

CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND THE PURSUIT OF STRATEGIC INTERESTS

DIPLOMACY, MOBILIZATION, AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE EUROPEAN ORDER



IMPERIAL GERMAN CROWN COUNCIL

CONTENTS

1) Chairperson Address.....	2
2) Committee Overview.....	4
3) Letter of Invitation.....	5
4) Timeline.....	8
5) Situation in Europe.....	19
6) German Foreign Relations.....	38
7) Executive Board.....	43
8) Guide to Paperwork.....	44
9) Citations.....	46

CHAIRPERSONS' ADDRESS

“Wir haben uns einen Platz an der Sonne erobert, nun ist es meine Aufgabe, dafür zu sorgen, dass dieser Platz an der Sonne unser unbestrittener Besitz bleibt.”

- Kaiser Frederick Wilhelm II

There exists a peculiar kind of silence that descends upon a room when the world outside is on the edge of ruin. A silence not of peace, but of reckoning. Today, we stand in the precipice of a moment where a terrible and deadly war is on the horizon. The concept of a "war to end all wars" has been in the minds of European leaders for quite some time and as such, many states followed an aggressive foreign policy including the German Empire.

This period in history is one of the most consequential where the decisions taken will affect the livelihood of future generations for hundreds of years. The greatest men in history are known and revered not for skirting the violent storms but rather for walking into it with their eyes open and fully aware of the far reaching implications of their decisions. In this committee, you will be tested and pushed to your absolute limit by the Executive Board because we believe in the philosophy that diamonds are only formed under the most absolute pressure.

You must clearly understand the crossroads at which Germany is and the intricate web of international alliances that are forming across Europe as of the freeze date. Being the closest advisors of the Emperor, you are equipped with the power of the entire administrative mechanism of the German Empire. Use it to the best of your abilities.

To succeed in this committee, you need fiery speeches, well-crafted paperwork, exceptional leadership and lastly, the determination and perseverance to ensure the right course of action for the German Empire. This committee will be the ultimate challenge of every delegate and together we seek to rewrite history and make the German Empire great again. Will this unprecedented meeting rise to the challenge or collapse under the weight of history? We look forward to finding out.

Until June,

Nickunj Benani, Garvit Maheshwari, Indrayudh Guha,

Co-Chairpersons,

igcc.xmun2026@gmail.com,

X-MUN 2026.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Freeze Date- 5th July, 1914.

"One day, the Great European war will come out of some damned foolish thing in the Balkans".

-Otto Von Bismarck

The world stands at the edge of a brewing disaster as the clouds of war are gathering over the European continent. Royal Austro-Hungarian blood has been spilled at Sarajevo; Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne and his wife have been mercilessly gunned down by Serbian nationalists. The Austrian Empire demands vengeance and seeks to unleash her fury on her Serbian neighbor whose security is protected by Imperial Russia. The German Cabinet has been summoned by the Emperor Kaiser Wilhelm II in this time of great peril to decide the response of the German Empire. Do we stand with Austria? Or do we do nothing? Aiding our long-time ally would also mean war with Russia, the largest land army in the world. But doing nothing would be a huge stain on our pride. The bigger looming question is what happens if the French and British get involved? We cannot afford to look weak, yet can we afford to fight all our enemies together?

Delegates, the choice is yours to make. The fate of millions hangs in the balance. One wrong step will unleash a fire that would engulf not just Europe but the entire civilized world. The correct step would restore Germany to her rightful status as the Greatest power world has ever known.

Letter of Invitation

Date: 5th July, 1914

An alle, die es betrifft,

Sollte dieser Brief Ihren Schreibtisch erreicht haben, werden Sie hiermit kraft Ihres Amtes und in Anerkennung Ihrer fortwährenden Dienste für das Deutsche Reich aufgefordert, sich am Morgen des 5. Juli 1914 in Berlin zu einer Sitzung des Kaiserlich Deutschen Kronrats einzufinden, die unter meiner Autorität und in meiner Anwesenheit stattfindet.

Die Ereignisse, die sich aus dem Anschlag von Sarajevo ergeben haben, haben Europa an den Rand eines Krieges gebracht, der uns entweder ewigen Ruhm oder ewige Vernichtung bringen kann. Unter diesen Umständen wartet die ganze Welt gespannt auf die Antwort des Deutschen Reiches, und dafür benötige ich Ihre Unterstützung. Jeder von Ihnen bringt wichtige Erkenntnisse ein, sei es militärisches Fachwissen, politisches Geschick oder auch die Stimme des Volkes. Sie mögen in Ihren Überzeugungen oder Vorgehensweisen unterschiedlicher Meinung sein, doch die Stunde der Entscheidung erfordert Ihre Anwesenheit und Ihre Aufrichtigkeit.

Sie wissen genau, dass Deutschland nicht nach Unruhen auf dem Kontinent gesucht hat. Sollten andere jedoch deutsche Zurückhaltung mit Zögern oder Loyalität mit Schwäche verwechseln, werden sie sich bald eines Besseren belehren lassen.

Die gegenwärtige Lage erfordert möglicherweise Entscheidungen von äußerster Strenge. Sie erfordert ebenso Disziplin und Geduld. Ich werde weder Panik noch Selbstgefälligkeit in diesen Beratungen dulden.

Von Ihnen wird erwartet, dass Sie sich umfassend vorbereitet zeigen, um zu Fragen der militärischen Einsatzbereitschaft, der Staatsverwaltung, der Außenpolitik, der wirtschaftlichen Stabilität und der Wahrung der kaiserlichen Autorität zu beraten.

Dieser Rat ist nicht repräsentativer Natur. Die hier gefassten Beschlüsse können das Verhalten des Reiches in den unmittelbar bevorstehenden kritischen Tagen bestimmen. Ihre Abwesenheit, mangelnde Vorbereitung oder Unbesonnenheit wären ein Versagen nicht nur gegenüber dieser Regierung, sondern auch gegenüber Deutschland selbst.

Alle Gespräche und Unterlagen im Zusammenhang mit dieser Sitzung unterliegen strengster Vertraulichkeit gemäß kaiserlicher Anweisung.

Die entsprechenden Unterlagen sind beigelegt.
Jegliche weitere Kommunikation erfolgt ausschließlich
über die festgelegten sicheren Kanäle.

Ich erwarte Ihre Anwesenheit ausnahmslos.

Deutschland über Alles!

Wilhelm II

German Emperor

King of Prussia

Imperial Palace, Berlin

July 1914

TIMELINE

1) 18th January, 1871 (Unification of Germany) -

The German flag fluttered over the Palace of Versailles in France after the joint victory of the German States in the Franco-Prussian War 1870-71. Chancellor Bismarck proclaimed the birth of the German Empire in the Hall of Mirrors and King Wilhelm I of Prussia was crowned as the first Emperor of Germany.

2) 10th May, 1871-

Germany and France signed the Treaty of Frankfurt, orchestrated by the Prussian Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck, which officially ended the Franco-Prussian War. The treaty imposed heavy war indemnity of 5 billion francs on France which was explicitly calculated to mirror the precise economic penalty that Napoleon Bonaparte had earlier levied on Prussia. The treaty even took away many important territories from France, especially Alsace-Lorraine creating a point of national humiliation for the French which eventually led to a widespread feeling of dissentment against the German Empire. Moreover, Germany gained control of crucial strategic fortified cities like Metz and Strasbourg.

