

Slide 1

**THE TOXIC FACTORS THAT  
LEAD TO WAR IN 1914 - PART 2**

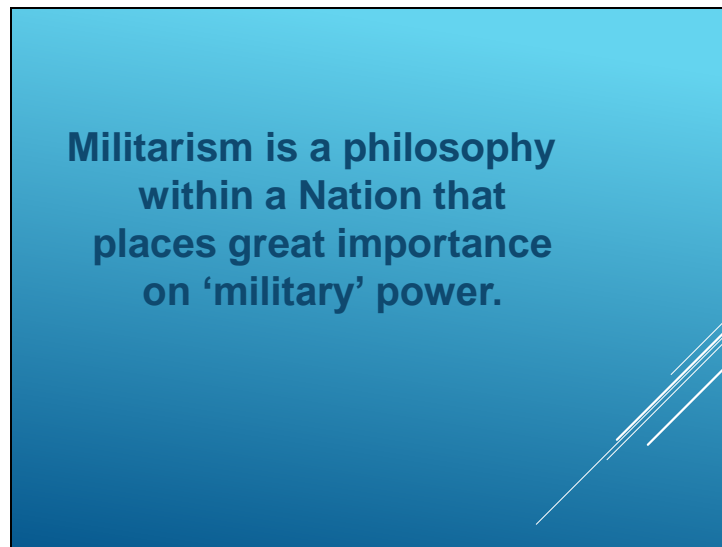
**Militarism**

**Alliances**

**Imperialism**

**Nationalism**

## Slide 2



Discussion > Is Militarism a significant factor in our world of 2017?

## Slide 3

**Identify aspects of the  
French Prussian War of  
1870 that were  
subsequently adopted by  
governments across  
Europe prior to 1914.**

Conscription / Rail networks / Military academies /

## Slide 4

**Explain how the policy of  
'compulsory conscription'  
generally operated in most  
nations throughout pre-war  
Europe.**

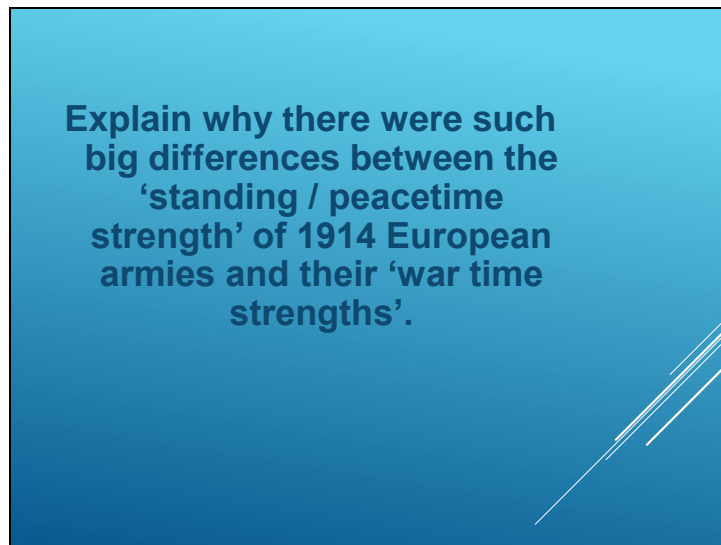
In the continental nations of Europe in the latter years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century the young men of 18-19 years of age were required by law to spend 2-3 years in compulsory military training.

NB – Compulsory military service also applied here in Australia after 1910  
However under Aust Commonwealth law our 'conscripts' could not be forced to serve  
outside of Australia and hence the reason why the AIF in 1914 was a purely volunteer force.

## Slide 5

|                       | Population         | Peacetime<br>Strength | Wartime<br>Strength | Infantry<br>Divisions |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Triple Entente</b> |                    |                       |                     |                       |
| Russia                | 164,000,000        | 1,445,000             | 3,400,000           | 114                   |
| France                | 36,600,000         | 827,000               | 1,800,000           | 80                    |
| Britain               | 46,000,000         | 248,000               | 248,000             | 6                     |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>246,600,000</b> | <b>2,520,000</b>      | <b>5,448,000</b>    | <b>200</b>            |
| <b>Central Powers</b> |                    |                       |                     |                       |
| Germany               | 67,000,000         | 761,000               | 2,147,000           | 87                    |
| Austria/Hungary       | 51,000,000         | 478,000               | 1,338,000           | 49                    |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>118,000,000</b> | <b>1,239,000</b>      | <b>3,485,000</b>    | <b>136</b>            |

## Slide 6



Compulsory service in Reserve units applied until a man reached into his forties

How might a focus on Peace time 'standing army' troop numbers in 1914 have misled military and political leaders of the day?

