

- Road to WWI
 - WWI = consequence of New Imperialism
 - Europe = confident; optimistic
 - Explosive nationalism triggers belligerency
 - Tensions explode on June 28th, 1914
 - Starting point = creation of Germany
 - Architect = Otto von Bismarck
 - Prussia's "Iron Chancellor"
 - Devises "Gap" Theory
 - Desires German unification
 - Uses nationalism
 - Franco-Prussian War
 - Trigger = Ems Telegram
 - Napoleon III declares war
 - Bismarck isolates France
 - Prussia uses "modern" tech
 - France easily overwhelmed
 - Humiliation: Jan 18, 1871 – Wilhelm I = Kaiser
 - Treaty of Frankfurt
 - » NOTE: Alsace & Lorraine
 - Powerful nation suddenly "created"
 - Nationalism grows extreme

- Bismarck's focus = preserve unification
 - Efforts = two-fold
 - Domestic Policy = protect Prussian militarism
 - » *Realpolitik* & "Gap Theory"
 - Foreign Policy = protect *Reich*
 - » Diplomacy & restraint
 - » Goal #1 = isolation of FR
 - » Goal #2 = prevent Rus & Aus-Hun war
- Bismarck's "alliance system"
 - 1st attempt = Three Emperor's League
 - Collapsed after 11th Russo-Turkish War (1877-78)
 - » Trigger = Balkan rebellion
 - » Russian entry = international crisis
 - » War brief
 - » Treaty of San Stefano (1878)
 - » Threat to Balance of Power
 - » Brit & Aus-Hun force Congress of Berlin (1878)
 - » Three Emperors League = Dead
- Two threats to Bismarck's peace
 - 1) Serbia = Bosnia & Herzegovina
 - 2) Russia = Berlin Conference
- Ger & Aus-Hun sign secret treaty -

- Creates Dual Alliance
- NOTE: Austro-Hungarian Empire
 - » Supra-nationalist empire
 - » Two nationalities co-rule
 - » Rebellions crushed
 - » Serbia = instigator
 - » “Greater Serbia”
 - » Rival with Russia
 - » Life or death
- Alexander II = fearful
- 3 Emperor’s League reaffirmed
- Dual Alliance = Triple Alliance w/ Italy
- Bismarck’s Alliance System comes into full affect
 - Triple Alliance + Emperor’s League
 - NOTE: Brit = Splendid Isolation
 - Result = FR still alone
- System cracks
 - Aus-Rus tension; Rus walks
 - Bismarck negotiates Reinsurance Treaty
- March 9, 1888 – Bismarck’s control crumbles
 - Wilhelm I dies
 - Succeeded by Frederick II

- Wants constitutional monarchy
- Sought to undo Bismarck's creation
- Fate!!!
- Reign only 99 days

- Succeeded by Wilhelm II

- Bismarck's efforts undone

- Wilhelm = 29 years old
- Grew up admiring Bismarck, BUT...
- Pursues *Weltpolitik* (re: belligerent foreign policy)
- Aspirations = counter to Bismarck's policy
- Two clashed
- 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
 - Doesn't renew Reinsurance Treaty
- 2nd mistake = Ger gives full support to Aus
 - By 1870s, Aus focus = Balkans

- Fully commits to Triple Alliance
- 3rd mistake = allows Franco-Russian Alliance
 - FR sees opportunity
 - Develops friendly contacts w/ Rus
 - Relations expand
 - Franco-Russian Alliance formed
 - NOTE: It = 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"
 - » Wilhelm II admires Mahan's ideas
 - » PLUS wants to "compete" w/ Brit
 - » Admiral Tirpitz = designs new policy
 - Result = Brit jarred awake
 - » Boer War = Brit strength?
 - » Entry into Triple Alliance?
 - » Boxer Rebellion
 - Repositions
 - » Anglo-Japanese Alliance formed
 - » Russo-Japanese War erupts
 - » Brit & FR fear dragged in
 - » End ancient rivalry

» Establish *Entente Cordiale*

» *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

— FR seeks sphere of influence

— Provokes German reaction

» Kaiser visits Tangiers

» Challenges French interests

» Sultan Abdelaziz rejects FR-proposals

» Requests international conference

— Algeiras Conference 1906 – in Southern Spain

» 14 Nations attend

» Ger wants “condominium”; rejected

» Moroccan keeps sovereignty & police powers

» FR controls finances

— Consequences

» *Entente Cordiale* = strong

» Kaiser = humiliated

» Sultan = opposes fiscal controls

- 2nd Moroccan Crisis
 - 1911, revolution broke out
 - » FR deploys troops
 - » Ger sends SMS Panther
 - » Brit send fleet
 - *Entente* nearly fails
 - Ger stock market collapses
 - Kaiser backs down
 - Diplomacy almost fails
 - Franco-German Accord (1911)
 - Consequences

— Crisis in the Balkans

- Aus-Hun, Rus, & Serb
 - Serb revolts =1876
 - Treaty of Berlin 1878
 - » Serb independence; but no Bosnia
 - » Aus-Hun “occupies” Bosnia & Herzegovina
 - Three Emperors League recognizes “annex”
 - BUT Nicholas II later rejects
 - Pan-Slavism
- May Coup in Serb
 - Spearheaded by Black Hand

- King Peter = pro-Rus
 - » Revisits Bosnia
- Rus strength = weakened
 - » Refuses
 - » Serb = stands down

- Pig War

- It = trade war Aus-Hun vs. Serb
- Serb wants new trading partners
- Aus-Hun bans all exports
- Serb receives foreign aid; economy booms!
- Rus supports; Aus-Hun threatens war
- Ger ultimatum; Rus backs down
- New trade agreement

- Annexation Crisis

- Young Turk Revolution
- Rus sees opportunity
 - » Modification of Treaty of Berlin (1878)
 - » Aus-Hun agrees, but adds terms
- October 1908
 - » Bulgaria declares independence
 - » Aus-Hun annexes Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Reaction = outrage

» Ottomans protest

» Serbia “mobilizes”

» Rus demands Straits

» FR & Brit protest

» IT = bribed

» Ger sides w/ Brit & FR

— Rus backs down; looks weak

— Serbs back down; outraged

- Consequences

- Balkan Wars

— 1st = Balkan States vs. Ottomans

» Ottomans = overwhelmed

» Rus warns no occupation of Constantinople

— During Fog of War

» Serb overruns Albania

» Aus-Hun blocks

» Rus supports Serbs, but backs down

» Serbia outraged

— 2nd = Bulg vs. Balkan States & Ottomans

» Bulg = overwhelmed

— During Fog of War

- » Serb again invades
- » Again Aus-Hun blocks
- » Rus = stays silent
- » Serb outraged

— Consequences

- June 28, 1914
 - Archduke Francis Ferdinand assassinated
 - Assassin = Gaurilo Princep
 - Ger pledges “blank check”
 - Aus-Hun sends 10 pt ultimatum
 - Serb has 48 hours
 - Expects rejection
 - Flaw = no specified consequences
 - Serb reply = masterpiece
 - Agrees all in part but one
 - Aus-Hun & Serb mobilize
 - Ger recognizes too late
 - Urges Aus-Hun negotiate with Rus
 - Rus rejects
 - Point of No Return
 - The “lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall never see them lit again in our lifetime.”