

Chapter 7

Alliances in Europe: 1914

Sunday, June 28, 1914: the street on all sides were lined with cheering people as the limousine bearing the royal couple made a wrong turn into Rudolph Street. It stopped to change directions, and at that moment Gavrilo Princip sprang out from behind the shadows. From point blank range, he fired two shots into the open touring car. The first bullet struck Francis Ferdinand, the Archduke and heir apparent to the Austrian throne, in the neck; the second bullet lodged in his wife's stomach. "Sophie, Sophie, do not die," the Archduke called to his beloved wife as blood spurted from his mouth, "live for our children." Minutes later, Francis Ferdinand and the woman he loved so dearly were both dead, victims of an assassin's plot in Sarajevo, the capital of the Austrian province of what is known today as Bosnia Herzegovina.

The two bullets that ended the lives of the royal couple started a war in Europe, which to this day is known as the 'Great War.' Before the fighting ended, 10 million men and women were to die in a great revolution that would help to sweep communism into Russia. The Hapsburg Empire, which Ferdinand was to rule, would be splintered into five different nation states; parts of France would be under German rule for four years; and all the great nations of Europe would be bankrupt, bled dry, demoralized, and devastated. The United States, too, would be among the thirty-two different nations pulled into this world war much against its long standing policy of standing aloof from Europe's conflicts.

How did this single act of an assassin bring the entire world to the brink of destruction? An answer to this crucial question is not provided in this text, but a series of roles are presented that will allow your class to re-enact the decisions that divided Europe into two opposing armed camps by 1911. By taking on these roles each nation-team in your class will have the opportunity to reflect on the assassination itself and either make or avoid the crucial decisions that led Europe into World War I.

How to Select an Alliance Partner

Nations enter into pacts with one another because they seek some mutual advantage that they cannot obtain separately. Each nation's alliances reflect its aspirations in addition to its need to protect itself from other nations and their alliances. No nation will make an alliance with a country that in turn is allied with its enemy. As you read the following descriptions of the interests and potential threats facing the seven major nations involved in European diplomacy before and during World War I, decide with whom each of these countries might wish to form an alliances. Keep in mind the principles that govern alliances: interests and aspirations; protection, and the avoidance of conflicting alliances.

Interests, Common Enemies, and Aspirations

Germany:

1. Wanted overseas colonies, but the most desirable were already taken by Great Britain and France.
2. Wanted a strong navy to compete with Great Britain's. Already had the second strongest navy in the world, ahead of France and behind England.
3. Had the largest army in the world and was the most powerful country in Europe.
4. Interested in expanding eastward through the Balkan states to Turkey.
5. Defeated France in Franco-Prussian War in 1870-71 and took French province of Alsace-Lorraine. Believed France would use force to take it back.

Great Britain:

- 1.1. Depended on largest navy in world to defend its colonial empire as well as to prevent any other country from crossing the English channel.
- 2.2. Had a long tradition of forming alliances with the second most powerful country in Europe to counterbalance the strength of the most powerful country, which was Germany.

France:

- 1.1. Wanted revenge against Germany for defeat in Franco-Prussian War in 1870-71, and the loss of Alsace-Lorraine.
- 2.2. Was second most powerful nation in Europe, but needed allies against Germany

Austria-Hungary:

- 1.1. Shared border, cultural, language and racial ties with Germany.
- 2.2. Ruled huge empire containing many Slavic people such as Poles, Czechs, Serbs, Bosnians, Croats, etc. who wanted to break away from her.
- 4.3. Recently took over Bosnia-Herzegovina, which wanted to be part of Serbia.

Serbia:

- 1.1. Wanted to control Bosnia-Herzegovina, with whom she had racial and religious ties.
- 2.2. Landlocked country - wanted a seaport in the Adriatic.
- 3.3. Claimed to champion cause of the Slavic peoples in the Balkans.
- 4.4. Desperately needed a strong ally to protect her against Austria-Hungary.

