



The Great War Begins: World War I

Increasing Hostility

- Industrial pursuits had increased in various European nations. Competition and rivalry for resources and power appeared throughout the continent.
- Numerous areas were also experiencing a surge in nationalism. Nationalism is extreme devotion to your own country or ethnic group, while viewing others as inferior.
- Nationalism makes world peace fragile because various nations embrace arrogance and a willingness to use force against their neighboring countries.

A series of gun powder kegs were metaphorically prepared to explode into war in Europe.
Powder Keg #1: Nationalism



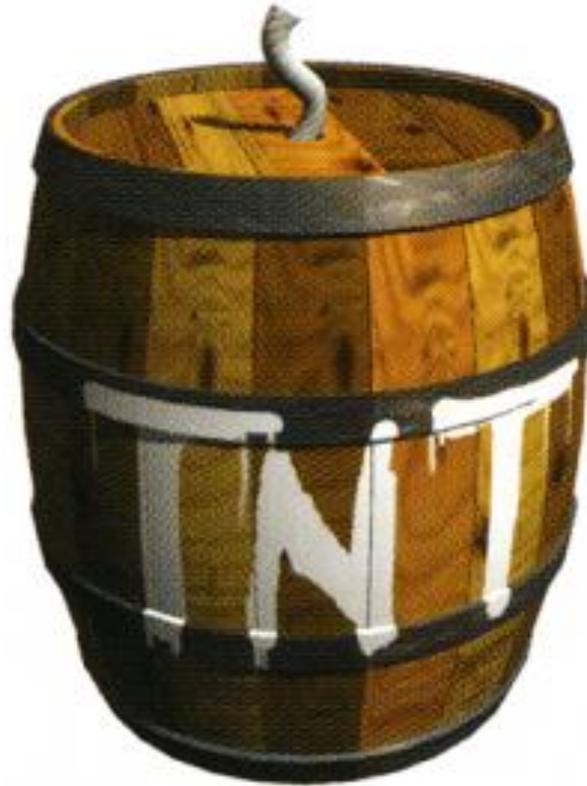
Industrial Might

-As industrialization increased the products many nations possessed, it also grew their military supplies.

-In eras before the 1900s, guns were primitive and took a long time to reload. Industrialization had changed all of this. Weapons were rapidly increasing in their capabilities. This radically changed warfare.

-Various nations in Europe began to improve weapons and build up gargantuan arsenal supplies. This massive buildup of weapons and aggressive willingness to use them is called militarism.

Powder Keg #2: **Militarism**



***#1: What is Nationalism?
What is Militarism? How
did the presence of
Nationalism and
Militarism impact the
world in the early 1900s?***

Empires Collide

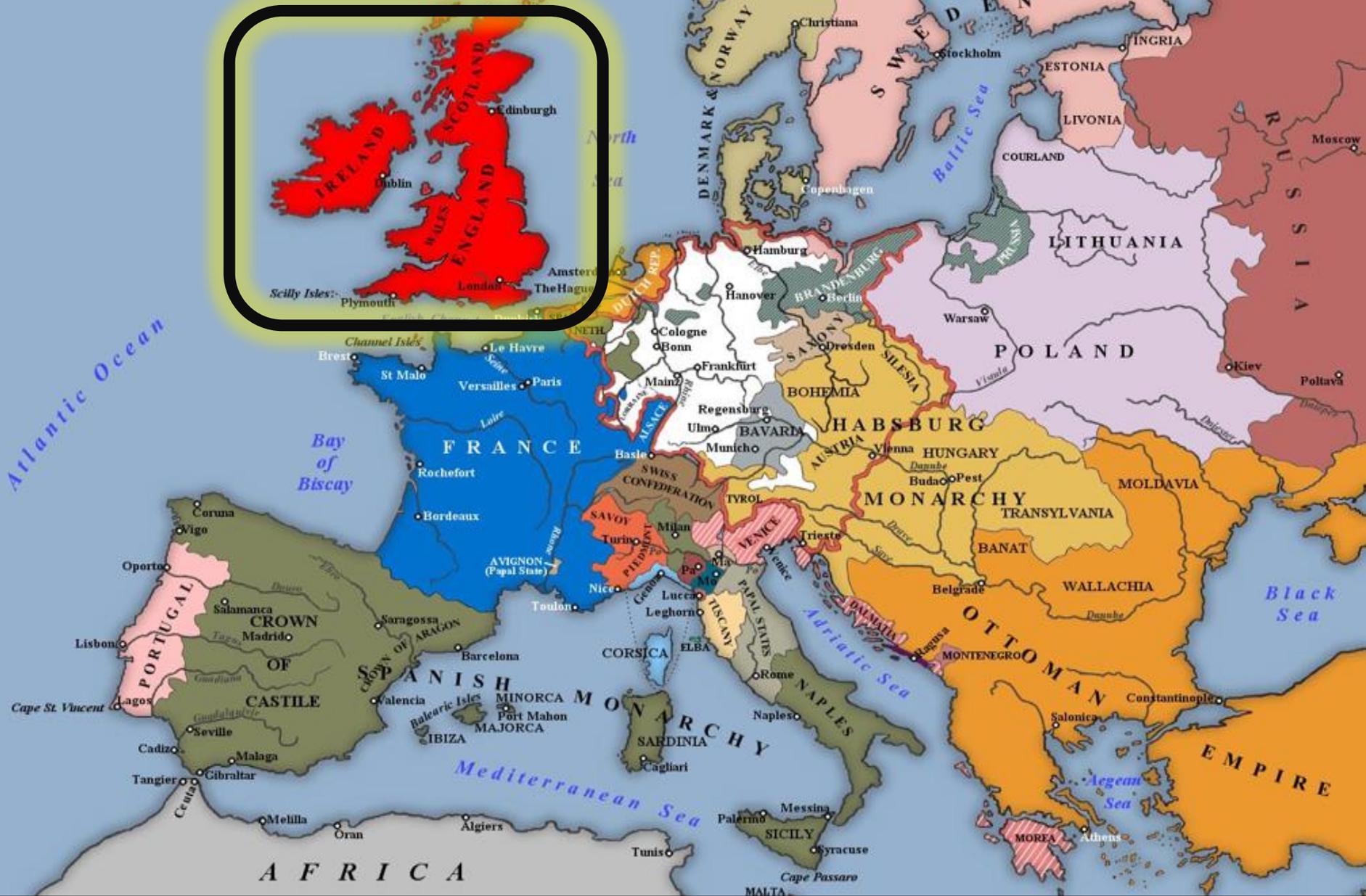
-European nations and the USA increased their influence around the world in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

-Imperialism is when a large nation controls a weaker area for industrial pursuits. European nations controlled various areas in Africa and Asia for their own benefit.

