

Nationalism and Militarism

KS3 History-Lesson 5 of 6

Enquiry: Did the Assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand lead to the outbreak of WWI?

Mr Nicholas Hewitt



Defining Nationalism and Militarism

Nationalism is the belief that one's country or state is distinct from and superior to other nations. If a person or group of people are influenced by **Nationalism**, they are likely to hold **patriotic** views.

Militarism describes a culture in which emphasis and importance are placed on how powerful a nation's army is.

**Patriotism is when you are
passionate for your nation**



Why were Nationalism and Militarism on the rise in Europe?

The growth of European empires, for example the British Empire, fuelled the rise of **Nationalism**. Populations began to believe that their culture and nation were **superior** to others. New nations such as Germany, which had only been unified in 1871, were desperate to establish themselves as powerful well respected nations. **Militarism** was partly a product of **Nationalism**. In order to defend one's national borders and growing empire, or to encourage people to be **patriotic**, leaders such as the Kaiser invested heavily in their armed forces and made great displays of military power at home and abroad.



What did Militarism and Nationalism look like?

A good example of the reality of **militarism** and **nationalism**, would be the **arms race** taking place in Europe prior to WWI. For example, eager to prove their navy was superior, the British had released a new type of war ship; **The Dreadnought** in 1906. Germany too began producing these ships and the two powers competed to see who could construct more in the years leading up to 1914.



How did rising Nationalism and Militarism make a war in Europe more likely?

By 1914 the European Powers had large and powerful armies. Leaders and indeed many ordinary people, believed that their nation could win a war with another and that using the army to establish power and respect as a nation, was a desirable idea. Armies had significant power and influence over the way in which leaders thought and acted. The Kaiser saw himself as a military leader whose **authority** came from Germany's powerful army. These ideas and the reality that nations had such powerful and destructive forces, meant that small disputes or frustrations could rapidly turn into serious conflicts.



Glossary

Nationalism: The belief that one's country or state is superior.

Militarism: A culture which emphasises the importance of a strong army.

Superior: Better than.

Patriotic: Love and passion for one's nation.

Arms Race: A competition between nations to improve their armies.

The Dreadnought: A new and powerful type of warship (in 1906).

Authority: Power or the right to control, order and lead.



Comprehension Questions

1. Which nation, Britain or Germany, produced more 'dreadnoughts' 1906-14?
2. What term is used to describe a competition between nations to build up the more powerful military?
3. Can you define the word 'patriotic'?
4. How did nationalism make a war in Europe more likely?
5. How did militarism make a war in Europe more likely?

Sentence starter: One way in which nationalism made a war in Europe more likely was...



Return to the Enquiry

What was the relationship between nationalism and militarism in Europe pre 1914?

Sentence starters:	Key words
<p><i>Nationalism led states to believe in the importance of...</i></p> <p><i>Militarism was an important feature of nationalism because...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Patriotism-Arms-race-Unification

