EUROPEAN POLITICS & TENSIONS

Upton Abbey: An Improvised Comedy of English Manors

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INTRODUCTION/INFORMATION SUMMARY (or, what you’re getting yourself into)

Britain, holding the title of world leader, led the European imperialist crusade, promoting the slogan of the “white man’s burden”, the idea that so-called superior countries had the duty to colonize lesser developed territories. The British Empire trounced every other European country in size and power. Leading Britain was the combination of the crown and Parliament, both of which were undergoing changes due to the rise of the Socialist movement through the political group, the Labor Party. Fighting for rights for the working class, the Labor Party would have shaken the aristocracy to the core. It was in this time of modernity that the British Empire sought national security in political alliance with France, Russia, Serbia, and the United States. Triggered by the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, a domino effect would then explode into the First World War. Our project puts the “story” back in history, and encourages discussion surrounding such a game-changing era in human history.

GREATER BRITISH POLICIES AND POLITICS OF THE TIME (OR, A BIG CRISIS)

This section will be helpful in having a brief understanding of the key political players in British government policies political dynamics of the time. For more information on the royals and the aristocracy, see the “Nobility, Rank, and the Crown” manifesto. For more information on the suffragette movement, see the “Women’s Rights and Families” manifesto.

1. General Political Movements and Changes
   a. Growing socialism
      i. Labour Representative Committee formed in 1906, which was founded by the Labour Party, who spearheaded the Socialist movement in Britain
ii. “Labour Party”: the group which wanted the working class to have a voice in government and fought the unfair classist society of the time, and these principles came to be known as Socialism

b. Women’s rights and the suffragette movement
   i. Suffragettes and suffragists, both working for the vote for women
   ii. Women having more roles during the war, but still second class to men
   iii. Women worked in factories and small businesses during the war, taking over for the men away

c. Improved healthcare
   i. Workers pensions for old age and injury were beginning to become available to working class people
   ii. Workers unions were becoming more popular, and fought worker benefits, empowering the working class

d. American Money
   i. American women heiresses were a hot commodity, because they had money in their own right, new money from their families who succeeded in American commerce and trade (the caliber of Carnegie and Vanderbilt)
   ii. Americans wanted English noble titles, the English wanted American money, so they intermarried

e. City and manufacturing
   i. London and Manchester- the smoky and industrial cities of commerce, where many working class people moved for better work opportunities
   ii. Britain experienced a HUGE commerce and trade expansion due to the growth of cities and migration of the working class, and in response to military growth (they needed to mass produce supplies)

2. Politics
   a. The Royals
i. **King George V**, King of the United Kingdoms and British Dominions, Emperor to India, alive 1865-1936

ii. **Queen Mary of Teck**, Queen of the United Kingdoms and British Dominions, Empress to India, alive 1867-1953

b. **Ruled with the Prime Minister**

i. **David Lloyd George**, 1st Earl Lloyd-George of Dwyfor
   1. Politically active from 1908-1945 in various political positions,
   2. Prime Minister from 1916-1922
   3. Was Liberal, supported class reform
   4. With the help of previous **Prime Minister HH Asquith**, both supported old age pensions and National Insurance
   5. Legacy: Trying to level the playing field between the two houses, the House of Lords (nobility) and the House of Commons (working class reps)

c. **Important Parliamentary Reform**

i. **Parliament Act of 1911**: gave the House of Commons equal say against the House of Lords, and removed the HL right to veto monetary bill proposals

ii. **1922: Bonar Law** stated that to be elected as Prime Minister, it wasn’t necessary to be an aristocrat/owner of a country house, giving the House of Commons more power and more equal opportunity

iii. **1906-29: Labour Party** candidates won more and more seats in the **General Election of the Houses**
   1. Demanded more seats for House of Commons, equality between the houses
   2. The Labour Party trying to gain ground in Parliament, used the growing equality between the houses to get working class benefits

3. **Irish Politics**

   This detailed section’s purpose is to quickly touch on the politics of England’s very close and sometimes disruptive neighbor, Ireland.

   a. **Pre-WWI: Important Politics**

      i. **The Act of Union in 1800**- the law which got rid of Ireland’s Parliament and made them an official part of the whole Great British Parliament and officially a member of Great Britain

      ii. **The Home Rule of the 1870s**- Irish Parliament controlled their own domestic matters, but as part of a federal Great Britain, with Irish Members of Parliament taking seats in an Imperial Parliament, which would control defense, foreign policy, some fiscal policy, and economic issues.

