

## Germany

1. List your country's most important interests. Would you be willing to compromise on any of these interests?
2. Who are your allies? Are you in a formal alliance with any countries?
3. Why would your allies support you?
4. Why do you support the Austro-Hungarian Empire?
5. What are Germany's colonial interests?
6. What countries pose the greatest threat to your interests? Why?

## France

1. Who are your allies? Are you in a formal alliance with any countries? What are the terms of the alliance?
2. Why is Germany your enemy?
3. List your country's most important interests. Would you be willing to compromise on any of these interests?
4. What countries pose the greatest threat to your interests? Why?
5. Under what circumstances will you go to war?

## Great Britain

1. Who are your allies? Are you in a formal alliance with any countries?
2. What are your vital interests? Would you be willing to compromise on any of these interests?
3. Why is Germany your enemy?
4. How do your colonial interests conflict with those of other countries (Germany and Russia)?
5. Would you be willing to compromise on any of these interests?

## Russia

1. Who are your allies? Are you in a formal alliance with any countries? What are the terms of the alliance?
2. Why do you support Serbia?
3. Why is the use of the Black Sea Straits vital to Russia?
4. What countries pose the greatest threat to your interests? Why?
5. Under what circumstances will you go to war?

## Austria-Hungary

1. Who are your allies? Are you in a formal alliance with any countries?
2. Why would your allies support you?
3. What are Austria-Hungary's goals in the Balkans?
4. Under what circumstances will you go to war?
5. What are your vital interests?
6. What countries pose the greatest threat to your interests? Why?

## Serbia

1. Why does Serbia feel connected to Russia?
2. What countries pose the greatest threat to your interests? Why?
3. What countries pose the greatest threat to your interests? Why?
4. Who are your allies? Are you in a formal alliance with any countries?
5. What threats have you faced in the past?

## Italy

1. Who are your allies? Are you in any formal alliance with any countries?
2. Would your allies support you? Would you support your allies?
3. Why do you support Germany in particular?
4. List your country's most important interests. Would you be willing to compromise on any of these interests?
5. Under what circumstances will you go to war?

# GREAT BRITAIN



## STATEMENT OF INTERESTS - 1914

### I. BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS AND ENEMIES:

We are a great world empire and very proud to boast that we have the greatest navy in the world. To keep this superior position we have tried to keep ourselves free of European problems and complicated diplomacy.

In recent years our relationship with France has continued to improve, largely because of our common interests and common fear of German aggression. Because France has become such a good neighbor, we have gotten involved in some secret negotiations with them to arrange to assist them if they are again attacked by Germany. To protect our national security interests, we feel it's best not to let these secret arrangements be known to the public.

Also constantly improving is our relations with Russia, especially since we settled the nagging problem we had been having in Persia by dividing the territory. One thing that prevents us from becoming close friends with Russia is the area of the Black Sea Straits. Russia has made no secret of the fact that she wants to control the Black Sea Straits, and we cannot allow complete control of the straits in Russia's hands. Our interests in the Mediterranean area must be protected, and Russian domination would be a threat and possible hinderance to our trade. We do, however, favor an alliance with Russia because of her position east of Germany. So we have decided to expand our secret deal with France and include Russia to call our agreement the **TRIPLE ENTENTE**.

### II. VITAL INTERESTS:

We have a number of interests that we feel are critical to our national security. First of all, we **MUST** protect the neutrality of Belgium. Belgium lies only twenty-five miles from our coast, so we can allow **NO** nation to dominate Belgium. And we suspect that Germany poses the greatest threat to Belgium's neutrality.

It is not just concerning Belgium that Germany worries us. We are aware of her plans to build a railroad through the Middle East, from Berlin to Baghdad, which presents a serious threat to our control of the very strategic Suez Canal since that is our primary route to one of our most important colonies, India (the "jewel in our imperial crown").

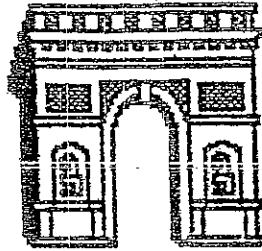
We are proud of having the most powerful navy in the world, and it is our best interests as a nation not to allow any country to challenge our naval superiority. Germany's naval buildup concerns us deeply and she refused to cease this buildup unless we agreed to stay neutral if Germany went to war. We certainly cannot agree to this, especially since we must support our friends, France and Russia.

