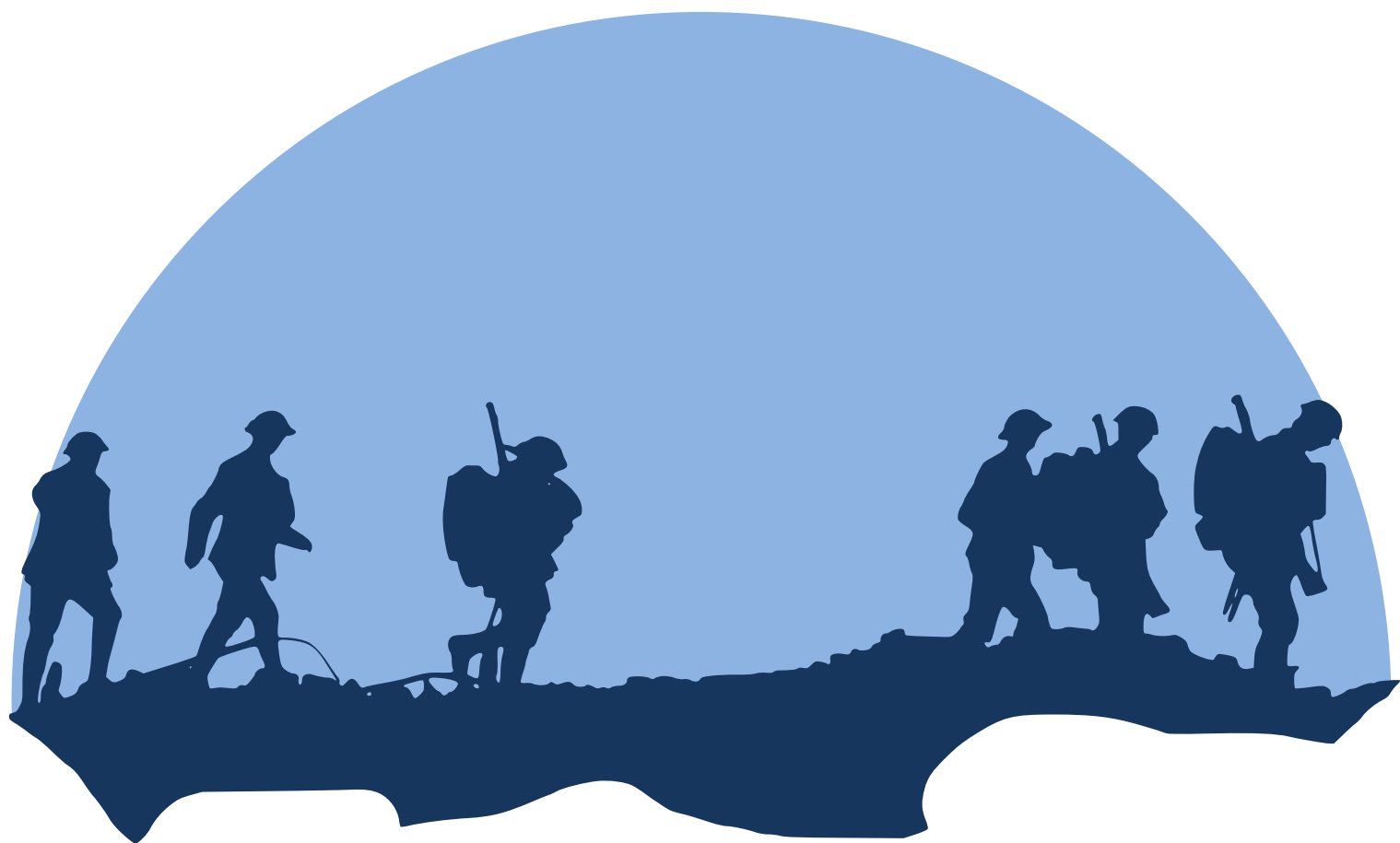


**a.s. 2014/2015**

Fiodor Nicola Misuri



***Inspector Odorico Serena's  
intervention about the  
European background leading  
to World War I***

*October 16th, 2014*

## Conference given by inspector Odorico Serena

**AIM:** It is very important to understand the reason of the outbreak of World War I. For the first time a lot of nations participated in the war. It was the first conflict who led Europe to the beginning of the new century. It is not easy to study this conflict without some multiple and important aspects in society, culture and economy.

**FOREWORD:** The factors of unpredictability and improbability are important aspects in order to study historical events and processes. This two factors can turn the situation around, therefore History is organized be the causes, the effects and the consequences, but the historical milestones are influenced by two factors.

**TRUE REASONS:** «La vera storia non gradisce semplificazioni»

It is naive to believe that the reason of the outbreak of World War I is the archduke Franz Ferdinand's assassination.

It is the straw that broke the camel's back, but it is not the true reason. The war is a result of maturation of a lot of problems in Europe on social, political, economic and cultural layers.

United Kingdom had acquired much power for some centuries. It had established a great and extended colonial empire.

Through various treaties and expeditions it had failed to take and use the resources and raw materials of the colonies.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was the eldest son of Archduke Karl Ludwig of Austria (younger brother of Franz Joseph and Maximilian) and of his second wife, Princess Maria Annunciata of Bourbon-Two Sicilies. His politic tended to a political agreement with France.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist. The causes was not the enemy between Serbian and Austria, because there was not enemy, but the cause was the ideology that was behind Gavrilo Princip, linked with the ideology of *Unification or Death*, unofficially known as the *Black Hand*. It was a secret military society formed by members of the Serbian Army. The ideology was the unification of all of the territories with majority Slavic population. It was linked with youth movement Young Bosnia that collaborated in order to assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

In the August of 1914 the Word War I broke out in Europe.

Belgium was at the centre of the interests of French and England. The Catholic Church had the courage to refuse the war. Benedict XV was the pope in the period of the war.

At the first time the Italian political forces didn't want to participate to the war (for example Giolitti).

**CONCLUSION:** But in all of Europe the nationalist ideologies were increasing, and Europe was preparing itself to one of the most great and relevant conflict in the history of the world.