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Slav Versus the Teuton

Great Struggle For Supremacy That Is Disturbing the Peace of Europe

WHILE the immediate cause of Austria Hungary's attack on Serbia is the demand for reparation for the murder of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, the ultimate causes are the movement of the Hapsburg empire toward the south and the desperate efforts of the entire Serb (Servian) race to regain complete national existence.

Ever since the repulse of the Turkish army from Vienna in 1683 the Austrians have steadily fought their way southward, expecting ultimately to make their way to the Aegean over the ruins of the Turkish empire. Austria, like Russia, was not unwilling to see small buffer states set up to occupy the middle ground during the intervals of rest in her forward movement, and so most of the Balkan states of today came into being.

Of the Servian race, which in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries ruled a vast empire, extending over the western half of the Balkan peninsula and the eastern coast of the Adriatic, practically all had come under Turkish domination in the sixteenth century. For twenty years of that century, about, Serbia was under Austrian rule, then reverted to Turkey.

The Servian People.

Only a minority of the Servian race live in Serbia and the Macedonian territory recently won from the Turks.



Photo by American Press Association.

CEAR NICHOLAS OF RUSSIA.

Nicholas II, the czar of all the Russias, is the supreme ruler of the largest Slavic race in the world and may be considered the head of all Slavs, although millions of them are scattered through various countries and are not under Russian rule. A large proportion of Austria's population are Slavs, Germany has a large Slavic population in its eastern sections, and the inhabitants of Serbia, Montenegro, Roumania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Bulgaria and the other countries of the Balkan peninsula are also to a large percentage Slavs.

Montenegro is inhabited by people ethnically and linguistically the same; so are Bosnia and Herzegovina; so is much of the hinterland of Dalmatia and large districts in Hungary. Croatia and Slavonia, peopled by the same race, are called the "Ireland of Hungary" because of the alleged persecutions by their rulers. A hundred years ago part of the Servian race was subject to Turkey and part to the Hapsburg monarchy. The part under Turkish domination has won its freedom; the other has not.

"Austria's policy of repression of the Serb peoples is responsible for this calamity," said Professor Michael I. Pupin of Columbia university, commenting on the assassination of the Austrian archduke. Professor Pupin comes of Servian stock and typifies the big, dark haired and dark eyed men of his race. Naturally he strongly sympathizes with the Servians, and views expressed by him clearly reflect these Slavophil sentiments and sympathies.

"There are two recent events that really foreshadowed some disaster to any one familiar with the temperament of the Servian people," he said. "These are the strike of the students in the government schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina that began several months ago and has not been settled, and, second, that probably of greater importance, the military maneuvers of the Austrian army that have been going on in these two countries under the direction of the crown prince.

Strike of the Students.

"The student strike began, you remember, when a government professor in the school at Mostar, Herzegovina, made reflection on the Serb race. The students of his class rose in a body and asked him to retract. He refused. They pitched him out of the classroom and used him rather roughly. These fifty Serb students went on strike. They are only high school students really, boys about sixteen to nineteen years old. They refused to return till the professor was dismissed. They were expelled. Then throughout Herzegovina and Bosnia the students struck

in sympathy. The government sent troops and officers to restore order. The students refused to give in. And so the fight stood deadlocked at the outbreak of war.

"Nothing could be more calculated to provoke the people of Herzegovina and Bosnia to rage than to have Austrian troops thrown across their borders to execute maneuvers along the Servian frontier. They are Serbs, of the same stock as the people of Serbia proper, and they saw the archduke massing his forces in mimic war preparatory to the war which all felt must come some day between the two nations, Austria and Serbia."

Austrian Repression of Serbia. The Serbs of the present kingdom became autonomous in 1830, but reverted in 1878-79, aiming at complete freedom. With them joined their kinsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 1878 at Berlin the great powers of Europe sought to rearrange the Balkan peninsula, and two of them tried to satisfy their ambitions for self aggrandizement. Russia strengthened her old resolution to acquire Constantinople by transforming Bulgaria into a Russian province, and Austria-Hungary renewed her determination to gain an outlet on the Aegean at Saloniki and to extend her Adriatic frontage by crushing and absorbing Serbia, Albania and Macedonia.

