

World War I

“The Great War”

American History
Mr. McMinn



MAIN CAUSES OF WWI

□ Militarism

□ Alliances

□ Imperialism

□ Nationalism

***These background causes were building for 30-40 years before the actual outbreak of WWI.

Beginnings

□ Causes:

- Improved technology and industrialization fostered **nationalism**
- Unresolved previous disputes between countries. Mostly dealing with imperialism and colonial expansion
 - Africa and Asia
- **The intricate system of alliances**
- Delays and misunderstandings in diplomatic communications
- The arms races of the previous decades and increased militarism.

The Spark that Ignited the FLAME

- Serbian Problem-
Bosnia and Herzegovina had been occupied by Austria-Hungary in 1878 and annexed in 1908. Many Bosnians, particularly Bosnian Serbs, resented the occupation, preferring instead unification with Serbia. Russia Supported Serbians



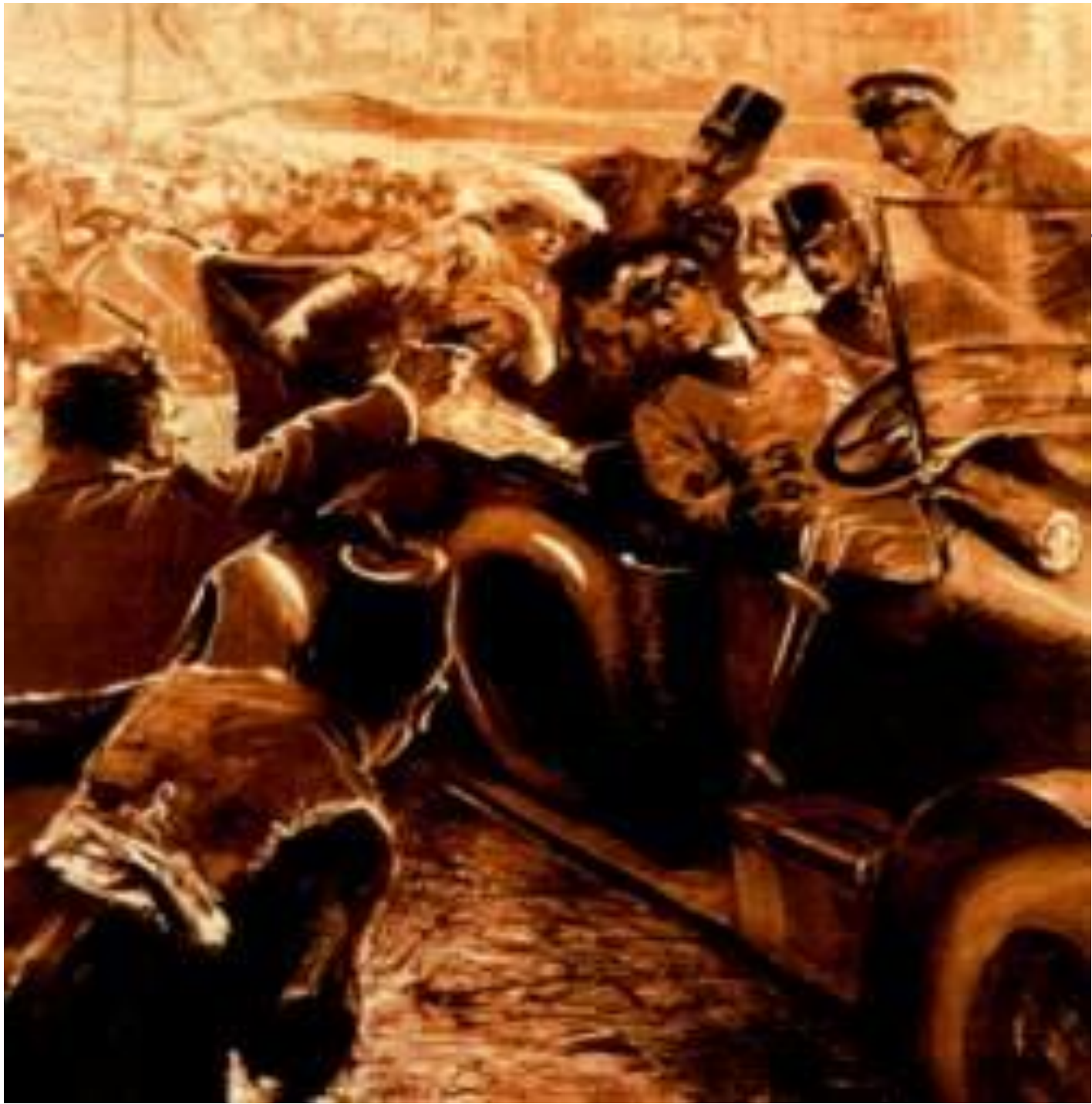
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- Emperor William II- German emperor responded to the assassination with a blank check, saying that Austria-Hungary could rely on Germany's "Full Support", even if matters to the length of a war between Austria-Hungary and Russia.