        1. Home Rule secured mass support in Ireland
2. Home Rulers, aka the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP), won 85 of Ireland's 103 seats in the 1885 general election

iii. The two parties involved: **The Liberal Unionists (Liberal Party)** vs. **Home Rule Supporters (Conservatives)** causes party split

iv. Because of the Liberals splitting off and disagreeing, the Home Rule bill failed

v. Liberals proposed Home Rule again in 1893, but the Unionists controlled the House of Lords and could block any legislation. Nothing could bring about Home Rule unless the Liberals came to dominate the Lords, or the powers of the Lords were changed

vi. **1911 Parliament Act** changed the Lords’ powers (more equality between the two Houses), so **Home Rule was passed in 1912**
  1. This bill was so controversial that Ireland was on the brink of Civil War
  2. **Irish Citizen Army (fight Home Rule) vs. The Irish Volunteers (defend Home Rule)**

b. **WWI**
  i. Negotiations concerning Irish Politics were still happening when WWI broke out in 1914
  ii. Implementation of the Home Rule Bill was suspended
  iii. **Irish Volunteers and Ulster Volunteers became the Irish defense forces in Britain**
  iv. Irish Brigade was formed in the Expeditionary Force
  v. Approximately **210,000 Irishmen fought for the Royal British Army**
  vi. Irish women working in munitions factories and joining the workforce
  vii. **The Easter Rising**- On Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, the rebels proclaimed their own Republic in Dublin
    1. The proclamation claimed “the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State”
    2. Treason against the British state was confirmed in the assertion of support from “gallant allies in Europe”, which meant siding with Britain’s enemies in WWI, and Germany tried to help to derail Great Britain
  viii. Basically, there were intense struggles for Irish independence

c. **Post WWI**
  i. **Sinn Fein**, the largest Irish Liberal party, won the majority vote in the Irish General Election of 1918
  ii. **Anglo-Irish civil war, aka the Irish Declaration of Independence, breaks out in January 1919 (ends 1922)**, Irish fighting the English
  iii. The main result: This created the **Irish Free State**, which remained within the British Empire as a **self-governing dominion**, similar to former colonies like Australia, as explained in the the Irish Declaration of Independence
iv. Still negotiations to this day over where Ireland falls in terms of its dependence on England

WORLD POLITICS (OR, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL SPHERE)
This section’s purpose is to give you a general overview of what was happening in each of the major political players in Europe during WWI. The British empire wasn’t the only one who was experiencing social changes and political turmoil, so it’s important to have a brief understanding of what’s going on politically during this European chess game.

1. A Family History Lesson
At the time, many of the European countries were connected through Queen Victoria’s bloodline, as she strategically placed her children in the royal houses throughout Europe (specifically, King George V of Great Britain, Emperor Wilhelm II of Prussia/Germany, and Czar Nicholas II of Russia). Basically, WWI was just one big family feud, which made war negotiations more difficult, because everyone was related, and personal pride and family loyalties were involved. Additionally, many of the men in the family were carriers for the genetic disease, hemophilia. Hemophilia prevents platelets from clotting cuts, so anything as small as a scrape could can cause a person to bleed out. This would have been highly problematic for all of Queen Victoria’s kin, as a simple scrape could have destroyed an empire. This factor added tensions between the royal houses of Europe, and contributed to the insecurities and tensions leading up to war.
HOW GEORGE, NICHOLAS AND WILHELM WERE RELATED

A Royal Family Tree

**The Hohenzollerns (Prussia/Germany)**

- Friedrich Wilhelm III, King of Prussia (1770-1840) m. Louise of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (1776-1810)
- Tsar Paul I of Russia (1754-1801) m. Sophie Dorothea of Württemberg (1759-1828)

**The Romanovs (Russia)**

- Tsar Nicholas I of Russia (1796-1855) m. Charlotte of Prussia (1798-1860)

