

**Source:**

#flo #ret #disorganized #incomplete

**1 | Ope there goes gravity**

prompt:

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The political scientist Kenneth Waltz argues that the causes of war can be analyzed at three different levels of analysis.

Analyze World War 1 according to one (or a blend) of these levels of analysis. Make an argument that could explain the causes of WW1.

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resources: GHMW Unit 4.pdf palmer reading <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KTggTDz3YI7fT9MxwG4l25qMPNyiU>

levels of analysis:

- individual
- state
- systemic

example: put an egg in a highway, do you blame the car that chcrushes it?

how do we think about inevitability?

relative usefulness of each one

how do they intersect? system provides inevitability, but is that emergent out of the qualities of the individual?

potential essay: top down, each one informs the next. simply map to analysis levels

claim: not actually three separate levels? higher up levels cannot be generated without the previous?

systems need to account for randomness, which is inevitable. thus, higher level analysis?

the fact that ferdinand dying caused this meant that there was a higher level issue?

systems: random chance events will happen

was it a random chance event? was this the 'natural progression of things'?

or is the approach, 'random chance events are inevitable (in a system with so many actors), thus the system must be set up for this? or it is part of the system?'

top down:

- because of this system, it was inevitable that a state would act out.
- let's look at this state. because of this state, it was inevitable that a person would act out
- let's look at that person
- discuss merits of different levels of analysis?

bottom up:

- this person did this, and that caused the war.

usefulness of analysis at different levels?

war is a local minima in the system

nukes have allowed us to jump peaks and reach a lower minima

warring state has incentive to bring allies into war

non warring states have incentive to ally with winning side and gain power with them, as well as prevent others from becoming too powerful – BOP dynamic from resan detant

this brings the entire system into war

as more actors join into the war, you MUST join the war. one side of the war will win, and massively gain power. you cannot stay at your old divided power level.

just as peace is an emergent property of raison detant (BOP), global war can be as well? easily “excitable” prisoners dilemma square, when tensions are high, best decision is to attack. also best decision to bring allies, and best decision for allies to join in. tragedy of the commons. war breaks out

OLD: aa => 1,1. da, ad => 0,3 3,0. dd => 2,2. || a NEW: aa, ad, da => 0,0. dd => 2,2. || d

system has changed, MAD has allowed us to jump peaks to a lower minima.

war only breaks out when tensions are high, otherwise you would just defend.

once tensions become high, war becomes inevitable, and can be triggered at the smallest event.

^^ goes in bp3

franz ferdinand died, and that caused the war. if that could cause the war, something was up.

germany caused the tensions which caused the war. but {transition}

system level game theory analysis

thesis ideas:

levels of analysis are useful at the level you can impact? doesn't work if higher level informs your level of impact...

causation is defined by what is useful?

potential outline:

start with small explanation: ferdinand and states || but were they really to blame? egg in street

systemic explanation

which requires tension

thesis: tension changed the local minima to global warfare

switch tension and system explanation?

everyone had huge armies, and they all took it for granted that a war was coming even though few wanted one pg. 1-2

“In the last years before 1914 the idea that war was bound to break out sooner or later probably made some statesmen, in some countries, more willing to unleash it.” is this because “it would happen anyways” or because “we want to be first”?

formed the triple alliance out of fear that the german empire would be torn to pieces in another european war

france formed their own alliance in response

britain and germany had a naval race

germans felt encircled by france and russia alliance even more concerned when france joined them

## 1.1 | Quote Bin

## 1.2 | Outline (finally (hopefully))

THESIS: In a system of raison d'état, increase in tension and the formation of alliances shifted the local minima from peace to global warfare.

- Ferdinand and states
  - Ferdinand got assassinated by the black hand, this caused the war.
    - for Ferdinand getting assassinated to cause such a large scale war, larger factors must have been at play.
  - exactly what state caused what is heavily debated
    - it could have been the Germans, who attempted to destroy Serbia
    - could have been Serbia, who backed the black hand's assassination
    - the fact of the matter is, quote "In the last years before 1914 the idea was that war was bound to break out sooner or later." and this wasn't due to one meddling state.
- tension and alliances
  - to better understand the true causes, we first must understand the situation.
  - alliances formed, tension formed
  - alliances:
    - formed the triple alliance
      - out of fear of a European war
    - formed the triple entente
      - scared the Germans even more
    - these alliances also contributed heavily to growing –
  - tension:
    - large armies,
    - naval race,
    -
- systemic
  - BOP prisoners dilemma reward square is 0,0 for the AD scenario
    - once you have alliances, it becomes 0,3 again
  - tension ensures that the other wants to attack, meaning it is clear that you must first.
  - ALSO there's the snowball effect
    - OUTSIDER: if there is a large war you must join in or be left in the dust.
    - INSIDER: best option is to bring in allies
    - leads to massive wars
  - with tension and alliances, local minima becomes massive wars as opposed to peace

conclusion – nukes?