

# Bell Activity

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Read “Flanders Field” on page 206 and  
“Heaps of Shoes” on page 207.

# The Causes of WW1

- **Militarism**
- **Alliances**
- **Imperialism**
- **Nationalism**
- **Significant individuals**

# Militarism 1.

- Germany was competing with the UK to build battleships.
- The British feared an attack on their Empire



# Militarism 2.

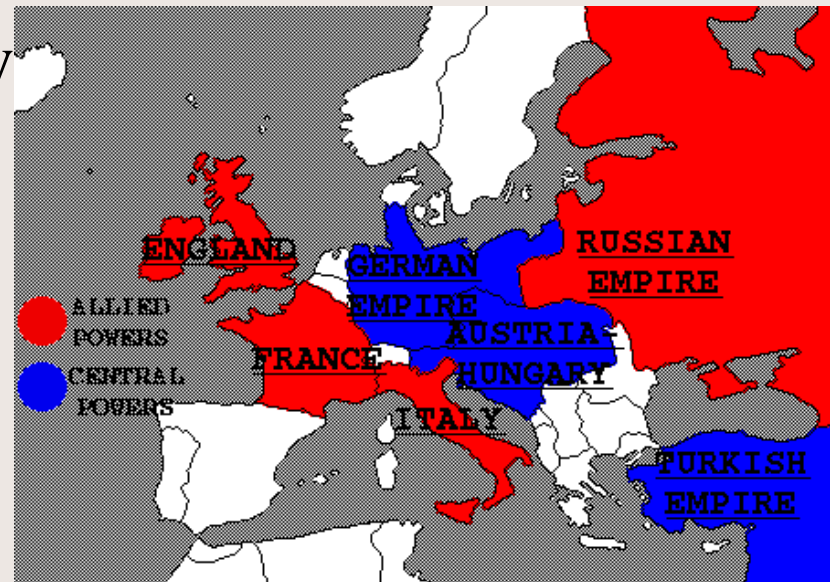
- Germany was competing with Russia and France to expand their armies

	1880	1914
• <b>Germany</b>	<b>1.3m</b>	<b>5.0m</b>
• <b>France</b>	<b>0.73m</b>	<b>4.0m</b>
• <b>Russia</b>	<b>0.40m</b>	<b>1.2m</b>



# Alliances

- By 1914 all the major powers were linked by a system of alliances.
- The alliances made it more likely that a war would start.
- Once started, the alliances made it more likely to spread.



# Imperialism

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- All the great powers were competing for colonies / territory.
- The British feared Germany in Africa.
- The Austrians feared Serbia / Russia in the Balkans

# Nationalism

- This was an age when all nations wanted to assert their power and independence.
- In Europe Slavs, aided by Serbia and Russia, wanted to be free of Austrian rule.



Serbia's  
national  
flag

# The Crisis 1.

- 28 June 1914
- Heir to Austrian throne Franz Ferdinand visits Sarajevo.
- Capital of Bosnia, recently grabbed by Austria.
- Hotbed of Slav nationalism



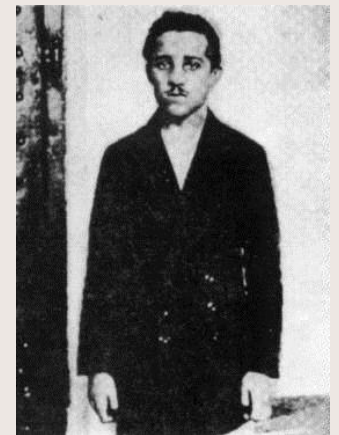
Seal of the  
Black Hand  
group





# The Crisis 2.

- “Black Hand” terrorists attack the Arch Duke
- Bomb attempt fails in morning
- Gavrilo Princip shoots Archduke and wife in the afternoon.
- Austrians blame Serbia for supporting terrorists.



# The Crisis 3.

- Austrians, supported by Germany, send Serbia a tough ultimatum.
- Serbia agrees to all but two terms of the ultimatum.
- Russia mobilises her troops to support Serbia
- Germany demands that Russia stands her armies down.
- Germany declares war on Russia

**“Demands must be put to Serbia that would be wholly impossible for them to accept ...”**



# Why did Britain get involved?

- Britain had **Ententes** with France and Russia.
- Only “friendly agreements” but French and Russians given impression Britain would fight.
- The Schlieffen Plan

Sir Edward Grey  
British Foreign Secretary  
... “There’s some devilry  
going on in Berlin”



# The Schlieffen Plan

- Germany's military plan to defeat France and Russia.
- “Knock out blow” aimed at France first.
- Avoid French defences by invasion of Belgium.
- Germans thought Britain would not intervene.



# Britain's Reaction

- 1838- UK had signed a **Treaty** to protect Belgium.
- Britain also scared of Germany controlling **Channel ports**.
- Did not want **Germany** to defeat France and **dominate Europe**. Britain next?
- UK issued **ultimatum** to Germany to withdraw troops from Belgium. War declared August 4 1914



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSzHDW0IsoE&t=11s>