Dean Gladish

France Questions:

1. Who are your allies?

   Britain, Russia (Triple Entente), Poland, UK, Italy, Japan, Belgium, and Serbia. Within the Triple Entente the countries promised support if they were attacked by either of the Axis powers.

2. What area did France have to give to Germany after the Franco-Prussian war?

   Germany established itself as a major power after capturing Paris. The Treaty of Frankfurt gave Germany the possession of Alsace and northern Lorraine, which contained French iron ore and machine shops.

3. How does France plan to defend itself against Germany?

   Paranoia was a major part of the political environment. Each side was aware of the other's plans. The existence of these plans contributed to the outbreak of war in 1914. After the humiliating defeat of 1871 France put in their plan the retaking of the lost provinces of Alsace-Lorraine. It massed the French army to the south, which was far from the German attack, giving Germany the greatest advantage. Any war for Germany would be a two front war. The French fleet in the Mediterranean Sea protected its North African convoys and fought the Italian and Austrian battle fleet.

   France as well as Great Britain adopted tanks to defend against German infiltration in their countries. The Somme Offensive was a plan to break through German defenses via cavalry. Despite France's advantages with Britain the majority of these allies troops were slaughtered by the German army. Through the Battle of Ypres involving both Britain and France, France's military strategy appeared to be to stop Germany from flanking the French on the north on the border and capturing Paris.

4. What problem does France have with Germany in Morocco, a colony of France?

   Morocco was given to France by Britain as a colony. The Moroccans were with the Allied powers, and wanted their independence. Germany protested French colonial rule in Morocco and France had a problem with this.

5. How did France win Russia over as an ally from Germany?

France won Russia as an ally from Germany because they both shared the common interest of defending against the Axis powers. For economic reasons Russia entered the Triple Entente. Russia was concerned over its diplomatic isolation and entered the alliance in order to undermine German power. Both France and Russia were on the western and eastern front of Germany and this was a strategic location. In order to resist Germany the Triple Entente was created.