



**EUROPE in CRISIS**

**CONFERENCE / SIMULATION**

# Europe in crisis.



**Mission:** solve the problems, divisions and threats that exist in Europe pre 1914.

This simulation / conference take place in the years between 1880 –1914. France has just lost a major war to the Prussians (now Germany) and they are bitter enemies, Britain has a huge global empire and other nations want to increase their own territory, especially in Africa. Russia, a vast country has been through years of trouble as its people increasingly question the legitimacy and competence of their ruler, Tsar Nicholas II. Austria-Hungary, a once great empire is in decline and has been labelled ‘the sick man of Europe’. It wants to prove it is still a major force and seeks to control territory in the Balkans, especially Bosnia - Herzegovina. **So what now what?**

**Activity set up:** assign students to play one of the characters / groups on the place cards that follow. It is not necessary to have every group represented or discuss every item. Groups should be given time to prepare their ideas and arguments for the most important items for their group. **Suggested = 4-5 minutes per item.**

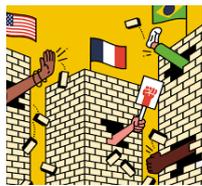
The **Court of Public Opinion** decides the outcome following each item discussion. I suggest 4– 5 students in the Court of Public Opinion group. They call the items to order, maintain discipline and monitor time. At the end of each item, they should be given a short time to decide then announce their decision. The Court of Public opinion may also choose to use the ‘gold tokens’ at the end of each item for the team that was most helpful or persuasive.

**1: Naval Building:** Britain has the biggest + most powerful navy in the world. Germany is trying to match it. Should this be allowed?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**2: Nationalism:** People are becoming increasingly proud and protective of their country. Should nationalist propaganda be banned?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**3: Empire building:** many European countries are taking land and resources from Africa. Should this be restricted or stopped altogether?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**4: Triple Alliance:** Germany, Austria -Hungary and Italy wish to ally together in protect each other in the event of war. Stop this alliance?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**5: Russian trouble:** The Russian people threaten to revolt against their increasingly unpopular ruler Tsar Nicholas Offer him support?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**6: Triple Entente :** Britain, France and Russia sign join together in protect each other in the event of war. Stop this alliance?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**7: Bosnia crisis:** Austria - Hungary annexed (took over) Bosnia an area that Serbia claims as hers. What should happen with Bosnia?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**8: USA isolationism:** America wants to stay out of European problems. Should America be the world's policeman?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**9: Militarism:** Larger European countries (especially Germany) are building bigger armies. Should this be allowed, limited or stopped?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**10: Assassination:** Austrian Archduke Ferdinand and wife shot dead by Princip while visiting Bosnia. Is Princip a nationalist or terrorist?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**11: Austria - Hungary threatens:** to invade Serbia who it blames for the murder of the Archduke. Should Serbia be blamed or supported?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

**13: German mobilisation:** The German army is preparing for war and it looks like they will invade neutral Belgium. What action to take?



Is this item VERY important for your character/ group? If not, skip it - if so plan how you will persuade the court to support your argument.

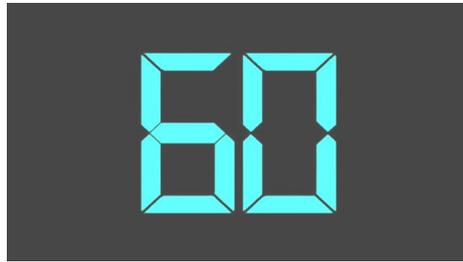
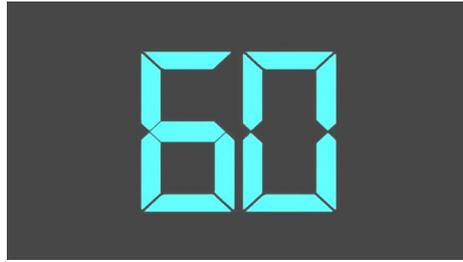
**13: Any other business:** Any suggested items for discussion?



