

REARMAMENT, RETRIBUTION & REVOLUTION: EUROPE IN THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT WAR

CRISIS DIRECTOR: MATTHEW BERMAN



ENMUNC II

Table of Contents

Letter from the Crisis Director	2
Committee Information	3
Background Information	4
The Road to War	4
A New type of Combat	7
The Final Months of War	8
The International Political Environment	10
The Allied Powers	10
The Central Powers	17
New Political Ideologies	22
Liberal Democracy (Capitalism)	22
Communism	22
Fascism	22
The Colonies	23
Africa	23
The Middle East	24
East Asia	25
Current State of Affairs	26
Positions	27
Citations	36

Letter from the Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

It is my privilege and honor to welcome you to the second annual Emory National Model United Nations Conference, and to my committee – Rearmament, Retribution & Revolution; Europe in the Shadow of the Great War. My name is Matthew Berman, I am a senior at Emory University studying Economics and Philosophy, and I am very excited to be serving as your crisis director this year.

The treaty of Versailles marked the end of the first global war in human history, where the United States and its Western European allies accepted the surrender of the Axis powers. In the hopes of preventing such a war from ever happening again, the western leaders of the time used the Treaty of Versailles and their victory over the Axis powers to completely reshape the world. The league of nations was formed, Germany and her allies were stripped of military power and forced to pay reparations; colonies around the world were divided amongst the colonial superpowers; and the economic future of Europe was laid out in loans from the United States.

Ultimately, the treaty of Versailles was one of the chief causes of the second world war, and further went on to define much of the 20th century and the cold war. My hope for this committee is to demonstrate in a Model U.N. environment the significance of the treaty of Versailles on the decades after the first world war. Rather than following the course of history, I will be encouraging delegates to carve their own path, beginning with the Treaty of Versailles itself. The committee will be centered around its own version of the treaty which you – the delegates – will debate upon and ratify. Once this treaty has been ratified, the committee will act as an oversight committee meeting annually and consisting of representatives from European and global superpowers with the aim of preventing such a world war from happening again.

Throughout this committee, you will be faced with the spread of communism, fascism and revolution, the rise of new central European and African states, and the decline of conventional colonial powers. Should you choose to work with your allies for the greater good, or against them in your own interest is up to you! A world in crisis is one rife with opportunity, and that opportunity is yours for the taking!

Good luck delegates.

Matthew Berman.
Your Crisis Director.

Committee Information

Delegates will be organized into delegations representing various allied & axis powers of the first world war. Whilst delegates will be organized into delegations representing countries, delegates will still act as individual entities pursuant to traditional crisis committee structure. As such, whether delegates wish to work cooperatively with other delegates in their designated delegation is entirely up to them. Delegations that present a united front, however, will be rewarded with faster political action in crisis and backroom as a united country is a more effective one. Contrastingly, if two delegates in a designated delegation begin to operate against each other, this will foster unrest in their country which could in turn spread to other countries, and even to war.

Each committee session will occupy a period of 3-5 years depending on the pace of debate. The timeline will be clearly indicated to delegates at regular intervals to ensure that delegates are aware of the pace of events. We encourage delegates to design crisis arcs that fit this timeframe. Delegates are *encouraged* to divert from real historical events. Please be advised, however, that there are guidelines on tolerable crisis arcs and in-room conduct. As this committee deals with a period in history aligned with many fascist and communist ideals, they will inevitably come up in debate. Delegates are allowed to reference and utilize all historical figures from this period in their arcs and debate, as well as the various imperialist and nationalist ideals these figures stood behind. Keep in mind, however, that this is permissible for the purpose of debate, and that personal insults behind these banners will not be tolerated.

Delegates are not allowed to incorporate any form of anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia, or general discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion in their crisis arcs or debate. This policy will be *strictly* enforced throughout the conference.

Over the course of the conference, delegates will be faced with a variety of issues ranging from political revolutions and civil war across Europe to the threat of superpowers abroad and destabilizing colonies. In each instance, delegates and delegations must choose sides and take actions to further their own interests, and what they would argue to be the interests of the common good. As this committee will be held online, we will be operating a hybrid zoom-slack format. In room committee action will take place using a designated zoom lobby and breakout rooms. All crisis and backroom communications will take place on a designated slack server. As such, *delegates are required to download & install slack on their personal computers before the start of committee session I.*

Finally, this background guide is designed such that all the information you will require for participation in the committee is contained within. Delegates are free to conduct their own research but be wary that certain events and characters have been modified for the purpose of the committee. All characters bear the name of real people but have entirely fictitious backgrounds in the interest of fairness for the delegates.

Background Information

The Road to War:

Overview:

The first world war began in July of 1914, and its immediate cause was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of the Austro-Hungarian Empire by Bosnian nationalists. Whilst this was in many ways the straw that broke the camel's back, the buildup to war had been years in the making by this point¹.

In the late 19th century, a rivalry developed amongst the “great powers of Europe,” who competed to enhance the reach of their respective empires and colonial possessions. European states also found themselves in economic competition, battling for control of trade and emerging global markets. These rivalries were initially fueled by national insecurities and enmities arising from various 19th century conflicts². Britain and France maintained bitterness toward each other over territorial disputes in northern Africa – specifically over the southern Nile – which nearly led the nations to war in 1898. Britain also shared tensions with Tsarist Russia over the western frontier of India. The presence of the Russian Empire in Asia threatened that of the Japanese and British Empires, which ultimately led to the Russo-Japanese war in 1905. The emergence of Germany as a new superpower further enhanced tensions as German aggression angered Russia, France, and Britain. Tensions, rapidly developing military technology, and a growing network of alliances ultimately created a scenario where avoiding a global conflict was arguably impossible³.

The New German Empire:

Germany was a relatively new superpower at this time, as it had only become united in 1871 – merely 30 years prior to the start of the 20th century. As a new empire in Europe, imperial Germany was keen to earn a seat at the table in world affairs, and thus embarked on an aggressive foreign policy strategy toward the end of the 19th century. Germany intervened in several of France's affairs in North Africa, which resulted in the Moroccan crisis of 1905 and 1911. The primary point of contention between France and Germany, however, was over the region of Alsace Lorraine in northeastern France. This region represented a sizeable percentage of France's productive capacity and had been annexed by Germany in 1871⁴.

¹ “How the World Went to War in 1914.” *Imperial War Museums*, www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-the-world-went-to-war-in-1914.

² Kiger, Patrick J. “8 Events That Led to World War I.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 6 Apr. 2021, www.history.com/news/world-war-i-causes.

³ Kiger, Patrick J. “8 Events That Led to World War I.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 6 Apr. 2021, www.history.com/news/world-war-i-causes.

⁴ “World War I.” *Ducksters*, www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_i/causes_of_ww1.php#:~:text=The%20real%20causes%20of%20World,of%20events%20leading%20to%20war.

In its pursuit of superpower status, Germany sought to build alliances, and looked towards central and eastern European nations. Resultantly, alliances formed between Germany, the Ottoman Empire, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire – later to become known as the “Central” or “Axis” powers. These alliances were perceived as a threat by Britain, as the commonwealth was well established in the far east. Britain saw Germany’s alliance with eastern countries as a bid to gain influence over eastern commonwealth territories, and therefore led to hostility between the two nations. This hostility manifested as a bitter naval arms race that began with the introduction of “dreadnought” class ships (i.e., the first modern battleships), and ultimately led to both countries putting hundreds of warships to sea⁵.

Militarism & Colonial Rivalries:

Whilst colonial rivalries constituted much of the inter-continental tensions, economic rivalries did their part to fuel the fires. Many countries employed aggressive foreign trade policies making liberal use of tariffs to protect domestic manufacturing and agricultural production. By 1870, the industrial revolution had matured, and technologies such as the combustion engine, electricity, the printing press, and modern metallurgy were becoming commonplace. This newfound manufacturing ability meant that economies across Europe and the east were booming, which allowed for excessive military spending in the interest of national pride. As such, these new technologies were now being adapted to wage war for the first time, with the creation of modern artillery, heavy troop vehicles, and warships⁶.

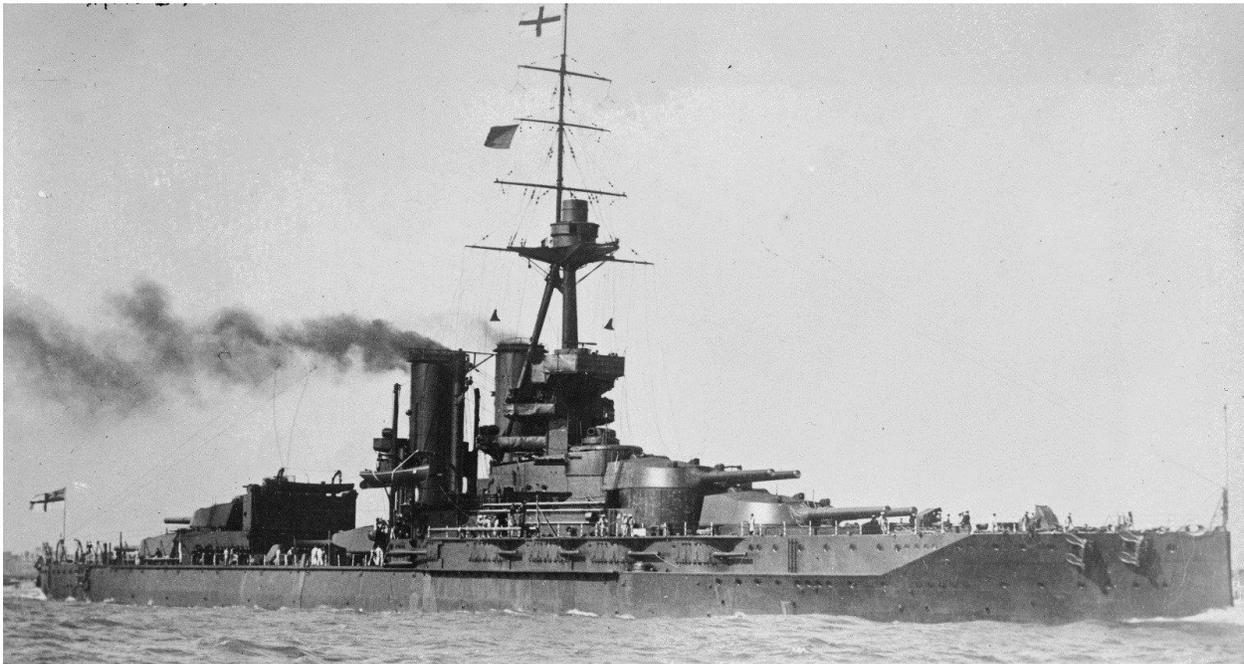


Figure 1 – British Dreadnought Warship HMS Iron Duke

⁵ “Technology of War in 1914.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/Technology-of-war-in-1914.

