

The Situation in the Balkans

- I. The situation in the Balkans
 1. Unstable area contributed to tensions that existed in Europe before 1914
 2. Turkey, Austria-Hungary, and Russia had interests here
 - B. Turkey
 1. once ruled over Balkans
 2. now largely impotent
 3. Serbs (Greeks and Bulgars) revolted and set up their own nation and Turkey struggled to hold onto them
 4. Expanded into the Balkans, and a muslim leader ruling through his religious position, and would the Christians from Balkan follow a muslim leader?
 - C. Austria-Hungary
 1. by 1900 were losing their grip on their multi-ethnic empire
 2. various ethnic groups made demands for their independence
 3. Southern Slaves looked towards Serbia for support
 - a) Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes
 4. wanted to break away and form a South Slav kingdom with Serbia
 5. Serbia thus seen as a threat by Austria-Hungary
 - D. Russia
 1. Sympathized with their fellow slaves in Balkan
 2. and Balkans was strategically important to Russia
 - a) for trade purposes
 3. Turkey's power was weak that it could collapse at any moment
 4. Austria-Hungary & Russia had hopes to obtain the Balkans
 - E. Growing tension in Balkans after 1900
 1. June 1903, pro-Austrian king Alexnder of Serbia was murdered and replaced be King Peter who wanted to reduce Austro-Hungarian influence
 2. this caused anxiety in Austria-Hungary
 3. a tariff war began in 1905-06 and Serbs turned to France for arms and finance
- II. **Short-Term Causes** of WWI: the crisis years (1905-1913)
 1. Between these years, several crises increased tension in Europe
 2. Tension in Europe (1900s)
 - a) Rise in Imperialism
 - b) Rise in Nationalism
 - B. The Moroccan Crisis – 1905
 1. Germany was worried that the relationship between France and Britain, and set out to break the entente by attacking France in Morocco
 2. Germany concern that France wants to expand into Morocco
 3. Germans support the Moroccan Sultan
 4. Because of Welt Politic, they feel that they can overstep their boundaries
 - a) Germany's plan was to expose the weakness in the friendship
 - b) Morocco was said to have Britain's support in France owning it
 - c) Britain then saw what Germany was doing, so they said they would support French takeover of Africa of France recognizes British position in Egypt.
 5. But, France decided to meet with Germany, and Germany was surprised to find that Britain supported all of Frances demands on the Morocco area.
 6. Result of the Crisis were Disastrous for Germany
 - a) Germany didn't gain concessions in Northern Africa, so Germany has to back down, **fail of Welt Politic**
 - b) Undermined the friendship of Britain and France, **strengthening the entrant, leading to stronger commitment/alliance**
 - c) End of peaceful relations in Europe

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- d) Germany was now seen as a key threat in British interests
- C. The Bosnian Crisis (1908) – Wednesday, October 3, 2012
 1. Internal crisis of the Ottoman Empire caused by the **young turks revolution** raised the issue of Eastern Question, Austria-Hungary decided to annex the two provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina that they had occupied.
 2. There's a power vacuum left by the civil war (power of the Ottoman Empire has been sucked out of Bosnia and Herzegovina) leaving those two areas prime for the picking, so Austria-Hungary who wants water access annex those two areas, causing tension with Russia
 3. Austria-Hungary is taking an aggressive role
 4. This caused outrage in Serbia, who hoped that these provinces would ultimately form part of greater Serbia and provide access to the sea.
 5. Russia was going to accept the annexation, but Austria-Hungary annexed them before confirming with Russia
 6. Relations between Austria-Hungary and Russia at the time became very strained and there was talk of war.
 7. Germany decided to "stand soldier to soldier" with their ally by reassuring Austria-Hungary that it would mobilize in support of Austria-Hungary went to war with Serbia, not allowing Russia to stand up for themselves
 8. Russia (by contrast) had little support from Britain and France
 - a) being weakened by their war against Japan, Russia had no choice but to recognize the Austro-Hungarian annexation of Bosnia
 9. Results of the crisis
 - a) **Russia** suffered international **humiliation**.
 - (a) Just defeated by Japan
 - (2) unlikely they could back down from another crisis situation and retain international influence and political stability at home
 - (3) embarked on a rearmament program
 - b) **Serbia enraged** by incident
 - (1) increased **nationalist feeling, openly hostile**
 - c) **Alliance** between **Germany & Austria-Hungary** appeared stronger than the commitments of the Triple Entente, it's a **solid commitment**
 - d) Ended era of cooperation in the Balkans between Russia & Austria-Hungary, situation in the Balkans became more unstable
 - e) Germany opted to encourage Austria-Hungary expansion rather than restraining their approach on their region.
- D. Second Moroccan (Agadir) Crisis – 1911
 1. France sent troops to Fez, Morocco (on the request of the Sultan) to suppress revolt that broke out
 - a) asked out of desperation/need to survive
 - b) France has a willingness to commit because they want to take over
 2. Germans saw this as France trying to take over Morocco and sent a gunboat in hopes to pressure the French into giving them some compensation for their actions
 3. Germans were too ambitious in their claims
 - a) demanded all of the French Congo
 4. Britain worried of Germans actions because of naval base they may take over
 5. British called it a call of war (threat to war)
 6. Results increased tension between European powers
 - a) German public opinion hostile to settlements and critical of their government's handling the crisis

