

The British position is also based upon reasons other than these. Great Britain is the guarantor of Belgian neutrality. The defence of it has been the governing policy of British statecraft since Waterloo. Bismarck was made to respect it in 1870, and it was out of the question that Great Britain would permit, unprotected, a violation at this crisis.

Great Britain hesitated long before taking action, and that world-known diplomat, Sir Edward Grey, made every effort to keep peace.

Great Britain has always been acknowledged the ruler of the seas. This strong position is an absolute necessity to her existence and to the life of her colonies, and it is in the interest of world-wide peace that she maintained her supremacy on the seas.

She has eyed with apprehension and disgust the warlike preparations that Germany has been making for years.

The Honorable Winston Churchill, Britain's War Lord, proposed to the German Government a suspension of the warship building for a specified time, but Germany would not accede to it.

#### Belgium's Reason :

Tiny Belgium was aroused to combat upon the invasion of her soil by Germany. She loudly proclaimed her neutrality and demanded that it be respected. Germany, while offering compensation, would not consider this, and the Kaiser accordingly declared himself at war with Belgium. While tiny Belgium would be a ridiculous opponent of mighty Germany, the aid which Belgium can give to the army of France is by no means to be sneered at. Her available military force is estimated at 180,000 men, together with a large reserve. It should prove no mean addition to the military power of France.

#### Japan's Reason :

Japan has prepared her navy for war and thrown her influence of power to the defence of her staunch ally, Great Britain. Japan has already proved her allegiance to England by sending an ultimatum to Germany to withdraw from Kiauchiau and other fortified German possessions in the far East. Germany having refused to concede to this, Japan is backing up her demand by an armed attack on these forts.

Kiauchiau is an important strategical point in the Pacific Ocean, occupying a corresponding position to that of Gibraltar in the Mediterranean.