

WWI

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Causes WWI

- Imperialism
- Militarism
- Mutual Defense Alliances
- Nationalism
- Immediate Cause/PRETEXT: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Causes of WWI

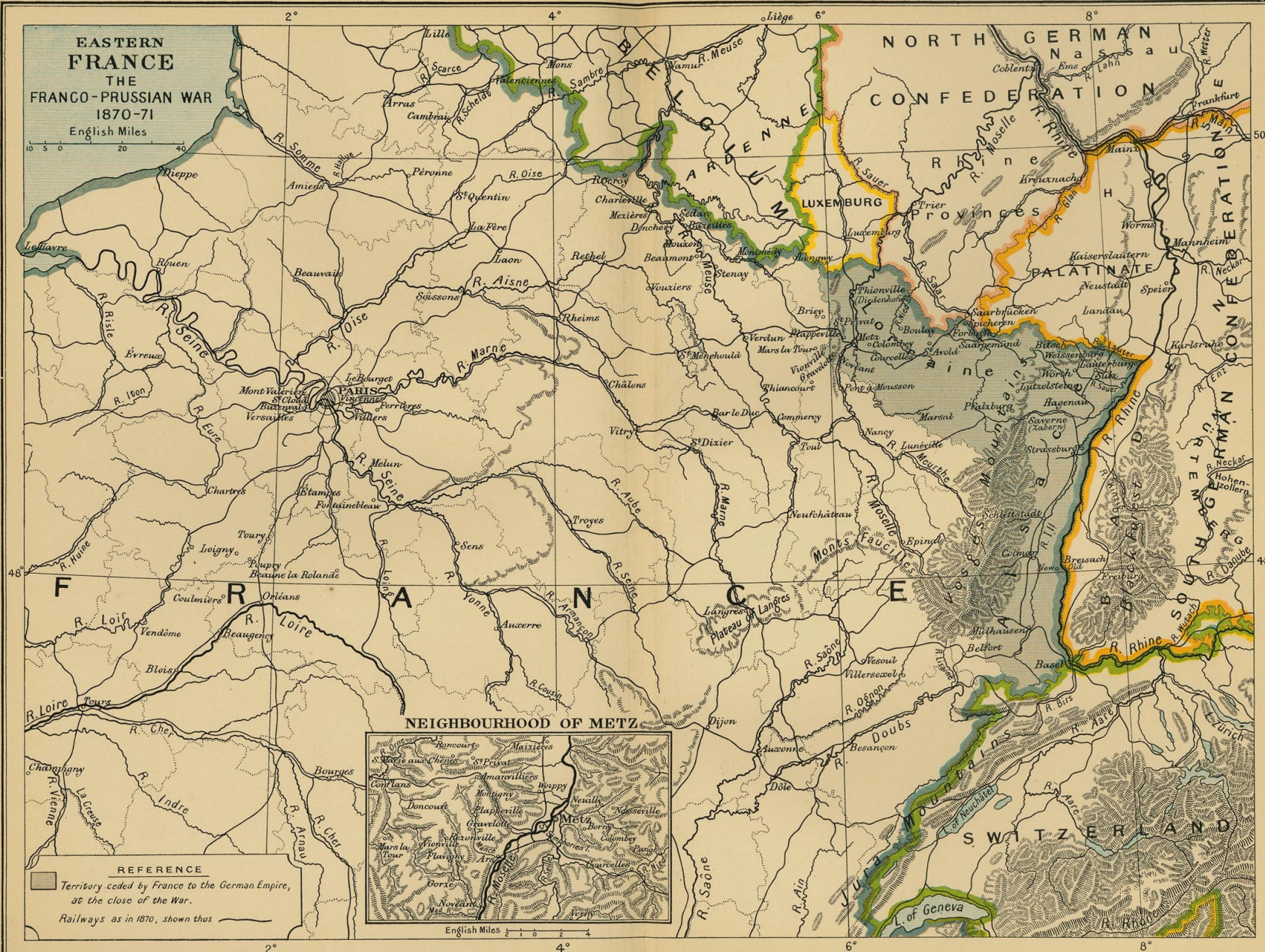
- Franco-German War **1870 – 1871**: Germany's takeover of Alsace - Lorraine created a desire for revenge by the French and establishment of **German Empire**
- **Unified - German Empire**



Source: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-61537-6_1

EASTERN FRANCE
THE
FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR
1870-71

English Miles



REFERENCE

Territory ceded by France to the German Empire, at the close of the War.

Railways as in 1870, shown thus

English Miles

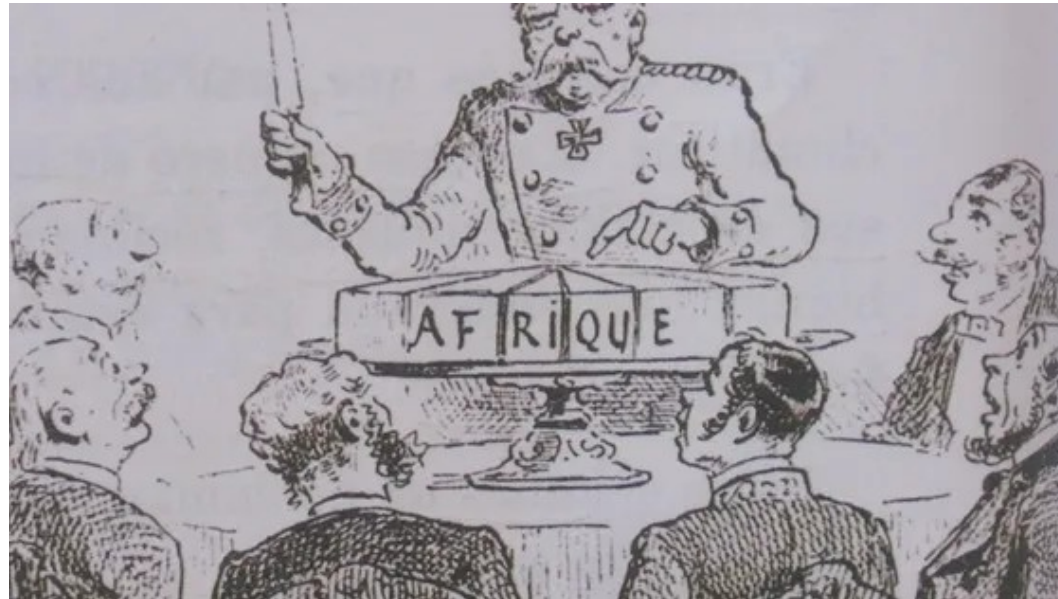
Source:
http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/franco_prussian_war_1870.htm

