

# Jagged 161

## [Chapter 161: Armor](#)

In September 1912, Wilhelm II and a group of army generals inspected the 8th Army of the German Imperial Army. As the commander of the 8th Army, Qin Tian naturally accompanied him throughout the process.

The current 8th Army has undergone radical changes compared to before. Although, the force is still only ten infantry divisions. However, after a large-scale facelift, the current firepower of the 8th Army is more than three times that of before. A large number of machine guns and artillery equipment make the 8th Army have powerful firepower at all levels. Coupled with long-term arduous training, the combat effectiveness of this legion is absolutely the best in the entire German Empire Army.

Although, other units of the German Army have more or less purchased some new weapons produced by German arms companies. However, there are not many of these weapons because of the little Maoqi's interference. Although it can improve the firepower of the troops to a certain extent, it is far from reaching the level of the 8th Army.

William II and a group of generals of the German Army stayed in the 8th Army for two full days. William II and others were very satisfied with the combat effectiveness of the 8th Army. Even Xiao Maoqi, who didn't get along with Qin Tian, couldn't find any faults. Of course, if you insist on saying something wrong, it is not without it. The powerful firepower of the 8th Army was bought by the terrible consumption of ammunition. Once the war begins, the Eighth Army's need for logistical support will be even more astonishing. Therefore, Xiao Maoqi believes that this approach of the 8th Army is not advisable.

It's just that Qin Tian ignored Mao Qi's accusation. Once the battle begins, the 8th Army will face millions or more Russian troops with ten infantry divisions. Without strong firepower, what a fart! Even if the logistical pressure is great, the main task of the 8th Army will be to defend and counterattack. It will not go too deep into Russia. In this case, although the logistical pressure is great, it is not unbearable.

On the afternoon of September 17, William II and the generals of the German Army watched the exercise of the secret forces of the 8th Army. This is also the new type of equipment that Qin Tian tried his best to sell to Wilhelm II and a group of German army generals.

I saw William II, Qin Tian, and a group of generals sitting in the training ground. In front of them was a defensive position consisting of ditches, barbed wire, and mud pits.

"Oscar, are you going to let the Eighth Army send a force to attack this defensive position?" William II asked with great interest.

"Yes, Father. However, I guarantee you will be shocked by the 8th Army's attacking force. It will be an epoch-making force!" Qin Tian looked confident.

"Oh? Really? Then I'll wait and see." William II smiled.

Before Qin Tian took over the 8th Army, William II was more or less worried. After all, the 8th Army will have very difficult tasks in future wars. But now it seems that Qin Tian has developed the 8th Army very well, so he doesn't have to worry about it at all.

Ten minutes later, Admiral Hindenburg told Qin Tian that the exercise troops were ready.

Qin Tian immediately said that it is time to start.

Soon, there was a rumbling sound in the venue. This surprised everyone, including William II.

Afterwards, they saw a black iron bump painted with an iron cross driving out from the side of the practice field. Those iron bumps slowly moved forward. The short barrel is tilted upwards. Under the sunlight, it shone with an icy light.

Although, there were only about forty tanks on the field. However, it brought an extremely shocking feeling to everyone. It was as if they were facing a torrent of steel.

"Oscar, what weapon is this?" William II asked.

"This is a new type of weapon developed by the German Armament Company. It can be called a chariot, but I'm used to calling them a tank!" Qin Tian said with a smile.

"Tank?" William II nodded.

These tanks rushed to the defensive position in the exercise field. The fortifications composed of trenches and barbed wire can't resist these steel guys at all. The tracks of tanks can easily cross trenches, run over barbed wire, and break through defensive positions. Those machine gun positions can't threaten these tanks at all. In order to show everyone the defense of the tank, a machine gun fire is manned.

"Da da da!" A G09 general-purpose machine gun started firing. Dense bullets hit the armor of a tank.

"Dang Dang Dang!"

There was a crisp sound, and the tank was shot by the general-purpose machine gun, sparks flying everywhere. However, the tank continued to advance unstopably, as if there was no pressure at all.

"Oh my God! This weapon is really great, it is almost invulnerable! If our army is equipped with this weapon, then the French defensive offensive will definitely not be able to stop us!" Minister of War von Falken Hein exclaimed.

The other army generals also nodded. They were also completely shocked.

At this moment, a tank aimed at an unmanned machine gun fire point.

"Boom!"

A 37mm grenade flew out of the barrel of the tank and hit the target instantly. The machine gun was fired at once and was blown away.

"Oscar, very good, very good! The Imperial Army must purchase this weapon called a tank." William II said.

After seeing the power of the tank, even Little Maoqi couldn't stop it. Otherwise, it would really cause William II's dissatisfaction. Once William II was furious, the consequences can be imagined.

"Father, the 8th Army has just formed an armored regiment. In the future, we plan to expand it into an armored division. In this case, the 8th Army will have an additional division, which requires the approval of the Ministry of War." Qin Tian struck while the iron was hot. .

"No problem!" William II said immediately.

Others, including Little Mao Qi, did not object.

In this way, the troops under the Eighth Army increased from ten infantry divisions to ten infantry divisions and one armored division.

The exercise ended, Wilhelm II and a group of German generals circled around the tanks in the exercise field. They are very curious about this weapon and want to equip their troops as soon as possible.

"His Royal Highness, can the tank withstand the enemy's artillery fire?" A general asked.

"If it hits directly, it can't resist it. But if it's shrapnel, there shouldn't be any problem." Qin Tian replied.

Although the tank developed by the German Armaments Company was limited by technology, they developed it too quickly, and it was indeed too crude. Various performances are completely incomparable with the tanks of later generations. However, against the flesh and blood of infantry, there is still no problem at all.

#### [Chapter 162: Air Force \(for collection\)](#)

The tanks equipped by the armored forces of the 8th Army Corps were the first tanks developed by the German Arms Company in accordance with Qin Tian's requirements that could be used in actual combat, and they were also the first tanks to be mass-produced.

Qin Tian directly named this tank No. 1 tank. The No. 1 tank is 5.12 meters long, 2.61 meters wide, and 2.41 meters high. The front \*\*\*\* armor is 30 mm thick, the side and rear armor are 15 mm thick, and it weighs 12.8 tons. It adopts the 'Kunlun' 5 engine with a power of 100 horsepower. The road speed is 30 km/h and the off-road speed is 10 km/h. The armament is a 37mm tank gun and two 7.62mm heavy machine guns, one is the heading machine gun in front of the car body, and the other is the coaxial machine gun of the main gun. Among them, 100 rounds of ammunition are prepared for tank guns and 2,000 rounds for machine guns.

"Chief of Staff, purchase a batch of tanks and equip other troops. I think that once the war starts, these tanks will be completely useful when attacking the French!" William II said.

