

Document A

Source: Map created from various sources.

European Alliances, 1914.



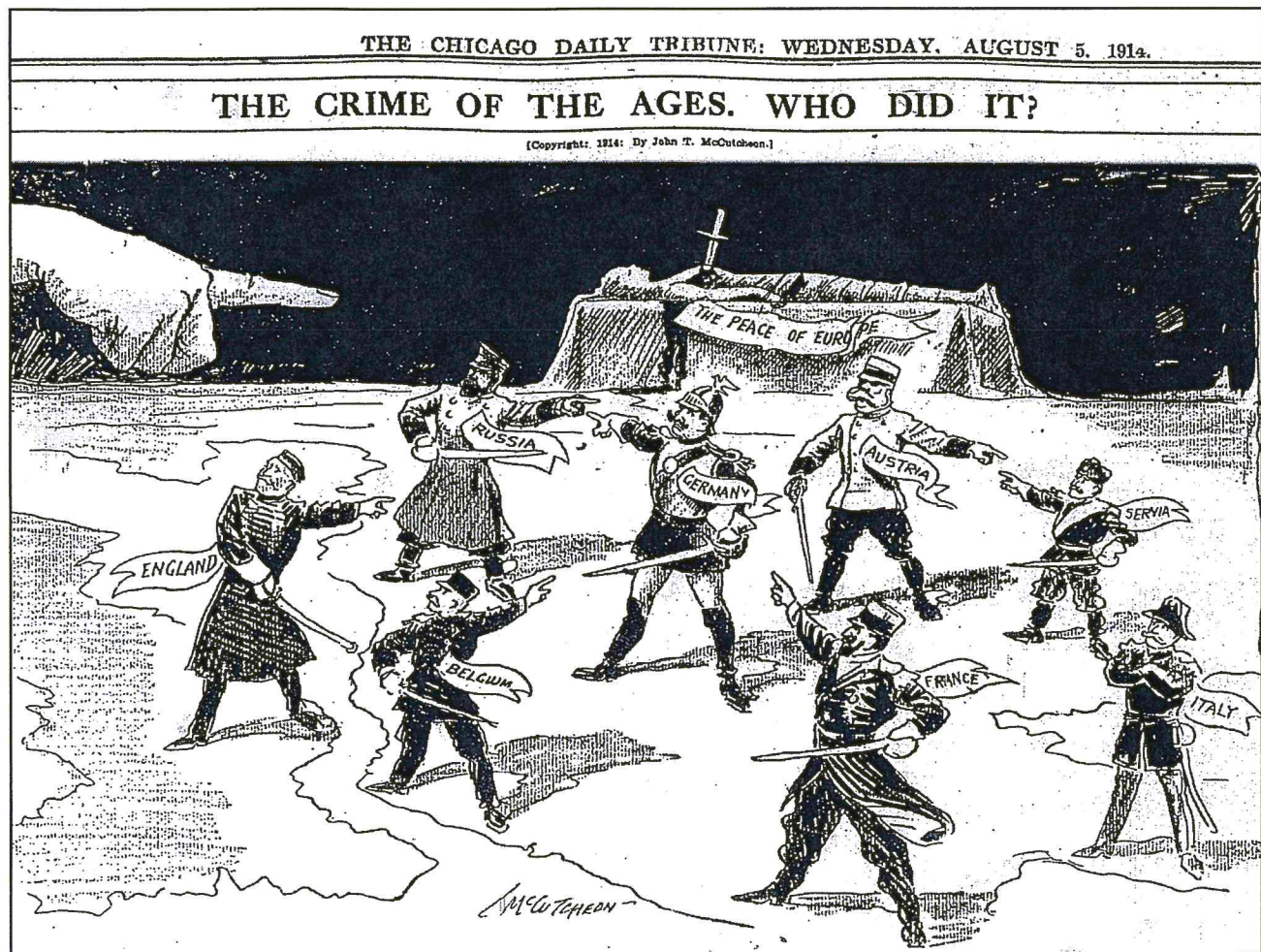
EV

Document Analysis

1. The map shows the alliance arrangement in Europe in 1914. In what year did World War I begin?
2. What countries made up the Triple Alliance? What countries made up the Triple Entente?
3. Germany worried about one day having to fight a war on two fronts or two different borders. According to the map, was this fear justified?
4. Italy would switch sides in 1915. Whom did this hurt?
5. Russia had a special ethnic tie with Serbia because both countries had Slavic populations. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia in July 1914. Use the map to explain how this could lead to widespread war.

Document B

Source: John T. McCutcheon, artist, *Chicago Tribune*, August 5, 1914.

