

THE ROAD TO WWI

HEIR TO AUSTRIAN THRONE ASSASSINATED; WIFE BY HIS SIDE ALSO SHOT TO DEATH; EARLIER ATTEMPT ON THEIR LIVES FAILED

HEIR TO THE AUSTRIAN THRONE AND HIS WIFE, VICTIMS OF ASSASSIN.



Francis Ferdinand, Nephew of Emperor Francis Joseph, Killed in Bosnian Capital an Hour After Warding Off Bomb Which Injures Score.

SLAYER A SERBIAN SOCIALIST

Volley from Revolver Hits Archduke and Duchess of Hohenburg as They Are Driving Together in Automobile in Town of Sarajevo—New Heir, Charles Joseph, 27 Years Old.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)
Sarajevo, Bosnia, June 28.—The Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary, and his morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenburg, were shot to death to-day in the main street of this, the Bosnian capital. Bullets from a magazine revolver in the hands of an eighteen-year-old youth riddled the heir apparent and his wife, and thus completed the grim task a madman had unsuccessfully attempted only a few hours before by hurling a bomb at the royal automobile.

Another terrible chapter has thus been written into the tragic

Germany

- * After German unification, Bismarck continued to play an important role in European politics. Remember his political philosophy was *Realpolitik* (or, doing what he has to to get the job done).
- * Sometimes this seems contradictory: he attempted to outlaw the moderate socialist party (Social Democratic Party), while also trying to appeal to the working classes of Germany by passing many social assistance programs.
- * Bismarck said:
“Give [the worker] work as long as he is healthy. Look after him while he is ill. Take care of him when he is old. If you do this and don’t shy away from the sacrifices involved or scream about state socialism the minute someone mentions ‘care for the elderly’ or when the state shows a bit of Christian charity towards their worker, then I believe the supporters [of the socialists] will play their pied pipes in vain.”
- * This doesn’t really work. The workers are not really won over by Bismarck and the German state, and they continue to support Social Democrats, especially when the party is outlawed (and former SD’s run as independents in elections).



Germany

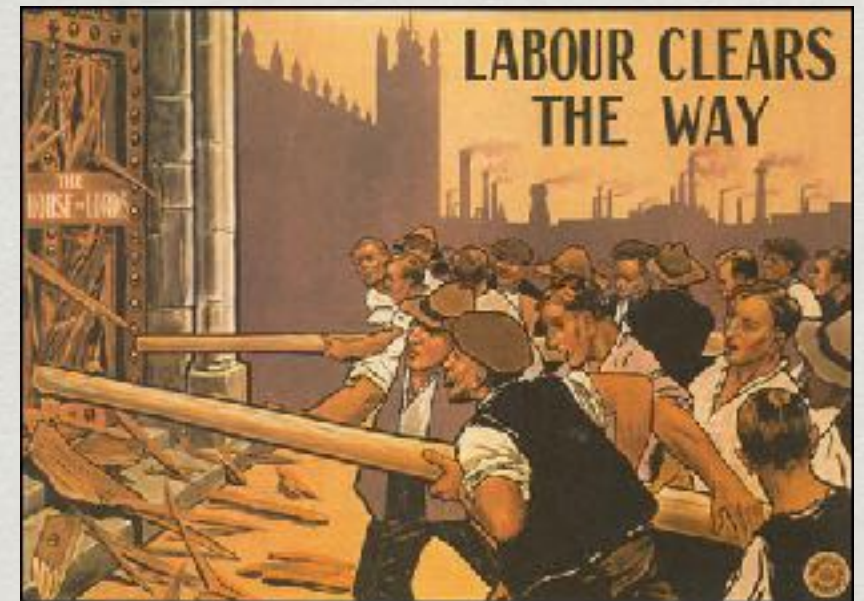
- * Bismarck's power wanes by 1890, when a new German Kaiser ascends to the throne: **Wilhelm II**, who is only 29 years old and disagrees with a lot of Bismarck's practices.
- * This is ultimately dangerous, not only for Germany but for all of Europe, because Bismarck — for all of his authoritarianism — kept militarism in check.
- * As your textbook states, “He did not believe in militarism for power's sake, but in power for stability's sake. After Bismarck, Germany appeared to lose sight of its principles.”
- * By the 1890s, extreme politics flourished in Germany: a huge wave of support for socialists **and** a huge wave of support for conservative antisemitic nationalists.