"Yes, Your Majesty." Little Mao Qi nodded.

Subsequently, Gustav Krupp and Moltke Jr. signed a purchase agreement. In the next two years, the German Arms Company will provide the German Army with 1,000 No. 1 tanks.

One thousand vehicles seems like a lot. But if it is assigned to the 7 legions of the German Army on the Western Front, each legion can only be assigned more than a hundred vehicles. Once the army is expanded, even each infantry division will not even be able to allocate ten vehicles.

Unlike the 8th Army, which directly increases the establishment of an armored division. In Qin Tian's troop establishment, an armored division needs to be equipped with more than 150 tanks.

"Oscar, I am very satisfied with the tank you have produced. This will be of great help to enhance the combat effectiveness of the German Army. This will give us a greater chance of winning in the next war!" William Second said.

"It is our honor to be able to do our best for the empire's hegemony. It is also our goal!" Qin Tian did not take credit for himself.

"However, father, the secret weapon of the tank is very likely to become our trump card in the war. Therefore, we must keep this weapon highly secret. Otherwise, once it is leaked, it will cause great harm to us. Big loss!" Qin Tian reminded.

King William II nodded, he naturally knew the truth: "Tanks are listed as the top secret weapon of the army. If anyone leaks the news, no matter what their position is, they will be dealt with by military law!"

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Everyone was shocked.

"Oscar, is there anything good to hide?" William II asked.

Now William II has accepted the fact that Qin Tian has outstanding talent in weapon research and development.

"Father, there is really one. But, we have to wait until tomorrow." Qin Tian said with a smile.

The next morning, Qin Tian led the crowd to the station of the 8th Army Air Force. This is a large airport located about twenty kilometers east of Königsberg. More than two hundred aircraft, large and small, of the 8th Army Air Force are parked at this airport.

When William II and others got off the car, they were immediately shocked by the planes parked in the hangar. Although, it's not like they haven't seen the plane. However, they had not seen so many planes. In addition, these planes seem to be different from those outside. If those planes in the outside world are ugly ducklings, then these planes are beautiful white swans.

"Oscar, are these planes the 8th Army Air Force?" William II asked.

"Yes, Father. The Deutsche Industries Group has an aircraft research and development center and aircraft manufacturing. These aircraft are our latest research and development equipment for the 8th Army Air Force. After inspection, the performance of these aircraft is not bad. It should be much better than the planes equipped by other countries." Qin Tian smiled.

William II nodded and didn't say much.

Subsequently, the 8th Air Force began to perform.

Two fighter jets taxied along the runway, then raised their noses and rushed into the sky.

These two fighters are the newly developed F2 fighters. Compared with the previous F1 fighters, the performance of the F2 fighters has been greatly improved. The maximum speed has been increased to 200 kilometers per hour, and the maximum range has also been increased to 500 kilometers. This also means that their combat radius can reach two hundred kilometers.

Although, the German military is also developing aircraft. But they are very clear that the aircraft they developed are \*\*\*\* compared with the F2 fighter jets equipped by the 8th Army.

In addition to fighter jets, the 8th Army is also equipped with a bomber. Compared with the F2 fighter, this bomber, code-named H1, is more bloated. The propellers were also not mounted on the nose, but on the wings. This bomber can carry bombs weighing up to 500 kilograms and bomb targets 200 kilometers away. The maximum speed has also reached 150 kilometers per hour. Although, compared with those supersonic bombers and even stealth bombers of later generations, the H1 bomber is undoubtedly extremely crude. However, for the 8th Army and even the German Army, this gave them a long-range attack weapon.

In order to strengthen William II and others' understanding of bombers, Qin Tian specially arranged to take off ten H1 bombers and attacked a small hill in the shooting range.

When ten H1 bombers dropped bombs weighing a total of five tons, and the entire hill was shrouded in flames, everyone was shocked.

"Very well, Oscar, we need these two types of aircraft. Whether it is a fighter jet or a bomber, we need to purchase them!" William II immediately made a decision.

"Yes, father!" Qin Tian nodded in satisfaction. This is exactly what he wants to see.

Under the influence of Qin Tian, Germany has taken the lead in the world in terms of armored forces and aircraft, which will greatly enhance Germany's military strength. In future wars, there will also be a greater chance of winning.

William II stated that the German Army will purchase more aircraft and establish more air teams in the future to ensure their air superiority in future wars.

Everything Qin Tian does has only one purpose, which is to increase Germany's chances of winning in future wars. Especially after he became the crown prince of the empire, his destiny was already tied to Germany. Therefore, he could not bear Germany's defeat in future wars.

As long as Germany can win in future wars, his efforts will not be in vain! Of course, Qin Tian believes that with so many advantages, Germany has no reason to lose the war!

### [Chapter 163: aircraft carrier](#)

At the end of September 1912, Qin Tian went to the Ministry of the Navy and called on the Minister of the Navy, Marshal Count Tirpitz.

It has been less than two years since the war broke out. Time is getting tighter, which also makes Qin Tian more and more busy. Although, it has been prepared for many years. However, Qin Tian is still not completely sure whether he can completely win the war in the future. Therefore, Qin Tian could only make as many preparations as possible to increase his own chances of winning.

"Your Excellency Marshal, how is the navy's war preparations going?" After some brief greetings, Qin Tian went straight to the topic.

"Your Highness, the navy's preparations for war have been proceeding in an orderly manner. Capital ships at all levels are strengthening their training, so that they can be immediately engaged in the war once a war breaks out!" Marshal Count Tirpitz said.

The German navy in this time and space is not a little stronger than another time and space. Even though the pace of building capital ships of the British Navy has begun to accelerate, relatively speaking, the gap between the two sides is not that big. The number of dreadnoughts and super-dreadnoughts in active service in the German Navy is astonishing, including four 'Nassau-class' battleships, five 'Helgoland-class' battleships, five 'Kaiser-class' battleships, and five 'König-class' battleships, three 'Blücher-class' battlecruisers, three 'Moltke-class' battlecruisers and three 'Derfflinger-class' battlecruisers. In addition, five "Bavaria-class" battleships and three "Makensen-class" battlecruisers are under construction. Once these battleships are all completed and put into service, the German Navy will have a huge fleet of 24 battleships and 12 battlecruisers. In terms of quantity, it is almost the same as that of the British Navy. In terms of performance, it is even stronger than the British Navy. Therefore, once a decisive sea battle breaks out between the two sides, the possibility of the German navy winning is much greater than in another time and space.

Of course, these are data on paper only. The factors that determine the outcome of a sea battle are far more than these. In addition to the number and performance of warships, there are also the quality of personnel, intelligence, tactics, and even luck.

