

= Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria =

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria , heir presumptive to the Austro @-@ Hungarian throne , and his wife Sophie , Duchess of Hohenberg , occurred on 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo when they were shot dead by Gavrilo Princip . Princip was one of a group of six assassins ( five Serbs and one Bosniak ) coordinated by Danilo Ilić , a Bosnian Serb and a member of the Black Hand secret society . The political objective of the assassination was to break off Austria @-@ Hungary 's South Slav provinces so they could be combined into a Yugoslavia . The assassins ' motives were consistent with the movement that later became known as Young Bosnia . The assassination led directly to the First World War when Austria @-@ Hungary subsequently issued an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia , which was partially rejected . Austria @-@ Hungary then declared war .

In charge of these Serbian military conspirators was Chief of Serbian Military Intelligence Dragutin Dimitrijević , his right @-@ hand man Major Vojislav Tankosić , and the spy Rade Malobabić . Tankosić armed the assassins with bombs and pistols and trained them . The assassins were given access to the same clandestine network of safe @-@ houses and agents that Malobabić used for the infiltration of weapons and operatives into Austria @-@ Hungary .

The assassins , the key members of the clandestine network , and the key Serbian military conspirators who were still alive were arrested , tried , convicted and punished . Those who were arrested in Bosnia were tried in Sarajevo in October 1914 . The other conspirators were arrested and tried before a Serbian court on the French @-@ controlled Salonika Front in 1916 ? 1917 on unrelated false charges ; Serbia executed three of the top military conspirators . Much of what is known about the assassinations comes from these two trials and related records .

= = Background = =

Under the 1878 Treaty of Berlin , Austria @-@ Hungary received the mandate to occupy and administer the Ottoman Vilayet of Bosnia while the Ottoman Empire retained official sovereignty . Under this same treaty , the Great Powers ( Austria @-@ Hungary , Britain , France , Germany , Italy , the Ottoman Empire , and Russian Empire ) gave official recognition to the Principality of Serbia as a fully sovereign state , which four years later transformed into a kingdom under Prince Milan IV Obrenović who thus became King Milan I of Serbia . Serbia 's monarchs , at the time from the royal House of Obrenović that maintained close relations with Austria @-@ Hungary , were content to reign within the borders set by the treaty .

This changed in May 1903 , when Serbian military officers led by Dragutin Dimitrijević stormed the Serbian Royal Palace . After a fierce battle in the dark , the attackers captured General Laza Petrović , head of the Palace Guard , and forced him to reveal the hiding place of King Alexander I Obrenović and his wife Queen Draga . The King and Queen opened the door from their hiding place . The King was shot thirty times ; the Queen eighteen . MacKenzie writes that " the royal corpses were then stripped and brutally sabred . " The attackers threw the corpses of King Alexander and Queen Draga out of a palace window , ending any threat that loyalists would mount a counterattack . " General Petrović was then killed too ( Vojislav Tankosić organized the murders of Queen Draga 's brothers ; Dimitrijević and Tankosić in 1913 ? 1914 figure prominently in the plot to assassinate Franz Ferdinand ) . The conspirators installed Peter I of the House of Karađorđević as the new king .

The new dynasty was more nationalist , friendlier to Russia and less friendly to Austria @-@ Hungary . Over the next decade , disputes between Serbia and its neighbors erupted , as Serbia moved to build its power and gradually reclaim its 14th century empire . These conflicts included a customs dispute with Austria @-@ Hungary beginning in 1906 ( commonly referred to as the " Pig War " ) ; the Bosnian crisis of 1908 ? 1909 , in which Serbia assumed an attitude of protest over Austria @-@ Hungary 's annexation of Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina ( ending in Serbian acquiescence without compensation in March 1909 ) ; and finally the two Balkan Wars of 1912 ? 1913 , in which Serbia conquered Macedonia and Kosovo from the Ottoman Empire and drove out Bulgaria .

Serbia 's military successes and Serbian outrage over the Austro @-@ Hungarian annexation of Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina emboldened Serbian nationalists in Serbia and Serbs in Austria @-@ Hungary who chafed under Austro @-@ Hungarian rule and whose nationalist sentiments were stirred by Serb " cultural " organizations . In the five years leading up to 1914 , lone assassins ? mostly Serb citizens of Austria @-@ Hungary ? made a series of unsuccessful assassination attempts in Croatia and Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina against Austro @-@ Hungarian officials . The assassins received sporadic support from Serbia .

On 15 June 1910 , Bogdan ?eraji? attempted to kill the iron @-@ fist Governor of Bosnia and Herzegovina , General Marijan Vare?anin . ?eraji? was a 22 @-@ year @-@ old Orthodox Serb from Nevesinje , Herzegovina , who was a student at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb and made frequent trips to Belgrade . ( General Vere?anin went on to crush the last Bosnian peasant uprising in the second half of 1910 . ) The five bullets ?eraji? fired at Vare?anin and the fatal bullet he put in his own brain made ?eraji? an inspiration to future assassins , including Princip and Princip 's accomplice ?abrinovi? . Princip said that ?eraji? " was my first model . When I was seventeen I passed whole nights at his grave , reflecting on our wretched condition and thinking of him . It is there that I made up my mind sooner or later to perpetrate an outrage . "

In 1913 , Emperor Franz Joseph commanded Archduke Franz Ferdinand to observe the military maneuvers in Bosnia scheduled for June 1914 . Following the maneuvers , Ferdinand and his wife planned to visit Sarajevo to open the state museum in its new premises there . Duchess Sophie , according to their oldest son , Duke Maximilian , accompanied her husband out of fear for his safety .

