SECTION 1 Step-by-Step Instruction

Objectives
As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.
- Describe how international rivalries and nationalism pushed Europe toward war.
- Explain how the assassination in Sarajevo led to the start of World War I.
- Analyze the causes and effects of the European alliance system.

Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge
Ask students to think about how European nationalism in the 1800s strengthened some countries, but weakened large empires. Have them predict how this situation might lead to problems in the early 1900s.

Set a Purpose

WITNESS HISTORY Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

Who killed the Archduke and his wife? (Gavrilo Princip) Why might Princip have done this? (Simple: to make a statement about Serbian nationalism) Tell students that they will learn more about the causes and consequences of the assassination as they read this section.

Focus Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 1 Assessment answers.)

Preview Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.
Reading Skill Have students use the Reading Strategy: Summarize worksheet.

The Great War Begins

By 1914, Europe had enjoyed a century of relative peace. Idealists hoped for a permanent end to the scourge of war. International events, such as the first modern Olympic games in 1896 and the First Universal Peace Conference in 1899, were steps toward keeping the peace. “The future belongs to peace,” said French economist Frédéric Passy (p. 817).

Not everyone was so hopeful. “I shall not live to see the Great War,” warned German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, “but you will see it, and it will start in the east.” It was Bismarck’s prediction, rather than Passy’s, that came true.

Alliances Draw Lines

While peace efforts were under way, powerful forces were pushing Europe toward war. Spurred by distrust of one another, the great powers of Europe—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Britain, France, and Russia—signed treaties pledging to defend one another. Those alliances were intended to promote peace by creating powerful combinations that no one would dare attack. In the end, they had the opposite effect. Two huge alliances emerged.

The Triple Alliance The first of these alliances had its origins in Bismarck’s day. He knew that France longed to avenge its defeat in the Franco-Prussian War. Sure that France would not attack Germany without help, Bismarck signed treaties with Austria-Hungary and Italy. In 1882, he formed the Triple Alliance with Italy and Austria-Hungary. By 1914, when war did erupt, Germany and Austria-Hungary fought on the same side. They became known as the Central Powers.

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Terms, People, and Places
- Alouse and Lorraine
- ultimatum
- neutrality

Reading Skill: Summarize As you read, use a chart to summarize the events that led up to the outbreak of World War I.

Alliances

France

Great Britain

Austria-Hungary

Germany

Italy

Russia

The War Begins

Military

Territorial

Passy’s prediction came true on June 28, 1914. At Sarajevo, a Bosnian nationalist assassinated the Archduke of Austria-Hungary and his wife. The Spark

WITNESS HISTORY

The Spark

On June 28, 1914, Gavrilo Princip, a member of a Serbian terrorist group, killed Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie.

“...the bullet hit the heart. He uttered only one word, ‘Sofia’—a call to his stricken wife. Then his head fell back and he collapsed. He died almost instantly.”

—Jurecic, co-conspirator

The assassinations triggered World War I, called “The Great War” by people of the time.

Section Focus Question Why and how did World War I begin in 1914?

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use words from this section.

High-Use Word

Definition and Sample Sentence

 oversea, p. 818
adj. across the sea, foreign
Monica was hoping for overseas travel in her new job so she could learn about far-off cultures.
By 1914, most of Europe was divided into two armed camps, the Allies and the Central Powers. Millions of troops stood ready for war.

**The Triple Entente** A rival bloc took shape in 1893, when France and Russia joined an entente (ahn TAHNT), a nonbinding agreement to follow common policies. Though not as formal as a treaty, the entente led to close military and diplomatic ties. Britain later signed a similar agreement with Russia. When war began, these powers became known as the Allies. Other alliances also formed. Germany signed a treaty with the Ottoman Empire. Britain drew close to Japan.

**Checkpoint** What two large alliances took shape before the beginning of World War I?

**Rivalries and Nationalism Increase Tension** The European powers jealously guarded their status in many areas. Two old empires, Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Turkey, struggled to survive in an age of nationalism.

**Map Skills** By 1914, most of Europe was divided into two armed camps, the Allies and the Central Powers. Millions of troops stood ready for war.

1. Locate (a) Germany (b) Alsace-Lorraine (c) the Balkans (d) Serbia
2. Regions Why would Germans worry about the alliance between France and Russia?
3. Synthesize Information Based on the information on the map, which alliance do you think had the greater advantage in 1914?
Rivalries and Nationalism Increase Tension

Instruct

■ Introduce: Vocabulary Builder

Have students read the Vocabulary Builder terms and definitions. Then ask students to read the first three sentences under the heading Rivalries and Nationalism Increase Tension and the black headings underneath it. Ask students to predict why status might be important to Europe's great powers. How would overseas colonies affect their status?

