

World War I

Outcome: Causes for World War I



Underlying Causes

1. What Causes Most Wars

- a. Extreme Nationalism (“Super Patriotism” or love for one’s country)
- b. Imperialism: Spreading the political or economic control of one country over another
- c. Militarism: using force or the threat of force against another nation
- d. Entangled system of alliances (secret)
- e. Fanatical leaders

Underlying Causes

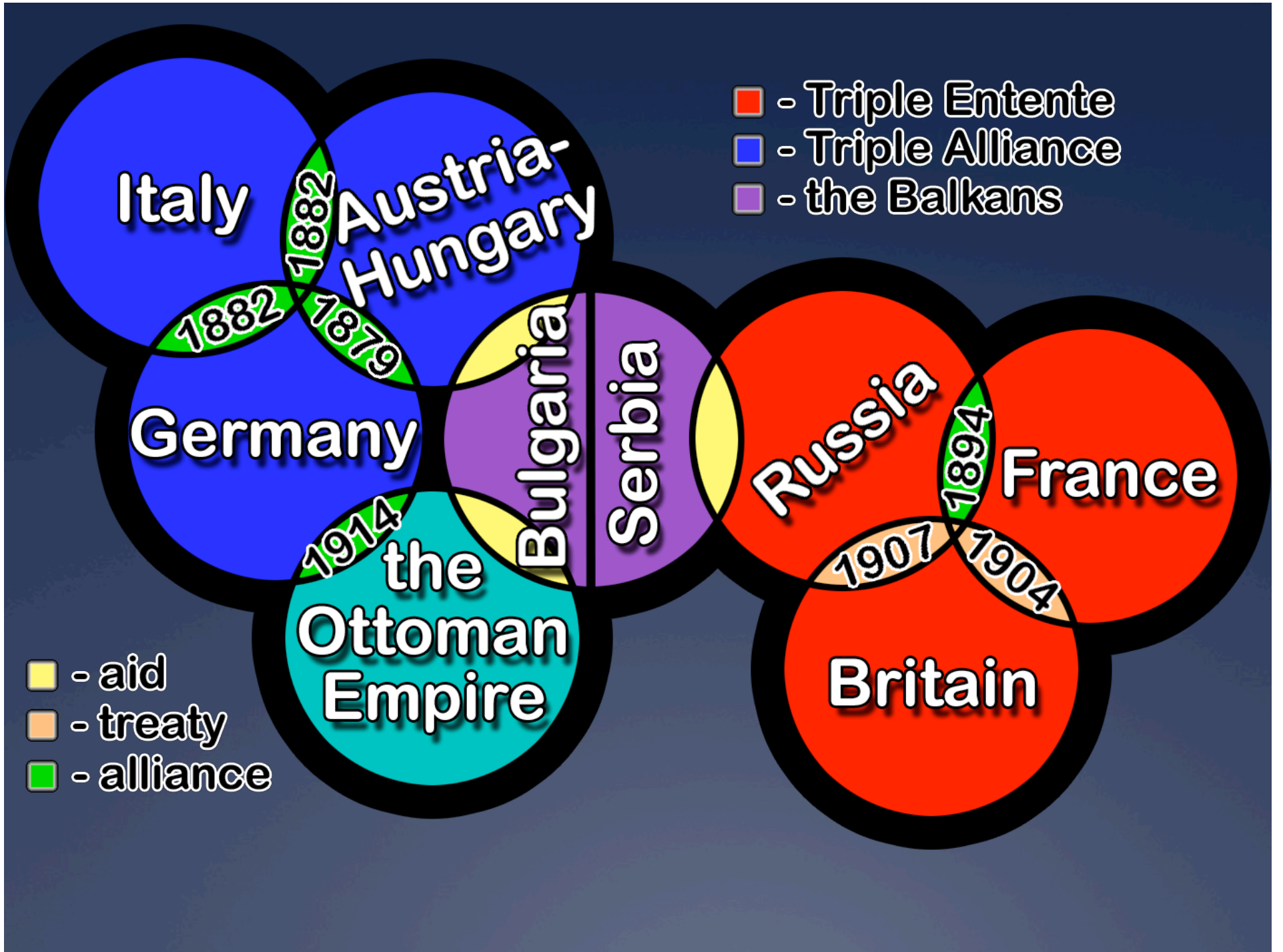
2. Rival Alliances Created a “False Sense of Security”

a. Triple Entente

- i. Great Britain: King George V
- ii. France: Premier Clemenceau
- iii. Russia: Czar Nicholas II

b. Triple Alliance

- i. Germany: Kaiser Wilhelm II
- ii. Austria-Hungary: Emanuel II



Causes of World War I

3. What Caused World War I

a. Unrest in the Balkans

- i. Bosnians felt abused under the rule of Austria-Hungary
- ii. Goal: To create a “Greater Serbia” (unite Slavic people)
- iii. This movement was strongly supported by “Mother Russia”

Causes of World War I

- b. June 28, 1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand (Austria's heir to the throne) was assassinated by a Bosnian Serb Nationalist while on a good will trip to Sarajevo, Bosnia. This spark would ignite the war.



