

26/27 – Age of Anxiety and World War II

Key Concept 4.1: Total war and political instability in the first half of the 20th century gave way to a polarized state order during the Cold War and eventually to efforts at transnational union.

- III. In the interwar period, fascism, extreme nationalism, racist ideologies, and the failure of appeasement resulted in the catastrophe of World War II, presenting a grave challenge to European civilization.
- A. French and British fears of another war, American isolationism, and deep distrust between Western democratic, capitalist nations, and the communist Soviet Union allowed fascist states to rearm and expand their territory.
- **Remilitarization of the Rhineland, Italian invasion of Ethiopia, Annexation of Austria, Munich Agreement and its violation, Nazi–Soviet Non-Aggression Pact**
- B. Germany's Blitzkrieg warfare in Europe, combined with Japan's attacks in Asia and the Pacific, brought the Axis powers early victories.
- C. American and British industrial, scientific, and technological power and the all-out military commitment of the USSR contributed critically to the Allied victories.
- D. Fueled by racism and anti-Semitism, Nazi Germany – with the cooperation of some of the other Axis powers and collaborationist governments – sought to establish a “new racial order” in Europe, which culminated with the Holocaust.
- **Nuremberg Laws, Wannsee Conference, Auschwitz and other death camps**

Key Concept 4.2: The stresses of economic collapse and total war engendered internal conflicts within European states and created conflicting conceptions of the relationship between the individual and the state, as demonstrated in the ideological battle between liberal democracy, communism, and fascism.

- I. The Russian Revolution created a regime based on Marxist–Leninist theory.
- A. In order to improve economic performance, Lenin compromised with free-market principles under the New Economic Policy, but after his death, Stalin undertook a centralized program of rapid economic modernization.
- **Collectivization, Five Year Plans**
- B. Stalin's economic modernization of the Soviet Union came at a high price, including the liquidation of the kulaks, famine in the Ukraine, purges of political rivals, unequal burdens placed

on women, and the establishment of an oppressive political system.

- II. The ideology of fascism, with roots in the pre–World War I era, gained popularity in an environment of postwar bitterness, the rise of communism, uncertain transitions to democracy, and economic instability.
- C. Fascist dictatorships used modern technology and propaganda that rejected democratic institutions, promoted charismatic leaders, and glorified war and nationalism to lure the disillusioned.
- D. Mussolini and Hitler rose to power by exploiting postwar bitterness and economic instability, using terror and manipulating the fledgling and unpopular democracies in their countries.
- E. Franco's alliance with Italian and German fascists in the Spanish Civil War – in which the Western democracies did not intervene – represented a testing ground for World War II and resulted in authoritarian rule in Spain from 1936 to the mid-1970s.
- F. After failures to establish functioning democracies, authoritarian dictatorships took power in Central and Eastern Europe during the interwar period.
- **Poland, Hungary, Romania**
- III. The Great Depression, caused by weaknesses in international trade and monetary theories and practices, undermined Western European democracies and fomented radical political responses throughout Europe.
- C. World War I debt, nationalistic tariff policies, overproduction, depreciated currencies, disrupted trade patterns, and speculation created weaknesses in economies worldwide.
- D. Dependence on post–World War I American investment capital led to financial collapse when, following the 1929 stock market crash, the United States cut off capital flows to Europe.
- E. Despite attempts to rethink economic theories and policies and forge political alliances, Western democracies failed to overcome the Great Depression and were weakened by extremist movements.
- **Keynesianism in Britain, Cooperative social action in Scandinavia, Popular Front policies in France**
 - **National government in Britain, Popular Fronts in France and Spain**

Key Concept 4.3: During the 20th century, diverse intellectual and cultural movements questioned the existence of objective knowledge, the ability of reason to arrive at truth, and the role of religion in determining moral standards.

