

Anglo-American Naval Relations after the Great War

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- Rise of the US Navy
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Status in 1914

Country	Battleships Built	Battleships Building	Battlecruisers Built	Battlecruisers Building
British Empire	20	12	8	1
Germany	13	7	4	3
United States	10	4	0	0
Russia	0	7	0	4
France	3	8	0	0
Japan	2	2	1	3
Italy	3	3	0	0

1916 Programme

USS SOUTH DAKOTA BB-49

US Navy 1920 Cancelled Battle Ship



1916 Programme - Background

- Influence of Mahan
- Great Power Status
- Freedom of the Seas/Blockade Rights
- Threat of Japanese/German combination

1916 Programme - Contents

- 10 Battleships
- 6 Battlecruisers
- 10 Cruisers
- 131 other vessels

US Entry to War

- 1916 Programme deferred
- 273 Destroyers
- 449 Submarine Chasers
- 6th Battle Squadron
- Bantry Bay Deployment

Status Early 1919

Country	Battleships Built	Battleships Building	Battlecruisers Built	Battlecruisers Building
British Empire	33	0	9	4
United States	16	4	0	0
Japan	5	2	4	0
France	7	5	0	0
Italy	5	1	0	0

The Naval Battle of Paris

- Agreement over disposal of German Fleet
- British pressure for cancellation of 1916 programme.
- US Demand for parity
- Agreement reached

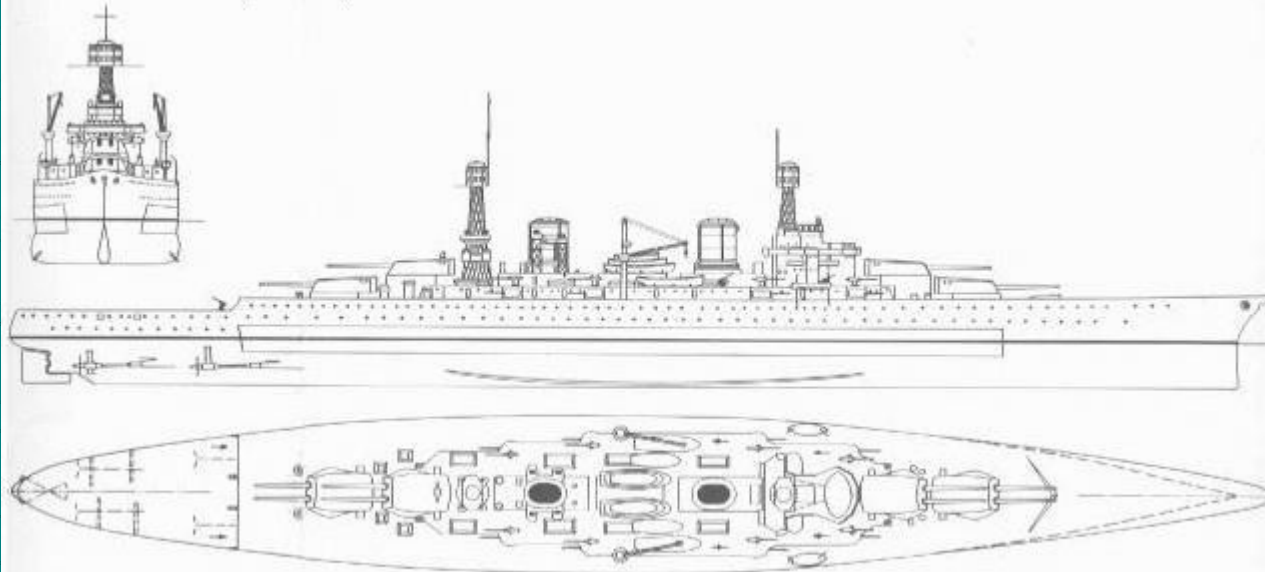
BUT

- 1916 Capital Ships and Cruisers recommenced
- 1919 act – Additional 157 warships

December 1920

Country	Battleships Built	Battleships Building	Battlecruisers Built	Battlecruisers Building
British Empire	28 (33)	0 (0)	8 (9)	0 (4)
United States	18 (16)	10 (4)	0 (0)	4 (0)
Japan	6 (5)	3 (2)	4 (4)	2 (0)

