

**STUDY GUIDE:**

**H I S T O R Y** **HL**

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# IB Academy History Study Guide

## *Higher Level Europe Route*

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the IB Academy Study Guide for History.

We are proud to present our study guides and hope that you will find them helpful. They are the result of a collaborative undertaking between our tutors, students and teachers from schools across the globe. Our mission is to create the most simple yet comprehensive guides accessible to IB students and teachers worldwide. We are firm believers in the open education movement, which advocates for transparency and accessibility of academic material. As a result, we embarked on this journey to create these study guides that will be continuously reviewed and improved. Should you have any comments, feel free to contact us.

For this History guide, we outlined everything in condensed note-form so that it will be easy for you to grasp the material. In this guide you will find useful information such as key terms, timelines, charts and sample question boxes. Considering the format of the History guide, we also created podcasts (called IB Historicus) for each topic that are meant to be used alongside the study guide. The relevant podcast episodes are marked on the side of the page with a logo



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**IB.Academy Team**

# HIGHER LEVEL EUROPE ROUTE

# ITALY AND GERMANY



*The Italian Peninsula in 1815*

## 4.1 Implications of the Congress of Vienna

### 4.1.1 Reverted borders

- Kingdom of Sardinia recovers Savoy, Piedmont and Nice
- Austria takes Lombardy, Parma, areas in Tuscany and Venetia
- Papal States restored in centre, south becomes Kingdom of Two Sicilies



Episode 1

### 4.1.2 Napoleonic reforms reverted

- Religious authority restored in Papal States
- Feudal vestiges back for the most part; conservative turn

## 4.2 Role of Austria and Metternich

### 4.2.1 Metternich's aim to reinstate royalist rule and conservatism

- Austrian troops as a police force in peninsula
- Imposed **ancien régime** → Birth of radical secret societies

### 4.2.2 Carbonari ('Charcoal burner') secret society

- Initially anti-French, after 1815 anti-monarch
- Naples revolt of 1820 → Forced a liberal constitution; Austria challenge

**Ancien régime:** French for the 'old regime', the term mainly refers to the political system in France before the Revolution of 1789. However, it can also be utilised to describe the political and social order of a state that was too stagnant to change. Since a feudal-like system was imposed onto the Italian states by hyper-conservatives, a new order was sought after by revolutionary figures.

History box

#### The Carbonari

The Carbonari were at the forefront of the attempted revolutions in 1820 and 1830. The 1820 movement was initiated in Piedmont and Naples, where the Carbonari forced the monarchist governments to give into demands for a liberal constitution. Once the insurgents were put down by counter-revolutionary forces, absolutist rule was restored. Ten years later, the revolutionary **Ciro Menotti** organised protests in Modena following support from Duke Francis IV, who had ambitions to become ruler of a new Kingdom of North Italy. The revolutionaries were further encouraged when France declared that it would come to their aid if Austria intervened. However, once Menotti's plans were put into action, the leaders of Modena and France backed down on their promises. Austrian forces put down the revolutionaries and Menotti was executed following his arrest. 1830 would be the last major uprising initiated by the Carbonari.



Episode 2

## 4.3 Giuseppe Mazzini



*Giuseppe Mazzini, founder of Giovane Italia*

### 4.3.1 Middle-class intellect, nationalist from Piedmont, Romantic thinker

- “Young Italy Manifesto” (1831) → Nationalism & possibility of unification
- Helped create cultural and intellectual context for **Risorgimento**

### 4.3.2 Mazzini Vision; exile in London between 1831–1848

- End Austrian hegemony, temporal power of the pope
- Unity, republicanism, democracy and liberation for the oppressed

**Risorgimento:** Italian for ‘resurgence’, the term describes the social and political movement to unify the Italian peninsula following the 1815 Congress of Vienna. Figures of all sorts, such as writers, philosophers and artists, have contributed to the development of Italian nationalism during the movement between 1815-1871.

## 4.4 Vincenzo Gioberti

### 4.4.1 Theologian academic from Turin, influenced by Mazzini

- Spent much of the 1830s-40s in exile due to disagreements with the court of King Charles Albert
- During this period, wrote books and essays on philosophy, religion and civilization

#### 4.4.2 Despite influence from Mazzini, never truly joined revolutionaries

- Anti-violence; wanted a constitutional monarchy
- Dreamed of a unified state headed by the pope
- Towards end of his career, stayed abroad in self-imposed exile

#### 4.5 Revolution of 1848



*King Victor Emmanuel II, first monarch of the unified Kingdom of Italy*

#### 4.5.1 Causes and Sparks

- Sicily uprising against Bourbon rule (Jan. 1848)
- Desire to free Italian states from Austria; enforce democracy
- Disillusionment with pope Pius IX liberal reforms (1846)
- Venice rebellion (March 1848) → Republic of San Marco



### 4.5.2 Nature

- Guerrilla street fights, boycott of goods such as tobacco
- Full out army battles following mobilisation of Piedmont
- Battle of Custoza key → Re-established Austrian control in Lombardy
- Roman Republic proclaimed (Feb. 1849); falls to France (request of pope)

### 4.5.3 Consequences

- Charles Albert toppled, Victor Emmanuel II new king of Sardinia-Piedmont
- Liberalism not in interest of papacy, pre-1848 settings returned
- End of 'revolutionary phase'; Mazzini in exile and Italy looked to monarchical guidance

## 4.6 Unification 1849-71



*Camillo Benso, Count of Cavour.  
Prime Minister of Sardinia-Piedmont*

### 4.6.1 Camillo Benso di Cavour; Risorgimento newspaper founder, Sardinia-Piedmont PM in 1852

- 1848-49 showed that coordination is required for unification



Episode 3

- Allies needed to get Austria out

#### 4.6.2 Sardinia-Piedmont under Victor Emmanuel II

- Bastion for liberals; many migrated to Sardinia-Piedmont
- Trade treaties with France, Britain and Belgium; enlarged merchant fleet
- Latest farming and industrial techniques
- Improved railway connections; significantly better than other Italian states

#### 4.6.3 Cavour Policies & Plans

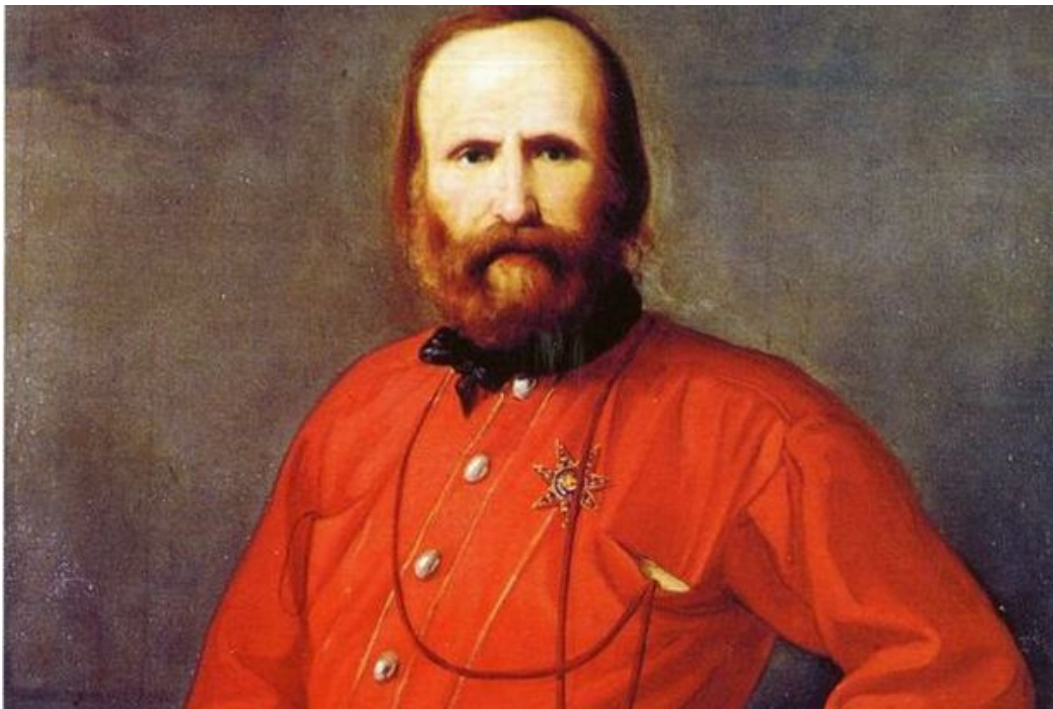
- Opportunist and **realpolitik** practitioner; lacked army but not as ruthless as Bismarck, depended on foreign aid
- ‘Liberal’ thinker; aligned with Britain, wanted limited church influence
- Needed to present Sardinia-Piedmont as a kingdom that Italian radicals could follow; needed an ally against Austria
- Enlisted Garibaldi as general (1859); Daniel Manin, leader of failed Venetian republic, supports Piedmont; political refugees welcomed

