Reflections on the Great 1914-1918 War
Fromm Institute, Spring 1915
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April 15, 2nd Session: The War from Outbreak to Aftermath


A. Assassination of Austro-Hungarian heir, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, 28 June 1914
   1. Sarajevo: Gavrilo Princip (1894-1917); Pan Slavism and Serb Black Hand Society
   2. Vienna (Emperor Franz Josef, reign 1848-1916); Leopold von Berchtold, foreign minister; Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf, chief of staff; Stefan Tisza, Hungarian prime minister
   3. Berlin (Kaiser Wilhelm II, reign 1888-1918) Theobald Bethmann-Hollweg, Chancellor; Helmuth von Moltke the Younger, Chief of Staff
   4. Text of Ultimatum to Serbia, July 14-16
   6. Belgrade: (King Peter I), Nikola Paskaljevic, Prime Minister

B. Growing Crisis
   1. Saint Petersburg. Nicholas II, Tsar 1894-1917; Sergei Sazonov, Foreign Minister; Vladimir Sukholminov, War Minister; Pan Slavism
   2. Paris. Raymond Poincaré, President; René Viviani, Prime & Foreign Minister; Russian Visit 20-23 July; Chief of Staff Joseph Joffre (Caillaux murder case)
   3. London. George V, King 1910-36; Herbert H. Asquith, Prime Minister & War; Edward Grey, Foreign Minister; Winston Churchill, Admiralty to Dec. 1915; H. H. Kitchener, War; David Lloyd George, Exchequer, Munitions

C. Austrian Ultimatum: Ten Demands, Thursday PM, July 23; Response by 6PM, July 25
   2. July 28: Austria declared war on Serbia, July 29, shelled Belgrade

D. Mobilization Means War
   3. July 31: Full Russian and German mobilization; German ultimatum to France
   4. August 1: War, Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary
   5. August 2: German ultimatum to Belgium
      a. Schlieffen Plan (Alfred von Schlieffen, chief of staff 1891-1906); French Plan XVII
   6. August 3: German declares war on France; occupies Luxembourg, invades Belgium
   7. August 4: Britain declares war on Germany

E. Domestic Reaction: Socialist Parties (France: assassination of Jean Jaurès, 31 July 1914)

II. The Blame Game (Each country’s justification booklet known by its cover color)
   1. England: Blue Book; France: Yellow Book; Russia: Orange Book; Serbia, Blue Book; Belgium, Grey Book; Germany: Red Book; Austria: Red Book

III. The Conduct of the War and Military & Naval Theory


B. Weaponry. Infantry: Machine Guns; Rifles, Pistols, Bayonets; Cavalry: Lance, Saber, Rifles, Pistols; Artillery: Field Guns: “French 75”; Siege Guns; Poison Gas

C. Aviation: From observation to strafing, bombing; Aerial Combat; Dirigibles (Zeppelins)

D. Western Front. 1914: Frontiers; “Rape of Belgium”; Marne; “Race to the Sea” (Ypres); 1915: Trench Warfare; Poison Gas; 1916: Verdun; Somme; 1917: War of Attrition (Soissons, Cambrai); (Passchendaeel); 1918: Ludendorff offensives; Americans and Turn of Tide; (Château Thierry, Belleau Wood; Allied Offensives (St Mihel, Meuse-Argonne)
   1. Generals: British; John French; Douglas Haig; French: Joseph Joffre; Joseph Galliéni;
Philippe Pétain; Robert Nivelle; Ferdinand Foch; U.S.: John Pershing; German: Moltke; Erich von Falkenhayn; Paul von Hindenburg; Erich Ludendorff

E. Eastern Front: 1914: Tannenberg; 1915: Warsaw, Lemberg (Lvov); 1916: Brusilov Offensive; Romania; 1917, Russian collapse, Revolution; Generals: Grand Duke Nicholas; Aleksei Brusilov; German: Col. Hoffman; Hindenburg, Ludendorff, Falkenhayn, August von Mackensen

F. Balkans: Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece

G. Italy: Isonzo; Caporetto (Hemingway, *Farewell to Arms*); Vittorio Veneto

H. Ottoman Empire Middle East (Liman von Sanders, Enver Pasha)
   1. Egypt, Sinai & Suez Canal
   4. Arabia, Palestine, Syria, 1918 (T. E. Lawrence, Edmund Allenby)

I. Pacific and Indian Oceans: Japan, Australia

J. Navies: Dreadnought battleships and battlecruisers; cruisers; destroyers; submarines. Seas plane and aircraft carriers; Big guns: 12", 13.5"; 15": Admirals. British: John Jellicoe, David Beatty; German: Reinhard Scheer, Franz von Hipper
   1. Escape of SMS *Goeben*; Coronel; Falklands; Dogger Bank; Jutland
   2. Unrestricted Submarine Warfare: *Lusitania*, May 1915; Entry of the United States into the War, April 1917 (Zimmermann telegram)

IV. Armistice 1918, Peace Treaties and the Breakup of Empires, 1919-23
   A. Woodrow Wilson, the Versailles Treaty, the United States Senate and Henry Cabot Lodge
   B. The Versailles Treaty and Article 231, War Guilt: Germany and Its Allies
   C. Treaties, Conflicts and Settlements, 1920-23 (League of Nations Mandates)
      1. Russian Empire to USSR. Treaty of Brest Litovsk, March 1918; Independence of Finland, Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia
      2. Germany: Armistice, Nov. 11 (Treaty of Versailles); Alsace-Lorraine to France; Sudeten to Czechoslovakia; territory to Poland; Saar; Rhineland
      3. Austria-Hungary: Armistice, Nov. 4. Austria (St Germain en-Laye); Hungary (Trianon), Transylvania to Romania; Banat, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia to Yugoslavia (Serbia); Istria, Trentino to Italy: Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia to Czechoslovakia
         a. Bulgaria (Neuilly)
      4. Creation of Poland, from German Silesia, Posen, East Pomerania, Polish Corridor (Free State Danzig); Austrian Galicia; War with USSR, 1920
      5. Ottoman Empire (Sykes-Picot Agreement, 1916); Treaty of Sèvres 1920
         French Mandate: Lebanon, Syria; British Mandate: Palestine, Iraq
         Turkey (British occupy Constantinople to 1923)
            Greco-Turkish War 1919-22: Battle of Ankara; Smyrna/Izmir; Treaty of Lausanne, 1923 and modern Republic of Turkey; Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
            a. Balfour Declaration, 1917; Zionism (Theodore Herzl 1860-1904), Zionist Organization
            b. Arabian Peninsula, Saudi Arabia and Hijaz (Mecca & Medina); Faisal to Iraq
      6. Africa: German Southwest Africa to Union of South Africa; German East Africa (Tanganyika) to British; Cameroon between British and French
      7. Pacific: German New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Solomons to Australia; German Samoa to New Zealand; Carolines, Marshals, Marianas and Tsingtao to Japan