

Lecture 7: International Politics and World War I.

A. Introduction and administrative notes

B. The significance of World War I

C. Timeline (see slides)

D. Social and political background Slides.

- a. Point out three facets: multipolar, power transition, tight alliances**

E. Historical Questions.

- a.** What explains the outbreak of this war? At what level of analysis should we explain this war.
- b.** Some empirical questions too—how well do our theories address?

F. Causes

- a.** Realism: 4 theories, all systemic level. That is to say the causes of war are about anarchy, located at international level. But as argued, not one theory.
 - i.** Multipolarity
 - ii.** Power transition theory and preventive war
 - iii.** The security dilemma: What is the security dilemma in theoretical terms. All states in the system sought security, but because of the nature of the security dilemma, were driven to conflict.
 - iv.** Offensive realism—aggression.

G. Domestic politics

- i.** Interest groups.
- ii.** Regime instability.
- iii.** Bureaucratic—cult of the offensive.

H. Implications of World War I for World Politics