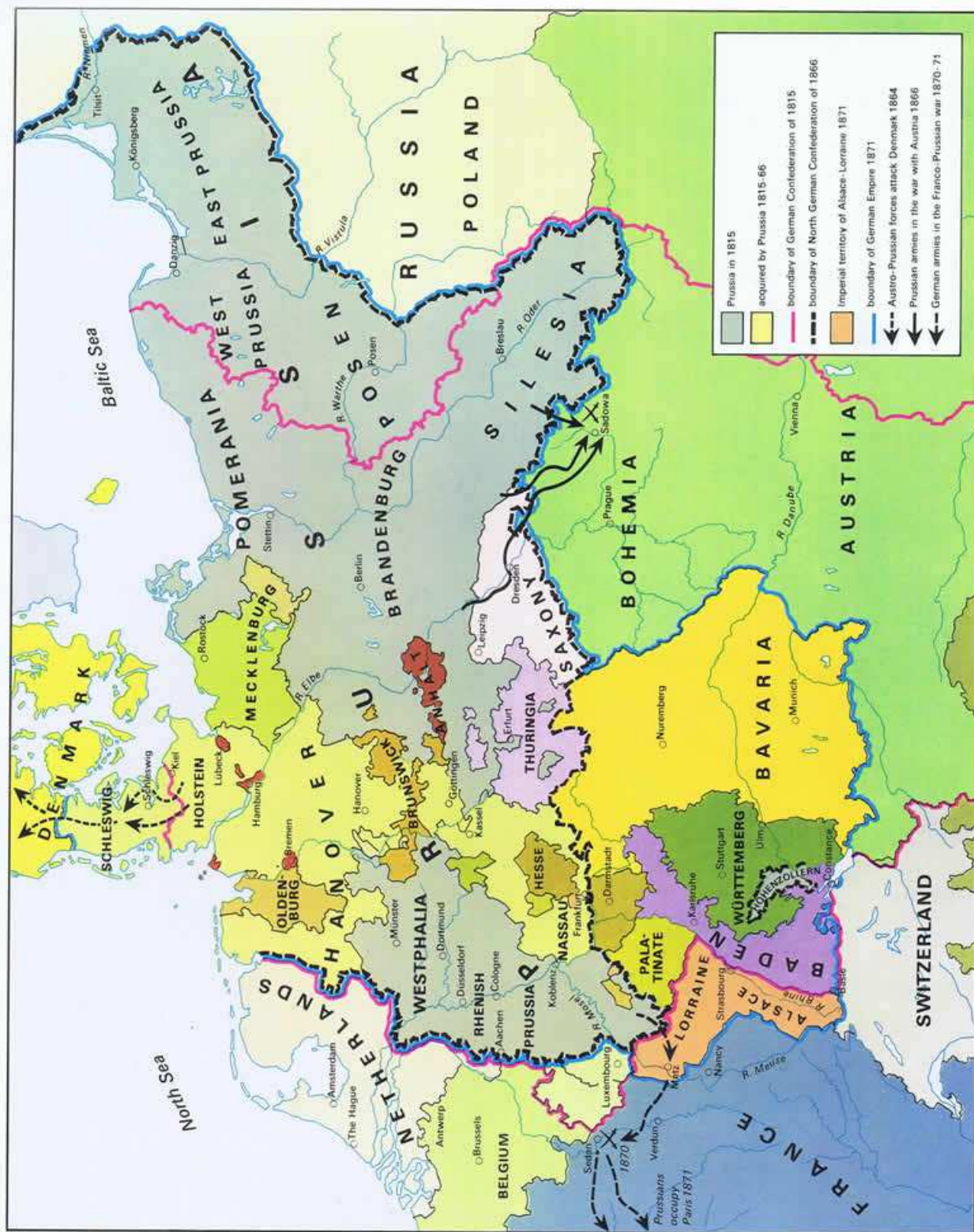




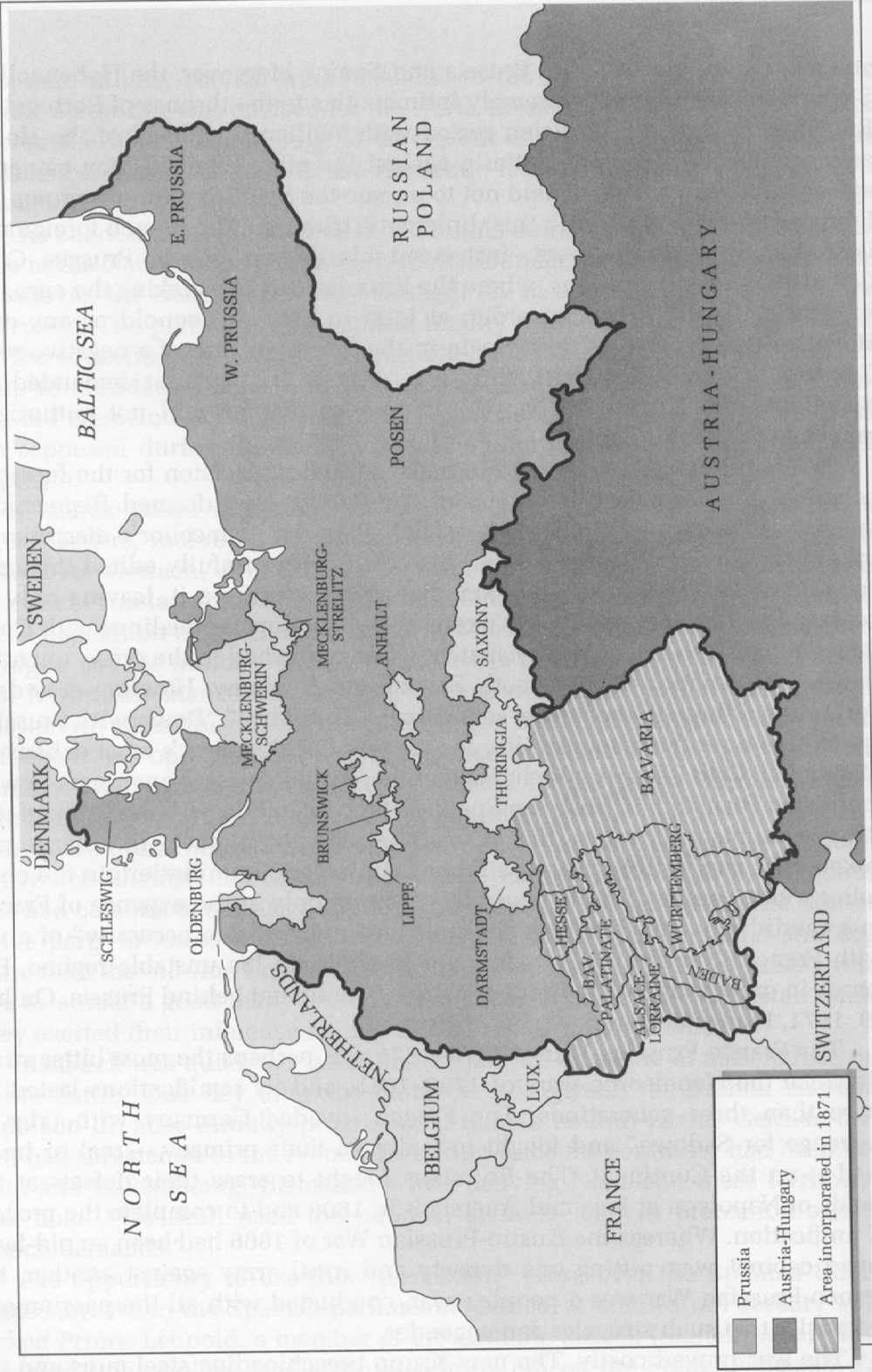
World War I - Why?????

A. Underlying causes

- Small German States Unite under Otto von Bismarck from 1860 to 1870



GERMANY, 1871



● Franco Prussian War

- The last major war was the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71

Want to take back territory France had annexed

- Easily defeat France

● France lost Alsace and Lorraine to Germany

- France seething

DIALECTS SPOKEN IN ALSACE-LORRAINE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