⁶ “Military Technology in World War I : Articles & Essays : Newspaper PICTORIALS: World War I ROTOGRAVURES, 1914-1919 : Digital Collections : Library of Congress.” *The Library of Congress*, www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-rotogravures/articles-and-essays/military-technology-in-world-war-i/.

With the spread of militarism, European powers were in many ways at each other's throats. With new advanced weaponry pointed at their adversaries every day, European military leaders felt a newfound need to be prepared *for* conflict. Eventually, this led to every European superpower being so prepared for war such that detailed military plans existed for every conceivable conflict. A prominent example was Germany's "Schlieffen plan" which detailed a method of attacking France through neutral Belgium to avoid France's heavily militarized border with Germany⁷.

Unrest in the Balkans:

The Balkans had become an area of great significance to Russia & Austria-Hungary. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was experiencing a decline in power after its defeats against Prussia and Italy in the mid-19th century. The Balkans therefore represented one of the last strongholds of Austro-Hungarian power in central Europe. Contrastingly, Russians felt an allegiance with ethnic Serbs in the region and saw an alliance with the Serbs (and subsequent control over the region) as a method of increasing its influence against those of western European nations. As such, Russia sought to challenge Austro-Hungarian control of the region⁸.

Austria-Hungary had occupied the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1878. In 1908, Austria extended its control with the annexation of Serbia. This angered Russia, which wanted to support its fellow Serbs. Germany – by this point already being allied with Austria-Hungary – stood by Austria-Hungary and forced Russia to step down by threat of war. This was a national humiliation for Russia and left the Serbs unhappy under Austro-Hungarian control.⁹

A drastic chain of events:

After annexing Serbia, the Austro-Hungarian empire sent Archduke Franz Ferdinand to tour the country and reinforce their control over the region. This was taken as an insult by Serbian nationalists, who successfully plotted to assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand during his visit. The assassination of the Archduke prompted Austria-Hungary to respond, as they sent an impossible ultimatum to Serbia under threat of war. This was known as the July crisis. When the deadline was reached, and such reparations had not been paid by the Serbs, Austria-Hungary made good on its threat and formally declared war on Serbia.¹⁰

⁷ "The End of the German War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/The-end-of-the-German-war.

⁸ "Austria-Hungary Declares War on Serbia." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 28 Oct. 2009, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/austria-hungary-declares-war-on-serbia.

⁹ "The End of the German War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/The-end-of-the-German-war.

¹⁰ "How the World Went to War in 1914." *Imperial War Museums*, www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-the-world-went-to-war-in-1914.

Standing by its ally, Russia took the side of Serbia and declared War on Austria-Hungary in their defense. This in turn prompted Germany to respond with a declaration of war on Russia as they too were standing by their allies in Austria-Hungary. As France and Russia had allied against Germany, France joined Russia in its declaration of war on Germany in response to Germany's declaration on Russia. At this point, Germany began to enact its plan to attack France through neutral Belgium. Belgium and the United Kingdom, however, also had an alliance in place. The moment that German troops marched on Belgian soil, the United Kingdom stood by their ally and declared war on Germany and its allies. As a result, Europe was officially at war¹¹.



Figure 2 - The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

A New Type of Combat:

World War 1 marked the first time that mechanized warfare was employed on a mass scale, and its consequences were devastating. Modern artillery cannons could unleash relentless bombardment on enemy fortifications in ways that traditional cannons never could. Vehicles such as troop carriers and tanks provided a new sense of mobility for combat and meant that front lines could change drastically with the help of armored troop divisions – this was especially true towards the end of the war¹². Chemical warfare also saw its first widespread use during the first world war, with soldiers returning home with horrifying scars and deformities due to exposure to toxins such as mustard gas. This new form of warfare was also the deadliest form ever seen, with casualty rates far higher than any European nations had previously anticipated. Over the course of four years, the war would claim an estimated 20 million lives, critically wounding a further 20 million more. Britain, France, Russia, Germany, and Austria-Hungary suffered the most, each suffering in the range of two million dead and up to 5 million wounded. Both France and Germany had nearly 5% of their total population killed off because of the war and lost almost an entire generation of young men to the war¹³.

¹¹ Wilde, Robert. "The Major Alliances of World War i Began as Hope for Mutual Protection." *ThoughtCo*, www.thoughtco.com/world-war-one-the-major-alliances-1222059.

¹² "The Technology of World War I." *National Air and Space Museum*, airandspace.si.edu/stories/editorial/240-artist-soldiers-technology#:~:text=Heavy%20artillery%2C%20machine%20guns%2C%20tanks,that%20reshaped%20twentieth%20century%20warfare.

¹³ Kiger, Patrick J. "Why World War I Ended with an ARMISTICE Instead of a Surrender." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 31 Oct. 2018, www.history.com/news/world-war-i-armistice-germany-allies.



Figure 3 - Soldiers under Chemical Weapon bombardment

The new form of mechanized warfare damaged Europe itself just as much as it did its population. Years of constant artillery bombardments left much of the European countryside in shambles. Craters from artillery shells littered hundreds of square miles, and thousands of towns had been reduced to rubble along the moving front lines. The western front (between Germany and France), saw the most damage, leaving much of Western France and eastern Germany in ruins. This in turn would have vast economic repercussions after the war and became the chief argument in favor of levying reparations requirements against Germany.¹⁴

The Final Months of War:

The war took a heavy toll on all sides, and it was apparent that the Axis powers would inevitably face defeat long before the formal end of the war in 1918. Germany and Austria-Hungary were at a severe disadvantage being forced to fight on two fronts, facing Russia from the east and Britain and France from the west. This meant that their resources were spread thin from the onset of the war and led to the rapid depletion of resources and supplies.¹⁵

Germany also struggled due to its increasingly weak alliances¹⁶. The Austro-Hungarian empire was in decline before the start of the war, and the war itself was not popular amongst

¹⁴ "Technology of War in 1914." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/Technology-of-war-in-1914.

¹⁵ "World War I." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Austria/World-War-I.

¹⁶ "The End of the German War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/The-end-of-the-German-war.

conquered regions. Revolutionaries across central Europe took up arms and used Austria-Hungary's preoccupation with the war as an opportunity to declare independence from the empire.



Figure 5 - British mass gravesite for WW1 Soldiers

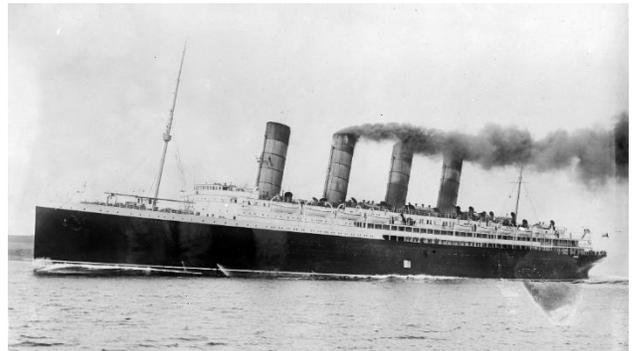


Figure 4 - R.M.S. Lusitania, sunk by German U-Boats causing the United States' entry into the War

The allies also grew stronger over the course of the war, being joined by Italy and the United States in its later stages. The United States had previously adhered to a strong policy of neutrality but was forced into the war when an early German U-boat accidentally sank an American Cruise ship. The manufacturing and economic capacity of the United States specifically was of vital importance to the allied victory, as it allowed the resource supply chain to remain intact until the end of the war. The arrival of over 1.5 million American troops also helped to overwhelm Germany and her allies.¹⁷

Austria-Hungary was not the only country facing pressure due to the war. Tsarist Russia faced a Bolshevik revolt in 1917 which prompted a civil war. Russia found itself unable to maintain the eastern front and hold off the impending communist revolution simultaneously.¹⁸

Ultimately, German military leaders informed their government that a victory was impossible given the current situation, and that a formal surrender would prove a more favorable outcome. This led to Germany's formal surrender in November 1918. This surrender, however, caused much anger and uproar amongst the German people, as many felt that they could have won the war, and that Germany's surrender was the mistake of aged politicians.¹⁹

¹⁷ "The End of the German War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/The-end-of-the-German-war.

¹⁸ History.com Editors. "World War I." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 29 Oct. 2009, www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history.

¹⁹ "How the World Went to War in 1914." *Imperial War Museums*, www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-the-world-went-to-war-in-1914.

The International Political Environment

The Allied Powers:

The United States:

At the dawn of the 20th century, the United States took a decisive stance of isolationism regarding their foreign policy. The United States was hesitant to enter World War one, and only did so when President Woodrow Wilson's hand was forced as a result of the sinking of the RMS Lusitania (an American cruise liner) at the hands of a German U-boat.