**The British Royal Family**

- Wilhelm II, King of Prussia (1859-1941)
- Friedrich III of Prussia (1831-1888) m. Victoria of England (1840-1910)
- Edward VII, King of England (1841-1910) m. Alexandra of Denmark (1844-1925)
- Queen Victoria of England (1819-1901) m. Prince Albert (1819-1861)
- Alice of England (1843-1878) m. Ludwig of Bavaria (1837-1892)
- Alexandra (1872-1918) m. Tsar Nicholas II of Russia (1868-1918)
- Christian IX of Denmark m. Louise of Hesse-Cassel

**The Danish Royal Family**

- Tsar Alexander II of Russia (1818-1881)
- Tsar Alexander III of Russia (1845-1896) m. Dagmar of Denmark (later Marie) (1847-1928)

**The German Royal Family**

- Tsar Nicholas I of Russia (1796-1855) m. Charlotte of Prussia (1798-1860)
- Tsar Paul I of Russia (1754-1801) m. Sophie Dorothea of Württemberg (1759-1828)
- Friedrich Wilhelm III, King of Prussia (1770-1840) m. Louise of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (1776-1810)
- Wilhelm II, King of Prussia (1859-1941)
2. The Assassination Heard ‘Round the World (well, mostly heard in Europe)

a. The Assassination
   i. Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand goes on diplomatic trip to capital of Serbia in 1914
      1. He goes to address previous tension between the Balkans, Serbs, Catholics, Slavs, Muslims
      2. June 28th, 1914: The assassination
         1. The responsible party: The Black Hand
         2. A secret anarchist group that staged Franz Ferdinand's assassination, and shot at his carriage
         3. If rumor is to be believed, the Black Hand was sponsored by the Serbian gov’t (scandalous!)

b. The Major Problem (SEE MAP ON COVER PAGE FOR ALLIANCES)
   i. Everyone previously made promises of wartime support to each other
   ii. Franz Ferdinand was heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire's throne, as his uncle, Franz Joseph, is the emperor to AH
   iii. Russia backed Serbia, along with France and Great Britain
   iv. Austro-Hungary blames Serbia
   v. AH consults Germany, Germany is pro war
vi. July 2nd, 1913- Germany writes a blank check to AH to cover all war expenses, and Italy joins
vii. July 28th, 1914- AH declares war
viii. Germany declares war on Russia August 1, 1914
ix. France is on standby, eventually caves
x. Great Britain and Italy hesitate to go to war, but eventually cave due to the pressure
xi. The Teams: The Central Powers- Germany, Austro-Hungary, Italy; The Triple Entente- Russia, France, Serbia, Great Britain, and eventually, the US

3. Russia
This section is a bulleted breakdown of the highlights and hits Russian politics in the perspective of WWI. To read more on the specific battles in more detail, read the “Men, Masculinity, and War” Manifesto.

a. Russian Army: 1.3 million soldiers
   i. Russia backs Serbia in political alliance, along with France and Great Britain, which is how they got involved in WWI
   ii. July 28th, 1914- the Austro-Hungarian Empire declares war, so Czar Nicholas II of Russia partially mobilizes against Austro-Hungary
   iii. Russia mobilized much faster than Germany had guessed, and Russia invaded Germany through through Prussia, so Russia had to pull men from the West to fight in the East
   iv. Russians: 2.5 million casualties- they’re officially knocked out of war

b. Battle of the Marne
   i. Complete Russian failure because of their antiquated technology
   ii. Not enough supplies to sustain in the long term, so Russia pulls out

c. War and Revolution at home
   i. The Russian Revolution
   a. Problems: Russia was autocratic, a land of multiple ethnicities and religions (so culture clashes), and was a huge span of land to govern
   b. Czar Nicholas II- autocratic, weak, ineffectual, relied on czarina to rule
   c. Russia was not prepared for WWI, humiliated when they withdrew
   d. Key player: Rasputin- Russian priest
      a. Closest confidante to the czarina
      b. Czar and czarina had four daughters, male heir had hemophilia, several times Rasputin was rumored to saved the son on his deathbed
      c. Rasputin tries to politically influence-pro-monarchical
d. Advised czar/czarina not to enter WWI

