

Navigating the Tide: The England-Germany Rivalry

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The Rivalry Between England and Germany

- The current historical period is marked by intense rivalry between England and Germany.
- This rivalry is likely to escalate into an armed conflict, with severe consequences for the defeated nation.
- The interests of these two great powers are fundamentally incompatible, making coexistence increasingly untenable.

"The outcome of this conflict will likely be fatal for the defeated side."

England: The Island Power

- England's global significance is rooted in its control of the seas, extensive trade networks, and numerous colonies.
- The island nation's dominance rests on its naval strength, which is essential for maintaining its economic interests.
- England's survival is threatened by Germany's growing ambitions and capabilities.

Germany: The Continental Power

- Germany's future is anchored in its expansion towards the seas, as it seeks to secure trade routes and resources.
- The nation has rapidly developed its naval forces to protect its interests against English dominance.
- With the rise of the "Made in Germany" brand, Germany poses a significant threat to England's economic stability.

The Inevitable Armed Conflict

- A life-and-death struggle between England and Germany is unavoidable.
- The conflict cannot be reduced to a simple duel; it involves unequal forces on both sides.
- Germany has the potential to disrupt English trade through various means, including privateering and submarine warfare.

Germany's Tactical Advantages

- Germany could incite uprisings in regions such as India, South America, and Ireland.
- The risk of a German landing in England is low unless the English navy is significantly weakened.
- Germany's strategy relies on creating vulnerabilities in England's maritime trade and food supply.

England's Strategic Options

- England's access to Germany is limited; it can only target German colonies and trade routes.
- Destroying the German navy is crucial, yet it's not a guarantee of peace.
- England will seek alliances with strategically stronger powers before committing to armed intervention.

The Transformation of the Conflict

- The future Anglo-German war will evolve into a broader struggle involving multiple powers.
- Two distinct factions will emerge: those aligned with Germany and those with England.
- This shift will redefine the landscape of international alliances and conflicts.

Russia's Position: A Defensive Alliance

- Until the Russo-Japanese War, Russia maintained a balanced foreign policy without clear alignment.
- Since Emperor Alexander III's reign, Russia has engaged in a defensive alliance with France.
- This alliance was robust enough to ensure mutual support in case of an attack but did not require absolute commitment.

The Historical Context of Russian Alliances

- **Complex Alliances:** Russian policy historically maintained a balance between competing powers, neither fully aligning with Germany nor England.
- **Defensive Alliance with France:** Since Emperor Alexander III's reign, Russia formed a defensive alliance with France, ensuring mutual support during threats.
- **Friendly Relations with Germany:** Simultaneously, Russia upheld traditional ties with Berlin based on family connections, contributing to a stable European peace for years.

"Peace among great powers remained undisturbed despite Europe's volatile dynamics."

The Russo-Japanese War's Impact on Alliances

- Isolation of England: Before the Russo-Japanese War, England remained isolated, concerned about Russian movements in Persia and India.
- Neutrality Patterns: During the conflict, England and America favored Japan, while France and Germany maintained neutrality toward Russia.
- Emergence of New Alliances: The war marked a turning point, leading to increased cooperation among England, France, and Japan.

”The Russo-Japanese War fundamentally changed relationships among great powers.”

Rapprochement with England: A Critical Analysis

- Post-War Diplomatic Turn: After the Russo-Japanese War, Russia pivoted towards a closer relationship with England, distancing itself from Germany.
- Formation of the Triple Entente: This shift led to the establishment of the Triple Entente, dominated by English influence, setting the stage for future conflicts.
- Questioning the Benefits: What advantages did Russia gain from this new alignment? A closer examination reveals minimal tangible benefits.

”It is dif-

ficult to discern any real benefits from rapprochement with England.”

Relations with Japan: A Unique Context

- Shared Interests: The only significant advantage noted was improved relations with Japan, which can hardly be attributed solely to Russian-English rapprochement.
- Compatibility of Goals: Russia and Japan share compatible interests in the Far East, creating a basis for peaceful coexistence.
- Minimal Conflict: With no significant territorial disputes, both nations are positioned to collaborate rather than compete in the region.

"Russia and Japan are created to live in peace, as they have absolutely nothing to divide."

Context of Russian-English Relations

- The Portsmouth Treaty marked a significant moment in Russian-English relations.
- However, the tangible benefits from this rapprochement remain unclear.
- The only noticeable improvement has been in relations with Japan, but this is not directly linked to Russian-English interactions.

