



World War One

Germany

- Architect of the Alliance System
- Allies with Austria-Hungary and Italy
- Isolated France
- Worried about Russia
- Competitive with Britain about navy



Austria-Hungary

- Long-standing alliance with Germany
- Not friendly with Italy (even with alliance)
- Took Bosnia in 1908
- Wants more land in the Balkans
- Enemy of Serbia and Russia



Italy

- Weakest of the Great Powers
- Joined Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary, but unfriendly with Austria-Hungary
- Worried Austria-Hungary might get too strong



Russia

- Growing power
- Allies with France
- Allies with Serbia
- Enemies with Austria because of Balkans
- Enormous resources
- Weak government



France

- Wants revenge on Germany
- Allies with Russia to surround Germany
- Repairs relationship with Britain
- Very strong army, used to be #1
- Wants to fight Germany and reclaim losses



Great Britain

- Richest, most powerful empire
- Ruler of the oceans
- Concerned with German navy
- Settles disputes with France and Russia
- Naval alliance with Japan
- No alliances, but common interests

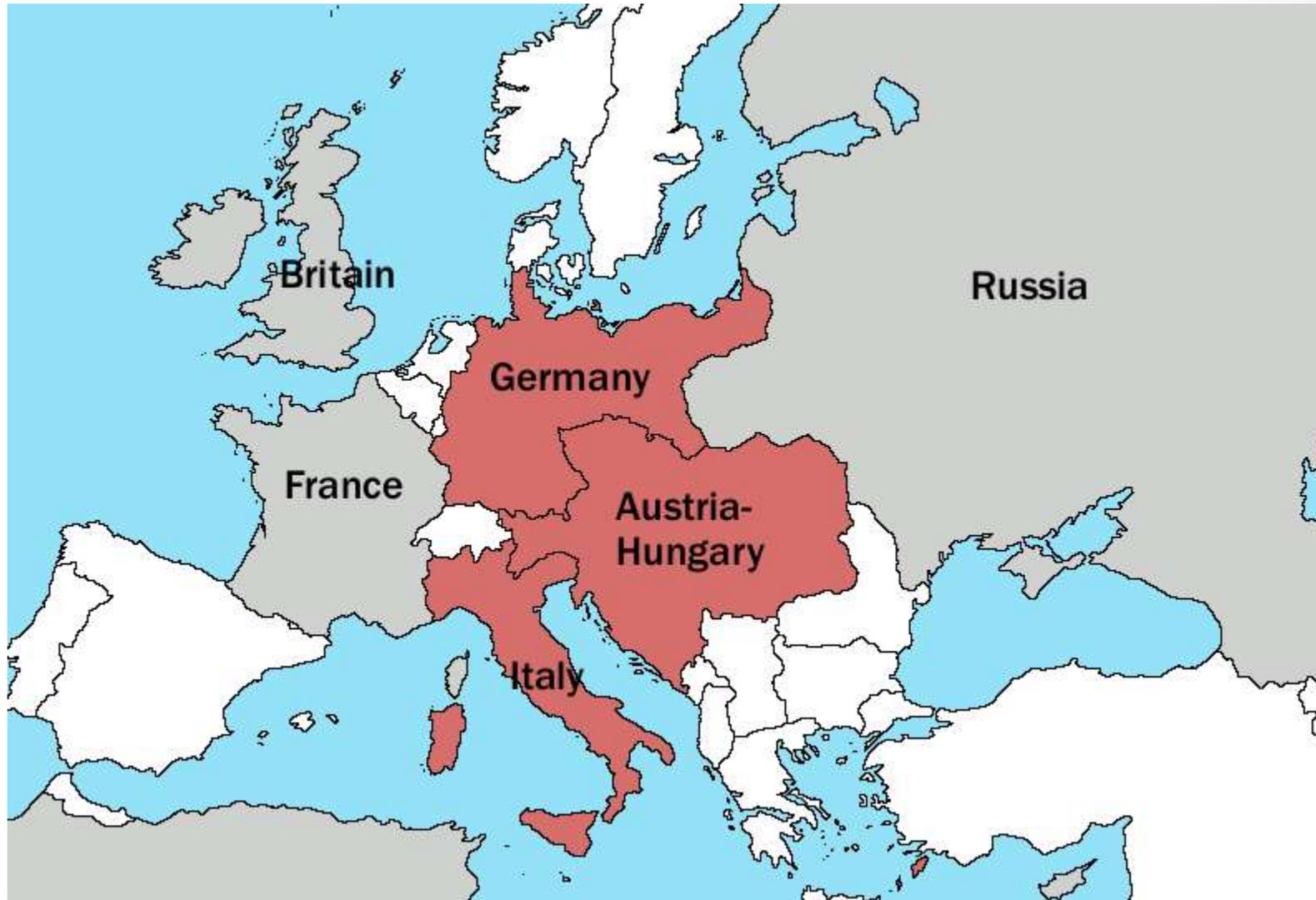


