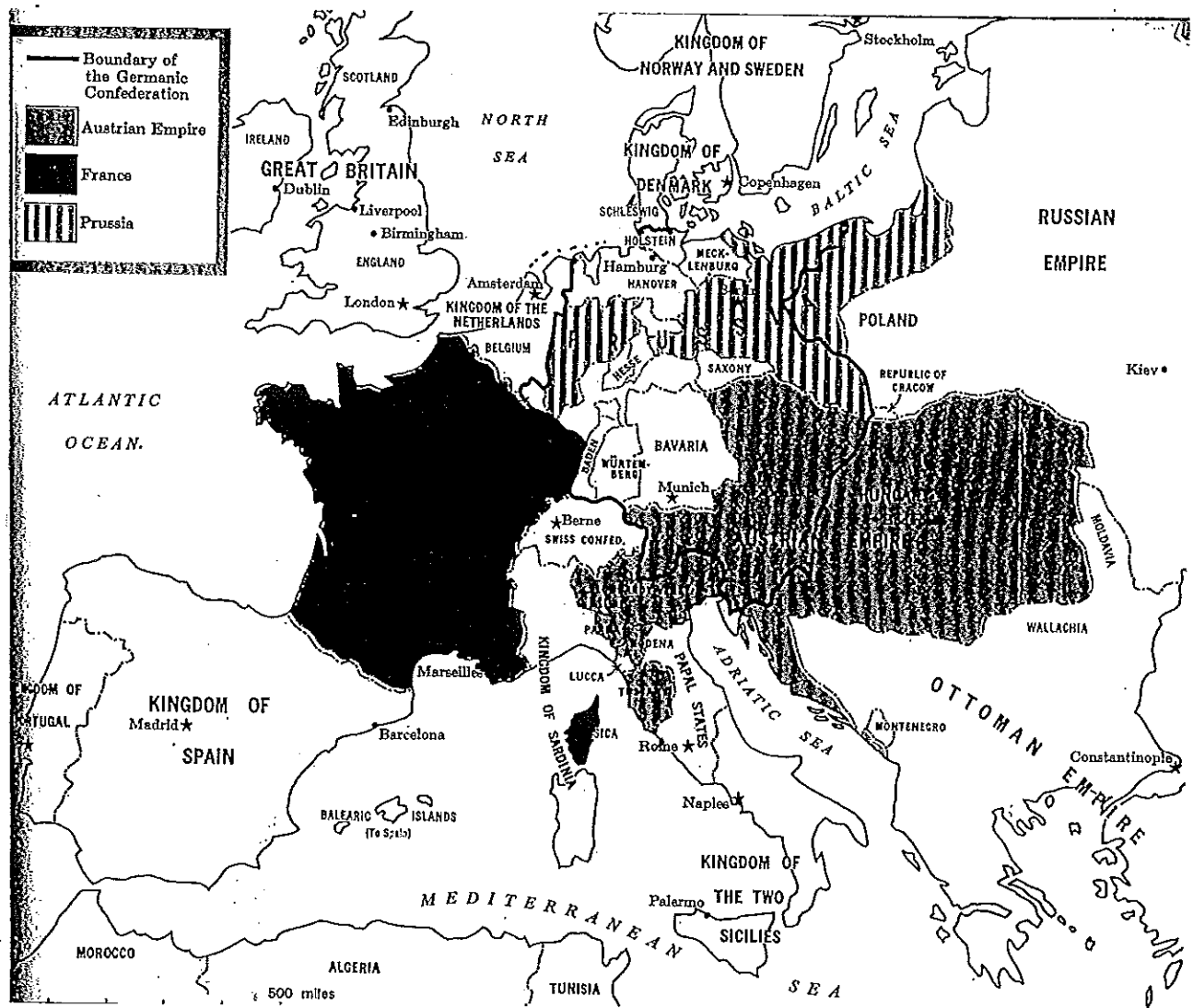


Grade 11: Simulation Exercise World War One: Britain

Note: This is a simulation. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead is purely intentional.

