**Triple Alliance 1882**

Extension of Dual. Germany, Austria. H + Italy offered to support. Italy joined to preserve nat. security + anger France for taking Tunisia previous year as Italy also wanted. Bismarck saw Italy as tool to isolate France (not useful for war). Italy insisted alliance exclude action against Britain + offer no guarantee to A. H if war break out. Same time France encouraged peruse colonial ambitions in Africa.

**Reinsurance Treaty (1887)**

Bismarck’s plan to isolate France no work. Austria. H + Italy traditional enemies + couldn’t make large army to defend Germany if France invade. Germany + Russia no alliance so Germany at risk if France + Russia Ally. Bismarck signed Reinsurance Treaty with Russia to stop invade from East.

Russia + Germany agreed maintain neutral unless Germany attack France or Russia war with Austria. H. Bismarck encourage for country foreign policy to be in different areas, Russia in Balkans + Germany in West. Failed to renew treaty helping France secure Russia as ally severely affecting Germany.

Treaty seemed offer encouragement as allowed as allowed Russia Balkan ambitions + Germany remove threat Russia France collaboration.

Bismarck’s influence beginning to wane. Year after treaty made Wilhelm II become Kaiser. More anti-Russian than leaders before + generals persuaded war. Bismarck resigned in 1890 + Reinsurance treaty collapsed.

**Opposition to Germany**

All alliances negotiated by Bismarck so purely defensive + intended preserve peace. Formed in secret making other powers suspicious. Suspicions intensified when Germany adopted aggressive foreign approach. Germany wanted to expand into Africa + achieve access to seas for good trading. Russia, Britain, France getting in way of success.

**Franco-Russian Alliance (1894)**

When Reinsurance lapsed 1890 Russia felt threatened. Russia + France steadily improved relations. Began negotiations for treaty. 1888 France gave Russia loans as wanted to keep friendly. They scared of Triple alliance so created their own defensive one. Both countries give aid if either attacked. Alliance exist as long as Triple alliance exist. Was defensive alliance.

**Britain policy (Splendid Isolation)**

“Splendid Isolation” Brits focused expanding + controlling empire than events at home. Tried agreement with Germany for colonies in Africa. 7 attempts made all failed. Wilhelm II
Increasing armaments

Army more important in Germany than rest of Europe. Frederick the Great expanded Prussia. Bismarck relied on his strong army to win wars + unify Germany. German generals respected. German army well financed. 1913+ army increased. Germany concerned France soon army to defeat.

Russia seen weak in Russo-Japanese war. Improved army + better transport modernise navy + military.

Austria no longer great army. Possibly win against Serbia + Balkan states but not against Europe powers.

Britain only country without conscription before war. Brought in 18 months after war broke out. People were very nationalistic and didn’t mind following aggressive foreign policies to preserve pride. “scramble” caused arms race as Country had to defend country + colony.

The Naval Race: Britain + Germany

Started 1906 when Britain launch Dreadnaughts. Germany started modernising navy to defend trade routes. Britain said navy too big for their colonies.

Created tension between two countries.

Britain built Naval base on East Scotland against invasion Germany. Reasoning False. Public opinion in both countries supported their govs.

1914 British Navy still stronger but had larger empire to control.

Germany could use navy to defend whereas Britain had to control empire + defend.

Britain knew how to use navy in war Germany didn’t. Heavy heavy expense for Germany.

Rivalries overseas

Rivalries between European countries began to spread out into Africa + rest of world. Imperialism

Scramble for Africa + Struggle for Concessions

1870 Britain Germany France looked to Africa for resources. 1914 only independent ones were Ethiopia + Liberia. Russia focused mainly on China called Scramble for concessions.

Each countries reason for expansionist policy:

- Britain- Already controlled vast part of globe. 19 century Britain wanted to spread into Africa + Far East. Had largest Empire. Trade routes with India vital for Britain. Suez Canal, ports in South. People say establishment British power in Egypt caused scramble for Africa. Used excuse that making people not pagan + bringing Catholicism. Discovery of gold + diamonds made want more land. Encouraged by Cecil Rhodes. Wanted to reinforce commercial gain