

Part One: Imperialism and the Start of the First World War

In this PowerPoint you will explore the role that Imperialism played in the start of WW1. You can complete the PowerPoint all at once or you can break it up and do it in smaller chunks. By the end, you should be able to comfortably answer the following:

- 1) What is imperialism?*
- 2) Why did countries want empires?*
- 3) How did imperialism in Europe contribute to the outbreak of war in 1914.*

In total, this should take you about an hour and ten minutes.

Task	Time	Instructions
Slide 2: Decode it Now: Imperialism	5-10 minutes	Carefully read the information in the coloured boxes and complete the task in order to fully understand what the term 'Imperialism' means and where it comes from.
Slides 3 & 4: Why did Countries want an Empire in the 1800's?	15-20 minutes	Carefully read the information on slide 3 and complete the tasks on slide 4 to help you to understand why countries wanted empires and the impact of empires. There is a challenge provided.
Slides 5 & 6: The Scramble for Africa	25-30 minutes	Carefully read the information on slide 5, watch the videos and answer the questions on slide 6. This will allow you to explore a key case study regarding 19 th century imperialism.
Slide 7 & 8: How did Imperialism lead to War?	20 minutes	Read the information on slide 7 and complete the task on slide 8.

DECODE IT NOW

Word:
Imperialism

Etymology:
Imperialism comes from the Latin word **imperium**, which means supreme power

Define it:
'A policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonization, use of military force, or other means.' - Oxford Dictionary.

'When a country uses it's military (army/navy) to take land abroad in order to make themselves more powerful' - Miss Hall 😊

Digging Deeper:
Countries wanted empires because it could make them wealthier, more influential and more powerful.

Use it in a sentence:
'The policy of Imperialism made some countries very rich and powerful'
'Imperialism is when a country takes an empire abroad to gain more power'
'Imperialism can lead to war because it can cause competition between countries and make other countries feel jealous or intimidated.'

Use the information in the coloured boxes to complete the tasks here



Write your own definition of the word **Imperialism** below:

2. Write a sentence of your own that uses the term **Imperialism**:

Challenge: Write down as many words as you can that link to the word **Imperialism** (e.g. power, colonies...)

Why did Countries want Empires in the 1800's?

Many European countries wanted to build an empire in the 1800's. Successfully building an empire could help countries in various ways:

- 1) It would make them richer because they could exploit the resources of that country, for example, if you take over a country that is rich in coal, you could sell that coal to factories all over the world and make money.
- 2) It would allow them to expand their army because they could force the men in the colonised country (the one that has been taken over) to join their army and fight for them in a war.
- 3) It would allow them to appear more powerful, more influential and give them more status in international politics.

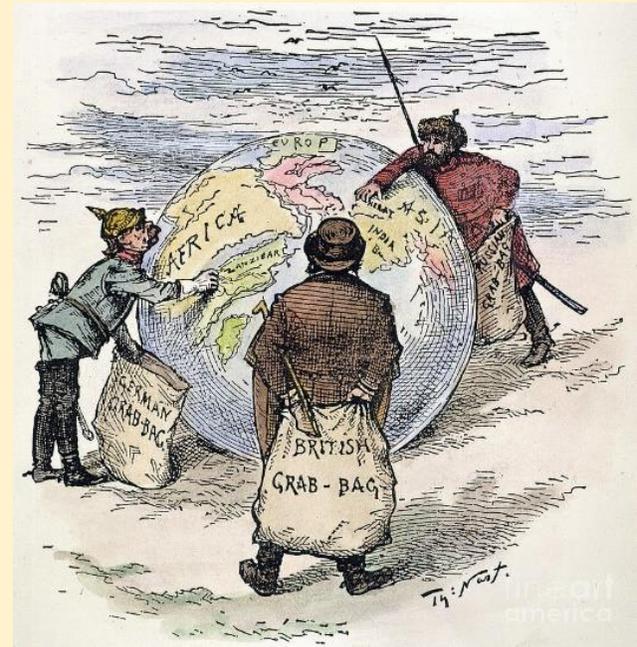
The British Empire is the largest in history and, at its height, the British owned $\frac{1}{4}$ of the entire world. It was said that 'the sun never set on the British Empire' because they owned countries both in the Northern and Southern Hemisphere, meaning that when it was night time here, the sun was up in other colonies like Australia. (You can find a list of colonies once owned by Britain here: <http://www.britishempire.me.uk/territoriesofempire.html>). The British Empire stretches back to the time of Elizabeth I and the growth of the British Navy around the time of the Spanish Armada, this allowed Britain to travel the globe, seize land and defend it. The British were very proud of their empire which gave them great wealth and power. Spain also had an established empire and owned land in South America, Asia and Africa. The Russian Empire of the late 1800's is the third largest in history, however, they weren't the richest empire as much of their land was purely agricultural (used for farming).

