

US History World War I

Learning Target:

I can examine the spark of WWI, the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand.

2. World War I Begins

The Spark: The Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand –

June 1914: The Assassination –

- Archduke Ferdinand –
 - Heir to throne of Austria-Hungary
 - Visited Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia, to announce reforms

- Colonel Apis –
 - Leader of the Black Hand, fought to include Bosnia in Serbia
 - Wanted to assassinate the Archduke before reforms would pacify the people of Bosnia

- Gavrilo Princip
 - Assassinated Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo
 - Serbian nationalist and member of the Black Hand

Alliance Dominoes –

- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia
- Germany pledged its support to Austria-Hungary

- Russia had a large Slav population and honored its alliance with Serbia
- Britain and France pledged support to Russia

Allied Powers –

- Britain, France, Russia, Italy (Remained neutral until 1915)

Central Powers –

- Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria
- A local conflict has now become a global war

Schlieffen Plan –

Germans original military strategy in WWI –

- Called for a massive attack against France to defeat it quickly
- This would leave British forces stranded in Britain unable to cross the English Channel
- After taking care of France and Britain, Germany could then focus on defeating Russia in the East

The Schlieffen Plan In Action –

- Germany decided to invade France through neutral Belgium (Aug. 1914)
- Belgium Army put up surprisingly strong resistance
- Belgium resistance gave France and Britain time to rush troops to battle
- Germans pushed Allies back to the Marne River in France
- First Battle of Marne saw Allies push German lines back 40 miles
- End of 1914 saw a realization of a potential stalemate