As a " Czech countess [ she ] was treated as a commoner at the Austrian court " . Emperor Franz Joseph had only consented to their marriage on the condition that their descendants would never ascend the throne . The 14th anniversary of their morganatic marriage fell on 28 June . As historian A. J. P. Taylor observes :

[ Sophie ] could never share [ Franz Ferdinand 's ] rank ... could never share his splendours , could never even sit by his side on any public occasion . There was one loophole ... his wife could enjoy the recognition of his rank when he was acting in a military capacity . Hence , he decided , in 1914 , to inspect the army in Bosnia . There , at its capital Sarajevo , the Archduke and his wife could ride in an open carriage side by side ... Thus , for love , did the Archduke go to his death .

Franz Ferdinand was an advocate of increased federalism and widely believed to favor trialism , under which Austria @-@ Hungary would be reorganized by combining the Slavic lands within the Austro @-@ Hungarian empire into a third crown . A Slavic kingdom could have been a bulwark against Serb irredentism , and Franz Ferdinand was therefore perceived as a threat by those same irredentists . Princip later stated to the court that preventing Franz Ferdinand 's planned reforms was one of his motivations .

The day of the assassination , June 28 ( June 15 in the Julian calendar ) , is the feast of St. Vitus . In Serbia , it is called Vidovdan and commemorates the 1389 Battle of Kosovo against the Ottomans , at which the Sultan was assassinated in his tent by a Serb .

= = Preliminaries = =

= = = Planning direct action = = =

Danilo Ili? was a Bosnian Orthodox Serb . He had worked as a school teacher and as a bank worker but in 1913 and 1914 he lived with , and outwardly off , his mother , who operated a small boarding house in Sarajevo . Secretly , Ili? was leader of the Serbian @-@ irredentist Black Hand cell in Sarajevo . In late 1913 , Danilo Ili? came to the Serbian listening post at U?ice to speak to the officer in charge , Serbian Colonel C. A. Popovi? , who was a captain at the time and a member of the Black Hand . Ili? recommended an end to the period of revolutionary organization building and a move to direct action against Austria @-@ Hungary . Popovi? passed Danilo Ili? on to Belgrade to discuss this matter with Chief of Serbian Military Intelligence Colonel Dragutin Dimitrijevi? , known

more commonly as Apis . By 1913 , Apis and his fellow military conspirators ( drawn heavily from the ranks of the May 1903 coup ) had come to dominate what was left of the Black Hand .

There are no reports as to what took place between Ili? and Apis , but soon after their meeting , Apis 's righthand man and fellow Black Hander , Serbian Major Vojislav Tankosi? , who by this time was in charge of guerrilla training , called a Serbian irredentist planning meeting in Toulouse , France . Amongst those summoned to the Toulouse meeting was Muhamed Mehmedba?i? , a carpenter by trade and son of an impoverished Muslim noble from Herzegovina . He too was a member of the Black Hand , having been sworn into the organization by Black Hand Provincial Director for Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina Vladimir Gacinovi? and Danilo Ili? . Mehmedba?i? was ( here quoting Albertini paraphrasing Mehmedba?i? ) " eager to carry out an act of terrorism to revive the revolutionary spirit of Bosnia . " During this January 1914 meeting , various possible Austro @-@ Hungarian targets for assassination were discussed , including Franz Ferdinand . However , the participants decided only to dispatch Mehmed Mehmedba?i? to Sarajevo , to kill the Governor of Bosnia , Oskar Potiorek .

While Mehmedba?i? was travelling to Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina from France , police searched his train for a thief . Thinking the police might be after him , he threw his weapons ( a dagger and a bottle of poison ) out the train window . Once he arrived in Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina he had to set about looking for replacement weapons .

= = = Franz Ferdinand chosen = = =

The search for new weapons delayed Mehmedba?i? 's attempt on Potiorek . Before Mehmedba?i? was ready to act , Ili? summoned him to Mostar . On 26 March 1914 , Ili? informed Mehmedba?i? that Belgrade had scrapped the mission to kill the governor . The plan now was to murder Franz Ferdinand , and Mehmedba?i? should stand by for the new operation . ( Apis confessed to the Serbian Court that he ordered the assassination of Franz Ferdinand in his position as head of the Intelligence Department . ) The assassination was planned with the knowledge and approval of the Russian ambassador in Belgrade Nikolai Hartwig and the Russian military attache in Belgrade Viktor Artamonov .

Ili? recruited the Serbian youths Vaso ?ubrilo? and Cvjetko Popovi? shortly after Easter ( Orthodox Easter as given by Dedijer : 19 April 1914 ) , for the assassination , as evidenced by the testimony of Ili? , ?ubrilo? , and Popovi? at the Sarajevo trial . Three youths ? Gavrilo Princip , Trifko Grabe? , and Nedeljko ?abrinovi? ? Bosnian Serb subjects of Austria @-@ Hungary , living in Belgrade , testified at the Sarajevo trial that at about the same time ( a little after Easter ) , they were eager to carry out an assassination and approached a fellow Bosnian Serb and former guerrilla fighter known to be well connected and with access to arms , Milan Ciganovi? , and through him Major Tankosi? and reached an agreement to transport arms to Sarajevo and participate in the assassination .

