

Year.	Event.	Involved Nations.	How this affected the road to war.
1872	Dreikaiserbund	Germany, A-H and Russia.	<p>Consultation between the nations. Austria-Hungary and Russia actually promised to defend each other in the event of war. Bismarck didn't want to go that far and only promised consultation.</p> <p>The "alliance" was directed against France and their attempt to support the Catholic states in southern Germany. See Kulturkampf.</p>
1875 - 1878	The Near Eastern War.	Russia, Turkey, Britain, Austria-Hungary.	<p>1875 Uprising in Bosnia supported by Serbs, backed by Russia.</p> <p>1876 The uprising spread to Bulgaria, Montenegro and Serbia. Serbs attack the Turks but are defeated in sept 1876.</p> <p>12 000 Bulgarians are massacred in 1876, Russia use it as an reason to go to war against Russia.</p> <p>1877 - 1878 Russo-Turkish War. Russian defeat Turkey.</p> <p>Britain hoped for a Turkish victory.</p> <p>Austria asked Germany for help as they saw their main rival Russia succeeding on the Balkans.</p> <p>Britain threatened to declare war against Russia if they broke the "Black Sea Clause" from the Treaty of Paris 1856. (Forbidding any war ships to access the Mediterranean through the Dardanelles).</p>
1878	The Treaty of San Stefano	Russia and Turkey.	<p>Serbia, Romania and Montenegro to become independent. Big Bulgaria was created.</p> <p>Britain was upset, so was Austria-Hungary.</p> <p>This leads to The Congress of Berlin 1878.</p>
1878	The Congress of Berlin	All Superpowers.	<p>Russia had to agree to Small Bulgaria (see European diplomacy page 19 for map and terms.)</p> <p>Austria-Hungary got the right to occupy Bosnia.</p> <p>GB got Cyprus.</p> <p>Left Russia humiliated and upset.</p>
1879	Dual Alliance	Germany and Austria	<p>Military assistance if RUSSIA attacked. Benevolent Neutrality in the case of an other attack. This means that if Austria is attacked by Turkey, Germany promisses to not attack Austria and not to help Turkey.</p>

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1881	Second Dreikaiserbund	Germany, Austria and Russia.	<p>Benevolent neutrality if any of the three went to war against a fourth country, except for the Ottoman Empire.</p> <p>This means that if the Turks attacked Austria or Russia, the others would attack Turkey. If for example France attacked Germany, Austria and Russia promised not to attack Germany or assist France.</p> <p>This deal meant that the Russians and the Germans are on friendlier terms.</p> <p>The Dual Alliance plus the Second Dreikaiserbund makes a war between Austria and Russia over the Balkans less likely. Since IF Russia attacked Austria, Germany would attack Russia, if Austria attacked Russia, Germany had promised benevolent neutrality and wouldn't assist Austria.</p>
1882	The Triple Alliance	Germany, Austria and Italy.	<p>Austria and Germany were to help Italy if Italy were attacked by France; and Italy was to help Germany if Germany were attacked by France. If attacked by a country other than France, there was to be benevolent neutrality at least. If attacked by two other countries, all were to join in. On Italian insistence, the alliance was not to be operative against Britain.</p>
1885	The Bulgarian Unification	Russia, Turkey, Serbia and Bulgaria.	<p>Bulgaria was made fully independent and this among other things caused a war between Serbia and Bulgaria. And Bulgaria was unified without any help from Russia under a German prince (Battenberg, Alexander von). This left the Russians even more humiliated over the Balkans and even more determined to support the Serbs in their struggle for a Greater Serbia.</p>
1887	Reinsurance Treaty	Germany and Russia	<p>Replaced the Dreikaiserbund.</p> <p>The new treaty established that Germany would be neutral if Russia went to war, except if Russia attacked Austria; Russia would be neutral if Germany went to war, except if Germany attacked France; and Germany would support Russia diplomatically over Bulgaria and the Straits.</p> <p>This time Germany makes an agreement with Russia over Austria.</p>
1890	Bismarck is replaced		<p>With the coming of a new king in Germany in 1888 and the replacement of Bismarck this year is a turning point.</p>
1890	Reinsurance treaty	Russia and Germany	<p>NOT Renewed.</p>

