

- The Eastern Front
 - Rus vs. Ger & Aus
 - NOTE: Scchlieffen Plan
 - Ger 8th Army & Aus-Hun vs “steamroller” for 6 wks
 - Problem = Aus-Hun not equipped
 - It = smallest army of powers
 - Plus issues
 - Also deep suspicion between Aus-Hun & Ger
 - Aus-Hun FM Franz “Conrad” von Hötendorf
 - Annoys Moltke the Younger
 - Also worships at alter of “the offensive”
 - Russian army = HUGE!
 - Also many flaws = ethnic issues; class issues; backwardness
 - Most significant = low supplies & transportation
 - Two strokes of huge luck
 - 1) RR system in European Russia improved
 - 2) 1914, military spending raised
 - Russian strategy = unclear

- Battle begins
 - 1910, FR & Rus design plan to foil Schlieffen Plan

 - Issues w/in Rus forces vs. Ger
 - Rennenkampf = 1st Army

 - Samsonov = 2nd Army

 - 1st Army crosses border on Aug 17th; 2nd crossed on 19th
 - Each = larger than Ger 8th Army
 - Commander = Prittwitz

 - 1st skirmish @ Battle of Stallupönen

 - 1st battle @ Battle of Gumbinnen

 - Moltke's response = fateful
 - Prittwitz & staff removed

 - Shifts ½ of 1st Ger Army

 - Replaced with Hindenburg & Ludendorff

 - It = formidable partnership established
 - Hindenburg = legend; served– 46 years

 - Ludendorff = key player in Siege of Liège

- Hindenburg & Ludendorff deal w/ Rus 1st & 2nd Armies
 - Rennenkampf = overcautious
 - Samsonov = moved like turtle
 - NOTE: “clear” messages
- Hindenburg put mastery on display
 - @ Battle of Tannenberg, Rus 2nd Army = smashed
 - » Samsonov commits suicide
 - » Victory = legendary
 - Hindenburg shifts to Rennekampft
 - Armies collide at 1st Battle of Masurian Lakes
- w/ Ger’s eastern front secure, stalemate set in
- Further South, Aus-Hun in worst position
 - War supposed to strengthen Empire
 - Intent = add territory in Balkans & beat down Serbia
 - Conrad proposed joint operation w/ Ger
 - Couldn’t ignore political need to “slap” Serbia
 - Selects General Oskar Potiorek to lead effort

- Unfortunately Serbia up to challenge
 - Field Marshall Radomir Putnik

- Southern frontier = pendulum
 - 1st = Battle of Cer

 - 2nd = Battle of Drina

 - 3rd = Battle of Kolubara

 - End of 1914, 1st phase of war against Serbia ends

 - PLUS Typhus epidemic

- To North, Aus = equally ineffective
 - Moltke informs Conrad = no joint operation

 - Conrad goes alone

 - Rus = 4 armies in Galicia

 - Commanded by Gen. Nicholas Ivanov

 - Conrad moves troops from Serbian front

 - On paper, assault = catastrophic

- 1st battle @ Kraśnik
 - IT = a-typical of WWI battles
- Set off chain know as Battle of Galicia
 - Battle of Komarow
 - Battle of Gnila Lipa
 - Battle of Rawa
- Battle of Galicia nearly destroys Aus forces
- Enormous cost & lack of success
 - Result = effects morale of Aus-Hun army
- Conrad = 100% to blame
- Galician Front only stabilized with Ger help
- Ottoman entry into war
 - Empire = “sick man” of Europe
 - Brits, FR, & Ger offered financial aid
 - FR & Brit desires neutrality if war erupts

- Ger sees opportunity - sends military missions to Constantinople
- Constantinople attempts alliance w/ Brit & Entente - Brits rebuff

— Russian threat

- Desires Ottoman Straits
- Contemplates seizing Constantinople
- Improves Caucasian Army & expands Black Sea fleet

— July 1914, Ger offers anti-Rus alliance

- Offer sweetened by secret deal
- Secret Ottoman-German Alliance formed
- Bizarre event takes place

— *Goeben & Breslau*

— Commanded by Admiral William Souchon

— “War!” declared

— Brits attempted to capture

— Arrive in Constantinople

— NOTE: timing = perfect

- Ottomans inch towards war
 - Officially declares “neutrality”
 - Forms alliance w/ Bulgaria
 - Unilaterally abrogated all “capitulations”
 - Close Straits
 - Souchon’s fleet attacks Rus
 - Officially enters WWI

- Response = Rus & Brits declare war
 - Ottomans declare war on Entente

- Sultan Mehmed V declares *jihad*
 - Some Muslims embrace
 - Others don’t

- Ottoman decision = fateful

- Mobilization = slow

- Strategic map of WWI shifts