

THE OTHER JULY CRISIS: ORIGINS



9-19 February 1913: La Decena Trágica and the Embassy Pact gives General Victoriano Huerta control of the Mexican Government



21 February 1913: Recently deposed President Madero and his former vice president are murdered



May 1913: British recognize Huerta regime



30 May 1913: Peace Treaty in London ends First Balkan War



16 June 1913: Bulgaria attacks Serbia; begins Second Balkan War



30 June 1913: Reichstag passes bill to enlarge German army

19 July 1913: French Chamber passes three-year military service law

December 1913: British abandon Huerta

Introduction:

Following the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, a diplomatic crisis began between Europe's greatest powers. The drama of July 1914 more than earned the title of "The July Crisis" as each passing hour pushed Europe closer and closer to the edge of a cataclysm. However, amid the outbreak of the First World War, a lesser-known event occurred thousands of miles away in the heart of Mexico. On July 15, after approximately eighteen months in power, General Victoriano Huerta resigned the Mexican presidency. Huerta's resignation ended a harsh military dictatorship and opened a new phase of the 1910-1920 Mexican Revolution. The fall of Huerta also marked the end of a diplomatic dispute that had commenced upon his rise to power in February 1913

Question:

This research will seek to answer the following questions: How and why did the British take such a bold approach to a country that was clearly within the U.S sphere of influence? How did the threat of European war impact Anglo-American relations in Mexico?



Methodology:

- British Foreign Office papers
- U.S Department of State papers
- Mexican Foreign Office Papers

Conclusion:

As historians have argued, America's entry into the war in 1917 ultimately gave the British and French an advantage against the Germans on the western front. With this argument in mind, I believe that the British, understanding the long-term consequences of alienating the U.S, lost the diplomatic battle to win a world war.