

The Stage Is Set for War

In 1914, the world was in a situation where even a small conflict could potentially cause war to break out and spread, much like a spark in a dry forest.

The following list describes some of the conditions that "set the stage" for war. After reading a passage about how the war began, decide as a group which of the following conditions were the strongest influence in the outbreak and spread of the war.

Rate the conditions from 1 to 7, with the Most Dangerous as #1, to the Least Dangerous as #7, and record the reasons for your choices.



Condition	Rating	Reason
Many people believed that the more land, sea, and trade their country controlled, the greater their nation. There was a build-up of tension as countries competed for more control and power in the world.		
For many people in many countries, there were extreme feelings of <i>nationalism</i> (pride for their country and a belief in its superiority over others). Many believed that the good of their country was more important than the good of the world or of other countries.		
Many countries had built up arsenals of weapons, and had large armies, navies, and air forces to compete for control of the sea, the air, and the land.		

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Condition	Rating	Reason
<p>Many people in the strongest countries believed in <i>imperialism</i>. They wanted to expand their territory to take control of other countries, to turn them into colonies that depended on them as a "motherland."</p>		
<p>The countries of Europe were divided into two large groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and allies2) Allied Powers: Great Britain, France, Russia, and allies		
<p>Many countries had partnership agreements or military alliances, promising to support and help each other if they were attacked by another country. Smaller countries, less able to defend themselves, often had a promise of protection from a larger nation.</p>		
<p>The leaders of many governments at that time believed that the sign of a nation's greatness was its military strength, or "war power."</p>		