

Comparative Summary: Triple Alliance vs Triple Entente

	Triple Alliance (1882)	Triple Entente (1907)
1. HOW it came about	Began with 1879 Dual Alliance between Germany & Austria-Hungary	Began with 1904 Entente Cordiale between Britain & France.
2. WHY it came about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany wanted to isolate France & protect itself from a two-front war; A-H wanted German support in Balkans and vs internal nationalism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> France wanted allies vs Germany; Britain feared German naval and imperial expansion.
3. KEY CHARACTERISTICS	Formal military alliance – agreed to support each other if attacked; clear promises.	Looser understanding – not a firm military alliance; Britain made no automatic war promises.
4. HOW it expanded	Italy joined in 1882, forming the Triple Alliance . Renewed regularly.	Existing links to Russia through 1894 Franco-Russian Alliance, and through mutual alliances with Japan. 1907 Anglo-Russian Convention created the Triple Entente .
5. WHY others joined the alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italy joined to gain support for colonial ambitions All three shared common enemies/fears.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia needed partners after 1905 defeat; All three wanted to balance Triple Alliance.
6. KEY CHARACTERISTICS of the expanded alliance	More rigid, but tensions within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italy territorial tensions with Austria; unsure military commitment. Austria did not welcome Italian involvement in the Balkans 	More flexible – esp. Britain's role; grew stronger over time through talks and cooperation.
7. CONSEQUENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> created division in Europe; encouraged arms race; encouraged A-H to be more assertive in the Balkans; encouraged Germany to give a 'blank cheque' to A-H vs. Serbia linked powers in ways that could draw them into war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> made Germany feel encircled; encouraged military cooperation; encouraged Russia to be more assertive in the Balkans; helped slide to WWI when one power was drawn in.