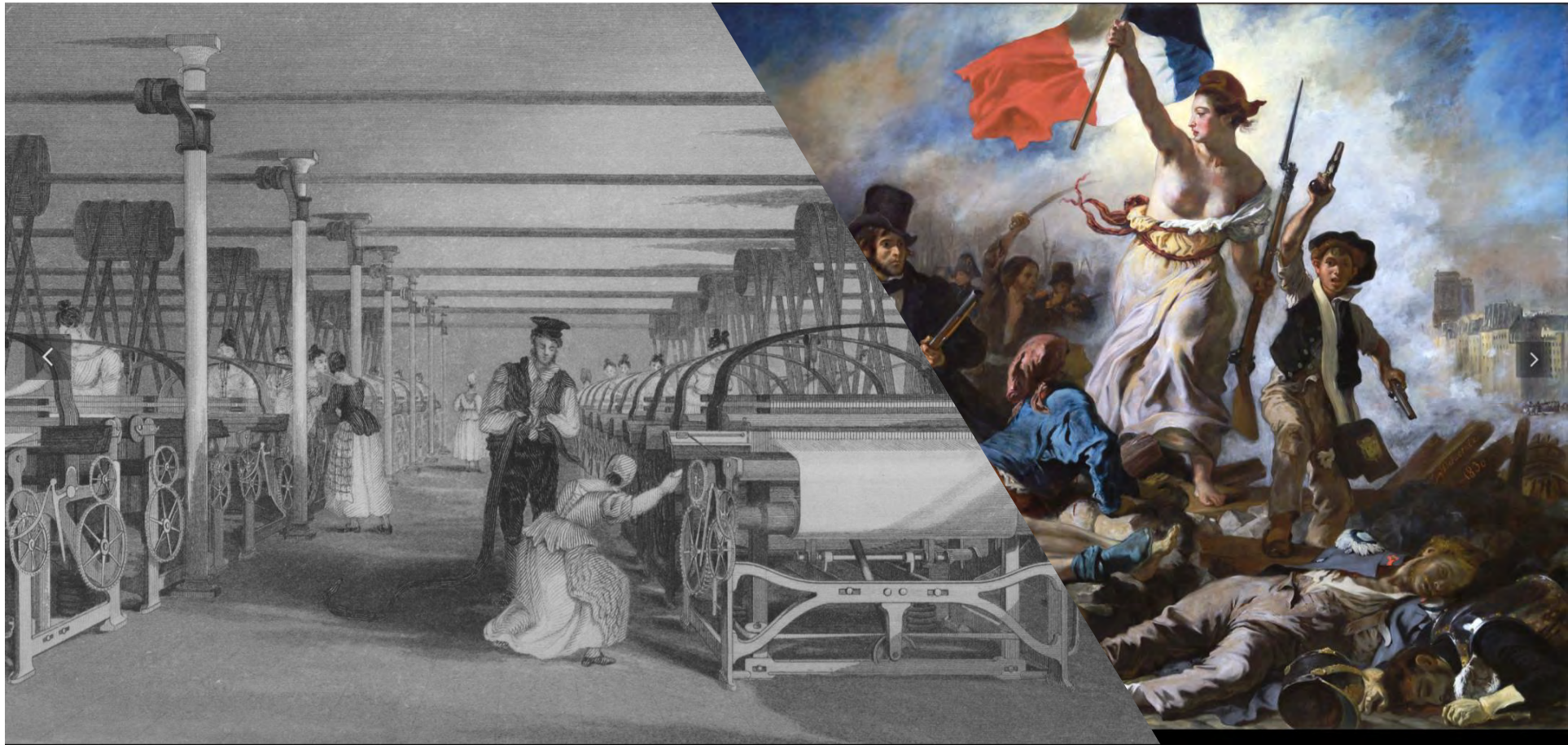


The Century of Peace

Class Seven



Dropping the Pilot in 1890

- Brings on the Wilhelmine Age (*Wilhelm II*)
- World Policy and
- Naval Policy dominate
- Domestic Policy hostage to ever-increasing demands and expensive payments to assuage the Socialist party(ies)