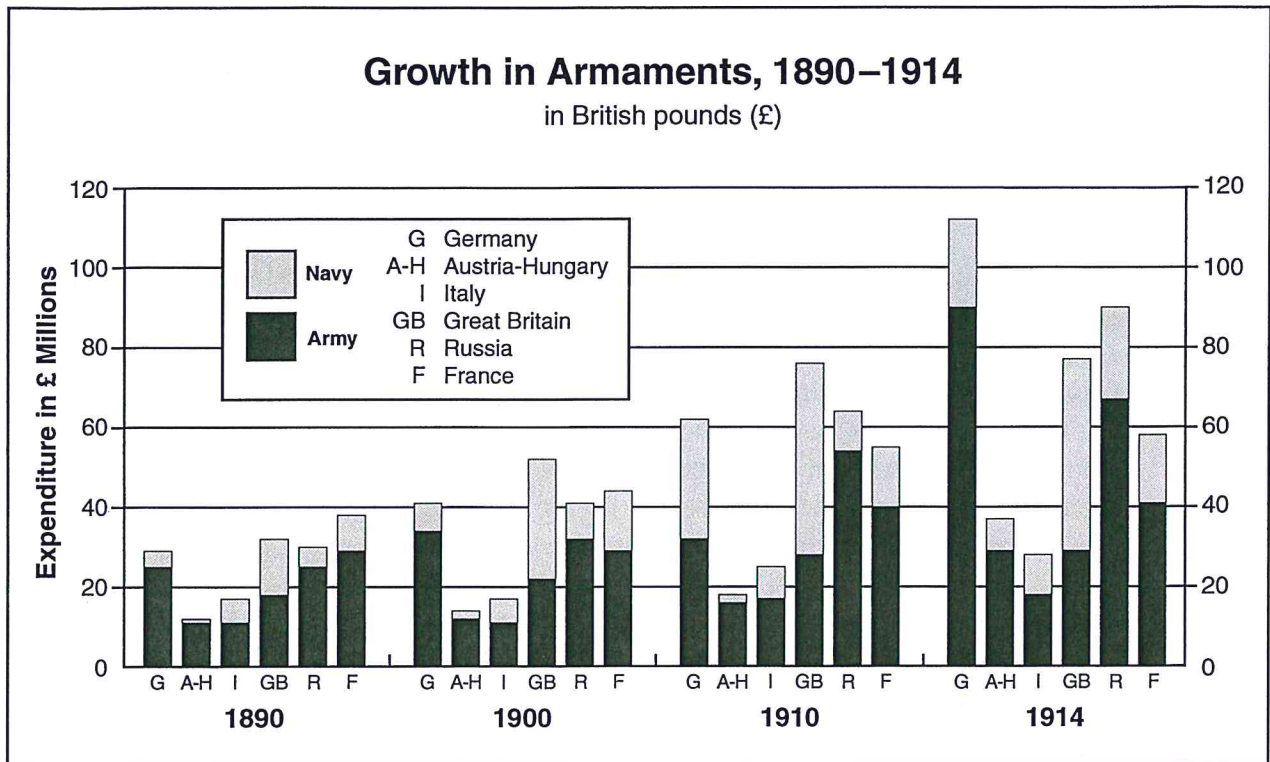


Document Analysis

1. How soon after war broke out was this cartoon published?
2. What is the name and nationality of the cartoonist? Knowing this, what can you infer about his point of view?
3. What is the “Crime of the Ages”?
4. What does the hand in the upper left corner represent?
5. Can this cartoon be used in any way to argue that alliances were a cause of WWI?

Document C

Source: Adapted from *The London Times History of the World*, new edition edited by Richard Overy, 1999.



Note: By 1914 the Entente Powers could field 2.23 million men, Germany and Austria-Hungary 1.2 million.

Document Analysis

1. In millions of British pounds, how much did Germany and Austria-Hungary spend in 1890? In 1914?
2. How much did Great Britain, Russia, and France spend in 1890? In 1914?
3. Which nation spent the greatest percent on its navy? Why would it do that?
4. Is there evidence in the chart to support the argument that an arms build-up (militarism) was an underlying cause of World War I? Explain.
5. How can an argument be made that an arms build-up might lead to peace? Explain.

Document D

Source: Bernhard von Bülow, German Chancellor, spoke these words in a speech before the Reichstag (German congress) on December 11, 1899.

The Hammer or the Anvil

In our nineteenth century, England has increased its colonial empire – the largest the world has seen since the days of the Romans,... the French have put down roots in North Africa and East Africa,... Russia has begun its mighty course of victory in Asia,... We don't want to step on the toes of any foreign power, but at the same time we don't want our own feet tramped by any foreign power.... We don't ever again want to become ... the 'slaves of humanity.' But we'll only be able to keep ourselves at the fore if we realize that there is no welfare for us without power, without a strong army and a strong fleet. The means, gentlemen, for a people of almost 60 million – dwelling in the middle of Europe and, at the same time, stretching its economic antennae out to all sides – to battle its way through in the struggle for existence without strong armaments on land and at sea, have not yet been found. In the coming century the German people will be a hammer or an anvil.

