**1905/6 The First Moroccan Crisis**

France wanted Morocco to complete her empire in North Africa.

In 1904 Britain and France agreed the Entente Cordiale (Anglo-French Entente). This Entente gave France a free hand in Morocco. The Kaiser, however, decided to interfere in Morocco because;

* He wanted to test the strength of the Entente and believed he could split the agreement.
* He did not believe Britain would stand by France over Morocco.
* He did not want to see France extend her North African Empire.

In 1905 the Kaiser paid a visit to the Moroccan port of Tangiers. There he made a speech in which he declared that Morocco should remain independent of France.

This sparked a crisis. France backed by Britain, refused to back down but did agree to the Kaiser’s demands for an international conference/meeting to discuss the future of Morocco.

The conference took place at Algerciras in Spain. It was a disaster for the Kaiser. Only Austria-Hungary backed his demands for Moroccan independence.

France was more or less allowed to do what they wanted in Morocco. The Kaiser had suffered a terrible defeat. He blamed this defeat on the British and their support for France. Wilhelm II’s actions had achieved the opposite of what he had hoped. They had strengthened the Entente Cordiale.

The crisis was important because already there was a division within Europe. The Entente Cordiale was strengthened and Britain started to change its policy of splendid isolation and started to take notice of European matters. To add to this Britain and France secretly started military talks, already drawing up plans for a potential war.

**1911 The Second Moroccan Crisis**

In 1911, the ruling Sultan of Morocco faced a rebellion and decided to call on France for help. France sent an army to Morocco and the rebellion soon went away. However, Germany’s reaction to this was to send a gunboat, the Panther, to the port of Agadir in order to protect German interests in the country.

The Germans saw nothing wrong with this action as France had sent an army to look after its interests, but to other countries, especially Britain, it was viewed as an aggressive act. The British thought that Germany were going to build a naval base in the Atlantic to challenge Britain’s naval base in Gibraltar.

This overreaction by the Germans brought Europe very close to war and all countries involved made preparations for war in 1911. The situation was resolved when Germany accepted two marshy strips of land in the Congo for recognising and accepting that France had control over Morocco.

The second crisis was far more serious than the first and shows a clear division in Europe between the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente. It increased tensions rapidly and sped up a chain of events that led to the First World War.

The Triple Alliance was weakened when Italy opposed what happened in Morocco; Germany now felt humiliated and decided that if another crisis arose then they would not back down. The German people were annoyed with Britain and France and now more than ever supported the idea and need for a war. Britain now became convinced that Germany was a threat and that it wanted to dominate Europe. Britain entered another secret agreement with France, this time it was a naval one, they promised to defend each other if attacked.

1911

Causes:

Events:

Consequences:

1905

Causes:

Events:

Consequences: