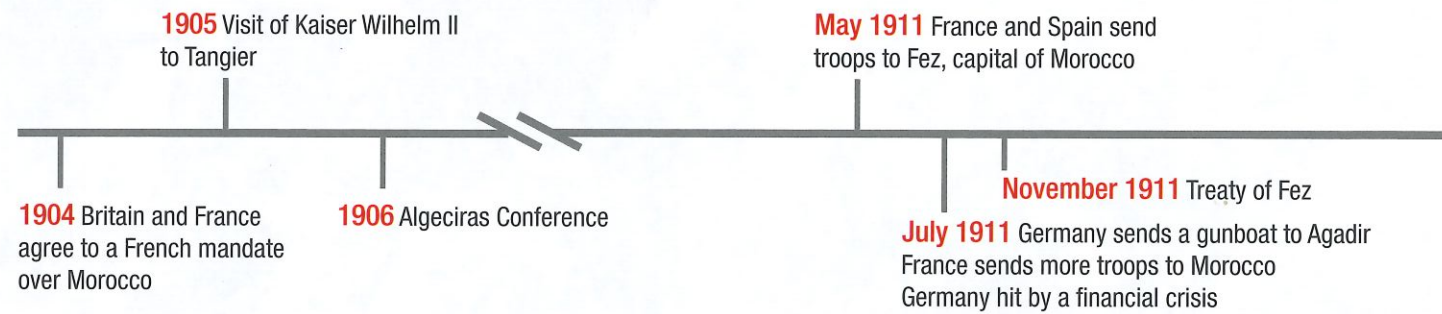


2.1 THE MOROCCAN CRISES 1905–6 AND 1911

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the reasons why Germany intervened in North Africa
- Understand the impact of German **intervention** on its relations with France
- Understand the significance of the Moroccan crises for relations between the Great Powers.



In 1905, Morocco was one of the few African states not occupied by a European power. But its ruler, Sultan Abdul Aziz, was facing challenges to his rule. The Berber tribes who lived in the Atlas Mountains were fighting for their independence. By 1903 Fez, the capital of Morocco, was under attack and Sultan Aziz had lost control of most of the country as thousands of Moroccans supported the rebel Berbers.

► Figure 2.1 Morocco in 1905



THE FIRST MOROCCAN CRISIS, 1905–6

KEY TERM

mandate the authority to make decisions

France had been involved in Morocco since 1871, when the loss of Alsace-Lorraine meant that the French were trading in Morocco for **minerals**. (See page 11.) The weakness of the country worried French politicians and in 1900 and 1901 they had made secret agreements with Italy that Morocco should come under French control. In April 1904, France and Britain agreed that France would have a **mandate** over Morocco and, in return, France would give

up any remaining interests they had in Egypt, leaving that to Britain. However, at a time when Germany was looking to expand, no one had asked German politicians whether they would be comfortable with this arrangement.

GERMAN REACTION

The German emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II, said publicly that all he was interested in was having equal economic rights in Morocco to those of other European countries.

German politicians went further than that. They were worried about the extension of French power in the Mediterranean Sea and North Africa. They assured Sultan Aziz of their support and encouraged him to resist France.

German politicians were looking for a 'place in the sun'. (See page 8.) While they were not particularly worried about the sultan, they wanted to show Britain and France that they, too, wanted colonies in Africa.

EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

KAISER WILHELM'S VISIT TO TANGIER

Kaiser Wilhelm didn't really want to visit Tangier. He was on holiday, cruising in the Mediterranean with his family and having fun. He only agreed to go to Tangier after his Head of Security had personally visited the city and assured him that it was a safe place and he wouldn't be assassinated.

SOURCE A

A photograph of Kaiser Wilhelm II touring Tangier on 31 March 1905.



France and Britain reacted to the German position with shock. French press and politicians were angry. They had assumed that agreeing to French control over Morocco would be simple. Although the French government refused to risk war with Germany over the matter, all military leave was cancelled, just in case of further trouble.