Qin Tian nodded. He also had great confidence in the powerful fleet that was almost built by him. However, no one has ever been able to guarantee such things as naval battles. Only after everything is settled can the winner be truly determined.

"Your Highness, it is estimated that the "Bavaria-class" and "Mackenson-class" battleships will not be able to enter service until the end of 1914 or the beginning of 1915. Will they be able to catch up with this war?" Marshal Earl Tirpitz asked. The current situation is getting more and more tense, and it seems that war may break out at any time, which makes Marshal Earl Tirpitz a little worried. The "Bavaria-class" battleships and the "Makensen-class" battlecruisers are the most powerful battleships of the German Navy. It would be a pity if they did not participate.

"Should be able to catch up! Even if the war breaks out, the decisive battle will not be fought in a short while. In the early stage of the war, it will be the time for our battlecruisers and underwater troops to perform." Qin Tian said.

Once war breaks out, the German Navy's long-prepared battlecruiser formation and submarine force will attack the British sea transportation line, completely paralyzing the British overseas trade, thereby weakening Britain's war potential as much as possible. Even if the goal of forcing Britain to withdraw from the war is not achieved, at least the British can suffer heavy losses. At that time, the navy will use its main force to fight the final decisive battle with the British navy. Of course, by that time, I am afraid that even if the German navy does not seek a decisive battle with the British, the British will seek a decisive battle with the German navy. If the sea transportation line is cut off, Britain will not last much time at all.

Marshal Earl Tirpitz nodded, feeling relieved a lot.

"Your Highness, do you have any plans for the follow-up models of the 'Bavaria-class' battleships and the 'Mackenson-class' battlecruisers?" Marshal Count Tirpitz asked. According to the plan, after the construction of the "Bavaria-class" battleship and the "Mackenson-class" battlecruiser reached the middle stage, the construction of the next-level battleship should start.

"The next battleship, wait a little longer! Perhaps, it will be our last battleship and battlecruiser!" Qin Tian sighed.

"What? Your Highness, don't we want to build battleships in the future?" Earl Tirpitz was shocked.

Qin Tian nodded: "Soon, battleships and battlecruisers will become obsolete, and building these capital ships is a complete waste."

Marshal Earl Tirpitz was completely stunned. He never imagined that how could these majestic battleships be out of date? From Qin Tian's point of view, it seems that only in this war, they are the protagonists, and it seems that they will not be needed in the next war.

"Your Excellency Marshal, Your Majesty and the generals of the army recently visited the 8th Army. They watched the performance of the 8th Army's aviation team and were very shocked." Qin Tian said.

Marshal Earl Tirpitz nodded, he knew about it. With his relationship with Qin Tian, he naturally knew that Qin Tian was speeding up the development of aircraft. However, does this have something to do with the outdated battleship?

"If fighter planes can take off from the platform on the sea and attack the warships on the sea, do you think those warships can escape?" Qin Tian asked.

"This, how is this possible? How can those toy-like things threaten the tens of thousands of tons of capital ships!" Marshal Earl Tirpitz couldn't believe it.

"Your Excellency Marshal, although it is hard for you to accept. However, this is the fact. In fact, Deutsche Werft is already building such an offshore platform. I call it an aircraft carrier. These aircraft carriers can carry bombers equipped with torpedoes and go out to sea to fight. Once the target is found, these bombers will take off and attack the target with torpedoes from a distance of more than 100 kilometers." Qin Tian continued.

It took a while for Marshal Earl Tirpitz to accept this fact. However, the shock that Qin Tian brought to him this time was so great that his world view seemed to have been subverted.

"Your Highness, let's go to the Deutschland Shipyard immediately. I want to see those things called aircraft carriers with my own eyes. If it is true what Your Highness said, the Imperial Navy must be equipped with this weapon!" Marshal Count Tirpitz said firmly.

Since the era of giant ship cannons is about to pass, the German Navy must firmly grasp the sharp weapon of the next era.

[Chapter 164: abandon blue island](#)

"Is this our aircraft carrier? It's almost finished construction!" Marshal Earl Tirpitz said, looking at the two aircraft carriers under construction on the berth.

The construction of the main body of the two aircraft carriers is almost complete. Most of the deck of the aircraft carrier has been completed, so the outline can be barely seen.

Qin Tian nodded: "It is estimated that they will be able to serve in the middle of next year. At that time, the carrier-based aircraft unit will go on board for training. We will strive to form combat effectiveness in a year. In this way, if war breaks out in 1914, our can catch up."

"Your Highness, will aircraft carriers really change the situation of naval warfare as His Highness said?" Marshal Earl Tirpitz seemed a bit unconvinced.

"Don't worry, Marshal, when did I lie to you? Soon, the aircraft carrier will become the protagonist of the naval battle. And the aircraft carrier will replace the battleship and become our main force. Therefore, our main focus next should be on In the development of aircraft carriers and carrier-based aircraft. As long as these two aspects can go hand in hand and succeed, the German navy will still be able to dominate the world!" Qin Tian said confidently.

This is already obvious. If Germany can take the lead in the aircraft carrier, it is almost impossible for other countries to challenge Germany.

Subsequently, the engineer responsible for the construction of the aircraft carrier introduced the performance of the aircraft carrier to Marshal Earl Tirpitz.

These two aircraft carriers were named by Qin Tian as 'Pioneer-class' destroyers, the first ship 'Pioneer' and the second ship 'Victory'. The "Pioneer-class" aircraft carrier has a standard displacement of 17,500 tons, a full-load displacement of 23,700 tons, a total length of 195.6 meters, a width of 31.2 meters, and a draft of 7.6 meters. Equipped with 12 large oil-fired boilers and two new steam turbines, the power is 48,000 horsepower, the maximum speed is 27 knots (the maximum speed during the sea trial is 28.5 knots), and the endurance is 12 knots and 9,000 nautical miles. There are 1,200 members, including 200 officers. Armed with 8 105mm rapid-fire guns, 12 double-mounted 88mm anti-aircraft guns and 24 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine guns. The most powerful weapon of an aircraft carrier is not the artillery equipped on the aircraft carrier itself, but the fighter jets on it! At the time of design, the No. 01 aircraft carrier will carry 48 fighters and four seaplanes. Fighter planes are mainly used to attack targets, while seaplanes, with their long range and easy take-off and landing, are used to scout and find targets! The 48 fighters mainly include 12 fighters and 36 torpedo attack aircraft.

The reason why it is not equipped with dive bombers or level bombers. The main reason is that the dive bomber has not yet been developed due to technical reasons. However, the horizontal bomber has a very low hit rate against high-speed moving surface targets. In contrast, torpedo attack aircraft is much more suitable. Although the current torpedo attack aircraft can only be equipped with 350 mm light aviation torpedoes, the damage to large surface targets is very limited. However, it is still enough for the aircraft carrier of the British Navy whose defense is already low. Even if it is difficult to sink them, as long as they are injured, forcing them to withdraw from the battle, or creating opportunities for other capital ships of the navy, it can also play a great role.

