World War I   Name: _____

Long – Term Causes

Conflicts grew as European nations pursued their dreams of empires, built up their armies and formed alliances.

1.

M

Militarism
As European nations expanded, they strengthened their armies & navies to protect their new interest.
If one nation increased its military strength, its rivals felt threatened & would build up their own armies & navies.

2.

A

Alliance System
The purpose of the alliance system was to prevent one country from dominating the others.
In reality, the alliance system posed a great danger.
Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary & Italy
Triple Entente: Great Britain, France & Russia

3.

I

Imperialism
Tension also grew because of the desire to expand empires.
Nations competed for colonies around the world.
Few areas were left to colonize so there was great competition.

4.

N

Nationalism
This unified some nations.
It also inspired some ethnic groups to break away from existing nations.