Describe the assassination at Sarajevo in 1914 and the events that immediate events following it

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian Hungarian throne, took place on the 28th June 1914 in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

There were two attempts on the Archduke's life that day both by the same Serbian terrorist group, The Black Hand. The first attempt took place at 10.15, a bomb was thrown at the car the Archduke and his wife, Sophie, was travelling in. The Archduke managed to deflect the bomb it exploded, hit the car following behind, injuring several people.

The Archduke decided to continue with his visit, but before leaving, he insisted on visiting the injured in hospital. Due to the first attempt on his life the route was changed. However, no-one explained this to the driver who took a wrong turn. As the driver began to back up Gavrilo Princip a member of the Serbian terrorist group, The Black Hand was waiting, standing only a few feet away it was impossible for him to miss. The first bullet hit the pregnant Sophie in the stomach killing her instantly. The second bullet hit the Archduke close to the heart; he died on the way to the hospital. Gavrilo swallowed the cyanide poison that each of the assassins were given but vomited back up. He then tried to kill himself with his own pistol but it was wrestled from his hand.

As a result of this Austria Hungary delivered a ten point ultimatum to the Serbian government demanding all 10 points were met or Austria Hungary would declare war on Serbia. Serbia agreed to all of the 10 points except for one; this involved foreign ministers into Serbian courts. Serbia, unable to accept this as it jeopardised their independence, rejected this point. Austria declared war.

Serbia turned to Russia for help; Russia was not willing to let their Slav brothers down again mobilised their troops for war.

Due to the Triple Alliance of 1882 Germany declared war on Russia and France and planned an attack on France as laid out in the Schlieffen Plan. France in response to this, declared war on Germany. Although the Triple Entente stated that Britain would declare war if France was attacked, it at first did nothing. Britain made it clear they would only go to war if the north coast if Germany attempted to attack France through Belgium.

However, Germany was denied access to France through Belgium so invaded this action brought Britain into the war. The Kaiser was astonished that Britain would go to war “over a scrap of paper.”