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1893 1894	Franco-Russian Dual Alliance	France and Germany	<p>The French agreed to help the Russians if Russia were attacked by Germany, or Austria aided by the Germans. For their part, the Russians agreed to help the French if France were attacked by Germany or Italy aided by Germany.</p> <p>This is set up as an answer to the Triple Alliance and caused by Russian fear of a German-Austrian attack. Due to the failure of renewing the Reinsurance Treaty.</p>
1898	Fashoda Incident	France and Great Britain.	<p>French and British troops met in Fashoda but the French backed down, accepting British control over Egypt.</p> <p>The first step towards a peaceful coexistence between the French and the British.</p>
1898	Naval Act	Germany Britain	Germany announced that their naval forces should match the British.
1899 1900	Boer War	Germany Britain	Anti-British policies from Germany.
1902	Alliance between GB and Japan	GB, Japan and Russia	<p>An agreement stating promised neutrality if the other went to war against one power and armed help against more than one power.</p> <p>This was made against Russia.</p>
1904	Entente Cordiale	France and Great Britain.	No real alliance but an understanding between the old enemies settling the colonial issues, in a later addition GB promised to assist France in the event of a war in the English Channel.
1905	First Morocco Crisis	Germany, France and Britain.	<p>Germany tries to intervene but fails and makes the British even more upset with the Germans.</p> <p>The Conference in Algeiras 1906 brings France and GB even more together.</p>
1905	Russo-Japanese War	Russia and Japan.	Russia defeated and humiliated even more.
1907	Anglo-Russian Entente	GB and Russia	Like the French agreement, not really an alliance but rather a settlement of old disputes.

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1908 1909	Bosnian Crisis	Turkey, Austria-Hungary, Serbia	<p>Austria-Hungary announced that they were to annex Bosnia-Herzegovina. On the same day Bulgaria announced their full independence (again?).</p> <p>As it so happened this was done by the A-H in order to commemorate the Austrian Emperor Franz Josef's 60 years on the throne. The problem is that it was with the help of the Russians that he got to the throne.</p> <p>Russia had agreed to the annexation IF A-H supported their claims to be allowed to sail through the Dardanelles. A support A-H failed to provide.</p> <p>This left the Russians very humiliated and convinced that they would support Serbia in any possible way.</p>
1908	The Daily Telegraph Affair	Germany and GB	<p>Kaiser Wilhelm gives a frank and hilarious interview in a British newspaper. Deeply insulting the British calling the "mad as March hares". You have a copy of the article in the back of this paper.</p>
1911	The Second Moroccan Crisis	Germany, France, Great Britain	<p>Germany rightfully protested the French troops in Morocco, sending the panzerboat Panther.</p>
1912 1913	The Balkan Wars.	Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey	<p>The Treaty of London 1913 reduced Turkish land in Europe to a minimum. The Second Balkan War against Bulgaria.</p> <p>Consequences</p> <p>Turkey lost all control over the Balkans.</p> <p>Serbia showed that it wasn't kidding around, it would go to war over Greater Serbia.</p> <p>Germany remained allied with Austria and even if they cooperated with the British they claimed Austria to be their only true ally.</p> <p>Perhaps most important the Balkan wars got Germany tangled up in the Balkan mess and tied the laces with Austria even tighter.</p> <p>Russians had a mutual feeling with the Serbs against the Austrians.</p>

"11. Alliances.

