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## Europe's Armed Camps

### Old and New Enmities That Have Divided It Into Two Hostile Factions

**A**USTRIA'S ultimatum did not come as a surprise to any one who has followed her diplomatic maneuvering of the past twenty-five years.

Austria has never been able to forgive Serbia for existing at all, and Serbia has always fiercely resented her big neighbor's stubborn opposition to her own schemes for development. For twenty-five years jealousy and enmity have fed on each other, for twenty-five

constitutional revolution in Turkey, which would require delegates to the Turkish parliament to come from these two states which were actually in Austrian hands, the Hapsburg monarchy formally annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina.

When Austria definitely annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia saw her hopes of their ultimate union with her entirely defeated. She protested bitterly, and carried her warlike preparations to such a point that her army



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SERBIAN CAVALRY ON THE MARCH.

years each has irritated the other in all the numberless ways known to skilled politicians, for twenty-five years each has been held in check only by the pressure of outside influences. But now the tragic death of the heir apparent has put in Austria's hands an excuse so powerful that she dares to use it as a weapon.

Stand by Their Ally.

In the present situation, as in every darep in the Balkans, the importance lies not so much in the countries involved as in the probability of the entanglement of other nations and the possibility therefrom of that dread bogey, a general European war. Montenegro has already announced that her fortunes are cast with Serbia. Serbia also, by reason of the understanding she has with Greece and Roumania, might hope for support from them. Germany and Italy have declared their intention of standing by their ally, Austria, though no one really believes that their intention is to do more than to keep other nations off and so leave Austria a clear field.

Bulgaria, while claiming to remain neutral, would certainly be glad if she could snatch the chance to revenge herself for her defeat by Serbia in the second Balkan war. But more important than any of these is the attitude of Russia, of which nothing as yet has been said. With Russia interfering as the chief protector of the Slav people Germany and Italy could hardly avoid being actively involved. Without this interference Austria can almost certainly hope for a clear ring.

Protector of the Slav.

Russia aspires to be the protector of the Slav people and while she has hitherto failed to play that role with any great degree of glory she still clings to it. It was to her that Serbia looked for assistance when she saw Bosnia and Herzegovina slip finally through her fingers. Russia was eager and willing to respond, but was in no condition to do so. She was still prostrated from the Japanese war and at the first hint that her interference in behalf of Serbia would be met by Germany coming to the aid of Austria she could do nothing but maintain a neutral attitude.

But Russia now is in a different position and is eager for an opportunity to rehabilitate her military reputation. She has a new army, newly organized, and would not be averse to engaging in a war that would have a stronger appeal to the spirit of her people than did her ill fated adventure in the east.

The Russo-Turkish war made great changes in the Balkans. Serbia proper obtained complete independence, but Bosnia and Herzegovina were left nominal Turkish dependencies, but really to be occupied by Austrian troops.

The consequence of this was a four year insurrection against the Austrians, the effects of which have never disappeared. The Austrians have spent large amounts of money on the country, but never allowed it autonomy; and in 1908-9, using as an excuse the

practically confronted that of Austria on the opposite side of the Danube. The interference of Germany which held back Russia's hand extended to aid the Serbs was all that prevented a serious war. Here again Serbia felt herself outraged and defeated by the united Germanic influence, and nursing her hurts she once more set herself to wait for her opportunity.

The Balkan War.

It came with the outbreak of the Balkan war, when by a series of brilliant campaigns the Servians advanced straight through Albania to Durazzo, thus seizing the coveted seaport. It is

But the fruits of this war were in part taken from them by Austria, whose diplomatic activity was responsible for the ruling of the powers, which compelled the Servians to give up part of their conquests in Albania. Thus Serbia lost her chance to get a seaport and remains a landlocked power, her only outlet being through the friendly Greek ports on the Aegean sea.

But the Servian victories in Macedonia and the Greek capture of Saloniki put an unexpected obstacle in the way of Austria's march to the south. No more could the dual monarchy hope to inherit Saloniki and the land between that port and the frontier of Bosnia on the final downfall of Turkey; Serbia was now squarely across her path.

So the Balkan wars left the Servians confident of their military ability, elated by victory, determined on complete national unity and angered by Austria's continued hold on the northern part of the nation and by her action in depriving the nation of an outlet to the sea. These wars left Austria-Hungary with increased difficulties in dealing with the Slav tribes, particularly the Servians, now in her dominions, and convinced that the march to the southward must be given up altogether unless Serbia could be put out of the way.

Conflict of European Powers.

The conflict among the European powers, if a clash cannot be averted, will bring two great groups into opposing array. It will be the third time in five years that the triple alliance (Germany, Austria and Italy) and the triple entente (Russia, Great Britain and France) have been brought face to face in hostile attitudes. For the eternal European issue of balance of power is to the fore again.