**Time tokens** - you may wish to give each group 3 x 60 second time tokens to play.

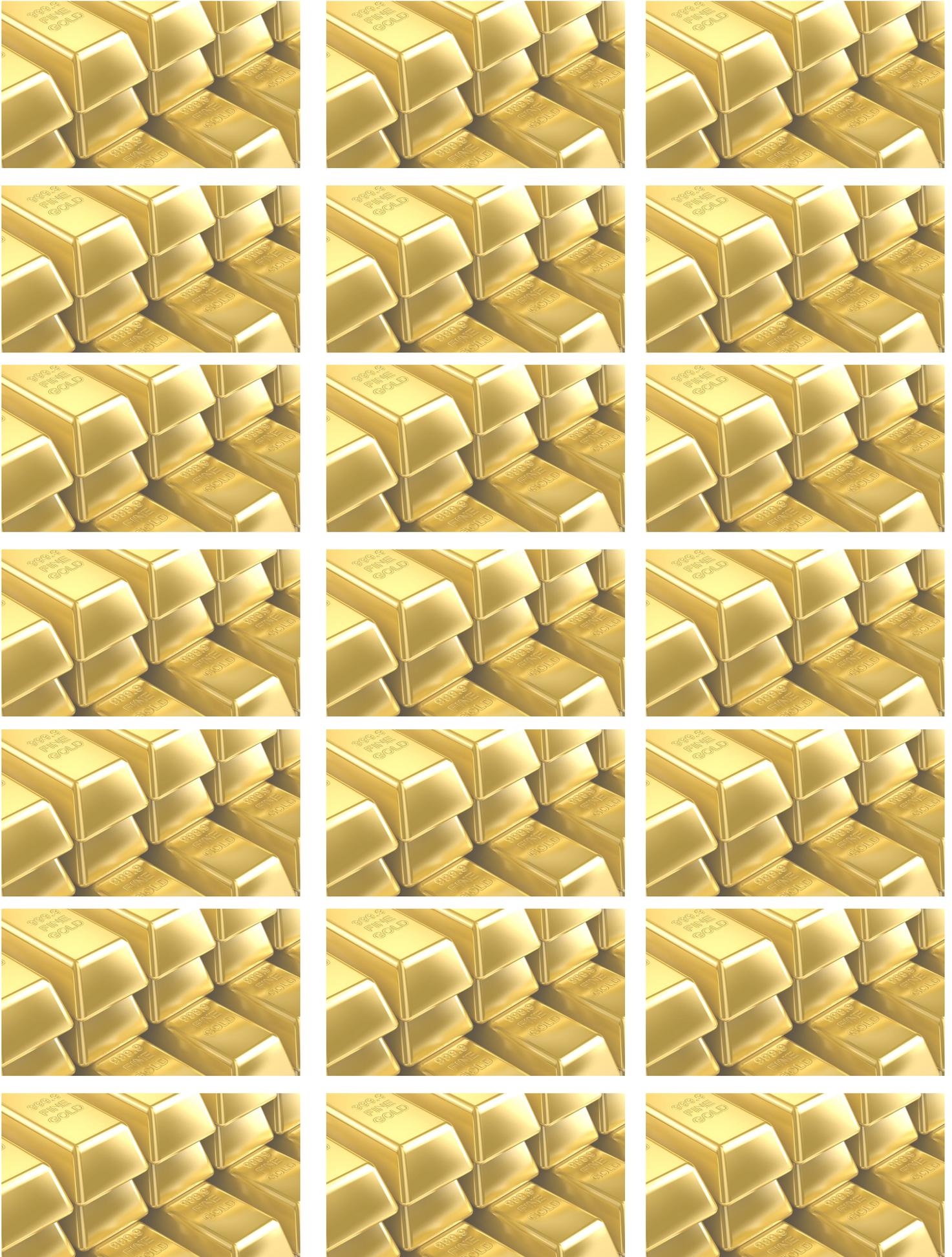
Once played this guarantees **uninterrupted time** to make their argument.

Unused time may be 'yielded' to another group.



**Tokens** - the Court of Public Opinion may choose to offer reward token for teams that are particularly persuasive or helpful after each discussion item.

Exchange for a 'teacher reward' at the end of the activity?



**# 1 AIM = to solve the many problems in Europe and wider world. Stop a world war.**

# Court of Public Opinion



**You must listen carefully** to the proposals from groups before you decide the final outcome of each item.  
Make your decisions based on the best arguments.  
Avoid becoming part of the discussion / debate: instead, listen to and manage it.

**Suggested tasks while the other teams prepare.**

Task 1 - Choose a Head Juror - Time Keeper - Chairperson.

Task 2 - Consider any other important matters and raise these during the 'any other business' round.

Task 3 - Create a 'how we discuss / debate' list of expectations. Do's and don'ts.

Task 4 - Consider the problems may occur during the activity and how will you solve these.

Task 5 - Other ideas or suggestions to improve the activity.