"The power of the 350mm light torpedo is not enough." Marshal Earl Tirpitz also directly pointed out this point.

"The aircraft research and development center is developing better torpedo attack aircraft, striving to be able to carry 450mm medium torpedoes. The power of 350mm light torpedoes is indeed not great, and it is difficult to damage them when dealing with our battleships. However, the British's The defense of capital ships has never been very good. As long as it is damaged, the rest will be dealt with by capital ships." Qin Tian said with a smile.

Marshal Earl Tirpitz nodded again and again, if the carrier-based aircraft of the aircraft carrier can damage the capital ship of the British Navy. Then the next battle will undoubtedly be even better. With the power of the German navy's surface fleet, isn't it easy to deal with the wounded British navy?

"Your Highness, after the completion of these two aircraft carriers, will they be handed over to the Navy?" Marshal Earl Tirpitz asked.

"Of course, I personally donated these two aircraft carriers to the navy. I hope that the navy can completely defeat the British in future naval battles!" Qin Tian said with a smile.

"Your Highness, please rest assured. In future naval battles, we will definitely be able to take down the British!" Marshal Count Tirpitz looked confident. With a powerful surface fleet, coupled with a large underwater submarine force, and finally an aircraft carrier, if the German Navy has no way to win. Then he, the Secretary of the Navy, can jump directly into the sea.

Time passed little by little, and soon, the Balkan War began. The Ottoman Turkish Empire, which once shook the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa, was once again beaten to the ground by several small countries that it had previously colonized. Of course, behind those small countries, there is the support of countries such as Britain and France. Otherwise, no matter how bad the Ottoman Turkish Empire was, it would not have lost so ugly.

During the Balkan Wars, Germany remained neutral and gave Ottoman Turkey a little support from time to time. There is only one purpose, and that is to win over the Ottoman Turkish Empire and let the Ottoman Turkish Empire join the camp of the Allied Powers to fight.

Although, the Ottoman Turkish Empire has not made a clear statement. However, they are becoming more and more hostile towards countries such as Britain and France, and the possibility of joining the camp of the Allied Powers is also increasing.

At the end of 1913, at an imperial meeting, the Imperial Crown Prince Qin Tian made a proposal that shocked everyone, including William II. Because, Qin Tian proposed to abandon Blue Island and the stronghold of the German Empire in the Eastern Empire.

"His Royal Highness, the empire has not many strongholds in the east. And Blue Island is the most important one. In order to obtain such a stronghold in the east, we have spent a lot of effort. If we give up now, Then our previous efforts will all be in vain!" Xiao Maoqi was naturally the first to jump out and criticize Qin Tian's suggestion. He wished that Qin Tian would make a mistake, so that King William II would not like Qin Tian.

Sure enough, after listening to Qin Tian's suggestion, William II didn't look too good. Because Germany rose too late, the world has almost been divided up by other powers. Especially the eastern world is almost divided up. In order to find a suitable breakthrough point in the Eastern Empire,

Germany has spent a lot of effort. You know, when the Eight-Power Allied Forces invaded China, the commander-in-chief was the chief of staff of the German Army.

(Originally planned to fight Japan on Blue Island, but this plot cannot be written, so I have to give up!)

#### [Chapter 165: The Eve of the War \(for collection\)](#)

Germany's industry has developed very fast, and now it has surpassed Britain and France, and has become an industrial power second only to the United States. Moreover, in terms of technology, it is fully ahead of the United States. There is no doubt that Germany is the number one industrial power in the world.

But it is a pity that as Germany's industrial output value increases, so does the market they need. Although Germany has a population of more than 60 million, this market still cannot satisfy the development of German industry. Although the markets in European countries are large, this market has long been saturated. Moreover, the existence of tariff barriers between countries greatly restricted Germany's industrial development.

In order to obtain a larger market, Germany can only expand overseas. But it is a pity that after Germany completed its reunification and then rose, the whole world has long been divided up by Britain, France and other countries. After Germany's participation, it only got a little crooked melon and cracked dates, which could not meet Germany's industrial development needs at all. In the colonies of other countries, German products cannot enter. This also makes Germany obviously have better products than Britain and France, but they cannot sell them. On the other hand, countries such as Britain and France can rely on the colonial market to obtain huge profits even for inferior goods produced with backward technology.

This is naturally extremely unfair to Germany. This is the main reason why the world war broke out. In the absence of a way to obtain a broader market, Germany can only use force to change all this. As long as Germany can defeat Britain and France in the war, it will be able to destroy the world colonial system they established and gain more colonies and markets. As a result, the bottleneck that has been restricting the development of German industry naturally no longer exists. And Germany's industry will also usher in a blowout development. This will make Germany a stronger industrial country and surpass the United States, which is not impossible.

The Eastern Empire with a huge population is also a vast market that Germany covets. However, because of the late participation, Germany's influence in the Eastern Empire is also very low. But William II has always hoped to develop in the Eastern Empire. Now, Qin Tian directly proposes to give up the Blue Island. Doesn't this mean that William II's plan will come to naught?

The other ministers also looked at Qin Tian, wondering why he made such a suggestion. After all, this is clearly not good for Germany. They were also very puzzled, wondering why Qin Tian, who was always smart, would make such a suggestion that obviously didn't please William II. Although Qin Tian's crown prince status has become more and more stable, it does not mean that he can do whatever he wants.

"Oscar, tell me your reason!" William II said with a cold face.

"Father, you should be aware of the existence of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Once we start a war with the British, the Japanese will definitely take the opportunity to attack Lan Island. They have always coveted Lan Island. It's just that we are afraid of the power of the empire and dare not act rashly. Once the war breaks out, all the power of the empire will be dragged to Europe. This will undoubtedly make the Japanese \* boldly attack Blue Island. With our strength in Blue Island, We simply can't defend there. Instead of losing strength there, it's better to give up as soon as possible, which can further save our strength!" Qin Tian said.

Although he felt a little unwilling, William II had to admit that what Qin Tian said made sense.

"Your Majesty, although Japan is a small country, they have already become one of the world's great powers. They have defeated the Eastern Empire and Russia successively, and have strong military strength. Their navy is also developing rapidly. If they If we attack Blue Island, our Pacific Fleet and the troops stationed on Blue Island will not be able to resist their attack at all. Therefore, the suggestion of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince is worth considering!" Marshal Earl Tirpitz said.

"This is just your Highness's guess. Japan may not have the guts to attack Blue Island. No matter how bad it is, we can send reinforcements to Blue Island to increase its strength. The fortress we have painstakingly built is not so easy to break through." Yes." Xiao Moqi retorted.

