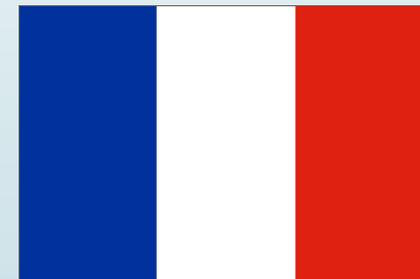
Ottoman Empire



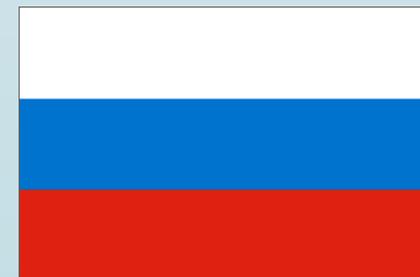
## Allies



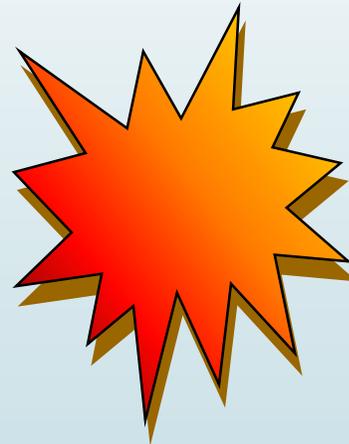
Great Britain



France



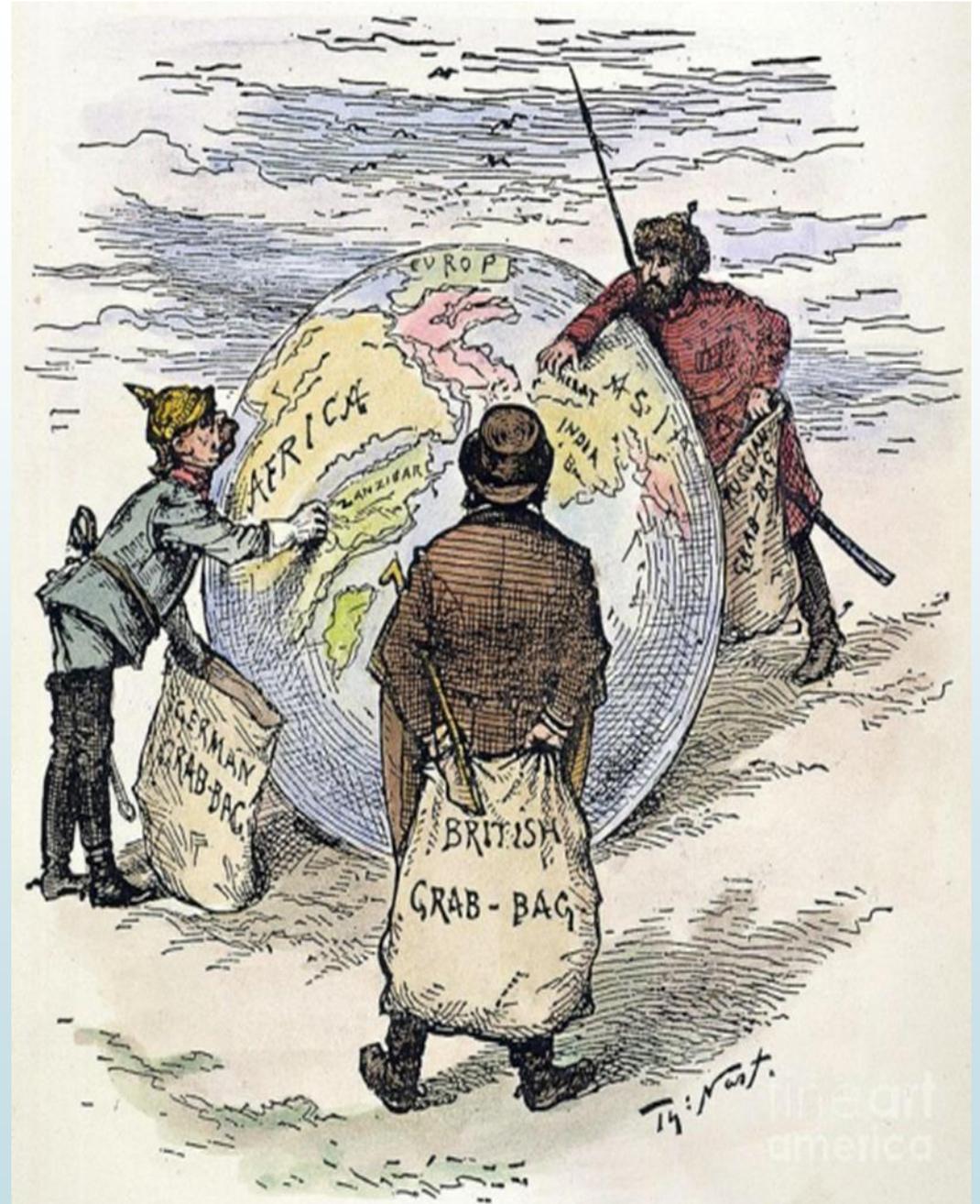
Russia



# Imperialism

“Scramble for empire” - competition between major powers

Main rivals: Great Britain (dominant imperial power) and Germany (aspirations for empire)



# Nationalism

the idea that people with the same ethnic origins, language, and political ideals had the right to form sovereign states through the process of self-determination

*"I, Milan Vasitch, by entering into the organization, do hereby swear by the blood of my forefathers, by my honor, by my life, and by all Serbs, that from this moment onward and until my death I shall faithfully serve this organization to achieve the unification of the Serbs and the creation of a Serbian Nation-State. I shall at all times be prepared to make any sacrifice for it. Unification or death!"--  
Milan Vasitch, Oath of the Black Hand, 1908*

# The Spark!



# The Spark!

The Assassination of  
Archduke Franz

Ferdinand, June 28, 1914



# Prelude to the Great War (3 episodes)

- ▶ Complete the provided video questions as you watch.
- ▶ [https://youtu.be/f11CKYB2FCA?list=PLB2vhKMBjSxMMg8xHeY2K-0ap9srl\\_zx7](https://youtu.be/f11CKYB2FCA?list=PLB2vhKMBjSxMMg8xHeY2K-0ap9srl_zx7)



# American Neutrality

- ▶ Cultural, economic, and political ties to Europe meant support for Central Powers or Allies varied
- ▶ Propaganda issued on both sides
- ▶ President Woodrow Wilson issued a formal proclamation of **neutrality** (Aug. 19, 1914)

How would a neutral country respond to the outbreak of war?



# Collaborative Learning: **Wilson's Proclamation of Neutrality**

**How did Wilson appeal to the American people in his proclamation of neutrality?**

Read the primary source.

On a sheet of paper,

1. List the origin and purpose of the source
2. List the value and limitations of the source
3. Copy the “bricks” on the white board.
4. Inside each brick, write down reasons, examples, appeals to emotion or logic, counterclaims, etc. that Wilson uses to “build” his argument.