Serbia

- Wants to create large Slav nation (Yugoslavia)
- Desire for Balkan independence
- History of rebellions against the Ottomans
- Shared ethnicity with Russia
- Enemies with Austria



Face Off



Assassination

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand is killed in Sarajevo
- Serbian terrorist is the murderer
- Serbia claims innocence
- Austria blames Serbia anyway



The Blank Check

- Before deciding about Serbia, Austria ask Germany
- Germany encourages Austria to crush Serbia
- Offers Austria anything they need (Blank Check)
- Austria sends ultimatum to Serbia demanding Austrian troops enter their country



Pan-Slavism

- Serbia asks Russia for help
- Russia promises assistance
- Fighting Austria means fighting Germany
- Russia urges Serbia to negotiate
- Austria declares war anyway
- Russia declares war on Austria and Germany



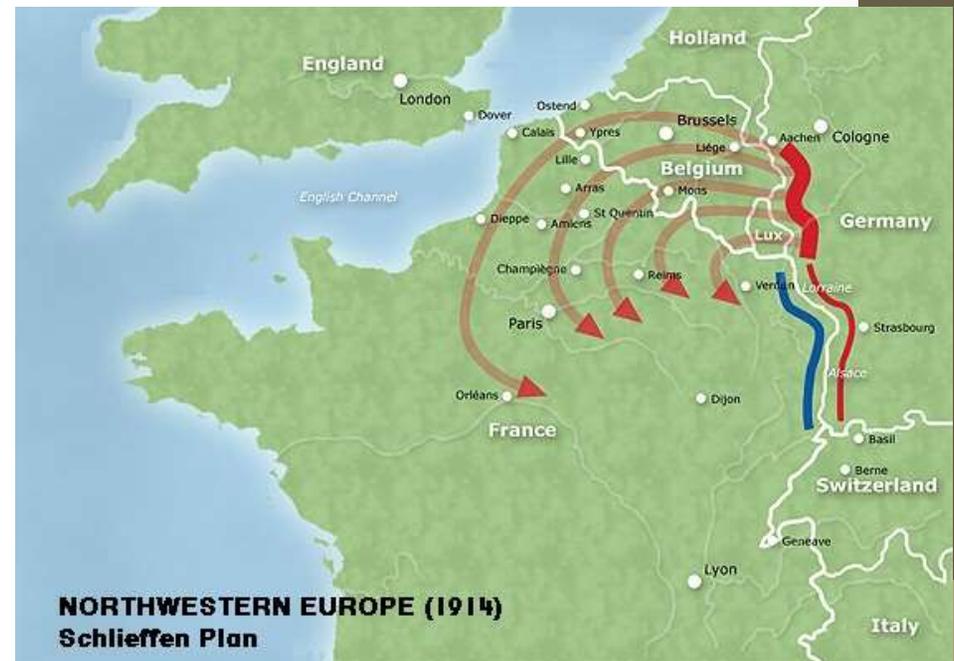
The Plan

- Germany had a plan for fighting on two fronts
- The Von Schlieffen Plan
- Ignore Russia and quickly attack France
- Speed is key – beat France before Russia is ready
- The German-French border is heavily guarded



