

Option A: 19th Century topic**WHY DID THE ASSASSINATION OF FRANZ FERDINAND LEAD TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR?**

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

Background Information

On 28 June 1914 Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was assassinated by Serb terrorists. Austria blamed the Serbian government and by early August most of Europe was at war. Historians have always disagreed about which country was most to blame.

The chronology of events is clear: on 23 July Austria sent an ultimatum to Serbia and, on 28 July, declared war on Serbia. By 30 July Russia had mobilised its armed forces. On 1 August Germany declared war on Russia and, on 3 August, on France. But who was responsible for the assassination leading to a major war? Some historians blame Russia for beginning to mobilise its army even before Serbia had replied to the Austrian ultimatum. Was Russia to blame?

SOURCE A

The leaders of Russia shared with the Kaiser's court a belief that the two empires were fated to participate in a historic struggle between Germanism and Slavdom. The two nations' most conspicuous point of friction and threatened collision was Turkey. They circled the ailing Ottoman Empire as predators, each bent upon securing choice portions of its carcass. Control of the Straits, the entrance to the Black Sea through which 37 per cent of Russian exports passed, was an especially critical issue.

Russians were proud of their role in helping to free much of the Balkans from Ottoman rule, and were determined not to see this replaced by Austrian or German control. The semi-official Russian newspaper *Novoye Vremya* wrote in June 1908 that it was impossible 'without ceasing to be Russian' to allow Germanic cultural domination of southern and eastern Europe. In 1913 a British government minister wrote that 'Serbia is, practically speaking, a Russian province.' This was an exaggeration, because Serb leaders were intensely self-willed, but Russia made plain that the country was under its protection. Russian security guarantees to Serbia proved as fatal to European peace as was German support for Austria - with the important difference that the former were defensive, the latter aggressive. But at the very least, Russia was irresponsible in failing to insist upon a halt to Serbian subversion in the Habsburg Empire as the price for its military backing.

From a history book published in 2013.

SOURCE B

For all the hype about pan-Slavic solidarity created by nationalistic Russian newspapers, Sazonov was willing to throw fellow Balkan 'Slavs' overboard if Russia's national interests were threatened. Serbia was of purely symbolic interest to Russian foreign policy. Of course, Russia had no wish to see 'heroic little Serbia' carved up by hostile neighbours such as Austria-Hungary, but neither did it wish to see Serbia strengthened. Denying Serbia access to the Adriatic became one of Russia's main foreign policy goals following the Second Balkan War, to the extent that it plotted to restore Albania to Ottoman control so as to weaken Serbia.

To assume that Russia really went to war on behalf of Serbia in 1914 is naive. Great powers do not usually mobilise armies of millions to protect the territorial integrity of minor client states. An extensive survey of Russia's diplomatic correspondence in the months before the Sarajevo incident does not reveal undue concern with any sort of Serbian problem, nor indeed is concern voiced in the months after July. What it does reveal is a widespread obsession, bordering on panic, with the Straits question. It was universally assumed that Turkey would not last for long. The question was, which power would swallow which pieces of the carcass as the Ottoman Sick Man was carved up? And for Russia, the question was starker still: who would now control Constantinople and the Straits?

Had Germany's leaders known how worried the Russians were about the Turkish dreadnoughts that were about to close off the 'Straits window' for ever, they would not have been so paranoid about the 'growth of Russian power' in July 1914. Russia in 1914 was a country with much to lose but for which the risks of inaction seemed, by June or July of that year, to be at least as great, and possibly greater, than those of action. It was a country, in other words, whose rulers would not shrink from going to war to improve her precarious position in a hostile international environment.

From a history book published in 2011. Sazonov was in charge of Russian foreign policy.

SOURCE C

The crime of Sarajevo is not the deed of a single individual, but the result of a well-arranged plot whose threads reach to Belgrade. So long as the source of criminal agitation in Belgrade lives unpunished, the peace policy of all European monarchs is threatened. The danger will only pass when Serbia is eliminated as a political power-factor in the Balkans.

A letter from Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria to Kaiser William II of Germany, 5 July 1914.

SOURCE D

News reached us from Vienna that the Austrian government claimed the Sarajevo murders were the outcome of a political plot whose roots could be traced to Belgrade. The inquiry held at Sarajevo gave no support to this idea but the Austrian government continued to denounce Serbia. The Russian government heard with anxiety the bad news from Vienna; we daily expected the Austrian government to make some openly hostile move against Serbia.

On 23 July Austria delivered an ultimatum to Serbia in terms which aroused the astonishment and indignation of all Europe. Its appearance marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Europe and the whole world. The demands were such that had never been made by a European power, and their acceptance in full by Serbia would have been the equivalent of her giving up her national independence.

From Sazonov's memoirs, which he wrote in the 1920s while living in France.