"Never underestimate the ambitions of those dwarfs. They have developed from a small country to one of the world's great powers. Their strong ambitions have played a huge role. Besides, Blue Island is too far away from us. Even if it is to send reinforcements, how many can be dispatched? It is always too far away!" Von Falkenhain also said.

"Hmph! Even if the Japanese really dare to do that, after we win the war, they will obediently spit out the blue island!" Little Maoqi said.

"Even so, our loss is already irreparable. Besides, even after we win this war, the center of gravity of the future empire will still have to be on the Atlantic Ocean. After all, on the other side of the ocean, there is an extremely powerful country. They will become the next main opponent of the empire." Qin Tian said.

King William II remained silent, although emotionally it was somewhat unacceptable. However, his rationality told him that abandoning the Blue Island was still very beneficial to the German Empire.

After thinking for a few minutes, William II said: "Okay, according to Oscar's intention, return the Blue Island to the Eastern Empire!"

"Yes, Your Majesty." Prime Minister Bernhard von Bülow and Foreign Minister von Kidren Wacht replied. Naturally, it would be better for the government to come forward with this matter.

Qin Tian also heaved a sigh of relief, finally solved this problem.

Germany's voluntary abandonment of Blue Island shocked all countries in the world, especially the Japanese, who were even more dissatisfied. They originally planned to wait until the war broke out, and take the opportunity to launch an attack on Blue Island to further expand the territory of the Eastern Empire. But now all their plans are in vain.

Britain, France and other countries are also more vigilant. Because Germany's approach, no matter how you look at it, is shrinking the front line and preparing for future wars! This also made the two countries speed up their preparations for war.

Time passed bit by bit, and soon entered 1914. Qin Tian has also been busier this year. Personally urge the navy and the army that you can influence to strengthen training and combat readiness.

No one knows, if history does not change, the war will break out this year. Although Qin Tian is not sure whether it will develop according to the original historical trajectory, it is always right to prepare in advance.

When Qin Tian learned that in June 1914, the Austro-Hungarian Empire would hold an exercise in Bosnia, he knew that what was supposed to come had finally come!

### [Chapter 166: List testimonials! ! !](#)

It was time for the new book to be released again, and Lao Yu started to feel uneasy as usual. Thanks to the support of book friends, so that Lao Yu can continue on this road. But how long he can go, Lao Yu himself doesn't know, whether the readers can continue to support Lao Yu!

Originally, there was no plan to open a new book. The previous book "Heroes of Anti-Japanese War Overlord Nanyang" was expected to write more than five million words. But when the divine beast came, there was no other way, several books were blocked, and everything had to start all over again.

Although the new book is still about military affairs, it is not what Lao Yu is best at. If there is anything that is not well written, please be more tolerant of the book friends. Lao Yu will strive to write this book well, and I hope that book friends will continue to support Lao Yu!

is on the shelves, which means that fees will start. There is no way to do this, the old fish must live on. The previous old fish was blocked, so that the old fish was about to run out of food. The mortgage has to be repaid every month, the milk powder money for the daughter, the wife does not work, and takes care of the children at home. Therefore, the whole family counted on Lao Yu's codewords to make some money.

The first month when a new book is on the shelves is very critical, and Lao Yu still wants to hit the new book monthly ticket list. Although, this time there are many masters on the shelves, and the competition is fierce, I hope book friends can help Lao Yu.

Finally, thank you for accompanying Lao Yu along the way, and hope that everyone can continue to support Lao Yu and let Lao Yu continue on this road.

### [Chapter 167: Fuse \(seeking first order\)](#)

Austria was originally one of the many states in Germany, but in the war for the leadership of the German Empire, it was defeated by Prussia and had to withdraw from Germany.

Under the leadership of Fletcher Joseph I, the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary formed a dual empire. This is the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Together with other components of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire is still the strongest in the world. one of the largest countries. Moreover, it has formed the closest military and political alliance with the German Empire.

Although domestic contradictions are sharp and there are many problems. But as one of the great powers, the Austro-Hungarian Empire still wanted to expand abroad. The focus of their expansion is the southern Balkan Peninsula. However, the Balkan Peninsula is also the direction of Russian expansion. This led to many conflicts between Austria-Hungary and Russia around the Balkan Peninsula.

The Austro-Hungarian Empire wants to annex Serbia on the Balkan Peninsula to further expand their territory on the Balkan Peninsula. Russia, on the other hand, supported Serbia in establishing a unified and stronger southern Slavic state.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Serbia, which got rid of the rule of the Turks, became stronger in the Balkans and became the core of the Yugoslavs' opposition to foreign rule and their struggle for national unity. The Yugoslavs in Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly demanded to get rid of the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and merge with Serbia to establish a unified Yugoslav state. The development of the Yugoslav national unification movement centered on Serbia made the rulers of the Habsburg dynasty extremely disturbed.

Therefore, the Austro-Hungarian Empire stepped up its war preparations with the goal of destroying Serbia, and it was the Crown Prince Ferdinand and the Chief of Staff of the Austro-Hungarian Empire von Hertzendorf who presided over the formulation of the war plan for aggression against Serbia.

At that time, anti-Austrian propaganda activities and patriotic groups had already appeared in Serbia. The "National Defense Association" was established in 1908, and the "Black Clothes Association" was established in 1911. These two organizations were influenced by the anarchist trend of thought represented by Bagunin and Kropotkin in Europe. The "National Defense Council" advocated guerrilla warfare to prevent the annexation of Serbia by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the recruitment and training of volunteers. The "Black Hand" advocates terrorism, and its goal is to "realize the national idea and unify all Serbian nations".

In May 1914, German Chief of Staff Moltke met with Chief of General Staff of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Hertzendorf to discuss the war plan against Serbia. On June 12, Archduke Ferdinand held talks with Kaiser Wilhelm II in the castle of Konopist, and pre-determined the course of action for launching the war. They all believed that Russia had great difficulties in the country and could not intervene in the Balkan war. . The Kaiser suggested that Austria-Hungary take advantage of this favorable situation to attack Serbia. Wilhelm II also explicitly assured Archduke Ferdinand that Germany would aid Austria-Hungary if Russia intervened in the Balkan conflict.

With the strong support of Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire decided to hold large-scale military exercises in Sarajevo, Bosnia, near the Serbian border. The time was chosen on June 28, which is the anniversary of Serbia's conquest by Turkey (June 28, 1386). Serbia was used as the imaginary enemy in this exercise, and two corps were dispatched. Archduke Ferdinand and his wife decided to go to Sarajevo for inspection in person.