Background Info:

You are the ruling party of Britain, one of the world's great powers. In all, you control a quarter of the globe, and you have the largest navy in the world in order to maintain and protect your vast colonial holdings. Because your country is situated on two islands off the coast of Europe, you have not been invaded since 1066 (although Spain made one attempt in the sixteenth century, no Spanish troops ever landed). In spite of this favorable position, you have been involved in various conflicts in continental Europe in more recent times in order to safeguard your interests, maintain your international reputation, and to ensure that the other great powers never got into a position where they could threaten you. For instance, when Belgium rebelled against the Netherlands in 1830, you strenuously opposed attempts by the other great powers to take it over. Instead, you insisted that it be an independent and neutral state. You did this because the Belgians would never be content under the rule of the Netherlands, and there would always be a risk of their being absorbed by one of the great powers. Because Belgium is the easiest jumping-off point for an invasion of England, it is vital that it be kept neutral. In 1839, you got Prussia, Austria, Russia and France to sign a treaty guaranteeing Belgian neutrality for all time. In order to avoid becoming entangled in costly foreign wars, you have avoided making alliances with other powers.



Crisis #1:

The Spanish crown is vacant, and the throne has been offered to a prince of the Prussian royal family. France objected very strongly to this move, because it could mean that Prussia would control land on two of France's borders, which would threaten France. France is increasingly feeling threatened by Prussia, which is in the process of uniting the various German states under its rule. The prince in question has refused the throne in order to placate France, but France has sent a demand to William I of Prussia, insisting that he promise that no member of his family would ever accept the Spanish throne. The German chancellor has published the telegram in Germany, and it contains very insulting language. The French insist that the telegram has been altered, and that the telegram they sent was more polite. Tempers are getting heated, and Prussia and France may go to war. If this happens, do you want to:

- A) fight with France against Prussia?
- B) fight with Prussia against France?
- C) stay out of the whole thing, but insist that both sides restate their commitment to Belgian neutrality?



Europe in 1914

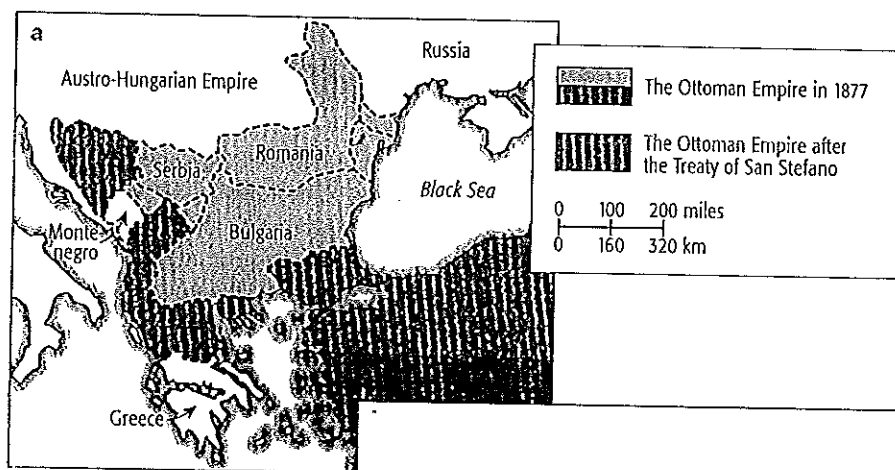
Crisis #2: The Congress of Berlin, 1878

There has been trouble in the Balkans. This region, which lies between Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey, has been part of the Turkish empire for several hundred years. However, Turkey is in decline as a great power. This decline is destabilizing the region, as the various peoples push for independence, and Russia and Austria-Hungary both attempt to increase their influence. Russia is anxious to get access to the Mediterranean for its navy, and also to have a port that can be used year-round. Russians are a Slavic people, as are most of the inhabitants of the Balkans, so they argue that the Balkans should be united under Russian rule. Austria-Hungary wants to prevent any small states from becoming independent in case the various ethnic groups within its borders begin to get restless. It is also afraid of letting Russia get too much power in the region.

The trouble began when the Bulgarians revolted against Turkish rule in 1876. The Turks responded by massacring many Bulgarians. Eventually, the crisis escalated, and the Russians became involved. The Russo-Turkish war (which Russia won) has just ended in 1878 with the Treaty of San Stefano. By the terms of the Treaty of San Stefano Serbia and Romania are to become fully independent, Bulgaria has made into a large autonomous state which is expected to be dominated by Russia, reforms are promised in Bosnia, and Russia has annexed some territory east of the Black Sea.

