

We have conquered for ourselves a place in the sun. It will now be my task to see to it that this place in the sun shall remain our undisputed possession, in order that the sun's rays may fall fruitfully upon our activity and trade in foreign parts...

The more Germans go out upon the waters, whether it be in journeys across the ocean, or in the service of the battle flag, so much the better it will be for us.

A speech by Kaiser Wilhelm to the German Regatta Association, 1901



This British postcard shows the Kaiser taking the 'place in the sun' that wanted.

What were the long-term factors leading to World War I?

A. Awful governments

- few European governments were democracies or ruled well.

1. Germany
2. Austria-Hungary
3. Italy
4. Russia
5. France
6. Ottoman Empire
7. Britain

-----Alsace-Lorraine lost in 1870-71 war



notes taken & modified from John D. Clare.

B. Nationalism

- i. can unify while also causing competition among nations.
- ii. led to demands for independence among ethnic groups within larger empires.
 1. Romanians and Bulgarians in the Ottoman Empire
 2. Serbs within AH Empire



C. Imperialism

i. led to distrust and rivalry that pushed nations toward conflict.



D. Militarism

i. Anglo-German naval rivalry



1. Britain ruled the sea since the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805
 - a) Two-Power Standard
2. challenged in 1898 by Kaiser Wilhelm II
 - a) German Navy Law 1900
3. Spread thin
 - a) British navy was larger but had a much larger area to cover.
4. The dreadnought contributed to the arms race
 - a) Britain built the first in 1906
 - i) 1914 - Germany - 17
 - ii) 1914 - Britain - 29

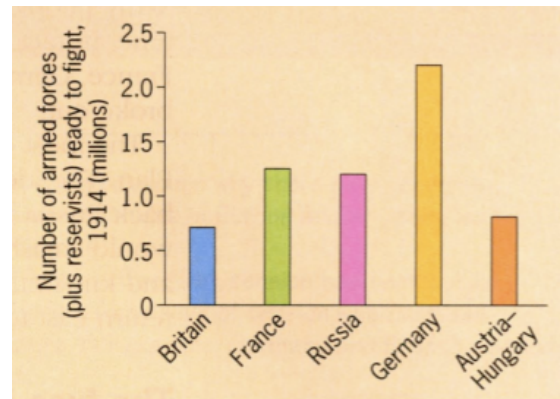
D. Militarism (continued)

ii. Plans for war

1. Germany

a) best trained and most powerful army in Europe.

b) facing a two-front war against France and Russia



GERMAN MILITARY PLANS 1905 - 1914



In the years before 1914, German military planners were haunted by fear of an all-out war on two fronts simultaneously (that is, against Russia and France). In 1905, Field-Marshal Graf Alfred Schlieffen prepared a plan based on an assumption that Russia (calculated to be slower in mobilization than France) could be held temporarily at bay, while the bulk of German military power be directed at securing a rapid victory over France. Thus, Schlieffen's plan dealt almost exclusively with the Western Front. Moltke, Schlieffen's successor as Chief of the German General Staff, modified the scheme on several occasions before the war, and an amended version was put into operation in August 1914. Despite initial successes, the plan failed to produce the expected quick victory, and the Western Front became a scene of almost rigid trench warfare until 1918.

