

## Further Reading 2: The Alliance System and World War I



1. What is the message of this cartoon? *Answer in 2-3 sentences.*
2. Below is a scene in 'Blackadder Goes Forth' in which Blackadder outlines the alliance system. Write down the words that fill in the gaps IN ORDER.

Words:	Austro-Hungary	Archduke	Deterrent	Prevent	Flaw	Superblobs
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**Baldrick:** I heard that the war started when a bloke called Archie Duke shot an ostrich 'cause he was hungry.

**Blackadder:** I think you mean it started when the \_\_\_\_\_ of Austro-Hungary got shot.

**Baldrick:** Nah, there was definitely an ostrich involved, sir.

**Blackadder:** Well, possibly. But the real reason for the whole thing was that it was too much effort not to have a war... You see, Baldrick in order to \_\_\_\_\_ war in Europe, two \_\_\_\_\_ developed: us, the French and the Russians on one side, and the Germans and \_\_\_\_\_ on the other. The idea was to have two vast opposing armies, each acting as the other's \_\_\_\_\_. That way there could never be a war.

**Baldrick:** But this is a sort of a war, isn't it, Sir?

**Blackadder:** Yes that's right. You see, there was a tiny \_\_\_\_\_ in the plan.

**Baldrick:** What was that, sir?

**Blackadder:** It was b\*locks.

**Baldrick:** So the poor ostrich died for nothing then.