3) 13th July, 1878-

The Congress of Berlin redefined the territorial boundaries of the Balkan nations where nationalism was on the rise. The main results of the treaty were, the forcible occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austro-Hungary, the British de facto annexation of Cyprus, and the formal recognition of the self-declared independence of Romania, Serbia and Montenegro. This was one of the defining moments of Balkan nationalism, which would be the cause of several conflicts in Europe in the upcoming years. The summit also shattered the League of the Three Emperors as an embittered Russia blamed Germany for its diplomatic losses,

driving a wedge between the powers. Meanwhile, Europe saw major leadership transitions with the coronation of King Umberto I in Italy and the election of Pope Leo XIII.

4) 20th May, 1882-

The Triple Alliance was signed between the German Empire, Austria-Hungary and Italy. However, the alliance was purely defensive in nature. The core motivation for the German Empire to sign the treaty was because the German Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck wanted to isolate France diplomatically to prevent them from seeking future revenge for their defeat in the Franco-Prussian War. On the other hand, Austria-Hungary wanted to secure its southern border which was done by partnering with Italy to minimize the risk of an Italian attack. Italy turned towards Germany and Austria-Hungary as it was desperate for allies against French aggression. The treaty was not permanent and was meant to expire within five years unless actively renewed. Because of the bitter alliance between Italy and Austria-Hungary, the pact remained highly unstable even though it was renewed multiple times.

5) 15th November, 1884-

The Berlin Conference was organized by Otto Von Bismarck, the first Chancellor of Germany, to which 13 other countries were invited. The attending countries signed the General Act which aimed to avoid war amongst the European powers by establishing rules for claiming African territory as colonies. During this time period, having more colonies was seen as a sign of great respect and prestige among the Europeans. For Germany, hosting this opening day marked the day of inauguration for it to play a central arbiter in global geopolitics. Chancellor Bismarck used his opening address to strategically position the German Empire as an impartial mediator.

6) 18th March, 1890-

Otto von Bismarck resigns as the Chancellor of Germany. This occurs due to disagreements over policy with the new Emperor Wilhelm II. The change had a massive effect on German foreign policy as the careful alliance based foreign policy of Germany (*Realpolitik*) changed into an aggressive, colony-oriented policy known as *Weltpolitik*. Kaiser Wilhelm II was determined to rule the German Empire independently and mediate worker strikes without resorting to violence which was contradictory to what was preferred by the Chancellor. The final catalyst was when Bismarck was desperate to forge a new legislative coalition in the Reichstag, without informing Kaiser. This was viewed as an act of treason to the authority of the Kaiser and he demanded an explanation, leading to a bitter confrontation. Realizing he had lost the support of the young monarch and the army, Bismarck was forced to draft his official letter of resignation.

7) 4th January, 1894-

In response to the Triple Alliance headed by Germany, Russia and France finalized a mutual military alliance which is also sometimes known as Dual Entente. This pact brought an end to the long-standing diplomatic isolation that the French were facing. Furthermore, this even countered the coalition of the Triple Alliance. The French Republic and Russian Tsardom overcame their political differences as they were triggered by the decision of the German Empire to let its Reinsurance Treaty with Russia lapse in 1890. The alliance was in absolute secrecy through private exchange of letters. The strict terms of the military convention dictated that if either nation were attacked by Germany or its allies, the other would immediately deploy over a million troops to force Germany into a terrifying two-front war.

8) 10th April, 1898-

The First Naval Law was signed into law and this was done in order to challenge the status of Great Britain as the supreme naval power in the world at the time. This was spearheaded by Admiral Tirpitz who had a wish along with the Kaiser to project German power throughout the seven seas. The act authorized the creation of a standing fleet comprising 1 flagship, 16 battleships, 8 armoured coastal ships, and 9 large and 26 small cruisers. On this day, Tirpitz achieved a monumental political victory by fundamentally altering how Germany funded its military. Historically, the Reichstag (German Parliament) held tight control over the military by voting on defense budgets annually but Tirpitz successfully pressured parliament into locking in a fixed, multi-year construction budget. This effectively stripped the Reichstag of its yearly oversight, ensuring the navy would get its ships even if political winds shifted. With the signing of this law, Germany officially adopted Tirpitz's *Risikogedanke* or Risk Theory which was the belief that Germany didn't need a fleet larger than Britain's but just one strong enough that the British wouldn't risk an attack.

9) 14th June, 1900-

The Second Naval Act was passed which aimed to build a larger and modern oceangoing fleet. This law set 1917 as the year of completion for an active navy of 2 flagships, 36 battleships, 11 large cruisers, and 34 small cruisers. The German empire capitalized heavily on the outbreak of the Second Boer War in South Africa and a specific diplomatic incident earlier that year, where the British Royal Navy had intercepted and searched a German mail steamer, the *Bundesrath*. The German press used the incident to stoke intense, anti-British fury across the country, framing Germany as vulnerable and defenseless on the high seas. Because of this wave of public outrage, the Reichstag passed the act by a sweeping majority. This day marked the point of no return where Germany

officially pivoted from defensive coastal protection to an aggressive policy of *Weltpolitik* (World Policy).

10) 8th April,1904-

A series of historic documents known as Entente Cordiale were signed between Great Britain and France which settled a number of controversial matters and ended the centuries of rivalry between the two states. This brought the two states close together and strengthened relations. British Foreign Secretary, Lord Lansdowne and the French Ambassador to London, Paul Cambon, on this day, signed an agreement in which France agreed to give Great Britain the control of Egypt, while Great Britain reciprocated by recognizing Morocco as part of France. Furthermore, the agreement ruled out disputes over fishing rights in Newfoundland, rubber and oil access in West Africa, and territorial boundaries in Siam (Thailand) and the New Hebrides. This agreement cleared the deck of petty arguments so that they could focus on the mutual threat of the explosive growth of the German Empire.

11) 5th September,1905-

The Treaty of Portsmouth ended the Russo-Japanese War which was the first time an Asian power had defeated an European state. This war revealed the weakness of the Russian military and led Russia to being drawn closer to Great Britain and France. Russia not only had its supposedly invincible Baltic Fleet annihilated at the Battle of Tsushima but also the economic strain of the war had sparked the 1905 Russian Revolution. This forced Tsar Nicholas II to sue for peace to save his throne. Under the final terms, Russia recognized Japan's dominant influence over Korea and surrendered its lucrative leases on Port Arthur and the Liaodong Peninsula, alongside the southern half of Sakhalin Island.

12) 2nd February, 1906-

Great Britain commissions HMS DREADNOUGHT, a revolutionary form of capital warship which instantly makes all the existing battleships obsolete and fuels a naval race with Germany. DREADNOUGHT possessed more firepower and greater speed than any vessel ever built, giving rise to an entirely new class of warships named in her honor and rendering the global fleets of rival nations useless overnight.

