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Introduction

Commonly cartoons illustrate history. In this series *Cartoonist and World War I* the past can be derived from cartoons.

On internet everybody can find many sites with hundreds and sometimes thousands of cartoons from the First World War. The editors of this book selected cartoons on various aspects of the First World War; they decided to use questions about causes, consequences, changes and interpretations.

The first volume of this series is aimed at possible causes of this war. The drawings are made by cartoonists from different countries: Allies, Central Powers and neutral countries like the Netherlands. The cartoonists viewed the events from different political and ideological positions. Some cartoonists draw analytically, others denounce things or persons. Some supported their governments, others tried to warn them.

Europe was very divided on the eve of the Great War. It is tempting to compare with our own time: what is different, what looks more or less the same? At that time the political leaders did not listen to warnings and made wrong decisions. And in all countries the majority followed their leaders in 1914 into the war. It is important to ask why?

The first chapter gives the opportunity to look for causes. The cartoons in this chapter contain a large number of causes.

In the second chapter some cartoonists show in their drawings who is to blame. Many people prefer not to think about causes, they prefer to focus on the question of guilt. Questions about who is to blame lead easily to abuse of history. Searching for causes is less easy, but it leads to more understanding of people and of the past.

1 Identifying causes

1

Title: 'Empire of death'

Cartoonist: Alberto Martini

Source: Italian postcard, part of a series of five, titled 'Danza Macabra Europea', 1914

4

2 (next page)

Title: 'The boiling point'

In the cartoon: Balkan troubles

Cartoonist: Leonard Raven-Hill

Source: Punch, October 2, 1912

3 (next page)

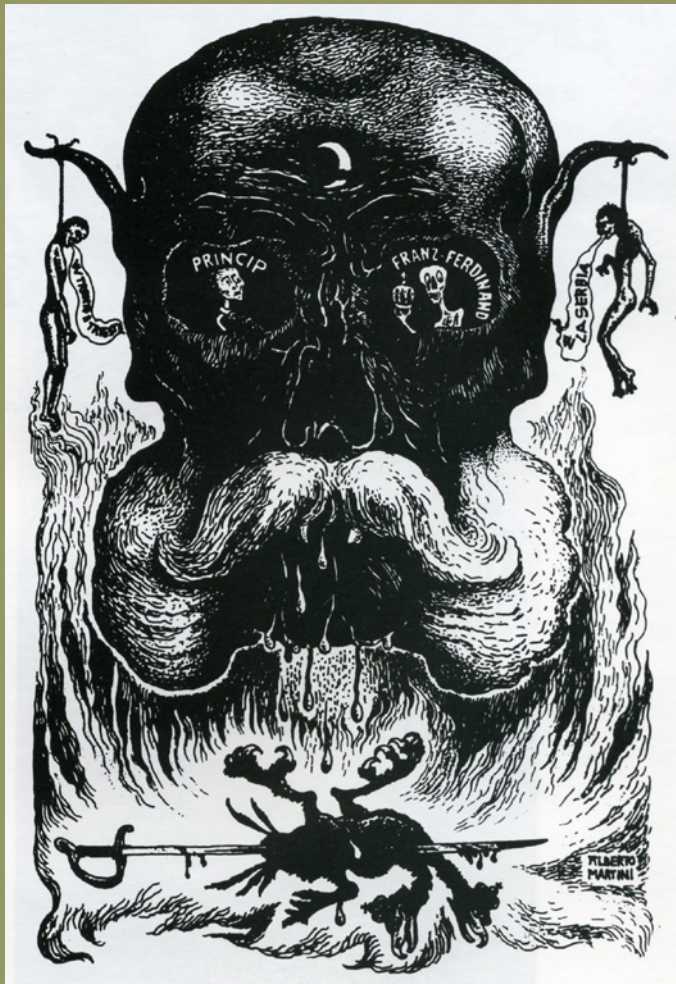
Title: 'The Eastern Question's Wake-up'