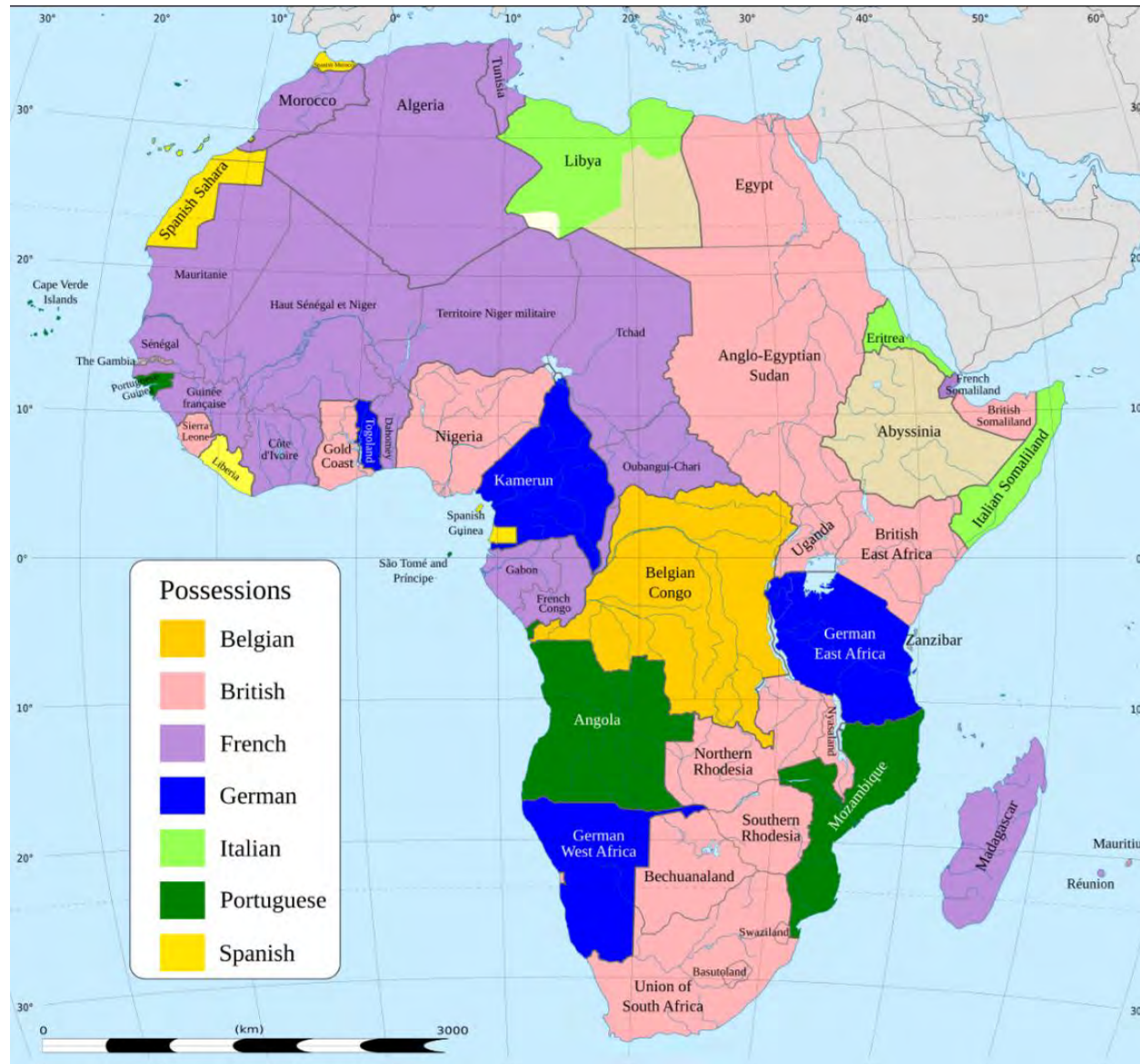
Wilhelmine Germany

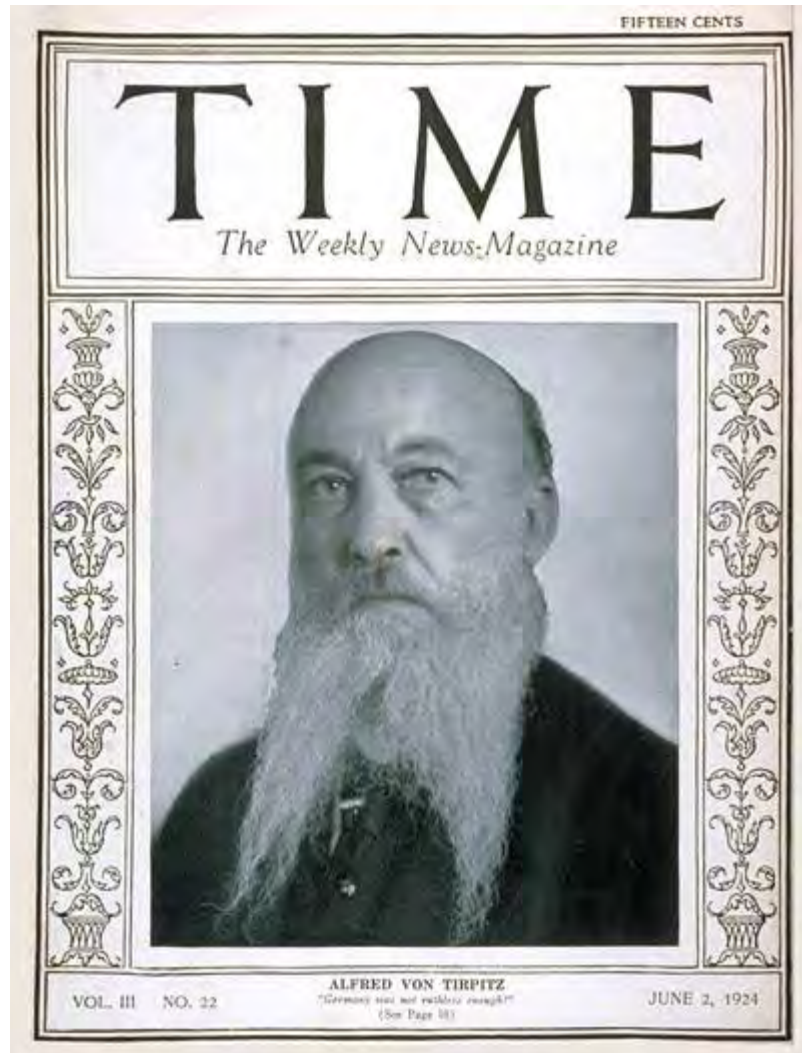


- - Abandonment of Bismarck's alliance system
- - Adoption of the "Weltpolitik" policy, aiming for global influence and colonial acquisitions
- - Involvement in major international crises, especially the First Moroccan Crisis (1905-06) and Second Moroccan Crisis (Agadir, 1911)
- - Rapid naval buildup (Tirpitz Plan)
- - Tightening the German-Austrian alliance, as Italy proved unreliable
- - Diplomatic isolation by 1914, with Britain, France, and Russia forming the Triple Entente in response to German maneuvers

