

*** 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.