The British government made it obvious that they would not tolerate Germany interfering in Morocco. They were afraid that Germany might be able to set up a naval base in one of Morocco's ports. This would threaten the British naval base at Gibraltar and could challenge British naval dominance. (See page 12.)

THE ALGECIRAS CONFERENCE 1906

A conference was held in Algeciras to settle the Moroccan situation. The conference lasted from 16 January to 7 April and was attended by 12 European countries and the USA. The only country to support Germany was Austria-Hungary. The final agreement between them was that France would have a controlling interest in Moroccan affairs, but every nation was free to trade with Morocco. Further, action in Morocco by any country had to be agreed by all the countries that had signed the final agreement.

The Algeciras Conference temporarily solved the problem. However, it only worsened tensions between the European powers. It showed that the Entente Cordiale was strong, as Britain had supported France against Germany. But it angered the German Kaiser, who felt he had been embarrassed and was determined not to back down in any future dispute. This led directly to the second Moroccan crisis.

THE SECOND MOROCCAN CRISIS, 1911–12

In March 1911, there was more trouble in Morocco. Rebel tribes once again rose up against the sultan and surrounded Fez. The sultan appealed to France for help, and France sent a small group of soldiers to Fez in May 1911. Spain did as well. Both governments claimed that they were doing this to protect French and Spanish people who were living in Fez.

GERMAN REACTION

German politicians, however, thought differently. They believed the French had deliberately encouraged a tribal **revolt** so that they could send troops to occupy Morocco. This went against the agreement reached at the Algeciras conference. On 1 July 1911, a German gunboat SMS *Panther* arrived in the Moroccan port of Agadir. Germany said it was there to protect the interests of German people living in Morocco.

The French reaction to the 'Agadir incident' was to send more troops into Morocco. British politicians tried to persuade France not to increase the tension by taking this action, but were unsuccessful. In the end, the British government agreed that there was no choice but to support France. Britain was increasingly concerned that Germany was planning to build a military base in the Mediterranean, and that this would be a direct threat to the British naval base in Gibraltar.

THE OUTCOME

Tensions between France, Britain and Germany were reaching breaking point when suddenly, and unexpectedly, Germany was hit by a financial crisis. German ministers could not deal with a domestic financial crisis and an international crisis at the same time. They ended their involvement in the international conflict over Morocco and signed the Treaty of Fez in November 1911. In it they agreed that France could take control of Morocco in exchange for granting Germany land in the Congo, which was a French colony in Africa.

The immediate crisis was over. There were, however, longer-term effects.

- British support for France further strengthened the Entente Cordiale of 1904.
- The division between the Entente powers and Germany increased.

Britain and France strengthened their friendship by making a naval agreement. The British Royal Navy would protect the northern coast of France from German attack, and the French fleet would protect British interests in the Mediterranean. In this way, the British navy could concentrate on the English Channel and the North Sea, in case it had to oppose the German High Seas Fleet. The French fleet would make sure France could keep communications open with French colonies in North Africa.

SOURCE B

A cartoon published in a British magazine on 2 August 1911.



SOLID.

GERMANY. "DONNERWETTER! IT'S ROCK. I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE PAPER."

ACTIVITY

- 1 Create a flow chart to show how events in Morocco during the years 1905–11 led to Britain and France coming closer together.
- 2 Look carefully at Source A. Imagine you are a German newspaper reporter. Use the information in this section to write the story that goes with the photograph. Remember you are writing for a German newspaper.
- 3 What is the message of the cartoon in Source B? Find the evidence in this section that backs up the message.

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

A01

Describe **two** features of the second Moroccan crisis (1911–12). (6 marks)

HINT

You need to identify two features of the second Moroccan crisis (1911–12). Don't just say what they were; add some detailed supporting information.

2.2 CRISIS IN THE BALKANS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the importance of the Balkans for fulfilling the ambitions of the European powers
- Understand the reasons why there was a Bosnian crisis in 1908–9
- Understand the impact of the Balkan Wars 1912–13 on Eastern Europe.