Agreement in principle was quickly reached , but delivery of the weapons was delayed for more than a month . The assassins would meet with Ciganovi? and he would put them off . At one point , Ciganovi? told Grabe? : " Nothing doing , the old Emperor is ill and the Heir Apparent will not go to Bosnia . " When Emperor Franz Joseph 's health recovered the operation was a " go " again . Tankosi? gave the assassins one FN Model 1910 pistol . They practiced shooting a few rounds of scarce and expensive .380 ACP pistol ammunition in a park near Belgrade .

The rest of the weapons were finally delivered on 26 May . The three assassins from Belgrade testified that Major Tankosi? , directly and through Ciganovi? , not only provided six hand grenades and four new Browning FN Model 1910 automatic pistols with .380 ACP ammunition , but also money , suicide pills , training , a special map with the location of gendarmes marked , knowledge of contacts on a clandestine tunnel used to infiltrate agents and arms into Austria @-@ Hungary , and a small card authorizing the use of that tunnel . Major Tankosi? confirmed to the journalist and historian Luciano Magrini that he provided the bombs and pistols and was responsible for training Princip , Grabe? , and ?abrinovi? and that he ( Tankosi? ) initiated the idea of the suicide pills .

== Tunnel ==

Princip , Grabe? , and ?abrinovi? left Belgrade by boat on 28 May and traveled along the Sava River to ?abac where they handed the small card to Captain Popovi? of the Serbian Border Guard . Popovi? , in turn , provided them with a letter to Serbian Captain Prvanovi? , and filled out a form with the names of three customs officials whose identities they could assume and thereby receive discounted train tickets for the ride to Loznica , a small border town .

When Princip , Grabe? , and ?abrinovi? reached Loznica on 29 May , Captain Prvanovi? summoned three of his revenue sergeants to discuss the best way to cross the border undetected . While waiting for the sergeants to arrive , Princip and Grabe? had a falling out with ?abrinovi? over ?abrinovi? 's repeated violations of operational security . ?abrinovi? handed over the weapons he was carrying to Princip and Grabe? . Princip told ?abrinovi? to go alone to Zvornik , make an official crossing there using Grabe? 's ID card and then go on to Tuzla and link back up .

On the morning of 30 May Prvanovi? 's revenue sergeants assembled and Sergeant Budivoj Grbi? accepted the task and led Princip and Grabe? by foot to Isakovi? 's Island , a small island in the middle of the Drina River that separated Serbia from Bosnia . They and their weapons reached the island on 31 May . Grbi? passed the terrorists and their weapons to the agents of the Serbian Narodna Odbrana for transport into Austro @-@ Hungarian territory and from safe @-@ house to safe @-@ house . Princip and Grabe? crossed into Austria @-@ Hungary on the evening of 1 June . Princip and Grabe? and the weapons were passed from agent to agent until on 3 June they arrived in Tuzla . They left the weapons in the hands of the Narodna Odbrana agent Mi?ko Jovanovi? and rejoined ?abrinovi? .

The Narodna Odbrana agents reported their activities to the Narodna Odbrana President , Bo?a Jankovi? , who in turn reported to the then Serbian Caretaker Prime Minister Nikola Pa?i? . The report to Pa?i? added the name of a new military conspirator , Serbian Major Kosta Todorovi? , Boundary Commissioner and Director of Serbian Military Intelligence Services for the frontier line from Rada to Ljubovija . Pa?i? 's handwritten notes from the briefing ( estimated by Dedijer to have taken place on 5 June ) included the nickname of one of the assassins ( " Trifko " Grabe? ) and also the name of Major Tankosi? . The Austrians later captured the report , Pa?i? 's handwritten notes , and additional corroborating documents .

?abrinovi? 's father was a Sarajevo police official . In Tuzla , ?abrinovi? bumped into one of his father 's friends , Sarajevo Police Detective Ivan Vila , and struck up a conversation . By coincidence , Princip , Grabe? and ?abrinovi? boarded the same train for Sarajevo as Detective Vila . ?abrinovi? inquired of the detective the date of Franz Ferdinand 's visit to Sarajevo . The next morning , ?abrinovi? passed on the news to his fellow assassins that the assassination would be on 28 June .

On arriving in Sarajevo on 4 June , Princip , Grabe? , and ?abrinovi? went their separate ways . Princip checked in with Ili? , visited his family in Had?ici and returned to Sarajevo on 6 June taking up residence at Ili? 's mother 's house with Ili? . Grabe? joined his family in Pale . ?abrinovi? moved back into his father 's house in Sarajevo .

On 14 June , Ili? went to Tuzla to bring the weapons to Sarajevo . Mi?ko Jovanovi? hid the weapons in a large box of sugar . On 15 June , the two went separately by train to Doboj where Jovanovi? handed off the box to Ili? . Later that day , Ili? returned to Sarajevo by train , being careful to transfer to a local train outside Sarajevo and then quickly transfer to a tram to avoid police detection . Once at his mother 's house , Ili? hid the weapons in a suitcase under a sofa . Then , on approximately 17 June , Ili? traveled to Brod ( Dedijer puts it on 16 June , but trial records put it on 18 June ) . Questioned at trial , Ili? gave a confused explanation of the reason for his trip , first saying he had gone to Brod to prevent the assassination and then saying he had returned to Sarajevo from Brod to prevent the assassination . Dedijer puts forward the thesis ( citing Bogijevi? ) that Ili? went to Brod to meet an emissary of Apis , Djuro ?arac , who had instructions to cancel the assassination and then later Rade Malobabi? was dispatched from Serbia to Sarajevo to reauthorize the assassination .