GERMAN DIALECTS

Central German
Luxembourgish
Moselle Franconian
Rhine Franconian

Transition Central to Upper German

South Franconian

Upper German

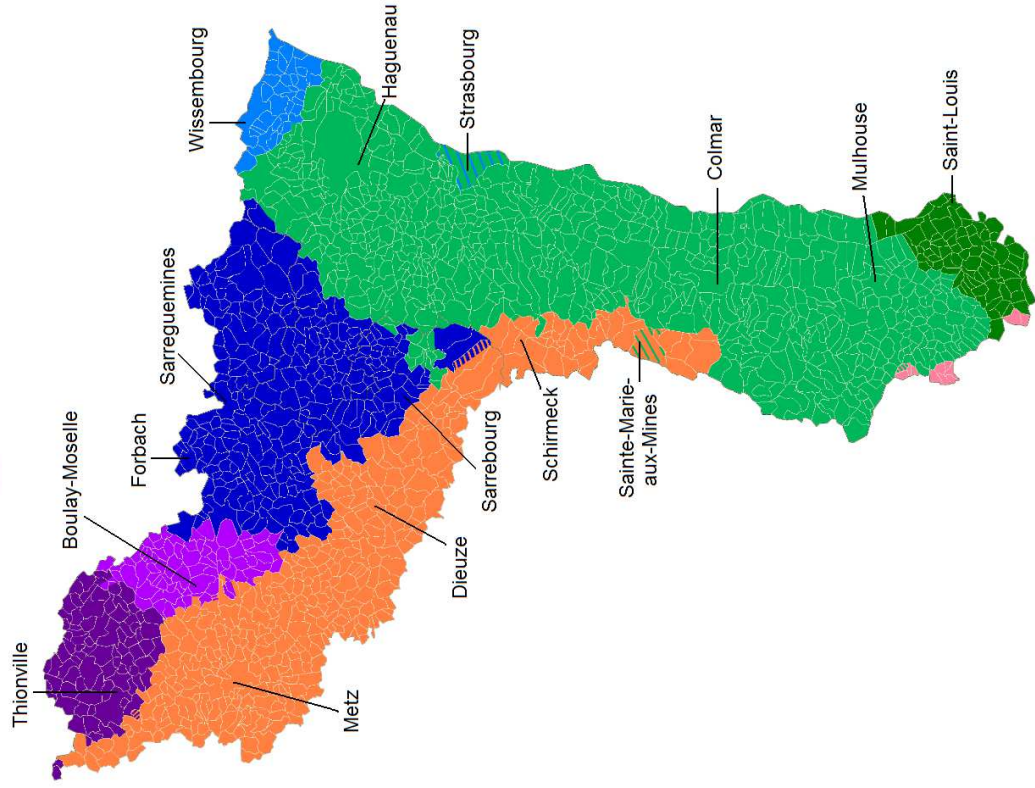
Alsation (Low Alemannic)

High Alemannic

FRENCH (ROMANCE) DIALECTS

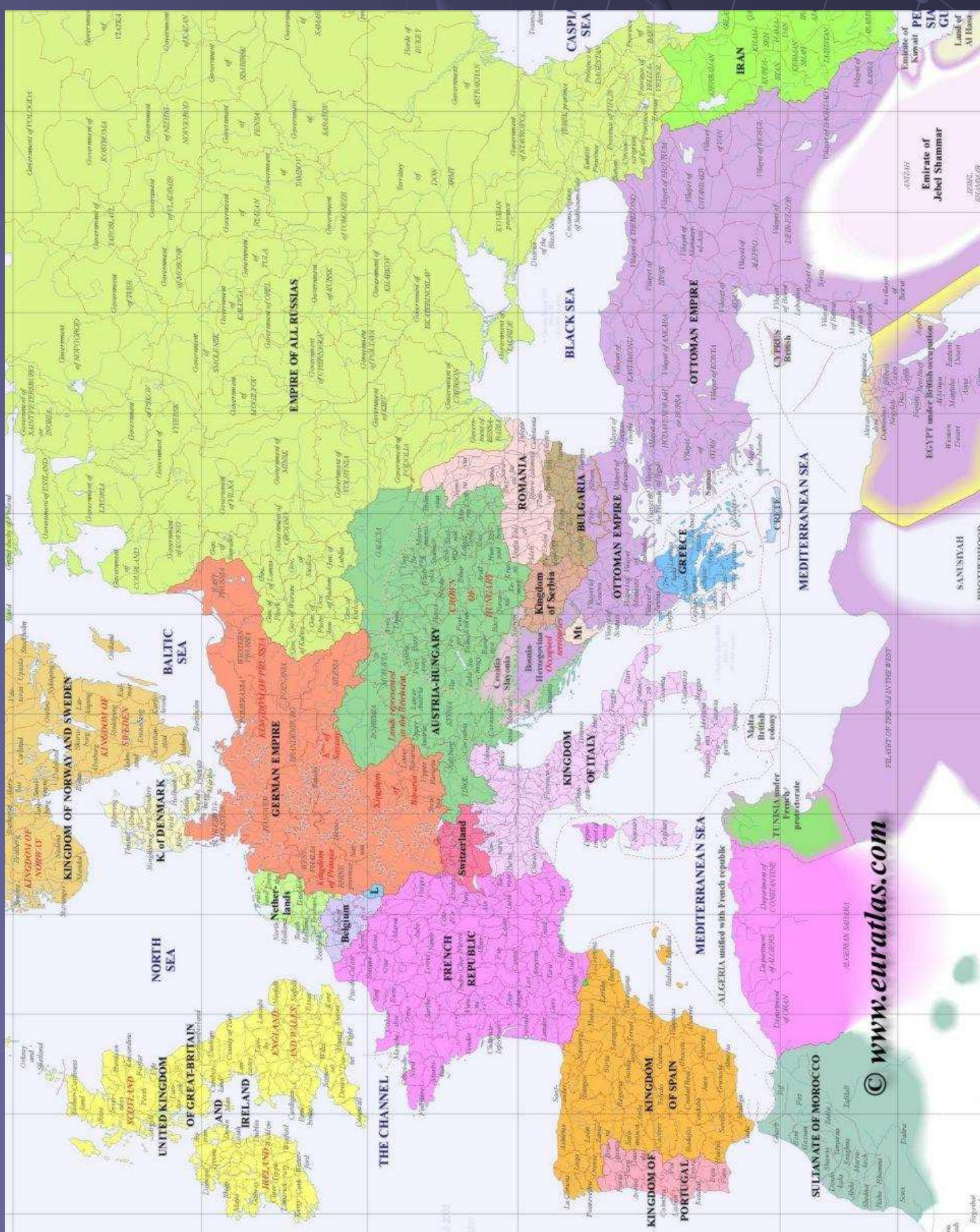
Lorrain (incl. Welche)

Franc-Comtois

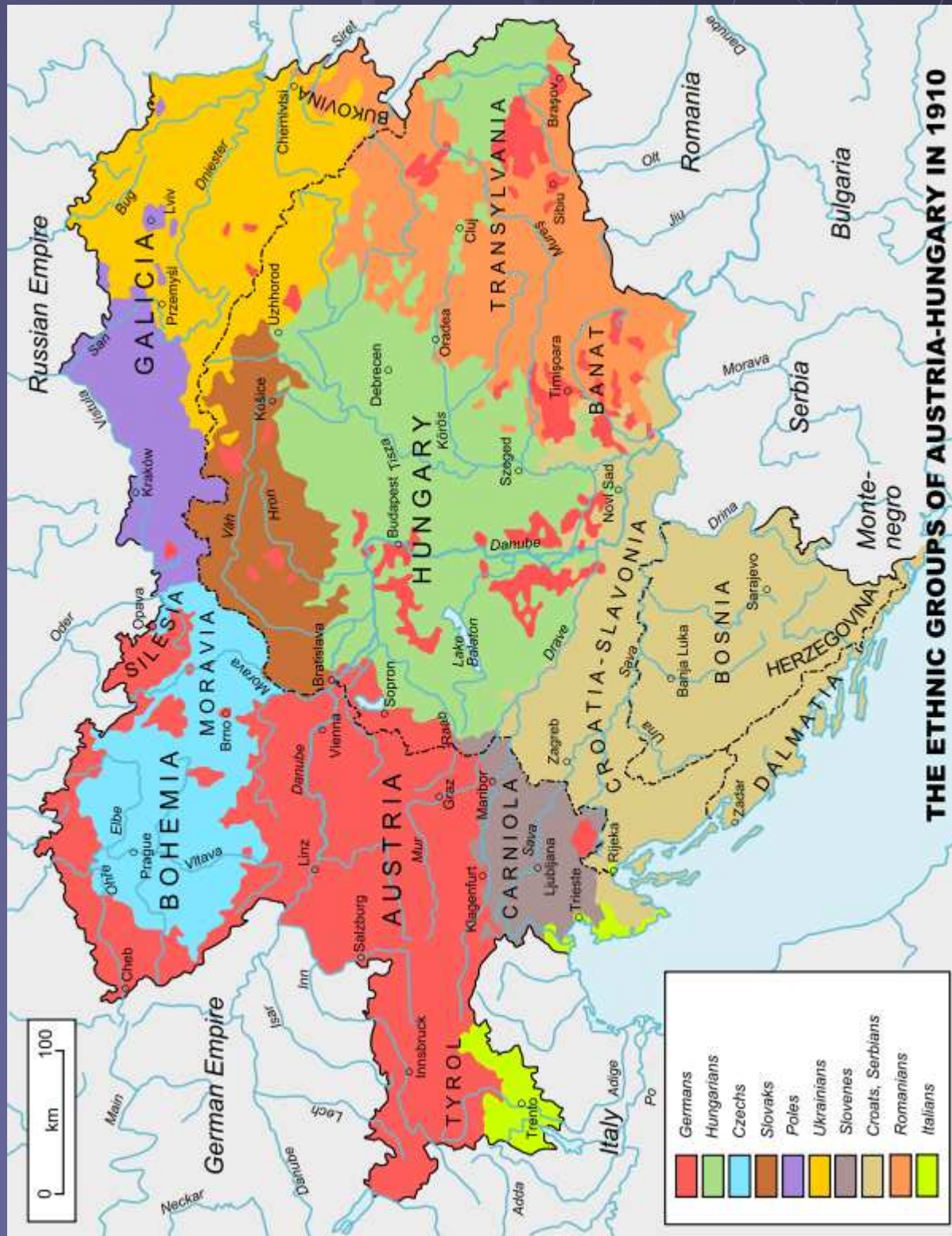


B. The ISMs!

- Nationalism – a notion of your country's cultural and ethnic superiority
- pride and love in one's country resulted in the desire for glory and greatness
- Ignored after Napoleonic wars in exchange for keeping the peace.
- Nationalism in ethnic populations of Austria-Hungary who want self-determination. Know what that is!



