



MacArthur Memorial Education Programs

World War I Quote Matching Exercise

Directions: Four quotes concerning World War I are listed below. Match the quote to the person who made the statement. Be prepared to explain why you matched the quote and person.

Kaiser Wilhelm II



1

Gavrilo Princip



2

Vladimir Lenin



3

George V



4

“There is no need to carry me to another prison. My life is already ebbing away. I suggest that you nail me to a cross and burn me alive. My flaming body will be a torch to light my people on their path to freedom.”

“If it were necessary to give the briefest possible definition of imperialism, we should have to say that imperialism is the monopoly stage of capitalism... They are fighting a war for the purpose of retaining the colonies they have grabbed and robbed.”

“You will be home before the leaves have fallen from the trees.”

“I look upon him as the greatest criminal known for having plunged the world into war.”



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Answer Key and Discussion Questions

2

“There is no need to carry me to another prison. My life is already ebbing away. I suggest that you nail me to a cross and burn me alive. My flaming body will be a torch to light my people on their path to freedom.”

GAVRILO PRINCIP

1. For what action is Princip known?
2. How is this action associated with World War I?
3. Why did Princip commit this action?
4. To whom is Princip referring when he says “my people?” Why does he feel the need to lead his people to freedom? Do you agree with his attitude? Why or why not?



3

“If it were necessary to give the briefest possible definition of imperialism, we should have to say that imperialism is the monopoly stage of capitalism... They are fighting a war for the purpose of retaining the colonies they have grabbed and robbed.”

VLADIMIR LENIN

1. What is imperialism? How does Lenin’s quote fit in with what you know about the causes of World War I?
2. Why would the European countries want to retain their colonies? How do the colonies benefit the Europeans?
3. How important do you think imperialism was in contributing to the outbreak of war? (Very important, semi-important, not important at all?) What led you to this conclusion?



1

“You will be home before the leaves have fallen from the trees.”

KAISER WILHELM II

1. Who was Kaiser Wilhelm most likely speaking to when he made this statement?
2. What does this quote suggest about Wilhelm’s attitude going into the war?
3. Do you think his attitude was justified? Why or why not?
4. What role did Wilhelm play in the aftermath of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand? What are your thoughts on his role?



4

“I look upon him as the greatest criminal known for having plunged the world into war.”

GEORGE V

1. Who is King George describing as the “greatest criminal?”
2. What is the relationship between George and the person he describes?
3. Why does George claim this person has plunged the world into war?
4. What is your stance on the “greatest criminal?” Do you agree with George, or do you feel that this person has been unfairly blamed?