**Realpolitik:** German for ‘practical politics’, the term describes the pragmatic approach to international diplomacy over any moral or ideological considerations. Realpolitik practitioners observe the conditions around them to determine the best course of action. In Italy, Cavour diplomatically manoevered his way to enhance support for Sardinia-Piedmont’s goals depending on the relations other countries had with Austria.

#### 4.6.4 Crimean War (1854–56)

- Austria: Russia dominates Balkans or UK/France dictate terms without Austrian interest only choice was neutrality
- Cavour saw chance to get international recognition (Paris Congress 1856)
- July 1858 at Plombieres Napoleon III secretly meets with Cavour:
  - Piedmont to entice conflict with Austria; France intervenes
  - Piedmont to get Lombardy and Venetia; Savoy & Nice to France
  - Alliance declared by marriage between Napoleon III’s cousin and daughter of Victor Emmanuel II

### 4.6.5 War of 1859



*Giuseppe Garibaldi, commander of the Redshirts*

- Orsini Incident (1858): failed assassination attempt on Napoleon III; no links to Cavour but he mustered French support at Plombieres
- Conservative turn for Cavour, as more radicals are isolated. This included Mazzini, who had a dead sentence standing until 1866
- Russia neutral, Britain opposed, while Prussia happy to see weak Austria
- April 1859: Austrians provoked in north Italy, fighting begins as planned
- June: Battle of Solferino heavy casualties; Napoleon III traumatised
- July: Treaty of Villafranca between France & Austria:
  - Napoleon III appalled by bloodshed, felt Piedmont was slacking
  - Limited French reserves as Prussians occupy Rhineland
  - Fear of long conflict; differing ideas of united Italy. Napoleon III favoured federation under the pope, Cavour wanted Piedmont lead
- Piedmont forced to settle conflict with Austria in weakened position
  - Only Lombardy gained, but Savoy & Nice kept
  - Following uprisings in Parma, Modena and Tuscany, **plebiscite** votes for merging with Sardinia-Piedmont
  - Treaty of Turin 1860: France gains Savoy and Nice while central Italian states transferred to Sardinia

**Plebiscite:** A referendum to decide key public debates. In the Italian case, plebiscites were held in various states to confirm the annexation of territory to the Kingdom of Sardinia and later to the Kingdom of Italy.

#### 4.6.6 **Buccaneering moves by Giuseppe Garibaldi (1860–61)**

- Loyal to Victor Emmanuel II, but doesn't comply with Cavour due to loss of Nice (birthplace) to France
- Supports revolt in Sicily 1860 with Redshirt volunteers
- Cavour fears a monarch north vs republican south as Garibaldi gained success
  - Bold move as Piedmont occupies Papal States before Garibaldi reached Rome
  - They joined Garibaldi to defeat Neapolitan resistance
  - Italian kingdom under Victor Emmanuel II accepted
  - Plebiscite held → Papal States & Sicily under Sardinia-Piedmont

#### 4.6.7 **Taking Venetia and Rome (1866–70)**

- Years 1861–70 proved troubling
  - Everything rushed; no able statesman like Cavour
  - Strong local loyalties rather than new Italian state
  - Political issues: monarchist, republican and federalist division
  - Poor economy, modernisation slow
  - Eventually, many emigrated to United States or Argentina
- Attempts to fix issues
  - Due to various dialects, official language needed to get 'Italian' hegemony; Florentine-Tuscan dialect adopted
  - How to establish 'Italian' civic consciousness? → Constitution's restrictive clauses only allowed 500.000 people to vote
  - Rome desired as the new capital, but still in papal hands
- Victor Emmanuel II agreed to side with Prussia in Seven Weeks War
  - Venetia gained via France, who acted as neutral negotiator for Austria
  - Plebiscite for Venetia confirms transfer to Italian Kingdom
- Acquisition of Rome
  - Since 1849, under French protection; Franco-Prussian war and Napoleon III's downfall gives Italy chance to annex
  - Initially, diplomatic means attempted but force eventually used
  - 1871, Rome made capital. Florence, initially used as capital to appease non-Piedmontese, is no longer seat of government

## 4.7 Impact of Congress of Vienna



Episode 4

*Map of Central Europe in 1815*

- Old Holy Roman Empire institution disbanded for a confederacy
- Prussia and Austria clear rivals; issue of dualism → Germany with or without Austria
- Vormärz Period (1815–1830), a.k.a ‘Age of Metternich’
  - Conservative response to growing liberalism; censorship & arrests
  - Carsblad Decrees following assassination of August von Kotzebue (1819)
  - Insurrection of 1830, Hambach Festival of 1832



## 4.8 Economic and Social Change Before 1849

**Zollverein:** Formed by 1834, the Zollverein was an economic union among the (mainly northern) states in the German confederacy. This economic union, pushed for by Prussia, dismantled protectionist barriers and helped spread trade goods. Austria was not included, as Vienna sought to maintain protection for her industries.

- By 1834, **Zollverein** grew into powerful economic institution in the north German states
  - Break protectionist barriers
  - Improved rail and water routes
  - Increased spread of goods
- Industrialised areas in Ruhr valley, Rhineland and Saar
- Literary movement (Vormarz) on economic unity and expanded liberal thought
- Increased efforts by German states and Metternich to suppress liberal movements

## 4.9 Revolutions of 1848–49



*Scene of the 1848 Revolution in Berlin*

### 4.9.1 Causes

1. Growing middle class & movement based on French Revolution, liberal ideals
2. Those upset with protectionist means; Zollverein favour

3. Demand for freedom of press, assembly, constitution and parliament
4. (Liberals) limit church, republicanism, free trade (Nationalists) → national unity  
(Radicals) democrats → universal male **suffrage** Socialists → worker's ownership

**Suffrage:** The right to vote, suffrage was desired throughout Europe during the age of revolution. Pushed heavily by the democrats, suffrage during this period would mainly be granted to male citizens above the age 25. In Germany, suffrage would be conducted through secret ballots and determined the representatives in the Reichstag.