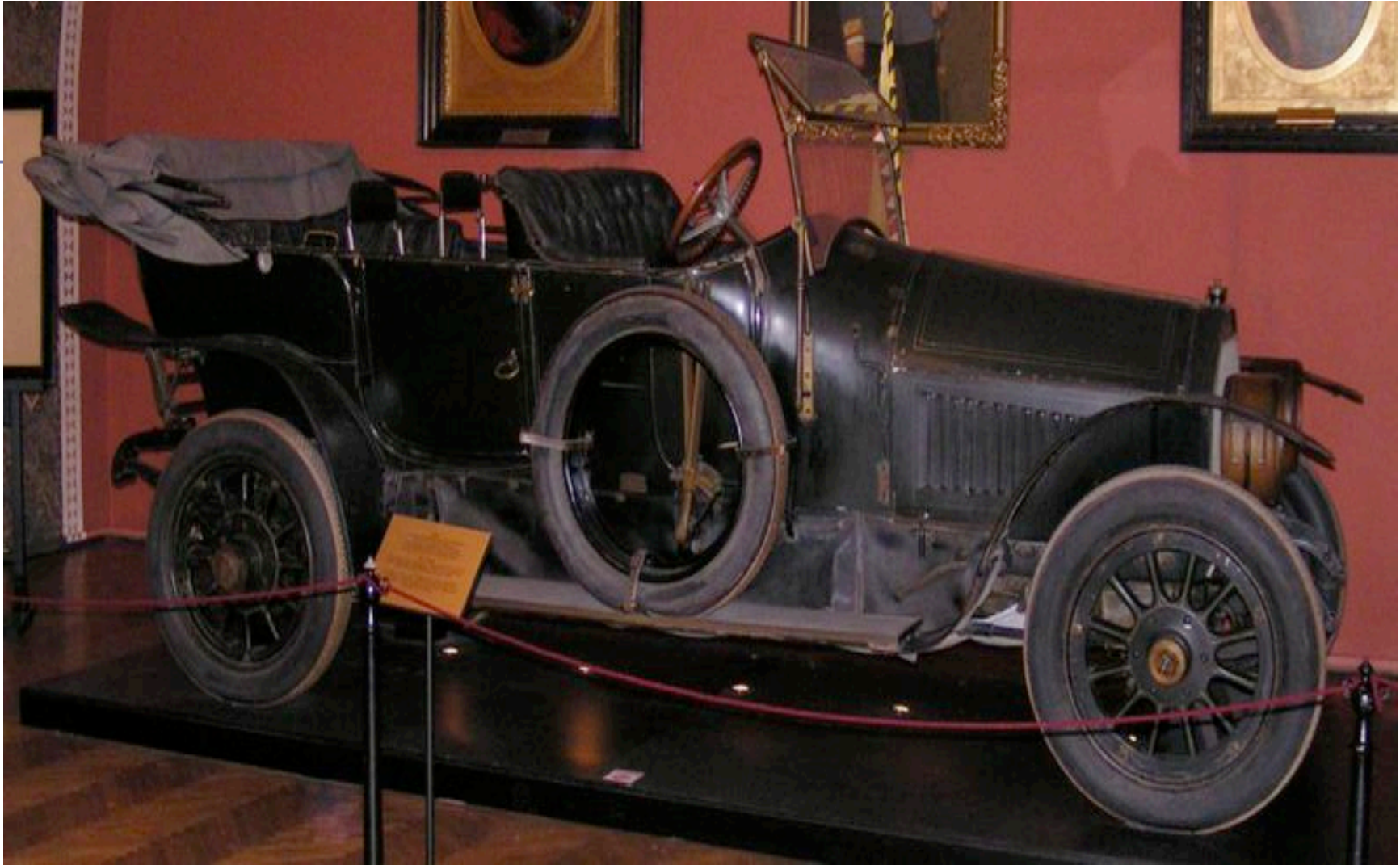
The Spark that Ignited the FLAME

- The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary
 - Gavrilo Princip member of the Black Hand
 - Many say that this started the “Great War”









Domino Effect Begins

- Alliances:
 - Austria Hungary threatens Serbia
 - Russian treaties with Serbia commit it to mobilize in Serbia's defense
 - Germany mobilizes against Russia due to the [Schlieffen Plan](#)
 - France mobilizes after German Attack
 - Britain's 1839 treaty with [Belgium](#) commits it to defend Belgium from all aggressors although how far Britain needed to adhere to this treaty is questionable; it is more likely that the decision was based more on the age-old concern to prevent a single power dominating the channel ports of the continent and also Asquith's need to hold his government together in the face of a largely pro-war House of Commons.
 - With Britain's entry, the remainder of the [British Imperial colonies and dominions](#) are drawn in offering financial and military assistance. These were [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [India](#), [New Zealand](#) and the [Union of South Africa](#)
 - [Japan](#), honoring its military agreement with Britain, declares war on Germany

Countries chose sides and formed into two alliances known as the "Allies" and the "Central Powers."