KEY TERM

annex to take control of a country or area next to your own

EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

THE SICK MAN OF EUROPE

Turkey was commonly known as the 'sick man of Europe'. This was a sign that the once great Ottoman Empire, that had ruled the Balkans and the eastern Mediterranean as far as the Caspian Sea, as well as Egypt and North Africa, was getting weaker.

1912 Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro form the **Balkan League**
First Balkan War between the Balkan League and Turkey

1908 'Young Turk' revolution in Turkey
Austria **annexes** Bosnia-Herzegovina

1913 Second Balkan War fought by Bulgaria against Serbia and Greece

The Balkans had once been part of the great Turkish Empire – the Ottoman Empire. As the power of the empire weakened, Turkey began to lose control over the Slav people living in the Balkans. They began rebelling against Turkish rule and demanding independence. By the early years of the 20th century, the Balkans was a very unstable part of Eastern Europe. Because of this, the powerful countries that bordered the Balkans began to take an interest in what was going on there. This could be their chance to increase their influence in the area by taking advantage of Turkey's weakness.

THE EUROPEAN POWERS: AIMS AND AMBITIONS IN THE BALKANS

The politicians in three of the major powers in Europe – Russia, Austria-Hungary and Germany – were all carefully watching the situation in the Balkans. They were waiting for a chance to extend their influence there, by taking land if they could.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Austria-Hungary was an empire that contained many different nationalities, and the government was struggling to keep them united under the emperor. The Serbs made up one of these national groups, and just over the border from Austria-Hungary was Serbia. The last thing Austria-Hungary wanted was for Serbia to grow in power and influence, because that might encourage the Serbs in its empire to revolt in an attempt to join with Serbia. Austria-Hungary aimed to control Serbia along with any other troublesome Slav areas. A second aim was to gain more land with a coastline, and so more ports, on the Adriatic Sea.

RUSSIA

The Russians saw themselves as protectors of the Serbs. This was because the Russians, like the Serbs, were Slavs and shared similar languages and customs. Because of this, Russia would be likely to support Serbia in any dispute. The Russians were also keen to extend their power and influence

in the Balkans because they hoped to have some sort of control over the Dardanelles, as this would give their Black Sea fleet guaranteed access to the Mediterranean.

GERMANY

Germany had a different sort of interest in the Balkans. Germany (see pages 10–11) was keen to build up its economic and industrial strength. There were extensive oil fields in Iraq, and Kaiser Wilhelm wanted to build a railway between Berlin and Baghdad. The railway would link the countries' capital cities and would be used to transport oil to Germany. It would have to pass through the Balkans.

▼ Figure 2.2 A map of the Balkans in 1914. The dates in brackets are the dates on which the different states won their independence from Turkey



So three powerful countries in Europe were waiting and watching events in the Balkans. They all had something to gain and were just waiting for a chance to take it. The chance they were waiting for came in 1908.

THE BOSNIAN CRISIS, 1908–9

In 1908 a revolution shook Turkey. An organisation called the 'Young Turks' forced Turkey's ruler, Sultan Abdul Hamid, to restore Turkey's democratic **constitution**. It had been set up in 1876 but had only lasted 2 years. The chaos brought about by the revolution was the moment Austria-Hungary had been waiting for. While Turkey was busy with internal chaos, Austria annexed the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and made them part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This had an immediate effect.

- The king of Serbia claimed that the two provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina should belong to Serbia. This was because most people living in the two provinces were Serbs. Serbia sent a formal protest to Austria-Hungary.

- Russia supported Serbia and protested to Austria-Hungary.
- Germany stepped into the row and made it obvious that it supported Austria-Hungary.

Neither Russia nor Serbia was prepared to risk war with Germany over this issue. Both countries decided to end their involvement in the dispute. The whole incident, however, encouraged Russia to increase the size of its army still further. It would not be caught out again.

Austria-Hungary wasn't the only country to take advantage of the revolution in Turkey. The ruler of Bulgaria, which was controlled by Turkey, crowned himself king and declared Bulgarian independence.