You are the Kaiser of Germany.  
You saw Britain's magnificent navy when you were a boy - you want a German navy to match it.  
You are also building a powerful army.  
You are the cousin of King George V of Britain.  
You are allied with Austria-Hungary and Italy and will defend them.  
You have a small empire in Africa and would like to take more lands.

MAIN AIM = to become the dominant European nation.

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# Kaiser Wilhelm Germany

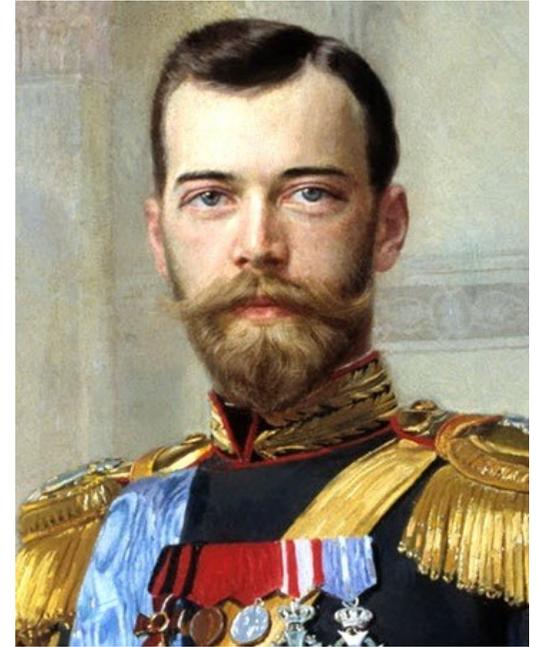


You are the Tsar or 'Emperor' of Russia.  
You believe that you are specially chosen by God to rule your country.  
You have the biggest land army in the World.  
You are the cousin of King George V of Britain.  
You are allies with Britain and France.  
Serbia is your 'little brother' and you will defend Serbia.  
You are very unpopular with your people - a win in a big war would make you more popular.

MAIN AIM = to become more popular with your own people.

# Tsar Nicholas

# Russia



MAIN AIM = to maintain you navy as by far the best + biggest.

You are the 'king' of Britain.  
You have a navy that 'rules the waves'. The best and biggest in the world.  
You have a huge empire with lands in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India and Canada.  
You are the cousin of Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and Tsar Nicholas of Russia.  
You are allied with France and Russia.  
You have promised to protect your 'little brother' Belgium.

# King George V

## Britain



# The Black Hand



MAIN AIM = to get Austria-Hungary out of Bosnia - Herzegovina.

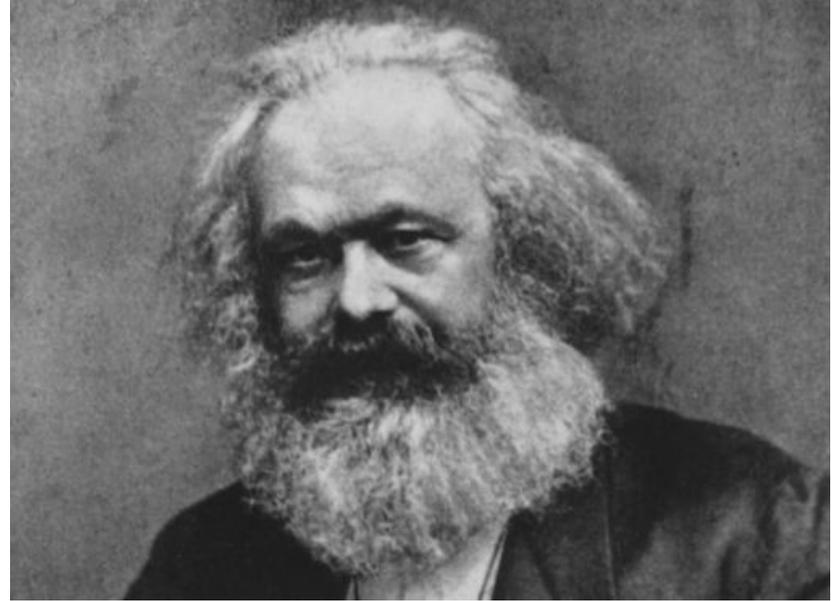
You are Bosnian patriots.  
You hate that Austria-Hungary has taken over your land.  
You would prefer to be part of a greater Serbia.  
You will do anything to achieve your aim, including murder.  
Some of you are already dying of diseases such as tuberculosis.  
Gavrilo Princip is one of your group.  
You have 'friends in high places' in Serbia.

