

Chapter Questions for *Guns of August*
Chapter3: The Shadow of Sedan

1. Knowing the same facts about Belgium as an avenue of attack by the Germans, what reasoning did the French General Staff have for focusing on the French/German Border? (pp. 34-35)
2. What did Bismarck rightfully fear about the German claim to Alsace-Lorraine in 1871? (pg. 35)
How does the concept of *élan vital* among the French play a role? (pg. 38)
3. When French generals became committed to offensive war as their main strategy in future war with Germany, what factor were they ignoring? (pg. 41)
4. What heresies did General Michel and Minister of War Messimy commit prior to WWI? (pp. 40-49)
5. What was the French "Plan 17" and how did it play into the German's hands when and if war came? (pp. 49-50)
6. What credible evidence did the French dismiss as a diversion when "Plan 17" was being considered? (pg. 50)