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- b) German government is becoming desperate, can they back down in any other foreign relations?
 - c) Received 2 little strips of land in the Congo
 - d) **failure of Welt Politic** *again!*
 - (1) Germany backs down a second time
 - e) **Entente** between Britain and France **solidified**. Naval negotiation and Britain agreed to defend France
 - f) Increase tension & **hostility** between **Germany** and **Britain**
7. Imperial rivalries in themselves didn't necessarily mean war, but incidents in Morocco increased hostility and suspicion.
- E. First Balkan War (1912)
- 1. Encouraged by the Russians, Balkan states of **Serbia, Greece, and Montenegro** formed a Balkan alliance.
 - a) objective: force Turkey from the Balkans by taking **Macedonia** (in Balkans) and dividing it up between themselves.
 - (1) Macedonia, King Phillip II (Alexander the Great's father) unites the Macedonians, and eventually conquers Athens and Sparta, eventually creating Greece, and Greece is attacked by other nations, and the Alexander the Great takes over and defeats Persia.
 - b) Ottoman empire lost
 - 2. Austria was horrified and called for war
 - a) couldn't accept a strengthened Serbia
 - (1) Nationalistic fever (growth in nationalism)
 - (2) Serbia has gained land
 - (3) Supported by Russia
 - b) war is now a viable option, all of the other nations are gaining in size, no longer a bunch of little countries, but many stronger ones
 - c) Greece has gotten what they wanted, and Montenegro wasn't a threat, so **Serbia is a major player**
 - 3. Russians however might support Serbia, making war a danger
 - 4. British Foreign Secretary (Sir Edward Grey) was anxious to stop the war from spreading, and called a peace conference in London.
 - 5. Turkish lands were divided up at the conference between the Balkan states.
 - 6. Agreement caused **resentment** between Serbia and Austria-Hungary (**fever pitch hostilities**)
- F. The Second Balkan War (1913)
- 1. Disagreement in the first balkan war lead to another war in the Balkans July 1913
 - 2. Bulgaria went to war against Serbia and Greece
 - a) Bulgaria felt left out of the first balkan war and Macedonia territory
 - b) Bulgars are in Macedonia, and they are fighting for more
 - 3. Austro-Hungarian foreign minister wasn't as cautious this time
 - a) ready to support Bulgaria
 - b) asked for German assistance
 - (1) **Germany refuses to support Austria-Hungary**
 - (2) because Germany thought that they couldn't go against Russia
 - (3) Leading Austria-Hungary to withdraw support
 - (4) Germany is the dominant power
 - (5) Also showed that Germany didn't want to back down again, and fail at Welt Politic again.
 - (6) Germany can not afford another foreign policy mistake
 - c) he believed that the Russians would come in and help Serbia

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- d) Austria gov. however urged restraint
 4. Serbs, Greeks and Turkey **defeated Bulgaria**
 5. Bulgaria lost nearly all of it's land it had won in the first war
 6. Cause of tensions were exacerbated:
 - a) Extreme Nationalism
 - b) **Serbia** was **successful** again, encouraged nationalism
 - c) Serbia doubled in size
 - d) Serbia proved militarily successful
 - e) **Serbia's** victories encouraged **Russia** to stand with them
 - f) Austria-Hungary convinced that they needed to crush Serbia
 - g) **Germany** drew **closer to Austria-Hungary** as result of the political loss
 - (1) rivals are stronger, so Germany has to avoid alienating Austria-Hungary
 - G. International Situation by 1913
 1. Crises of 1905-1913 marked deterioration in international relations
 2. Increased division in the alliance systems, increased arms race
 3. Nationalism fever increased
 4. Each crisis increased tensions
 - H. Nationalism
 1. Propaganda
 - a) Media Manipulation
 - (1) Yellow Journalism
 - (a) Called the Germans as "Huns"
- III. Other developments, 1900-1913
 - A. Will to make war
 1. Literature & education prepared the public of Europe for war by portraying war as heroic and short
 2. Nationalism encouraged by popular press
 - B. Arms Race & militarism
 1. Naval arms race part of general arms race
 2. Military spending in Europe increased by 300%
 - a) this increase in European population made it possible to have standing armies and conscription.
 - C. The War Plans
 1. Schlieffen Plan
 - a) German Plan
 - b) Goal: crush France before Russia mobilizes to avoid 2 front war
 - (1) Germany will lead a "Lightning Strike" of Full Force into France.
 - (2) Blitzkriegs
 - (3) Launch attack through Belgium and the lowlands to strike Paris
 - c) Russia will take 6 weeks to mobilize
 - (1) After France
 - (2) Germany turning on Russia
 - d) Germany goes around France, into Belgium, to go around the major French defenses, and to avoid the alps/argon forest
 - e) Failed because they underestimated Belgium force, based on assumption
 2. Plan 17
 - a) French plan
 - b) Going to attack directly at Germany
 - c) seize Alsace-Lorraine
 - (1) Lost this from war, revenge to regain this land
 - d) Occupy the Rhineland

