



THE GREAT WAR



1914-1918

- 
- ◇ The causes of WW1 can best be remembered by the acronym M.A.I.N
 - ◇ Militarism
 - ◇ Alliances
 - ◇ Imperialism
 - ◇ Nationalism
 - ◇ The spark that triggered WW1 into action was something nobody saw coming

- ◇ Militarism: The building up of ones national military forces at rapid rates. Includes not only manpower, but technologically as well.
- ◇ Germany was competing with the UK to build bigger & better warships
 - Dreadnaught became the ship of choice
- ◇ Britain feared an attack on their Empire and felt pressured to keep up
 - Leaning on their colonies (Canada incl.) for support
- ◇ Germany was competing with Russia and France to expand their armies

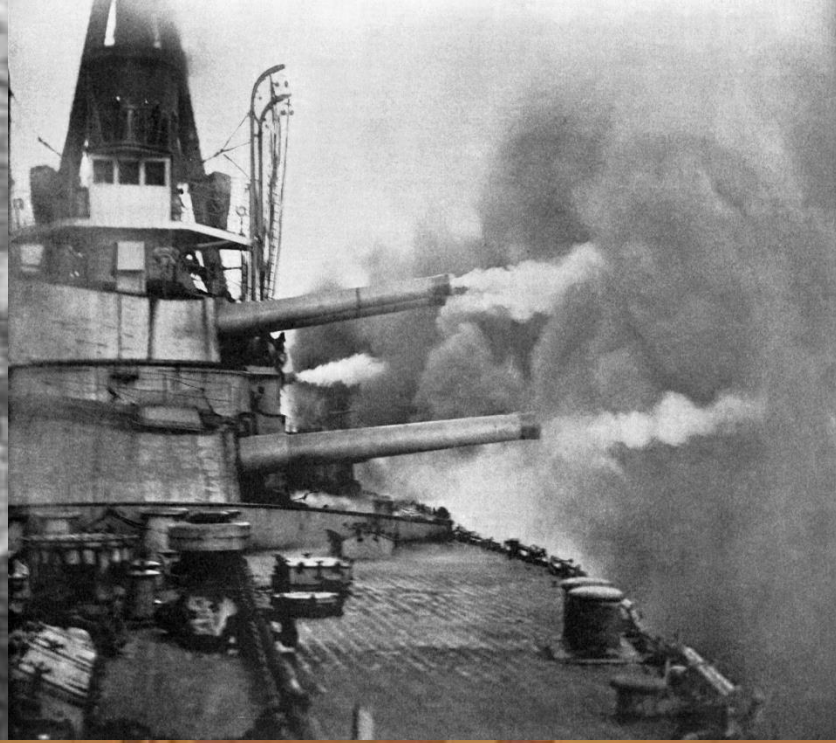
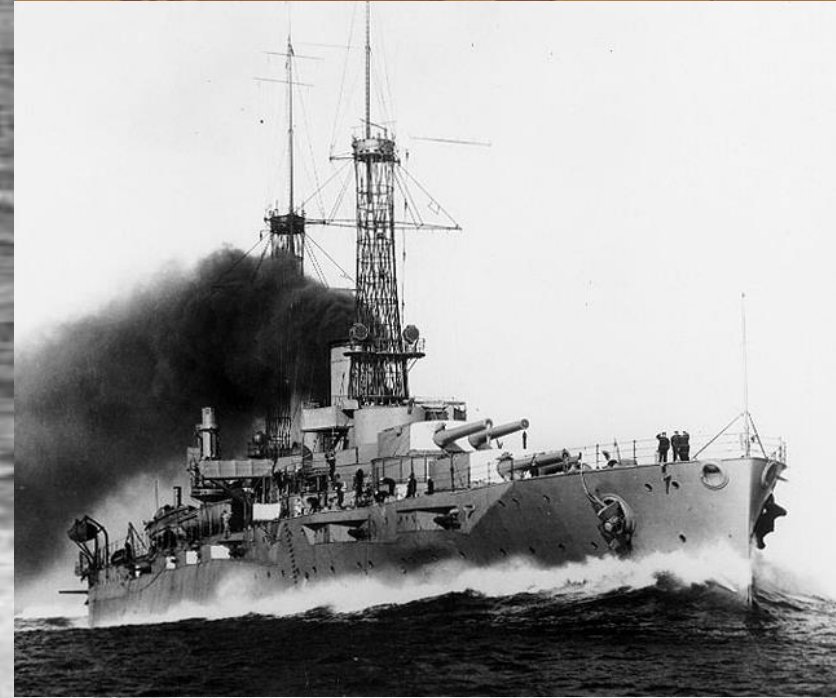
Forces grew rapidly all across Europe...

