

THE GIANT EHAP REVIEW OUTLINE!

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World War I

Foreign Policy From 1870 to 1890

- By 1870, all the major powers that would participate in WWI were in place. Their foreign policies from 1870 to 1890 (end of Bismarck's rule) would in many ways set the stage for WWI.
- **England** → the #1 power in Europe, by a lot. England had been the first to industrialize and it was still well ahead (steel production, paper use, etc.) until 1890, when Germany began to surpass it. England was the biggest imperial power, with India, Canada, and its plans for the Cape → Cairo railroad. It had the Suez Canal (which was its "lifeline" and it would protect at all costs) as well. The English navy was also bigger than all the others in the world combined! England's only concern with Europe was for the *balance of power* and nothing more – no peacetime alliances.
- **France** → the #3 power in Europe. After the horrible mess of the Paris Commune and the Dreyfus affair, the French Third Republic seemed solidly established. The main goal for France was to regain control of Alsace-Lorraine (the "lost provinces"). Consequently, they had a vendetta against Germany. In imperialism they were the second place power with many African States and influence in China and Southeast Asia. Also industrialized.
- **Russia** → also the #3 power in Europe. A totally backwards country that only freed its serfs in 1861, was not industrialized at all (b/c needed middle class and trade, which it didn't have). Russia's goal was, as ever, the WWP (warm water port), which it would need for trade. It wanted to get it on the Mediterranean, from Turkey, which would be easily done if not for England, which wanted to maintain peace near its lifeline, and kept stopping them. They could also get the WWP by encouraging Pan-Slavism and, therefore, causing the disintegration of Austria-Hungary, but this obviously causes serious issues with Austria-Hungary (yea, they had issues).
- **Austria-Hungary** → the #5 power in Europe. They are *really, really scared* of one thing: Slavic nationalism, which is being encouraged by Russia (who they hate, surprisingly enough). The deal between Austria and Hungary, incidentally, is that the Magyar Hungarians and the Austrians are presenting an allied front against Slavic nationalism.
- **Germany** → the #2 power in Europe at the middle of the entire mess. Controlled by Bismarck, Germany developed a huge (and confusing) system of peacetime alliances, all based on their fear of a two front war – or that France, who hates them, might find an ally.

Bismarck's Alliance System

- So it all began with Germany's well-justified fear of a two front war – France and somebody else ganged up against Germany. But who could the someone else be?
 1. **England?** – England and France together would be a serious problem. Luckily for Bismarck, England does not form peacetime alliances and won't interfere unless the BOP is threatened. So, all Bismarck has to do is make sure he doesn't threaten England – so no colonial possessions, don't mess w/lifeline, no navy, etc.
 2. **Austria-Hungary** → a valid possibility, especially as he beat Austria-Hungary in 1870, which humiliated them.
 3. **Russia** → again, a valid possibility.
- So, to prevent the dreaded two front war, Bismarck had to befriend BOTH A-H and Russia. There was one slight problem: due to the Pan-Slavism issue, A-H and Russia hated e/o!
- In 1874, Bismarck formed the *Three Emperors League*, an understanding between A-H and Russia.
- Then another problem began to develop. The Ottoman Empire (now the sick man of Europe) is in bad shape, and as Turkey controls the Balkans, which Russia wants but A-H and England would defend, a war seems eminent.
- War would be very bad for Bismarck, as it would bring the British onto the continent to defend their lifeline, it would cause a war between A-H and Russia, and it would ally France w/England.
- **Russo-Turkish War** → the only war where the winner is placed first! From 1876 to 1878, Russia wipes the floor with Turkey – Turkey is collapsing, everyone is mobilizing (oh crap). So Bismarck takes the initiative and quickly calls...
- **The Congress of Berlin** → in 1878, Bismarck presented himself as the honest broker (yea right) and pretty much ran the session. He forced Russia to give back practically all its winnings – or else it would have to fight

with Germany – and sided w/A-H, but now Russia feels betrayed and angry, and could possibly join France in a two front war! Also, all the little Balkan states were made here.