- IV. During the 20th century, the arts were defined by experimentation, self-expression, subjectivity, and the increasing influence of the United States in both elite and popular culture.
- A. New movements in the visual arts, architecture, and music demolished existing aesthetic standards, explored subconscious and subjective states, and satirized Western society and its values.
- Cubism, Futurism, Dadaism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art
 - Bauhaus, Modernism, Postmodernism
 - Compositions of Igor Stravinsky, Compositions of Arnold Schoenberg, Compositions of Richard Strauss
- B. Throughout the century, a number of writers challenged traditional literary conventions, questioned Western values, and addressed controversial social and political issues.
- Franz Kafka, James Joyce, Erich Maria Remarque, Virginia Woolf, Jean-Paul Sartre

Key Concept 4.4: Demographic changes, economic growth, total war, disruptions of traditional social patterns, and competing definitions of freedom and justice altered the experiences of everyday life.

- II. The 20th century was characterized by large-scale suffering brought on by warfare and genocide as well as tremendous improvements in the standard of living.
- A. World War II decimated a generation of Russian and German men; virtually destroyed European Jewry; resulted in the murder of millions in other groups targeted by the Nazis including Roma, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and others; forced large-scale migrations; and undermined prewar class hierarchies.
- III. The lives of women were defined by family and work responsibilities, economic changes, and feminism.
- A. During the world wars, women became increasingly involved in military and political mobilization as well as in economic production.
- B. In Western Europe through the efforts of feminists, and in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union through government policy, women finally gained the vote, greater educational opportunities, and access to professional careers, even while continuing to face social inequalities.

Major Themes and BIG Questions

Themes:

- What caused the Great Depression, and how did it affect European social classes? (PP-3, PP-4, PP-5, SP-3, NI-3, OS-5, OS-6, IS-3)
- How did Mussolini, Hitler, and Franco each rise to power? (IS-7, SP-10, OS-9, PP-11)
- What were the effects of Stalin's economic modernization programs in the Soviet Union? (PP-3, PP-16, IS-10)
- How did totalitarian governments control their populations? (PP-11, OS-9, OS-12, SP-6, SP-8, SP-10)
- In what ways were totalitarian governments of the twentieth century like the absolutist governments of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? (SP-2, SP-6, SP-8)
- What was the impact of the mandate system in the Middle East? (SP-17)
- In what ways was technology seen as both destructive and helpful in European society? (IS-3, SP-10)
- How were the arts influenced by World War I, disillusionment, and the rise of totalitarianism? (OS-13, OS-12, OS-10, OS-8)
- How did the lives of women change during the interwar period? (SP-12, SP-1, OS-4)
- How did mass culture and leisure time affect society? (OS-4, SP-1, OS-3)
- Why were Great Britain and France reluctant to confront fascist aggression during the 1930s? (SP-6, PP-11)
- What military technologies and tactics allowed early victories for the Axis powers? (IS-3)
- What impact did the concept of total war have on the lives of Europeans on the home front in both the Allied countries and the Axis powers? (IS-8, SP-10, OS-12, OS-9)
- How were women both affected by and participants in the war? (IS-9, IS-6, IS-4)
- What did the Germans mean by a "new racial order," and how did they attempt to bring it about? (IS-7, SP-17)

- What diplomatic changes occurred that brought the United States and the USSR into the war on the Allied side? (INT-8, SP-14)
- How did new military technologies change the scale and cost of warfare, centralize government power, and shift the balance of power at the end of the war? (SP-13, SP-14)
- What do historians mean by the term Cold War? How did it shape the negotiations at the end of World War II? (SP-13, SP-14)

Essential Questions:

- Discuss the theories of Nietzsche, Bergson, and Sorel.
- What was existentialism and how did WWI contribute to its views?
- Describe the contributions of scientists such as Marie & Pierre Curie, Max Planck & Einstein.
- What was Freud's view on behavior and how was this interpreted by the public after 1919?
- What elements did the works of Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, and William Faulkner have in common?
- What was functionalism and how did the Bauhaus movement reflect it?
- Characterize and explain the modern artistic movements of Impressionism, Expressionism, dadaism, Cubism and surrealism.
- How did mass production change peoples' lives?
- In what ways did the "new woman" differ from the old?
- Why did socialist writers worry about the new consumer culture?
- How were motion pictures and radio used as a tool of indoctrination by Lenin and Hitler?