## Slide 7

**Describe the role played  
by Military Colleges in  
pre-war Europe**

Provided professional up to date and technical training to the Officer Classes, and also engaged in preparing Strategic Plans and detailed Logistics Plans (Men, train timetables, horses, food, transport, equipment needs etc)

## Slide 8

**What were 'war plans' and  
how did they cause  
military practices in 1914  
to differ from those of  
previous conflicts?**

In previous conflicts without detailed strategic plans the armies merely turned up at a battle field and began to fight.

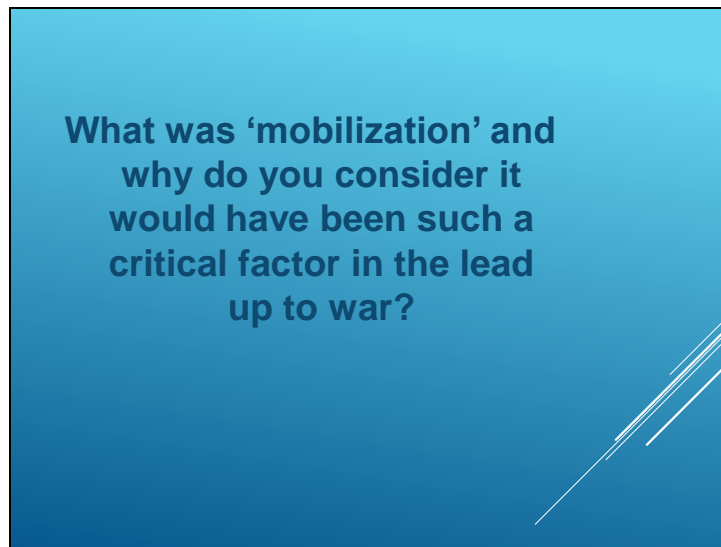


## Slide 9

**Why did each of the major nations in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe place great emphasis on building efficient railway networks?**

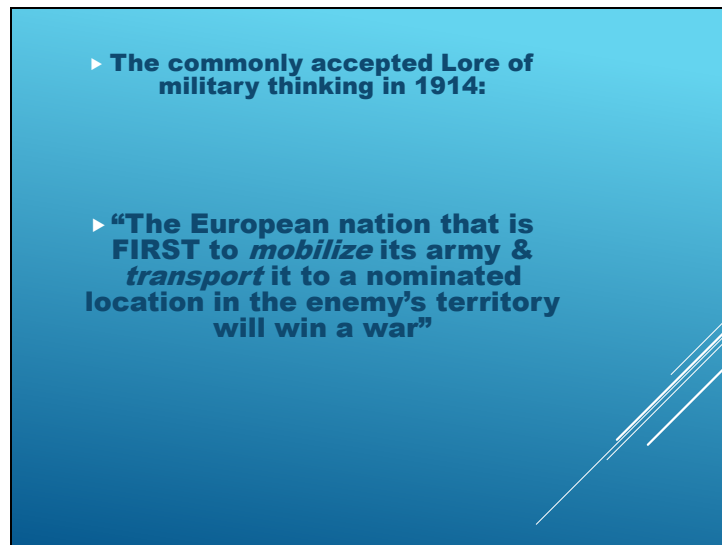
To speedily enable their troops to be moved to places where needed on their borders

## Slide 10



The calling up of reserve troops, their aggregation and subsequent deployment to points near the nation's borders.

## Slide 11



Compare this lore with the nuclear strike first option which prevails today.

Slide 12

**Explain the part that  
'railway timetables'  
played in the  
'mobilization' processes  
of the European  
countries.**

NB – The French experience at Sedan in 1870 where rail bottlenecks occurred

## Slide 13

**What did pre war  
governments in Great  
Britain base their core  
defence policy on and  
why?**

The fact that they were an island nation and the superiority of the Royal Navy.

