

# SOAPSTONE

## Causes of World War I

### Document 1

Per Capita Expenditures of the Great Powers on Armaments

	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
Great Britain	\$3.54	\$3.46	\$3.84	\$12.60*	\$7.29	\$8.23
France	2.92	4.02	4.66	5.21	6.47	7.07
Russia	1.28	1.50	1.26	1.44	2.32	3.44
Germany	1.28	2.16	2.80	4.06	4.06	8.19
Austria-Hungary	1.08	1.70	1.50	1.46	1.68	3.10
Italy	1.38	1.74	2.52	2.34	3.36	3.16

\* Boer War Costs

Source: From *Europe, 1815-1914*, by Gordon A. Craig, 1966.

### Document 2

"...The rise of Germany, whose supremacy France dreaded and whose navy menaced (or threatened) England, had created among (England and France) an alliance which claimed it was defensive in nature but was denounced by German propaganda as an attempt at (the) encirclement (of Germany). The two armed camps alarmed each other, and each grew heavy with multiplied incidents, which spread East (with the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand), where Russia and Austria were advancing with contradictory claims..."

From *The Century of Total War* by Raymond Aron (Doubleday 1954)



### Document 3

"...the Royal Serbian Government has done nothing to repress these movements. It has permitted the criminal machinations of various societies and associations directed against the Monarchy, and has tolerated unrestrained language on the part of the press, the glorification of the perpetrators of outrages and the participation of officers and functionaries in subversive agitation..."

...(The) Royal Government see themselves compelled to demand from the Royal Serbian Government a formal assurance that they condemn this dangerous propaganda against the Monarchy..."

...To accept the collaboration in Serbia of representatives of the Austro-Hungarian Government for the suppression of the subversive movement..."

Excerpt from the *Austro-Hungarian Red Book No. 7*. It is the ultimatum that Austria-Hungary sent to Serbia on July 23, 1914.

### Document 4

Nicholas II  
Telegram to Wilhelm II  
July 29, 1914, 1:00 A.M.

Am glad you are back. In this most serious moment, I appeal to you to help me. An ignoble [despised] war has been declared upon a weak country [Serbia]. The indignation [resentment] in Russia, shared fully by me, is enormous. I foresee that very soon I shall be overwhelmed by the pressure upon me, and be forced to take extreme measures which will lead to war. To try and avoid such a calamity [disaster] as a European war, I beg you in the name of our old friendship to do what you can to stop your allies from going too far.

— Nicky

The Kings of England, Germany, and Russia were cousins. In the months before the war started, the cousins were in contact.

### Document 5

The Crime of the Ages—Who Did It?



Source: John McCutcheon, *The Chicago Tribune*; H. H. Windsor, *Cartoons Magazine* (adapted)

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		1	2	3	4	5
S	<b>Who is the <u>S</u>peaker (Artist)?</b> Identification of the historical person who created the primary source. What do we know about this person?					
O	<b>What is the <u>O</u>ccasion?</b> What is the time and place? The context in which the primary source was created?					
A	<b>Who is the <u>A</u>udience?</b> The readers to whom this document is directed. The audience may be one person or a group.					
P	<b>What is the <u>P</u>urpose?</b> What is the reason behind the text? Why was it written? What goal did the author have in mind?					
S	<b>What is the <u>S</u>ubject?</b> What is the general topic, content, or idea contained in the text? Summarize in a few words or phrase.					
tone	<b>What is the <u>T</u>one?</b> What is the attitude of the speaker? Examine the choice of words, emotions expressed, imagery used to determine the attitude.					

1. Explain how the graph in document 1 illustrates the concept of militarism. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to document 2, why did France and England form an alliance? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. According to the Austro-Hungarians (document 3), how had the Serbians been involved in the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand? What should they allow the Austro-Hungarians to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does document 4 tell us about the role of the Kings (Kaiser and Tsar) in the lead up to World War I? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Explain what document 5 attempts to say about the start of World War I? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. On a separate paper, please write a paragraph that explains the reason for World War I.