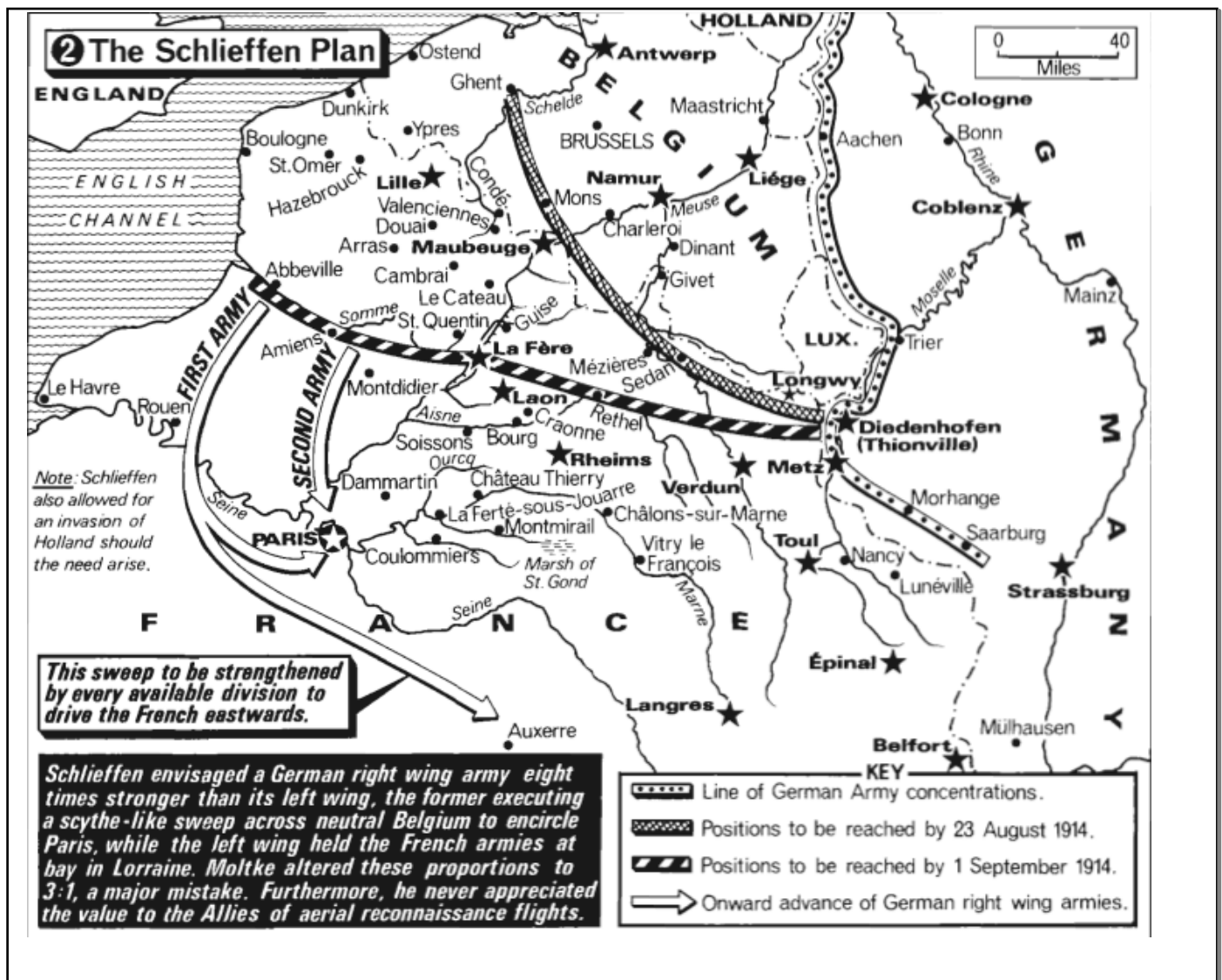
c) Schlieffen Plan designed as a solution to the two-front problem.

i. assumptions

- 1) war would be against France and Russia
 - a) Dual Alliance 1879, Triple Alliance 1882
- 2) France could be defeated in six weeks by using 90% of the German army
- 3) Russia was strong, but slow and would need six weeks to mobilize.
- 4) Belgium would not resist any attack
- 5) Britain would remain neutral



ii. devised by Alfred von Schlieffen and was Germany's only plan.



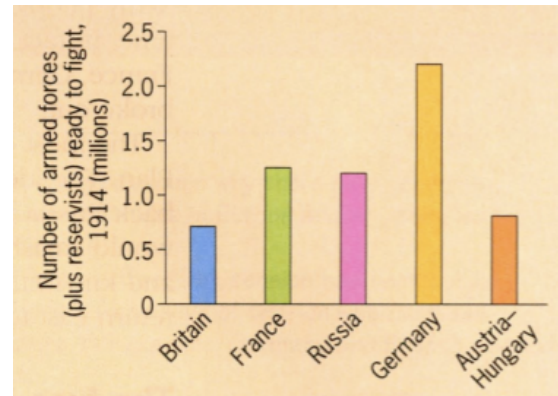
D. Militarism (continued)

ii. Plans for war

2. Austria-Hungary

a) needed help from
Germany to stop Russia

b) relied on the success of
the Schlieffen Plan so
Germany could help
defeat Russia.



