

First World War

I. A New Type of War

II. Underlying Causes
(Levels of Analysis)

III. Outbreak of War

IV. Explaining the War

V. Fallout



I. A New Type of War

- Global War
- Total War
- Unprecedented Carnage



Trench Warfare



Trench Warfare



Trench Warfare



Gas Victims



II. Levels of Analysis – A. International

- 1. Germany Unification
- 2. Military Planning (Rapid)



3. Balance of Power in Europe



B. State/Domestic Level

- Nationalism
 - Social Darwinism
 - Multinational Empires
(Austria-Hungary and Ottoman)
- Aggressive German Policies
- Social Unrest
- Complacency about War



Kaiser Wilhelm II

Ethnic Groups in Austria-Hungary



Enthusiasm at the Outbreak of War



Adolph Hitler in Munich, August 1914

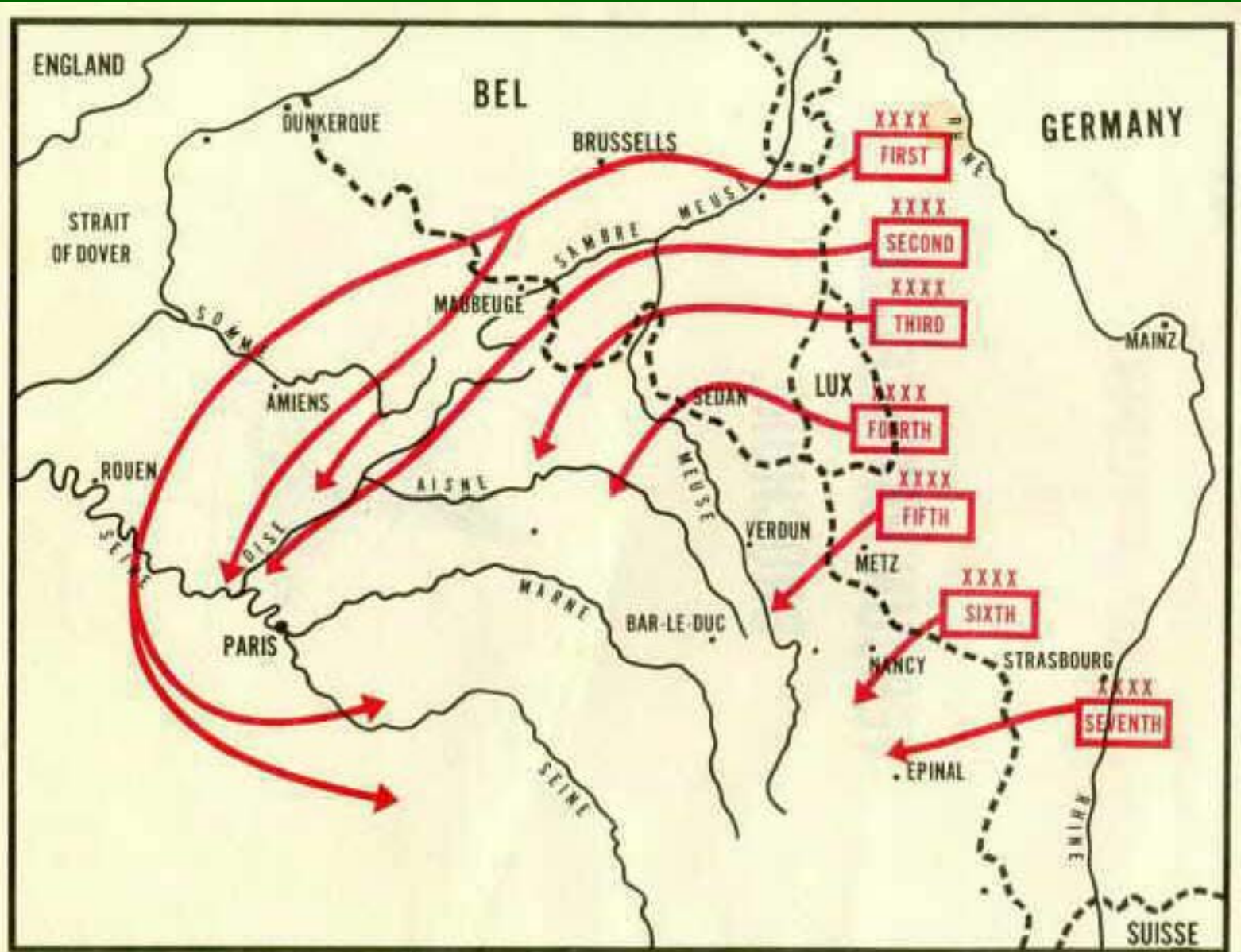
C. Individual Level Factors

- Weakness of the Key Leaders
 - Kaiser Wilhelm II
 - Tsar Nicholas
 - Emperor Franz-Joseph (Austria)
- Dominance of Military Planners in Decision-Making
 - Germany's Schlieffen Plan



Tsar Nicholas

Germany's Schlieffen Plan



VON SCHLIEFFEN PLAN

III. Outbreak of War

- July 1914: Austrian Archduke Franz-Ferdinand visits Sarajevo
- Serb 'Black Hand' and Gavrillo Princip



The mug shot that launched millions of deaths



The Initial German Advance

- Germany's advance halted at the Battle of the Marne
- "Race to the Sea"
- Four years of stalemate on the Western Front



Advances in First World War



IV. Explaining the War: Realism

Table 3-1

The Causes of World War I: The Realist Perspective and Levels of Analysis

Level of analysis		Realist perspective
Systemic	<i>Structure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of German power engenders threat of empire (power balancing school) • Decline of British power signals end of Pax Britannica (power transition school) • Loss of flexibility, rise of rigid alliances—Triple Entente versus Triple Alliance—that intensifies bipolarity which is unstable and increases incentives for preemptive war • Future rise of Russian power—bipolarity is stable in present but not in future (power transition school), leads to preventive war • Power vacuum—disintegration of Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires, which sucked in Great Powers
