

Chapter 26

An Uncertain Peace: The Search for Unity

The peace treaties had left some countries unhappy

US President Woodrow Wilson placed his hope in the League of Nations

The League of Nations wasn't very effective at enforcing the peace

The US wasn't a member and Britain wouldn't stand behind France (leaving France embittered and "alone")

France's pre-war ally, Russia, was now the Soviet Union and a hostile power

France formed an alliance with Poland and the "Little Entente" (Czechoslovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia)

The French Policy of Coercion (1919-1924)

France's main defense was the strict enforcement of the Treaty of Versailles

Reparations: Allied Reparations Committee settled on \$33B, payable in yearly installments of 2.5B marks

Allied threats to occupy the Ruhr Valley, seize assets made Germany willing to attempt reparation in 1921

By 1922, Germany said it couldn't pay any more, so French troops occupied the Ruhr Valley

France intended to operate the mines and factories, collecting the profits

Germany responded by printing more money, making its inflation much worse (eventually worthless)

Mark's value: 4.2 to the dollar in 1914, 130B to the dollar on 11/1/23, and 4.2T on 11/30/23

Economic crisis led to October Communist-staged uprisings countered by Nazis in November

Britain and the US forced France to reassess the reparations

The Hopeful Years (1924-1929)

New governments in Britain, France and Germany fostered better relationships

In Germany Gustav Stresemann's government worked for improvement

Stabilized the money by issuing new currency

Gave up passive resistance, sought new reparations settlement

1924: Dawes Plan proposed loaning Germany money (initially \$200B), which encouraged US investments

The Spirit of Locarno

1925: spirit of cooperation led to *Locarno Treaty*: Germany recognized its borders with France and Belgium
(*caution*: Germany's borders with Poland were not included)

1928: *Kellogg-Briand Pact*: 63 nations signed, pledging not to use war as an "instrument of national policy"
(*caution*: nothing was said about enforcing the pact against violators)

Treaty of Versailles had demanded Germany reduce its armaments – but nobody else had to

As a result, multiple disarmament conferences achieved nothing (no one trusted)

Coexistence with Soviet Russia

By 1924 "both sides" realized that things were stable

Soviets: international revolutions were unlikely; Europe: USSR was "here to stay"

The Great Depression

After the controlled economies of the World War I, most countries expected to return to the free market

However, both unions and business cartels had been strengthened, so govt. regulations were necessary

Tariffs, war debts and reparations damaged the economy

The postwar prosperity was very fragile, and was essentially destroyed by the Great Depression

Causes

A downturn in domestic economies

Agricultural overproduction led to tariffs to keep it out, especially in central and eastern Europe

Increased use of oil and hydroelectricity led to a slump in the coal industry

US investments in Europe (esp. Germany), were pulled out in favor of the booming stock market

Collapse of the US stock market in October 1929

US losses led to pulling out even more money from Europe, weakening European banks

Vienna's most prestigious bank, *Credit-Anstalt*, collapsed in 1931

Depression's downward spiral (lowered production, increased unemployment...)

Unemployment

At its height in 1932, 25% of British, 40% of German work force was unemployed

Social and Political Repercussions

Unemployment for lower-paid women wasn't as bad as for men

The unease of this role reversal made some men more open to the appeals of demagogues

Unemployed young men more open to joining gangs

The traditional remedy, lowering wages and raising tariffs, only made it worse

Communism and its belief in the failure of capitalism seemed reasonable

Fascism, and its belief that a strong authoritarian leader was the solution seemed reasonable

The Democratic States

Wilson's hope that World War I was fought to "make the world safe for democracy" seemed about right

Four major European states and a host of minor ones had functioning democracies

Increasingly, women were granted suffrage (but not Italy, France, and Spain until after World War II)

Great Britain

Loss of US and Japan markets for industrial goods during the war led to increased unemployment

Wartime coalition government, led by Liberal David Lloyd George, was unable to improve things

1923: Labour Party overtook the Liberal Party as 2nd most powerful (behind the Conservatives)

Labour-Liberal coalition put Labour Ramsay MacDonald in as prime minister

Lasted only 10 months, as Conservatives charged his administration with being friendly to communism

1925-1929: Conservatives oversaw increased prosperity

Despite a 1926 general strike begun by miners protesting lowered wages (caused by worldwide coal glut)