A British Political cartoon from 1890 called “Dropping the Pilot” - that's Wilhelm II leaning over the edge of the ship, and Bismarck descending.

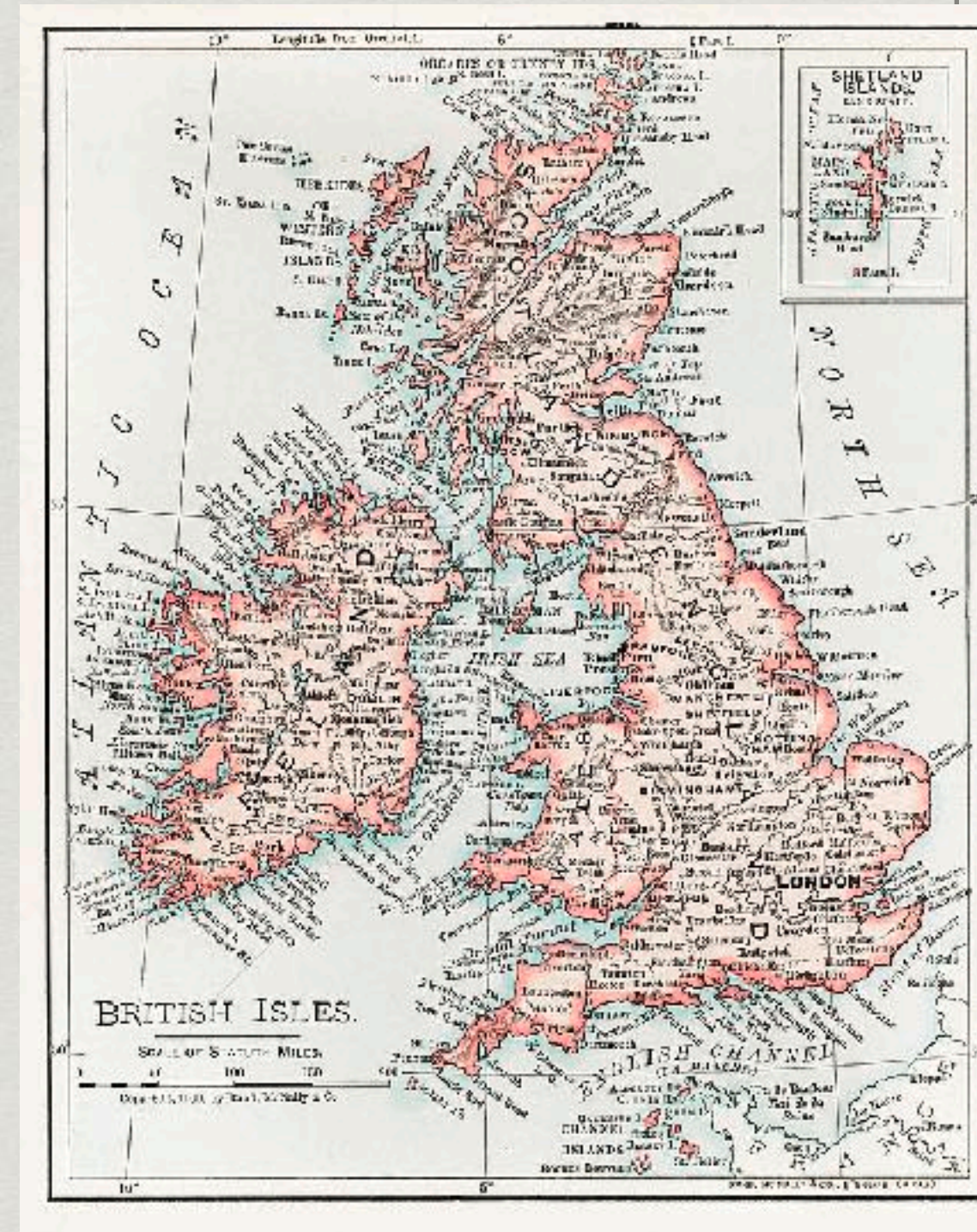
The United Kingdom

- * *Deeply* threatened by Germany's quick rise to power. By the end of the 19th century, Germany had become *the* leader in European industry **and** had the most well-trained and efficient military!
- * In 1901, Queen Victoria dies. She had been queen since 1837. This adds to the general sense of instability in the UK at this time.
- * Much like Germany, the UK was making many overtures to its working class during this time: legalizing trade unions, providing free elementary school to all children, and expanding the vote so that by the end of the century, 75% of the adult male population could vote.
- * But, also like Germany, these concessions do not pacify the working class, who are growing more discontented and more politically active year by year.
- * For example, a dockworkers' union strike in 1889 lasted five full weeks!
- * A new political party emerged to directly address and represent the British working class: the **Labour Party**. Previously British politics had been dominated by the Conservative and Liberal parties.
 - * The Labour Party was not radical or revolutionary, but it was (like the German Social Democratic party mentioned on slide #2) dedicated to transforming British politics from the inside. They favor **incremental reform**. Things like: housing programs, welfare benefits, higher wages, etc.
 - * The Labour Party dilutes the power and popularity of the Liberal Party in the UK (since it is highly unlikely that supporters of the conservative party would throw their support behind Labour!).



The United Kingdom

- * The UK is also dealing with a unique problem all their own: Ireland.
- * The Catholic majority in Ireland is lobbying for increased control over their own politics and land, which was at the time dominated by a small protestant minority in Northern Ireland.
- * Land reform began in the 1860s, designed to protect Catholics from being exploited by English or Irish Protestant landlords.
- * But alongside these land reforms, there was a rebirth in Irish cultural nationalism and a growing desire for independence for Ireland, lobbying for self-government (or “Home Rule”).
