AP EURO IDENTIFICATIONS

CHAPTER 18: ALLIANCES, WAR, AND A TROUBLED PEACE

Section I. *Identify* and state the *Historical Significance* of the following:

1. Otto von Bismarck
2. Archduke Franz Ferdinand
3. Woodrow Wilson
4. Leon Trotsky
5. Vladimir Lenin
6. David Lloyd George
7. Georges Clemenceau
8. John Maynard Keynes

Section II. *Define* and state the *General Significance* of the following:

1. Mandates

Section III: *Describe* and state the *Historical Significance* of the following:

1. Treaty of San Stefano
2. Congress of Berlin
3. Triple Alliance
4. Triple Entente
5. First Moroccan Crisis
6. Bosnian Crisis
7. Second Moroccan Crisis
8. Second Balkan War
9. Pan-Slavism
10. The Black Hand/Unity or Death
11. Schlieffen Plan
12. The Lusitania
13. The Provisional Government
14. Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
15. Fourteen Points
16. Armistice
17. Treaty of Versailles
18. League of Nations

***TIMELINES DUE THE SAME DAY***

**CHAPTER 18 – ALLIANCES, WAR, AND A TROUBLED PEACE**

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter discusses Europe’s alliance system in the late nineteenth century, the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the uneasy peace that returned to Europe in 1918. While Europeans built empires overseas (see Chapter 25), at home they created new systems of alliance. Bismarck wished to stabilize the new international situation that had arisen from the establishment of the German Empire in 1871 and avoid war. Bismarck declared Germany a satisfied power and he meant it. Between 1871 and 1890, he dominated Europe’s diplomacy, successfully weaving a web of alliances to protect Germany and to isolate France—ever anxious to avenge the Franco-Prussian War. Bismarck managed to maintain a defensive alliance with Austria and a neutral agreement with Russia.

Bismarck made Germany a force for European peace. His successor at the helm of German foreign policy, however, undid his work. Emperor William II preferred the glories of colonial and naval expansion to Bismarck’s limited continental policy. The chapter goes on to explain William II’s diplomatic maneuvering that resulted in close relations among England, France, and Russia. This Triple Entente was now ranged against the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria, and Italy. Given Italian unreliability, Germany really had only one ally. The country was faced with the nightmare of a two-front war, against both France and Russia.

The exceedingly complex and tense Balkan situation (which is related in detail) provided the spark for war. On June 28, 1914, a Slavic nationalist under Austrian rule assassinated the heir to the imperial throne. His action brought on the last Balkan crisis, which resulted in the mobilization of European armies and led to world war. The text continues to recount the strategies and events of World War I, giving special emphasis to the impact of new military technology and to developments on the home front.

Two events proved instrumental in the course of the war: Russia pulled out of the conflict after Bolshevik revolutionaries seized control of the government and forced the abdication of Czar Nicholas II (who was later murdered) and the introduction of fresh American troops forced a German surrender. William II abdicated and Germany became a republic.

The world had great idealistic hopes of a “peace without victors.” But this very idealism, forcibly expressed in public opinion, made the task of the peacemakers very difficult. The Versailles settlement in 1919 was greatly criticized at the time for its severity and concessions to selfish national interests. Yet the settlement was neither conciliatory enough to be loved nor harsh enough to be feared.

OUTLINE

I. Emergence of the German Empire and the Alliance Systems (1873–1890)

A. Bismarck’s Leadership

B. Forging the Triple Entente (1890–1907)

II. World War I

1. The Road to War (1908–1914)
2. Sarajevo and the Outbreak of War (June–August 1914)
3. Strategies and Stalemate: 1914–1917

III. The Russian Revolution

A. The Provisional Government

B. Lenin and the Bolsheviks

C. The Communist Dictatorship

IV. The End of World War I

A. Germany’s Last Offensive

B. The Armistice

C. The End of the Ottoman Empire

V. The Settlement at Paris

1. Obstacles the Peacemakers Faced
2. The Peace
3. Evaluating the Peace

VI. In Perspective

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Why did the alliance system fail?
2. How did conflict in the Balkans lead to the outbreak of general war in Europe?
3. What factors made the rise of the Bolsheviks to power in Russia possible?
4. What were the immediate consequences of the end of World War I?
5. What were the key weaknesses of the Paris peace settlement?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What role in the world did Bismarck envisage for the new Germany after 1871? How successful was he in carrying out his vision? Was he wise to tie Germany to Austria-Hungary?
2. Why and in what stages did Britain abandon its policy of “splendid isolation” at the turn of the century? Were the policies it pursued instead wise ones, or should Britain have followed a different course altogether?
3. How did developments in the Balkans lead to the outbreak of World War I? What was the role of Serbia? Of Austria? Of Russia? What was the aim of German policy in July 1914? Did Germany want a general war?
4. Why did Germany lose World War I? Could Germany have won, or was victory never a possibility? What were the benefits of Versailles to Europe, and what were its drawbacks? Was the settlement too harsh or too conciliatory? Could it have secured lasting peace in Europe? How might it have been improved?
5. Why did Lenin succeed in establishing Bolshevik rule in Russia? What role did Trotsky play? Was it wise policy for Lenin to take Russia out of the war?
6. How had imperialism contributed to pre–World War I rivalries? How did the war and the peace settlement change European colonialism and plant seeds for further colonial discontent?