

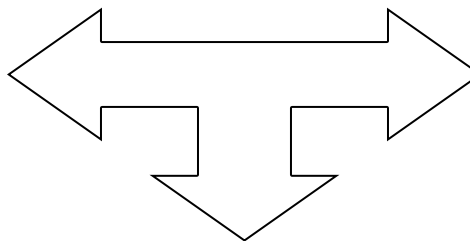
Why were the Balkans the “POWDER KEG OF EUROPE”?

Austria-Hungary

- Emperor Franz Joseph—Archduke = Franz Ferdinand
- Wants to extend influence in the Balkans
- A-H = “multinational/ethnic empire” - a patchwork of many different ethnic nationalities—fear of nationalism and desire of groups for self-determination and independence—desire to have their own nations
- Fears Serbia—Serbia = nationalism. Serbia is a serious threat to the empire and must be crushed

What are the interests
of the major powers in
the Balkans?

Why a rivalry?



Russia

- Wants to increase its influence in the Balkans—desire to gain access to the Eastern Mediterranean Sea
- Sees itself as a “protector” of the Slavic nationalities in the Balkans
- Russia had wanted to try and stop the annexation of Bosnia by Austria-Hungary in 1908 but was too weak after the defeat in the Russo-Japanese War
- Russia vows not to back down again

THE BALKANS

BOSNIA

Capital = Sarajevo

SERBIA

Bosnia

- Originally part of the Ottoman Empire, but in 1878 was placed under the protection of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after Ottomans are defeated by Russia. Ottomans had gone into the Balkans to put down uprisings
- In 1908, Bosnia is annexed by A-H and added to their empire!
- Most people who live in the region of Bosnia are Serbian and do not want to be part of the A-H empire!!
- Black Hand had been carrying out terrorist activities over the border in Bosnia
- Archduke is assassinated while visiting Sarajevo

Serbia

- Serbia had received its independence in 1878 after the Russian defeat of the Ottomans
- They are outraged over the annexation of Bosnia in 1908
- Serbians fear that they will be the next target of an Austrian takeover AND they blame the Austrians for standing in the way of unifying the people of the Balkans
- Serbians = Very Nationalistic—see themselves as the leaders of the nationalist movement in the Balkans
- Black Hand—use of terrorism to achieve nationalist goals
- Goal = unite the Slavic people of the Balkans into a single country = Yugoslavia