The Origins of World War I: 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

**Serbia** — “Piedmont of the South Slavs”

Gavrilo Princip — “the annunciator of liberty”

Colonel Dragutin Dmitrijević

The Black Hand

*Vidov Dan* — Anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo – June 28, 1389

**Ottoman Empire** — “The Sick Man of Europe”

**Austria-Hungary**

*Ausgleich* — 1867 (Dualism)

Franz Joseph — Emperor 1848–1916

Franz Ferdinand — “Trialism”

Sophie Chotek — morganatic marriage to Franz Ferdinand June 28, 1900

Lexa von Aehrenthal — foreign minister 1906–1912

Sarajevo

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Balkans — “The Powder Keg of Europe”

— “Not worth the bones of a Pomeranian grenadier”

**Russia**

Alexander III — Tsar 1881–1894

Nicholas II — Tsar 1894–1917

A. P. Izvolskii — foreign minister 1906–1910; ambassador to France 1910–1917


General Ianushkevich — Chief of the General Staff: “I will . . . smash my telephone.”
France

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

Germany

Otto von Bismarck — Chancellor 1864–1890
Wilhelm II — Kaiser 1888–1918
“blank check”
Schlieffen Plan (mobilization)
Triple Alliance

England

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

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