1929: Labour regained power just as Great Depression hit; it was out by 1931

Liberal-Conservative coalition brought Britain out through balanced budgets and protective tariffs

They ignored John Maynard Keynes' economic ideas

Depression is based not on oversupply but decline in demand – which governments can influence

Through public works and deficit spending (money it doesn't have from revenues)

France

The strongest power on the continent, it needed to rebuild the devastated areas of northern and eastern France

Conservative government, led by Raymond Poincaré, intended to use German reparations to accomplish it

1924: with the failure of the occupation of the Ruhr, a Socialist-Radical coalition was voted in

They were both anti-military anticlerical, and pro-education

Radicals were democratic small property owners, Socialists were Marxists

They couldn't agree on economic and financial issues, and therefore couldn't solve France's woes

Therefore, they lost to the Conservatives in 1926

1926-1929: as with Britain, this time was one of relative prosperity

1932: Great Depression hit hard and there was political chaos (6 governments in 19 months)

Right-wing groups – similar to fascists – took advantage and frightened the public

Leftist parties worked together to form the Popular Front in 1936, led by Léon Blum

They instituted a French "New Deal," supporting workers

Established collective bargaining, 40-hour work week, 2-week paid vacations, and minimum wages

The Scandinavian States

They were largely successful in combating the Great Depression

Social democratic governments (on the rise since the late 19th C.) organized rural and industrial cooperatives

Privately owned and managed, they tended to compromise between communism and capitalism

They established strong social "safety nets" – with high taxes and large bureaucracies

Subsidized housing, free prenatal care, maternity allowances, and paid vacations

The United States

With the Great Depression, industrial production was down almost 50% by 1932

Elected in 1932, Roosevelt pursued policy of strong government intervention

Called the "New Deal," it created agencies to bring relief, recovery, and reform

FDIC insured bank accounts up to \$5000, FERA provided funds to the states for helping the poor,

CCC employed over 2M in reforestation and conservation projects

1935: progress was slow, so Roosevelt instituted a "Second New Deal," stepping up government assistance

WPA created public works, building bridges, roads, post offices, and airports

Social Security Administration was responsible for old-age pensions and unemployment insurance

NLRB worked to assist labor unions

The New Deal probably avoided a revolution, but it didn't really solve the problems of unemployment

European States and the World: The Colonial Empires

Despite the war, Allied nations managed to keep their empires intact

France's and Britain's actually expanded, taking German colonies and controlling parts of the Middle East

Nevertheless, resistance to European dominance increased

The Middle East

Iraq and Saudi Arabia became independent

In Turkey, Mustafa Kemal (adopting "Ataturk" as his last name) introduced the trappings of democracy

Westernized his culture: westernized the alphabet, abolished aristocratic titles, added family names,

made it a secular state (breaking the power of Islam), gave women equal rights

India

By World War I, Mohandas Gandhi was already referred to as *Mahatma* ("Great Soul")

He had set up a movement of nonviolent resistance working to rid India of British rule

He practiced civil disobedience, spun his own yarn, wove his own clothes

1935: Britain granted India self-rule (independence would wait until after World War II)

Africa

Black Africans who had fought in the war had expected independence, but they were disappointed

Germany's African colonies were given to the British and French as mandates

Retreat from Democracy: The Authoritarian and Totalitarian States

Democracy worked in France, Britain, and Low Countries, Scandinavian states, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia

But Italy and Germany had succumbed to fascism and together with Stalinist Russia there were 3 totalitarian states

Many other states adopted authoritarian structures (dictatorships)

Totalitarian structure was an outgrowth of the increased governmental authority employed during World War I

[How to tell authoritarian from totalitarian: authoritarians *prohibit dissent*; totalitarians *demand active loyalty*]

Loyalty is sought using *propaganda* and modern communication media (then: radio and motion pictures)

Characteristics of totalitarianism

It controls everything: economic, political, and social aspects of life

It is led by a single leader from within a single party

Individual will is subordinated to the will of the masses (as determined by the leader)

Could be extreme conservatism (Italy, Germany) or extreme liberalism (Stalin's Soviet Union)

Resulted in a change in perception of the political spectrum: perhaps it's not linear with opposite poles

