



A Background Guide for the

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE EMERGENCY MEET, 1914

July Crisis, 1914

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LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE DIRECTOR

Dear Delegates

Welcome to the Shishukunj MUN 2017! My name is Abhimanyu Sethia and I am super excited to serve as your chairperson for the Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet, 1914 which will be discussing the July Crisis. Last year, I lead the NATO but this year, I am looking forward to jump into the interesting geopolitics of the pre World War Europe.

A little bit about myself; I am a 11th grader with special interests in world history and mathematics. For me, MUNs have played a very important part in arousing interest in debate and diplomacy. I enjoy doing historic crisis committees as it gives an individual an amazing opportunity to revisit history and see how the history of a country can be seen in the current social and political environment of the country. Outside MUN, you can find me reading Archer novels or Calvin and Hobbes comic strips. I also have been actively blogging for the past couple of years and enjoy writing about my experiences. I would love to share a bond beyond committee with all of you. I have in my team, Chirayu Sodani and Vasudha Gupta. Chirayu, a helpful tech geek, is an ultimate entertainer and loves reading about the Mumbai mafia. He would serve as our Vice-Chair. Vasudha, who would serve as our rapporteur for this year, is a brilliant writer. Vasudha would leave you short of words with her impressive vocabulary!

Talking about the committee, all of us have been working very hard to make sure that you fully get to experience the excitement of the geopolitical environment in Europe in the July of 1914. The death of Archduke Ferdinand, the heir presumptive of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, has raised many questions in the 20th Century Europe. In this volatile situation, there lies the responsibility of preventing War while maintaining the integrity and prestige of the Empire, on each one of you. Dealing with internal conflicts and Slavism, while shaping Austrian foreign policy and deliberating on the reaction to the assassination is going to be extremely challenging as well as nerve rattling! So just keep to your toes. Make sure you furnish your German pronunciation a bit and get ready for real diplomacy.

I can't wait to see you all this July (no pun intended)! In case of any queries, feel free to shoot me an email at aheem@shishukunjmun.com.

Cheers!

Abhimanyu Sethia

Committee Director

Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet, 1914

Notes on Reading this Guide

The agenda explanation has been structured into four major sections which must be read, preferably in the same order for best understanding. While reading the guide, you would observe that certain notes have been left in italics. Moreover, in some sections, “Potential Points for deliberation” have been mentioned. These notes and points are meant to direct your research and provide you with a few leading questions. These notes give important hints to what you can expect in the committee and how you can best prepare for the committee keeping your research relevant.

Additionally, the character positions must be kept in mind while researching and formulating policy. There will be issues on which character stances wouldn't be clearly defined but will have to be best interpreted and a decision will have to be taken by the subjective analysis of the delegate. As long as a delegate doesn't do something that radically contradicts his/her character's stance, it is alright to take some personal stances.

Thirdly, the guide has an extremely important section which is called Questions a Directive Must Answer. These questions are extremely important for preparation as they are the lines on which the committee is going to move forward. Kindly research and prepare on the basis of these questions and before entering the committee, you must have an intricate and comprehensive answer to each of these questions.

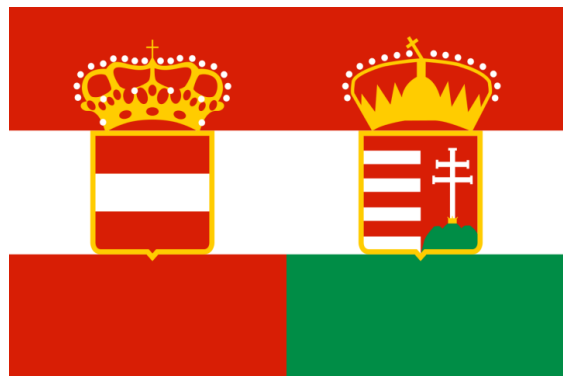
Fourthly, the committee has been convened to discuss the national emergency of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and commences on 28 June 1914 at around 3:30 p.m.

Delegates are highly encouraged to read about the events that took place after 28 June to have an in-depth understanding of the situation and decisions which led to the World War; however, any references made to these events would be discouraged as for the sake of this simulation, we consider that no history exists beyond this time. And it is for all of you to rewrite this history.

Lastly, since you all would be participating in a crisis committee which is considerably different from the General Assemblies, it is imperative to understand that crisis committees encourage you to prioritize your selfish interests over humanitarian interests. That said, war must be considered as the last resort to any problem for the huge loss of man and property that it causes.

Best of luck and happy researching!

About Austria Hungary



The Austro-Hungarian Empire before 1867 was divided into 2 separate independent empires known as the Austrian Empire- Cislethania and the Hungarian Empire- Translethania. The Austrian Chancellor and Prince, Clemens von Metternich made the Austrian Habsburg Empire the leading power in the continent, by a combination of conflict and diplomacy. Since the 1850s, the Austrian Empire was continuously there on the battlefield with several bordering nations and other global identities to

extend its territory. The Austrian army was defeated in a series of war against Prussia and Italy in the latter half of the 19th Century. After this, Austria ceded Italy's Venezia dynasty, Holstein to Prussia, and agreed to dissolve the Deutsche Bund. This forced the Austrian Empire to enter into a dualist structure of administration with its Hungarian counterpart. Austria expected to recover its international identity and defence capability by uniting itself with Hungary. This was the 'Compromise of 1867'.

Emperor Franz Josef recognized that the future of his monarchy would rest on strengthening ties with Hungarian nobility and hence the compromise created two states, each with their own governments and parliament but headed by one common Hapsburg ruler.

Underneath this figure was a common cabinet of three members to deal with foreign affairs, finances and defense. The compromise however only dealt with the two leading nationalities within the empire, which together still comprised a minority of the total population. Alienated from the plan include the nine other nationalities that were under Hapsburg

rule: the Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Serbs, Slovenes, Poles, Ukrainians, Romanians and Italians.

Every ten years the original treaty of 1867 was to be renegotiated. This requirement led to constant bickering over the specific provisions of the compromise. Of central concern were linguistic, financial and military issues. Hungary constantly demanded its own military but the elites of Austria flatly refused. In reality high-ranking officials from both nations despised the union but it was maintained in part because of the tremendous power of the Hapsburg monarchy.

The Compromise of 1867 also led to the formulation of several legal rights for Austro-Hungarian citizens. The nationalism of German speakers prevalent in the Empire of Austria created tension between ethnic Germans and ethnic Czechs. In addition, the emergence of national identity in the newly independent Romania and Serbia also contributed to ethnic issues in the empire.

The Austro-Hungarian Empire by 1914 had become the 2nd largest empire in its territorial extent, and the 3rd most



populous country in Europe (till 1918). Talking about its governmental structure, the empire was headed by the Emperor, Franz Joseph who exercised a stringent command over his cabinet, comprising of the Minister of Finance, Minister of War and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The governments of both Austria and Hungary were distinct and had their own Parliaments. The Minister of Finance, Minister of War and the Minister of Foreign Affairs came under the central cabinet which was supervised by the Emperor and were common to both the governments i.e. the Austrian Govt. and the Hungarian Govt. These three ministers were accountable only to the Emperor and not to the separate governments. There was no separate citizenship for Austrians and Hungarians. They belonged to the same citizenship.



The assassination of the Archduke along with his wife took place on the 28 June at around 11:30 a.m. when the Archduke and his wife were attending military exercises in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. Bosnia had been annexed by Austria- Hungary in 1908 against the wishes of the neighbouring province of Serbia. Upon learning of Ferdinand's upcoming visit, the Young Bosnians, a secret revolutionary society of peasant students, began plotting to assassinate him. In May, three Serbian youths Gavrilo Princip, Trifko Grabez, Nedeljko Cabrinovic along with a fellow Bosnian Serb travelled to the Serbian capital of Belgrade, where they received ammunition along with cyanide, allegedly from the members of the so-called Black Hand. The Black Hand was a secret military society formed by the officers of the Army of Kingdom of Serbia and is generally considered to be responsible for the assassination of the Archduke. However, till this day, it is not known whether or not and till what extent the Serbian government participated in the assassination.

