

Document A

From: Gavrilo Princip, testimony at his trial for murder and treason (October 1914)

"No I am not sorry. I have cleared an evil out of the way. He [Franz Ferdinand] is a German and an enemy of the South Slavs. He treated them badly. ... Every day a high treason trial. Every day it went worse with our people. They are impoverished. ... I killed him and I am not sorry. ... I regarded him as an energetic man who as ruler would have carried through definite ideas and reforms which stood in our way. ... For union [of the South Slavs] one must sacrifice many lives, and it was for this reason that Franz Ferdinand fell. Nevertheless, the main motive which guided me in my deed was: the avenging of the Serbian people. ... I am a nationalist. I aimed to free the [Yugoslavs]. For I am a [Yugoslav]. This is to come from intimidation—from above. ... As far as Serbia is concerned, it is her duty to free us, as Italy freed her Italians."

Document B

From: Rosinski, Herbert. *The German Army*. (New York: Praeger, 1966), p.7

The traditions of the German Army were mainly inherited from the Prussians and they included:

"from Frederick the Great, the sense of individual and regimental honor that inspired fortitude under fire and made retreat unthinkable except under the pressure of overwhelming enemy force;

"from Scharnhorst, the concept of discipline, not as robot-like obedience, but as willing subordination to the common interests of the fighting unit to which one belonged;

"from Clausewitz, the idea of war as a coherent, continuous whole;

"from Moltke, the important idea that adherence to a battle plan must not be allowed to crush the initiative of individual commanders;

"from Schlieffen, the insistence that even-or perhaps especially- in the age of the million man army, wars are won, not by attrition, but by a decisive mobile strategy."

Document C

From: Robert K. Massie, Historian, Interview about Ship Building in WWI from "The Great War" series by PBS.

When the British saw this fleet of very powerful battleships building in German shipyards, they noticed a threat on the other side of North Sea to British naval supremacy (which was essential to the existence of the British Island and the British Empire), which was a sea communications empire.

And, the precipitating factor here, was the growth of the German navy. And, the precipitating factor of the growth of the German navy was Wilhelm's envy of the British fleet — desire to be respected by his British cousins — because the British didn't care about the German army. They could have 8,000 pieces of artillery, instead of 800 and Britain didn't care, because you couldn't drag the artillery across the Channel. What the British cared about was the battle fleet.

Document D

From: Historian Paul Fussell, University of Pennsylvania, Interview on the Heroic Connotation of War from "The Great War" series by PBS.

... war still had a heroic and noble connotation. And, to discover that it [WWO] is not heroic and noble was an immense cultural shock, not just to those who fought, but to those who watched them fight from various home countries. An illustration I'm fond of using is that the artillery shell doesn't know whether you are brave or cowardly when it hits you, so it doesn't matter anymore whether you're brave or cowardly. The whole concept of heroism disappears, because you can easily be killed whether you're a coward or a hero. Heroism doesn't matter when you're not fighting hand-to-hand. And, here, most of the time, the armies were separated by, you know, a mile or two. That's just industrial murder. And, everybody finally caught on to that. And, that made the whole proceeding something to which words like "glorious" and "gallantry" and "heroic" could no longer be applied.

Document E

From: Professor Bernd Huppauf, New York University, Interview on Germany before the War from "The Great War" series by PBS.

And, that this was a war that was fought not for material possessions, that was not fought for the annexation of territory, for colonies, but that it was a war in which Germany, herself, defended her bare existence.

In order to be able to understand this... one has to look back to the previous years, the last four decades. Germany had been united in 1871, considered herself to be a young nation — a latecomer. The world had been carved up before they had arrived. The world in terms of the colonies, the world in terms of power politics, of the structure of the big powers in Europe, had been finalized, and the Germans came late. Yet, they felt they deserved a position within this world, according to their self-esteem, according to their size, according to their grandiose history leading back into the Middle Ages. And, for quite some time, there was a discussion of the inevitability of war. And, that was common amongst all European societies. There was the fear that with German unification, the power structure had changed to a degree, that now war had to be waged. That war had become inevitable.

Document F

From: Robert K. Massie, Historian, Nicholas and Alexandra

... the last biggest mistake he [Nicholas] made was to take Russia into the First World War. He did this because of the Franco-Russian alliance which had been created and signed by his father. And, the Franco-Russian alliance was a product of the hegemony of imperial Germany. Both Russia and France were afraid of Germany. Germany had a preponderant military power. And, so, to balance that power, democratic France (republican France) and autocratic Russia signed an alliance. And, when the war began, and the whole series of events leading to war — the crisis in the Balkans; the Austrian attack on Serbia; Russia's defense of Serbia; Germany's defense of Austria; the German decision that if they were going have to fight Russia and France, they would strike at France first because it was a definable object.... Russia loyally declared war on Germany.