SOURCE C

A cartoon published in France in 1908. The artist is commenting on the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary.



THE BALKAN WARS, 1912–13

The kings of Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia joined together in the Balkan League. The aim of the League was to force Turkey out of Europe.

THE FIRST BALKAN WAR (OCTOBER 1912–MAY 1913)

The First Balkan War was short and bloody; after 6 months it was all over. The Turkish troops could not compete with the combined armies of the Balkan states and after 50 days of actual fighting they surrendered. At the peace conference held in London, Turkey agreed to give up all their land in Europe. It was shared between the four countries of the Balkan League.

THE SECOND BALKAN WAR (JUNE 1913–AUGUST 1913)

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria was not satisfied with the way in which Turkey's European lands had been divided up between the Balkan League countries. A month after the peace conference in London, he ordered his troops to attack

KEY TERM

armistice an agreement to stop fighting

Serbia and Greece. Serbian and Greek armies invaded Bulgaria, helped by Romania, which had been angry with Bulgaria for a long time. Turkish armies became involved too, hoping to gain some of the land they had lost. The fighting ended when Bulgaria asked for an **armistice**. Bulgaria had to give up some of the land it had gained as a result of the First Balkan War, most of which went to Serbia. Turkey regained some land, too.

As a result of the Balkan Wars:

- Serbia doubled in size and grew increasingly aggressive
- the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina grew increasingly anxious and wanted to join Serbia
- Austria-Hungary grew increasingly worried about the possibility of revolt within its empire
- Austria-Hungary was determined to try to control Serbia
- Bulgaria was determined to take revenge on Serbia.

BALKAN NATIONALISM

The Bosnian crisis strengthened the growth of nationalism in the Balkans. The Serbs in Austria-Hungary looked to Serbia for support and hoped to break away from Austria-Hungary and join Serbia. They were encouraged by the declaration of independence on the part of Bulgaria, where many Slav people lived. The Slavs in Bulgaria developed a sense of nationalism and loyalty to their own country as well as to the Slav peoples.

The Balkan Wars had seen this new sense of nationalism in action. A sense of Slav identity had brought Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia together into the Balkan League. It was nationalism that made King Ferdinand of Bulgaria demand more for Bulgaria than it had gained after the First Balkan War, and so started the second one. After the Second Balkan War, Serbia had grown in strength, size and influence. It became the focus of nationalism for Serbs throughout Eastern Europe. This made the situation even more dangerous than it had been before the Balkan Wars. Serbia was now a direct threat to the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

THE BLACK HAND

On 22 May 1911, ten young Serbian army officers met in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, and formed a secret society. They called the secret society 'Unity or Death'. Its long-term aim was to unite all the Serbs outside Serbia who were ruled by Austria-Hungary or the Ottoman Empire. They planned to use terrorism to achieve their aim. The symbol of the society was a black hand, and so they were generally known as the 'Black Hand'. Before long, the society had over 2,500 members who were ready to die for their cause and promised to keep it secret. Their leader was Colonel Dragutin Dimitrievic, known as Apis. Its members were mainly army officers, like Apis, and some government officials. It conducted **propaganda campaigns**, organised armed bands and established a network of revolutionary units throughout Bosnia.

The first step, the society believed, was to get all the Serbs in Bosnia under Serbian rule. The situation was made more urgent by Austria's annexation of Bosnia. Apis made sure that all the troops guarding the border between Serbia and Bosnia were Black Hand members. This meant that terrorists could slip across the border and plant bombs, cut telegraph wires and carry out **assassinations** before returning to Serbia. Austria-Hungary, which had

annexed Bosnia in 1908, was afraid the Serbs within their empire would revolt; they also suspected that Serbia was behind the individual acts of terrorism.

By 1914, the Balkans was a seething mixture of hatred, resentment, suspicion and aggression. It would take only a single event to cause the whole region to explode into a war that pulled in all the Great Powers.

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

A01

Describe **two** features of the Balkan Wars (1912–13). (6 marks)

HINT

You need to identify two features of the Balkan Wars. Don't just say what they were; add some detailed supporting information.

