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Europe in Crisis: The World Wars in Europe
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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 20th 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.