

Grade 11: Simulation Exercise

World War One: Russia

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

Background Info:

Russia is a multiethnic empire. Many different languages are spoken within our borders. The dominant group is the Slavs, who adhere to the Russian Orthodox Church, and live in the western part of the empire, but over the last two centuries, we have incorporated many different peoples.

Although we are the most populous nation on earth, we lag behind almost all the European nations in industrialization. The chief priority of the past two Tsars has been modernization, but it is a slow process.

There is also a danger inherent in modernization: should our people adopt the dangerous democratic nationalistic tendencies of the European countries, our great empire will come apart at the seams. In addition, socialism has been gaining ground in Russia in the past fifty years. If the socialists are permitted to gain power, they will be the death of the monarchy and of the Church.

Russian Diplomacy-Major Events

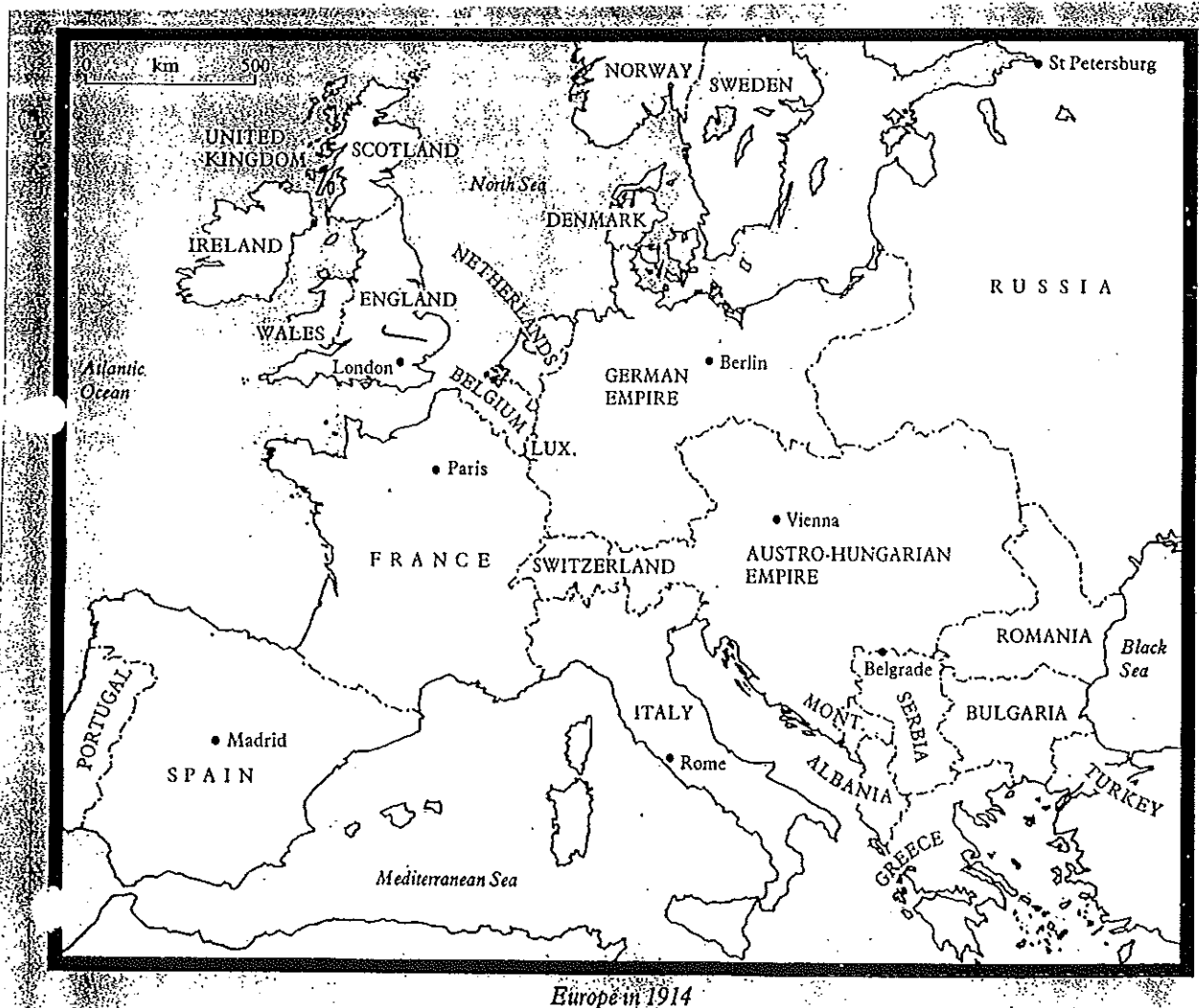
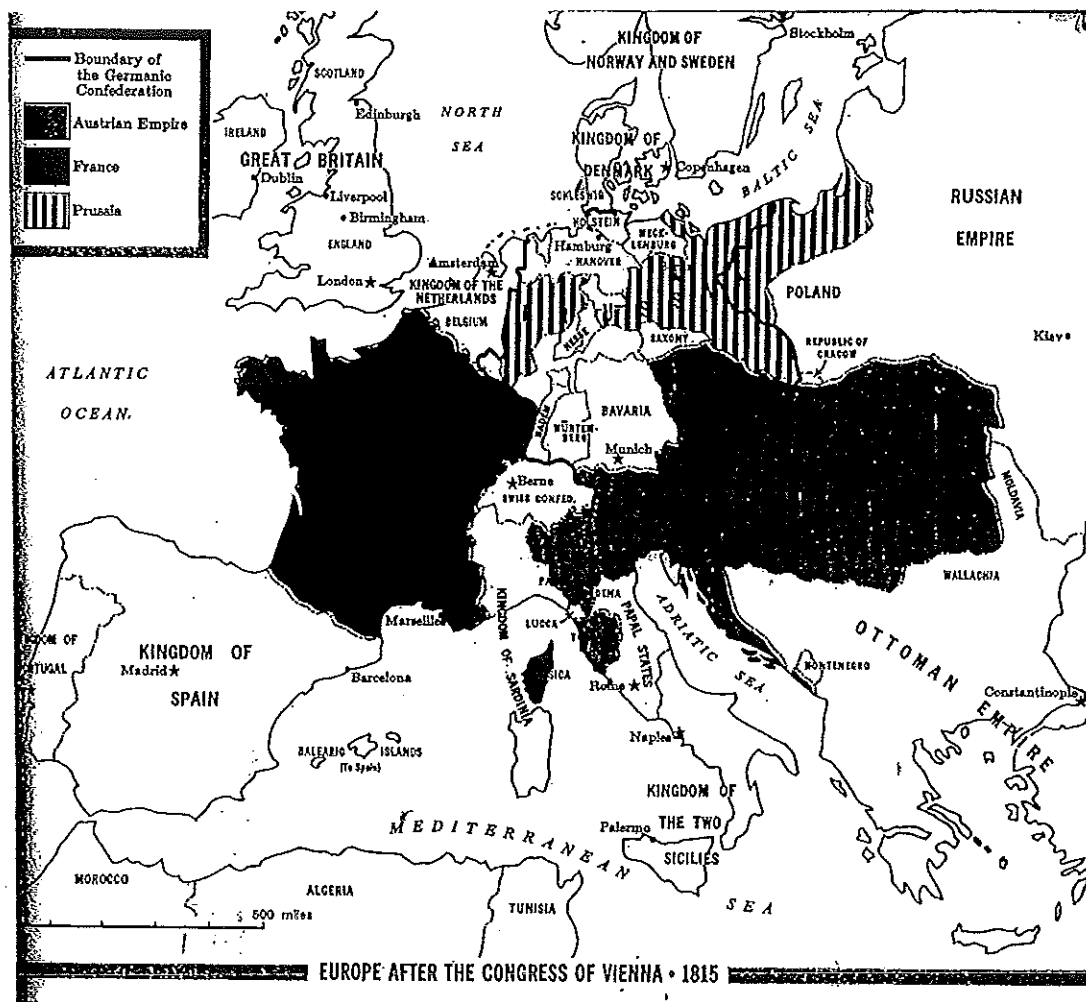
Our chief diplomatic objectives in recent years have been:

- 1) expansion of our borders in the Far East
- 2) control of the Bosphorous straits where the Black Sea meets the Mediterranean, giving our navy access to the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.
- 3) acquisition of a port that can remain active all year round.
- 4) expansion of our borders into the lands held by Turkey
- 5) uniting all Slavic peoples under our rule.

Crisis #1: The Franco-Prussian War, 1870-71

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.



Prisls #2: The Congress of Berlin, 1878

Note: In 1873, we signed an alliance with Germany and Austria Hungary at the instigation of the Germans. The German chancellor argued that since all of our states are monarchies, we have a common interest in maintaining law and order and preventing republicanism from running rampant in Europe.

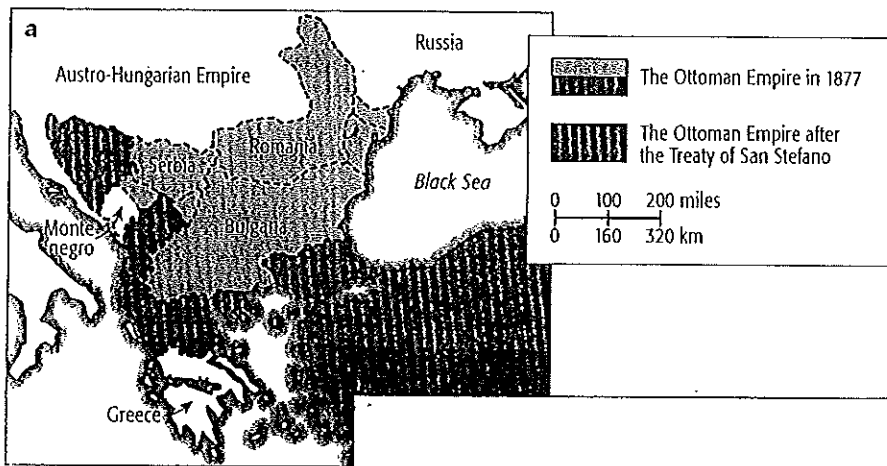
There has been trouble in the Balkans. This region, which lies between Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey, has been part of the Turkish empire for several hundred years. However, Turkey is in decline as a great power. This decline is destabilizing the region, as the various peoples push for independence, and Austria and we both attempt to increase our influence. Most of the people living in the Balkans are Slavic like us, so we are bound by ties of blood and by common interests to oppose Austrian expansion in the region. If we could establish friendly governments throughout the Balkans, or even join some of the Balkan nations to our territory, we could gain secure access to the Mediterranean for our shipping and possibly for our navy. On the other hand, it would be dangerous to allow Austria-Hungary to gain too much power. At the very least, it would affect our nations status in the world, and it could also compromise our security.

The trouble began when the Bulgarians revolted against Turkish rule in 1876. The Turks responded by massacring many Bulgarians. Obviously, we couldn't stand by and let the rulers of a Balkan nation massacre their own subjects just because the happened to be of a different ethnic group, so we intervened and declared war on Turkey. We won a great victory over the Turks, and have just concluded the war with the Treaty of San Stefano (1878).

By the terms of the treaty of San Stefano, Serbia and Romania become fully independent, Bulgaria is made into a large autonomous state under our protection, reforms are promised in Bosnia, and we annex some Turkish territory east of the Black Sea. (See maps on page 5 of McDonough, *The Origins of the First and Second World Wars*)

Unfortunately, we are not to be allowed to keep these hard-won gains. At Austria-Hungary's instigation, the great powers are holding a congress at Berlin to revise the terms of our treaty. This means that Germany is going to have to choose between Austria-Hungary and ourselves. The 1873 alliance is up for renewal this year. What do you want to do?