Finally we must protect our overseas colonies. Our primary areas of concern are India, the Suez Canal and Gibraltar, and it seems to us that Germany is our greatest threat.

UNITED KINGDOM (not including the rest of the British Empire)  
TOTAL POPULATION 45,000,000

ACTIVE ARMY	139,000
RESERVE ARMY	2,750,000
OTHER MIL. AGE.	7,400,000
NAVY SHIPS	216

# FRANCE



## STATEMENT OF INTERESTS - 1914

### I. BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS AND ENEMIES:

It is quite clear to us that the Germans are a menace to world peace. Germany punished us severely following the Franco-Prussian war in 1871 by forcing us to pay a huge indemnity (*sum of money to the winners*) and taking two of our most important provinces - Alsace and Lorraine.

Because Germany has been using its growing military power to push other nations around, Russia has been realizing the danger. Germany has continued to support its ally Austria-Hungary which has twice caused direct conflicts with Russia. To protect against this flagrant German aggression we have formed a defensive alliance with Russia which includes the following terms: 1. we will aid Russia if she is attacked by Germany, or if she is attacked by Austria-Hungary supported by Germany; and 2. Russia will aid us if we are attacked by Germany, or if we are attacked by Italy supported by Germany.

Despite our previous conflicts with Great Britain, our relations in recent years have continued to grow friendlier. Since our defeat at Germany's hands in the Franco-Prussian war, Britain has also realized the German menace, especially now that they've heard about Germany's commitment to building a superior naval force.

Our mutual fear of Germany drew us into negotiations in 1904 which resulted in a secret agreement we called the Entente Cordiale (*Friendly Agreement*). Although this is not a formal military alliance, it does commit some British troops to our defense if we are attacked by Germany.

In 1907 we decided to expand the Entente Cordiale to include Russia since we all were distressed by German aggression. This three-way agreement between Britain, Russia and us became known as the Triple Entente, and its major objective was to protect us all from the German menace.

### II. VITAL INTERESTS:

As a nation we are determined to win back the two provinces (Alsace and Lorraine) that Germany stole from us after the Franco-Prussian War. Germany also forced us to pay her a huge sum of money for losing the war, and until we completely paid this, Germany has kept military troops in France. This has upset Frenchmen all across our nation and we all share a desire for "REVANCHE" (REVENGE) We certainly would NEVER start a war with Germany because we are a peace loving nation, but we will NOT stand by and do nothing while Germany bullies the rest of Europe.

We also want to protect our overseas possessions and Great Britain has agreed to help us. We realize that if Germany thinks she has the chance, she'll try to take them.

## FRANCE

TOTAL POPULATION 40,000,000

ACTIVE ARMY 790,000

RESERVE ARMY 4,500,000

OTHER MIL. AGE. 2,500,000

NAVY SHIPS 78

# RUSSIA



## STATEMENT OF INTERESTS - 1914

### I. BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS AND ENEMIES:

We must protect our ally Serbia. Serbians, like so many of our people, have a Slavic heritage, so we must help our "Slavic brothers." In the past, we have supported Serbia in her conflicts with the Austro-Hungarian empire. Austria-Hungary continues to try to expand her empire by pushing around smaller nations and in 1908 Austria-Hungary annexed (took over; added to your own territory) two of the biggest Serbian provinces (Bosnia and Herzegovina). We support Serbia's protest against Austria-Hungary, but because we couldn't get support from other nations at that time, we were unable to stop Austria-Hungary from taking those provinces.

We have negotiated a defensive alliance with France, which says that: 1. we agree to aid France if she is attacked by Germany, or if she is attacked by Italy supported by Germany; and 2. France will come to our aid if we are attacked by Germany, or if we are attacked by Austria-Hungary supported by Germany. We are convinced that Austria-Hungary and Germany fear this alliance.

In recent years our relationship with Britain has continued to improve, especially since we settled the nagging problem we had been having in Persia by deciding to divide that country. One thing that has prevented a close friendship between us and Britain has been her naval interests in the Mediterranean Sea. Britain fears our presence in the Black Sea Straits, which we need to control because we need those ports providing us access to the Mediterranean Sea.

Despite their concern about the Black Sea Straits, Great Britain has been engaged in positive negotiations with us, and in 1907 she decided to expand her agreement with France to include us. So now we belong to the TRIPLE ENTENTE, and although this is not a formal military alliance, we can probably count on Great Britain's help if war should come.

