



# EUROPE'S PLUNGE TO DISASTER IN THE SUMMER OF 1914

**KEY**  
 The Triple Entente.  
 The Central Powers. (note: Italy maintained neutrality because Germany had embarked upon aggressive war. Thus, no "casus foederis" under the Triple Alliance had arisen).

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**11** 2 August, Germany invades Luxembourg without warning.

**12** 2 August, Britain assures France that British fleet will deny German fleet access to French ports via English Channel.

**13** 3 August, Belgium requests Britain to safeguard her integrity.

**14** 3 August, Germany declares war on France.

**15** 4 August, Germany invades Belgium, explaining to Britain that this was necessary due to French warlike plans.

**16** 4 August, Britain declares war on Germany which regards the Anglo-Belgian treaty as a "scrap of paper".

**17** 6 August, Russia and Austria are at war.

**18** 7 August, Montenegro declares war on Austria.

**1** 28 June, Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir-presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne) and his wife, are shot dead by a Slav nationalist in Sarajevo. (Austria declares war on Serbia on 28 July 1914).

**2** 5 July, Germany 'assures' Austria of support in the event of war with Russia.

**3** 23 July, Austria delivers ultimatum to Serbia which, in effect, violates Serbia's status as an independent country. Only 48 hours are allowed for Serbia to accept the Austrian demands.

**4** 24 July, Britain urges Germany in vain to mediate with Austria to extend the 48-hour time period.

**5** 25 July, Austria mobilizes on Serbian front.

**6** 27 July, British fleet (ready for manoeuvre leave) is ordered not to disperse.

**7** 30-31 July, Russia commences mobilization.

**8** 31 July, Austria commences mobilization.

**9** 1 August, Germany commences mobilization and declares war on Russia.

**10** 1 August, France commences mobilization.

