

Imperial German Crown Council



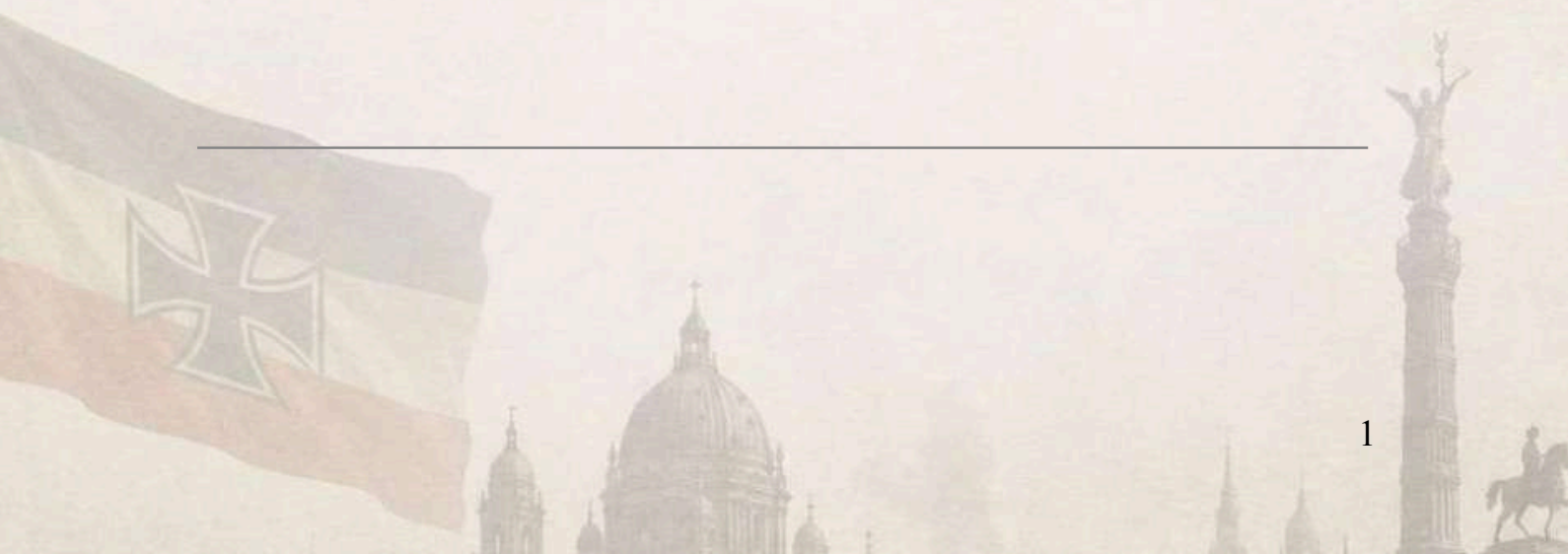
Portfolio  Guide



GERMAN IMPERIAL COUNCIL
WORLD WAR I

Kaiser Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albert (Emperor of Germany)

EXECUTIVE BOARD





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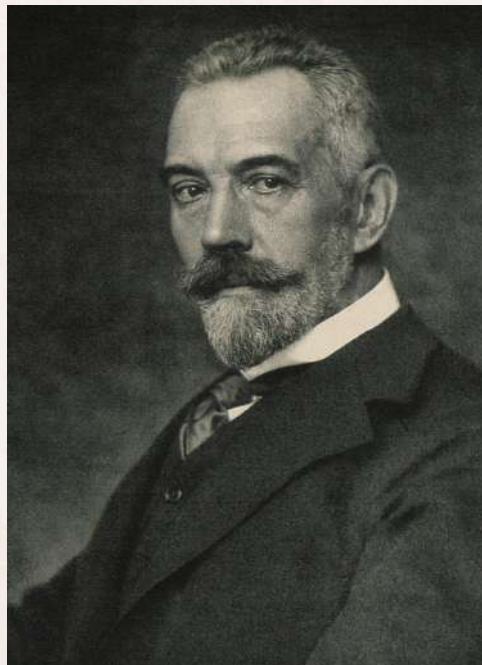
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Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg (Imperial Chancellor)

Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg has served as the Imperial Chancellor of the German Empire since 1909, having succeeded Prince Bernhard von Bülow. A career civil servant and former Prussian Minister of the Interior, Bethmann Hollweg is widely regarded as one of the Empire's foremost statesmen, possessing significant influence over both domestic governance and foreign affairs. As Chancellor, he serves as the principal adviser to His Imperial Majesty and bears the responsibility of coordinating the actions of Germany's civilian administration, diplomatic establishment, and military leadership.