D. Militarism (continued)

ii. Plans for war

3. Russia

- a) badly equipped army, but enormous in size.
- b) wanted to overwhelm Germany and Austria's army by their large number of soldiers.

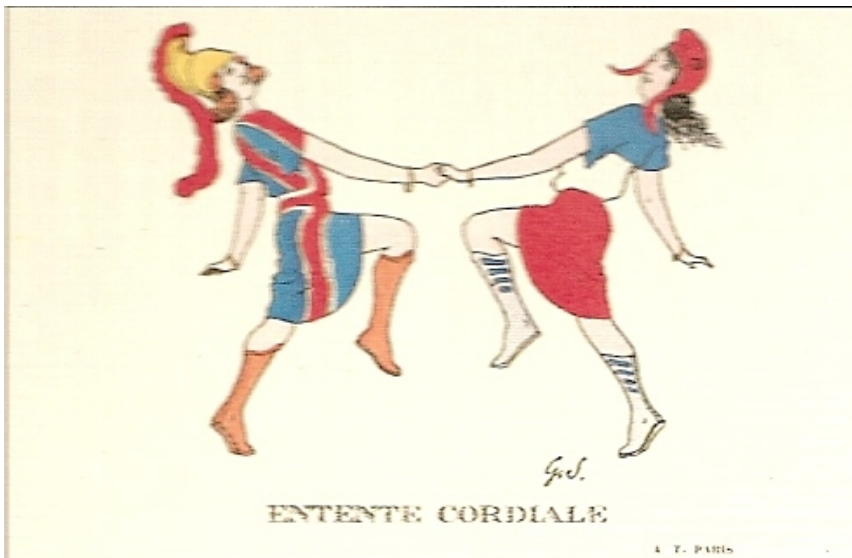


D. Militarism (continued)

ii. Plans for war

4. Great Britain

- a) set up the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) of 150 000 soldiers to fight alongside the French army in the event of war.
- b) had been secretly working with French commanders.



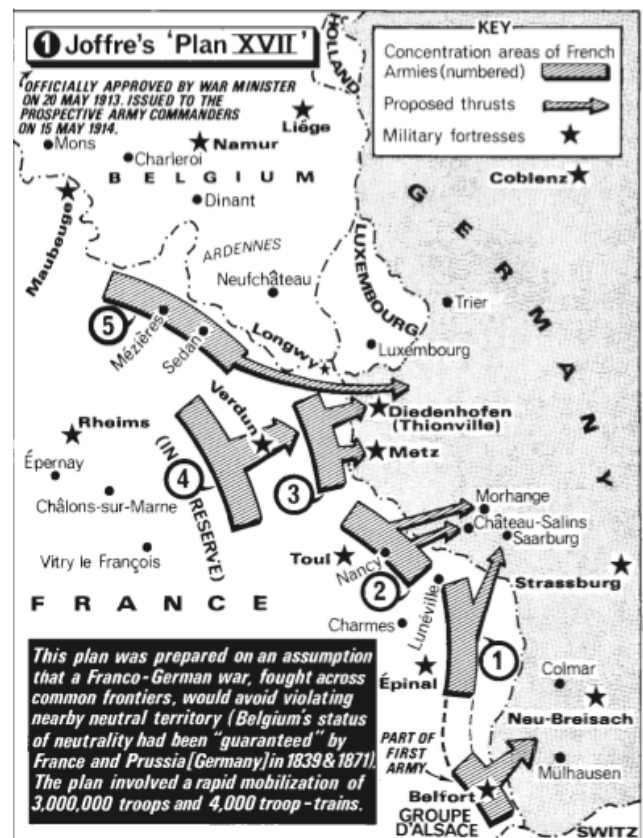
A 1904 French postcard showing Britannia and Marianne dancing together, symbolising the two nations' newly found sense of co-operation. (Wikipedia)

D. Militarism (continued)

ii. Plans for war

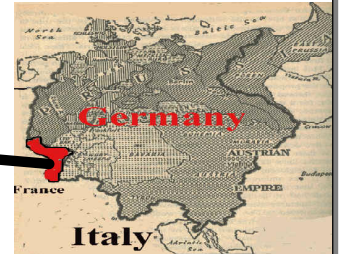
5. France

- a) large and well-equipped army
- b) Plan 17 (XVII) - their army would charge across frontier and attack deep into Germany.