Five years ago the triple entente protested against Austria's annexation of Bosnia, asserting that it was in violation of the agreement at the congress of Berlin following the Russo-Turkish war. Austria's move blighted the racial and political hopes of a small Slav state which was closely related to Russia.

Germany threatened the czar's country in 1909, and two years later presented to France a demand for a large territorial grant in Morocco because the French protectorate there had been recognized. Russia, France and Great Britain apparently were ready to contest. Germany backed down. Since then Germany's resentment has been bitter. Then there is still friction between France and Germany over Alsace-Lorraine.

In Tripoli, Italy defeated Turkey, regarded as a German ally. Subsequently came the collapse of Turkish power in Europe and the increased strength of the small Balkan states. Today these minor states bar Austria from the Aegean, and Serbia threatens Austria with the union of southern Slavs.

Position of Austria.

The Balkan alliance was undoubtedly a Russian move, to counteract which Austria promoted dissension among the Balkan allies, leading to a second war among those states. But Serbia defeated Bulgaria. Austria's support of Bulgaria had alienated Roumania. Serbia began to cast longing eyes on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Roumania wanted its millions of countrymen in Hungary. In the dual monarchy there was little national feeling, the diver-

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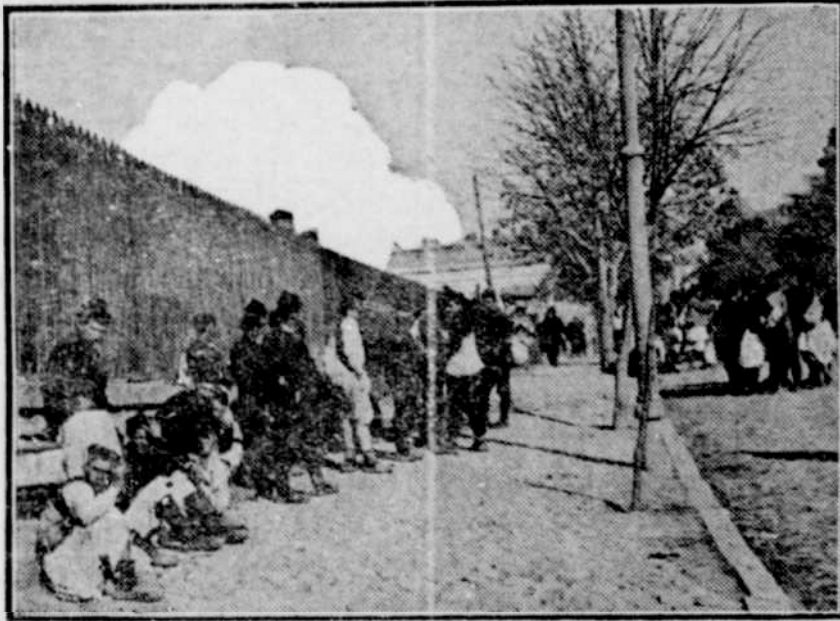


Photo by American Press Association

STREET SCENE IN BELGRADE, CAPITAL OF SERBIA.

not hard to recall the maneuverings by which Austrian diplomacy defeated this end by setting up the ill fated kingdom of Albania as a buffer. At the same time she was able to prevent Montenegro, also a Serb state, from maintaining her hold on the hardy won city of Scutari. Not even the highly desirable portions of Macedonia that fell to Serbia's lot at the end of the war were able to compensate her for her rage of disappointment in the loss of the footing on the sea.

Meanwhile the Slavs of Dalmatia are under Hungarian rule; and here, as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, promises of local self government have never come to anything more than words. Thus the northern half of the Serbian race is still under the Austrian empire.

Meanwhile the southern half was finally united by the victories over Turkey in the war of 1912.

In the fall of 1912 the Servians mobilized 200,000 men in the first three weeks, and later added 145,000 more to the number. And while their losses in this war and in the struggle with Bulgaria in the summer of 1913 were heavy, the Serbian troops fought brilliantly and proved themselves efficient and enduring.

sion of races causing dissension and even threatening the disruption of the empire.

Austria brought about the creation of an Albanian kingdom. The new kingdom has brought Italy and Austria into position for battle, both having designs on the country.

Of the members of the triple alliance Austria is the weakest in preparedness for conflict. Serbs and Roumanians, eager to fight, are at her southern border. Austrian ruin would mean their nationalization. Greece, siding with the triple entente, must be taken into account.

The Gauntlet to Russia.

Austria has thrown down the gauntlet to Russia. Germans feel that they must stand by the challenge. Serbia and Roumania, seeing greater nationalism in Austria's overthrow, are eager to fight on the entente's side. Austria feels that if it must go down it will go down fighting, rather than yield to intrigue.

It is the supreme moment for the test of power. Behind it all is the old issue of balance of power. Neither triple alliance nor triple entente feels that it can maintain its prestige by backing down.