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Hollweg's Policy/Ideology

Throughout his tenure, Bethmann Hollweg has sought to preserve Germany's position in Europe while avoiding a conflict that could engulf the continent. He played a significant role in previous diplomatic crises and was instrumental in efforts to prevent the Balkan Wars from escalating into a wider European confrontation. While firmly committed to Germany's alliance with Austria-Hungary, he remains deeply conscious of the dangers posed by Russian intervention, French involvement, and the possibility of British entry into any future conflict.

Bethmann Hollweg believes that Germany must stand by its allies and safeguard its interests; however, he is equally aware that a reckless response could transform a regional dispute into an all out European war. His immediate objective is not the pursuit of war, but the preservation of German security through careful diplomacy, decision-making, and the localization of the crisis wherever possible.

Abruptly summoned to Berlin amidst the unfolding events of July 1914, the Chancellor now finds himself at the centre of the Empire's most consequential deliberations. With most of the military leaders pushing for immediate war, the biggest responsibility to counter them rests on the Chancellor's own shoulders.

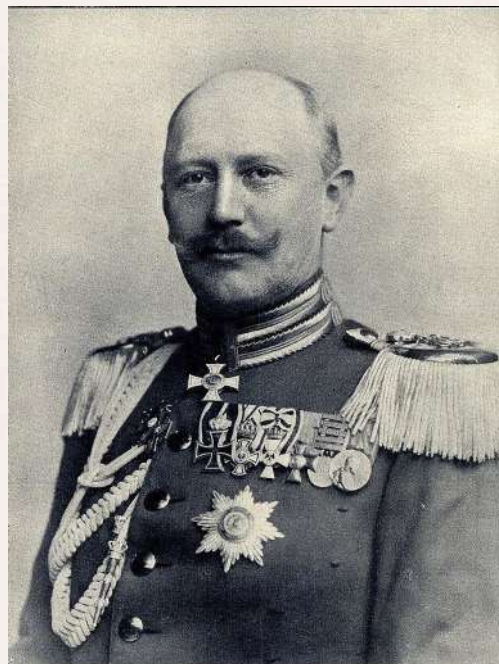


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Helmuth von Moltke the Younger (Chief of General Staff)

Helmuth von Moltke the Younger was first made the Quartermaster-General in 1904 who later after the retirement of Alfred von Schlieffen became the Chief of General Staff in 1906. Moltke gained the position owing to his friendship with the Emperor with whom he was much closer than other candidates.

Colonel General Helmuth von Moltke the Younger has been abruptly summoned to Berlin by Kaiser Wilhelm II, cutting short his medical recovery in Karlsbad.





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Moltke's Policy/Ideology

Moltke believed that Germany faced an increasingly dangerous situation due to the growing strength of the rival nations with Russia in particular. After Russia's announcement of its new extensive military and industrial reform programme estimated to be completed by 1917, Moltke was convinced that the balance of power was gradually shifting against the German Empire. Moltke strongly supported the German alliance with Austria-Hungary and feared that any sign of weakness by Austria-Hungary in the aftermath of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand could accelerate the decline of Germany's only major ally. He believed that maintaining the credibility of the alliance was quintessential for preserving Germany's position in Europe.

Moltke viewed the Franco-Russian Alliance as a military threat and was of the negative view that Germany could fight one power while remaining at peace with the other. This belief reinforced his conviction that Germany had to prepare for a large-scale two-front war. Moltke inherited the famous Schlieffen Plan, which was designed to avoid a two-front war against both France and Russia, and even introduced several modifications to it. He strengthened defensive positions in Alsace-Lorraine, redistributed forces across the front, and decided not to violate Dutch neutrality. He was afraid that if Russia's military reforms were allowed to take place, then by 1917, the German Military would become obsolete and powerless. He believed that the best time to attack Russia was now, when Germany was much more prepared for war, while the Russian Military was completely immobilised and scattered. While he did not actively



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seeking a general European war, he increasingly viewed such a conflict as unavoidable and considered Germany's strategic position more favorable in 1914 than it would be in the future.