### II. VITAL INTERESTS:

Our most important interest is our protection of Serbia, our fellow Slavs, in the Balkan area, as they are endangered by Austro-Hungarian aggression. Also, because of Austria-Hungary's close friendship with Germany, we must consider Germany a threat to the Balkan area as well.

Another interest of ours is to assure that we have passage through the Black Sea Straits to gain access to the Mediterranean Sea. It is vital to our national interests to be able to use the straits, so we cannot allow them to fall under the control of an enemy. Germany's increasing naval power combined with her desire to build the Berlin - Baghdad railroad suggests to us that Germany presents a great danger to that area.

## RUSSIA

TOTAL POPULATION 174,000,000

ACTIVE ARMY 1,000,000\*

RESERVE ARMY 6,000,000\*

OTHER MIL. AGE. 29,000,000

NAVY SHIPS 43

\*Quality of Russian army is doubtful; equipment and supplies are poor; mobilization will take months to one year to finish)

# SERBIA



## STATEMENT OF INTERESTS - 1914

### I. BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS AND ENEMIES:

Our location in the middle of the Balkan area puts us in a very strategic position near the Mediterranean Sea. That position, however, also places us, a small but proud nation, directly south of the huge dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary has made no secret of the fact that she wants to expand her influence at our expense.

Our country is made up of Slavic people and we believe in Pan-Slavism, that is, that all Slavs should be unified into one Slavic nation. Austria-Hungary is our biggest obstacle to a Slavic nation. In the past she has twice taken land that we deserve. In 1908 she annexed (*took over; added to your own territory*) two Slavic provinces (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and added them to her already vast empire. Because Austria-Hungary had Germany's support, we were no match for Austria-Hungary, and therefore unable to stop the takeover.

In 1912 and 1913 we faced another crisis with Austria-Hungary when she tried to take over territory in the Balkans that we had gained from the Ottoman Empire. Again, because Austria-Hungary had Germany's backing we were unable to prevent Austrian success. It is quite clear that Austria-Hungary not only presents an obstacle to a united Slavic nation, but also presents a threat to our national security.

We fortunately have a good friend in Russia, our Slavic "big brother". Because so many Russians have Slavic heritage, they have supported us in our desire for Slavic unity, and in our goal of breaking free of Austrian domination. We truly believe that no matter what happens, Russia will stand by us.

### II. VITAL INTERESTS:

Our most critical concern is our own survival against the Austro-Hungarian menace above us. Austria-Hungarian pressure to gain land from us has been applied on us before, and we know that it will happen again. Austria-Hungary has NO business ruling other nationalities and we will continue to take steps to stop Austria-Hungary.

As well as our own protection, another vital interest we have is to serve as the catalyst for all Slavs to unite and establish their own nation. To accomplish this, we realize that we'll have to have at least Russian support. We cannot challenge the Austro-Hungarian empire (with their German friends!) successfully alone - we would be crushed.

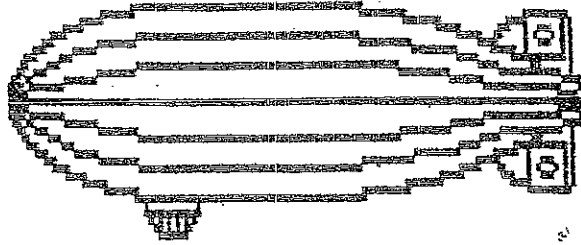
Finally, we must fight against Austro-Hungarian control of the Balkan peninsula. It is a very strategic area and we are certain that Austria-Hungary intends to push in further and further until she completely dominates the Balkans. Austria-Hungary is a menace to the Slavs, a menace to all of Europe, and MUST be stopped!

## SERBIA

TOTAL POPULATION 3,000,000

ACTIVE ARMY	38,000
RESERVE ARMY	317,000
OTHER MIL. AGE.	500,000
NAVY SHIPS	NONE

# GERMANY



## STATEMENT OF INTERESTS - 1914

### I. BACKGROUND OF FRIENDS AND ENEMIES:

We have our closest friend in Austria-Hungary since we share a common language, culture, and geographic location in the center of the European continent. In 1879 we decided to formalize this friendship and sign a **SECRET** defensive alliance with Austria-Hungary, who has been having serious problems with Russia. So we agreed in our Dual Alliance that we would come to Austria-Hungary's aid if she was attacked by Russia; and Austria-Hungary vowed in return to help us in case of Russian aggression. It is not Russian aggression that we are most worried about, however; it is France that is our most bitter, hated enemy. Ever since we defeated France badly in the Franco-Prussian war of 1871, France has wanted **REVENGE**. So because of this serious tension with France, we decided to keep our eyes open for other allies.