LEXINGTON (CC 1) CLASS



The Washington Conference

- Abandonment of US building programme
- Scrapping of large numbers of older British ships
- Battlefleet Parity agreed and achieved
- Defusing of naval rivalry between US and Britain.
- Termination of Anglo-Japanese Alliance

Impact of Washington Conference

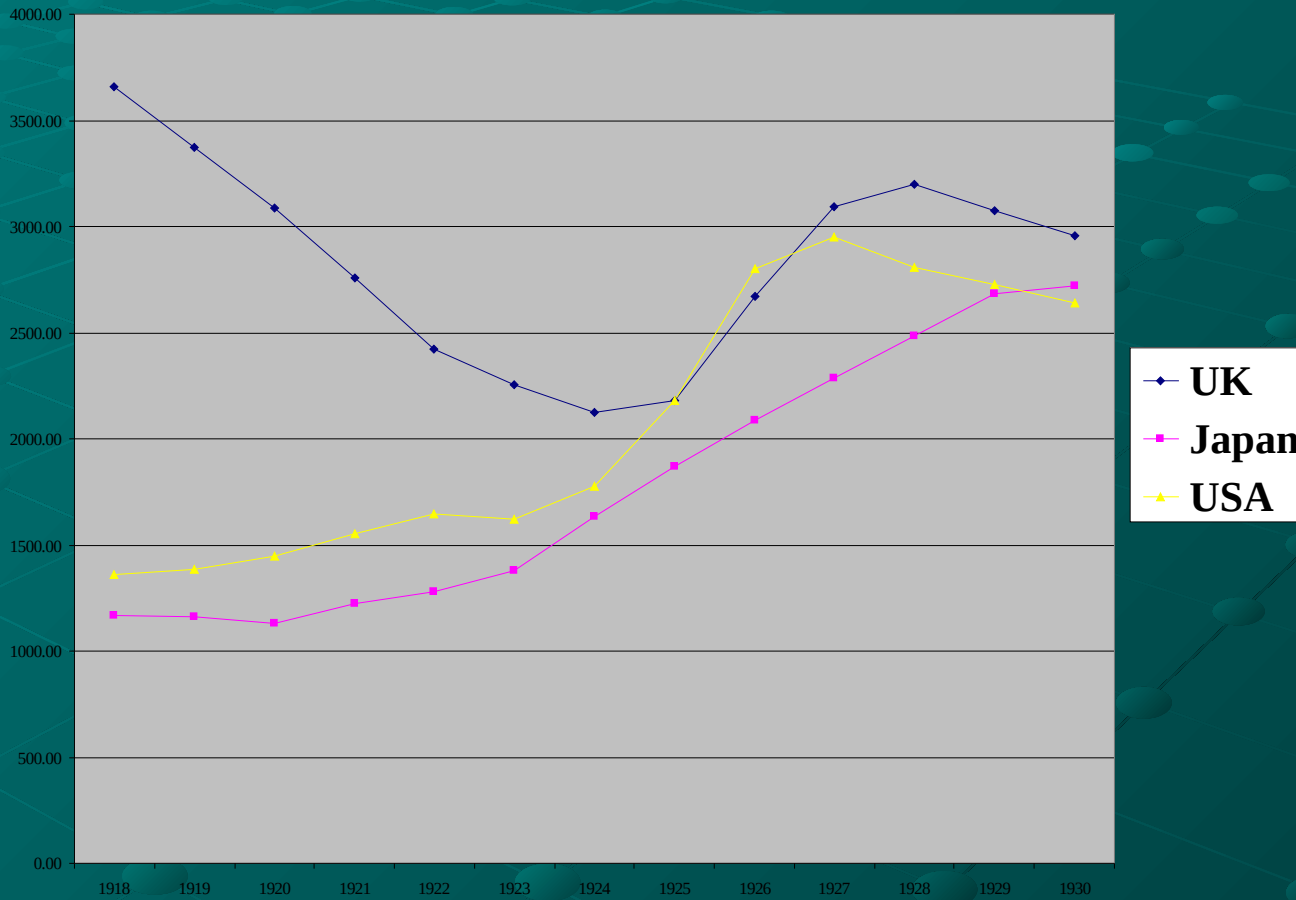
“It is often said ... that Washington didn't prevent Pearl Harbour, ... well of course it didn't, but it perhaps prevented the great Anglo-American war of 1928!”