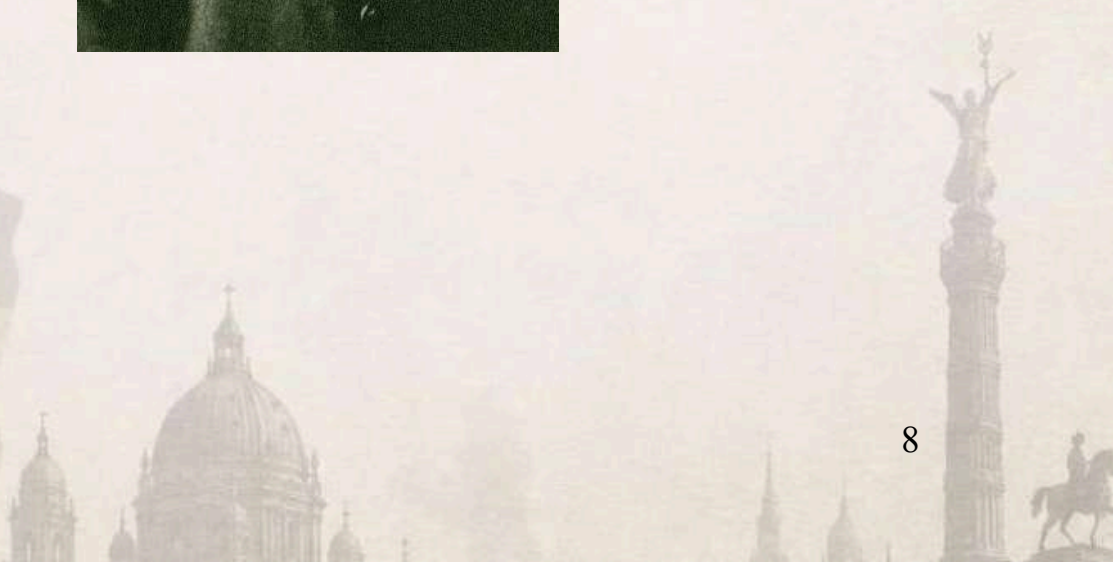




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**Colonel Walter Nicolai (Head of German Military intelligence,
Abteilung IIIb)**

Colonel Walter Nicolai served as the head of the military intelligence branch of the German General Staff. Nicolai maintained extensive surveillance over the activities of Germany's principal rivals, particularly Russia and France. The increasingly hostile international environment of the early twentieth century convinced Nicolai that Germany faced mounting strategic challenges. He closely monitored Russia's military as well as other developments and programs.





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Nicolai's Policy/Ideology

Nicolai viewed the strengthening Franco-Russian Alliance along with Britain's growth as a hostile coalition that raised alarms. Intelligence reports concerning Russian military reforms indicated that Russia's ability to mobilize and deploy forces was improving significantly. He believed that Germany could not rely on diplomacy to safeguard its interests and needed to demonstrate strength particularly when the security of Austria-Hungary, its principal ally, was at stake as any weakening of Austria-Hungary would have serious consequences for German security.

Walter Nicolai viewed the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand to be associated with a broader challenge to the existing European order. He believed that a failure to curb Serbian nationalism would destabilise and enrage anti-Austrian and anti-German feelings. Intelligence assessments suggested that Germany's rivals were growing increasingly confident in their military capabilities and Nicolai believed that a delay to support Austria-Hungary would only strengthen the position of their rival nations. While he did not advocate reckless military action, he believed that Germany must be willing to support Austria-Hungary decisively and demonstrate that it would not retreat in the face of international pressure.



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Alfred von Tirpitz (State Secretary of the German Navy)

Alfred Peter Friedrich von Tirpitz was the state Secretary for the navy of Germany who took the modest Imperial navy and turned it into one that had the potential to threaten the British Royal Navy. He enlisted in the Prussian Navy as a midshipman in 1865, attended the Kiel Naval School, and was commissioned in 1869. He would go on to be promoted to the rank of rear admiral in 1895 and in June 1897, he would be promoted to the Secretary of State of the Imperial German Navy.



Tirpitz's Policy/Ideology

He shares the same colonial ambitions for Germany as that of Kaiser Wilhelm II. In pursuit of these ambitions, he spearheaded five Navy bills through the



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Reichstag aiming to build a powerful navy in order to acquire and protect overseas colonies of Germany. Tirpitz believed that Germany's security and prestige depended upon maintaining a powerful battle fleet capable of challenging British naval supremacy and deterring potential adversaries through his famous "**Risk Theory.**" At the time of the freeze date, Germany possessed the second largest navy in the world only behind Great Britain. His aim has always been to end British naval dominance over the high seas. He called for decisive military assistance to be given to Austria-Hungary and claimed that excessive caution could potentially damage Germany's credibility and strategic position.