The empire was bordered by several powerful states of the continent such as Germany, Russia, Serbia, Romania, Italy, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Poland, Switzerland and the Ottoman Empire. The Austro-Hungarian Empire faced threats from two sides of its borders, one from its Russian counterpart and the other from the Serbian counterpart. With both these nations, the empire had its territorial disputes.

Agenda: July Crisis, 1914

1.1 Introduction

1914 Austria- Hungary is in a very volatile situation where the diplomats are being faced by an erupting crisis of the assassination of the heir presumptive of the Empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

The flow of events in Sarajevo became peculiarly interesting when the attempt to bomb Archduke's motorcade failed and one of the conspirators was arrested. Disheartened by the attempts on his assassination, the Archduke and his wife decided to change their plans. However, the driver, unaware of the change in plans took a wrong turn into the Franz Josef Street. By mere coincidence, Princip, one

of the conspirators, happened to be present. Taking advantage of the situation, Princip immediately shot the Archduke and his wife. Though Princip was later arrested, the Archduke and his wife had already bled to death.

1.1.1 Mandate

At this point in time, for the purpose of our simulation, an emergency meet is convened by the Austro-Hungarian Emperor consisting of all important diplomats and ministers. Moreover, three of the four assassins have been arrested and are under the Federal Gendarmerie (the Austrian law enforcement agency), while the fourth assassin has fled to Montenegro.

The Emergency Meet has been convened by the Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and has wide ranging powers with regards to taking any decision of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Moreover, this committee has access to all classified intelligence processed by the Evidenzbureau.

The diplomats participating in this meet are burdened with four primary issues confronting the empire post Archduke's assassination- one, shaping Austria-Hungarian empire's policy on the brimming problem of **Pan-Slavism**; two, contemplating on Austria-Hungary's **response to the assassination**; three, tackling a number of societal, economic and ethnic **internal problems**; four, deliberating on the **foreign policy and international alignment** of the Empire which would best benefit the empire and its interests.

The agenda of the committee has been quoted as July Crisis which is basically a reference to the turn of event after the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand which eventually led to World War I.

However, this simulation starts right before the July Crisis and would be traversing through the crisis or maybe more in the course of the conference. Therefore, this guide largely talks about the events before the July Crisis. But the delegates are expected to read about the July Crisis to get the benefit of foresight and take better decisions than the diplomats actually took in 1914, leading to the undesirable war.

1.1.2 Joint Crisis Committee

The Serbo-Russian War Cabinet and the Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet are subcommittees of a joint crisis committee. Both have a common agenda, that of the July crisis and will run in the same time frame. The idea is for the two committees to represent the two initial sides of the conflict. The JCC consists of two independently running subcommittees whose decisions and actions immediately affect the perpetual crisis at hand, hence also affecting the other committee.

Both committees will work in sync, however only the executive board and the crisis staff will maintain the prerogative to share pertinent information with the other committee. That being said, delegates can communicate across the two committees through chats, directives, leaks. These forms of communication have been further explained in the procedure section.

1.2 Slavism

In essence, Slavism refers to the idea of recognizing cultural oneness among the people living in the Balkan Peninsula and uniting them under one nation. The Balkans refers to a large peninsula sandwiched between four seas: the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, the Adriatic and the Aegean. It constitutes of present day

countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia. Most of the part of the Balkans was controlled by the Austrian empire and the Ottoman Empire and hence, the rise of Slavism is strongly connected to the fall of the Ottoman Empire.



Figure 1- A flag representing Pan-Slavism

Instability in the Balkans is considered to be one of the most important causes of the World War I. The Balkan region with minimal development as compared to Western Europe and few natural resources was hardly an economic prize. Then, why is the Balkan peninsula so significant? Its significance lies in its strategically important location, at the crossroads of the Ottoman, Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empire with access to important waterways. Due to its strategic vitality, it soon became a 'hot pot' as major European powers especially, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Austria-Hungary pit against each other, to increase their influence in the Balkans.

1.2.1 History of Instability in the Balkans

Bosnian Crisis

The origin of the power battle in the Balkans stretches back to the Budapest Conventions agreed to by Austria-Hungary and Russia under which Austria-

Hungary agreed to remain neutral in the event of Russian attack on Turkey and in turn, Austria-Hungary was to occupy the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, after the Russian attack, promises made in the Budapest Convention were left undelivered by Russia. This led to the Congress of Berlin in 1878. The Congress introduced the Treaty of Berlin which declared de facto independence of Romania, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria from Ottoman rule and also reinstated the clause for Austrian occupation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in fuller sense. As tensions between Serbia and Austria-Hungary gradually escalated, Austria-Hungary planned to formally annex Bosnia and Herzegovina to suppress the idea of pan-Slavism in 1908 which led to a diplomatic crisis as France, Britain, Russia and Italy alleged that it was a violation of the Treaty of Berlin and demanded for an international conference. Serbia demanded for complete restoration of the Treaty of Berlin and alleged Austria-Hungary of threatening Serbian sovereignty by annexing Bosnia and Herzegovina. Austria-Hungary, on the other hand, rejected the idea of an international congress and was supported by German government. Meanwhile Russia stood as a staunch supporter of Serbia but it realized that it would be unable to support its Balkan ally militarily because of its recent defeat to Japan in 1905. Germany, exploiting the situation, made it clear to Russia that in case of a war it would support Austria which at once, caused Russia to accept the Austrian annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following in the steps of Russia, Serbia too yielded and accepted the annexation.

Escalation to war was prevented because of weak Russian military in the Bosnian crisis however the Balkans were not to stay in peace for long, only to be confronted by another set of wars.

Balkan League and the Balkan Wars

After the Austro-Hungarian annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slavism as an idea was brutally suppressed in these primarily Slav provinces and hence, the Slavs looked towards the Ottoman Empire for advancing their ideology. Ottoman Turkey had weakened by the late 19th Century due to Italo-Turkish Wars. In fact, Ottoman Turkey's demise was so evident that Western European powers – particularly Britain, France, Germany and Russia – developed a strong interest in the region, based on concerns about what might happen once the Ottoman Empire disintegrated. They referred to this as the 'Eastern question' and developed their own foreign policy objectives. Russia, yet keen on expanding its influence in the Balkans, incited Balkan nations like Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria to form a Balkan League in 1912 whose primary agenda was to wage war on the Ottomans and drive them out of eastern Europe entirely. The League in October 1912 emerged victorious in the war against the mammoth Ottoman Empire which led to the creation of the independent nation of Albania. Soon after, the Second Balkan War followed which was instigated by Bulgaria by attacking its Balkan allies over the issue of division of Macedonia.

With support of Russia and other external powers, Serbia and Greece easily won the war against Bulgaria and the war ended

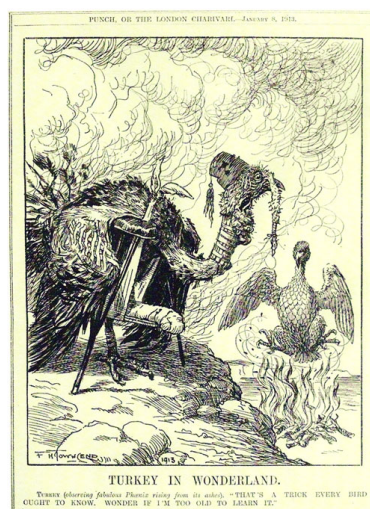


Figure 2-A poster during the Bosnian crisis, captioned as "Turkey in Wonderland"

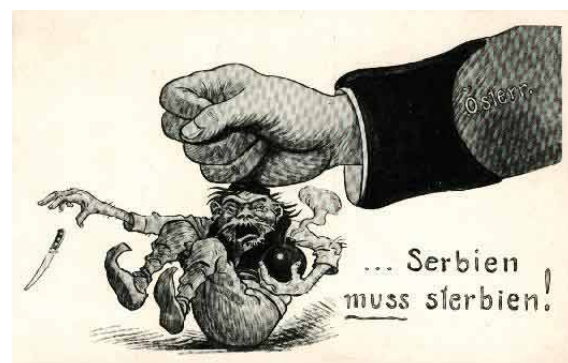
with Bulgaria left to accept the Treaty of Bucharest imposing humiliating terms on Bulgaria.

