

# The Great Powers in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- By the end of this lesson you should be able to:
  - Name the great powers of Europe
  - Explain why they were considered to be Great Powers

**What makes a country 'great' in your opinion?**

Discuss and come up with 5-8 ideas to answer this question.

*(Note down in back of book if you need to!)*

# How did a country become 'Great' in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century?

- Large army and navy
  - Strong ruler
  - Had to control an Empire
  - It had to have strong industries at home
  - Large Empire
- *Did a country need all these things to become a 'Great Power'?*

The Great Powers of Europe were:

Great Britain

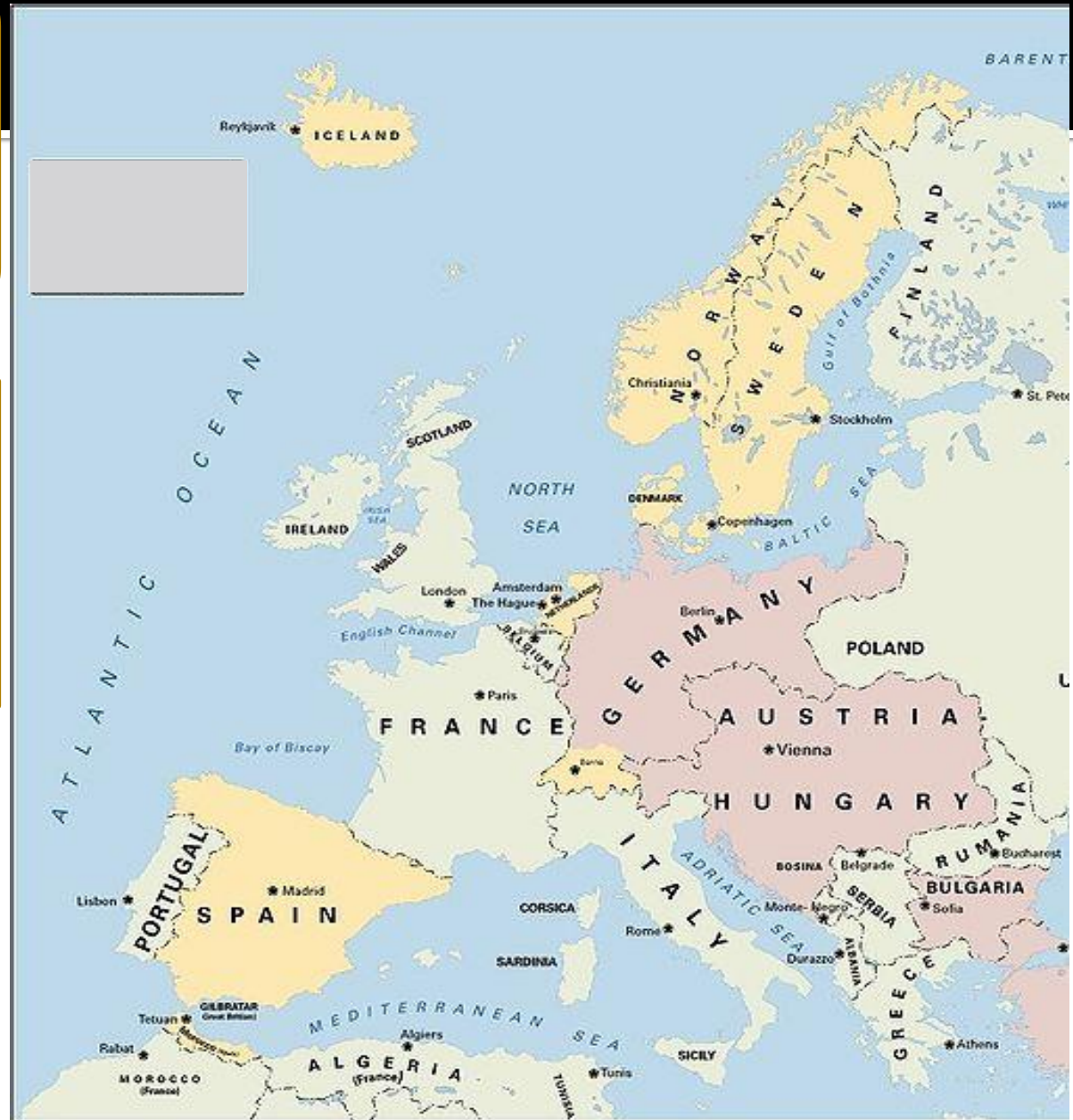
Germany

France

Russia

Austria-Hungary

# What differences can you spot when compared to today?



# Map of Europe Today



# So why did this system contribute to the war?

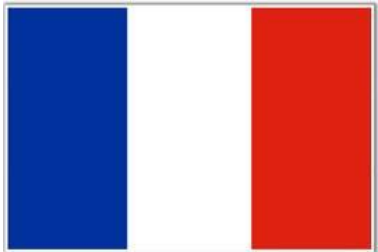
- The fact that there were so many 'Great Powers' all on each other's doorsteps was bound to cause trouble at some point - the Franco-Prussian War is evidence of that
- All it would take was for one 'Great Power' to do something that wasn't deemed acceptable by the other for issues to arise
- If such a situation did appear, all it would need is a spark to set everything alight!

