“Who was to blame for World War One?”

There are many theories and small events from a number of different countries that led to the outbreak of the First World War. In my opinion, it would be unfair to give the blame to a specific country, as they all contributed to the ever-growing tension that eventually resulted in the First World War. It is believed that the assassination of Franz Ferdinand and his wife on the 28th June 1914 in Bosnia by Gavrilo Princip was the final straw in dissolving any aspect of peace there was left between the powers.

One idea that is believed to be a cause of the war was the belief that the international relations were slowly weakening as the late 1800s to early 1900s evolved. In this period there were small conflicts occurring within the Powers. For example by this time the Indian people were increasingly resisting the British Raj over them, the conflict between Germany and the French was ever increasing. None of this was helped by the extremists and the growth of terrorism in this period, weakening the situation and setting it up for war.

In 1875, the war scare in Turkey broke out as a rebellion in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This led to Austria-Hungry in fear of the collapse of Turkish power, which would allow Serbia to secure a place in Turkey and secure an agreement with Russia.

Another view on this subject would be the increasing power of the Austro-Hungarian power, which grew concern. This concerned Italy and a number of countries. This led to a number of alliances and treaties. This led almost a set up for war, as these countries were uniting to form a greater power. France was tied to Russia to defend herself from Germany; Russia’s manpower would defend and support France. Germany needed Austria; Austria needed Germany due to its rapidly degrading empire. The south Slavs continued to agitate Austro-Hungary. Serbia continued to be a huge threat to Germany, leaving Germany bound to Austria; which was being crushed by nationalism. Germany and Britain continued their conflict to build an empire; Britain was secure and the Empire depended on continued British supremacy of the seas. The lack of balance in power was a complex idea with different attitudes and fears. This lack of stability built up a frail structure, with one wrong or sudden change could collapse the whole framework.

The blame cannot be taken away from Germany at any point. They were a huge factor in the breakdown of relationships, causing the war. It is argued that they have the most responsibility for the outbreak of the war. Germany caused disaster in July 1914, by withdrawing its ‘blank cheque’ which was offering support to Austria for its invasion of Serbia.

It is also believed that a handful of military decision-makers in Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia cause the outbreak of World War One. The Assassination on Franz Ferdinand and