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- (1) Flat valley, with a River
 - (2) If France can occupy this area of Germany, it may lead to a truce of negotiation
 - e) Revanche Party Gains support
 - (1) Revenge from lost Franco-Prussian War
 - (2) Politically manipulated
 3. Russian Plan
 - a) Attack Germany & Austria-Hungary simultaneously
 - b) Wants to keep the war out of Russia
 - c) Germany's focus was on France, and Austria-Hungary's was at the Balkans, and by Russia attacking them simultaneously, they could put a wedge between the two allies.
 - d) Russia has the largest army at the time in the world
 4. Plan R and Plan B
 - a) Austro-Hungarian plan (2 plans)
 - (1) different on amount to mobilize
 - b) Plan B
 - (1) If Russia does not invade
 - c) Plan R
 - (1) If Russia invades
 - d) Greatest failure of this plan is that it's reactionary and it's depending on whether Russia attacks or not.
 5. Every European power made detailed plans regarding if war broke out
 - a) effects on the alliance system and how it would slow response time
 - b) routes that armies would take and places that would be necessary to hold.
- IV. The **immediate Causes of the War**: July Crisis (1914)
1. Calm at the beginning of the year, optimism that war wouldn't happen
 2. The **shooting** of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne (**Archduke Franz Ferdinand**) and his wife by a nineteen year old terrorist (Gravril Princip) broke the peace. June 28th 1914, in the Bosnian Capital, Sarajevo.
 - a) Bosnia was just annexed by Austria-Hungary
 - b) They were Slavic, and they didn't like the fact that they were annexed
 - c) Ferdinand was sent there to offer the olive branch of peace to the Bosnian people, he's on a mission of good will, he's going to tell them the benefits of being Austrian-Hungarian. They're going to them, not the other way around
 3. The terrorist was Serbian (Bosnian, Slavic), and their unclear aim was to unify all Slavs from the Austro-Hungarian Empire into a greater Serbia
 - a) unclear how involved the Serbian government was involved
 - b) Head of General staff of the military of Serbia is the leader of the Black Hand
 - c) terrorist said he was pro-Serbian, and associated with a group known as the "Black Hand", knows people in the group, but never clear if he was a member of the organization
 4. Austria-Hungary blames Serbia
 - a) Serbia denies any connection to the incident
- B. July Crisis
1. Austria-Hungary delays action
 - a) Worried about Russia
 - b) Needed assurance of German support
 2. Austrian government saw its chance to crush Serbia, though they did hesitate
 3. They needed assurance that Germany would assist them because Russia would fight with the Serbians

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4. Germany issues the "**Blanche Cheque**" to Austria-Hungary
 - a) Germany offers full assistance to Austria-Hungary
 - b) Germany removes any restraint
 - c) this is what Austria-Hungary needed
 5. Austria-Hungary sent an ultimatum to Serbia (after the Germans agreed to support them) which had unacceptable terms
 6. Austria-Hungary sends a severe ultimatum to Serbia
 - a) so severe, Austria-Hungary doesn't even expect Serbia to accept the terms
 7. The delay in action is extended, they don't send the ultimatum yet
 - a) The French president is in Russia, and if ultimatums are made clear, Russia and France could discuss direct actions
 - b) A-U is going to delay more until France goes home
 8. Ultimatum finally delivered July 23rd 1914, a month after the assassination
 9. Russia is outraged by; the severity of the ultimatum, and that Serbia seemed willing to negotiate
 - a) Shows that Serbia is weak or guilty
 - b) This frightened Austria-Hungary (that they might accept the terms) and claim that Serbia took too long to reply
 10. Austria-Hungary then proceeded to bombard Belgrade (declares war on Serbia)
 11. Russians ordered mobilization July 30th 1914
 - a) Serbia & Russia vs. Austria-Hungary
 - b) Germany declares war on Russia August 1st (over a month since the assassination)
 - c) Domino effect/theory
 12. Germany demanded that France remained neutral, and France responded they would act in their "own interests", and Germany declared war on France
 13. Germany planned to swiftly take out France, by going through Belgium, but if they did this then Britain would get involved (August 4th 1914, Britain declares war on Germany)
 - a) Germany went for it anyway
 14. The Great War began
- V. What was