■ Teach

Ask: How did Germany feel about the other great powers? (Germany felt that it was not respected enough by the other nations.) How did other great powers feel about Germany? (Britain feared Germany's economic potential and resented Germany's challenge to its navy; France was embittered towards Germany after it lost the Franco-Prussian War and the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine.)

Quick Activity

Have students explain one effect of each of the following developments: (1) The French were defeated in the Franco-Prussian War and lost Alsace and Lorraine to Germany. (2) Russia felt kinship with other Slavic countries. (3) There was rising nationalism in Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman empire. (4) Germany gained territory as a result of the Moroccan crises. (5) Countries joined together in alliances.

Independent Practice

Break students into groups and assign them one of the following countries or empires: Britain, France, Germany, Russia, the Ottoman empire, Austria-Hungary, Serbia. Ask each group to write a few paragraphs describing the position of their country or countries on the eve of World War I. Then have each group present their position to the class.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in their charts, circulate to ensure they understand the events that led to World War I. For a completed version of the chart, see Note Taking Transparencies, 169.

Answer

Caption by watching the parade, saluting the soldiers on horseback, and waving hats and handkerchiefs.

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Vocabulary Builder

German's Glorious Military

Large crowds watch a cavalry regiment, group of troops serving on horseback, ride through Berlin in August 1914. Germany's army was known to be highly trained and well disciplined, making it a formidable fighting force. How are the people pictured showing pride in their military?

Germany's Glorious Military

The rise of nationalism, or the glorification of the military, also helped to feed the arms race. The militarist tradition painted war in romantic colors. Young men dreamed of blaring trumpets and dashing cavalry charges—not at all the sort of conflict they would soon face.

Nationalism

Aggressive nationalism also caused tension. Nationalism was strong in both Germany and France. Germans were proud of their new empire's military power and industrial leadership. The French were bitter about their 1871 defeat in the Franco-Prussian War and yearned to recover the lost border province of Alsace and Lorraine.

In Eastern Europe, Russia sponsored a powerful form of nationalism called Pan-Slavism. It held that all Slavic peoples shared a common nationality. As the largest Slavic country, Russia felt that it had a duty to lead and defend all Slavs. By 1914, it stood ready to support Serbia, a proud young nation that dreamed of creating a South Slav state.

Competition

Economic rivalries helped fuel the international atmosphere. Germany, the newest of the great powers, was growing into an economic and military powerhouse. Britain felt threatened by its rapid economic growth. Germany, in turn, thought the other great powers did not give it enough respect. Germany also feared that when Russia caught up to other industrialized nations, its huge population and vast supply of natural resources would make it an unbeatable competitor.

German rivalries also divided European nations. In 1905 and again in 1911, competition for colonies brought France and Germany to the brink of war in Morocco, then under France's influence. Although diplomats kept the peace, Germany did gain some territory in central Africa. As a result of the two Moroccan crises, Britain and France strengthened their ties against Germany.

With international tensions on the rise, the great powers began to build up their armories and navies. The fiercest competition was the naval rivalry between Britain and Germany. To protect its vast overseas empire, Britain had built the world's most respected navy. As Germany began acquiring overseas colonies, it began to build up its own navy. Suspicions of Germany's motives, Britain in turn increased naval spending. Sensational journalism dramatized the arms race and stirred national public opinion against rival countries.

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Two old multinational empires particularly feared rising nationalism. Austria-Hungary worried that nationalism might foster rebellion among the many minority populations within its empire. Ottoman Turkey felt threatened by nearby new nation, such as Serbia. If realized, Serbia’s dream of a South Slav state could take territory away from both Austria-Hungary and Turkey.

In 1912, several Balkan states attacked Turkey and succeeded in taking a large area of land away from Turkish control. The next year, the Balkan states fought among themselves over the spoils of war. These brief but bloody Balkan wars raised tensions to a fever pitch. By 1914, the Balkans were called the “powder keg of Europe”—a barrel of gunpowder that a tiny spark might cause to explode.

Checkpoint How did international competition and nationalism increase tensions in Europe?

The Powder Keg Ignites

As Bismarck had predicted, the Great War began in Eastern Europe. A regional conflict between tiny Serbia and the huge empire of Austria-Hungary grew rapidly into a general war.

