

# How did the Moroccan Crises strengthen the European alliances?

Aims:

- Describe the events of the Moroccan Crises.
- Explain how the Moroccan Crises strengthened the European alliances.

What would it take for the alliances to  
go to war?



# What happened in Morocco?

France wanted to take control of Morocco



**Britain:**

Agreed not to oppose France  
(because they had an  
agreement 'Entente Cordiale').



**Germany:**

Aim of 'Weltpolitik' meant it  
decided to oppose France

# What did the Kaiser do next?

**1905**

- Kaiser visited Tangier in Morocco.
- He travelled down the streets on a white horse, with a military band and Moroccan troops following him.
- He announced that Germany supported an independent Morocco which would be free for all nations to trade with.
- He called for an international conference to discuss the future of Morocco.

**Why did he do this?**

It was a dramatic gesture aimed at stopping France from occupying Morocco and testing the strength of the Entente Cordiale.

# What happened at Algeciras?

The conference was held in 1906.

The European powers were divided:



France:

Supported by Britain and Russia.

Forced to recognise independence of Morocco  
BUT shares joint control of police with Spain

Germany:

Supported by Austria-Hungary and Morocco.

## What were the effects of the Moroccan Crisis?

- Germany had failed to stop France gaining some control in Morocco – police!
- Entente Cordiale was stronger than ever.
- Britain was concerned about Germany's actions – begins secret military talks with France.
- Britain takes more interest in European affairs.

# Why did the Anglo-Russian agreement add to Germany's fears?

- Russia and Britain had both supported France during the Moroccan Crisis.
- 1907 – Anglo-Russian agreement signed – BUT NOT AN ALLIANCE!
- It wasn't a military alliance but Germany didn't see it that way!



Read pg. 31-33

How did the Moroccan Crisis of 1905-6 strengthen the Entente Cordiale?

Why did the Anglo-Russian Agreement add to Germany's fears?

Do you think these fears were justified? Give reasons.

# How did Agadir, the second Moroccan Crisis change the European alliances?

1911

- Rebellion against the ruling Sultan broke out in Fez, the capital. He appealed to France who sent in the French army to help.
- Germany opposed this but did not want another defeat, as in 1906 at Algeciras.
- Germany sent in the *Panther*, a gunboat to the port of Agadir to protect German interests.
- Germany fully expected France to control Morocco but thought that it could negotiate with France and gain something from the talks.

## How did Britain view these actions?

- Germany's use of a gunboat was seen as aggressive by Britain as they were involved in a naval race.
- Britain was afraid Germany was trying to build an Atlantic naval base that could rival its own base in Gibraltar.
- Britain supported France as a result.
- Germany had not expected Britain to get involved.

## How close did they come to war in 1911?

- Preparations for war were made in Germany, Britain and France.
- In the end, Germany backed down. It gained two marshy strips of land in the French Congo.
- France gained control of Morocco.

How did it affect the alliances?

# How did the Agadir Crisis affect the alliances?

- Germany felt humiliated – unlikely to back down in the future!
- German people annoyed with Britain – public opinion begins to support a war.
- Britain is more convinced that Germany wants to dominate Europe.
- Britain reaches secret naval agreement with France – Britain will defend northern France, France will defend the Mediterranean.
- Italy opposed Germany over Agadir – Triple Alliance is weakened and Germany relies on Austria-Hungary.

# Use textbook pg. 34-35

What was the effect of the Agadir crisis on the alliances?

In the exam you could be asked to assess the importance of the Moroccan Crises in the formation of the alliances or the outbreak of war as part of an essay.