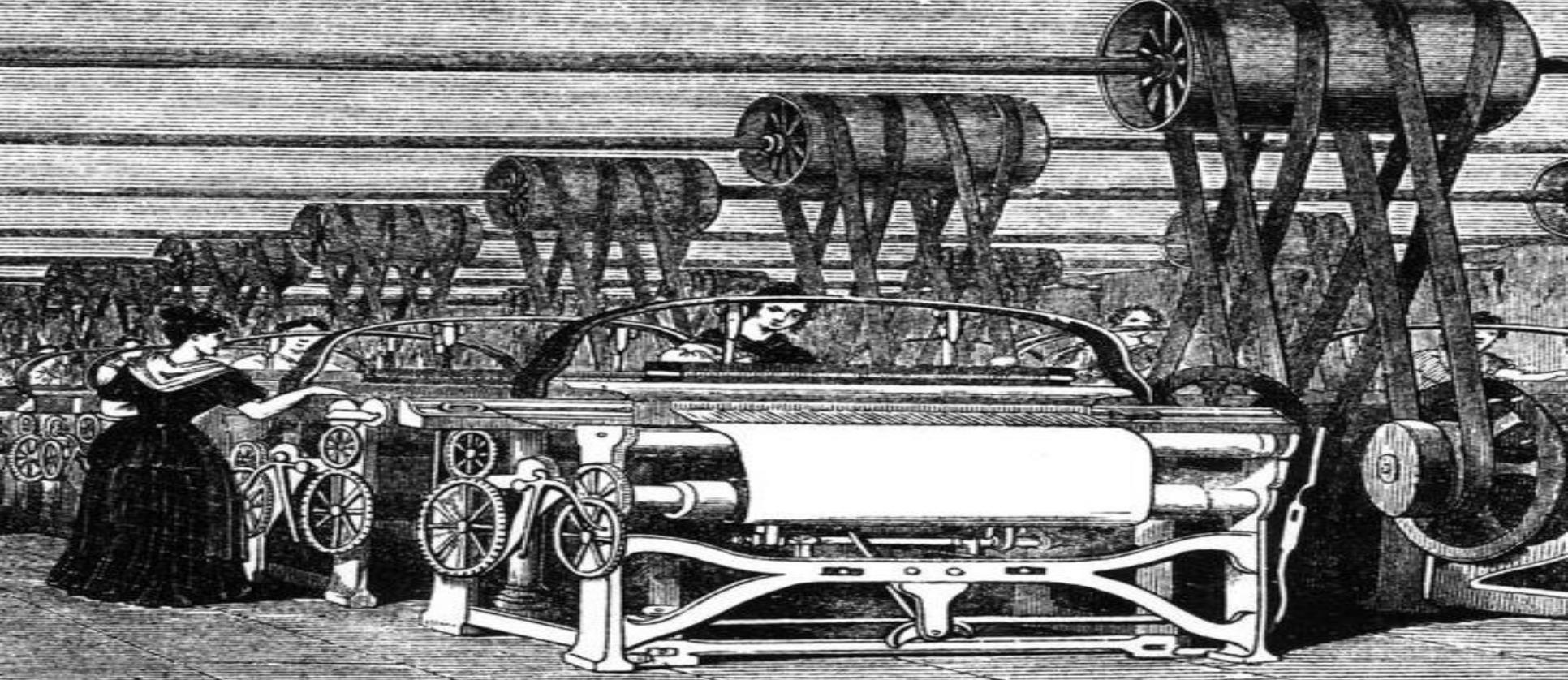
-Yet, this fostered an atmosphere of aggression in the world. European nations competed with each other over these territories, making them vulnerable to pursue war with one another. Likewise, the imperialistic nations risked war with the natives of the various areas they were trying to control.

Powder Keg #3: Imperialism



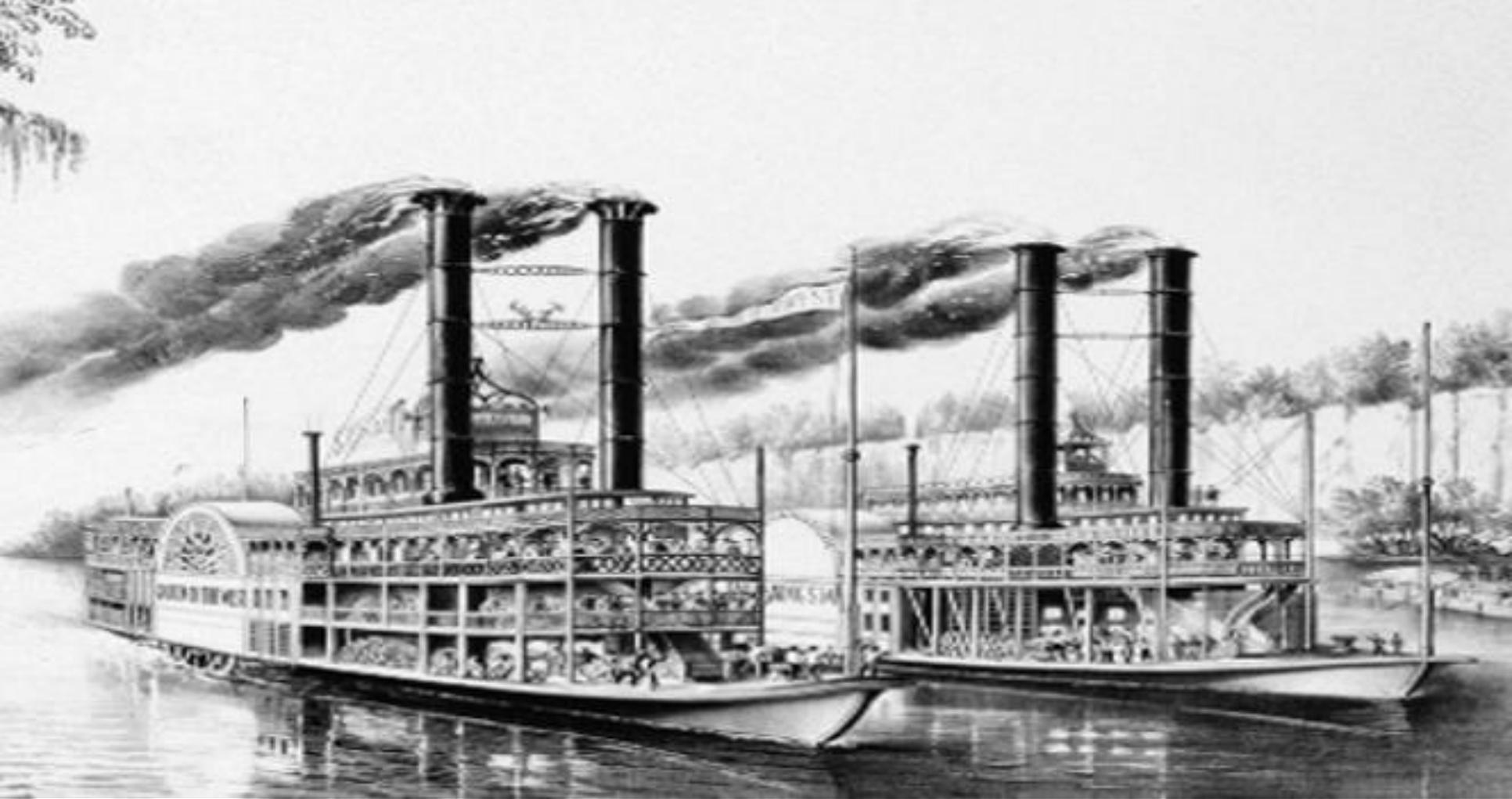


Great Britain (England) was the first nation to enter into the Industrial Revolution.

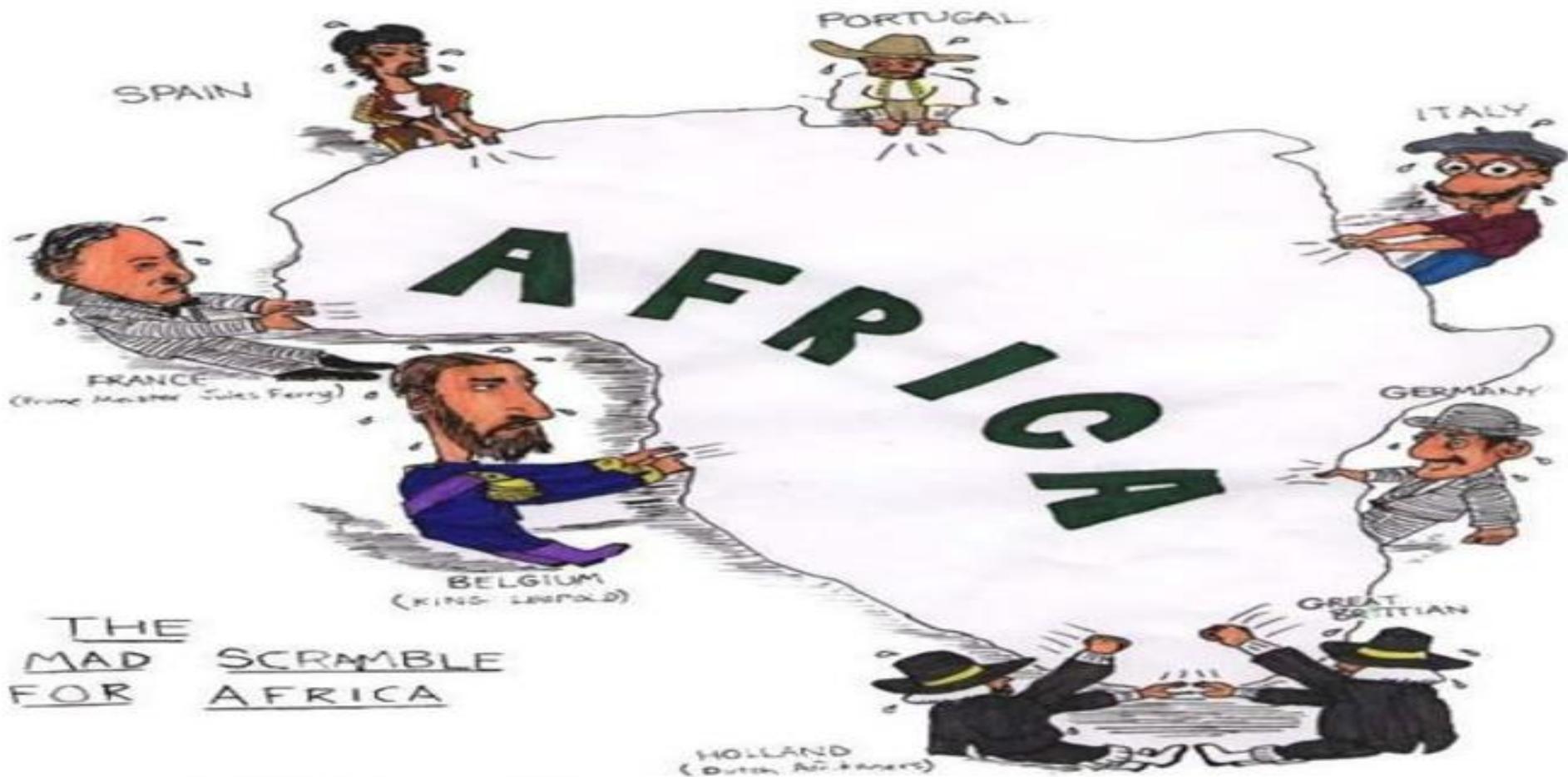


Prior to the Industrial Revolution, most people had handmade items.