Allies

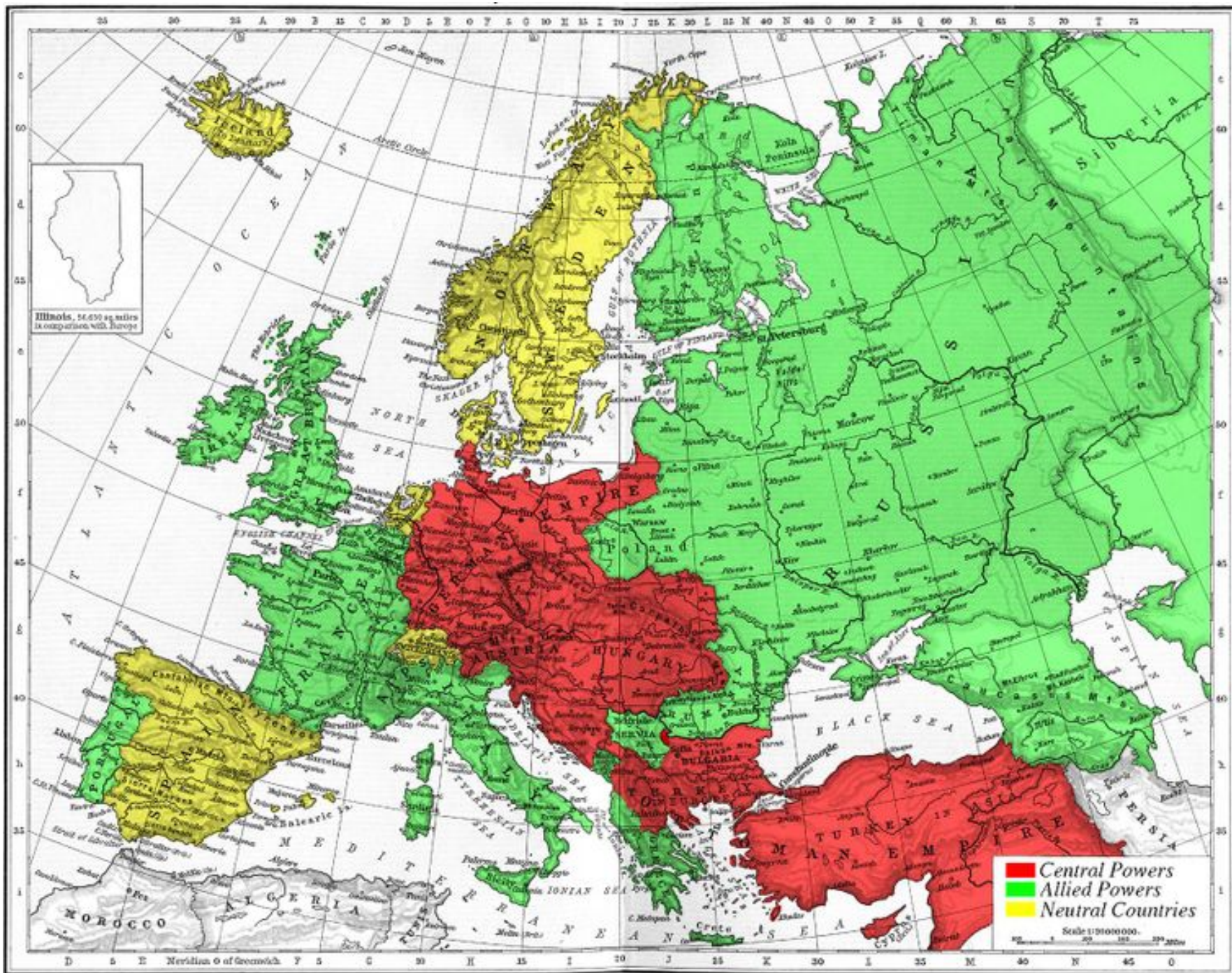
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
Cuba
England
France
Greece
India
Italy
Japan
Liberia

Montenegro
New Zealand
Portugal
Rhodesia
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Siam
United States

Central Powers

Austria-Hungary
Bulgaria
Germany
Turkey

Other countries never declared war but were affected by the conflict due to their geographic locations or cut off diplomatic relations but never declared war.



WWI CHANGES WARFARE