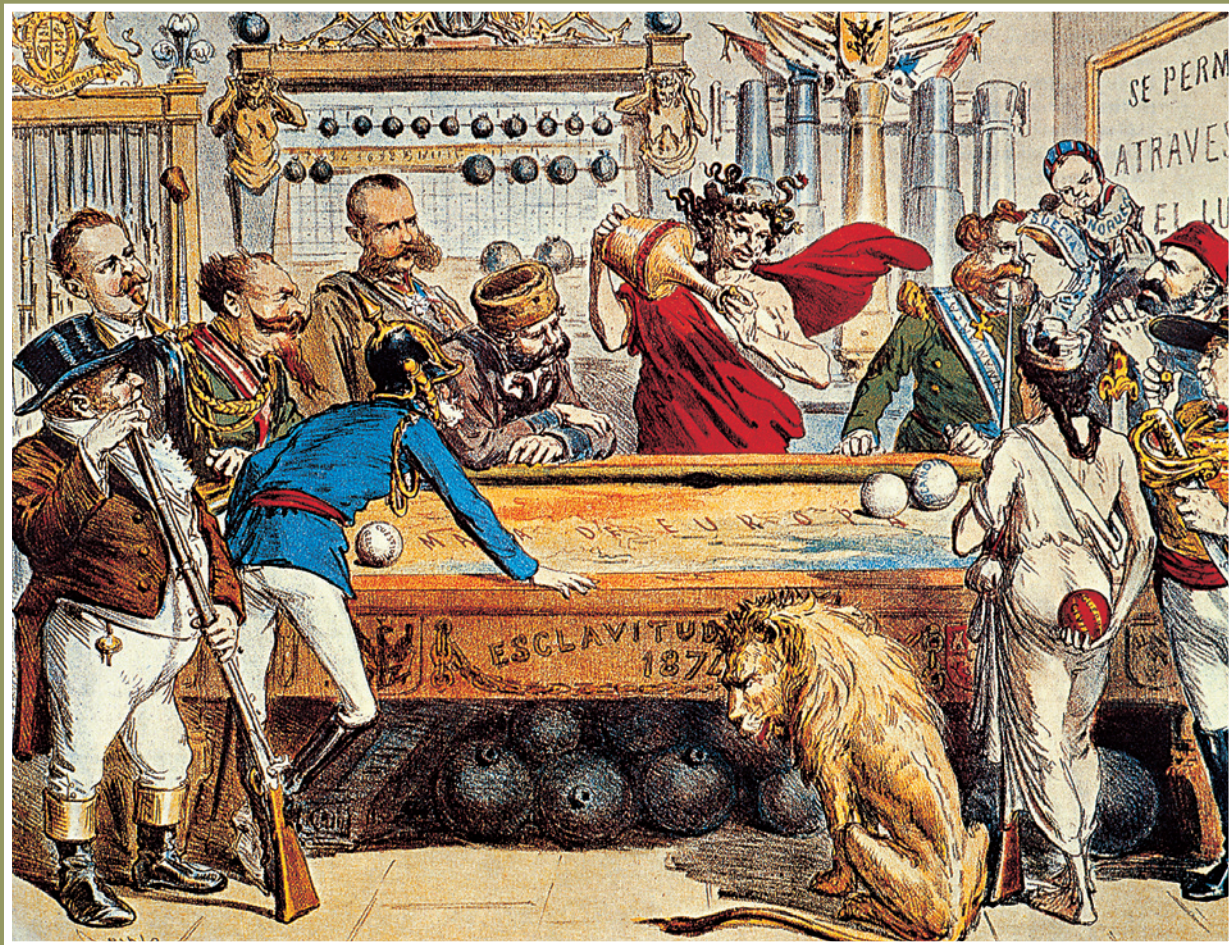
Caption: 'Bulgaria declares independence. Austria occupies Bosnia and Herzegovina.'