Archduke shot by Gavrillo Princip



Causes of World War I

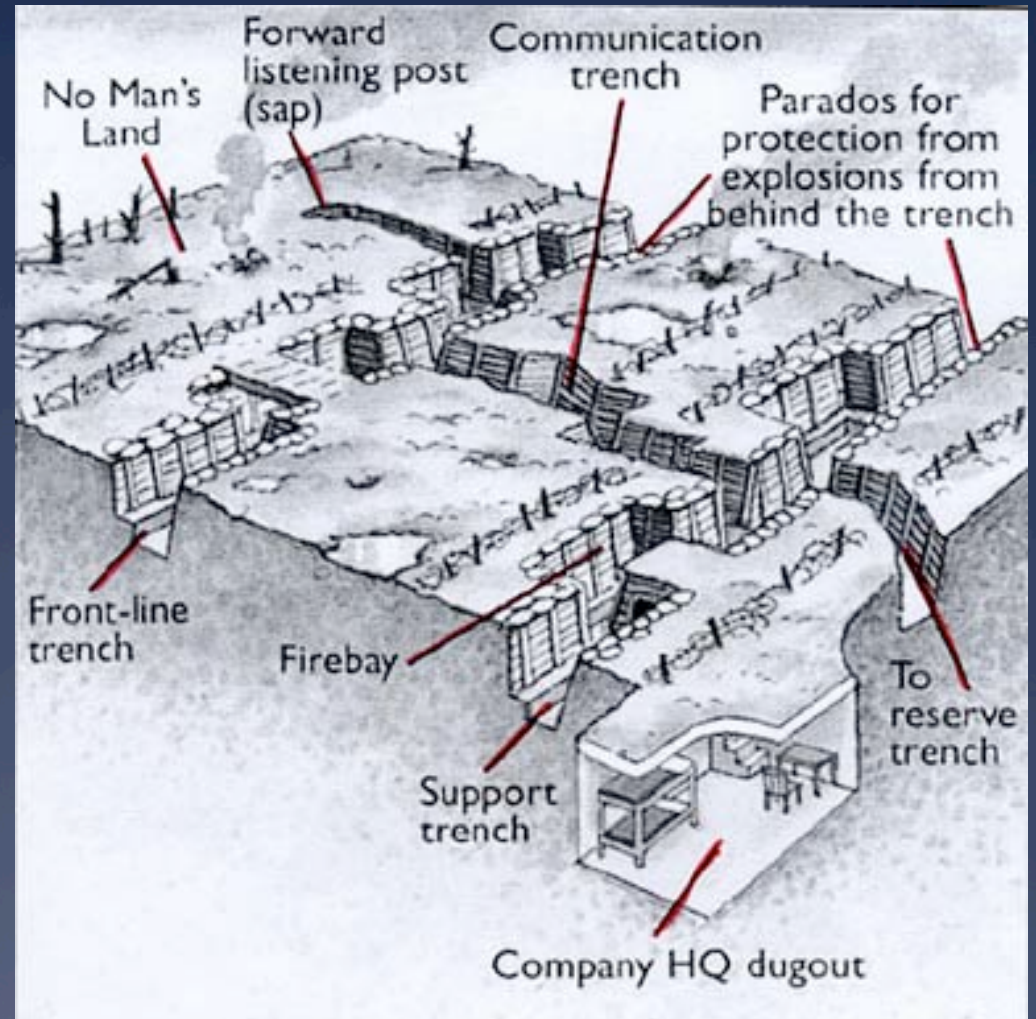
c. Alliance Unfolded:

- i. Austria declared war on Serbia
- ii. Russia supported Serbia (mother country w/ethnic ties)
- iii. Germany sided w/Austria & declared war on Russia
- iv. France was obligated to help Russia & Great Britain to help France
- v. By August 5, 1914, Europe was engulfed in war!

Causes of World War I

- d. Germany's "Schlieffen Plan" to avoid a 2 front war failed
 - i. Front: zone of conflict between armies
 - ii. Western Front would mostly be in France
 - iii. Area between armies was known as "no man's land"
 - iv. Fighting two fronts puts a giant strain on resources and man power

Trench Warfare



No Man's Land



Causes of World War I

4. The Fighting Sides

- a. Triple Alliance becomes “The Central Powers” (The Bad Guys)
 - i. Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria
 - ii. Italy gave up its defensive agreement w/Germany & joined other side

Causes of World War I

- b. Triple Entente becomes “The Allied Powers” or “Allies” (The Good Guys)
 - i. Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy,
 - ii. U.S. would join in April of 1917

- * Eventually over 50 nations were involved in “The Great War”

WWI Central Powers vs Allied Powers

