

Imperial Rivalries

KS3 History-Lesson 4 of 6

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

Mr Nicholas Hewitt



Why were empires important to European Powers?

The European Powers considered themselves empires. Certain powers such as Russia and Austria-Hungary ruled over smaller states around them. Other powers such as Britain and France **colonised** and **exploited** different nations overseas. The European powers saw empires as symbols of status and a way of becoming wealthy.



Why did imperial rivalries exist between Germany France and Britain?

Britain and France had been **colonising** foreign nations for centuries, however, as the German states had only unified in 1871, they did not have an empire overseas. The Kaiser wanted to be respected by Britain and France and felt that Germany could not achieve this without an empire abroad. Since 1881 the European powers had been ruthlessly dividing and **colonising** Africa. In particular the Kaiser felt Germany should be allowed to take part in this process and **colonise** African nations.



What role did the Moroccan Crisis play in imperial rivalries?

France had wanted to take control of **Morocco** in 1905, however, to frustrate France, The Kaiser declared his support for **Morocco** and visited **Tangiers**. In 1906 France and Britain conspired against the Kaiser at the Algeciras conference, forcing the Kaiser to accept that France would effectively rule **Morocco**. The Kaiser left the conference paranoid and angry. In 1911 when French troops moved into **Morocco**, The Kaiser sent a clear signal to Britain and France, ordering a gunboat **The Panther** to go and threaten French troops in the area. This only brought the French and British closer together, when they agreed to use their navies to work as one, against the Kaiser. This agreement was known as the '**entente cordiale**'.



What role did the Kruger Telegram play in imperial rivalries?

Before the **Moroccan** crisis there had been rivalry in **South Africa** also. When Britain had attempted to take control of **Boer** territories, they had suffered a humiliating defeat. The Kaiser in 1897 publicly declared his support for the **Boers** by sending a telegram to Boer leader **Paul Kruger** and The Kaiser even involved Germany in providing weapons for the **Boers**. The **Boers**, British and Germans were all operating oppressive and vicious regimes in Africa. Nonetheless all felt entitled to African territory and were furious with one and other, when this was prevented by a rival power. These rivalries created tensions which themselves made a war in Europe, more likely.



Glossary

Colonise: When one nation takes over another.

Exploit: To take advantage of a person or situation.

Morocco: A North African nation.

Tangiers: An important city in Morocco, North Africa.

The Panther: A German gunboat.

The Entente Cordiale: An agreement for military cooperation between France and Britain.

South Africa: A nation on the Southern tip of Africa.

Boer: White Dutch settlers who ruled some parts of South Africa.



Comprehension Questions

1. Who was the leader of Germany in 1914?
2. Who had the larger navy in 1914 Britain or Germany?
3. What was the size of the Russian army in 1914?
4. What did von Bulow claim that Germany 'demanded' in 1897?
5. What role did Prussia play in the new German empire of 1871?

Sentence starter: One role which Prussia played in the new German Empire was...



Return to the Enquiry

What role might the Kaiser’s personal character have played in developing tensions in Europe?

Sentence starters:	Key words
<i>The Kaiser was related to other European royals, however...</i>	-Royal
	-Militaristic
	-Status
<i>The Kaiser had a keen interest in the military...</i>	