== Eve of the attacks ==

Ilić began handing out the weapons on 27 June . Until 27 June Ilić had kept the identities of the assassins from Belgrade secret from those he had recruited locally and vice versa . Then , that night , as Mehmedbašić told Albertini : " On the eve of the outrage Ilić introduced me to Princip in a Sarajevo café with the words ' Mehmedbašić who to @-@ morrow is to be with us . ' " The three sent a postcard to Black Hand Provincial Director for Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina Vladimir Gašćinović in France .

The following morning , on 28 June 1914 , Ilić positioned the six assassins along the motorcade route . Ilić walked the street , exhorting the assassins to bravery .

= = Assassination = =

= = = Motorcade = = =

On the morning of 28 June 1914 , Franz Ferdinand and his party proceeded by train from Ilidža Spa to Sarajevo . Governor Oskar Potiorek met the party at Sarajevo station . Six automobiles were waiting . By mistake , three local police officers got into the first car with the chief officer of special security ; the special security officers who were supposed to accompany their chief got left behind . The second car carried the Mayor and the Chief of Police of Sarajevo . The third car in the motorcade was a Gräf & Stift 28 / 32 PS open sports car with its top folded down . Franz Ferdinand , Sophie , Governor Potiorek , and Lieutenant Colonel Count Franz von Harrach rode in this third car . The motorcade 's first stop on the preannounced program was for a brief inspection of a military barracks . According to the program , at 10 : 00 a.m. , the motorcade was to leave the barracks for the town hall by way of the Appel Quay .

Security arrangements within Sarajevo were limited . The local military commander , General Michael von Appel , proposed that troops line the intended route but was told that this would offend the loyal citizenry . Protection for the visiting party was accordingly left to the Sarajevo police , of whom only 60 were on duty on the day of the visit .

= = = Bombing = = =

The motorcade passed the first assassin , Mehmedbašić . Danilo Ilić had placed him in front of the garden of the Mostar Cafe and armed him with a bomb . Mehmedbašić failed to act . Ilić placed Vaso Žubrilović next to Mehmedbašić , arming him with a pistol and a bomb . He too failed to act . Further along the route , Ilić placed Nedeljko Čabrinović on the opposite side of the street near the Miljacka River arming him with a bomb .

At 10 : 10 am , Franz Ferdinand 's car approached and Čabrinović threw his bomb . The bomb bounced off the folded back convertible cover into the street . The bomb 's timed detonator caused it to explode under the next car , putting that car out of action , leaving a 1 @-@ foot @-@ diameter ( 0 @. @ 30 m ) , 6 @. @ 5 @-@ inch @-@ deep ( 170 mm ) crater , and wounding 16 ? 20 people .

Čabrinović swallowed his cyanide pill and jumped into the Miljacka river . Čabrinović 's suicide attempt failed , as the cyanide only induced vomiting , and the Miljacka was only 13 cm deep due to the hot , dry summer . Police dragged Čabrinović out of the river , and he was severely beaten by the crowd before being taken into custody .

The procession sped away towards the Town Hall leaving the disabled car behind . Cvjetko Popović , Gavrilo Princip , and Trifun Grabež failed to act as the motorcade passed them at high speed .

= = = Town Hall reception = = =

Arriving at the Town Hall for a scheduled reception , Franz Ferdinand showed understandable signs of stress , interrupting a prepared speech of welcome by Mayor Fehim Čurčić to protest : " Mr.

Mayor , I came here on a visit and I am greeted with bombs . It is outrageous . " Duchess Sophie then whispered into Franz Ferdinand 's ear , and after a pause , Franz Ferdinand said to the mayor : " Now you may speak . " He then became calm and the mayor gave his speech . Franz Ferdinand had to wait as his own speech , still wet with blood from being in the damaged car , was brought to him . To the prepared text he added a few remarks about the day 's events thanking the people of Sarajevo for their ovations " as I see in them an expression of their joy at the failure of the attempt at assassination . "

Officials and members of the Archduke 's party discussed what to do next . The archduke 's chamberlain , Baron Rumerskirch , proposed that the couple remain at the Town Hall until troops could be brought into the city to line the streets . Governor @-@ General Oskar Potiorek vetoed this suggestion on the grounds that soldiers coming straight from maneuvers would not have the dress uniforms appropriate for such duties . " Do you think that Sarajevo is full of assassins ? " he concluded .

Franz Ferdinand and Sophie gave up their planned program in favor of visiting the wounded from the bombing , at the hospital . Count Harrach took up a protective position on the left @-@ hand running board of Franz Ferdinand 's car . This is confirmed by photographs of the scene outside the Town Hall . At 10 : 45 a.m. , Franz Ferdinand and Sophie got back into the motorcade , once again in the third car . In order to avoid the city center , General Oskar Potiorek decided that the royal car should travel straight along the Appel Quay to the Sarajevo Hospital . However , the driver , Leopold Lojka , took a right turn into Franz Josef Street . The reason for this is that Potiorek 's aide Eric ( h ) von Merrizzi was in the hospital , and was therefore unable to give Lojka the information about the change in plans and the driving route . The Sarajevo Chief of Police Edmund Gerde ( who had earlier repeatedly protested about the lack of security precautions for the visit ) was asked to tell the drivers of the new route but in the confusion and tensions of the moment neglected to do so .