Eric Grove

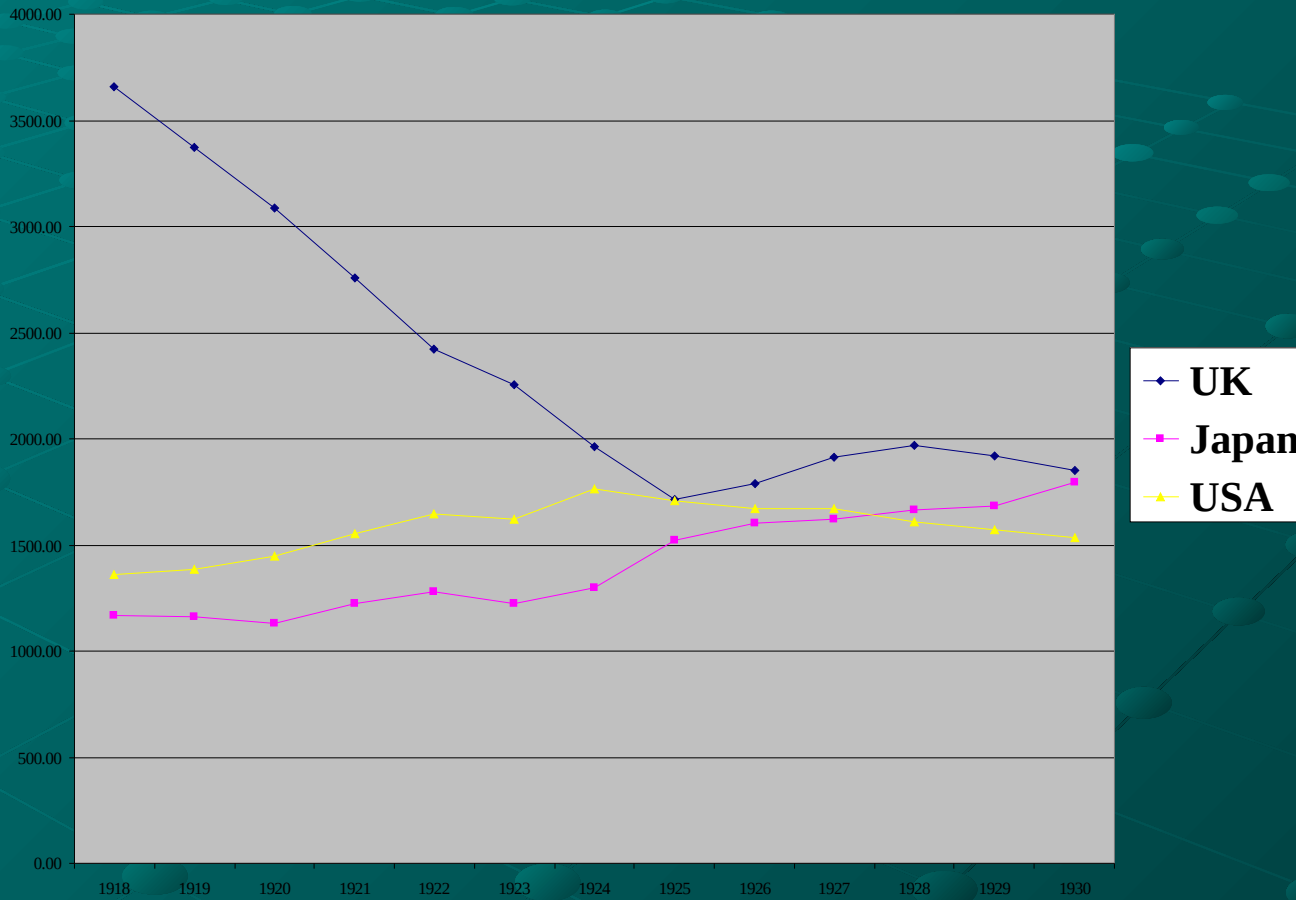
Anglo-American Views of Each Other

- 1920 Bonar Law Committee:
 - War with the US “unthinkable”
 - Acceptance of one-power standard
- Common perception that US equally benign
BUT
- Active preparations for War Plan Crimson continued until mid-1930s.

