The Serbs and the history leading up to the assassination. During the A.D. 600's, various groups of Slavs, including the ancestors of the Serbs, settled in the center of the Balkan Peninsula. Each tribe had its own leader until the late 1100's, when Stephen Nemanja, a warrior and chief, formed the first united Serbian state. During the 1300's, the united Serbian state was led by King Stephen Dusan in successful wars against the Byzantine Empire. The Ottoman Turks conquered Serbia in the battle of Kosovo in 1389 and ruled Serbia for nearly 500 years.

The Serbs never lost their national pride. George Petrovic, a Serbian peasant who was nicknamed Black George, led an uprising against the Ottoman Turks in 1804. Another Serbian peasant leader, Milos Obrenovic, led a second revolt in 1815. The Serbs won some liberties in these struggles. Serbia regained its independence in 1878, following the Ottoman defeat by Russia. The peoples of Serbia and Russia were Slavic and adhered to the Eastern Orthodox faith and thus were natural historical allies.

Austria vs. Serbia. By article 25 of the Treaty of Berlin at the Congress of Berlin in 1878, Austria-Hungary was permitted to occupy and administer Bosnia and Herzegovina. This arrangement was made due to an understanding between Russia and the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy, entered into on the eve of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, and due to the support given to the Austro-Hungarian claims by England and Germany at the Congress of Berlin *(pictured)*. As the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina were inhabited chiefly by Serbs, and as a route across that region would afford Serbia the most convenient form of a long-desired access to the Adriatic, the Serbian agents at the Congress of Berlin tried to protest against the arrangement. But the congress would not even hear the protest.

Austria annexes Bosnia. From the beginning of the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1878, Austria-Hungary counted on ultimately obtaining permanent possession. Serbia, however, continued to hope that the provinces, or at least such a portion of them as would give

access to the Adriatic, would some day belong to her. Without the consent of Russia, and against the strong and popular wishes of the Serbs, Bosnia and Herzegovina were fully annexed by the Austrian-Hungarian Empire in 1908.

The planned visit by the Archduke of Austria-Hungary in June 1914. The situation produced the atmosphere for a planned assassination by Bosnian Serbs of the Austrian heir to the throne of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire during the archduke's visit to Sarajevo, Bosnia, in June 1914.

June 28, 1914: Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie, arriving by train at Sarajevo. His assassination would bring the world to war.

Key Understanding: *The assassination of the pale horse rider.* **It was the June 28, 1914, assassination in Sarajevo, Bosnia, of the Archduke of Austria, heir apparent to the throne of the Austrian Empire and nephew of 'Pale Horse Rider' Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph (who would rule the Austrian Empire exactly 68 years), that led to the outbreak of World War I. Furthermore, the event of World War I ended the Austrian Empire. The assassination that sparked World War I led to the death of the 'Pale Horse Rider' Austrian Empire.**

Revelation 6:8 (KJV) And I looked, and behold A PALE HORSE: and his name that sat on him was DEATH, AND HELL followed with him. And power was given unto them over THE FOURTH PART OF THE EARTH, to kill (i) with sword, and (ii) with hunger, and (iii) with death, and (iv) with the beasts of the earth.