- * This was bitterly opposed by the Protestant minority in the North of Ireland and also opposed by Conservatives in England. (Liberals supported the Irish in their bid for Home Rule).
- * The “Irish Problem” becomes more militant by the beginning of the 20th century, with the creation of the **Irish Republican Brotherhood**, who start lobbying not just for Home Rule, but for **Independence** for Ireland. They engage in violent spectacles (bombings & assassinations) — remember this theme from last week?
- * Ireland is on the verge of a civil war when WWI begins.





Two different postcards from the early 20th century. The postcard on the left is clearly in favor of Home Rule for Ireland, while the postcard on the right is opposed to it. When it mentions “Ulster” this is a reference to the protestant region in the north of Ireland.

France

- * Since the end of the Franco-Prussian War, France has been under a new regime, the **Third Republic**.
- * Under the Third Republic, France experiences many of the same political phenomena as Germany and the UK: the growth of working-class politics, the expansion of voting rights (to men), and the expansion of social programs.
- * But there are a few things that make France unique during this time.
 - * First, their population is actually *declining*. And this causes **great anxiety** among the population many of whom worry about a legitimate crisis of “depopulation”
 - * Second, much of the French population — and many nationalist politicians — are dead set on getting revenge for their humiliation in the Franco-Prussian war. This is often concentrated around an obsession with restoring the “lost” provinces of Alsace and Lorraine (territories ceded to Prussia in 1870).
 - * This desire for revenge goes by its French term: **Revanchisme!**
- * France also has a powerful group of cultural and political **antisemitic** leaders, who target the Jews of France.
 - * The best example of this was at the very end of the century when a (Jewish) French captain, **Alfred Dreyfus** was falsely accused of treason and court-martialed. The case against him was very weak and relied on widespread antisemitic support.
 - * You can read more about the tragedy of the Dreyfus affair in your textbook, on pages 331-333.