SOURCE E

I appeal to you to help me. An ignoble war has been declared on a weak country. The indignation in Russia and shared by me is enormous. I foresee that very soon I shall be forced to take extreme measures which will lead to war. To try and avoid such a calamity as a European war, I beg you in the name of our old friendship to do whatever you can to stop your ally Austria from going too far.

Nicky

A telegram from Tsar Nicholas II to Kaiser William II, 29 July 1914.

SOURCE F

On your appeal to my friendship I began to mediate between your Government and the Austrian Government. While this was proceeding your troops were mobilised against Austria, my ally.

I now receive news of serious preparations for war on my Eastern frontier. Responsibility for the safety of my empire forces preventative measures of defence upon me. The responsibility for the disaster which is now threatening the whole world will not be placed on me. In this moment it still lies in your power to avert it. Nobody is threatening the honour or power of Russia. The peace of Europe may still be maintained by you, if Russia will agree to stop the military measures which threaten Germany and Austria.

Willy

A telegram from Kaiser William II to Tsar Nicholas II, 31 July 1914.

SOURCE G



A postcard published in Austria in 1914 soon after the assassination of Franz Ferdinand. The words in the bottom right say 'Serbia must die!'

SOURCE H



THE POWER BEHIND.

AUSTRIA (*at the ultimatum stage*). "I DON'T QUITE LIKE HIS ATTITUDE. SOMEBODY MUST BE BACKING HIM."

A cartoon published in Britain, 29 July 1914.

Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Sources A and B.

How far do these two sources agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

2 Study Sources C and D.

Does Source D prove Source C to be wrong? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

3 Study Sources E and F.

Does Source E make Source F surprising? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

4 Study Source G.

Why was this postcard published in Austria at this time? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

5 Study Source H.

What is the cartoonist's message? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

6 Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that Russia was to blame for the outbreak of the First World War? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

Option B: 20th Century topic**WAS THE SOVIET UNION JUSTIFIED IN INTERVENING IN HUNGARY IN 1956?**