The Russian plans were defeated by the genius and valor of Alexander of Battenburg and Stephen Stambuloff. Those of Austria seemed far more likely to succeed. The Berlin treaty of 1878 gave her temporary control of the two great Turkish provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and also of the smaller sanjak of Novi Bazar, lying between Serbia and Montenegro, and it so shut Serbia in among other states as to make her almost entirely dependent upon Austria-Hungary for commercial or other intercourse with the rest of the world.

Therefore a cardinal principle of Austro-Hungarian policy was to induce Serbia to yield her independence and become a mere province of the dual realm. As a long step toward this end Austria-Hungary a few years ago, in alleged violation of the Berlin

situation of the Austro-Hungarian near presumptive at the Bosnian capital in circumstances which were mysterious and suspicious. The Austro-Hungarian government followed up the incident with a series of more or less direct charges of Servian responsibility, culminating in a peremptory demand.

Thirty years ago Serbia was a cat's paw for Austria in Balkan schemes, with Russia backing Bulgaria, but now the Servians can count on Russian sympathy, for their cause is indirectly the cause of the entire Slavic race in its double struggle to be free from German rule and to fight for the heritage of Constantinople.

Austria's Slav Rule.

Commenting upon forcible annexation by Austria of the Serb provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908 a correspondent of the New York Evening Post, writing from St. Petersburg, said:

"The Austrian bureaucracy proves itself a juster, humaner, and stronger ruler of the Slavs than the Russian bureaucracy. Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Dalmatia, not to mention Serbia and Montenegro, have better governments than Russia has. The southern Slavs ought to come to the help of their northern brethren, instead of calling on the latter to assist them. It is the southern Slavs who are comparatively successful, enlightened, free, and the Russians who are ignorant, backward, enslaved. In Russia only 3.8 per cent of the children go to school, while in Serbia, Bulgaria, and the Slav provinces which are under Austrian rule the proportion is more than twice as high. In calling on Russia for help the Serbs don't know what they are doing. They forget that their invitation could only bring to their assistance, not the Russian people, but the armed servants that hold the Russian people down. It may seem paradoxical to say that if the Russians did intervene and did win, the second state of the Serbs would be worse than the first, but, unfortunately, history proves that this is exactly what has occurred in the past."

The Policy of Austria.

The policy of Austria in the Balkan region has ever been consistent and in accordance with the one great aim of the western powers of Europe—to hem in Russia so as to prevent it from gaining a foothold on the Mediterranean coast. For the sake of that aim Turkey was permitted to continue its existence in spite of its misrule and overbearing. In pursuance of the same policy the terms of the treaty of San Stefano were annulled by the treaty of Berlin to prevent Russia from obtaining important advantages and eventually the control over the port of Cetinje through an arrangement with Montenegro.

Austria was well aware of the fact that Serbia was well as Montenegro

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MAP SHOWING BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

One of the great causes of the war between Austria and Serbia was the annexation by Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina, both largely populated by Serbs.

treaty, forcibly annexed the Slavie states of Bosnia and Herzegovina. But in doing so she overreached herself, for she thus hastened the formation of that Balkan league which in one of the most amazing wars on record drove the Turks out of Macedonia and Albania and most of Thrace, and partitioned nine-tenths of the former Turkish empire in Europe among the four members of the league.

Servian Agitation. This well nigh fatal blow at Austrian ambitions aroused the dual realm to desperate efforts, and through a threat of a general European war it induced the other great powers to back, or, at least, to sanction, its course in intervening to take from Servia what that power considered the legitimate spoils of victory by erecting Albania into a kingdom which should be under Austrian influence.

All this naturally embittered the millions of Serbs who are held subject in Austria-Hungary and incited them to form societies and to agitate for their liberation. In June occurred the assassination of the crown prince of Austria-Hungary, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, at Sarajevo. This was the spark that kindled the great European war. The Servian government immediately declared its support of the crown prince, and the Austrian government immediately declared its support of the Archduke. The war began. The Servians were victorious in the Balkans, and the Austrians were victorious in the West. The war ended in a stalemate. The Servians were given their independence, and the Austrians were given their independence. The war was a disaster to all.