Document G

From: The Dual Alliance between Austria-Hungary and Germany, 7 October, 1879

ARTICLE 1. Should, contrary to their hope, and against the loyal desire of the two High Contracting Parties, one of the two Empires be attacked by Russia the High Contracting Parties are bound to come to the assistance one of the other with the whole war strength of their Empires, and accordingly only to conclude peace together and upon mutual agreement,

ARTICLE 2. Should one of the High Contracting Parties be attacked by another Power, the other High Contracting Party binds itself hereby, not only not to support the aggressor against its high Ally, but to observe at least a benevolent neutral attitude towards its fellow Contracting Party. Should, however, the attacking party in such a case be supported by Russia, either by an active cooperation or by military measures which constitute a menace to the Party attacked, then the obligation stipulated in Article 1 of this Treaty, for reciprocal assistance with the whole fighting force, becomes equally operative, and the conduct of the war by the two High Contracting Parties shall in this case also be in common until the conclusion of a common peace.

Document H

From: Collected Documents Relating to the Outbreak of the European War (London. 1915), p. 392. This is Document No. 45 quoted from the Serbian Blue Book, Declaration of War. Vienna, July 28, 1914

The Royal Serbian Government not having answered in a satisfactory manner the note of July 23, 1914, presented by the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Belgrade, the Imperial and Royal Government are themselves compelled to see to the safeguarding of their rights and interests, and, with this object, to have recourse to force of arms. Austria-Hungary consequently considers herself henceforward in state of war with Serbia.

Document I

From: The French Yellow Book, Document No. 1. M. Jules Cambon, French Ambassador at Berlin, to M. Jonnart, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Berlin, March 17, 1913.

However this may be, in increasing the strength of the German army the Empire desires to leave nothing to chance in the event of a possible crisis. The German changes have produced a result unexpected by that country, viz., the proposal of the Government of the Republic to re-establish the three years' service, and the manly determination with which this proposal has been welcomed in France. The surprise occasioned by these proposals' has been utilised by the Imperial Government for the purpose of insisting on the absolute necessity of an increase of German military strength; the German proposals are represented as a reply to our own. The reverse is the case, since the immense military effort which France is undertaking is but the consequence of German initiative.

Document J

Timeframe regarding German naval buildup

1898 -- The first Germany Navy Law, presented to the Reichstag in late 1897 by Naval Minister Admiral von Tirpitz, launched the beginning of a buildup of the German navy, which projected the building of 19 battleships, 12 large and 30 small cruisers and 8 coastal defense ships and spent approximately 20 million marks from 1898 - 1903

1900 -- The second Germany Navy Law initiated a 17-year program to build the German navy, which prescribed a doubling of the German fleet by 1907. Germany's aim was to have a navy stronger than any nation's except Great Britain's.

1905 -- The British introduced a new, heavier battleship, the "Dreadnought," and embarked on ambitious fleet building programs themselves.

1906 -- Tirpitz convinced the Reichstag to vote for further increases of the German navy in 1906, 1908, and 1912. He limited the service of his ships to 20 years, so he could replace the older ships by the new Dreadnought types.

Document K

From: The French Yellow Book, Document No. 1. M. de Faramond, Naval Attache, to the French Embassy at Berlin, to M. Baudin, Minister of Marine. Berlin, March 10, 1913.

The military and naval law of 1912 had been provisionally covered by the Budget surplus of the years 1910 and 1911, by the reform of the law with regard to alcohol and by delaying the reduction of the tax on sugar. (These last two resources only represent together the sum of 60,000,000 francs.)

It must also be remembered that large loans have recently been raised by the Empire and Prussia: 500,000,000 marks on the 29th January 1912, and 350,000,000 marks on the 7th March 1913.

Quite an important part of these loans must have been applied to military expenses.

Document L

From: The Franco-Russian Alliance Military Convention, 18 August, 1892

France and Russia, being animated by a common desire to preserve peace, and having no other object than to meet the necessities of a defensive war, provoked by an attack of the forces of the Triple Alliance against either of them, have agreed upon the following provisions:

1. If France is attacked by Germany, or by Italy supported by Germany, Russia shall employ all her available forces to attack Germany.

If Russia is attacked by Germany, or by Austria supported by Germany, France shall employ all her available forces to attack Germany.

