

# PUPILS' OUTLINES FOR HOME STUDY

IN CONNECTION WITH SCHOOL WORK

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## WAR OF NATIONS

Brief Review of the War

P. O. Box 17.

JENNINGS PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

Brooklyn, N. Y.



## WAR OF THE NATIONS—JULY 28, 1914.

### I. Causes.

A. Danger of destruction of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, due to disturbances within and without the Empire.

B. National militarism, which caused hatred among nations.

Since 1871 the countries of Europe, except Great Britain, had universal military service and steadily increased their military forces. When the present war broke out the trained forces were estimated at about four million each for Russia and France, over three million for Austria, and over four million for Germany, which aimed to be the first military power. Germany had also developed a strong militaristic class, whose leaders dominated civil affairs and national policies.

Hague Peace Conference to which all the important powers of the world sent delegates, established permanently the Hague Tribunal or Court of Arbitration, and also agreed to certain laws of international importance. The attempt to make arbitration compulsory and disarm nations was prevented by Germany and Austria.

C. Severing of relations between the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, Italy, formed 1882) and the Triple Entente (England, France, Russia, formed 1891), due to Austro-German policy.

D. Economic interests which led to quarrels among the nations.

E. Immediate Cause—Sarajevo Incident—Archduke Francis Ferdinand, nephew of Emperor Francis Joseph and Austrian heir-apparent, with his wife, was assassinated on June 28, 1914, at Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia, by a Serb. Austria, urged on secretly by Germany, accused Serbia of having instigated the crime, and it was charged that Pan-Serbianism menaced the Austrian Empire, so on July 23, an ultimatum, to be accepted within 48 hours, was handed Serbia, which she accepted for the most part, and agreed to submit the case for arbitration to the Hague Tribunal. Austria refused, and war was declared July 28, and Belgrade bombarded July 29, 30. Italy was a member of the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria, but declined to enter the war, as Germany and Austria were not, in the opinion of Italy, carrying on a defensive war. Neither did she at this time openly side with the Allies against Germany and Austria.

### II. Events Leading to War.

A. Alsace-Lorraine taken from France by Germany, 1871, in Franco-Prussian War, caused a bitter feeling which had never died out. Alsace and Lorraine, particularly the latter, are exceedingly valuable for the deposits of iron ore, Germany securing the greatest part of her iron from these provinces.

B. 1. France gained control of Northern Africa, particularly Morocco, and to this Germany objected. The Kaiser insisted that the policy of France was endangering the claims of Germany. Through the efforts of Germany, France was virtually brought to trial at the international conference held at Algceiras, Spain, 1905-06. It was decided that in the main her policy had been correct, and Germany, because of this diplomatic defeat, lost prestige.

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2. In 1911 Germany protested that France had violated regulations made at the Algeiras Conference. Great Britain sided with France, and Germany recognized the French protectorate of Morocco, Germany receiving land elsewhere. The military party of Germany objected as it realized that this was another diplomatic failure.

Germany had intended to humiliate France, to test the strength of the Triple Entente, and to gain prestige for herself.

C. Germany was anxious to secure colonies, commerce, prestige, but the German Empire was founded late and, the best territories for colonization had been taken by other nations.

Germany schemed to control Middle Europe by forming a confederation with Austria, Turkey and the Balkan States, and then to extend her power into Asia. German Kultur was to dominate the world. The Bagdad Railway was to go to Constantinople and there connect with the Central Empire Railroad.

In the way of the railroad was Serbia, with no royal connection in Berlin, but instead an alliance with Russia. Serbia hated the Austrians and would enter into no alliance with either Austria or Germany. This condition nearly brought war in 1913, and caused Germany to force Austria's demands in 1914, bringing about the present war. In this way, Germany hoped to conquer Serbia, and on the plea of the necessity of a single leader gain control of the financial and military affairs of Austria and Turkey.

D. Italy was anxious to secure her former territory, Trieste and Trentino, held by Austria. Italy claimed Tripoli belonging to Turkey, which was too weak after the Turkish Revolution of 1908 to prevent its seizure, and which was ceded to Italy by the Treaty of Lausanne, October, 1912. Italy's allies, Germany and Austria, did not support her, as Germany feared it might affect her relations with Turkey.

