The Tragedy of The Great War

Canada and the Great War?
Europe

-1914- Europe (and most of the world) was ruled by Empires- all delicately balanced in an alliance system (M_ANIA)

-British Empire, Belgium, France and Russia (Triple Entente)

-Germany, Austro-Hungarian Empire and Italy (Triple Alliance)

-Treaties, family ties (British Royal Family’s last name in 1914: Saxe-Coburg-Gotha- 1915 Windsor) inevitable?
IF YOU TOUCH ME I'LL
- IF YOU HIT THAT LITTLE FELLER I'LL
- IF YOU STRIKE MY FRIEND I'LL
- IF YOU HIT HIM
- IF YOU MAKE A MOVE I'LL
- HO THERE, IF YOU CHAPS-
The Crime of the Ages—Who Did It?

Source: John McCutcheon, *The Chicago Tribune*; H. H. Windsor, *Cartoons Magazine* (adapted)
Imperialism

- Aggressive territorial expansion, spreading of culture/civilization- Canada

- 1900’s Britain and Germany- naval arms race- biggest and best warships- the Dreadnought

- Canada- 1914- No Navy! Laurier compromised- we build our own, but Britain can use our navy in times of war

- more on this later
I am a Yugoslav nationalist, aiming for the unification of all Yugoslavs, and I do not care what form of state, but it must be free from Austria.

—— Gavrilo Princip ——
Assassination

-June 1914 Gavrilo Princeps, Bosnian-Serb university student- The Black Hand- assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Sarajevo, Bosnia

-Immediate cause- NOT the cause

-Imperial Rivalry between Britain and Germany, historical hatred between France and Germany, complex alliance/treaty system

-The ultimate question of the day- would Germany dominate the continent?

-This was a war for civilization!
War Begins

-German War Plan (Schlieffen Plan)- prevent a two front war-crush one enemy before worrying about the other-

-Advance through Belgium to attack FRance- bad idea

-Britain declares war- due to the Empire’s declaration Canada was now at war (PM Borden was at his cottage in Muskoka)-
August 1914
THE SCRAP OF PAPER
Prussia’s Perfidy—Britain’s Bond.
The Treaty of 1839 (which the German Chancellor tore up, remarking that it was only “a scrap of paper”) said:

"BELGIUM . . . . SHALL FORM AN INDEPENDENT AND PERPETUALLY NEUTRAL STATE. IT SHALL BE BOUND TO OBSERVE SUCH NEUTRALITY TOWARDS ALL OTHER STATES."

Germany has trampled on the Treaty she signed.
CAN BRITONS STAND BY WHILE GERMANY CRUSHES AN INNOCENT PEOPLE?
ENLIST TO-DAY

These are the Seals and Signatures of the Six Nations who guaranteed Belgian Independence and Neutrality

GREAT BRITAIN - Palmerston
BELGIUM - Sylvain Van De Weyer
AUSTRIA - Senfft
FRANCE - M. Sebastiani
GERMANY - Bülow
RUSSIA - Pozzo Di Borgo
MANIA

Militarism

Alliances

Nationalism

Imperialism

Assassination
The July Crisis

-The world stood on edge, so to speak, as no one was quite sure who would move first

-Austria had the excuse it had been looking for and wished to invade Serbia, but doing so would bring Russia to the defence of Serbia (Nationalism cause- Pan-Slavism)

-Austria had to make sure Germany would support them if Russia attacked- and here begins the historiographical problem- the cause of the war depend on your perspective of the evidence
THE POWER BEHIND.

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