Russia:

- 1.1. Largest country in Europe, but undeveloped, poorly led, and disorganized.
- 2.2. Posed as champion for Slavic people with whom she shared cultural ties.
- 3.3. Wanted a seaport in the Adriatic

United States:

- 1.1. 3,000 miles away from Europe; traditionally isolationist and intent on avoiding alliances of any kind.
- 2.2. World's most powerful industrial country with very small army and navy.

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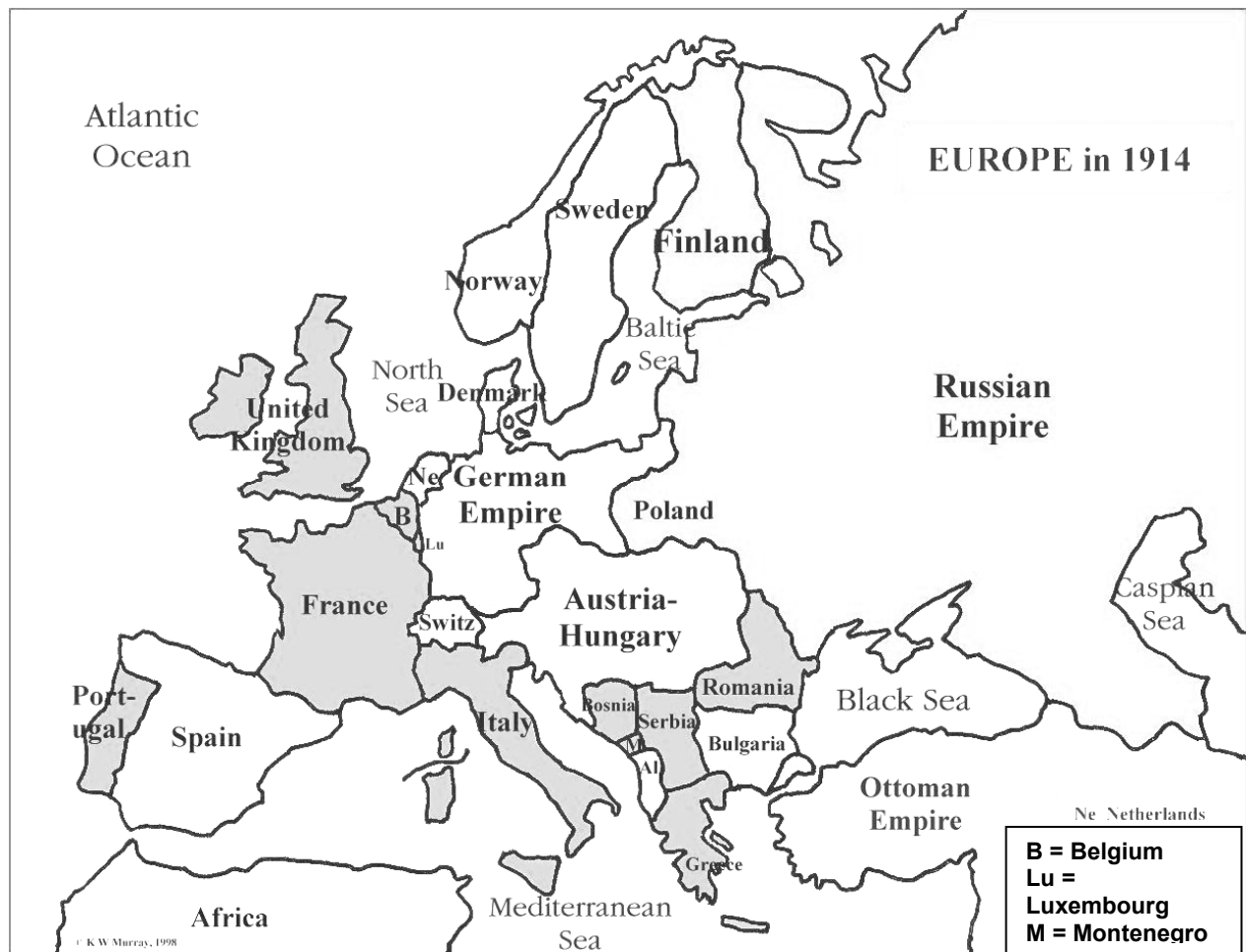
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3.3. English speaking people shared cultural and religious ties with Great Britain

Suggested Student Exercises:

1. As your teacher directs, form your alliances based on the interests, common enemies, and aspirations of the country you have been assigned to represent.