German Empire and Colonies

- Although Prussia was one of several kingdoms, it had about 2/3 of Germany's population and territory
- Prussian dominance was also constitutionally guaranteed
- Chancellor Otto von Bismarck
- German Empire – started to construct a colonial empire
- **Berlin Conference (Berlin West Africa Conference) of 1884–1885:** meeting: major European powers negotiated and formalized claims to territory in Africa

Berlin Conference

- Did not initiate European colonization of Africa, but it did legitimate and formalize the process
- In addition, it sparked new interest in Africa
- Following the close of the conference, European powers expanded their claims in Africa such that by 1900, European states had claimed nearly 90 percent of African territory



Scramble for Africa

- Berlin Conference marked the climax of the European competition for territory in Africa (Scramble for Africa)
- During 1870s and early 1880s: GB, FR, GE began looking to Africa for natural resources for their growing industrial sectors as well as a potential market for the goods these factories produced
- As a result, these governments sought to safeguard their commercial interests in Africa and began sending scouts to the continent to secure treaties from indigenous peoples or their supposed representatives
- Belgium's King Leopold II, who aspired to increase his personal wealth by acquiring African territory, hired agents to lay claim to vast tracts of land in central Africa
- To protect Germany's commercial interests, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who was otherwise uninterested in Africa, felt compelled to stake claims to African land

- https://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/images/article_images/library-political_africa_big.jpg
- German Empire – 3rd largest colonial empire

Colonial Possessions

Amrs race

- **Anglo-German arms race**
- Began with a plan (Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz) in 1897 to create a fleet in being to force Britain to make **diplomatic concessions**
- Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz did not expect the **Imperial German Navy** to defeat **the Royal Navy**
- Britain's economy was dependent on the ability to ship in raw materials and export out a finished product, **crucial for GB** - inability to guarantee free movement on the seas would result in food shortages
- With the support of Wilhelm II, A. von Tirpitz began passing a series of laws to construct an increasing number of large surface warships
- Construction of *HMS Dreadnought* in 1906 prompted A. von Tirpitz to further increase the rate of naval construction. While some British observers were uneasy at German naval expansion, alarm was not general until Germany's naval bill of 1908
- British public and political opposition demanded: government meeting, resulting in the funding of additional *HMS Dreadnought* in **1910 and escalating the arms race**

HMS Dreadnought - Royal Navy battleship



Source: <https://prints.rmg.co.uk/products/hms-dreadnought-1906-n00729>

Arms race

- Maintaining Europe's largest army and second-largest navy took an enormous toll on **Germany's finances**
- Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg undertook a policy of détente with Britain to alleviate the fiscal strain
- Under T. von Bethmann Hollweg, and particularly from 1912 onwards, Germany abandoned the dreadnought arms race and focused on a commerce raiding naval strategy to be conducted with submarines
- One of the ironies of the arms race and subsequent conflict was that while the German battle fleet fought only one major surface engagement (Battle of Jutland), and never seriously threatened British naval supremacy

Triple Alliance

- Arms programme, which also included the construction of the German fleet
- GB and France responded with their arms programme, resulting in arms races in which huge financial sums were invested
- German Empire was preparing for the war for a long time and thoughtfully, both militarily and diplomatically - already under the German Emperor Wilhelm I - 1879 the Allied Treaty with the Austria-Hungary was signed - **German Empire** and **Austria-Hungary** had been closely allied since **1879**
- Military alliance between Germany Empire, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed **1882**
- **Later Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria**

Improvement in Anglo-French relations

- **Fashoda Incident 1898 (Fashoda Crisis)** - international incident and the climax of imperialist territorial disputes between GB and France in East Africa
- Crisis ended when France recognized British claims to the Nile basin, while Britain recognized French claims to the Sahara as well as Western Sudan
- GB – railway (Cairo – Cape Town) and France – connection from Senegal (contemporary) to Djibouti (contemporary) – meeting point: Fashoda
- The most serious Anglo-French rift in the second half of the 19th century and resulted in French humiliation; but it also revealed the limits of French foreign policy
- France realistically decided on a cooperative framework for relations with GB
- **Entente Cordiale 1904** - ended antagonisms between GB and France and paved the way for their diplomatic cooperation against German Empire pressures in the decade preceding WWI



Source: <https://blogs.loc.gov/maps/2020/04/when-pride-mattered/>

Triple Entente

- Unification of Germany in 1871 had disturbed the old 'balance of power' in Europe
- 1914 Europe was an armed camp; two rival alliances
- Fear of Germany encouraged **France** and **Russia** to form an alliance in **1894**
- It pushed **German Empire** into closer alliance with **Austro-Hungarian Empire**
- Members of these rival power blocs: maintained mass armies through compulsory military service and rapid developments in military technology forced them to spend huge sums on these armies
- GB's policy was to maintain a balance of power in Europe
- Germany's growing strength and manifest pursuit of 'world power' status persuaded GB to align with its traditional rivals: France in **1904** and Russia in **1907**: Britain, France and Russia in the '**Triple Entente**'