Living in Britain, we often see the British Empire, and empires in general, presented as a glorious thing that should be celebrated as a symbol of strength, wealth and power. However, for the people whose countries were colonised (taken over) the reality was quite different. Many people were oppressed, which means that they were treated very badly and controlled, often using violent methods. Click the link to read a short article about some of the worst atrocities committed by the British Empire in particular: <https://www.oddhistorian.com/10-worst-atrocities-committed-by-the-british-empire/>

Use the information on slide 3 to answer the questions below.

1. How could a country benefit economically (get more money) from colonising a country? (This means taking the country over and making it part of their empire).
2. How else would countries benefit from colonising a country? (Other than economic benefit)
3. Give three examples of European empires.
4. What were the negative impacts of empires? Answer this question using evidence (You can use the British Empire as a case study to answer this question).

Challenge: Overall, do you think that economic benefit (money, wealth) was the main motivation for imperialism in the 1800's? Why? (This is just your opinion but you must explain your answer, you might have to do some additional research to answer this question, there are further reading links on the final slide)



The Scramble for Africa

The Scramble for Africa was when European countries were trying to take land from Africa for their Empires. At the time, Africa was not colonised and home to millions of tribal Africans.

Countries with existing Empires like Britain, Spain, and France tried to gain African colonies as well as smaller and less-powerful countries, like Belgium and Italy. They wanted African land because they each wanted their Empire to be the biggest and they wanted to make money by having control of more natural resources including oil, timber, diamonds and cocoa beans.

Before the 1880's, colonisation of Africa had not been possible for various reasons. However, technological advances helped European leaders to successfully seize African land.

- Quinine was invented, which stopped malaria, meaning that European conquerors and their horses were no longer succumbing to the deadly disease that is spread by mosquitos.
- Steamboats were invented, which meant that Europeans could now travel along African rivers quickly and did not have to rely on horses.
- Guns, particularly machine guns were invented, which meant that conquerors could kill more African tribesmen who were armed with daggers, spears and shields.

Rhodes and British Involvement in the Scramble for Africa (5 mins): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAMTB-DRRfE>

A Brief History of the Scramble for Africa (10 mins): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzF88HBLAHY>

The Berlin Conference and the Scramble for Africa (5 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvpDuNIBTKc>

Use the information on slide 5 and the video links to answer the questions below.

1. What is the Scramble for Africa?
2. Why did European powers want land in Africa?
3. How did the advancements in technology help the colonisation of Africa?
4. How does imperialism link with the slave trade? (video 2)
5. What is the Berlin Conference? (Video 3)
6. What were the consequences of the Berlin Conference? (Video 3)

Challenge: What were some of the long-term negative consequences of European Imperialism on Africa and the African people? (This can include your own opinions...You might have to do some of your own research the answer this question)



HOW DOES IMPERIALISM LEAD TO WAR?

Imperialism was one of the long-term causes of the First World War. This means that it was something that was creating tension for a significant period of time before the War actually broke out in 1914. Imperialism caused tensions in Europe for the following reasons:

- 1) It created competition: all of the powers in Europe were competing for the same land abroad (e.g. Africa)
- 2) It created jealousy: for example, Germany was particularly envious of the British Empire and wanted to have an empire of their own.
- 3) Finally, countries that were colonised might want to break free from the countries who own them (e.g. Serbia/Bosnia and Austria-Hungary) and this might lead to acts of aggression or protest.