Fascist Italy

Economic turmoil, political disorder and general insecurity made the time ripe for someone like Benito Mussolini

Impact of World War I

Positives: Italy gained territory: Trieste, a bit of southern Austria

Negatives: 700K lives were lost and the war cost 148B lire (twice all the expenditure from 1871 to 1913)

Demands for territory (Fiume and Dalmatia) were rejected, and some Italians felt "cheated"

Inflation hit the middle class, demobilization created high unemployment and dissatisfied veterans

The Birth of Fascism

Mussolini's rise to power began in 1912 as an editor of a socialist newspaper, *Avanti* ("Forward")

Began WW I advocating neutrality (the official socialist position) but turned to intervention

1919: created a new party, *Fascio de Combattimento* (League of Combat), from which *fascism* is derived

It did very poorly in the election, but was saved by political stalemate

Socialists (the largest party), Liberals, and *Popolari* (Christian Democrats) couldn't form a coalition

Socialists spoke of revolution, which alarmed conservatives

1000's of strikes in 1919 and 1920 created a climate of class warfare and continual violence

Mussolini shifted to rightist politics and picked up middle- and upper-class support

He played on Italians' sense of victimhood as a result of WW I

He realized that anticommunism, anti-strike activity, and the use of force could gain him power

1920-1921: bands of armed Fascists (*squadristi*) were turned loose on socialist organizations and activities

200K black-shirted Fascist squads, filled particularly with WW I veterans and students

They looked to create disorder so that they could come in and "clean it up"

He formed an alliance with Liberals (who thought *they* were using *him*)

Middle and upper classes formed about 60% of the Party

1922: The Fascists planned a march on Rome to seize power

It was a bluff, but King Victor Emmanuel III made Mussolini the prime minister

After the appeasement, the Fascists marched on Rome anyway to make it look like it was the reason

Mussolini and the Italian Fascist State

Fascists were still a minority in parliament, so they moved slowly

1924: the Fascists won 65% of the votes and 70% of the seats in parliament

The election *did* include Fascist fraud, force, and intimidation

1926: Fascist dictatorship was operational

The press could be jailed for showing disrespect for the Catholic church, the monarchy, or the government

The prime minister was the “head of government” and could legislate by decree

Police could arrest without due process – even for political “crimes”, a secret police (OVRA) was formed

All anti-Fascist parties were outlawed

Youth organizations were formed to mold the young into followers

In the 1930s, all male organizations were given pre-military exercises to provide training for war

The family was the foundation of Italy, and the woman was the foundation of the family

Women were encouraged to be homemakers and baby makers (encouraging population growth)

They were discouraged from voting and from working outside the home

In the 1930s, this helped reduce the problem of unemployment during the depression

Further, larger families were encouraged: subsidies were given and prizes were awarded

Despite all their efforts, Italy never became as thoroughly totalitarian as Hitler’s Germany

The army and the monarchy were never fully absorbed into the Fascist state

Despite promising to help workers and peasants, Mussolini sided with large landowners and industrialists

1929: wanting the Catholic church’s support, he proposed the Lateran Accords

It created Vatican City, a sovereign entity, in return for the official recognition of the Italian Fascist state

Hitler and Nazi Germany

In 1923, an obscure rightist party, led by Adolf Hitler, tried to emulate Mussolini’s march on Rome

10 years later, it controlled Germany

Weimar Germany

After WW I, a democratic German state was created called the Weimar Republic, but it had poor leaders

1925: Paul von Hindenburg, a military hero, was elected president

The Weimar Republic suffered from enormous economic problems

The hyperinflation of 1922-1923 wiped out the savings of the middle class

They turned to rightist groups opposed to republican government

After a period of relative prosperity, the Great Depression, starting in 1930, made things even worse

High unemployment fostered social discontent, fear, and extremist parties

The Emergence of Adolf Hitler

After being a failure in secondary school, Adolf Hitler moved to Vienna to pursue art

Failing at that, he stayed on, living the bohemian life of an artist anyway

Hitler’s four major influences in Vienna

Georg von Schönerer: leader of a Pan-German movement and an extreme German nationalist

Karl Lueger: mayor of Vienna and a leading anti-Semite (with the Christian Social Party)