= = = Fatal shooting = = =

After learning that the first assassination attempt had been unsuccessful , Princip thought about a position to assassinate the Archduke on his return journey , and decided to move to a position in front of a nearby food shop ( Schiller 's delicatessen ) , near the Latin Bridge . At this point the Archdukes ' motorcade turned off the Appel Quay , mistakenly following the original route which would have taken them to the National Museum . Governor Potiorek , who was sharing the second vehicle with the Imperial couple , called out to the driver to reverse and take the Quay to the hospital . Driver Lojka stopped the car close to where Princip was standing , prior to backing up . The latter stepped forward and fired two shots from a distance of about one and a half metres ( 5 feet ) using a Belgian @-@ made 9 × 17mm ( .380 ACP ) Fabrique Nationale model 1910 semi @-@ automatic pistol . Pistol serial numbers 19074 , 19075 , 19120 and 19126 were supplied to the assassins ; Princip used # 19074 . According to Albertini , " the first bullet wounded the Archduke in the jugular vein , the second inflicted an abdominal wound on the Duchess . " Princip was immediately arrested . At his sentencing , Princip stated that his intention had been to kill Governor Potiorek , rather than Sophie .

Both victims remained seated upright , but died while being driven to the Governor 's residence for medical treatment . As reported by Count Harrach , Franz Ferdinand 's last words were " Sophie , Sophie ! Don 't die ! Live for our children ! " followed by six or seven utterances of " It is nothing . " in response to Harrach 's inquiry as to Franz Ferdinand 's injury . These utterances were followed by a long death rattle . Sophie was dead on arrival at the Governor 's residence . Franz Ferdinand died 10 minutes later .

= = = Funeral = = =

The bodies were transported to Trieste by the battleship SMS Viribus Unitis and then to Vienna by special train . Even though most foreign royalty had planned to attend , they were pointedly disinvented and the funeral was just the immediate imperial family , with the dead couple 's three

children excluded from the few public ceremonies . The officer corps was forbidden to salute the funeral train , and this led to a minor revolt led by Archduke Karl , the new heir to the throne . The public viewing of the coffins was curtailed severely and even more scandalously , Montenuovo tried unsuccessfully to make the children foot the bill . The Archduke and Duchess were interred at Artstetten Castle because his wife could not be buried at the Imperial Crypt .

= = = Aftermath = = =

All of the assassins were eventually caught . Those in Austro @-@ Hungarian custody were tried together with members of the infiltration route who had helped deliver them and their weapons to Sarajevo . Mehmedba?i? was arrested in Montenegro , but was allowed to " escape " to Serbia where he joined Major Tankosi? 's auxiliaries , but in 1916 Serbia imprisoned him on other false charges ( see criminal penalty section below ) .

Anti @-@ Serb rioting broke out in Sarajevo and various other places within Austria @-@ Hungary in the hours following the assassination until order was restored by the military . On the night of the assassination , country @-@ wide anti @-@ Serb pogroms and demonstrations were also organized in other parts of the Austro @-@ Hungarian Empire , particularly on the territory of modern @-@ day Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia . They were organized and stimulated by Oskar Potiorek , the Austro @-@ Hungarian governor of Bosnia and Herzegovina . The first anti @-@ Serb demonstrations , led by the followers of Josip Frank , were organized in early evening of 28 June in Zagreb . The following day , anti @-@ Serb demonstrations in Sarajevo became more violent and could be characterized as a pogrom . The police and local authorities in the city did nothing to prevent anti @-@ Serb violence . Writer Ivo Andri? referred to the violence in Sarajevo as the " Sarajevo frenzy of hate . " Two Serbs were killed on the first day of pogrom in Sarajevo , many were attacked , while around 1 @,@ 000 houses , shops , schools and institutions ( such as banks , hotels , printing houses ) owned by Serbs were razed or pillaged .

= = Trials and punishment = =

= = = Sarajevo trial ( October 1914 ) = = =

Austro @-@ Hungarian authorities arrested and prosecuted the Sarajevo assassins ( except for Mehmedba?i? who had escaped to Montenegro and was released from police custody there to Serbia ) together with the agents and peasants who had assisted them on their way . The top count in the indictments was conspiracy to commit high treason involving official circles in the Kingdom of Serbia . Conspiracy to commit high treason carried a maximum sentence of death which conspiracy to commit simple murder did not . The trial was held from 12 October to 23 October with the verdict and sentences announced on 28 October 1914 .

The adult defendants , facing the death penalty , portrayed themselves at trial as unwilling participants in the conspiracy . The examination of defendant Veljko Cubrilovi? ( who helped coordinate the transport of the weapons and was a Narodna Odbrana agent ) is illustrative of this effort . Cubrilovi? stated to the court : " Princip glared at me and very forcefully said ' If you want to know , it is for that reason and we are going to carry out an assassination of the Heir and if you know about it , you have to be quiet . If you betray it , you and your family will be destroyed . ' " Under questioning by defense counsel Cubrilovi? described in more detail the basis of the fears that he said had compelled him to cooperate with Princip and Grabe? . " Cubrilovi? explained that he was afraid a revolutionary organization capable of committing great atrocities stood behind Princip and that he therefore feared his house would be destroyed and his family killed if he did not comply and explained that he knew such an organization existed in Serbia , at least at one time . When pressed for why he risked the punishment of the law , and did not take the protection of the law against these threats he responded : " I was more afraid of terror than the law . "

