First World War: origins and warnings for the 21st Century

June 2014

James Woudhuysen and Terry Jackson opened a discussion on *the origins and warnings of the First World War.*

The origins of the First World War are variously attributed to the collapse of the Habsburg Empire, the complex system of international alliances that developed before 1914, the way in which Germany's Schlieffen Plan depended on its army sticking to strict railway timetables, or the unreadiness of old dynasties to move with the times.

Some background readings

Summary of World War One , BBC

A Seminal Panic about Defence IT: The Marconi Scam, 1913 , James Woudhuysen, IDG Connect, 9 August 2013

China Media: US Diplomacy . BBC, 5 December 2013

The Great War: a battle for meaning , by Frank Furedi, spiked 8 January 2014

The infantile diplomacy behind demonising Russia , by Frank Furedi, spiked 24 March 2014