

LESSON 1

1880

1900

1920

1882
Triple Alliance
formed.

1907
Triple Entente
formed.

1914
Great War
begins.



Headed Toward War

PREVIEW

Focus on the Main Idea

Competition among nations pushed Europe toward war.

PLACES

Serbia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sarajevo

PEOPLE

Wilhelm II
Francis Ferdinand
Nicholas II

VOCABULARY

mobilization
neutral

TERMS

Triple Alliance
Triple Entente

You Are There

For weeks you have been looking forward to the national celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It's the sixtieth anniversary of her reign in Great Britain. The special day in June 1897 arrives. You and many thousands of others line the streets for this grand parade. Colorfully dressed soldiers from all parts of the British Empire—East Indians, Africans, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, and others—march in step. At the high point of the parade, the queen herself passes in a magnificent coach. Everyone smiles and enjoys the celebration. How could anyone guess that war was to come within the next two decades?

► Queen Victoria's Jubilees were often commemorated on stamps, plates, and mugs.



Cause and Effect As you read, look for causes of tension among European nations and its effect on Europe and the world.

Competition Among Nations

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was, in part, a celebration of the size and strength of Great Britain's empire. In Chapter 17, you read that nationalism and imperialism became strong forces in Europe in the late 1800s. They caused intense competition among the nations of Europe and produced dangerous disagreements.

A group of European nations challenged each other in a number of ways. These nations competed for colonies that were rich in natural resources. They used these resources to expand their growing industries. They tried to build up bigger navies and armies than their neighbors. In the early 1900s, the European Powers included Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia. Some thought that Italy belonged to this group too. As these nations competed, serious trouble developed.

France and Germany had problems left over from a war they fought in 1870–1871. After the war, Germany had taken over two French provinces. France wanted them back.

Since the early 1800s, the British Navy had ruled the seas. But by the 1890s, Germany's ruler, **Wilhelm II**, insisted on building a big, modern navy to compete with Great Britain. This caused tensions between Great Britain and Germany.

► **The British *Dreadnought* was completed in 1905.**

Austria-Hungary contained many different ethnic groups, such as Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks. These ethnic groups wanted to have countries of their own. Their nationalism made the rulers of Austria-Hungary afraid. In 1908 Austria-Hungary claimed two provinces in **Serbia**, its neighbor to the south: **Bosnia** (BAHZ nee uh) and **Herzegovina** (hairt suh goh VEE nuh). This made the Serbians angry and caused friction between the two countries.

By the early 1900s, imperialism was causing tension among the Great Powers. Europeans wanted more resources and felt they had a right to take over lands in Africa, Asia, and other places. However, little land was left to colonize. Nations scrambled for

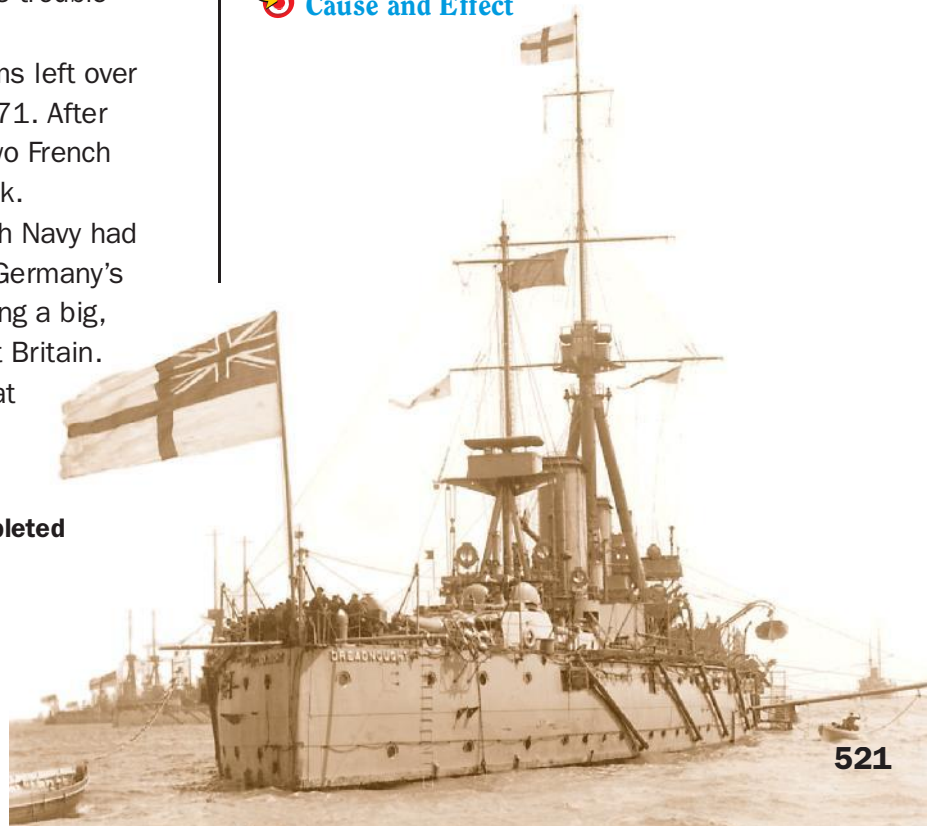
what was left. In 1911 Great Britain and France almost went to war with Germany over a port in Morocco. Europe was near a boiling point.

