

Turkish armies and they had been beaten by Serbian and Bulgarian officers instructed in Russia and in France. And the conquest of the Serbians of Turkish territory made more difficult of accomplishment the German ambition to be the rulers along the whole course of the Danube and down to the Mediterranean Sea at Salonika and Constantinople. So the Kaiser and his Generals and his Admirals determined that "The Day" had come when United Germany should strike, so that the German Empire should attain to the summit of the War Lord's ambition.

Any excuse will do to start a fight, if you want to force a fight, no matter how unwilling the other man may be, and the excuse was quickly found. The heir to the Empire of Austria—himself of German race—went on a Royal tour throughout some new provinces where most of the people were Slavs—and he was assassinated by two men one of which was an Austrian subject and the other a Serbian subject, though both were Slavs like the Russians.

Thereupon, after first obtaining the permission of the German Emperor, a demand was sent to the King of Serbia of a very insulting character, ordering him to do very humiliating things such as no king had ever been before told to do. Nevertheless, the Ministers of the King of Serbia promised to perform nine of the ten orders but asked that the tenth might be referred to the Hague Tribunal for amicable settlement. But this humble answer would not suffice, for the decision had been arrived at beforehand; and despite the remonstrances of our Foreign Minister, Austria declared war on Serbia and overran that country. The Czar of Russia remonstrated and ordered some of his armies to be got ready on a war footing, whereupon Germany and