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“War and Peace: July 1914 and the Conference that never was”



Sir Edward Grey (1862–1933) was a Liberal politician and the British Foreign Secretary from 1905-1916. As Foreign Secretary, he supported an alliance with France and Russia. In July 1914, Grey tried to mediate the situation between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, and wanted a conference of the Great Powers. Today, Grey acts as chair and mediator for the conference.

Represented by Scott Johnston, PhD candidate

Jean Jaurès (1859–1914) was a French Socialist leader and a noted antimilitarist who campaigned against conscription and sought to mobilize labour against the war. He was assassinated on 31 July, 1914 by a French nationalist. **Represented by Dr. Jennifer Tunnicliffe**

Raymond Poincaré (1860–1934) was a conservative republican politician and President of the Third French Republic from 1913–1920. He pursued a nationalist, anti-German foreign policy and urged Russia to take a hard line in summer 1914.

Represented by Chelsea Barranger, PhD candidate

Nikola Pašić (1845–1926) was leader of the People's Radical Party and Prime and Foreign Minister of Serbia and later Yugoslavia. Although the Serbian government did not organize the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, historians disagree on how much Pašić knew of it in advance and if he did know, what he could have done to prevent it.

As Serbia was not a Great Power, Pašić would not have been invited to Grey's proposed conference.



Bertrand Russell (1872–1970) was a British philosopher and a lecturer at the University of Cambridge. He was a well-known pacifist during the First World War, which led to him losing his position at the university. Prior to the outbreak of war, he was more of a “neutralist” than confirmed pacifist, and did not support Britain's involvement in a European conflict.

Represented by Dr. Andrew Bone, Bertrand Russell Research Centre

Sergei Sazonov (1860–1927) was Russian Foreign Minister from 1910-1916. Before the First World War, Sazonov's ministry was concerned with the Austro-Hungarian presence in the Balkans. While Sazonov was a more moderate politician, Austria-Hungary and Germany believed that Russia encouraged Pan-Slavism in the Balkans and Serbian belligerence.

Represented by Oleksa Drachewych, PhD Candidate

Count Leopold von Berchtold (1863–1942) was the Foreign Minister of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Prompted by militarist circles in Vienna who feared the multiethnic empire's collapse, he opted for a punitive attack on Serbia after the Sarajevo Assassination.

Represented by Sean Kinnear, PhD candidate

Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg (1856–1921) was Chancellor of the German Empire from 1909-1917. Prior to the war, he tried to promote a good relationship with Britain, but he did not support Grey's attempts at mediation. In July 1914, he reassured Austria-Hungary of Germany's support if Austria-Hungary chose to attack Serbia in retaliation for the Assassination.

Represented by Curran Egan, PhD candidate