Europe in 1914



June 29, 1914

THE WORLD CHRONICLE

Heir to Austrian Throne Slain By Bosnian Youth Francis Ferdinand and Wife Die in Sarajevo Assassin Caught: Proud of His Deed

Sarajevo, Bosnia, June 28, 1914

Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, and his wife, Sophie, were shot and killed by a Bosnian student here today. The fatal shots were the second attempt upon the lives of the couple during the day. It is believed to be the result of a political conspiracy that involved the Serbian military intelligence department.

The author of the attempted assassination was a Bosnian student by the name of Gavrilo Princip.

The open touring car carrying the royal couple through Sarajevo made a wrong turn on Rudolph Street. As it backed up to turn around, Princip jumped on the running board. From point blank range he pumped two bullets into the open car. The first struck Archduke Francis Ferdinand in the neck; the second hit his wife in the stomach. "Sophie, Sophie, do not die," the Archduke called to his beloved wife, "stay alive for our children." Moments later the Archduke and the woman he loved so well were dead.

The assassin must have had inside information, for it was a well-guarded secret that the Archduke always wore a coat of silk strands, woven so tightly that no bullet could penetrate it. A strip of this

material could make a motor car tire so strong that it could not be punctured.

The Emperor of Austria-Hungary, Francis-Joseph, who had just left for his summer vacation, will return to Vienna immediately. The Archduke's children are in Bohemia and relatives have already left Vienna to tell them the terrible news. The bodies of the Archduke and his wife will be brought to Vienna in a week's time.

General opinion in Vienna blames high officials in the Serbian government for the assassination. It is believed, for instance, that the man who recruited Princip to do the job was a minor official in the Serbian government as well as a member of the Black Hand, a terrorist organization. The Serbian papers were always full of anti-Austrian propaganda. Their hatred for Austria-Hungary was ill disguised among government officials, and they made no serious attempts to stop the activities of terrorist organizations.

There is no doubt that the assassination will lead to a foreign policy crisis of immense proportions. If Austria presses demands against the Serbs, Germany, Russia, and even England and France could get involved. This could lead to the worst war fought in world history.

(Related stories on pages 2, 4, & 7)

Suggested Student Exercises for World War I Simulation:

1. Based on following rules and realities decide how you wish to respond to the crisis of 1914 resulting from the Serbian student's assassination of Francis Ferdinand:
 1. All decisions except attacks are to be announced in the following order: Austria, Germany, Serbia, Russia, France, England, and U.S.A.
 2. Attacks and defense positions are to be announced by teacher upon reading sealed military orders from each country.
 3. Countries involved in simulation are to make their decisions in meetings with allies.
 4. For an attack to be successful, the attacking force must have twice the military force of the defender at each permitted area of attack. If two countries knock each other out at the same time, it's a tie.

National Roles:

Austria-Hungary

There is good evidence that the Serbian cabinet knew about the plot to kill your dearly beloved Archduke. This crisis might give Austria-Hungary the opportunity to get rid of the Serbs forever. For years Serbia has been fanning the flames of revolution by Slavs in Austria-Hungary against the mother country. If you can get Germany's support, you can make tough demands on Serbia, and if she does not agree, attack and destroy her.

Realities:

Population: 50 million; Army: 150 Divisions; Navy: none

Decisions:

Round 1.