ACTIVITY

- 1 Imagine yourself as an adviser to Franz Joseph, the Emperor of Austria-Hungary. It is 1908 and Franz Joseph is considering annexing the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. What advice do you give him, and why? (Remember it is 1908 and you won't know what happened as a result of the annexation.)
- 2 Look at the cartoon in Source C. What point is the cartoonist making? Do you think the cartoonist is on the side of Austria-Hungary or Bosnia-Herzegovina? Give your reasons.
- 3 In 1905, Serbia was a small and unimportant Balkan country. By 1914, Serbia had become one of the most powerful and dangerous Balkan states. Draw a flow chart showing how this happened.
- 4 Work with a partner.
 - a You have both been recruited into the Black Hand secret society. Draw up a plan of action that will lead to your long-term objective – the creation of a Slav state. Remember that really big objectives, like this one, are achieved by a series of small steps.
 - b Compare your ideas with others in your class. Which ideas are the most likely to be successful?

2.3 MURDER AT SARAJEVO

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the significance of the visit of Archduke Franz Ferdinand to Sarajevo
- Understand the events in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 that led to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife
- Understand why the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand led to the First World War.

The event that **triggered** an all-out war came in 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo, the capital city of Bosnia. It was here that members of the Black Hand (see page 27) killed the **heir to the throne** of Austria-Hungary. The death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the event that caused Balkan tensions to explode and led to the First World War in August 1914.

SARAJEVO 1914: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FRANZ FERDINAND'S VISIT

Tension in the Balkans was rising and the activities of the Black Hand worried the Austro-Hungarian government. Government advisers were suggesting that a quick war with Serbia would end any Slav rebellion before it even started. It was time, politicians and the military believed, for a show of strength.

EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

FRANZ FERDINAND AND SOPHIE CHOTEK

Archduke Franz Ferdinand married the Countess Sophie Chotek on 28 June 1900. The Austro-Hungarian emperor, Franz Joseph, had opposed the marriage. This was because a countess was not high enough in social importance for an archduke to marry. No children of the marriage were allowed to inherit the throne, and Sophie was not permitted to be by his side on any state occasion. He was visiting Sarajevo as head of the army, so it was not an official state visit and Sophie was allowed to accompany him.

The Austro-Hungarian government decided that Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, would make an official visit to Bosnia in June 1914. As head of the army, he would first watch army exercises and then go to the capital, Sarajevo, where city officials would welcome him and his wife. The date chosen was 28 June, the national day of the Serbian people. The visit was given a lot of pre-publicity. This publicity was just what the Black Hand needed. Members now knew exactly where Franz Ferdinand was going to be, and when. To assassinate the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne would strike a terrible blow at the empire they hated.

EXTRACT A

From a modern history book.

Franz Ferdinand was a brutal and obstinate man, impatient with opposition, unsuited to a democratic age. He had one redeeming feature: he loved his wife. It annoyed him that she could never share his splendours. There was one loophole. His wife could enjoy the recognition of his rank when he was acting in a military capacity. Hence, he decided, in 1914, to inspect the army in Bosnia. There, at its capital Sarajevo, the archduke and his wife could ride in an open carriage, side by side on 28 June – their wedding anniversary. Thus, for love, did the Archduke go to his death.

SARAJEVO: THE ASSASSINATION

28 June 1914 was a warm and sunny day when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie arrived in Sarajevo. The troop inspection had gone well, and they were now looking forward to their visit to the city. They arrived there by train, and waiting for them was a large open-topped car that was to be part of a motorcade driving them to the town hall. The streets were lined by cheering crowds. However, hiding among the cheering crowds were members of the Black Hand secret society, who were planning murder. At first, their plan did not go well. One would-be assassin couldn't get his revolver out of his jacket in time; another felt sorry for Sophie and went home, and a third threw a bomb but it missed its target. Franz Ferdinand was furious. His day out with his wife had been ruined. When the royal car reached the town hall, he shouted angrily at the mayor and cancelled the visit. On the way back to the station, the chauffeur took a wrong turn. He stopped the car, getting ready to reverse. It was then that Gavrilo Princip, one of the would-be assassins, saw what was happening. Reacting quickly, he pulled out his revolver and fired two shots. One bullet hit Franz Ferdinand in the throat; the other hit Sophie in the stomach. With blood pouring from their wounds, they were driven off at high speed to the Bosnian governor's house, where they could receive medical attention. By midnight, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were dead.