Russia

- * *A lot* is happening in Russia around the turn of the century.
- * Anarchism and terrorism are extremely widespread (in comparison to other European countries) in Authoritarian Tsarist Russia. The Russian head of state Tsar Alexander II is assassinated by an anarchist group in 1881.
- * The state's response to this threat is a total repression of any opposition.
- * There is also a massive reaction against the many Jews in Russia, when spontaneous acts of popular violence (called **Pogroms**) erupt across Russia. This results in a massive migration of Jews into Western Europe and to the USA.
- * Meanwhile, Russia is *finally* industrializing. Cities grow, a railway system is quickly built (primarily backed by foreign investment, especially from France).
- * Rapid industrialization means that all the problems associated with industrialization suddenly hit Russia (much as they did in the 1820s in places like Manchester). The big difference is that now there are organized international political parties that represent the needs and interests of these workers: socialists, communists, social democrats, and other worker's organizations.
- * There is a massive wave of strikes in the early 20th century that sweep across Russia.
- * In 1904 Russia goes to war with Japan over territory in the far east. Russia assumes this will be a quick and decisive victory and that it will rally popular support for the state. **They are wrong.** What it leads to, is **revolution.**
 - * (note: this isn't the "big" Revolution in Russia, that won't happen until the end of WWI, in 1917. This is a bit of a dress rehearsal for that event. It is known as the **Revolution of 1905.**

Russian Revolution of 1905

- * The Russian Revolution of 1905 happens in the midst of the Russo-Japanese war. Which Russia is losing (badly).
- * Liberals (not radical socialists) organize a banquet campaign in 1905 to try to bring about some basic liberal reforms — the same kinds of things that liberals sought in Western Europe earlier in the 19th century, things like: an elected government, civil liberties, an 8-hour workday, the right to strike, etc. (i.e., these are not radical revolutionary objectives)
- * A priest, **Father Gapon**, leads a group of demonstrators to the Tsar's residence in St. Petersburg to deliver their petition, requesting these reforms. The Tsar is not actually there, but he gives orders to his troops to fire on the unarmed crowd, which they do, to “repel the demonstrators.” This day of violence is referred to as **Bloody Sunday**, and is depicted in the next slide, where you can see lines of soldiers firing on a fleeing crowd.



Father Gapon



Tsar Nicholas II



Russian Revolution of 1905, continued...



- * The Reaction to **Bloody Sunday** is strong: waves of strikes break out throughout Russia. The largest of these is a railway strike in October that led to a general strike that shuts the country.
- * In St. Petersburg (the capital), **Soviets** are created. These are councils made up of workers and soldiers, who take control of running the city during this crisis.
- * The Tsar eventually gives in and passes the **October Manifesto** in which he promises to extend basic civil rights to the population, to write a constitution, and to create a representative elected body (called **the Duma**).
- * These “days of freedom” are followed quickly by days of reprisal, including pogroms and government crackdown on their opponents.
- * The significance of the 1905 Revolution wasn’t necessarily these limited concessions from the tsar, but that it set a precedent for the 1917 revolution: revolutionary radicalization is underway!

Austro-Hungarian Empire

- * The A-H Empire is less “developed” by Western European standards than the west, but more developed than Russia.
- * There are some very unique conditions in the A-H Empire, most notably the many nationalities coexisting within the same empire.
- * These give rise to a whole range of nationalist groups, each with their own objectives, for example:
 - * Pan Germanism among german-speaking Austrians want to unite with Germany.
 - * Czechs in Bohemia seek autonomy
 - * Romanians in Transylvania also seek autonomy
 - * Slavic populations in Hungary (including Serbs, Croats, and Slavic Bosnians) are lobbying for a South-Slavic state.
- * A map of all the different population groups living in the Austro-Hungarian Empire is on the next slide.

Austro-Hungarian Empire



The Road to WWI: The Alliance System

- * There is **no single cause** of WWI. But we can trace the most significant causes quite easily. The first one that we often talk about is the **Alliance System** that developed at the end of the 19th century. These agreements were one of **Bismarck's** legacies for Europe, but he imagined them as a way to **avoid war**, not cause it!
- * Below, is a list of the major alliances between the 1870s and the outbreak of WWI.