### 4.9.2 Nature

1. Demonstrations; forced abdication of king in France and Metternich in Austria
2. Attempted unification through Frankfurt Parliament (1848); 'lesser German solution'
3. People involved:
  - Frederick William IV (King of Prussia)
  - Gustav Struve (Baden revolutionary)
  - Friedrich Hecker (Baden revolutionary)
4. 'March Demand' (1848) in Mannheim. Arming the people, freedom of press, public jury courts, Pan-German parliament

### 4.9.3 Defeat

→ Mainly due to lack of cohesion amongst political groups

1. April 1849: Frederick William IV declines offer failed imperial constitution
2. May: Further clashes but military puts down revolutionaries
3. June: Baden Republic; ended by Prussia and Wurttemberg

### 4.9.4 Consequences

1. Counter-revolutionary developments; consolidation of monarch powers
2. Mass emigration to United States
3. Established future goals for democracy & unified state
4. Lesser German solution more likely
5. Feudalism definitely ended
6. Some improvements regarding freedom of press

## 4.10 Rise of Prussia and Decline of Austria



*Otto von Bismarck, Chief Minister of Prussia and first Chancellor of Germany*

### Prussia

- Leading state in north, primarily due to economic unity of Zollverein
- Ethnic and religious unity for most part
- Military reorganisation (Von Moltke & Roon)
- Cultural homogenisation through literary works and intellectual debates
- Following Congress of Vienna, more territory and people gained
- Role of Bismarck

### Austria

- Despite Congress of Vienna, Austrian power not fully consolidated; Prussia rivalry
- Lots of religious and ethnic minorities in empire, particularly Hungary
- Protectionist economy, underdeveloped rail system
- Hit hard by 1848 revolution
- Lost Russian ally in Crimean War; war with France-Piedmont in 1859
- Some prestige gained in Olmutz (1850): Prussia to forget failed Erfurt Union



## 4.11 Role of Otto von Bismarck in Unification

### 4.11.1 Prussian Junker, elected to Prussian Diet in 1847; attacked liberals

### 4.11.2 Initial moves

1. 1851: Represented Prussia in revived German Confederation
2. Sent to St. Petersburg (1859–62) & Paris (1862) due to Wilhelm I's distrust
3. 1862 reform crisis; Wilhelm I recalled Bismarck → Chief minister
4. Encouraged king to defy Diet; levied taxes & ignored liberals
5. Few protests due to weak stance, what was next? (*Blood & Iron* speech)

### 4.11.3 Helping factors

1. Prussian army reforms → 'best in Europe'
2. 'German nationalism' (1848 revolution); 1859 national association to promote Prussia
3. International stance: UK non-interventionist, France instability, Russia post-Crimea, Austria broke

### 4.11.4 Military moves

1. Schleswig-Holstein question 1864; Bismarck determined to keep region
2. UK protest, Russia 'agreement' over Poland, France v Mexico; only Austria
3. Quick war with Denmark; Gastein Convention (1865) → Holstein for Austria, Schleswig for Prussia
4. Bismarck provokes Austria; reason? 'Gastein agreement broken'
5. Seven Weeks War with Austria: Confederation dissolved, opposing states clamped down & Austria utterly defeated at Battle of Sadowa
6. Treaty of Prague (1866)
  - Austria to agree end of German Confederacy
  - Austria no longer allowed in any German organisation
  - Prussia to absorb Hannover, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, Frankfurt and Schleswig-Holstein
  - Venetia to Italy
  - Austria not humiliated too much; Bismarck saw potential future use



#### Episode 5

**Junker:** Members of the landed nobility in Prussia, Junkers held considerable wealth and power. They owned large estates that were worked by peasants. Throughout this period, Junkers were influential in the economic and political sphere. They made sure that monarchic influence was maintained and that their class interests were prioritised. Despite the formation of a semi-parliamentary system, the Junkers were supported by conservative-leaning parties.

### 4.11.5 Changes to the German State

1. New North German Confederacy with Prussian King as president
2. States kept own rulers and government
3. President could: control foreign policy, military & appoint chancellor (Bismarck)
4. Bundesrat: Representatives from states according to size; Prussian domination
5. Reichstag: Elected by universal male suffrage; later led to constitution

### 4.11.6 Franco-Prussian War

1. 1868 revolution in Spain → Isabella II expelled; new monarch sought
2. Bismarck keen to spread Prussian influence → Prince Leopold offered
3. France nervous about Spanish situation, sought reassurances from Prussia
4. Ems Telegram
  - Informal meeting between French ambassador and King Wilhelm I
  - Wilhelm I politely refused French needs; Bismarck edited account to strengthen language of French demands and abrupt nature of Wilhelm I → insulting to both France and Prussia
5. French public call for war; trap worked
6. Conflict from 1870–71
7. No allies for France; confident → Prussia meanwhile rallies southern German states
8. Treaty of Frankfurt
  - Ratification of previous Versailles treaty
  - Alsace & east Lorraine to be ceded to Prussia
  - Large indemnity; German occupation until payment complete
  - South German states felt closer to north
9. German Empire proclaimed on January 1871
  - Wilhelm I only accepted title from other princes, many were manipulated by Bismarck



## 4.12 New Germany: Domestic Policy



*Kaiser Wilhelm I*

### 4.12.1 New empire= new constitution; based on North German

1. Federation of states with power & functions divided
2. One federal govt. & 25 state govt.
3. True democracy? → military monarchy/semi-autocracy/'sham' constitutional state
4. Monarch head of civil service, military
5. Prussian dominance

## 4.13 Bismarck Criticism

- Accused of weakening Prussia
- Personal influence over Wilhelm I
- Did not work with rivals; no collective govt.
- Nepotism → son held Secretary of State office (1886)
- Reputation of bullying; accused of being dictator

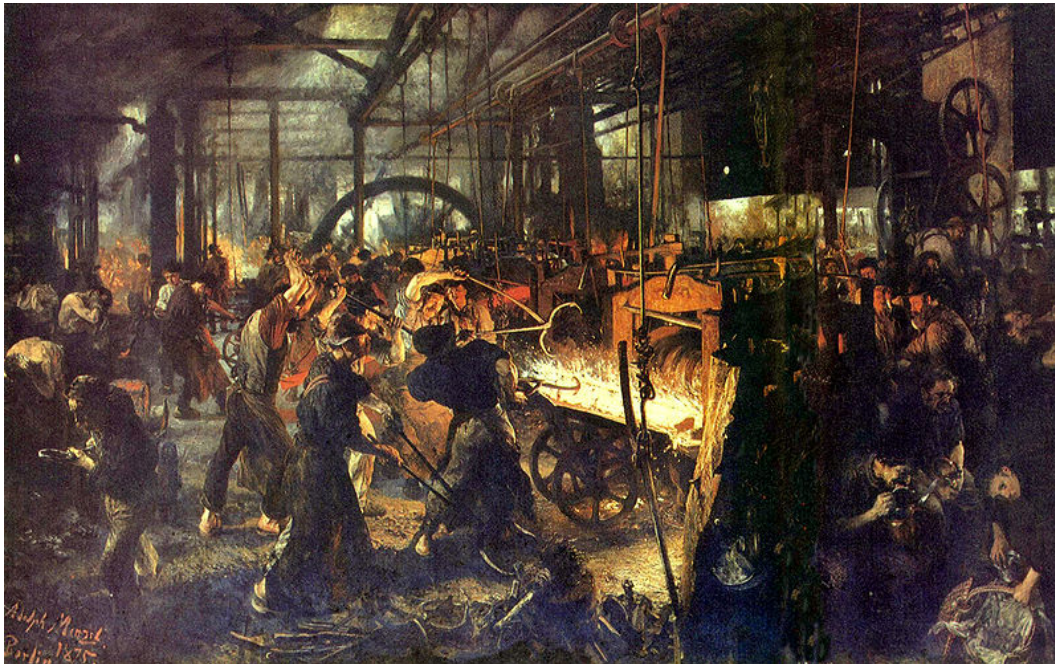
### 4.13.1 Holdbacks?

1. Federation meant dispersal of power; could ignore Bismarck
2. Reichstag had significant power
3. Poor health

### 4.14 Democracy?

- Bismarck believed in tradition –rule by monarch, military (& himself)
- The army
  1. Generals had big influence; military loyalty to emperor, not state
  2. Conscription forced all men to nationalistic & militaristic ideologies
  3. Independent budget as Reichstag disapproved
- Yet Reichstag had good power:
  1. Could refuse consent for legislation & bills
  2. Bismarck couldn't ignore elected parties
  3. However, Bismarck could dissolve parliament & call for fresh elections  
→ used international problems to win people over
  4. Reichstag still influenced Bismarck → acceptance of minorities, Catholics & socialists

## 4.15 Internal Divisions



*The Eisenwalzwerk, painted by Adolph Menzel*

- Clash of traditions & religion
- 10% weren't ethnic German
- Rich north & west industrialised
- South & east rural, agriculture
- Germany couldn't be taken for granted!