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Erich von Falkenhayn (Prussian Minister of War)

Falkenhayn gained military experience as an instructor to the Chinese army and as a member of the Prussian General Staff in the international expedition of 1900 against the Boxers in China. In July, 1913, he was appointed to the role of the Prussian minister of war. The Prussian Minister of War was primarily responsible for the central administration of the army including responsibilities like organization of military personnel, procurement of weapons and equipment, payment of salaries and pensions etc. Unlike the Chief of General Staff, whose focus lay more on strategy and operational planning.





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Falkenhayn's Policy/Ideology

Following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, he was one of the most important figures pushing for preliminary steps to increase the readiness of the German army. He was also one of the biggest supporters for full and unconditional support to the Austro-Hungarian Empire in any aggressive step they take against Serbia. He was one of the few who believed that Archduke Franz's assassination can be used as a pretext by Germany for a pre-emptive war against Russia, before they completed their rearmament programme. However, he was not reckless, his support for immediate action stemmed from the belief that postponing an inevitable confrontation would only worsen Germany's situation.





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Gottlieb von Jagow (Secretary Of Foreign Affairs)

Von Jagow was born on 22nd June, 1863 in Berlin. He would first hold the position of German Ambassador to Italy from 1909. He was present in Italy during the Italo-Turkish War and he also likely prevented a war between Austria-Hungary and Italy over territories along the Adriatic Sea. He was appointed the position of State Secretary of Foreign Affairs. As the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, his primary role was to maintain diplomatic foreign with foreign powers and represent Germany on the international stage.





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Jagow's Policy/Ideology

Jagow was one of the most important voices in the German government who called for peace and diplomacy and did not want to involve Germany in a wider European conflict. He also was of the belief that in the situation, a war was inevitable, but he favoured a localized conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia rather than a global war. He also used to have frequent disagreements with the high ranking military generals whom he believed were determined and obsessed in dragging Germany into war against Russia and France. One of Jagow's biggest characteristics was that he was actively wary of Britain's involvement in case of a German two front war. He feared that Britain's involvement would be the end of Germany and henceforth used to maintain close communications with Sir Edward Grey in an attempt to bring an agreement between Britain and Germany. He was one of the biggest supporters of the idea that with Britain neutral or on their side, they could easily emerge victorious.



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Clemens Von Delbrück (Vice-Chancellor and Interior Minister)

He was born on 19th January, 1856 in Halle de Saale. His career through the ranks of the German government was very fast and meteoric to say the least. He was first given the position of Lord Mayor of Danzig in 1896 and then he would become the Lord Lieutenant of West Prussia in 1902. He also served as the Prussian Minister of Trade and was known for his conservative politics. As of the freeze date, he is serving the role of Vice-Chancellor and the Minister of the Interior simultaneously. The role of Vice-Chancellor was ultimately a ceremonial one and he was expected to fulfill the Chancellor's specific duties and preside over government business if the Chancellor was incapacitated or away. The Interior Minister was tasked with maintaining domestic order and overseeing the massive, hierarchical Prussian and imperial bureaucracies along with monitoring political radicals and domestic propaganda.





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Delbrück's Policy/Ideology

He was deeply opposed to a general European war fearing that it would be catastrophic to both the German monarchy and the German society. He was a conservative and a monarchist whose primary concern was the stability and functioning of the German State. Although he did not hold much power in the decision making process as compared to some of his peers, he was a big voice for peace and diplomacy.



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Arthur Zimmerman (Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs)

He was born on 5th October, 1864 in East Prussia. He was seen as a rising star in the diplomatic branch of Germany. He first started his career in the consular service and then would transfer later to the diplomatic branch in 1901. He was then appointed as the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs making him a subordinate of Jagow. However, because of his personal qualities and passive nature of Jagow, he would go on to wield massive influence in the diplomatic sector and also conducted a major share of relations with foreign envoys.





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Zimmerman's Policy/Ideology

Zimmerman, although holding the position of Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, personally did not agree with many policies of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Gottlieb von Jagow. But keeping in mind his junior position in the German Administration, he never revealed it publicly. He was a staunch believer in the destiny of Germany to become the Greatest power in the world and he also shared the vision of Kaiser Wilhelm II of having a great German colonial empire stretching across the seven seas. He was also in favour of providing unconditional support to Austria-Hungary and other German allies in Europe on the event of assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, yet had to keep in mind his superior's beliefs and hence exercised somewhat neutrality wherever possible.