Reduction of armaments: Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907

- Series of international treaties and declarations negotiated at two international peace conferences + along with the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conventions were among the first formal statements of the laws of war and war crimes in the body of secular international law
- 1899 – first **Hague Peace Conference of 1899** - it failed to reach agreement on the primary object for which it was called, namely the **limitation or reduction of armaments**, but adopted the three Conventions and the other acts mentioned in the Final Protocol
- **1907** – second meeting

The Balkans – Power Keg

- Decline of the **Ottoman Empire** created a vacuum waiting to be filled by new forces
- Continuing collapse of the Ottoman Empire coincided with the rise of **nationalism in the Balkans** - led to increased tensions and conflicts
- Balkans became an unstable place in which the interests of the major powers clashed with the national programmes of the emergent peoples of south-eastern Europe
- Potential dangers not only for Ottoman Empire but also for the **multinational Habsburg empire**, which was itself having to deal with the emancipatory aspirations of the **young nations (nationalism)**



THE BOILING POINT.

Source: <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldhistory2/chapter/the-balkan-powder-keg/>

Balkan Wars

- The Balkan nations were fighting against Ottoman Empire - occupying them
- **1912–1913 - 1st Balkan War** – so called **Balkan League** (Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro) x Ottoman Empire – was defeated and its European areas were liberated
- But then the former allies started to fight with each other because of dividing of the liberated areas; **Bulgaria** had greatest war casualties and invested the most but the deliberated areas (Macedonia, Thrakia) got especially **Greece** and **Serbia** → **Bulgaria** was dissatisfied - military conflict - Greece and Serbia → **2nd Balkan War – 1913**
- Ottoman Empire and Romania joined Greece and Serbia and they were fighting against Bulgaria which was defeated and lost also the areas which obtained after the 1st Balkan War
- But also Serbia was dissatisfied with the results of the wars (Serbia was expecting enlargement of its territory and wanted to raise Adriatic coast but instead of that Albania was formed)
- Serbia started to prepare for the new war – wanted to unify all the southern Slavs – who were living in Austria-Hungary

Balkan Wars

- Continuing collapse of the Ottoman Empire led to two wars in the Balkans - 1912 and 1913, which was a prelude to World War I
- By 1900 nation states had formed in Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia; nevertheless, many of their ethnic compatriots lived under the control of the Ottoman Empire
- 1912 - countries formed - Balkan League
- There were **three main causes of the First Balkan War**:
 - Ottoman Empire was unable to reform itself, govern satisfactorily, or deal with the rising ethnic nationalism of its diverse peoples
 - Great Powers quarreled among themselves and failed to ensure that the Ottomans would carry out the needed reforms. This led the Balkan states to impose their own solution
 - members of the Balkan League were confident that it could defeat the Turks

TERRITORIAL MODIFICATIONS

IN THE BALKANS

1. CONFERENCE OF LONDON

2. TREATY OF BUKAREST



Source: https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/balkan_modifications_1914.jpg

The BALKAN STATES

after the Wars of
1912-13



J.F.H.

Turkish territory
acquired by Serbia



by Greece



by Montenegro



by Bulgaria



New autonomous
principality of Albania...



Bulgarian territory
acquired by Rumania



Source: <https://etc.usf.edu/maps/pages/3600/3693/3693.htm>



LA PAIX ENTRE LA TURQUIE ET LES ÉTATS DES BALKANS. — Les plénipotentiaires signent, à cinq exemplaires, le traité de Londres, le 30 mai, dans la salle des Portraits du palais de Saint-James.

A la droite de Mr. Edward Grey, les plénipotentiaires turcs; à sa gauche, les plénipotentiaires grecs; à l'extrémité de la table, M. Dardani, ministre des plénipotentiaires bulgares; à l'extrémité de la table à gauche, en face de Mr. Edward Grey, les plénipotentiaires roumains et les plénipotentiaires anglais. À droite de M. Dardani, les plénipotentiaires serbes. Dessin de S. Bous, de P. Buisson, London News, sous le patronage de la Société française de géographie.

Peace Treaty 1913

International Relationships before WWI

Great powers in the end of the 19th century:

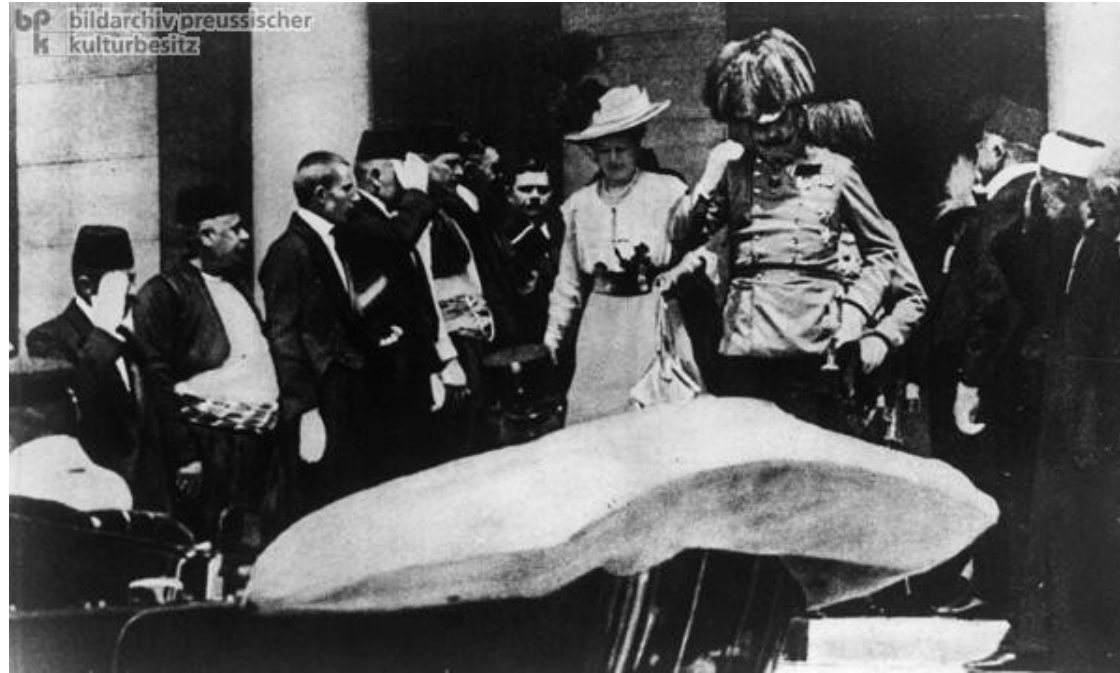
- **USA** - the strongest
- **Germany** (2nd world industrial area), the most powerful state in Europe, strong army, developed economy and culture
- **France** – the bank of the world, 2nd strongest European state, succesful colonial politicis – colonies in Africa and in Asia
- **Great Britain** – the greatest colonial power – its domain included the greatest colony – India,...
- **Austria-Hungary** – cooperation with Germany, its foreign politics focused on the Balkan Peninsula
- **Russia** – economicaly and politicaly the weakest state among the great powers, military-political system, absolute power of the Tsar, no political rights for citizens, social movement, expansion to Asia – conflicts with Japan and Great Britain
- **Japan** – constitutional monarchy, development of industry, expansive politics

Europe before WWI

- Since **Crimean War** (1853–1856) there was a period without a great war in Europe (only local conflicts)
- The tensions persisted on the Balkan Peninsula (1908 – the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary, 1912–1913 the Balkan Wars etc.)
- Pacifist movement - peace conferences in Hague (1898 and 1907) - unsuccessful

- 2 blocks of powers at the beginning of the war:
 - **Entente (Allied Powers):** Great Britain + France + Russia
 - **Central Powers:** Germany + Austria-Hungary + (later) Bulgaria + Turkey

- Italy – firstly neutral, in May 1915 joined the Entente (London Treaty - April 1915 - promised territorial gains to Italy)
- **Neutral countries:** Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Albania; USA – neutral at the beginning of the war, **entered the war in April 1917**



- The pretext for starting the war was **the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria** in Sarajevo
- 28th July 1918 – **Austria-Hungary declared the war on Serbia**

ARCHDUKE FRANCIS FERDINAND AND HIS CONSORT, THE DUCHESS OF HOHENBERG, ARE ASSASSINATED WHILE DRIVING THROUGH STREETS OF SARAJEVO, BOSNIA

Bullet Felt at Them in Their Automobile, Inflicting Mortal Wounds.

NEWS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TELLING AT THEM.

Imperial Couple Escaped from First Attempt Only to Fall Victims of Second.

Continuation was created throughout the Courts of Europe by the news, which came the week yesterday afternoon, that Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria and Hungary, and the Duchess of Hohenberg, his wife, had been assassinated in the streets of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.

Two separate attempts were made on the life of the Archduke and his wife, a bomb was thrown as they were driving in the street last, but the Archduke caught the missile and threw it on to the road behind his automobile, where it exploded in front of another auto.

With unexpected success, the Archduke, after ascertaining the result of the explosion, insisted on continuing on his journey to the town hall, where the official reception took place.

The ceremony of the town hall was worked by an extraordinary scene, the Archduke severely reproaching the Serbians for the bomb-throwing in his town.

It was on the return from the town hall that the assassination took place. The Imperial automobile was passing through an open space at the corner of the Appel Quay when a student stepped out of the crowd and fired point-blank with an automatic pistol at the Archduke and his consort.

The first shot struck the Archduke in the head. The Duchess ran to the automobile to protect him, and received the assassin's second shot in the breast and fell forward across her husband's knees.

The Archduke made a noble effort to stop his wife in his arms, and they went together to the door of the automobile in a last embrace. They died almost simultaneously without requiring resuscitation.

The assassin, a young Serb student, named Princip, was arrested.

ASSASSINATION WAS CLEARLY OUTCOME OF DEEP-LAID PLOT.

First Attempt on His Life Greatly Assured the Archduke.

Trieste, Sunday.—Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and the Duchess of Hohenberg, his wife, were assassinated this morning while driving in an automobile through the streets of Sarajevo.



ARCHDUKE FRANCIS FERDINAND.

THE MURDERED COUPLE DRIVING TOGETHER.



THE DUCHESS OF HOHENBERG.



THE TOWN HALL AT SARAJEVO.

assassinated himself, he presented a spectacle through the window in English and French and said a loud, common thing.

The automobile, in which he sat, with a lady next, and the second bullet cut into them.

The next bullet was aimed at the top of the car, and a great crowd had gathered outside the town hall. They gave the Archduke and his consort a respectful reception as they left.

The news of the attempt had spread rapidly through the town and a great crowd had gathered outside the town hall. They gave the Archduke and his consort a respectful reception as they left.

They had only left the town hall a few minutes when the second and successful attempt was made on their lives. The automobile was passing through the open space at the corner of the Appel Quay when a young man stepped out of the crowd and fired two shots from a Browning pistol point-blank at the Archduke and his consort.

The first shot struck the Archduke in the head. The Duchess ran to the automobile to protect him, and received the assassin's second shot in the breast and fell forward across her husband's knees.