REVIEW What was the cause of friction between Great Britain and Germany?

🌀 **Cause and Effect**



► **Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany**



Alliances Lead to War

In the years leading up to what became known as the Great War, the European Powers joined together in two opposing alliances. The countries agreed to protect each other in case of attack.

In 1882 Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed an alliance known as the **Triple Alliance**. Ties between Germany and Austria-Hungary were especially strong. The ruling class of Austria spoke German, and the two countries shared a long border.

In 1907, Russia, France, and Great Britain formed the **Triple Entente** (ahn TAHNT). In French, *entente* means “understanding.” Each country understood that an attack on one meant an attack on all. On the map below, identify the countries in both alliances.

Though alliances made countries feel safe, they actually helped push Europe toward war. Countries promised to help their allies if trouble arose. Many began to mobilize for war.

Mobilization is the preparations nations make before sending their armies into battle. These preparations include getting troops, supplies, and weapons ready. Once mobilization started, it was almost impossible to stop it.

In the summer of 1914, members of the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente became locked in a quarrel that soon led to an all-out war. On June 28, 1914, Archduke **Francis Ferdinand** of Austria-Hungary, next in line for his nation’s throne, was assassinated in **Sarajevo** (sair uh YAY voh), the capital of Bosnia. Because a Serbian nationalist was responsible for the crime, the leaders of Austria-Hungary wanted to punish Serbia. Czar (zar) **Nicholas II**, the ruler of Russia, believed that his country should protect Serbia. Many people in Serbia and Russia belonged to the same religion: Orthodox Christianity. Nicholas II responded to Austria-Hungary’s threats by mobilizing his army.



Europe in 1914



► In 1914 Europe was divided into two main alliances. Notice that the Triple Entente surrounded the Triple Alliance.


MAP SKILL Use a Historical Map What countries belonged to the Triple Alliance? What countries belonged to the Triple Entente?

These events started a chain reaction that was soon felt throughout Europe. Germany declared war on Russia and Russia's ally, France. Then Germany invaded Belgium, Great Britain's ally and a **neutral** country, or one that does not take sides. Because Great Britain had a defensive treaty with Belgium, it declared war on Germany.

In August 1914, on the eve of the Great War, British foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey said,

“The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.”

The Great War—a war that affected many nations and peoples—had begun.

REVIEW What caused Great Britain to declare war on Germany in 1914?  **Cause and Effect**




▶ This photo of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, was taken just minutes before their death.

Summarize the Lesson

- ▶ **1882** Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed the Triple Alliance.
- ▶ **1907** Great Britain, France, and Russia formed the Triple Entente.
- ▶ **1914** Archduke Francis Ferdinand was assassinated, triggering the Great War in Europe.

LESSON 1 REVIEW

Check Facts and Main Ideas

1.  **Cause and Effect** On a separate piece of paper, fill in the chart below by listing one cause or effect.

Causes	Effects
	Friction between France and Germany
Germany built a large, modern navy.	
	The Archduke of Austria-Hungary was assassinated.