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**Count Heinrich von Tschirschky (German Ambassador to
Austria-Hungary)**

Count Heinrich was born 15th August, 1868 in Dresden and is a member of the Tschirschky noble family. He joined the German foreign service in 1883, and served from 1885 to 1886 as personal secretary to Herbert von Bismarck. He was subsequently stationed in Vienna, Athens, Bern, Constantinople and St. Petersburg, before he became Minister Resident in Luxembourg in 1900, Prussian Envoy to Mecklenburg and the Hanse city-states in 1902. He also served as the Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 1906 to 1907. He was later appointed as the German ambassador to Austria-Hungary on 25th October, 1907.





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Tschirschky's Policy/Ideology

Tschirschky was a staunch supporter of the idea that Austria-Hungary remained the closest and the most important ally of the German Empire. He agreed with the majority of the Military Generals that a war was required. Although he had advised restraint to the Austrians at first upon the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, when Kaiser Wilhelm ordered him to stop advocating for restraint, he told the Austro-Hungarian Government that Germany would support Austria through 'thick and thin', no matter the cost.





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Count Friedrich Pourtales (German Ambassador To Russia)

Pourtales was born on 24th October, 1853 and was born to a minor noble family. Pourtales was Prussian Minister to the Kingdom of Bavaria in Munich until 1907, and conducted diplomacy in the style of the grand *seigneur*, holding posts in Austria-Hungary, the Netherlands and France. As of the freeze date, he was the official German ambassador to the Russian Empire. Russia is a very important part of the crisis as it is the continued and strong Russian support to Serbia that threatens to make this conflict spill over. His role as an ambassador is very crucial as he has the role of making sure that Russia remains neutral in any conflict that might take place among Austria-Hungary and Serbia. He serves as the German Empire's eyes and ears in Russia.





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Pourtales's Policy/Ideology

He is a very popular anti-war figure and one of the voices in the government calling for Germany not to be involved in case war breaks out. He feared Russian military modernization but unlike the Army Generals, he was a diplomat first, not a soldier. Hence his instinct would be to gather information, assess Russian intentions and negotiate rather than fight.





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Hermann von Kuhn (State Secretary for Treasury)

Hermann von Kuhn was the State Secretary for Treasury as of the freeze date. He also controls the Reichsschatzamt which was the Imperial German Treasury which was primarily responsible for managing the imperial budget, administering customs and excise taxes, and issuing imperial debt. He worked closely with the office of the Chancellor regarding the financial affairs of the German Empire.



Kuhn's Policy/Ideology



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He opposed the idea of German intervention in the Austro-Serbian conflict because he believed it would act as a catalyst to turn this localised dispute into an all out war. He dreaded the toll that such a war would have on civilian infrastructure and the German economy. Yet, being a civilian minister with almost no military powers, he was afraid to oppose the Kaiser and his ambitions too much. Hence, although he maintained his opposing stance throughout, yet he often portrayed neutrality on such matters.





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Kurt Riezler (Secretary to Chancellor)

He was born in Munich on 11th February, 1882. He worked for a journalist in a newspaper called Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung and then he would go on to join the journalism section of the German Foreign service in 1907. After Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg became chancellor of Germany in 1909, Riezler became his chief adviser and confidant.



Riezler's Policy/Ideology

He follows the same policies and beliefs that are followed by the Imperial Chancellor.



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Johann von Dallwitz (Governor of Alsace-Lorraine)

Dallwitz was born in Breslau in the Province of Silesia. After graduating from the *Gymnasium* of Dresden, Dallwitz studied law at the universities of Bonn and Strasbourg. Between 1886 and 1899, he served as the district administrator of the district of Lüben . In 1894, he was elected to the Prussian House of Representatives as a member of the German Conservative Party, serving until 1900, when he was made a government councilor in Posen . In 1902, he became a minister of state in the government of the Duchy of Anhalt and, from 1903 to 1909, he was Anhalt's minister-president. From June 1910 to April 1914, he was the interior minister of Prussia in the cabinet of Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg. After a conflict with Bethmann-Hollweg over electoral reform, Dallwitz resigned from his post. He was later appointed to the post of Governor of Alsace-Lorraine. This province was extremely crucial to Germany which not only acted as a buffer zone but also had one of the largest iron ore reserves in Europe. This territory was seized from France in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 and it is the main cause of the rivalry between Germany and France.