Nevertheless, the United States played a decisive role in bringing the war to an end. As the fighting occurred far away from American borders, this also left the United States in an advantageous political and economic stance. With American manufacturing capacity well intact – opposed to that of most European nations that was decimated by the war – the United States had rapidly become the manufacturing and economic powerhouse of the world. This was reinforced by the United States financing of the French and British War effort, leaving much of western Europe in debt to the United States. The U.S. would eventually offer further loans to help Europe get back on its feet, doing much to contribute to the post-war economic boom in the early 1920s²⁰.

At the end of the first World War, President Wilson faced a daunting task. The Senate, house of representatives, and indeed the public felt that an overwhelming number of American lives were needlessly sacrificed on the altar of European imperialism. Consequently, the United States was keen to return to its isolationist foreign policy and leave a distraught Europe behind. President Wilson, however, believed that U.S. involvement in post war reconstruction was vital to ensure that such a war would never happen again²¹. He lobbied strongly amongst European leaders to create what would become the “League of Nations,” and provide Europe with loans from America to help rebuild. Wilson now faced the difficult task of convincing his own government that such continued involvement in European affairs was the right course of action.²²

The United Kingdom:

The United Kingdom was in a similar advantageous position to the United States insofar as the war did not take place on her land. Nevertheless, the country was not without problems of its own. Britain incurred heavy casualties which amounted to more than 3% of its total

²⁰ Kiger, Patrick J. “Why World War I Ended with an ARMISTICE Instead of a Surrender.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 31 Oct. 2018, www.history.com/news/world-war-i-armistice-germany-allies.

²¹ “United States in World War I.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Aug. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_in_World_War_I.

²² “U.S. Participation in the Great War (World War I) : Progressive Era to New Era, 1900-1929 : U.S. History Primary Source Timeline : Classroom Materials at the Library of Congress : Library of Congress.” *The Library of Congress*, www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/progressive-era-to-new-era-1900-1929/united-states-participation-in-world-war-i/.

population.²³ The strength of the commonwealth had also been greatly weakened as the war effort put a strain on resource and supply chains.

England's chief priority by the end of the first world war was therefore to maintain control over its colonial territories, specifically in India, and south Africa. This, however, meant limiting the spread of communism across Europe. England feared that a global communist uprising would spread quickly amongst commonwealth countries and potentially cost the U.K. its empire.²⁴

For this reason, the United Kingdom was partial towards a lenient punishment of Germany at the end of the war. Prime Minister David L. George believed that a severe punishment of Germany would lead her to economic ruin, and in turn aid the spread of communism into Europe. He saw Germany as a buffer between the capitalist west and communist Russia and hoped to strengthen that buffer to maintain control over their overseas territories. For this reason, the United Kingdom was interested in reestablishing the Polish state on currently Russian territory. With the Russian revolution and the rise of communism looming, England was keen to place as many states as possible between itself and Russia²⁵.

The Third French Republic:

France, like its colonial allies, was facing the struggles of a declining empire. Much the same as England, the war had weakened France's control over its colonial territories. As such, French leaders saw the peace settlement as an opportunity to expand their colonial holdings and cement their position as a colonial power in Europe.



Figure 6 - Map of France's Alsace Lorraine region

²³ The National Archives. "Why Did BRITAIN Go to War? Background." *The National Archives*, The National Archives, 27 Jan. 2004, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/greatwar/g2/backgroundcs1.htm.

²⁴ Kiger, Patrick J. "Why World War I Ended with an ARMISTICE Instead of a Surrender." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 31 Oct. 2018, www.history.com/news/world-war-i-armistice-germany-allies.

²⁵ "U.S. Participation in the Great War (World War I) : Progressive Era to New Era, 1900-1929 : U.S. History Primary Source Timeline : Classroom Materials at the Library of Congress : Library of Congress." *The Library of Congress*, www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/progressive-era-to-new-era-1900-1929/united-states-participation-in-world-war-i/.

France took a much more hardline stance toward Germany than the United Kingdom.²⁶ As the war had occurred mostly on French soil, thousands of square miles had been laid waste in the conflict. This had cost France dearly in terms of economic productivity and reconstruction costs. Furthermore, France had not forgotten the bitter hostilities between herself and Germany prior to the war. French leaders were adamant that any peace settlement with Germany would include the complete dismantling of its armed forces, the seizure of its colonial territories, massive reparation payments to cover the cost of reconstruction, and the return of Alsace Lorraine to French sovereignty.²⁷

France would also be seeking the aid of the United States. Even though reparations from Germany were a chief desire of the French government and people, it was well known that these reparations would not cover the cost of reconstruction. Consequently, France would aim to lobby for an economic deal with the United States that included reconstruction loans.

The Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic:

Russia had been an arguably unstable state for many years by 1918. For centuries, Russia had been ruled over by the Tsars in absolute monarchies. Toward the end of the 19th century, however, it had become clear that Russia was far behind other European powers – technologically, militarily, and politically.²⁸ This led to growing unrest which ultimately culminated in the successful assassination of Tsar Alexander the second in 1881 by revolutionaries.²⁹

The regime that followed – led by Tsar Alexander’s son, Alexander the third – was one of brutal oppression. The Tsars in the following years aimed to expand Russia by force to gain an equal footing to other European nations. This led to the conquest of east Asia and the Russo-Japanese war. This war, however, was an astonishing defeat for Russia and proved to be a national embarrassment. This furthered resentment for the regime and led to the revolution of 1905. Though this revolution failed, Tsar Nicholas II promised to make concessions to the revolutionaries in the form of establishing a constitutional monarchy.³⁰

These promises, however, became increasingly meaningless as it became clear that the state “Dumas” were nothing more than puppet heads for the established order in an aim to appease the masses. It was in this environment that Lenin saw the opportunity for revolution. Bringing his own vision to the ideas of Karl Marx, he set out to establish the first communist state within Russia. It would turn out that the first world war was the perfect opportunity to do so. Tsar Nicholas II

²⁶ “The End of the German War.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/The-end-of-the-German-war.

²⁷ “French Army in World War I.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Aug. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Army_in_World_War_I.

²⁸ Kiger, Patrick J. “8 Events That Led to World War I.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 6 Apr. 2021, www.history.com/news/world-war-i-causes.

²⁹ “How the World Went to War in 1914.” *Imperial War Museums*, www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-the-world-went-to-war-in-1914.

³⁰ History.com Editors. “Russian Revolution.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009, www.history.com/topics/russia/russian-revolution.

entered WW1 to appease the European powers, gain good favor, and expand the Russian empire.³¹ This war, however, was greatly disapproved of by the masses. Russian citizens felt that they were being sacrificed to feed the greed of tyrants at home and abroad, and the Russian army's morale was questionable from the outset of the war.³²

As casualties mounted and Germany pressed on the eastern front, communism took a stronger hold in Tsarist Russia, which would culminate in the revolutions of 1917-18. In February 1917, the political turmoil boiled over, and a violent revolution began to overthrow the Tsar. After massive military losses in the war, the Russian army had all but resorted to mutiny. The revolt was focused in the capital of Petrograd, and ended with the capitulation of Tsar Nicholas the II. A constitutional republic was created in place of the monarchy and was called the "Provisional Government." In March of 1918, Russia signed a peace treaty with Germany and officially ended its participation in the first world war, almost 8 months before Germany herself would surrender to the allies.³³

Though the provisional government had capitulated to popular demands to end participation in the war, unrest remained. The Bolshevik party (led by Lenin) and its military wing (the Soviets) represented an increasingly left-wing middle class and felt as though the provisional government was appeasing the nobles of Tsarist Russia. This led to a long year of unrest, riots, and protests, which ultimately culminated in the October revolution of 1918. At this point, Lenin and the Bolsheviks assumed full control of Russia and declared the creation of the first Soviet Union.³⁴

It soon became clear, however, that this control was not solidified. There remained a fierce amount of loyalty to the provisional government throughout Russia, and the newfound control of the Bolsheviks plunged Russia into Civil War. On the left, the communist uprising seeking to establish the united Soviet Union, and on the right, the loyalists seeking liberal democracy. The Bolsheviks became known as the "Red army" whilst the loyalists became known as the "White army."³⁵

³¹ "The Russian Revolution." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Soviet-Union/The-Russian-Revolution.

³² Kiger, Patrick J. "8 Events That Led to World War I." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 6 Apr. 2021, www.history.com/news/world-war-i-causes.

³³ "Russian Revolution." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 17 Sept. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Revolution.

³⁴ "World War I." *Ducksters*, www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_i/causes_of_ww1.php#:~:text=The%20real%20causes%20of%20World,of%20events%20leading%20to%20war.

³⁵ "The Russian Revolution." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Soviet-Union/The-Russian-Revolution.

At present, Russia is emersed in a brutal civil war. Though the Bolsheviks control the capital and government, much of the outer land is controlled by the white Army. The present aim of Bolshevik leadership, therefore, is to solidify control of Russia. Obtaining aide from its allies, however, may be difficult as western Europe is fearful of communism. To do this, they must ensure that as little land as possible is lost in the Paris peace settlement at Versailles. The allies will be looking to reestablish the state of Poland on currently Russian territory to provide a buffer to the newfound communist state.³⁶



Figure 7 - Current map of Russian Civil War battle lines

³⁶ "The Russian Revolution." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Soviet-Union/The-Russian-Revolution.