In 1882 Italy also became angry at France over a conflict in North Africa, so it was natural for us to join together against the French menace. So now, if Italy is attacked by France, we will come to her aid; if France attacks us, Italy will aid us. Now our Dual Alliance with Austria-Hungary expanded to become a **TRIPLE ALLIANCE** and we all agreed that if any of us is attacked by two or more powers, the other two countries will come to that nation's aid.

Since finalizing that Triple Alliance, Austria-Hungary has proven itself as a loyal friend, but Italy has disappointed us. When we had a conflict with France over territory in North Africa in 1905, Austria-Hungary stood by our side; Italy did not. We, in turn, have supported Austria-Hungary in her conflicts with Russia - once when Austria-Hungary wanted to annex (*take over; add to one's territory*) two provinces, under the strong leadership of our Kaiser Wilhelm we supported her which allowed the Austrians to succeed. A few years later, when Serbia tried to take over territory in the Balkans which would threaten Austria-Hungary, we kept Russia from interfering and helping Serbia; again it helped Austria-Hungary prevail. In both cases Italy stood by and did nothing. We now feel very secure in our ally Austria-Hungary, but we cannot rely on Italy.

Because of our past problems with France, she is our most dangerous enemy. Our relationship with Russia has continued to deteriorate because of our constant support of Austria-Hungary against her. Recently we have sensed that most of Europe is jealous of our growing military strength and Kaiser Wilhelm's strong leadership.

### II. VITAL INTERESTS:

Besides preventing French revenge against us, our major interest is to expand our influence around the world. We are a great power and intend to keep getting greater!

One way we plan to expand is to acquire colonies overseas, especially in Africa and Asia, and protect those that we already have. Since we are relatively new to the race for colonies (compared to Great Britain, for example) we have only a few and do not want to lose them.

To be able to expand our world power, we are in the process of building a navy that will rival Great Britain, and we hear that Britain is upset about that. We are also financing a railroad that will extend from Berlin to the Middle East (we want this to extend to Baghdad) because that will increase our power in that area of the world. France, Russia and Britain are protesting this railroad, but we don't care; it is just their jealousy at our growing power.

Another major interest is for our good friend, Austria-Hungary, to keep control in the Balkan area. It is certainly to our advantage to have an ally dominating that area than an enemy like Russia. And speaking of Russia, we certainly don't like to see a French-Russian alliance develop.

## GERMANY

TOTAL POPULATION 65,000,000

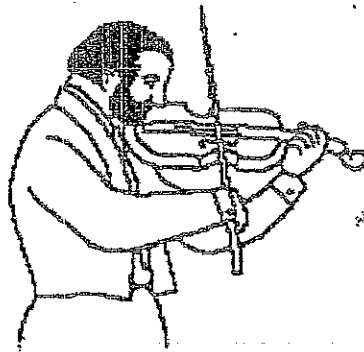
ACTIVE ARMY 370,000

RESERVE ARMY 4,500,000

OTHER MIL AGE 8,100,000

NAVY SHIPS 103

# AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



## STATEMENT OF INTERESTS - 1914

### I. BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS AND ENEMIES:

We have our closest friend in Germany since we share a common language, culture, and geographic location in the center of the European continent. In 1879 we decided to formalize this friendship and sign a **SECRET** defensive alliance with Germany. Because of the growing threat of Russia, we decided to sign this alliance which basically says that if Germany is attacked by Russia, or another nation supported by Russia, we will come to Germany's aid. Germany has promised to do the same for us. We are both concerned about a growing friendship between Russia and France - we see that as a very dangerous development. Germany's relationship with France continues to deteriorate so she appreciates our friendship and support.

In 1882 Italy also became angry at France over a conflict in North Africa, so Italy joined our secret Dual Alliance to make it a Triple Alliance. At that point we also agreed that if any of us was attacked by two or more powers, the other two countries have promised aid. Since we signed this alliance, Germany has come through as a true friend; unfortunately Italy has not come through.