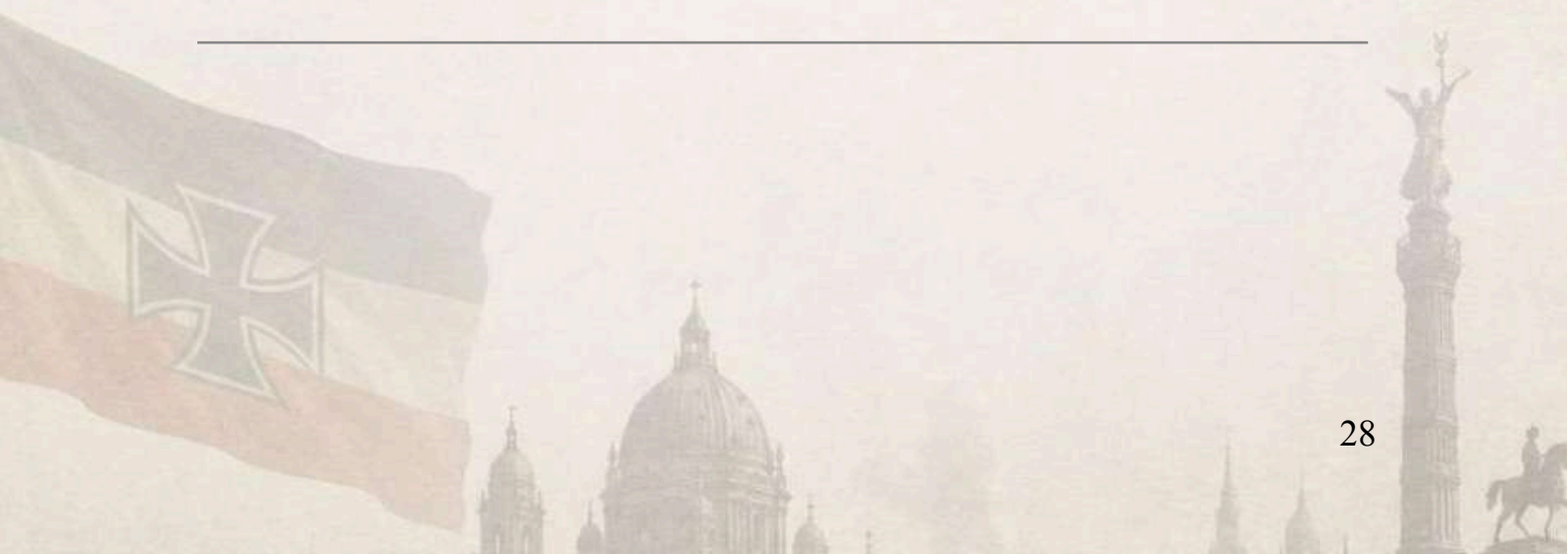


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Dallwitz's Policy/Ideology

He was a crucial pro-war figure who believed that Germany could expand her territories at the cost of both Russia and France. Being a Governor of one of the most hostile and disputed territories occupied by the Imperial German Empire, his policy had to be straight to the point.





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Ludwig von Windheim (Governor of East Prussia)

He was born on 27th June, 1857 and he worked in the civil services for most of his life. On January 13, 1879, he entered the judicial service as a junior lawyer in the district of the Halberstadt Court of Appeals, later transferring to the general civil service and becoming a government assessor in the Presidential Department of the government in Königsberg in 1884. As of the freeze date, he was appointed the Governor of the province of East Prussia. East Prussia is one of the most important provinces in the German Empire and it directly borders Russia. Moreover, this region also houses a significant portion of the German civilian population. East Prussia was the easternmost province of the German Empire, separated from the rest of Germany by the so-called "Polish Corridor". It was therefore uniquely exposed as it was flanked by Russian-controlled Congress Poland to the south and the Baltic Sea to the north, making it difficult to reinforce quickly and easy to encircle. Its only land connection to the main body of Germany ran through a narrow strip of territory. In the case of war, this would be the main target by a Russian assault from the East. Moreover, East Prussia was known as the breadbasket of the Reich because of its vast agrarian economy.



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Windheim's Policy/Ideology

Being the Governor of the Eastern-most province of the German Empire and sharing direct borders with Russia, Windheim maintained a policy of striking them before they could strike you. He was afraid of the growing Russian Military power and hence agreed with the Military opinion of taking actions first. He was loyal to the Kaiser, but being a civilian minister, ultimately his primary goal was to protect civil administration and border security rather than global expansionism.



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King Ludwig III of Bavaria

The Title “King” does not mean that he is an independent ruler but was rather ceremonial in nature. In reality, Bavaria was a province of the German Empire and Ludwig III functioned like the Governor of the province. He entered politics at the age of 18, as a member of the Bavarian parliament, and was a keen participant, supporting electoral reforms. He was known for his conservative ideas and supported the idea of going to war with the motive of expanding the territories of Bavaria through conquest. Bavaria was the second-largest and most powerful state in the German Empire, with a population of about 7 million. It also possessed its own army. Moreover, it bordered Austria-Hungary which was one of the closest allies of Germany and Munich was a hub of communication and logistics between the two empires.