Princip tried to commit suicide by swallowing the poison cyanide, but it failed to work. Then he tried to shoot himself, but the police caught and arrested him before he could do that. At his trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, because at 19 years of age at the time of the assassination, he was too young to hang.

SOURCE D

A painting of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on 28 June 1914. The picture was published in a French magazine the following month.



EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

NEDELJKO CABRINOVIC

Nedeljko was one of the would-be assassins in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. He threw the bomb that missed its target, the car carrying the Archduke and his wife. When Cabrinovic saw what had happened, he took a cyanide pill, intending to commit suicide. However, the pill was out-of-date and it only made him sick. He next tried to drown himself by jumping into a river, but it was only 10 cm deep. The police arrested him.



Princip

I knew it was the Archduke, but there was a lady with him, so I wasn't sure whether to shoot. But it was easy to shoot because the car was going slowly. So I fired at the Archduke. I think I fired twice, perhaps more, but I am not sure because I was so excited. I don't know if I hit anyone because the crowd started attacking me.

I was told to watch the crowd, not the car. I heard a gunshot, then a second one. I charged through the crowd and grabbed the assassin by the arm. Then someone punched me hard in the stomach.



Detective



Judge

Today we will investigate your crime of murder. You shot from the closest distance with a Browning pistol at the Archduke and his wife, with the intention to kill them. You hit them both, which caused their deaths a short time afterwards.

▲ Figure 2.3 What they said about the assassination

ACTIVITY

- Write a report to Apis, the leader of the Black Hand, about the actions of Black Hand members in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. Clearly members had been successful in that Franz Ferdinand had been assassinated, but was this more by luck or careful planning? Remember to cover the negatives as well as the positives in your report.
- The artist who painted Source D was not there at the time. Match the detail in the painting with the evidence about what happened on 28 June. Would a photograph have given us a clearer idea about the shooting?
- Look at Figure 2.3.
 - List the points about which Princip is certain, and list the points about which he is uncertain. Why do you think he can't be sure about what he had done?
 - Now look at what the detective and the judge say. How helpful are they in clearing up the uncertainties in Princip's account?
- Do you think events in Sarajevo would have ended in the way they did if it had been pouring with rain? Discuss this in class.

THE COUNTDOWN TO WAR IN 1914: THE JULY DAYS



The period between the murder of Franz Ferdinand and the start of the First World War is known as the 'July days'. As the timeline shows, a lot happened in July 1914. But just how did an assassination in the Balkans end with Europe at war?

A BALKAN PROBLEM

The two previous Balkan Wars had not developed into a massive European, or even a world, war. At first, it looked very much as though the assassination would cause a third Balkan war. Franz Joseph was convinced that the Serbian government had supported the Black Hand in the assassination. The events in Sarajevo gave Austria-Hungary the opportunity to hit back at Serbia. The First and Second Balkan Wars had stayed local and had not led to a war between the Triple Entente and Triple Alliance countries. Care had to be taken not to involve them in any action Austria-Hungary took against Serbia. Austria-Hungary turned to its ally, Germany, for support. On 5 July Wilhelm II and his chancellor, Bethmann-Holwegg, told the Austrians to take a strong line with Serbia and promised German support if Russia threatened to support Serbia.

Austria-Hungary looked for proof that Serbia had been involved in the Sarajevo assassination, but could find none. Nevertheless, on 23 July they sent a list of demands to Serbia. These demands included a **suppression** of anti-Austrian publications and organisations, the arrest of Serbian officials involved in the plot to assassinate the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and the involvement of Serbia in an enquiry into the assassination. Serbia agreed to all the demands, except one. This was that Austria-Hungary would send officials into Serbia to make sure that all traces of the Black Hand organisation had been wiped out. Serbia could not agree to this because it would mean an end to Serbia's independence.