# Tasks



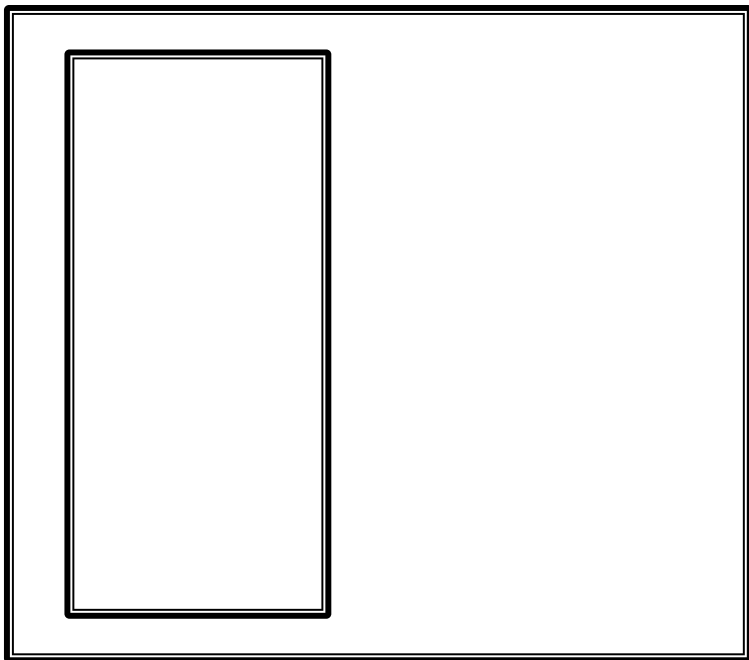
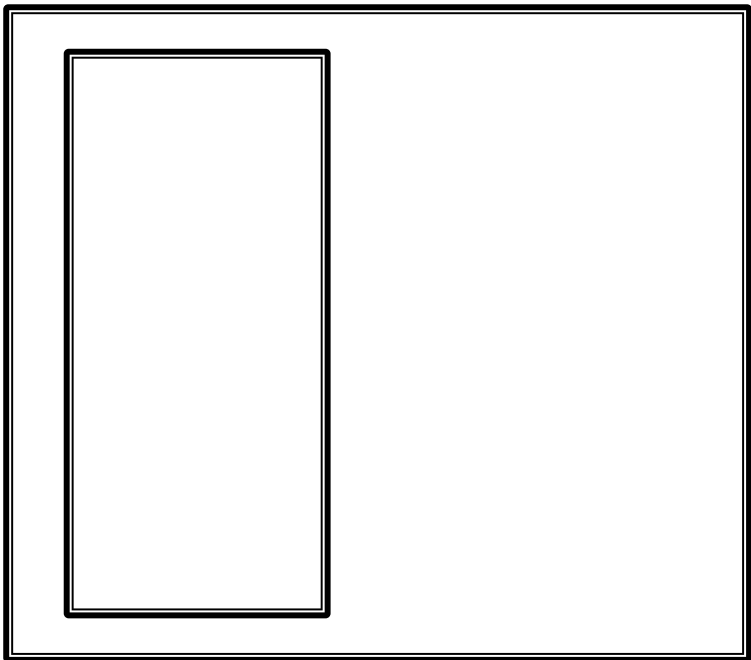
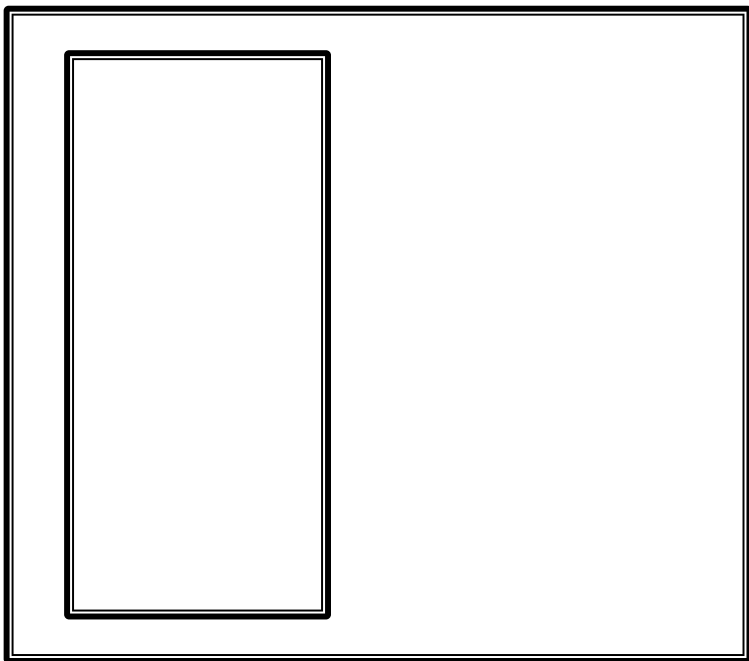
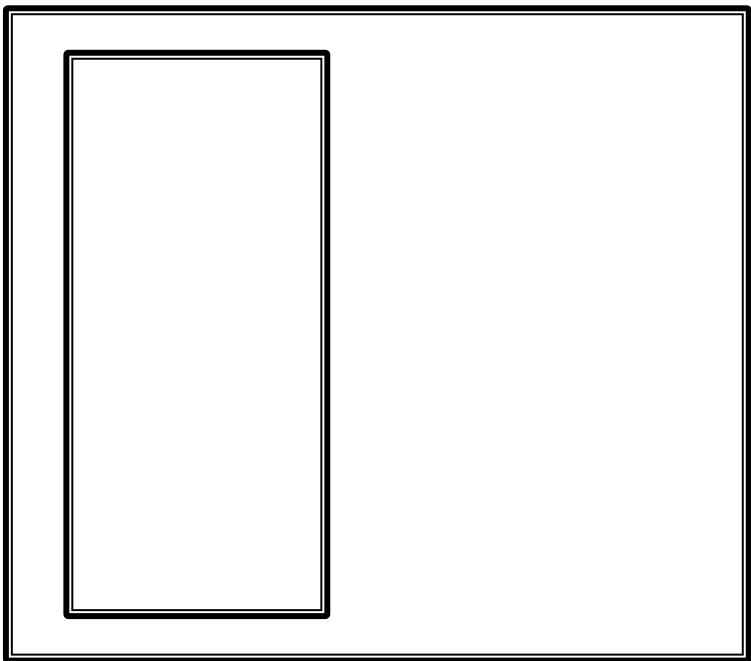
## ■ Top Trumps:

- Using the next slide as an aid, design a 'Top Trumps' card for each of the five Great Powers (See Page 8 for information table)
- The card could include details regarding the country's

