

WWI Mini DBQ

ESSAY TOPIC: What were the fundamental reasons for the First World War's ignition?

Document A



*The Assassination of
Archduke Heir of Austria
and of the Duchess His
Wife in Sarajevo, 1914
Le Petit Journal*

Document B

...the Royal Serbian Government has done nothing to repress these movements. It has permitted the criminal machinations of various societies and associations directed against the Monarchy, and has tolerated unrestrained language on the part of the press, the glorification of the perpetrators of outrages and the participation of officers and functionaries in subversive agitation...

...[The] Royal Government see themselves compelled to demand from the Royal Serbian Government a formal assurance that they condemn this dangerous propaganda against the Monarchy...

...To accept the collaboration in Serbia of representatives of the Austro-Hungarian Government for the suppression of the subversive movement...

Ultimatum from Austria-Hungary, July 23, 1914

ARTICLE 1.

Should, contrary to their hope, and against the loyal desire of the two High Contracting Parties, one of the two Empires be attacked by Russia the High Contracting Parties are bound to come to the assistance one of the other with the whole war strength of their Empires, and accordingly only to conclude peace together and upon mutual agreement.

ARTICLE 4.

This Treaty shall, in conformity with its peaceful character, and to avoid any misinterpretation, be kept secret by the two High Contracting Parties, and only communicated to a third Power upon a joint understanding between the two Parties, and according to the terms of a special Agreement.

The Dual Alliance Between Austria-Hungary and Germany, October 7, 1879



A Chain of Friendship, July 1914
Brooklyn Eagle

Document 1 E

Would not the end of war be the end of humanity? War is life itself. Nothing exists in nature, is born, grows or multiplies except by combat. We must eat and be eaten so that the world may live. It is only warlike Nations that have prospered; a nation dies as soon as it disarms. War is the school of discipline, sacrifice, and courage.

Article on Battles in Sedan, 1891
Émile Zola

Document 2 F



The Causes of WWI, Set Out Like a Bonfire
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Document 3 G

The continuing international tension and the strains of the armaments race each contributed to a mood in which war was accepted almost as a relief. As a French observer in 1912 put it, "How many times in the last two years have we heard people repeat, 'Better war than this perpetual waiting!' In this wish, there is no bitterness but a secret hope."

The Origins of the First World War, 2007
James Joll and Gordon Martel