

Chapter Questions for *Guns of August*  
Chapter 5: The Russian Steam Roller

1. What perceived advantages did the Russians have, despite suffering losses or difficulty in war during the previous century? (pp. 67-68)
2. What did British military observer Ian Hamilton see as the major defects of the Russian military? (pg. 69) What other realities about Russian mobilization were identified by the general staffs of the British and French military? (69-72)
3. Russian Minister of War Sukhomlinov was closed minded in terms of military planning. On what did he blame Russia's past defeats? On what did he place his faith? What did he fail to do in preparation for war? (pg. 76)
4. Upon whom did Sukhomlinov focus his hatred and why? (pp. 76-77)
5. What two alternative plans did the Russian General Staff develop should war develop with Germany? Explain the purpose of each. (pp. 78-79)
6. Why did the Germans not contemplate the real possibility of losing East Prussia in war with the Russians? What advantages did the region enjoy? (pp. 79-80)
7. What did German Lieutenant-Colonel Max Hoffmann view as dictating the manner in which the Russians would attack to the West? How did he see the Germans responding? (pp. 80-81)