This action of the Austro-Hungarian Empire greatly angered the Serbian nationalists. The "Mafia" and the local Bosnian secret nationalist group "Young Bosnia" formulated a plan to assassinate Ferdinand. The Serbian government had discovered the assassination of Ferdinand in advance and opposed it, fearing that this incident might lead to dire consequences, because Serbia could not resist

the attack of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Russia had not yet completed the army's reorganization plan. It is impossible to give Serbia strong assistance.

The Serbian government tried to prevent the "Mafia" people from leaving the country, but the border guards linked to the "Mafia" allowed them to cross the border into Bosnia without any problems. The Serbian government reminded the Austro-Hungarian government through its minister to the Austro-Hungarian Empire that if Archduke Ferdinand went to Bosnia, his life would be in danger. But the Austro-Hungarian government fell on deaf ears to this warning.

After the exercise, Archduke Ferdinand and his wife entered the urban area in an open car. Although, Archduke Ferdinand has realized that he may be in danger. Therefore, the guards were specially strengthened. But what he didn't expect was that his behavior this time was still trying to die.

When the convoy was driving on the street, the crowd burst into cheers. Archduke Ferdinand was very satisfied with this. He looked forward to the day when the Austro-Hungarian Empire could annex Serbia and dominate the Balkans.

It's just that he didn't realize that the crisis had already arrived. Among the cheering crowd, there were several assassins from Serbia.

Suddenly, an assassin rushed to the car with the crowd, and threw a bomb at the car not far from the car.

"Boom!" The bomb exploded. The cheering crowd suddenly panicked.

"Protect Your Highness!" The commander of the guard shouted. Soldiers surrounded the convertible in which Archduke Ferdinand was traveling.

Fortunately, Archduke Ferdinand seemed to have better luck. The bomb did not kill him, but only scratched him.

After the initial panic, Archduke Ferdinand calmed down.

"I'm fine, the parade will continue!" Archduke Ferdinand ordered.

He thought that after this assassination, he should be safe.

"Your Highness, we will go to the hotel right away, I have to be responsible for your safety!" The guard commander rejected Archduke Ferdinand's request.

Archduke Ferdinand thought for a while, and still adopted the suggestion of the guards.

The convoy began to change direction, preparing to return to the hotel. However, at this time, the crisis came again.

When the car of the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife drove to a corner, another secret organization member, Princip, who was only 19 years old, rushed forward and shot the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!" Several gunshots sounded, and Princip emptied the bullets in the pistol. As for Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, they were already in a pool of blood.

"God! Protect the Grand Duke and catch that assassin!" The guards were in a mess.

When they surrounded the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, they discovered that both the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife had lost signs of life at this moment. Archduke Ferdinand's eyes were wide open, as if he couldn't believe that he would die like this. All his ambitions are now in vain.

Of course, Archduke Ferdinand was even more unexpected, because his death detonated a world war. All major countries were involved in this war, and tens of millions of people died in the war.

#### [Chapter 168: War is inevitable \(seeking monthly ticket\)](#)

On June 28, 1914, it was Sunday.

Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph I is resting in the garden of the palace. Franz Joseph I is now eighty-four years old. He is almost the oldest of the monarchs of all countries.

Of course, because I am too old, my energy is no longer as abundant as when I was young. This made Franz Joseph I have to hand over most of the affairs to Crown Prince Ferdinand and the government, and he only made decisions on certain major issues.

Franz Joseph I was also a tragic figure in his later years. Although he married the young and beautiful Princess Sissi as his wife, in 1889, his crown prince Rudolph and his lover died in love, causing him to lose his son, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire lost its orthodox crown prince. Nine years later, his wife, Sissi, was stabbed to death with an awl by an Italian anarchist on the shores of Lake Geneva. In 1899, Franz Joseph I was forced to allow Archduke Franz Ferdinand to marry the Countess of Bohemia, Sophie Schottke, as his concubine. This also makes the heirs of Archduke Ferdinand have no right to inherit the throne.

Originally, Franz Joseph I thought that this would be the end of his life. But he never expected that the tragedy would still not let him go.

In the garden of Schönbrunn Palace, Franz Joseph I sat on a chair basking in the sun with a blanket on his legs. The summer sun made him feel a bit of warmth, and he felt drowsy.

Suddenly, Franz Joseph I was awakened by the hurried footsteps of the waiter.

"Your Majesty, His Majesty the Crown Prince and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo!" the waiter reported.

"What?" Franz Joseph I was shocked. In those cool and cloudy eyes, there was a frightening and fierce light shining.

"Let the Chancellor, Archduke Friedrich and Marshal Herzendorf come to see me immediately!" Although already trembling with anger, Franz Joseph I forced himself to calm down and gave the order. As the emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, although the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand was an extremely heavy blow to him, he still had to cheer up. Especially at this time, the Austro-Hungarian Empire must not be chaotic. Otherwise, the consequences will be disastrous.

Soon, Mario Weber, Prime Minister of the Central Government of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Archduke Friedrich, Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian Army, and Marshal Herzendorf, Chief of Staff,

arrived at Schönbrunn Palace. Their faces were also very ugly. Everyone knows that it is impossible for the Austro-Hungarian Empire to swallow the assassination of the crown prince. War is inevitable.

"Your Majesty, the Serbs dared to assassinate His Highness the Crown Prince. This is a challenge to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. We can't just let it go. We must mobilize immediately and declare war on Serbia!" Marshal Herzendorf was the first to express his opinion.

In fact, the plan to invade Serbia was drawn up by him and Archduke Ferdinand together. It's just that they never expected that the opportunity they had been waiting for to declare war was actually exchanged by Archduke Ferdinand with his own life. Now that things have happened, it doesn't make any sense to say anything else. The only thing they can do is to avenge Archduke Ferdinand and make his death worthwhile.

"Your Majesty, the British, French and Russians are all standing behind the Serbians. If we declare war on Serbia, Britain, France and Russia will also join in." Prime Minister Mario Weber reminded.

Serbia alone cannot naturally be the opponent of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Although, the military power of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is not strong among major countries. But dealing with a small Serbia is still no problem at all.

"The German allies will support us!" said Marshal Herzendorf.

"Friedrich, what do you think?" Franz Joseph I asked.

"Your Majesty, unless God manifests this war, no one can stop it!" Archduke Friedrich said.

Franz Joseph I closed his eyes in pain. He knew that this war would be a terrible war. If he was not careful, the Austro-Hungarian Empire would be destroyed. But, as Archduke Friedrich said, the war was inevitable. Whether it is the domestic or international forces of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, they are all waiting for an opportunity for war to break out. The assassination of the crown prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was undoubtedly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"Let the troops mobilize and prepare for war!" Franz Joseph I ordered.

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

"Let the ambassador to Germany go to see the Kaiser. Now, it is time for Germany to fulfill its obligations." Franz Joseph I then issued an order.

