



0. A WORLD AT WAR - Story Preface

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This map depicts a Zone of Exclusion, in the waters around Ireland and the United Kingdom, which Germany declared was fair grounds for Allied ship attacks. Germany made the announcement in February of 1915. Map online, via Wikimedia Commons.

When the *Lusitania* sailed in the spring of 1915, Europe had been at war for more than 8 months. What was the precipitating cause of that Great War? A domino effect, set in motion on June 28, 1914 when Gavrilo Princip, a Serb, assassinated Archduke Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

Riding in his car during a state visit to Bosnia, Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were in Sarajevo to review military troops. Their shocking deaths began a chain reaction culminating in *The Guns of August*.

By 1918, when Princip died of tuberculosis four years into his life sentence, an entire generation of Europeans had been scarred by the war. Many of those people were dead or injured.

At the time, Dylan Thomas - a young Welsh lad who would later urge his father to "rage" against death - was just four years old. Families throughout the continent would have anticipated the poet's words as they, too, raged against what had happened to their loved ones.

The front-line trenches, towns and waterways of Europe were filled with millions of bodies. People everywhere were cut down before they had really lived.

Of those who died, 1,198 were victims of a German U-boat attack on the *Lusitania*. Although she was not far from the safety of an Irish harbor, the record-holding ship fell victim to a torpedo launched by *SM U-20*.

While the *Lusitania's* owner, crew and passengers apparently did not take the German threat seriously, Walther Schwieger did. It took only one well-placed G-type torpedo from his U-boat to sink one of the fastest passenger liners of her day.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-WORLD-AT-WAR-Lusitania-Sinking>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-WORLD-AT-WAR-Lusitania-Sinking>

Questions 2 Ponder

Is Patriotism Ever an Excuse for Political Assassins?

Gavrilo Princip, a Serb, killed the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne because he wanted Serbia to be free from the Empire's Control.

Princip was part of an assassination plot because he, and his comrades, had a political motive. Do you think that Princip, and his friends, had any clue that their actions - in killing Franz Ferdinand and his wife - would plunge the world into war? Explain your answer.

If Princip and his friends could have foreseen that the murder of the Archduke would have such far-sweeping results, do you think they would have gone forward with their plans? Why, or why not?

Princip and his friends considered themselves Serbian patriots. Is patriotism ever an excuse for political assassins? Explain your answer.

How Seriously Should We Take Political Threats?

Germany issues a warning to people sailing in the North Atlantic, but ship owners, captains and passengers apparently do not take the threat seriously.

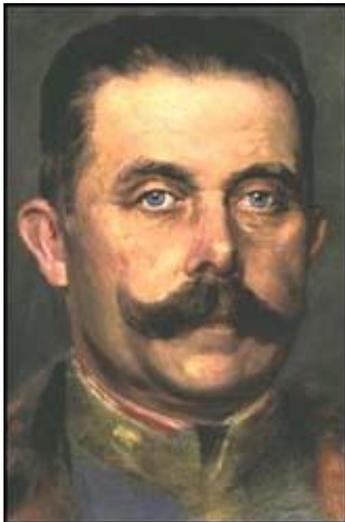
How seriously, generally speaking, should we take political threats? Explain your answer.

If people respond to a political threat by altering their behavior, is that a wise or an unwise move? Explain your answer.

Is responding to a political threat, by altering our behavior, a "cave-in" to the people issuing the threat? Explain your answer.

If we "give in" or "cave in" to people issuing political threats, do we (or do we not) send a signal to the threat issuers that we are willing to be manipulated? Explain your answer.

Media Stream



Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Image online, courtesy the [Deutschland un die Ostmark](#) blog site.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Archduke-Franz-Ferdinand>



Archduke Franz Ferdinand Assassinated in His Car

Image online, courtesy the [smithsonianmag.com](#) blog site.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Archduke-Franz-Ferdinand-Assassinated-in-His-Car>



Map Depicting Bosnia

Image online, courtesy the 36thulsterdivision.com website.

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Archduke Franz Ferdinand's Wife Sophie

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Gavrilo Princip is visited by police, moments after brutally wounding Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife.

Princip Seized by Police

Image online, courtesy theguardian.com website.

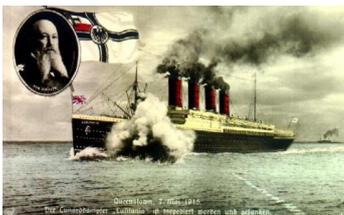
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Front-Line Trenches

Image online, courtesy the [War Times Journal](http://www.wartimesjournal.com) website.

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Lusitania Attacked

Image online, courtesy the [gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com) blog site.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lusitania-Attacked>



Lusitania Along the Irish Coast

Image online, courtesy the [ww1-propaganda-cards.com](http://www.w1-propaganda-cards.com) website.

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U-Boat Captain - Walther Schwieger

Image online, courtesy the firstworldwar.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/U-Boat-Captain-Walther-Schwieger>



Lusitania Drawing - The Last Plunge

Image online, courtesy the ww1-propaganda-cards.com website.

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A WORLD AT WAR

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Assassin of Archduke Franz Ferdinand - Gavrilo Princip

Clip from the BBC series, *Days That Shook the World*. Copyright, Lion Television and BBC, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with [the 770-minute production](#) (which includes many events which "shook the world").

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Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

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