

Document #1:

Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles, signed 28 June 1919.

Created by the Allied Powers and presented to the Germans at the Palace of Versailles, outside Paris, this peace treaty officially ended the war with Germany. Article 231 is commonly referred to as the "war guilt" clause.

The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Document #2:

Richard Harding Davis, "The German Army Marches through Brussels, 21 August 1914," *News Chronicle*, 23 August 1914.

During the period in which World War I began, Belgian neutrality had been guaranteed by the European powers. On 3 August 1914, however, it was ignored by the Germans, who marched through Belgium intent on reaching Paris and the Channel Ports of France.

The entrance of the German army into Brussels has lost the human quality. It was lost as soon as the three soldiers who led the army bicycled into the Boulevard du Régent and asked the way to the Gare du Nord. When they passed the human note passed with them.

What came after them, and twenty-four hours later is still coming, is not men marching, but a force of nature like a tidal wave, an avalanche or a river flooding its banks. At this minute it is rolling through Brussels as the swollen waters of the Conemaugh Valley swept through Johnstown.

At the sight of the first few regiments of the enemy we were thrilled with interest. After for three hours they had passed in one unbroken steel-grey column we were bored. But when hour after hour passed and there was no halt, not breathing time, no open spaces in the ranks, the thing became uncanny, inhuman. You returned to watch it, fascinated. It held the mystery and menace of fog rolling toward you across the sea. . . .

Yesterday Major General von Jarotsky, the German Military Governor of Brussels, assured Burgomaster Max that the German army would not occupy the city, but would pass through it. It is still passing. I have followed in campaigns six armies, but excepting not even our own, the Japanese, or the British, I have not seen one so thoroughly equipped. I am not speaking of the fighting qualities of any army, only of the equipment and organization. The German army moved into this city as smoothly and as compactly as an Empire State Express. There were no halts, no open places, no stragglers. . . .

Document #3:

Military expenses of European powers: 1890, 1914

Nation	Military Expenses (in millions of dollars)		
	<i>Army</i>	<i>Navy</i>	<i>Total</i>
Germany			
1890	121	23	144
1914	442	112	554
Great Britain			
1890	88	69	157
1914	147	237	384
France			
1890	142	44	186
1914	197	90	287
Russia			
1890	123	22	145
1914	324	118	442

Document #4:

Communication by the German ambassador in London, Prince Lichnowsky, to the British Foreign Secretary, Edward Grey, 26 July 1914.

By 26 July 1914, Europe was on the verge of war. When a Serbian nationalist assassinated the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife on 28 June, Austria responded by delivering an ultimatum to Serbia on 23 July. With Serbia agreeing to nine out of ten of Austria-Hungary's demands on 25 July, the latter began to mobilize, and ultimately declared war on Serbia two days after the communication of this letter.

Sir Edward Grey,

Prince Lichnowsky called this afternoon with an urgent telegram from his government to say that they had received information that Russia was calling in "classes of reserves," which meant mobilisation. If this mobilisation took place on the German frontier, Germany would be compelled to mobilise and France naturally would follow suit. Prince Lichnowsky was, therefore, instructed to request that we would urge the Russian Government not to mobilise. The Germans would not mind a partial mobilisation say at Odessa or Kieff but could not view indifferently a mobilisation on the German frontier.

I told Prince Lichnowsky that we had no information as to a general mobilisation or indeed of any mobilisation immediately. (The Ukase mobilising 1,100,000 men has not been issued.) It would, however, be difficult and delicate for us to ask Petersburg not to mobilise at all when Austria was contemplating such a measure we should not be listened to. The main thing was to prevent, if possible, active military operations and I told Prince Lichnowsky in general terms of the proposals for a meeting ... quatre here which you had made at Paris-Berlin-Rome on the condition that Russia, Austria and Servia should suspend active military operations pending results of conference. Prince Lichnowsky liked the proposal.

A. N.

(He was very excited.)

Document #5:

In 1913, Sir Fairfax Cartwright, the British ambassador to Vienna, issued a warning.

Serbia will some day set Europe by the ears, and bring about a universal war on the Continent. I cannot tell you how exasperated people are getting here at the continual worry which that little country causes to Austria.

Document #6:

American political cartoon printed in the *Chicago Tribune*, 1914.



Document #7:

Statement by the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, December 1905.

When the Conservative government in Britain fell in December 1905 and was succeeded by the Liberals, Sir Edward Grey issued a written statement regarding the future direction of British foreign policy.

If there is a war between France and Germany, it will be very difficult for us to keep out of it. The *Entente* and still more the constant and emphatic demonstrations of affection (official, naval, political, commercial and in the Press) have created in France a belief that we shall support them in war . . . If this expectation is disappointed, the French will never forgive us. There would also I think be a general feeling that we had behaved badly and left France in the lurch . . . On the other hand the prospect of a European war and of our being involved in it is horrible.