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

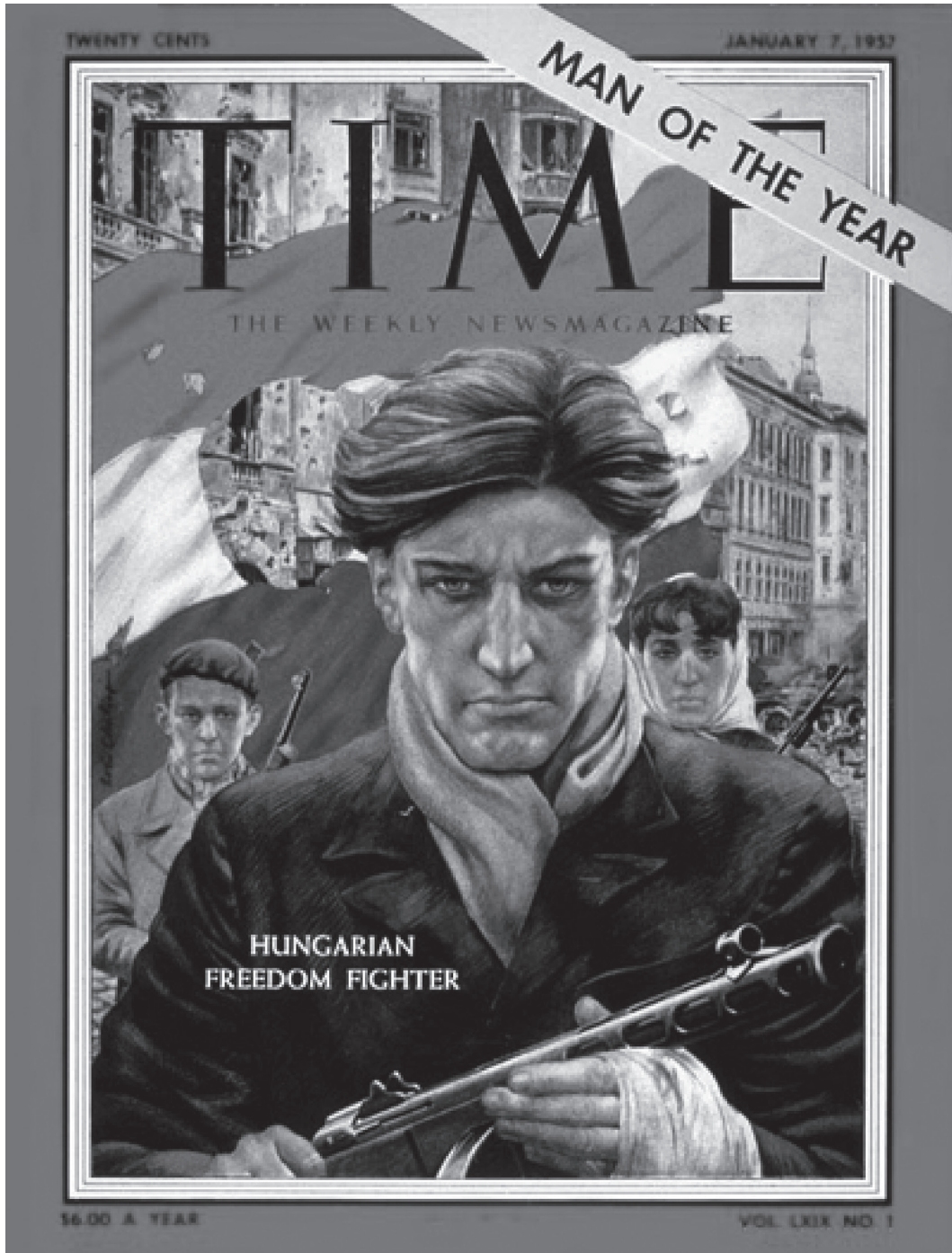
Background Information

On 23 October 1956 demonstrations against Soviet occupation and the government of Ernő Gerő began in Budapest. Russian troops were sent into the city to stop the protests. At the same time the Soviets decided to grant concessions. Imre Nagy was appointed Prime Minister and on 28 October Russian troops pulled out of Budapest.

When Nagy's government started to introduce reforms and announced that Hungary would leave the Warsaw Pact, Russian tanks and troops moved back into Budapest. Despite fierce fighting by the Hungarians, the uprising was soon defeated.

Was the Soviet Union justified in intervening?

SOURCE A



The cover of an American magazine, January 1957.

SOURCE B

Late in the evening of 23 October underground reactionary organisations attempted to start a counter-revolutionary revolt against the people's regime in Budapest. This enemy adventure had obviously been in preparation for some time. The forces of foreign reaction have been systematically inciting anti-democratic elements for action against the lawful authority.

Enemy elements made use of the student demonstration that took place on 23 October to bring out into the streets groups previously prepared by them, to form the nucleus of the revolt. They sent agitators into action who created confusion and tried to provoke mass disorder. A number of government buildings were attacked. The fascist thugs began to loot shops, break windows in houses and institutions, and tried to destroy the equipment of industrial buildings. Groups of rebels who succeeded in getting hold of arms caused bloodshed in a number of places.

The forces of revolutionary order began to repel the rebels. On orders of the Premier, Imre Nagy, martial law was declared in the city. The Hungarian Government asked the USSR Government for help. In accordance with this request, Soviet military units, which are in Hungary under the terms of the Warsaw treaty, helped troops of the Hungarian Republic to restore order in Budapest. In many industrial enterprises workers offered armed resistance to the bandits who tried to damage and destroy equipment.

A statement issued by TASS, the Soviet news agency, 24 October 1956.

SOURCE C

This fight is the fight for freedom by the Hungarian people against the Russian intervention, and it is possible that I shall only be able to stay at my post for one or two hours. The whole world will see how the Russian armed forces, contrary to all treaties and conventions, are crushing the resistance of the Hungarian people. They will also see how they are kidnapping the Prime Minister of a country which is a member of the United Nations, taking him from the capital, and therefore it cannot be doubted at all that this is the most brutal form of intervention. I should like in these last moments to ask the leaders of the revolution, if they can, to leave the country and turn to all the peoples of the world for help and explain that today it is Hungary and tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow, it will be the turn of other countries because the imperialism of Moscow does not know borders, and is only trying to play for time.

