

WAR PLANS - WWI

The only country that entered the war with a clear idea of what they hoped to gain by victory was **Austria-Hungary**! They wanted to "*end the challenge of South Slav nationalism*"! The other nations involved in the outbreak of WWI entered the war with more or less improvised, to some extent, clumsy war aims.

Germany's view of why she should get involved in the war. At first Germany portrayed the war as an attempt to "**escape strangulation by encirclement**". After the first victories we can see a clear change (to some extent because of the pressure from the public opinion, industrial and "Pan-German" interests). At **September 9th 1914 the Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg signed the "September Program"**. This program included **annexations and German expansion**. Some of the proposals were:

- Germany should demand the fortress of Belfort and the ore fields of French Lorraine from France.
- Germany should also demand ("possibly") the strategic coastal strip from Dunkirk to Boulogne - also from France
- France should be forced to accept disadvantageous trade treaties
- France should pay war indemnity
- Belgium should hand over Liège, Verviers and possibly Antwerp
- Luxembourg should become a German federal province
- Russia should be "*pushed back as far as possible from Germany's eastern frontier*" but no specific details were mentioned

Britain and France ("*pushed by public opinion*") reacted against the "**September Program**":

- Elimination of "*Junker militarism*"
- Elimination of the German navy and the German colonial empire
- France demanded the return of Alsace-Lorraine
- Russia was promised the Straits (Dardanelle - Constantinople - Bosphorus) from the Ottoman Empire in March-April 1915 by Great Britain and France! They asked for compensation in Egypt and the Near East.

If the Entente would win this war it was obvious that the Ottoman Empire was doomed to disintegration....