Power in Motion

Trace how changes in Europe created new rivalries.

SS24.WH.5b "Analyze how the international balance of power shifted as a result of the unification of Germany, the decline of the Ottoman Empire, and the emergence of international rivalries."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Part 1 READ AND MARK: Underline one event or condition in each paragraph that changed the balance of power, and circle a phrase that shows how another power responded.

A Changing Balance in Europe

1 In 1871, leaders in Berlin celebrated a new German Empire. Before unification, dozens of German states had stood between France and Russia. Now a single state with a large population, growing industry, and a powerful army occupied central Europe. Germany had defeated France in the war that completed its unification and taken Alsace-Lorraine. France wanted to recover the territory and feared another German attack. German leaders, worried that France might find partners, sought friendly ties with other powers. What had once been a patchwork of states had become a force that neighbors had to plan around.

2 Farther southeast, the Ottoman Empire was losing control of lands it had ruled for centuries. In the Balkans, nationalist movements sought independence, and several states gained it during the nineteenth century. Russia supported some Slavic groups and wanted greater influence near the Black Sea and the straits leading to the Mediterranean. Austria-Hungary feared that nationalism in the Balkans might spread into its own multiethnic empire. Britain feared that Russian control of the straits would increase Russian naval power in the Mediterranean. As Ottoman rule weakened, these powers competed over the region's future, even while local peoples sought to decide it themselves.

3 Rivalries linked these changes together. Germany feared a war on two fronts if France and Russia cooperated. To protect itself, Germany joined Austria-Hungary and Italy in the Triple Alliance in 1882. France and Russia formed an alliance in the 1890s, partly to counter Germany's strength. Britain later reached agreements with France and Russia as it grew wary of Germany's expanding navy. Meanwhile, Austria-Hungary and Russia continued to compete for influence in the Balkans. Alliances did not make war certain, but they meant that a crisis in one region could draw in countries with interests elsewhere.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did German unification change the balance of power between Germany and France?

2. Why did weakening Ottoman rule increase rivalry between Russia and Austria-Hungary?

3. How did Germany's growing power affect the partnerships formed by other countries?

4. Why could a crisis in the Balkans draw countries from other parts of Europe into conflict?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Part 3 YOUR TURN: Imagine Germany had not expanded its navy. In four or five sentences, explain how Britain's response might have differed and why a Balkan crisis could still have threatened wider peace. Use at least two details from the passage, and describe possibilities rather than certainties.

ANSWER KEY

Power in Motion

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.5b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Part 1 READ AND MARK: Underline one event or condition in each paragraph that changed the balance of power, and circle a phrase that shows how another power responded. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did German unification change the balance of power between Germany and France?	**Unification created a powerful German state that had defeated France and taken Alsace-Lorraine. France feared another attack and wanted its territory back.**
2	Why did weakening Ottoman rule increase rivalry between Russia and Austria-Hungary?	**Russia sought greater influence near the Black Sea and supported some Slavic groups, while Austria-Hungary feared Balkan nationalism spreading into its empire.**
3	How did Germany's growing power affect the partnerships formed by other countries?	**France and Russia allied partly to counter Germany, and Britain later reached agreements with them as it grew wary of Germany's expanding navy.**
4	Why could a crisis in the Balkans draw countries from other parts of Europe into conflict?	**Austria-Hungary and Russia competed in the Balkans and had partners elsewhere in Europe, so a crisis could involve countries with interests beyond the region.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If Germany had not expanded its navy, Britain might have felt less threatened and might have been slower to reach agreements with France and Russia. Germany's power on land and France's wish to recover Alsace-Lorraine could still have driven rivalry. Austria-Hungary and Russia would still have competed for influence in the Balkans as Ottoman control weakened. Because these states had partners and competing interests, a Balkan crisis might still have spread beyond the region.

Accept other supported explanations of how Germany's power, Ottoman decline, and rivalries affected one another. For Part 3, look for a plausible counterfactual, two accurate passage details, and language that does not treat the outcome as certain.