2. In case the forces of the Triple Alliance, or of any one of the Powers belonging to it, should be mobilized, France and Russia, at the first news of this event and without previous agreement being necessary, shall mobilize immediately and simultaneously the whole of their forces, and shall transport them as far as possible to their frontiers.

Document M

From Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey, 2 July 1914 - Effect of Assassination in Serbia

Last Sunday the day on which the assassination took place happened to be the 525th anniversary of the battle of Kossovo, when the defeat of the Servians by the Turks brought about the downfall of the Servian Empire of Dushan. This anniversary was hitherto kept in Servia as a day of national mourning, but this year for the first time it was made the occasion of a national fete owing to the defeat of the Turks by the Servian army in 1912 and the reacquisition by Servia of Old Servia and Kossovo. The day was therefore celebrated throughout Servia, and many Servians and Croatians from over the border came to Belgrade to participate in the rejoicings which took the form of patriotic processions through the streets of the town. When the news of the assassination were spread in Belgrade (at about 8 P.M.) the Servian Government, fearing lest in the heat of excitement aroused by the patriotic rejoicings which were taking place, the chauvinist element might lend an anti-Austrian colour to the demonstrations, issued an order to the effect that as a sign of mourning all places of entertainment, including cafes, should turn out lights and close at 10 o'clock.

Document N

From: Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Rumbold (Berlin). Foreign Office, July 6, 1914.

The [German] Ambassador then went on to speak to me privately, he said, but very seriously, as to the anxiety and pessimism that he had found in Berlin. He explained that the murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand had excited very strong anti-Servian feeling in Austria; and he knew for a fact, though he did not know details, that the Austrians intended to do something and it was not impossible that they would take military action against Servia.

I said that surely they did not think of taking any territory?

The Ambassador replied that they did not wish to take territory, because they would not know what to do with it. He thought their idea was that they must have some compensation in the sense of some humiliation for Servia. The situation was exceedingly difficult for Germany; if she told the Austrians that nothing must be done, she would be accused of always holding them back and not supporting them; on the other hand if she let events take their course there was the possibility of very serious trouble.

Document O

W.E.B. Du Bois, "Close Ranks", in *The Crisis*. 1917. Dr. Du Bois was a leader in the African American community and the editor of the national Black newspaper, *The Crisis*.

That which the German power represents today spells death to the aspirations of Negroes and all darker races for equality, freedom and democracy . . . Let us, while this war lasts, forget our special grievances and close our ranks shoulder to shoulder with our white fellow citizens and the allied nations that are fighting for democracy.

Document P

HW Poon, "Causes of the First World War (1914-18)" Dated: 1 Dec. 2001.

<<http://www.thecorner.org/wwi/wwi.htm>>

Italy turned to Germany and Austria when she lost Tunis to France in 1881. Russia and Britain could patch up their differences and form an entente in 1907 as a result of their mutual fear of Germany's expansionist activities in the Balkans. Russia, Britain and France could become firm friends after 1907 partly because of aggressive attitude of Germany in both the first and the second Moroccan crises.

Document Q

From: Emperor Franz Joseph to Kaiser Wilhelm II, Budapest, September 29, 1908 on the Annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary

While these provinces, which have progressed culturally and materially in so gratifying a manner, have expressed a desire for some time to establish a constitution, these aims now, because of the altered state of affairs in the Ottoman Empire, have asserted themselves so vigorously that my Government no longer feels that it can oppose them, especially if the peaceful development of affairs on the southern borders of the monarchy is to be free of disturbances.

Since a constitution can be granted only by a sovereign power, I shall find myself forced to announce the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Document R

From: Trenches on the Web "Mar-Jun-1905 - The Morocco Crisis" Dated: 1996-2000.

<<http://www.worldwar1.com/tlmorcri.htm>>

Chancellor von Bulow decided that the Kaiser should visit the Sultan in Tangier and pledge German support should the French become more aggressive in their Moroccan policy. A reluctant Kaiser was, more or less, tricked by von Bulow into making the visit on 31-Mar-1905 (the Kaiser wanted to back out but von Bulow deliberately leaked news of the visit to the press and then told the Kaiser it was too late for a change of heart)...

The visit did not go well for the Kaiser. In his own words to Chancellor von Bulow: "I landed because you wanted me to in the interests of the Fatherland, mounted a strange horse in spite of the impediment my crippled left arm causes to my riding, and the horse was within an inch of costing me my life. I had to ride between Spanish anarchists because you wished it and your policy was to profit by it."