Treaty Changes







German Naval Program

- Admiral von Tirpitz oversaw a series of five Fleet Laws instituting rapid buildup of formidable surface ships, by 1914 second only to Britain's
- Tirpitz and the Kaiser were soon influenced by Admiral Mahan's theories on sea power
- British development of the Dreadnought class of ships intensified German construction of similar more modern battleships



THE INFLUENCE OF SEA POWER UPON HISTORY

1660-1783

By

A. T. MAHAN, D.C.L., LL.D.

*Author of "The Influence of Sea Power upon the French
Revolution and Empire, 1793-1812," etc.*



TWELFTH EDITION

BOSTON

LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY

France Emerges from Isolation



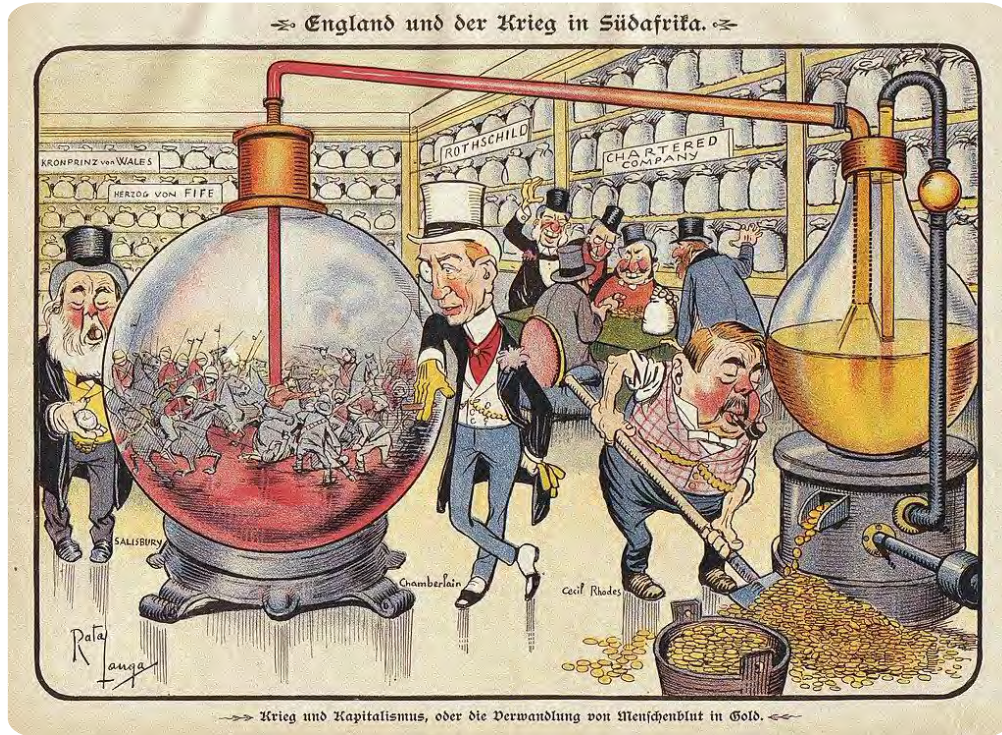
- After Bismarck's dismissal in 1890, German leaders let treaties lapse and pursued colonial ambitions, worrying Russia and Britain
- With the Reinsurance Treaty with Germany expired, Russia sought new partners: Franco-Russian Alliance in 1894
- After resolving colonial disputes with Britain over Africa, the Entente Cordiale of 1904 opened the way to discussions on a mutual strategic interest in opposing German expansion
- Moroccan Crises led to development of military contingency plans with Britain, but an official Anglo-French military alliance was only established after the outbreak of World War I in 1914