- So, in 1879, Bismarck makes the *Dual Alliance* w/A-H, which becomes the *Triple Alliance* in 1881 with the addition of Italy. Now his friendship w/A-H is totally confirmed.
- Then he goes to Russia and asks if Russia wants to bring back the good old *Three Emperors League*, and Russia (who doesn't know what to make of it all) says sure, and it is recreated in 1881.
- In 1887 the TEL falls apart b/c Russia and A-H hate e/o too much, but Bismarck quickly makes the *Reinsurance Treaty* with Russia (non-aggression pact) to prevent two front war.
- So it's all good when Willhelm I has to go and die, bringing impatient and power-hungry Willhelm II to the throne. Will II wants navy, colonies, and "Germany's day in the sun" and doesn't want the complex alliance system. So in 1890, he fires Bismarck (he never liked the old guy anyway)!

Events Leading Up to WWI

- **Franco-Russian Alliance** → when the Reinsurance Treaty came up for renewal in 1890, Will II showed no desire to renew it, so Russia knew that the Germans had chosen Austria over them. Consequently, they formed an alliance w/France in 1894.
- **Entente Cordiale** → then in 1904, England (gasp) actually made an understanding w/France, their longtime enemies, b/c Germany was beginning to threaten them – it was building a navy, competing for colonies, and being arrogant and obnoxious (*Kruger Telegram*).
- **Moroccan Crisis #1** → in 1905, the Germans decided to test the French/English understanding, and hopefully mess it up, over an issue w/Morocco. France wanted special status there, and announced it as their protectorate – Germany gets angry, sends ship, and calls a congress. But at the congress, everyone but A-H sides w/France, and the F/E alliance only gets stronger – so dumb move for G.
- **Triple Entente** → which leads to, in 1907, the Triple Entente, an informal coalition of France, England and Russia. This comes about b/c after the Russo-Japanese war in 1907, England no longer feels threatened by Russia b/c Russia has no more navy. Now, they can all be friends.
- **Balkan Crisis #1** → a.k.a. the *Bosnian Annexation Crisis*, this one was a biggie. Back in 1878 in the Berlin Congress, A-H, which was getting nervous about the Balkan states, was allowed to occupy Bosnia. Now, it suddenly decides it wants to keep Bosnia, but it knows it must strike a bargain with Russia, which wants its WWP. So in 1908 Russia and A-H agree: Russia gets a WWP, and A-H can annex Bosnia w/o Russian intervention. So A-H goes ahead and annexes Bosnia while Russia (to the surprise of the Serbs) does nothing. Then Russia calls its congress on the WWP, all agree except England and Germany, so A-H (figuring it won't get it anyway if England and Germany are against it) says nothing. Russia feels totally ripped off, and is out to get Austria too.
- **Moroccan Crisis #2** → now, France wants to annex Morocco. Talks seemed to be going well when the Germans sent the gunboat *Panther* to a Moroccan port in 1911 and then asked for all of the French Congo in exchange. Although there was an eventual compromise, it heightened tensions.
- **Tripolitan War** → in 1911, Italy declared war on Turkey to get Tripoli, which it got easily.
- **Balkan War #1** → seeing Italy's easy victory, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece declared war on Turkey in 1912 and kicked the Turks butts.
- **Balkan War #2** → in 1913 (now it is a war per year), Serbia, Greece, Romania and Turkey went to war against Bulgaria b/c Bulgaria gained too much land in the last war.
- Which leads us to...

The July Crisis of 1914

- On *June 28th, 1914* (another of those landmark dates), the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to Austria-Hungary's throne, was assassinated by a Serbian terrorist from the Black Hand. A-H was outraged, and convinced a strong response was necessary as they believed that the terrorists were affiliated w/the Serbian gov't (think Taliban and Al Queda).
- So Austria-Hungary asked Germany what they should do, and on July 5th Germany responded by saying A-H has Germany's full support regardless – the "blank check" – essentially saying to go ahead and kick the Serbians' butts.
- On July 23rd, A-H gave Serbia an incredibly harsh ultimatum obviously designed to be rejected and start a war and gives Serbia 48 hours to respond favorably to all the demands. On July 25th, Serbia responded by accepting all but 2 of the demands and asking for international mediation.
- On July 28th, A-H refused meditation and declared war on Serbia claiming demands weren't met.
- On July 30th, Tsar Nicholas II ordered a full mobilization against A-H and Germany, so, on August 1st, Germany responded by declaring war on Russia and warning France to declare its intentions in 48 hours or else. By August 3rd, France's hours had expired and Germany declared war on it.

- On August 4th, the Germans asked the Belgians for permission to use their country to get to France, Belgium refused, and Germany invaded, leading to the British declaration of war on Germany the next day b/c of its violation of Belgium's neutrality.
- So that is why they call it "stumbling into war" – was it stupidity or what?