King Edward VII of Britain took the French side and described his nephew's [Wilhelm's] Moroccan visit as: "the most mischievous and uncalled for event which the German Emperor has been engaged in since he came to the throne."

Document S

From: Report of Councillor von Schoen, Envoy in the Imperial Suite, to the German Foreign Office on The Landing of Wilhelm H in Tangier, March 31, 1905

In conversing with the French agent, although at first the talk was without significance, yet when the latter conveyed his respects and greetings from Delcasse [French Minister of Foreign Affairs], the Kaiser replied that his visit meant that His Majesty wanted free trade for Germany and complete equality of rights with other countries.

When Count Cherisey [French ambassador to Morocco] was about to acknowledge these remarks courteously, His Majesty said that he would like to treat directly with the Sultan, the free ruler of an independent country, as an equal; that he himself would be able to make his just claims valid, and that he expected that these claims would also be recognized by France. Count Cherisey became pale. He was about to respond, but was curtly dismissed. He withdrew with drawn head.

Document T

From: Mary Evelyn Townsend, European Colonial Expansion Since 1871 (Chicago: J.P. Lippincott Company, 1941), p. 19; Extent of Colonization

	Great Britain	France	Belgium	Germany (1914)
Area of country (in Sq. Miles)	94,000	212,600	11,800	210,000
Population	45,500,100	42,000,000	8,300,000	67,500,000
Area of Colonies	13,100,000	4,300,000	940,000	1,100,000
Population of Colonies	470,000,000	65,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000

Document U

From: German Newspaper Advertisement, "Germany Awake!" June 24, 1890,

The diplomacy of the English works swiftly and secretly. What they created burst in the face of the astonished world on June 18th like a bomb—the German-English African Treaty. With one stroke of the pen—the hope of a great German colonial empire was ruined! Shall this treaty really be? No, no and again no! The German people must arise as one and declare that this treaty is unacceptable!

. . .The treaty with England harms our interests and wounds our honor; this time it dares not become a reality! We are ready at the call of our Kaiser to step into the ranks and allow ourselves dumbly and obediently to be led against the enemy's shots, but we may also demand in exchange that the reward come to us which is worth the sacrifice, and this reward is: that we shall be a conquering people which takes its portion of the world itself! *Deutschland wach auf!*

DBQ 19: Causes of World War I

Historical Context:

At the turn of the twentieth century, Europe seemed to enjoy a period of peace and progress. Yet below the surface, several forces were at work that would lead Europe into the "Great War." One of these forces was nationalism, and it had an explosive effect in the Balkans. But, nationalism was only one of the many causes of World War I. Historians and eyewitnesses have described the causes of World War I and have tried to assess the responsibility for it. What were the causes of World War I?

- ◆ **Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents in Part A. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author's point of view. Be sure to:
 1. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?
 2. Now, read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also wish to use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions which follow each document.
 3. Based on your own knowledge and on the information found in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the question.
 4. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.
 5. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. The essay should be logically presented and should include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge outside of the documents.

Question: Who and/or what caused World War I?

- ◆ **Part A:** The following documents provide information on the causes of World War I. Examine the documents carefully, and answer the questions that follow.

Document 1

This chart provides information on the increasing amounts of money spent on armaments from 1870 through 1914.

Per Capita Expenditures of the Great Powers on Armaments						
	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
Great Britain	\$3.54	\$3.46	\$3.84	\$12.60*	\$7.29	\$8.23
France	2.92	4.02	4.66	5.21	6.47	7.07
Russia	1.28	1.50	1.26	1.44	2.32	3.44
Germany	1.28	2.16	2.80	4.06	4.06	8.19
Austria-Hungary	1.08	1.70	1.50	1.46	1.68	3.10
Italy	1.38	1.74	2.52	2.34	3.36	3.16

* Boer War Costs

Source: From *Europe, 1815–1914*, by Gordon A. Craig, 1966.

