

Module 11

World War I



1914-1918

THE GREAT WAR and the Shaping of the 20th Century

Lesson 1

Marching Toward War



Rising Tension in Europe

- The rise of **nationalism**, or sense of devotion to one's national group (country and race) increased the likelihood for war.
- During the 1800s, nationalism was among the forces that unified the separate states of Germany and Italy, transforming each into a cohesive national identity.
- In some other European nations, however, nationalism was a dividing force.
- The Ottoman Empire once controlled eastern and southern Mediterranean lands, as well as the Balkan Peninsula in southeast Europe.
- **By the early 1900s, some of the many ethnic groups within the empire had formed nationalist movements and sought independence. They included Serbs, Albanians, Bulgarians, Romanians and others.**

Economic and Political Rivalry

- Tensions rise in Europe due to:
 - economic rivalries (**industrialization**)
 - competition for colonies overseas (**imperialism**)
 - **militarism**, or the glorification of the military, also helped to increase the arms (weapons) race.
 - aggressive **nationalism** began to divide Europe. Germany and France had strong nationalists.
 - Russia supported all **Slavic** peoples called **Pan-Slavism**, including Serbia, a young nation and Slav state.

Alliances Draw Lines

- In the early 1900s, powerful forces were pushing Europe towards war.
- Ignited by distrust of one another, the great powers of Europe –Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Britain, France, and Russia –signed treaties pledging to defend one another.
- These treaties were designed to promote peace by creating powerful combinations that no one would dare attack.
- The opposite occurred, as two huge alliances emerged.

The Triple Alliance

- German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck formed the Triple Alliance with Italy, and Austria-Hungary to prevent France from attacking; who wanted to avenge their defeat in the Franco-Prussian War.
- **Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary** became known as the Central Powers.

The Triple Entente

- In 1904 **France** and **Britain** signed an **entente**, a nonbinding agreement to follow common policies. It led to close military and diplomatic ties.
- Britain later signed a similar agreement with **Russia**.
- When the Great War began, these powers became known as the **Triple Entente**, or **Allies**.



 *European Alliances on the Eve of World War I. Alliance systems divided Europe into two great blocs with few countries remaining neutral.*

Rivalries and Nationalism Increase Tension

- **Balkan Wars** – several Balkan states attacked **Turkey** and succeeded in taking a large area of land away from Turkish control.
- The Balkan states then fought each other over the spoils of the war.
- These tensions raised to a fever pitch as the Balkans became known as the “**powder keg of Europe**” – a tiny spark could explode into war.