The Causes of WWI

- There have been several different interpretation of what caused the war, beginning w/the *Treaty of Versailles*, which blamed it all on Germany.
- Then, in 1924, **Sidney Bradshaw Fay** and **Henry Elmer Barnes** challenged that view and stated that war became inevitable and that the blame rested on all the nations equally. Anyhow, they said, it was more A-H than Germany, as Germany had tried to hold A-H back but it became too late. Britain should have declared its intentions earlier, Serbian nat'lism started it, Russia was the key country to mobilize and Germany was the last to mobilize – so, they said, it wasn't all Germany! The long-term causes (according to them) were: the alliance system, the arms race, economic rivalry, imperialism and NATIONALISM. This view was so convincing it became classic and led to the Treaty of Versailles not being enforced – as they had said it was too harsh.
- In 1961, the German historian **Franz Fischer** actually reopened the question and refuted the now classic view using German secret documents as evidence. "Germany willed and coveted the Austro Serbian war," Fischer said. Germany's motive was: worried about Russia (which was gaining power by the second) so knew it had to hit now before it became too late, its ambitions for colonies and more territory in Europe, and to distract the socialist menace at home.

The Course of the War

- Okay, pretty much, we don't need to know this stuff, but there are a few noteworthy battles. We won't be asked about the other ones so who the heck cares!
- Generally what happened was that the Germans got close to Paris, where they were stopped at the *Battle of the Marne*. There, both sides built miles of parallel trenches – and from then on, it was just stalemate as in battle after battle each side attempted to break through the enemies' lines. At the *Battle of Verdun*, where the Germans again tried to break through, it became a total war of attrition, as no strategy seemed to work. The *Battle of the Somme* was the allied counterattack, to no avail.
- The Eastern front followed a similar pattern of stalemate – i.e. nothing happened except they kept fighting and people kept killing e/o – please, what was the point?
- The main naval battle, the *Battle of Jutland*, was when the Germans tried to break out of the British naval blockade, but they failed, and had to resort to submarine warfare, which drew in the US.
- In the end, it was US involvement that decided the fate of the war, as things had just become dependent on who could be drawn in to provide fresh supplies and men.

The Effects of the War

- The war strained the resources of each country to the max. It created national unity, for a time, but it also caused great hardship. Supplies were lacking, women went to work in the factories, there was disruption and dislocation, and Europeans grew thinner and less fashionable (as the textbook says).
- The war contributed greatly to the increased involvement of the government in society, led to increased propaganda, and also to women's liberation.
- Many social customs faded out, and society became more open (at least for a time).
- There was also a rapid development of new technology. Overall, however, the economy was greatly hurt by the war, as world trade had been totally disrupted.
- And then, of course, practically a whole generation of young men in every country had disappeared.

The Peace Treaties

- **Fourteen Points** → the list of US war aims, the Fourteen Points was a very idealistic treaty that wanted to "make the world safe for democracy" – it supported nationalism, democracy, etc. Wilson felt that oppression led to war, and that if oppression was stopped, war would be stopped as well. Wilson supported the idea of colonies eventually reaching independence, state lines being drawn by nationalism, and so on.
- **Paris Peace Conference** → in 1919, all the winners met in Paris (where else?) to determine what the new Europe would be like. Among the main players were:
Woodrow Wilson → from the US, Wilson is truly the honest broker here: he doesn't really have any interests except for promoting long term peace a la Fourteen Points.

Clemenceau → from France, all he wants to do is get Germany back for what they did. In 1870, Clemenceau was the mayor of Paris (which explains a lot) so he now wants to enact a Carthaginian peace: just to start, he is determined to kill the Kaiser and dismember Germany.

Lloyd George → from England, LG is, as he said, “stuck between Jesus Christ and Napoleon” – although he had to promise his country to kill the Kaiser and to make Germany pay, he is not as psychotic (I mean exaggerated) as Clemenceau.

- **Treaty of Versailles** → surprisingly enough, they actually came up with a treaty! The Rhineland was occupied for 15 years (or until the \$ was paid) and permanently demilitarized, France got Alsace-Lorraine (not even a point of contention), Germany lost all its colonies, they added the Polish corridor, Germany had to pay billions of \$ in reparations, and there was, to add insult to injury, the war guilt clause, which said it was all Germany’s fault. At first, Germany refused to sign, but they did after all. Also, the TOV established the mandate system.