

# Causes of World War I



## Assasination of Archduke Ferdinand

- by Serbian separatists provoked Austrian invasion
- Austria threatened independent Serbia (arguing that Serbia supported the militants) and demanded submission to Austria
- Austria was encouraged by Germany; Serbia, by Russia



## Two-Front War Strategy

- Germany needed to eliminate France in the west before taking on Russia in the east
- Russia assumed war with Austria involved war with Germany, and vice-versa



## Mobilization of Amies

- Moving hundreds of thousands of men required careful co-ordination of railroad schedules as well as supplies of food, fuel, uniforms, and weapons
- This took a lot of time, and once started, nobody wanted to stop



## Colonial Competition

- Germany and Italy, unified only in the latter 1800s, had no profitable colonies
- France and England had a lot of colonies well before this time
- In the Scramble for Africa, France and England divided up much of Africa between themselves, leaving Germany and Italy with very little.



## Naval arms race

- In order to support colonies, one needed a navy to guarantee that supplies to and from the colonies would not be intercepted
- England was suspicious of German attempts to increase its navy