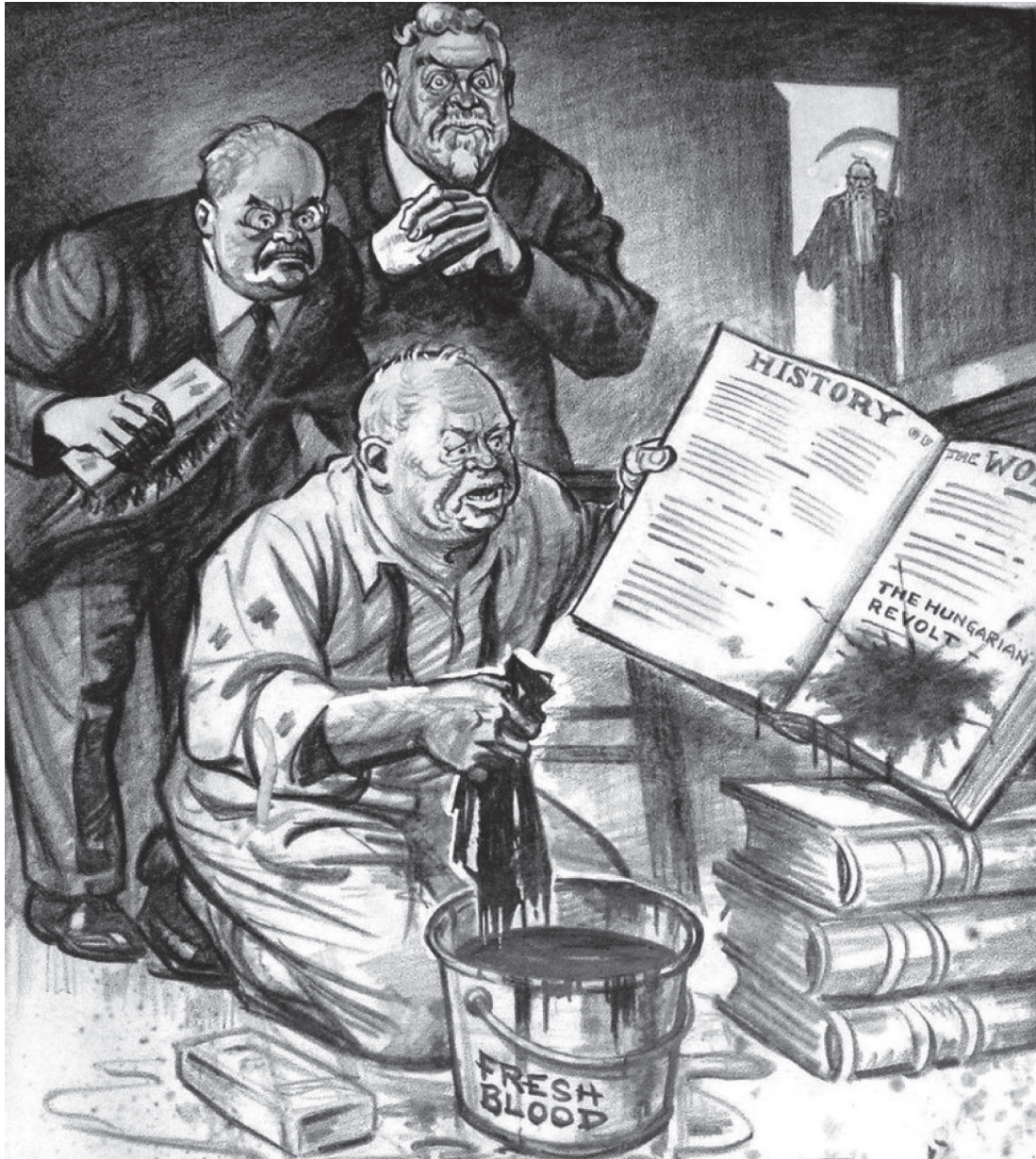
The last message issued by Nagy, 4 November 1956.

SOURCE D

The Soviet Union has always proceeded from the principle of the peaceful co-existence of countries with different social systems and with the great aim of preserving world peace. However, the enemies of socialism plotted to undermine the friendly relations between the peoples of the Soviet Union and the peoples of other countries, to frustrate the noble aims of peaceful co-existence on the basis of complete sovereignty and equality. This is confirmed by the actions of the counter-revolutionary forces in Hungary aimed at overthrowing the system of people's democracy and restoring fascism in the country. The patriots of people's Hungary, together with the units of the Soviet Army called in to assist the revolutionary workers' and peasants' Government, firmly barred the road to reaction and fascism in Hungary.

A broadcast by Marshal Zhukov, the Soviet Minister of Defence. It was broadcast by the official Soviet radio station, 7 November 1956.

SOURCE E



A cartoon published in November 1956. The figures on the left are Soviet leaders, including Khrushchev, who is kneeling.

SOURCE F

The Hungarian economy had made successful progress on the socialist road of development. It was this development that was thwarted by the attack of the counter-revolutionary forces. At the moment, after having repressed the counter-revolution, the socialist economy of the Hungarian People's Republic has started developing again and is showing clear signs of strength.

The participants of the meeting unanimously concluded that as a result of the efforts of the Hungarian workers, and with the support of the Soviet army, the attempts to eliminate the socialist achievements of the Hungarian people and their people's democratic system were successfully prevented. The danger of establishing a fascist dictatorship in Hungary was eliminated.

*A statement issued by a meeting of the Governments and Communist Parties
of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and the Soviet Union,
6 January 1957.*

Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

What impressions does this source give of the events in Hungary in October and November 1956? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

2 Study Source B.

Why did the Soviet Union issue this statement at this time? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

3 Study Sources C and D.

Does Source D prove that Source C cannot be trusted? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

4 Study Source E.

What is the cartoonist's message? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

5 Study Source F.

Are you surprised by this source? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

6 Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that Soviet armed intervention in Hungary was justified? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

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