1.2.2 Effects, Context and Issues for Deliberation

The instability in the Balkans had broadly four important outcomes which are of paramount significance to Austria-Hungary's ambitions- one, the growth of Serbian nationalism and emergence of Serbia as a major power in the Balkans; two, shift in relations of Austria-Hungary; three, the international alignment of Russia with the Baltic States and Serbia; four, emergence of ethnic and Slav conflict within Austria-Hungary. The fourth outcome has been discussed under the third section of this guide headed as 'Internal problems.' The rest of the three have been discussed below.

Growth of Serbian Nationalism

The Bosnian Crisis, Balkan Wars and disintegration of the Ottoman Empire led to the rise of Serbia as a centre of Slav nationalism. Slav victory in multiple wars led to significant advances not only in the strength of the Pan-Slavic movement but also marked the rise of Serbia and Serbian nationalism. The wars left Serbia as the most militarily powerful state south of the Danube.



In 1908, when the Austro-Hungarians formally annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, several nationalist groups

like the Narodna Odbrana ('People's Defence'), Crna Ruka ('Black Hand') and Mlada Bosna ('Young Bosnia') were formed and pledged to drive out the Austro-Hungarians. With the support of Russian agents, officials of the Serbian government, public service and military of Serbia, these groups were successful till a great extent in carrying out revolutionary activities against the Austro-Hungarian Empire, including the recent (in reference to the time frame of the committee) assassination of Archduke Ferdinand.

Serbia's influence in the Balkans had increased till such an extent that when military action against Serbia was contemplated, that is in February and October 1913, in both instances neither Italy nor Germany guaranteed support to Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary ultimately had to acquiesce in Serbia's territorial gains.

Potential Issues for Deliberation- *Rise of Serbia as a major power in the Balkan Peninsula threatens Austro-Hungarian domination. Moreover, rising anti-Austrian sentiment in Serbia as well as Bosnia-Herzegovina has placed Austrian Empire strength, security and sovereignty in peril. The members of this simulation need to evolve an appropriate response to the current situation, so that Austro-Hungarian Empire's might is upheld in this volatile situation keeping in mind the constant risk of war and its undesirability. Moreover, the delegates need to decide on whether the Serbian problem must be solved by brutal suppression or diplomatic maneuvering or covert actions or something altogether different. Remember, the aim of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Policy must be balance its imperialistic ambitions with the question of morality!*

Shift in Bilateral Relations

The long years of wars marked a shift in the bilateral relations of Austria-Hungary with its neighbours. During the Bosnian annexation, questionable politics between Russia and Austria-Hungary caused mistrust, scandal and corruption. After the annexation, Russia simply turned away the Budapest Conventions which led to a major setback in the Austro-Hungarian and Russian ties. The relations were only to deteriorate in the subsequent Balkan Wars where Russia staunchly supported Serbia and allies.

The wars also meant alienation of most of the great powers from Austrian policy. Causing offense to the Western European powers like Britain, France, Italy along with Russia by annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria-Hungary had distanced itself from the big powers.

In context to Germany, the wars marked strengthening of the already existing ties of Austria-Hungary and Germany. German support during the Bosnian crisis proved helpful to the Austrian annexation. However, German help also brings about a heavy diplomatic obligation on the shoulders of Austria-Hungary towards Germany.

Potential Issues for Deliberation- *Austria-Hungary is at a turning point in the history of its foreign policy and international alignment. The delegates must direct the Austrian foreign policy considering diplomatic obligations to Germany and the threat of escalation, along with the ambitions and interests of the empire. The delegates would also have to deliberate over whether Austria-Hungary must seriously commit to one particular block or align itself to a diplomatic position in such a volatile geopolitical situation. With the advantage of foresight, we would look forward to some radical*

changes to the Austrian foreign policy! This must be viewed in context to the international alignments discussed in the last section of this guide.

Russian Support to Slavism and Serbia

The two Balkan wars forced Russia to revisit its foreign policy in the region, as it was now dependent on Serbia as a buffer against Austro-Hungarian aggression.

Inclination of Russia towards the Slavs and Serbian nationalists can be dated back to June 1848 when the Pan-Slavism movement took on political overtones and convened a Slav congress in Prague consisting of representatives of all Slav nationalities ruled by the Austrians.

By the 1860s, the Slav movement became particularly popular in Russia, to which many Pan-Slavs looked for leadership and protection from Austro-Hungarian and Turkish rule. Russian Pan-Slavists adopted the notion that western Europe was spiritually and culturally bankrupt and that it was Russia's historic mission

to rejuvenate Europe by gaining political dominance over it. The Pan-Slavists added the concept that Russia's mission could not be fulfilled without the support of other Slav peoples, who must be liberated from their Austrian and Turkish masters and united into a Russian-dominated Slav confederation.

Although this view was not supported by the Russian government, but many important individuals of its foreign department were ardent Pan-Slavists and succeeded in drawing both Serbia and Russia into wars against the Ottoman Turkey. By the beginning of the 20th Century, Russia was more visibly allied to Serbia and conceived as a protector of Slavism.

Potential Issues for Deliberation- *The rise of influence of Russia in Balkans is again a threat to Austro-Hungarian dominance in the region. Moreover, the rise of Serb nationalism can directly be linked to Russian support. Therefore, rise of Russia is only negative for the Austro-Hungarian Empire's ambitions. The members of this emergency meet need to deliberate on the issue of whether*



Russia's status as a protector of Slavs is warranted and how must this rise of power be tackled to advance Austro-Hungarian interest. The delegates must consider the edge that Germany possesses militarily over Russia, unless all of you (participants of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet) decide to abstain from German support.

1.3 Response to Assassination

News of the assassination spread rapidly through Europe. In Belgrade, there was some rejoicing. Most of the European governments had other things to worry about. Russia was dealing with militant strikes; the British feared civil war; while the French were preoccupied with a complex scandal. The German Kaiser was sad at the loss of a friend and had his own ambitions to be fulfilled under the shadow of the assassination. In Austria-Hungary, the Archduke had not been much loved; however the assassination still threw the Empire into a chaos as it was a huge blow on the mighty Empire's pride and respect.

Interestingly, the Archduke's assassination wasn't entirely unexpected and was preceded by numerous warnings from his own security personnel as well as Bosnian administration. Another interesting fact about the assassination is that none of the assassins wished to

survive however, it was a pure accident that their attempts to suicide failed and three of them were immediately arrested by Austro-Hungarian authorities while one fled to Montenegro.

Delegates must note that we only consider information that we have received till the time of commencement of the simulation and for the sake of this simulation, we would consider that history stalls at this point in time. Any anachronisms would be highly discouraged. However, the information in public domain may keep on evolving as you are a part of a continuous crisis simulation.

1.3.1 Motive

In the Austrian capital Vienna, the assassination was immediately perceived as a Serbian provocation, even though actual evidence of Serbian involvement in the plot was hard to come by.

It was *not* known at the time that one of the instigators of this act was indeed a member of the Serbian establishment: the head of the Serbian military intelligence service, Dragutin Dimitrijević (also known as Apis), and members of the 'Black Hand' were behind the assassination just as they had been behind the unsuccessful attempt to kill Kaiser Franz Joseph in 1910.



However, the people in Austria-Hungary were convinced of Slavic nationalist motives behind the assassination even before official evidence emerged because of primarily two reasons. One, Archduke Franz Ferdinand supported the idea of a South Slav province within his empire to satisfy Slavic nationalist aspirations. Hence, his

reign would have led to a "trial" monarchy instead of the dual monarchy. However, Princip and his fellow nationalists in Bosnia dreamed of nothing less than an independent South Slav state, or of perhaps joining Serbia. The Archduke was therefore both a symbol of the hated Austrian empire and a very real threat.