You are a German born Jewish man.  
You believe in an equal society.  
You believe that kings, Tsars, Kaisers and most governments are evil.  
You are against nationalism and instead believe all working people in the world should unite.  
You believe that poor and working classes will / should rise up and kick out their leaders.  
You believe men should NOT be sent to fight in wars for the rich and powerful.  
Wealth and property should be shared equally - rich should not rule the poor.

MAIN AIM = to create a world in which 'all men are equal'.

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# Karl Marx



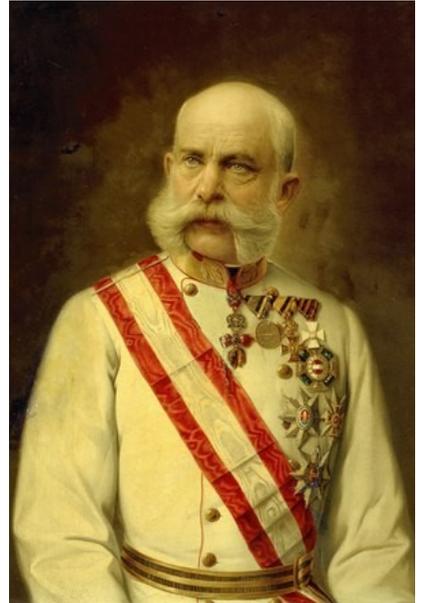
MAIN AIM = to show the rest of Europe you are still a powerful nation.

You are the Archduke of Austria-Hungary.  
You are allies with Germany and Italy.  
Austria - Hungary once had the most powerful empire - you want to rebuild this reputation.  
You think Bosnia - Herzegovina belongs to you.  
You are an enemy of Serbia.  
You have a large army but it is old and outdated.  
You are the father of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

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# Franz Joseph

# Austria-Hungary



You represent the people of other nations, such as ...  
Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Canada, Hong Kong, India and African countries.  
You are all part of the empire of another country.  
You want self - determination ( to be independent or decide which country you wish to join)  
You do not want to get dragged into a European war.

MAIN AIM = to prevent the more powerful countries from ruling the world.

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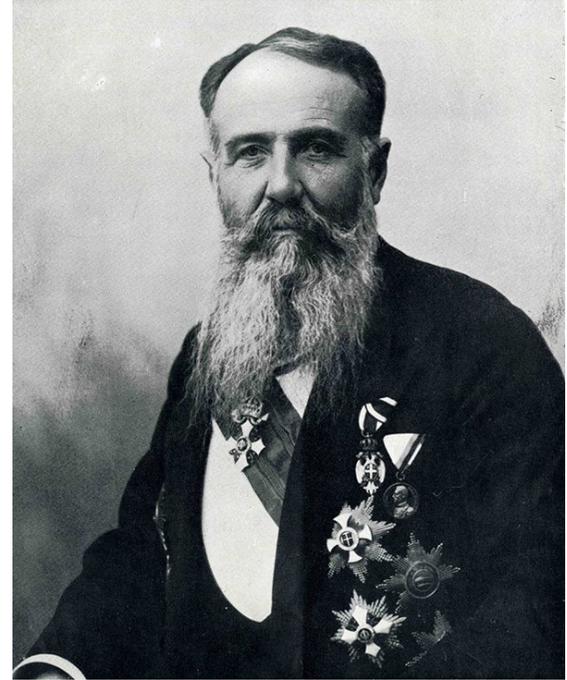
# Rest of the World



MAIN AIM = to kick Austria-Hungary out of and unite with Bosnia.

# Nicola Pasic

# Serbia



You are the Prime Minister of Serbia.

Serbia is a major state in the volatile Balkan region.

Serbian people are very proud and prepared to fight to defend your country.

Russia has promised to support you - Russia has the largest army in the world.

Austria-Hungary is your main enemy and it wants to take territory in the Balkans.

You have links to the Black Hand group - Bosnians prepared to use violence against Austria.

You may wish to keep your links to the Black Hand a secret!

You represent the government of the USA.  
You have a country with large resources and huge potential.  
You do not want to get dragged into a war in Europe.  
But ... you could benefit greatly from trade if a war does start.  
You are against the idea of empires - you fought a war to break free of the British in 1776.  
You do not agree with the views of Karl Marx ( he is your enemy ).  
You believe that capitalism is the best way to run a society.

MAIN AIM = Isolationism (to keep out of European conflict)

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# USA Congress