2. What strong forces caused friction between the countries of Europe in the years leading up to 1914?

3. What was a cause of friction between France and Germany?
4. How did imperialism increase competition among nations in Europe?
5. **Critical Thinking: Make Inferences** Suppose the nations of Europe had not formed alliances in the years before 1914. Do you think a world war would have broken out? Explain. Use the word **neutral** in your answer.

Link to Reading

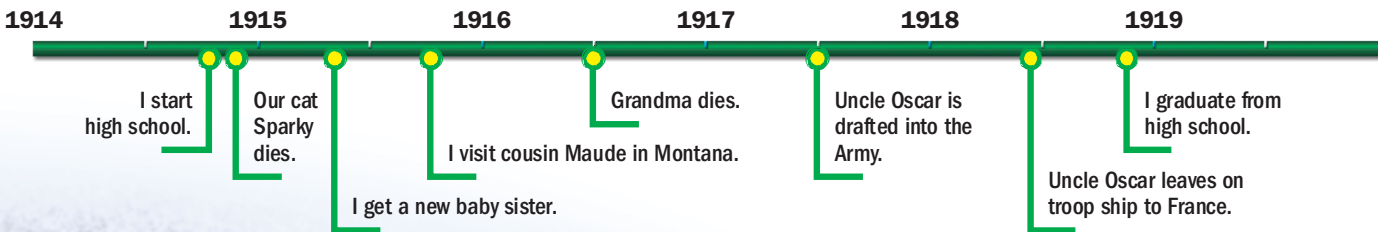
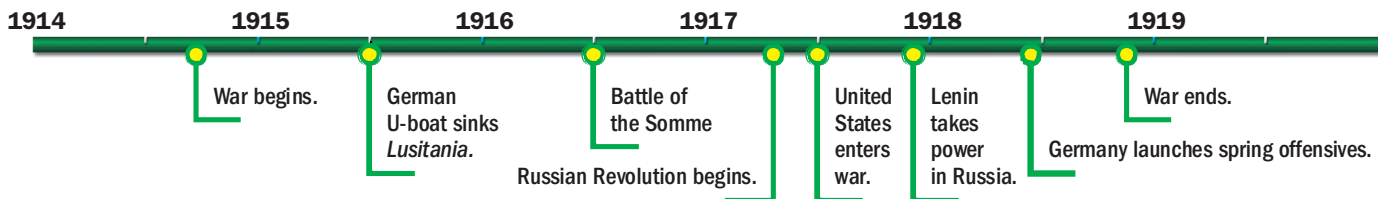
Make Connections Czar Nicholas II was the last ruler of the old Russian Empire. *Czar* means *caesar*. Go back and read through your textbook. Where have you seen the word “caesar” before? What does this tell us about past civilizations?

Chart and Graph Skills

Compare Parallel Time Lines

What? A time line is a type of chart that allows you to show events in a period of time. Events are shown in the order in which they occurred.

Parallel describes lines that are the same distance apart at every point. You can compare parallel time lines to show interesting time relationships. Look at the following parallel time lines. The first time line shows important events in the Great War. The second shows events that Adele, a student in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recorded in her diary during the war years.



Why? Parallel time lines help you compare events in different places or compare public events with personal events. In fact, as long as the time periods covered are the same, you can compare events from almost any place.

How? The parallel time lines on the previous page help you compare the public events of the Great War with the personal events in Adele's life.

One thing to be careful about when using a time line is reading dates correctly. Each blue tick mark on the time line stands for the beginning of a year (January 1). Everything to the *right*—until the next date's blue mark—is for that year. Look at the time line for Adele's diary. Find the 1915 label and blue mark. You can see on the time line that Adele's cat Sparky died toward the end of 1914. Adele's new baby sister was born sometime in early 1915.

Now look at the year 1914 on both time lines. You can see that the Great War began in Europe that year. During that same year, Adele started high school.

Think and Apply

- 1 What events happened in 1916? Which event do you think was most important to Adele? Why?
- 2 Which events in 1917 probably brought the war home to Adele?
- 3 Uncle Oscar fought for less than a year in the Great War. How do the parallel time lines give you this information?