Two, the choice of June 28, as the date of assassination, was a significant implication towards the Slavic and Serbian nationalist motives behind the act. On that day in 1389, a Christian Serbian prince had been defeated by the Muslim Ottomans at the Battle of Kosovo. The Serbs celebrated it as both their greatest tragedy and a symbol of their patriotism. Moreover, the Serbian government had even sent a warning to Vienna through its ambassador, but it was so vague as to be useless.

However, it must be noted here, that by the time of commencement of the committee, the hypothesis about Serbian involvement in the crime was based more on these logic theories than real evidence. *The delegates in the committee are expected to further dig out information regarding the assassination by constructively utilizing crisis notes to reach out to their contacts. Moreover, the arrested assassins are yet under interrogation and no statement of theirs in the real history would be considered as*

given unless and until specified during the course of the conference. Lastly, the assassin who has fled to Montenegro is an important link in finding out more about the assassination and must be seriously pursued.

1.3.2 Response of Austria-Hungary and Issues for Deliberation

The assassination of the Archduke is not only a cause of chaos and disorder but also a political thrashing of the Empire by unorganized Slav groups. Moreover, the assassination is another instance of the growing influence of Serbia and victory of Pan-Slavism in the Balkans. Hence, it must be tackled with a timely and appropriate response, in order, to retain the pride and esteem of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Potential Issues for Deliberation- *The diplomats participating in the Austro-Hungarian Emergency Meet need to deliberate on a host of issues. First, whether it is too early to react on the situation. While some diplomats advocate for an immediate action to the assassination in order to control the situation before it goes out of hand, others would campaign for a more prudent reaction, by first investigating on the extent of Serbian involvement.*

Second, the delegates in the committee need to deliberate on the extent and nature of reaction to the assassination. While some ministers sponsor the idea of political negotiation regarding the crisis rather than military action, others strive for more coercive action. Some others gave in to an immediate declaration of war against Serbia. The question and extent of action must be viewed taking into consideration the economic and political cost and benefit, the international



Figure 3- A news report quoting the motive of the assassination as revenge to Bosnian annexation

alignment of major powers in Europe, stances of Germany and Russia and morality, at all times. Moreover, by the merit of foresight, it can be safely said that any form of military escalation corresponds to high risk of conversion into an international war.

Additionally, the delegates must consider the fact that their response to the assassination must be in consistence with the larger issue of Slavism and Serbian nationalism as discussed in the other sections.

It must not be forgotten that the interest of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is more than mere sentiment; the long-term goal is to gain control of the crucial Balkans and counter, Serbia's growing influence in the region.

1.4 Domestic Conditions

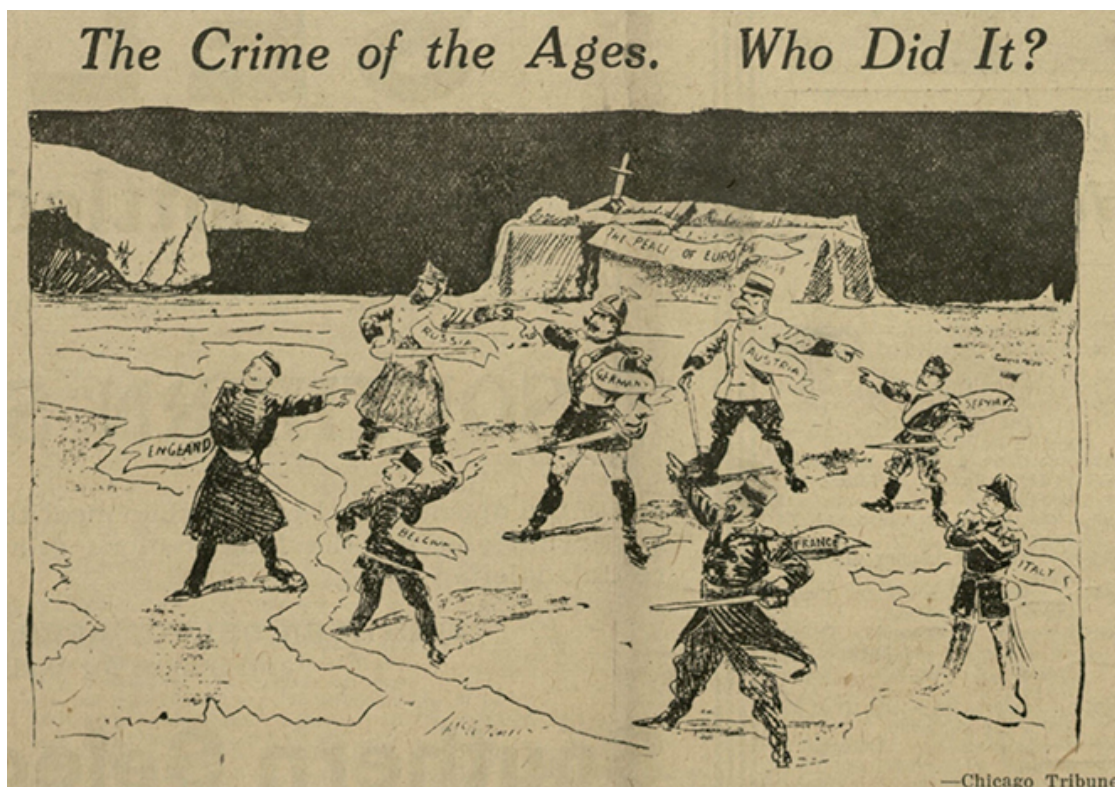
Austria-Hungary was also faced by a number of internal secessionist problems, ethnic conflicts, economic crises and military problems. Any decisions taken regarding Austrian foreign policy

influences and is influenced by its internal problems.

1.4.1 Conflicts of Nationality

Austria-Hungary was for all practical purposes, a union of multiple nations under the name of one Empire. With its multiethnic populace, conflict was bound to come. Ethnic conflict was further fuelled by neighbouring states, as they would instigate nationalities within Austria-Hungary to rebel and demand for independence. For example, oppressed Ruthinians in Galicia obtained support from Ukrainians in Russia

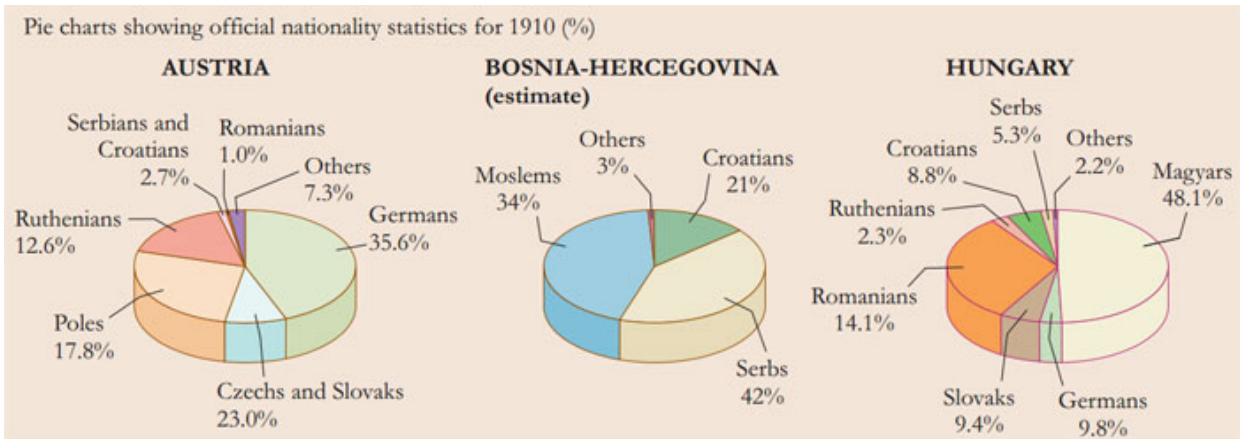
According to a report by the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the population census of Austria-Hungary taken in 1910 quoted the population of the western half Austria-Hungary as about 28.3 million and a majority of Germans with nearly 36 percent of the populace. The Germans enjoyed great influence in Austria-Hungary with the Empire's official language as German and civil service dominated by German officials.



