

SCENE TEN: France

FRANCE 1, 3 and 4 enter. They position themselves around the table.

FRANCE 1: *(To audience)* 3rd August 1914 tick tock, tick tock.

FRANCE 2 enters. Agitated.

FRANCE 2: We are at war!

FRANCE 3: Are we? Who with?

FRANCE 2: Germany. They've just issued a declaration.

FRANCE 3: Oh no!

FRANCE 2: And Austria-Hungary.

FRANCE 4: Really?

FRANCE 2: They're linked. Fight one, fight both.

FRANCE 4: Like a have one, get the other free?

FRANCE 1: It's all because of our treaty with Russia.

FRANCE 4: Or maybe it's just an excuse for Germany to attack us?

FRANCE 1: That, too.

FRANCE 3: What shall we do?

FRANCE 2: Britain will defend us.

FRANCE 3: Are you sure?

FRANCE 2: Yes.

FRANCE 4: Really sure?

FRANCE 2: Really yes.

FRANCE 1: Um, do Germany know that?

FRANCE 2: No.

FRANCE 1: Très bien.

FRANCE stand still for a moment then ALL exit.

SCENE ELEVEN: Britain

BRITAIN enter. They stand in a group.

BRITAIN 1: Germany have declared themselves to be at war with France.

BRITAIN 2: What do we do? Do we have to get involved?

BRITAIN 1: Well, our treaty with France just offers 'diplomatic co-operation'.

BRITAIN 3: Hmm.

BRITAIN 4: But we are their allies.

BRITAIN 3: What does King George say?

BRITAIN 1: He's hoping that Germany will retreat.

BRITAIN 2: So what do we do?

BRITAIN 4: We wait and see.

BRITAIN 2: No hasty decisions?

BRITAIN 4: *(Nodding in agreement)* No hasty decisions.

BRITAIN faces the audience.

BRITAIN 1, 2, 3 & 4: *(Together)* Tick tock, tick tock.

BRITAIN nod decisively at each other then ALL exit.

SCENE TWELVE: Germany and Belgium

GERMANY enter and position themselves around the table.

- GERMANY 2:** Germany is at war with Russia. France are supporting Russia. Therefore...?
- GERMANY 1:** We are at war with France.
- GERMANY 2:** Correct.
- GERMANY 3:** Does this mean what I think it means?
- GERMANY 2:** *(Nodding)* We must seize this opportunity to continue our defeat of France.
- GERMANY 4:** Wunderbar!
- GERMANY 2:** So we will invade Belgium.
- GERMANY 4:** Good...what?
- GERMANY 2:** It's the quickest route to Paris. Through Belgium.
- GERMANY 3:** Won't Belgium protest?
- GERMANY 2:** Of course not, they're neutral.
- GERMANY 1:** But we wouldn't like it if an army marched through Germany.
- GERMANY 2:** All right, all right. We can issue an ultimatum. Happy now?
- GERMANY 1:** Yes.
- GERMANY 4:** It won't work.
- GERMANY 2:** I know.

GERMANY remain still.

BELGIUM 1, 2 and 4 enter and stand on the opposite side of the stage.

BELGIUM 3 enters with a piece of paper.