



World War I: The “Great Stalemate” That Changed the World
Part 1: Background Causes

How did World War I actually start? A collision of interests and miscalculations precipitated the actual fighting. But it all began with an assassin’s bullet, as we shall see. Soon, the war bogged down into a *stalemate* in which neither side could gain an advantage. Eventually, the United States, keen to stay out of this “European war,” got dragged in on the side of the Triple Entente, and once in, made a big difference in helping end the stalemate and causing the fighting to stop. We will examine all of these events, and more, in our new study of the Great War that gave birth to the twentieth century, the bloodiest in history, even though it was the “most modern.”

Assignments:

Due Tuesday, 4/25: *The Human Odyssey*, pages 77 – 81.

Due Friday, 4/29: Pages 83 – (middle of) 88.

“Quizlet” ideas to keep in mind:

- ✓ Name two powerful trends between nations in Europe that were like “dark clouds on the horizon” of peace in Europe in 1913:

- ✓ Know the difference between the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente.

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- ✓ Name one reason why the Balkans (see map on p. 78) became nicknamed “the powder keg of Europe.”

- ✓ Why was the crown prince of Austria-Hungary assassinated in Sarajevo, the capital of a place called Bosnia?

- ✓ What was the sequence of how alliances “came into play” (such that they helped start the war, rather than help prevent it) after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand? (See box on p. 84)

- ✓ What is meant by a “two front war?” Generally speaking, where were the two European “fronts” of World War I? (See map on p. 85.)

- ✓ Name one reason why “trench warfare” was such a “horror.” What was the “Christmas Truce?”

- ✓ What special economic “interest” did the British have in the area controlled by Germany’s ally, the Ottoman Empire?