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King Wilhelm II of Wurttemberg

The Title “King” does not mean that he is an independent ruler but was rather ceremonial in nature. In reality, Wurttemberg was a province of the German Empire and Wilhelm II functioned like the Governor of the province. William was born the son of Prince Frederick of Württemberg by his wife Princess Catherine Frederica of Württemberg herself the daughter of King William I of Württemberg. His parents were first cousins, being the children of two brothers, and William was their only child. Under the terms of a military convention of 25 November 1870, the troops of Württemberg formed the XIII (Royal Württemberg) Corps of the Imperial German Army. He supported the high ranking military figures in their belief that Germany should go to war in support of Austria-Hungary.





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**Prince Karl Marx von Lichnowski (German Ambassador to
United Kingdom)**

He was a German diplomat who served as the ambassador to Britain. He had spent several years in London, due to which he developed close ties with British political leaders and had a deep understanding of their foreign policy.

Lichnowsky was the only German diplomat who raised objections to Germany's efforts to provoke an Austria-Serbian war. He did not view Britain as an inevitable enemy and believed that improved Anglo-German relations were possible through diplomacy. Lichnowsky, during the July crisis, believed that a general European war was neither inevitable nor in the interest of Germany. He consistently warned that an aggressive German support for Austria-Hungary could push the British into siding with Russia and France. Furthermore, he believed that preventing British entry into a war should be among the highest priorities of Germany.





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Baron Wilhelm Von Schroen (German Ambassador to France)

He was born on 3rd June, 1851 in Worms in the Grand Duchy of Hesse. As one of Germany's leading diplomats he was appointed as Ambassador to France. He recommended for any ultimatum to Serbia to be supported in Vienna by the 'localization' of any possible conflict in the Balkans. He was determined to maintain the Teutonic alliance of the Central Powers at all costs and did not want an all out war. The ambassadorial role in Paris grants direct access to the French Foreign Ministry at the Quai d'Orsay, to the French President's office, and to the senior figures of the French military and political establishment. The Ambassador controls the diplomatic channel through which any last-minute communication, negotiation, or de-escalation between Berlin and Paris would have to pass.





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King Frederick Augustus III of Saxony

The Title “King” does not mean that he is an independent ruler but was rather ceremonial in nature. In reality, Saxony was a province of the German Empire and Frederick Augustus III functioned like the Governor of the province. He was born on 25th May, 1868 in Dresden and would go on to serve as a royal lieutenant in the Royal Saxon Army in 1877 and would climb the ranks quickly due to his royal status. He was crowned as the King of Saxony on 15th October, 1904. Moreover he did not wish for Germany to be involved in the war and wanted to use diplomatic means to solve the crisis which followed the death of archduke Franz Ferdinand.

The Kingdom of Saxony is one of the four constituent kingdoms of the German Empire alongside Prussia, Bavaria, and Württemberg and as such its monarch occupies a position of constitutional significance within the imperial structure. Saxony contributes its own army to the imperial military in wartime, which falls under unified German command but retains its Saxon character and officer corps giving the King a stake in military decisions that are both political and personal. Economically, Saxony is one of the most industrialised regions of the entire German Empire: its manufacturing base, its textile industries, its mining operations, and its commercial centres make it a significant contributor to any wartime production effort.



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Grand Duke Frederick II of Baden

Friedrich "Fritz" Wilhelm Ludwig Leopold August Prince von Baden was born on 9 July 1857, in Karlsruhe in the Grand Duchy of Baden to Frederick I, Grand Duke of Baden and Princess Louise of Prussia. Frederick became the head of the House of Zähringen on 28 September 1907, after the death of his father Frederick I, who was the sovereign grand duke of Baden reigning from 1856 to 1907. He did not wish to see assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand devolve into an open European conflict and wished for diplomacy to solve the crisis. The Grand Duchy of Baden occupies a position of unusual strategic importance within the German federal structure. Baden shares a long border directly with France, the Rhine forms its western boundary, and the Alsace region lies immediately across the water , meaning that Baden is a frontline state that would experience the opening movements of any western campaign on its own territory. The Grand Duke contributes Baden's military contingent to the imperial army and holds his Bundesrat seat in the imperial parliament.