## 4.16 Economic & Social Aspects

- Defeat of France= stimulus to German economy
- Alsace-Lorraine rich in coal
- French indemnity helped
- German banks provided capital for new industries, e.g. electricity
- Brief downturn 1873, still averaged 3% growth
- Key industries → coal, steel and railways
- Education system; illiteracy 1%

- Population & life expectancy boom
- Rapid town growth & industrialisation
- Rigid class divisions
- Best jobs to nobility
- Middle class expansion → mainly still in agriculture

## 4.17 Bismarck's Domestic Record

- 'Liberal Era' (pre 1870) & 'Conservative Era' until 1890
- 1870s Bismarck cooperation with liberals
- Middle class admiration for Bismarck, both opposed Catholic Church
- 1870s saw end to economic & legal conflicts
- New additions:
  1. National currency
  2. Reichsbank created
  3. Tariffs & barriers abolished
  4. Standardisation of laws
- Disagreements:
  1. Bismarck unhappy with extension of parliamentary democracy
  2. Liberals unhappy with military budget-independent until 1874
  3. Budget compromise to avoid re-election drama



## Kulturkampf

Afraid of the possibility of papal interference and the rise of the Catholic Centre Party in 1870, Bismarck launched Kulturkampf—loosely translated as ‘the struggle for culture’. The goal of the campaign was to undermine the strength of the Catholic Church and for Bismarck to obtain support from anti-Catholic liberals and conservative elites. In 1872 Catholic schools were put under state supervision and by the following year the May Laws were passed. Some components of the laws included state approval for all religious appointments and that priests in training were to attend secular universities. By 1876, church subsidies were put on hold and roughly 1000 priests were suspended.

Kulturkampf did not have the effects Bismarck had hoped for. Since the campaigns looked to separate church from state, many Protestant figures also protested. By 1874 the Catholic Centre Party became the largest political group and support for the religion grew. From the early 1870s, diplomatic relations between Berlin and the Vatican was virtually non-existent. However, pope Leo XIII was more relaxed than his predecessor and in the 1880s relations resumed.

Due to domestic and foreign events, the rise of socialism was deemed to be a bigger threat. Yet Bismarck could not successfully challenge the socialists without support from the Reichstag majority... which by this period was the Catholic Centre Party! As a result, many anti-Catholic measures were ended in the 1880s.

## 4.18 Conservative Era

- Until late 1870s, free trade policy –National Liberals main support
- 1879, Bismarck change → conservatives, centre parties & protectionists
- Why?
  1. Poor harvests forced reliance on foreign import
  2. Industry slowed down (1873), liberalism ‘failed’
  3. France, Russia & Austria introduced protectionist means
  4. New tariffs provided income for Reichstag
- Decline of liberal parties, Bismarck needed to broaden
- 1879 General tariff Bill
- Bismarck & conservatives united
- National Liberals fragmented
- North & south united more
- Internal market grew
- Higher bread prices

## 4.19 The Socialists

- Universal German Workingmen's Association (Prussia 1863)
- Aim? Help workers obtain rights by peaceful means
- 1869 Social Democratic Worker's Party founded –wanted to overthrow bourgeoisie
- 1875 both united to form German Democratic Party (SDP)
  1. Wanted to legally overthrow current system
  2. Social equality
  3. Nationalisation of banks & industry

### 4.19.1 Bismarck's reaction?

1. Hostile–saw them as dangerous anarchists. Socialists gained more support: 12 Reichstag seats by 1877
2. 1876–bill to prevent socialist propaganda failed
3. 1878–assassination attempt on Wilhelm I by anarchists; Bismarck opportunity but liberals opposed.
4. Another attempt pushed Bismarck to dissolve Reichstag–new one mainly conservatives passed anti-socialist bill

### 4.19.2 Results?

1. Socialism went underground–elections overlooked
2. 1890: 35 party seats & model for other European socialists
3. Bismarck's repressive measures failed → Catholics & socialists grew stronger
4. Bismarck forced into 'state socialism' to gain more support

### 4.19.3 State socialism

1. Bismarck & State obligation to protect people
2. 1883: Sickness Insurance Act
3. 1884: Accident Insurance Act
4. 1889: Old Age & Disability Act
5. Not all workers happy – trade unions still banned



6. No regulation for hours, child/female labour and conditions
7. Bismarck's most important legacy? → Blueprint for other nation's social provisions

## 4.20 Foreign Policy



*The Berlin Conference of 1884, where European powers divided the African continent*



Episode 8

### 4.20.1 Problems in 1871?

1. Troubled relations with European states
2. Struggles over markets
3. Rise of new economic & political powers
4. Arms race
5. 'Racial superiority'/Darwinian theory

### 4.20.2 French factor:

1. Sought revenge for 1871
2. Wanted Alsace-Lorraine back
3. Wanted alliance with Russia or Austria
4. Threat to German unity

### 4.20.3 Bismarck's objectives:

1. Keep Russia & Austria on his side
2. Keep Eastern Europe stable
3. Keep peace in Germany
4. Keep France isolated

### 4.20.4 Policies?

1. Reassure Europe that Germany had no more territorial ambitions
2. 1873 League of Three Emperors—improved relations with Austria-Hungary and Russia
3. Russia anxious—Tripartite talks over Balkans
4. Discussion on 'common enemies' (e.g. republicanism, socialism)

### 4.20.5 French on the move

1. Rapid military reorganisation, end of war debt payment by 1873
2. Germany stopped horse exports to France
3. War on the horizon? → other powers not on same page, Bismarck warned off

### 4.20.6 Balkan Crisis 1875

1. Christians in Bosnia revolt against Ottomans
2. 1876 revolt spread to Bulgaria & Montenegro
3. Serbia declared war on Turkey
4. Russian volunteers in region; Austrian response?
5. Bismarck concerns: having to take sides, French involvement

### 4.20.7 Solution?

1. 1877—Austrian neutrality ensured in exchange for Bosnia & no large state to be established in Balkans
2. Russia defeats Turkey (Treaty of San Stefano)

3. Austria felt cheated; mobilised
4. British naval presence, international conflict?
5. Congress of Berlin 1878

#### 4.20.8 Result?

1. Britain pleased as Russia contained
2. Russia humiliated; war gains lost &; Austria happy
3. Peace maintained but Russian displeasure towards Germany end of Dreikaiserbund; potential Franco-Russian alliance
4. Secret pact between Austria & Germany; Europe entered stage of secret pacts and alliances

#### 4.20.9 Why did Bismarck arrange this?

1. Emergency agreement—needed an ally in case of Russian hostility
2. Believed he could control Austria more than Russia
3. Believed an alliance would be popular with German Catholics
4. Three Emperor's League revival (1881) Russia, Austria & Germany
5. Triple Alliance 1882 (Germany, Austria & Italy)
6. French relations improved, Bismarck peak 1884

#### 4.20.10 Colonisation

1. Rise in imperialistic ambition
2. German Colonial Union (1882)
3. 1884–85: Germany acquired new territory in Africa & Pacific
4. Relations with Britain more important than colonies

#### 4.20.11 Bulgarian Crisis 1885

1. Threatened Austrian-Russian relations; French involvement?
2. 1887 Triple Alliance renewed

3. 1887 First Mediterranean Agreement (Italy, Britain)
4. 1887 Reinsurance Treaty (Germany, Russia)
5. Results?

- Relations did not improve after 1887
- Treaty did not end Balkan crisis
- No German loans to Russia

Question box

1. Assess the role played by Cavour. How does he compare with Mazzini and Garibaldi?
2. Why did Prussia unify the German states and not Austria?
3. Identify Bismarck's goals in the years 1871–1890. How successful were his policies?

