

Major Political and Territorial Changes in Europe and the West

Chapter 5 Section 4

Focus Questions #5

1. What major country in the West expanded its territories and what areas did they gain as a result?
2. Why do France and Germany become rivals and what efforts does Germany make in order to keep conflict from occurring between these rivals.
3. What happens to Germany that leads the country into isolation?
4. Describe the conflict in the Balkans, eventually what does this crisis lead to?

Western Expansion

- In the late 1800's the United States began to expand abroad.
- The Samoan Islands in the Pacific were the first important US colony.
- By 1887 Americans settlers gained control of both the Hawaiian sugar industry and Hawaii.
- In 1893, with the help of US Marines farmers in Hawaii overthrew the monarchy of Queen Liliuokalani.
- By 1893 the US also defeated Spain in the Spanish American War. As a result, the US acquired Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines.

Rivalries

- In 1871, Bismarck realized that Germany's emergence as a powerful state in Europe had upset the balance of power that was established prior to 1815.
- Fearing that France wanted to create an anti-German alliance, Bismarck made a defensive alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy.
- The Triple Alliance was formed.
- Bismarck did not want Germany to be left out of the prosperity of industrialization and wanted to be taken serious as a power.

Rivalries

- In an effort to prevent isolation from occurring Germany forms a treaty with Russia and maintains a good relationship with Great Britain.
- 1890 things change as Emperor William II fires Bismarck and takes control of the foreign policy of Germany.
- As a result the Emperor embarks on a foreign policy dedicated to expanding Germany's power.

Crises in the Balkans

- During the nineteenth century the Ottoman Empire begins to fall apart.
- Many ethnic groups in the Balkans began to gain their freedom.
- Two major powers, Austria and Russia saw a chance to gain influence.
- As a result areas like Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovia are all placed under control by one of these major powers.
- In the end the Balkans crises and other major factors lead these two major powers into World War I.