We have had two serious crises since this alliance. One occurred with Russia in 1908 when they tried to stop us from annexing (*taking over; adding to one's territory*) two provinces (Bosnia and Herzegovina) that we deserve. Russia said that the Serbians (who are Slavic in nationality just like many in Russia) lived in those provinces and we had no business annexing them. In that incident Germany openly supported us, which allowed us to get those provinces, but Italy stood by and did nothing.

In 1912 and 1913 another crisis developed for us when Serbia tried to take over territory in the Balkans at our expense. Again Germany, under the strong leadership of Kaiser Wilhelm, kept Russia from interfering and helping Serbia, while Italy took no action. Because of the kaiser's help, we have twice supported his projects. We now feel very secure with our ally Germany, but we are uncertain of Italy's help.

Our most dangerous enemy is Russia - we have had serious conflicts with her over Russia's support of the Slavs gaining their independence from our great empire and also over control of the Black Sea Straits. Serbia has also become a problem for us because they are agitating (often with Russian support) to get the Slavs to revolt and break from our empire.

### II. VITAL INTERESTS:

We are a great empire in central Europe including many different nationalities, so our primary interest is in protecting our territory. We do **NOT** want to lose any territory in Europe and risk upsetting the balance of power in Europe. (Remember the Congress of Vienna)

One area that we **MUST** control (and because of Serbia and the Slavs it has become a problem) is the Balkan peninsula. We want to keep peace and spread goodwill there, but the Serbs continue to stir things up, even threatening violence. It is not just Serbia and the Slavs that are the only problem in the Balkans, however. Russia, too, keeps trying to push into that area. We suspect that she would like to completely control the Black Sea Straits, and we can't allow that. Fortunately Germany's backing has helped us keep the Russians in check, but we must always be on our guard against this dangerous enemy.

## AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

TOTAL POPULATION 49,000,000

ACTIVE ARMY 436,000

RESERVE ARMY 3,150,000

OTHER MIL. AGE. 6,300,000

NAVY SHIPS 28

ITALY  
STATEMENT OF INTERESTS 1914

I. BACKGROUND ON FRIENDS AND ENEMIES.

We are keenly aware that we are the weakest of the "major powers". We have had a number of alliances and close friends over the past few years; we have made a number of "miscalculations" that have caused us some embarrassment and a bit of hurt pride.

At times in the past, we have been occupied by, and therefore fought against, our closest neighbors, the French and the Austrians. Both of them still control areas that have large numbers of Italians in them. Many of those Italians wish to be rejoined to Italy.

We joined the Austrians and the Germans in 1882, forming the Triple Alliance, which gave us the benefit of two powerful friends. This alliance had this basic idea: if any of us were attacked by two or more other powers, the other two countries promised to aid that one.

This alliance has always been a defensive one, from our viewpoint, and we are not certain that it is still in force in case of an aggressive action on the part of one of the partners.

We joined this alliance because of conflict with France over our desires to have colonies in North Africa. The French have tried to stop our attempt to become a major power and have colonies as they do. We nearly took to fighting over our attempt to move into Tunis and set up a colony. We were forced to back down. We have mistrusted the French since then, at least as far as our dreams over an African empire for ourselves. At times, we fear being manipulated by the French for reasons of their dreams of revenge against Germany.

In 1905, however, the French and the Germans nearly came to fighting over Morocco in North Africa. We decided to withhold our support from Germany, as it was not really in our best interest to fight France for a new German colony. The Germans were not pleased with this.

II. VITAL INTERESTS.

In spite of our alliance, we would very much like to have returned to us the Italian speaking areas of Trentino and Trieste that Austria has held for many years. The Austrians know of our desire to have these areas back, and this has cooled our mutual support and trust.

We are not certain that we should back either Austria or Germany, but then again, they would be good friends to have should the French ever try to stop our attempts to expand our colonies in Africa.

We have had major economic investments from Germany that have helped us to speed along our progress as a "major power". We were terribly embarrassed in 1896 by our army's defeat at the hands of the Ethiopian army. German military advice, assistance and weaponry would go a long way towards restoring Italy to its rightful place as the "New Roman Empire".

ITALY  
TOTAL POPULATION 35,000,000  
  
ACTIVE ARMY 306,000  
RESERVE ARMY 3,000,000  
OTHER MIL. 3,700,000  
NAVY SHIPS 55