In order to refute the charge , the conspirators from Belgrade , who because of their youth did not

face the death penalty , focused during the trial on putting blame on themselves and deflecting it from official Serbia and modified their court testimony from their prior depositions accordingly . Princip stated under cross examination : " I am a Yugoslav nationalist and I believe in unification of all South Slavs in whatever form of state and that it be free of Austria . " Princip was then asked how he intended to realize his goal and responded : " By means of terror . " Cabrinovi? , though , testified that the political views that motivated him to kill Franz Ferdinand were views held in the circles he traveled in within Serbia . The court did not believe the defendants ' stories claiming to hold official Serbia blameless . The verdict ran : " The court regards it as proved by the evidence that both the Narodna Odbrana and military circles in the Kingdom of Serbia in charge of the espionage service , collaborated in the outrage . "

Prison terms , death sentences and acquittals were as follows :

At trial ?abrinovi? had expressed his regrets for the murders . Following sentencing , ?abrinovi? received a letter of complete forgiveness from the three young children the assassins had orphaned . ?abrinovi? and Princip died of tuberculosis in prison . Those under the age of 20 years at the time of the crime could receive a maximum sentence of 20 years under Austrian @-@ Hungarian law . The court heard arguments regarding Princip 's age , as there was some doubt as to his true date of birth but concluded that Princip was under 20 at the time of the assassination . Because Bosnia and Herzegovina had not yet been assigned to Austria or to Hungary , the Austro @-@ Hungarian Finance Minister administered Bosnia and Herzegovina and had responsibility for recommending clemency to the Kaiser .

= = = Salonika trial ( spring 1917 ) = = =

In late 1916 and early 1917 , secret peace talks took place between Austria @-@ Hungary and France . There is circumstantial evidence that parallel discussions were held between Austria @-@ Hungary and Serbia with Prime Minister Pa?i? dispatching his righthand man Stojan Proti? and Regent Alexander dispatching his confidant Colonel Petar ?ivkovi? to Geneva on secret business . Charles I of Austria laid out Austria @-@ Hungary 's key demand for returning Serbia to the control of the Serbian Government in exile : that Serbia should provide guarantees that there be no further political agitation emanating from Serbia against Austria @-@ Hungary .

For some time , Regent Alexander and officers loyal to him had planned to get rid of the military clique headed by Apis as Apis represented a political threat to Alexander 's power . The Austro @-@ Hungarian peace demand gave added impetus to this plan . On 15 March 1917 Apis and the officers loyal to him were indicted , on various false charges unrelated to Sarajevo ( the case was retried before the Supreme Court of Serbia in 1953 and all defendants were exonerated ) , by Serbian Court Martial on the French @-@ controlled Salonika front . On 23 May Apis and eight of his associates were sentenced to death ; two others were sentenced to 15 years in prison . One defendant died during the trial and the charges against him were dropped . The Serbian High Court reduced the number of death sentences to seven . Regent Alexander commuted four of the remaining death sentences , leaving just three death sentences in place . Amongst those tried , four of the defendants had confessed their roles in Sarajevo and their final sentences were as follows :

In justifying the executions , Prime Minister Pa?i? wrote to his envoy in London : " ... Dimitrijevi? ( Apis ) besides everything else admitted he had ordered Franz Ferdinand to be killed . And now who could relieve them ? "

As the three condemned men were driven to their execution , Apis remarked to the driver " Now it is clear to me and clear to you too , that I am to be killed today by Serbian rifles solely because I organized the Sarajevo outrage .

Vojislav Tankosi? died in battle in late 1915 and so was not put on trial .

= = Controversy about responsibility = =

= = = Serbia 's " warning " to Austria @-@ Hungary = = =



Following the assassinations , Serbian Ambassador to France Milenko Vesnić and Serbian Ambassador to Russia Spalaiković put out statements claiming that Serbia had warned Austria @-@ Hungary of the impending assassination . Serbia soon thereafter denied making warnings and denied knowledge of the plot . Prime Minister Pašić himself made these denials to Az Est on 7 July and to the Paris Edition of the New York Herald on 20 July . Other voices eventually spoke out on the ? warning ? . As Serbian Education Minister Ljuba Jovanović wrote in Krv Sloventstva , in late May or early June , Prime Minister Pašić reviewed the plot of the impending assassination with members of his cabinet . On 18 June , a telegram , lacking in specifics , ordered Serbia 's Ambassador to Vienna , Jovan Jovanović , to warn Austria @-@ Hungary that Serbia had reason to believe there was a conspiracy to assassinate Franz Ferdinand in Bosnia . On 21 June , Ambassador Jovanović met with Austro @-@ Hungarian Finance Minister Bilinski . According to Serbian Military Attaché to Vienna , Colonel Lesanin , Ambassador Jovanović , spoke to Bilinski and " ... stressed in general terms the risks the Archduke heir apparent might run from the inflamed public opinion in Bosnia and Serbia . Some serious personal misadventure might befall him . His journey might give rise to incidents and demonstrations that Serbia would deprecate but that would have fatal repercussions on Austro @-@ Serbian relations . " Jovanović came back from the meeting with Bilinski and told Lesanin that " ... Bilinski showed no sign of attaching great importance to the total message and dismissed it limiting himself to remarking when saying goodbye and thanking him : ' Let us hope nothing does happen . ' " The Austro @-@ Hungarian Finance Minister took no action based on Jovanović 's remarks .

In 1924 J. Jovanović went public stating that his warning had been made on his own initiative , and what he said was that " Among the Serb youths ( in the army ) there may be one who will put a ball @-@ cartridge in his rifle or revolver in place of a blank cartridge and he may fire it , the bullet might strike the man giving provocation ( Franz Ferdinand ) . " J. Jovanović 's account changed back and forth over the years and never adequately addressed Colonel Lesanin 's statement . Bilinski did not speak openly on the subject , but his press department chief confirmed that a meeting had taken place including a vague warning , but there was no mention of an ethnic Serb Austro @-@ Hungarian soldier shooting Franz Ferdinand .