The Archduke made a noble effort to stop his wife in his arms, and they went together to the door of the automobile in a last embrace. They died almost simultaneously without requiring resuscitation.

Detail of Sarajevo. Photographed for some time in Sarajevo. On being interrupted Princip declared that he had intended for a long time to kill some prominent personage from the Austro-Hungarian empire. Princip declared that he was a Serb.

The assassin was a young man named Gavrilo Princip, a Serb, who was a member of the Black Hand, a secret organization of Serbs who were plotting the assassination of the Archduke.

Princip was arrested and is now being held in Sarajevo. He is charged with the assassination of the Archduke and his consort.

I had noticed. But he saw me coming and jumped over the parapet of the Wilson quay. I ran after him. A policeman, following me, wanted to fire at the man with his revolver. I called out: "Don't fire! We want to see him alive!" We soon came up with the man and, with the aid of other policemen, easily arrested him.

After the first attempt, the Duchess of Hohenberg, who was unconscious, did not want the Archduke to go through the routine steps in his automobile. Colonel Potiorek, however, insisted on my saying: "All danger is over now. We shall have demonstrations of sympathy. There is no need to fear anything."

MANY PEOPLE IT SEEMS ARE CONCERNED IN PLOT.

Serbian Reporter Arrives at Their Street Apartment.

Trieste, Sunday.—It appears that many persons were concerned in the plot against the Archduke, who was regarded by the Serbians as the greatest opponent of the Pan-Slavic movement.

He was arrested and is now being held in Sarajevo. He is charged with the assassination of the Archduke and his consort.

Princip was arrested and is now being held in Sarajevo. He is charged with the assassination of the Archduke and his consort.

Infernal Machine, Kicked by Sergeant, Wounds Officers of Royal Suite.

UNDAUNTED, ARCHDUKE TAKES SECOND DRIVE.

With His Wife He Reappears in Streets and Falls by Assassin's Bullet.

personal facility to the Archduke, but that it is the nature of the serious auto-dynamic feeling which has for some time been growing in Bosnia.—Figaro.

EMPEROR BURSTS INTO TEARS ON HEARING NEWS.

Witness to Events in Vienna Early This Morning.

Vienna, Sunday.—When the news of the assassination was broken to the Emperor at lunch, he burst into tears, and exclaimed: "Pierful! Pierful! No trial in the world will have been equalled!" The Emperor immediately withdrew to his private apartments.

All Court and official occasions have been cancelled, and the Emperor will be absent.

Under Great Anguish of Conscience, advised by automobile on lunch during the afternoon, and made a visit of condolence to the Emperor at five o'clock. The Emperor will return to Vienna at six o'clock to-morrow morning.—Figaro.

BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY IS GREATLY SHOCKED BY NEWS.

Strets Hall at Buckingham Palace Is Full.

BY HIS SPECIAL SPECIAL WORK.

London, Monday.—The King and Queen, and other members of the Royal family were deeply shocked by the news. The King has commanded that the Court should go into mourning for one week for the late Archduke. The mourning is to date from yesterday, and the Court will go out of mourning next day. The Queen has ordered that the plan this evening at Buckingham Palace has been postponed.

At Marlborough House the news came as an unexpected shock. Not only were the various well-known there, but one of Queen Alexandra's guests at the present time in Queen Olga of Greece, whose husband, Queen Alexandra's brother, was dead by the hand of an assassin at a comparatively recent date.

TRAGEDIES OF THE HOUSE OF HAPSBURG.

Empire French should be allowed the following tragedy in addition to his family.

The Emperor's family should be allowed the following tragedy in addition to his family.

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Jeho c. a k. Apoštolské Veličenstvo ráčil nejmilostivěji vydati tento Nejvyšší vlastnoruční list a manifest:

Milý hrabě Stürgkhu!

Vidělo se Mi, naříditi ministru Mého domu a věci zahraničních, aby oznámil královské srbské vládě, že mezi mocnářstvím a Srbskem nastal stav válečný.

V této osudné chvíli jest Mi potřebou, obrátiti se na Svoje milované národy, Nařizuji Vám tudíž, abyste přiložený manifest veřejně vyhlásil.

V Lázních Išlu, dne 28. července 1914.

František Josef v. r.

Stürgkh v. r.

Mým národům!

Bylo Mým nejvroucnějším přáním, abych léta, která z Boží milosti jsou Mi ještě dopřána, mohl zasvětit dílům míru a uchránit Svoje národy před těžkými obětmi a břemeny války.

V radě Prozřetelnosti bylo jinak rozhodnuto.

Pletichy protivníka plného nenávisťi nutili Mne, abych na obranu cti Svého mocnářství, na ochranu jeho vážnosti a moci, k zabezpečení jeho državy po dlouhých letech míru chopil se meče.

S nevděkem rychle zapominajícím nastoupilo království srbské, které od prvního začátku své státní samostatnosti až do nejnovější doby od Mých předkův a ode Mne bylo chráněno a podporováno, již před lety cestu otevřeného nepřátelství proti Rakousko-Uhersku.

Když Jsem po třech desetiletích pozehané práce míru v Bosně a Hercegovině rozšířil Svoje vladařská práva na tyto země, vyvolalo toto Moje opatření v království srbském, jehož práva nížadným způsobem nebyla porušena, výbuchy nevázané náruživosti a nevrozhorčenější nenávisťi. Moje vláda užila tenkrát krásného práva strany silnější a žádala v nej-
krajnější shovívavosti a dobrotivosti na Srbsku toliko, aby snížilo počet svého vojska na stav míru a slíbilo, že budoucně setrvá na dráze míru a přátelství.

