Keegan 9: "The Breaking of Armies"   08.16.15
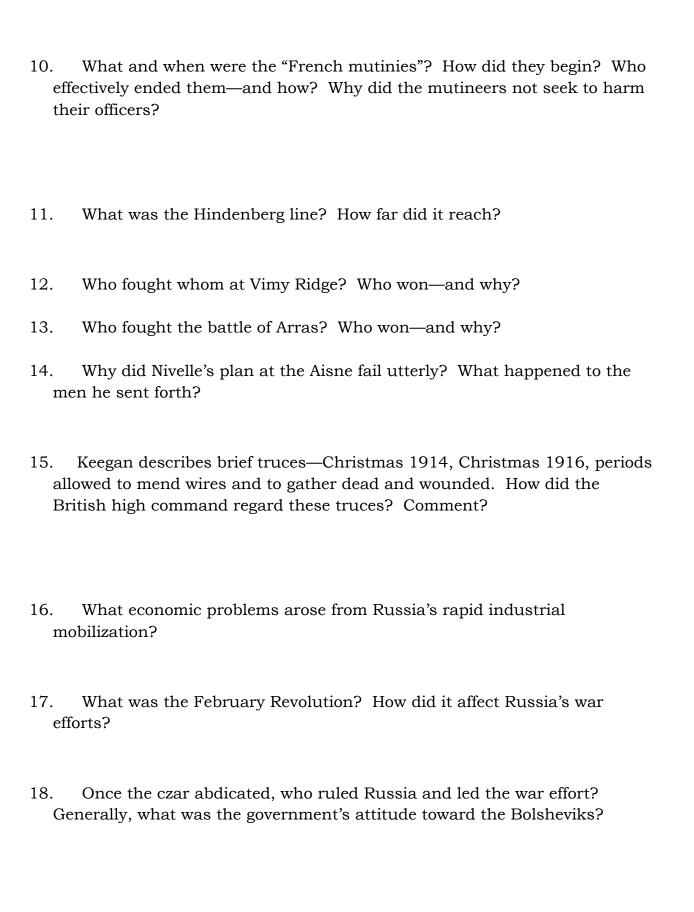
1. By the beginning of 1917, how far did Eastern Front entrenchments reach? And Western Front?

2. Describe Lloyd George's leadership style with regard to the war, particularly focusing on his relationship with Haig and Robertson.

3. Why caused Joffre's fall from leadership over the French armies? Who replaced him initially? And then who replaced the replacement?

4. Why was Russia unable to follow up on Brusilov's successes?

5. What caused Kerensky's ultimate failure?

6. On p. 312, read paragraph 1: "It is difficult . . . of modern warfare." How effective is Keegan's series of snapshots here? How does this photo album differ from those we have from Troy, Jerusalem, Marathon, Thermopylai . . . all the way to Blenheim, Waterloo, Gettysburg?

7. How did the death of Franz Josef affect the Austrian peoples, civilian and military?

8. Why did the Germans, civilian and military, suffer so much from hunger, malnutrition?

9. Describe the principal differences between the Northern Italian armies of the Savoy and the southern recruits?

10. What and when were the "French mutinies"? How did they begin? Who effectively ended them—and how? Why did the mutineers not seek to harm their officers?

11. What was the Hindenberg line? How far did it reach?

12. Who fought whom at Vimy Ridge? Who won—and why?

13. Who fought the battle of Arras? Who won—and why?

14. Why did Nivelle's plan at the Aisne fail utterly? What happened to the men he sent forth?

15. Keegan describes brief truces—Christmas 1914, Christmas 1916, periods allowed to mend wires and to gather dead and wounded. How did the British high command regard these truces? Comment?

16. What economic problems arose from Russia's rapid industrial mobilization?

17. What was the February Revolution? How did it affect Russia's war efforts?

18. Once the czar abdicated, who ruled Russia and led the war effort? Generally, what was the government's attitude toward the Bolsheviks?

19.   Who moved the capital from Saint Petersburg/Petrograd to Moscow and why?

20.   When exactly and why did Russia agree to peace with Germany? What was the cost to Russia?

21.   Describe the significance of the loss at Caporetto. And the significance of the stochastic factor for an Italian infantryman?

22.   Once the Italians fell back and back and back under the onslaught of Rommel's forces, how did Cadorna seek to stop Italian soldiers from surrendering or escaping?

23.   Two main events influenced the U. S. to enter the war. What were they?

24.   Who initiated plans for the Third Battle of Ypres? How long was it fought? What was its principal aim? What were the results? How did it affect Haig's reputation?

25.   Why would Keegan describe Gough as unusual for the war's "gerontocratic standards"?

26.   Read Edwin Vaughan's paragraphs on pages 363-364. Comments?

27.   How many tanks did the British use at Cambrai? How did Walter counter the tank attack? Who won at Cambrai?