

ACTIVITY 1: CAUSES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR THROUGH TEXTS

WHAT WAS THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE OUTBREAK OF WW1?

After you read each document, circle which one of the MAIN causes it represents (M=Militarism/A=Alliances; I=Imperialism; N=Nationalism). Underline or highlight the language that supports your decision(s). YES! One document can have multiple answers. Also, identify which country produced the document in the box labelled, "Nation of Origin."

Source A	Nation of Origin:	M A I N
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Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany: Speech to the North German Regatta Association, 1901

In spite of the fact that we have no such fleet as we should have, we have conquered for ourselves a place in the sun. It will now be my task to see to it that this place in the sun shall remain our undisputed possession, in order that the sun's rays may fall fruitfully upon our activity and trade in foreign parts, that our industry and agriculture may develop within the state and our sailing sports upon the water, for our future lies upon the water.

What position is Wilhem II supporting?

Which countries may feel threatened by Wilhem II speech?

Source B	Nation of Origin:	M A I N
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German political cartoon, 1911. Source unknown.



What policy is Wilhem II supporting in the Agadir crisis?

Which countries may feel threatened by Wilhem II policy?

Source C	Nation of Origin:	M A I N
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Telegram from the Imperial Chancellor, von Bethmann-Hollweg, to the German Ambassador at Vienna. Tschirschky, July 6, 1914 Berlin, July 6, 1914

Confidential. For Your Excellency's personal information and guidance
Finally, as far as concerns Serbia, His Majesty, of course, cannot interfere in the dispute now going on between Austria-Hungary and that country, as it is a matter not within his competence. The Emperor Francis Joseph may, however, rest assured that His Majesty will faithfully stand by Austria-Hungary, as is required by the obligations of his alliance and of his ancient friendship.

What "dispute" is the author referring to?

Why would the Austrian emperor feel assured?

Source D	Nation of Origin:	M A I N
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Clemenceau Calls France to Arms, speech given in Paris, France. 5 August 1914

And now to arms, all of us! I have seen weeping among those who cannot go first. Everyone's turn will come. There will not be a child of our land who will not have a part in the enormous struggle. To die is nothing. We must win. And for that we need all men's power. The weakest will have his share of glory. There come times, in the life of peoples, when there passes over them a tempest of heroic action.

According to this speech, how was the social attitude towards war in France in August 1914?

Source E	Nation of Origin:	M A I N
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From the German White Book. FOREIGN OFFICE, Berlin, August 1914.

On June 28th the Austro-Hungarian successor to the throne, Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, were assassinated by a member of a band of Servian conspirators. The investigation of the crime through the Austro-Hungarian authorities has yielded the fact that the conspiracy against the life of the Arch-Duke and successor to the throne was prepared in Belgrade with the co-operation of Servian officials, and executed with arms from the Servian State arsenal. This crime must have opened the eyes of the entire civilized world, not only in regard to the aims of the Servian policies directed against the conservation and integrity of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, but also concerning the criminal means which the pan-Serb propaganda in Servia had no hesitation in employing for the achievement of these aims. The goal of these policies was the gradual revolutionizing and final separation of the south-easterly districts from the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and their union with Servia... In this manner for the third time in the course of the last 6 years Servia has led Europe to the brink of a world-war... Under these circumstances it was clear to Austria that it was not compatible with the dignity and the spirit of self-preservation of the monarchy to view idly any longer this agitation across the border.

What policy is Servia been blamed for?

Explain the underlined sentence.

Activity 2: CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY.

1914 CRISIS: Look at the information in the ppt and in [this link](#) and answer the questions below.

- A) **WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES IN THE OUTBREAK OF WAR?** Fill in the gaps.

In the peace treaties that followed the end of the Great War, Germany and its allies were declared the only responsible for causing the war. Yet, many countries played an important role in the month that followed the assassination of the Austrian heir. Among them, some countries that belonged to the winners, such as (1) _____ and (2) _____.

1. In fact (3) _____ was allied to France, promising each other to go to war if either was attacked by the aggressively industrializing Germany or Austria. Besides, (4) _____ gave a strong support to (5) _____ nationalism challenging Austro-Hungary role in the Balkans. Finally, the (6) _____ were the first ones to mobilise their army, although no declaration of war had been addressed directly against them.

2. The responsibility of (7) _____ is also important, as they were provoking Austro-Hungary constantly, challenging its survival as multi-ethnic empire throughout several crisis.

3. On the other hand, (8) _____ sent an ultimatum with too harsh terms, impossible to accept by the Serbians, so it seems very likely that they really wanted to punish Serbia and maybe, to start war against Russia as well.

