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Causes of World War I: Background and History

Groups will work together to explore the various causes of World War I and then present their findings to the class. You will have **one** class period to work together, research, and record your findings on the chart paper. Research the bullet-pointed items as well as the question posed for each topic. Be sure to consult the websites on the backside of this paper. Each group will then present and be given an opportunity to take notes on the other group’s research. **You will be given a project grade based on your participation, historical content, and presentation**.

**Topics to explore as related to causes of WW1:**

**Group 1: Imperialism**

* France and Germany clashed over Morocco
* Russia and Austria-Hungary were rivals in the Balkans
* Britain and Germany competed for control in Africa and the Middle East
* How did imperialistic claims lead to conflict around the globe?

**Group 2: Militarism**

* With peacetime conscription of soldiers… the continental European nations sought military superiority
* Germany had a massive military buildup
* Britain, relying heavily upon its Navy for protection, felt threatened by Germany’s naval building program
* How did the European countries build up their militaries (particularly Germany)?

**Group 3: Nationalism**

* France wants to retake Alsace and Lorraine
* Yugoslavs, Czechs, and Slovaks sought freedom from Austria-Hungary
* Poles want to re-create Polish state
* What was the background for these country’s nationalistic claims?

**Group 4: Alliance System**

* Allies… France, Britain, Serbia, Belgium, and Russia
* Central Powers… Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire
* Why were these countries allied with each other?

**Group 5: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand**

* Background and events
* Resulting domino effect of countries entering war

**Suggested Resources to Consult:**

\*\*\*<http://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/world-war-i-topics/>

<http://sharepoint.chiles.leon.k12.fl.us/mcneilt/Textbook%20for%20World%20History/Chapter%2029/Ch%2029%20Sec%201.pdf>

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm>

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/causes_world_war_one.htm>

<http://www.historyonthenet.com/WW1/causes.htm>

<http://www.authentichistory.com/1914-1920/1-overview/1-origins/index.html>