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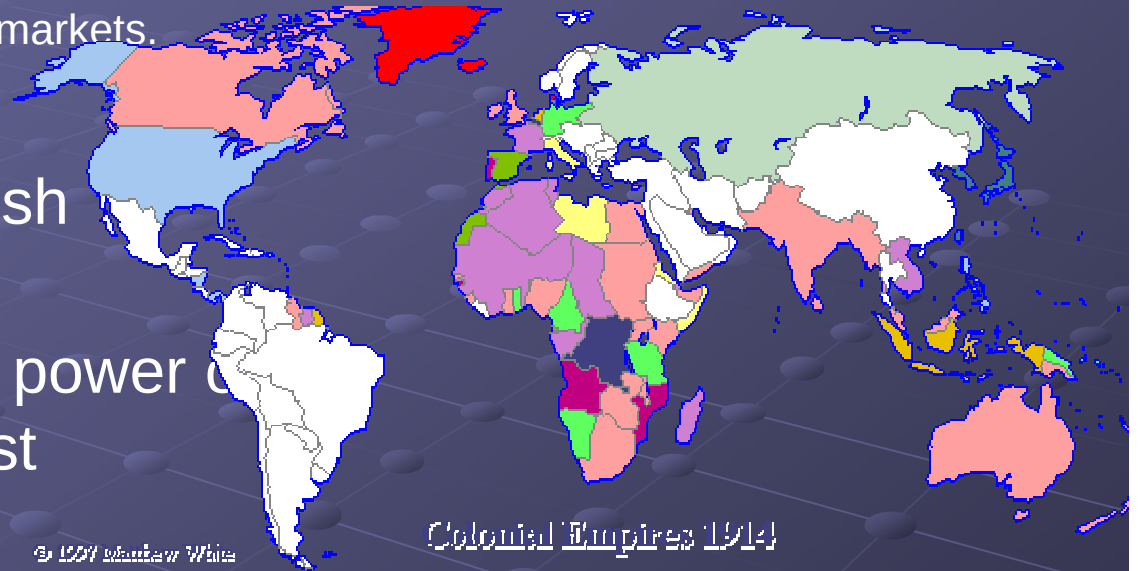
● Imperialism – Building empires.

- Brings Prestige
- Economically Beneficial
 - Provides raw materials and markets.

● Germany surpasses British industrial production.

● Germany challenges the power of the established imperialist nations, Britain & France

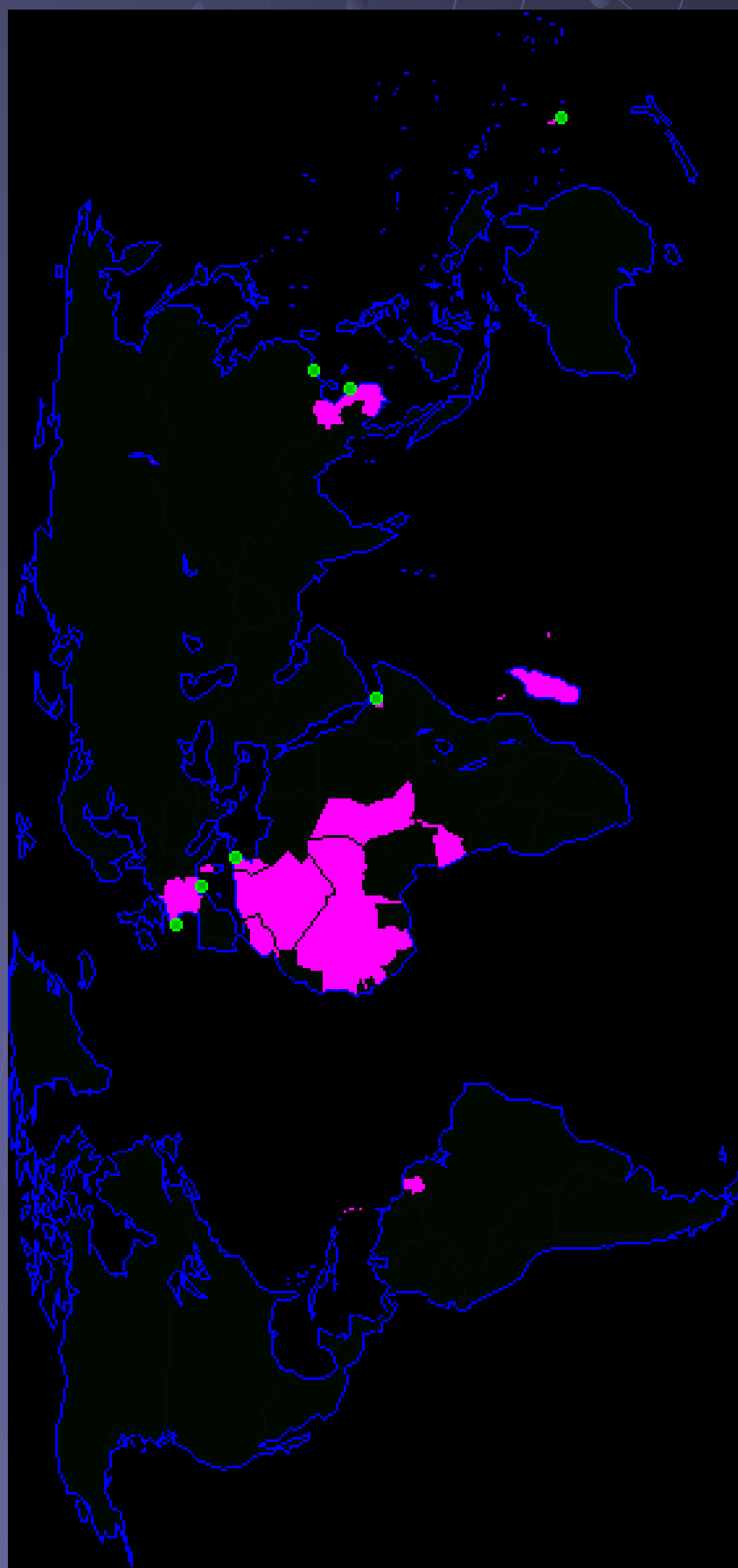
© 1997 Matthew White



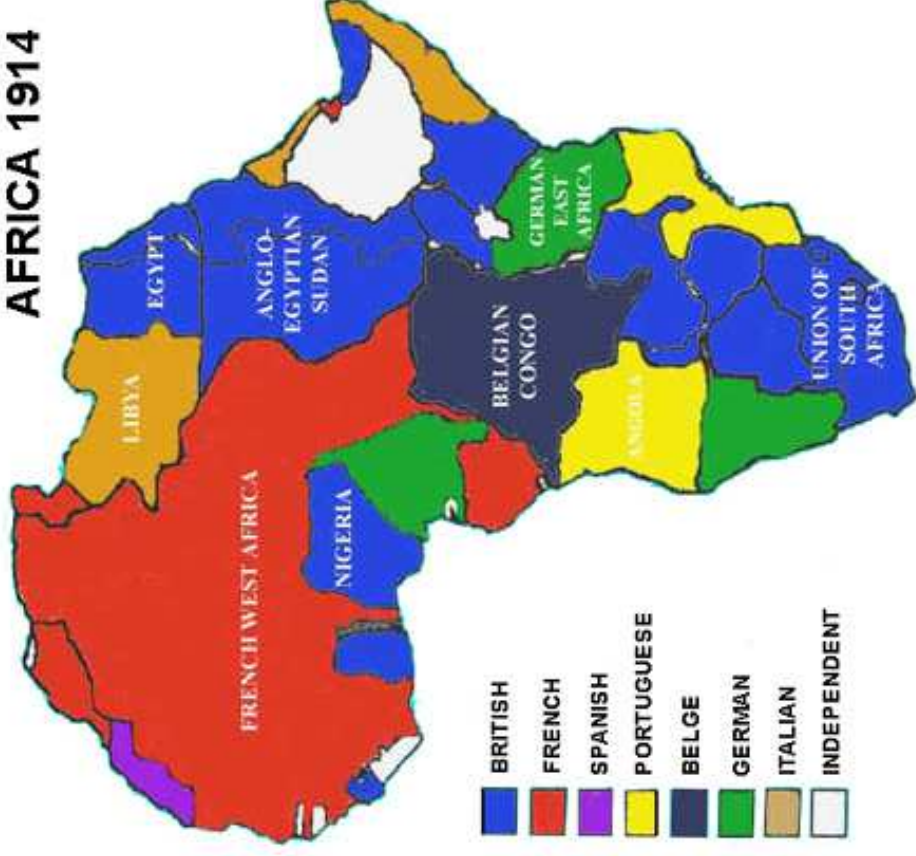
● It wants its “own place in the sun”