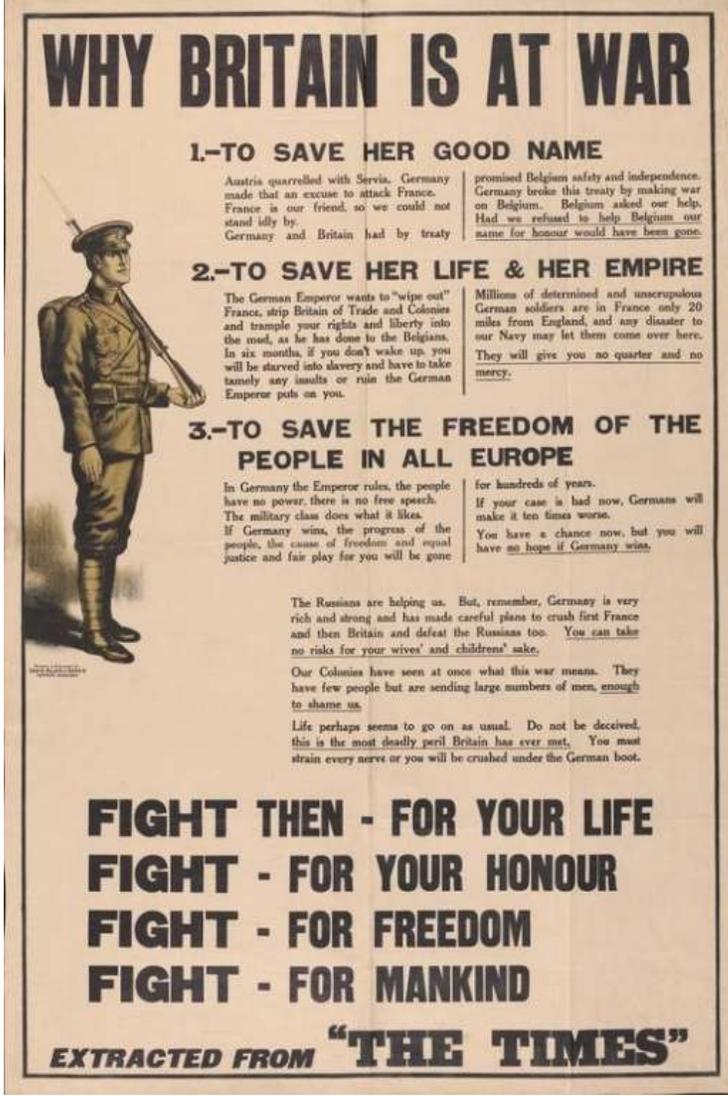
The Back Door

- Belgium lays between France and Germany
- Signed Neutrality Treaty in 1839
- Germany wants to cut through and avoid French forces
- Belgian king refuses, sends his small army to fight
- This delays Germany, but more importantly...



Britain's Dilemma

- Wants to keep control of trade and markets
- Doesn't want to fight, but worried about Germany
- Once the war starts, Britain has to choose
- Invasion of Belgium gives them a reason to fight
- Saves Paris but fails to beat Germany



WHY BRITAIN IS AT WAR

1.-TO SAVE HER GOOD NAME
Austria quarrelled with Servia. Germany made that an excuse to attack France. France is our friend, so we could not stand idly by. Germany and Britain had by treaty promised Belgium safety and independence. Germany broke this treaty by making war on Belgium. Belgium asked our help. Had we refused to help, Belgium, our name for honour would have been gone.

2.-TO SAVE HER LIFE & HER EMPIRE
The German Emperor wants to "wipe out" France, strip Britain of Trade and Colonies and trample your rights and liberty into the mud, as he has done to the Belgians. In six months, if you don't wake up, you will be starved into slavery and have to take tamely any insults or ruin the German Emperor puts on you. Millions of determined and unscrupulous German soldiers are in France only 20 miles from England, and any disaster to our Navy may let them come over here. They will give you no quarter and no mercy.

3.-TO SAVE THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE IN ALL EUROPE
In Germany the Emperor rules, the people have no power, there is no free speech. The military class does what it likes. If Germany wins, the progress of the people, the cause of freedom and equal justice and fair play for you will be gone for hundreds of years. If your case is had now, Germans will make it ten times worse. You have a chance now, but you will have no hope if Germany wins.

The Russians are helping us. But, remember, Germany is very rich and strong and has made careful plans to crush first France and then Britain and defeat the Russians too. You can take no risks for your wives' and childrens' sake.

Our Colonies have seen at once what this war means. They have few people but are sending large numbers of men, enough to shame us.

