**The Disturbing Relevance of World War One**

1. Significant numbers (as you read the article, fill in the blanks)
   1. More than \_\_\_\_\_\_ million soldiers from five continents participated in the war.
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ men died, millions more were severely injured.
   3. \_\_\_\_ percent of Spanish, \_\_\_\_percent of Italian and \_\_\_\_percent of French respondents say that Germany has too much influence in the European Union
   4. On average, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ soldiers were killed per day.
   5. Artillery was responsible for \_\_\_\_% of the military casualties.
2. How and why will WWI become a substantial issue in the public culture of commemoration?
3. Discuss Europeans’ perceptions of modern day Germany. Why might they harbor such perceptions?
4. Explain the “yes, but” scenarios.
5. Explore how the world was a global village in 1913.
6. Discuss the debate over the beginnings of WWI? Why is this debate so significant? 100 years later, does it matter whether or not we come to a consensus on the origins of WWI?
7. Discuss the “highly complex system” that contributed to WWI.
8. Is it fair and wise to suggest that, “the events of 1914 were not unlike the euro crisis today…everyone knew they were playing with fire, and yet everyone tried to exploit the general threat to his own advantage”?
9. The author, Klaus Wiegrefe, argues the war was “senseless”. However, it is clear that there was so much to be gained from winning such a war. How, if at all, was this war senseless?
10. What was the so-called failure of the German middle class? In your response, consider the role of academics and artists.
11. What was the “Miracle on the Marne”?
12. Identify the five explanations given for why there were no promising negotiations until 1917.
13. What is the subtext of Wiegrefe’s assertion that only the veterans of WWI could understand what the war meant? Is this a valid assertion? If so, what are the implications of this?
14. Given the evidence in the article as well as the current state of affairs in Europe, how should WWI be commemorated? What should be avoided in the commemoration proceedings?