

REMOTE CAUSES:

Militarism

- belief in the power of strong armies and navies to decide issues
- the only way to guarantee peace was to prepare for war
 - creation of an arms race
- each country produced steel battleships, high-powered guns and explosives
- Germany began to build up her navy
- England became nervous and responded by increasing the size of her navy

Alliances

- since 1815 the European states had been involved in trying to maintain a *balance of power*
- by 1914, two major alliances had emerged
 - A. *Triple Entente* - France, Britain, Russia
 - B. *Triple Alliance* - Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary

Imperialism

- as countries became more industrialized, interest in gaining colonies increased
 - competition for raw materials, markets, and power was intense
- Britain had the largest empire - Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Burma, Malaya, South Africa, East and West Indies and south Pacific islands . . . “The sun never sets on the British Empire”
- Germany was slow to build an empire - very little was left - some African and Pacific territories
 - Germany was looking to take over colonies belonging to other empires

Nationalism

- in the late 19th and early 20th centuries many people were willing to take any action to support their nation
 - especially in the smaller countries of the Balkans
- the empire of Austria-Hungary included a wide variety of ethnic people
 - most of these people had stronger ties to their ethnicity than to the government