

THE ORIGINS OF WORLD **WAR ONE**

Lobj: to conclude our investigation
into the causes of World War One

- Checklist and highlighter
- Letters to parents

The World changed in 1871

- 1871 = war between France & Prussia (soon to be Germany)
- Alsace & Lorraine, part of France, became part of a new German Empire.
- The arrival of this 'new Germany' destabilised international relations.
- It was an economic & military powerhouse – and frightened others

Beliefs

- Germany, like many other countries believed in:
 1. Nationalism – **believe in your country, no matter if they are right or wrong**
 2. Imperialism – **my nation has the right to conquer other lands – Empire.**
 3. Militarism – **it was important for countries to have strong, well-prepared fighting forces**

WELTPOLITIK

- Kaiser of Germany = Wilhelm II
- Germany was strong with a huge army – but they felt they weren't taken seriously as they had no Empire
- Kaiser wanted this 'place in the sun' – and would use an aggressive foreign policy to get it

WELTPOLITIK 2

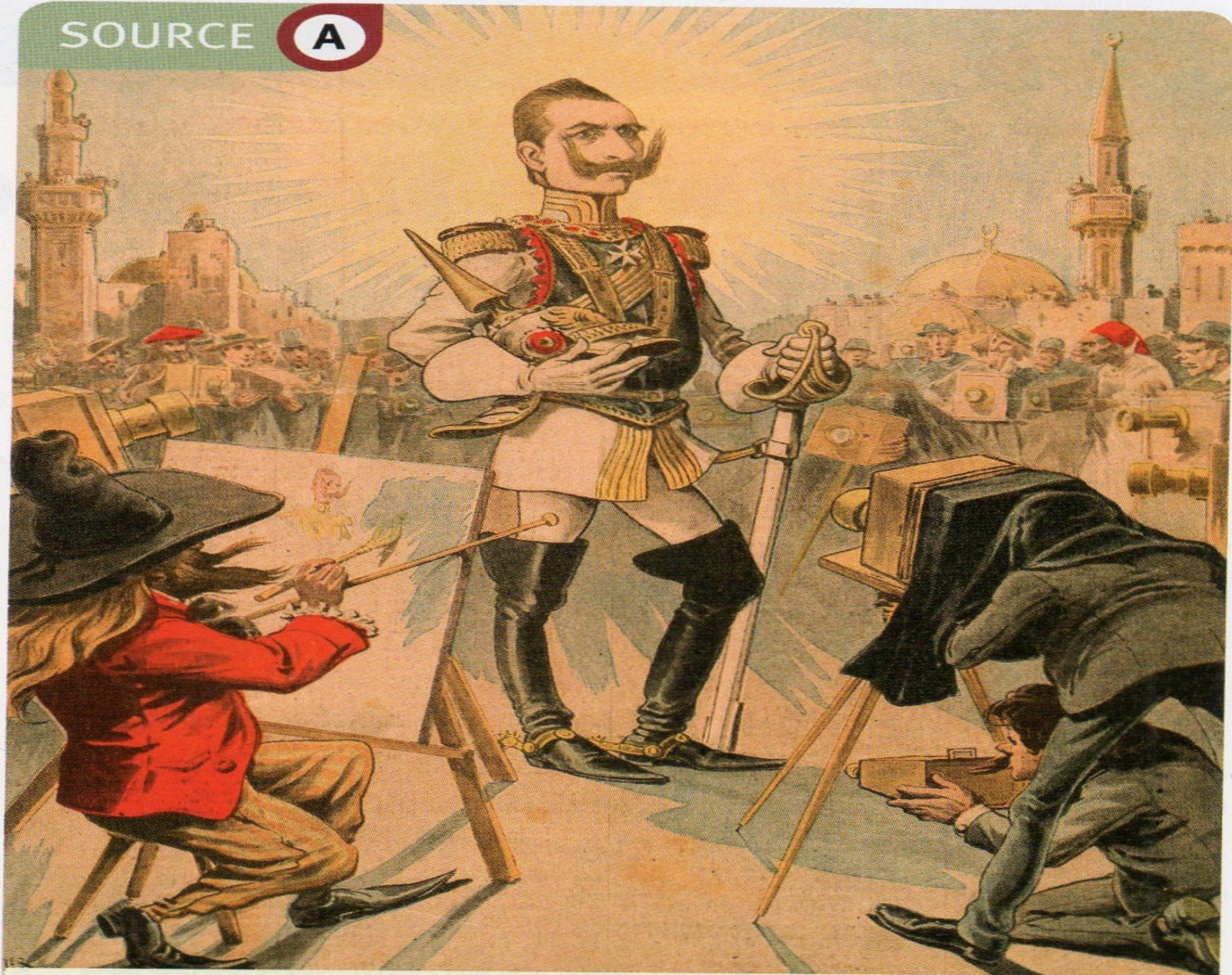
- The Kaiser wanted Germany to be a huge trading Nation – need an Empire (esp Africa)
- Wanted to be like Britain (Empire = 1/5 of the World)
- These policies spread fear into GB, France & Russia
- Kaiser gave an interview to the DailyTelegraph – said the English were ‘mad’ and that the German ‘disliked’ them





SOURCE

A





This cartoon was drawn by a French artist. It picks up on Kaiser Wilhelm II's famous declaration, made in 1901, that he wanted Germany to have 'a place in the sun'. In the cartoon, a haughty Wilhelm is dressed in military uniform and is being cheered, photographed and painted. The cartoonist ridicules Wilhelm's physical appearance, including his withered left arm (a deformity he had had since birth).

The cartoonist suggests that Wilhelm was a ridiculous, militaristic megalomaniac.

Pan-German league & Mitteleuropa

- This was a strong state that would include all the German speakers (Germanic Race)
- Be dominated by Germany itself.



This map shows the Triple Alliance (in yellow) and the Triple Entente (in red). It also shows, surrounded in brown, the countries which the Pan-German League wanted to be part of Mitteleuropa.

WW1 – who was to blame?

- **Serbia?** – rejected Austria's ultimatum and encouraged the assassinated Franz Ferdinand
- **Austria-Hungary?** – manipulated the situation to invade Serbia.
- **Russia?** – mobilised troops against A-H knowing it would provoke Germany
- **Germany?** – blamed for wanting a war – did not accept that Russian troops would only attack A-H not them; Schlieffen Plan
- **GB ?** – for the Naval race & getting involved in a war on a technicality (Belgium)