

How did alliances lead to World War I?

Today I will practise:

- **Research skills** (knowing where to find information)
- **Explanation skills:** identifying the **reasons (causes)** of events

TASK: Answer the questions in FULL SENTENCES using the information below

1. Which countries formed the 'Triple Alliance' in 1882?
2. Which countries had formed the 'Triple Entente' by 1907, in response?
3. Who developed the idea of an alliance system?
4. What land was given to Germany by France after Germany defeated them?
5. What was Bismarck's objective in forming an alliance with other countries?
6. What made Britain change their minds and make friends with France?
7. Why did Germany draw up something called 'The Schlieffen Plan'?

The Alliance System

Introduction: in 1882, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed the Triple Alliance. This alarmed, France, Britain and Russia. By 1907, they had all joined the Triple Entente. Europe was divided into two armed camps, to help each other if there was a war.

Origins: the idea of an 'alliance' system was developed by **Bismarck**, chancellor of Prussia (a state in modern Germany). Before 1871, Germany was not a unified country, but a collection of independent states, like 'Prussia'. Bismarck picked a war with France to unify these states together in a new country – Imperial Germany. Bismarck thought that fighting a common enemy would help each individual German state to come together – and he was right.

In the Franco-Prussian war, France was defeated and lost Alsace-Lorraine to Germany. Bismarck didn't want any more wars after 1871 – he wanted to keep Germany safe, so he formed a network of alliances (forming friendships with Austria in 1879 and Italy in 1882) to deter enemies from attacking Germany

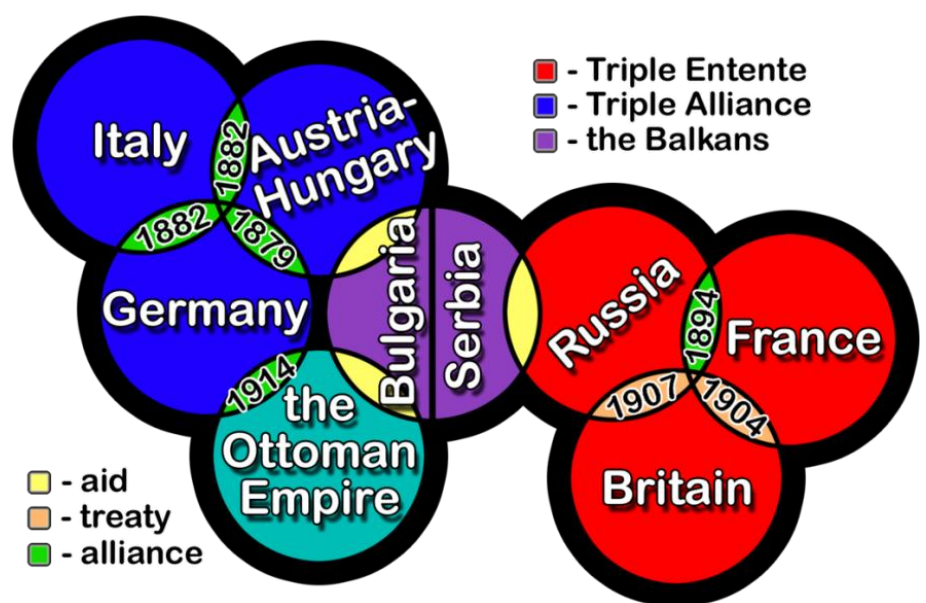
and prevent it becoming surrounded. Bismarck was worried about Germany being surrounded, because Germany is slap-bang in the middle of Europe.

France of course did exactly the same! France feared more attacks from a united and strong Germany, so built up its forces on its borders and looked for friends. In 1893, France formed an alliance with Russia, who had its borders with both Germany and Austria. In the past, France's main rival had been Britain, but because Britain was so worried about growing German power, they reached an agreement and formed a friendship. Finally, Britain and Russia reached a similar agreement and the Triple Entente was finally formed. Britain said it was doing so 'to prevent Germany taking over all of Europe'.

Austria-Hungary had its own reasons for forming an alliance. It was in danger of falling apart. Some areas of the Empire were trying to become independent with the support of Russia: Austria needed a strong ally.

The Times commented: 'the division of the great powers into two balanced groups will check ambition and outbreaks of hatred'. Many people would have agreed with this comment: they thought that as long as the two alliances were equal in strength, they would not risk attacking each other, and so peace would be kept.

But suspicion between the two alliances grew. The Germans were so certain that they were being surrounded by Russia and France, ready for attack, that in 1905 German army generals drew up the 'Schlieffen Plan'. They planned to attack and defeat France quickly, by going through neutral Belgium, avoiding France's defences. They would then turn and fight the Russians who, the Germans believed, would take time getting their army ready to fight.



TASK: Use the information from these two tables to complete a summary table of the combined strength of each alliance.

The Triple Alliance

	Germany	Italy	Austria-Hungary
Population	65 million	35 million	50 million
Soldiers	2,200,000	750,000	810,000
Ships and Submarines	110	48	90
Money spent on weapons	£60 million	£10 million	£22 million
People in their Empire	15 million	2 million	None

The Triple Entente

	Britain	France	Russia
Population	45 million	40 million	64 million
Soldiers	711,000	1,250,000	1,200,000
Ships and Submarines	249	35	39
Money spent on weapons	£50 million	£37 million	£67 million
People in their Empire	390 million	58 million	None

Look at your results and answer the following questions:

- Which alliance do you think was the strongest and why?
- Did Britain or Germany have any reason to be jealous of each other?

TASK: Create a map showing the countries that formed each alliance.