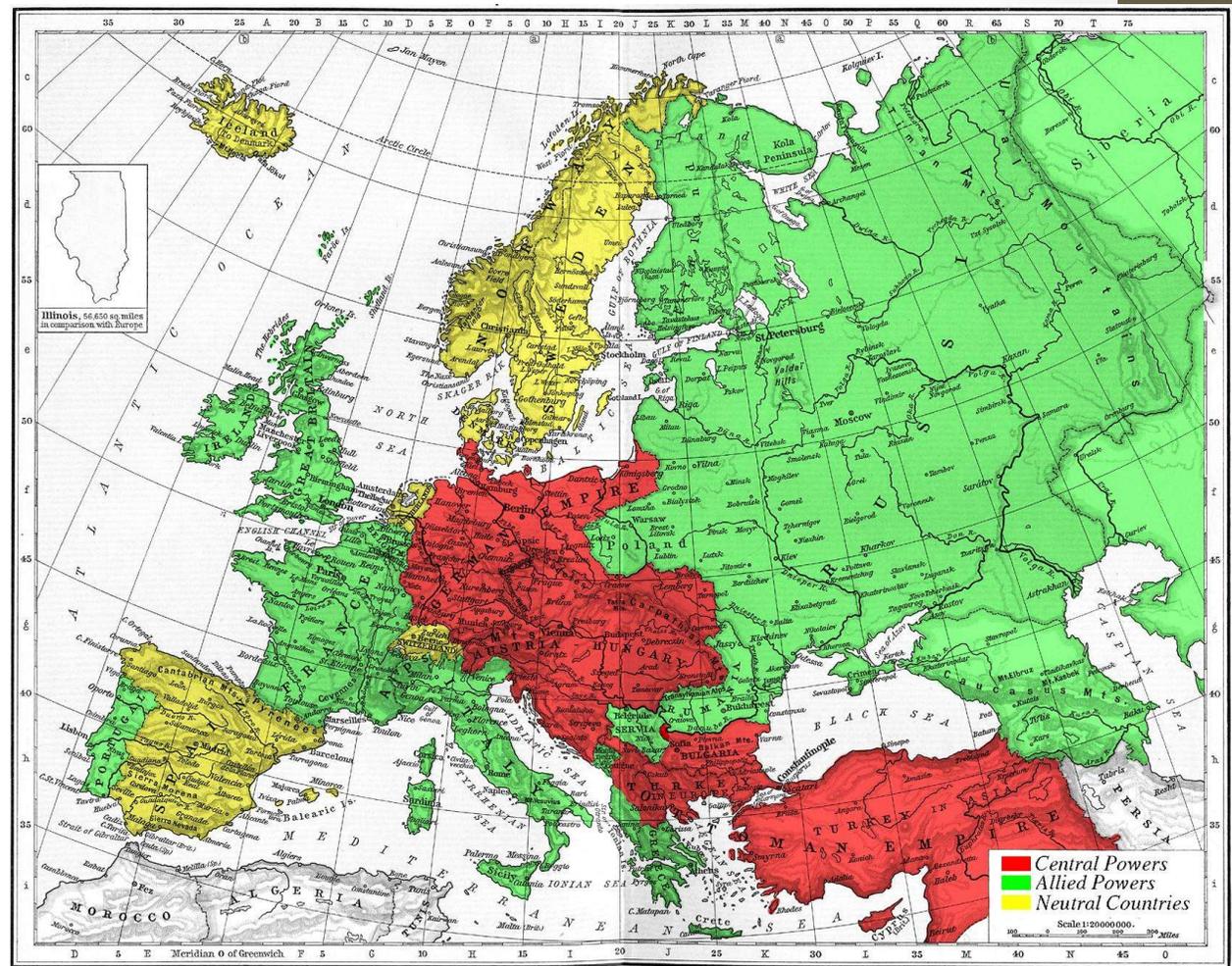
Life perhaps seems to go on as usual. Do not be deceived, this is the most deadly peril Britain has ever met. You must strain every nerve or you will be crushed under the German boot.

**FIGHT THEN - FOR YOUR LIFE
FIGHT - FOR YOUR HONOUR
FIGHT - FOR FREEDOM
FIGHT - FOR MANKIND**

EXTRACTED FROM **"THE TIMES"**

Loose Ends

- Italy backed out of the Triple Alliance
- Joined The Allied Powers a year later
- The Ottoman Empire joined Germany and Austria to try and win back Balkan land
- Japan quickly established control of Asia seas



The Great War