	<u>1880</u>	<u>1914</u>
◇ Germany	1.3m	5.0m
◇ France	0.73m	4.0m
◇ Russia	0.40m	1.2m

THE DREADNOUGHT

NEWS LETTER OF THE
NAVY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4
SPRING 2011



Evolution of Design




Alliances

- ◇ By 1914 all the major powers were linked by a system of alliances.
- ◇ The alliances made it more likely that a war could start.
- ◇ Once started, the alliances made it more likely to spread.
- ◇ Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, & Italy
- ◇ Triple Entente: England, France & Russia

- TRIPLE ALLIANCE
- TRIPLE ENTENTE
- NEUTRAL COUNTRIES






Imperialism

- ◇ Europe's search for new places on the planet in which to colonize and control for wealth and resource accumulation.
 - Power in Europe was measured by wealth. Wealth came from controlling foreign countries. i.e. Canada
- ◇ All the great powers were competing for colonies / territory.
- ◇ The Brits feared Germany in Africa.
- ◇ The Austrians feared Serbia / Russia in the Balkans



MAJOR WORLD STATES AND COLONIAL POSSESSIONS, 1900

	Belgium		German Empire		Italy		Portugal		United States
	France		Great Britain		The Netherlands		Spain		Other Independent states

 World Colonial Holdings, ca. 1914. The European powers, great and small, competed with each other for world empires and world influence by 1900.



Nationalism

- ◇ An intense feeling of pride for one's country. A feeling of superiority over other countries
- ◇ Builds a sense 'homeland' pride; one willing to fight for or defend
- ◇ The early 1900's were a time when all nations wanted to assert their power and independence
- ◇ Extreme nationalism, unfortunately, often leads to racism and other forms of discrimination



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERBIA

MONTENEGRO

ALBANIA

MACEDONIA

EPIRUS

SAN MARINO

ITALY

IONIAN SEA

SIBIRIA

DANUBE

ADRIATIC SEA

ATHENS

LE

Po

Drava

Kupa

Sava

Morava

Vardar

GORIZIA-GRADISCA

CARNIOLA

ISTRIA

Zagreb

Venice

Rijeka (Fiume)

