

Stunning Info #4 The Opening Round of the War

Triads on the Mood of 1914 (and Beyond)

World War I	Civilization
Patriotism	Crusade
Acquiescence	Atrocities

Some Major Events (to the end of 1914)

Aug	The beginning of hostilities Britain calls for 500,000 volunteers to enlist Battle of Tannenberg in East: Germans defeat Russian armies in East Prussia Austrian offensive against Serbia is repelled
Sept	Pact of London: Entente Powers agree not to conclude separate peace Bethmann-Holweg issues September Program of German war aims Battle of Masurian Lakes: 2nd major German victory in East Prussia Battle of Marne: Entente allies stop the German advance in West Moltke replaced by Falkenhayn as German chief of staff Major Russian advances into Austrian Galicia & Bukovina
Oct	First battle of Ypres: Germans unsuccessfully attempt to dislodge allies
Nov	Ottoman Empire enters war with Central Powers
Dec	Austria's 3rd offensive against Serbia takes Belgrade only temporarily

Noteworthy military personages

- Helmut von Moltke (1848-1916): German chief of staff until mid-Sept. 1914; oversaw unsuccessful implementation of Schlieffen Plan.
- Erich von Falkenhayn (1861-1922): Replaced Moltke as German chief of staff in mid-Sept. 1914, headed the German army until 1916.
- Erich Ludendorff (1865-1937): German general, oversaw the German victories over Russia at Tannenberg & Masurian Lakes together with Paul von Hindenburg. Eventually, in 1916, Ludendorff became quartermaster general and in effect military dictator.
- Paul von Hindenburg (1847-1934): German field marshal, oversaw German victories in East Prussia in Aug/Sept. 1914; replaced Falkenhayn as chief of staff, though Ludendorff became the most dominant figure in Germany.
- Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf (1852-1925): Austrian chief of staff until 1917, though he was compelled to turn over command of Austrian forces to Hindenburg in Sept., 1916.
- Sir John French (1852-1925): Commander-in-chief of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), forced to resign in Dec. 1915.
- Joseph Joffre (1852-1931): French commander-in-chief from 1914, regarded as the nation's savior after the battle of the Marne; dismissed after battles of Verdun & Somme in 1916.
- Horatio Herbert Kitchener (1850-1916): British Secretary of state for war until 1916, when the ship on which he was traveling hit a mine and sank.
- Grand Duke Nicholas (1856-1929): Uncle of Emperor Nicholas II, commander-in-chief of Russian forces from the start of the war until May 1915, after German breakthrough at Gorlice; took a post thereafter as commander in the Caucasus.