Military Alliances

Distrust and rivalry among the nations of Europe led to the formation of two powerful alliances in the years leading up to World War I. The first alliance was the Triple Alliance, which was formed between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy in 1882. In 1907 the countries of France, Great Britain, and Russia responded to the Triple Alliance by setting up the Triple Entente (agreement).

The leaders of these European nations believed this system of alliances created a "balance of power" that would prevent war. They were wrong. Tensions actually increased as nationalistic rivalries and the competition for colonies continued. Even the alliances themselves underwent change. Italy, which sought territory controlled by Austria-Hungary, dropped out of the Triple Alliance and later joined the nations that made up the Triple Entente.

When war broke out in 1914, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire joined Germany and Austria-Hungary to form what was known as the Central Powers. France, Russia, and Great Britain were joined by Serbia and other nations to form the Allied Powers. The United States became part of the Allied Powers when it entered the war in 1917.

Decide which words could be used to fill the blanks in the sentences below the puzzle. Then complete the puzzle by writing one letter per blank.

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                                    1. A __ __ __ __ __ __
                        2. __ __ __ L __
                          3. __ __ L __ __ __ __ __
                        4. __ __ __ I __ __
                  5. __ __ __ __ A __ __
          6. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ N __
                                    7. C __ __ __ __ __ __
                        8. __ __ __ E __
                        9. __ __ __ S __ __
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1. _____-Hungary allied itself with Germany in 1882.
2. _____ dropped out of the Triple Alliance before World War I started.
3. When World War I began, _____ joined forces with Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire.
4. The _____ Powers opposed the Central Powers in World War I.
5. Great _____ was a member of the Triple Entente.
6. The word *entente* means _____.
7. The Ottoman Empire fought on the side of the _____ Powers.
8. Alliances were looked upon as a way to maintain a balance of _____.
9. _____ was one of the nations that made up the Triple Entente.