

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

On 28 June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, were shot dead in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, one of a group of six assassins coordinated by the Black Hand, a secret society. The goal of the assassination was to break off Austria-Hungary's territory known as Bosnia so it could be combined into a separate country full of the ethnic group known as Serbs. The assassination led directly to the First World War when Austria-Hungary subsequently issued an ultimatum to the Bosnians, which was rejected. Austria-Hungary then declared war.