Cartoonist: Unknown

Source: Le Petit Journal, October 18, 1908







4 (previous page)

Title: A billiard game with guns and bullets

Cartoonist: Unknown

Source: Spanish paper, 1874

Explanation: Spain had abolished slavery in the Spanish colonies in 1874. at that time. The cartoonist gives his view on the political situation in Europe. He draws a dangerous situation in Europe after the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). With his drawing he showed a prophetic vision.

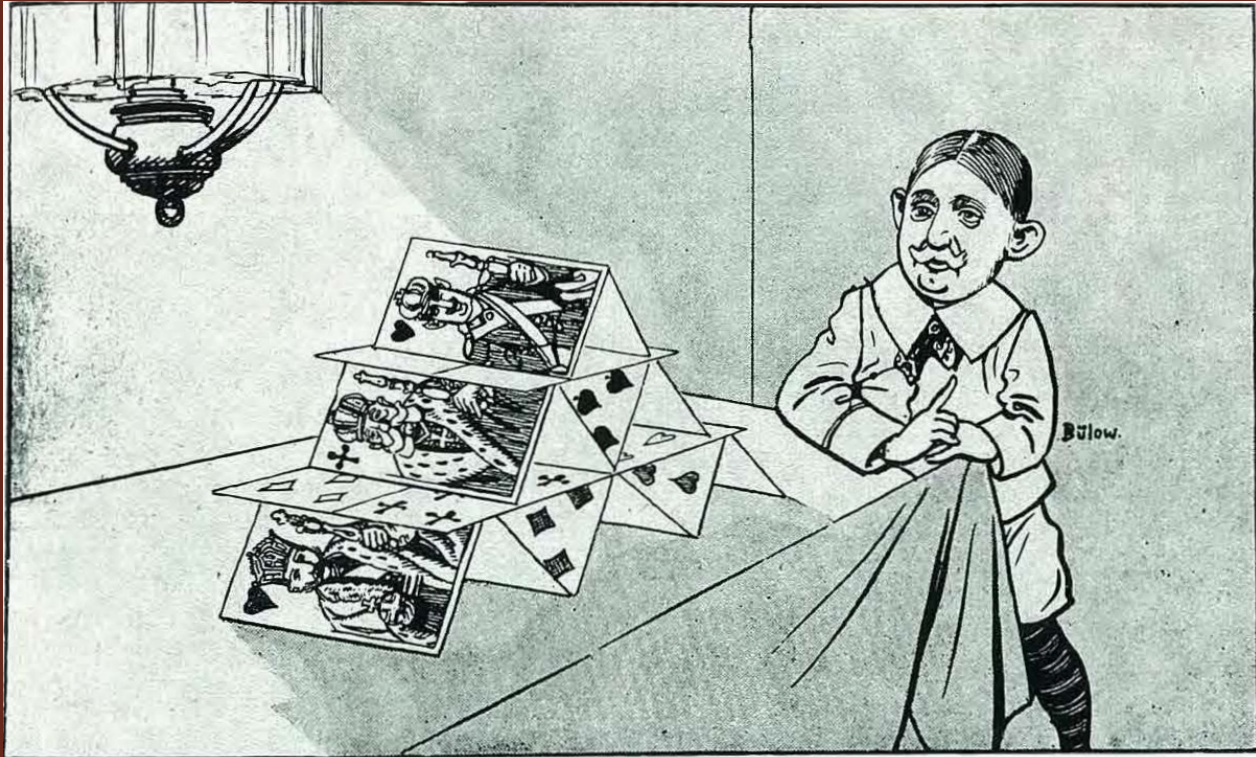


5

Title: 'How shall we shake hands?'

Cartoonist: Unknown

Source: *Simplicissimus* 1912



6

Title: 'So, it is ready! Until 1914 it goes again!'

Cartoonist: Unknown

Source: Unknown German magazine, 1907

Explanation: The house of cards suggests the Triple Alliance. Von Bülow was chancellor of Germany.

7 (next page)

Title: 'The crime of ages – who did it?'

Cartoonist: John McCutcheon

Source: Chicago Tribune USA 1907