The Empire of Japan:

By 1914, Japan had long been in the process of constructing an empire. Japan had previously been somewhat of a puppet state to larger European colonial powers. Whilst Japan's role on the ground during the war was not greatly significant, Japan was crucial in securing the shipping lanes in the Pacific and Indian Ocean throughout the war. These efforts blocked trade to the Axis powers, stifling their war economy and aiding in the eventual surrender of the German government.³⁷

As such, Japan wanted a seat at the table and its interests to be recognized in the post-war settlement. Of chief interest to Japan was the Korean peninsula and Chinese Manchuria region. After the Russo-Japanese war³⁸, Japan maintained control of these two areas. Japan was hoping to maintain its control, and further have it recognized by the European powers should Japan enter future conflict with Russia.³⁹



Figure 8 - Map of Manchuria region of Japanese interest

The Kingdom of Italy:

At the start of the first world war, Italy declared neutrality. Italy, like other European powers, had its own colonial ambitions. Italy had long sought to claim land in western Yugoslavia and extend its reign to the other side of the Adriatic Sea. As the war effort grew desperate, the allies offered Italy a deal in the Treaty of London. Should Italy join the war on the side of the allies and open a third front in southern Austria-Hungary, then the land Italy desired would be granted to them by the allies in the eventual peace settlement once the war was won. This proved tempting

³⁷ Wilde, Robert. "The Major Alliances of World War I Began as Hope for Mutual Protection." *ThoughtCo*, www.thoughtco.com/world-war-one-the-major-alliances-1222059.

³⁸ "The Russian Revolution." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Soviet-Union/The-Russian-Revolution.

³⁹ "World War I." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Austria/World-War-I.

for Italian leadership, who accepted the deal and joined the war on the side of the allied powers in 1915.⁴⁰

With the end of the war in sight, Italy will be looking to its allies to make good on their promises for new territories. Italy had only become a united nation as recently as 1870. By expanding its territories, the government could help increase its legitimacy and strengthen its hold on power.⁴¹ Presently, liberal groups dominate a very fragile political system. Italian liberals had large aims to modernize the country and bring it more in step with its northern allies. This was hampered, however, by the fact that right wing and left-wing liberals were very disunited.⁴²

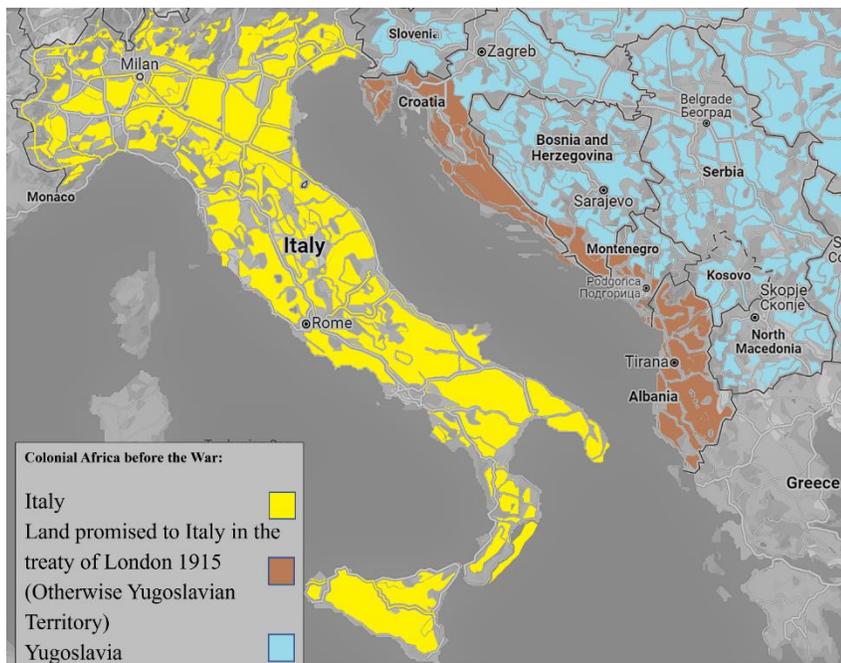


Figure 9 - Map of Yugoslavian territory promised to Italy by the allies in 1915

There was also much disdain for the social liberal agenda in Italy, as the catholic church had much sway of the people. This environment meant that there was a constant fear of overthrow, which led to very strict political control. Before 1912, only 2% of Italians could vote, out of mass fear of socialists on the left and orthodox Catholics on the right. It was not until 1912 that all men in Italy were given the right to vote, but the fear of loss of control remained.

The outcome of the treaty of Versailles leaves Italy in a daunting position. The lack of a favorable outcome could easily tip the scales of the liberal government and allow the Catholics to take control.

⁴⁰ Wilde, Robert. "The Major Alliances of World War I Began as Hope for Mutual Protection." *ThoughtCo*, www.thoughtco.com/world-war-one-the-major-alliances-1222059.

⁴¹ "World War I." *Ducksters*, www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_i/causes_of_ww1.php#:~:text=The%20real%20causes%20of%20World,of%20events%20leading%20to%20war.

⁴² "Italy and the ITALIAN Front, 1915–16." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/Italy-and-the-Italian-front-1915-16.

The Central Powers:

The Republic of Germany:

With the end of the first world war all but finalized, Germany's surrender led to the capitulation of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and the end of the German Monarchy. In its place, the Weimar Republic emerged. Germany was left, however, in a precarious position. The future of her armed forces remains to be decided at the Treaty of Versailles, as there is much demand to disarm Germany entirely. Should this occur, however, millions of Germans would suddenly be out of a job. Further, the German public was largely unaware of the factors behind the scenes that led to Germany's capitulation. These were chiefly, the industrial ramifications of the United States' entry into the war, the economic power of the combined allied forces, and the lack of resources available to the German army. For soldiers on the ground, however, the belief that Germany would reign victorious never saw doubt in their mind. Consequently, the surrender surprised much of the German people.⁴³

Should the Treaty of Versailles see a non-favorable outcome for Germany, this surprise could easily become anger as nationalism is as strong in Germany as anywhere else. The German people already feel as though the surrender was a hollow attempt for the noble Germans to maintain power in the event of defeat. The new Weimar government is young and most importantly, weak. The goal of the German government at the Treaty of Versailles will undoubtedly be to avoid reparations.

Like France, much of the war was fought on German soil, meaning that the cost of reconstruction looms far above the economic capability of Germany. Germany's possession of Alsace Lorraine – a very productive and originally French region – will be vital in ensuring a smooth path to rebuilding. Being forced to pay reparations and the loss of Alsace Lorraine will undoubtedly cripple Germany. Economic instability combined with unrest amongst the people could easily lead to revolution.⁴⁴



Figure 10 - Devastated German countryside in the aftermath of the war

⁴³ "The End of the German War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/The-end-of-the-German-war.

⁴⁴ History.com Editors. "World War I." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 29 Oct. 2009, www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history.

Therefore, the aim of the German government is currently to limit damage as much as possible. Since Germany surrendered, however, they currently occupy a precarious negotiating position. Germany's strongest asset is its geographic position. Germany could position herself as a barrier to the spread of communism to western powers in a bid for a more favorable outcome. This, however, would require assurances as the aggressive foreign policy of Germany before the war led many to lay the blame for the conflict squarely on Germany herself.

The Kingdom of Austria-Hungary:

With the end of the first World War, Austria Hungary suffered a complete military and political collapse. The war weakened her resources, and the casualties fueled the fire of revolution, ultimately culminating in the break-up of the empire just one day after Germany officially surrendered. In its place are left the new states of Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia.⁴⁵



Figure 12 - Former Austro-Hungarian Empire



Figure 11 - New States after the fall of Austria-Hungary

The Republic of Austria:

The republic of Austria was limited to the mostly German speaking areas of Austria. Consequently, Austria remained in close ties with Germany. As a new state born from war, the new Austrian government was weak and unproven. As a result, the main aim of Austrian leadership was to make a ploy for a merger with Germany. As the two states shared a history, people, and language, there was a great allegiance between the two.

Such a move, however, is likely unfavorable to the victorious allies as it would strengthen Germany's position in Europe greatly. Resultantly the largest problem facing Austria now is reconstruction. As much of the southern front with Italy was fought on Austrian land, much of

⁴⁵ "Austria-Hungary." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 18 Sept. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary#:~:text=Austria%2DHungary%20was%20one%20of,Giusti%20on%203%20November%201918.

Austria's industrial capability has been destroyed. Rebuilding her army, industry, and government will be the daunting task of Austrian leadership for years to come. Like Germany, Austria had hundreds of thousands of ex-soldiers. Neglecting this demographic could easily lead to unrest in the country.⁴⁶

The Kingdom of Hungary

With the dissolution of Austria-Hungary, the Hungarian Democratic republic emerged from the ashes of Hungarian territory. The end of the monarchy and the election of prime minister Mihaly Karolyi marked the first democratic leader in Hungarian history. This new government, however, was weak. By this point, communism had garnered a strong hold in Hungary, which was boosted by the casualties of the first world war. Ex-soldiers in Hungary were already leaning heavily toward communism, and from the inception of the new government, the Hungarian Communist Party wielded considerable power. The choice of Hungarian leadership is now the following: side with western powers and aim to quell the communist sentiment in the hopes of more favorable peace terms; or capitulate to the growing communist sentiment, align themselves with the newly communist Russia, and aim to strengthen a new communist state with the help of an eager people.⁴⁷

The First Czechoslovak Republic

Czechoslovakia marked a combination of territories traditionally belonging to ethnic Czechs and Sloaks. The Czechs and Sloaks, however, had many religious and cultural differences. With the Czechs occupying the overwhelming majority (60% to 30% Sloaks), the Czechs maintain much more control in government. Revolution, however, can scarcely be afforded. Therefore, the primary aim of the new government must be to foster unity within its borders. This will include progressive social reforms to improve quality of life and education amongst its populous.