## 4.21 Sources and Further Reading

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# IMPERIAL RUSSIA & USSR: 1855-1924



Alexander II (1818-1881)

- 1855: Became Tsar
- 1856: Russian defeat in Crimean War
- 1861: Serfdom abolished
- 1864: Zemstva formed
- 1865: Censorship reforms
- 1869: 'Communist Manifesto' translated into Russian
- 1877: Russo-Turkish War
- 1880: Massive famine
- 1881: Assassinated by People's Will

Alexander III (1845-1894)

- 1881: Became tsar; start of Russification
- 1882: Okhrana powers expanded
- 1883: First Marxist group in Russia
- 1889: Land captains
- 1891: Massive famines
- 1892: Act to limit vote
- 1894: Died from kidney failure



Nicholas II (1868-1918)

- 1894: Became tsar
- 1895: Lenin exiled
- 1896: Zemstva abolished
- 1898: Russian Social Democratic Worker's Party formed
- 1901: Worldwide depression
- 1903: Anti-Semitic pogroms
- 1904: Russo-Japanese War
- 1905: Bloody Sunday; October Manifesto
- 1914: World War 1
- 1917: February + October Revolution
- 1918: Assassination of Romanovs





Episode 1

**Serf:** Labourer bound to feudal system and tied to lord's land.

## 5.1 Alexander II 1855–1881

### 5.1.1 Situation in the country

- Russia defeat in Crimean War (1853–56)
- Roughly 80% of population were **serfs**
- Country lagged in technological advancement

### 5.1.2 Alexander II's response → Reforms

- Increase government control as power of tsarist rule waned
- Industrialisation important to usher Russia into new age
- Economically, serfs may not be as profitable. Socially, stability was needed → “It is better to abolish serfdom from above than wait for the time when it will begin to abolish itself from below” (1856 speech)
- Crimea showed that military needed to be significantly improved

### 5.1.3 Reform results?

- Censorship relaxed, some liberties given and prisoners pardoned
- Peasants given some land owned by the nobility or state; however, not all land was valuable or large
- **Mir** setup to organise peasants; however, travel was restricted so peasants weren't as free
- Peasants often found themselves amassing lots of debt
- **Zemstvo** established to address local administration, education, healthcare etc. → Dominated by nobles
- Judicial system improved: all classes equal before the law
- Education revamp: universities could obtain more students; women were allowed to enrol; Press Law of 1865 relaxed academic censorship
- Military restructuring: severe punishments abolished; years of service reduced; universal military service expanded
- Economy: Railroad development from 1870s, however, Russia still lagged behind primarily due to the country's size. Tax system modernised for efficiency and coal production increased

**Mir:** Village commune in pre-revolutionary Russia in which land was jointly owned by individual families.

**Zemstvo:** A liberal organisation, they were local elected assemblies to carry out tasks such as education and taxation.



### 5.1.4 Oppositions to Alexander II

- Conservatives: Resented new changes as they lost prestige and privileges
- Liberals: Disappointed with the lack of progress; wanted national assembly
- Peasant class: Payments for land seen as an injustice
- Radicals: Groups such as **People's Will** wanted more extreme changes, such as end of monarchy
- Nationalists: Groups, such as Poles, felt more nationalist. Between 1861–63, various riots occurred in Poland that had to be put down. Jews emancipated and Warsaw University reopened to appease Poles

**People's Will:** Emerged in 1879, this was a political group that advocated change for the peasant class and believed in the efficacy of terrorism.

### 5.1.5 Russo-Turkish War 1877–78



*Ottoman and Russian troops clash during the war of 1877–78*

- Revenge for Crimea defeat
- Russia wanted to support Balkan states and Orthodox populations → Sought reassurances from Austria-Hungary to avoid struggle in region; Britain and France unsure of support for Ottomans
- Ottoman Empire on decline → “War between the one-eyed and the blind” (Prussia’s Frederick II)

- Russian victory: oversaw independence of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro. Many gains returned following pressure from Great Powers

### 5.1.6 Views of Alexander II

**Okhrana:** Security organisation set up following assassination of Alexander II.

**Marxist:** A supporter of the political and economic theories of Karl Marx, who discussed the effects of material conditions in history and the class struggles.

- True reformer or focused on strengthening Romanovs? → Various scale backs after 1866 when assassination attempt was made. **Okhrana** given more options to enforce order; many imprisoned or exiled
- Emancipation of serfs only due to lack of profitability for nobles (**Marxist** view)
- Westwood: Reforms should be considered as important, successful changes
- Watson: Alexander II was in tough position to compromise between tsardom and modernity
- Saunders: Reforms not carried out efficiently, but still considered progressive moves

## 5.2 Alexander III 1881–1894



Episode 2

### 5.2.1 Conservative champion

- Alexander III sought to strengthen autocracy following assassination of father
- Many imprisoned or executed; over 10,000 rounded up → from 1881, security enforcement given more powers to tackle revolutionaries
- Censorship increased and universities lost freedom
- Peasants given harder time to obtain education, which fell under state control
- Alexander II's late plans for national assembly shelved; zemstva closure plans abandoned due to extreme nature
- Land enforcers introduced: appointed by Interior Ministry, they had power to use corporal punishment; arrest peasants without fair trial and overrule decisions of peasant courts
- 1881 Manifesto: "Autocracy, Orthodoxy, Nationality". Alexander III to promote strong central government and reject democracy. Russification campaigns to occur, which saw many Jews suffer.

### 5.2.2 Look on reforms

- Tsar was aware of country's problems so adopted some measures to improve economy and industry with the aid of various ministers, such as Nikolai Bunge



- Peasant's Land Bank (1881): Helped peasants purchase land from the mir
- Poll tax abolished in 1886: Alleviated peasants from financial burden
- Set up provisions to improve working conditions, although this was not enforced properly
- With use of loans from abroad, industrialisation programmes took off. Coal production doubled during this period and Russia even had a budget surplus in 1892
- **Famines** of 1891–92: Roughly two million died

**Famines:** Extreme scarcity of food. Famines greatly contributed to the downfall of tsardom.

### 5.2.3 Sergei Witte, Minister of Finance (1892–1903)



*Sergei Witte*

- Noticed backwardness of Russian agricultural sector and believed rapid industrialisation was the way forward
- Plans included: tariffs on foreign goods, attraction of foreign capital, placing currency on the gold standard and pushing workers even more
- Using foreign loans, managed to expand Russian rail network including the construction of the Trans-Siberian route → Industrial output also increased, however, working conditions declined

### 5.2.4 Views of Alexander III

- Economically developed Russia although the country was still behind other European powers
- Undermined father's reforms in order to strengthen nobility and the autocracy

- Socially worsened conditions for many Russians, as seen in work exploitation and deaths from famines
- Figs: Russification campaigns demoralising and ridiculous

## 5.3 Nicholas II 1894–1917



Episode 3

**Bolsheviks:** A Marxist faction in Russian politics, they seized power in 1917 following the October Revolution.

### 5.3.1 Problems of Russia

- Very limited and late modernisation and industrialisation programmes
- Exploding population increased nationwide poverty
- Low income, large amounts of debt and limited food supply
- Revolutionary fever increased due to conditions in the country and spread of Marxist ideas → Rise of opposition groups such as Social Democrats and **Bolsheviks**
- Nicholas II options: maintain autocracy; adopt British or German style governments; go for liberal solution of shared power

### 5.3.2 Russo-Japanese War 1904–05

- Russian expansion in the Far East collided with Japanese interest in the region, particularly in the Korean peninsula
- Russia refused to withdraw troops from Manchuria in 1903; year later Japan attacked navy at Port Arthur by surprise
- War could revitalise Russia in face of increasing domestic crises
- Due to poor preparation and Japanese organisation, Russia lost the war → Critical defeats at Mukden and Tsushima
- Russian prestige greatly damaged and opposition groups got louder

### 5.3.3 1905 Revolution: long term causes

- Young intellectuals influenced by European thought wanted change
- Social Revolutionaries wanted peasant revolution based off of mir collectives
- Social Democrats wanted urban working class revolution to establish socialist state
- Middle-class liberals wanted voices heard in national assemblies

- Oppressed nationalities wanted end of Russification campaigns
- Workers generally wanted better conditions and pay; peasants wanted more land
- Famines hit large sections of the population → Government failed to address properly
- Tsar government was heavily oppressive and refused to give concessions

### 5.3.4 1905 Revolution: short term causes

- Defeat against Japan was too much to bare → Increased social and economic strains
- Bloody Sunday: Peaceful protestors, led by Father Gapon, shot at by tsarist troops in January 1905
- Nicholas II despised and tsar no longer seen as ‘father of the people’



*“Bloody Sunday” (1905): Russian troops clash with petitioners led by Father Gapon*

### 5.3.5 Revolution and results

**Soviets:** Workers councils that replaced the zemstva.

**Kadets:** Constitutional Democratic Party that dominated the Provisional Government but lacked a mandate for legitimacy.