e. Russian nobles try to poison Rasputin

f. Russia is currently inefficient- rotting food trains, lack of oil, no vodka

ii. 1916- dire situation, czarina unpopular, the people hate the monarchy

ii. The March Revolution

1. March 8- international women’s day in St. Petersburg
   a. 10k women march for national peace and more bread
   b. The czar and czarina ignore the revolution and shut it down
   c. Duma (secret Russian police) declares new provisional government
      a. Czar’s regime is forcefully ended (and he and his family are eventually killed), and there’s a new gov’t
      b. Soviet Union- council of workers and soldiers deputies (radical), under Alexander Kerensky,
      c. Socialists split in groups: the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks

iii. Russian Revolutionaries

1. The Bolsheviks (a leftist political group) storm the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, overthrow the provisional government, then take over

2. Russia is initially a multi-powered state, then Lenin and the communists take over
   a. He gets rid of freedom of the press, social revolutionaries, instates the secret police
   b. takes land, factories, immediate peace, exportation and international communism

iv. Civil war: 1918-1921

   iii. Red Bolsheviks versus the anti-Bolsheviks (white) in Siberia
   iv. Attack from the Baltic and Ukraine and Siberia
   v. Ukraine retaken by the Red, as well as Jordan, Armenia, Azurbajan
   vi. Communists (reds) defeated the whites
   vii. Red Terror by secret police
   viii. By 1921, communists retained control of Russia

1. Bureaucratic socialist state

4. France

This section is a bulleted breakdown of the highlights and hits of French politics in the perspective of WWI. To read more on the specific battles in more detail, read the “Men, Masculinity, and War” Manifesto.

a. Part of the Triple Entente
i. After France lost their trading central territory, Alsace and Lorraine, after the Franco-Prussian war, they to ally with Russia against Germany and/or Austro-Hungary in war

ii. France became directly involved when Germany unleashed the Schlieffen Plan in 1914, hoping to gain territory by crossing through Northern France to get to Western Europe, also hoping to knock France out in the process

iii. While the German Schlieffen Plan (see the German section for details) almost worked, the German General Moltke cut corners and directly attacked Paris, leaving the French and British to counterattack, and the 1st Battle of the Marne began

iv. French wins and losses fluctuate, until the US enters the war in 1917 and sends troops to France

v. As Germany begins to pull out of France in 1918, French territories are regained quickly until Wilhelm II of Germany abdicates

b. Leaders of France

   i. President: Raymond Poincare
   ii. Prime Minister: Rene Vivani
   iii. Georges Clemenceau: the diplomat who negotiated during the Treaty of Versailles
   iv. Commander-in-chief: Jacques Joffre

5. Germany

This section is a bulleted breakdown of the highlights and hits of German politics in the perspective of WWI, and how the rest of Europe would have viewed Germany and German culture. Especially for Lady Ingrid Kraus and Frederick Kraus, this section is important. To read more on the specific battles in more detail, read the “Men, Masculinity, and War” Manifesto.

a. Schlieffen plan: a major failure in strategy

   i. Germany tries to attack France by coming through North
   ii. What actually ends up happening: the Germans bomb Paris by the end of August, which weakens them, and the German army in the West was forced to retreat to Switzerland and the Northern Sea

b. German downfall: the entry of US troops

   i. Because Germany was tired, and while they dominated throughout most of the war, they were low on supplies and the soldiers were worn out

c. German leaders:

   i. Kaiser Wilhelm II was the emperor
   ii. Commander and Chiefs of the German armed forces (there were several during the war): Helmut von Moltke (until 1914), Alfred von Falkenhayn (1914-1916), Paul von Hindenburg (1916-1919)

d. Xenophobia surrounding Germany and German culture

   i. 100k German Jews fought in WWI
1. There were also some who supported Russia's side, because there was a large Russian Jewish population.

2. People were looking for a scapegoat as to who to blame for the war in Germany, and Jews were an easy target.

ii. Other countries saw Germany as an enemy, especially after Otto von Bismarck unified the country in the late 1800s and they became an empire.