- A) Let the alliance lapse because our interests are incompatible with Austria-Hungary's
- B) Do everything you can to maintain the alliance, whatever happens.
- C) If Germany votes to reduce our gains from the Treaty of San Stefano, let the alliance lapse; if not, keep it up.



Crisis #3: Dual Alliance, 1879 and Triple Alliance, 1882

Germany has made a military alliance with Austria-Hungary (1879) and Italy (1882). France is getting increasingly worried about Germany, and has approached us about a possible alliance. She is offering us considerable investment as an incentive. If we make the alliance, we would risk becoming involved in a war between France and Germany, but, on the other hand, we would gain France's help in the event of a war with Austria. Our alliance would also have the advantage of forcing Austria-Hungary and Germany to fight a two-front war. The threat of a two-front war may well deter them from taking us on. Do you want to:

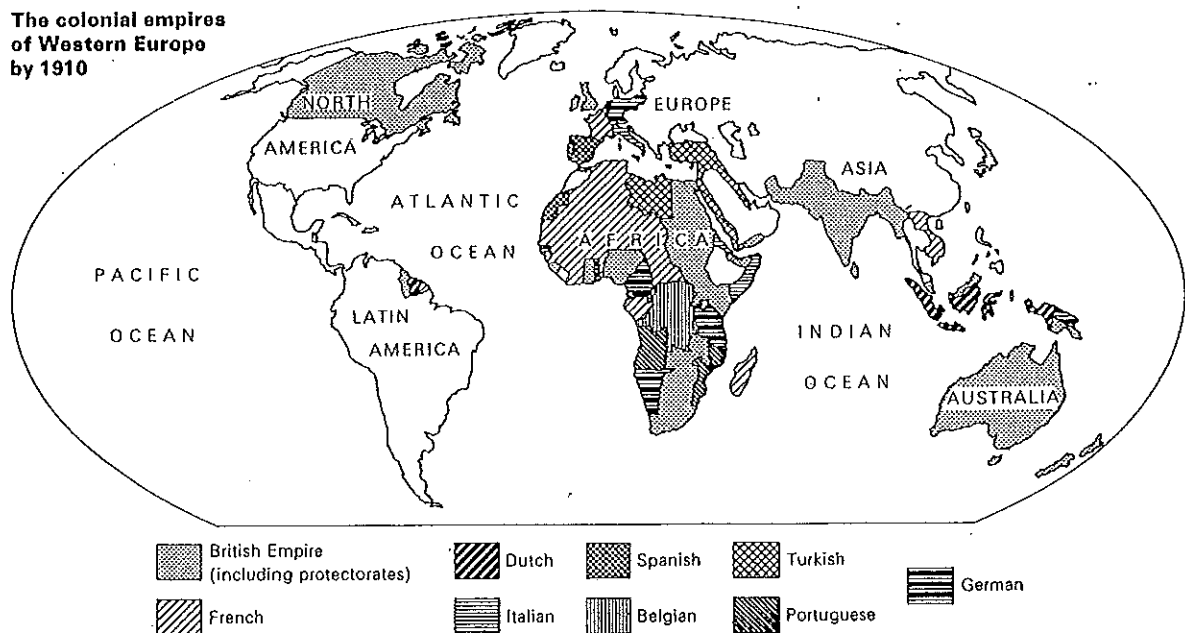
- A) Join the alliance with France
- B) Stay out of alliances.

Crisis #4: Entente Cordiale Between France and Britain, 1904

France and Britain have settled their various conflicts over colonial territory and have made an agreement on spheres of influence in the colonies. This is not a military alliance, but an agreement to pursue parallel, rather than conflicting, imperial policies. Now the French are suggesting that we settle our differences with Britain over our conflicting imperial policies in Afghanistan, Tibet and Persia (Iran). They think that there is a chance we could add Britain to our alliance. At this very moment, we are engaged in a war with Japan over our conflicting interests in Manchuria. The British are allied with the Japanese, and although they are not involved in the war, they have refused to allow us to take our navy through the Suez canal. Now we have to go all the way around Africa. Do you want to:

- A) Consider approaching Britain about an understanding?
- B) Tell France you won't consider it?