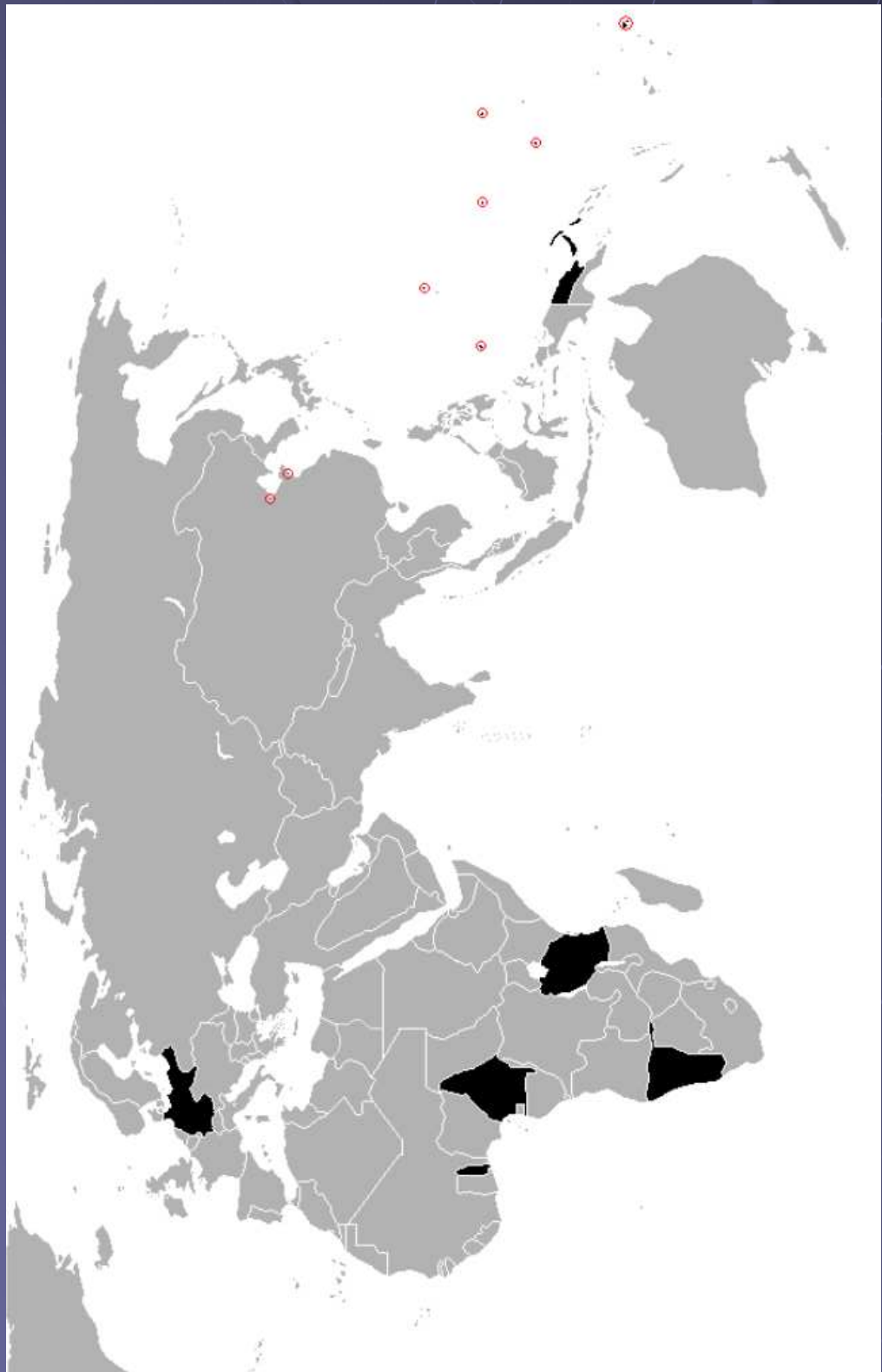
● most of the world was already controlled by other European powers

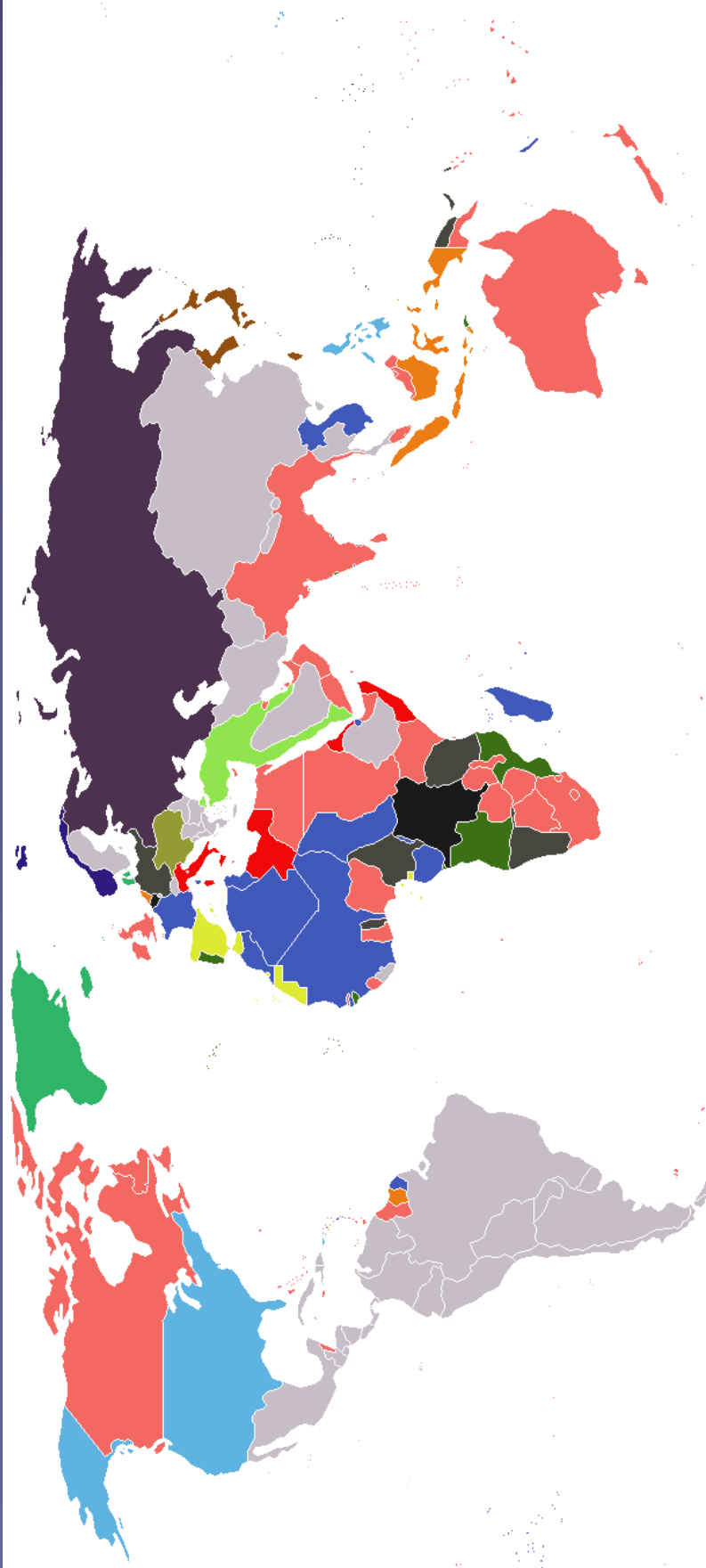
- Lead to confrontation



AFRICA 1914







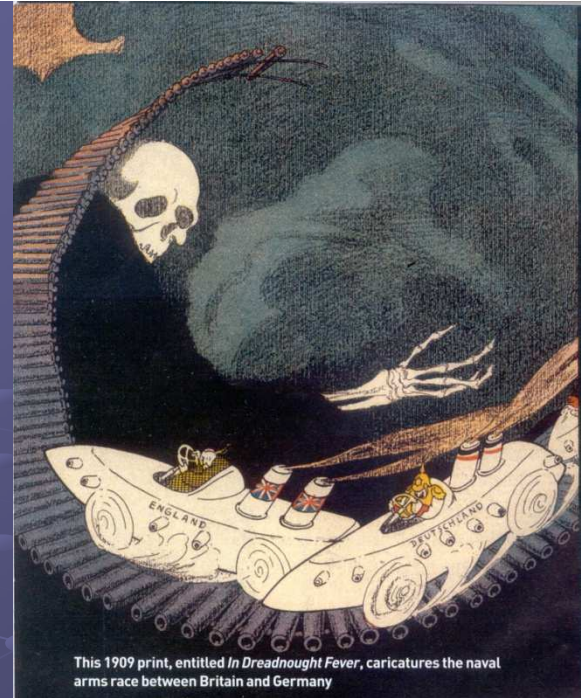
- Militarism:

- warped Social Darwinism – “strong nations would flourish, weak nations would be crushed”

- war was a “good thing”