In the days leading up to the assassination , Pašić was caretaker prime minister because during this period the Serbian Government briefly fell to a political alliance led by the Serbian Military . The military favored promoting Jovan Jovanović to Foreign Minister , and Jovanović 's loyalties one might expect to have been divided and his orders therefore carried out poorly . By choosing a military loyalist to convey the message , and by not including any of the specifics such as the conspirators ' names and weapons , Pašić , a survivor , hedged his bets against the various possible outcomes and consequences of the impending assassination .

= = = Rade Malobabić = = =

In 1914 , Rade Malobabić was Serbian Military Intelligence 's chief undercover operative against Austria @-@ Hungary . His name appeared in Serbian documents captured by Austria @-@ Hungary during the war . These documents describe the running of arms , munitions , and agents from Serbia into Austria @-@ Hungary under Malobabić 's direction .

Owing to the suppression by Serbia of Apis 's confession and of the Salonika trial transcripts historians did not initially link Malobabić closely to the Sarajevo attack . Apis 's confession , however , states that " I engaged Malobabić to organize the assassination on the occasion of the announced arrival of Franz Ferdinand to Sarajevo . " At the Salonika trial , Colonel Ljubomir Vulović ( head of the Serbian Frontiers Service ) testified : ' In 1914 on occasion of my official trip from Loznica to Belgrade , I received a letter at the General Staff [ signed by Marshal Putnik , Serbia 's top military officer ] noting that agents of Malobabić would come and a teacher whose name I don 't recall ( Danilo Ilić was a teacher but it is unclear if the teacher in question was Ilić as Ilić can be placed in Brod but not Loznica ) so I could sent [ sic ] them into Bosnia . ' Because of that ' I went to Loznica and either that day or very soon afterwards sent Rade and that teacher into Bosnia . ' Soon

thereafter occurred the Sarajevo assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand . " On the eve of his execution , Malobabi? told a priest : " They ordered me to go to Sarajevo when that assassination was to take place , and when everything was over , they ordered me to come back and fulfill other missions , and then there was the outbreak of the war . " Vladimir Dedijer in The Road to Sarajevo presented additional testimonial evidence that Malobabi? arrived in Sarajevo on the eve of the Sarajevo attack and gave the final go ahead for the operation to Danilo Ili? . This meshes with Dedijer 's theory that Djuro ?arac had given instructions to Ili? on 16 June cancelling the assassination . Soon after their confessions , Serbia executed Malobabi? , Vulovi? , and Apis on false charges . Serbia published no clarifications of their confessions with regards to the Sarajevo attack .

= = = " Black Hand " or Serbian military intelligence ? = = =

An alternative theory to the Sarajevo attack being a Serbian Military Intelligence Operation was that it was a " Black Hand " operation . The " Black Hand " was a shadowy organization formed in Serbia as a counterweight to the Bulgaria @-@ sponsored Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization ( IMRO ) .

After Serbia 's victory over Bulgaria in Macedonia in the Balkan Wars , the " Black Hand " became moribund because of the death of its president and the failure to replace him , an inactive secretary , casualties , broken links between its three @-@ man cells , and a drying up of funding . By 1914 the " Black Hand " was no longer operating under its constitution but rather as a creature of the Chief of Serbian Military Intelligence , Apis , and its active ranks were composed mostly of Serbian officers loyal to Apis . Apis 's confession to ordering the operation that begins with the phrase " As the Chief of the Intelligence Department of the General Staff " , the fact that the military chain of command was invoked , the moribund nature of the " Black Hand " and the fact that under the " Black Hand " constitution Article 16 , such an assassination could only be ordered by a vote of the Supreme Council Directorate , the President or the Secretary and no such order was made , are factors in favor of assigning responsibility to Serbian Military Intelligence . The fact that Milan Ciganovi? was involved , that the key officers involved were " Black Hand " members , that " Black Hand " Provincial Director for Bosnia and Herzegovina Vladimir Ga?inovi? was consulted and that there was no official budget for the operation favors assigning responsibility to the " Black Hand " .

= = = The newspaper clipping = = =

At trial , it was noted that the three assassins from Belgrade tried to take all blame on themselves . ?abrinovi? claimed the idea of killing Franz Ferdinand came from a newspaper clipping he received in the mail at the end of March announcing Franz Ferdinand 's planned visit to Sarajevo . He then showed the newspaper clipping to Princip and the next day they agreed they would kill Franz Ferdinand . Princip explained to the court he had already read about Franz Ferdinand 's upcoming visit in German papers . Princip went on to testify that , at about the time of Easter ( 19 April ) , he wrote an allegorical letter to Ili? informing him of the plan to kill Franz Ferdinand . Grabe? testified that he and Princip , also at about the time of Easter , agreed between them to make an assassination of either Governor Potiorek or Franz Ferdinand and a little later settled on Franz Ferdinand . The defendants refused or were unable to provide details under examination .

On 26 March Ili? and Mehmedba?i? had already agreed to kill Franz Ferdinand based on instructions from Belgrade predating the newspaper clipping and the discussions amongst the three assassins in Belgrade .

