



# **Causes of War**

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- There are many causes of war
- They are not mutually exclusive; some are very much connected to others
- Most wars involve several causes
- Some wars involve all the causes



# 1. Aggression

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- an offensive, hostile action or procedure
- an unprovoked attack or invasion with the intent to dominate another country
- countries considered aggressive are inclined to start fights or quarrels
- seem to be driven by a ruthless desire to dominate



## 2. Self-preservation

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- to protect one's own country, region, or group
- defending against aggression
- entering a war when surrounding countries collapse for fear that one's country will be next

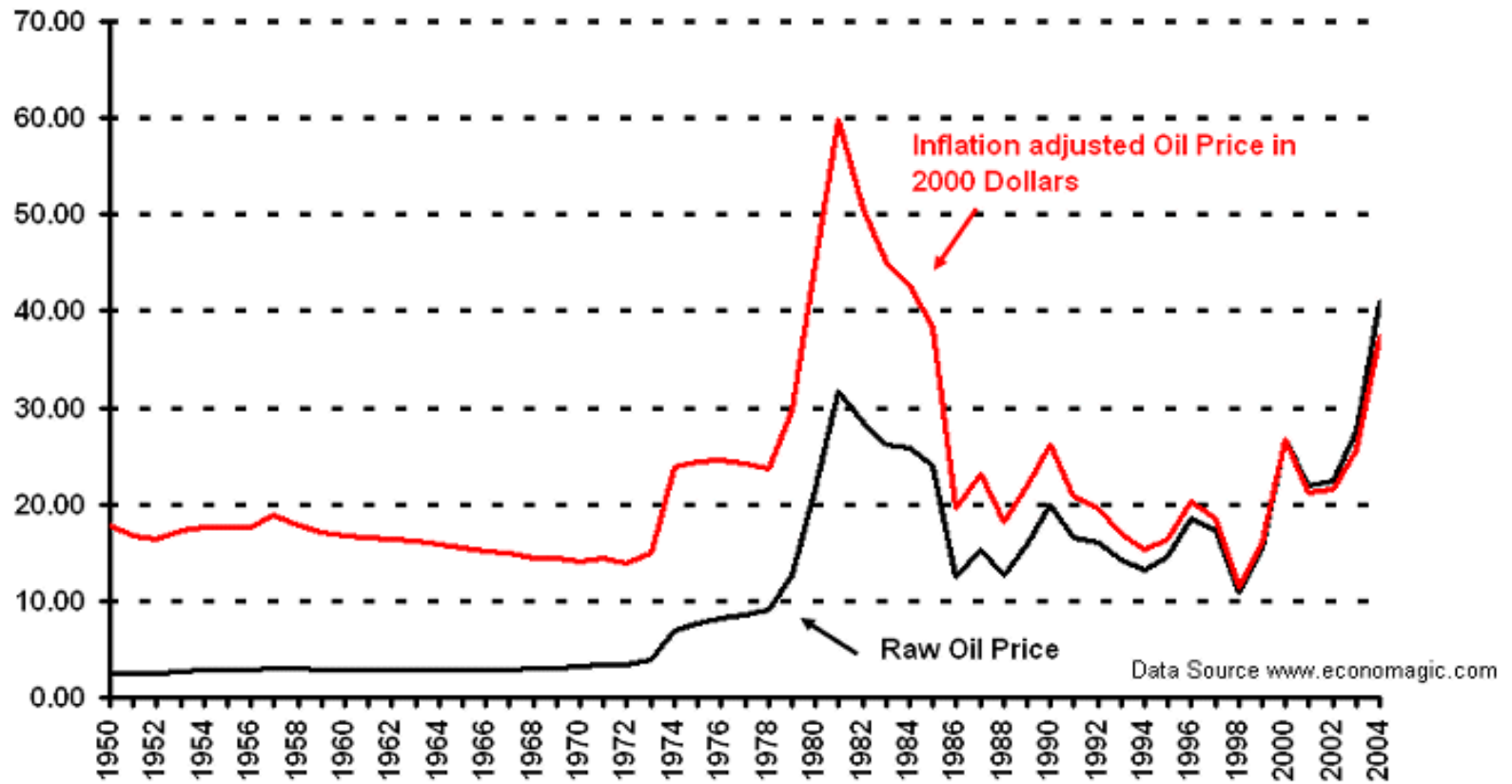


## Domestic Crude Oil Prices

1949- Present

© InflationData.com

Updated 6/1/04