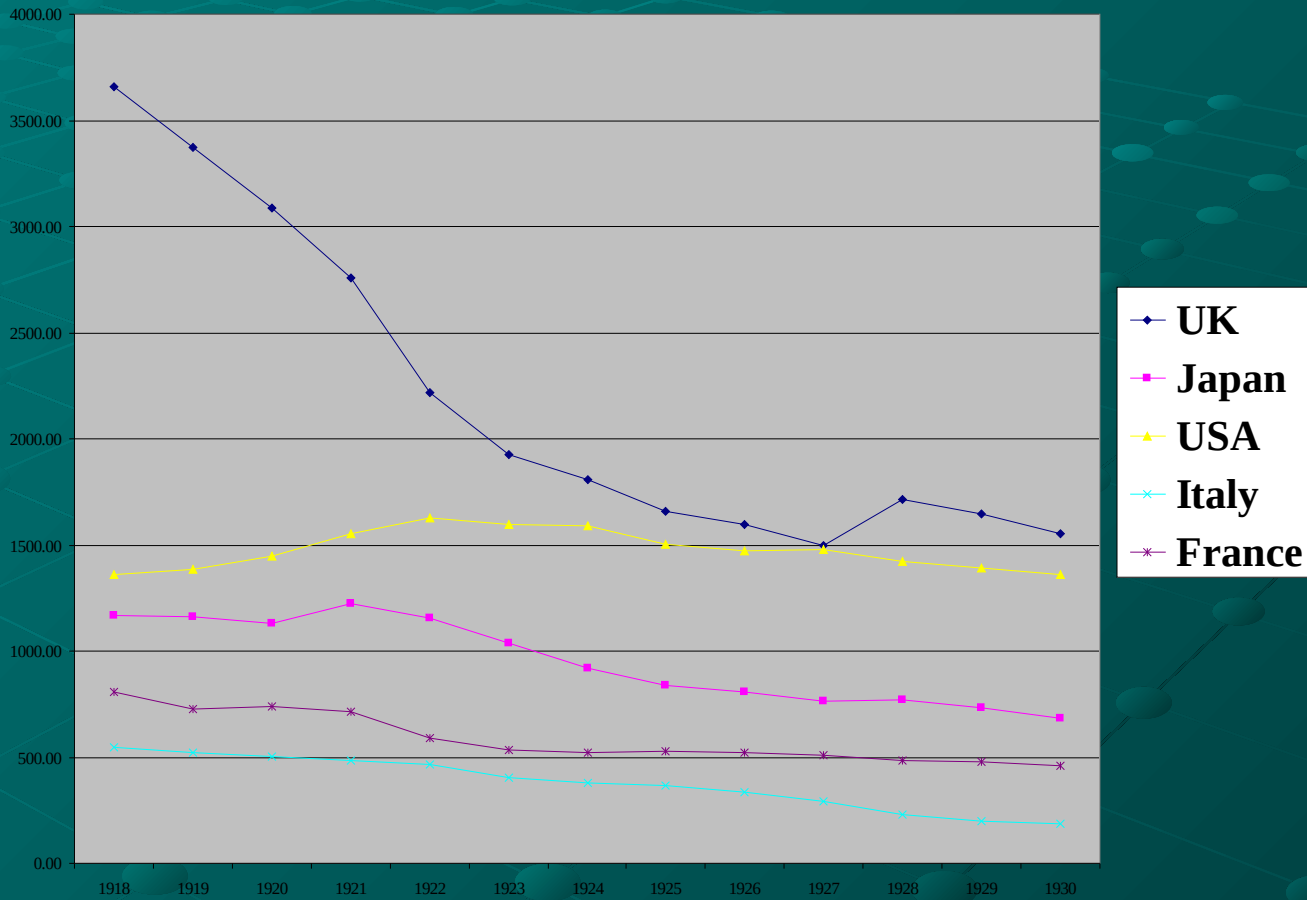
Battlefleet Strength – Optimistic Future



Battlefleet Strength – Realistic Future



Battlefleet Strength – Impact of Washington Treaty



Gun Elevation Controversy



ELEVATION OF GUNS ON BATTLESHIPS 'BIG ISSUE FOR CONGRESS

Naval Authority Declares
Work Can Be Done With-
out Violating Treaty.

PUBLIC HAS WRONG
IMPRESSION, HE SAYS

No Reason Why Plans In-
dorsed Last Session Should
Not Be Carried Out.

The issue of elevating guns on
American battleships is to be an im-
portant one in the next Congress.