Lanz von Liebenfels (Adolf Lanz): publisher who proposed that Aryans were destined to rule the earth

Richard Wagner, composer: the artist is subject to his own rhythms, music spoke to the need to dominate

1913: he moved to Munich, Germany, with no sense of purpose, but WW I gave him one

At the end of the war, he returned to Munich with the purpose of entering politics

The Rise of the Nazis

1921: having joined the obscure German Workers’ Party, he assumed full control

It became the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (*Nazi*) to attract workers and nationalists

He developed an identity, using flags, badges, uniforms, its own newspaper

And its own militia, the SA (*Sturmabteilung*, or Storm Troops), used to both defend and attack

1923: the party had 55K members, plus 15K troops in the SA; it was the strongest right-wing party

They and other right-wing parties decided to march on Berlin to overthrow the government
On their own they decided to stage an armed uprising in Munich (the “Beer Hall Putsch”)
Hitler was arrested. Tried, and jailed for 5 years, a lenient sentence from a sympathetic judge

The Nazi Seizure of Power

In jail, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*, outlining his beliefs: extreme German nationalism, anti-Semitism, vicious anticommunism, all held together by a Social Darwinism that justified national superiority

That justified authoritarian rule over the masses and *Lebensraum* (“living space”) justified expansion

Upon release, he reassembled the Nazi Party and pushed *Führerprinzip*, leadership by a single person

Reorganized on a regional basis to compete in elections and attract new recruits

It appealed to brash youth, who wanted a muscular party with fights, speeches, and comradeship

In urban areas, he worked to recruit workers away from Socialist and Communist Parties

It didn’t work, so he shifted his strategy toward middle-class votes in small towns and rural areas

When high unemployment hit, extremist policies became more attractive

1930: Nazis polled 18% of the vote and gained 107 seats in the Reichstag

Chancellor Heinrich Brüning couldn’t form a working parliamentary majority, so democracy was dying

Hitler began political maneuvering

Actively campaigned all over Germany by car and airplane

Targeted campaign to specific groups

To workers, he attacked high finance; to the middle class he played on fear of Communism

He appealed for a class-free German nationalism (honor and strength through traditional militarism)

Additionally, Nazi Party grew to 800K members and an SA of 500K

1932: Reichstag seats rose to 230 in July but declined to 196 in November

The Nazis wouldn’t gain power solely by elections; it was time to change its emphasis

That was OK, because the government power rested on decree, not on the Reichstag

1933: Hitler was seen by many as the person to unite various groups and save Germany from Communism

The elites pressured Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as chancellor and allow him to form a new government

It was assumed that there would be adequate controls on Hitler

Hermann Göring was appointed minister of the interior (and head of the Prussian state police)

He purged the police of non-Nazis and established the SA as an auxiliary police force

After the mysterious Reichstag fire, Hitler got Hindenburg to grant the government emergency powers

Effectively, the Nazis could arrest and imprison anyone without due process

Without a majority, Hitler still persuaded the Reichstag to pass the Enabling Acts

It “enabled” the suspension the constitutional government for four years to deal with “problems”

Hitler became a dictator appointed by the Reichstag itself

With total control, the Nazis went about implementing their ideals

It purged the civil service of Jews and democrats, established concentration camps for opponents

Trade unions were dissolved, as were all other political parties

The only threat to the Nazis were the armed forces and the SA (critical of Hitler under Ernst Röhm)

Hitler had the leaders of the SA killed – in return for the support of the army

1934: when Hindenburg died, Hitler became the sole ruler of Germany

All soldiers and public officials were made to swear a loyalty oath

On August 19, 85% of Germans voted in favor of the new order: the Third Reich had begun

Hitler and Nazi Germany

The Nazi State (1933-1939)

Hitler’s goal was to create an Aryan racial state that would dominate Europe

Already in 1933, the Nazi government initiated a 2-day boycott of Jewish businesses

Soon laws barred “non-Aryans” from legal professions, civil service, judgeships, medical profession positions, teaching cultural and entertainment, and the press

1933: the Nuremberg Laws excluded Jews from citizenship and relationships with Germans

the laws were created to separate Jews and to build “racial purity”

