Would not the end of war be the end of humanity? War is life itself. Nothing exists in nature, is born, grows or multiplies except by combat. We must eat and be eaten so that the world may live. It is only warlike nations which have prospered; a nation dies as soon as it disarms. War is the school of discipline, sacrifice and courage.

-Emile Zola, French Writer, 1891

How many times in the last two years have we heard people repeat, “Better war than this perpetual waiting!” In this wish there is no bitterness, but a secret hope.

-A French citizen, 1912

I spent the evening (of August 3, 1914) walking around the streets, especially in the neighborhood of Trafalgar Square, noticing cheering crowds, making myself sensitive to the emotions of passersby. During this and the following days I discovered amazement that average men and women were delighted at the prospect of war.

-Bertrand Russell, British Philosopher

The war between Serbia and Austria… is inevitable. If Serbia wants to live in honor, she can only do this by war. This war is determined by our obligation to our traditions and the world of culture. This war derives from the duty of our race which will not permit itself to be assimilated. This war must bring about the eternal freedom of Serbia, of the South Slavs, of the Balkan peoples. Our whole race must stand together to halt the onslaught of these aliens from the north.

 -Newspaper run by Colonel Dragutin Dimitrevic, head of Serbian military intelligence and founder of the “Black Hand” aka “Union or Death”, 1912

…we realize that without power, without a strong navy, there can be no welfare for us. The means of fighting the battle for existence in this world without strong armaments on land and water, for a nation soon to count sixty millions, living in the centre of Europe and a t the same time stretching out its economic feelers in all directions, have not yet been found. In the coming century the German nation will be either the hammer or the anvil.

-Prince Bernhard von Bulow, German Chancellor in a speech to the Reichstag, 1899

You will be home before the leaves have fallen from the trees.

-Kaiser Wilhelm II to departing troops, August, 1914

And all this madness, all this rage, all this flaming death of our civilization and our hopes, has been brought about because a set of official gentlemen, living luxurious lives, mostly stupid, and all without imagination or heart, have chosen that it should occur rather than that any one of them should suffer some rebuff to his country's pride.

 - Bertrand Russell

Confronted with this deadlock, military art remained dumb; the Commanders and their General Staffs had no plan except the frontal attack which all their experience and training had led them to reject; they had no policy except that of exhaustion.

-Winston S. Churchill - *The World Crisis*