



# WORLD WAR I

## MAJOR CAUSES

# RISE OF NATIONALISM IN EUROPE

- ★ French Revenge for the Franco-Prussian War
- ★ French Desire for the Return of Alsace and Lorraine
- ★ Pan-Slavism in Eastern Europe
- ★ Serbian Desire to Create a South Slav State
- ★ German Pride in Military and Industrial Growth



# IMPERIALISM

- ✦ Britain and France desire to Contain German claims in Africa
- ✦ European Competition in Asia and Africa
- ✦ Concern about Russian Expansion
- ✦ Concern about German Expansion
- ✦ Belief in Social Darwinism



# ECONOMIC COMPETITION

- ✦ Economic Rivalries between Britain, France and Germany



# MILITARISM

- ✦ Military Power as Symbol of National Prestige
- ✦ Glorification of War by all Powers
- ✦ Influential Military Leaders
- ✦ Arms Race Among the Great Powers

# NAVAL ENVY

## *The Naval Situation*

The British Navy commanded the seas—28 dreadnoughts and battle cruisers to Germany's 18. Above all, the British Navy was ready to fight, thanks to the fore sight of First Lord of the Admiralty **Winston Churchill** and the First Sea Lord, Prince **Louis of Battenberg**. The German Navy had comparable standards of efficiency, but was hampered by deficiencies in bases as well as numbers. The Russian, French, and Austrian navies were limited in strength and were to play only minor roles.

### COMPARATIVE NAVAL STRENGTHS—AUGUST, 1914

	BRITISH			GERMAN		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Home Waters</i>	<i>Grand Fleet<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Home Waters</i>	<i>High Seas Fleet</i>
Dreadnoughts <sup>b</sup> (modern battleships)	20	(20)	(20)	13	(13)	(13)
Battle Cruisers <sup>c</sup>	8	(4)	(4)	5	(4)	(4)
Old Battleships <sup>b</sup>	40	(38)	(10)	22	(22)	(10)
Cruisers <sup>d</sup>	102	(48)	(21)	41	(32)	(17)
Destroyers	301	(270)	(50)	144	(144)	(80)
Submarines	78	(65)	(9)	30	(30)	(24) <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Numbers of cruisers and destroyers in the Grand Fleet are approximate, and varied considerably during early days of war.

<sup>b</sup> Dreadnoughts were modern, big-gun ships, completely outclassing all old battleships (see discussion in text). Britain had 2 more dreadnoughts completed, but not yet ready for action, and 15 under construction (including 3 that had been intended for other nations). Germany had 3 more completed, but not yet ready for action, and 4 under construction.

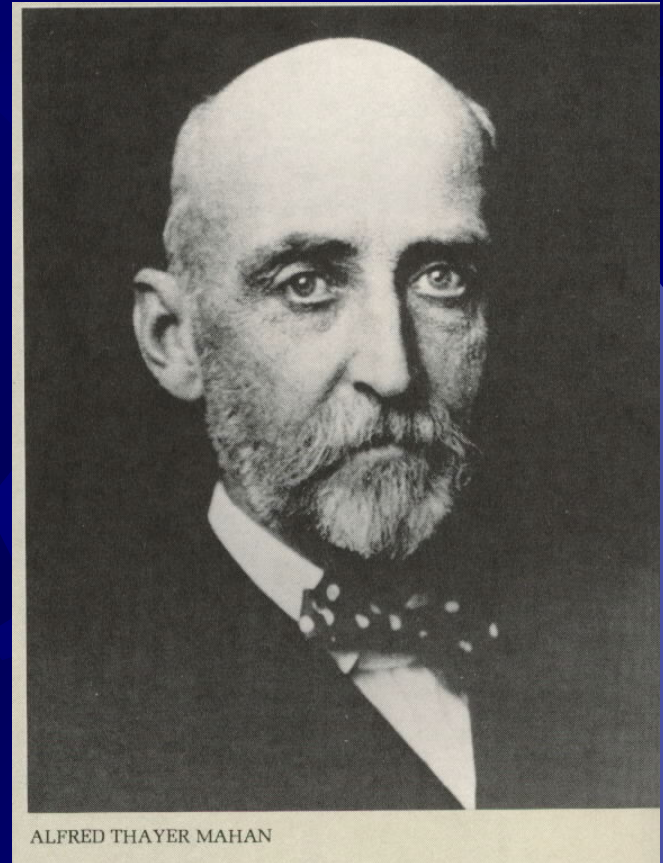
<sup>c</sup> Vessels carrying heavy guns similar to dreadnoughts, but with thinner armor and greater speed. Britain and Germany each had one additional battle cruiser completed but not yet ready for action. Britain had 1 building; Germany had 2 building.

<sup>d</sup> Included old armored cruisers and smaller, but faster and better armed, light cruisers.

<sup>e</sup> Records are conflicting on exact number of German submarines in commission. This figure is approximately correct.

# HEARTLAND THEORY

- ★ AMERICAN NAVAL THEORIST BELIEVED IN NAVAL SUPREMACY AND HEARTLAND THEORY



# ALLIANCES

- ✦ Agreement among Nations to aid each other if Attacked.
- ✦ Russian Agreements with Slavic Nations
- ✦ Triple Alliance
- ✦ Triple Entente
- ✦ British Guarantee of Neutral Belgium



# TRIPLE ALLIANCE BEFORE THE WAR

- ✦ Before the War
- ✦ Germany
- ✦ Austria-Hungary
- ✦ Italy



# TRIPLE ALLIANCE DURING THE WAR

- ✦ Germany
- ✦ Austria-Hungary
- ✦ Ottoman Empire
- ✦ Bulgaria



# TRIPLE ENTENTE

- ✦ France
- ✦ Russia
- ✦ Entente Cordiale-a secret agreement signed by Britain to aid France incase of attack. The British never signed the Entente agreement but have always been considered part



The Purchaser of this Patriotic Card subscribes One Half penny to the  
National Belgian Relief Fund.

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# PSYCHOLOGICAL READINESS FOR WAR

- ✦ Major Powers had not fought for more than a few months since 1815
- ✦ Wars had been short
- ✦ Most fighting in colonies against poorly armed natives
- ✦ New weapons hardly used against European forces.