Assassination in Sarajevo The crisis began when Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary announced that he would visit Sarajevo (sah ruh YAY voh), the capital of Bosnia. Francis Ferdinand was the nephew and heir of the aging Austrian emperor, Francis Joseph. At the time of his visit, Bosna was under the rule of Austria-Hungary. But it was also the home of many Serbs and other Slavs. News of the royal visit angered many Serbian nationalists. They viewed the Austrians as foreign oppressors. Some members of Unity or Death, a Serbian terrorist group commonly known as the Black Hand, vowed to take action.

The archduke ignored warnings of anti-Austrian unrest in Sarajevo. On June 28, 1914, he and his wife, Sophie, rode through Sarajevo in an open car. As the car passed by, a conspirator named Gavrilo Princip (GAV ree loh PRINIP) sneezed his chance and fired twice into the car. Moments later, the archduke and his wife were dead.

Austria Strikes Back The news of the assassination shocked Francis Joseph. He felt he had no choice but to go to war. The government in Vienna, however, saw the incident as an excuse to crush Serbia. In Berlin, Kaiser William II was horrified at the assassination of his only heir. He wrote to Francis Joseph, advising him to take a firm stand toward Serbia. Instead of urging restraint, Germany gave Austria a “blank check,” or a promise of unconditional support no matter what the cost. Austria sent Serbia a sweeping ultimatum, or final act of demands. To avoid war, said the ultimatum, Serbia must end all anti-Austrian agitation and punish any Serbian official involved in the murder plot. It must even let Austria join in the investigation. Serbia agreed to meet, but not all, of the terms of Austria’s ultimatum. This partial refusal gave Austria the opportunity it was seeking. On July 28, 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia.

Checkpoint What happened because of the assassination of Francis Ferdinand and his wife?

The Powder Keg Ignites

Instruct

■ Introduce Ask students to preview the black headings. Then have them predict why the emperor of Austria might have been hesitant to provoke a war with Serbia.

■ Teach Ask Why did Austrian leaders send Serbia the ultimatum that they knew Serbian leaders would refuse to honor? They wanted to provoke a war in order to crush Serbia so it could not longer threaten the Austria-Hungarian empire. How did Germany encourage Austria’s actions? (Germany backed up Austria with a “blank check,” giving the Austrian leaders more confidence in their course of action.)

■ Quick Activity Remind students that Austria-Hungary was the first party to declare war in what became World War I. Then tell students that many people later placed much of the blame for starting the war on Germany, not Austria-Hungary. As a class, brainstorm the arguments people might have used to blame Germany.

Independent Practice

To review this section, ask students to explain at what point they think war became inevitable. Ask them to list what actions either Austria or Serbia could have taken to avoid war.

Answers

BIOGRAPHY His desire for respect may have driven him to build up the German military, to win colonies, and to best the other European powers economically.

■ Economic competition, imperial rivalries, and an arms race created antagonism between great powers. Nationalism contributed to the situation, and it threatened central authority in Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman empire.

■ Austria blamed Serbia for the assassination and took the opportunity to attack Serbia. Germany backed Austria.

Chapter 26 Section 1 819
Alliances Kick In/Reaction to the War

**Introduce:** Key Terms: Ask students to find the key term “mobilize” (in blue) in the text and explain its meaning. Remind students that Russia is the largest country in the alliance system. Have them speculate as to why Russia might mobilize its troops early. What is the drawback to this plan?

**Quick Activity:** Display Color Transparency 157: The Schlieffen Plan. Review the map with students. Use the lesson suggested in the transparency book to guide a discussion on the causes and consequences of the Schlieffen Plan.

**Color Transparencies, 157**

**Independent Practice**
Have students study the political cartoon on this page. Tell them that leaders emphasized that their countries were fighting on the side of justice, and so could not be blamed for starting the war. Ask students to return to the groups with whom they wrote their position papers. Have them discuss how their assigned country or region might have spun events to avoid blame. Then have them amend their papers to include the start of the war.

**Monitor Progress**
- Make sure students understand the position of their country or region. If a group is having difficulty, direct them to the chart on this page.
- Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries to ensure students understand the causes of World War I.

**Answer**

**Chart Skills:** Russians might feel that Germany started the war because of their support of Austria-Hungary and eventual invasion of Belgium, which was a neutral country.

