

## World War I Significantly Caused by Alliances

Although there were many significant factors, I believe that the most significant cause of World War I was the many alliances between Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, France, and Serbia which caused the conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia to erupt into a world war. There were many pre-established alliances between the several European countries prior to the war, for example, Germany and Austria-Hungary. So when the Astro-Hungarian Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist, Austria-Hungary was able to take advantage of the pre-existing alliance with Germany to secure their support, before declaring war on Serbia. Austria-Hungary wanted Germany's support for fear of Russia allying with Serbia. As stated by John Green in the CrashCourse video *How World War I Started*: "The Austrians and Serbs probably both imagined that the war could stay localized to the Balkans especially since there had been previous conflicts in the region that hadn't blow up into a world war." Because of a chain reaction of alliances, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia mobilized to support Serbia, France mobilized to back Russia and then Germany declared war on Russia. When Germany crossed the border into Belgium, Britain told Germany to "get out or else," Germany chose "or else," so Britain declared war. Therefore, instead of the conflict remaining localized to Austria-Hungary and Serbia, the many alliances incited a global conflict.