1938: *Kristallnacht* – synagogues were burned, 7000 businesses were destroyed

30K Jewish males were rounded up and sent to concentration camps

Jews were barred from public buildings, prohibited from owning, managing, or working in retail stores

Hitler's first "solution" to the "Jewish problem": encourage emigration

Nazi ideology emphasized the different roles for men and women

Men were "warriors" and "leaders," women were wives and mothers

Hitler's mother's birthday was a holiday, medals were awarded for 4 or more children

Women were driven out of "men's" jobs, encouraged to work in "women's" jobs (social work, nursing)
(however, during WW II, Germany needed women to assume some of those "men's" jobs)

The Soviet Union

With the victory in the civil war, the Soviet Union's existence was secure

The "war communism" necessary to win the war was an expansion of governmental control

They nationalized transportation, communication, banks, mines, factories, and businesses of more than 10

They had also moved to control production and distribution of food

Peasant resistance and drought, coupled with an industrial collapse, crippled the economy

The New Economic Policy

1921: Lenin created his *New Economic Policy* (NEP), a modified capitalist system

peasants could sell crops openly and small businesses (<20) could be owned privately

1922: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR or "Soviet Union") was created

Agricultural production climbed to 75% of prewar levels, but industrial production lagged

The NEP had saved the Soviet economy, but it was intended to be only temporary

The Struggle for Power

1922-1924: Lenin suffered a series of strokes and died in 1924

The struggle for power was between factions of the Politburo, the communist party's leading body

The left wanted Leon Trotsky and continue the world communist revolution

They wanted to end the NEP and build stronger industry at the expense of peasantry

The right wanted Joseph Stalin and rejected world revolution in favor of a more moderate socialist state

They wanted to keep the NEP and protect the peasantry

Trotsky and Stalin had a bitter personal rivalry

Trotsky had helped lead the Bolshevik Revolution and the Red Army

Stalin, neither a strong speaker or writer, was party general secretary and brilliant at organization

In that job, he made key appointments and developed a strong network of supporters

1927: Trotsky was expelled from the party, made his way to Mexico (where he was murdered in 1940)

1929: Stalin took complete control of the party and eliminated the Old Bolshevik Party

The Stalinist Era (1929-1939)

The Stalinist takeover was more revolutionary than the Bolshevik one in 1917

He began a series of 5-year plans in 1928, transforming the Soviet Union from agricultural to industrial

Instead of consumer goods, the Soviets produced capital goods, armaments, and heavy machinery

The social costs of industrialization were staggering

Though the industrial labor force expanded, investment in housing declined

Real wages declined by 43% from 1928 to 1940

Strict laws limited workers' freedom of movement

Propaganda told the workers to sacrifice for the sake of the new nation

Stalin rapidly collectivized agriculture: it served the Communist ideal and was to provide capital for industry

By 1934, Soviet Union's 26M family farms had been reorganized into 250K collective farms

Stalin was willing to starve the unwilling peasants (perhaps 10M of them died in artificial famines)

To achieve his goals, Stalin strengthened the bureaucracy and punished his opposition

Resisters were sent to forced labor camps in Siberia

1936-1938: he conducted the "Great Purge," trying and condemning to death any opponents

First the Old Bolsheviks, then army officers, diplomats, union officials, party members, intellectuals

Perhaps 8M Russians were arrested; millions died in Siberia

Alarmed by the falling birthrate, Stalin reversed some of women's gains from the 1920s

Before divorce and abortion had been easy, women were encouraged to work outside the home

After, these were taken away, homosexuality was declared criminal

Women were praised for staying at home and having large families (it was "patriotic")

Authoritarianism in Eastern Europe

Though not totalitarian, a number of other states had conservative authoritarian governments

They had broad police powers, but did not try to establish a new social order, just defend the existing one

They limited participation of the masses, accepting their passive obedience rather than seeking active loyalty
Eastern Europe had been radically changed after WW I, creating new parliamentary democracies

Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia

Existing states adopted parliamentary democracy: Romania and Bulgaria

Greece gained independence in 1924 and Hungary looked like a democracy but was controlled by aristocrats

One by one, most moved away from democracy to authoritarian rule

They had had little or no experience with democracy, parliaments, or liberalism

As largely agrarian societies, they had been controlled by large landowners

Ethnic tensions continued

Fearful of land reform, communist revolution, or ethnic conflict, the landowners and the church sought order

