

WWI: Political Divisions

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PSCI 221- Causes of War

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Central Questions

- How did the alliance system transform prior to WWI?
- How were political decisions reached within the European powers?
- What role did domestic politics play in WWI?

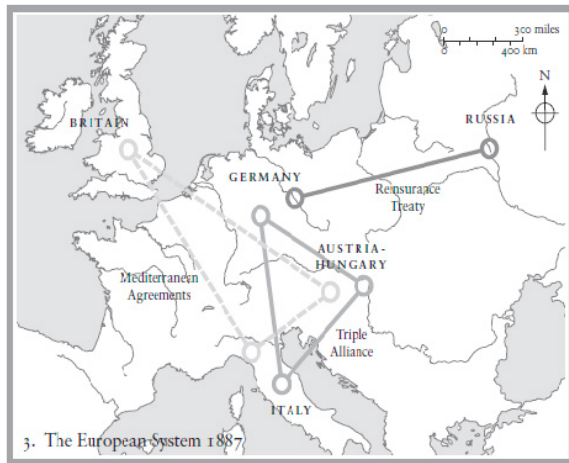
Last Class

Broader look at World War I

What are the explanations for conflict in the Balkans?

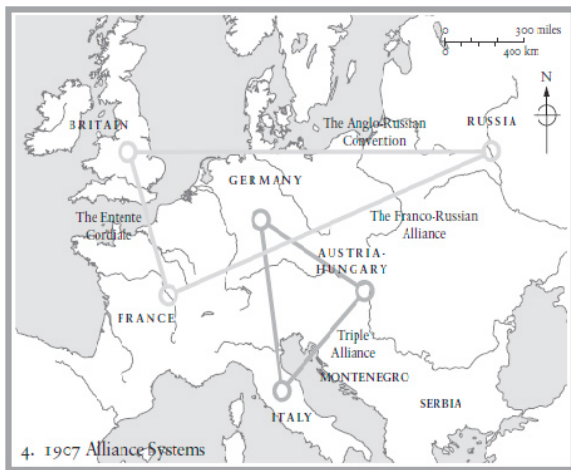
Bargaining breakdown and domestic politics

Alliances: 1887



The European System 1887

Alliances: 1907



1907 Alliance Systems

France and Russia

A modern balancing alliance

Key Threats

- France → Germany
- Russia → Austria-Hungary

Crucial catalyst- Great Britain

Great Britain

Fear of Russia drove British alliance choices

Sudden Germanophobia - what happened?

The development of an enemy image

Germany

History of punching below its weight

Domestic pressure and uncertainty lead to military expansion

Failed to see the changing world

The Chaos of Competing Voices

Determinants of Policy

- Monarchs
- Foreign Ministers
- Government Officials

Soldiers and Civilians

Battle over military spending

Assumed the other side was hawkish and militarized

Leverage the “war party” to gain concessions

Public Opinion

Expansion of the political public sphere

Politicians attempted to shape public opinion

Increase of the prestige of war

Concluding Remarks

Word of the Day: Uncertainty

For Next Class:

- Keep Reading *Sleepwalkers*
- Professor Kenkel Returns