

## Assassination of Franz Ferdinand

Due to a series of events and deaths within the monarch family, Franz Ferdinand became an unlikely heir to Franz Joseph, the emperor of Austria-Hungary. Franz Joseph and Franz Ferdinand had different leadership styles and questioned each other's abilities as a leader. Along with this strained relationship, certain groups of people in and around Austria-Hungary were dissatisfied with both internal and external political affairs.

The archduke traveled to Sarajevo in June 1914 to inspect the imperial armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Ottoman territories. Bosnia and Herzegovina was located in the turbulent Balkan region that was annexed by Austria-Hungary in 1908 to the resentment of Serbian nationalists, who believed they should become part of the newly independent and ambitious Serbian nation. It was planned that Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie would be met at the station and taken by car to the City Hall where they would have lunch before going to inspect the troops and their arms.

A Serbian terrorist group, called The Black Hand, had decided that the Archduke should be assassinated and the planned visit provided the ideal opportunity. Seven young men who had been trained in bomb throwing and marksmanship were stationed along the route that Franz Ferdinand's car would follow from the City Hall to the inspection. The first two terrorists were unable to throw their grenades because the streets were too crowded and the car was travelling quite fast. The third terrorist, a young man called Cabrinovic, threw a grenade, which exploded under the car following that of the Archduke. Although the Archduke and his wife were unhurt, some of his attendants were injured and had to be taken to hospital.

After lunch at the City Hall, Franz Ferdinand insisted on visiting the injured attendants in hospital. However, on the way to the hospital the driver took a wrong turn. Realizing his mistake he stopped the car and began to reverse. Another terrorist, named Gavrilo Princip, stepped forward and fired two shots. The first hit the pregnant Sophia in the stomach, she died almost instantly. The second shot hit the Archduke in the neck. He died a short while later. The actions of Gavrilo Princip and the Black Hand would ignite a volatile "powder keg" in Europe, causing nations across the world to participate in what is later known as World War I.

**Answer this question in 3-5 sentences:** What do you think the metaphor in the last sentence of this reading means (ignite a volatile "powder keg")?