The Powder Keg of Europe

THE BALKANS



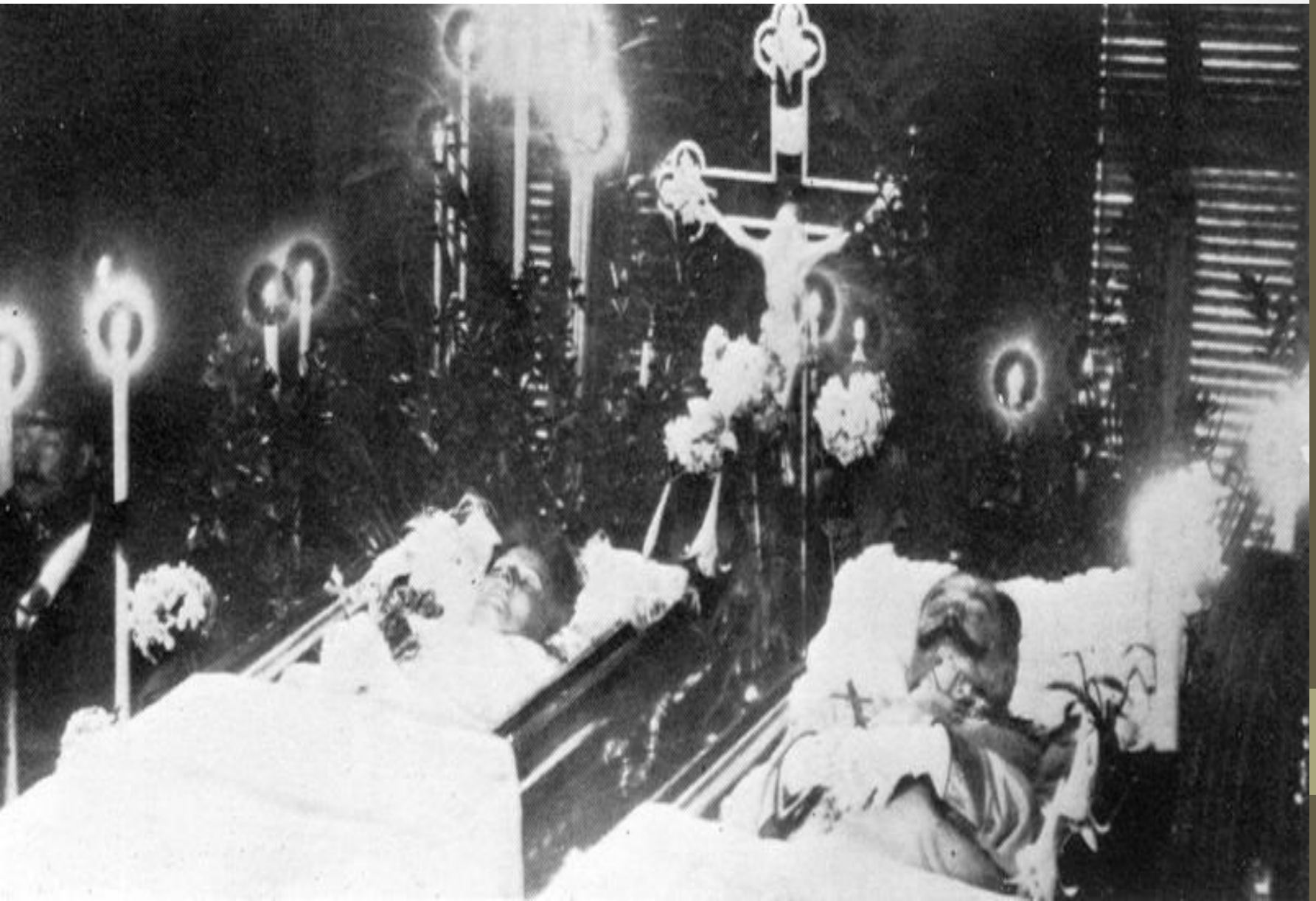
Crisis in the Balkans

- Assassination in Sarajevo (see map pg. 418):
- Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary announced that he would visit Sarajevo, Bosnia.
- Franz Ferdinand was the heir to the Austrian emperor, Francis Joseph.
- At the time of his visit, Bosnia was under Austria-Hungary rule.
- Bosnia was home to many Serbian and Slav nationalists who viewed the Austrians as foreign oppressors.
- A secret Serbian-nationalist group commonly known as the **Black Hand**, vowed to take action.
- Ignoring the warnings, Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, rode through the streets of Sarajevo in an open car. As it passed by, **Gavrilo Princip**, a conspirator fired two shots in the car, assassinating the archduke and his wife, Sophie.

Assassination



Sophie and Franz Ferdinand



Austria Strikes Back

- In Berlin, Germany **Kaiser William II** gave Austria a “**blank check**,” or a promise of unconditional support no matter the cost.
- Austria sent Serbia a powerful **ultimatum**, or final set of demands.
- To avoid war, Serbia must end all anti-Austrian agitation and punish any Serbian official involved in the murder plot.
- Serbia agreed partially to the ultimatum. This partial refusal gave Austria the opportunity to **declare war** on Serbia on July 28, 1914.

#1

a. What is it?

b. How did it increase tensions among European nations?

1. Nationalism pg. 414	a. b.
2. Imperialism pg. 415	a. b.
3. Militarism pg. 415	a. b.
4. Triple Alliance (1882) pg. 416	a. b.
5. Triple Entente (1907) pg. 416	a. b.
6. Assassination in Sarajevo pg. 418	a. b.