- Discuss the views of John Maynard Keynes in his "Economic Consequences of the Peace" and the impact those views had on the general public.
- Discuss British and French reaction to Germany's call for a moratorium on payments
- How did Germany respond to French occupation of the Ruhr and what were the results?
- What is meant by buying on margin and how did it contribute to the great panic that caused the depression?
- Discuss how financial panic in the U.S. triggered a financial crisis internationally
- How were Britain and France impacted by the Great Depression?
- How did charismatic leaders dominate the totalitarian state?
- Compare Communism and Fascism:
- Discuss how "eugenics" led to the Holocaust.
- Explain Lenin's NEP (New Economic Policy) and discuss the results of it.
- What were the goals of Stalin's first Five-Year Plan? What elements were successful?
- Explain collectivization. Who were the Kulaks and what obstacle did they present?
- How did Italy become a one party dictatorship under Mussolini?
- Describe the events that began in February 1933 that ultimately led to a one party Nazi state in Germany.
- How did Hitler gain such popular support?
- What is appeasement and why did western countries choose it?
- What was the "Final Solution"? Describe the process.
- What was the "Grand Alliance"? How did it change the war?

[reformatted from Angelee Rusk, Erie High School, CO]

VOCABULARY

[How many of these can you remember?]

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friedrich Nietzsche, Henri Bergson, Georges Sorel | <input type="checkbox"/> Max Planck |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sigmund Freud, "id" | <input type="checkbox"/> Albert Einstein, theory of relativity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Valéry | <input type="checkbox"/> Ernest Rutherford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oswald Spenger, <i>Decline of the West</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Werner Heisenberg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> T. S. Eliot, "The Waste Land" | <input type="checkbox"/> Neils Bohr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franz Kafka | <input type="checkbox"/> Erwin Schrödinger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Quiet on the Western Front | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrico Fermi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stream-of-consciousness | <input type="checkbox"/> Eugenics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> James Joyce | <input type="checkbox"/> Bauhaus movement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Woolf | <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Gropius |
| <input type="checkbox"/> existentialism | <input type="checkbox"/> Pablo Picasso |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John-Paul Sartre | <input type="checkbox"/> Cubism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albert Camus | <input type="checkbox"/> Dadaism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George Orwell, <i>1984; Animal Farm</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Marcel Duchamp: Futurism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ayn Rand | <input type="checkbox"/> Surrealism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "New Physics" | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvador Dali |

- Alberto Giacometti, *Man Pointing*
- Igor Stravinsky
- Arnold Schönberg
- Leni Riefenstahl
- Guglielmo Marconi
- British Broadcasting Corporation
- Weimar Republic
- Social Democratic Party (S.P.D.)
- Spartacists
- Freikorps*
- Treaty of Versailles
- Article 231
- Ruhr Crisis, 1923
- reparations
- Raymond Poincaré
- Gustave Stresemann
- Beer Hall Putsch, 1923
- Dawes Plan
- Representation of the People Act, 1928
- General Strike, 1926
- Labour Party
- “Irish Question”
- Sinn Fein
- Irish Republican Army (IRA)
- Northern Ireland
- Stock Market Crash, 1929
- Great Depression
- New Deal
- Keynesian economics
- Popular Front
- totalitarianism
- conservative authoritarianism
- communism
- fascism
- Soviet Union (USSR)
- Vladimir Lenin
- Marxist-Leninist philosophy
- Comintern
- war communism
- Cheka
- New Economic Policy (NEP)
- Joseph Stalin
- “socialism in one country”
- Leon Trotsky
- Five-Year Plans
- “Revolution from Above”
- Collectivization
- kulaks
- Politburo*
- General Secretary
- Sergei Eisenstein
- “Great Terror”
- show trials
- “Old Bolsheviks”
- “Great Purges”
- gulag*
- Benito Mussolini, Il Duce
- Fascist party
- “Black Shirts”
- March on Rome
- corporate state
- Weimar Republic
- Nazism
- “stab in the back”
- Aryan race
- NAZI
- Adolf Hitler
- S.A. (“Brown Shirts”)
- Beer Hall Putsch
- Mein Kampf*, 1923
- lebensraum*, “living space”
- “Night of Long Knives”
- Gestapo
- Hitler Youth
- Nuremberg Laws
- Kristallnacht*
- Holocaust, “Final Solution”