"It is difficult to discern any real benefits we have gained from rapprochement with England."

Russia and Japan: A Natural Coexistence

- Russia and Japan share a foundation for peaceful coexistence due to their mutual interests.
- Both nations have minimal conflicting interests in the Far East, primarily limited to modest economic tasks.
- Misinterpretations and overreactions have historically led to unnecessary tensions.

"A too broad flight of fantasy... caused a collision that more skillful diplomacy could have avoided."

Russia's Interests in the Far East

No need for territorial expansion: Russia does not require control over Korea or Port Arthur.

Access to the sea:

While valuable, the sea is merely a trade route, not a market in itself.

Limited exports: Russia lacks significant exportable commodities in the Far East.

Market Dynamics in the Region

- The Far East does not present viable markets for Russian exports due to competition from stronger industrial powers.
- Potential markets include inner China, where trade predominantly occurs over land routes.
- An open port may facilitate more importation of foreign goods rather than export of Russian products.

Japan's Regional Aspirations

- Japan's territorial ambitions appear focused on regions like Korea and Formosa, rather than the harsh conditions of Russia's Far East.
- Even within Japan, northern territories like Yezo and southern Sakhalin show limited population growth and colonization success.
- Japan is likely to direct its aspirations toward the Philippines, Indochina, and other resource-rich regions.

The Case for Russian-Japanese Rapprochement

- A close rapprochement between Russia and Japan is both logical and advantageous, regardless of external influences.
- Japan's economic constraints make it challenging to maintain both army and naval power effectively.
- An alliance with Russia could enable Japan to focus its resources on enhancing naval strength, crucial for its island nation.

"Maintaining both a strong army and a powerful fleet simultaneously is difficult for [Japan]."

Peaceful Coexistence: Russia and Japan

- The concept of peaceful coexistence between Russia and Japan is not only plausible but also advantageous.
- Japan faces challenges: it is not a wealthy nation and struggles to maintain both a robust army and a powerful navy simultaneously.

A close rapprochement enables Japan to focus on strengthening its naval capabilities, essential for countering emerging rivalries, particularly with the United States.

Focus on Naval Power: Japan can prioritize its naval

The Balkan Tensions

- The Balkans have been a focal point for European powers, particularly during the early 20th century.
- Germany's involvement:
 - Took the "sick man" of Europe (Ottoman Empire) under its protection.
 - Despite this, Germany remained cautious about risking relations with Russia over Balkan disputes.

Key Takeaway: Austria-Hungary missed crucial opportunities for expansion during the Russo-Japanese War due to Russia's non-alignment with England.

Missed Opportunities for Austria

- Austria-Hungary had a unique chance to realize its ambitions in the Balkans during the turmoil of the early 1900s.
- The annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina could have easily occurred in 1905 or 1906.
- The subsequent Albanian question complicated matters, especially with the involvement of Prince Wied.

Important Insight: Aligning closely with England opened avenues for Austria that were ultimately missed.

The Balkan League and Its Impact

- In response to Austrian ambitions, Russia attempted to counteract with the formation of the Balkan League.
- This alliance, however, ultimately proved to be short-lived and ineffective.
- The geopolitical landscape was shifting rapidly, leading to increased tensions among the Great Powers.

Quote: "The Balkan League was an ephemeral response to persistent Austrian intrigues."

Future War Groupings

- The likely alignments in an impending conflict appear clear:
- Allies: Russia, France, England
- Opponents: Germany, Austria, Turkey
- Additional nations may join based on the evolving circumstances leading to war.

Key Consideration: The trigger for war could stem from either Balkan disputes or colonial incidents, such as those seen at Algeciras.

Italy's Position and Aspirations

- Italy's interests are crucial to understanding the broader conflict dynamics:
- Likely to avoid siding with Germany due to its expansionist goals.
- Aspires to territorial gains at the expense of Austria and Turkey.

Example: If Italy sees an opportunity for victory, it may shift to join the anti-German coalition, ensuring favorable post-war conditions.

Regional Dynamics and Neutrality

- Romania's potential role:
 - Expected to remain neutral until the outcome of the conflict becomes clearer.
 - Will likely align with the victors to secure territorial gains from either Russia or Austria.
- Other Balkan states will align as follows:
 - Serbia and Montenegro against Austria
 - Bulgaria and Albania potentially against Serbia
 - Greece likely remaining neutral or opposing Turkey, depending on outcomes.