EV

Document Analysis

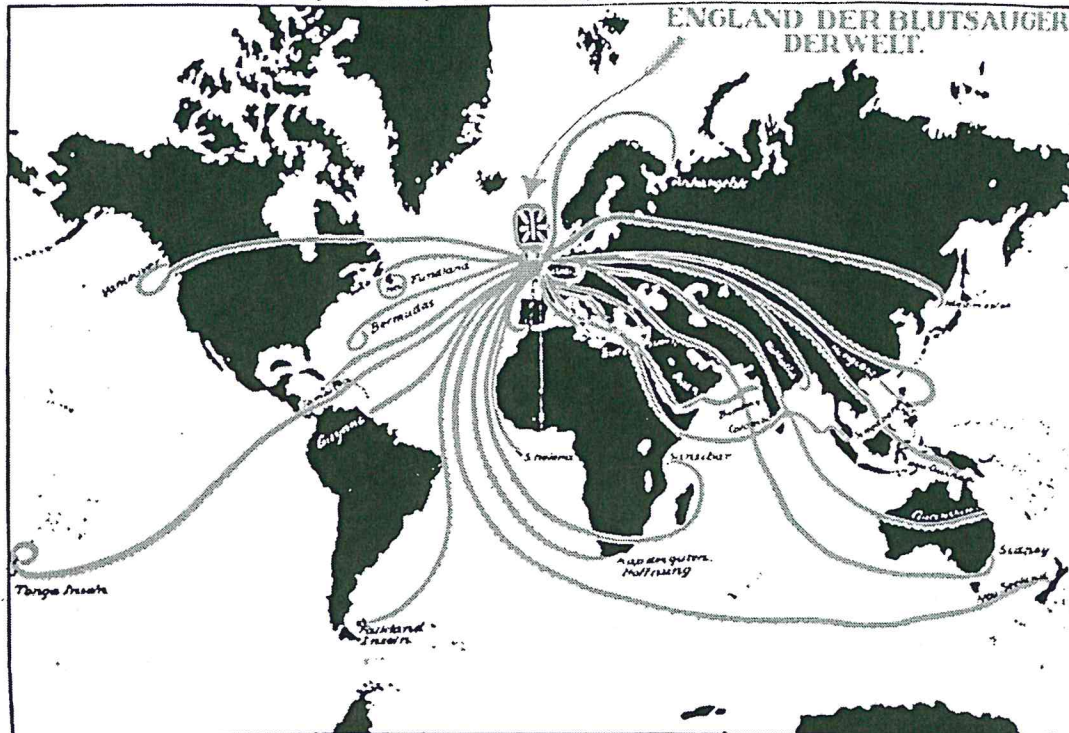
1. Why is von Bülow worried about England, France, and Russia?
2. What is an anvil? What does von Bülow mean when he says Germany will be “a hammer or an anvil”?
3. Judging from the document, who is Germany likely to “hammer”?
4. One half-century earlier, the Englishman Charles Darwin introduced his idea of evolution, which was based on the idea of survival of the fittest. Do you think von Bülow believed in this idea? Explain.
5. How can you use this document to make an argument that the arms build-up was a more important underlying cause than the network of alliances? How could you counter this argument?

Document E

Source: German propaganda cartoon, 1917, GE104A, Poster Collection, Hoover Institution Archives.

The British Octopus

FREIHEIT DER MEERE.



1609 Bermudas	1659 Jamaica	1795 Guyana	1839 Fölkland Inseln	1878 Cypern	1914 Calais
1623 Neu-Fundland	1696 Kalkutta	1800 Malta	1842 Hongkong	1882 Suez	1917 Archangelsk
1630 S. Helena	1704 Gibraltar	1789 Bombay	1848 Vancouver	1886 Neu-Guinea	1917 Wladwostok
um 1800 Kap der guten Hoffnung	1788 Sidney	1824 Singapur	1854 Aden	1890 Sansibar	
	1796 Colombo	1833 Neu-Seeland	1859 Queensland	1904 Tonga Inseln	

Freiheit Der Meere = Freedom of the seas

England Der Blutsauger der Welt = England, the bloodsucker of the world

Document Analysis

1. In what language, and in what year, was this cartoon created?
2. Translate each of the following:
Freiheit der Meere
England der Blutsauger der Welt
3. What is the main point being made by the cartoonist?
4. In Document C, examine British naval expenses in 1914. Do the Germans have reason to worry about freedom of the seas? Explain.
5. What does this document suggest is an underlying cause of World War I? Explain.

Document F

Source: Adapted from Colin Nicolson, *The First World War, Europe 1914–1918*, Essex, England, Pearson Education Limited, 2001.

Size of Colonial Empires in 1913		
	Area (sq. miles)	Population of Colonies
Britain	12,740,000	400,000,000
France	4,440,000	56,000,000
Germany	1,139,000	12,000,000
Belgium	927,000	15,500,000
Italy	579,000	1,600,000
USA	125,000	10,000,000
Austria-Hungary	0	0
Russia	0	0

EV

Document Analysis

1. What was the total area of British colonies in 1913?
2. What was the combined area of colonies held by the nations of the Triple Entente? What was the combined area of colonies held by Germany and Austria-Hungary?
3. How could colonies help a mother country economically?
4. How could colonies help a mother country militarily?
5. How can you use this document to argue that imperialism (colonization) was one underlying cause of World War I?
6. How can you use Documents E and F to argue that imperialism was more important than alliances and arms build-up as the underlying cause of World War I? How could you counter this argument?