	<i>Process</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliances: Interactive formation of Triple Entente and Triple Alliance
Foreign policy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German leaders use Machiavellian diplomacy to provoke war and unite domestic interests
Domestic		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German bureaucratic efficiency; Russia not so efficient (contributed to shift in power)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartelized German domestic interests combine expansionist aims and provoke other major powers
Individual		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak leaders: Emperor Franz Joseph (tired, old man), Tsar Nicholas II (isolated autocrat), Kaiser Wilhelm II (weak ruler)

IV. Explaining the War: Liberalism

Table 3-2

The Causes of World War I: The Liberal Perspective and Levels of Analysis

Level of analysis		Liberal perspective
Systemic	Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakness of common institutions initiated by Hague Conferences • Collapse of Concert of Europe conference system
	Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions and path dependence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Clumsiness of Kaiser's policy—dropped treaty with Russia, antagonized Britain —Secretive diplomacy: German misperception that Britain would not intervene —Automatic mobilization plans—"last move" —Growing but insufficient trade, social, and legal interdependence
Foreign policy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coordination between diplomatic and military policies in Germany pushing Germany toward war
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences between Congress and the presidency in the United States keeping United States out of war until 1917
Domestic		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic politics of Germany—iron-rye coalition used imperial expansion to unify society
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic disintegration of Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires/ institutions
Individual		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureaucratic pressures overwhelm policy