As has become a regular occurrence in Europe when major diplomatic events take place, The great powers are holding a congress to discuss this treaty and modify its terms if necessary. What is your position?

- A) The treaty is fine and we should leave it alone.
- B) Russia should not be allowed to annex any Turkish territory. Turkey should be left alone.
- C) The treaty gives Russia too much power. She can take some Turkish territory, but not as much as that.
- D) The treaty gives Russia too much power; Austria-Hungary should get some territory too.
- E) Russia can keep some Turkish territory, but only if Britain gets some too.

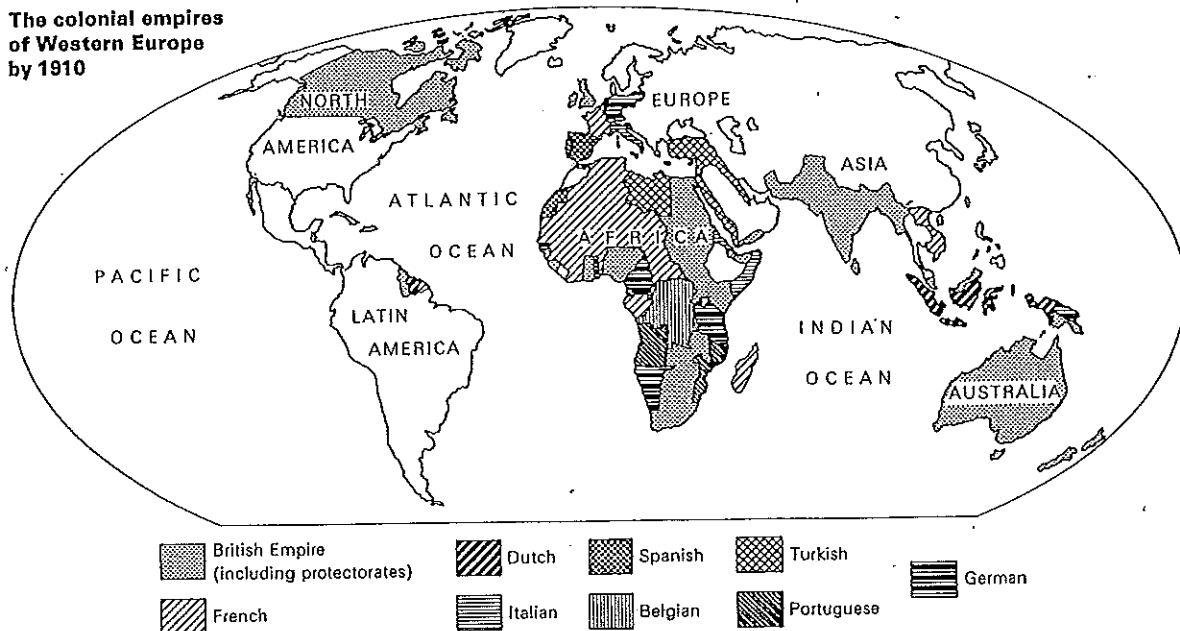


Crisis #3: French and Russians sign Alliance, 1897

Germany has made a military alliance with Austria-Hungary (1879) and Italy (1882) France is getting increasingly worried about Germany, and is signing a military alliance with Russia. These two countries are pledging to defend one another if either is attacked by Germany.

- A) Join the alliance with France and Russia
- B) Stay out of alliances.
- C) Pursue an alliance with Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy against France and Russia.

**The colonial empires
of Western Europe
by 1910**



Crisis #4: The Fashoda Incident, 1898

At present, you are engaged in expanding your influence in Africa. You are hoping one day to control enough territory to be able to build a railway all the way from Cairo to the Cape. Unfortunately, the other European powers are getting in on the act as well. France, in particular, is taking over a lot of territory. They are expanding eastward across the continent, while we expand in a north-south direction. Our respective troops have met at a place called Fashoda on the upper Nile. The officer in charge of our troops, Kitchener, has worked out a tentative deal with the French forces that the British flag will fly over the main part of the fort, and the French flag will fly over a corner. He has sent to you asking what to do now.