Plan Seventeen (French)

- French wanted to reclaim Alsace and Lorraine
- designed by General Joffre in 1913
- called for an all-out attack on Alsace and Lorraine
- after the two provinces were captured, the French would cross the River Rhine and head for Berlin
- speed was necessary for success



E. Alliances



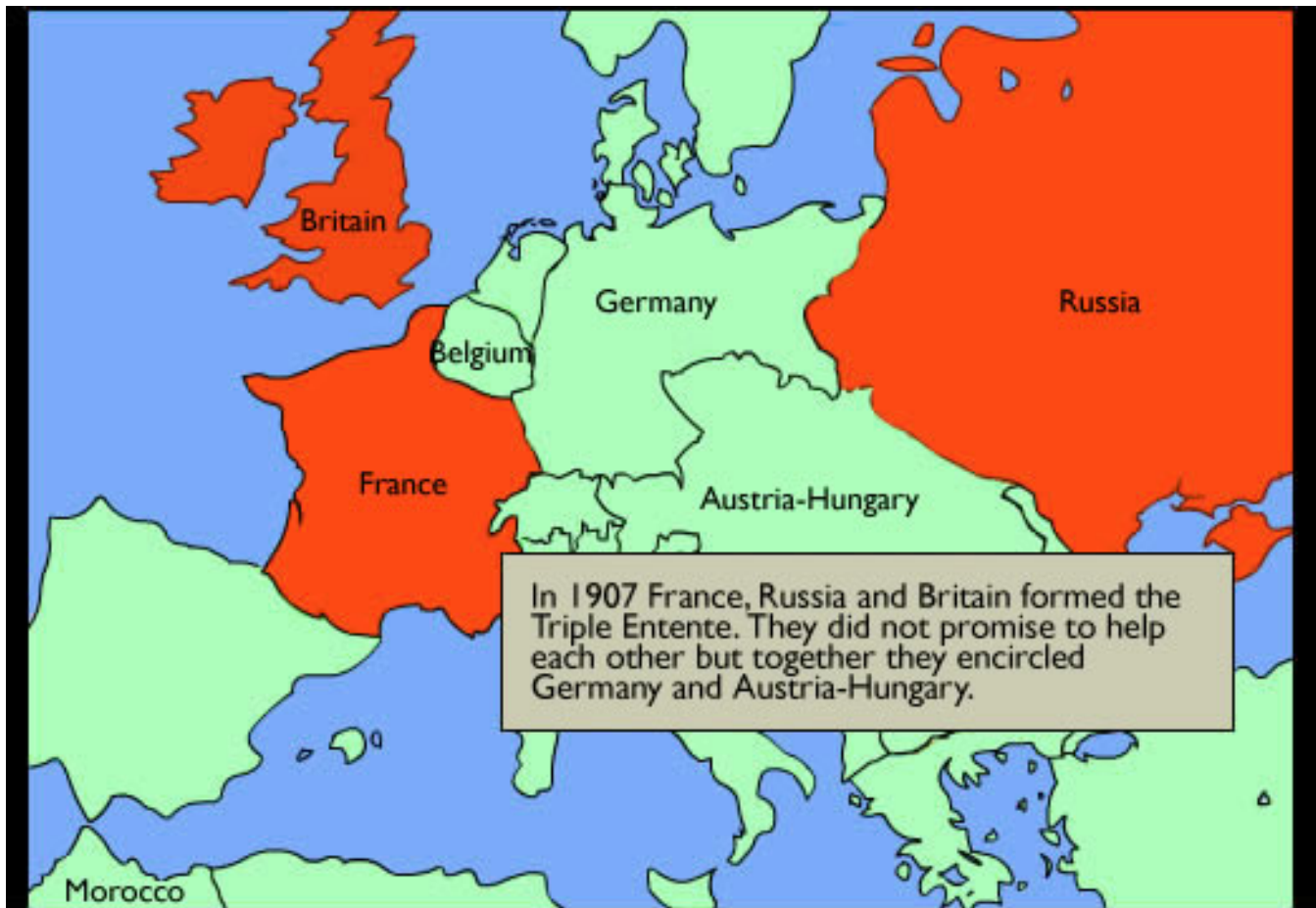
Map of Europe 1839-1914

Central Powers or Triple Alliance (1882)