Týmž duchem umírněnosti vedena, obmezila se Moje vláda, když Srbsko před dvěma lety nacházelo se v boji s tureckou říší, na hájení nejdůležitějších životních podmínek mocnářství. Tomuto jednání děkovalo Srbsko v první řadě, že do-
sáhlo účelu války.

Naděje, že srbské království ocení shovívavost a mírumilovnost Mé vlády a že dostojí svému slovu, se nesplnila.

Stále výše šlehá plamen nenávisťi proti Mně a Mému domu, stále otevřeněji vystupuje snaha, nerozlučná území Ra-
kousko-Uherska násilně odtrhnouti.

Zločinné řádění sahá přes hranice, aby na jihovýchodu mocnářství podkopalo základy státního pořádku, aby lid, jemuž já v otčovské lásce věnuji Svoji plnou péči, zviklalo v jeho věrnosti k panovníckému domu a vlasti, aby svedlo dospívající mládež a podněcovalo ji ke zločinným skutkům nerozumu a velezrády. Rada vražedných útoků, s rozmyslem připravované a provedené spiknutí, jehož hozný zřad Mne a Moje věrné národy v srdce zasáhl, jest daleko viditelnou krvavou stopou oněch tajných pletich, které ze Srbska byly zahájeny a řízeny.

Tomuto nesnesitelnému řádění musí se učiniti přítrž, ustavičná vyzývavost Srbska musí se ukončiti, má-li čest a váž-
nost Mého mocnářství zůstati neporušena a jeho státní, hospodářský a vojenský rozvoj býti ušetřen stálých záchvěvů.

Marné podnikla Moje vláda ještě poslední pokus, dosíci tohoto cíle prostředky míru, pohmoti Srbsko vážným napo-
menutím k obratu.

Srbsko odmítlo umírněné a spravedlivé požadavky Mé vlády a odepřelo dostáti povinnostem, jichž splnění v životě
národův a států jest přirozeným a nutným základem míru.

A tak Jsem nucen přikročiti k tomu, aby se moci zbrani opatřily nezbytné záruky, které mají zabezpečiti Mým státům
pokoj uvnitř a trvalý mír na venek.

V této vážné chvíli Jsem si plně vědom celého dosahu Svého rozhodnutí a Svě zodpovědnosti před Všemohoucím.

Vše jsem prozkoumal a uvážil.

S klidným svědomím nastupuji cestu, kterou Mi povinnost vyžaduje.

Spoléhám na Svoje národy, kteří ve všech bouřích vždy v jednotě a věrnosti kolem Mého trůnu se seřadili a pro
čest, velikost a moc vlasti k nejtěžším obětem vždy byli ochotni.

Spoléhám na statečnou, obětavým nadšením naplněnou brannou moc Rakousko-Uherska.

A důvěřuji ve Všemohoucího, že Mým zbráním dopřeje vítězství.

František Josef v. r.

Stürgkh v. r.

- Assassination of Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand (28th June 1914) was the main **catalyst** for the start of WWI
- After the assassination, the following series of events took place:
- 28th July -Austria declared war on Serbia
- 1st August– As Austria's ally, Germany declares war on Russia, an ally of Serbia
- 3rd August – Germany declared war on France, an ally of Russia and immediately begins an invasion of neutral Belgium
- 4th August – Great Britain, an ally of France, declares war against Germany
- US (President W. Wilson) declared that the United States will remain neutral

Beginning of WWI

- **World War I (First World War or Great War)** - international conflict: 1914–18
- Central Powers: mainly German Empire, Austria-Hungary, and Ottoman Empire
x against Allies: mainly France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan and US (1917)
- WWI ended with the defeat of the Central Powers
- The war was virtually unprecedented in the slaughter, carnage, and destruction it caused

World War I

Four phases of the WWI

- ❑ August – December 1914 – offensive operations
- ❑ 1915–1916 – Trench warfare
- ❑ 1917–1918 – Era of total exhaustion
- ❑ March 1918 – November 1918 – supremacy of Allied Powers (USA entered the war in April 1917)

Four main fronts

- Balkan front (Balkan Peninsula, firstly in Serbia, then in Greece)
 - Western front (against France)
 - Eastern front (against Russia)
 - Italian front
-
- Also **naval war** (Pacific Ocean: Japan + Great Britain against Germany, in the Northern Sea – Great Britain against Germany)
 - Warfare in the colonies

Balkan Front

- A-H army was not successful in Serbia
- September 1915 – **Bulgaria** entered the war
- During October and November 1915: German+ A-H and Bulgarian troops occupied Serbia
- Spring 1915 – Allied Powers **prepared the operation in Gallipoli** against Ottoman Empire, British troops under the command of **Winston Churchill**, but the operation was not successful
- Then in 1916 the Macedonian Front in Greece was opened
- **Bulgarians were defeated in September 1918**

Western Front

- The Germans attacked France according to the so called **Schlieffen Plan** - designed to attack France quickly through neutral Belgium
- Great Britain declared war on Germany because of breaking Belgic neutrality
- The German troops were stopped at the first: **Battle of Marne** in September 1914 – the *offensive war* changed into the *trench warfare*
- March 1915 – **Battle of Ypres** – the Germans used *chlorine gas* – 15 thousands of men were poisoned
- From February till September 1916 – bloody **battle of Verdun** – 600 thousands of casualties
- From July till November 1916 the great **battle of the Somme** - totally 1 million casualties during the whole battle, the new British invention was used – *the tanks*

