Study Guide

Chapter 25: World War I

For each of the statements below, write a short paragraph. Each paragraph should be 3-5 sentences long.
a. Rewrite the statement *in your own words*, borrowing only key words or phrases
b. Give at least one example (e.g., person, event) that supports the statement, providing specific detail about the example
c. Explain how your example supports your statement.

Concept: World War I, caused by a complex interaction of long- and short-term factors, resulted in immense losses and disruptions for both victors and vanquished.

1. A variety of factors – including nationalism, military plans, the alliance system, and imperial competition – turned a regional dispute in the Balkans into World War I.

2. New technologies confounded traditional military strategies and led to massive troop losses.

3. The effects of military stalemate and total war led to protest and insurrection in the belligerent nations and eventually to revolutions that changed the international balance of power.

4. The war in Europe quickly spread to non-European theaters, transforming the war into a global conflict.

5. The relationship of Europe to the world shifted significantly with the globalization of the conflict, the emergence of the United States as a world power, and the overthrow of European empires.

Concept: The conflicting goals of the peace negotiators in Paris pitted diplomatic idealism against the desire to punish Germany, producing a settlement that satisfied few.

6. Wilsonian idealism clashed with postwar realities in both the victorious and the defeated states. Democratic successor states emerged from former empires and eventually succumbed to significant political, economic, and diplomatic crises.

7. The League of Nations, created to prevent future wars, was weakened from the outset by the nonparticipation of major powers, including the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union.

8. The Versailles settlement, particularly its provisions on the assignment of guilt and reparations for the war, hindered the German Weimar Republic's ability to establish a stable and legitimate political and economic system.

Concept: The Russian Revolution created a regime based on Marxist–Leninist theory.

9. In Russia, World War I exacerbated long-term problems of political stagnation, social inequality, incomplete industrialization, and food and land distribution, all while creating support for revolutionary change.

10. Military and worker insurrections, aided by the revived Soviets, undermined the Provisional Government and set the stage for Lenin's long-planned Bolshevik Revolution and establishment of a communist state.

11. The Bolshevik takeover prompted a protracted civil war between communist forces and their opponents, who were aided by foreign powers.

12. In order to improve economic performance, Lenin compromised communist principles and employed some free-market principles under the New Economic Policy.