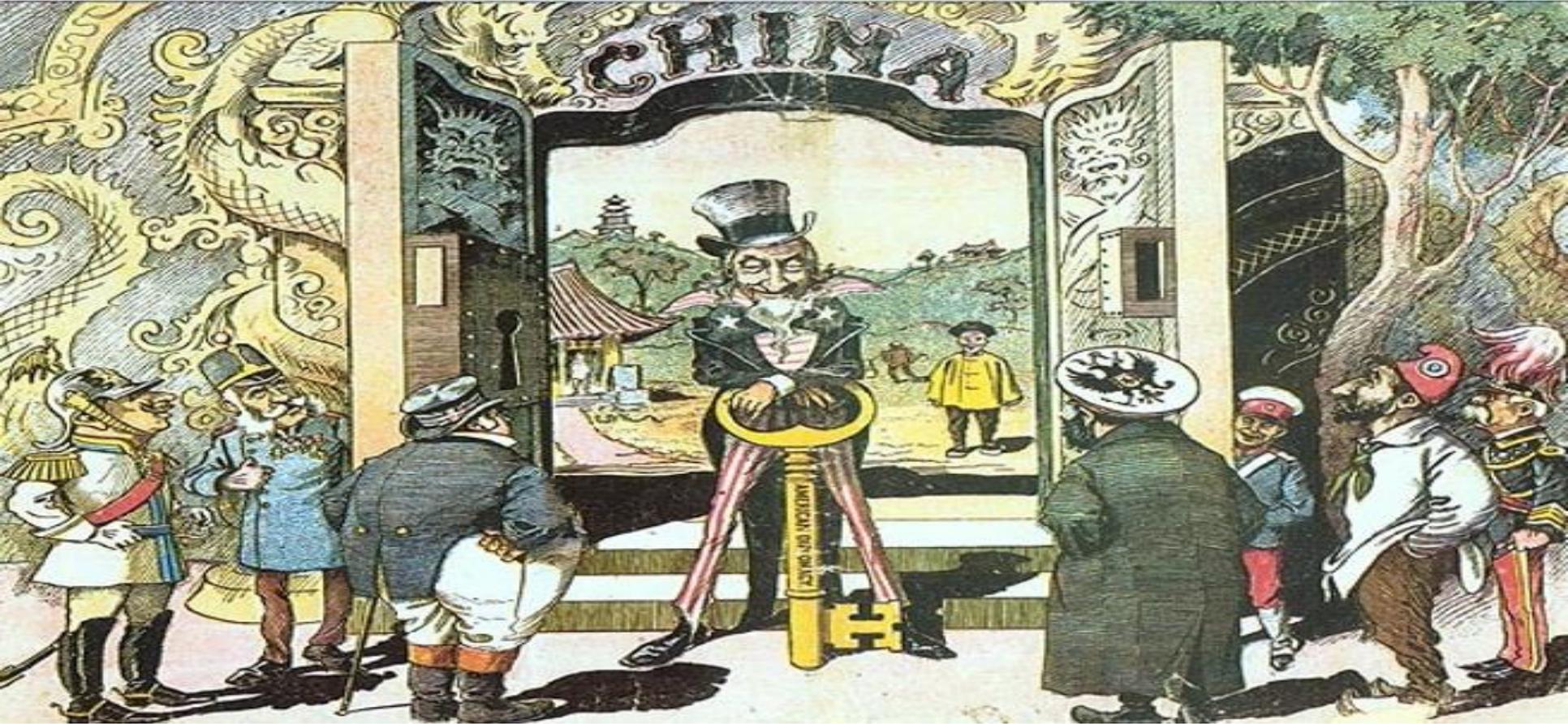
Yet, after the Industrial Revolution, machines made these items, such as the textile machines above that made materials for clothes. Imperialism was partially practiced to gain raw resources for factories.



Steamboats gave Europeans access to areas in Africa previously deemed unreachable.



Conflict came about due to European imperialism. For instance, imperialism led conflict with native Africans as Europeans sought to control Africa. Also, competition led to conflict between European nations as each country tried to gain control of areas in Africa.



Imperialism came about in Asia as well as industrial nations sought to spread their influence to places like China.

The USA wanted to “keep the doors of China open” for all outside nations to trade with them.

This led to the Open Door Policy and it was partially an attempt to keep these industrial nations from going to war.

***#2: What is Imperialism?
Why would any nation
want to practice
Imperialism? What risks
would a country take by
pursuing Imperialism?***

The Problem of Alliances

-Just in case war broke out, many nations started forming teams and alliances to protect each other. Yet, this actually made war more likely.

-If there was no war yet, but everyone was choosing teams, then it would only take two nations from rival teams to throw everyone into war.

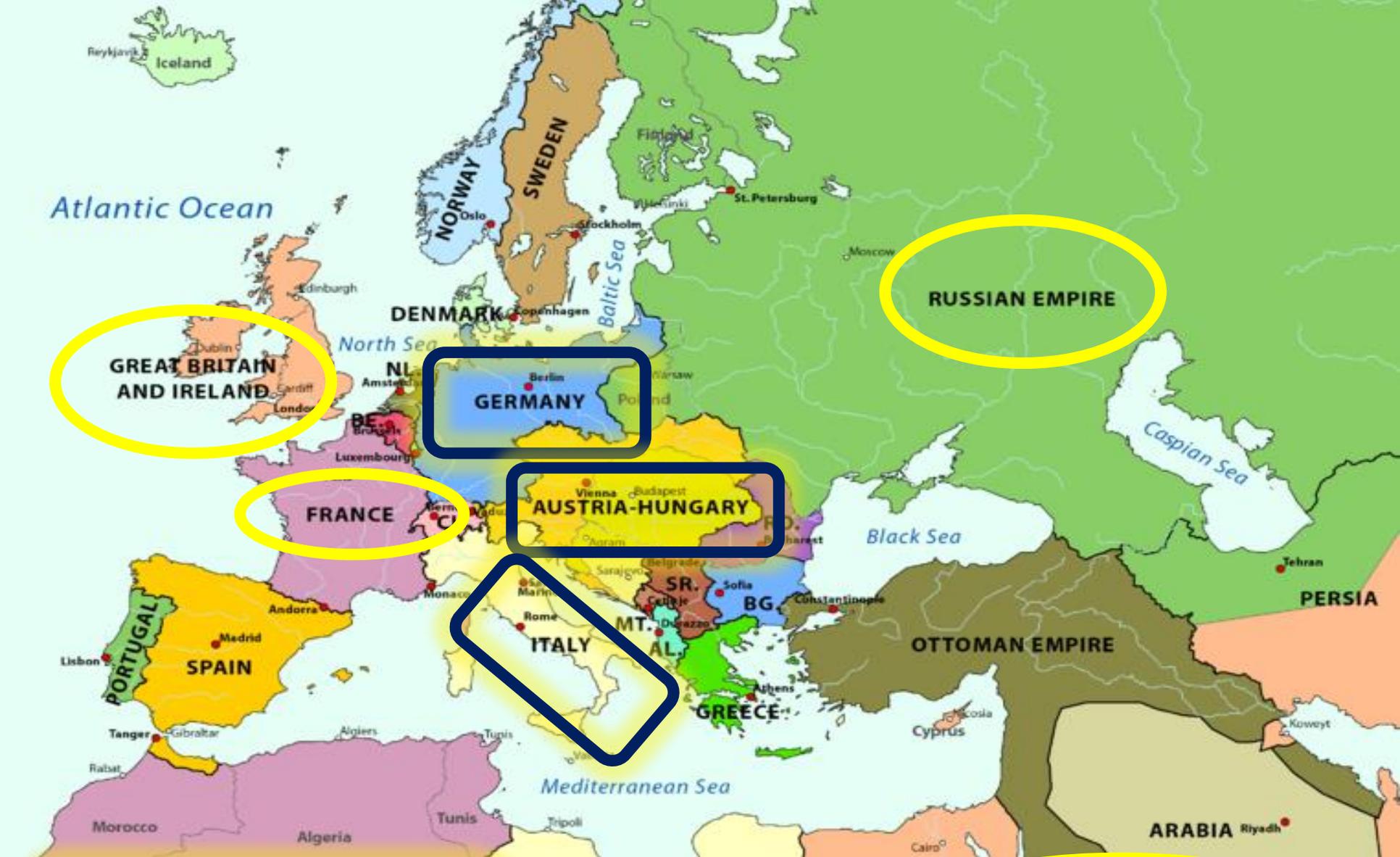
-Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary formed the Triple Alliance, also called the Central Powers.
Britain, France, and Russia formed the Triple Entente, also called the Allies.