Czechoslovakia, does however, occupy a unique position insofar as it retained roughly 80% of the industrialized lands of the former Austria-Hungary. This quickly made it one of the most industrialized countries in the world. Strengthening the industrial capacity of Czechoslovakia could prove advantageous insofar as it would strengthen the unity of her people and the country's position abroad.

Entering the peace talks to finalize the end of the war, Czech leadership will be looking to make alliances wherever possible. The new liberal democracy lends them toward western Europe which has just emerged victorious. A relationship here could lead to favorable peace terms at the Treaty of Versailles. Their proximity to Russia and the communist-leaning states, however, could prove more useful in the long run. Tension remains high in the Balkans and should a war ensue within Czechoslovakia's borders or with neighboring states of the former Austria-Hungary, an alliance with Russia close by could prove far more fruitful. Finding alliances abroad will help

⁴⁶ "World War I." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Austria/World-War-I.

⁴⁷ "World War I." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Austria/World-War-I.

legitimize the new country and allow it to unify its people before looking to rebuild its armed forces.⁴⁸

Kingdom of Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia emerged from Austria-Hungary as a combination of six constituent republics: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. This meant that within its borders, Yugoslavia contained a myriad of ethnicities, cultures, and religions. Like Czechoslovakia, the first order of business for the new Yugoslavian government was unification. With so many cultures and ethnicities, revolution is always a risk, and any country seeking to spread communism across Europe would have an easy entry into Yugoslavia with foreign propaganda.

The new government is a constitutional republic, mimicking the democratic structure of western European nations. Ensuring that all ethnicities within the country feel represented will prove to be key for the future of the uncertain new state. This means that finding allies to legitimize the state is of key importance. In this sense, Yugoslavia faces the same decision as Czechoslovakia, ally with the western countries in a ploy for a favorable outcome to the peace treaty or align with Russia to have an ally near their borders.

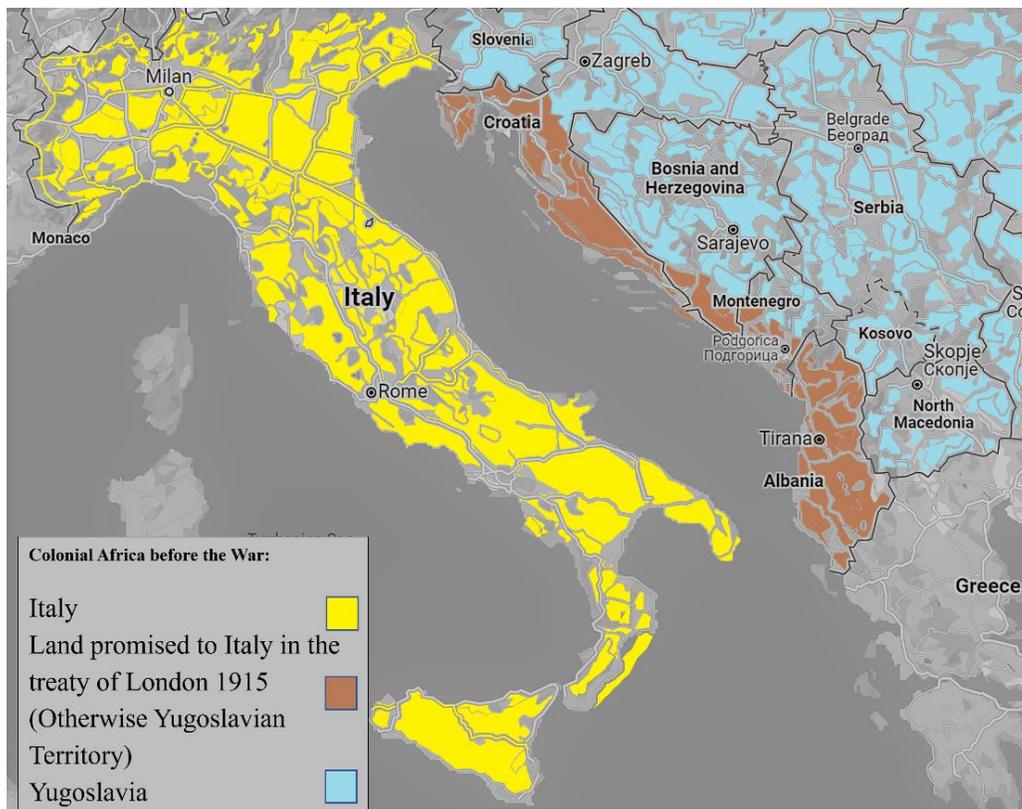


Figure 13 - Map of Yugoslavia's disputed territory with Italy

⁴⁸ "World War I." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Austria/World-War-I.

Such proximity would be important since Yugoslavia's most immediate problem is Italy. Italy was previously promised a swath of Yugoslavian land across the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in return for joining the war on the side of the allies. Should this land be given to Italy, much of Yugoslavia's sea-bordering land would be lost. This would in turn lead to reduced trade – as the country is land-locked on all other sides – and undoubtedly lead to unrest, as confidence in the new state would be shaken. This unrest could then turn into revolution given the many ethnicities aiming for power and control in the new state.⁴⁹

Allying with the western powers and making the case for their land against Italy is one method to securing a favorable outcome, but there is no guarantee that the western powers will align with Yugoslavia. This uncertainty is the biggest reason that Russia presents herself as an alternative option for an alliance.

⁴⁹ "World War I." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Austria/World-War-I.

New Political Ideologies

Liberal Democracy (Capitalism):

Liberal democracy and capitalism go hand in hand. The ideas have their origins in the renaissance period and have since come to define the status quo of western political philosophy. The belief in the free market and private ownership have helped propel western Europe and the United States to what they are today, and are for all intents and purposes, the defending side in the political battle of ideologies. Countries that are liberal democracies, however, grant their citizens freedom which makes them prone to communism. When the populous is allowed freedom of thought and speech, it is far easier for new ideas – such as communism – to spread. Therefore, modern governments aim to walk a fine line between granting their citizens the freedoms they promise and limiting the spread of an ideology which could overthrow the established order.⁵⁰

Communism:

Lenin argued that the first world war was solely the product of imperialist and capitalist powers aiming to expand their influence at the expense of the common people. This sentiment has taken on across Europe in recent years, and with the overthrow of the liberal government in Russia, Communism has proven itself to be a force to be reckoned with. Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto* describes a society where private possession is a thing of the past, and the government maintains full control of the economy and society in such a way as to provide equality and justice for all. This concise yet powerful work has ideas which have captured the imagination of entire nations. What Marx described, however, was a worldwide revolution. Countries which fly the communist banner will therefore be looking to expand their influence, as their obligation is not only to their citizens, but the common people of all lands.⁵¹

Fascism:

Fascism began as the idea that there is a “third option” between capitalism and communism. This was deemed the “corporate state.” The idea came from the intent to maintain the productive capacity of liberal democracy and capitalism without sacrificing the stability of power granted by more restrictive social rights such as freedom of speech. The “corporate state” was an idea conceived by fascist thinkers that described a country where its government was made up of privately owned companies. In this scenario, the head of government would maintain order and political stability through police and social forces whilst corporations would have a designated seat at the table in a “liberal democracy for companies” to ensure productive efficiency. Whilst this idea has yet to take on much in Europe, there is rumor that groups in Spain, Italy, Germany, and Austria have taken a keen interest in the idea of the political “third option.”⁵²

⁵⁰ Crouch, Colin. “1870–1914: On the Threshold of Organized Capitalism.” *Oxford Scholarship Online*, Oxford University Press, oxford.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1093/0198279744.001.0001/acprof-9780198279747-chapter-4.

⁵¹ “The Civil War and War Communism (1918–21).” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/Russia/The-Civil-War-and-War-Communism-1918-21.

⁵² “A History of FASCISM, 1914-1945.” *Routledge & CRC Press*, www.routledge.com/A-History-of-Fascism-1914-1945/Payne/p/book/9781857285956.

The Colonies

Africa:

With the fall of Germany, much of her territories in Africa remain up for grabs. With much of Europe looking to either build or strengthen a colonial empire, what comes of post-war Africa is of great importance to all parties. This is especially true for countries facing the task of reconstruction after the war. Colonies providing valuable economic output, raw minerals and trade will undoubtedly aid in the reconstruction effort, putting these colonial powers at an advantage in the new post-war era.⁵³

