

Intro Readings for World War One

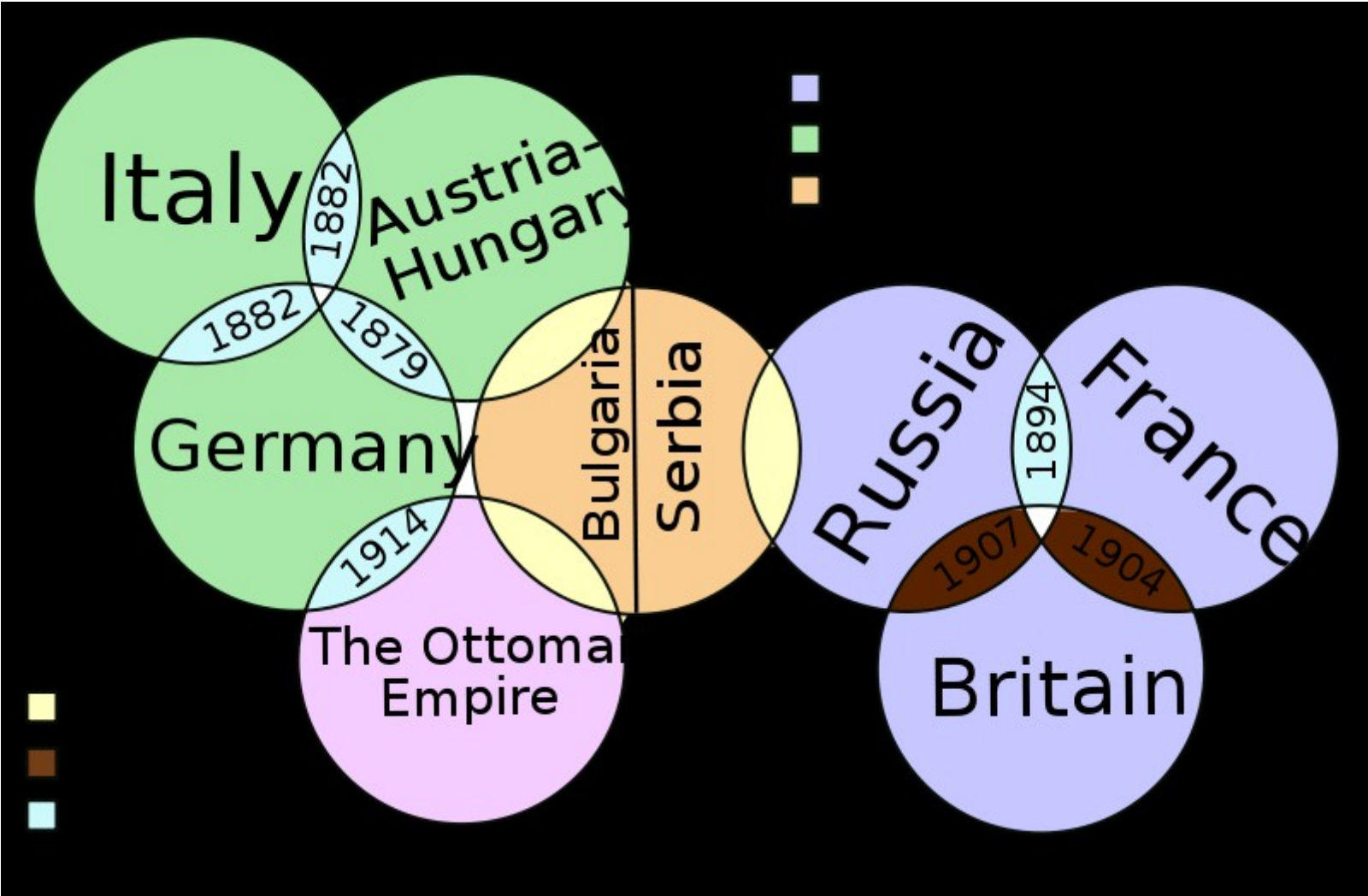
- *History's Worst Decisions* – Gavrilo Princip
 1. What was Europe's political climate after the Congress of Vienna?
 2. Why was war inevitable by 1914?
 3. Why were the Balkans considered a “hotbed” of nationalism pre-WWI?
 4. Why was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand the spark of WWI?

Balkan Powder Keg

- Pan Slavism – unite all Slavic People under one nation – Yugoslavia. This would lead to a union of Nations that were formerly a part of Austria Hungary – so A-H was opposed to the union. It was supported by Russia who saw themselves as the leader of the Slavic people.
- The Balkan Wars of 1912 – 1913 left the Ottoman Empire and Austria Hungary with a reduction in power.

Powder Keg

- In 1908, Austria-Hungary took over the former Turkish province of Bosnia. This angered Serbians who felt the province should be theirs.
- Serbia threatened Austria-Hungary with war, Russia, allied to Serbia, mobilized its forces. Germany, allied to Austria-Hungary mobilized its forces and prepared to threaten Russia.
- The states then fought each other over which area should belong to which state. Austria-Hungary then intervened and forced Serbia to give up some of its acquisitions. Tension between Serbia and Austria-Hungary was high.
- Murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand



Balkans Pre and Post WWI



1914



1930

Europe 1914



Europe Post - Versailles



Versailles Peace Treaty

- A “compromise peace”
 - War guilt clause – article 231- responsibility and reparation
 - Reduced military and colonial power of Germany but not its industrial strength
- Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points
 - Self determination – End of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire - created Hungary, Czech, Poland, Yugoslavia
 - End of Ottoman Empire – taken over by the British and French under the new League of Nations
 - Laid foundation for future state of Israel.
- Old empires broke into pieces resulted in the the biggest shuffling of borders in the history of Europe.

The Fallout of Versailles and Post War Europe

- America returned to isolationist policies
- Versailles was not enforced
- Defeat of Germany left behind too much resentment
- The communist revolution in Russia created tension between capitalist, fascist, totalitarian states and communist Russia.
- Military Technology – airforce, tanks, WMD – total war

Economic Depression and Rise of Fascism

1. Money From US goes to Germany
2. Germany uses money to repay France and Britain (33 Billion in reparations)
3. France and Britain use the money to repay US war loans

The European economy was depending solely on US investment.

So....when US withdrew their investments in 1929 when the stock market crashed, the flow dried up.



Capitalism Fails – Birth of Social Safety Net and Fascism

- Capitalism Fails
 - North America and Europe see the advent of more socialist policies and government involvement
 - Germany, Italy see the rise of fascism to solve economic troubles (hypernationalism, anti-liberalism, indoctrination, propaganda)
 - Russia – communist revolution in Russia eventually led to Stalin's dictatorship (1922 - 1953)
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Rise of Hitler and NAZI Party

- BBC Documentary