Working with the privileged and powerful, authoritarians promised to maintain the old order

1923–Bulgaria; 1926–Poland; 1929–Yugoslavia; 1930s– everyone else but Czechoslovakia

Italy and Germany served as models

Dictatorship in the Iberian Peninsula

Spain's parliamentary monarchy couldn't deal with social tensions brought on by boom and inflation in WW I

1923: military coup lasted until 1930; 1931: King Alfonso XIII left Spain

A new republic was instituted, with a coalition of democrats and reformist socialists

Political struggles tore Spain apart for 5 years

1936: the antifascist coalition the Popular Front (democrats, socialists and the revolutionary left) took over

General Francisco Franco led military forces to overthrow the Popular front

The Spanish Civil War

International interference: Hitler supported the Nationalists, Stalin supported the Republicans

As a result, the US, France, and Britain adopted neutrality (US volunteers formed the Lincoln Brigade)

1939: after three years, Franco's Nationalists won, with 400K casualties

only about 100K were on the battlefield; the rest were from air raids, disease and reprisals

another 200K were executed after Franco's victory

The Franco Regime

Franco established a dictatorship lasting almost 40 years, until his death in 1975

Though not a dictatorship, it was a conservative authoritarian regime, favoring business and the church

Portugal

1910: the monarchy was overthrown and replaced by a republic

Inflation after WW I brought instability and in 1926, army officers seized power

Antonio Salazar, their finance minister, controlled the government for the next 40 years

The Expansion of Mass Culture and Mass Leisure

The decade was called the "Roaring Twenties" because of the liveliness of its popular culture

Berlin's night life was the hub of European entertainment

Dancing was the craze of the decade: Charleston, Bunny Hug, etc.

("Negro") jazz music swept the US and Europe

It was so popular that the era was called the "Jazz Age"

Radio and Movies

Marconi's device for sending wireless "radio" waves spawned a new entertainment and communications medium

1920: first broadcast (soprano Nellie Melba from London)

Motion picture technology was developed in the 1890s

Full-length feature movies began just before WW I

By 1939, 40% of adults were attending movies at least once a week (60% by the end of WW II)

Both forms grew rapidly, providing a shared experience to millions

Film actors who became stars then became the focus of fan adoration and scrutiny

Hitler used both media to spread his message – he was as effective on radio as in person

He encouraged manufacturers to produce low-cost radios that could be bought on the installment plan

He broadcast his mass rallies to public squares and streets over loudspeakers

Joseph Göbbels, Propaganda Minister, believed in the power of film

He encouraged the production of documentary and feature films that carried the Nazi message
Most famous was [Leni Riefenstahl's] *The Triumph of the Will* about a 1934 Nuremberg rally
The fascists in both Italy and Germany controlled the content of the newsreels shown in movie theaters

Mass Leisure

Though mass leisure activities went back to the turn of the century, new work patterns increased the time available
By 1920, the 8-hour day had become standard for many factory and office workers (in N. and W. Europe)

Sports

Attendance at professional sporting events rose dramatically
Soccer (association football) and the new World Cup drew enthusiastic (and nationalistic) fans
Hitler built a 140,000-seat stadium for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin

Tourism

Use of aircraft in WW I sped up the development of aviation: airmail in 1919 and passengers in the 1920s
Air travel was for the rich, but the masses could use trains, buses, and private cars for their excursions

Organized Mass Leisure in Italy and Germany

Italy created *Dopolavoro* ("Afterwork"), a national recreational agency
It established clubhouses with libraries, radios, and athletic facilities, in virtually every town and village
Might even include a concert hall and provide a travel agency to arrange tours
Introduced new activities (e.g., concerts, movies, ballroom dancing) and supervised its people
Germany created *Kraft durch Freude* ("Strength through Joy") to coordinate the free time of the workers
Like *Dopolavoro*, it provided physical and cultural activities and arranged holiday tours
These programs tended to replace different, local cultures with a single, national culture