The Magyars (Hungarians) were the elite class in Austria-Hungary possessing great influence and hoarding wealth. Magyars and Germans were disliked by the Czechs because of the compromise of 1867, which further confirmed Magyar domination of society. Unlike the Slavs, Czechs did not wish to achieve

of an independent Polish state prior to 1914.

The Russians and Slovenes, who made up a minute 5 percent of the population, wanted to be united with the Ukrainians in Russia rather than remain in the Habsburg Empire, but they did not have the power



independence but merely increase Czech influence within the empire. The Czechs were strongest in the regions of Bohemia and Moravia with 60-70 percent share in the population there, while they made up only about 23 percent of the population nationally. Prague became a centre of Czech power.

On the other hand, the Poles, with an 18 percent share in the populace, were just satisfied with protecting and extending their weight in the Habsburg Empire because there was not a strong likelihood

or influence to do so.

While all these nationalities along with their own nationalist ambitions were potential threats, the integrity of the Empire was already being threatened by the widespread Slav nationalism. Slav nationalism was initially based on the idea of making Austria the home of Slav national aspirations. With two-thirds of the population, Slav demands could have been considered as reasonable but the Germans, in control of the government and the central administration, continued



to assign to the monarchy the role of an outpost of German culture. Long years of indifference towards the Slav nationalist sentiment in the Empire gave way to the violent nature of their

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nationalism. But, particularly, Slav nationalism became a nuisance for the Austro-Hungarian government because of the external support it enjoyed. Russian and Serbian governments were often known to support these

Slav nationalist groups to protest against

Austro-Hungarian government, in order to forward their own desire of countering Austro-Hungarian domination in the Balkans. Another problem closely related to Slav nationalism is the secessionist movement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary had always been viewed with contention by Serbia and Russia and hence, they planted the roots of this secession movement. In fact, the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, for which purpose this Emergency Meet has been convened is also a result of these secessionist groups sponsored by Serbia. The South-Slavs consisting of the Croats, Slovenes and Serbs were pressing on the idea of an independent state, Yugoslavia which would have seriously hastened the disintegration of Austria-Hungary. Franz Ferdinand was well aware of the danger of a South-Slav, which is why he had floated the idea of a South Slav province within his empire to satisfy their aspirations.

To add fuel to the fire, Czech nationalist groups sensed Pan-Slav movement as an opportunity to advance their own nationalist interests. Slavic movement and Czechs came so close that a Pan-Slav Congress was held in Prague, the centre of Czech nationalism.

Potential Points for Deliberation- *First of all the emerging crisis of Slav nationalism is a major threat to Austrian integrity and sovereignty. Either by brutal repression or political compromise, the Slav movement inside Austria-Hungary must be subsided. The larger issue of Pan-Slavism in the Balkans would also be helped as Austria-Hungary is the major experimentation ground for Pan-Slav movement.*

Secondly, the growing influence of Serbia, an Austro-Hungarian foe, into the domestic matters of the country is an indication of the subsiding effectiveness of the Habsburg Empire. The diplomats at

the Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet are burdened with the responsibility of taking appropriate action, diplomatic or military, to tackle the Serbian rise.

Thirdly, it is very evident that the result of long years of indifference towards Slavs led to growth of a petty movement into a major political challenge. Therefore, the Czechs, Poles, Russians and Slovenes must be effectively dealt with in order to prevent their growth into strong, uncontrollable revolutions.

Fourthly, the issue of breakup of Bosnia-Herzegovina is constantly emerging and any victories made by the rebels would only mean victory for the Serb nationalists. Inclusion of Bosnia-Herzegovina into Serbia not only threatens Austro-Hungarian integrity but also marks a significant rise in the chances of formation of a Yugoslav state. The delegates must evolve a plan to counter this emerging crisis.

Each of these issues is extremely important and all of you (participants of the JCC at the Shishukunj MUN) must evolve your own intricate plans to tackle these issues in consistence with your character's policy.

1.4.2 Economy

The Austro-Hungarian economy was characterized by two thirds of the population being dependent on subsistence agriculture. The Austro-Hungarian economy grew at around 1.75 percent in the years 1870-1913 which was slightly higher than the growth rate of Britain and France during the same time period. However, in comparison to Germany and Britain, the Austro-Hungarian economy still lacked behind because of delayed modernisation.

Another interesting characteristic of the Austro-Hungarian economy was that the

economic growth widely varied with regions which gave rise to economic disparities and were also a cause of rebellion. Galicia, with over 25% of the population, had only 6% of the industrial workforce, and a per capita income 1/3 of that of the alpine provinces. This economic disparity overlapped with nationality. For example the Magyars had almost all large estates over 1,400 acres and about 300 aristocrats and landowners owned around 50% of the arable land.

1.4.3 Pig War

Austria-Hungary obtained 80 to 90 percent of imports from Serbia and supplied 50 to 60 percent of its exports to Serbia. Dependence of an economy over another in such high proportions puts both the economies under very high risk of fluctuation and volatility. Additionally, high dependence on the primary enemy's economy is just not the safest thing to happen. However, Austria-Hungary had the conscious realisation of this fact only after the pig war, which was a tariff conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, from 1905 to 1909. Serbia, in order to reduce economic dependence on Austria-Hungary, began to import French munitions instead of the regular Austrian munitions and established a customs union with Bulgaria, making Austrian goods unsalable in Serbia. Serbian economy boomed as it gained from more economic dependence on Allied countries. By the end of the embargo's first year, the Serbians were exporting more livestock than ever before. Austria-Hungary, hit by the adverse effect that Serbian actions had had on its economy, responded by closing its borders to Serbian pork and hence, leading to the 'Pig' war.

Serbia refused to bow to Vienna and began to obtain credits for slaughterhouses and canning plants from



France and arranged imports from Germany. Serbia pressured the Austrian-administrated provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a trade outlet on the Adriatic Sea, in order to save its economy after Austria refused Serbian imports. Russia supported Serbia's actions

A mainstream war between Austria-Hungary and Russia was averted, only because of a German ultimatum (1909) demanding the cessation of Russian aid to Serbia. The Pig War ended with a new commercial treaty (1909) between Serbia and Austria. However, Serbia covertly stirred up trouble among the southern Slavs in newly Austrian-annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, sharpening its nationalist ambitions with regard to Bosnia.

The economic problems of Austria-Hungary are largely problems which require a long term solution and aren't immediate problems. Hence, this section about the Austro-Hungarian isn't directly relevant to the crises. But there are a few important points to consider. One, the delegates in the simulation must sincerely consider the economic impact and cost of the actions that they decide to take. For example, if all of you (participants at the Shishukunj MUN) decide to declare a war on Serbia, it would be imperative to analyze if the country's economy can afford to have a war or not and its economic cost and benefit.

Secondly, the Pig War though no longer directly relevant, is an important instance to understand how economic tools can be

used to tackle political differences. The Pig War is an amazing instance where a creative solution has been sought for a conventional political rivalry. We would encourage all of you to look for such innovative means of achieving various political objectives instead of militarization, which has a huge cost.

1.5 Foreign Policy and International Alignment

The geopolitical situation in 1914 Europe was extremely dynamic. The web of alliances formed after the Franco-Prussian war is considered to be one of the most important trigger of the First World War. All of you as a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet have the overlying responsibility of realigning the Empire and shaping its foreign policy to best suit the geopolitical situation in Europe and prevent war.

