

Name: _____

Date: _____

ALLIANCES LEAD TO WAR

The leaders of Austria-Hungary held Serbia responsible for Archduke Francis Ferdinand's death in a terrorist attack in 1914. The leaders of Austria-Hungary hoped to rally the citizens of their fading empire by going to war against the much smaller Serbia, believing a victory would remind their ethnic minorities of the empire's strength, and let other ethnic groups know that terrorism would be punished. Wars are expensive, but they can also help an economy. Workers throughout Austria-Hungary went to work in factories creating weapons. Others toiled to feed and clothe the soldiers. What Austria-Hungary did not count on was fighting two nations.

Russia has a large Serbian minority and many ties with the Serbia and the other nations in the Balkan mountains. Russia was displeased with Austria-Hungary's seizure of Sarajevo and did not want Austria-Hungary expanding into

the Balkans. So Russia agreed to join Serbia if Austria-Hungary attacked.

Austria-Hungary had a military alliance with Germany. An alliance is an agreement to act together. When Austria-Hungary declared war in July 1914, Germany joined the fight against Serbia.

The people of France hoped to relive the glory days of Napoleon, a period when France briefly controlled most of Europe. The French were eager to reclaim land ceded to Germany in a small conflict 44 years earlier. France had an alliance with Russia, so the French prepared to join the conflict.

A month later, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia in July 1914; a month after Franz Ferdinand's murdered. Russia, Germany, and France joined the conflict within a week. Belgium hoped to remain out of the war, but when German soldiers marched across their border to reach France, the Belgians called on an alliance with Great Britain to help resist the Germans. Like a snowball rolling downhill, European alliances entangled most of the continent into what became known as "the Great War."



French poster asking people to support their troops by purchasing war bonds.

Answer in Complete Sentences

*1. In your opinion, what was the strongest reason for Austria-Hungary to go to war in 1914. Use facts from the article to support your answer.

*2. Why did Russia go to war with Austria-Hungary?

3. Why were the French eager to go to war in 1914?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.