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Ernest Louis, Grand Duke of Hesse

Ernst Ludwig was born in November 1868, one of seven children born to Grand Duke Ludwig IV and Princess Alice of Great Britain and Ireland, herself the second daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The Grand Duke exercises sovereignty over his territory, commands the Hessian military contingent that is integrated into the imperial army, and holds voting representation in the Bundesrat. Moreover, his sister Alexandra is the Tsarina of Russia, Empress consort to Tsar Nicholas II himself. He does not prefer war as that would mean going to fight against the subjects and nations which her sister resides in and he also feels that such a war might be mutually destructive to both Germany and Russia.





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Grand Duke Frederick Augustus II of Oldenburg

Frederick Augustus was born on 16 November 1852 in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg as the eldest son of Peter II, the then reigning Grand Duke of Oldenburg, and Princess Elisabeth of Saxe-Altenburg. From 1861, Frederick Augustus and his younger brother, Georg Ludwig, were tutored by Bavarian general Otto von Parseval, the son-in-law of former Oldenburg court marshal Alexander von Rennenkampff. He was appointed as the Grand Duke of Oldenburg on 13th June, 1900. He is known as a conservative who is an ardent believer in the fact that Germany was meant to have an empire spanning the globe and only through war could such an objective be completed. He was also a fanatic supporter of the Kaiser believing in him to rule over the largest empire in the world. Oldenburg's ports and waterways make it directly vulnerable to British naval pressure in a way that inland Prussian territories are not, and its proximity to the North Sea puts it at risk of the British Royal Navy.



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Ernest Augustus (Governor of Brunswick)

He was born on 17th November, 1887. Ernest Augustus holds sovereignty over Brunswick's territory in central Germany, commands its military contribution to the imperial forces, and exercises the same Bundesrat voting rights as his fellow federal rulers rights that contribute to the collective voice of the non-Prussian German states within the imperial decision-making architecture. On 24 May 1913, Ernest Augustus and Victoria Louise, third cousins once removed through descent from George III's sons King Ernest Augustus of Hanover and Edward, Duke of Kent, were married to each other. This marriage ended the decades-long rift between the Houses of Hohenzollern and Hanover. He became the duke of Brunswick on 1st November, 1913. He strongly believed that German military action would be required in order to preserve the alliance with Austria-Hungary and that Serbia should be punished.





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Adolphus Friedrich VI (Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz)

He was the son of Grand Duke Adolphus Frederick V and Princess Elisabeth of Anhalt. He received the position of Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz on 11th June, 1914. The region was located in Northern Germany bordering the Baltic Sea region and the economy was mainly agrarian in nature with very little industrial development. The state had no independent military structure as almost all of its forces were integrated into the German military. The Grand Duke was a firm believer in the requirement of strong and decisive military action which needed to be taken by Germany in order to establish herself as the superior power on the European continent and also to save face for the Austrians after the death of their heir, Archduke Franz Ferdinand.





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Arthur von Gwinner (Spokesperson of Deutsche Bank)

He was born on April 6, 1856 in Frankfurt and he came from a well-connected family with banking and business interests. He received a very strong education with a focus on finance and banking. In 1888, he became the sole owner of the Berlin bank *Riess & Itzinger*, which he continued to run under his own name. In 1894, he liquidated his bank to accept a position on the board of Deutsche Bank where he would rise through the ranks very quickly.. He has served on the Board of the Directors since 1910 and also acts as the main spokesperson for the Bank. The Deutsche Bank was founded in 1870 to promote German exports, the bank financed major overseas infrastructure. The bank controls a dominant share of the German stock exchange system, issuing bonds, underwriting shares, and effectively dictating the availability of capital for the nation. He did not want to see a widespread European war as a war economy would hurt business and the vast expenses of a war would greatly hurt the financial structure of the country.





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Hans von Flotow (German ambassador to Italy)

Hans Ludwig Carl Theodor von Flotow was born on 10 September 1862. He was then able to study law and political science at Heidelberg University and Berlin University from 1882 to 1886. From 1886 he trained as a senior officer in the Prussian civil service and after completing his training and briefly working in Prussia's Finance Ministry, he joined its diplomatic service on 24 August 1892. He was first appointed as the ambassador to Belgium and then he was given the role of German ambassador to Italy. Germany and Italy have both signed the Triple Alliance which was a secret defensive pact. However, Italian relations with Germany have been cooled due to the Italian perception that Germany favours Austria-Hungary in the matters of the Balkans and the Adriatic Sea.





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Fortgesetzt werden.....?