1.5.1 International Factions and Treaties

After the Franco-Prussian War, Germany set up an affluent empire while France fell into chaos and was isolated. Having wounded the pride of France, Germany feared an attack from France and established the League of Three Emperors in order to counter the risk of an attack by France. The League of Three Emperors formed in 1873, with its members Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia, was based on the principle that the other two Emperors would maintain neutrality if either of the three was involved in war against some external power. However, when Russia and Austria-Hungary pit against each other in the Berlin conference discussing the

Bosnian crisis (refer to Pan-Slavism and Balkan Wars) the League of Three Emperors broke down. Though Germany had already allied with Austria-Hungary, but it could not afford to lose the goodwill of Russia as there was every possibility of Russia joining France if she was left alone. Therefore, Germany got to terms with Russia by the secret Reinsurance Treaty (1887) and the neutrality agreement was retained between Russia and Germany. However, in 1890, the Reinsurance Treaty was rejected by the new officials at the German foreign office and replaced by a Dual Alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary. This was a binding military alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary that required each signatory to support the other if one was attacked by Russia or any Russian ally. The Dual Alliance extended to Triple Alliance in 1882, after Italian accession driven by anti-French sentiment. The clause for military help against attack by Russia was extended to attack by France as well.

France, noting the rise of anti-French and anti-Russian sentiment was quick to get into a pact with Russia. The Franco-Russian Alliance (1894) was primarily a counter to the Triple Alliance. It led to polarization of European powers as they got divided into two competing sets.



Figure 5- The web of alliances is aptly defined as a cause of the World War

Meanwhile, in Germany, military expansion and modernisation of navy was heartily endorsed by the newly crowned kaiser, Wilhelm II, who envied the British Navy. Britain's domination over the seas had lasted for around two centuries. As German imperialism and economic capacity grew during the latter half of the 19th century, Germany began to increase its spending on the navy. The German Navy build-up in 1898 led to an arms' race between Germany and Britain. Of course, any attempt by another country to undermine Britain's naval dominance would be looked upon as hostile by the British.

This hostility in relations with Germany, possibly, led to Britain signing the Entente Cordiale with France in 1904 and Anglo-Russian Entente with Russia in 1907.

Both the agreements did not involve any military commitment or support; however the *Ententes* marked a sharp change in the British foreign policy of 'Splendid Isolation' and also, eased tensions between Britain's historic rivals France and Russia, thanks to a common enemy, Germany.

Both the ententes were subsumed into the Triple Entente, a three-way agreement between Britain, France and Russia in 1907. The Triple Entente was

considerably more obscure than the Triple Alliance in talking about the aid of the other two parties in case of a war.

It is important to note that the international factions in the 20th Century Europe were radically different from what they had been like over two decades back. Austro-Russian tensions have never been so high and Britain, who two decades back had ties with no country, is a major player in European politics of 1914. Therefore, the first decade of the 20th Century marks a dynamic geopolitical situation. If this situation calls for some radical changes to Austro-Hungarian alignment as well, then do not hesitate to move ahead with them in the committee.

1.5.2 Other Important Players

Britain

Britain as discussed above has increasingly allied with France and Russia. Their friendship strengthened over the first Moroccan conflicts, where the UK voiced support for France, alienating Germany, and in the second of the conflicts it played an integral role in the instatement of France's control of Morocco. This furthered their conflict with Germany.

Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg

Both the Netherlands and Luxembourg, under Queen Wilhelmina and Marie-Adelaide respectively, were friendly with Germany in the years preceding World War I, but adopted a decidedly neutral stance towards the conflict.

Belgium, on the other hand, was closely allied with France and

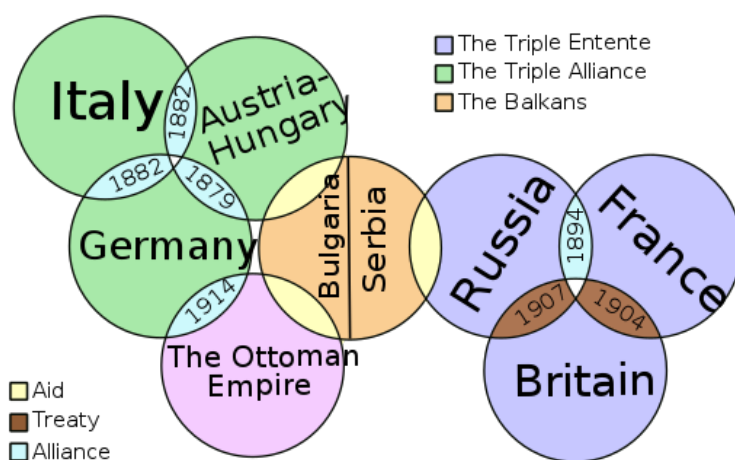


Figure 5- A diagrammatic representation of the international alignment before the World War I

Britain. An important treaty to consider here is the Treaty of London signed between Britain and Belgium which acknowledges the existence of Belgium as an independent and neutral state. Belgium had earned statehood in the 1830s after separating from southern Holland. The Treaty of London was still in effect in 1914.

When the World War I commenced in real history, German troops invaded Belgium in August 1914 which the British considered as violation of the treaty. As a result the British safeguarded Belgium which involved British in the war.

All three of these countries can play important roles in the geopolitical situation in Europe and are potential allies to either side. Belgium can potentially be a buffer against Britain for Austria-Hungary.

Bulgaria

Bulgaria is peculiarly important to the crisis as it is currently (as per the time of commencement of the committee) an uncommitted country. However, its conflict with Serbia and the other Balkan states in the Second Balkan War, makes Bulgaria logically more inclined towards the Austria-Germany bloc than the Russian-Serbian block.

Ottoman Empire

Since the 15th century, Ottoman Empire was the dominant force in the Balkan Peninsula. Its position in the Balkans was supported by the British and the French against Russia to maintain the balance of power in Eastern Europe. But by the 19th century, the Ottoman Empire had faded from its former glory because of corruption and an overburdened bureaucracy. This weakening of the Empire left the Turkish Balkan territory vulnerable. With the rise of nationalism,

increased want for independence, and the decline of the Ottoman Empire, few countries seceded from the Empire beginning with Greek War of Independence from 1821 to 1829 when it formally became independent. That same year, Serbia was granted semi-autonomy within the Ottoman Empire and in 1878 became a fully independent state.

Despite its waning influence, the Ottoman Empire still is an important political symbol in the Balkans and an important factor for Austrian want for increased influence in the Balkans. What must be the Ottoman Empire's role in the Austrian policy is for all of you to decide.

1.5.3 Leading Questions and Points for Deliberation

As members of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet, you are burdened with the task of shaping Austrian foreign policy and determining its alignment. First, it is important to determine the objective of this policy; whether the Austrian policy must work towards expanding its territory or influence, or countering Slav nationalism or easing tensions with Russia and Serbia.

Second, it is imperative to determine alliances with which countries and actors would best help the determined objective. Moreover, a set of currently uncommitted countries hold great potential for change in the current geopolitical situational. The question of whether Austria-Hungary must initiate an open conflict with Triple Entente or be open to negotiation towards them is important for deliberation.

The third task would be to negotiate with other countries and actors by utilizing communiqués and crisis notes. As the Austro-Hungarian Meet would be a JCC, a live negotiation with Serbia would be highly encouraged.

1.6 Concluding Notes

We hope this guide was enriching. This guide simply streamlines information to facilitate the process of research for all of you. However, comprehensive reading of this guide must be followed by further research. This section provides you with some suggestions on your further research.

One, as you must have realized this guide has been evolved multiple times to cut out on extra information and data which could have distracted the reader from the agenda at hand. Therefore, it demands for in-depth research on the points mentioned in brief. This includes reading different opinions, blogs and articles for formulating your own ideas and opinion on the topic. As a delegate, you must have your own opinion and solution to every topic which would only be developed after comprehensive and diverse readings. Second, this guide primarily discusses events that have occurred before the time of commencement of the committee. It is imperative to research about the events which took place after the committee's commencement date as well, because foresight would help you make more responsible decisions than the diplomats in 1914 actually made.

