

## World War 1 Pre-Write Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Question #1 Should Austria-Hungary have been dismembered aft the end of WWII?**

*The First World War ended with Austria-Hungary crumbling from food shortages and demands for ethnic nations. Yet at the same time Austria-Hungary had for generations provided stability, art, and relative peace to Eastern Europe. Should the country have been dismembered or would keeping it together as Franz-Ferdinand had envisioned, as a multi-ethnic democracy of states have been a better solution that could have helped prevent the rise of Hitler?*

What is your level of interest in the topic between 1 (no interest) and 10 (I have to do this one) \_\_\_\_\_

What additional questions arise as a result of this topic?

### **Question #2: Was World War I an exercise in futility or a just war that saved the future of democracy on the continent?**

*Was Britain's engagement in the First World War "a war a defensive conflict fought at huge cost against an aggressive enemy bent on achieving hegemony in Europe" or was it a useless war in which "the men who enlisted in 1914 may have thought they were fighting for civilization, for a better world, a war to end all wars, a war to defend freedom: they were wrong."*

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### **Question #3: From the very start, the Weimar republic faced opposition from both sides of the political spectrum. It was inevitable that the Weimar Republic would have faced difficulties from the start, but was it doomed to fail?**

Historian AJP Taylor said that there was nothing wrong with the Weimar Republic per se: he blamed the stupid men who lacked the will to maintain democracy the politicians of the Centre and Social Democratic parties, and particularly Hindenburg and Papen for Hitler's rise to power. Though it was beset by problems in the early years, Germany enjoyed stability and prosperity during the period 1924-1929. Yet Hitler and the Nazi party came to prominence and eventually **gained control** in 1933.

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### **Question #4 How important was World War I to the advancement of women's rights in Europe?**

*Women were pushing for the right to vote prior to World War I all across Western Europe and the United States. Emily Davison even launched herself in front of the King's horse and perished in the attempt to publicize the need for the right to vote. It wasn't until after the war though that women across Europe were granted suffrage. Did the war cause a change that advanced women's rights?*

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### **Question #5 Was Sir Douglass Haig an effective military leader or a blunderer?**

*One of the most controversial military commanders in history, Douglas Haig commanded the BEF for most of WWI. Was he a forward thinking general who rallied his men to eventual victory or a blunderer who caused needless deaths at the Somme and Passchendaele?*

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### **Question #6 Was the Versailles Treaty a fair resolution to the Great War?**

*The Versailles Treaty has been criticized by historians as one of the causes of the Second World War and the economic collapse known as the Great Depression. Still, a group of revisionist historians now believe that the Germans weren't ready to accept any treaty and the peacemakers did the best they could. In fact, "In hindsight, Germans wouldn't consider the Treaty of Versailles a really unbearable treaty."*

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### **Question #7 Was Erich von Ludendorff's military leadership of Germany during the Great War effective or not?**

*Some criticize Ludendorff's military leadership for adopting unrestricted submarine warfare and getting America into World War I. Others see him as a brilliant strategist who defeated the Russians at Tannenberg and conducted an effective attack against the allies late in the war which almost brought victory. In the end was Ludendorff's military influence a positive or negative during World War I?*

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### **Question #8 Was Lenin a hero or a tyrant?**

*The founder of modern Russia is a controversial leader. Was Lenin a power hungry individual who murdered millions, stole the people's civil liberties and ruined the nation's economy? Others claim that he freed the proletariat from the chains of the bourgeoisie, created equality, education, and improved living conditions for the people.*

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### **Question #9 Should America recognize the Armenian Genocide at the risk of alienating our NATO ally Turkey?**

*House resolution 106 proposed that America recognize the Armenian Genocide. Pressure put on American political figures by Turkey caused America to withdraw the resolution. A member of the Russian Duma said "The Armenian Genocide resolution is a proper test for American democracy. It will uncover priorities of the United States – good relations with Turkey or historical truth." Is it worth the risk to sacrifice our relationship with an important middle east ally to recognize the genocide?*

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### **Question #10 Should Stalin's killing of the kulaks in the Ukraine be classified as a "genocide?"**

*Historian Norman Naimark argues that the definition of genocide should include nations killing social classes and political groups. Stalin conducted murder on a national scale, but was the killing of the Kulaks a genocide? "The word carries a powerful punch, and in international courts, it's considered the crime of crimes." Should the mass killing of the Kulaks of the Ukraine be considered a genocide?*

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### **Question #11 Was (America's) Woodrow Wilson's participation in WW1 justified? –**

An American senate committee in the 1930s found some evidence suggesting that the entry of America into the Great War was unjustified and largely motivated by the commercial interests of armament manufacturers. Was America completely neutral prior to the entry into World War 1 and was the nation right to declare war on Germany?

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### **Question #12 Was Mussolini's rule 'good for Italy' prior to their entrance into WW2?**

Clearly Mussolini's entrance into World War 2 devastated the Italian peninsula but did the ends of his rule justify the means prior to his entry into World War 2 in 1940. Mussolini has a generally positive economic legacy and created stability in Italy. He also ended a long rift with the Catholic church. Still, his fascist ideas greatly decimated civil liberties in the nation and prepared Italy for war.

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### **Question #13: Should the United States have dropped atomic bombs on Japan?**

There is great controversy over whether or not Harry Truman's decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan was a "necessary evil" that ended the war or an unnecessary blow against a defeated enemy.

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### **Question #14: Was World War 1 an exercise in futility or a just war that saved the future of democracy on the continent?**

*Was Britain's engagement in the First World War "a war a defensive conflict fought at huge cost against an aggressive enemy bent on achieving hegemony in Europe" or was it a useless war in which "the men who enlisted in 1914 may have thought they were fighting for civilization, for a better world, a war to end all wars, a war to defend freedom: they were wrong."*

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### **Question #15: Was colonial rule a benefit or a detriment to the growth of \_\_\_\_\_ in world affairs, or did \_\_\_\_\_ gain more than it lost due to European imperialism?**