# MAIN Causes of WWI

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|  | The Spark |  |
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| Imperialism | Nationalism  |
| Definition:  | Image result | Definition: |
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| Examples:  | Examples: |
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| Alliances | Militarism |
| Definition  |  | Definition: |
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| Examples: |  | Examples: |
| *Triple Alliance* |  |
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| *Triple Entente* |  |
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Just War Theory

In the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Professor Brian Orend states that *jus ad bellum* sets forth the following six requirements, all of which must be met for a war to be considered just:

1. **Just cause**. To be justified in waging war, a nation must do so in the cause of justice. Just cause is first and foremost the self-defense of a nation that is physically and aggressively attacked by another nation. (For other reasons for waging war, see the complete on-line essay cited below.)
2. **Right intention**. The nation that wages war must do so for the right motives, that is, only to ensure that the just cause is attained by war’s end. There can be no ulterior motives, such as racial or ethnic hatred, or provoking war for a land grab.
3. **Proper authority and public declaration**. The decision to wage war must be made only by the proper authorities of a state, following the process set forth by that nation’s laws. The declaration must be made public to its citizens and to the nation against whom the war is waged. Failing this, the nation lacks the legitimacy to go to war.
4. **Last Resort**. A nation may resort to war only if it has exhausted all diplomatic means of resolving the conflict peacefully. The state must be able to demonstrate that there is no other reasonable or practicable means of righting the wrong, short of war.
5. **Probability of Success**. Because of the harm and destruction engendered by warfare, it should only be initiated if it is deemed likely to be successful. (Note that while the probability of success is accepted as a precondition by many just war theorists, it is not included in international law, which seeks to protect the rights of smaller and weaker states.)
6. **Proportionality**. Before deciding to wage war, a state must evaluate the universal good that is likely to result and weigh it against the universal evil (death and destruction) that will be incurred on all sides. In a just war, the benefits of winning the war (securing the just cause) must outweigh its cost in human life.

Note: These principles are explicated by Orend, Brian, "War" in The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2005 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), ([**http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2005/entries/war**](http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2005/entries/war)**)**, on which this synopsis is based.

After examining the Just War Theory, analyze how World War I failed to meet these requirements.

# MAIN Causes of WWI

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|  | The SparkThe assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand sent Europe into a crisis that pushed it toward war.  |  |
| Imperialism Definition: A country’s expansion of power into new territories through colonization. Examples: * France and England were leading imperial powers, but Germany was competing for trade and influence, which threatened British dominance.
 |  | Nationalism Definition: Pride in one’s people marked by a push for freedom and self-government. Examples:* Germany had just united as a country and was seeking to promote itself overseas.
* France was upset with German expansion into their land.
* Austria Hungary was unstable with many nationalities wanting to break away.
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| AlliancesDefinition: countries joining together for mutual benefit and protection. Examples: *Triple Alliance:* Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy*Triple Entente:* France, Britain and RussiaRivalry and threats drew European nations together into alliances  | Image result | Militarism Definition: The desire of a nation to have a strong military to promote its national interests. Examples: * Germany was quickly modernizing its military in order to compete with England overseas in imperialism.
* Germany also felt it was a warning against any who might threaten them.
* European nations were drawn into a race for military superiority by recruiting larger armies, developing modern weapons and fortifying boundaries.
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Just War Theory

In the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Professor Brian Orend states that *jus ad bellum* sets forth the following six requirements, all of which must be met for a war to be considered just:

1. **Just cause**. To be justified in waging war, a nation must do so in the cause of justice. Just cause is first and foremost the self-defense of a nation that is physically and aggressively attacked by another nation. (For other reasons for waging war, see the complete on-line essay cited below.)
Austria Hungary used the assassination as a pretext to take over Serbia. While the heir to Austria-Hungary was assassinated, it was not conducted by Serbia, but rather by a terrorist group.
2. **Right intention**. The nation that wages war must do so for the right motives, that is, only to ensure that the just cause is attained by war’s end. There can be no ulterior motives, such as racial or ethnic hatred, or provoking war for a land grab.
Austria Hungary seemed to be “settling a score” and trying to expand its territory. This is demonstrated in making an alliance with Germany and making an ultimatum on Serbia. Russia on the other hand appeared ready to defend its Slavic “nation” in Serbia.
3. **Proper authority and public declaration**. The decision to wage war must be made only by the proper authorities of a state, following the process set forth by that nation’s laws. The declaration must be made public to its citizens and to the nation against whom the war is waged. Failing this, the nation lacks the legitimacy to go to war.
The “diplomacy” is happening between a few elite men behind doors without much regard for the opinion of the people of Europe.
4. **Last Resort**. A nation may resort to war only if it has exhausted all diplomatic means of resolving the conflict peacefully. The state must be able to demonstrate that there is no other reasonable or practicable means of righting the wrong, short of war.
Austria Hungary was setting of a chain reaction that was quickly escalating tensions. Diplomacy was crushed under the military concerns for mobilization. Rather than making space for discussion, now Germans were mobilizing, making ultimatums, and enacting secret military plans.
5. **Probability of Success**. Because of the harm and destruction engendered by warfare, it should only be initiated if it is deemed likely to be successful. (Note that while the probability of success is accepted as a precondition by many just war theorists, it is not included in international law, which seeks to protect the rights of smaller and weaker states.)
Many European nations felt confident of their success, thinking that the war would be over by Christmas, but new modern weapon had not been used in a full scale war before.
6. **Proportionality**. Before deciding to wage war, a state must evaluate the universal good that is likely to result and weigh it against the universal evil (death and destruction) that will be incurred on all sides. In a just war, the benefits of winning the war (securing the just cause) must outweigh its cost in human life.
There appears to be little to no concern for the human cost that the war would bring. Historians continue to puzzle over how a relatively small, local conflict drew all of Europe into war. The idea of a universal good is nowhere to be found.

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