The colonial empires
of Western Europe
by 1910



Crisis #5: First Moroccan Crisis and Algeiras Conference, 1905-6

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 is prepared to defend its "legitimate interests" in the area. A conference has been called on the issue:

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

Crisis #6: 1907

The French have been pestering you for a long time to pursue closer relations with Britain. Relations have been bad because of conflicts over colonial interests in Afghanistan, Tibet and Persia (Iran). In addition, they 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 Britain. Another factor you had better take into account is that we were soundly defeated by the Japanese in the Russo-Japanese war, and this defeat touched off a serious revolution in the country, which we only managed to stop by making major concessions to our Liberal subjects.

- A) Tell the French to forget it.
- B) Approach Britain about coming to some sort of informal agreement on colonial conflicts, but avoid a full-fledged alliance.
- C) Let Britain approach you, but come to some sort of agreement if they do.
- D) Push for 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 Britain's policy that she 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 Britain is hard-pressed to keep ahead of them. International tension is escalating. What should we do?

- A) Urge Germany to stop trying to challenge British Naval supremacy.
- B) Urge Britain to let Germany increase its navy.
- C) Urge both countries to stop building now.
- D) Do nothing; no one will listen anyway.

Crisis #8: Young Turk Revolution in Turkey, 1908

The revolutionaries forced liberal reforms in Turkey. Because there is a chance that the Young Turks would strengthen Turkey to the point where we would not be able to achieve our objectives in the Balkans, we have made a secret deal with Austria-Hungary that we would call an international conference where we would consent to their bid to annex Bosnia (previously under the nominal control of Turkey) while they would support our bid to open the Bosphorous Straits to Russian war ships. However, they have gone ahead and annexed Bosnia without waiting for the conference to be called. Now we look like idiots and we are not likely to achieve our own objective. In making your decision, keep in mind that we were defeated by the Japanese only three years ago, and we have had major civil unrest more recently.

- A) Annex the Bosphorous straits, going to war with Turkey and probably Britain.
- B) Declare war on Austria-Hungary (and probably Germany).
- C) If France and/or Britain agree, go to war with Austria-Hungary, if not, protest but let it pass.
- D) Protest strongly, but let it pass.

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". Should we:

- A) Support Germany?
- B) Support France, but encourage them to come to some sort of compromise?
- C) Support France and do whatever it takes.

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

Serbia, organized a "Balkan League", consisting of Serbia, Greece, Montenegro and Bulgaria, and embarked on a crusade 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. Austria-Hungary claims to think that the Serbian government knew about the plot and did nothing to stop it, but they have no proof of this. In any case, they would welcome the chance to crush Serbia, because the existence of Serbia as an independent state inspires rebellious feelings among the Slavic peoples living under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian empire. They will probably try to use this incident as an excuse to attack Serbia. Do you want to:

- A) Leave Serbia to fend for itself.
- B) If Austria-Hungary threatens Serbia, threaten war with Austria-Hungary and mobilize the troops (It will take two or three weeks after the mobilization to get the army ready for war.) Hopefully, they'll back down. If they don't back down, you back down before actually going to war.
- C) If Austria-Hungary threatens Serbia, threaten war with Austria-Hungary and mobilize the troops. Hopefully, they'll back down. If they don't back down, and if France is willing to support you, declare war.
- D) If Austria-Hungary threatens Serbia, threaten war with Austria-Hungary and mobilize the troops. Hopefully, they'll back down. If they don't back down, declare war.
- E) Declare war right now.

Military Situation

Population: 164 million
Soldiers: 1,300,000
Military expenditure 1913-14: 67 million pounds
Battleships built and being built: 16
Submarines: 29
Tonnage of merchant ships: 0.75 million
Kilometers of Track (1900): 53,000
Coal Production (1900): 16 million tonnes
Steel Production (1900): 1.5 million tonnes