Novi Sad

Zadar

Sarajevo

Belgrade

Niš

Novi Pazar

Pristina

Sofia

Dubrovnik

Cetinje

Prizren

Kumanovo

Shkodër

Skopje

Štip

Strumnica

1913

Rome

Naples

Durrës

Tiranë

Bitola

Kava

Salonika

Vlorë

Florina

Yiannitsa

LE

CORFU

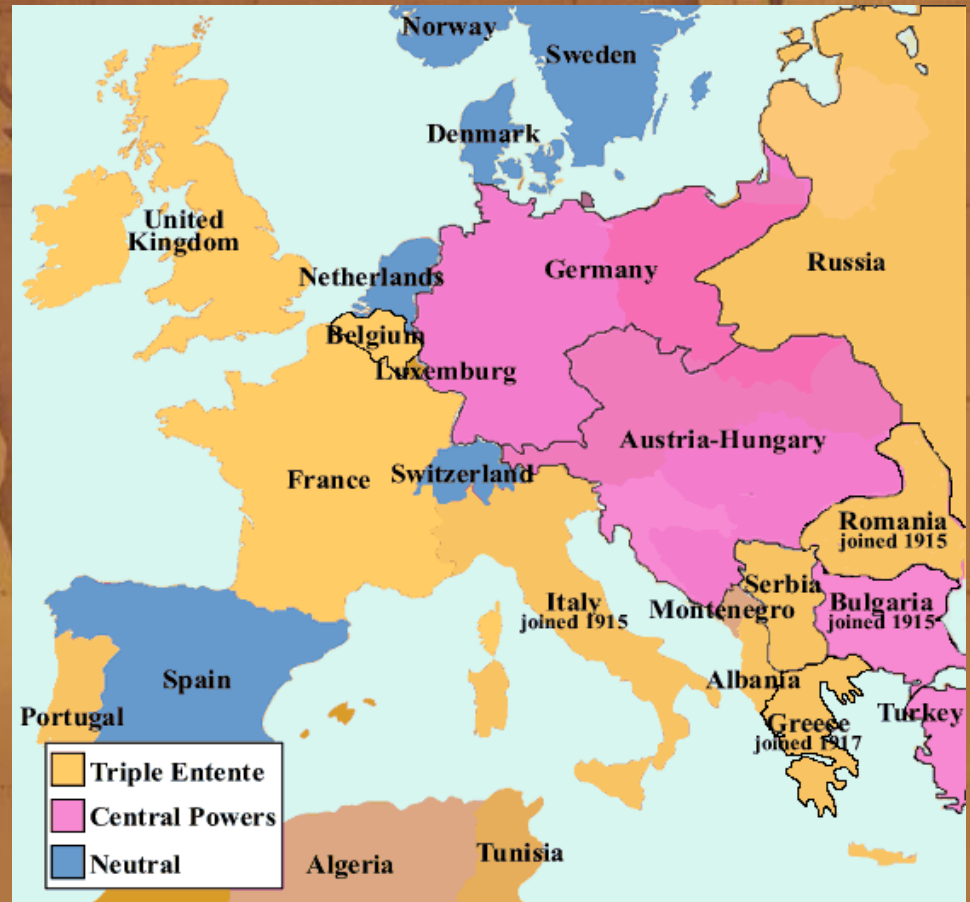
Ioannina

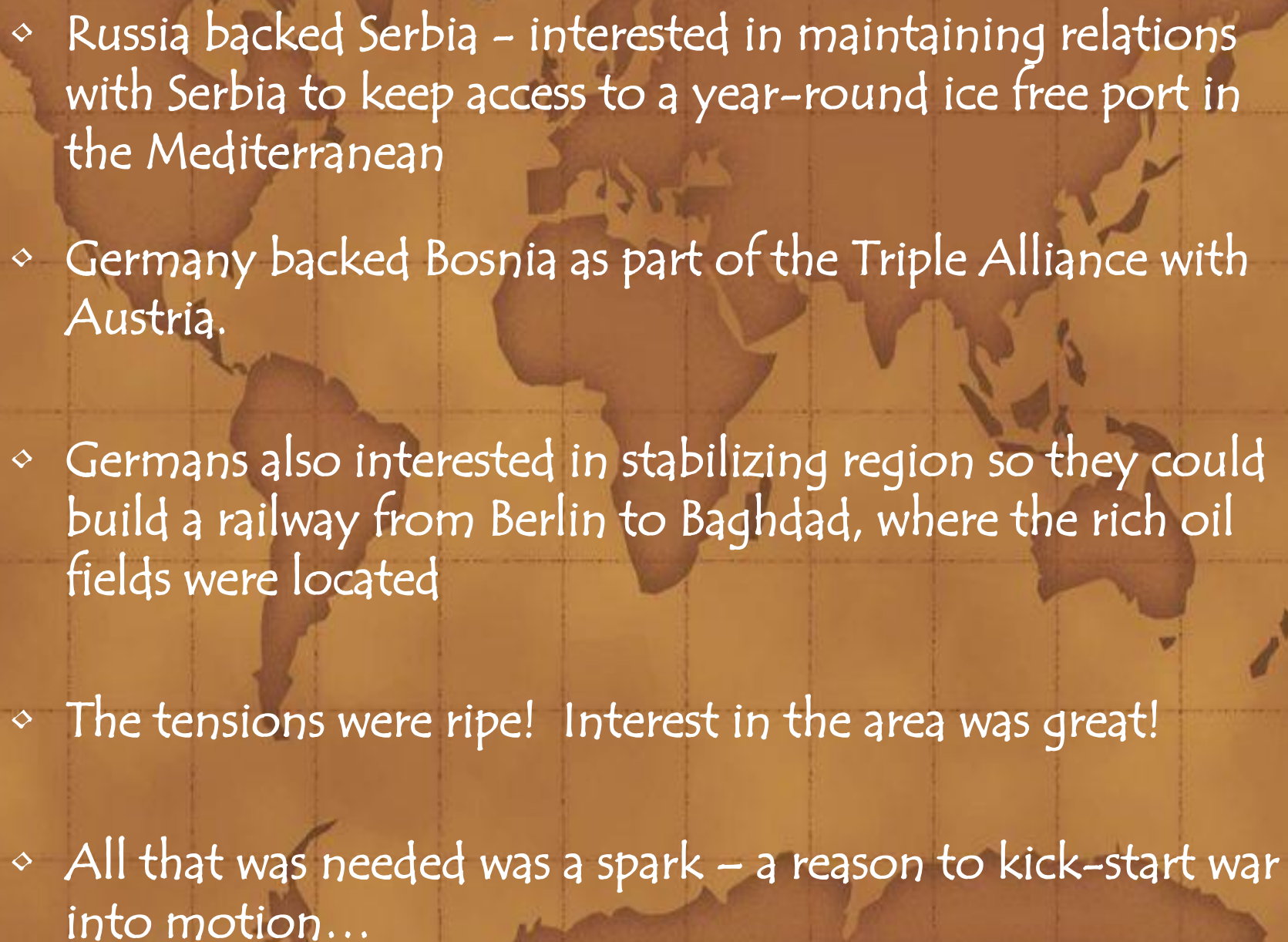
Sérvia

Larissa

The Balkans Crisis: Leading Up To War

- ◇ Bosnia was controlled by the Austrian–Hungarian Empire
- ◇ many people in Bosnia were of Serbian descent, and the Serb extremists hated being under Austrian control
- ◇ Serbia nationalists wanted to unite all Serbian peoples under one state



- 
- ◇ Russia backed Serbia – interested in maintaining relations with Serbia to keep access to a year-round ice free port in the Mediterranean
 - ◇ Germany backed Bosnia as part of the Triple Alliance with Austria.
 - ◇ Germans also interested in stabilizing region so they could build a railway from Berlin to Baghdad, where the rich oil fields were located
 - ◇ The tensions were ripe! Interest in the area was great!
 - ◇ All that was needed was a spark – a reason to kick-start war into motion...