E. Rivalry of nations over colonies and trade in Africa, Asia Minor, Persia, Mesopotamia, China.

#### F. Balkan Question.

After the Turkish Revolution, 1908, Germany with Austria planned to control the Balkan Peninsula in order to carry out her scheme of dominating Middle Europe. Russia was anxious to control Constantinople and so gain an outlet to the Mediterranean. England was anxious to keep her route to India open.

2. *Balkan War, 1912-1913.* A league of Balkan States (Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro) drove Turkey out of Europe except from Constantinople and a small strip of adjoining territory. (Treaty of London, May, 1913.)

3. *Balkan War, 1913.* Disputes arose over the division of the territory just secured. Bulgaria supported by Germany and Austria, attacked the other Balkan Allies who were joined by Rumania and supported by Russia.

By the Treaty of Bucharest, August, 1913, Bulgaria received a smaller share, Rumania received some of Bulgaria's territory, Albania was made a principality under a German ruler; Greece, Serbia and Montenegro received most of the territory, but Serbia did not get an outlet to the sea, owing to the influence of the Triple Alliance. Turkey secured Adrianople.

Germany and Austria each time had supported the losing side, first Turkey, then Bulgaria, and so lost prestige. This strengthened the power of Russia and Serbia, and threatened the Middle Europe Empire, leading Germany to plan for an early war.

4. *Bosnia and Herzegovina* had been freed from Turkey by Serbia and Russia. But the Congress of Berlin, 1878, put them under the protection of Austria. At the time of the Turkish Revolution, 1908, Austria, supported by Germany, took possession of these provinces. Russia had not recovered from her defeat in the Russo-Japanese War, so was unable to help, and Serbia was compelled to submit.

### III. Issue.

*Government by arbitration and international law as opposed to government by military force.*

*Democracy as opposed to autocracy.*

*Democracy*—Government by the people; laws made by representatives chosen by the people to be governed.

Examples—United States and France, which are republics, and Great Britain, which is a constitutional monarchy, headed by a king who has no power except that delegated to him by the people.

*Autocracy*—Government controlled by one; very little if any actual power given to the people, or their representatives.

\* Example—Germany: Chief power rested with the Kaiser, who claimed to rule with "Divine Right," so was not responsible to the people. The legislative body consisted of two houses. The Bundesrath represented the rulers of the different states of Germany, but not the people. The rulers chose the representatives who sat in this body. The Kaiser controlled twenty votes out of the total number of sixty-one, seventeen as King of Prussia and three for Alsace-Lorraine. The proceedings of the Bundesrath were secret and protected the power of the Kaiser and the rulers of the various states. The Kaiser had the sole power of deciding whether a war was offensive or defensive; if offensive he declared war with the consent of the Bundesrath, if defensive he had absolute power in declaring war. The Reichstag was composed of members chosen by manhood suffrage, but as the apportionment had never been changed since 1871, there was in Berlin one representative for every 125,000 votes, while in East Prussia, where the Junkers or great land owners held their estates, there was one representative for every 24,000 votes. It had little political power and was hardly more than a debating society. If it became troublesome, the Kaiser, with the consent of the Bundesrath, could dissolve it.

### IV. Parties.

#### A. Allies (Triple Entente).

1914.

1. *Serbia*—(See page 3.)

2. *Russia*—An ally of Serbia, demanded for her, fair treatment from Austria. Not securing this, Russia mobilized against Austria. Germany then declared war on Russia, August 1st, for mobilizing on the Austrian frontier, though she herself had been secretly mobilizing since July 21st. (Russia, because of the treachery of the Bolsheviks, left the Allies early in 1918.)

3. *France*—Russia was an ally of France, so Germany invaded Belgium to attack France, August 3rd, 4th, expecting to take Paris in three weeks, Antwerp and the channel ports of Calais and Boulogne, together with a large indemnity. Luxemburg had been invaded August 2nd.

4. *Belgium*—(Invaded. See 3 above.)

The nations of Europe, including Germany, had agreed that Belgium should be neutral territory, but Germany now demanded the privilege of sending her troops through Belgium in order to surprise France. Belgium refused, but the German invasion took place, and on August 4th war was declared.

5. *Great Britain*—Declared war on Germany, August 4th, because the neutrality of Belgium had been violated. Germany in Belgium and northern France with only the Channel between her and England would have made her too close a neighbor.

6. *Montenegro*—An ally of Serbia, declared war, August 7th.