



Source 4

British government document setting out concerns about German naval plans in 1912
(Catalogue ref: ADM 116/3109 f.13)

How to use this source:

Study this source carefully. There are details in this source that will help you to answer the key question. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- What German actions are referred to in this document?
- Does this document give the impression that the British regard Germany as a threat?
- Do you get the impression that the British government is expecting war with Germany?
- Does this document suggest that it is Germany or Britain which is causing the tension and aggression?



Source 4

The latest amendment of the German Navy Law has added an extra squadron to their fully manned battle fleet, which will bring it up to 25 ships by October, 1913. The safety of the British Isles is thereby directly menaced to a degree which calls for imperative and drastic action without delay.

The Germans will thus maintain a striking force of three battle squadrons ready for immediate use at any selected moment, at a short distance from our coasts.

It is necessary for us to be prepared to meet a sudden attack at any time from this force; it will be impossible to secure the safety of the United Kingdom unless we on our part maintain in Home Waters a superiority of at least 25 per cent. in ships in a state of equal readiness. This means that we must keep four battle squadrons in full commission against the German three, and three of these squadrons should be composed of ships of the "Dreadnought" type by the time that the German Fleet includes two squadrons of that class