

## POWDER KEG

MAIN Explosives:  
nationalism  
imperialism  
militarism (and arms race)  
alliances

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## THE FUSE

1. June 28, 1914. **Archduke Francis Ferdinand** and his wife are assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia (Austria-Hungary) by a Serb, **Gavrilo Princip**, who wants Bosnia to be part of Serbia. Austria-Hungary blames Serbian government.
  2. Germany gives Austria-Hungary, its ally, a “free hand” to deal with Serbia. Actually, Germany urges quick, strong action.
  3. July 23, 1914. Austria-Hungary issues a humiliating **ultimatum** to Serbia, making 10 unreasonable demands and giving Serbia only 48 hours to respond. It hopes that Serbia’s refusal will give Austria-Hungary an excuse to attack.
  4. July 25, 1914. Serbia agrees to 9 of Austria-Hungary’s demands.
  5. Austria-Hungary begins **mobilization**.
  6. Russia, ally of Serbia, begins partial mobilization.
  7. France supports Russia (**Triple Entente**).
  8. Britain proposes a conference to resolve the crisis.
  9. Germany and Austria-Hungary reject the British proposal for a conference, saying it is a matter of national honor.
  10. July 28, 1914. Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.
  11. Russia begins complete mobilization, in defense of national honor and pride.
  12. Germany asks Russia to cancel the mobilization.
  13. Russia makes no reply to Germany.
  14. August 1, 1914. Germany declares war on Russia.
  15. August 3, 1914. Germany declares war on France.
  16. August 3, 1914. Germany attacks France through **neutral** Belgium. (**Schlieffen Plan**)
  17. August 4, 1914. Britain, in support of Belgium, declares war on Germany.
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With all of the major powers of Europe now involved, the “Great War” begins. It will last for four years, kill over 10 million soldiers, and cripple most of the nations involved.