The launch of this vessel was a geopolitical gamble that destabilized the European balance of power. Although it was intended to cement the British Navy, DREADNOUGHT inadvertently wiped out Great Britain's massive, pre-existing numerical advantage over its rivals by resetting the naval scoreboard to zero. Berlin suddenly found itself on an even footing with London, as both empires now had to build entirely new fleets from scratch. Admiral Tirpitz and Kaiser Wilhelm II seized this historic opportunity, immediately passing the Novelle (naval amendment) of 1906 to expand German shipyards and widen the Kiel Canal so it could accommodate similarly massive German capital ships.

13) 18th June 1906-

The Algeiras Conference was held in Spain to decide on the outcome of the First Moroccan crisis between France and Germany. It was attended by 13 countries including the USA, Italy, Russia, UK, France and Germany. The conference was a diplomatic defeat for Germany with most European powers supporting France and her special privileges in Morocco.

The conclusion of the Algeiras Conference exposed the geopolitical isolation that was being faced by the German Empire. Berlin has intentionally provoked the crisis on the assumption that the newly formed Anglo-French Entente Cordiale was fragile and that Russia would fail to support France owing to the recent war with Japan and internal revolution. However, the contrary occurred as the British firmly backed the French and Moscow stood with Paris. Moreover,

Germany's own ally, Italy, abandoned Berlin in favour of Mediterranean agreements with France which left only Austria-Hungary alongside Germany. When the final act reaffirmed Morocco's theoretical independence, it practically handed control of Moroccan police and state bank to France and Spain which completely undermined Germany's ambitions in North Africa.

14) 31st August, 1907-

The Anglo-Russian convention was signed between Russia and the United Kingdom ending years of hostility between the two states. These sets of treaties along with Entente Cordiale unofficially created a three power bloc of Russia, United Kingdom and France to challenge the Triple Alliance. The signing of the Anglo-Russian convention marked the formal end to the decades-long 19th century strategic rivalry for supremacy over Central Asia. The treaty systematically carving up the region's flashpoints to prevent military conflicts in the future, divided Persia into three zones. The northern zone was under Russian control, southern under British control to protect maritime routes to India and a neutral zone in between. Furthermore, Russia officially recognized Afghanistan as a British protectorate and renounced all direct ambitions there, while both empires agreed to maintain a strict policy of non-intervention in Tibet. The creation of the Triple Entente turned out to be Germany's ultimate nightmare. Kaiser Wilhelm II's aggressive *Weltpolitik* and his determination to construct a massive battle fleet had ironically driven his two greatest rivals, Britain and Russia, into an unexpected partnership. Although the Triple Entente was technically a loose framework of colonial understandings rather than a binding mutual-defense pact, it fundamentally divided Europe into two heavily armed camps.

15) 5th October, 1908-

The Austro-Hungarian Empire announced the formal annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This move permanently damaged relations between Austria-Hungary and Serbia. Serbian nationalists despised this move and this led to fueling of nationalist expressions throughout the Balkans. The announcement nearly dragged Europe into a general war. The annexation enraged Russia while Serbia, which was driven by Pan-Slavic ambitions, viewed Bosnia as part of its future South Slavic state and mobilized its army for war. While Russia moved to back its ally, Germany intervened with a stark ultimatum to either recognise the annexation or face a war against both Austria and Germany. Russia was forced to back down in deep humiliation as it was still militarily crippled from its defeat in Japan in 1905 which left Serbia isolated.

16) 4th November, 1911-

The Second Moroccan Crisis sparked between France and Germany following the deployment of the German warship SMS Panther to the Moroccan port of Agadir. The crisis ended with both states ceding small parts of colonial territory however relations continued to worsen.

17) 8th October, 1912- 30th May, 1913-

The First Balkan War erupts between the weak Ottoman Empire and the Balkan league comprising Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro. The Balkan league defeats the Ottoman Empire decisively with them losing almost all European territories and creation of Albania as an independent state.

18) 29th June, 1913- 10th August, 1913-

The Second Balkan War erupts between Bulgaria on one side and Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Romania on the other side. The war occurs due to the dissatisfaction of Bulgaria with their territorial gains in the First Balkan War and ends in a sound Bulgarian defeat and resulted in increase in power of Serbia as well as great humiliation of Bulgaria.

19) 28th June, 1914-

Archduke France Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife Sophie, are assassinated in Sarajevo, the provincial capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The assassin was apprehended and identified to be Gavrilo Princep, a Serbian nationalist who wished to free Bosnia and Herzegovina from Austrian control.

21) 29th June, 1914- Austrian government convenes an emergency session. Conrad Von Hötzendorf demands immediate military mobilisation against Serbia, but Count Tisza and his supporters oppose war, arguing that a war with Serbia would definitely involve a war with Russia. Thus, the Austrian Government is unable to take any decisions. On the other hand, the German Government starts assessing the situation with some German officials viewing this as an opportunity to attack Russia, a close ally of Serbia which was currently going through an armament programme, supposed to be completed by 1917. Many officials in Germany believed that if the armament programme of the Russian Empire was allowed to be completed, it would be the end for Germany, and hence the time to strike was now.

20) 30th June, 1914-

The European continent is extremely saddened by the brutal death of Franz Ferdinand and there is a period of widespread mourning. The Austrian

government is outraged at the assassination. Some officials wish to attack Serbia while others wish to use diplomatic methods first. Thus, there is indecision among the Austrian government because of the threat of Russian intervention.

21) 1st July, 1914-

The Austrian government starts drafting a harsh ultimatum to Serbia which they believe would be rejected by Serbia and Austria would use this rejection as a pretext for war. Meanwhile, the Kaiser becomes personally increasingly convinced that war against Serbia is required in order to uphold the status of Austria-Hungary as a Great power .

22) 2nd July, 1914-

The Hoyos mission was planned by the Austrian government to be sent to Berlin to ascertain the intentions of the German government and whether they would support Austria-Hungary. The Austrian government decided that they would choose their own course of action after ascertaining the German policy towards this crisis.

23) 3rd July, 1914-

A meeting of French and Russian heads of states is scheduled for mid-July. Great Britain is non-committal towards Russia since Russia and Great Britain are not formally allied.

24) 4th July, 1914-

Emperor Franz Joseph approves the decision to make a formal approach to Germany. A personal letter from the Emperor Franz to Kaiser Wilhelm II is

drafted. Kaiser Wilhelm II returns to Potsdam from Berlin and prepares to receive the Austrian envoy the following day.

25) 5th July, 1914-

An Emergency Meeting of the Imperial German Crown Council is called into session by Kaiser Wilhelm II in Berlin.



SITUATION IN EUROPE

A) Unification of Germany:

The German Empire was founded on January 18, 1871, in the aftermath of three successful wars by the North German state of Prussia. Within a seven-year period, Denmark, the Habsburg monarchy, and France were vanquished in short, decisive conflicts. The empire was forged through traditional cabinet diplomacy and agreement by the leaders of the states in the North German Confederation, led by Prussia, with the hereditary rulers of Bavaria, Baden, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Württemberg. Wilhelm I was declared as the First German Emperor at the Palace of Versailles on 18th January, 1871 and Otto von Bismarck was declared the first Chancellor of united Germany after the victory of Prussia and other German states against France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71.