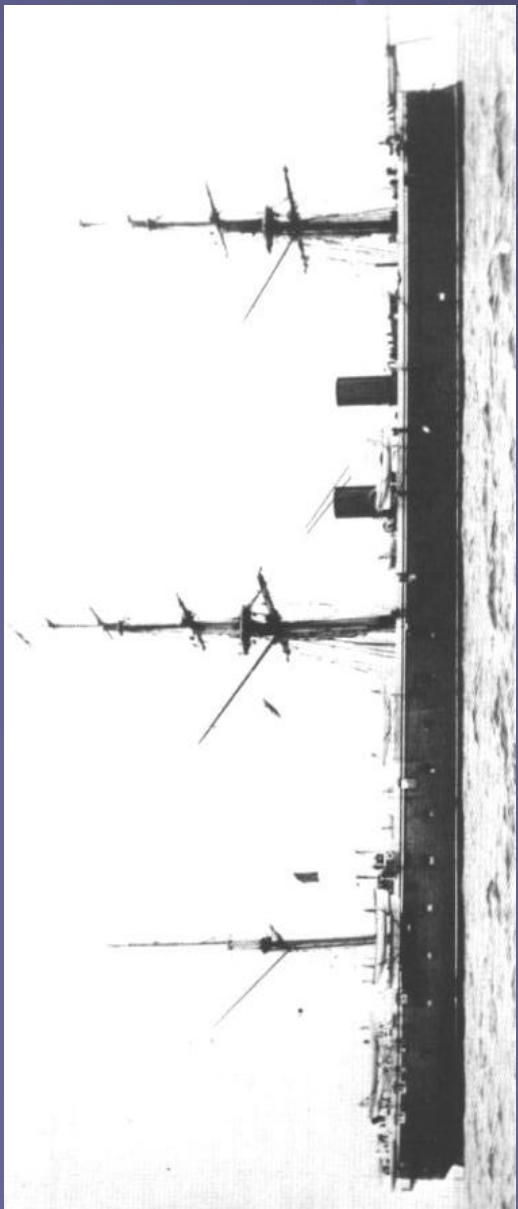
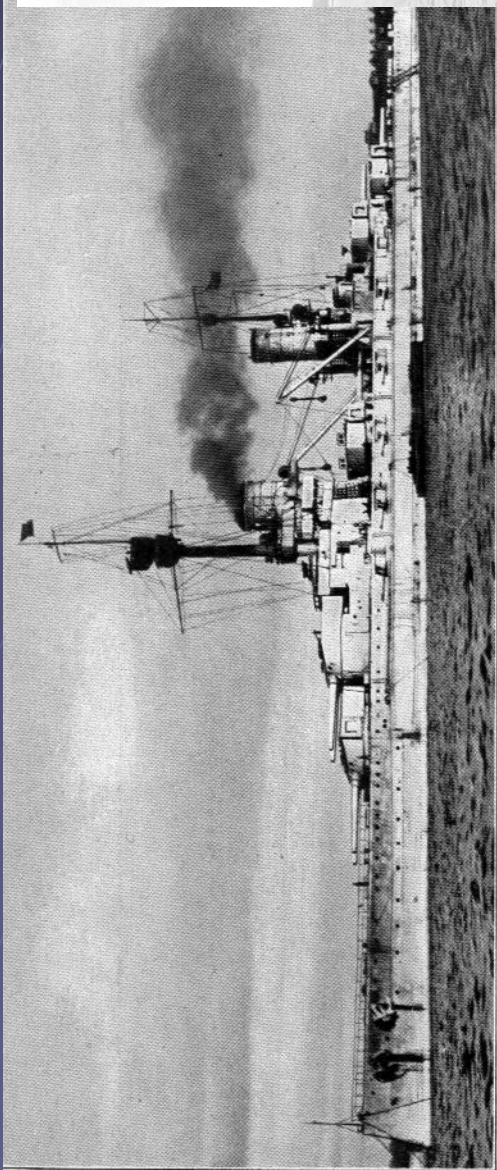
- German military spending between 1870 and 1914 was up 300%

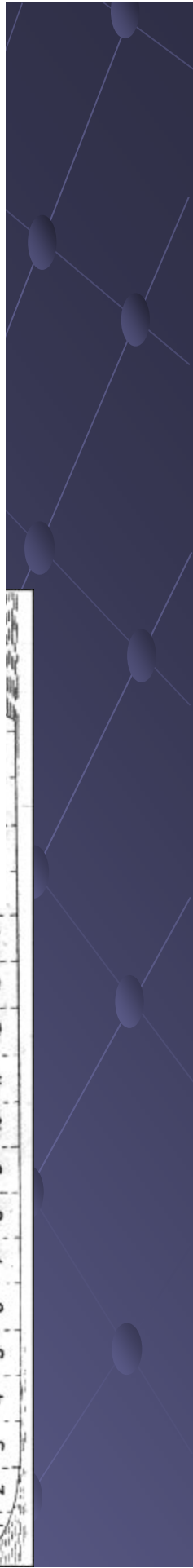
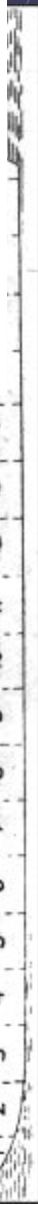
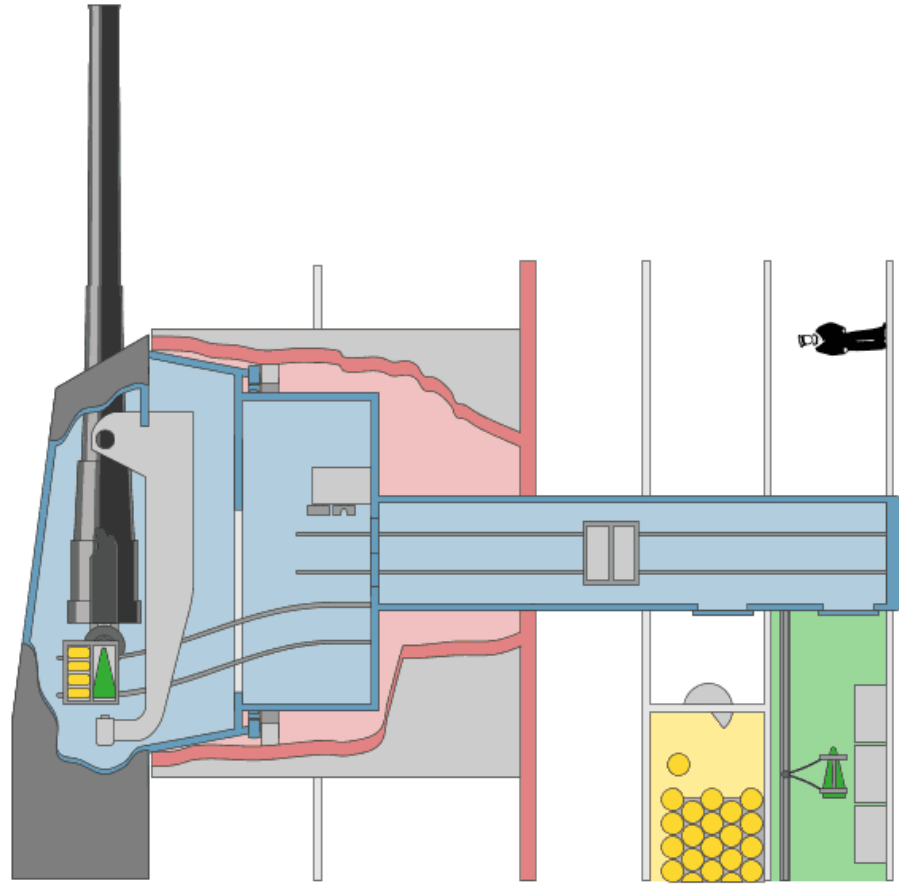
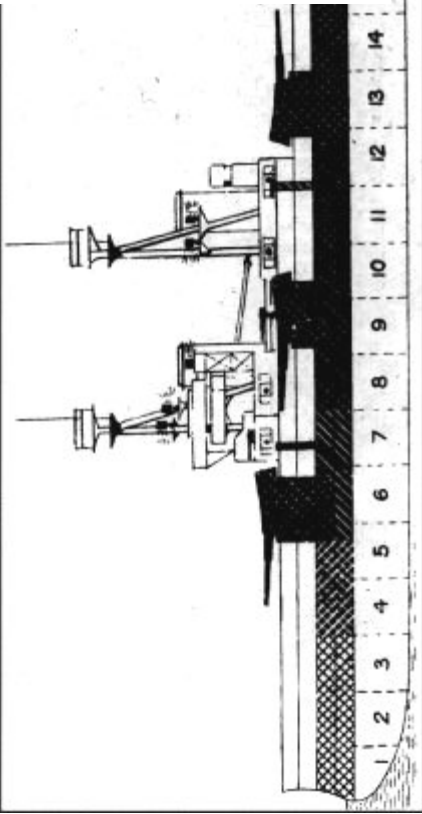
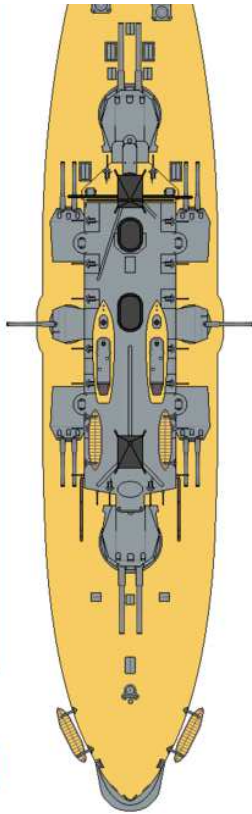
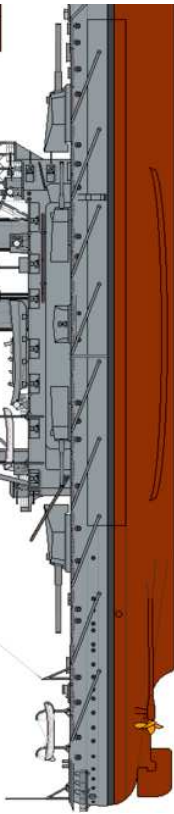
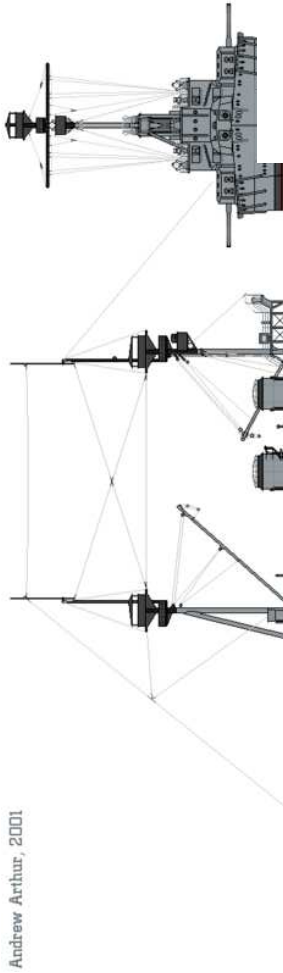
- Britain Controlled the Seas – trade was vital to the existence of the British Empire
- Germans had most powerful army on the continent
- Germany and Britain engaged in a naval arms race to out-produce each other and therefore control the seas
- The key technology was the Dreadnought-class battleship