- Workers in St. Petersburg strike in response to Bloody Sunday
- Uprisings across the country and rail strikes put economy on standstill
- Various **Soviets** created and groups such as **Kadets** formed
- Imperial troops managed to put riots down; rebels were disorganised and many key figures, such as Trotsky, were arrested
- Nicholas II to appease opposition with October Manifesto

History box.

#### October Manifesto and the Duma

Nicholas II outlined some promises for change in the October Manifesto. Some of these changes included: the introduction of elected legislative bodies (Duma), the abolishment of redemption payments and the formation of a constitutional monarchy. However, in 1906 the Fundamental Laws were declared which reasserted the tsar's rule. The laws limited Duma power as policies required permission from Nicholas II. Although political parties formed and provided a forum for political debate, it was not what many had hoped for. Electoral power was maintained by the upper middle-class, the tsar could block any motions and a representative body wasn't formed. The first Duma was dissolved after 73 days.

### 5.3.6 Peter Stolypin, Chief Minister 1906–1911

- Change greatly needed, particularly in rural areas → 1906 Agrarian Reforms saw reformed peasant bank; end of redemption payments and improved inheritance laws
- Agricultural output increased but Russia was still behind many European powers
- Best land maintained by tsar and nobles; overpopulation not addressed
- While reforms seemed promising, they agitated and alienated many groups → Stolypin was assassinated in 1911

### 5.3.7 Impact of the First World War

- Initial enthusiasm: first 6 months support was strong until army's poor performance against Germany
- From 1915, army suffered many defeats and death toll on the rise. Army also lacked equipment and modern weaponry → Nicholas II takes command
- Inflation and unemployment on the rise; Russia faced food and supply shortages
- 1916 Brusilov Offensive met with some success, but the strain was too much



Episode 4

### 5.3.8 Road to 1917

- With Nicholas II at front, government affairs largely left to Tsarina Alexandra and inept ministers
- Mystic Rasputin gained more influence: many nobles and locals distrusted him and Romanovs
- Cities suffered greatly due to the war effort → Government ministers couldn't solve problems
- Politically Duma had no influence and couldn't make a difference as war cabinet proposals were dismissed
- February 1917: Women's Day march saw over 200.000 take to the streets → Violent turn that saw imperial forces fire on protesters before they switched sides
- March 15: Nicholas II abdicated → Power vacuum that was filled by Provisional Government

### 5.3.9 Road to October Revolution

- Power shared between Petrograd Soviet and Provisional Government → Formed and led primarily by middle/upper class (not democratic). Alexander Kerensky a key member
- Provisional Government wanted to continue war: obliged to help allies; believed patriotism would unite country; hoped war victory would make army loyal
- Failed war offensive led to more riots → July Days saw Bolsheviks clash with government forces. Radicals lost and leaders were arrested. "Peaceful revolution not possible"
- Kornilov Affair: Military coup threatened government's position → Kerensky frees and arms Bolsheviks to help but they got stronger

### April Theses

In an attempt to destabilise Russia, the Germans transported Vladimir Lenin in a sealed train from Switzerland. A radical political theorist, Lenin spent time abroad writing books on Russia, capitalism and imperialism. When he arrived in Finland in April, he spoke to the crowd and denounced the Provisional Government. Known as the April Theses, some key points included:

- All power to the Soviets
- All land to the peasants
- A call for peace

Lenin's speech galvanised the Bolsheviks, who then sought to exert more influence onto the unstable government.

### 5.3.10 October Revolution



Episode 5



*Trotsky was an important figure for the Bolsheviks. He led the Red Army to victory during the Civil War.*

- July Days damaged Bolshevik and Lenin's image → However, they were boosted following the Kornilov Affair. Bolsheviks 'defenders of Petrograd'
- April Theses made ideological appeal, as support for Bolsheviks increased → "bread, peace and land"

- Oratory skills and charisma of Trotsky (Chairman of Petrograd) → At Congress of All-Russian Soviets, Bolsheviks called for revolution
- *Aurora* assault on Winter Palace, 25 October: start of the revolution
- By November, many areas claimed by Bolsheviks (more difficulty in countryside) → Opponents hoped that elections would stop Bolshevik rise
- Lenin knew of external dangers: **Sovnarkom** and **Cheka** set up to maintain order
- Initial decrees:
  - Land Decree to deliver land to peasants
  - Worker’s Control Decree to recognise worker control of factories
  - Decree on Nationalities to guarantee protection of non-Russian peoples
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918): Russia to lose lots of land and pay large indemnity to Germany
- General Assembly blocked by Lenin, who didn’t believe in “bourgeois, western democracy” → Way to consolidate Bolshevik power, but kick started Russian Civil War (1918–20)

**Sovnarkom:** Temporary government organisation set up following the October Revolution to begin the structuring of the new state.

**Cheka:** Secret police set up by Lenin to suppress anti-revolutionary groups and activities.

**Sides of the Russian Civil War**

Whites	Reds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nobles, tsarists, right-wing groups</li> <li>• Several army figures; anti-Bolsheviks</li> <li>• Foreign powers (UK, France, US, Japan, Italy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolsheviks</li> <li>• Left-wing factions</li> <li>• Workers</li> </ul>

**5.3.11 Closing Years**

- Following Red Army victory, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) established
- Thanks to terror and propaganda, Lenin was able to maintain power → However, spread of communist uprising abroad failed
- Some challenges: Clash with Poland (1920), Kronstadt Revolt (1921), Tambov Rebellion (1921) and countrywide strikes
- Lenin death in 1924



Episode 6 & 7

1. Compare and contrast the reigns of Alexander II and Alexander III.
2. Analyse the causes and the results of the 1905 revolution.
3. Evaluate the impact of Nicholas II's domestic policies between 1894 and 1914.
4. Discuss the reasons for the Bolshevik victory over the Whites in the Russian Civil War.

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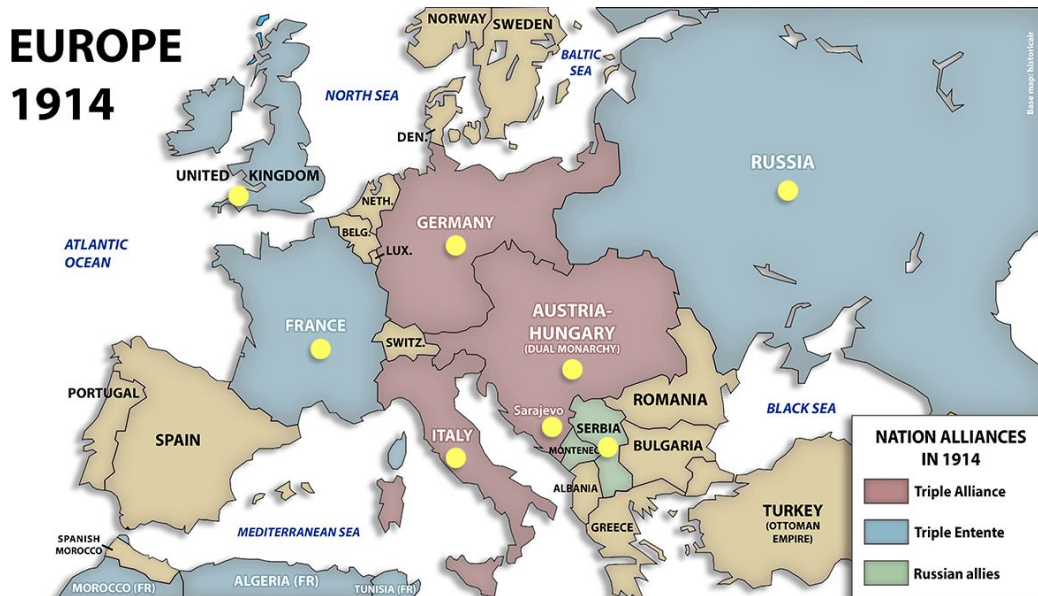
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# EUROPE AND FIRST WORLD WAR