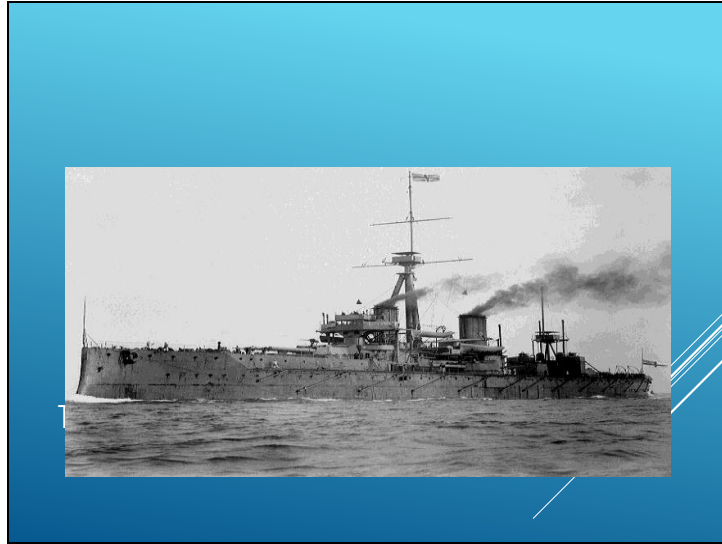
By 1914 British armies had not fought on the European continent for just over a century and therefore were basically out of touch with much of the military thinking that had evolved throughout Europe in the intervening century.

## Slide 14

- ▶ Describe the make up of Britain's pre-war professional army and explain its key differences with the armies on the European continent in 1914.

A tiny well trained 'standing army' of just 8 Divisions > colonial policing priority (India)  
Boer War experience against poorly resourced farmers on the open veldt

## Slide 15



The British *Dreadnaught* (1906) made all other battleships obsolete. It had ten long-range 12-inch big guns, mechanized computer-like range finders, high speed turbine engines that could make 21 knots, and armour plates 11 inches thick.

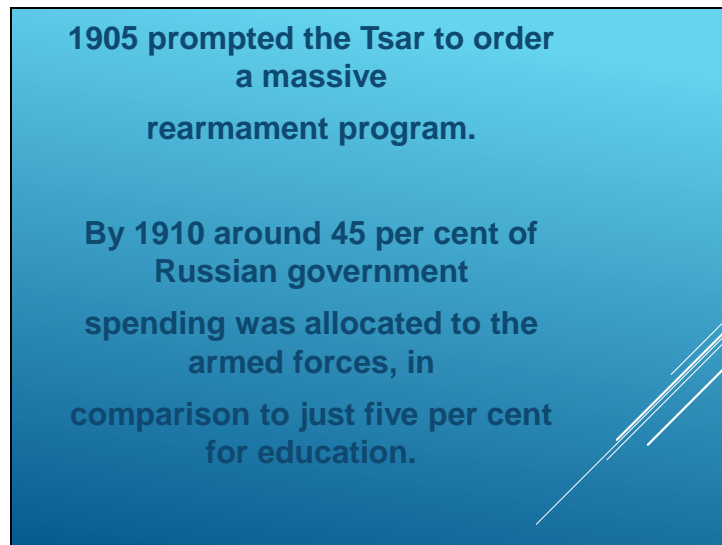
## Slide 16

**German defence spending between 1910 and 1914 increased by a massive 73 per cent, dwarfing the increases in France (10 per cent) and Britain (13 per cent).**

**Russian defence spending also grew by more than one third.**




## Slide 17



In 1910, Britain had some 9,000 young men enrolled in university courses studying the 'sciences' – This compared to Germany with 60,000!  
Discuss the implications

**In the decade prior to the War, every major European power on the Continent introduced or increased conscription to expand their armies.**




Slide 19

**Nationalist and militarist rhetoric across Europe assured people that if war erupted, THEIR nation would emerge victorious.**

AND God was believed to be on THEIR side!

**Militarism in concert with  
its brothers, imperialism  
and nationalism,  
contributed to a mass  
delusion that made a  
European war seem both  
necessary and winnable.**