IF YOU TOUCH ME I'LL -

IF YOU MAKE A MOVE I'LL -

IF YOU HIT THAT LITTLE FELLER I'LL -

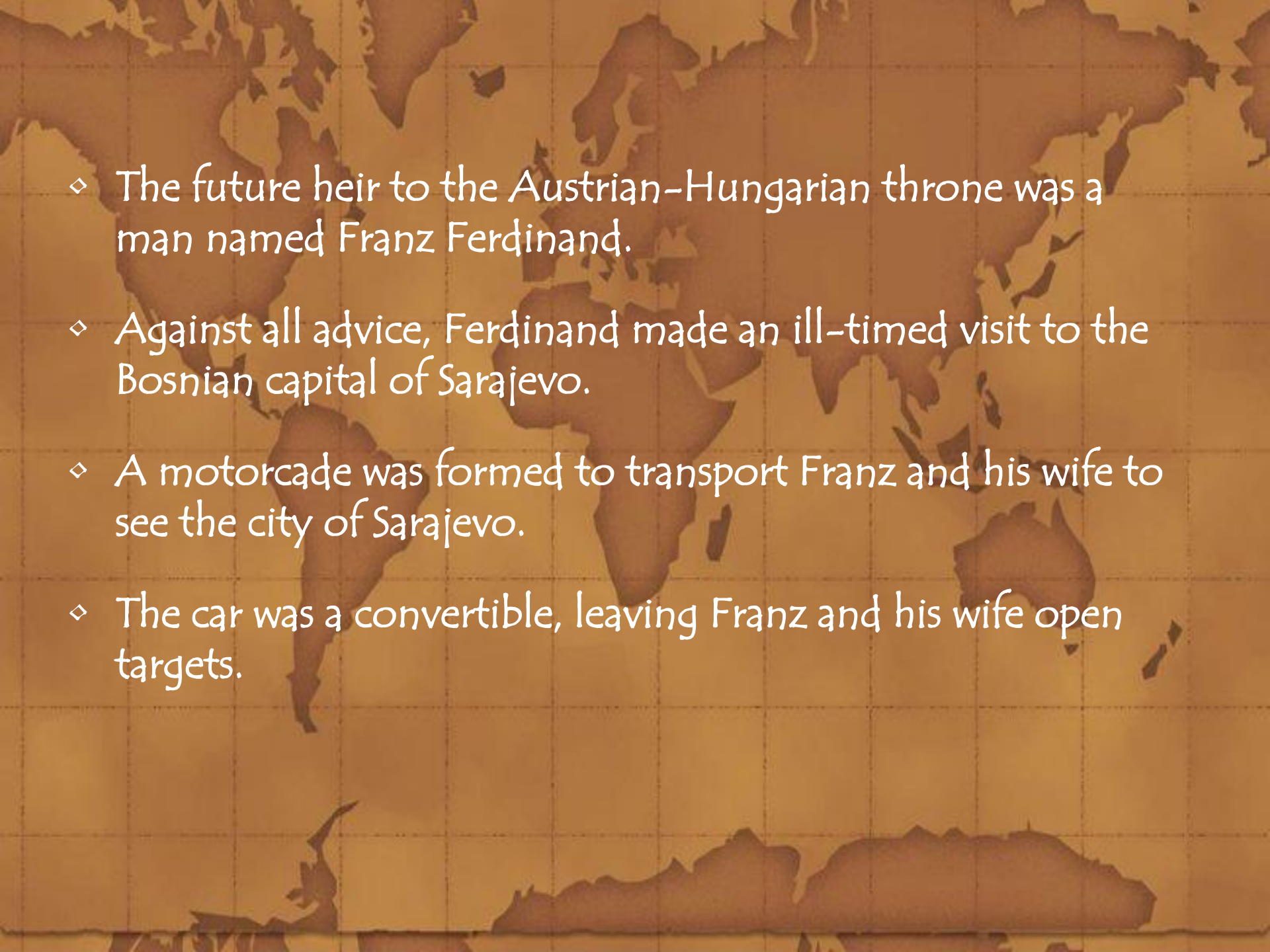
IF YOU STRIKE MY FRIEND I'LL -

IF YOU HIT HIM -

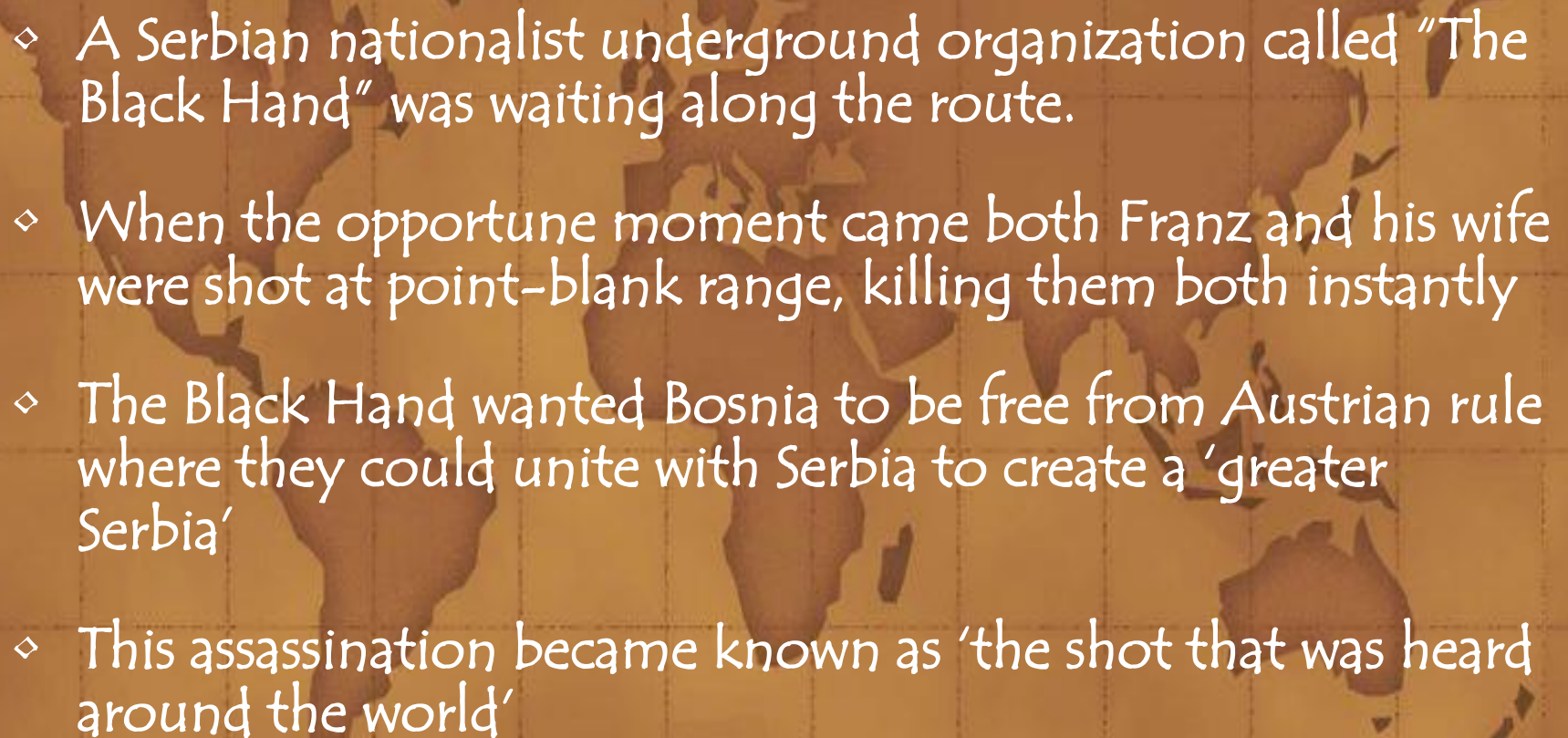
HO THERE, IF YOU CHAPS -



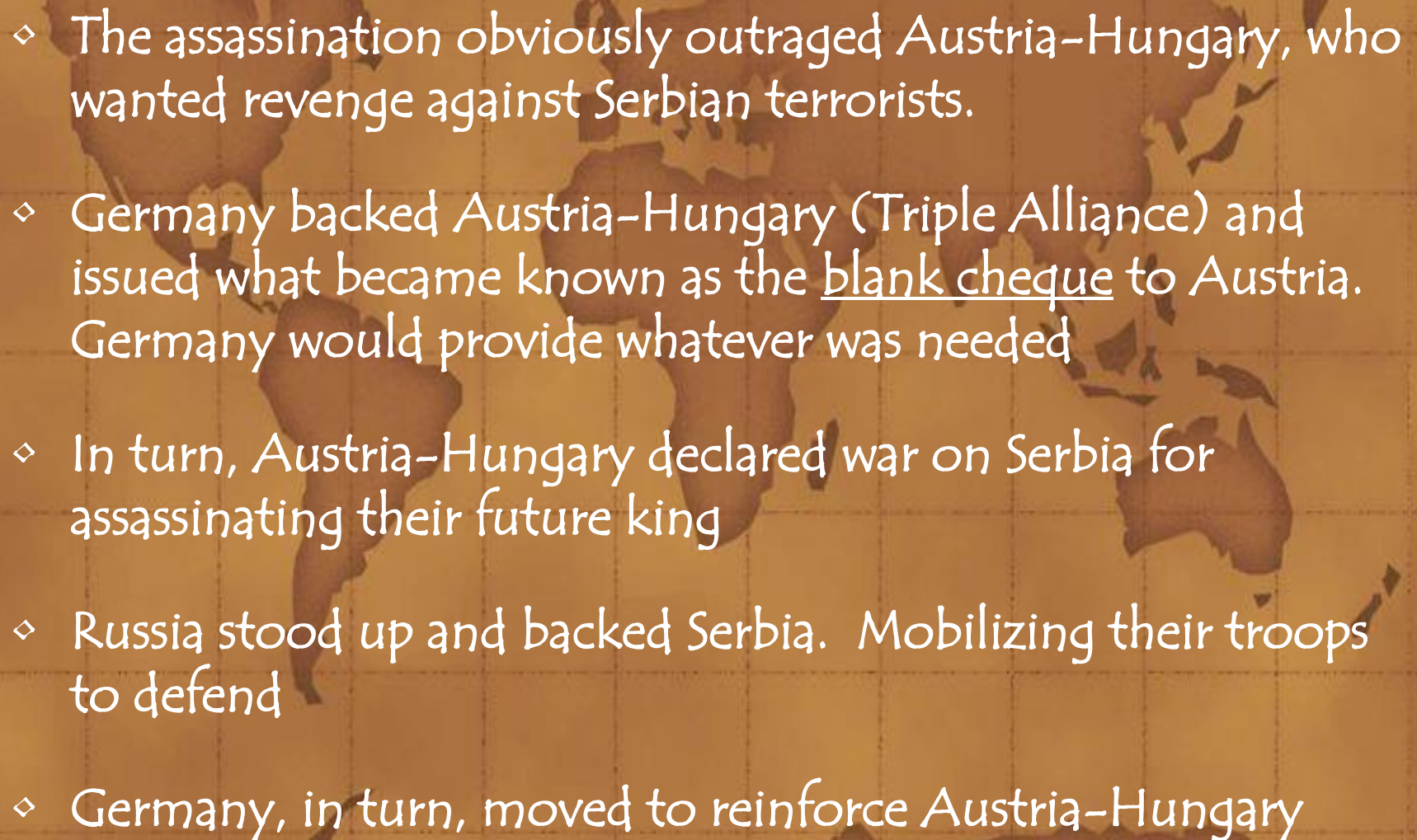
The Chain of Friendship

- 
- ◇ The future heir to the Austrian-Hungarian throne was a man named Franz Ferdinand.
 - ◇ Against all advice, Ferdinand made an ill-timed visit to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.
 - ◇ A motorcade was formed to transport Franz and his wife to see the city of Sarajevo.
 - ◇ The car was a convertible, leaving Franz and his wife open targets.



- 
- ◇ A Serbian nationalist underground organization called "The Black Hand" was waiting along the route.
 - ◇ When the opportune moment came both Franz and his wife were shot at point-blank range, killing them both instantly
 - ◇ The Black Hand wanted Bosnia to be free from Austrian rule where they could unite with Serbia to create a 'greater Serbia'
