

History *in* Depth

The Armenian Massacre



One group in southeastern Europe that suffered greatly for its independence efforts was the Armenians. By

the 1880s, the roughly 2.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire had begun to demand their freedom. As a result, relations between the group and its Turkish rulers grew strained.

Throughout the 1890s, Turkish troops killed tens of thousands of Armenians. When World War I erupted in 1914, the Armenians pledged their support to the Turks' enemies. In response, the Turkish government deported nearly 2 million Armenians. Along the way, more than 600,000 died of starvation or were killed by Turkish soldiers.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

INTERNET ACTIVITY Create a chart or graphic about any aspect of modern Armenian culture. Go to classzone.com for your research.

A Shot Rings Throughout Europe Into this poisoned atmosphere of mutual dislike and mistrust stepped the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife, Sophie. On June 28, 1914, the couple paid a state visit to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. It would be their last. The royal pair was shot at point-blank range as they rode through the streets of Sarajevo in an open car. The killer was Gavrilo Princip, a 19-year-old Serbian and member of the Black Hand. The Black Hand was a secret society committed to ridding Bosnia of Austrian rule.

Because the assassin was a Serbian, Austria decided to use the murders as an excuse to punish Serbia. On July 23, Austria presented Serbia with an ultimatum containing numerous demands. Serbia knew that refusing the ultimatum would lead to war against the more powerful Austria. Therefore, Serbian leaders agreed to most of Austria's demands. They offered to have several others settled by an international conference.

Austria, however, was in no mood to negotiate. The nation's leaders, it seemed, had already settled on war. On July 28, Austria rejected Serbia's offer and declared war. That same day, Russia, an ally of Serbia with its largely Slavic population, took action. Russian leaders ordered the mobilization of troops toward the Austrian border.

Leaders all over Europe suddenly took notice. The fragile European stability seemed ready to collapse into armed conflict. The British foreign minister, the Italian government, and even Kaiser Wilhelm himself urged Austria and Russia to negotiate. But it was too late. The machinery of war had been set in motion.

Vocabulary

An ultimatum is a list of demands that, if not met, lead to serious consequences.

SECTION

1

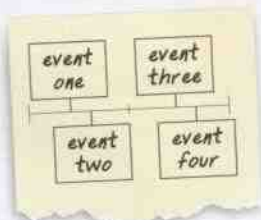
ASSESSMENT

TERMS & NAMES 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- militarism
- Triple Alliance
- Kaiser Wilhelm II
- Triple Entente

USING YOUR NOTES

2. Which event do you consider most significant? Why? (10.5.1)



MAIN IDEAS

3. What were the three forces at work in Europe that helped set the stage for war? (10.5.1)
4. Who were the members of the Triple Alliance? the Triple Entente? (10.5.1)
5. What single event set in motion the start of World War I? (10.5.1)

CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **ANALYZING CAUSES** Which of the forces at work in Europe played the greatest role in helping to prevent an outbreak of war? (10.5.1)
7. **ANALYZING ISSUES** Was the description of the Balkans as the "powder keg" of Europe justified? Explain. (10.5.1)
8. **FORMING AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS** Do you think World War I was avoidable? Support your answer. (10.5.1)
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **POWER AND AUTHORITY** Write a letter to the editor of a European newspaper expressing what your views might have been on the conflict at the start of World War I. (Writing 2.5.b)

CONNECT TO TODAY CREATING A TIME LINE

Working with a partner, use the library and other resources to create a **time line** of key events in the Balkans from 1914 until today. Limit your time line to the six to eight events you consider most significant. (Writing 2.2.d)