

World War I Chronology

- 1860 Unification of Italy (completed 1870)
- 1870-1871 Franco-Prussian War
- 1871 Unification of Germany under Prussia (Bismarck; Wilhelm I)
- 1873 Three Emperor's League (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia)
- 1878 Russo-Turkish War and Congress of Berlin
- 1879 Dual Alliance (Austro-German for Mutual Defense)
- 1882 Italy joins Dual Alliance (Triple Alliance)
- 1883 Rumania joins Triple Alliance
- 1887 "Reinsurance Treaty" (revives Three Emperor's League)
- 1890 Bismarck dismissed by Kaiser Wilhelm II
- 1893- Franco-Russian Alliance (mutual military support vs. Germany)
- 1902 Renewal of Triple Alliance
- 1904 Entente Cordiale ("friendly understanding" - France and England)
- 1905 Schlieffen Plan finalized (German blueprint for next war)
- 1907 Triple Entente (France, Russia, England) loose alliance
- 1912-1914 Balkan Crises
- 1914 6/28 Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, Bosnia (annexed to Austria-Hungary)

July-August 1914

- 7/5 - 7/6 Germany gives "blank check" to Austria
- 7/23 Austria delivers ultimatum to Serbia (violates Serbian sovereignty)
Serbs have 48 hours to respond; Serbs accept all but the most unpalatable terms -- Austria considers this a rejection of the ultimatum
- 7/28 Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
Russian mobilize on German frontier
Germans demand Russian demobilization
Russians consider mobilization defensive rather than aggressive act
(Their mobilization is agonizingly slow and they have no chance if they don't start -- notice they assume they are going to war with Germany)
- 8/1 Germany declares war on Russia; French mobilize
- 8/3 Germany declares war on France
- 8/4 Germans invade Belgium according to the Schlieffen Plan in violation of Belgian neutrality; England declares war on Germany.

Terms: war guilt
trench warfare
secret treaties
navalism
imperialism
Habsburg Monarchy (Dual Monarchy)
multi-national empire
Ottoman Empire - "Sick Man of Europe"
"encirclement" of Germany
Schlieffen Plan
the Western front

Useful source for diplomatic lead-in to war: *The Long Fuse* by Lawrence Lafore
Useful source for military aspects of war: *First Steps* by John Keegan

Distribution of nationalities within the Habsburg Monarchy as at the 1910 census:

The Monarchy as a Whole

23.6%	Germans	12.011 million	4 %	Serbs	2.042 million
19.8	Magyars	10.068 million	3.9	Slovaks	1.968 million
13.0	Czechs	6.643 million	2.7	Slovenes	1.371 million
9.8	Poles	4.978 million	1.5	Italians	0.771 million
5.7	Rumanians	2.888 million	1.2	Moslem Slavs	0.612 million
10.3	Croats	3.225 million		Others	0.368 million
				Total	50.944 million

These figures may be more revealingly ^q broken down into the Austrian and Hungarian halves of the Monarchy:

Austria

Germans	9.950 million (2.468 million of these lived in Bohemia; 720,000 in Moravia)
Czechs	6.436 million
Poles	4.968 million
Ruthenians	3.519 million
Slovenes	1.253 million (409,684 of these lived in Styria)
Serbo-Croats	0.788 million
Italians	0.768 million
Rumanians	0.275 million

Hungary

Magyars	9.944 million
Rumanians	2.948 million
Slovaks	1.946 million
Germans	1.903 million
Ruthenians	0.464 million
Serbo-Croats	0.462 million
•Croats in Croatia-Slavonia	1.600 million
•Serbs in Croatia-Slavonia	0.650 million

•For the purposes of this census, and in order to avoid showing the strength of the Slav minority in Hungary, the Magyars excluded Croatia-Slavonia from their figures.

From Edward Crankshaw's *The Fall of the House of Habsburg*, Appendix B (1963)

Notice how the Serbs and Croats are lumped together as one minority group....