

**Character: Imperial Royal Chief of Staff - Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf**  
**Committee: The Great War**

Today, the glorious Dual Monarchy has been harassed by enemies both outside our empire and from within. We have been gripped by a toxic Slavic alliance to the east and the south, by the Triple Entente as a whole, and what I see is a suspicious Italian entity on the rise. I, Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf, refuse to see our might empire fall to the inferior Russians and Serbs and will work to fight against those who seek to challenge our extraordinary power. We will avenge the death of not only our great leader but my friend, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, as a united force against the aggressor, and we will fight them with a fighting spirit that the enemies of our empire have never seen before, an initiative that is both decisive and effective, displaying the power of our eternal glory to the rest of Europe, never to be forgotten. The Austro-Hungarian Empire will sublate its enemies when I am at the reins of the army.

As of now, Austria-Hungary has been taunted for decades by not only the Serbs themselves, but by the wretched government they hail allegiance to. When our dear friend Archduke Franz Ferdinand was murdered by the Serbs I knew, and my loyal soldiers knew, that this catastrophe could have been prevented a long time ago. Since my ascension to this honorable position fit only for great men, I have called for a pre-emptive strike against the Serbian government, who have always posed a threat to our glory and have sought out no peace. Now because of what has transpired, it should be in the best interests of Austria-Hungary and its allies to seek to eradicate Serbian forces, as no other plan would fully fulfill the vengeance of Franz Ferdinand. We must first recognize the military power that Serbia possesses, proven by its miraculous existence. Serbia's strength is marked by their friendship with Russia. I will reorganize the army in my own system, designed to ensure that all men understand their orders clearly. If the preparations are sound, then the execution should be successful, considering we are a superior Austro-Hungarian army. If we would like to take over Serbia, war with St. Petersburg would be inevitable, unless Serbia is taken quick enough to the point where troops can be easily sent towards Polish lands to go on the defense. It is vital that Austria-Hungary makes the facilitation of the easy transport of men and armory between the fronts possible. We must also reach out to our Ottoman and German allies for their support in our attacks; the Turks have a mutual hate for the Serbs as we do, and the Germans have been our friends for eternity. We will also have to reach out to an unlikely ally; one that knows how to put Russia in its place and may be vital for our war effort. We shall be ready for this war in every way possible, and so we will bring an end to the rule of dogs near our borders.

When the shadow of the Serbian nuisance begins to infringe upon the light of Austria-Hungary, this summit will know, with my persuasions, that an all-out war against the Serbs is necessary to bring about the justice of Franz Ferdinand. I, Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf, will work to ensure that the borders of Austria Hungary will grow in extraordinary fashion. We have every capability to achieve our supreme victory, and I will use every card at hand to secure Austrian triumph and the collapse of our enemies. I will devise multiple war plans for multiple fronts, as a prepared army wins a war before it is fought. Using my expertise in offensives we will drive our enemies back until they surrender or until we have defeated them. I will reorganize my troops to support my plans and encourage my allies to invest in the development of our military capabilities. The artillery of the army will be more powerful than ever, and we will develop weaponry that is unrivaled. When my military plans have been proven successful on the battlefield, we will bring the perpetrators of this war to justice. I will expand one of the largest railroad systems in Europe to ensure our mobility; our army should essentially stretch from Sarajevo to the land of the Poles with no error. I will connect with unholy allies across the world to teach our enemies a lesson they shall never forget. Our soldiers should have the best equipment and amenities they need so that we can increase their morale and harvest the fighting spirit of the empire. We will have an army with speed and strength that will put Russia and Serbia in its place; a spot in hell to which it shall burn when if they dare believe they can mess with our righteousness. I will reach far and wide to avenge the death of my friend, and with the help of my allies and all those who defend the truth and justness of Austria-Hungary, we will fight to defend, expand, and glorify our Fatherland.

## Citations

"Austro-Hungarian Army." *Wikipedia*, 11 Nov. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austro-Hungarian\_Army.

"Austria-Hungary." *Wikipedia*, 19 Nov. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary.

"Conrad's Cunning Plan - Hiding In Plain Sight I THE GREAT WAR Week 95." *Youtube*, uploaded by The Great War, Google, 19 May 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LI2a6qtvwg.

"Conrad von Hötzendorf - A Military Genius? I OUT OF THE TRENCHES." *Youtube*, uploaded by The Great War, Google, 2 June 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOC8brw-lL8.

"Franz Conrad von Hotzendörf." *Wikipedia*, 17 Nov. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz\_Conrad\_von\_H%C3%B6tzendorf.

"Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf - Strategic Mastermind or War Monger? I WHO DID WHAT IN WW1?" *Youtube*, uploaded by The Great War, Google, 4 May 2015, www.youtube.com/watch?v=NE8-\_GAc7g4.

Kronenbitter, Günther. "Pre-war Military Planning (Austria-Hungary)." *International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, 21 June 2016, encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/pre-war\_military\_planning\_austria-hungary.

"The July Crisis." *SharkMUNC II*, sharkmunc.weebly.com/uploads/3/0/1/9/30192499/thejulycrisis.pdf.