

HEIR TO THE AUSTRIA-HUNGARY EMPIRE SHOT WAR IN EUROPE IMMINENT



On the left is a photo of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and on the right a picture of his killer, Gavrilo Princip.

1 month ago, England declared war on Germany. This all started about 2 months ago, when the heir to the Austria-Hungary empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was shot, by a young Serbian radical of the name Gavrilo Princip. Princip was thought to be a member of a group called the 'Black hand Gang', a group of nationalistic young men, all set on unificating Serbia, no matter the cost.

On the 28th June, Franz Ferdinand had planned to make a visit to Sarajevo. He rode in an open-topped car and appeared to take little precautions, despite his family being the victims of political assassination in the past. Another member of the Black Hand gang, Nedeljko Cabrinovic, had failed to kill the archduke, his bomb bouncing off of Ferdinand's car, injuring 16-20 people. He took a cyanide pill, which however was old and only made him vomit.

Despite the assassination attempt, the archduke decided to carry on with his tour (in his open-topped car) and visit the injured in hospital, determined to make a good impression. On the way to the hospital the driver made a wrong turn and by sheer luck, Gavrilo Princip was there. As the driver tried to turn around, Princip pulled out his pistol and shot the archduke and his wife. His cyanide pill was also old, only making him vomit and he was pinned to the ground before he could shoot himself.

The whole thing started a chain reaction, with countries declaring war on each other left right and centre. Austria-Hungary, with the support of Germany, delivered an ultimatum to Serbia, which they refused. Russia started to mobilise their troops, until Germany declared war on them, and then France declared war on Germany, Germany invaded Belgium and then Britain (who has a long-standing alliance with Belgium) delivered an ultimatum to Germany to move out, which they refuse.

However, tension between countries in Europe has been building for a very long time. Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy have had an alliance since 1882, and Britain, Russia and France have had a similar alliance since 1907. People have known that war has been inevitable for a long long time. But what really caused this war to break out in Europe?

Experts have said that there are lots of things that have caused this outbreak of war in Europe. Firstly, statistics show that military spending has increased over 300% in the last century. People knew that war was coming for at least 100 years, and they knew that they needed to give their country a chance in it.

I think this is a pretty significant reason to why war has broken out. As the countries gave more and more money to the military, trying to have the best, they grew more and more eager to use it.

Another significant reason is that all the countries in Europe at the moment want colonies. It has been known for a long time that Germany has wanted to become a strong empire. Britain already is a fairly strong empire with quite a few colonies over the world. War is a very good way to gain land and Germany would have done anything to get more land. Feelings of pride, nationalism and humiliation between European countries have never been stronger meaning they would do anything to expand and bring glory to their country even if it meant sending innocent people in to die.

I think that nationalistic pride and the need to expand land caused WW1. People would do anything to make their country bigger and greater and colonies is a great way to do it.

But don't worry about the war. It'll be over by Christmas.