- A) Tell Kitchener to attack the French.
- B) Negotiate some sort of agreement with the French so you can work together to control the expansion of the other European powers.

Crisis #5: First Moroccan Crisis and Algericas Conference

In 1904, you signed an agreement with the French in which you defined your respective colonial spheres of influence. One of the terms of this agreement is that you will have control of Egypt (and will protect French shipping going through Suez), while you will give the French a free hand in Morocco. You also agreed to support them in colonial disagreements with third parties (although you are under no obligation where European affairs are concerned). France is now in the process of establishing privileges for her merchants in Morocco, and of taking a role in Morocco's administration, but Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany has landed in Tangier and made a proclamation recognizing Moroccan "independence" and declaring that Germany was prepared to defend its "legitimate interests" in the area. A conference has been called on the issue:

- A) Support the French according to your agreement, and push for them to have full control in Morocco.
- B) Betray the French and give Morocco to Germany.
- C) Make a compromise and divide Morocco between Germany and France.

Crisis #6: The Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907

The French have been pestering you for a long time to pursue closer relations with Russia. Relations have been bad because of conflicts over colonial interests in Afghanistan, Tibet and Persia (Iran). In addition, you refused to let her ships through the Suez canal during the Russo-Japanese war in 1904 and 1905. However, in view of the increasing threat posed by Germany, France wants you to bury the hatchet with Russia.

- A) Tell the French to forget it.
- B) Come to some sort of informal agreement on colonial conflicts, but avoid a full-fledged alliance.
- C) Make a full-fledged alliance.

Crisis #7: The Anglo-German Naval Race: 1906-1914

In 1906, the HMS Dreadnought was launched in Britain. This is a new kind of battleship. It is estimated that pre-dreadnought battleships will survive only five minutes if matched against dreadnoughts. This means that the strongest Navy in the world will be the one that builds the most dreadnoughts. It is our policy that Britain must have twice as large a navy as any other power because we are an island nation with a large overseas empire. However, since 1906, Germany has been building a strong navy and we are hard-pressed to keep ahead of them. What should we do?

- A) Tell Germany you will declare war unless she stops building battleships. If she doesn't stop, declare war.
- B) Stop worrying about having more ships than Germany and just let them build their super navy.
- C) Try to cement closer ties with the other European powers in case you end up going to war with Germany.

Crisis #8: Austria-Hungary Annexes Bosnia, 1908

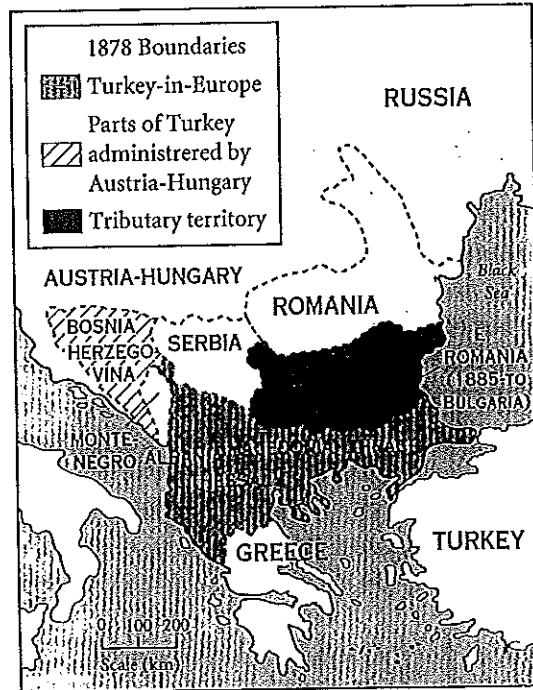
-Taking advantage of the Young Turk revolution, which has broken out in Turkey this year, Austria has annexed Bosnia. The Serbs, who also claim Bosnia, have protested this action, as have the Russians. The Russians, however, are in pretty bad shape at the moment, having just lost a war with Japan, and having just put down a revolution at home. It is possible that the Russians and Serbia will declare war on Austria-Hungary. We could make friends with them if we helped them out, either militarily or diplomatically, but, on the other hand, Austria-Hungary was promised Bosnia at the Congress of Berlin, so they're really within their rights to take it over.