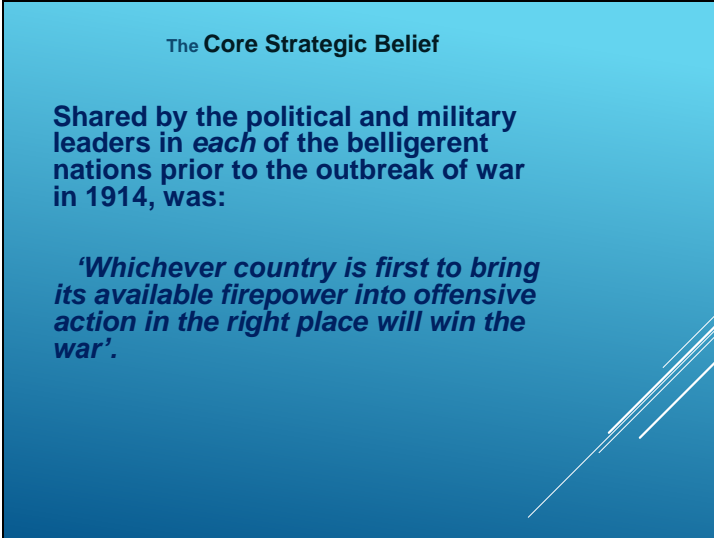


## Slide 21

The **Core Strategic Belief**

Shared by the political and military leaders in *each* of the belligerent nations prior to the outbreak of war in 1914, was:

*'Whichever country is first to bring its available firepower into offensive action in the right place will win the war'.*



What implications did this widespread belief have on the notion of 'mobilization'?  
Remember the 'mad minute'

## Slide 22

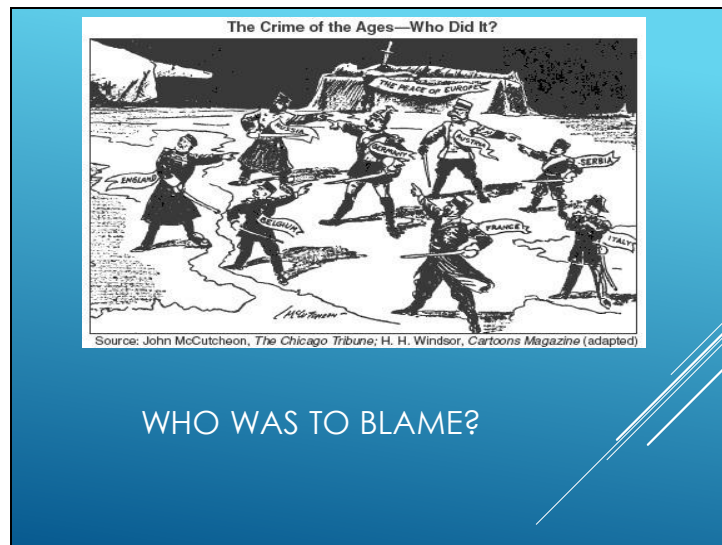
**The 'dark side' of conscription was that by  
1914  
the nations of Europe had created many  
submerged and largely invisible armies,  
each of  
them millions strong, consisting of men  
who  
could shoulder a rifle, march in step, and  
had  
learnt to obey orders.**

## Slide 23

What was not conceived by any of the key political leaders, monarchs or military generals in Europe in 1914 was the enormous potential for carnage that would be released when the genies (the armies of Europe) were released from their bottles.

**LEAD UP TO THE GREAT WAR**

## Slide 24



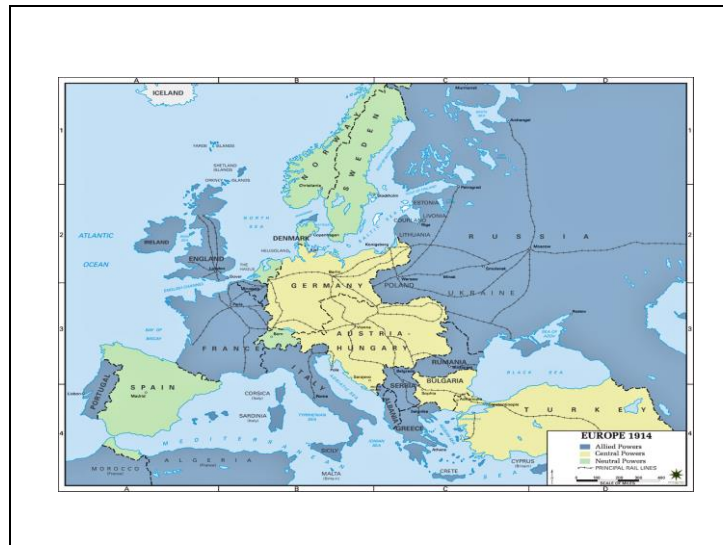
How would you apportion 100% of the blame for starting the Great War

Red Team – Countries Blue Team – the four Factors leading to War  
1>3>6

Given a pool of **100 points** that can be allocated, based on what you have learned, how many of those points do you consider should be given to each of the Nations in the cartoon?



Slide 25



Map of Pre-war Europe in 1914