

Chapter Questions for *Guns of August*  
Chapter 6: Outbreak and August 1 - Berlin

1. Describe what events led to the outbreak of the war. What did Bismarck mean when he said that “some damned foolish thing in the Balkans” would ignite the war? Why is Germany’s assurance of “faithful support” to Austria referred to as the writing of the “blank check?” (pp. 85-86)
2. When Tuchman writes that crowds massed in the streets of Berlin waiting for word of mobilization of the military “instantly converted from Marx to Mars,” what did she mean? (pg. 88)
3. What did the Kaiser mean when he said “The dead Edward is stronger than the living I?” (pg. 90)
4. What last-minute proposal regarding Alsace was considered by the Germans? What solution did it offer? (pp. 90-91) What did the Germans offer to France instead?
5. What was German Ambassador to Britain Prince Lichnowsky’s proposal as offered by the English? (pp. 91-92) How did the actual statements of Edmund Grey differ from what was reported by Lichnowsky?
6. What did German general Moltke insist was impossible to change? (pp. 93-97) What ultimately led the Kaiser to allow Moltke to do as he pleased? (pg. 97)