Eastern Front

- In the east, Russia attacked East Prussia but was defeated by German army at the series of battles collectively known as **the Battle of Tannenberg** in August 1914
- Already in 1914 – the Czech Company in Russian Army – Legions (originally – the Czechs living in Russia, prisoners of war, volunteers)
- Summer 1916 – so called **Brusilov offensive**
- 1917 – the Czechoslovak Corps in Russia – from 38,000 to 70,000
- Russians were more successful against Austria-Hungary in Galicia (today – western Ukraine)
- Russia occupied parts of Galicia and Bukovina
- July 1917 – **Kerensky offensive – Battle of Zborov** (Galicia) – Czechoslovak Legions won over the Austria-Hungary, the offensive was unsuccessful for Russians
- After the Russian Revolutions the Czechoslovak Legions were fighting against bolsheviks

Italian Front

- Italy entered the war in April 1915 – Allied Powers promised to Italy Istria with Trieste, Dalmacia and Trentino (Austro-Hungarian provinces), so Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary and later also on Germany
- But the Italians were not very succesful, their offensives along **the Isonzo River** were repelled by the Austro-Hungarians
- 1917 – Battle of Caporetto – Italian troops were defeated by Austro-Hungarian army and the front line was broken through, usage of poison gas
- During 1916 the front stabilized at Piave River till 1918 – June 1918 – **Battle of Piave River** – participation of Czechoslovak Legions
- The Austro-Hungarians were defeated in October – **the Battle of Vittorio Veneto** – participation of Czechoslovak Legions

- **Two important developments in the war occurred in 1917:**

- April US - angered by attacks upon its ships in the Atlantic, declared war on Germany

- November - Bolshevik Revolution prompted Russia to pull out of the war

Final Period of WWI

- April 1917 – USA declared war on Germany – originally USA pursued the politics of non-interventions, but German submarines several times attacked merchant ships and civil ships with American passengers
- After the Russian revolutions in 1917 Russia concluded separate peace with Germany in **Brest-Litovsk** in March 1918
- General exhaustion – of sources, armies, people in real (lack of labour power – participation of women)
- American troops came to Europe and after the great offensive of Allied Powers in summer 1918 the Central Powers collapsed very quickly
- **3rd November 1918** Austria–Hungary sent a flag of truce to ask for an Armistice and the armistice with A-H was signed in Vila Giusti near Padua
- **11th November 1918** – armistice with Germany signed in railroad carriage near **Compiègne**
- **At 11 a.m. on 11th November 1918 a ceasefire came into effect**

- **Machine Guns**
- **Grenades**
- **Medical Treatment** - facial reconstructive surgery and new types of prosthetics, neurosurgery for head wounds
- ***Ersatz* (substitute)** - became commonplace on the German war and home fronts, as natural material sources dried up from overuse and the British naval blockade
- For example: Nitrate crepe paper made from wood cellulose replaced gun cotton; Synthetic camphor replaced imported natural camphor; Sugar now replaced fats for making glycerin;
- Sulfur was squeezed out of gypsum; Flowers and weeds produced alcohol for ammunition; Coal derivatives yielded rosins and gums; Newspapers were shredded and woven for cloth; *Benzolspiritus* (gasohol) was gasoline and grain alcohol;
- Synthetic rubber, called kautschuk, did not really work

Innovations

Czechoslovak national resistance

- Goal to overthrow of Austria-Hungary and create an independent state
- Resistance was represented by two important bodies:
 - Czechoslovak National Committee for the domestic resistance (Karel Kramář and Alois Rašín)
 - Czechoslovak National Council was active in the foreign resistance (Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, Milan Rastislav Štefánik and Edvard Beneš)

Czechoslovak National Council

- Representatives of the Czechoslovak foreign resistance were concentrated on representatives of Allied Powers and the creation of foreign Czechoslovak military units, which were later known as the Czechoslovak Legion