Navy Will Elevate Guns Unless President Forbids

***Holds There Is Nothing in Washington Treaty
Forbidding Modernization of Ships—Neces-
sary If U. S. Fleet Is to Be Second to None,
Says Admiral Rodgers.***

Unless President Harding disregards the advice of naval authorities, work of elevating the guns of the battleships will start as originally scheduled on the return of the fleet from the southern drill grounds early next month.

The unanimous opinion of the department as voiced by responsible officers of all ranks after an exhaustive investigation by responsible heads of the issue raised by the pub-

on the recent British statement, is about 2 miles for the main fleet.

Following a preliminary conference last week with the President, at which the details of the controversy were laid before him, Mr. Roosevelt has had all the data bearing on it prepared, ready for the chief executive in the near future when he is ready to take the question up for final settlement.

In order to summarize as clearly as possible the navy's attitude so as to give the public a better understanding of the entire matter, the follow-

Gun Elevation Controversy

- USN position - Increase permissible under the Treaty, and necessary for US battlefleet effectiveness
- British position – Increase a violation of Reconstruction Clause

Gun Elevation Controversy

No retained capital ships or aircraft-carriers shall be reconstructed except for the purpose of providing means of defence against air and submarine attack, and subject to the following rules: the Contracting Powers may, for that purpose, equip existing tonnage with bulge or blister or anti-air attack deck protection, providing the increase of displacement thus effected does not exceed 3,000 tons (3,048 metric tons) displacement for each ship. No alterations in side armour, in calibre, number or general type of mounting of main armament shall be permitted

Washington Treaty, Chapter II, Part 3, Para (d)

Gun Elevation Controversy

- USN position - Increase necessary to achieve WT ratios
- British position – Increase a violation of Reconstruction Clause
- USN position (2) – Increase needed to fulfill principle of parity

Gun Elevation Controversy

- USN position - Increase necessary to achieve WT ratios
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- British position (2) – Increase contravened principle of reducing competition in armaments

Gun Elevation Controversy

The United States of America, the British Empire, France, Italy and Japan; desiring to contribute to the maintenance of the general peace and to reduce the burdens of competition in armament;

Washington Treaty, Preamble

Gun Elevation Controversy

- USN position - not regulated by the Washington Treaty
- British position – violation of Reconstruction Clause
- USN position (2) – Needed to achieve principle of parity
- British position (2) – Contravened principle of reducing competition in armaments
- Finally resolved by exchange of notes in 1930

The Cruiser Controversy



HMAS Australia II

The Cruiser Controversy

- US position: Parity had been accepted at Washington
- British position: Only battlefleet parity had been conceded
- Britain required additional cruisers to protect her trade routes

The Cruiser Controversy

Taking those two ..., namely the battleships ... and the vessels auxiliary and necessary to a battle fleet, we think that the proportion between the various countries is accepted. ...

However, there may be ... questions connected with cruisers which are not connected with or required for fleet action.

Speech by Balfour, 2nd Plenary Session, Washington Conference, 15
November 1921

Cruiser Controversy

- British position
- Needed total of 70 cruisers
- Did not want to build any more 8" cruisers
- Not concerned about US superiority

BUT

- Needed to maintain a margin over Japan

THEREFORE

- Proposed ratio of 18:15:12 in 8" cruisers
- Remainder of cruisers armed with 6" guns

Cruiser Controversy

- US position.
- Had a requirement for 21 new cruisers
- Only interested in building 8" gun cruisers
- Did not accept Britain's demands for 70 cruisers
- Believed that conference should result in a reduction in cruiser numbers

Cruiser Controversy

- Resolution – 1930 London Naval Conference
- Britain reduced demands (temporarily) to 50 cruisers
- US reduced demands to eighteen 8" gun cruisers, and agreed to build remainder as 6" gun cruisers

Conclusion

- At end of Great War US was a potential rival for the British Maritime Supremacy
- Washington Treaty defused rivalry and set scene for peaceful transition of power.
- Cooperation in Naval Arms Control laid groundwork for the subsequent war-winning alliance

The background is a solid teal color. Overlaid on this is a pattern of thin, light-teal lines forming a diamond or rhombus grid. At each intersection of these lines, there is a small, 3D-rendered sphere. The spheres are slightly darker than the background and have a subtle gradient, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The grid and spheres recede into the distance, creating a sense of depth.

Questions?