

- **Bismarck's control of Europe starts to crumble – March 9, 1888**
  - **William I dies at age 90**
  - **Succeed by son, Frederick III**
    - **Raised = *Junker*; but became 19<sup>th</sup> Cen Liberal**
  - **William II = 29 years old**
    - **Believed in *Weltpolitik***
- **William II's Germany**
  - **Reign = incoherent**
  - **Ill-equipped to steer foreign policy**
    - **Surrounds self with "Yes" men**
  - **Four critical mistakes undoes Bismarck's peace**
    - **1<sup>st</sup> mistake – allows Rus treaties to lapse**
    - **2<sup>nd</sup> mistake = Ger gives full support to Aus**
      - **Ger commits to Triple Alliance**
    - **3<sup>rd</sup> mistake = allows Franco-Russian Alliance**
      - **FR & Rus sign secret Dual Alliance**

- **4<sup>th</sup> mistake = Frightens England from “splendid isolation”**
  - **1890, Mahan publishes “Influence of Sea Power upon History”**
  - **NOTE: Bismarck’s naval strategy = “commerce raiding”**
  - **William II subscribes to Mahan’s ideas**
  - **Admiral Tirpitz = primary architect**
  
- **Result = Brit jarred from “splendid isolation”**
  
- **1902 – Anglo-Japanese Alliance formed**
  
- **1904 – Russo-Japanese War erupts**
  - **Both Brit & FR fear getting dragged in**
  
- **1904 – establish *Entente Cordiale***
  
- **1907 – *Entente* expands to *Triple Entente***
  - **To “check” Ger, FR devises plan**
    - **FR moves to bridge gap w/ Jap**
  
    - **French-Japanese Treaty**
  
    - **Brit & Rus hold Convention over Persia**

- Thus, FR creates triangulates Triple Entente
- Flaws of Alliance System exposed
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Morocco Crisis – aka Tangier Crisis
    - Morocco = location, location, location
    - NW Africa = potential for colonization
    - FR wants “sphere”
    - Provokes reaction from Ger
    - Sultan rejects FR-proposals for “sphere”
    - Requests international conference
    - Algeciras Conference 1906
    - Consequence: shows *Entente Cordiale* = strong
    - PLUS: Kaiser = furious
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Moroccan Crisis
    - 1911, revolution broke out in Morocco
    - FR deploys troops to assist
    - Ger sends gunboat

- **Kaiser backs down**
- **Treaty of Berlin 1911 – aka Franco-German Accord**
- **Consequences = Kaiser again outmaneuvered by Brit & FR**
- **PLUS, it drew Brit & FR closer together**
- **Crisis in Balkans**
  - **Aus-Hun, Rus, Serb want control**
  - **Treaty of Berlin (1878) & Bosnia-Herzegovina**
  - **3 Emperors League endorse Aus annexation**
    - **Tsar Nicholas II changes policy**
  - **Pro-Rus dynasty comes to throne in Serbia**
  - **Rus strength = weakened**
- **Summer of 1908 – Revolution breaks out in Ottoman Empire**
  - **Revolution driven by *Ittihad ve Terakki Teshkilati* (aka Young Turks)**
    - **YT originally liberal but experience metamorphoses**
- **During chaos of YT uprising = Russian senses opportunity**
  - **Rus F.M. Izvolsky contacts Aus F.M. Aehrenthal**
  - **Proposes modification to Treaty of Berlin**

- **Aehrenthal agrees in part**
- **Izvolsky doesn't tell Nicholas II**
- **Ottomans protest**
- **Serbia mobilizes**
- **FR, Brit, & IT protest**
- **Rus backs down; looks weak**

— **1912 First Balkan War**

- **Trigger = Albanian Revolution of 1912**
- **Balkan forces overwhelm Ottomans**
- **Rus warning to Bulgaria**
- **Serbia overruns Albania**
- **Aus blocks Serbia**
- **Rus 1<sup>st</sup> supports Serbia; then abandons**
- **Serbia outraged**

— **2<sup>nd</sup> Balkan War erupts 1913**

- **Started by Bulgaria**
- **Serbia again attempts to invade Albania**
- **Aus again moved in to block**
- **Rus again supports Serb, then backs down**

- **June 28, 1914 = Archduke assassination**
  - **It presents unique opportunity**
    - **But what to do?**
  - **Crisis only between Aus & Serbia**
    - **NOTE: outside alliance system**
  - **Aus sought Ger advice**
    - **Ger urges toughness**
    - **William II promises “Black Check”**
    - **Ger “likely” to intervene if Rus moves**
  - **FR leaders in Rus**
    - **Ger advises Aus go slow**
  - **July 7<sup>th</sup>, Ministers meets in Vienna**
  - **July 23<sup>rd</sup> Aus sends ultimatum to Serbs**
    - **48 hours to reply**
    - **Flaw – no clear consequences**
    - **Serbs initially willing to agree to all terms**
    - **July 25<sup>th</sup> Serbians reply**
      - **It = diplomatic masterpiece; exposes flaw**

- **Serbia army mobilizes**
  - **Response transmitted to Vienna**
- **Then = two-day “intermission”**
- **Diplomats worked overtime**
  - **July 28<sup>th</sup> Aus declares war**
  - **NOTE: “declaration of war”**
  - **July 30<sup>th</sup> Rus mobilizes**
  - **Ger warns Rus; Rus ignores**
  - **Dominos fall – 44 declarations exchanged in two weeks**
- **“The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall never see them lit again in our lifetime.”**