



0. END OF THE WAR - Story Preface

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Antonio Arias Bernal (1914-1960), a Mexican artist, created this playing-card caricature of Adolf Hitler. Curators at the Library of Congress have given the image this title: *Adolf Hitler recovering from a World War I wound, lying on a bed with his buttocks bandaged, dreaming of "Aryan Blood 100%."* A corporal during the Great War, Hitler was very upset about the terms of the Versailles Treaty which he believed unfairly punished Germany.

The Kaiser and his U-Boats were defeated. Never again was a passenger ship like the *Lusitania* sunk during war.

At the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918, an Armistice stopped the fighting. The actual treaty ending the war came months later.

Contemporary sources, such as this extract taken from a July 1919 report on U.S. public opinion regarding the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations, indicate Americans longed for the conflict to be over:

*They are tired of the war and everything belonging to it. They are almost hysterically anxious to get back to peace conditions, and they cannot quite understand why the process takes such a long time.*

Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles in the beautiful Hall of Mirrors. The terms were extremely harsh for Germany, including significant territory loss.

Germans were not pleased. Resentment of the Versailles Treaty smouldered within many people. One person in particular - an Austrian corporal named Adolf Hitler - vowed to do something about it.

Looking back, with the benefit of hindsight, one could fairly say that Gavrilo Princip pulled more than the trigger of the gun which killed the Archduke and his wife. He also:

- Pulled the trigger of the First World War
- Which led to the Treaty of Versailles
- Which led to Hitler's resentment of the treaty
- Which led to the formation of the Nazi Party
- Which led to the Second World War.

It isn't often that a long-forgotten person, like Gavrilo Princip, is the one who set in motion so many cataclysmic events.

*NOTE: If you would like to know more about the Lusitania, check out this terrific linked web site. If you would like to review documents and photographs from World War I, visit the archives at Brigham Young University.*

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/END-OF-THE-WAR-Lusitania-Sinking>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/END-OF-THE-WAR-Lusitania-Sinking>

## Questions 2 Ponder

### How Can a Single Action Cause Decades-Long Consequences?

When Gavrilo Princip killed Franz Ferdinand, he also pulled the trigger on consequences still felt in the 21st century.

We can never be sure about about long-term or unintended consequences which flow from a single action. When Gavrilo Princip assassinated Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie, he set in motion much more than their deaths. He also, unwittingly, pulled the trigger on:

*The First World War;*

*Which led to the Treaty of Versailles;*

*Which led to Hitler's resentment of the treaty;*

*Which led to the formation of the Nazi Party;*

*Which led to the Second World War.*

Do you agree, or disagree, that Princip's actions directly, or indirectly, impacted the above events? Explain your answer.

Can you think of any 21st-century actions which have already produced, or are at risk of producing, lengthy and/or unintended consequences? Explain your answer.

Why is speaking-out against seemingly popular political events so hard to do?

## Media Stream



### Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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## END OF THE WAR

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