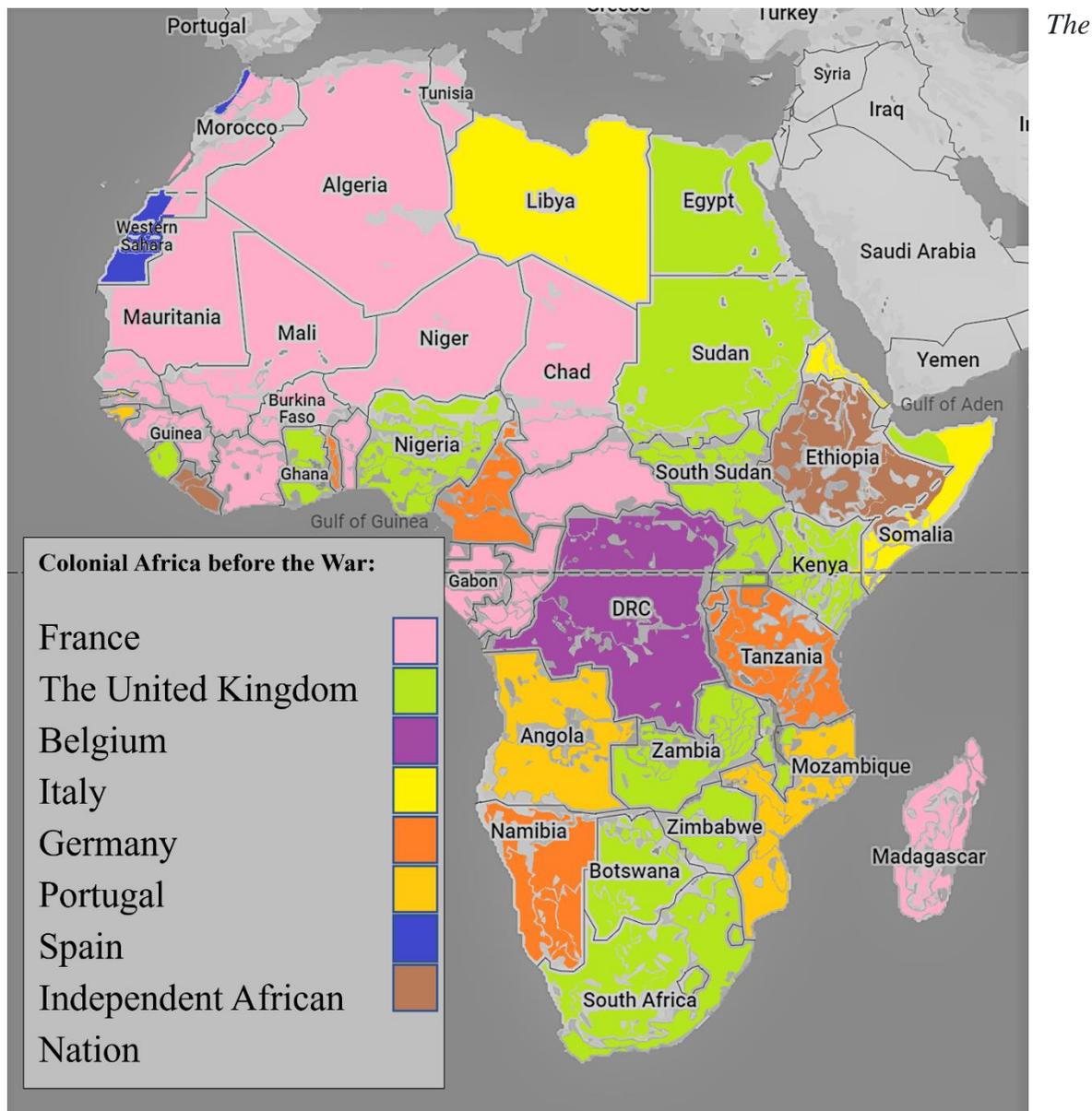


Figure 14 - Map of African Colonies (pre-war)

⁵³ "World War I." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/France/World-War-I.

Middle East:

With the end of the first world war, the Ottoman empire has collapsed completely this has plunged the middle east into chaos, leaving the Persian, Afghan, and Arabian states weak and vulnerable. The new era of mechanized warfare has shown that oil supply is chiefly important to fuel a nations military. Therefore, any nation with militaristic ambitions must have territories in the oil-rich middle east to supply their armed forces. With the fall of the Ottoman Empire, all their former territories, as well as those of Persia and Arabia are up for grabs for colonial powers.⁵⁴

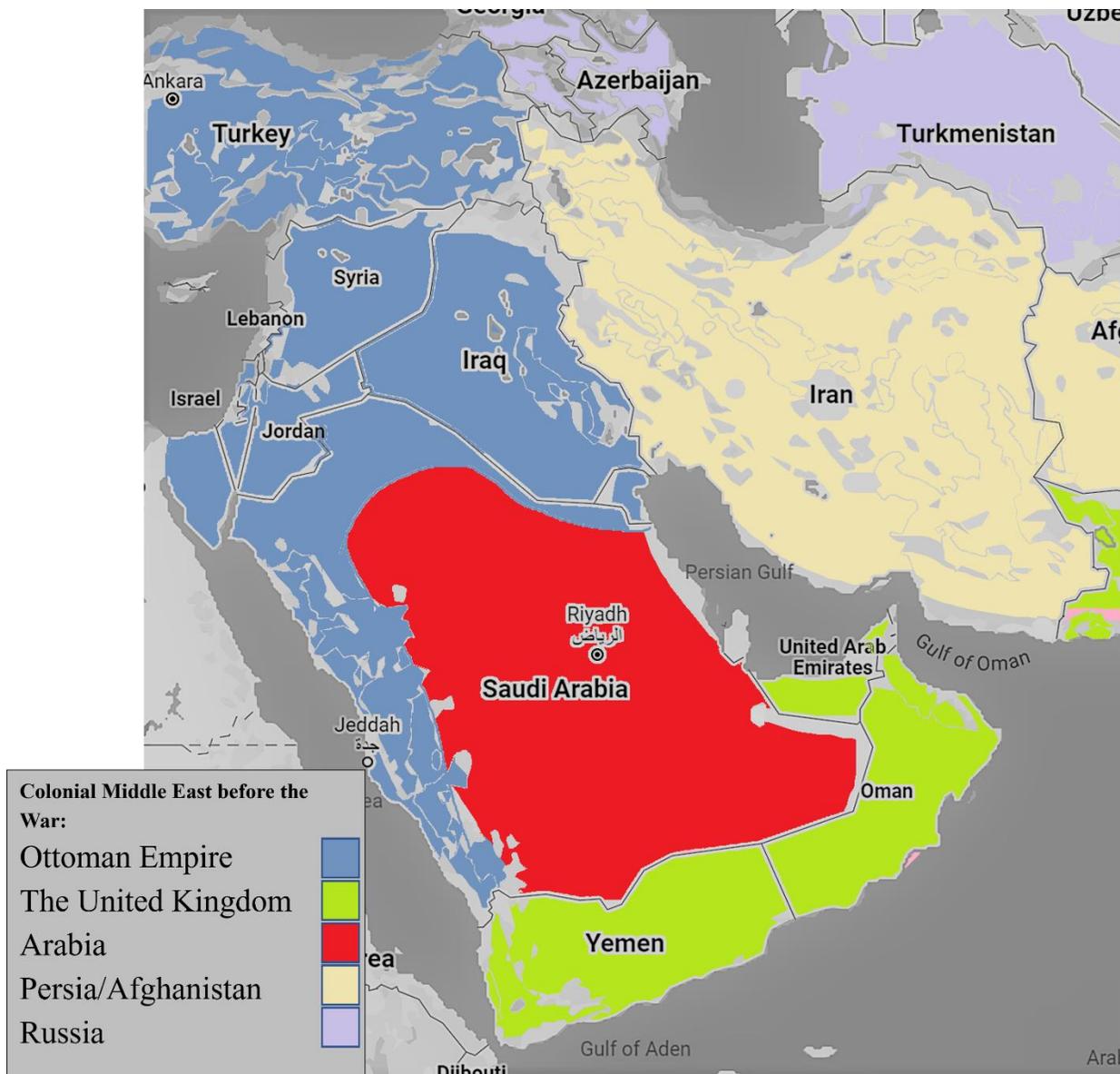


Figure 15 - Map of Middle Eastern Colonies (pre-war)

⁵⁴ “World War I.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/France/World-War-I.

East Asia:

Eastern Asia had historically been the territory of England, but with China making the effort to unify its territories, Japan aiming to build an empire, and Russia seeking to expand its own, east Asia is the new colonial frontier. With many rare resources, east Asian colonies have proven themselves to be valuable economic resources in the trade they bring. Any colonial power looking to expand its influence may consider east Asia as an easy option. A segregated China run by territorial warlords presents a prime opportunity for a foreign power to insert influence over the region.⁵⁵