Cautionary Note: Sweden's involvement could further complicate alliances and conflicts.

Confrontation with Germany

- Under these conditions, any conflict with Germany will be complex and multi-faceted.
- The interplay of national interests and regional aspirations will drive the decisions of smaller states.
- The balance of power in the Balkans will significantly influence the course of history in Europe as tensions escalate.

Conclusion: Understanding these dynamics is essential for anticipating the future of European relations and conflicts.

The Balkan Landscape

- Serbia and Montenegro: Likely to oppose Austria.
- Bulgaria and Albania: Expected to side against Serbia, especially if Albania remains politically weak.
- Neutrality or Opposition: Greece may stay neutral or side against Turkey, but only once the outcome of the conflict is more certain.

The involvement of other states in the conflict will be minimal, with the possibility of Sweden aligning against us.

Challenges of Engaging Germany

- Significant Challenges: A conflict with Germany presents formidable difficulties and will demand substantial sacrifices.
- Strategic Goals: Germany's desire to maintain control over the seas drives its willingness to engage in war, despite the risks involved.

The timing of Germany's provocation will be tactically chosen, keeping its strategic objectives in mind.

Russia's Central Role in the War

- Main Contributor: Russia will bear the primary burden of the war due to limited capabilities of England and France's defensive posture.
- France's Limitations: With significant human losses expected, France is likely to adopt strictly defensive tactics.

Russia will serve as the battering ram, breaking through German defenses amidst numerous challenges.

Global Context and Rear Security

- Hostility Towards Germany: Both America and Japan are expected to oppose Germany, securing Russia's rear from the East.
- Neutrality Costs: These nations may extract economic concessions, but their involvement in military action against Germany is uncertain.

Persia: Hostilities against Russia are likely.

Caucasus and Turkestan: Unrest among Muslim populations could arise.

Afghanistan: Possible aggression linked to the unrest in adjacent regions.

Regional Unrest: Finland and Poland

- Sweden's Role: An uprising in Finland is almost certain if Sweden sides with our opponents.
- Loss of Control: It is likely that Poland will fall into enemy hands during the war, inciting uprisings against Russian control.

Anticipating unrest in these regions is crucial for strategic planning during the conflict.

Geopolitical Tensions in the Region

- Rising unrest among Muslims in the Caucasus and Turkestan poses significant challenges.
- Afghanistan's potential actions could complicate our position, particularly in connection with regional dynamics.
- Poland and Finland are also areas of concern, with expected complications if hostilities escalate.

Understanding these geopolitical tensions is crucial for effective strategy development.

Finland's Vulnerability

- Uprising likelihood: If Sweden aligns against us, Finland is likely to experience an uprising.
- Implications for Poland: Anticipate difficulties in maintaining control over Poland during the war.
- Potential provocations: Should Poland fall to our opponents, expect attempts to incite uprisings, which could distract our focus.

The influence of our allies may lead us to take risky actions in Poland.

Preparedness for Conflict

- Question of readiness: Are we prepared for the intense struggles anticipated in the future European war? The answer appears to be no.
- Legislative shortcomings: Young legislative institutions have not adequately addressed our defense needs.
- Dilettantish interest: There is a lack of understanding regarding the seriousness of the unfolding political situation.

Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs' orientation reflects a need for greater awareness and action.

Military and Naval Legislation

- Unconsidered bills: Numerous military and naval ministry proposals remain unaddressed, highlighting a gap in legislative action.
- State defense plan: The plan by State Secretary Stolypin is one example of the initiatives that require urgent attention.
- Troop training improvements: There has been progress in troop training since the Japanese War, particularly in field artillery and equipment.

However, essential deficiencies remain in our overall defense organization.

Supply Chain Challenges

- Inadequate military supplies: The military department faces challenges due to incomplete procurement programs.
- Factory productivity issues: Low productivity limits our ability to meet military supply needs effectively.
- Ammunition shortages: These issues are critical, especially as domestic production cannot compensate during wartime.

The current state of our industry poses a significant risk to our operational capabilities.

Dependence on Foreign Industry

- Excessive reliance: Our defense heavily depends on foreign industry, creating vulnerabilities.
- Communication breakdowns: Any disruption in foreign communications can exacerbate supply chain difficulties.
- Heavy artillery shortages: Experience from the Japanese War shows that we lack sufficient heavy artillery and machine guns.