1. Call reserves in preparation for attack in round 2 (but get pledge of support from Germany first), *and/or*
2. Demand that Serbia get rid of all government officials hostile to Austria, & stop all propaganda against Austria, or face war;
3. Ask for arbitration with England (which means no attack in round 2)

Round 2.

1. Call up reserves in preparation for an attack in round 3.
2. Agree to arbitration and arbitrate (means no attack in round 3)
3. Attack (only if you called reserves in previous round)
(See round 3 for rules governing attacks)

Round 3.

1. Continue arbitration
2. Attack Serbia with ____ divisions, Russia with ____ divisions, and defend self from Russia with ____ divisions and from Serbia with ____ divisions. (*Remember:* you must divide forces 0/100% ,50/50%, or 70/30%. Serbia cannot destroy Austria-Hungary)

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Germany

You were upset with the way Austria-Hungary backed down in the past, and you want to give her courage. However, you also want to avoid a world war. If there is a war, you have the best army in Europe, but you'll have to fight both France and Russia at the same time, and that could be difficult.

You have a secret plan to attack France through Belgium where she has no defenses and to hold out against the poor Russian army while you defeat France.

Realities:

Population: 64 million; Army: 200 divisions; Navy: 150 ships.

Decisions:

Round 1.

1. Publicly announce full support for Austria-Hungary and call up reserves so you can attack in round 2, **or,**
2. Support Austria-Hungary if she decides to ask for arbitration. This means you can't attack in round 2.

Round 2.

1. Call up reserves so you can attack in round 3,
2. Announce continued support for or participate in arbitration. (This means you can't attack in round 3.)
3. Attack. (See round 3 for rules governing attacks.)

Round 3.

(Note: In defense of Lorraine and from Russia your troops are worth 2 times what they are worth in attack. In attack of France through Belgium your troops are worth 1/2 more than in attacks elsewhere. You can divide your troops any way you want.)

1. Participate in arbitration
2. Attack Russia with ____ divisions; France through Belgium with ____ divisions; France through Lorraine with ____ divisions. Defend from France at Lorraine with ____ divisions. Defend from Russia with ____ divisions.

Serbia

Without help from Russia, Austria-Hungary could crush you completely. You may be willing to make concessions to Austria-Hungary under international arbitration, but you feel that giving in completely to Austria-Hungary's demands would be the same as total surrender

Realities:

Population: 3 million; Army: 10 divisions; Navy: 0 divisions.

Decisions:

Round 1.

1. Give in completely to Austrian-Hungarian ultimatum.
2. Allow England to arbitrate your dispute with Austria-Hungary
3. Refuse arbitration.
4. Refuse arbitration and mobilize.

Round 2.

1. Call up reserves
2. Give in to ultimatum

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3. Participate in arbitration

Round 3.

1. Attack Austria with ____ divisions
2. Defend from Austria with _____ divisions (*remember: all divisions must be divided 0/100%, 50/50%, or 70/30%*)

Russia

You backed down in 1908 when Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina and you do not want to be embarrassed again. You now have good relations with France following a very successful state visit. You have promised to help France by attacking Germany if she attacks France, and France has promised to help you by attacking Germany, if Germany attacks you. Your army, however, is weak.

Realities:

Population: 163 million; Army: 200 divisions; Navy: 60 ships

Decisions

Round 1.

1. Announce support for Serbia, but don't mobilize
2. Call for or support arbitration
3. Call up reserves (otherwise won't be able to attack in round 3.)

Round 2.

1. Call up reserves (otherwise won't be able to defend in round 3.)
2. Call for or support arbitration (instead of calling for reserves)
(*You cannot attack in round 2, even if you called reserves in round 1*)

Round 3.

1. Attack Germany with ____ divisions and/or Austria with ____ divisions
2. Defend self from Germany with ____ divisions, and/or Austria-Hungary with ____ divisions.
(*Remember: troops must be divided 0/100%, 50/50%, or 70/30%. Your troops are only worth 80% of number of divisions.*)

France

Your military leaders and many patriotic Frenchmen want to go to war to get Alsace Lorraine, which you lost to Germany in the Franco-Prussian War, 1870-71. However, you realize that Germany may defeat you unless you get help from both Russia and England. You have to be sure you get their support in negotiations. In case of war, your plan is to attack Germany through Lorraine and trust Germany not to attack you through neutral Belgium because she had signed a treaty promising she wouldn't. You may wish to change this plan.

