

DEATH AT SEA ESSAY

Personality sometimes plays a crucial historical role in determining the course events take. We have already seen this in lecture and video—or soon will be—with leading figures like William II of Germany, Jacky Fisher of Britain, Nicholas II, Alexandra, and Rasputin of Russia, Dragutin Dmitrejevic and Gavrilo Princip of the Black Hand, and others. Personality also factored into the outcome of 1914 naval action described in *Death at Sea*. Focusing on the personal strengths or weaknesses of Graf Maximilian von Spee and Karl von Müller on the German side, and Christopher Cradock and Frederick Sturdee on the British side, explain how certain decisions that were made, actions that were either taken or not taken, and opportunities that were either exploited or squandered, altered the outcome of naval campaigns in the Indian Ocean, the Eastern Pacific (off Chile), and the South Atlantic—and may very well have affected the outcome of World War One. Regarding the last point, in other words, always keep the “big picture” clearly in focus.