How Conflict Spread

Four forces behind the outbreak of World War I

WH.6.1 "Identify and explain the impact of nationalism, imperialism, militarism, and alliances on relationships between countries."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one example each of nationalism, imperialism, militarism, and alliances in the passage. Write N, I, M, or A beside each example to show which force it represents.

From Sarajevo to a Wider War

1 In June 1914, a Bosnian Serb nationalist assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to Austria-Hungary's throne, in Sarajevo. Many Serbs wanted to unite South Slavs, including people living under Austria-Hungary's rule. Austria-Hungary viewed this nationalist movement as a threat to its empire, which ruled many ethnic groups. In 1908, Austria-Hungary had annexed Bosnia, angering Serbia, where leaders also hoped to unite South Slavs. Austria-Hungary governed Bosnia even though many residents wanted a different political future. The killing did not make war inevitable, but it sharpened an already tense relationship between Serbia and Austria-Hungary.

2 Military preparations made the dispute more dangerous. Before 1914, European powers had built large armies and drawn up plans to mobilize them quickly. Germany and Britain also competed to build powerful navies, increasing distrust between them. After the assassination, Austria-Hungary issued Serbia an ultimatum, then declared war when Serbia did not accept every demand. Russia began mobilizing forces in support of Serbia. Germany, allied with Austria-Hungary, treated Russian mobilization as a serious threat and declared war on Russia. Plans for rapid action and confidence in armed force left leaders less time and room to settle the crisis through negotiation.

3 Alliances widened the conflict. France had an alliance with Russia, so Germany expected a war with France as well as Russia. Germany declared war on France and invaded neutral Belgium to reach French territory. Britain, which had promised to protect Belgium's neutrality, declared war on Germany after the invasion. These choices turned a conflict that began between Austria-Hungary and Serbia into a wider European war. Nationalism made compromise harder in the Balkans; imperial control fueled disputes over land and peoples; militarism raised the stakes of threats; and alliances linked one country's decisions to the security of others.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did nationalism strain relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary?

2. How did Austria-Hungary's imperial control of Bosnia affect its relationship with Serbia?

3. Identify one military preparation in the passage. How could it make a dispute harder to settle?

4. How did alliances help turn the dispute between Serbia and Austria-Hungary into a wider war? Use one alliance from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two neighboring countries, Arven and Belora, disagree over a border region. In four sentences, explain how exactly two of the four forces in the passage could change their relationship, then propose one diplomatic step that might limit the conflict.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · WH.6.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one example each of nationalism, imperialism, militarism, and alliances in the passage. Write N, I, M, or A beside each example to show which force it represents. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did nationalism strain relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary?	**Many Serbs wanted to unite South Slavs, including people ruled by Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary saw that goal as a threat to its empire.**
2	How did Austria-Hungary's imperial control of Bosnia affect its relationship with Serbia?	**Austria-Hungary's annexation of Bosnia angered Serbia, whose leaders also hoped to unite South Slavs.**
3	Identify one military preparation in the passage. How could it make a dispute harder to settle?	**Accept large armies, rapid mobilization plans, or the naval competition. For example, rapid mobilization plans left leaders less time to negotiate.**
4	How did alliances help turn the dispute between Serbia and Austria-Hungary into a wider war? Use one alliance from the passage.	**Germany's alliance with Austria-Hungary drew Germany into the crisis as Russia mobilized in support of Serbia. France's alliance with Russia also led Germany to expect war with France.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Arven's leaders say people in the disputed region share their language and must join Arven. This nationalist demand makes Belora distrust Arven and refuse to discuss the border. Arven's military ally promises to defend it, so Belora worries that a small clash could spread to other countries. The neighbors could ask a neutral mediator to arrange talks before either side takes further action.

For Part 3, accept any plausible four-sentence response that explains the effect of exactly two forces on the countries' relationship and proposes a diplomatic step. Students may choose a different example from the passage for each marking label.