"Germany is an ally of the Empire, and they will fulfill their ally obligations!" Marshal Herzendorf said.

"Everyone, since war is inevitable. Then, try your best to win this war!" Franz Joseph I finally said.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Everyone replied. They naturally hope that the Austro-Hungarian Empire can win this battle. But they also know that this is very difficult.

Afterwards, Franz Joseph I closed his eyes and said no more. It seemed that what he said just now had exhausted his energy.

Mario Weber, Grand Duke Friedrich, and Marshal Herzendorf left immediately. Now that they have decided to go to war, they need to be fully prepared. War is not a child's play, and it cannot be decided with a single sentence. There are too many things to prepare.

The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand also caused an uproar all over the world.

Originally, the world situation was already very tense, and there was a great possibility of war. It's just that there is a lack of a suitable time to detonate the war. The death of Archduke Ferdinand undoubtedly became the fuse that detonated the war.

The Serbian government immediately learned of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. This immediately stunned the Serbian government. Although, Serbia has been fighting against the Austro-Hungarian Empire. But they don't think that their small body can really compete with the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Whether it is population, industry, or military, the Austro-Hungarian Empire is definitely not something that Serbia can compete with. If it weren't for Russia to support them behind their backs, they might have been annexed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire long ago.

When the Serbian government panicked, Serbian army commander Putnik stood aside, ordered the army to enter a state of emergency, and carried out national mobilization to prepare for war. At the same time, the ambassador to Russia was ordered to meet with Tsar Nicholas II to request Russia's support.

War, by this time, is inevitable!

#### [Chapter 169: Responses from various countries \(seeking monthly tickets\)](#)

On Sunday, June 28, 1914, in the afternoon, German Kaiser Wilhelm II and Crown Prince Qin Tian were on a yacht in Kiel, visiting the nearby scenery. He was accompanied by Marshal Count Tirpitz, Minister of the Navy.

Another very important purpose of this visit is to inspect the widened Kiel Canal. After the Kiel Canal is widened, naval warships moored in Kiel can pass through the canal and go directly to Wilhelmshaven without having to go around the Jutland Peninsula. This not only saves a lot of time, but also ensures the safety of the fleet. After all, if you go around the Jutland Peninsula, you are very likely to encounter the siege of the Royal Navy.

"Your Majesty, the Kiel Canal has been widened across the board. In this way, we no longer have to worry about the separate deployment of the fleet." Marshal Count Tirpitz smiled.

"Well, I am very satisfied that the imperial navy is getting stronger and stronger. This time, the possibility of us defeating the British will be very high." William II was very satisfied with having such a powerful navy. He seems to have seen that his goal is being succeeded step by step.

"Your Majesty, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince has contributed a lot to the navy's current scale! If it weren't for the support of the Crown Prince and the warships he designed, the Navy would not have been so powerful." Marshal Earl Tirpitz A face full of praise.

"Your Excellency Marshal, you are serious. It is my duty to do my best for the strength of the empire." Qin Tian is very humble.

At this moment, a staff officer stepped onto the deck of the yacht.

"Your Majesty, there is an urgent call from the Austro-Hungarian Empire." The staff officer said.

"Oh? What happened?" William II asked.

Qin Tian's eyes flashed with joy, and he knew that it should be that thing happened. You know, he is a little worried today, for fear that history will change. Now, he can finally put his heart back into his stomach.

"Austro-Hungarian Crown Prince Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo." The officer continued.

"What?" Both William II and Marshal Count Tirpitz exclaimed.

But then, a smile appeared on the faces of both of them. They don't care about the life and death of Archduke Ferdinand. What they care about is what kind of opportunity this incident brings to Germany.

"Your Majesty, that's great! The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand undoubtedly gave the Austro-Hungarian Empire an excuse to go to war with Serbia. The Russians will certainly not just watch Serbia being attacked by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They will definitely send troops Helping the Austro-Hungarian Empire. According to our alliance with the Austro-Hungarian Empire, we are obliged to help the Austro-Hungarian Empire!" Marshal Earl Tirpitz said excitedly.

William II nodded again and again. Once Russia and Germany both make moves, Britain and France will inevitably be involved. This war will break out because of this.

"This is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!" William II said with emotion.

"Return to Berlin immediately and gather the main generals of the army and navy. The war is about to break out!" William II ordered.

For Germany, which wants to change the current national structure through war and obtain a broader colony and market, the Sarajevo incident is indeed a golden opportunity. Germany's military preparations have already been completed. The mobilization of the troops was secretly completed as early as March, and an attack can be launched at any time.

And Germany's main opponents, Russia and France, their armies are still undergoing reorganization. This will allow Germany to have a greater advantage in the war.

In Moscow, the capital of Russia, at the Summer Palace, after Nicholas II received the Serbian ambassador to Russia, he summoned senior Russian military and political officials.

"Gentlemen, Serbia has asked us for help. They are about to face the invasion of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. And we must not allow the Austro-Hungarian Empire to invade Serbia. Once they occupy the Balkan Peninsula, it will be a disaster for the Russian Empire !" Tsar Nicholas II's attitude was very tough.

"Yes, Your Majesty. Regardless of whether the death of Archduke Ferdinand has anything to do with Serbia. Once the Austro-Hungarian Empire occupies the Balkan Peninsula, it will be very detrimental to the Russian Empire. Therefore, we must stop them!" Prime Minister Vyacheslav ? Previ said.

"When will our army be mobilized?" Nicholas II looked at Minister of War Sukhomlinov.

"Your Majesty, our mobilization will take at least three months." Sukhomlinov replied.

Nicholas II couldn't help but frowned. Three months was obviously too long. However, there is no way around it. Who made the Russian Empire too vast, with extremely backward infrastructure, and a mobilization system full of loopholes?

"Your Majesty, even if the mobilization is not completed, we don't have to worry. The main force of the Germans is on the Western Front, and our standing army is enough to attack East Prussia and defeat them. If we are lucky, we can even fight to Berlin! Grand Duke Nicholas, commander of the Russian army, smiled.

Tsar Nicholas II couldn't help laughing, he would be very happy if the Russian army could reach Berlin. He really wanted to see what the wayward and conceited distant cousin would have to say.

"What about the navy?" Nicholas II asked.

"Your Majesty, the navy is no match for the Germans. But there is no problem in ensuring the safety of St. Petersburg." Admiral Ivan Griglovich, Minister of the Navy replied.

Nicholas II nodded in satisfaction. After the Russian Navy experienced a disastrous defeat in the Russo-Japanese War, it began a laborious reconstruction. Although, the development is fast. But there is still a big gap with the German Navy. However, Russia's most powerful is the army, not the navy. Therefore, Nicholas II did not expect the navy to perform any miracles. It is enough for the navy to cooperate with coastal fortifications and ensure the safety of the Russian mainland. What's more, although the German navy is powerful, their enemy is not Russia, but the maritime hegemony Britain.

