**Night One: Trial by Fire**

International conflict erupts in the wake of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire, in June 1914. A complex web of alliances among nations is triggered and a war of unprecedented scale breaks out a month later. Over the course of the next four years, an entire generation is shaped by this war. World War I eventually involves dozens of countries, introduces new technologies of war, and leaves behind millions of casualties. George Patton, Charles de Gaulle, Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Douglas MacArthur, Benito Mussolini, Hideki Tojo, Franklin Delanor Roosevelt, and Adolph Hitler are men who come of age during these years. In this episode, you will learn about the experiences of these men, the costs and consequences of warfare, and the ways World War I set the stage for on-going world conflict.

**Critical Thinking Questions**

**Directions:** Choose one of the questions below to answer. Your answer must be in complete sentences and be at least 10 sentences.

1. What was George Patton’s innovation in the battle against Pancho Villa in Mexico? Why was this invention such a big turning point in modern warfare?
2. What were some of the characteristics of trench warfare? Why do you think the “stalemate” continued for so long?
3. When did the United States enter World War I? What was the significance of the entry of the U.S. into the war?
4. What was the Gallipoli campaign and why was it so important? What role did Churchill play and how do you think it affected his life and career?
5. What role did Russia play during World War I? How do you think Stalin was shaped by the Russian Revolution?
6. What is a “war of attrition” and how does this phrase apply to WWI?
7. What were some of the leadership characteristics of George Patton and Douglas MacArthur? Do you think they had characteristics common in many leaders? Discuss.
8. How did World War I finally end? What were the major outcomes of the war?
9. How do you think Hitler’s experiences in WWI shaped him as a person and a leader? What ideological philosophies did he develop after the war?