Austria-Hungary broke off diplomatic relations with Serbia and on 28 July declared war; Austro-Hungarian cannons in Bosnia began shelling Belgrade.

For the third time in 3 years, war had broken out in the Balkans. What happened to turn it into a world war?

COUNTDOWN TO A WORLD WAR, 1914

29 July

Russia supported the Serbs as being part of the huge Slav group of people. Because of this, when Serbia asked for help, Russia could not allow Serbia to be embarrassed. Added to this, if Germany and Austria-Hungary dominated the Balkans, Russia's access to the Mediterranean would be controlled by potential enemies. Russia could not allow this to happen. Tsar Nicholas of Russia ordered the Russian army to mobilise.

30 July – 1 August

The next day, 30 July 1914, the German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, sent an ultimatum to Tsar Nicholas, ordering him to stop mobilising his army. Nicholas refused to accept the ultimatum and so Germany declared war on Russia. The German army was mobilised. As France was an ally of Russia, the French government ordered the mobilisation of its army.

2 August

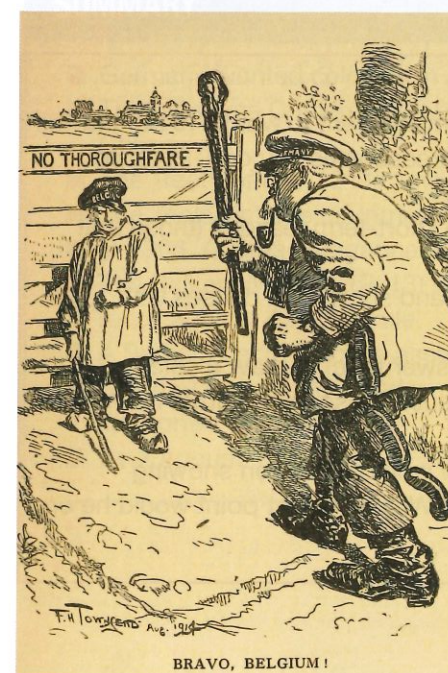
Germany began to put the Schlieffen Plan (see page 14) into operation. Army trains started leaving Cologne station in Germany at the rate of one every three minutes, heading for the German border with Belgium.

3 August

The position of Britain was complicated. By the terms of the 1904 Entente Cordiale (see page 5), it did not have to join in a war in support of France. However, many politicians were afraid that German success against France would result in a German-dominated Europe. This would threaten British trade and possibly the independence of Britain itself.

SOURCE E

A cartoon published in a British magazine in August 1914.



In 1839, Great Britain had given Belgium a guarantee of protection against any attack by another country. This was the Treaty of London, and it had been signed by Britain, France, Russia, Austria and Prussia. (By 1914, Prussia was an important part of Germany.) A German invasion of Belgium would break that treaty. Now that Germany was preparing to invade Belgium, the British government decided to honour the guarantee made 75 years earlier. The Treaty of London was signed long before any of the tensions that led to the First World War had even been thought of, but for many in the British government, it gave them just the acceptable excuse they needed to go to war. So a **telegram** was sent to the German Kaiser, ordering him to call his army back to within the borders of Germany. The German government was given until midnight on 4 August to reply.

4 August

German troops moved quickly into Belgium. Only a small Belgian army opposed them, but the Belgians did manage to blow up the railway lines leading to their border with France. This cut down the speed of the German advance towards France because it slowed down the movement of German supplies and additional soldiers.

By midnight, the British government had not received a reply to its telegram to the Kaiser, and so Britain was at war with Germany.

5 August

The Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente were at war with each other.

The involvement of Great Britain, with its worldwide empire, turned what could have been a European war into a world war.