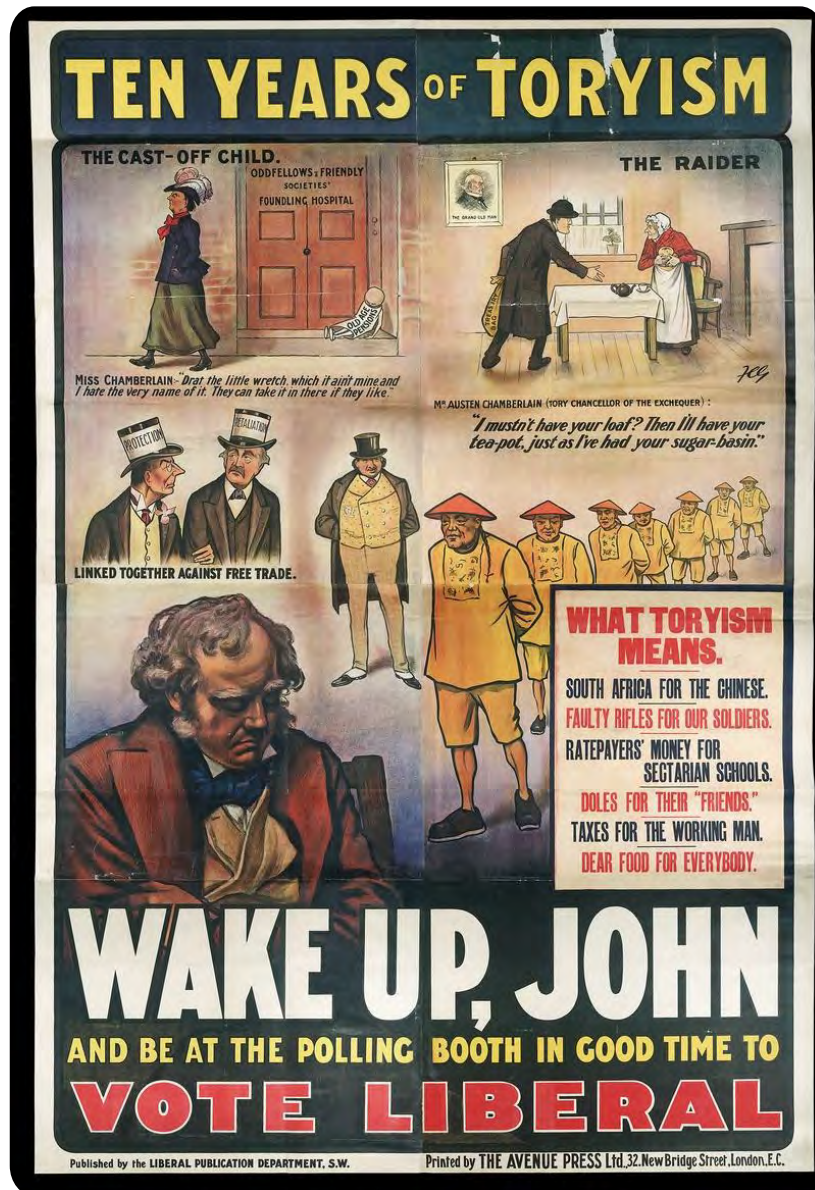
Dreyfus Affair

- 1894: Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus wrongfully convicted of treason and sent to Devil's Island
- - Conviction driven by antisemitism, flimsy evidence, and military secrecy
- - True culprit (Esterhazy) uncovered in 1896—authorities resist retrial
- - France split: Dreyfusards (pro-justice) vs. Anti-Dreyfusards (nationalist, anti-Semitic)
- - Émile Zola's "J'accuse!" (1898) brings scandal to public attention
- - 1906: Dreyfus exonerated; case exposes deep social divisions and transforms French politics

The Second Boer War 1899-1902



- Involved the Boer Republics and Britain over its influence in South Africa
- Triggered by political rights of British immigrants and economic interests following the Witwatersrand Gold Rush
- British scorched earth tactics and concentration camps resulted in over 26,000 Boer civilian deaths, plus many Black Africans
- Treaty of Vereeniging integrated the Boer Republics leading to Union of South Africa in 1910
- 1899 German political cartoon:
 - ***"War and Capitalism, or the transformation of human blood into gold"***



1906 Liberal Party Landslide

- Public backlash against the Boer War and revelations about poverty and ill health in Britain discredited Conservative government
- New government, especially Foreign Secretary Grey emphasized peace, new diplomatic focus struck new alliances, especially Entente Cordiale with France and eventual alliance with it and Russia
- Landmark social reforms

Conservative Government of Britain (before 1906)

- Emphasized “splendid isolation” that balanced imperial priorities while avoiding binding continental alliances
- Sought to separate European and Imperial concerns while paying attention to media warnings about Germany
- Exercised tactical caution and flexibility in diplomacy
- Not overly moved by German naval strategy, as British naval experts disputed Mahan’s concepts

