

Chapter 28 section 1

The Great War, 1914-1918

Several factors lead to World War I, a conflict that devastates Europe and has major impact on the war

Marching toward war

Rising tensions in Europe

The rise of nationalism

- Europe enjoys peace in late 1800s but problems lie below the surface
- growing nationalism leads to competition among nations
- nationalism in the Balkans leads many groups to demand independence

Imperialism and militarism

- competition for colonies stirs mistrust among European nations
- mutual animosity spurs European countries to engage in arms race
- Militarism—policy of glorifying military power, preparing army

Tangled alliances

Bismarck forges early pacts

- Germany's Otto von Bismarck works to keep peace in Europe after 1871
- believes France wants revenge for loss in 1870
- seeks to isolate the French with a series of treaties and alliances
 - ~signs treaty with Russia in 1881
 - ~forms Triple alliance—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy- in 1882

Shifting alliances threaten peace

- kaiser Wilhelm II becomes German ruler in 1888
- foreign policy changes begin in 1890 with dismissal of Bismarck
 - ~alliance with Russia dropped; Russia then allies with France
 - ~effort to strengthen Germany navy, which alarms Britain
- Britain, France, Russia, form triple entente alliance in 1907

Crisis in the balkans

A restless region

- many groups in Balkans win independence during early 1900s
- new nation of Serbia made up largely of Slavs
- Austria-Hungary annexes Slavic region—Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Serbia outrages, sees itself as rightful ruler of these Slavic lands

A shot rings throughout Europe

- Serbian rebel kills Austro-Hungarian royal official in June 1914
- Austria declares war on Serbia; Russia comes to aid of Serbia