

*** Austria-Hungary - Motives for World War I ***

1. Desire to Maintain Power:

Austria-Hungary sought to preserve its influence in the Balkans, where nationalism was rising.

2. Support for Serbia's Suppression:

Following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian nationalist, Austria-Hungary sought to suppress Serbian influence.

3. Fear of Nationalism:

Austria-Hungary feared the growing nationalism within its empire, particularly among Slavic peoples.

4. Alliance with Germany:

Austria-Hungary relied on its alliance with Germany to strengthen its position against Russia and France.

5. Revenge for Assassination:

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was seen as a personal and political insult, leading to a desire for revenge.

6. Desire to Expand Influence in the Balkans:

Austria-Hungary aimed to expand its dominance over the Balkans and prevent Serbian expansion.

7. Preventing Russian Influence:

Austria-Hungary wanted to prevent Russian influence over Slavic nations in Eastern Europe.

8. Preserving the Empire:

Austria-Hungary believed that military action against Serbia would strengthen the empire and deter other challenges.

*** United Kingdom - Motives for World War I ***

1. Protection of National Security:

The UK wanted to prevent the domination of Europe by Germany and to protect its global interests.

2. Defending Belgium:

When Germany violated Belgium's neutrality, the UK was compelled to intervene.

3. Maintaining Balance of Power:

The UK was concerned that if Germany were allowed to grow too powerful, it would upset the balance of power in Europe.

4. Support for France and Russia:

The UK had alliances with France and Russia, leading to military and diplomatic support during the war.

*** France - Motives for World War I ***

1. Desire for Revenge:

France wanted to regain the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which were lost to Germany in 1871.

2. Defending National Security:

France feared further German expansion and sought to protect its borders from Germany.

3. Alliance with Russia:

France had a military alliance with Russia and was committed to supporting Russian interests.

4. Support for Serbia:

France sympathized with Serbia, especially after Austria-Hungary declared war, and saw it as a chance to weaken Germany's ally.

5. Defending Democracy:

France, as a republic, sought to protect its democratic ideals from the monarchical and imperialist ambitions of Germany.

*** 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.

*** Ottoman Empire - Motives for World War I ***

1. Desire to Preserve the Empire:

The Ottoman Empire sought to maintain control over its territories, particularly in the

2. Internal Instability:

The empire was facing internal decay, and the ruling regime hoped that military invol

3. Desire to Expand Territorial Influence:

The Ottoman Empire aimed to regain lost territories and expand its influence, particul

4. Alliance with Germany:

The Ottoman Empire joined the war alongside Germany in hopes of receiving military

5. Preventing Russian Expansion:

The Ottomans feared Russian territorial expansion in the Caucasus and the Black Se

6. Protecting the Suez Canal:

The Ottoman Empire sought to protect its strategic position in the Middle East, particu

*** Russia - Motives for World War I ***

1. Defense of Slavic Nations:

Russia saw itself as the protector of Slavic peoples, particularly Serbia, and intervened to support them.

2. Expansion of Influence:

Russia wanted to expand its influence in the Balkans, particularly at Austria-Hungary's expense.

3. Fear of German Power:

Russia viewed Germany's growing power as a direct threat to its own influence in Europe.

4. Alliance with France:

Russia had an alliance with France, and this compelled it to defend French interests, particularly in the Balkans.

5. Internal Stability:

The Russian Tsar believed war could unite the people and deflect attention from rising domestic issues.