"Everyone, I have already promised Serbia that once they encounter the invasion of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, we will immediately attack the Austro-Hungarian Empire and support them. If the Germans dare to intervene, we will attack East Prussia!" Nicholas II was full of spirits Said.

Russia made concessions and retreated three times in the past in the international crises of 1909, 1912 and 1913, but this time, Tsar Nicholas II decided not to make concessions and retreat this time.

#### [Chapter 170: Ultimatum \(ask for a monthly ticket\)](#)

France and Germany have become old enemies since the Franco-Prussian War. France wholeheartedly wanted to avenge the Franco-Prussian War, and it was ashamed. In the same way, Germany also wants to defeat France again and dominate the European continent.

After the Sarajevo incident broke out, France immediately felt a huge crisis. French President Raymond Poincaré asked the army to begin secret mobilization and prepare for battle. At the same time, the ambassador to Russia was also required to contact the Russian side. France and Russia have signed a military alliance treaty. Once the two countries are attacked by Germany, the other country must attack Germany unconditionally.

The French know that Germany's military strength has expanded too fast. If they rely only on their own strength, they are not Germany's opponents at all. Therefore, they can only pull in other countries to deal with Germany together. Fortunately, Germany has many opponents. The combination of France and Russia is enough to contain Germany on land. Coupled with the support of the United Kingdom, it is not impossible to defeat Germany.

The British on the other side of the strait have a somewhat different attitude. The United Kingdom is also ready for war, and believes that fighting early is worse than fighting late, and any further delay will be detrimental to itself. Because Britain, seeing that Germany was more productive than itself, would quickly catch up in the naval shipbuilding race, hoping to defeat a dangerous rival by war while still maintaining naval superiority in 1914.

However, after the Sarajevo incident, Britain did not show its intention to join the war at first, because it was worried that Germany would rein in the precipice, and was afraid of taking the responsibility of starting the war first. At the same time, there is a pro-German faction in the British Parliament and cabinet. In the British cabinet, 12 cabinet members did not approve of going to war. The entire working class and most Liberals opposed going to war. A mass rally in Trafalgar Square demanded that Britain declare neutrality. Under the pressure of the massive peace movement, British Foreign Secretary Gray told the German ambassador to Britain that Britain has no alliance with Russia and France and is not bound by any obligations, and has repeatedly stated that Britain's attitude is to "do everything possible to prevent the There is a war between great powers."

On July 5, Zhuo Jiyi, the ambassador of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to Germany, was ordered to submit the personal letter of Emperor Franz Joseph I to Wilhelm II. The letter said: The assassination of the Crown Prince of Austria "was the result of the direct instigation of the Great Slavophiles of Russia and Serbia; their sole purpose was to weaken the Triple Alliance and split my empire. . . My court and my dominion will be in peril for a long time. . . . After the recent terrible events in Bosnia, you must also think that an amicable settlement of the hostilities between Austria-Hungary and Serbia is impossible; As long as Belgrade, the source of this criminal incitement, is not punished, the peace policy of all European monarchies will be threatened." The so-called punishment of Serbia in the letter is to start a war against Serbia. Franz Joseph I begged Wilhelm II to support his war effort.

On July 5 and July 6, William II successively convened senior generals and government ministers to hold meetings at Potsdam Palace. He informed his courtiers of the possible war. The generals replied to the emperor that all preparations for war were in place. The Chief of Quartermaster of the General Staff reported to the Emperor: "After this audience, I have nothing more to do. The mobilization plan was completed on March 31, 1914. The army is ready, as usual." It can be seen that Germany's war preparations have already been completed. Under such circumstances, Kaiser Wilhelm II issued an order to prepare for war.

On July 20, French President Raymond Poincaré and Prime Minister René Viviani visited Russia. The two countries pledged to each other that, in the event of war against Germany, the two countries would fulfill their obligations as allies. Russia and France have repeatedly emphasized the "precious friendship" between the two countries in the communiqués of the talks between the two countries and on public diplomatic occasions, exaggerated the "brotherly naval and army forces", and expressed to each other that they would "loyally and unremittingly cooperate with their allies". cooperate". During the summit meeting between the two countries, the Russian government held a reception banquet at the Winter Palace in Petersburg. During the meeting, Raymond Poincaré talked with the Austro-Hungarian ambassador specifically, asking the ambassador to tell the Austro-Hungarian government "should be particularly cautious" in handling relations with Serbia. He emphasized: "Serbia is a very close friend among the Russian people, and Russia has an ally, France. There are so many terrible disputes on this issue."

On July 23, the Austro-Hungarian Empire issued an ultimatum to the Serbian government. Demands that the Serbian government meet the following demands of the Austro-Hungarian Empire: shut down any publications that arouse hatred and contempt for the Austro-Hungarian imperial family; immediately ban national self-defense organizations and other organizations that promote anti-Austro-Hungarian empire; immediately ban educational groups and teaching methods, delete any teaching content that would or might incite anti-Austro-Hungarian propaganda; remove officials in the military or administrative departments who are accused of conducting anti-Austro-Hungarian propaganda, and the list of such officials is provided by the Austro-Hungarian government; Accept cooperation with the relevant departments of the Austro-Hungarian government to suppress activities in Serbia that attempt to subvert the territorial integrity of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; with the assistance and instructions of the relevant departments designated by the Austro-Hungarian government, take legal action to punish planning or execution June 28 the assassination of those who were on Serbian territory in 1914; the immediate arrest of the two persons named according to the preliminary investigations of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; cooperation in taking effective measures to curb arms smuggling in its territory; explaining to Austria-Hungary Hostility, remarks by senior Serbian officials inside or outside Serbia; take the above measures immediately and inform Austria-Hungary.

Serbia is willing to accept the ultimatum proposed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire except for Articles 4 and 5. However, this is obviously not the result desired by the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

After Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum, Russia informed the Austria-Hungary Empire that attacking Serbia would trigger Russia's general mobilization, and stated that Russia would not allow Austria-Hungary to defeat Serbia and become the hegemon of the Balkans. On July 26, British Foreign Secretary Gray proposed that Germany, Britain, France, and Italy mediate the discord between Austria and Serbia. However, Britain secretly encouraged France and Russia to fight against Germany and Austria and promised to support them, which emboldened France and Russia.

The true face of Britain was publicly exposed the day after Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. On July 29, Gray received the German ambassador and made it clear that if the conflict was limited to Russia and Austria, Britain could remain neutral; Under the circumstances, you will be forced to make an urgent decision. In this case, you cannot sit on the sidelines for a long time."