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Europe in Crisis: The World Wars in Europe
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Concept Questions Solutions

Europe in Crisis: Class 1 – 19th Century Europe

European Geography:

- What powerful country always tries to preserve a “balance of power”?
 - Britain always aims to preserve a balance of power on the European continent, so that one country does not become powerful enough to take over the whole continent and pose a threat to Britain. Britain is an island, so a country must be very powerful to be threatening.
- Summarize 19th century Italian history in one sentence.
 - Italy was made of many city states that unified in 1870 to form modern-day Italy.
- Describe Russia’s economy in one or two sentences
 - Despite an abundance of natural resources, Russia has historically been too large and unstable to exploit them and develop a good economy. Russia has historically been behind other European countries.

Industrialization

- What country industrialized first?
 - Britain
- Why did the military often support industrialization
 - Mass production of weapons and uniforms.
 - Railroads and telegrams could be exploited in war.

Liberalism

- What is a bourgeois?
 - A member of the upper middle class. A bourgeois is usually an educated professional who supports liberal ideas like capitalism and limited democracy.
- What is the proletariat?
 - The working class
- What do Marxists believe?
 - Human history is nothing but the story of class struggle. In the 19th century, the proletariat was dominated by the bourgeois thanks to the shackles of industrialization. Soon, the proletariat will rise up and revolt against the bourgeois, and establish a socialist dictatorship that will eventually morph into communism. Intellectuals must educate the proletariat to speed up this process.

Nationalism

- Who were the Slavs? What did 19th century Slavs want?
 - The Slavs are a group of people from Eastern Europe. They include Poles, Russians, Serbs, Slovaks and other groups. With the exception of the Russians, most Slavs are ruled by non-Slavic people, like the Turkish Ottomans or the German Austrians. Slavs wanted to unite all Slavic people under the rule of Russia.
- What was Otto von Bismarck’s main goal?
 - To unite Germany under Prussian control.

- List three reasons why the Prussians had produced the best army in Europe:
 - After being defeated by Napoleon, they worked hard and spent a lot of money to create a better army.
 - Most soldiers were well-educated thanks to Prussian public schools.
 - Officers were often chosen based on merit, not family connections.
 - The Prussian army planned for war years in advance.
 - The Prussians invested in new, mass produced weapons.
 - The Prussians exploited railroads to move soldiers and telegrams to communicate.