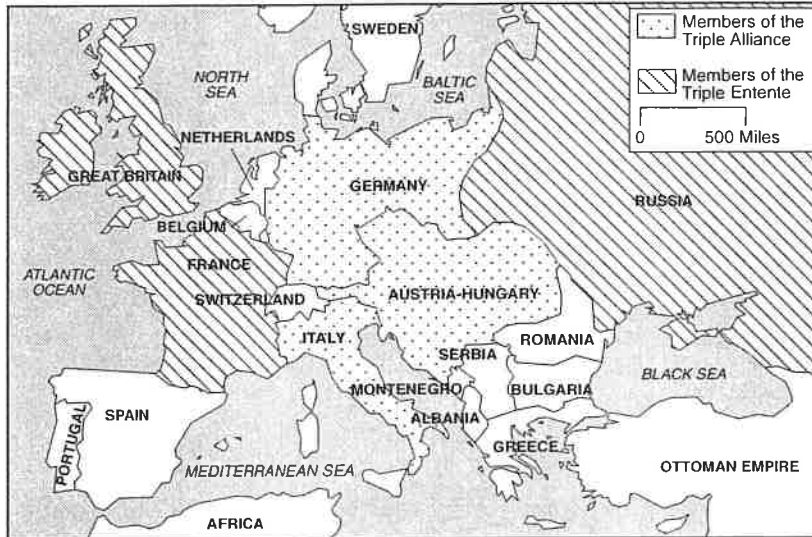
Which three countries increased the amount of money spent on weapons? _____
 How did this increase the chance of war? _____

(continued)

DBQ 19: Causes of World War I *(continued)*

Document 2

This map of Europe on the eve of World War I shows the alliance systems.



Who were the members of each alliance system? How did alliance systems contribute to the outbreak of World War I? _____

Document 3

This is an excerpt from the Austro-Hungarian Red Book No. 7. It is the ultimatum that Austria-Hungary sent to Serbia on July 23, 1914.

... the Royal Serbian Government has done nothing to repress these movements. It has permitted the criminal machinations of various societies and associations directed against the Monarchy, and has tolerated unrestrained language on the part of the press, the glorification of the perpetrators of outrages and the participation of officers and functionaries in subversive agitation. . . .

... [The] Royal Government see themselves compelled to demand from the Royal Serbian Government a formal assurance that they condemn this dangerous propaganda against the Monarchy. . . .

... To accept the collaboration in Serbia of representatives of the Austro-Hungarian Government for the suppression of the subversive movement . . .

What were the accusations made by Austria-Hungary to Serbia? _____

What two demands did Austria-Hungary make on Serbia? _____

(continued)

DBQ 19: Causes of World War I (continued)

Document 4

This excerpt is from Article 231 of the Versailles Treaty, which Germany signed, thereby ending World War I.

... The Allied and Associate Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage. . . .

According to the Versailles Treaty, who was responsible for World War I? _____
Why? _____

Document 5

In this excerpt from May 7, 1919, Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, leader of the German delegation to the Versailles Peace Conference, protested.

It is demanded of us that we shall confess ourselves to be alone guilty of the war. Such a confession from my lips would be a lie. We are far from declining all responsibility for the fact that this great World War took place or that it was fought in the way that it was. . . . But we energetically deny that Germany and its people, who were convinced that they fought a war of defense, were alone guilty. No one would want to assert that the disaster began only at that disastrous moment when the successor of Austria-Hungary fell a victim to murderous hands. In the last fifty years, the imperialism of all European states has chronically poisoned international relations. Policies of retaliation, policies of expansion, and disregard for the right of peoples to determine their own destiny, have contributed to the European malady which came to a crisis in the World War. The mobilization of Russia deprived statesmen of the opportunity of curing the disease, and placed the issue in the hands of the military powers. . . .

What position did the German delegation leader present? _____

What did he say caused the war? _____

Document 6

In his book, *Origins of the World War*, Sidney Bradshaw Fay stated his position on the causes of World War I.

Nevertheless, a European war broke out. Why? Because in each country [of Europe] political and military leaders did certain things which lead to the mobilization [of their armies for war] and [finally] to the declarations of war, or [these leaders] failed to do certain things which might have prevented [the war]. In this sense, all the European countries in greater or lesser degree were responsible [for the outbreak of World War I].

Name _____ Date _____

DBQ 19: Causes of World War I *(continued)*

According to this author, who was responsible for the outbreak of World War I? _____

What did he cite as evidence to support this claim? _____

Document 7

This is an excerpt from *The Century of Total War* by Raymond Aron (Doubleday & Co. 1954).

. . . The rise of Germany, whose supremacy France dreaded and whose navy menaced [or threatened] England, had created among [England and France] an alliance which claimed it was defensive in nature but was denounced by German propaganda as an attempt at [the] encirclement [of Germany]. The two armed camps alarmed each other, and each grew heavy with multiplied incidents, which spread East [with the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand], where Russia and Austria were advancing contradictory claims. . . .

What role did the assassination and the ultimatum play in the outbreak of the war? _____

What responsibility did the alliance systems play in the outbreak of the war? _____

◆ Part B—Essay

Who and/or what caused World War I?