Powder Keg #4:

Alliances



#3: How could forming alliances before any nation was even at war actually make a nation more vulnerable to get involved in a war?



**GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND**

GERMANY

FRANCE

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

ITALY

RUSSIAN EMPIRE

**The Central Powers:
The Triple Alliance**

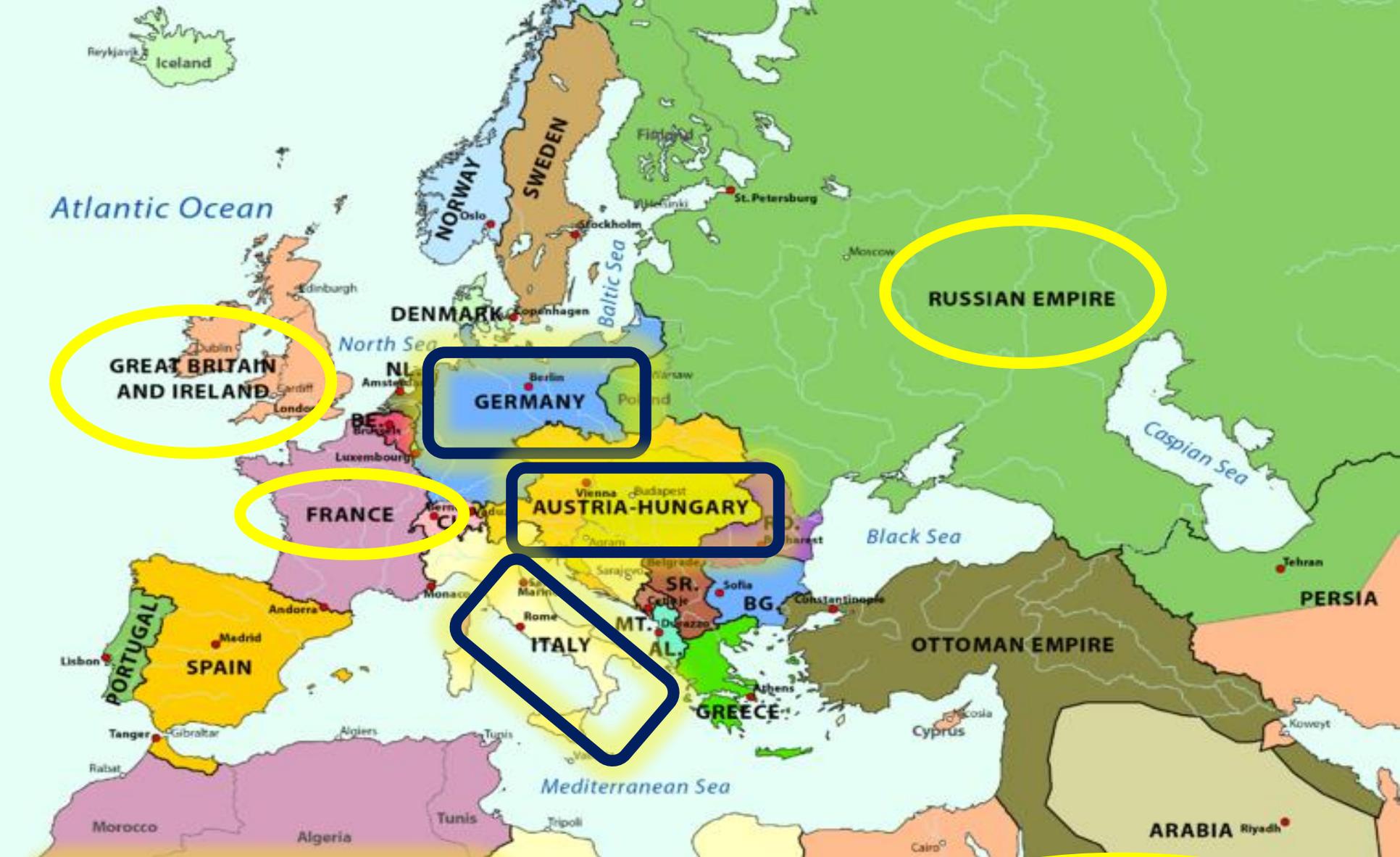
**The Allies:
Triple Entente**

Russia's Tension with Austria-Hungary

-Nationalism, Militarism, Imperialism, and Alliances had a set a stage for potential war.

-All that was needed was any two nations from opposing teams to fight each other. If this occurred, the other “teammates” would have to defend their fellow alliance member.

-Austria-Hungary and Russia each wanted to control the Balkan Peninsula for a warm sea port. Many Serbs living in this region did not want to be controlled by outside, foreign powers; they wanted independence and to unify a renewed government.



**GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND**

FRANCE

GERMANY

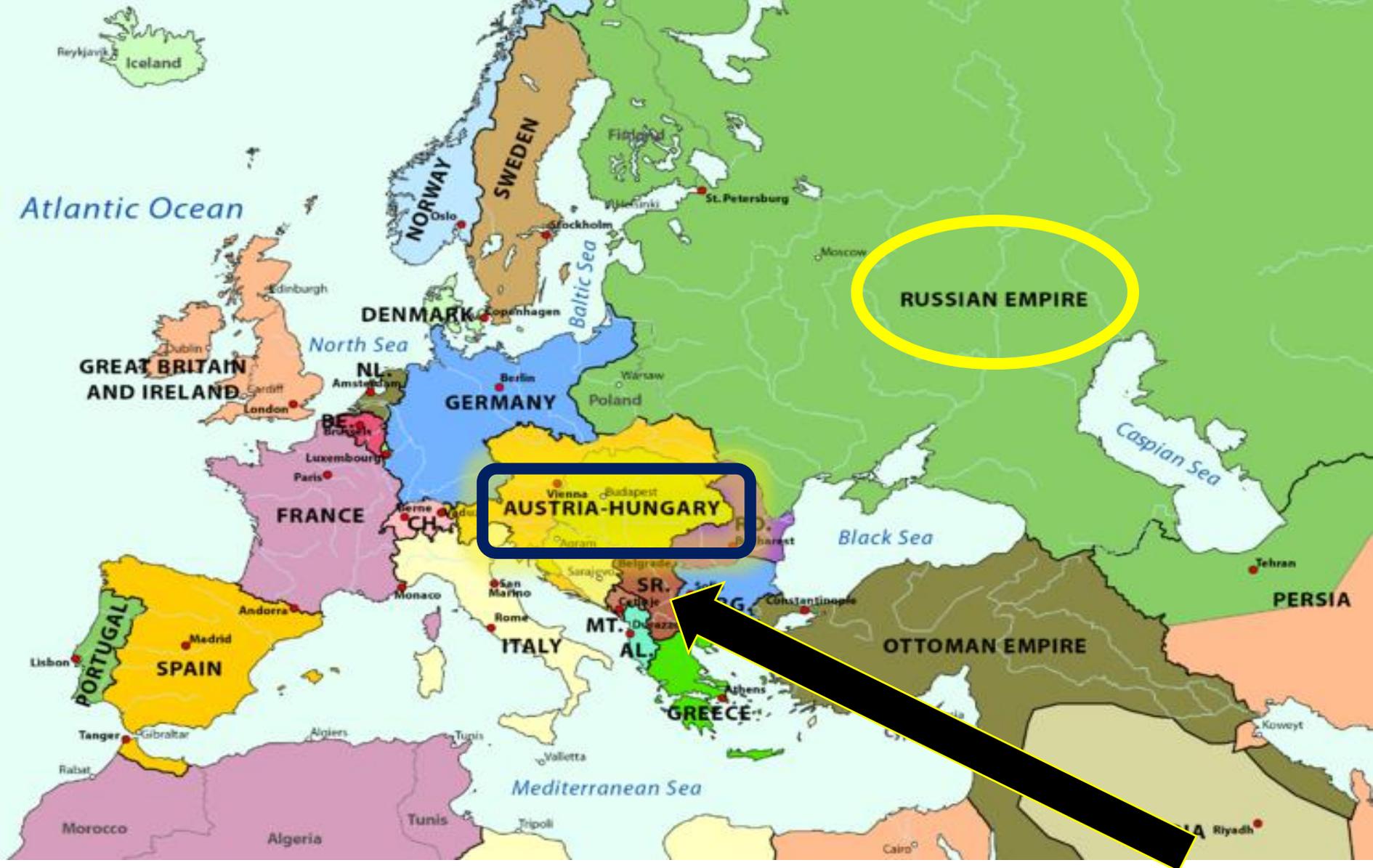
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