4.- Prior to the ultimatum, (9) _____ had ensured the unconditional support to Austria ("the blank cheque") thus encouraging its ally (10) _____ to start an aggressive action against (11) _____. By doing this, the (12) _____ were ignoring the (13) _____ and therefore getting close to war. ___

- B) MAKE A DIAGRAM REPRESENTING THE ROLE OF EACH COUNTRY IN THE OUTBREAK OF WAR (see ppt, slide N.8)
- C) DO YOU THINK THAT WAR COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED? HOW? WHICH COUNTRY COULD HAVE ACTED DIFFERENTLY IN ORDER TO AVOID WAR?
- D) WHICH COUNTRY DO YOU THINK WAS THE MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTBREAK OF WAR: SERBIA, AUSTRIA, GERMANY OR RUSSIA? WHY? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWER

ACTIVITY 3: WHAT WORD IS DEFINED?

1. Kaiser **Wilhelm II** of Germany's unconditional promise to defend Austria-Hungary if Russia attacked it while Austria was invading Serbia. The guarantee was made on July 5, 1914, a week after Archduke Ferdinand's assassination.-->
2. A terrorist Serbian nationalist group that was responsible for training and arming **Gavrilo Princip** and others who participated in the assassination of Archduke **Franz Ferdinand**.->
3. The longest and one of the deadliest battles of the war, lasting from February 21 to December 18, 1916. The battle ended without a clear victor, despite the deaths of more than 650,000 soldiers.-->
4. A battle in Prussia (present-day Poland) on August 26–30, 1914, in which two German armies defeated Russia, which suffered over 120,000 casualties→.
5. An alliance during World War I that originally consisted of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Other nations, including Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire, joined later.-->
6. Fought in northern France, was one of the bloodiest of World War I. For five months the British and French armies fought the Germans in a brutal battle of attrition on a 15 – mile front.
7. The aims of this battle were to relieve the French Army fighting at Verdun and to weaken the German Army. However, the Allies were unable to break through German lines. In total, there were over a million dead and wounded on all sides.-->
8. A German military plan, formulated in 1905, that stipulated that if war were expected, Germany should first attack France before embarking upon military actions against Russia. It was based on the idea that Russia would require several weeks in order to mobilize its troops and assemble them along the German border. Under the plan, Germany hoped to overrun France in only six weeks by attacking across France's borders with Belgium and Holland, which were less fortified than the border with Germany.-->
9. A prewar alliance among Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy, formalized in 1882. At the start of World War I, Italy dropped out of this alliance, initially maintaining a neutral position in regard to the war.-->
10. A war in which victory is determined purely by which side is better able to endure numerous, prolonged casualties (as opposed to a war in which victory is determined by accomplishing a specific objective, such as capturing a major city).It is often related to the trench warfare and the battles of Verdun and the Somme→

activity 5

EUROPE IN 1919



EUROPE IN 1914



- 1.- LOCATE THE NEW COUNTRIES THAT WERE CREATED AFTER WW1.
 - 2.- WHICH ONES HAD BELONGED TO THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE? WHICH ONES TO THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE? Make a key to distinguish them
 - 3.- LOCATE THE EAST PRUSSIA. WHAT COUNTRY DID IT BELONG TO?
 - 4.- LOCATE DANZIG, WHAT IS THE "POLISH CORRIDOR"?
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Activity 8 KEY TERMS OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES WITH GERMANY: a source of future problems.

Complete the outline IN YOUR NOTEBOOK

- a) **War guilt:** Germany was forced to...
- b) **Reparations:** Germany had to pay reparations for the damage...
- c) **Anchluss:** Germany and _____ were not allowed to_____.
- d) **Disarmament:** The Germany army was limited to No tanks, air force, submarines were permitted.restricted to 6 battleships.
- e) **The Rhineland:** was to be a demilitarised zone. German troops not allowed in the area. An Allied army would occupy the west bank of the Rhine for_____years.
- f) **German colonies:** became mandates of the League of Nations, which effectively meant that _____and _____controlled them

Activity 9: Read these articles about the Treaty of Versailles, rephrase them and match them with the terms they refer to.

The Treaty of Versailles

On June 28, 1919, the Allied powers presented the Treaty of Versailles to Germany for signature. The following are the key territorial and political clauses.

Article 25. The Members of the League agree to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organizations having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world.

Summary

Article 51. The territories which were ceded to Germany in accordance with the Preliminaries of Peace signed at Versailles on February 26, 1871, and the Treaty of Frankfurt of May 10, 1871, are restored to French sovereignty as from the date of the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

Summary

Article 119. Germany renounces in favor of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions.

Summary

Article 159. The German military forces shall be demobilized and reduced as prescribed Hereinafter

Summary

Article 160. By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry. The total effective strength of officers, including the personnel of staffs, whatever their composition, must not exceed four thousand....

Summary

Article 231. The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Summary:

Article 232. The Allied and Associated Governments recognize that the resources of Germany are not adequate, after taking into account permanent diminutions of such resources which will result from other provisions of the present Treaty, to make complete reparation for all such loss and damage.

Summary:

CONCLUSION:

DRAW YOUR CONCLUSIONS. *WERE THE TERMS OF THE TREATY FAIR? TO WHICH EXTENT WERE THE NON-TERRITORIAL TERMS OF THE TREATY A SENSIBLE COMPROMISE? WHAT CONSEQUENCES WILL IT BRING ABOUT?*