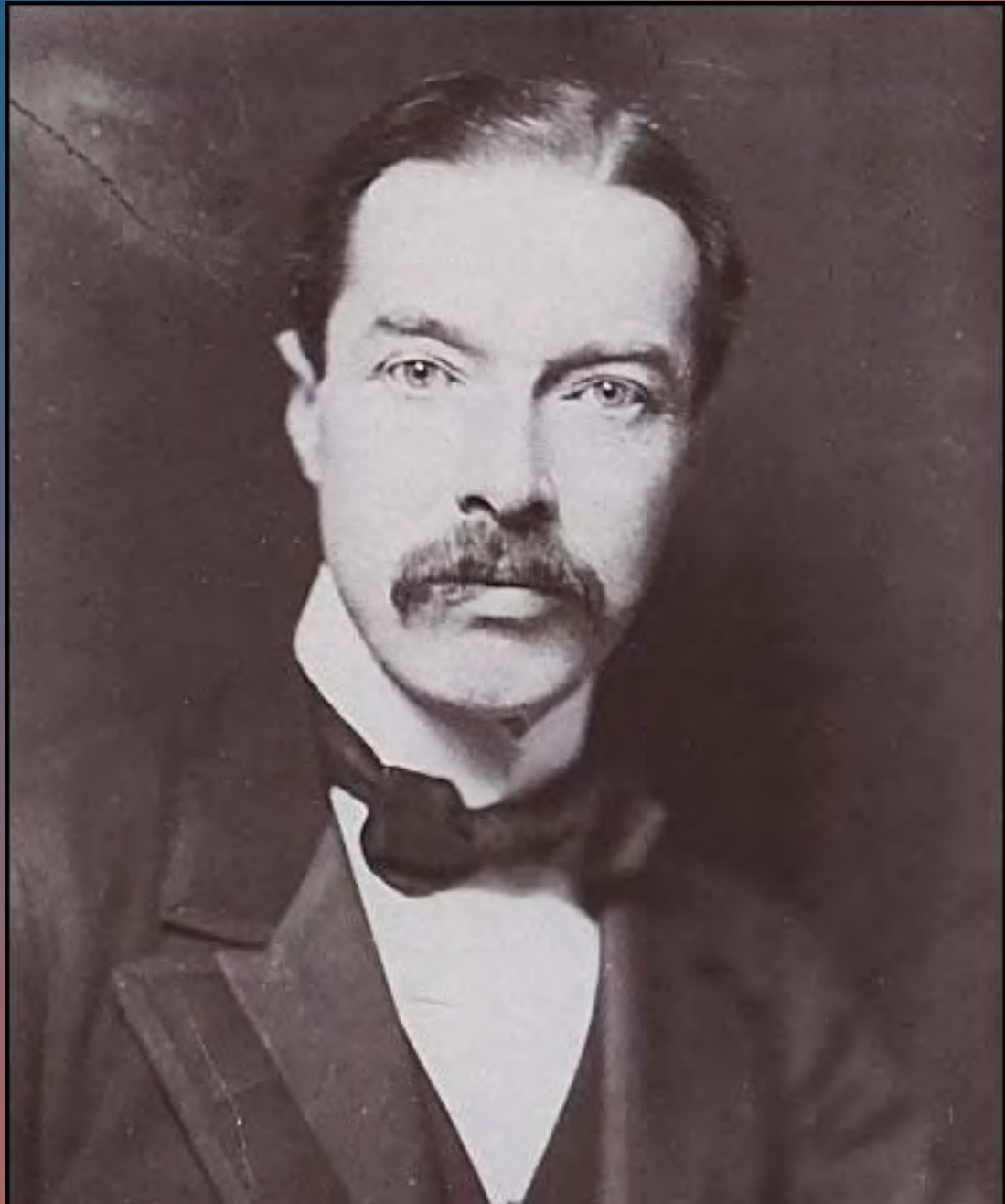
Liberal British Government (after 1906)

- Shifted Britain into deeper apparent commitments and greater alliance entanglements, but angered Russia with its attitude toward the Straits Issue and how it dealt with Balkan Crises
- Attempted to please both radical elements wishing armaments spending diverted to social projects
- Adopted more efficient ship designs
- Dealt with increasing warnings of competition between Germany and Britain

Sir Edward Grey - Foreign Secretary 1905-1916



- **German Naval Challenge:** Oversaw British response to Germany's naval buildup (Second Navy Law 1900, Dreadnought race 1906–08), seeking to maintain naval superiority
- **Boer War Aftermath (1899–1902):** Managed diplomatic fallout; German public angered by Britain but Grey later steered toward cautious reparations and reset
- **Anglo-Russian Convention (1907):** Settled colonial disputes and realigned Britain, France, and Russia, in part due to defeat by Japan
- **Morocco Crises (1905, 1911):** Supported France during the Tangier and Agadir incidents, resisted German expansion, **quietly and strongly reinforced the Entente Cordiale while publicly seeming to avoid war**



British diplomat Eyre Crowe (1864-1925)

- Members of the British Government were coy about identifying actual German offences against good international practice
- The fullest account of British grievances can be found in a famous Memorandum on the Present State of British Relations with France and Germany composed by Eyre Crowe
- Crowe always spoke English with a German accent, with parents from both nations, educated in Germany and taking the exam for the Foreign Office just after arriving in Britain from Germany
- He was a senior clerk in the Western Department at the Foreign Office, in January 1907 when he wrote a tract widely read by especially the Liberal Imperialists that attributed only base motives to the German Government, which was pictured as desiring world domination