- German post card shows boys dressed in Austrian, German , and Ottoman uniforms symbolizing the comined effort of the Central Powers.
- mailed in February 1915 made before Bulgaria entered the War (October 1915.
- caption reads, "We must -- and we will triumph!!"

E. Alliances



Map of Europe 1839-1914

Triple Entente (1907)

E. Alliances

i. Balance of Power

1. many believed that by maintaining a balance of power, war would be less likely.

	GB	France	Russia	Germany	A-Hungary	Turkey
Population	46,407,037	39,601,509	167,000,000	65,000,000	49,882,231	21,373,900
Soldiers*	711,000^	3,500,000	4,423,000	8,500,000~	3,000,000	360,000
Merchant fleet (tons)	11,530,000	1,098,000	486,914	3,096,000	559,784	66,878
Battleships	64	28	16	40	16	
Cruisers	121	34	14	57	12	
Submarines	64	73	29	23	6	
Value foreign trade (£)	1,223,152,000	424,000,000	190,247,000	1,030,380,000	198,712,000	67,472,000
Steel prod.**	6,903,000	4,333,000	4,416,000	17,024,000	2,642,000	
Railways ***	23,441	25,471	46,573	39,439	27,545	3,882

* = in 1914 on mobilisation

^ = including British Empire

~ = Emergency maximum figure

** = tons

*** = miles

F. List of Events

- i. Boer War
- ii. German Navy Law 1900
- iii. 1st Moroccan Crisis 1905-1906
- iv. Daily Telegraph Article 1908
- v. Bosnian Crisis (1st Balkan Crisis) 1908-1909
- vi. Agadir Crisis (2nd Moroccan Crisis) 1911
- vii. Balkan Wars (2nd Balkan Crisis) 1912-1913
- viii. Assassination at Sarajevo 1914

*Discussed in next
slides*

*Discussed in Short-Term
Causes of WWI*

The Balkan Problem

- Balkan is a Turkish word meaning "mountain".
- The Balkans are the poor mountainous parts of eastern Europe, south of the Danube and Sava Rivers.
- International rivalries made this area the "powder keg of Europe."
 1. Rivalry between alliances was made worse:
 - Russia wanted to remove Turkish control of access to Mediterranean.
 - Germany wanted access to the oil fields of Persia by building a railway through the Balkans (Berlin to Baghdad).
 - Austria-Hungary wanted to conquer rebellious Slavs to prevent the spread of revolution.

Balkan Problem Continued "The Powder Keg"

2. The "Young Turk" revolution in Turkey (1908) caused chaos in the Balkans also: (Bosnian Crisis or First Balkan Crisis, 1908)

- Bulgaria declared its independence as a kingdom
- Austria-Hungary seized the Turkish provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. Balkan Wars: (Second Balkan Crisis)

1912: Four kings (Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Greece) formed the Balkan League which defeated the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire's Balkan lands were divided among the winners and a new country, Albania, was created.

1913: Second Balkan War caused by Bulgaria's ambition to get more land. It was beaten and was left wanting revenge against Serbia.



Possible Paper 2 Related Questions

1. In what ways did the causes of the Second World War differ from the causes of the First World War? (2004)
2. Assess critically three causes of the First World War. (2003)
3. What were the most frequent causes of twentieth century wars? Specific evidence from at least three wars should be used. (2003)
4. Assess the social and economic causes of one twentieth century war. (2005)
5. Examine the part played by each of the following in the outbreak of the First World War: alliances; mobilization; Balkan nationalism. (2006)
6. How valid is the claim that in 1914 states went to war due to fear rather than for motives of gain? (2004)