**Causes of the Great War**

You have already researched Cause 1, the growth of the alliance system prior to the Great War. Now your groups will research significant events, people, concepts, etc… that contributed in other ways to setting the stage for the war.

**Cause 2: Strategy, Armaments, and militarism:**

Each combatant developed strategic plans that were intended to end the war quickly and efficiently. To understand them answer the following questions:

1. What was the German Strategic plan known as?
2. What concerns did the Germans have to address when they created the plan? As you answer this question think about who they expected to fight, time, the number of men involved, technology, and geographic distances.
3. What did the German plan call for? (in other words, describe the plan’s main components)
4. Sketch out the plan in the space below. Be sure to label key geographic features and places and countries in your sketch.

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1. What was the French Strategic plan known as?
2. Connecting what you know from our unit on German Unification: why would the Franco-Prussian war impact the French strategic plan over 40 years later?
3. What concerns did the French have to address when they created the plan? As you answer this question think about who they expected to fight, travel and mobilization time, the number of men, technology, and geographic distances.
4. What did the French plan call for? (in other words, describe the plan’s main components)
5. Define the term” *Attaque à outrance.”* Why is it important?
6. Sketch out the French plan in the space below. Be sure to label key geographic features and places and countries in your sketch.

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Arms Race:

1. Who was Alfred von Tirpitz and why is he important in regard to WW1?
2. What were the German First (1898) and the Second (1900) Fleet Acts?
3. How did the British respond the German Fleet Acts?
4. What is the significance of HMS Dreadnought?
5. What were the relative naval strengths in battleships of Britain and Germany on the eve of WW1?
6. Create a graphic in the space below to demonstrate the naval strength of each.

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1. Why do you think it became impossible for Germany and Britain to stop the naval arms race prior to WW1? Hint: think politically and consider economics as well!

**Cause 3 Domestic politics:** Define the following terms in preparation for your research:

1. Pan-Slavism:
2. *Italia-Irredenta*:

Go to Wikipedia, search for the article “Causes of World War 1” and locate the subsection *“Domestic Political Factors.”* Read the three sections on Germany, France, and Austria-Hungary

[*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causes\_of\_World\_War\_I#Domestic\_political\_factors*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causes_of_World_War_I#Domestic_political_factors)

Answer the following questions:

1. Germany: What is historian Fritz Fischer’s argument?
2. France: While the section on France does not explicitly state this how do you think the French strategic plan exhibited concerns for French domestic politics?
3. Austria-Hungary: What is Samuel R. Williamson’s argument?