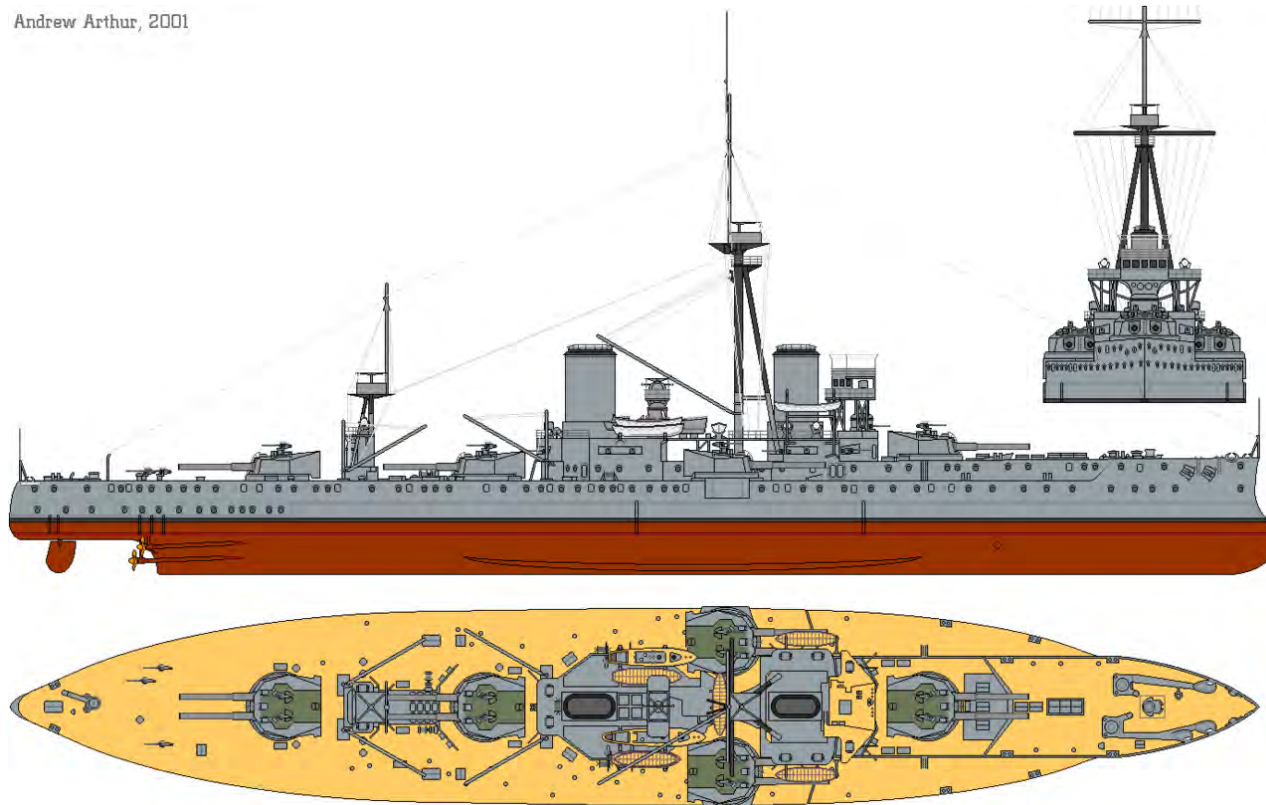
The Naval Race

HMS Dreadnought - 1906

Ten 12-inch Guns

21 knots speed

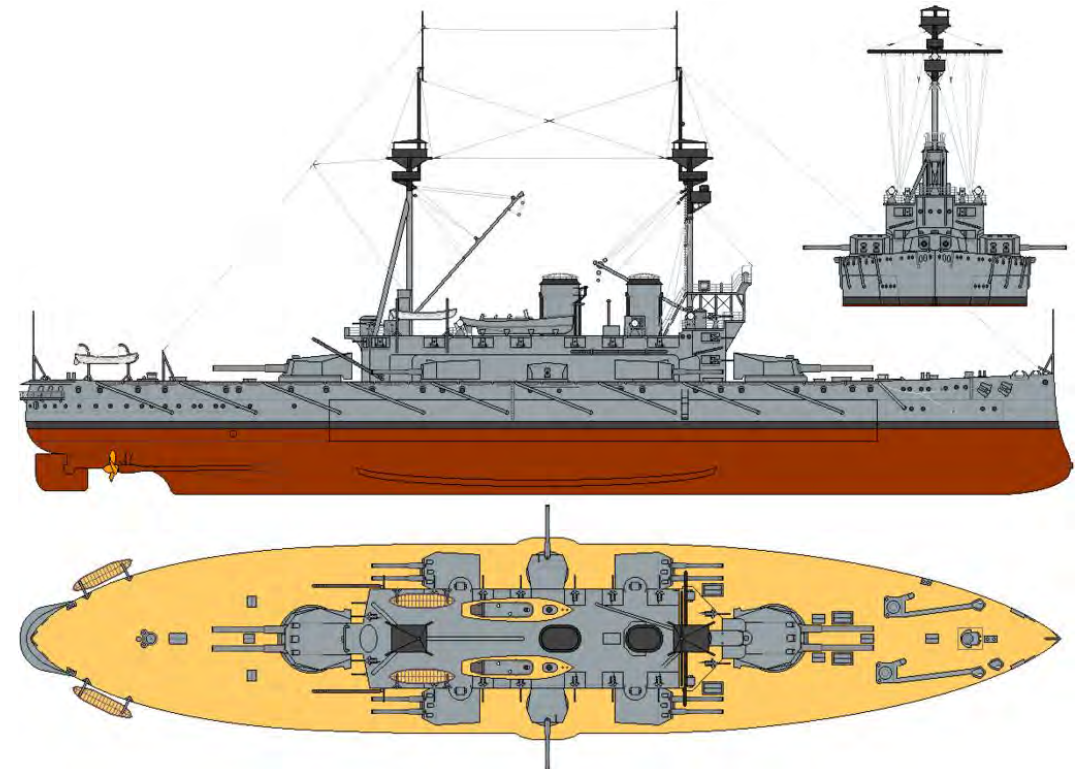
Andrew Arthur, 2001



HMS Agamemnon, next to last pre-dreadnought design

It carried four 12-inch (305 mm) and ten 9.2-inch (234 mm) guns

18 knots speed



Russia after Alexander II



Sergei Witte

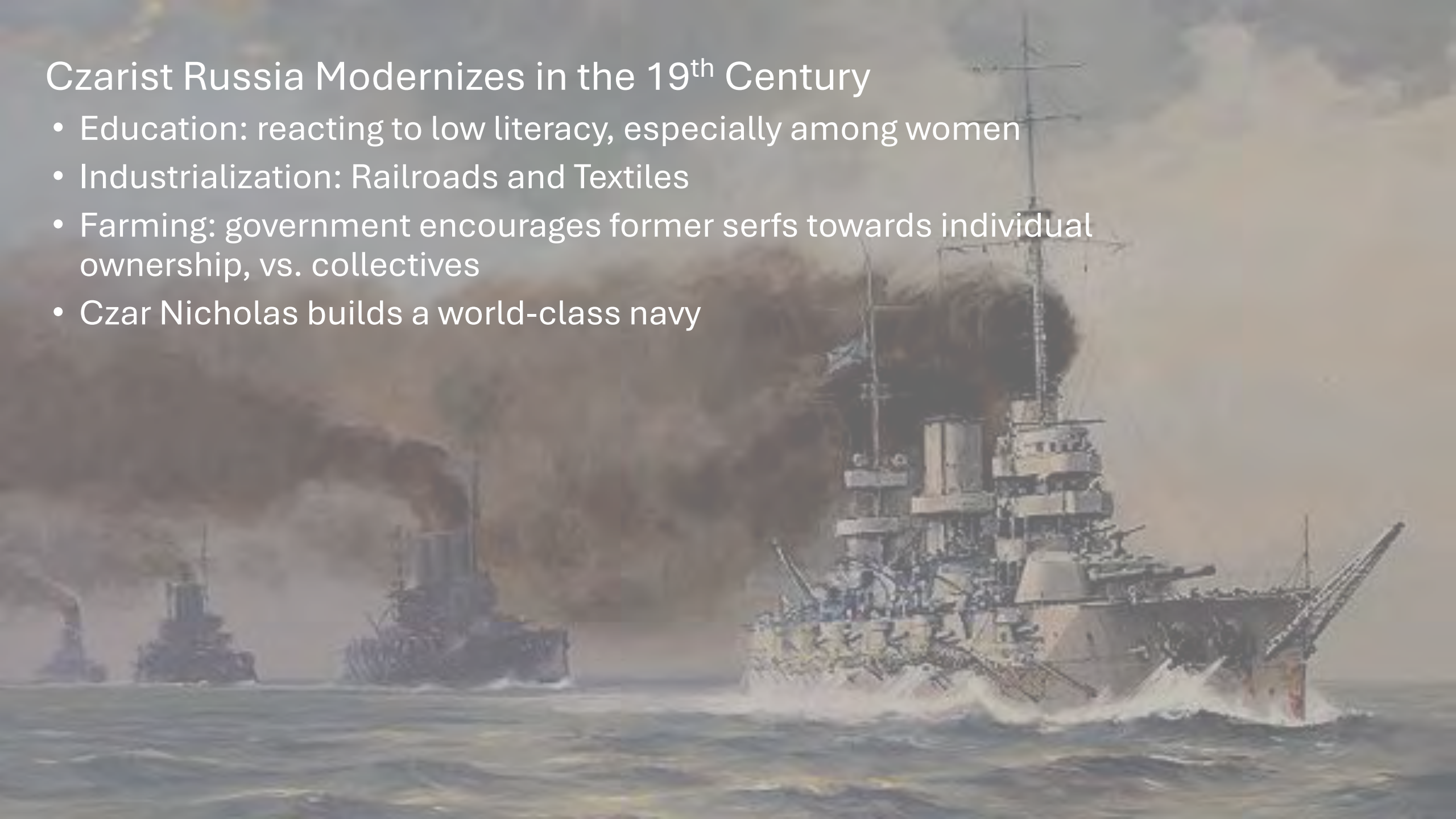
- The quarter of a century from the assassination of Alexander II until the 1905 Revolution was one of political stagnation
- The response of the new government to the assassination was to stop the process of reform, to publicly affirm the necessity of autocracy, and to formulate plans for counter-reforms
- The latter came to little, but the government took advantage of every possibility to block criticism, political discussion, and organization among the public
- Though it returned to sponsoring economic development in the 1890s under **Minister of Finance Sergei Witte**, it refused to recognize the implications of the further modernization of society that resulted in part from its own measures.