HMS Dreadnaught - 1906







C. The Alliance System

- Britain saw Germany as a threat
- Britain worked with France to stop German ambitions in North Africa, angering Germany
- Countries began to make agreements of mutual defense as they began to see other countries as a threat economically, politically and militarily.

- Two rival military alliance systems formed,
 - Triple Alliance (Central Powers): Germany, The Austro-Hungarian Empire and Italy
 - Triple Entente (Allied Powers): France, Britain and Russia
 - (Note Britain was still reluctant to fully commit to France, its traditional enemy so no formal treaty bound members to mutual defense.)



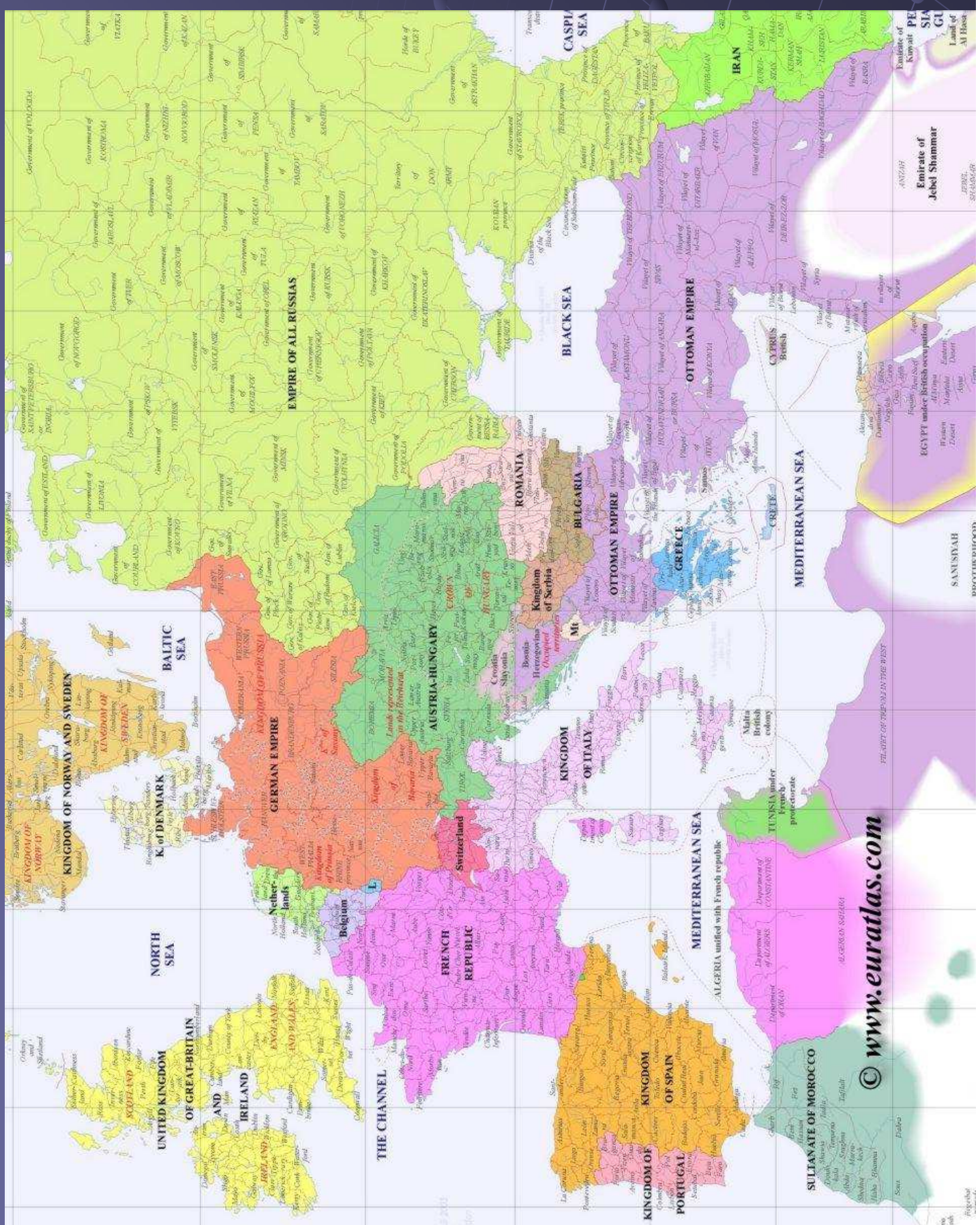
D. The Spark!

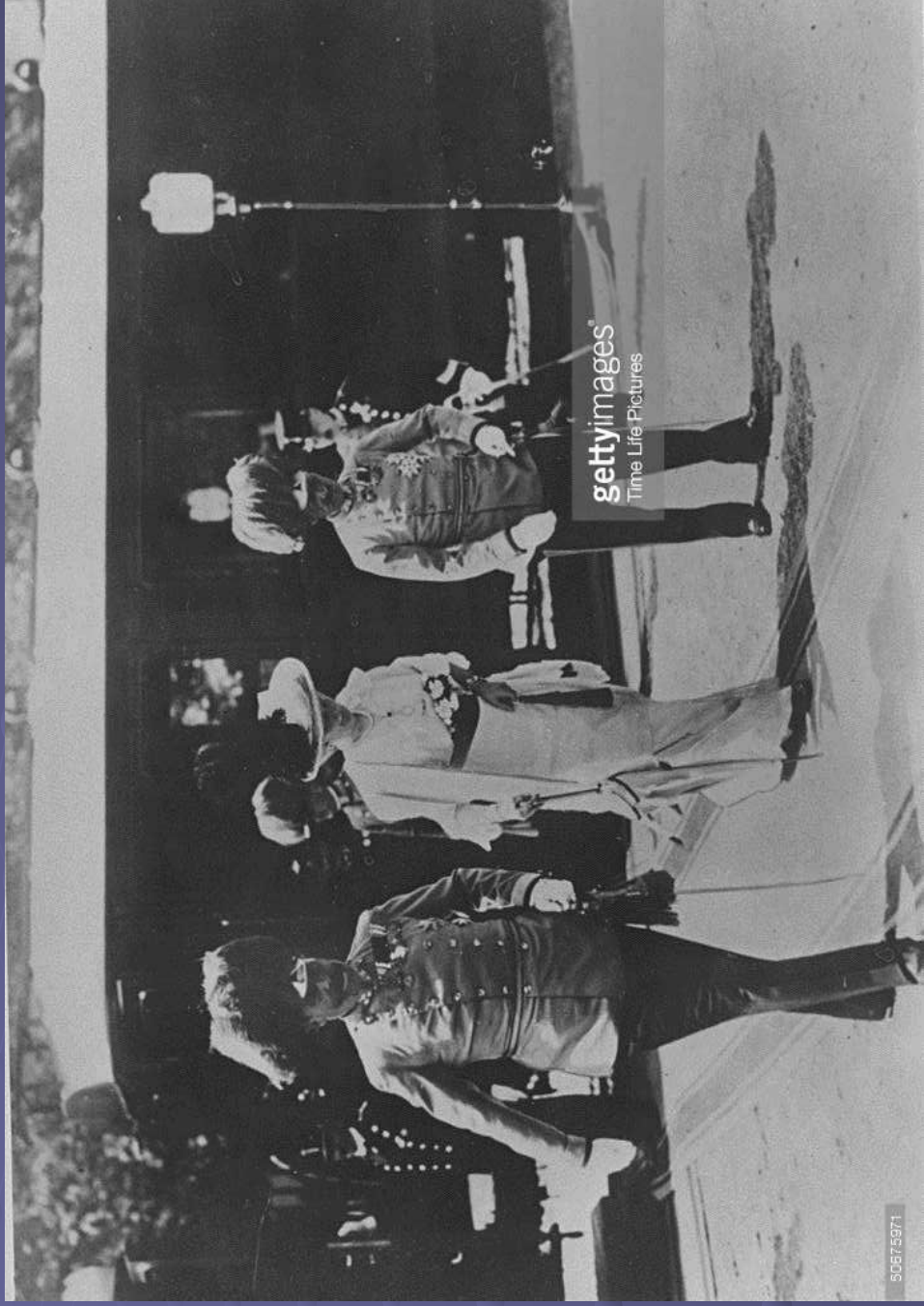
- The heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary is assassinated by a Serb nationalist. — June 28, 1914

