

# The Growing Crisis, 1900-1914 [BiG FaT BABA]

Event	Effect(s)
<p><b>1. Boer War 1899-1900</b></p> <p>Britain was fighting a colonial war to conquer South Africa against the Dutch Boer settlers there. The war was going badly. Kaiser Wilhelm announced that he supported the Boers, and that Britain had no right to conquer South Africa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The British were outraged, and developed the idea that Germany wanted to challenge Britain's role as a world empire.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. German Navy Law, 1900</b></p> <p>In 1900 Kaiser Wilhelm began to build up the German navy, announcing that he wanted Germans to sail all over the world and take for Germany 'a place in the sun'. After 1906, he began to build numbers of the new, large 'Dreadnought' battleships, which were more powerful than any other ship.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Did You Know?</b></p> <p>It has been suggested that imperial rivalries were a long-range cause of World War I. It has also been said that they were a safety valve, drawing off European energies that might otherwise have erupted in war sooner.</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The British thought that Germany wanted to challenge British sea power - the basis of Britain's greatness</li> <li>A strong navy would also allow Germany to threaten British colonies overseas.</li> <li>Britain made an alliance with Japan in 1902, so as not to have to worry so much about the Pacific.</li> <li>Britain also began to build Dreadnoughts. The British government had planned to build four Dreadnoughts in 1909, but when Germany refused to limit the number of ships it was building, the British public protested, demanding: 'We want eight and we won't wait'. Britain and Germany thus had a naval arms race.</li> <li>By 1914, the British navy was much larger than the German navy, so it is arguable that this was NOT a cause of World War I.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. First Moroccan Crisis, 1906</b></p> <p>France hoped to conquer Morocco in Africa, and one of the points of the Entente Cordiale (1904) was that the British would help them. But in 1905, Kaiser Wilhelm visited Morocco and promised to protect Morocco against anyone who threatened it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The French were furious with Germany.</li> <li>The British saw it as yet another attempt by Germany to build a German Empire to rival Britain's empire.</li> <li>A Conference was held at Algeiras (1906), where Britain, Russia and France, forced Germany to promise to stay out of Morocco. This annoyed Germany.</li> <li>In 1907, Britain and Russia, alarmed by German ambitions, made an Entente.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Telegraph Article, 1908</b></p> <p>Kaiser Wilhelm gave an interview to the Daily Telegraph newspaper, in which - although he claimed that he wanted to be friends with Britain - he said that the English were 'mad', said that the German people hated them, and demanded that: 'Germany must have a powerful fleet to protect her interests in even the most distant seas'.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Source A</b></p> <p>You English, are mad, mad, mad as March hares. What has come over you that you are so completely given over to suspicions quite unworthy of a great nation? ...</p> <p>I have said time after time that I am a friend of England ... but you make things difficult for me.</p> <p>My task is not the easiest. The prevailing sentiment among large sections of the middle and lower classes of my own people is not friendly to England...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Interview with Kaiser Wilhelm II in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i>, 28 October 1908</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The article outraged the British.</li> <li>It convinced them that Germany wanted to challenge the British Empire overseas.</li> </ul>

<p><b>5. Bosnian crisis, 1908</b></p> <p>Turkey had been in decline for a long time. In 1908 there was a revolution in Turkey, and Austria-Hungary took advantage of this to annex (take over) the Turkish state of Bosnia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serbia was furious, because Bosnia included many Serbs whom it had hoped to rule. This eventually led to the assassination at Sarajevo and the First World War.</li> <li>• Serbia asked her ally Russia to help, and Russia called a European Conference, expecting support from France and Britain. However, Britain and France did NOT support Russia, no conference took place, and Russia had to back down and was humiliated - but Russia vowed not to back down again. This, again, was to help to cause the war in 1914.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Agadir Crisis, 1911</b></p> <p>There was a revolution in Morocco, and the French sent in an army to put it down, then took over the country. In the middle of this, Kaiser Wilhelm sent the gunboat Panther to the Moroccan port of Agadir.</p> <div data-bbox="243 747 940 930"> <p><b>Source B</b></p> <p>Germany is deliberately preparing to destroy the British Empire. We are all to be drilled and schooled and uniformed by German officials. Britain alone stands in the way of Germany's path to world power and domination.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">from an article in the <i>Daily Mail</i> newspaper, 1909</p> </div> <div data-bbox="243 968 940 1178"> <p><b>Source C</b></p> <p>Now we know where our enemy stands. Like a flash of lightning in the night these events have shown the German people where its enemy is... When the hour of decision comes we are prepared for sacrifices, both of blood and of treasure.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">From a speech made in the Reichstag (the German parliament) by the Kaiser, November 1911</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The French and British were furious - the British minister <u>Lloyd George</u> said that 'Britain's interests were vitally affected'. Fear of Germany's intentions increased.</li> <li>• Germany was forced to back down and remove the gunship, and was given only a small piece of jungle in the Congo. This increased German resentment: 'the Kaiser was determined not to be the loser in the next crisis'.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Balkan Wars, 1912-13</b></p> <p>As Turkey continued to grow weaker, in 1912 Serbia, Greece and Bulgaria (calling themselves the Balkan League) attacked Turkey and captured almost all the remaining Turkish land in Europe. Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, arranged a peace conference in London, but in 1913 the Bulgarians, unhappy with the deal they had got, attacked Serbia - but were defeated.</p> <p>Britain and Germany got together and used their influence to bring the war to an end (Treaty of Bucharest, 1913)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serbia became the most powerful Balkan state, and felt confident enough to threaten Austria - the Serbian Prime Minister Pasic said: 'the first round is won; now for the second round - against Austria'.</li> <li>• The Kaiser took Sir Edward Grey's co-operation as a sign of Britain's weakness. When the next crisis happened, he assumed that Britain would co-operate again.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Assassination at Sarajevo, 1914</b></p> <p>On 28 June 1914 Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb, shot Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This started a sequence of events which led to World War One.</li> </ul>

### Extra:

For each of these 'crises' 1-8, explain whether it is an example of:

- Nationalism
- Imperialism
- Militarism
- Alliances in action.