



## 37 Days: Countdown to World War One

### 28 June: Archduke Assassinated

Prof Margaret MacMillan:

28th June The Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary is visiting Sarajevo. It's the final day of his trip to Bosnia. The morning mists have cleared and he and his wife Sophie get into their open touring car. It's their fourteenth wedding anniversary and they're both happy to get away from the rigid Court protocol in Vienna.

Not everyone is happy though; Serbs everywhere are still furious about Austria-Hungary's annexation of Bosnia and the date of the visit could not have been more tactless. It's the anniversary of the great Serb defeat at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389: the time when they commemorate their resistance to foreign rulers.

Among the crowds along the route are six armed men. Their leader is a thin intense 19 year old called Gavrilo Princip. The Imperial visit has been in the news for months. More than enough time to plot and get weapons across the border from Serbia. Between them the conspirators have 6 bombs and 4 Browning pistols. Each man has a phial of cyanide.