B) Treaty of Frankfurt 1871:

The humiliating defeat of Louis Napoleon's Second Empire of France was made complete on May 10, 1871, when the Treaty of Frankfurt was signed, ending the Franco-Prussian War and marking the decisive entry of a newly unified German state on the stage of European power politics. Under its terms, France ceded the territories of Alsace and a portion of Lorraine, including the strategically important city of Metz, to Germany. Additionally, France was compelled to pay an indemnity of five billion francs and cover the costs of the German occupation of its northern provinces until the payment was complete. This treaty not only established the German Empire but also led to the creation of the French Third Republic. The annexation of Alsace-Lorraine fostered a deep sense of resentment

in France especially directed against Germany, significantly contributing to the unstable peace in Europe. The Franco-Prussian War and the nearly three years of German occupation that followed marked the beginning of a growing enmity between an anxious France, its influence and power in decline, and developing Germany, a technologically and industrially superior nation that by the first decade of the 20th century had built one of the most powerful land army on the European continent.

C) The Triple Alliance:

The Triple Alliance was a *defensive* alliance between the states of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy on May 20 ,1882. Each member promised mutual support in the event of an attack by any other great power. The treaty was the brainchild of the then German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck who aimed to maintain the status quo if France ever attempted to retake the territories lost to Germany in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. The alliance was periodically renewed every year until the freeze date. When the treaty was renewed in February 1887, Italy gained a promise of German support of Italian colonial ambitions in North Africa in return for Italy's continued friendship. Austria-Hungary had to be pressured by German chancellor Otto von Bismarck into accepting the principles of consultation and mutual agreement with Italy on any territorial changes initiated in the Balkans or on the coasts and islands of the Adriatic and Aegean seas. The treaty was also signed because Germany feared that France would try to back the territories lost in the Franco-Prussian War and in such an event, France would have to fight a two front war against Germany in the north and Italy in the south with aid from Austria-Hungary. This treaty is a cornerstone of German foreign policy and delegates need to pay careful attention to it.

D) Berlin Conference 1884-

Colonialism is defined as the practice by which a powerful country establishes and maintains political, economic, and cultural domination over a foreign territory and its people. It typically involves exploiting the colonized land's resources and population to benefit the colonizing nation, often resulting in long-lasting impacts on indigenous societies. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, there was mad scramble for colonies among the European powers particularly in Africa. Colonies served the two fold purpose of providing raw materials for European industries as well as proving to be ready markets for European manufactured goods. In order to regulate the scramble for colonies, the then German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck called a conference of 14 major European powers. One of the most important results of the conference was the *Principle of Effective Occupation*.

The **principle of effective occupation** stated that a power could acquire rights over colonial lands only if it possessed them or had effective occupation: if it had treaties with local leaders, flew its flag there, and established an administration in the territory to govern it with a police force to keep order. The colonial power could also make use of the colony economically. That principle became important not only as a basis for the European powers to acquire territorial sovereignty in Africa but also for delimiting their respective overseas possessions, as effective occupation served in some instances as a criterion for settling colonial boundary disputes. Moreover, the conference also highlighted the growing diplomatic strength of the new state of Germany and the influence it commanded in the European geopolitics theatre.

E) Weltpolitik-

Weltpolitik, meaning "world policy," is Germany's foreign policy approach since the late 19th century. It signifies Germany's ambition to become a global power, seeking to expand its influence and assert itself on the international stage. The aim of the policy is to transform Germany into a global power. It marked a decisive break with the defensive *Realpolitik* of the Bismarckian era. This policy is driven by a desire for greater prestige and a belief in Germany's right to a prominent role in world affairs. It involves increased naval spending and a more assertive diplomatic stance, often clashing with established powers like Great Britain. Weltpolitik contributed to rising international tensions and the formation of opposing alliance systems, ultimately leading to an increase in tension among the European powers.

One of the defining features of the policy of Weltpolitik was the aggressive acquisition of colonies by the German empire. Germany was very late to the race of acquiring colonies and thus by today the German colonial empire is relatively punitive as compared to Great Britain and France. The main colonies of Germany are listed as follows:

- In April 1885, the *Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft für Südwest-Afrika* or German Colonial Society for Southwest Africa, known as DKGSWA was founded with the support of German bankers. Then, on 17 April 1886, a law creating the legal system of the colony was passed, creating a dual system with laws for Europeans and different laws for natives. In 1890, the colony was declared a German Crown Colony and it came to be known as German South West Africa.

- Togoland covered 34,934 square miles between the British Gold Coast colony to the west and French Dahomey to the east. Inhabited by a mixture of Ewe and other peoples, it became a political unit in 1884, when, in the European scramble for overseas territories, German chancellor Otto von Bismarck claimed it for Germany and other European powers formally recognized the claim. Thus, *German Togoland* was established.
- *Kamerun* was an African protectorate of the German Empire from 1884 and it included northern parts of Gabon and the Congo with western parts of the Central African Republic, southwestern parts of Chad and far northeastern parts of Nigeria.
- *German East Africa* was a dependency of the German Empire. Penetration of the area was begun in 1884 by German commercial agents, and German claims were recognized by the other European powers in the period 1885–94. In 1891 the German imperial government took over administration of the area from the German East Africa Company.
- In 1885 the Neu Guinea Compagnie was granted sovereign powers over German New Guinea, comprising the north-eastern part of the New Guinea mainland, known as Kaiser Wilhelmsland, and the Bismarck Archipelago. This territory, with some significant extensions, it continued to administer until 1899 when *German New Guinea* came under the direct administration of the German Empire.

F) The Triple Entente:

The Formation of the Triple Entente was a crucial diplomatic development in the early 20th century, established primarily between Great Britain, France, and Russia. This alliance was largely motivated by mutual concerns over the rising power of Germany, particularly its military expansion and imperial ambitions. The Triple Entente had several aspects within this alliance:

1. Russia and Great Britain- Great Britain and Russia had colonial rivalry dating for most of the 19th century especially regarding their colonies in Asia and Afghanistan. However, both the countries were afraid of the growing power of the new state of Germany and their aggressive foreign policy. Moreover, Russia realised the need to modernize their armed forces due to their decisive defeat at the hands of Japan in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05. As such, the two states signed the Anglo-Russian Convention on 31st August, 1907. This was not a military alliance between two countries but a way of reducing tensions by settling the question of their respective spheres of influence in Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet. The agreement divided Persia into three zones, a large Russian zone to the north, and two smaller zones, one which neither country dominated, and a British zone to the south. The agreement over Afghanistan was a concession by Russia, recognising Afghanistan as “outside the sphere of Russian influence”. Both countries affirmed that business with Tibet would be conducted through the Chinese Government.

2. Great Britain and France- The relationship between Great Britain and France was marked by centuries of deep hostility and resentment. Britain had historically always followed a policy of isolation and preferred not to get involved in the European mainland but they abandoned this policy due to the naval arms race with Germany which threatened to cut Britain off from its massive colonial empire. France had been defeated decisively in the France-Prussian war of 1870-71 and they had realised the need for powerful allies if they were to confront Germany once again. Entente Cordiale was signed in 1904 which was an Anglo-French agreement that, by settling a number of controversial matters, ended antagonisms between Great Britain and France and paved the way for their diplomatic

cooperation against German pressure. The agreement in no sense created an alliance and did not entangle Great Britain with a French commitment to Russia.