Cultural and Intellectual Trends in the Interwar Years

The Age of Anxiety came before WW I, but its effects continued through the 1920s and 30s
The war had given Europe a profound sense of despair and disillusionment
It seemed to confirm the idea that man is a violent and irrational animal
Traditional values seemed to no longer take care of people's needs, making them open to new points of view
(German) Oswald Spengler's *The Decline of the West* emphasized the decadence and predicted the collapse
Political and economic insecurities were echoed in social insecurities
Women's physical appearance changed dramatically: short skirts, short hair, and cosmetics suggested sexuality
Marie Stopes (English) and Theodore van de Velde (Dutch) published books about sex and sexual pleasure
Birth control, family planning were discussed, supported by Margaret Sanger (US) and Marie Stopes (Britain)

Nightmares and New Visions: Art and Music

Abstract painting grew in popularity; fascination with the absurd and the unconscious mind grew

The Dada Movement

Viewed life as purposeless, therefore Dada art was purposeless, too; it was, essentially, anti-art

Surrealism

It sought a reality beyond the material, sensible world in the unconscious world of dreams and nightmares
Salvador Dalí (Spain) tried to portray the illogical "logically," creating disturbing and evocative scenes

Functionalism in Modern Architecture

Functionalism, born in the 1890s and stripping away ornamentation, spread in the 1920s and 1930s
Begun in Chicago and led by Louis Sullivan, it made skyscrapers with steel frames, reinforced concrete
The invention of the elevator allowed for increasingly tall buildings
Sullivan's assistant was Frank Lloyd Wright, designer of the geometric "prairie houses" for the wealthy
The Bauhaus School of art, architecture and design, opened in 1919, was highly influential
Its teaching staff included artists, architects, and designers who worked together to blend the arts
The new buildings reflected a philosophy that plain, unornamented steel boxes were pure design

A Popular Audience

To attract a wider audience, artists and musicians began to create for a new, wider audience
e.g., Kurt Weill, formerly a classical composer, used jazz rhythms in *The Threepenny Opera*
Some artists went so far as to move into poorer, working-class neighborhoods
These trends were disparaged by traditionalists and called "degenerate," especially in totalitarian countries

Art in Totalitarian Regimes

In Weimar Germany, the center of the new art, Hitler and the Nazis rejected it as "degenerate" and "Jewish"

Instead, Hitler fostered a “new” style (it was actually 19th C.) that glorified strong, healthy, heroic Germans
The USSR employed its official “socialist realism” almost identical to the German one to glorify Soviet values

A New Style of Music

Igor Stravinsky had upset the traditionalists before the war with his dissonant scores for ballet

Arnold Schönberg created an atonal music which wasn't written in any key, breaking a cardinal “rule”

The Search for the Unconscious in Literature

Interest in the unconscious emerged in literature in the 1920s

1922: *Ulysses*, written by Irishman James Joyce, followed an ordinary person's inner dialogue

it contained disconnected ramblings and veiled allusions

“Stream of consciousness” was used by Virginia Woolf, part of the Bloomsbury Circle in England

The Circle looked for ways to create new literary and artistic forms

In *Mrs. Dalloway* and *Jacob's Room* Woolf employed inner dialogues to reveal her characters' worlds

(German) Hermann Hesse was influenced by Carl Jung's psychological theories and Eastern religions

Damian and *Steppenwolf* focused on the spiritual loneliness of modern humans in a mechanized society

The Unconscious in Psychology

Freud's work entered into the popular mind in the 1920s

His terms *unconscious*, *repression*, *id*, *ego*, and *Oedipus complex* entered popular vocabulary

His method of psychoanalysis developed into a major profession

Carl Jung, one of his disciples, challenged his ideas as being too narrow and from a personal bias

Whereas Freud believed the unconscious was the seat of repression, Jung thought it was the gateway to self-fulfillment

He believed the unconscious had two levels, the personal and the collective

The collective was the repository of the memories that all humans share

He proposed archetypes: common to all peoples, they create myths, religions, and philosophies

The “Heroic Age of Physics”

The revolutionary work in physics, pioneered by Max Planck and Albert Einstein, continued

Ernest Rutherford was one of the physicists who split the atom

By 1940, 7 subatomic particles had been identified, info used in the production of the atomic bomb

1927: Werner Heisenberg upset the belief that you could predict something if you knew all its components

His *uncertainty principle* argued that the mere observation of an electron using light altered its location

This was his way of proposing that the root of all physics *wasn't* certainty; it was *uncertainty*