Fortress defenses, like Revel, are still in formative stages, which is a concern for national security.

DEFENSE CHALLENGES IN RUSSIA

- Excessive Dependence: Russia's defense is heavily reliant on foreign industry, which poses challenges, especially with disrupted foreign communications.
- Artillery Shortages: The current quantity of heavy artillery is insufficient, as demonstrated during the Japanese War; machine gun availability is also lacking.
- Fortress Defense Issues: The organization of fortress defenses is still in its infancy. For instance, the Revel fortress, crucial for protecting the capital, remains incomplete.
- Railway Limitations: Strategic railways are inadequate for the massive demands of a potential European war, and while rolling stock may suffice for regular traffic, it's not equipped

RUSSIA AND GERMANY: OVERLAPPING INTERESTS

- **Diplomatic Considerations:** Current diplomacy may overlook critical factors, displaying a degree of aggressiveness toward Germany. This could accelerate armed conflict, especially influenced by England.
- **Evaluating War Benefits:** Is the anticipated advantage of war worth the challenges and sacrifices?
- **Coexistence Potential:** The vital interests of Russia and Germany do not conflict, providing a strong foundation for peaceful coexistence. Germany's future is maritime, while Russia's interests are primarily continental.
- **Absence of Overseas Colonies:** Russia lacks overseas colonies and does not foresee gaining any, making land

ECONOMIC INTERESTS: RUSSIAN AND GERMAN SYNERGIES

Region	Potential Acquisitions	Notes
Poznań	Densely populated area	Managing Russia
East Prussia	National demands of local populations	Victory may not

- Cohesive Economic Needs: Russian economic benefits do not inherently contradict German needs. A collaborative approach may yield mutual advantages without territorial disputes.

Economic Interests: Russian vs. German

- The relationship between Russia and Germany is often viewed through the lens of territorial acquisitions and economic interests.
- However, the argument that these two nations' economic needs and benefits fundamentally contradict each other deserves reevaluation.

"Russian benefits and needs hardly contradict German ones as much as is commonly thought."

Regional Economic Potential

Region	Potential Acquisitions	
Transcaucasus	Armenian-populated areas	D
Persia	Economic and territorial expansion	I
Kashgaria	Economic and territorial expansion	E
Urianhai region	Economic and territorial expansion	C
Vistula region	Areas of little value, poorly suited for colonization	P
Baltic provinces	Areas of little value, poorly suited for colonization	L

Trade Treaties: A Complex Relationship

- Current Russian-German trade treaties present a complex scenario.
- They typically favor German agriculture while placing Russian agricultural interests at a disadvantage.

"It is hardly correct to attribute this circumstance to Germany's cunning and unfriendliness."

The Role of Russian Industry

- Russian delegates during treaty negotiations aimed to bolster Russian industry at the expense of agricultural interests.
- This reflects a strategic choice to prioritize industrial growth, even if it meant sacrificing agricultural benefits.
- Thus, it is essential to see these treaties as part of a broader strategy rather than a straightforward exploitation by Germany.

Germany's Position in Trade

- Germany often acts as an intermediary rather than a direct consumer of Russian agricultural products.
- This means that Russia can seek direct trade relationships to avoid costly intermediation.
- Establishing these direct links can enhance Russia's position in international markets.

Changing Dynamics in Trade Relations

- Trade relations can shift based on the political climate between nations.
- Neither country benefits from weakening its ally; rather, they are incentivized to maintain strong economic ties.
- Conversely, a political opponent's economic decline can provide advantages.

"No country benefits from the economic weakening of an ally, but conversely benefits from the ruin of a political opponent."

Economic Relations with Germany: Analysis and Recommendations

- Importance of Direct Relations: It is crucial for us and consuming markets to establish direct relations to avoid the costly intermediation by Germany.
- Impact of Political Conditions: Trade relations are influenced by the political coexistence of contracting states. No country benefits from weakening an ally; rather, they benefit from the downfall of a political opponent.

"No country benefits from the economic weakening of an ally, but conversely benefits from the ruin of a political opponent."

Understanding Germany's Trade Tactics

- Germany's Strategic Advantage: The current Russian-German trade treaties are unfavorable for us, as Germany has successfully exploited favorable circumstances to gain an upper hand—essentially squeezing us.
- Healthy National Egoism: Germany's actions, while seemingly unfavorable, should not be seen as hostile. This behavior reflects a healthy national egoism that is expected in international trade relations.