An example of the tension is the Moroccan Crises of 1905 and 1911 (we will study this in more detail when we're back in school but here is a short summary). This is when France wanted to take Morocco (in North Africa) for its empire. The German Kaiser went to Morocco and made a speech saying that France should not be allowed Morocco and that it should remain independent. There was a conference held and, when the Kaiser tried to argue his point, France and Britain teamed up against him and embarrassed him. This left the Kaiser humiliated and he felt as though Britain and France were trying to limit his expansion of Germany. In 1911, France tried to take Morocco again and the Kaiser sent a warship, called the Panther, to try to stop them. This made Germany appear aggressive and France and Britain became more suspicious of the Kaiser's intentions.

What is imperialism and how did it contribute to the outbreak of war in 1914?

Write a paragraph below to answer the question in your own words. Make sure that you are explaining your points in detail.

Challenge: Can you include some specific/precise evidence in your answer?

Part Two: Militarism and the Start of the First World War

In this PowerPoint you will explore the role that Militarism played in the start of WW1. You can complete the PowerPoint all at once or you can break it up and do it in smaller chunks. By the end, you should be able to comfortably answer the following:

- 1) What is militarism?*
- 2) Why were the countries in Europe building their militaries?*
- 3) How did militarism contribute to the outbreak of war in 1914.*

In total, this should take you about an hour.

Task	Time	Instructions
Slide 2: Decode it Now: Militarism	5-10 minutes	Carefully read the information in the coloured boxes and complete the task in order to fully understand what the term 'Militarism' means and where it comes from.
Slides 3 & 4: Why were countries building their militaries in the late 1800's and early 1900's?	20 minutes	Read the information on slide 3, then use the information to answer the questions on slide 4.
Slides 5 & 6: The Arms/Naval Race	20 minutes	Read the information on slide 5 and watch the video links. Then use the information to answer the questions on slide 6.
Slide 7 How did Militarism lead to war?	20 minutes	Read the information on slide 7 and answer the question.

DECODE IT NOW

Word:
Militarism

Etymology:
Militarism comes from the Latin 'Militaris' which means soldiers or war.

Define it:
'The belief that a country should have great military strength in order to be powerful'- Oxford English Dictionary.

'When a country builds it's army to prove that it is the strongest'- Miss Hall

Digging Deeper:
Countries wanted to build their military as a sign of strength but also so that they could protect or expand their empires.

Use it in a sentence:
'Militarism created tension in Europe before the outbreak of war in 1914'

'The German Kaiser supported militarism in Germany as he was afraid of encirclement (this means that Germany was surrounded by her enemies).'

Use the information in the coloured boxes to complete the tasks here



Write your **own definition** of the word **Militarism** below:

2. Write a sentence of your own that uses the term **Militarism**.

Challenge: Write down as many words as you can that link to the word Militarism (e.g. strength, protection, intimidate)

Why were Countries Growing their Militaries in the Late 1800's and Early 1900's?

The **British Navy had been the most powerful in the world** since the reign of Elizabeth I. The British were very proud of the Royal Navy which allowed them to **travel abroad and acquire a huge empire**. The Royal Navy was also important because **Britain was an island**, which means that it could be attack by enemy ships from all sides, this meant that Britain needed a strong Navy to protect herself from invasion. Finally, the British Royal Navy was a sign of prestige and glory and showed the world that Britain was a force to be reckoned with.

Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and King George V of Britain were cousins (their grandmother was Queen Victoria) and the Kaiser spent a lot of time in England in his youth. This meant that he got to see the British Royal Navy in all it's glory and actually became an Admiral of the British Fleet. When he became Kaiser, he **wanted to make Germany's Navy just as strong as the British Royal Navy**. This made Britain suspicious because Germany was largely land-locked, with just a small coastline at the top, why did their need to grow their Navy? What were they going to do with it? The Kaiser wanted a large navy to serve as a **sign of Germany's strength** but also so that he could take land abroad, **he wanted a strong and powerful empire**. The Kaiser also started to **build it's land army** because he was terrified by the prospect on **'encirclement.'** This means that Germany was 'encircled' or surrounded by enemies. France (a strong military power with a fairly large empire) was to the West and Russia (large) was to the right. France and Russia were allies (friends) and Germany was their joint enemy. If there was a War, the Kaiser knew that Germany could be attacked from both sides, meaning he would have to split his army and fight on two fronts (France in the West and Russia in the East) which would make Germany weaker.

