

The image features a central green oval with a black and white border. Inside the oval, the text 'Causes of' is at the top in a black serif font, followed by 'WORLD' and 'WAR I' in a larger, teal-colored serif font. The background of the entire image consists of diagonal stripes in various shades of green, blue, and grey.

# Causes of WORLD WAR I

# World War I

- World War I began in June 1914 and the fighting ended in November 1918.
- Even though the event that sparked the war is easy to pinpoint, the actual causes of WWI are complicated and intertwined with the histories of the countries involved.
- There are four M.A.I.N. causes of World War I...

# Militarism

- Countries had built strong militaries to protect themselves and their colonies, and militarism increased as countries competed with each other to build up their armies and navies.
- During this time, the military was given top priority with the countries' politics and economics.
- Between 1870 and 1914, Germany and France doubled the size of their armies, while Great Britain and Germany used their navies to compete for dominance of the seas.
- Tensions rose as countries watched each other build up military power.

# Alliances

- European countries made agreements with each other to better protect themselves.
- If one member was attacked, the others were obligated to help.
- When the war began, on one side were the Allies: Great Britain, France, Russia, Serbia, and Belgium.
- The other side were the Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire.



# Imperialism

- Imperialism is when a country increases its power and wealth by acquiring new lands under its control.
- Rivalries developed as countries tried to grab more and more colonies throughout Africa and Asia.
- The rush for land acquisition caused many European countries to resent and distrust one another.

# Nationalism

- Nationalism is when citizens feel fierce pride in their home country.
- As countries expanded their empires, a strong sense of nationalism emerged.
- Many Europeans began to feel that their nation was superior to all others.

# Nationalism

- Nationalism was exceptionally high in Serbia, a small nation south of Austria-Hungary, and in Bosnia, a region located in southern Austria-Hungary.
- A large Slavic population lived in both Serbia and Bosnia, and the ethnic group strongly desired their own country, free from Austria-Hungary's control.
- These nationalistic feelings led to the actual event that sparked World War I.

# Outbreak of War

- On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was assassinated.
- The assassin was a Bosnian Serb who wanted to free Bosnia from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and unite it with Serbia.
- 48 hours after the assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, which set off a chain reaction of European countries joining the war.



# WWI Ends

- Both sides of the war believed it would be over in less than a year; unfortunately, it lasted over four years.
- Europe suffered terrible destruction and over 22 million soldiers and civilians died.
- America's entry into the war gave the Allies the extra power they needed to defeat the Central Powers.
- In November 11, 1918, the Central Powers surrendered to the Allies and signed an armistice that ended the war.

# In Conclusion

- European empire building in Asia and Africa helped lead to World War I because:
- Europeans felt fierce pride in their countries.
- They had developed strong militaries to protect their colonies.
- European countries had built up resentments towards one another and had joined alliances to protect themselves.