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**Alliances Kick In**

The war between Austria and Serbia might have been another “summer war” like most European wars of the previous century. However, the carefully planned alliances soon drew the great powers deeper into conflict.

RUSSIA AND FRANCE BACK SERBIA
After Austria’s declaration of war, Serbia turned to its ally, Russia, the champion of Slavic nations. From St. Petersburg, Nicholas II telegraphed William II. The tsar asked the kaiser to urge Austria to refrain its demands. When this plea failed, Russia began to mobilize, or prepare its military forces for war. On August 1, Germany responded by declaring war on Russia.

Austria-Hungary’s ally, Austria-Hungary, then declared war on Serbia. Britain had to decide quickly whether or not to support its ally France. On August 3, at 10:15 a.m., the British Cabinet met and decided to support France. With Germany and Russia now in conflict, Britain’s decision was clear.

GERMANY INVADES BELGIUM
By early August, the battle lines were hardening. Italy and Britain still remained uncommitted. Italy chose to stay neutral for the time being. Neutrality is a policy of supporting neither side in a war. Britain had to decide quickly whether or not to support its ally France. Then, Germany’s war plans suddenly made the decision for Britain.

A cornerstone of Germany’s military policy was a plan developed years earlier by General Alfred von Schlieffen (SHLEE fun). Germany’s location presented the possibility of a two-front war—against France in the west and Russia to the east. The Schlieffen Plan was designed to avoid this problem. Schlieffen reasoned that Germany should move against France first because Russia’s lumbering military would be slow to mobilize.
However, Germany had to defeat France quickly so that its armies could then turn around and fight Russia. To ensure a swift victory in the west, the Schlieffen Plan required German armies to march through neutral Belgium and then swing south behind French lines. The goal was to encircle and crush France’s army. The Germans embarked on the plan by invading Belgium on August 3. However, Britain and other European powers had signed a treaty guaranteeing Belgium neutrality. Outraged by the invasion of Belgium, Britain declared war on Germany on August 4.

Once the machinery of war was set in motion, it seemed impossible to stop. Military leaders insisted that they must mobilize their forces immediately to accomplish their military goals. These military timetables made it impossible for political leaders to negotiate instead of fight.

## Reaction to the War

Before the war, many countries were troubled by domestic problems. For example, Britain struggled with labor unrest and the issue of home rule in Ireland. Russia wrestled with problems stirred up by the Revolution of 1905. The outbreak of war brought a temporary relief from these internal divisions. A renewed sense of patriotism united countries. Governments on both sides emphasized that their countries were fighting for justice and a better world. Young men rushed to enlist, cheered on by women and their elders. Now that war had come at last, it seemed an exciting adventure.

British diplomat Edward Grey was less optimistic. As premier, he predicted, “The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.”

### Checkpoint
How did the alliance system deepen the original conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia into a general war?

## Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. **Terms, People, and Places**
   1. For each term or place listed at the beginning of the section, note a sentence explaining its significance.

2. **Reading Skill: Summarize**
   Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: Why were young men on both sides eager to fight when World War I started?

3. **Analyzing Information**
   Identify Central Issues: Why did European nations form alliances?

4. **Analyzing Information**
   Identify Central Issues: Why might the Balkans be called the “powder keg of Europe”?

5. **Recognize Causes**
   Do Austria’s actions cause the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand?

6. **Determine Relevance**
   What role did geography play in the outbreak of World War I?

## Writing About History

Quick Write: Identify Causes and Effects: Choose a specific event from the section and identify one cause and one effect of the event. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Why did this event happen? (cause)
- What happened as a result of this event? (effect)

Record your ideas in a chart that shows their cause-and-effect relationships.

## Section 1 Assessment

1. Sentences should reflect an understanding of each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section.
2. After a long period of growing antagonism between allied blocs, Europe’s great powers were drawn into a regional conflict by the alliances they had formed for protection.
3. To discourage rival countries from attacking them.
4. Small nations in the Balkans had nationalistic goals, which threatened the Austrian-Hungarian and Ottoman empires. A conflict in the Balkans would quickly spread because of the alliance system.
5. It issued an ultimatum to the Serbian government. When Serbia refused to meet all demands, Austria declared war.
6. Germany’s location between France and Russia caused it to follow the Schlieffen Plan and invade Belgium, which caused Britain to declare war on Germany.

## Writing About History

Charts should show an event from the section, such as Germany invading Belgium, with one valid cause and one valid effect.

For additional assessment, have students access Progress Monitoring Online at Web Code naa-2011.