As a response to the growing strength of Germany, and to **help expand their own empires**, neighbouring countries like France and Russia, also started to build their empires as the feared that Germany might be preparing for war.

Use the information on slide 3 to answer the questions below:

- 1) Which country had the strongest Navy?
- 2) Why did Britain need a strong navy? (Three reasons)
- 3) Why did Germany want a strong navy? (Two reasons)
- 4) What is encirclement?
- 5) Why would encirclement put Germany at a disadvantage if there was a War?

Challenge: How does militarism link to imperialism?

The Naval Arms Race

The Naval Arms Race (sometimes referred to as the Anglo-German Arms Race) was a sort of competition between Germany and Britain to see who could get the strongest navy. It began in the late 1890's and lasted until the outbreak of war in 1914.

Britain had always had the superior navy but Kaiser Wilhelm II worked hard to make Germany's a fairly close second. The race began in 1897, when Tirpitz, leader of the German Navy made plans to expand the High Seas Fleet (German Navy). In 1898, the German Kaiser announced that he was going to build 41 battleships. This was the first steps in building the German Navy, a prospect that made Britain suspicious. Britain saw this as a direct threat and responded by creating a superior warship- the HMS Dreadnaught in 1906.

The Dreadnaught was developed by the British Admiral John Fisher. It was a new warship which was 585 feet long and had the capacity to carry a crew of 800 men. It had high-calibre guns and was the fastest battleship of its day, reaching 21 knots at full-speed. The German's also began making Dreadnaughts and the two countries found themselves in a competition to see who could get the most. It ended when Britain started to make two Dreadnaughts for every single Dreadnaught that was built by Germany. The German's were therefore forced to stop building Dreadnaughts and switch to building U-Boats. U-Boats were a type of German submarine that would shoot torpedo's and sink ships. By 1914, the German's had 17 and the British had 29.

Countries also started to grow their land armies. For example France expanded it's army from 700,000 men to 1 million men between the years 1900 and 1914. Russia had the largest army but they were quite weak because their training was not as good as other countries. However, their army also grew from 1.1 million men in 1900 to 1.5 million men in 1914. The German army grew from 500,000 in 1900 to 800,000 in 1914. The British army actually reduced in size because they were focusing on their navy.

A Short Animated Summary of the Naval Arms Race (4 mins): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQNCHtOpL94>

Use the information on slide 5 to complete the tasks below:

- 1) What is the Naval Arms Race?
- 2) How many warships did Germany announce that they were building in 1898?
- 3) How did Britain respond?
- 4) What is a Dreadnaught?
- 5) How many Dreadnaughts did each side have by 1914?
- 6) What is a U-Boat?
- 7) Complete the table below to show how each countries land army expanded between 1900 and 1914.

Country	Size of Army in 1900	Size of Army in 1914	Difference in size between 1900 and 1914
France			
Russia			
Germany			

How did Militarism Lead to War?

Militarism leads to War for the following reasons:

- 1) It makes other countries very suspicious. For example, Britain was suspicious of Germany's expanding navy as they felt as though it was unnecessary because Germany was largely land-locked.
- 2) It makes other countries feel threatened. For example, France, who shared a border with Germany, felt as though Germany could invade at any moment. This meant that they needed to build their army for protection.
- 3) Finally, it meant that if one event provoked another country, everyone in Europe was ready for War because they had been building up their armies and navy's for several years.

What is militarism and how did it contribute to the outbreak of war in 1914?

Write a paragraph to answer the question in your own words. Make sure that you are explaining your points in detail.

Challenge: Can you include some specific/precise evidence in your answer?