THE ROLE OF THE GREAT POWERS IN THE START OF THE WAR

Tension between the Great Powers in Europe had existed since the start of 20th century, so why did war break out in 1914 when it had been avoided in earlier years? The answer to this question is that by 1914 the rivalries between the powers had become so strong that it just took one event to trigger a war. The assassination of the Austrian Archduke in Sarajevo was that event. It was a very serious event, but it was not really a reason for the powers to become involved in 4 years of terrible fighting. It was the political, economic, colonial and military rivalries between the powers that caused the war.

Britain feared that Germany was trying to threaten its economic and colonial supremacy and build a navy bigger than Britain's. France also felt that its colonies were threatened and wanted Alsace-Lorraine back from Germany. The Germans wanted their 'place in the sun' and were building a powerful navy to help win it. They knew that France would want a war of revenge following Germany's victory in the Franco-Prussian war, so they allied with Austria-Hungary to make themselves stronger. The Austrians were rivals with Russia in the Balkans and wanted to keep the growing movement for Slavic independence under control. Russia was keen to help the Slavs! By the time of the assassination it looked like these rivalries could only be resolved by war. So when Austria-Hungary threatened Serbia, instead of meeting to resolve the problem, the Great Powers lined up for war.

ACTIVITY

- 1 Work with a partner.
 - a On a sheet of paper draw two columns. Head one column 'Reasons why Germany went to war in 1914' and head the other 'Reasons why Great Britain went to war in 1914'. List as many reasons as you can. (Hint: you may want to look back at Chapter 1.)
 - b Colour-code those reasons, with the long-term reasons in one colour and the short-term reasons (those that only happened in 1914) in another colour.
 - c Share your ideas with the rest of your class. Come up with a list of long-term and short-term causes with which you all agree.
- 2 Working in a small group, use the information your class has put together in answer to (c) to draw a spider diagram showing the connections between the long-term and the short-term causes. Use the diagram to write a paragraph of not more than 150 words to explain why war broke out in 1914.
- 3 Now look at the cartoon in Source E. What point is the cartoonist making? How would a cartoon showing Belgium and Germany have been different if a German cartoonist had drawn it? What different point would he or she have tried to make?

RECAP

RECALL QUIZ

- 1 Name the Moroccan city visited by Wilhelm II in 1905.
- 2 In what year was the Algeciras Conference?
- 3 Where did Kaiser Wilhelm II send a gunboat in 1911?
- 4 Between which cities did Kaiser Wilhelm II want to build a railway?
- 5 When did Austria-Hungary annex Bosnia-Herzegovina?
- 6 Which four countries made up the Balkan League?
- 7 Name the secret society formed in Serbia in May 1911.
- 8 Which town in Bosnia did Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife visit in June 1914?
- 9 When did Russia mobilise?
- 10 What happened on 4 August 1914?

CHECKPOINT

STRENGTHEN

- S1 Why did Germany become involved in Morocco?
- S2 Give two reasons why the growth of Serbia threatened the stability of Europe.
- S3 Why did Britain declare war on Germany in 1914? Give two reasons.

CHALLENGE

- C1 Explain how the Moroccan situation (1905–11) strengthened relationships between Britain and France.
- C2 How important was Balkan nationalism in creating tension in Europe between October 1912 and July 1914?
- C3 To what extent was Germany to blame for starting the First World War?

SUMMARY

- Germany wanted colonies in Africa and this challenged France and Britain.
- The Algeciras Conference (1906) gave France a controlling influence in Moroccan affairs. This angered Germany.
- The Treaty of Fez (1911) gave France control over Morocco and gave Germany control over part of the Congo.
- The Triple Entente countries became increasingly suspicious about Germany's ambitions.
- In 1908, Austria-Hungary annexed the provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Most people living there were Serbs.
- The Balkan Wars (1912–13) led to Serbia doubling in size. Austria-Hungary was concerned its Serbs would revolt against Austrian rule.
- A Serbian secret society assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June 1914.
- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia in July 1914. Germany supported Austria-Hungary and Russia supported Serbia.
- By 4 August 1914, the two alliances were at war with each other.