3. **France and Russia-** After the defeat in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870–71, French elites concluded that France could never hope to defeat Germany on its own, and the way to defeat the *Reich* would be with the help of another great power. In August 1891, France and Russia signed a "consultative pact" where both nations agreed to consult each other if another power were to threaten the peace of Europe. Negotiations were increasingly successful, and in early 1894 France and Russia agreed to the Franco-Russian Alliance, a military pledge to join in war if Germany attacked either of them. The alliance was intended to deter Germany from going to war by presenting it with the threat of a two-front war; neither France or Russia could hope to defeat Germany on its own, but their combined power might do so.

G) The Two Moroccan Crisis:

Morocco was an African nation which had been under the protection of the French and the Spanish Empire. Following the Treaty of Fez in 1912, Morocco was carved up. France controlled the central zone while Spain managed the northern and southern regions. The international zone of Tangier was established separately. The German Empire aimed to increase its colonies in Africa at the expense of French Morocco. This led to two separate crises between France and Germany:

1. First Moroccan Crisis(1905)-

Germany wanted to challenge France's growing control over Morocco, aggravating France and Great Britain. On 31 March 1905 Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany arrived at Tangier, Morocco and conferred with representatives of Sultan Abdelaziz of Morocco. The Kaiser toured the city on the back of a white horse. In a speech given at the German legation, the Kaiser declared he had come to support the sovereignty of the Sultan which was a statement which amounted to a provocative challenge to French influence in Morocco. The Sultan subsequently rejected a set of French-proposed governmental reforms and issued invitations to major world powers to a conference which would advise him on necessary reforms. Thus the Algeiras Conference was held in Spain on 16th January, 1906 with 13 major states being invited to deliberate on the future of Morocco. The final Act of the conference was signed on 7 April 1906 and covered the organisation of Morocco's police and customs, regulations concerning the repression of the smuggling of armaments and concessions to the European bankers from a new State Bank of Morocco to issue banknotes backed by gold with a 40-year term. Of the 13 nations present, the German representatives found that their only supporter was Austria-Hungary. A German attempt at compromise was rejected by all but Austria-Hungary. France had firm support from Britain, Russia, Italy, Spain and the United States. This conference was a decisive diplomatic defeat for Germany and showed early cracks in their *Weltpolitik*.

2. The Second Moroccan Crisis (1911)-

In 1911, an insurrection broke out among native Moroccans, and all Europeans feared that their economic interests were at risk. Within the context of its recognized interests in Morocco, France dispatched troops to

the city of Fez to suppress the rebellion. After asserting that it desired to protect Moroccan independence and its citizens residing in Morocco, the German government sent the warship *Panther* to the port of Agadir. The Germans' real interest, however, was in creating a situation in Morocco that would result in gains in other regions of Africa; in particular, they sought to acquire the French Congo. With the arrival of the *Panther* on July 1, 1911, a diplomatic crisis rapidly developed between Germany and the allied French, British, and Spanish governments. The crisis continued through August and September, but with diminished intensity. All sides wished to defuse the urgency of the crisis, but the British foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, was primarily responsible for the lessening of tensions. Negotiations opened, and by November of 1911, an agreement had been reached. On November 4, 1911, the representatives of Germany, France, and Britain signed an agreement in which all parties recognized that France had a "protectorate" over Morocco, meaning that Morocco would be considered part of the French empire. In return for agreeing to this formal recognition of French control of Morocco, France ceded sections of the French Congo to Germany, which withdrew the *Panther* and other ships from Agadir in November. The sections of the Congo given to Germany were deemed to be of little value in 1911, but their transfer did result in some domestic opposition in France and opposition by Spain. The Agadir crisis resulted in a victory for France and a face-saving defeat for Germany. German action was intended to remove the French from Morocco, but the end result was a continued French presence in Morocco and North Africa, a state of affairs endorsed by the British.

H) The Naval Race between Germany and France:

The wish of Kaiser Wilhelm II was to have a German empire which would be larger and more encompassing than the one possessed by the United Kingdom. To achieve this objective, he sought to build a navy that could challenge the British Royal Navy on the open seas. He was supported in this mission by Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz. As such, the German government passed a series of naval laws in order to modernize and increase the size of the German Navy. Driven by a desire to make the German Empire a viable world power and an integral industrial nation, the Navy Bills of 1898 and 1900 laid out the course for a massive naval expansion under anti-British auspices. The completed navy was to have a real fighting chance in a defensive war against the Royal Navy in the North Sea, with a projected German-British force ratio in capital ships of 2:3. Designed as a military deterrent against an empire that allegedly held the key to Germany's future, this fleet would serve as a geopolitical lever to coerce Britain into accepting the German bid for equality as a global empire.

The *First Naval Act* passed in March 1898 after an extensive lobbying and public relations campaign led by Wilhelm, Tirpitz, and Bülow. The act funded the building of eleven battleships in the next seven years. Britain had little concern about the First Naval Act as it did not increase Germany's navy to a size relevant to the two-power standard. However, by November 1898, Tirpitz had begun work on a plan to double the fleet to include forty-five battleships and armored cruisers, which he presented to the Kaiser in September 1899. The timing was fortunate, as the eruption of the Second Boer War and British seizure of a German steamer off southern Africa enraged the German public against Britain and the Reichstag passed the Second Navy Law in June 1900.

Introduction of HMS dreadnought- The "Launching of the Dreadnought" refers to a pivotal moment in naval history marked by the introduction of a revolutionary battleship, the HMS Dreadnought, in 1906. This event symbolized a significant leap in naval warfare technology, transitioning from traditional battleships to a new class characterized by heavy firepower and advanced propulsion systems. The Dreadnought was armed with ten 12-inch guns and utilized turbine engines, allowing for greater speed and effectiveness in combat. Its design was influenced by the lessons learned from the Battle of Tsushima, emphasizing long-range firepower and tactical advantages. The Dreadnought's successful trials rendered existing battleships obsolete, prompting a global shift in naval construction priorities. The introduction of this battleship not only changed naval architecture but also established the term "dreadnought" to categorize future battleships with similar specifications.

Intensification of Race- In March 1908, Tirpitz got a fourth naval bill passed by the Reichstag. It increased the rate of new battleships from three to four per year for the next four years, before stabilizing at three per year. If implemented, Germany would have had 21 dreadnoughts in 1914. Up to Germany's 1908 naval bill, Britain in general had largely ignored the buildup, though some individuals in the military and government were already keenly aware of the potential threat. However, in the summer following the 1908 bill, alarm among the public and in the government rose. In response, the British government and Admiralty adopted the policy of 12:9 in the matter of dreadnoughts. They would produce 12 dreadnoughts for every 9 dreadnoughts produced by the German Navy. Meanwhile, Tirpitz followed a 3:2 policy whereby for every 3 British capital ships constructed, 2 such German ships would be built. This policy

of naval rearmament was extremely costly and put severe strain on the finances of both the states.

Relaxation- The naval arms only relaxed in 1912 under Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg who pursued a *Ruestungswende* or an “Armaments turning policy” which shifted focus on the army and opened up negotiations with the British government under Viscount Richard Haldane. This led to the Haldane mission which was sent to Germany and three proposals were laid out:

- British naval superiority will be recognized and German naval programmes will be reduced.
- Great Britain would not interfere with German colonial ambitions.
- Both sides should seek assurances that neither would engage in aggression against the other.

