BEGINNING OF THE XX CENTURY
ENTERING THE XX CENTURY

After the 1st Republic, the Bourbon Dynasty was restored and Alfonso XII became the King of Spain, 10 years later he died, and was succeeded by his unborn son, Alfonso XIII. As Alfonso XIII was just a baby, his mother (and wife of Alfonso XII) became the regent of Spain until his majority of age in 1902.

Maria Christina was Queen of Spain as the second wife of King Alfonso XII. She was regent during the minority of their son, Alfonso XIII, and the vacancy of the throne between her husband’s death and her son’s birth.

During her regency she suffered the Spanish-American war in 1898 in which Spain lost its Caribbean and Pacific colonies.

Her purpose was to preserve the crown for her son until he became an adult. Alfonso XIII continued to look to her on many occasions for advice.

In February 1929, after some weeks of heart disease, she died at the Royal Palace in Madrid.
Alfonso was monarch from birth, as his father Alfonso XII had died the previous year. Until his 16th birthday in 1902, his mother, Maria Christina, served as his regent.

Alfonso kept his kingdom neutral in World War I (1914–1918), but the King established an office for assistance to prisoners of war on all sides.

From 1923 to 1930, Alfonso supported the dictator Miguel Primo de Rivera. His actions discredited the king and ruined the monarchy, increasing social tension.

Alfonso left the country as the Second Spanish Republic was proclaimed in 1931. In 1941 in exile, he abdicated (the non existing throne) in favour of his third son Juan. He died six weeks later.

WORLD WAR I

It began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history. Over 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians died as a result of the war.

The war had two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the United Kingdom/British Empire, France and the Russian Empire) versus the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary.
WORLD WAR I

The trigger for the war was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. This set off a diplomatic crisis.

On 4 November 1918, the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to a peace, and Germany, which had its own trouble with revolutionaries, agreed too on 11 November 1918, ending the war in victory for the Allies.