- A) Declare war on Austria-Hungary
- B) Condemn the annexation of Bosnia, but don't go to war over it.
- C) Stay out of it; you're under no obligation to do anything.

Crisis #9 Agadir Crisis/Second Moroccan Crisis, 1911

There has been unrest in Morocco. France has sent 20,000 troops to restore order. Germany has responded by sending a gunboat to Agadir to "protect German interests". All of this is going on very close to our own stronghold at Gibraltar. Should we:

- A) Support France according to the terms of our agreement with them, but encourage them to come to some sort of compromise?
- B) Support Germany's claim for some share of Morocco?
- C) Support France, encourage them to come to some sort of compromise and begin discussing military cooperation in case we do go to war with Germany in the near future.



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Crisis #10: The First Balkan War: 1912-13

-In a bid for supremacy in the Balkans, Serbia organized a "Balkan League", consisting of Serbia, Greece, Montenegro and Bulgaria. Its aim was to drive Turkey out of Europe. Turkey lost all of its European territory in this war except for a strip along the straits. At the peace conference, which is being negotiated in London, they will be dividing up the territory. The issue that most concerns the great powers is the question of Albania, which is claimed by Greece and Serbia, and was sort of promised to Italy at the Congress of Berlin:

- A) Give Albania to Serbia, giving Serbia access to the sea.
- B) Give Albania to Greece.
- C) Give Albania back to Turkey.
- D) Make Albania Independent.

Crisis #11: Second Balkan War, 1913

Serbia, Greece, Romania and Turkey have all been fighting against Bulgaria over the division of Macedonia after the first Balkan war. They have won. What do you want your input to be at the Peace conference in Bucharest in 1914:

- A) Give Albania to Serbia, giving Serbia access to the sea.
- B) Give Albania to Greece.
- C) Give Albania back to Turkey.
- D) Make Albania Independent.

Crisis #12: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, June 28, 1914

Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. The student who assassinated him is an eighteen-year old called Gavrilo Princip. It is thought that he was working for the "Black Hand," a terrorist organization that works out of Serbia. What will you do if:

- 1) Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia?
 - A) Nothing.
 - B) Declare war on Austria-Hungary.
 - C) Declare war on Serbia.
 - D) Try to organize a peace conference, but otherwise do nothing.
 - E) Begin troop mobilizations and try to organize a peace conference.

- 2) Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and Russia enters the conflict on Serbia's side?
- A) Nothing.
 - B) Declare war on Austria-Hungary.
 - C) Declare war on Serbia and Russia.
 - D) Try to organize a peace conference, but otherwise do nothing.
 - E) Begin troop mobilizations and try to organize a peace conference.
- 3) Germany enters the conflict on Austria-Hungary's side?
- A) Nothing.
 - B) Declare war on Austria-Hungary and Germany.
 - C) Declare war on Serbia and Russia.
 - D) Try to organize a peace conference, but otherwise do nothing.
 - E) Begin troop mobilizations and try to organize a peace conference.
- 4) France enters the war on Russia and Serbia's side?
- A) Nothing.
 - B) Declare war on Austria-Hungary and Germany.
 - C) Declare war on Serbia, France and Russia.
 - D) Try to organize a peace conference, but otherwise do nothing.
 - E) Begin troop mobilizations and try to organize a peace conference.
- 5) France violates Belgian neutrality?
- A) Nothing.
 - B) Declare war on Austria-Hungary and Germany.
 - C) Declare war on Serbia and Russia.
 - D) Protest strongly, but otherwise do nothing.
 - E) Threaten war and begin mobilization.
- 6) Germany violates Belgian neutrality?
- A) Nothing.
 - B) Declare war on Austria-Hungary and Germany.
 - C) Declare war on Serbia and Russia.
 - D) Protest strongly, but otherwise do nothing.
 - E) Threaten war and begin troop mobilizations

Military Situation in Britain as of 1914

Population: 45 million + 390 million in the empire

Soldiers: 710,000

Military expenditure 1913-14: 50 million pounds

Battleships Built or being built: 64

Submarines: 64

Tonnage of Merchant Ships: 20 million

Kilometers of track (1900): 35,000

Coal (1900): 225 million tonnes

Steel (1900): 4.9 million tonnes