**WWI: The Players**

**United Kingdom** (Great Britain): You are the world's greatest naval power and the leading industrial power in Europe. However, Germany and its growing naval, industrial and colonial (Africa) expansion worry you. You are afraid that Germany may become more powerful than your Empire.

**France**: You are still stinging from your humiliation in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. You are determined never to be defeated by Germany again. You, like England, fear the rapid growth of the new German Empire.

**Germany:** You are a growing power. You have the second most powerful navy and are a strong industrial nation in Europe. You possibly have the most powerful army. You want the rest of Europe to take your new power seriously and to respect your colonial gains in Africa and Asia. If the rest of Europe will not take you seriously then you will have demonstrate your strength to the.

**Russia:** You wish to maintain peace and protect your "Slavic brothers" in the Balkans and Central Europe and maintain your outlets to the sea. You see these Slavs as being oppressed by the Austrian Hungarian empire and you fell that you have to stand up for them.

**Austria-Hungary:**(Dual empire or Dual Monarchy) Your empire of various nationalities that sometimes barely holds itself together. The Hungarians want the rights, the Serbs and Croats theirs, as well as the Czechs and Slovaks. You feel threatened by Russia's interference on behalf of Slavic minorities so you turn for assistance and support from your German cousins. You Fear Serbian nationalities to your south.

**Belgium:** You are a small neutral nation, who wishes to stay out of this European power struggle, but you may not be able to protect yourself.

**Serbia:** A small Slavic state in the Balkan peninsula, you fear Austria-Hungary may try to take you over. The Austrians already possess a large Serbian area in their empire and the Austrians have complained about the Serbian problem. You would like to see a united Serbia and you are pleased that your Russian Slavic brothers are supportive in this.

**Turkey:** (Ottoman Empire) You are a great power on the decline and would like to stop this. You are upset about the continuing breakup of your Empire. You have lost Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and other Balkan lands either to independence or to the Austrians or Russians. You would like to rebuild the strength of you empire and possibly gain back lost lands. Many of these areas are Islamic and are looking to you for support.

**Italy:** You are a weak link in the chain. Your government, although a republican monarchy, provides little stability and unity. Many of the secret societies try to destroy the fragile government which has become very inefficient. You continually vacillate between wanting Austria as an ally and fighting against Austria as a threat to the northern Italian city-states that are now a part of Italy.

**United States**: As you become a industrial giant you wish to keep open the trade routes and are concerned about the open seas. You have strong ties to both Great Britain and France but do not wish to upset the balance of trade and power by a confrontation with the Germanic areas. Your best bet is to keep on the good side of both.

**Possible Causes for War:** Describe a possible cause for war

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nationalism** | **Imperialism** |
| **Militarism** | **Alliances** |

Name of your country: ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

List below the goals that you wish to achieve **for your country**. Cover items like security, political goals, territories to gain or protect and why you feel this way.

1.

2.

3.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths of your country** | **Weaknesses of your country** |
|  |  |

**News Flash**: June 28, 1914 - Archduke Francis Ferdinand (heir to the Austrian throne) is assassinated in Sarejavo by a Serbian nationalism. The Serbians refuse to give in to Austria's ultimatum and after 30 days Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Who are you at war with and why? How do you feel about this? Who do you have an alliance with and why? List the nations you have treaties with below and draw up a short treaty with each group and sign it.

Nation Reason for Alliance

1.

Countries you are at war with:

1.

Why did countries think that the war would be over quickly?

How did all citizens participate in total war?

What is propaganda and how was it used in WWI?

Describe how America got involved in the war.

How did the war end?