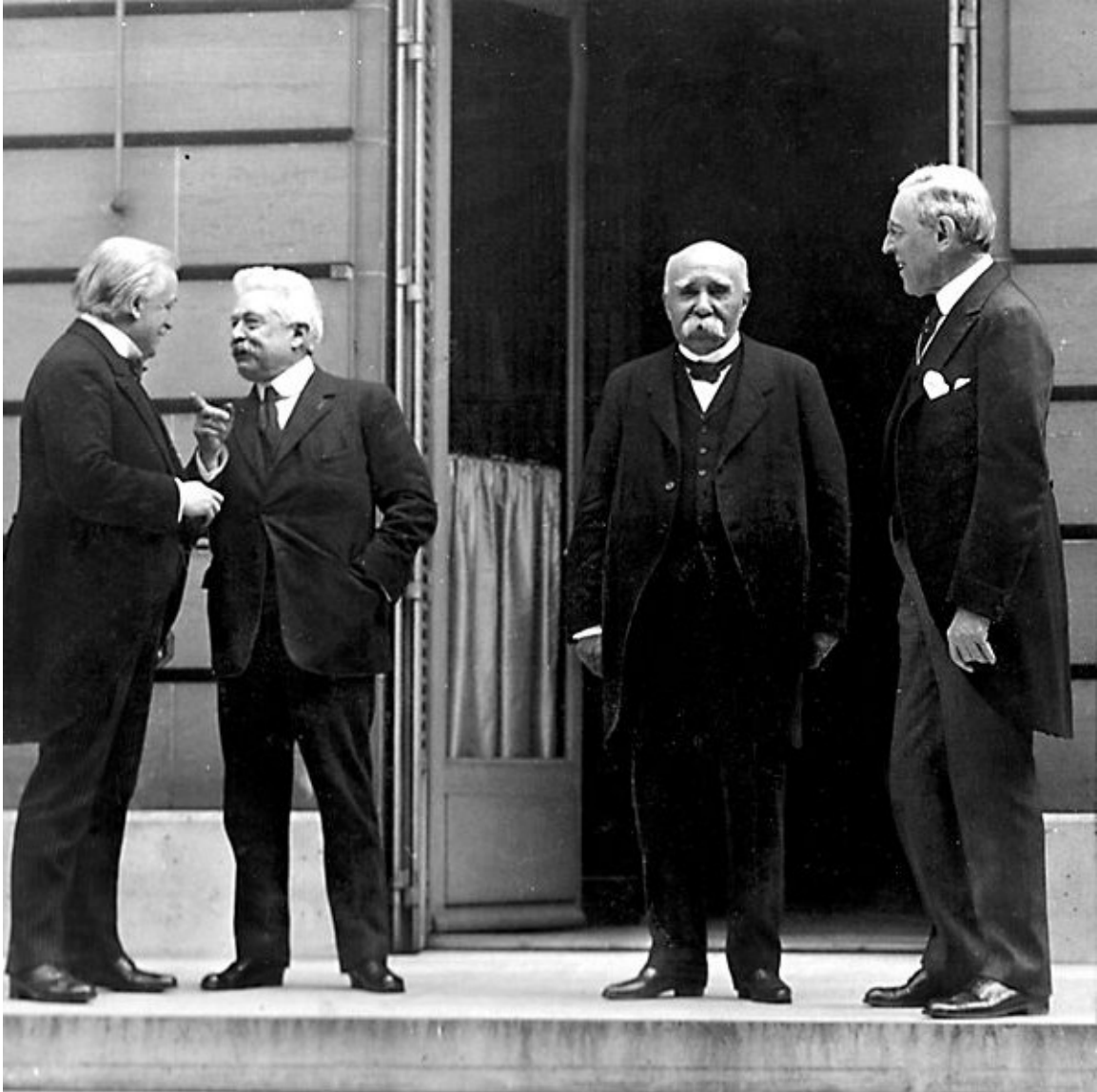
Results of WWI

- **Casualties:**
 - 10 million of soldiers died
 - 7 million of civilians died
- **The map of Europe has changed:**
 - **Dissolution of four monarchies** (Russia, Austria-Hungary, German Empire and Ottoman Empire)
 - After dissolution of Austria-Hungary: **constitution of 5 new states** (Austrian Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes)
 - **Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia** was established, independent and unified **Poland** was renewed
- **Economic changes:**
 - Development of industry (iron and steel, textiles, etc.) and technologies (armament industry, automobiles, aircrafts ...)
 - Firstly the in many countries the war prosperity, later economic depression
- **Social changes:**
 - Social radicalism – rise of totalitarianism, revisionism etc.
 - Social status of women has changed (suffrage)
 - Many veterans – problems with reintegration

Paris Peace Conference

- The meeting of the Allied victors following the end of World War I – the aim was to set the peace terms for the defeated Central Powers following the armistices of 1918
- It took place in Paris in 1919 and involved diplomats from more than 32 countries and nationalities. They met, discussed various options and developed a series of treaties ("Paris Peace Treaties") for the post-war world
- **The winning powers – France, Great Britain, USA, Italy, Japan**
- **Other fighting states** – Belgium, British dominions, Poland, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Greece, Portugal and other non-european states
- **Defeated states** – Germany, Austria - Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria
- Russia was not invited to the Paris Peace Conference (bolshevik revolution and civil war in Russia)

Paris Peace Conference



David Lloyd Geroge (GB),
Vittorio Orlando (It), George Clemenceau (Fr),
Woodrow Wilson (US) – from left to right

- The Paris Peace Conference ultimately produced five treaties, each named after the suburban locale in which it was signed:
 - 1. Treaty of Versailles with Germany (June 28, 1919);
 - 2. Treaty of Saint-Germain with Austria (Sept. 10, 1919);
 - 3. Treaty of Neuilly with Bulgaria (Nov. 27, 1919);
 - 4. Treaty of Trianon with Hungary (June 4, 1920);
 - 5. Treaty of Sèvres with Ottoman Turkey (Aug. 10, 1920).
- Washington Conference treaties on naval armaments, China, and the Pacific (1921–22) established a postwar regime in those areas

Peace Treaties

The Fourteen Points

THE TEXT OF THE FOURTEEN POINTS

PRESIDENT WILSON'S Fourteen Points, as set forth in an address made before the joint session of Congress, on January 8, 1918.

- 1** Open covenants of peace openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.
- 2** Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas outside territorial waters alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action or the enforcement of international covenants.
- 3** The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.
- 4** Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.
- 5** A free, open-minded and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.
- 6** The evacuation of all Russian territory, and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy, and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their goodwill, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own interests, and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy.
- 7** Belgium, the whole world will agree must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one another. Without this healing act the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impaired.
- 8** All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.
- 9** A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.
- 10** The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development.
- 11** Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan States to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality; and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan States should be entered upon.
- 12** The Turkish portions of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.
- 13** An independent Polish State should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.
- 14** A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike.

Source: <https://www.theworldwar.org/learn/peace/fourteen-points>

League of the Nations

- **Paris Peace Conference** imposed a series of peace treaties on the Central Powers officially ending the war. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles dealt with Germany and, building on Wilson's 14th point, brought into being the League of Nations on 28 June 1919
- W. Wilson's idea, developed by the American League to Enforce Peace (founded in 1915), found expression in the Fourteen Points as “a general association of nations” and was to be the cornerstone of Wilson’s edifice
- He expected a functioning League of Nations to correct whatever errors and injustices might creep in to the treaties themselves
- **League of Nations**, an organization for international cooperation established on January 10, 1920, at the initiative of the victorious Allied powers at the end of World War I

- LN was the first worldwide intergovernmental organization whose principal mission was to maintain world peace
- It was founded on 10 January 1920 following the Paris Peace Conference that ended the First World
- The organization's primary goals, as stated in its Covenant, included preventing wars through collective security and disarmament and settling international disputes through negotiation and arbitration

League of Nation

- <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/changing-the-map-of-europe>