ITALY

RUSSIAN EMPIRE

**The Central Powers:
The Triple Alliance**

**The Allies:
Triple Entente**



Austria-Hungary and Russia each wanted to control the Balkan Peninsula. They each happened to be in different alliances. Many Serbs simply wanted independence from outside influence.

The Spark that Ignites the Great War

-A group called the Black Hand formed to resist outside influence on the Balkan Peninsula and create a new, unified government.

-A Black Hand member, Gavrilo Princip (1894-1918), assassinated Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand (1863-1914) who was visiting the region in nearby Sarajevo.

-Furious, Austria-Hungary, led by Emperor Franz Joseph the 1st (1848-1916), eventually invaded the region. Russia then mobilized to keep Austria-Hungary from gaining the Balkan Peninsula.



**Franz Joseph the
1st led Austria-
Hungary when the
nation decided to
invade Serbia as a
response to the
assassination of
Arch Duke Franz
Ferdinand,
Joseph's nephew.**

Alliances Defend One Another

-Germany, led by Kaiser Wilhelm the 2nd (1859-1941), came to the defense of Austria-Hungary. Great Britain and France showed up to defend Russia.

-The system of alliances was meant to protect member nations from outside conflict. Yet, it made them more vulnerable for war. They had to defend their fellow members.

-While they may have avoided having to participate in a war rooted in foreign skirmishes, if they had never made alliances, the alliances made them all intertwined. Once the Allies came to defend Russia and Germany came to defend Austria-Hungary, the Great War had begun.

The German Emperor, Wilhelm the 2nd, assured Austria-Hungry that he would honor their alliance in their attempt to bring consequences to Serbia for Ferdinand's assassination.





Princip's assassination of Ferdinand provoked Austria-Hungary to invade the Balkan Peninsula. Russia mobilized against Austria-Hungary to stop their apparent take over of the Balkan Peninsula. Since they were on opposing alliances, this forced war between the Allies and the Central Powers.

In the early 1900s, nationalism, militarism, imperialism, and alliances had set the stage for a World War. These metaphorical powder kegs just needed a spark.

Powder Keg #1:

Nationalism



Powder Keg #2:

Militarism



Powder Keg #3:

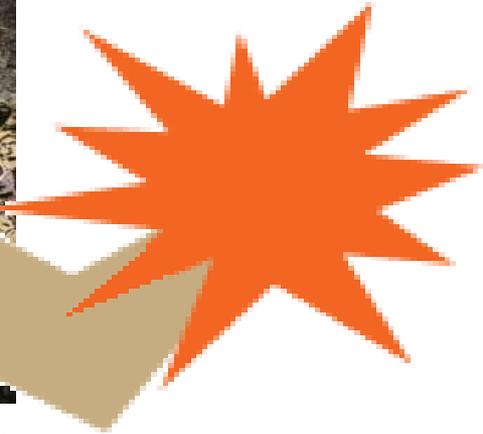
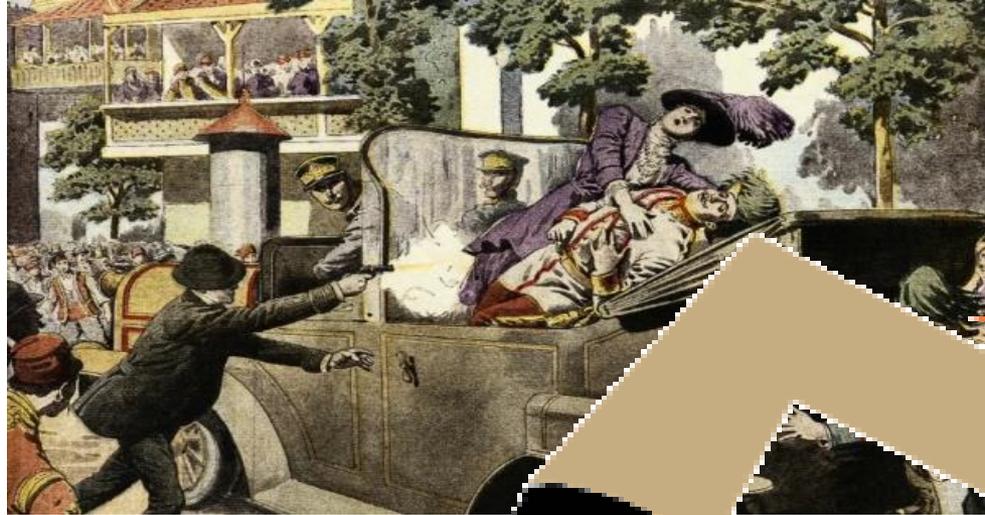
Imperialism



Powder Keg #4:

Alliances



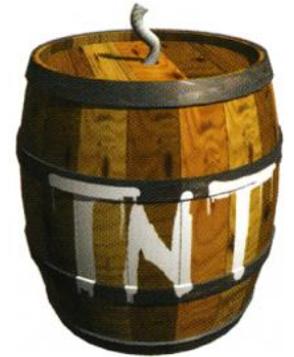


Princip's assassination

of Franz Ferdinand THAT SPARK.