Germany agreed to the proposals on the condition that Great Britain would remain neutral in a war where Germany was not the aggressor. However, Britain would not accept such a proposal and the mission did not achieve its desired objectives. In 1912, Winston Churchill would publicly announce the British desire to maintain a 60% naval margin in number of ships over Germany. The German government would slow down the construction of dreadnoughts because of their extremely high expense and instead focus on the construction of submarines.

I) The Bosnian Crisis:

Under article 29 of the 1878 Treaty of Berlin which was signed in the aftermath of Russian victory over the Ottomans, Austria-Hungary received special rights in the Ottoman Empire's provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sanjak of Novi

Pazar. Article 25 stated that "The provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be occupied and administered by Austria-Hungary" and continued "Austria-Hungary reserves the right to maintain garrisons and to have military and trading roads over the whole area of that portion the Sanjak of Novi Pazar of the ancient Vilayet of Bosnia". In 1903 King Alexander Obrenovic of Serbia was assassinated in a coup and the pro-Russian Karadordević dynasty came to the throne. Power shifted to elements widely interested in expansion into Bosnia. The new Serbian government wanted to take over the Sanjak of Novi Pazar and Bosnia-Herzegovina from the Austro-Hungarians. Relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary gradually deteriorated. However, Russia's ability to support Serbia was greatly reduced following military humiliation in the 1905 Russo-Japanese War and the ensuing internal unrest. On 6 October, the day after Bulgaria declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire, Emperor Franz Joseph announced to the people of this Ottoman territory, which had been occupied by Austria for 30 years, his determination to recognize and grant them an autonomous and constitutional regime, under his authority as their annexing sovereign. The following day, Austria-Hungary announced its withdrawal from the Sanjak of Novi Pazar which was then occupied by the Ottoman Empire. Serbia mobilized its army and on 7 October the Serbian Crown Council demanded that the annexation be reversed or, failing that, Serbia should receive compensation, which it defined on 25 October as a strip of land across the northernmost portion of the Sanjak of Novi Pazar. In the end these demands were rejected.

The consequences of Austria-Hungary's annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina severely angered Serbia, which claimed the territory. This shattered relations and resulted in a bitter feud that fueled Serbian nationalist groups. Germany firmly supported its ally, Austria-Hungary, establishing a precedent of unconditional

military and diplomatic support. This led to further tensions amongst the European powers.

J) Two Balkan Wars:

The Balkans were famously known as the “tinderbox of Europe” owing to the intense nationalistic feelings among the indigenous people and the high number of territorial changes which occur in the region. The entire Balkan region was once upon a time ruled by the Muslim Ottoman Empire at the height of its power. However, the 19th century brought dramatic and violent change to the region. The decisive victory of Russia in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 ensured the independence of Balkan states but also provoked the suspicions of other major powers by the formation of a large Russia-friendly Bulgaria.

The *Berlin Treaty of 1878* aimed to limit Russian influence in the region but it backfired as it stoked nationalistic feelings among the people as Ottoman Turks were given a large portion of Macedonia. The Ottoman Empire was in a state of turmoil both internally and externally. The Young Turk Revolution had weakened the power of the central government and had almost led to civil war. The Italian victory in the Italo-Turkish War of 1911-12 highlighted the weakness and inefficiency of the Ottoman military. Thus, the Balkan states were determined to increase their territory at the expense of the Ottoman Empire which was considered as the old man of Europe. Thus, the Balkan League was formed comprising Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro.

First Balkan War-

The league was able to field a combined force of 750,000 men. Montenegro opened hostilities by declaring war on Turkey on October 8, 1912, and the other

members of the league followed suit 10 days later. The Balkan allies were soon victorious. In Thrace the Bulgarians defeated the main Ottoman forces, advancing to the outskirts of Constantinople and laying siege to Adrianople. In Macedonia the Serbian army achieved a great victory at Kumanovo that enabled it to capture Bitola and to join forces with the Montenegrins and enter Skopje. The Greeks, meanwhile, occupied Salonika and advanced on Ioánnina. In Albania the Montenegrins besieged Shkodër and the Serbs entered Durrës. Under a peace treaty signed in London on May 30, 1913, the Ottoman Empire lost almost all of its remaining European territory, including all of Macedonia and Albania. Albanian independence was insisted upon by the European powers, and Macedonia was to be divided among the Balkan allies.

Second Balkan War-

The peace treaty which divided the conquered lands however caused tensions among the members of the victorious Balkan league namely Bulgaria. The Second Balkan War began when Serbia, Greece, and Romania quarreled with Bulgaria over the division of their joint conquests in Macedonia. On June 1, 1913, Serbia and Greece formed an alliance against Bulgaria, and the war began on the night of June 29–30, 1913, when King Ferdinand of Bulgaria ordered his troops to attack Serbian and Greek forces in Macedonia. The Bulgarian offensive, benefiting from surprise, was initially successful, but Greek and Serbian defenders retired in good order. The Serbian army counterattacked on July 2 and drove a wedge into the Bulgarian line. In an effort to save their force from being cut off entirely, the Bulgarians launched a desperate attack on the Serbian lines. Once again, the Bulgarians achieved momentary success, but by July 10 the offensive had completely stalled. On July 11 the Romanian army crossed the Bulgarian frontier and began an unopposed march on Sofia, the Bulgarian capital.

The following day, the Turks violated their armistice with Bulgaria and entered Thrace. The Greeks and the Serbs launched a general offensive on July 15, and the Turks reoccupied Adrianople on July 22. With enemy columns converging on Sofia, the Bulgarians bowed to the inevitable. On July 30 they concluded an armistice to end hostilities, and a peace treaty was signed between the combatants on August 10, 1913. Under the terms of the treaty, Greece and Serbia divided most of Macedonia between themselves, leaving Bulgaria with only a small part of the region.

K) Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand:

Franz Ferdinand was the eldest son of Archduke Karl Ludwig of Austria, the younger brother of Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria. Following the death of Crown Prince Rudolf in 1889 and the death of Karl Ludwig in 1896, Franz Ferdinand became the heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne. Franz Ferdinand held significant influence over the military, and in 1913 he was appointed inspector general of the Austro-Hungarian Armed Forces. The archduke traveled to Sarajevo in June 1914 to inspect the imperial armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, annexed by Austria-Hungary in 1908. The annexation had angered Serbian nationalists, who believed the territories should be part of Serbia. A group of young nationalists hatched a plot to kill the archduke during his visit to Sarajevo. A first assassination attempt had been made on the archduke, around 10:15 a.m, a Bosnian-Serb named Nedeljko Cabrinovic, hurled a bomb at the imperial motorcade as it was headed to a reception at Sarajevo City Hall. Apparently, there were six conspirators in addition to Princip, who were all armed with bombs and pistols with each possessing a capsule of cyanide. However, the plan failed. At around 11 a.m. two shots rang out from a street corner in the center of this city, mortally wounding the archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Sophie the

Duchess of Hohenberg, his wife. A suspect, a 19-year old Bosnian-Serb named Gavrilo Princip, was apprehended. Princip is said to be affiliated with the Serbian nationalist society Black Hand, which reportedly has ties to the Serbian government that is dedicated to uniting Bosnia with Serbia. Before Princip could fire for a third time, the pistol was wrested from his hand and he was pushed to the ground. He managed to swallow a capsule of cyanide which failed to kill him.

