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Unit 7 LEQ

In the 20th century, imperialism, nationalism, alliances, and militarism were the main causes of global conflicts. For instance, imperialism would cause rivalries between nations along with mistrust among the countries and built empires that ruled over many diverse people. Nationalism would encourage tension among the European countries, and this led to problems leading up to global conflicts. For example, Germany became very militaristic and many countries would follow suit. After the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, it would trigger World War I due to blaming and accusations. Austria-Hungary blamed the Serbs for the death of Archduke Ferdinand, and this would lead to World War I. Furthermore, unfair policies and treaties were forced upon civilians and this fact also led to global conflicts during the 20th century.

During the 20th century, propaganda among nations had helped boost political and economic tensions between nations. These tensions and problems kept building up and would eventually lead to global conflicts amongst states. German propaganda of anti-Semitism would increase hatred for the Jewish and lead to invasions and vicious acts that led to global conflicts. This would be an example of imperialism and nationalism. Although some would argue that alliances had a big part in global conflicts, militarism, nationalism, and imperialism had a bigger part in global conflicts.

New technological advances in weapons would influence battles and wars. For instance, the Maxim machine gun is an automatic machine gun that could plow people with ease. This weapon would change warfare and was a big factor of imperialism. The Maxim machine gun would give Europeans an advantage while fighting. The use of militarism is a huge part in leading global conflicts since it determines the power and strength of a nation’s ability to attack or defend. The belief that a nation should have a strong military and navy would be able defend against threats and attacks rose. Countries would try to improve their defenses and wanted to cause major damage to rivals. Militarism built fear and tension among European nations. Furthermore, militarism would make competition between nations and this led to global conflicts. For instance, the British had the largest navy in the world in the early 20th century. Germany had envied Britain for having a stronger navy, so they decided to grow their navy and built more ships. Britain, in response, built more ships because they wanted to keep their title of largest navy. Militarism had started competition, tension and a race between Germany and Britain to see who could build better ships and overall, a better navy. The arms race among powers started conflicts. Moreover, militarism would increase the belief of social Darwinism. This was the belief that only the fittest could survive in political and economic struggles. This answers why some nations were more successful than others. The European nations had this mentality and wanted to become the best, fighting for the number one position. In addition, militarism led to fear, intimidation, and suspicion. Nations would feel endangered if a surrounding country had a bigger military. In response to that, nations would start upgrading their own military to keep up. This domino effect would spur throughout Europe. Rivalries developed and wars would start. Eventually, rivalries would worsen, and the wars would end up more grave, leading to global conflicts. Militarism, as shown, is more important than alliances and had a bigger role in global conflicts.

Imperialism and nationalism had a bigger part in global conflicts than alliances. European countries have been conquering colonies throughout history and imperialism causes competition. Wars have begun because of nations competing for colonies, land, power and wealth. The increasing desire and competition for bigger empires would lead to global conflicts. As European countries gained colonies, the colonies that were taken over are committed to help the native country fight. For instance, European countries were fighting over territory in Africa due to the resources and land. Eventually, this fight would lead to bigger conflicts and control of a colony. States that are hungry for more land, wealth and power would do anything possible to obtain progress and reach their goal. This would involve fighting or unfair agreements, which can lead to global conflicts. Furthermore, nationalism would have a bigger role in global conflicts than alliances and increased tension, having an influence in the cause of World War 1. These strong nationalism feelings and pride towards their own countries made nations aggressive towards other states. Nationalism made nations want to be the best. Each country wanted to show how strong and power, trying to prove their dominance. Every nation wanted to have the best of everything, such as military, army, buildings, education, etc. Nationalism would lead to militarism and would make tensions high in wars and conflicts. Nationalism would keep building tension and caused many conflicts. Nationalism led to hatred among other nations and this led to pressure and strain. Although alliances did have a part in global conflicts, its influence is smaller than the others. Alliances between nations would only cause tension due to kept secrets and paranoia. The role of imperialism and nationalism would lead to militarism, which eventually led to global conflicts in the period 1900 to the present.