

The Triple Entente

Who was in the Triple Entente and why was it formed?



The **Triple Entente** was created in reaction to the forming of the **Triple Alliance**, and included **Britain, France** and **Russia**.

An alliance was formed between **Russia and France** in **1894**. By 1904 Britain began talks with Russia and decided that it should come out of its 'splendid isolation', joining the Entente Cordiale ('Friendly Agreement'). **By 1907**, Foreign Minister Sir Edward Grey negotiated Britain into the **Triple Entente**, and united three old enemies. In contrast to the Triple Alliance, the terms of the Entente did not require each country to go to war on behalf of the others, but stated that they had a 'moral obligation' to support each other.

France and Russia had fought the Napoleonic wars, and France and Britain had been fighting off and on for hundreds of years. Russia and Britain were also cautious partners as Britain was allied with Japan who had defeated Russia in 1904. All three had been in competition for colonies in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. But all were united in their suspicions of German plans to dominate Europe.

Rather than discussing plans and settling disputes, most countries in Europe sought peace through military superiority. No one would attack the country with the largest army and/or navy, because they knew they couldn't win. The Entente was created to balance the growing power of Germany by being more powerful itself.

Triple Alliance

Who was in the Triple Alliance and why was it formed?



Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed the **Triple Alliance**. In **1882**, they signed a document that promised they would give each other military support in case of a war. The Alliance agreement stated it was 'essentially defensive and conservative' with the aim of stopping anyone who 'might threaten' the three nations.

The alliance formed between Germany and Austria-Hungary had strong ethnic ties. Germany and Austria-Hungary shared borders and (in many regions) the German language, as well as a desire to add to their territories. Austria-Hungary specifically wanted the Balkans.

The German Empire had only been officially created out of smaller German-speaking nations about twenty years before the Alliance was formed, and had quickly gained great influence over the older, fading Austro-Hungarian Empire. By co-operating rather than competing, land could be taken over by either empire without conflict of interest.

Italy wanted more territory in parts of Greece, Turkey and the Balkans. It also wanted protection from attacks from its northern neighbour, France. Finally, Italy still disputed land with Austria-Hungary. An alliance could turn out to be more effective in negotiating this land back, and stop Austria from taking any more land in a war. However, Italy still did not entirely trust Austria-Hungary, so made a secret treaty with France after the joining the Triple Alliance.

Activity A

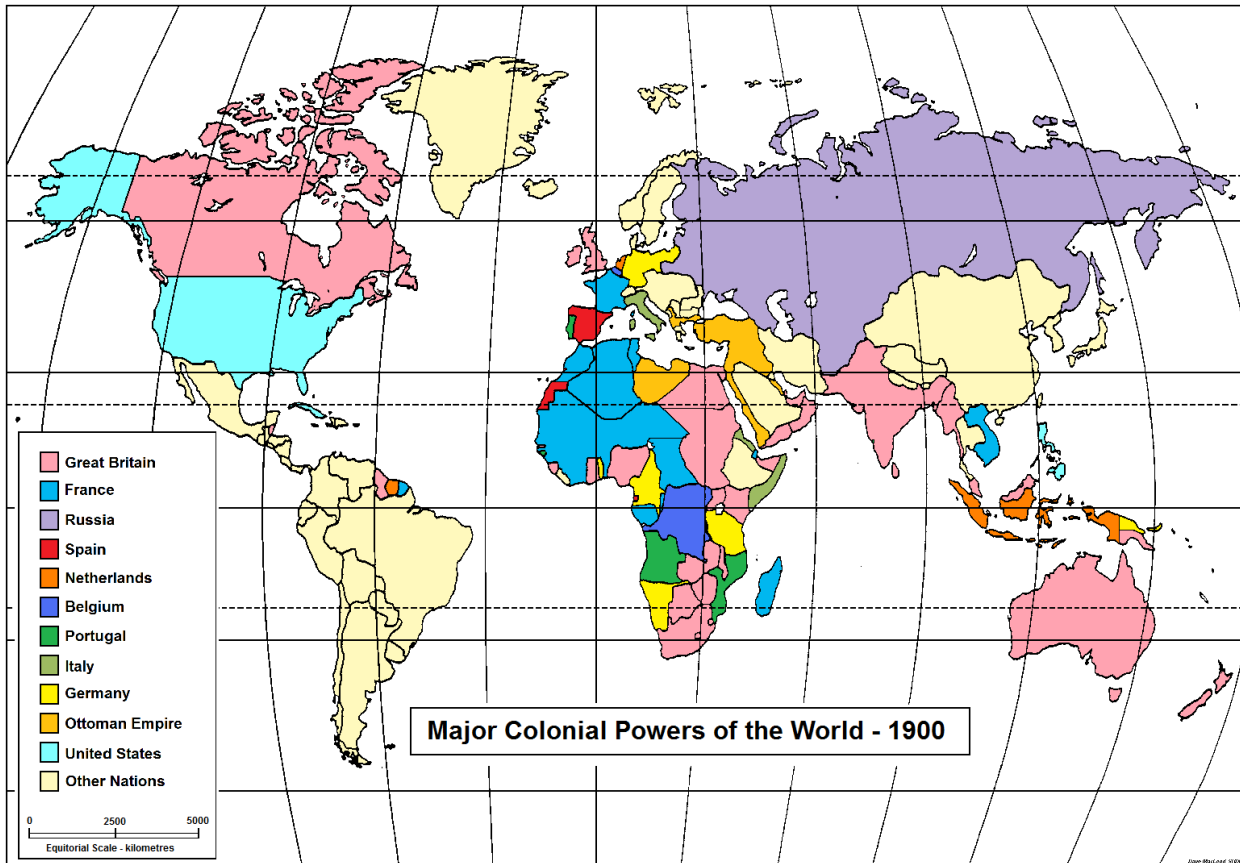


Find and label these nations on the above map. Make your own key to identify:

Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy

Triple Entente: Britain, France and Russia

Activity B Write down the names of continents where the colonial states had colonies.



Germany _____

Austria-Hungary _____

Italy _____

Britain _____

France _____

Russia _____

1. Which nation controlled the most land in Africa?

2. Which nations do you think started late in the race for an empire in Africa, why?

3. Which nation controlled the most land in Asia?
