

Concept Question Solutions:

Europe in Crisis: Class 4 – Endgame and Aftermath of WWI

- 1 When did America enter the war?
 - March 1917
- 2 Who took power right after the Romanovs fall? What were their political views?
 - The Duma, which was lead by Alexander Kerensky. The Duma was fairly moderate, Alexander Kerensky was left-of-center.
- 3 When did Russia pull out of the war? What new leader orchestrated the pull out?
 - Russia left the war early in 1918. Vladimir Lenin, a communist, orchestrated the pull out.
- 4 Is Austria a unified country?
 - No – it is lead by a German monarch, but the Austrian people are made up of a hodgepodge of ethnicities, and feel no loyalty towards the German government.
- 5 Who's in charge in Germany?
 - Kaiser Wilhelm II
- 6 What is a war of attrition?
 - Fighting continues until one side runs out of resources and the people lose the will to fight on.
- 7 Which of these countries has the better economy: Austria-Hungary, Germany, France.
 - Germany: Germany had an economy on par with that of Britain, France's economy was good, but nothing compared to Germany's, Austria had a very poor economy.
- 8 Who was Otto von Bismarck?
 - Prussian prime minister who united Germany in the late 19th century.
- 9 Describe the German right during WWI:
 - The German right wanted to keep wages low and have only limited democracy. Rightist parties were also strongly nationalistic.
 - Rightist parties were afraid the monarchy would be discredited if Germany lost the war, and a democracy would be established instead.
 - Rightist parties thought Wilhelm II was too soft, and wanted Germany to pursue unrestricted submarine warfare.
- 10 What is unrestricted submarine warfare? What happened to Germany when it engaged in unrestricted submarine warfare?
 - Neutral countries, like the US, would be targeted by German submarines. Shortly after Germany announced unrestricted submarine warfare, the US entered the war.
- 11 During the war, the Kaiser became less powerful and was discredited, and Paul von Hindenburg and Eric von Ludendorff took power. Who were these people?
 - They were generals in the Germany army. They established what was essentially a military dictatorship.
- 12 What do the Germans realize after the "Black Day of the Germany Army?"
 - That Germany can't win the war and should seek the best deal it can get.
- 13 Bonus: What US Holiday is celebrated in honor of the WWI Armistice?
 - Veterans' Day, which takes place on November 11, the same day as the armistice was reached.
- 14 President David Lloyd George represented the British at the Treaty of Versailles. What did the British want out of this treaty?
 - Balance of power in Europe, a weakened Germany that was still strong economically, mild reparations.
- 15 Why does Britain want to keep Germany economically strong?

- To prevent a Marxist revolution and to maintain lucrative British-German trade relations.
- 16 What is the “War Guilt” clause in the Treaty of Versailles:
- Germany was accused of belligerently starting the war, which justified the odious terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- 17 List two reasons why the League of Nations failed (three are possible):
- The League never took action.
 - Member countries would only intervene if the problem affected *them*.
 - The US never joined the League (most important reason).
- 18 Who was Salvador Dalí?
- A surrealist Spanish artist.
- 19 Who wrote *Brave New World*? Does this book present an optimistic or a pessimistic view of the future? Was this view common during this era?
- Aldous Huxley, pessimistic, yes, it was common.
- 20 Who were the “German Free Corps?”
- A group of ex-soldiers who had been demented by the violence of the war, and still wanted to fight. They were conservative and nationalistic. Were used by the government to put down socialist revolutions.
- 21 What is the “Dagger-Stab Legend?”
- Belief that leftist elements at home had caused the German government to crumble and surrender. In particular, Jews, Socialists and Catholics were blamed.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

Europe in Crisis: The World Wars in Europe
Summer 2008

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.