

## *Europe in Crisis – Concept Question Solutions*

*From now on, some concept questions will be review questions from the previous weeks, to make sure you still remember concepts that are pertinent to this week's topic.*

- In 1871, which country invaded France?
  - Prussia, with the help of some other German states.
- Who won the Seven Weeks War?
  - Prussia defeated Austria.
- Which of these countries is NOT Slavic: Russia, Denmark, Serbia
  - Denmark is a Nordic country, Russia and Serbia are mostly populated by Slavs.
- List three reasons why people thought war was unlikely (I presented six, you can probably think of more!)
  - Great powers were economically interdependent.
  - Modern war was too expensive to be sustained for long.
  - Working class would ignore the call to war, and identify with working class of enemy country.
  - Modern man was “less warlike.”
  - Royal families were closely intermarried.
  - Strong pacifist movement in Europe at the time.
- What was the Dreyfus Affair?
  - A Jewish French soldier was accused of spying for the Germans. Though there was little evidence he was guilty, he was convicted because of French anti-Semitism.
- Which countries were part of the Central Powers?
  - Austria, Germany and the Ottoman Empire
- What countries were part of the Allied Powers?
  - France, Britain and Russia
- What did Russia get out of the Dual Alliance? What did France get out of the Dual Alliance?
  - France got an ally after twenty years of diplomatic isolation. Russia got financial support for the Trans-Siberian Railroad, and an ally against Germany.
- Give two reasons why Britain was feeling a little less confident at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?
  - Economy is no longer the undisputed best – Germany and the USA are also highly developed industrial nations.
  - Empire is harder to maintain – revolts in India, Boer Wars.
  - Germany is more aggressive – they are building up their navy to compete with the British.
- Why was the Russo-Japanese War significant?
  - It was the first time in hundreds of years that an Asian power had defeated a European power.
  - The Russians were extremely embarrassed, which made them rebellious.

*The next set of questions is an in-depth series on the start of WWI. They are very in-depth, but I always ask these questions, drill-style, when I teach the class.*

- Who was shot in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914?
  - Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- Who shot him?
  - A Serbian nationalist, named Gavrilo Princip, who was part of a group called The Black Hand. (The name isn't important, just know he was a Serbian nationalist).
- Why did he shoot the Archduke?
  - Austria was repressing Serbian minorities inside the Austrian Empire, and refusing to allow these minority regions to join with Serbia. Princip was making a statement against the Austrian Empire.
- How did the Austrians respond?
  - They wanted to punish the Serbians for allowing the assassination. However, they were afraid the Russians would side with the Serbs, so they double-checked the Germans were behind them.
- How did Germany respond?
  - They gave Austria a "blank check," allowing Austria to respond however they saw fit. They did not believe Russia was strong enough or stupid enough to actually go to war.
- What did Austria do?
  - They issued a severe ultimatum on June 23. It was extremely severe - so severe, in fact that many theorize the Austrians never intended for it to be accepted, and were just looking for an excuse to go to war with Serbia.
- How did Serbia respond?
  - They did not accept, and began to prepare for war.
- How did Russia respond? Why did they care what was going on Serbia?
  - Russia responded by mobilizing her military.
    - She wants to support the Slavic minority.
    - She thinks this war might be her chance to finally take the Dardanelles.
- How did Germany respond to Russian mobilization?
  - They asked the Russians to stop mobilizing, in the interest of avoiding a war. Meanwhile, they telegraphed Russia's ally, France, asking if France planned on fighting if Russia did.
- How did France respond?
  - Vaguely – it was unclear if they would go to war or not.
- What did Germany do next?
  - Launched the Schlieffen Plan – they invaded France by first going through Belgium.
- The British were really mad that the Germans invaded Belgium, because Belgium was technically a neutral country. What did they do next?
  - The British declared war on Germany.
- The Germans were fairly successful for the first few weeks of the war. Where were they stopped?

- At the Marne River, the Battle of the Marne.

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