

The outbreak of World War I: causes and generators
The assassination in Sarajevo, a pretext for Europe's suicide
The many causes and the many generators of the conflict by Julio Gil Pecharromán

Here it is an excerpt from Julio Gil Pecharromán's "The pretext. Assassination in Sarajevo", published in the Adventure of History (year 2004, nº 69). ([Download the PDF](#)). Next we propose some activities to be done.

Tasks:

1 The attempt in Sarajevo. An ordinary or exceptional one?

- a. According to the text, Attempts in that time were something unusual or relatively frequent? What triggered off attempts in that time? What type of attempt was the one who killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand?
- b. According to the text, the attempt in Sarajevo is a sufficient reason for the beginning of a war where so many countries were involved?
- c. According to the text and what you have studied, why did the attempt actually unleash the war?

2 Deep causes leading to the war

- a. In what sense, do you think the political-military alliances contribute to feed the warmongering?
- b. According to the text, do you think the rulers in the different countries would like war? What influence do the so called "warmongering circles" have in the development of a war atmosphere? What were their interests?
- c. In what sense the "self-defence reflexes" are mentioned as other cause of the conflict in the text?

3 Who has the responsibility for the unleashing of the war?

- a. After the war, the peace treaties, and particularly the Treaty of Versailles, attributes all the responsibility to Germany, Why? Did Germany start the conflict?
- b. According to the text, is it justifiable to attribute Germany all the responsibility in the origin of the conflict? Why?

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