### 3. Economic Factors

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to protect or increase wealth,  
resources, or land



# National/State economic interests

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- Nations may practice imperialism to increase their wealth (stressing that as a need to remain politically secure)
- nations may compete or form trade alliances
- gains may include raw materials, markets, and cheap labor

# Private business/financial interests

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- A nation's military-industrial complex (the military and the armaments industry) may pressure a nation toward war for financial gain (increased profits through the production of armaments).

# Overlapping of National and Private interests

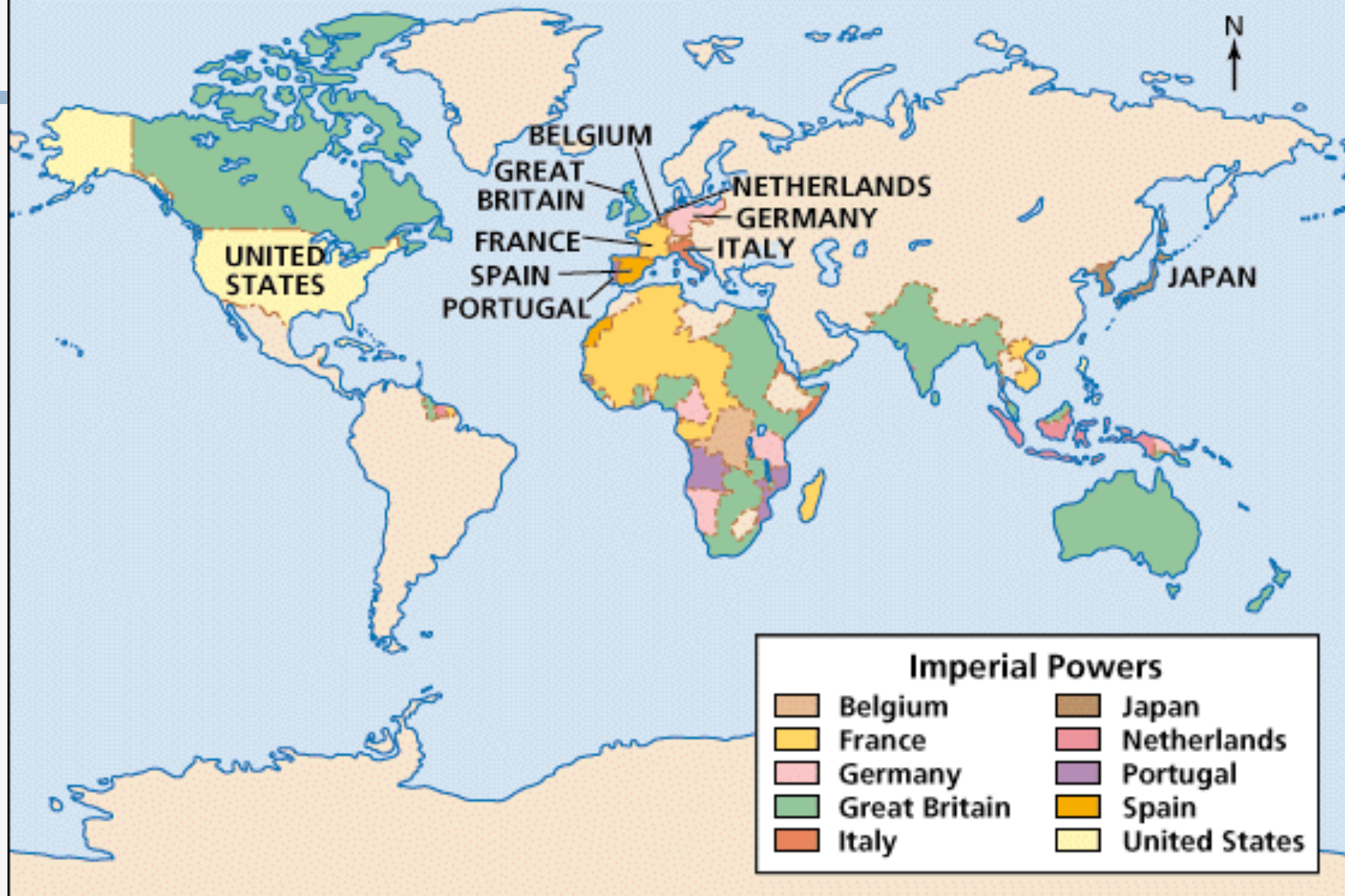
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- Government and private enterprise may feel that economic gain is a top priority for the nation
- a nation may commit itself to war to protect private investments.