*Map of Europe at the dawn of the Great War (1914)*

## 6.1 International relations

### 6.1.1 Franco-German relations

- Franco-Prussian War (1870–71)
- France desperate to get Alsace-Lorraine back
- Bismarck policies to isolate France; Russia isolated in 1890

### 6.1.2 Balance of power

- Fear of new industrial giant Germany
- Triple Alliance (1882) between Germany, Italy & Austria-Hungary
- Franco-Russian alliance (1894); Entente Cordiale (1904)
- Anglo-Russian alliance (1907); Triple Entente

### 6.1.3 Colonial rivalry

- By 1900, 90% of Africa was colonised by European states
- In the Far East, Qing Empire was in decline. Japan grew in power
- Wilhelm II's **Weltpolitik** (1897): Policy to acquire more colonies and expand navy. Key architects: Klaus von Bulow & Alfred von Tirpitz

**Weltpolitik:** German for 'world politics', the term refers to the imperialist foreign policy encouraged by Wilhelm II. Previously Bismarck sought a middle ground, but from the 1890s onwards the ruling class in Germany became increasingly ambitious. Weltpolitik was the move for the German state to obtain more colonies and to challenge British naval supremacy.

### 6.1.4 Moroccan Crises

- First crisis (1905–06): German government proclaimed support for Moroccan independence to undermine France
- Entente Cordiale strengthened following Berlin's posturing (Algeiras Conference 1906)
- Second crisis (1911): German gunboat Panther sent to Morocco to protest increased presence of French troops.
- Conflict avoided as France & Germany negotiated territorial changes. However, suspicions of German intentions led to 1912 naval cooperation between France and Britain

## 6.2 Militarisation

### 6.2.1 Naval expansion

- German Naval Laws (1898 & 1900): 3 new battleships/year until 1920
- 1906: Anglo-German naval arms race
- Development of the dreadnought-class ships

### 6.2.2 General arms race

- Increased military expenditures and expansion of armed forces
- 1908 Russian expansion: by war, roughly 6 million mobilised
- German initiative due to encirclement fears

### 6.2.3 Schlieffen Plan

- Devised by Count von Schlieffen to avoid two-front war against France and Russia
- Idea was to defeat France while Russia mobilised
- Required entry via Belgium, a neutral country guaranteed by great powers in the Treaty of London (1839)

## 6.3 The Balkans

### 6.3.1 Decline of Ottoman Empire, the 'Sick Man of Europe'

- Weakened position following Russo-Turkish War (1877–78) and Egyptian uprisings in 1880s
- Calls for greater autonomy in age of growing self-determination
- Allowed for other great powers, such as Britain, to exert more influence

### 6.3.2 Growth of Balkan nationalism

- Threatened not only Ottoman Empire, but also Austria-Hungary
- Greek independence in 1830
- Treaty of Berlin (1878): Independence for Romania, Serbia and Montenegro
- Lead role for Russia: **Pan-Slavism** from 1870s
- Bosnia-Herzegovina under Austrian administration since 1878

### 6.3.3 Bosnian Crisis (1908–09)

- Austria-Hungary decision to formally annex Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Same time as Bulgaria declared formal independence
- Great powers + Serbia and Montenegro angry → Violation of Treaty of Berlin?
- Austria-Hungary settled Bosnian question with Ottomans
- Treaty of Berlin amendment accepted by great powers; Russia & Serbia back down → Relations with Germany and Austria-Hungary severely damaged

**Pan-Slavism:** A political ideology that sought to unite the Slavic people of Europe, the movement posed various problems for the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires. As the largest Slavic nation, Russia saw itself as the leader of the movement and deepened rivalries particularly in the Balkans.

### 6.3.4 Balkan Wars (1912–13)

- Balkan League: Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro
- Aim to stop Ottoman advances on Macedonia
- Conflict ended with Treaty of London: Albania independent, but other terms not desired by Balkan states
- New conflict on horizon: Bulgaria v former allies, Romania and Ottomans
- Bulgaria defeated: Treaty of Bucharest and Constantinople
- More prestige for Serbia; Austria-Hungary wary

### 6.4 July Crisis 1914



*Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary with his wife, Sophie, during their state visit in Sarajevo.*

### 6.4.1 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to Austria-Hungary, planned state visit to Bosnia

### 6.4.2 Role of the Black Hand

- Protest administration of Bosnia under Vienna
- State visit of archduke presented opportunity
- Gavrilo Princip among six assassins in plot to kill archduke and his wife → Archduke killed in Sarajevo, June 28, 1914

### 6.4.3 Austrian response

- Assassination used for justification to send Serbia an ultimatum
- Terms included: suppression of anti-Austrian propaganda; Serbia to root out Black Hand operatives and acceptance of an Austrian-led inquiry into the assassination
- Coordinated with Berlin to obtain military assistance (“**blank cheque**”); Serbia received backing from Russia
- Serbia accepted most terms → Austria-Hungary nonetheless declared war on July 28, 1914

### 6.4.4 Breakdown of negotiations

- Despite Austrian assault on Belgrade, many powers hoped negotiations still possible
- Britain hoped all powers would discuss crisis in London; Germany rejected though France was keen
- Russia had mobilised forces near Germany and Austria-Hungary
- Kaiser Wilhelm II hoped final negotiations with Serbia could be attempted but was too late → Germany declared war on Russia when mobilisation continued
- France supported Russia and Germany faced a two-front war → Schlieffen plan put into action
- Invasion of Belgium brought Britain into the war; Ottomans joined on side of Germany following a secret treaty

**Black Hand:** A secret society that formed from 1911, the Black Hand was an organisation that primarily operated in Serbia. Some of the society’s key goals included the liberation of Slavs under foreign powers such as Austria-Hungary. Inspired by the unification movements of Italy and Germany, the Black Hand became increasingly militant in its activities.

**Blank cheque:** A figurative term that refers to an open-ended agreement where one party may act in any way to achieve its goals due to the support of the other. In the context of the First World War, Austria-Hungary was emboldened by Germany’s unconditional support during the July Crisis.

## 6.5 Who's responsible?

### 6.5.1 Germany

- Blank cheque
- Willingness from generals and kaiser
- Ignored Belgian neutrality
- Officially declared war on Russia & France

### 6.5.2 Austria-Hungary

- Sent ultimatum to Serbia
- Refused to stop mobilisation
- Exaggerated Serbian threat

### 6.5.3 France

- Germany declared war
- No consultation from Russia

### 6.5.4 Russia

- Didn't restrain Serbia
- Early mobilisation
- Deepened Balkan conflict

### 6.5.5 Britain

- Vague position
- Supported Belgium

## 6.6 Historiographical examples

### 6.6.1 John Keegan

- July Crisis
- Lack of communication

### 6.6.2 Niall Ferguson

- Role of Britain (Sir Edward Grey)
- Misinterpretation of German goals

### 6.6.3 Fritz Fischer

- German responsibility (**September Programme**; December War Council)
- Sonderweg debate contribution

**September Programme:** Drafted in the early days of the First World War, the German high command developed a plan to expand the country's territories in the far west and east of Europe. Such a plan, which included annexation of Belgium, would've declared German hegemony in Europe.



## 6.7 War on two fronts



*Armies from both sides got bogged down in trenches, deep excavations to protect soldiers from gunfire. Most trenches stretched for miles and soldiers suffered from dreadful conditions.*

### 6.7.1 Western front

- Germany put Schlieffen plan into action
- Faced stiff opposition from Belgian forces; French armies supported by British expeditionary force
- Stalemate in 1915: German advance at Ypres failed (use of chemical weapons); British advance at Neuve Chapelle & Loos failed; French advance at Champagne failed
- All sides bogged down in trench warfare

### 6.7.2 Key battles

- Verdun: Massive German advance to pin French forces down failed, some 800.000 killed
- Somme: British attempt to alleviate pressure on French forces; heavy bombardments and use of tanks but neither side gained victory

### 6.7.3 Eastern front

- Unexpectedly quick Russian mobilisation resulted in early successes
- Ottomans began attacks on Russia in late fall of 1914
- German counters highly effective: by 1915, roughly 450 km withdrawn
- Brusilov offensive: effective Russian advance that hit Austria-Hungary hard. However, the attack also depleted Russia's forces.