- i. **The First Three Emperors' League**, which had been arranged 1872-1873 by the Emperors of Austria, Germany and Russia, promised consultation and military assistance if any of the three countries was attacked. Bismarck refused to endorse this.
- ii. **The Dual Alliance of Austria and Germany** had been arranged by Bismarck in 1879 and was still operative in 1914. Possibly one of Bismarck's reasons for the alliance was to influence Austrian policy in order to prevent a clash with Russia over the Balkans, which seemed very likely in view of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The alliance promised military assistance if either were attacked by Russia and benevolent neutrality if attacked by another country.
- iii. **In 1881, Bismarck arranged the Second Three Emperor's League**, in which the Austrian, German and Russian governments promised benevolent neutrality if any of the three went to war against a fourth country, except for the Ottoman Empire. The treaty was renewed in 1884 but was allowed to lapse in 1887.
- iv. **The Triple Alliance of Austria, Germany, and Italy was arranged by Bismarck in 1882** and was renewed until 1915. Its terms stipulated that Austria and Germany were to help Italy if Italy were attacked by France; and Italy was to help Germany if Germany were attacked by France. If attacked by a country other than France, there was to be benevolent neutrality at least. If attacked by two other countries, all were to join in. On Italian insistence, the alliance was not to be operative against Britain.
- v. **In 1887, Bismarck arranged the Reinsurance Treaty with Russia**, in place of the Three Emperor's League, which had been allowed to lapse. The new treaty established that Germany would be neutral if Russia went to war, except if Russia attacked Austria; Russia would be neutral if Germany went to war, except if Germany attacked France; and Germany would support Russia diplomatically over Bulgaria and the Straits. (Bismarck was aware that Austrian and British opposition to Russian designs in these areas would prevent any Russian gains!) The Treaty lasted only until 1890, when Bismarck resigned and his heirs allowed the arrangement to lapse.
- vi. **By the Franco-Russian Dual Alliance, arranged in 1893 and 1894**, the French agreed to help the Russians if Russia were attacked by Germany, or Austria aided by the Germans. For their part, the Russians agreed to help the French if France were attacked by Germany or Italy aided by Germany.
- vii. **Britain in 1902 signed an alliance with Japan**, in which both signatories promised neutrality if the other went to war against one power and armed help against more than one power. This was the first alliance made by the British but it did not really mean the end of British isolation as there was still no alliance within Europe.
- viii. **In 1904, Britain and France made the Entente Cordiale**. This was not an alliance but, as the name indicates, an "understanding" that merely settled colonial disputes, for example over Egypt and the Sudan, over which, following the incident at Fashoda in 1898, Britain and France had nearly gone to war; over Siam; over West African colonies; and over the New Hebrides in the Pacific. However, the Second Morocco Crisis against Germany in 1911 caused the British government to agree to send a force to support French forces if it came to war and, further, in 1912, to make a secret naval agreement with the French for British naval support for France in the Channel in the event of war against Germany, in exchange for French naval support in the Mediterranean. Consequently, although there was no formal alliance, Britain was committed in 1914 to assist France.
- ix. **In 1907, the Anglo-Russian Entente was made, establishing the Triple Entente**. Like the Anglo-French entente, it was not an alliance but merely the settling, more or less, of disagreements, which for the most part were over colonies, and notably over Afghanistan, Persia, and Tibet. However, the British Foreign Minister, Sir Edward Grey, in the spring of 1914, rejected proposals that the Entente should become an alliance and only agreed to Anglo-Russian naval conversations.
- x. **Although alliances perhaps gave added confidence to countries involved in disputes**, they were not really a cause of war since in the run-up to war in 1914, governments did not act in strict accordance with treaties but acted in line with their interests. For example, in 1904, the French had not been very supportive of the Russians in their war against Japan, while the Russians were not too responsive in the Moroccan Crises of 1905 and 1911. In 1914, had they wanted, the French could have remained neutral, despite the Dual Alliance, as they had not been consulted before Russia mobilized. As for the Italians, in 1914 they did not join their allies of the Triple Alliance and eventually in 1915 joined the opposing Entente side."¹

1 <http://www.bfley.com/ecolint-history/fwwcauses.htm>