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.”

Usual Causes Given          Suggested Reasons

1. Militarism                 1. Lack of diplomatic & military options
3. Imperialism                3. Fear, Suspicion, & Hatred
4. International Anarchy      4. Incompetence among Leaders