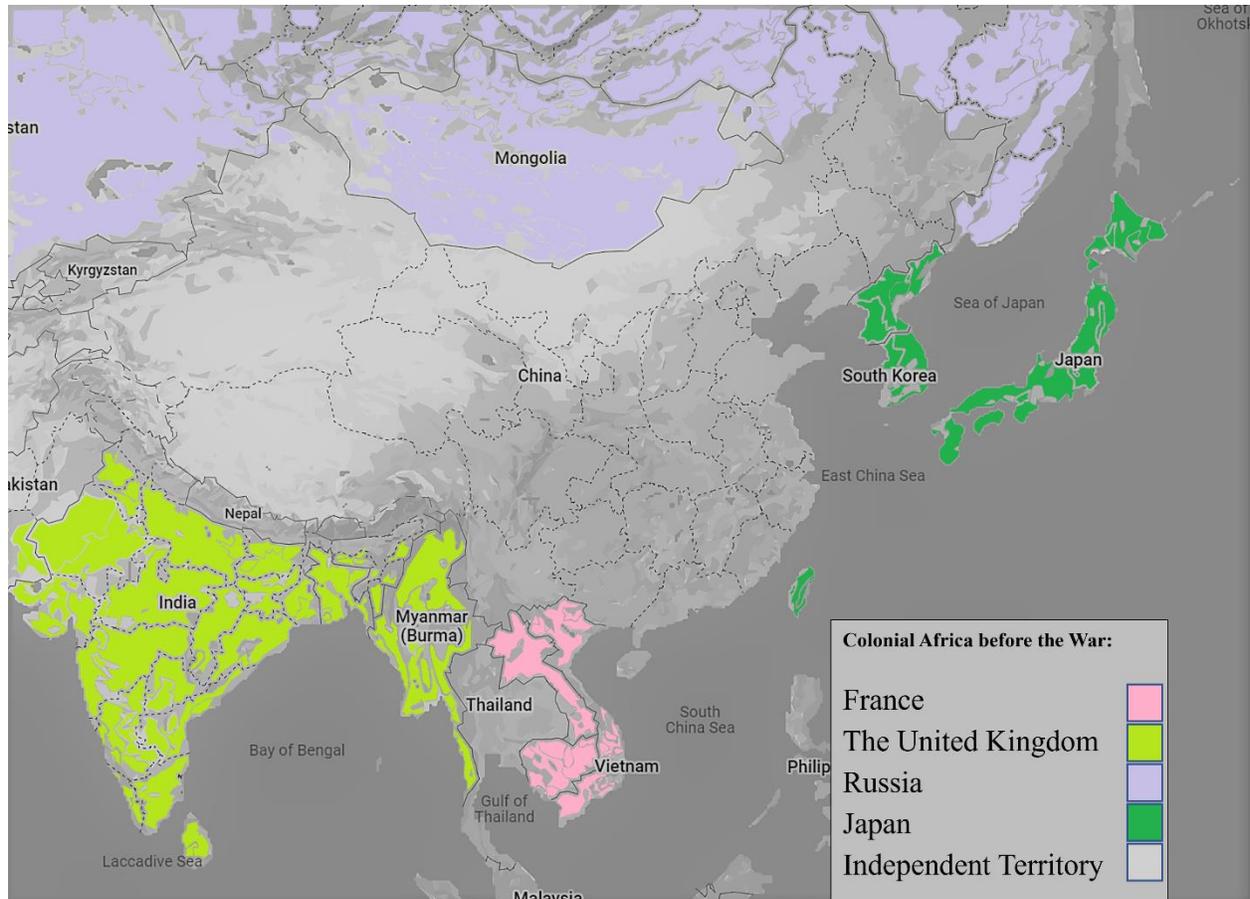


Figure 16 - Map of East Asian Colonies (pre-war)

⁵⁵ "World War I." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/place/France/World-War-I.

Current State of Affairs

With the surrender of Germany and the Axis powers, judgement day has finally arrived. The date is June 28th, 1919, and the Paris conference has begun. European leaders from all sides, as well as leaders from around the world, have gathered in Versailles to debate upon and officiate terms to end the Great War. Though peace is in the air, calm most certainly is not.

Tensions remain high between the great powers, and each enter the treaty negotiations with differing agendas, goals, and ambitions. Countries which wish to expand their empires are at odds with those wishing to maintain theirs, and the chief question of the world is what will become of Germany?

Due to the aggressive foreign policy of Germany prior to the war, many argue that Germany is chiefly to blame, and that they should be forced to bear the costs of reconstruction. This would inevitably, however, cripple Germany and her people. With the rise of communism looming, western powers must consider the consequences of any economic crises they orchestrate. Because of this, France and the United Kingdom remain somewhat at odds. With the United Kingdom interested in limiting the spread of communism, they are more partial toward a lenient settlement with Germany. France, on the other hand, is hoping to strip Germany of its military, levy heavy reparations, and reclaim the region of Alsace Lorraine.

Further, tension remains high in the Balkans with the dispute between Italy and Yugoslavia. Italy had been promised territory along the Mediterranean Sea in return for joining the war effort on the side of the Allies. Since then, however, a new state has emerged in the form of Yugoslavia, which could potentially be another western ally against the spread of communism. Other new Baltic states which have emerged from the fall of Austria-Hungary seek legitimacy as well. They will be looking for allies in the new era to strengthen their young governments.

Russia remains embroiled in civil war, having yet to fight off the white army and the loyalists. Nevertheless, communist Russia hopes to legitimize its new communist government and expand its influence. This includes its dispute with Japan over the Manchuria region and the Korean peninsula – previously the cause of the Russo-Japanese war. Both Japan and Russia have vested interests in the region and will be seeking to legitimize their claims at the post-war Treaty.

The question then remains of the colonies. What will become of former German colonies? Will Germany be allowed to keep her colonies, or her army? The fall of the Ottoman Empire has opened vast amounts of new potential territory in the middle east. This territory is oil rich and could prove vital in the case of another world war.

Finally, the question remains as to the economic situation after the war. With much of Europe left in shambles, the United States must decide the role it is to play in recovery and reconstruction. Will the United States return to its isolationist past, or will it take part in the new world order and provide economic aid in the reconstruction of Europe?

Delegates, welcome to Versailles.

Positions

The United States

Secretary of State, Colby Bainbridge

Originally from New York, Bainbridge spent much of his youth moving up and down the East coast of the United States. He is a sworn democrat, and like President Wilson, has always been a believer in the idea that America should include itself in the affairs of post-war Europe for the greater good. Formerly an attorney before pursuing a life in politics, Bainbridge has built up an impressive list of connections in the legal world. Most notably, several close friendships with supreme court justices. As the secretary of state, Bainbridge is the chief advisor to the U.S. president on issues of foreign affairs.

Secretary of Commerce, Joshua W. Alexander

Joshua W. Alexander grew up from a wealthy family in Cincinnati Ohio. As he rose through the political ranks, he gained many connections with leaders of private businesses. Known for hosting extravagant parties, it was not long before he courted much of the wall-street elite. This in turn led him to the height of his political career as the secretary of Commerce for the United States. As the secretary of Commerce, Alexander will have a heavy hand in any economic aide the United States provides to Europe. As a true businessman, he is known for not taking sides – especially on the topic of isolationism.

Attorney General, Mitchell A. Palmer

General Mitchell A. Palmer came from a background of academia. Having his roots in philosophy and history, he was published multiple times. This served him well when he later decided to take on a political career. Known for being partial, well spoken, and trustworthy, Mitchell rose through the political ranks to eventually become the Attorney General – chief legal advisor to the United States government. It is known that he has President Wilson's ear and trust, due to the reputation he has built himself. One thing he does not share with Wilson, however, is the idea that America should involve itself in foreign affairs. Palmer was never elated about the United States' involvement in European affairs, and now remains the biggest proponent of a return to isolationism on Wilson's Cabinet.

United Kingdom

Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, Charles James Fox

Charles Fox was born in South Africa, and as the son of a wealthy diplomat, he grew up across the commonwealth. Over his youth, he made friends with many higher-ups across the English commonwealth, which served him well when he entered political life in his mid-twenties. His connections helped propel his political career and made him a modestly wealthy man himself in the process. He is known for his sound judgement and habit of strong deliberation on all issues he faces. Additionally, he has become well known around the chamber of commons for being quite the croquet player, having even beaten the King himself in an odd game. With the end of the war finally in sight, Fox has taken the unique stance in favor of heavily punishing Germany, something that makes him stand out amongst his fellow Englishmen.

Secretary of State for War, Edward Stanley

Edward Stanley came from modest beginnings. Feeling the call to serve his country, he joined the army and rose through the ranks to become a prominent general. He saw much success in his many campaigns, especially in India where he was given the royal cross for his tactical genius. This was before he decided to use his skillset in a life of politics, and subsequently pursued a career in the public eye. His connections in the royal army and navy across the commonwealth proved to benefit him as he rose to become the Secretary of State for War rather quickly. Aside from his strong military background, Stanley has been known to be the epitome of a good host. He regularly hosts' brunch to keep up with his large network of connections and has played host to some of England's most elite politicians and industrialists.

Secretary of State for the Home Department, George Cave

George Cave was born in southern Scotland to a family of miners. His family nearly impoverished themselves providing him with the best boarding school education they could afford, and Cave was often bullied by his classmates for standing out against the wealthier crowd. This would not hinder him, however, as he put his education to good use when he moved to England in his early twenties to pursue a career in politics. His Scottish heritage lent itself well here, as he was able to secure a position as the Scottish ambassador to the monarchy early in his career. The connections he made within the royal family and the house of commons during this period eventually led him to the Prime Minister's cabinet as the Home Secretary. In this role, Cave is now responsible for everything related to domestic order in mainland England. With hundreds of thousands of soldiers returning from the western front, the process of reintegration is one of the many challenges Cave will face.

French Third Republic

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stephen Jean-Marie Pichon

Stephen Pichon was born in southern France to a wealthy family of nobles. He spent much of his early life living in Monaco before he moved to Paris to receive a top-quality boarding school education. Later in his life, he became a prominent French journalist and diplomat. Before moving into politics, he was well known in the world of journalism. The reputation that he built eventually led him to a myriad of connections in the field of publication and communications. As the minister of foreign affairs, Pichon is responsible for advising the French prime minister and President on key national issues beyond French Borders. Pichon, like many French, is a hardliner against Germany. Having had several family members of his own killed in the war, he is keen to see Germany pay.

Minister of Finance, Louis-Lucien Klotz

Louis Lucien was born in Normandy, northeastern France, and has always had a passion for literature. He was known to be a bookworm in his youth, having read everything from Cicero, Plato and Aristotle to John Locke, Adam Smith, and Thomas Hobbes. He has written many novels garnering international appraisal on issues ranging from political and economic commentary to justice and philosophy. His prominent writings gained him entrance into the esteemed French Literary Society, which granted him connections with many other esteemed French writers. These connections all served him well in his political life and helped him reach the position of Minister of Finance in the French Cabinet. Like so many others, Lucien had lost family in the war, and was strongly against partiality toward Germany. As the minister of finance, he had been tasked with the daunting challenge of France's reconstruction.

Minister of the Armed Forces, Ferdinand Foch

Ferdinand Foch was born abroad in French Mali. Born to a wealthy general, he moved to mainland France at a young age to be educated at the most prominent military school in all of France. This made him a well-bred military man by the time he graduated. For generations, his family had proudly served in the French army, and he was keen to continue his long military lineage. Since graduating, he has risen through the ranks in what can only be described as an impeccable career in the military. He is known for his loyalty to his men and would never send them somewhere he would not go himself. With this, he built connections across the armed forces and beyond. Having watched many he had commanded die at the hands of German gunfire, Ferdinand was keen to use his sway to ensure that no man would need to suffer at the hands of German aggression again. He feared that anything less than the complete demilitarization of Germany would mean doom for France in the future.

Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic

Second People's Commissar of the Red Army, Joseph Hansen

Joseph Hansen was originally born in Ukraine and was the long-time childhood friend of none other than Leon Trotsky. Having been born into a military family, he had become disillusioned with the Tsarist regime. When Trotsky joined the revolutionary movement, he took Hansen with him, and they rose through the ranks together. As Trotsky's right-hand man, Joseph Hansen has effective control of the Red Army. During the revolution, Hansen had shown himself to be a true revolutionary, and therefore gained the respect of his comrades. Aside from his loyalty, Hansen has the astute nickname of the "iron liver," being known for the ability to outdrink anyone who dares to challenge him. Most notably, the only man to beat Lenin himself in a game of Beer Paw.

People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Georgy Chicherin

Georgy Cherin was born and raised in Petrograd to a wealthy family of nobles. Serving as a diplomat in the Tsarist regime, he was known for his prudent advice and intellect. His successful political career garnered him many connections amongst the Russian nobility. During the war, however, he grew weary of the Tsarist regime as he felt that Russian lives were needlessly being sacrificed in the war. This eventually led him to the revolutionary movement. Whilst his past garnered him much disdain from his comrades in the new communist government, Lenin could not ignore his skill and political intellect. Additionally, his connections in the Russian nobility did much to aid the communist effort at the start of the civil war. Therefore, Lenin believed that Georgy had earned his seat at the table.

People's Commissar of National Economy, Alexei Rykov

Alexei Rykov was born in eastern Siberia to a poor family. When orphaned at a young age, he was adopted by a wealthy set of nobles. With them, he moved to Petrograd and received the finest education available in Russia. Finding a passion in academia, Rykov became a prominent Russian economist and was published many times before entering office. Feeling the call of Marxist ideals, Alexei set out to adapt modern economics to what he saw as the "inevitable communist future." His dedication and loyalty served him well when he joined the revolutionary effort, and he eventually rose to the top of the Soviet regime. With Russia facing mounting costs because of the ongoing civil war, Lenin has trusted Rykov to ensure that Russia has the resources to last in this increasingly bitter conflict.

German Republic

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ulrich Graf von Brockdorff-Rantzau

Ulrich Graf was a lifelong politician born from German nobility in Berlin. Having grown up in high society, he was well known amongst diplomats, academics, and other members of the German elite. From a young age, Ulrich proved himself to be a talented Polo player. In playing against many members of elite German society, he furnished many friendships, especially with prominent German lawyers. With the new Weimar Government, Ulrich Graf has found himself in an advantageous position as the new minister of foreign affairs in Germany. As he is a fierce nationalist and believer in his country, the German government believed in his ability to negotiate the terms of the end of the war on their behalf.

Minister of Interior: Hugo Preuß

Hugo Preuß was born in Munich and grew up in the high society of Germany. At a young age, he found a passion for the fine arts which led him to many connections in the German artistic world. He can play more than 20 different instruments and has performed his own opera on several occasions. His musical and artistic talent also somewhat juxtapose his incredibly successful political career. Originally working in the field of public safety on the side of his musical career, he rose through the ranks to become the Ministry of Interior of the new German government. He has now been faced with the daunting task of maintaining order in Germany after the end of the war.

Minister of Treasury: Georg Gothein

Georg Gothein was born and raised in northern Germany. As a talented economist, and a fierce believer in the ideals of capitalism, he has published his own work on several socio-economic topics. He is also known for being a skilled golfer and has made many friends in the titans of German industrialism through his talent on the course. His political career began when he feared a communist revolt in Germany toward the end of the war and used his connections in the field of economics to earn himself a seat at the table of the new Government. With many economic ideas, Gothein is keen to help create the Germany he believes it has the potential to become.

Kingdom of Italy

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Sidney Sonnino

Sidney Sonnino is not known for being a political man. He is an enjoyer of the fine arts and specifically a lover of the opera. Having made his own fortune in the business of olive oil, he purchased his own Opera house at the age of 30. He would later venture into political life at the start of the 20th century. Feeling the calling of his country, he decided to use his experience in negotiations for good. His political career and connections in business eventually led him to the ministry of foreign affairs, where he is now trusted by the Italian prime minister to secure Italy's interests abroad.

Minister of Finance, Filippo Meda

Filippo Meda was born into a working-class family and joined political life at a relatively young age. What he lacked in family background, he made up for in skill and political maneuvering. His charming personality got him into favor with politicians across the country almost as much as it got him into trouble with their wives and the ladies he met along the way. Aside from being a serial-womanizer, Meda is also a skilled economist. He has proven his financial ability midway through his political career as the finance chief for several public projects, which eventually led him to the ministry of finance itself. His skill for turning a profit out of everything he touches garnered him much favor in the Italian leadership.

Minister of War, Vittorio Luigi Alfieri

Vittorio Luigi Alfieri is a born and bred military man, coming from a long line of officers and soldiers. The family name was well known in the military, and it propelled him far in his political career. Alfieri, whilst fiercely loyal to his country, was known for being somewhat at odds with the Italian leadership. He had long felt that Italy's participation in the war was a needless conquest of more land covered in the same imperialist shroud that haunted Europe as a whole. This had ultimately led him to be weary of communism and capitalism altogether. Though known for his political outbursts, his military skill and political maneuvering made him a force to be reckoned with amongst the Italian elite.

The Empire of Japan

Chief of Staff of the Imperial Japanese Army, General Yui Mitsue

Yui Mitsue was born and raised in Northern Japan to a family of diplomats. With a desire to enter the armed forces, he joined the Military at a young age as an officer and quickly proved his ability, eventually rising to the rank of General. It was here that he would have his greatest accomplishment, heralding many victories in the Russo-Japanese war. This earned General Mitsue much respect amongst the Japanese establishment. His long list of accolades speaks for itself, and he has become well known for being the host to some of Japan's most exclusive parties. In the field of politics, Mitsue showed unwavering loyalty to the Japanese regime and empire, which has earned him the respect of Japanese leadership. With sharp military intellect and many connections across the Japanese establishment, Mitsue has proven himself well qualified to represent Japanese interests.

Minister of Colonial Affairs, Baron Tanaka Giichi

Tanaka Giichi, like many Japanese diplomats, was born into the establishment. Having grown up as a close friend of the emperor himself, his dive into political life was always set to be successful. Aiming to eventually step out of the shadow of his close friend, he assumed control of Japan's offshore colonial territories in the hopes of doing his part to expand the Japanese empire. He has also been known to be quite lucky, especially at horseraces. Amongst his friends, he is famously quoted as saying: "betting has nothing to do with faith or luck, but rather skill and cunning." His luck and skill have helped to make him an incredibly wealthy man.

Minister of Finance Takahashi Korekiyo

Takahashi Korekiyo grew up in southern Japan and earned his reputation as an academic and scholar teaching at Japan's most prestigious universities. He has long been a respected academic in Japanese society and is known for his many published works in the fields of economics and political theory. His reputation helped him launch a successful political career. With the dawn of a new era, the emperor personally appointed Korekiyo as Japan's new minister of finance. He believed that Japan's economic future is a vital part of the preservation of the empire and sees Korekiyo's proven skill as an integral part in his vision for the future.

Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (Former Constituents)

The Republic of Austria

Foreign Minister Victor Adler

Victor Adler started his career in the Austro-Hungarian armed forces, before eventually moving into political life. Having known many German officers and Generals personally, he was friendly to the German cause in the first world war, and keen to support the fellow German-speaking nation. His political life saw much success in the form of a network with the Austro-Hungarian elite which now lie spread across four countries. His name recognition led him to a new position in the Austrian government, though his connections outside the country remain valuable. Though he proved skilled in the art of ambassadorship and foreign negotiations, his true passion always lied in wine. Since his youth, Adler was a great appreciator of fine wine. When he achieved success and wealth in his political career, he purchased his own vineyard in central Austria. He has since made a small fortune for himself with his wine business.

Hungarian People's Republic

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aladar Zichy

Aladar Zichy was born to a wealthy family in eastern Hungary. He moved to what is now Czechoslovakia for much of his youth before returning at the age of thirty. His family had been prominent industrialists who gave him considerable political sway across central Europe amongst business leaders. Proving intelligent and politically skilled, he made a name for himself in the public eye which eventually put him in a prime position to capitalize on the fall of the empire. This ultimately led him to the ministry of Foreign Affairs where the new Hungarian leadership hoped his connections could help strengthen the country's new position on the world stage. In his free time, Zichy is known to be a skilled surfer, which is unfortunate given that the newly formed Hungary is land-locked.

Kingdom of Yugoslavia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ante Trumbić

Originating from Serbian heritage, Trumbić had grown up with a strong pride in his ethnicity of origin. Born into nobility and a family of incredible wealth, Trumbić's political career was far more about fun for him than anything else. He is known for throwing extravagant parties and playing host to some of the most elite artisans, writers, politicians and who's-who of Austria-Hungary. His love of the nightlife, however, never overshadowed his skill and political maneuvering. Above all else, Trumbić is known for getting what he wants. As a prominent Serb who has proven himself in the field of politics, Yugoslavian leadership sees his appointment as an opportunity to quell unrest between the ethnicities in the new country, as well as to utilize his unquestionable skillset.

First Czechoslovak Republic

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Edvard Benes

Edvard Benes proved himself to be a cunning businessman in his youth. Starting his own trade and shipping business and building it to become a wealthy man, Edvard obtained the respect of Austro-Hungarian elites early in his life. He then used this respect to kick-off a successful political career. He is also a minority in the new government insofar as he is originally Slovakian. His appointment came at the pressure of the Slovakian elite in the new Czechoslovakia. He is known for being a fierce nationalist and having a strong belief in the capability of the Slovakian people.

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