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Source Paper Summary: Friedrich Von Bernhardi – *Germany and the Next War*

1.

Friedrich Von Bernhardi, *Germany and the Next War* (New York: Chas A. Eron, 1914) pp. 1-287

In the summer and autumn of 1911 German people were becoming heavily concerned with the Agadir Crisis. There was great support initially for asserting Germany’s colonial power over Morocco, but were not as prepared to accept the financial burden of the taxation involved. Bernhardi asserts that it is necessary to consolidate the national consciousness on these issues, and attempts to provide a medium for this with his book *Germany and the Next War.*

2. (My source is unavailable on GHDI)

Friedrich Von Bernhardi, *Germany and the Next War*(1914), at *Project Guttenberg,* “Germany – Foreign relations,” <http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/11352/pg11352-images.html>, accessed Dec. 6, 2015

The original version of the text is in German and was published in 1911 later to be translated by Allen H. Powles. There are two editions available the popular edition, which is most prevalent in my research, and the authorized edition, which bears no discernable differences from the popular edition. There is a version of the text available for free on Google Books that includes the whole text, as well as versions available on the Project Gutenberg website. The book is also available for purchase at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com, as well as a digital version available on the Amazon Kindle service. The print text is available for checkout in the UCSB library and is also available at UCLA and the Center for Research Libraries.

3.

Barbara Wertheim Tuchman, *The Guns of August* (New York: The Random House Publishing Group, 1962) pp.10-12

Tuchman uses the book as the opposing source to Norman Angell’s *The Great Illusion*. She describes how this book would come be as influential in Germany in the early 1900’s, and tells us that the book’s thesis can be summed up with 3 of its chapter titles: “The Right to Make War,” “The Duty to Make War,” and “World Power or Downfall”. She notes the use of the concept that war is a biological necessity to describe the consciousness of Germans after the text’s creation.

Feliks Gross, *The Civic and the Tribal State: The State, Ethnicity and the Multiethnic State* (Westport: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1998) pp. 53, 82

Gross uses Bernhardi as an example of how the German people were being prepared ideologically for war. He points out how war as well as Racism were considered healthy for the social hygiene of the public. He uses Bernhardi’s quote about the “biological necessity of war” to show how intellectual ideas were being used to promote the cause of war.

Dale C. Copleand, *The Origins of Major War* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000) pp. 61, 67

Copeland describes how Bernhardi uses the dangers of other strong empire like Britain and Russia to promote the idea that Germany needs to be ready for war with them. He tells us of Bernhardi’s belief that if Germany is to maintain its prominence in the European theater it has to have an army rivalling any in the world. Once Germany is prepared enough, according to Bernhardi, it is to systematically bring about war to prevent other major empires from outstripping them militarily.