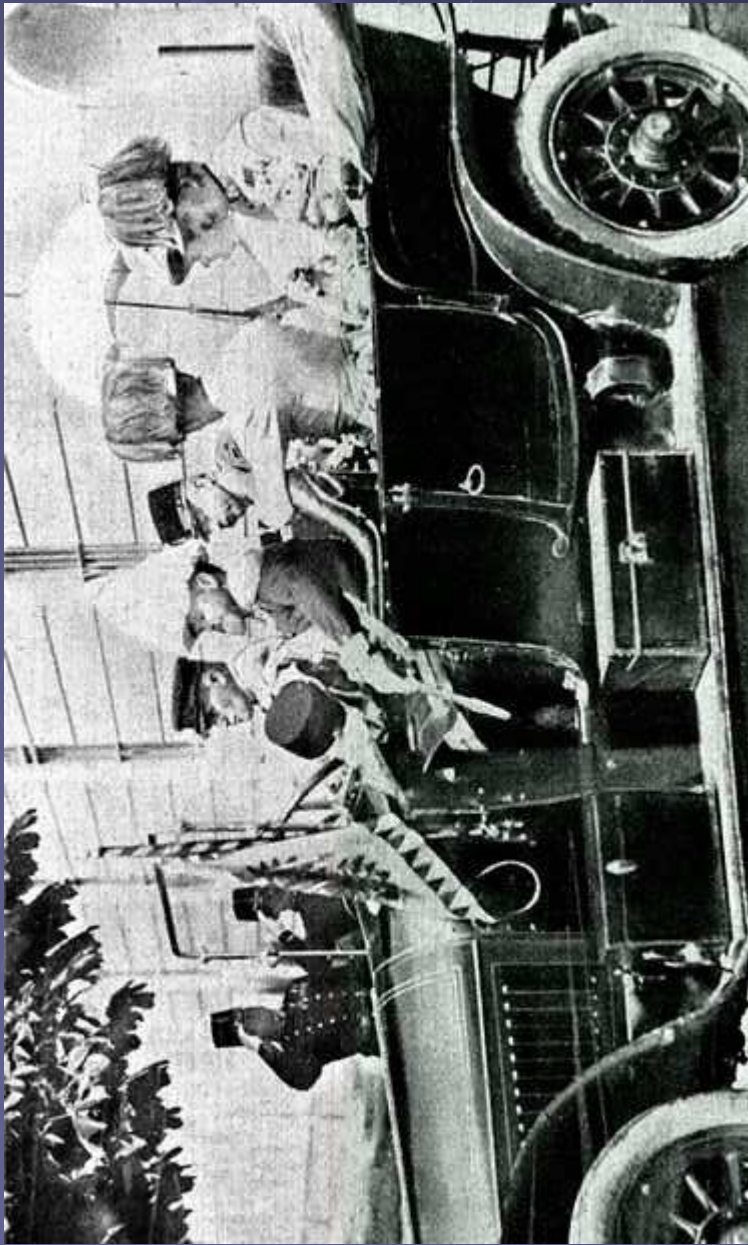


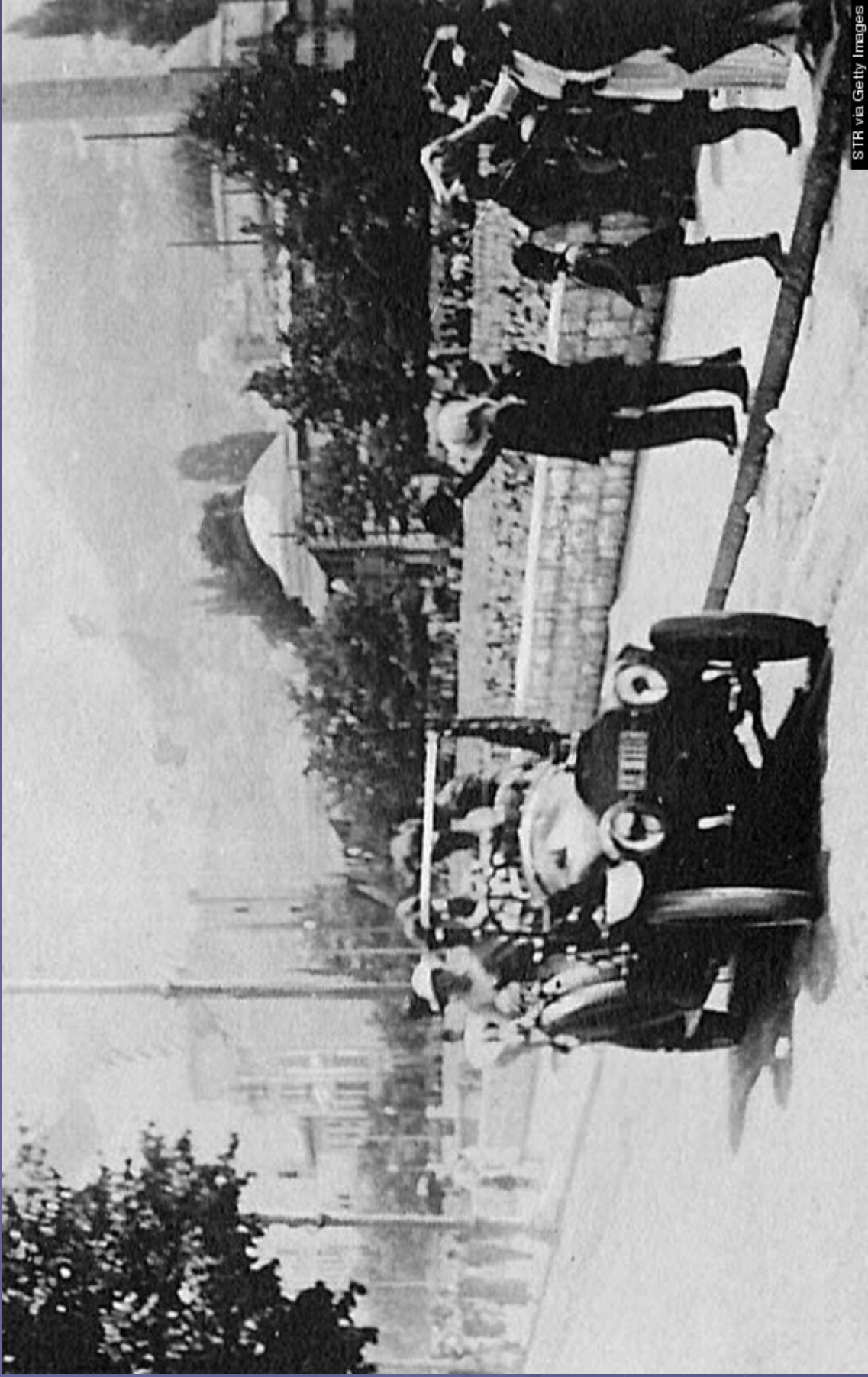
Source A: Archduke just before he was assassinated, 1914.