## The New Imperialism, 1900

0 2000 4000 mi  
0 2000 4000 km

N  
↑



## 4. Imperialistic Expansionism

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- to take control of land or resources in order to increase a country's power and wealth
- can involve actual invasion and colonization or economic control through investments, tariffs, and boycotts





## 5. Desire for Independence

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- seeking to rule one's own affairs
- fighting to become free from another country (colonial wars) or a ruling party within a country (civil wars)
- helping to liberate other people





## 6. Breakdown of Diplomacy

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- Diplomacy is the art of skillfully conducting negotiations between nations without raising hostility
- a breakdown of diplomacy occurs when countries or alliances become too interested in their own affairs to consider the interests of others
- refusal to negotiate or poor negotiation allows rumors and hostility to develop, sometimes leading to war



*The Hun - his Mark*

**Blot it Out**

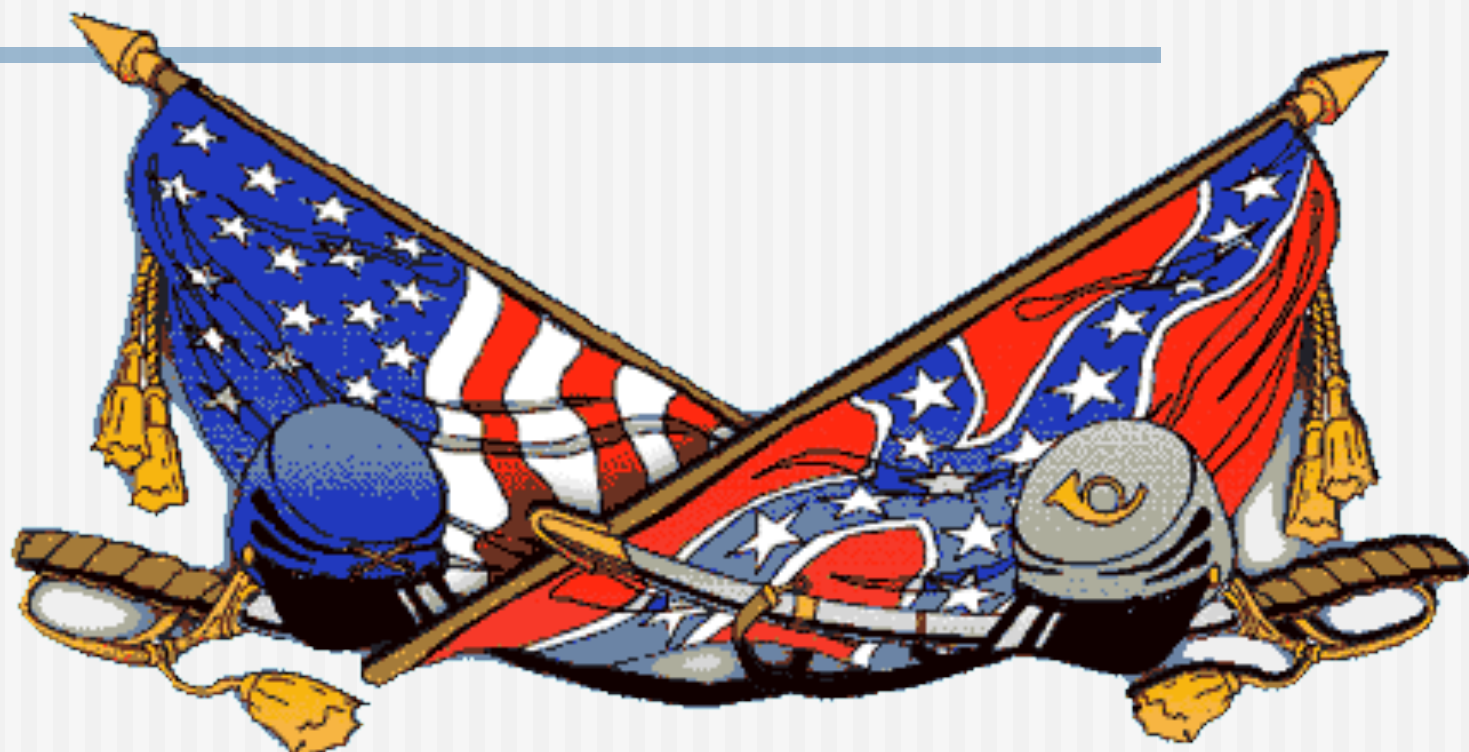
with

**LIBERTY  
BONDS**

# 7. Propaganda

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- ideas spread to further one's own cause or damage an opposing cause
- can convince a population to go to war by:
- making an incident or issue appear to be a justification for war
- making a people appear to be an enemy
- can lead to atrocities



## 8. Conflicting Ideologies

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- Ideology: values, beliefs, or goals that govern a society
- Conflicting Ideologies:
- differences in beliefs and values can cause friction and conflict between countries
- a country may attack another in order to impose an ideology or to prevent the spread of an opposing one







# 9. Nationalism

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- feelings of intense pride and patriotism; the feeling that loyalty and devotion is owed to one's country or people
