

*** Germany - Motives for World War I ***

1. Desire for National Prestige:

Germany sought to assert itself as a dominant European power, competing with Britain.

2. Support for Austria-Hungary:

Germany's alliance with Austria-Hungary meant that it was committed to supporting Austria.

3. Fear of Encirclement:

Germany feared being surrounded by hostile powers, especially France and Russia.

4. Expansion of Territory:

Germany wanted to expand its territorial influence, particularly at the expense of France.

5. Defense of the Kaiser's Authority:

The German leadership, under Kaiser Wilhelm II, saw the war as an opportunity to assert authority.