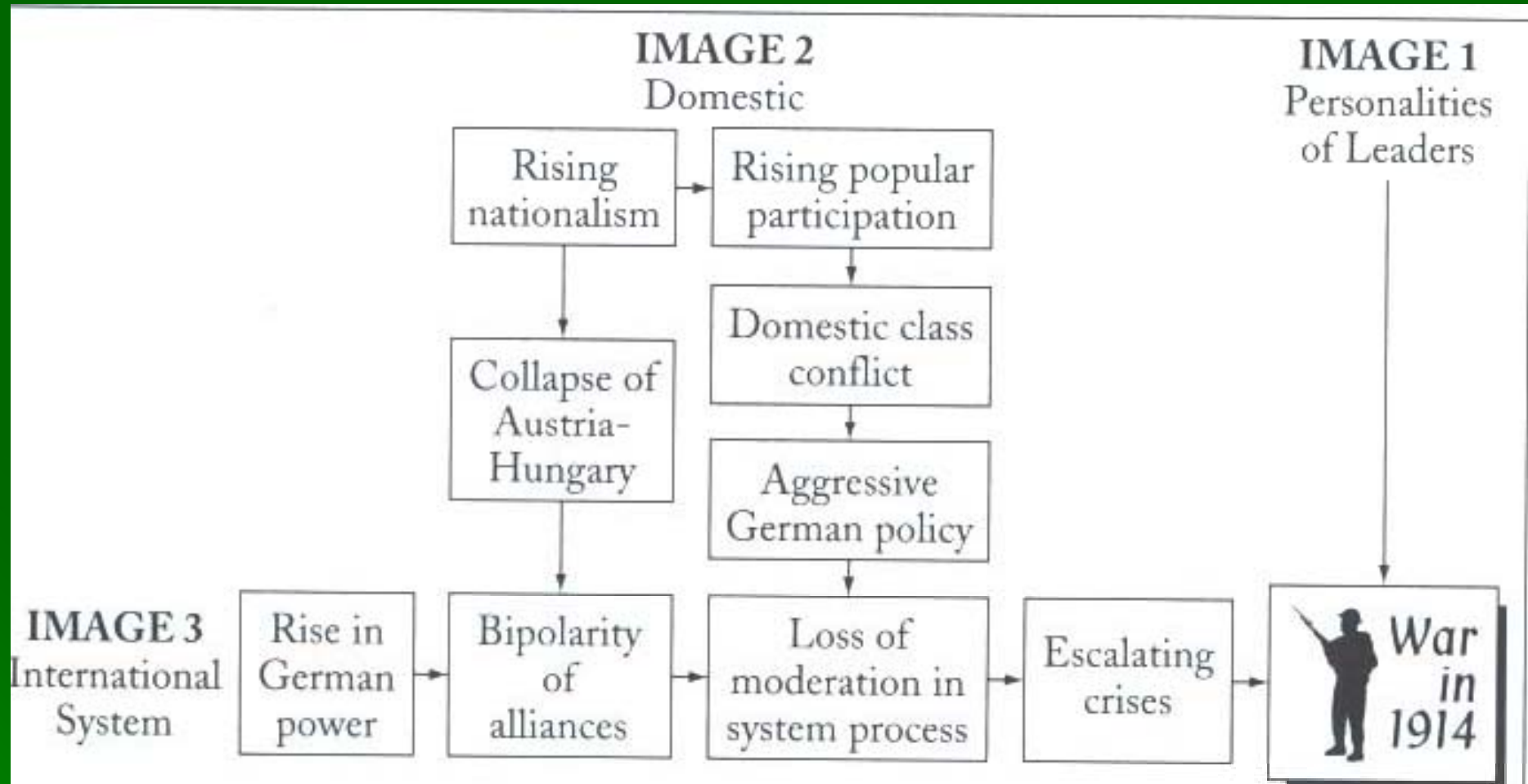
IV: Explaining the War: Identity

Table 3-3

The Causes of World War I: The Identity Perspective and Levels of Analysis

Level of analysis		Identity perspective
Systemic	<i>Structure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Darwinism—common mentality of international struggle
	<i>Process</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread or alignment of ideas and ideologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Loss of moderation—spread of militarism, “cult of the offensive” drove mobilization plans —Britain and United States align as democracies even though they are the two largest powers
Foreign policy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racist clique hijacked German foreign policy
Domestic		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypernationalism (mixture of race and militarism in Germany as a whole) drove Germany to war
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberal nationalism in the United States and Great Britain—precipitated alliance of democracies that isolated Germany
Individual		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evil or emotionally unstable leaders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Bethmann-Hollweg? —Kaiser Wilhelm II?

(Combined) Causes of World War I



V. Fallout from WW I

- Attempts to Reduce German Power
 - War Guilt
 - Reparations
 - Reduced Borders
 - Disarmament
- New States (Self-Determination)
- Collective Security
- Revolution in Russia
- Psychological/Cultural

Europe 1921

