

## Causes and Outbreak of World War I:

Homework to do: Find out some more about at least two items below:

**Franz Joseph I:**

.....  
.....

**Gavrilo Princip:**

.....  
.....

**Organization “Black Hand”:**

.....  
.....

**Princess Sophie of Bavaria (Sissi)**

.....  
.....



**Unity or death (Ujedinjenje ili Smrt, in Slovak: Zjednotenie alebo smrť):** secret society formed by the Serbian army officers in the capital of Belgrade in 1911. Aim of the society was to unite all the Slavs of the Balkans into a single country which would be called Yugoslavia. They planned to achieve this aim through the use of terrorism and the symbol of their society was a **black hand**. For this reason they were also known as the “**Black Hand**.”

„**Black Hand**“ leader Dragutin Dimitrievic arranged that the guards on the border between Serbia and Bosnia were all Black Hand members. This meant that the „Black Hand“ terrorists could cross frontier without fear or arrest. Once in Bosnia they could place bombs or shoot enemies and then slip safely back to Serbia.

**The Austrians, who had taken over Bosnia in 1908**, were of course outraged by these activities. They feared that Black Hand would start rebellion in Bosnia and that this rebellion would spread throughout the whole empire. They also suspected that the Serbian government was giving help to the Black Hand.

At this tense situation the Austrians announced in the newspapers that the **heir to the throne**, Franz Joseph's nephew, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este**, would make a visit to Bosnia in June 1914.

**What would be the purpose of such a visit? Franz Ferdinand d'Este went to Bosnia to help strengthen the loyalty of the Bosnian people to Austria-Hungary.**

Do you think that to announce this visit in the newspapers was a mistake?

It was a mistake for two reasons: 1. 28 June was the National Day of the Serbian People, this day anti-Austrian feeling were bound to be great, 2. By giving an exact day of the visit to Sarajevo, the newspapers gave the Black Hand a chance to plan their greatest act of terror yet.

The Black Hand quickly made plans. The leader of the group to assassinate the heir of the throne was Gavrilo Princip.

**The Archduke's visit to Sarajevo: 28 June 1914**

Franz Ferdinand d'Este and his wife Sophie were visiting Sarajevo in a large open-topped car. When the car sped along the riverside street of the city, one of the fellow students of Gavrilo Princip threw a bomb at it. But the bomb did not kill anyone, because it exploded few meters from the car. The driver accelerated when he saw the object flying towards him, the bomb had a 10 second delay and exploded under the wheel of the third car. *The story continues ...* On the way back to the railway station, the chauffeur took wrong turning. Quite **by chance**, Gavrilo Princip was standing in that very street. Princip stepped forward and fired two pistol shots. Ferdinand and Sophie were wounded and died after a while. Princip was arrested.

*Suppose that the weather in Sarajevo had been cold or rainy on June 28. Might this have made any difference to the events of that day? Explain your answer.*

.....  
.....

#### **Reaction to assassination:**

The assassination led to "the **July Crisis**" which was a diplomatic crisis among the major powers of Europe in the summer of 1914 that led to the First World War. Immediately after the assassination, a series of diplomatic maneuverings led to an ultimatum from Austria-Hungary to Serbia, and ultimately to war. We read in the **ultimatum**: "*The Sarajevo assassinations were planned in Belgrade, the arms and explosives with which the murderers were provided were given to them by Serbian officers ... and the passage into Bosnia of the criminals and their arms was organised by the chief of the Serbian frontier service...*" (=Franz Joseph I and his advisers were sure that the Serbian government had helped the Black Hand). The ultimatum also said that the Serbian government must take steps to get rid of the Black Hand and any other anti-Austrian societies. In addition, the Serbian government must let Austrian officials into Serbia to make sure the job was done properly. **Serbia was given 48 hours to decide whether to accept the ultimatum.** Serbian king Peter replied. He **accepted all the demands except the one** that would allow Austrian officials into Serbia for that would mean an end to Serbia's independence.

*Do you remember? ... Fill out the missing gaps:*

The Triple Alliance	.....
	<b>X</b>
The Triple Entente	.....

**Table:** the sequence of events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>
28 June	Franz Ferdinand d'Este killed in Sarajevo by the member of the "black Hand" Gavrilo Princip.
23 July	Austria-Hungary blames Serbian government for the assassination, demanding compensation and the right to send troops into Serbia (the ultimatum to the Serbian government).
28 July	Because Serbia refuses to let these troops in, <b>Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.</b> The Serbians asked Russia for help. The Russians had always been sympathetic towards the Serbians (both were Slavs)
29 July	Russia begins mobilizing troops ready to help Serbia
30 July	Germany orders Russia to stop mobilizing (remember, Russia and Germany members of different Alliances)
1 August	Russia refuses. <b>Germany declares war on Russia.</b> France begins mobilizing to help Russia (Russia and France members of Triple Entente)
3 August	<b>Germany declares war on France</b> and sends troops through Belgium to attack, following the Schlieffen Plan.
4 August	Belgium is neutral, and Britain has agreed to protect Belgium. Britain orders Germany to withdraw. Germany refuses. <b>Britain declares war on Germany.</b> (Britain and Germany members of different Alliances)
6 July	<b>Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.</b> (A-H and Russia members of different Alliances)
<b>Watch out</b>	<b>Italy</b> (former member of Triple Alliance) enters the war in 1915, BUT on side of Triple Entente (as a result of the treaty between Italy and France in 1902)