Realities:

Population: 40 million; Army: 50 divisions; Navy: 90 ships.

Decisions

Round 1.

1. Call for neutrality or arbitration, which means you can't attack in round 2.
2. Warn Germany that you support Serbia and Russia but don't call up reserves. That means you won't be able to attack in round 2.
3. Call up reserves so you will be able to attack in round 2.

Round 2.

1. Call up reserves so you can attack in the next round.
2. Attack (*see round 3. for instructions*) but only if you called reserves in round 1.
3. Call for arbitration, or strict neutrality (which means you won't be able to attack in the next round.)

Round 3.

1. Attack Germany at Alsace-Lorraine with ___ divisions.
2. Defend yourself from Germany at Alsace-Lorraine with ___ divisions and from Germany by Belgium border with ___ divisions. (*Remember you must divide troops 0/100%, 50/50%, or 70/30%.*)

Great Britain

Great Britain is also unlikely to sit by and allow Germany to defeat France or invade neutral Belgium. But the British do not want a war. The best solution for Great Britain would be to avoid war by acting as an arbitrator between Serbia and Austria-Hungary.

Realities:

Population: 40 million; Army: 50 divisions; Navy: 300 ships. (*It would take some time to get Great Britain's 50 divisions to fight in France.*)

Decisions

Round 1.

1. Call for strict neutrality or offer to arbitrate dispute between Serbia and Austria-Hungary.
2. Warn Germany that you will support France no matter what or only if she attacks through neutral Belgium. (May not call reserves in round 1 or attack in round 2.)

Round 2.

1. Call up reserves in order to defend France in round 3.
2. Declare strict neutrality or offer to arbitrate or continue arbitrating, but then won't be able to come to defense of France till round 4.

Round 3.

1. Call up reserves so you can defend France in round 4.
2. Declare strict neutrality or continue arbitrating but then won't be able to come to defense of France in round 4.
3. Come to the aid of France with ____ divisions

Round 4.

1. Continue arbitrating, or declare strict neutrality (which mean can't come to France's aid at all.)
2. Come to France's aid with ____ divisions.

The United States

The traditional policy of the United States has been to remain neutral and avoid entangling alliances on all sides of the Atlantic. If it plays a role, the U.S. will use its influence to prevent a war in Europe. The U.S. may warn European countries what it may do if they go to war, and these warnings may include cutting off all trade or even sending 40 divisions in the fourth round.

Realities:

Population: 100 million; Army: 5 divisions but expandable; Navy: 50 ships

Decisions**Round 1.**

1. Declare strict neutrality in the dispute.
2. Encourage Serbia and Austria-Hungary to accept arbitration, and warn all powers that you may cut off trade with whatever nation starts the war - an act which reduces the value of its forces by 10%
3. Start a military draft and increase size of navy - raise taxes by 10% to pay for preparations for war.
4. Do both 2. and 3.

Round 2

1. Declare strict neutrality in the dispute
2. Encourage Serbia and Austria-Hungary to accept arbitration and warn you may cut off trade with whatever nation starts the war - an act that reduces the value of its forces by 10%.
3. Start a military draft and increase size of navy; raise taxes by 10% to pay for preparations for war.
4. Do both 2 and 3.

Round 3.

1. Warn nations that U.S. would remain neutral but must be allowed to trade with both sides.
2. Start a military draft and increase size of navy - raise taxes by 10% to pay for preparations for war.

Round 4.

1. Warn nations that U.S. would remain neutral but must be allowed to trade with both sides.
2. If you started the draft in round 1 you may send 40 divisions to Europe. If you started the draft in round 2 you may only send 20.