

Useful Info #3

European Diplomacy, 1871-1914

A Basic Chronology

1870-71	Franco-Prussian War & final unification of Germany
1873	Creation of first League of Three Emperors (Russia, Germany, Austria)
1877-78	Russo-Turkish war (full independence for several Balkan states)
1879	Austro-German Treaty (cornerstone of German diplomacy until 1918)
1881	Resurrection of Three Emperors' League
1882	Italy joins Austro-German alliance (1879), creating Triple Alliance
1887	Bismarck engineers the "Reinsurance Treaty" between Russia & Germany
1890	Dismissal of Bismarck; lapse of "Reinsurance Treaty"
1894	Franco-Russian alliance formed
1899-1902	Boer War: Britain fights war against Dutch settlers in South Africa
1902	Anglo-Japanese alliance (directed against Russia)
1903	Coup in Serbia: Karageorgevic dynasty replaces Obrenovic
1904	Formation of the Franco-British Entente
1904-05	Russo-Japanese War, helps to precipitate Revolution of 1905 in Russia
1905	First Moroccan Crisis
1906-11	"Pig War": Austria blocks import of Serbian livestock into Hapsburg Monarchy
1907	Russo-British Entente, creates "Triple Entente" (France, Britain, Russia)*
1908	Bosnian Annexation Crisis
1911	Second Moroccan Crisis
1912	First Balkan War: Balkan states gang up on Ottoman Empire
1913	Second Balkan War: Serbia, Greece, & Ottoman Empire gang up on Bulgaria
1914	"July Crisis" & outbreak of World War I

Six diplomatic trends, 1871-1914

1. Emergence of armed camps
2. "Encirclement" of Germany
3. End of British isolation
4. Increasing instability in Balkans due to decline of Ottoman Empire
5. Emergence of an intense Austro-Serbian antagonism (esp. after 1903)
6. Arms race from 1912, occasioned by series of diplomatic crises in 1905-11

Terms, places, & other stuff worth knowing

Black Hand	Macedonia	
Alsace-Lorraine	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Young Turks
"encirclement" of Germany	Boer War	Obrenovic / Karageorgevic
"Pig War"		

* Actually, this could be considered a Quadruple Entente, since this agreement included Japan as well.

**Some Smokin' Statistics
On Arms & Military Strength on the Eve of the War***

Armies of 4 Principal Powers

	Russia & France	Germany & Austria	Total Military Personnel as % of Population			
			1900	1910	1913/14	
1909	1,776,000	979,000	Russia	0.86	0.81	0.77
1910	1,877,000	981,000	France	1.84	1.95	2.29
1911	1,939,000	965,000	Britain	1.52	1.27	1.17
1912	1,944,000	1,037,000	<i>Entente</i>	1.16	1.08	1.07
1913	2,000,000	n.a.	Germany	0.94	1.08	1.33
			Aus-Hung	0.82	0.84	0.85
			<i>Centrals</i>	0.89	0.97	1.12
			Italy	0.79	0.94	0.98

Defense expenditures of Great Powers, 1894-1913 (in £ million)

	Britain	France	Russia	Entente	Germany	Austria	Centrals
1894	33.4	37.6	85.8	156.8	36.2	9.6	45.8
1913	72.5	72.0	101.7	246.2	93.4	25.0	158.0
£ increase	39.1	34.4	15.9	89.4	57.2	15.4	98.2
% incr.	117.1	91.5	18.5	57.0	158.0	160.4	158.5

Defense Expenditures as % of Net National Product, 1887-1913

	Britain	France	Russia	Germany	Austria	Italy
1873	2.0	3.1	-	2.4	4.8	1.9
1883	2.6	4.0	-	2.7	3.6	3.6
1893	2.5	4.2	4.4	3.4	3.6	3.6
1903	5.9	4.0	4.1	3.2	2.8	2.9
1913	3.2	4.8	5.1	3.9	3.2	5.1
1870-1913	3.1	4.0	-	3.2	3.1	3.3

* So let it not be said that I did not give this class some really smoking statistics for contemplation!