

THE DRESS REHEARSAL

Setting the scene:

The year is 1908, one year after the British-Russian entente over central Asia. Hoping to take advantage of the new friendship for Russia, Foreign Minister Alexander Izvolsky wants to win access for Russian warships to the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, the straits separating the Black Sea from the Aegean Sea, an access that has been banned by international treaty for decades.

Cast of Characters:

Russia:

Tsar Nicholas II, Tsarina Alexandra, Prime Minister Peter Stolypin,

Foreign Minister Alexander Izvolsky

Austria-Hungary:

Kaiser Franz Josef, Foreign Minister Alois von Aehrenthal

Britain:

King Edward, Foreign Minister Edward Grey

France:

Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau

Germany:

Kaiser William II, Foreign Minister Bernhard von Bülow