

- Sunday, June 28, 1914
 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand visits Sarajevo, Bosnia
 - June 28th = important day
- Archduke targeted for assassination back in Jan
 - Group = Unification or Death
 - Why? = political views
 - Plot devised by Danilo Ilić
 - Recruit 6 operatives
- Archduke arrive
 - Group travels by car
 - Sequence = bizarre
 - Shot by Gavrilo Princip
- Assassination = hardly “shot heard round the world”
 - But sets of global conflagration

- Geopolitics = result of 5 decades
 - Map of Europe drawn by Franco-Prussian War
 - War devised by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck
 - Bismarck = Master of *Realpolitik*
 - Anything to accomplish aims, even war
 - Advocates for war on both sides
 - Cause = vacancy on Spanish throne
 - Bismarck exploits with Ems Telegram
 - Napoleon III blinks first
 - French Army vs. Prussian Army
 - War lasts six months
 - Casualties = high
 - Settlement = Treaty of Frankfurt (1871)

- Outcome = historic transformation
 - 1) *Deutsche Einigung* = German unification
 - Powerful nation suddenly “created”
 - 2) *La Troisième République* = Third Republic
 - Monarchy dissolved during war
 - Provisional government form
 - Loses war; negotiates peace
 - Triggers Paris Commune
 - New government formed without monarch
 - Focus = revenge & strengthening world standing
- Unusual “peace” follows
 - Engineered by Bismarck
 - Bismarck’s foreign policy
 - Primary goal = isolation of FR
 - Secondary goal = avoid war between Russia & Austria-Hungary

- Develops “alliance system”
- Bismarck’s 1st attempt = Three Emperor’s League
- Austria-Hungary
 - It = supra-nationalist state plagued with issues
 - Empire formed in 1803
 - Single ethnic group dominated others
 - Almost implodes 1848
 - Franz-Joseph implements *Ausgleich*
 - Dual-monarchy created
 - Focus = control minorities; expansion
- Russia
 - Also = supra-nationalist state plagued with issues
 - Plus empire = vast
 - Single ethnic group dominated others
 - Nationalist uprisings
 - Alexander II implements reforms
 - Triggers new problems
 - Focus = control minorities; expansion

- League collapsed when interests clashed
 - Cause = Russo-Turkish War erupts (1877-78)
 - Trigger = Ottoman Empire on brink of collapse
 - Balkan subjects rebel
 - Russian entry triggers crisis
 - Ottomans sue for peace
 - Treaty of San Stefano (1878)
 - Disrupts “balance of power”
 - Austrians & British undermine
 - International Conference called = Congress of Berlin (1878)
 - Three Emperors League = Dead
 - PLUS two threats to Bismarck’s peace
 - Bismarck counters with Dual Alliance
 - Russian tragedy = restoration of League

- 1882, Italy asked to join Dual Alliance
 - 1871 *Risorgimento*
 - Road to unification seemed unlikely
 - Primary architect = Count Camillo Cavour
 - Also practiced *Realpolitik*
 - Was Prime Minister for Kingdom of Piedmont
 - Manipulates events surrounding wars
 - Italy also desires expansion
 - Looks to counter France expansion
- 1882 - Bismarck's Alliance System comes into full affect
 - 1) Germany allied w/ 3 of Great Powers
 - 2) Britain = "Splendid Isolation"
 - 3) France still alone
- 1st "cracks"
 - Austra-Hungary & Russia tensions over Balkans
 - Russia leaves League
 - Bismarck stabilizes with Reinsurance Treaty
 - Peace maintained until 1890