### 6.7.4 Other theatres

- Italy: no major ground gained by Allies but Austria-Hungary kept busy
- Turkey: Gallipoli campaign (1915–16) was success for Ottomans; Allied breakthrough in 1918
- Balkans: Central Powers generally in control until Bulgarian defeat in 1918
- Colonies: loss of Asian and African territory for Germany. Huge numbers of foreign troops brought in to fight

## 6.8 United States entry



*The sinking of the Lusitania was one of many incidents that swung public opinion in the US in favour of war.*

### 6.8.1 Stalemate in Europe

- Neither side managed to gain decisive advantages
- Battle of Cambrai was only major win for Allies
- Germany avoided two-front war following Bolshevik uprising in Russia
- Domestic problems for France as gov't continuously scrutinised

### 6.8.2 American position

- Many were against participation in the war
- Aid sent to Allies → harassed by German U-boats
- Sinking of Lusitania in 1915 greatly affected mood: more anti-German

### 6.8.3 Zimmermann Telegram (1917)

- Britain intercepted message from Germany to Mexico
- Contents included plan to involve Mexico in fight against US; return of former territories to Mexico and funding from Germany
- Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare
- Message greatly angered US public → April 6, 1917 war declared

#### Nature of War

The Great War introduced a wide variety of terrifying weapons and new strategies. At sea, the Battle of Jutland (1916) had revealed the limits of traditional naval engagement – no longer was a decisive battle possible. The conflict showed the efficacy of submarine warfare as German U-boats attempted to limit supplies reaching the Allies and as a measure to counter the blockade that had strangled the Central Powers. Escorting passenger and supply ships was known as the convoy system, which was especially important for the Allies. The development of sonar also helped defend the ship lines against submarine attacks.

On land, troops were met with deadly machine gun and artillery fire; attacked by chemical weapons; bogged down in trenches or overrun by tanks. On the western front in particular, during the long stalemate, the conflict became a war of attrition – the wearing down of troops due to sustained pressure and the lack of supplies. In other theatres, such as the eastern front, African colonies or the sands of the Ottoman Empire, soldiers faced similar hardships due to weather conditions, the lack of supplies and more powerful weapons.

Early methods of air battles also took place during the First World War. The Zeppelin was used for reconnaissance and bombing raids, while the Gotha bomber entered service from 1917. Aerial skirmishes known as dogfights became increasingly more common and important as the technology improved during the course of the war.

The development of new technological weapons was only made possible due to the total war strategies adopted by the warring states. At home, the civilian population had to contribute to the war effort by taking up new jobs, joining the army or by rationing food supplies. Propaganda became an important tool to keep up morale and to divert the population away from the conflict. The conflict gave governments new control over areas such as the economy and production, as each nation was pushed to its limits.

## 6.9 Victory for Allies

### 6.9.1 Allied blockade

- Began from 1914 but intensified after US entry
- Central Powers denied important resources, such as grain and fertilisers → deaths of thousands of civilians

### 6.9.2 Spring Offensive (March-July 1918)

- Last-ditch attack in an attempt to break Allies down before US forces arrive
- More German troops available from Eastern Front following Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- German forces overextended and could not hold ground

### 6.9.3 Hundred Days Offensive (August-November 1918)

- Following arrival of US troops, major offensive could be launched
- Began with Battle of Amiens → German troops pushed beyond **Hindenburg Line**

**Hindenburg Line:** A German defensive line that was built between 1916 and 1917. The fortification was built along the western front to provide security for the German advance into France.

### 6.9.4 Armistice

- November 11, 1918 armistice signed between Allies and Germany
- German occupation forces to leave France, Belgium, Luxembourg and greater Rhine area
- Eastern front borders returned to 1914 lines
- Treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest to be renounced

## 6.10 Reasons for Allied victory and defeat for Central Powers

### 6.10.1 Germany

- Schlieffen Plan gamble didn't pay off
- Weak allies
- Heavy defeats (e.g., Verdun)
- Low morale: defeats & economic hardships
- Spanish Flu (1918)
- Final push in 1918 failed

### 6.10.2 Allies

- Greater numbers and resources
- Control of the seas
- US involvement
- Successful offensives in 1918 and modernisation of warfare

#### Fourteen Points

On January 1918, US president Woodrow Wilson outlined his main principles to attain peace following the Great War. Known as the Fourteen Points, his Allied counterparts such as Lloyd George of Britain and Clemenceau of France were skeptical of his proposals. Nevertheless, a good component of Wilson's ideals managed to enter the discussions when the Allies met for the peace talks.

The points of Wilson's speech included:

- Abolition of secret diplomacy
- Free navigation on seas
- Free trade
- Disarmament
- Colonies to have their say
- German troops out of Russia
- Restoration of Belgium

- Alsace-Lorraine to France
- Austria-Italy border to be fixed
- Self-determination for Austria-Hungary people
- Serbia to have sea access
- Self-determination for peoples in Ottoman empire; Dardanelles to be opened
- Poland to become independent
- League of Nations to be established

## 6.11 Making peace

### 6.11.1 Goals of major allies

- Britain: reduce German navy, seize colonies but less severe settlement
- France: heavy sanctions, regain territories and retain relations with US and UK
- United States: lead new world order of liberal democracy, push for self-determination (President Wilson's Fourteen Points)
- Italy: meet terms of Treaty of London, gain new territories
- Japan: retain gained German territories in Asia, inclusion of racial equality clause

### 6.11.2 Treaty of Versailles (June 28, 1919)

- Between Germany & Britain, France, US, Japan and Italy
- Terms of Brest-Litovsk (1917) and Versailles & Frankfurt (1871) rescinded
- Loss of territory and roughly 7 million people for Germany
- Massive reparations to be paid
- Occupation of Ruhr area by France and Belgium; coal output given to France
- Colonies turned into mandates administered by Allied powers
- Military restrictions
- Various clauses including war guilt, war crimes and prohibition to merge with Austria
- Establishment of the **League of Nations**

**League of Nations:** An international organisation that formed following the Paris Peace Conference, the brainchild of President Wilson was supposed to ensure global peace and cooperation. However, the League of Nations failed to live up to its expectations during the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



### 6.11.3 Reactions to Versailles

- France: generally pleased to meet war goals (Alsace-Lorraine & reparations) however deemed not harsh enough.
- Britain: strength of navy was already attained so policy towards Germany focused on creating buffer against USSR. Felt terms were too harsh
- United States: terms could not be ratified so a separate treaty was arranged in 1921
- Italy: felt cheated that treaty did not grant desired territories

### 6.11.4 Other treaties

- St. Germain (1919) with Austria
- Neuilly (1919) with Bulgaria
- Trianon (1920) with Hungary
- Sevres (1920) with Ottoman Empire → followed by Treaty of Lausanne (1923) after Turkish independence war

## 6.12 Results of World War I



*The delegation at the Paris Peace Conference, where the terms to the end the gruesome conflict were discussed.*

### 6.12.1 Human cost

- Roughly over 30 million deaths

### 6.12.2 Economic cost

- Initially war had boosted economies due to increased manufacturing and investments
- Destruction laid waste to infrastructure and labour pool
- Many nations found themselves with massive debts to pay for the war effort
- Rising inflation and lack of gold reserves to prop up currencies

### 6.12.3 Political change

- End of empires: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman and Russia
- Growth of global prominence for United States
- Rise of liberal democracies and move for international cooperation

## 6.13 Sources and Further Reading

Herwig, H. H. (2011). *The marne, 1914: The opening of World War I and the battle that changed the world*. New York, NY: Random House.

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