Third, some important and free resources relevant to the topic are available online. Alpha History's resources on the World War I are quite enriching. Moreover, Encyclopaedia Britannica can be referred to for details of different treaties, wars and events. The Wikipedia page for July

Crisis provides with more than sufficient information regarding the aftermath of the assassination and also can be used to interpret some character policy, though most of the article talks about events after the time of commencement of the committee. Moreover, the International Encyclopaedia of the First World War is an interesting resource on different topics and regions. The Coffee Cup History blog also has many relevant articles on the topic.

Remember, a good delegate is always well armed with research and innovative ideas. Also, before the conference, do distinguish between your crises arc and your in-committee content. That is to say what actions you would like to take covertly, through crisis notes and what all would you like to speak in the committee. We wish you all the best for your research and in case, you have any queries or require more resources or content, do not hesitate to mail us at aheem@shishukunjmun.com !

1.7 Questions A Directive Must Answer

Pan- Slavism

1. The assassination is only one of the many instances of extremism from constantly rebelling Slavic groups. Are the demands of the Slavs reasonable?
2. What must be Austro-Hungarian response to its neighbouring Slav movement? Should Austria-Hungary accept the demands of the Serbs or suppress Slav nationalism as it has been doing ever since or must it revert to an entirely different solution to the Slav problem?

3. What should be Austria-Hungary's strategy in tackling growing Serbian influence and retaining its domination in the peninsula?
4. Is Russia's status as the protector of the Slavic peoples warranted? Since Russia's support to Slavic people and Serbia threaten Austro-Hungarian domination in the Balkans, how must the empire work towards the breaking of this tie? Would a give and take agreement with Russia conditioned to a halt of Russian support for the Balkans be a reasonable or would it only be a non-functional treaty? Or should the empire be more aggressive towards Russian support?

Response to assassination

5. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand is a shame on the pride and glory of the mighty empire. What should be Austria-Hungary's reaction to the assassination attempt? Should Austria-Hungary depend on diplomatic negotiations with Serbia or take more coercive measures or radical actions like war?
6. Is Serbia responsible for the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, as indicated by one of the assassins? Should an investigation committee be set up for investigating Serbia's involvement or diplomatic evidences must be considered adequate to assume that Serbia was responsible for the assassination? Should such an investigation be covert or with prior consent of the Serbian government?
7. If in case, Serbia is found guilty of the assassination, what must be the empire's response to Serbia? Should Austria-Hungary agree to the Slavic demands of independence or take any radical measures against Serbia? If yes, to what degree? Is war or military mobilisation a reasonable response to Serbian involvement in the assassination?
8. Should Austria-Hungary seek help from its allies or must handle it as an internal issue?

Domestic Conditions

9. The loss of Austria-Hungary in the war with Prussia in 1866 a clear indication of the weak army of our empire. Considering the strength of army, would it be in Austria-Hungary's interest to take military action against Serbia or the Slavs considering the high chances of escalation? Also, considering the high proportions of Slavs in Austro-Hungarian army, is it safe to depend on the army for anti-Slav operations? Till what extent should be the German army be relied on?
10. Considering the huge proportions of Slavic nationalities that form a part of the Austro-Hungarian population, is it imperative for Austria-Hungary to lose its territory to Slavs for the sake of internal stability?
11. If not, then how Slavism and anti-Austrian sentiments must be controlled? Should Austro-Hungarian empire be open to negotiations with Slavs and provide them with self-governing arrangement within the empire or should they be suppressed militarily?

12. What administrative actions must be taken in response to the growing secession movement in Bosnia-Herzegovina? Should the empire agree to the terms of independence demanded by the Slavic population in Bosnia, or should the empire continue to brutally suppress any anti-national movements?
13. How must the Austro-Hungarian Empire tackle the growing influence of Serbia in the domestic matters of the Empire, with special reference to the case of Bosnia? Should giving up some territory to South Slavs be enough to control the external influence or would it only be a redundant measure?
14. Can there be any economic solution to the political problem of Slavism? Would cutting supplies or monetary help to Slavs be effective in controlling Pan-Slavism?
15. Can economic tools be used to tackle the Serbian conflict as well? Is yes, how and when?
16. What must be the nature of foreign policy of Austria-Hungary? Should it be an aggressive policy taking up conflict with Serbia and friends? Or should Austro-Hungarian policy be more accommodative towards international agreement and negotiations?
17. Is the British Empire justified in having a navy that can overwhelm the rest of the Great Powers? Should the Austrian empire also invest on building its navy as deterrence against any future attack by the European powers? Would it be worth the dent it makes on the National treasury?
18. What must be the role of yet, unaligned countries like Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in the geopolitical situation of Europe? Does the Ottoman Empire hold any potential to act as a medium to advance the interests of Austria-Hungary in the Balkans?
19. Should Austria-Hungary refuse acceptance of German support for the sake of easing Austro-Russian tensions? What place should Germany occupy in the international alignment of the Empire?

Foreign Policy and International Alignment

16. What must be the nature of foreign policy of Austria-Hungary? Should it be an aggressive policy taking up conflict with Serbia and friends? Or should Austro-Hungarian policy be more accommodative towards international agreement and negotiations?
17. Is the British Empire justified in having a navy that can overwhelm the rest of the Great Powers? Should the Austrian empire also invest on building its navy as deterrence

1.8 Character Bios

This section comprises of the character bios of different diplomats participating in this Emergency Meet. The idea behind having character biographies is to make delegates aware of their portfolio powers and maintain a general balance of opinion in the committee. However, you do not have to restrict yourself to the policy of your character. It is worth repeating that as long as you do not radically contradict your character's policy, it is alright to make up your own policy.

1. Istvan Tisza- Prime Minister of Hungary.

Tisza, is serving as the Prime Minister of Hungary for the second time (first being 1903-05) at the time of commencement of the simulation. Till the time of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand he was quite supportive of the war but afterwards opposed it for primarily, two reason- one, he was aware of the weakness of the army; two, he believed

that expansion of Empire on Balkans would only increase the already high number of Slavs in the Empire and would threaten national integrity, resulting in an escalation of internal ethnic conflict in near future. In reality, Tisza, on the day of assassination, proposed to give Serbian government time to take a stand as to whether it was involved in the organization of the murder and he delayed the declaration of war until the investigation completed. Another policy associated with Tisza, was that of forced *Magyarization*, which was later condemned.

Discussing the possibility of war, he once said, *"It is my firm conviction that Germany's two neighbours (Russia and France) are carefully proceeding with military preparations, but will not start the war so long as they have not attained a grouping of the Balkan states against us that confronts the monarchy with an attack from three sides and pins down the majority of our forces on our eastern and southern front"*

Post Assassination- Tisza finally gave in to war because he knew that, in case Austria-Hungary withdrew from the war it would result in the loss of alliance with Germany and as the war proceeded he became a major supporter of it. Tragically, he was assassination was carried on the day which is marked by the end of Hungary's political union with Hungary.

2. Count Leopold Berchtold- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Austria-Hungary.

Berchtold served as the Austria-Hungarian Foreign Minister at the time of the crisis of assassination of the Archduke. Berchtold, known for his aggressive foreign policy, was a staunch supporter of the war against Serbia. He believed in preserving the status-quo in the Balkan region. His punitive action

with the 'Young Rebels' against Serbia was a major reason for the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. However, he managed to restrict Serbian access to Adriatic Sea.

Post assassination- Berchtold played a major role in during the Austro-German negotiations during July 1914, which resulted in the widely known 'blank check.' He played a primary role in the formulation of the ultimatum to Serbia delivered on 23rd July and the declaration of war on 28th July. He felt that only the defeat of Serbia in the war could preserve the Dual Monarchy.

3. Alexander Hoyos- Chef de cabinet, Foreign Minister.

He was the chef de cabinet, Foreign Minister during 1912-1917 and was a strong supporter of war. He is known for his visit to Berlin during 1908-09, to receive the promise of support and approval from Germany of the annexation of Bosnia.

