

## *The outbreak of World War I: causes and generators*

### **Analysis of the reasons for the outbreak of an inevitable war (or not...)**

World War I or the Great War outbreaks after the assassination of the archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir of the Austria-Hungarian throne, in June 1914. Nevertheless the reasons for the conflict are quite more complex and go far beyond the assassination. What were the causes that unleashed this war? What does your textbook say on the subject? Was it an avoidable war or, sooner or later, would it outbreak? With these activities you'll be able to dive into the causes of this conflict and know the responsibility that historians from different countries give to each power, almost a century after an event which changed the European map.

Map:

<http://geacron.com/map/atlas/embed.html?lang=en&w=800&h=600&z=4&x=16.752668452581&y=48.572806634223&nd=0&d=1913A1914A1915A1916A1917A1918A1919A1920A1921&tm=r&ly=yyyy>

Tasks:

- 1 In the preceding map, note the evolution of the territories of the different nations involved in the conflict, between 1914 and 1918, and after the peace treaties, between 1919 and 1920.**
  - a. Which countries expand or lose territory and at which else's expense? Develop an annual index of countries (hint: note also Egypt, the Arabian Peninsula and The Middle East, up to the Caspian Sea)
  - b. Which countries "appear" or "disappear"? Develop a year after year index.
  - c. Which are the countries that expanded more between 1914 and 1918? What happens to them between 1919 and 1920?
  - d. Which of the powers of that time lost more territory between 1914 and 1918? What happens to it between 1919 and 1920?
  - e. Analyzing your answers to the previous questions, could you deduce which have been the most important countries defeated in the Great War?

**2 Go through your textbook and find out the causes of the outbreak of the conflict. If you need it, surf the Internet for extra information.**

- a. What is the fact unleashing the beginning of the war? Which countries spark it off?
- b. Why do other countries get involved in war? Which side does each one take? Which are the powers that make up the sides in dispute?
- c. Do you believe that an attempt, by itself, could justify the outbreak of the war and the involvement of other countries? What causes unleashed the warlike offensive and the multinational participation?

**3 Compare these three explanations about the outbreak of war, coming from three Spanish textbooks ([download texts here](#)). Next answer the following questions**

- a. Which of them do you think is more complete? Why?
- b. According to these texts, Was Serbia who triggered the war or did Austria-Hungary use the attempt as a pretext to start the war? Why? Do the three texts, separately, offer you enough information to answer these questions?
- c. Write an account about the outbreak of the war, as complete as possible, using all the information you can take from the three texts.

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