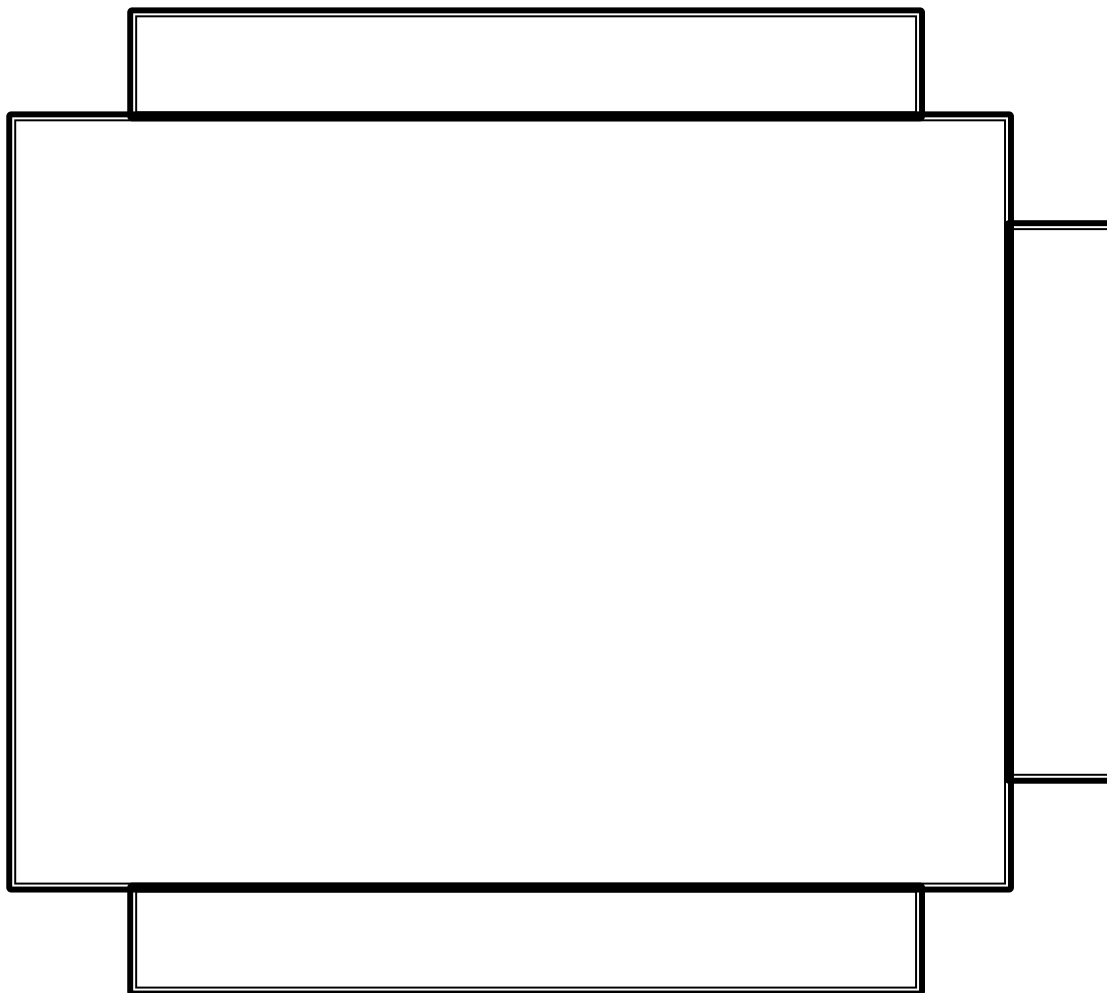


- Population of the country
- Population of the Empire
  - Number of Colonies
  - Size of the Army
  - Size of the Navy
    - Coal output
    - Steel Output





Country	Britain	Germany	Russia	Austria-Hungary	France
Population	40.8 million	65 million	159 million	50 million	39.6 million
Number of Colonies	56	10	/	/	29
Population of colonies	390 million	15 million	/	/	58 million
Size of army	700,000	4,200,000	1,200,000	800,000	3,700,000
Size of navy	388	281	166	67	207
Coal output each year (million tonnes)	292	277	36.2	47	40
Steel output each year (million tonnes)	11	14	3.6	5	4.6



# Who was the most powerful European empire in the lead up to World War 1?

- Answer the following questions:
  1. Compare and contrast the empires against each other...who were similar?  
Who was different?
  2. In theory, who was best set up to win any potential conflict?
- #Challenge: Who would you place a bet on to win during the war? Justify your answer.

# Great Britain

- At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Britain was the greatest power in the world
  - She was very rich and was a powerful industrialised country
  - Britain had the largest and most powerful navy
  - She had the largest overseas empire
- The British Empire covered over a quarter of the world's surface

# Empire:

