

## COUNTRY PROFILES

### Phase One Austria

*Profile:* You are one of the oldest empires in Europe. Your lands contain many nationalities—Slavs, Magyars, Hungarians, Gypsies, German-speaking peoples, etc. For the past sixty years your empire has been rocked by a series of nationalistic revolts—most of which you have shut down with your army. Your military is fairly well equipped, but many believe it is not large enough to protect your vast empire, especially against the threats of the Russian empire.

You are traditional enemies with the Russian empire whose national interest is generally opposed to your own. You want to stop Russian expansion toward the Mediterranean Sea. In order to make up for this deficiency, you have signed a mutual defense agreement with Germany and Italy called the Triple Alliance. Germany is the acknowledged head of this alliance and Italy has dropped out of the alliance. You have “issues” with Italy regarding territory on your southern border.

You have recently come into conflict with Serbia over your annexation of Bosnia. Nationalistic revolts are spreading in your southern territories. You suspect that Serbia is encouraging these revolts. As a nation you fear that you are losing influence in European affairs and wish for a return to the days when Austria was a major player on the continent. You see the rotting of the Ottoman Empire as a chance to expand in this region.

*Situation:* The heir to the Austrian throne, Arch Duke Francis Ferdinand, has been assassinated by a terrorist in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. You suspect the Serbians may have been behind the murder.

List three courses of action that you as the leader of your country would take and the rationale for each.

### Phase Two Serbia

*Profile:* You are a Slavic country, a sovereign country. You see yourself as the natural leader of the Slavic countries in the Balkans. The people in your country are feeling ever more nationalistic and support the idea of a “Greater Serbia.” You have unofficially supported organizations working toward Slav nationalism, even terrorist groups such as the Black Hand. You have a loose defence alliance with the Russian empire, but you are not part of the Triple Entente.

You are sympathetic to Slavic nationalistic groups within the Austrian empire that wish to join your country. You are traditional enemies with the Austro-Hungarian Empire—your national interests are generally in opposition to hers. You are extremely bitter about the Austrian annexation of Bosnia. You have recently gone to war with Bulgaria to assert land claims, but were only partly satisfied. Your recent expansion into Albania was frustrated.

*Situation:* The Black Hand has assassinated the heir to the Austrian throne. The Black Hand has been receiving unofficial aid from you for years. The Austrian government has demanded they be allowed to investigate the murder within your borders. They have issued you an ultimatum. If you don't comply with their demands they will attack your country.

List three courses of action that you as the leader of your country would take and the rationale for each.

### Phase Three Russia

*Profile:* You are the largest country in Europe. Although your country is huge, you lag behind the western European powers in terms of industrialization. Most of your population is made up of poor peasants. You have recently suffered a series of foreign policy/military setbacks including:

- an embarrassing loss to Japan in a 1905 war
- an internal revolt in 1905
- backing down over Austrian annexation of Bosnia
- failing to back Serbia in its claim to Albania

Your military is huge but ill equipped and poorly led. It takes a great deal of time to get it moving (mobilization). If you plan to go to war, you must get a head start. Your major foreign policy aim is to expand into the Balkans. You desire warm water ports along the Mediterranean for your navy.

You see yourself as the natural ally of the Serbs for nationalistic reasons. Austro-Hungary is your traditional enemy. You share a long border with Germany who is allied with Austria. You fear the German military because it is so strong, well equipped and well-led. Your royal house—the Romanovs—is related to the royal houses of both Great Britain and Germany. You are part of a loose defence alliance with France and Great Britain (Triple Entente). Although you know you can depend on France for assistance you are unsure of whether Great Britain would come to your aid in case of war.

*Situation:* Serbia has asked you for unconditional military support in her conflict with Austria. These are in fact the terms of your alliance with Serbia.

List three courses of action that you as the leader of your country would take and the rationale for each.

### Phase Four Germany

*Profile:* You have the most advanced army in Europe. The only navy that can rival you is that of Great Britain. Your country is highly industrialized and very well organized. Its system of railroads is the most advanced in Europe. You desire an expanded empire, both overseas and in Europe. You see yourself as the natural leader in Europe.

You are traditional enemies with France—you have controlled two French provinces since the Franco-Prussian war of 1871. Your biggest fear is that you will have to fight a two-front war against both France (in the west) and Russia (in the east) and this means you will have to divide your army in two. You are unsure if Great Britain will come to the aid of Russia and France. Your king is related to the British king. You are the leader of the Triple Alliance and have pledged unconditional support to Austria in her dispute with Serbia and Russia. You believe that it will take Russia a long time to mobilize her army.

*Situation:* In response to your unconditional support of Austria, the Russia army has begun its cumbersome mobilization against both Austria and Germany.

List three courses of action which you as the leader of your country would take.

### Phase Five France

**Profile:** You see yourself as a traditional leader in the affairs of Western Europe. You are traditional enemies with Germany and have hated it for its occupation of Alsace-Lorraine since 1871. Your military still suffers from the humiliating defeat in the Franco-Prussian War. You have a large military, but it has been rocked with scandals over the past fifteen years. There is a general desire to re-establish yourself as a military power.

Your colonial empire has been rocked by nationalistic movements. Germany has challenged your claims to some of your colonial holdings. You are a member of the Triple Entente and have pledged your support to Russia in case they are attacked by Germany or Austria. Your defences are concentrated against Germany and not in the north of the country. You feel confident that Great Britain would come to your aid if you were attacked.

*Situation:* Germany has invaded Belgium to the north and mobilized its whole army in the west.

List three courses of action that you as the leader of your country would take and the rationale for each.

### Phase Six Great Britain

**Profile:** You have the largest empire on earth. You depend on this empire to supply your country with the necessities of life. You have the largest navy on earth and depend on it to defend your empire and ensure you can import all the goods you need. This is especially important considering that you are an island.

You have a loose agreement with Russia and France to come to their aid if they are attacked by Germany or Austria. You have a more solid agreement with Belgium guaranteeing her neutrality (you will use your military to help ensure it). You are particularly wary of a hostile power gaining control of the territory directly opposite your eastern shores. Your king is related to the kaiser in Germany.

*Situation:* Germany has invaded Belgium in an attempt to outflank the French army. Belgium, France and Russia have all asked for your assistance.

List three courses of action that you as the leader of your country would take and the rationale for each.

### Phase Seven Canada

*Profile:* Your country gained a measure of independence from Britain in 1867. The majority of your population are first- or second-generation Canadians from Great Britain who retain a great deal of loyalty to her. The large Francophone population is at best ambivalent about the war, at worst opposed to it.

Your foreign policy is dictated by Great Britain and thus as soon as she is at war, so are you. During the last war in which Britain was involved, the Anglo-Boer War of 1899, Canada sent a contingent of volunteers to fight in South Africa, funded and led by the British. You have a very small army (3,000 soldiers) and two ships in your navy. Agriculture is your largest economic sector. The population of your country in 1914 is 8,000,000.

*Situation:* The moment that Great Britain declared war on the central powers, Canada was also at war. It is up to you, though, to determine exactly how Canada will contribute to the British war effort—military, economic, financial, or some combination thereof. Also, it is up to you as to the size of the contribution.

List three courses of action that you as the leader of your country would take and the rationale for each.