 - ◇ This assassination became known as 'the shot that was heard around the world'



- 
- ◇ The assassination obviously outraged Austria-Hungary, who wanted revenge against Serbian terrorists.
 - ◇ Germany backed Austria-Hungary (Triple Alliance) and issued what became known as the blank cheque to Austria. Germany would provide whatever was needed
 - ◇ In turn, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia for assassinating their future king
 - ◇ Russia stood up and backed Serbia. Mobilizing their troops to defend
 - ◇ Germany, in turn, moved to reinforce Austria-Hungary



...the snowball effect was in motion

- ◇ France declared war on Germany as per the alliance with Russia
- ◇ Britain declared war on Germany, but only after the Germans invaded neutral Belgium on their way to northern France
 - Part of the German Schlieffen Plan
- ◇ Italy and Turkey backed Germany & Austria-Hungary....
- ◇ The first multi-national war ever seen will engulf Europe and beyond from the summer of 1914 and last for 4 long years!

The Crime of the Ages—Who Did It?



For interest...

- ◇ The man who shot Ferdinand , Gavrilo Princip, was captured, along with other accomplices.
- ◇ He was too young to receive the death penalty at the time being 19. (Death penalty could not be given under 20).
- ◇ He was given the maximum 20 years in prison
- ◇ They kept him in the harshest of conditions where he contracted tuberculosis and died nearly four years later



IF WORLD WAR ONE WAS A BAR FIGHT



Schlieffen Plan

- Designed to avoid a two-front war
- Germany made a few assumptions and gambles...
 - Russia would take approx. 6 weeks to mobilize
 - that Britain would remain neutral from the European conflict
 - The Germany could conquer France before Russia was ready
- Plan nearly worked and came as close as 35 km from Paris, before the push back
- Germany failed to recognize that Belgium was promised protection from England if they remained neutral
- When Britain declared, Canada, by default, was declared in this mess as well