Powder Keg #1: Nationalism #2: Imperialism #3: Militarism #4: Alliance System

Nationalism Imperialism Militarism Alliances



***#4: How was Gavrilo
Princip's assassination
of Arch Duke Franz
Ferdinand the "spark"
that ignited World
War I?***

The Ottomans Replace Italy

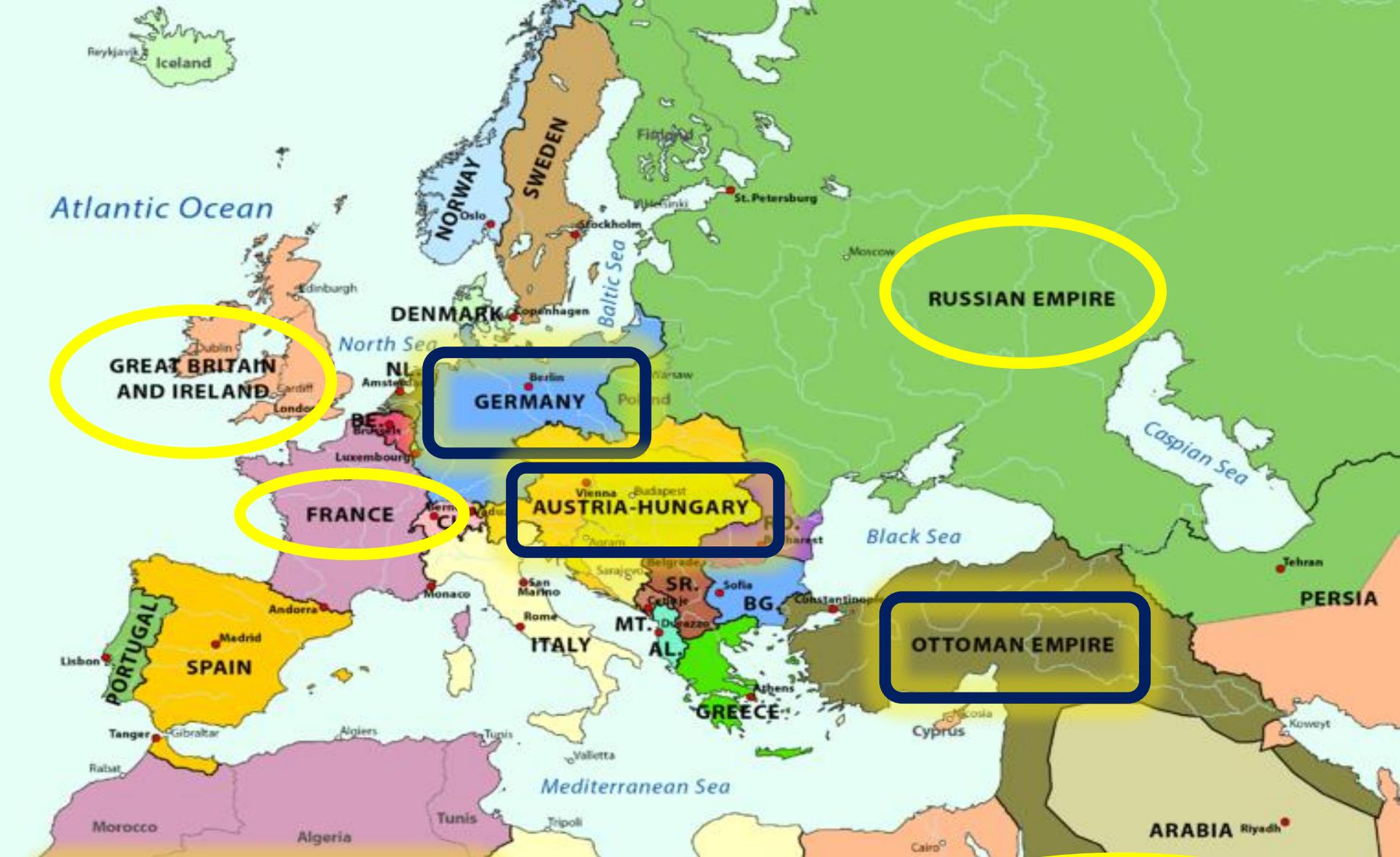
-When war broke out, Italy did not continue on with the Central Powers. They left the group.

-Yet, another major power took Italy's place, the Muslim Ottoman Empire, led by the Minister of War, Ismail Enver Pasha (1881-1922). Germany promised increased trade and to develop a railroad to connect their region with the Ottomans.

-Germany sent troops to the French border. This was called the Schlieffen Plan. Alfred Graf von Schlieffen (1833-1913), a German military leader, created this plan to attack France first, then Russia, since France was viewed as a greater threat.



**Ismail Enver
Pasha led the
Ottoman Empire
to join the
Central Powers
of Germany and
Austria-Hungary
in World War I.**



**The Central Powers:
The Triple Alliance**

**The Ottoman
Empire Replaced
Italy**

**The Allies:
Triple Entente**

Though Russia was the main aggressor toward Austria-Hungary, Germany attacked France first. This was called the Schlieffen Plan, named after Alfred Graf von Schlieffen (1833-1913)





Through the Schlieffen Plan,
Germany attacked France first.

Leaders and Alliances

- By August of 1914, Europe was thrown into war. Various leaders had to guide their nations as violence erupted.
- The British, initially having as their Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith (1852-1928) and later David Lloyd George (1863-1945), declared war on Germany.
- In France, Raymond Poincare (1860-1934) was the President of France, when war broke out. He played a major role in France's commitment to support Russia.

Shifting Loyalties

-Georges Clemenceau (1841-1929) emerged as the Prime Minister of France and played a great role toward the end of the war, becoming more influential towards the war's end than Poincare

-A Pacific power, Japan, also joined the Allies and supported them against the Central Powers. Okuma Shigenobu (1838-1922) served as Prime Minister of Japan, when they joined the Allies. The Japanese Navy attacked German imperial interests in the Pacific.

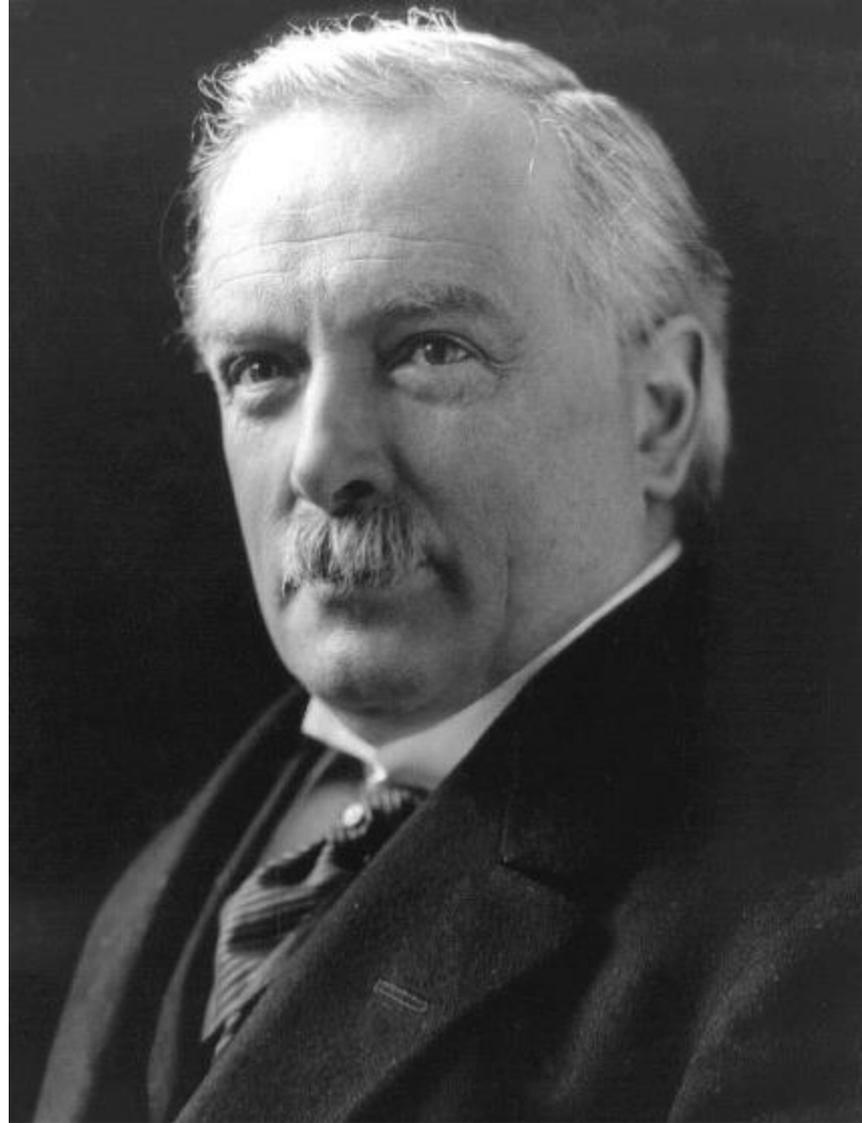
-Italy started off aligned with the Central Powers. Yet, Italian Prime Minister Antonio Salandra (1853-1931) refused to help. Italy claimed Germany and Austria-Hungary were the aggressors and initiators of the conflict.

Okuma Shigenobu (1838-1922) served as Prime Minister of Japan when they joined the Allies. The Japanese Navy challenged German interests in the Pacific during the war.