Major Treaty Alliances on the Road to the First World War

1879	Dual Alliance	Germany–Austria-Hungary
1881	Reinsurance Treaty (secret)	Germany–Russia
1882	Triple Alliance	Germany–Austria–Hungary–Italy
1894	Dual Entente	France–Russia
1904	Entente Cordiale	France–Britain
1907	Triple Entente	France–Russia–Britain

The Road to WWI: Mounting Crises!

- * There were also a series of crises that tested these alliances through the first decade of the 20th century.
- * First, there was an ongoing conflict between Serbia (an independent state) and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
 - * Serbians called for the creation of a pan-slavic union that would unite all of the slavic peoples of Southern Europe together under the same government.
 - * This pan-slavic movement threatened Austria-Hungary because so many slavic population groups resided within their boundaries.
 - * To combat this pan-slavic threat, Austria-Hungary **annexes** the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1908.
 - * Serbia and Austria come to the brink of war over this annexation, and while war is avoided, tensions obviously remain (remember “the spark” that brings about WWI is the assassination of an heir to the A-H Empire (the Archduke Franz Ferdinand) by a Serbian nationalist, while the archduke was visiting Sarajevo (the largest city in Bosnia-Herzegovina)).
- * Second, there was a conflict in North Africa (specifically, **Morocco**) that involved the governments of France, the UK, and Germany, all making bellicose statements and threats to one another over who had the right to rule over this portion of North Africa.

The Road to WWI: Militarization

- * Remember how much technology had advanced since Europe's last major conflict (the Napoleonic Wars, which ended in 1815). There have been *two* industrial revolutions, and weapons at the beginning of the 20th century are lightyears beyond what Europeans fought with at the beginning of the 19th century.
- * Between 1900 and 1910, European nations begin radically increasing their military budgets:
 - * Germany increases military spending by 20%
 - * France increases military spending by 35%
 - * The UK increases military sending by 35%
 - * Russia increases military sending by a whopping **60%**
 - * The A-H Empire increases military sending by 25%
 - * And even a small nation like Italy increased its military spending by 50%!
- * These numbers go up even more between 1910 and 1914 demonstrating that every nation is preparing for war.
- * People talk about how war will “clean the air” in Europe and “provide a fresh start” for the continent.
- * The assumption here is not only that war is inevitable, but that it will somehow be **good** for Europe.

The Road to WWI: The Spark

- * The spark that ultimately ignites WWI is the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo by a Serbian Nationalist, Gavrilo Princip.
- * Franz Ferdinand was an heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Following his assassination, A-H issues an ultimatum to Serbia (which they know Serbia will turn down), knowing that they have the full backing of their powerful Ally, Germany.
- * Almost immediately after A-H declares war on Serbia, every major European country is pulled into war because of pre-existing military alliances.



The Futurist Manifesto

- * This might seem like an odd document to end the course with, but I think it's such an odd and interesting commentary on Europe in the years before WWI.
- * The author, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti was a poet and artist who founded the strange artistic movement known as **futurism**.
- * This Manifesto of Futurism was published on the front page of a Parisian newspaper in 1909. It was deliberately provocative and was designed to shock people and grab their attention.
- * To further illustrate their tactics: in the years before WWI, Marinetti and the Futurists would hold these weird performances (called “**Futurist Evenings**” where they would read their manifestos to people while standing on stage and then hurl vegetables at them.
- * What themes of the 19th century do you see reflected in this manifesto?
- * How does this manifesto help you understand the “mood” of Europeans in the years before WWI.
- * How do you think Marinetti and the futurists thought about **violence**?
- * How do you think Marinetti and the futurists thought about **the past**?
- * Your final quiz (**Unit 5**) will cover the Futurist Manifesto as well as content from the textbook & these slides. I will post it on **Tuesday**, April 28.