Anti-Serb riots, consisting of large-scale violence against Serbs, occurred in Sarajevo on 28 and 29 June 1914 after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Encouraged by the Austro-Hungarian government, the violent demonstrations assumed the characteristics of a pogrom, which led to ethnic divisions that were unprecedented in the city's history. Two Serbs were killed on the first day of the demonstrations, and many others were attacked. Numerous houses, shops and institutions owned by Serbs were razed or pillaged. On 29 June 1914, more aggressive demonstrations began at around 8 o'clock in the morning and quickly assumed the characteristics of a pogrom. Large groups of Muslims and Croats gathered on the streets of Sarajevo, shouted, sang and carried black-draped Austrian flags and pictures of the Austrian emperor and the late archduke. Local political leaders held speeches to these crowds. Throughout Austria-Hungary, there was a feeling of revenge and hatred towards Serbia whom the Austrians suspected of having encouraged, planned and financed the assassination plot.

L) Russian Relations with Serbia:

The Russo-Turkish Wars were a turning point. After the 1877–78 war, the Treaty of San Stefano and then the Congress of Berlin formally recognized Serbian independence. Serbian King Alexander I was assassinated in a coup d'état in

1903, which ushered in the end of the Obrenović dynasty and the return of the House of Karađorđević. The new political regime of Prime Minister Nikola Pašić under Peter I re-oriented Serbia towards Russia. Serbia was supported by Russia in the economic Pig War with Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908; Russia did not interfere in the Bosnian crisis. While Russia and Serbia were not formally allied, Russia openly sought political and religious influence in Serbia. This support was rooted in shared Slavic heritage, religious ties, and Russia's desire to expand its influence in the Balkans, which often led to heightened tensions with other European powers, particularly Austria-Hungary. The strong support shown by Russia to Serbia and close relationship between the two states deterred Austria-Hungary to immediately declare war after the assassination. The Hoyos Mission has not reached Berlin as of the freeze date.

M) Hoyos Mission-

The Hoyos Mission describes Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister Leopold Berchtold's dispatch of his promising 38-year-old private secretary, Alexander Hoyos, to meet with his German counterparts. This secret mission was intended to provide Austro-Hungarian policy-makers with information on the Reich's intentions shortly after the assassination of Franz Ferdinand of Austria, the Imperial and Royal Kronprinz in Sarajevo. By sending his chief of cabinet to Berlin, Leopold Berchtold pursued two complementary objectives: the first was to secure German support, while the second was to obtain the approval of the Hungarian Prime Minister, Istvan Tisza, which was conditional on German support. Finally, the dispatch of one of the minister's closest diplomats was also intended to enable the two monarchs to hold talks, originally planned for the German emperor's visit to the funeral of the assassinated archduke. Unable to engage with the dual monarchy, or even to take an initiative against Serbia

without the support of the Reich, the Austro-Hungarian leadership was quick to ascertain the German position in the current crisis. They were well aware of their country's inability to wage war against Russian-backed Serbia on its own and moreover, they knew they would not be able to stand up to a Russian invasion.

GREAT
BRITAIN

RUSSIA

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
(ULTIMATUM)

RUSSIA
(MOBILIZATION)

SERBIA

GERMAN FOREIGN RELATIONS

1) Germany and Austria-Hungary:

The cornerstone of the German Empire's diplomatic and strategic architecture is the Dual Alliance with Austria-Hungary, originally forged by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in 1879. This pact binds both empires in a defensive military alliance, primarily acting as a mutual safeguard against the ever-present threat of the Russian Empire. For Berlin, the preservation of Austria-Hungary as a Great Power is not merely a matter of traditional friendship or shared Germanic heritage; it is an absolute strategic necessity. Surrounded by an increasingly hostile coalition in France and Russia, Germany relies on the Dual Monarchy to secure its southern flank and prevent total geographic and military encirclement. Without a strong Vienna, Germany would face the combined might of its adversaries entirely alone. However, the internal stability of Austria-Hungary is fundamentally precarious. It is a multi-ethnic empire struggling against the tide of nationalism, particularly the virulent Pan-Slavic movements simmering in the Balkans. For years, the German government has observed Vienna's declining prestige and its inability to effectively pacify the southern Slavic populations within its borders. The Kingdom of Serbia, acting as a regional proxy for Russian interests, continuously foments unrest and seeks to unite the Slavic peoples at the direct expense of Austro-Hungarian territorial integrity. From the German perspective, Vienna has shown dangerous hesitancy during previous Balkan crises, leading to a steady erosion of the empire's geopolitical standing. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo just days ago, on June 28, 1914, has catastrophically altered this dynamic. The Austrian Empire will not take any drastic steps without German support. This committee needs to decide

the best course of action by which Germany can aid her strongest and oldest ally, Austria-Hungary in this decisive moment.

2) Germany and the Kingdom of Italy-

The Kingdom of Italy is formally bound to Germany and Austria-Hungary through the Triple Alliance, initially signed in 1882. On paper, this treaty guarantees mutual military assistance should any of the signatories be attacked by France or Russia without direct provocation. The incorporation of Italy into this system was historically intended to secure Austria-Hungary's southern alpine border and to deny France a potential Mediterranean ally. The fundamental flaw undermining this alliance is the intense, deep-seated enmity between Italy and Austria-Hungary. Rome harbors fervent irredentist ambitions, claiming the Austro-Hungarian territories of Trentino, Trieste, and parts of the Dalmatian coast as rightfully Italian. These unresolved territorial disputes generate continuous friction. Germany constantly finds itself in the exhausting position of playing mediator between its two allies, desperately attempting to smooth over diplomatic incidents and demanding that Vienna offer minor concessions to keep Rome satisfied. Yet, the underlying structural rivalry in the Adriatic Sea remains entirely unresolved. So, the Kingdom of Italy might prove to be an unreliable ally during times of crisis.

3) Germany and France

Germany's relationship with the French Republic is defined by an irreconcilable hostility that has cast a long, dark shadow over European diplomacy for more than four decades. The root of this bitter antagonism lies in the outcome of the Franco- Prussian War of 1870-1871, which culminated in the unification of the German Empire at Versailles and the annexation of the provinces of Alsace and

Lorraine. Since that humiliating defeat, French national identity and foreign policy have been singularly animated by the concept of "Revanchism," the burning desire to reclaim the lost provinces and restore French military and diplomatic prestige at Germany's expense. By pouring massive financial investments into the Russian Empire, France cemented the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894. This alliance represents the realization of Germany's greatest strategic nightmare: the guarantee of a massive, simultaneous two-front war against formidable opponents in both the East and the West. In recent years, the diplomatic situation has only deteriorated. German attempts to test and fracture the growing ties between France and Great Britain during the First and Second Moroccan Crises ended in spectacular failure. Instead of splitting the Entente Cordiale, aggressive German posturing merely convinced London and Paris of German belligerence, resulting in closer Anglo-French military and naval coordination. France has recently expanded its conscription laws, the Three-Year Law, to maximize its standing army, demonstrating a clear readiness for a continental conflict.

