

- Creation of Bismarck's Germany
 - Jan 18, 1871, William I = Kaiser
 - Powerful nation suddenly “created”
 - Nationalism grows extreme
 - Bismarck = Reich's Chancellor; leading statesman in Europe
 - NOTE: Bismarck's *Realpolitik*
 - Seeks to preserve unification
 - Efforts = two fold
 - Bismarck's Domestic focus = preserve Prussian system
 - Standing army
 - 1871-78
 - Free trade
 - w/ Liberals
 - Vs. Catholics = *Kulturkampf*
 - 1879-91 = reversed
 - Tariffs
 - Ends *Kulturkampf*
 - Anti-Liberal, especially - SPD
 - » Avoids concessions
 - » Used SPD as enemy
 - » Drew away “base”
 - Foreign Policy = Order & stability; w/ restraint
 - Primary goal = isolation of FR
 - Secondary goal = Rus & Aus-Hun war
 - Develops “alliance system”
 - 1st attempt = Three Emperor's League – Ger, Aus-Hun, Rus 1873
 - Collapsed when Russo-Turkish War erupts (1877-78)
 - Trigger = Balkan rebellion
 - Rus entry = international crisis
 - Treaty of San Stefano (1878) = Russian triumph
 - BUT: Balance of Power
 - Brit & Aus-Hun force international conference
 - Congress of Berlin (1878)
 - Three Emperors League = Dead
 - Two threats to Bismarck's peace
 - 1879 - Ger & Aus-Hun sign secret treaty

- NOTE: *Realpolitik*
 - Creates Dual Alliance
 - 3 Emperor's League reaffirmed
 - 1882, Italy asked to join Dual Alliance
- Bismarck's Alliance System comes into full affect
 - Triple Alliance + Emperor's League
 - NOTE: Brit = Splendid Isolation
 - Result = FR still alone
- System cracks
 - 1887 Rus walks away
 - Bismarck negotiates Reinsurance Treaty
- Bismarck's control of Europe starts to crumble – March 9, 1888
 - William I dies
 - Succeed Frederick III
 - Frederick = English system
 - Sought to undo Bismarck's creation
 - Fate
 - Reign only 99 days
 - Succeed by son, William II
- Bismarck's efforts undone
 - William = 29 years old
 - Grew up admiring Bismarck, BUT...
 - Pursues *Weltpolitik* (re: belligerent foreign policy)
 - Aspirations = counter to Bismarck's policy
 - March 18, 1890, Bismarck resigns
- William II's Germany
 - Reign = incoherent
 - Presents bi-polar personality
 - At home vs. Abroad
 - Also "divine right of kings"
 - Ill-equipped to steer foreign policy
 - 1st mistake
 - Caprivi doesn't renew Reinsurance Treaty
 - 2nd mistake = Ger gives full support to Aus
 - By 1870s, Aus focus = Balkans
 - Ger fully commits to Triple Alliance

- 3rd mistake = allows Franco-Russian Alliance
 - FR sees opportunity
 - Develops friendly contacts w/ Rus
 - Relations expand
 - 1894, FR & Rus form secret Franco-Russian Alliance
 - NOTE: this = Bismarck's nightmare
- 4th mistake = Frightens Brit from "splendid isolation"
 - Cause = Mahan's "Influence of Sea Power upon History"
 - » NOTE: Bismarck's strategy = "commerce raiding"
 - William II subscribes to Mahan's ideas; wants to "compete" w/ Brit
 - » Admiral Tirpitz = designs new policy
 - Result = Brit jarred from it's "splendid isolation"
 - 1902 – Anglo-Japanese Alliance formed
 - 1904 – Russo-Japanese War erupts
 - » Brit & FR fear dragged in
 - » End ancient rivalry
 - » Establish *Entente Cordiale*
 - 1907 – *Entente* expanded to *Triple Entente*
- Result = Europe divided into two armed camps
 - Triple Alliance vs. Triple Entente
- Flaws exposed via "crises"
 - 1st Morocco Crisis – aka Tangier Crisis
 - Morocco = location, location, location
 - 1904, FR moves in
 - Provokes German reaction
 - Kaiser visits Tangiers
 - Challenges French interests
 - Sultan then rejects FR-proposals
 - Requests international conference
 - Algeiras Conference 1906 – in Southern Spain
 - 14 Nations attend
 - Ger wants "condominium"; forced to back down
 - FR accepts Moroccan domestic sovereignty & police powers
 - Consequence: showed *Entente Cordiale* = strong
 - Kaiser = humiliated
 - Result = 2nd Moroccan Crisis

- 1911, revolution broke out
 - FR deploys troops
 - Germany sends SMS Panther
 - Brit concerned
 - Ger stock market plunges 30%
- Kaiser backs down
- Treaty of Berlin 1911
- Consequences
- Crisis in the Balkans
 - Aus-Hun, Rus, & Serbia want control
 - Serbian independence gained 1876
 - Treaty of Berlin 1878
 - » Aus-Hun granted right to “occupy” Bosnia & Herzegovina
 - Three Emperors League endorse idea of Aus right to “annex”
 - BUT Nicholas II rejects
 - 1903, pro-Russian dynasty in Serbia
 - Russian strength = weakened
 - 1908 – Young Turk Revolution in Ottoman Empire
 - Rus senses opportunity
 - » Proposes modification to Treaty of Berlin
 - » Aus-Hun agrees, but adds
 - Bulgaria declares independence
 - Aus-Hun annexes Bosnia & Herzegovina
 - Ottomans protest
 - Serbia declares “mobilization”
 - FR, Brit, & IT “protest”, but
 - Ger sides w/ Brit & FR
 - Rus backs down; looks weak
 - Serbs back down; outraged
 - 1912 First Balkan War
 - Balkan States vs. Ottomans; Ottomans = overwhelmed
 - Rus warns no occupation of Constantinople
 - Serbia overruns Albania; Aus-Hun blocks
 - Russian supports Serbs
 - Russia backs down; looks weak

- Serbia outraged
 - NOTE: 2nd Balkan War Serbia again invades; again blocked by Aus-Hun
- Aus-Hun humiliates Rus 2x in 5 yrs; Serbia = 3x
- June 28, 1914
 - Archduke Francis Ferdinand assassinated
 - Assassin = Gaurilo Princep
 - Ger encourages Aus-Hun - “blank check”
 - Aus-Hun sends 10 pt ultimatum
 - Expects Serbia to refuse
 - Serbia agrees to all points except one
 - Ger recognizes flaw too late
 - Point of No Return
 - The “lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall never see them lit again in our lifetime.”