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Europe in Crisis: The World Wars in Europe
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Europe in Crisis – Class 3 – World War I

Concept Questions Solutions

Review

- What country did Austria issue an ultimatum against right before the start of WWI?
 - Serbia.
- What year did World War I start?
 - 1914
- German culture placed an emphasis on militarism. What German state is most responsible for this aspect of German culture?
 - Prussia.

The Western Front

- Who initiated the attack at the Battle of Verdun?
 - Germany.
- Who initiated the attack at the Battle of the Somme. Why?
 - The British initiated the attack, so they could relieve pressure from Verdun by drawing German troops to Somme.
- What were two kinds of poison gas used in WWI?
 - Mustard gas and chlorine gas.
- Briefly explain the strategy behind trench warfare.
 - Strongly defend your position while doing your utmost to attack the enemy's position.
- What was "no man's land"
 - Region between the Allied line and the Central Power's line that was not controlled by either side. This region was littered with mines and barbed wire which made it difficult and dangerous to cross.
- List and explain two reasons why trench warfare resulted in a stalemate on the Western Front.
 - Barbed Wire: Slows attackers down, so they can be killed by snipers.
 - Trenches: new technologies like barbed wire and machine guns made it easy to defend trenches, so it was difficult for one side to get close enough to debilitate the enemy.
 - Relief Trenches: Trenches were built behind the front line, so that if the front line fell, it was easy to retreat to another fortified position. Relief Trenches were especially favored by the Germans, and made it difficult for any Allied attack to have long term effects.
 - Machine guns: can kill many people (especially if they are lost in no-man's-land) very quickly.
 - Artillery: also made attacking no man's land very difficult
- What is total war?
 - To win a war of attrition, a country must engage all of its resources. In total war, the government organizes all resources, in a quasi socialist system, so they are used

efficiently. This means the whole population became engaged in the war, not just the soldiers.

- What were two common reactions that veterans of WWI had?
 - Hatred of the Old System: there was a desire to reform the culture that had brought the war about.
 - Hatred of the Enemy: former soldiers blamed the enemy for everything they had suffered, and wanted revenge.
- Who wrote *All Quiet on the Western Front*?
 - Erich Maria Remarque

The Russian Revolution

- What did “Bloody Sunday” launch in Russia?
 - The failed Russian Revolution of 1905.
- Who was the tsar of Russia during WWI? Who was his wife? What dynasty are they part of?
 - Nicholas II, Alexandra, Romanov Dynasty.
- What are some reasons why the Russian people were unhappy with the way the war was going?
 - Starvation: Russia is unable to organize itself to transport food to the people of Russia *and* to the front line, so many in Russia are starving.
 - Death: People are tired of watching their sons die for a stupid war.
 - Incompetence: Typical Russian bureaucratic incompetence is compounded by the strain of the war.
 - Royal Family: Nicholas II shows contempt for the Duma, and seems to care little about the plight of the Russian people. He also places his trust in the suspicious Rasputin.
- The Romanovs lose power after the...
 - February Revolution of 1917.
- What is a Soviet?
 - A council made up of workers, soldiers and revolutionaries. Soviets were found all over Russia after the revolution, but were most prominent in St. Petersburg.
- After the February Revolution, the people have two main demands. What are they? Is the provisional government meeting these demands?
 - Land
 - End to the War.
 - The provisional government keeps telling people to wait until the time is right for their demands to be met.
- In the fall of 1917, the communists take power. Who leads them? What is their party called?
 - Vladimir Lenin
 - The Bolshevik Party.
- What is the result of the Brest – Litovsk Treaty of 1918?
 - Lenin “sues for peace.” He offers the Germans huge swaths of land in exchange for an end to fighting on the Eastern Front.