www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWWarchduke.htm

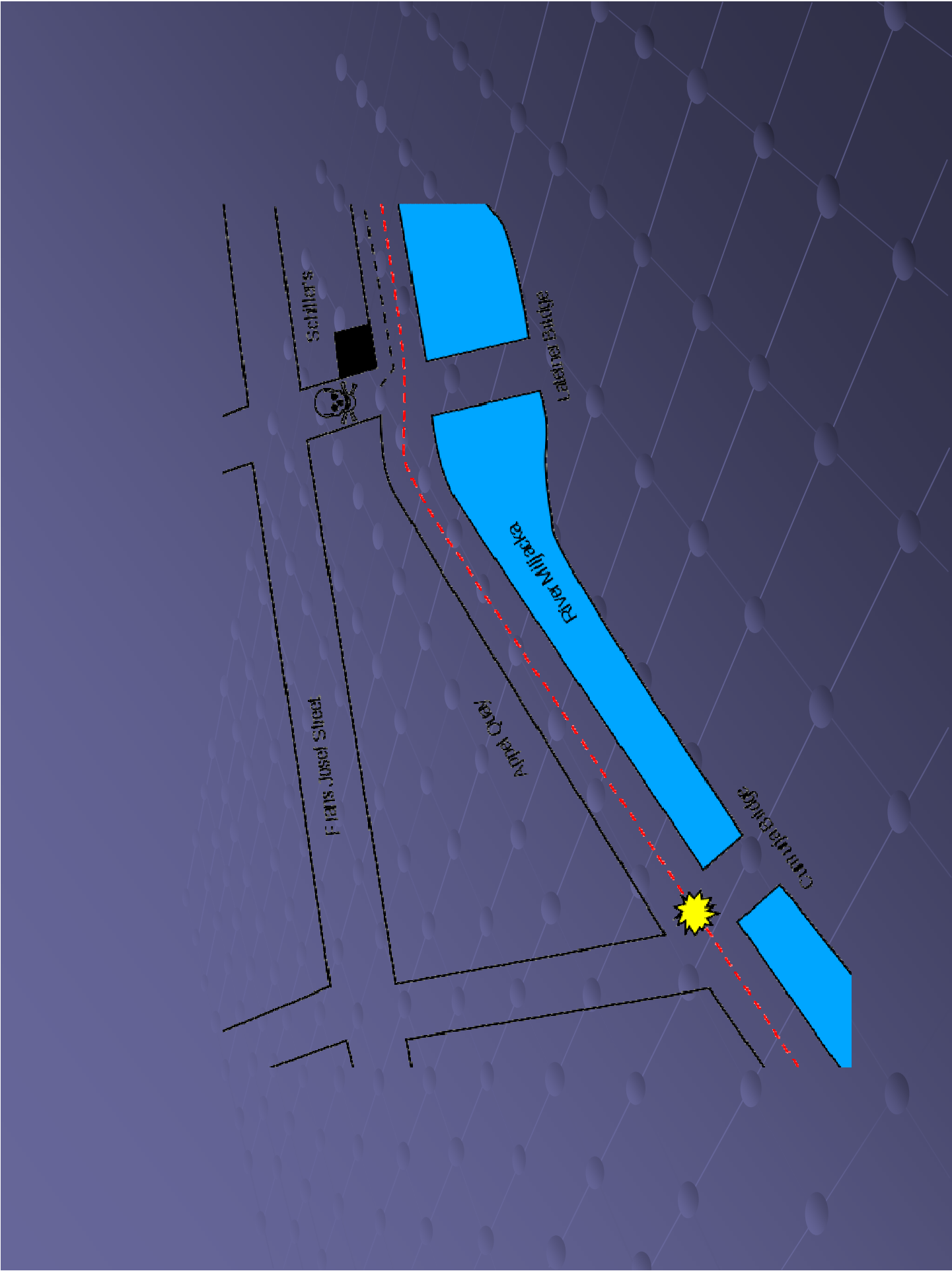








STR via Getty Images











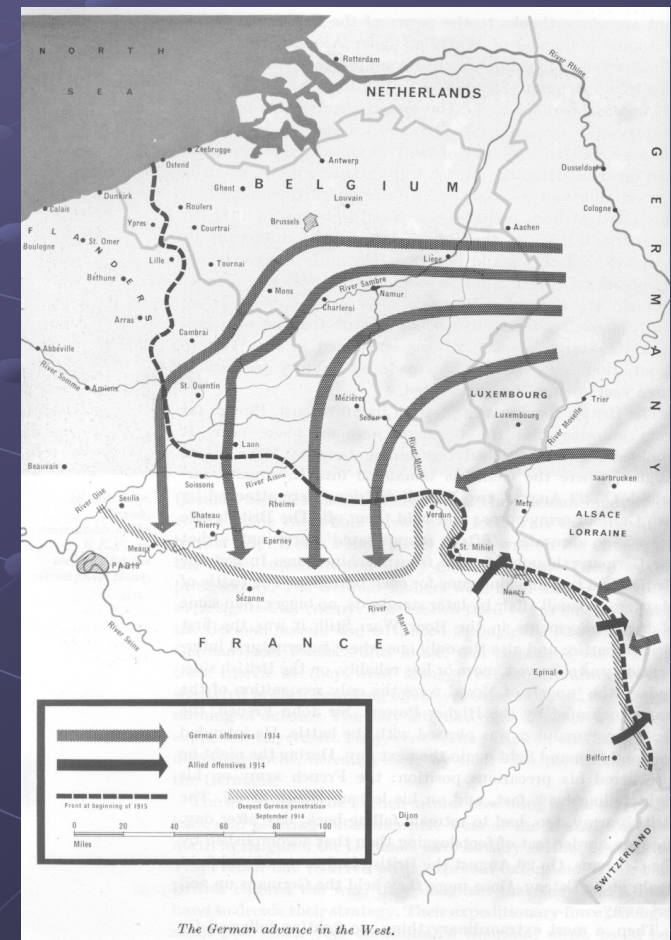


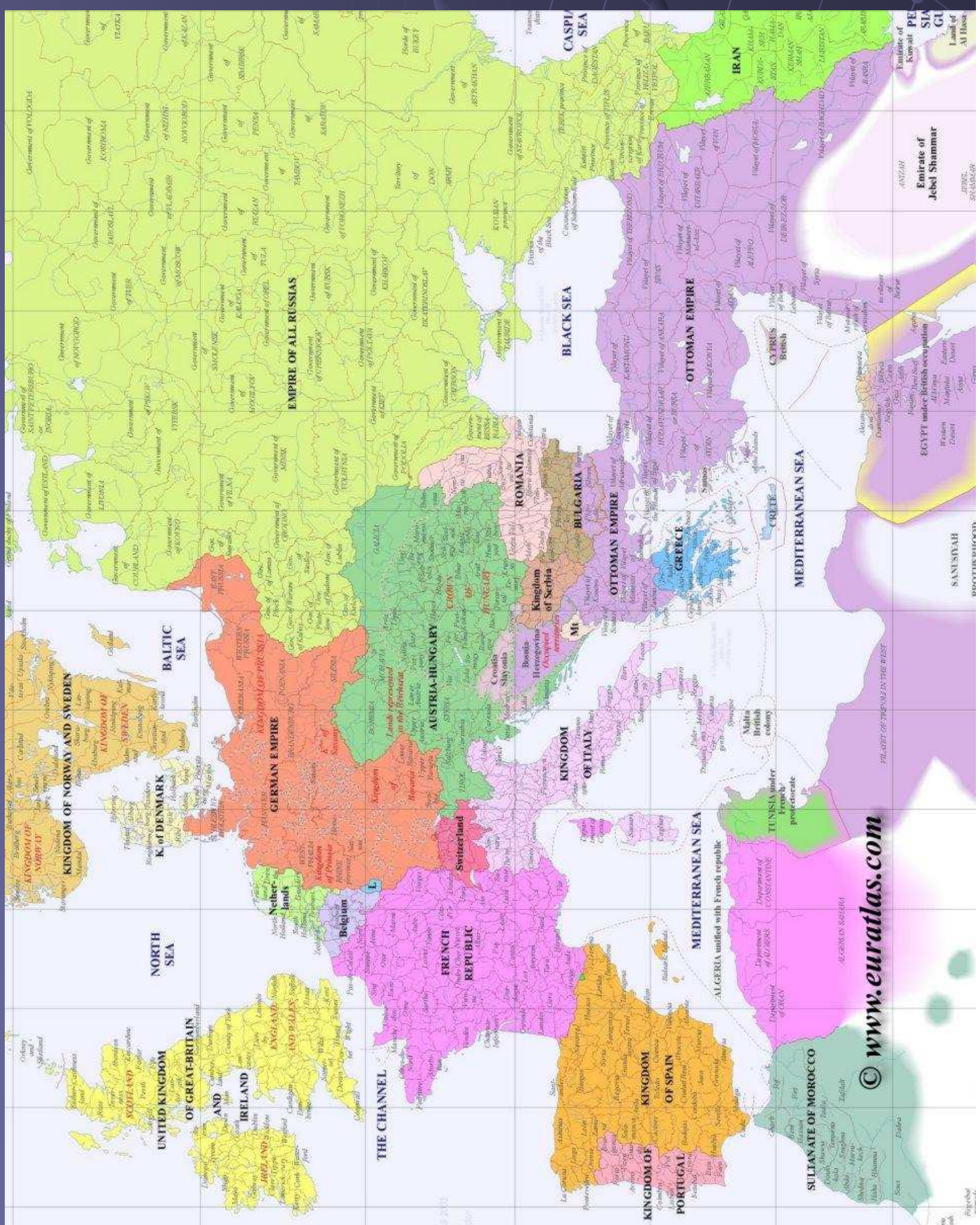
Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand

The Alliance System Drags Everyone Down

- Austria blames Serbia for the assassination
- Austria asks for and gets back up from Germany (the blank cheque)
- July 28 – Austria declares war on Serbia
 - Serbia backed up by Russia
- Germany worries that France will support Russia as Germany fears a two-front war
 - Declare war on Russia (Aug 1), then France & Belgium
 - Italy neutral
 - Turks join Germans

- Germans use Schlieffen Plan - (knock out France first by capturing Paris before Russia can mobilize, then turn on Russia)
- Germans travelled through neutral Belgium to get to France.
 - Britain guaranteed Belgian independence
 - Britain declared war on Germany – Aug 4.





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