**Austro-Hungarian Empire**

**1867 - 1918**

Area: 676,615 km² - 261,243 sq mi (1910)

Population: 51,390,223 (1910)

Density: 76 /km² (196.7 /sq mi)

Capital: Vienna

Languages: German, Hungarian, Czech

Currency: Gulden Krone (from 1892)

Emperor: 1848–1916 Franz Josef I

                1916–1918 Karl I



The Austro-Hungarian Empire, also known as Austria-Hungary, Dual Monarchy or k.u.k. Monarchy or Dual State, was a dual-monarchic union state in Central Europe from 1867 to 1918, dissolved at the end of World War I. The dual monarchy was the successor to the Austrian Empire (1804–1867) on the same territory, originating in the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 between the ruling Habsburg dynasty and the Hungarians. As a multi-national empire and great power in an era of national awakening, it found its political life dominated by disputes among the eleven principal national groups:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary#/media/File:Austria\_Hungary\_ethnic.svgIts

Economic and social life was marked by a rapid economic growth through the age of industrialization and social modernization through many liberal and democratic reforms.

The Habsburg dynasty ruled as Emperors of Austria over the western and northern half of the country and as Kings of Hungary over the Kingdom of Hungary which enjoyed some degree of self-government and representation in joint affairs (principally foreign relations and defence).

The capital of the state was Vienna. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was geographically the second largest country in Europe after the Russian Empire, and the third most populous (after both Russia and the German Empire). Today, the territory it covered has a population of about 73 million.

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**Creation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire**



The Austro-Hungarian Compromise of February 1867 which inaugurated the Empire's dualist structure in place of the former unitary Austrian Empire (1804–67) originated at a time when Austria had declined in strength and in power — both in the Italian Peninsula (as a result of the Austro–Sardinian War of 1859) and in greater Germany (culminating in the Austro–Prussian War of 1866). Other factors in the constitutional changes included continued Hungarian dissatisfaction with rule from Vienna and increasing national consciousness on the part of other nationalities of the Austrian Empire. Hungarian dissatisfaction grew partially from Austria's suppression, with Russian support, of the Hungarian liberal revolution of 1848–49.

**Governmental structure**

Three distinct elements ruled The Austro-Hungarian Empire:



1. the Hungarian government

2. the "Austrian" government

3. a unified administration under the monarch



Hungary and Austria maintained separate parliaments, each with its own prime minister. The monarch’s common government had responsibility for the army, for the navy, for foreign policy, and for the customs union.

Certain regions, such as Galicia and Croatia enjoyed special status with their own unique governmental structures.

**The Great War**

The deaths of Franz Joseph's brother, Maximilian (1867), and only son, Rudolf (committed suicede), made the Emperor's nephew, Franz Ferdinand, heir to the crown. On June 28, 1914, he visited the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, where Bosnian Serb militants of the nationalist group Mlada Bosna, supplied by the Serbian militant group Black Hand, ambushed Franz Ferdinand's convoy and assassinated him.

Using the assassination as an excuse, they presented a list of ten demands called the July Ultimatum expecting Serbia would never accept. When Serbia accepted nine of the ten demands but only partially accepted the remaining one, Austria-Hungary declared war.

These events brought the Empire into conflict with Serbia and over the course of July and August 1914, caused the start of World War I, as Russia mobilized in support of Serbia, setting off a series of counter-mobilizations. Italy initially remained neutral, although it had an alliance with Austria–Hungary. In 1915, it switched to the side of the Entente powers (France, USA, UK), hoping to gain territory from Austria–Hungary.

Emperor Franz Joseph died in 1916, aged 86, in the middle of the war. After the defeat in World War I, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy dissolved.

Text adapted from:

<http://www.wien-vienna.com/index.php?ID=1884>

**Answer the questions:**

1. What were the main languages spoken in the Austro-Hungarian Empire?
2. What are other names for the Austro-Hungarian Empire?
3. How were the two emperors called? When did they rule?
4. Name five of the national groups!
5. Why did they make the Austro-Hungarian Compromise?
6. When did the Austro-Hungarian Empire end? Why?
7. Why didn’t Italy comply with the alliance they had with Austria-Hungary?