= = = Narodna Odbrana = = =

Serbian Military Intelligence ? through remnants of the " Black Hand " ? penetrated the Narodna Odbrana , using its clandestine tunnel to smuggle the assassins and their weapons from Belgrade to Sarajevo . In the 5 June 1914 report by the President of the Narodna Odbrana Bo?a Milanovi? to

Prime Minister Pašić one can sense the frustration of the President over the hijacking of his organization in the final sentence dealing with Sarajevo : " Bošnja has informed all the agents that they should not receive anyone unless he produces the password given by Bošnja . "

= = = Milan Ciganović = = =

Prime Minister Pašić received early information of the assassination plan . The information was received by Pašić early enough , according to Education Minister Ljuba Jovanović , for the government to order the border guards to prevent the assassins from crossing . This places the cabinet minister discussions in late May and the information release to some time before that . Albertini concluded that the source of the information was most likely Milan Ciganović . Bogićević made a more forceful case .

The circumstantial evidence against Ciganović includes his sinecure government job , his protection by the Chief of Police and Serbia 's failure to arrest him ( Austria @-@ Hungary demanded Serbia arrest Major Vojislav Tankosić and Ciganović , but Serbia arrested only Tankosić and lied saying that Ciganović could not be found ) , Serbia 's protection of Ciganović during the war , and the government 's provision for Ciganović after it . In 1917 , all of the Sarajevo conspirators within Serbia 's control were tried at Salonika on false charges , except Ciganović , who even gave evidence against his comrades at the trial .

= = = Russian military attaché 's office = = =

Apis 's confession to ordering the assassination of Franz Ferdinand states that Russian Military Attaché Artamonov promised Russia 's protection from Austria @-@ Hungary if Serbia 's intelligence operations became exposed and that Russia had funded the assassination . Artamonov denied the involvement of his office in an interview with Albertini . Artamonov stated that he went on vacation to Italy leaving Assistant Military Attaché Alexander Werchowsky in charge and though he was in daily contact with Apis he did not learn of Apis 's role until after the war had ended . Albertini writes that he " remained unconvinced by the behavior of this officer . " Werchowsky admitted the involvement of his office and then fell silent on the subject .

There is evidence that Russia was at least aware of the plot before 14 June . De Schelking writes :  
On 1 June 1914 ( 14 June new calendar ) , Emperor Nicholas had an interview with King Charles I of Roumania , at Constanza . I was there at the time ... yet as far as I could judge from my conversation with members of his ( Russian Foreign Minister Sazonov 's ) entourage , he ( Sazonov ) was convinced that if the Archduke ( Franz Ferdinand ) were out of the way , the peace of Europe would not be endangered .

= = Consequences = =

The murder of the heir to the Austro @-@ Hungarian Empire and his wife produced widespread shock across Europe , and there was initially much sympathy for the Austrian position . Within two days of the assassination , Austria @-@ Hungary and Germany advised Serbia that it should open an investigation , but Secretary General to the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Slavko Gruic , replied " Nothing had been done so far and the matter did not concern the Serbian Government . " An angry exchange followed between the Austrian Chargé d 'Affaires at Belgrade and Gruic .

After conducting a criminal investigation , verifying that Germany would honor its military alliance , and persuading the skeptical Hungarian Count Tisza , Austria @-@ Hungary issued a formal letter to the government of Serbia . The letter reminded Serbia of its commitment to respect the Great Powers ' decision regarding Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina , and to maintain good neighborly relations with Austria @-@ Hungary . The letter contained specific demands aimed at preventing the publication of propaganda advocating the violent destruction of Austria @-@ Hungary , removing the people behind this propaganda from the Serbian Military , arresting the people on Serbian soil who were involved in the assassination plot and preventing the clandestine shipment of arms and

explosives from Serbia to Austria @-@ Hungary .

This letter became known as the July Ultimatum , and Austria @-@ Hungary stated that if Serbia did not accept all of the demands in total within 48 hours , it would recall its ambassador from Serbia . After receiving a telegram of support from Russia , Serbia mobilized its army and responded to the letter by completely accepting point # 8 demanding an end to the smuggling of weapons and punishment of the frontier officers who had assisted the assassins and completely accepting point # 10 which demanded Serbia report the execution of the required measures as they were completed . Serbia partially accepted , finessed , disingenuously answered or politely rejected elements of the preamble and enumerated demands # 1 ? 7 and # 9 . The shortcomings of Serbia 's response were published by Austria @-@ Hungary . Austria @-@ Hungary responded by breaking diplomatic relations .

The next day , Serbian reservists being transported on tramp steamers on the Danube crossed onto the Austro @-@ Hungarian side of the river at Temes @-@ Kubin and Austro @-@ Hungarian soldiers fired into the air to warn them off . The report of this incident was initially sketchy and reported to Emperor Franz @-@ Joseph as " a considerable skirmish " . Austria @-@ Hungary then declared war and mobilized the portion of its army that would face the ( already mobilized ) Serbian Army on 28 July 1914 . Under the Secret Treaty of 1892 Russia and France were obliged to mobilize their armies if any of the Triple Alliance mobilized . Russia 's mobilization set off full Austro @-@ Hungarian and German mobilizations . Soon all the Great Powers except Italy had chosen sides and gone to war .

Princip 's weapon , along with the car in which the Archduke was riding , his bloodstained uniform and the chaise longue on which he died , are on permanent display in the Heeresgeschichtliches Museum in Vienna , Austria . The bullet fired by Gavrilo Princip , sometimes referred to as " the bullet that started World War I " , is a museum exhibit in the Konopi?t? Castle near the town of Bene?ov in the Czech Republic .