- a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation or people above all others and calling on its people to come together with the same goals for the future
- may result in the desire to unify people of one ethnic heritage or language group, or to divide people of a multi-ethnic country into separate countries.



# 10. Individual Influences

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- a single charismatic leader inspires enough confidence and loyalty to be able to incite a population to war
- Propaganda is often used by such leaders to inflame nationalistic pride in the people



# 11. Militarism

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- the build-up of armed forces and weaponry and emphasis on military strength and readiness
- preparation for war makes a war-like society:
  - fosters a war mentality
  - makes going to war an easier solution than seeking diplomacy
  - makes war acceptable as a way to deal with international conflict
  - puts the military in control over foreign policy

# Militarism

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- the armaments industry profits by the growing need for the production of bigger, better, more powerful weapons
- threat of preemptive strike, retaliation, or terrorism increases



## COMPROMISE OF 1850






# 12. Balance of Power

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- the attempt to keep strength and wealth even among competing nations
- alliances are formed:
- to prevent any side from becoming strong enough to cause war
- to tip the balance of power in favor of one side
- war between alliances can affect the whole world



 *European Alliances on the Eve of World War I. Alliance systems divided Europe into two great blocs with few countries remaining neutral.*

# 13. Entangling Alliances

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- nations form alliances to further their common interests (political and/or economic) and to keep a balance of power
- an attack and/or declaration of war on one nation causes a chain reaction, bringing many nations into war