**Future Czar Nicholas
II (1894-1917)
Inaugurates the
Trans-Siberian
Railroad in 1891**

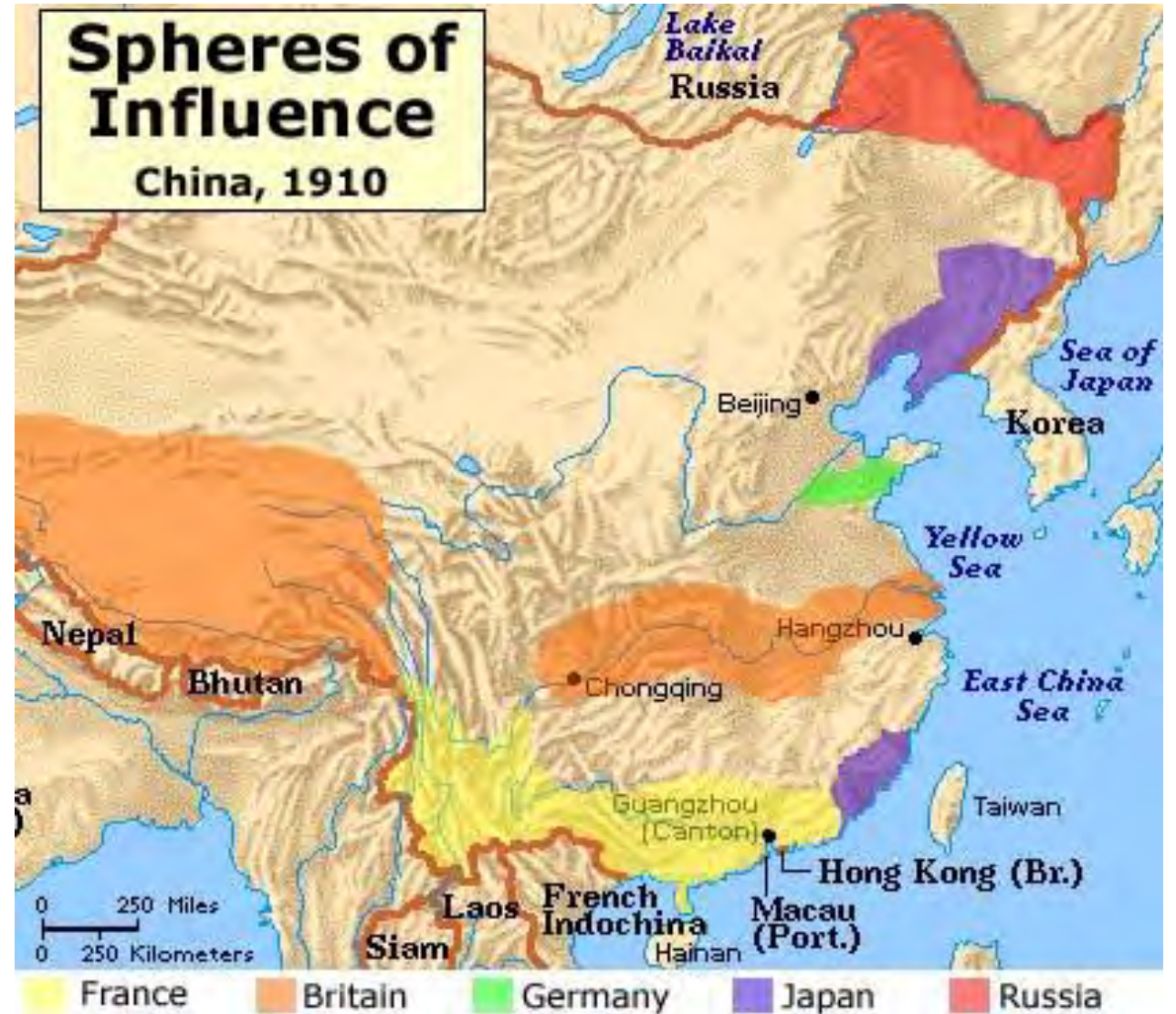


Czarist Russia Modernizes in the 19th Century

- Education: reacting to low literacy, especially among women
- Industrialization: Railroads and Textiles
- Farming: government encourages former serfs towards individual ownership, vs. collectives
- Czar Nicholas builds a world-class navy



Perceptions of Imperialism



Underlying Causes of the Russo- Japanese War

- A zero-sum competition for empire in Northeast Asia
- Czar Nicholas II, young and inexperienced, envisions the Eastern Empire as an anodyne to:
 - Widening gap in standards of living when compared to Western Europe
 - Dangerously archaic governmental structure: only Russia, Turkey and the tiny country of Montenegro lack a parliament at Czar's accession in 1894 when his father died unexpectedly
 - History of anarchist and marxist violence threatening social stability
- Russia directly threatened Korea and Manchuria just by its presence; given its size, imperialist past and a numerically superior military
- Japan's military success in Sino-Japanese War
 - Gained Japan international notice by beating China and gaining Taiwan
 - Chinese indemnity gave Japan a net profit over the cost of the war
 - Popular support from its citizens towards its military

- **The Russo-Japanese War**
- **1904-1905**
 - Russia entered into this war hoping for an easy victory to:
 - boost national morale and
 - secure vital interests in East Asia
 - Japanese inflicted a series of defeats on the Russian forces. This led to
 - a national humiliation but also
 - exposed the weaknesses of the Russian military.



Causes of the 1905 Revolution

- Social and Economic Causes:
 - Most were peasants who lived in poverty
 - Industrial workers faced poor working conditions and low wages
 - Outdated economic structure, with much of the land under control of the nobility and inefficient agricultural practices
- Political Repression:
 - Censorship
 - Russification
 - No coherent political parties

Potemkin Battleship Mutiny June 1905



End of Formal Presentation