Post Assassination- During the July crisis, he played a pivotal role in the diplomatic maneuvering between Austria-Hungary and Germany. Though his part during the war was a minor one, he was considered a de facto Imperial representative to Germany during the July crisis, because of his widespread contacts in Germany.

4. Gottlieb Jagow- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Germany.

Jagow served as the German foreign minister during the crisis and believed that any potential Austria-Serbian war would remain localized as Russia was not prepared for war. He voiced for the 'liberation of Poland' in order to prevent the dilution of German blood, as Poland would not be a part of Germany but independent.

Post Assassination- Jagow's hypothesis about the war remaining localized turned out to be wrong, as the war truly became a World War. Moreover, after the event of involvement of Russia into the war, he realigned his aim as to make Russia retreat and crush it into smaller pieces, hence, campaigning for Austria-Hungary to continue with the war. He strongly believed in *Germanization* and cleansing of Jews and Poles. He was later made to retire as anger against him boiled in the parliament due to his lack of protection of the government policies.

5. Leon Bilinski- Minister of Finance, Austria-Hungary.

Bilinski served as the minister of Finance of Austria and then of Austria-Hungary as a whole. His past office holdings include the Governor of Austrian National Bank and president of the Austrian State Railways. Having gained respect for his work over the years, he is considered to be an expert on Austro-Hungarian economy and is responsible for all financial decisions of the Empire.

Later in 1919, he also became the Minister of Finance of Poland too.

6. Karl von Sturgkh- Prime Minister of Austria.

Strugh, served as the Prime Minister of Austria during the July crisis. He was more prudent about the action against Serbia and believed that only the criminal enquiry of the assassination would give a proper basis for action and used emergency decree to pass laws. He advocated the adoption of preventive-strikes against Serbia.

Post assassination- After the declaration of war he implemented censorship and refused to hold parliament meetings making it impossible for the government and deputies to interact during the crisis.

7. Alfred von Tirpitz- Secretary of State, German Naval Office

At the time of the crisis, Tirpitz served as the Secretary of State of the German naval office and was in charge of German High Seas Fleet. He was the mastermind behind the Naval Arms Race. He headed the world's 2nd largest fleet and in the committee, has the powers to direct German military in consultation with Jagow and Hollweg.

Post Assassination- Tirpitz's attempt to use naval power as deterrence against Britain, later, caused problems as he had under-estimated the combined power of the Allies.

8. Theobold von Bethmann Hollweg- Chancellor of Germany.

Hollweg, held the position of the German chancellor and he worked with Jagow to ensure unconditional support to Austria-Hungary for the war. He tried to evolve a policy to stop the German Naval Arms Race with Britain but his policy largely failed because of reluctance of Tirpitz who was supported by William II. Hollweg, did not desire a war but is considered to have initiated the July crisis with the blank cheque to Austria-Hungary. In the past, Bethmann prevented the expansion of the [Balkan Wars](#) into a major conflict between Austria-Hungary and Russia. Hollweg holds all power to take decisions about the German stance to the crisis.

9. Maximilian Ronge- Head of Military Intelligence of Evidenzbureau.

Ronge at time of the crisis served as the Head of Military Intelligence of Evidenzbureau. Evidenzbureau was for all practical purposes the intelligence agency of Austria-Hungary. As a member of the head of military intelligence, Ronge had access to a lot of covert information

and intelligence relevant to the topics. In a peculiarly interesting case, Ronge exposed Alfred Redl as a Russian double-agent who leaked classified information of the Austrian empire to the Russian intelligence.

10. Franz Conrad- Chief of General Staff of the Austro-Hungarian Army.

Conrad served as the Chief of General Staff of the Austro-Hungarian Army and argued persuasively for preventive war against Serbian and even Italy though it being an ally. He followed a practice of ruthless fights as solutions against bigger armies not considering human factors or the Austro-Hungary status and policies. His portfolio powers include directing the Austro-Hungarian military and any military action being contemplated must preferably be in consultation with Conrad.

Post Assassination- Conrad, later, justified the loss of Austria-Hungary in the war, by blaming the delay in the declaration of war after the assassination.

11. Vasil Radoslavov- Prime Minister of Bulgaria.

Radodlavov during the July crisis, served as the Prime Minister of Bulgaria. His anti-Russian rhetoric impressed Ferdinand who worked closely with Radoslavov in shaping foreign policy. He secured a large loan from Germany and Austria-Hungary in July 1914 but also managed to delay Bulgarian entry into the War. His liberation of Dobjura made him lose German support. He was known for being extremely corrupt. In this extremely volatile situation, this is an indication of new possibilities not only for his corruption, but corruption in Austro-Hungarian benefit.

12. Said Halim Pasha- Grand Vizier (de facto PM) of Ottoman Empire.

Pasha served as the Grand Vizier (de facto PM) of Ottoman Empire during 1913-1916. He was one of the signatories of the Ottoman-Germany Alliance.

Post assassination- He signed the alliance treaty with Germany and got Ottoman Empire into the war on the side of the Central Powers though he tried to delay as long as possible. He was later assassinated in Rome.

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1.10 Rules of Procedure

The Serbo-Russian War Council and the Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet will follow a modified version of standard parliamentary procedures. Being crisis committees and part of a JCC, the parliamentary procedures are much more relaxed.

1. Debate Procedure:

In the committees, we are going to set up a Provisional Speakers List that works like a perpetual moderated caucus. Speakers will be called in succession by the chair. Whenever, there is a need to hasten up proceedings, round robins would be utilized which are a relaxed form of a moderated caucus.

Voting will not take place in either committee and any formal document to be passed will only be passed with the consensus of the committee. Therefore, even if one member doesn't lie in concurrence with the committee directive, it will not be passed. However, documents that can be passed autonomously do not need a consensus.

2. Committee Documents:

2.1 CRISIS NOTES

These notes can be sent by any participant in his or her personal capacity and do not need committee approval. These are things that you want to do unilaterally. You can send orders that can be taken under your portfolio.

The crisis notes usually include things that you want to hide from the committee or something that you don't want the rest of the committee to know. These notes can be sent to anyone outside the committee. They can address anyone and everyone, ranging from your personal secretary to Woodrow Wilson to your aunt to your high school teacher.

Since we work in real time, we respond to your crisis notes as if we are the receiver. That means that if you send a note to your aunt, then we will reply as your aunt.

Hence it is possible for a member of one committee of the JCC to address a crisis note to a member of the other committee. Conversations and communication across the two committees are therefore facilitated by crisis notes.

2.2 COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE

A committee directive is an action that the committee wants to take. Say if you are the Indian cabinet and the Indian parliament is attacked then the decision that the cabinet jointly makes is the committee directive.

One of the major differences between a resolution and a directive is that a directive contains actionable measures and not mere recommendations.

2.3 PERSONAL/JOINT DIRECTIVE

These are actions that you can carry out in your portfolio powers. If two or three people collaborate and make one single

directive, then it is called joint directive. Neither requires committee approval.

2.4 COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE

A communiqué sent from the committee can be written to anyone on behalf of the whole committee. It usually addresses another nation or an international organization. It doesn't require signatories but just the committee's approval. Either committee part of the JCC can make a communiqué to the other.

2.5 PRESS RELEASE

A press release is any release of information from the committee into the international media. It requires committee approval and can be presented through any news agency of the sponsor's choice.

2.6 LEAK

A leak can be written by any delegate and is typically unknown to the committee. It can contain any classified information that wasn't meant to be shared. Though press leaks can be anonymous, there is always a risk of the author being exposed. Any leak or press release made in either committee of the JCC shall be made public to the other committee immediately.

3. JCC:

As both the committees are part of a greater Joint Crisis Committee, they will be in sync with each other, i.e. both will run in the same time frame and one's decision will affect the other. The degree to and the time at which one committee's resolutions will affect the other shall be decided by the Executive Board.

As mentioned above, interaction between committees is possible through crisis notes, communiqués, press releases and leaks. We suggest you take advantage of these means of communication as the crisis arc develops.