1. Rude names regarding German things:
   a. English Names for troops- ‘Tommy’ and ‘Foot Slogger’
   b. Hun- offensive term for a German
   c. Kraut- rude name for a German, like sauerkraut
   d. Fritz/Jerry/Hans- German soldier based on common German names
   e. Heinie- short for Heinrich, how Americans and Canadians referred rudely to Germans

6. Austro-Hungary

This section is a bulleted breakdown of the highlights and hits of German politics in the perspective of WWI, and how the rest of Europe would have viewed Germany and German culture. For more battle details, see the “Men, Masculinity, and War” manifesto.

a. This was the country that originally declared war on Serbia
b. The Emperor, Franz Joseph, was uncle to Franz Ferdinand, and so it was his heir that was killed in the assassination


c. Siding with the Central Powers, the Austro-Hungarian empire employed the Ottoman empire as an ally, in addition to Germany and Italy

d. In general, they were a large empire with many resources, but when eventually Italy and the Ottoman empire were defeated, they were unable to sustain fighting for long


e. Additional Leaders:

   i. Prime Ministers throughout the war:

      1. Prime Minister Count Karl von Stürgkh (3 November 1911 – 21 October 1916)
      2. Prime Minister Ernst von Koerber (29 October – 20 December 1916)
      3. Prime Minister Count Heinrich von Clam-Martinic (20 December 1916 – 23 June 1917)
      4. Prime Minister Ernst Seidler von Feuchtenegg (23 June 1917 – 27 July 1918)
      5. Prime Minister Baron Max Hussarek von Heinlein (27 July – 27 October 1918)
      6. Prime Minister Heinrich Lammasch (27 October – 11 November 1918)
7. The United States
This section is designed to show where the US entered the war, even though it was towards the end. They were a catalyst which turned the tide and helped defeat the Central Powers.

a. Entry of the United States
   i. Originally, the US was neutral, can trade with all the countries
      1. Sent Supplies to Great Britain
      2. Great Britain tries to prevent trade with Germany, trade, Germany tries to starve Great Britain out
      3. US lending supplies to the Allied Side through submarines
      4. Spring 1915- “unrestricted submarine warfare”
      5. May 1915- German u-boats sink the Lusitania- passenger ship 1200 (128 American civilians)
      6. April 1917- US enters the war on the Allied side, fresh with supplies and new soldiers

b. Leaders
   i. President Woodrow Wilson
   ii. General John J. Pershing

8. Peace Treaties and Long Term Results of the War

a. Social impact
   i. Labor benefits- bigger trade unions, women employed for the first time in new jobs
   ii. Male resistance against women, female jobs are temporary
   iii. Women have long term gains- won’t go back to domesticity
   iv. War equalizes socially- fundamental shift in class views
   v. Birth rates decline, “the lost generation” of men killed
   vi. A war which actively Involved civilians
   vii. Communism spread to Germany

b. Other Outcomes and Treaties
   b. Austro-Hungary had a subsequent Revolution and the empire dissolved
      i. Replaced with independent republics- Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia
   c. Jan 1919, the Meeting of the League of Nations (the early United Nations)- President Woodrow Wilson’s presents his 14 points on peace, which the other countries think are too idealistic and unreasonable
      i. Great Britain wants hard peace, and wants their enemies to pay
ii. The Allies strengthen E. Europe to create a buffer between Germany
iii. All countries want to level economic sanctions
iv. USA refuses to join in the League of Nations as Wilson’s 14 Points were rejected
v. 5 separate nations: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ottoman
vi. Signed June 28, 1919
vii. Germans upset
   1. War guilt clause- Germany and Austria were responsible for starting the war, so Germany pays reparations
   2. German army limited to 100k men, limited navy, cut off air force
   3. Loss of Alsace and Lorraine
   4. Lose Prussia to Poland, land E of Rhine, demilitarized zone between Germany and France
   5. German coal went to the Allies
viii. E Europe has new states- Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech, Austria, Hungary
ix. Romania gets land from Russia, Hungary, Bulgaria
x. Yugoslavia= new country
xi. People get mixed up- huge issues/conflict
xii. Ottomans dismembered
xiii. France gets Lebanon and Syria
xiv. Great Britain gets Iraq and Palestine
xv. US Senate rejects Versailles Peace Treaty

REFERENCES
