

Origins of the Great War

I. European Society before World War I

A. Industrialization and Urbanization

1. Growth of Cities
2. Public Health Movement and the Bacterial Revolution
3. Urban Planning and Public Transportation

B. Social Structure

1. Standard of Living
2. Middle Classes
3. Working Classes
4. Family

C. Socialism, Elitism, and the Suffrage Movement

1. Socialist International
2. Unions and Revisionism
3. Women's Suffrage

video excerpt from: *The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century*

D. Titanic as Metaphor for an Age

II. How the Great Powers Prepared for War in Time of Peace, and How the War Came Because the Great Powers Were So Well Prepared

“It will be better to depend upon the great armaments for maintaining peace.”
—Captain Mahan

“The moral is obvious: it is that great armaments lead inevitably to war.”
—Sir Edward Grey

A. Major Players

1. Serbia — “Piedmont of the South Slavs”
 - a. Gavrilo Princip — “the annunciator of liberty”
 - b. Colonel Dragutin Dmitrijevič
 - c. The Black Hand
 - d. *Vidov Dan* — Anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo – June 28, 1389
2. Ottoman Empire — “The Sick Man of Europe”

3. Austria-Hungary
 - a. *Ausgleich* — 1867 (Dualism)
 - b. Franz Joseph — Emperor 1848–1916
 - c. Franz Ferdinand — “Trialism”
 - d. Sophie Chotek — morganatic marriage to Franz Ferdinand June 28, 1900
 - e. Lexa von Aehrenthal — foreign minister 1906–1912
 - f. Sarajevo
 - g. Bosnia-Herzegovina
 - h. Balkans — “The Powder Keg of Europe”
— “Not worth the bones of a Pomeranian grenadier”

5. Russia
 - a. Alexander III — Tsar 1881–1894
 - b. Nicholas II — Tsar 1894–1917
 - c. A. P. Izvolskii — foreign minister 1906–1910;
— ambassador to France 1910–1917
 - d. S. D. Sazonov — foreign minister 1910–1916:
“I do not dislike Austria, I despise her.”
 - e. General Ianushkevich — Chief of the General Staff:
“I will . . . smash my telephone.”

6. France
 - a. Raymond Poincaré — President 1913–1920:
“Serbia has warm friends in the Russian people. And Russia has an ally, France.”
 - b. Triple Entente

7. Germany
 - a. Otto von Bismarck — Chancellor 1864–1890
 - b. Wilhelm II — Kaiser 1888–1918
 - c. “blank check”
 - d. Schlieffen Plan (mobilization)
 - e. Triple Alliance

8. England
 - a. Sir Edward Grey — foreign minister 1905–1916:
“The lights are going out all over Europe.”

B. Analysis

Usual Causes Given

1. Militarism
2. Nationalism
3. Imperialism
4. International Anarchy

Suggested Reasons

1. Lack of diplomatic & military options
2. National honor
3. Fear, Suspicion, & Hatred
4. Incompetence among Leaders