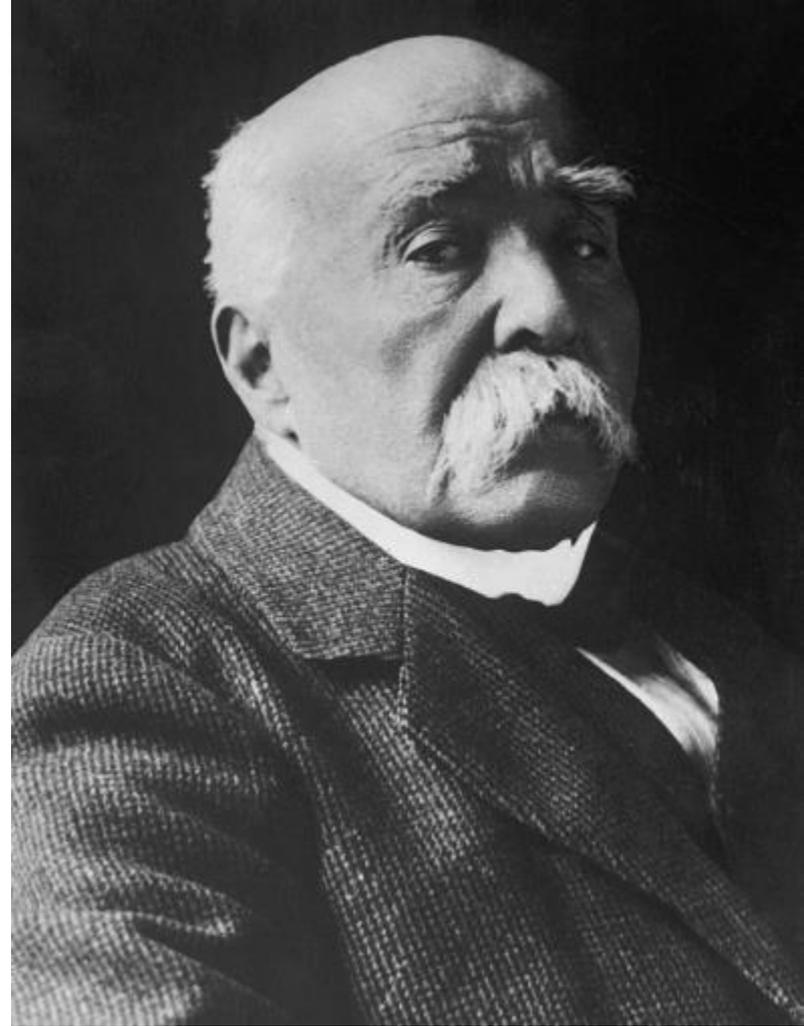




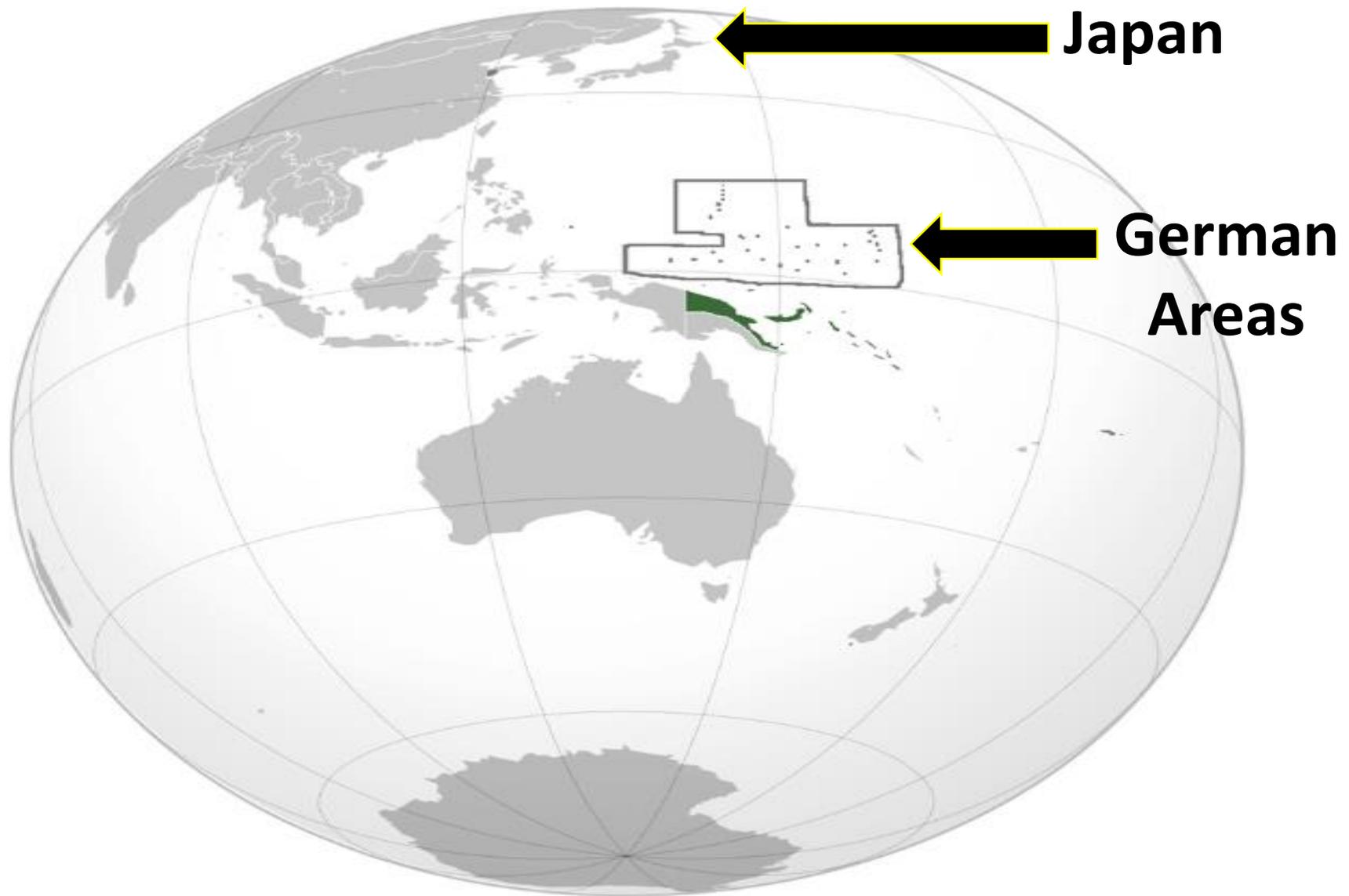
**Italian Prime
Minister Antonio
Salandra refused
to follow through
and defend the
Central Powers,
when war began.**



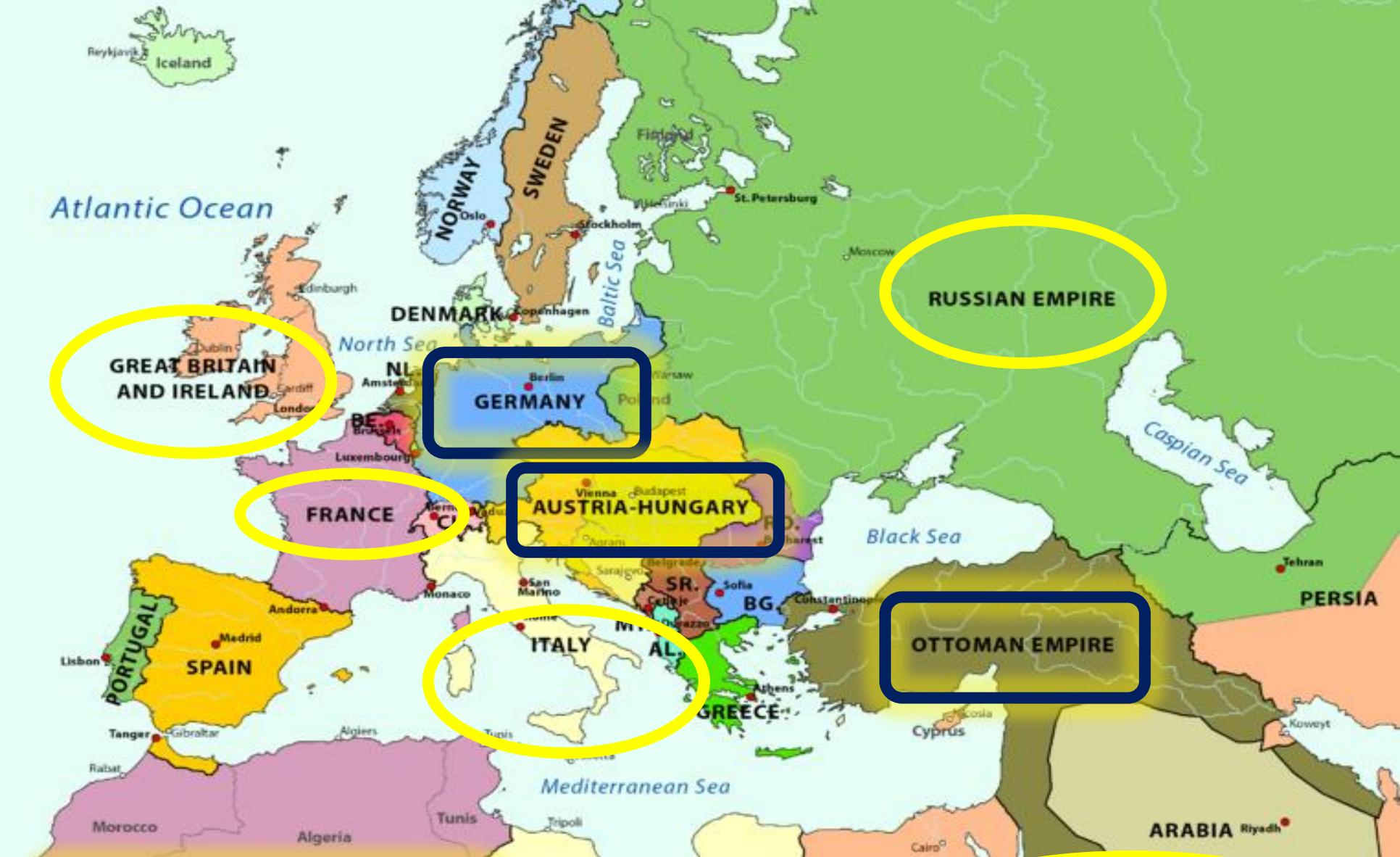
Herbert Henry Asquith was Prime Minister of Britain when WW I began. David Lloyd George gained the office as the war progressed and eventually ended.