4) Germany and the Ottoman Empire-

The Ottoman Empire occupies a unique and rapidly evolving position in the foreign policy of the German Empire. Historically dismissed by the European powers as the "Sick Man of Europe," the sprawling Ottoman state has suffered a string of catastrophic territorial losses in North Africa and the Balkans over the past decade. By cultivating deep economic, diplomatic, and military ties with Constantinople, Germany aims to project its influence into the near East and establish a strategic counterweight against both the Russian and British Empires. The centerpiece of German-Ottoman relations is economic integration, best exemplified by the monumental Berlin-to-Baghdad Railway project. Funded by German capital and engineered by German industry, this railway is designed to

bypass British naval supremacy, connect German markets directly to the vast resources of Mesopotamia, and threaten British hegemony in India and Egypt. Naturally, this project has aroused intense suspicion in London and St. Petersburg, further aligning those powers against German ambitions. More crucial than economic ties is the comprehensive German effort to modernize the Ottoman military. Following the disastrous Balkan Wars, the Ottoman army was in desperate need of reform. Germany dispatched a high-level military mission led by General Otto Liman von Sanders in late 1913. This mission fundamentally integrated German officers into the Ottoman command structure, granting Berlin unprecedented influence over Turkish military capabilities.

5) Germany and Russia-

The primary arena of friction between the two empires is the Balkan Peninsula. Russia views itself as the protector of all Slavic peoples and the champion of Orthodox Christianity. It actively supports Pan-Slavic nationalism, particularly the expansionist ambitions of the Kingdom of Serbia, as a means to project its own power toward the Mediterranean and simultaneously undermine the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Germany is therefore caught in a structural trap: it must defend its sole reliable ally, Austria-Hungary, from existential threats in the Balkans, which inevitably places Berlin in direct confrontation with St. Petersburg. The most alarming development for German policymakers is the unprecedented modernization of the Russian armed forces. Following its humiliating defeat by Japan in 1905, Russia initiated a "Great Military Programme." Financed by massive French loans, Russia is rapidly expanding its peacetime standing army, upgrading its artillery, and crucially, constructing an extensive network of strategic railways pointing directly at the borders of East Prussia and Austrian Galicia. German intelligence estimates, particularly those from the General Staff, are deeply pessimistic. They calculate that by 1916 or

1917, the sheer mass of the modernized Russian army, combined with significantly reduced mobilization times, will make Russia effectively invincible.

6) Germany and the British Empire-

The primary source of Anglo-German antagonism is the naval arms race. Driven by Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz and vigorously supported by the Kaiser, Germany embarked on a massive program to build a world-class High Seas Fleet. Based on the "Risk Theory," this fleet was intended to be so powerful that even the Royal Navy would hesitate to challenge it, thereby forcing Britain to respect German global interests. Instead, it triggered a profound alarm in London. Britain, entirely dependent on maritime supremacy for its survival and its empire, viewed the German naval buildup not as a legitimate pursuit of status, but as a direct dagger aimed at the heart of the British homeland. In response, Britain accelerated its own shipbuilding, launching the revolutionary Dreadnought class and decisively winning the naval race. Diplomatically, the German naval threat pushed Britain out of its isolation and into the arms of Germany's continental rivals. In 1904, Britain settled its colonial disputes with France, forming the Entente Cordiale. In 1907, it reached a similar agreement with Russia, solidifying the Triple Entente. While the Entente is technically a set of colonial agreements rather than a binding military alliance, it effectively aligns British power against German hegemony in Europe. German attempts to bully France during the Moroccan Crisis only solidified Anglo-French military coordination and the British and French navies have an informal agreement to protect each other's coastlines in the event of war.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board for this committee will play the role of Kaiser Wilhelm II who is the Emperor of the German Empire as of the freeze date. All the delegates are expected to be completely obedient to any directive or order given by the Emperor.

Wilhelm was the eldest child of Emperor Frederick III and of Victoria, the eldest child of Britain's Queen Victoria. His father, who reigned as Frederick III for a mere 99 days before dying of cancer, was a former war hero whose liberal political tendencies were subordinate to the Prussian military virtues.

In 1881, Wilhelm married Princess Augusta Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg. He became known for his militaristic policies, as displayed in his focus on building up German naval power as a counterweight to Britain and his pursuit of a colonial empire in Africa and Asia. He is also known for changing his mind quite often and being swayed easily to change his point of view by his closest advisors.

Guide to Paper Work

Note: Committee specific paperwork will be elaborated upon in the committee's study guide itself. This is also subject to change at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Position Paper ;

Every committee will have position papers which are documents meant to highlight a delegate's understanding of his/her allotments policy regarding a particular agenda. It consists of three fundamental parts:

1. Statement of the Problem
2. Policy Pertaining to the Agenda
3. Sample Position Papers for and for Cabinet allotments may be accessed here.

 [Sample Position paper.pdf](#)

Communiqué

Communiqués are messages from usually an allotment to another country, organisation, person or group of people. Communiqués can be bilateral (between two countries) or multilateral. They are meant to facilitate dialogue with relevant actors in a crisis so that delegates can take action to resolve the various crises presented to them in committee. A communiqué needs to be well worded, sufficiently detailed and most importantly realistic enough. Delegates are to keep in mind that the Executive Board has absolute discretion with regards to ratifying and reading out any Communiqué submitted by a delegate as an update to the committee. Communiqués can either be either public or private.

A sample Private Communiqué may be accessed  [Sample Communique.pdf](#).
and a sample Public Communiqué may be accessed  [Public Comm.pdf](#).

Directive

A Directive is a document that mandates an official series of measures. Unlike a Resolution in a typical MUN committee, a Directive is more straightforward, less formal, and intended for use multiple times throughout the conference, not just at the end of discussions. A thoroughly detailed and well-considered Directive will maximise the impact of your actions, whether positive or negative. Directives must be written in a clear and concise format. These directives are essential for addressing the immediate crises the committee will encounter during the conference. A sample Private Directive may be accessed

 [Sample Directive.pdf](#)

Press Release

A press release is a document used to inform the committee aware of a certain incident or an action that has been undertaken. A press release can be single or joint. By its very nature, a press release is always public. A sample may be found

 [Press Release .docx](#)

Working Paper

Delegates may propose working papers for committee consideration. Working Papers are intended to aid the committee in its discussion and formulation of resolutions and need not be written in resolution format. Working Papers require the approval of the EB to be copied and distributed. They are concise and an abridged form of the resolution. Working papers represent the first step in the process of resolution writing. The wonderful thing about working papers is that unlike other formal documents in a MUN, they are absolutely informal. They do require signatories but have no absolute format, and can be about anything under your topic area. A sample working paper may be accessed

 [Sample Working Paper.pdf](#)

CITATIONS

1. <https://share.google/EZJi8Qq1QAUytNWxr>
2. <https://share.google/7gV2LpI2zdovH1Dur>
3. <https://share.google/RxXova0oGg2HvXoy4>
4. <https://share.google/9UbRbi0EgD90VL0xm>
5. <https://share.google/CpinUFInWH7AtJoE7>
6. <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/diplomacy-and-international-relations/balkan-wars>
7. <https://share.google/XzAMnVwxGrrcYDBc7>