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**Blame:**

**SERBIA AUSTRO- HUNGARY**

**RUSSIA GERMANY**

**BRITAIN**

*28 June*

Franz Ferdinand shot by Gavrillo Princep a member of the Bosnian independence group the Black Hand. The Black Hand was worried that if Ferdinand came to power then he would give the Bosnians more power in government thereby weakening prospects of independence.

*2 July*

Conspirators were all arrested, and Tankosic was suspected of supplying weapons. There is no doubt that the Serbian provided the weapons but it is unclear whether there is sufficient evidence to suggest that any of his superiors in the army or government knew of the plot. The Serbian government knew enough to issue a vague warning to Austro-Hungary that Franz Ferdinand may not be safe on his visit to Sarajevo.

*5 July*

Austrians approached the Serbians and Russians, suggesting that the investigation needed to be widened to determine whether there was any further knowledge of the plot. They were rebuffed.

Germany gives Austria a ‘blank cheque’ of potential support. Austro-Hungary perceived that they free to treat Serbia as it wished. The Kaiser had warned the Austrian ambassador about Russia in the morning, but changed his mind after lunch. The German Chancellor agreed with the Kaiser, either he did not think Russia would get involved, or, that a war was preferrable now before Russia became too strong.

It is perhaps ominous that only a week before the Kiel Canal was opened which gave Germany access to the North Sea.

*7 July*

Kaiser Wilhelm went on holiday in Norway either to avoid alarm or because he did not think a war was possible. The Austrians debated an attack on Serbia. It needed the support of the chief Hungarian minister, Count Tisza, before it could be approved. He demurred for a week. The Austrians decide to wait anyway until a French official visit to Russia ends, and the harvest had been collected.

*8 July*

Germany reassures Austria that it will have its support even if it results in a World War. The Chancellor Bethamnn Hollwegg states that a war now is far superior before Russia gets too strong. He is confident that Russian aggression will split the Entente.

*9 July*

The German Ambassador to London tells Edward Grey that there is no undue reason to foresee a war developing over the assassination.

*13 July*

The Austrian Government concludes that there is no proof that the Serbian government had anything to do with the assassination, but they had harboured terrorist organisations and must have assisted the conspirators across the border.

*14 July*

Serbian elections; this means that the Prime Minister Pakic plays down his warnings and refuses to be seen to bow down to Austro-Hungary to win support.

*16 July*

The Austrian ambassador in St Petersburg tells the Russian government that there are no plans to do anything which may cause a war in the Balkans.

*20 July*

Germany recalls its ships from foreign waters. Austria informs Germany it still does not have a document which Serbia will be certain to reject. The German’s express concern about what the Austrians are planning.

21 July

The French President, Raymond Poincare, meets with the Tsar. He stiffens Russian resolve to act by assuring them that they will support them if the crisis escalates. The Russian Foreign Minister, Sasanov, is convinced that the Germans are goading the Austrians. Both are convinced that Germany would not take on both France and Russia

*22 July*

Austria presents its ultimatum to Serbia. By waiting, though, the Austrians had lost the chance of a surprise war, and the anger around the assassination was decreasing.

*23 July*

Russia advised Serbia to accept the ultimatum but supported their request to extend the deadline. The British PM is unimpressed with the Austrian tone but does not feel that they will be involved in any potential war.

*24 July*

Serbia mobilises. Russia asked the Austro-Hungarians to produce proof of Serbian involvement in the assassination. They refuse (they have none). There is little enthusiasm for war in Russia, but the Austrians' refusal to negotiate means a partial mobilisation is planned against Austria to encourage them to negotiate.

*25 July*

Serbia secedes on all main points, and Britain and France see this as satisfactory. The only point they refuse is having Austro-Hungary act as police in Serbia. Austro-Hungary mobilises.

*27 July*

Austro-Hungary rejects a British offer to mediate. Germany tells Britain that it can't have any influence in Austria. Russia accepts the British offer. Germany jams signals so the government in Paris cannot communicate with President Poincare, who is en route to Russia.

*27 July*

Britain and France ask Germany to restrain its ally. Russia states that it will not remain ‘uninterested’ if Serbia is attacked. A fourth British offer of mediation is rejected. Britain warns that it will side with Russia and France if restraint is not shown. The German Foreign Minister informed all embassies to deny that Germany had any forewarning of the ultimatum. The British Navy is now placed on a war footing.

*28 July*

Wilhelm notes that Serbia has capitulated and there is no need for war, but his military commander Moltke implores Austro-Hungary to declare war before mediation can occur. Bethmann-Hollwegg edits the Kaiser’s telegram to Austro-Hungary, removing the parts where he tells them not to go to war. They declare war on Serbia. The British King appeals to the Kaiser for peace.

Russia partially mobilises against Austro-Hungary. German commanders are divided over whether this could be considered a declaration of war. They worry that without a full mobilisation by Russia, Britain might come to the aid of France. France decides that German actions can only be explained by a country that only wants war.

*31 July*

Moltke orders Austria to mobilise against Russia. Only to be told that this is not possible until the 12 of August.

*1 August*

Nicholas II orders then cancel, then reorders a general mobilisation. It is accompanied by three telegrams to Austria, stating they would accept a limited occupation of Serbia while the response to most of the points of the ultimatum were met.

*31 August*

Convinced Russia could now still be made guilty – Germany mobilises. Wilhelm is angered after receiving a message from Nicholas. Britain warned Germany that if it attacked France, it would go to war with them. Wilhelm accepted a British offer to respect French neutrality only to be told that it was impossible by Moltke as German troops were already heading towards Belgium.

*1 August*

Germany declares war on Russia. Accidentally gives two different declarations one stating Germany’s demands and another saying that its response to the demands was unacceptable. France responds to the Russian mobilisation by withdrawing her troops 6 miles back from the German border.

Germany tells France to renounce its alliance with Russia or face attack. France orders mobilisation.

2 August

Germany demands free passage from Belgium and occupies Luxembourg. Britain tells France it will use its navy to proect its coast.

3 August

Germany declares war on Belgium and France

Britain offers an ultimatum to Germany for violating Belgian neutrality. Although it is unlikely that it would have allowed a German invasion of France.

*4 August*

Britain declares war on Germany

**Write a paragraph on the argument for each side of the argument on whether the ‘war guilt clause’ was justified?**