Raymond Poincaré was the President of France when war broke out. He played a role in his commitment to Russia. Georges Clemenceau emerged as the Prime Minister of France and played a great role toward the end of the war.



Germany actually had a small presence in the Pacific Ocean with New Guinea and its surrounding areas. When Japan joined the allies, they fought with the German presence in these areas.



**The Central Powers:
The Triple Alliance**

*Though once a member
of the Central Powers,
Italy joined the Allies.*

**The Allies:
Triple Entente**

The Western Front

-Germany invaded France and made it the edge of Paris. Yet, the Allies forced Germany to retreat.

-At the First Battle of the Marne, in September of 1914, named after the nearby Marne River, massive fighting broke out.

-Each side dug trenches hundreds of miles on the Western Border of France. This meant neither side could advance.



**German soldiers at the First Battle of the Marne in
September of 1914**



French soldiers charging in the First Battle of the Marne in September of 1914.

Trench Warfare

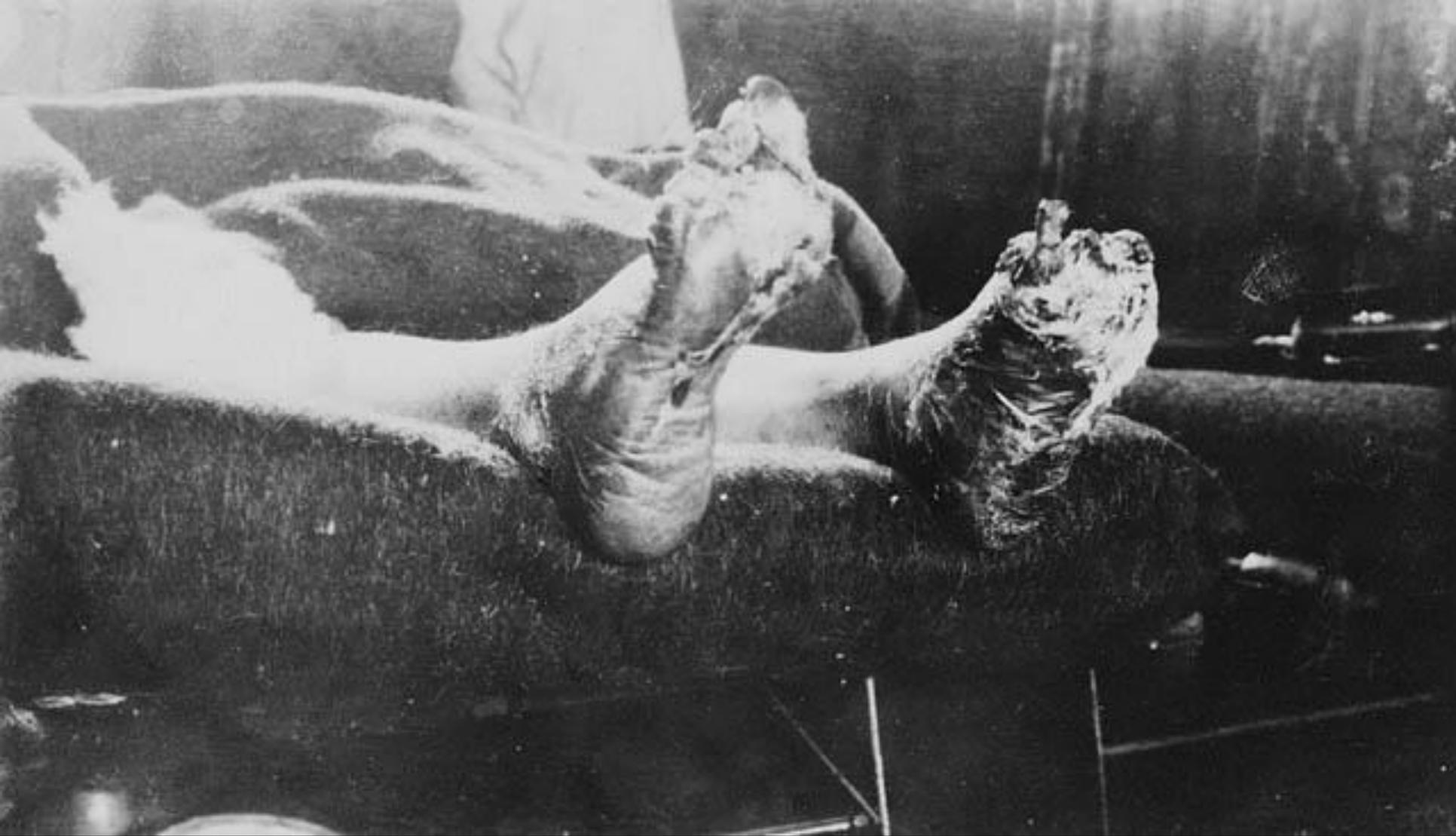
-Neither side could advance and remained in the trenches they had dug. The trenches kept evolving and growing in complexity.

-The trenches created an atmosphere where soldiers were vulnerable to the spread of disease. They had little shelter and meager access to food.

-Trench foot was a very real threat, a condition where the wetness and coldness made feet very vulnerable to infection. The trench warfare drug the conflict on with neither side able to initiate a successful campaign against the other.



Each side had powerful, industrial guns and other weapons in World War I. This led to a stalemate. In France, on the Western Front, the soldiers of the Allies and the Central Powers each dug hundreds of miles of trenches to protect themselves from the other.



Trench foot was a horrific infection. Soldiers' feet would appear painfully to rot off.

Poisonous Gas

-As each side sought to advance beyond the trenches, they utilized industrial technology.

-The Germans started lobbing poisonous gas into opposing trenches. The Allies used the same techniques. This horrific method would suffocate and torture soldiers to death.

-Soldiers were able to resist the gas attacks through using gas masks. The breakthrough out of the trenches came not with gas, but with the use of tanks.



German soldiers wearing gas masks in WW I



British soldiers injured and blinded by a gas attack.

***#5: What was
Trench Warfare?
What dangers did
soldiers face in
Trench Warfare?***

Battle of the Somme

- Between July and November of 1916, the Battle of the Somme, named after a nearby river, took place.
- Britain and the Allies started using tanks that soldiers could shelter behind to move out of the trenches.
- This was the most costly battle on the Western Front. One million casualties occurred in the battle.

Tanks

-In the Battle of the Somme, the Allies gained ground, but only a few miles, rendering the battle as an inconclusive victory for either side.

-The new invention of the tank helped break the stalemate of trench warfare. Tanks were primitive and advanced as the war continued.

-The Allies had better success with tanks as the war continued. Tanks made advancing beyond the trenches possible.



A British Mark I Tank



A German A7V Tank



While fighting in France, Germany had two fronts to deal with. They also had to fight Russia in the East.

#6: How was the stalemate caused by Trench Warfare finally overcome in WW I?

The Eastern Front

-Germany found itself fighting a two front war. They were fighting France in the west and Russia in the east.

-The Schlieffen Plan called for the attack of France first, but Russia was still at war with the nation in the east.

-Tsar Nicholas II (1894-1917) led Russia in its military attacks Germany and the Central Powers.

**Tsar Nicholas
the 2nd of Russia
led the nation to
attack Germany
and the Eastern
Front of the
Central Powers.**



Russia Loses Ground

-Many Serbs fought alongside Russia against Germans and Austro-Hungarians.

-Russia had early successes. Yet, Germany eventually gained the upper hand in the Eastern Front.

-In the Gorlice–Tarnow Offensive (May to June of 1915), Russia was forced out of Poland and lost all hopes of attacking Austria-Hungary. The Central Powers were defeating the Russians. Yet, fighting a two front war was wearing down the Germans.

**The
End**

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