

August 5, 1914

The European war

During the last few days one astonishing piece of news after the other have been received from Europe. There is no longer a rumor about a war – we have often heard that but not paid much attention to it. Now there is war, not just frightening warnings, but a serious reality. Many nations have been pulled in to this war. There are Austria, Serbia, Germany, Russia, Greece, England, France, Italy, and at this point there may be other countries as well.

A short while ago we were informed that the Austrian successor to the throne and his wife had been shot down in Bosnia. This seems to have been the beginning of a war that is threatening to get unusual dimensions. As horrible as that event must be considered, that by itself ought not to be enough to create such consequences. But it does not appear that the murders by themselves caused the declaration of war. This act took place on Austrian land in a part that used to be a Serbian province. The Austrian government is convinced that there was a conspiracy among the Serbs against Austria. There has been a very tense relationship between the two nations.

Austria demanded that the Serbian conspiracy would be dissolved, that those guilty would be severely punished and that the endeavor to gather and unite Serbs in different countries should be prohibited. Serbia could not accept these demands. Then came the declaration of war from Austria. But the reasons for these disturbances lie deeper than so. It is maintained that Russia has incited Serbia against Austria. Russia's behavior at the very beginning of the disturbances gave Germany reason to demand a declaration from Russia, which Russia would not do. Then Germany declared that they were in war with Russia. Because of inter relations other nations were pulled into the war.

It seems like the war is based on whether or not the Slavic or the [*Leutanian*] race should be the ruling race.