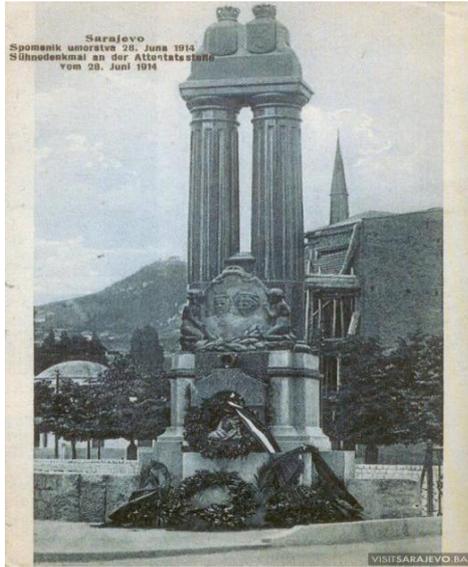




Student worksheet

Remembering the assassination in Sarajevo

Copy this card sort to make as many sets as you need for your class. Then cut up the cards so that the students have to sort them in the activity – see activity plan in ‘Teacher Material’.



Monument to Franz-Ferdinand and Sofia erected in Sarajevo in 1917. The inscription on the memorial said: *“At this spot the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Duchess Sofia of Hohenburg, gave their lives and spilled blood for God and Homeland.”*

Bosnia-Herzegovina was annexed as a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1908. Its capital was (and is) Sarajevo. When the Serbian Gavrilo Princip shot the heir to the Austrian throne on the 28th June 1914, from an Austrian perspective at the time he shot him on territory that belonged to Austria. There were immediate attacks on local Serbs as a result of the assassination. The city of Sarajevo remained under Austrian control until the Paris Peace Conference (1919), when the Austro-Hungarian Empire ceased to exist. As part of the Treaty of St Germain (1919), Bosnia-Herzegovina became part of the new Kingdom of Yugoslavia.



In June 1920 the remains of Princip and other assassins were moved to a special tomb. There was a procession, speeches and singing to mark the occasion. The memorial plaque bore the names of the 'Vidovdan heroes' and also said: 'Blessed is the one who lives forever. He had a reason to be born.' A plaque was put up at the site of the assassination. It was written in Serbian cyrillic and said: "At this place Gavrilo Princip proclaimed freedom on Vidovdan, June 28, 1914."

From 1918 Sarajevo was a city in the newly created Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was taken apart as one of the defeated nations of World War 1. As part of the idea of 'self-determination' at the Paris Peace conference, the people of the Balkans region were to rule themselves. The powerful of this new kingdom were keen to establish the identity of their new Slavic country. The Austrian memorial to Franz-Ferdinand was removed and the government, ignoring international protests, erected its own memorial plaque on the site in 1930.



German troops removed the plaque commemorating Gavrilo Princip from the assassination site. The plaque was sent to Adolf Hitler on his 52nd birthday on April 20, 1941, a few days after the takeover of Sarajevo. The plaque was exhibited in the Berlin Zeughaus and went missing in 1945.

On 15th April 1941, the German army captured Sarajevo and occupied it until the end of the war in 1945. Hitler had welcomed the assassination in 1914 as he viewed Franz –Ferdinand as a man who could build relations between Slavs and Germans. However, the assassination had also triggered World War 1, which had culminated for Germany in the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler was committed to reversing the effects of this Treaty on Germany.



The plaque was erected on 6 May 1945 and reads: *“From this spot on 28 June 1914 Gavrilo Princip with his shot expressed the national protest against tyranny and the centuries of our peoples’ longing for freedom.”* The memorial footsteps were added in 1956. A museum on the site was opened in 1953 and the name of the bridge over the Miljacka River was changed from Latin Bridge to Gavrilo Princip bridge.

The Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia was founded in 1945. It was at first allied with the Soviet Union. In 1948 Tito, the leader of Yugoslavia, disagreed with Stalin, the leader of the USSR, and from then on Yugoslavia pursued its own form of socialism in its own Slavic state. Yugoslavia existed as a country until its component parts asserted their independence 1991-92. In 1945 the government hailed Princip as ‘a fighter for freedom and brotherhood of all nations of Yugoslavia’ and said ‘Princip’s bullet declared death to all those who attempt to impose slavery upon our people.’ (Oslobodjenje newspaper, 8 May 1945).



In 1992 the plaque and Princip’s footsteps were removed. The Gavrilo Princip bridge was renamed the Latin bridge. A new memorial plaque was erected in 2002. It says: *“From this place on 28. June 1914 Gavrilo Princip assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia.”*

Between 1992-1996 the city of Sarajevo was besieged by the army of the Republic of Serbia. This was the longest siege of a major city in modern warfare. 1000s of people in Sarajevo lost their lives and there was major damage to buildings. The city is now the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Much local, regional, national and international work has been put in to peace-building between the people of the region since the end of the war.