

25 – War and Revolution

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.

- I. World War I, caused by a complex interaction of long- and short-term factors, resulted in immense losses and disruptions for both victors and vanquished.
 - A. A variety of factors – including nationalism, military plans, the alliance system, and imperial competition – turned a regional dispute in the Balkans into World War I.
 - B. New technologies confounded traditional military strategies and led to massive troop losses.
 - Machine gun, Barbed wire, Submarine, Airplane, Poison gas, Tank
 - C. The effects of military stalemate and total war led to protest and insurrection in the belligerent nations and eventually to revolutions that changed the international balance of power.
 - C. The war in Europe quickly spread to non-European theaters, transforming the war into a global conflict.
 - Armenian Genocide, Arab revolt against the Turks, Japanese aggression in the Pacific and on the Chinese mainland
 - E. The relationship of Europe to the world shifted significantly with the globalization of the conflict, the emergence of the United States as a world power, and the overthrow of European empires.
- II. The conflicting goals of the peace negotiators in Paris pitted diplomatic idealism against the desire to punish Germany, producing a settlement that satisfied few.
 - A. Wilsonian idealism clashed with postwar realities in both the victorious and the defeated states. Democratic successor states emerged from former empires and eventually succumbed to significant political, economic, and diplomatic crises.
 - Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia
 - B. The League of Nations, created to prevent future wars, was weakened from the outset by the nonparticipation of major powers, including the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union.
 - C. The Versailles settlement, particularly its provisions on the assignment of guilt and reparations for the war, hindered the German Weimar Republic's ability to establish a stable and legitimate political and economic system.
- III. The process of decolonization occurred over the course of the century with varying degrees of cooperation, interference, or resistance from European imperialist states.

- A. At the end of World War I, President Woodrow Wilson's principle of national self-determination raised expectations in the non-European world for freedom from colonial domination – expectations that led to international instability.
- B. The League of Nations distributed former German and Ottoman possessions to France and Great Britain through the mandate system, thereby altering the imperial balance of power and creating a strategic interest in the Middle East and its oil.
 - Lebanon and Syria, Iraq, Palestine

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 Russia, World War I exacerbated long-term problems of political stagnation, social inequality, incomplete industrialization, and food and land distribution, all while creating support for revolutionary change.
 - February/March Revolution, Petrograd Soviet
 - B. Military and worker insurrections, aided by the revived Soviets, undermined the Provisional Government and set the stage for Lenin's long-planned Bolshevik Revolution and establishment of a communist state.
 - C. The Bolshevik takeover prompted a protracted civil war between communist forces and their opponents, who were aided by foreign powers.
 - D. 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
 - E. 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.
 - Great Purges, gulags, secret police

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.

- II. The widely held belief in progress characteristic of much of 19th century thought began to break down before World War I; the experience of war intensified a sense of anxiety that permeated many facets of thought and culture, giving way by the century's end to a plurality of intellectual frameworks.
- A. When World War I began, Europeans were generally confident in the ability of science and technology to address human needs and problems despite the uncertainty created by the new scientific theories and psychology.

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.

- I. 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 I created a "lost generation," fostered disillusionment and cynicism, transformed the lives of women, and democratized societies.
- II. 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:

- How did the breakup of the Ottoman Empire cause crises that led to World War I? (INT-9, INT-11, SP-6, SP-14, SP-17)
- How did imperialist rivalries and the breakdown of Bismarck's alliance system lead to war? (SP-6, SP-14, SP-17)
- What new technologies and strategies led to massive destruction and loss of life? (OS-10)
- What terms of the Treaty of Versailles caused economic collapse and political problems for Weimar Germany? (SP-6, PP-8)
- What were the major causes of the Russian Revolution? How did it influence the course of World War I? (PP-3, PP-8, PP-10, PP-15)
- How were women both participants in the war effort and affected by the war itself? (SP-1, SP-9, SP-10)
- What changes occurred in Russian life after the Bolsheviks took over? (PP-16, SP-5)
- How did the emergence of the United States as a Great Power change political, economic, and social life in Europe? (INT-8)

Essential Questions:

- What factors helped pave the road to war?
- What were Bismarck's two concerns while trying to preserve peace and what was Bismarck's solution?

- What was the impact of William II's refusal to renew the Russian-German Reinsurance Treaty?
- What led to rivalry between Britain and Germany?
- How did militarism and nationalism contribute to tensions in Europe around 1914?
- What event eventually triggered World War I? Why? Explain.
- Discuss the alliances that brought many countries into the war.
- Why did Germany employ the Schlieffen Plan? What was it? What was the result?
- Explain what is meant by the term "total war".
- Discuss trench warfare and new weapons and their impact on war. (Look at "Living in the Past" p. 824)
- Describe the war on the eastern front.
- Why did Italy change sides in 1915?
- What was the Armenian genocide?
- What was unrestricted submarine warfare? What impact did it have on the war?
- What provisions did government make at home for the war effort?
- Describe the impact of the war on: Labor Unions, Women, Social Equality.
- How did governments try to control public opinion to support the war early on?
- What problems at home caused people to oppose the war, and how did each nation deal with it?
- What led to the collapse of Germany between September-November of 1918?

- What was the Weimar Republic? Why was this government a disappointment to Russia?
- Summarize the goals and demands of the US, Great Britain & France at the Paris Peace Conference.
- What compromise did France, GB and the U.S. make?
- How did the Treaty of Versailles punish Germany? (be thorough)
- What was the “Balfour Declaration”?
- Who was Kemal Attaturk and what did he do for Turkey?

The Russian Revolution

- Discuss the problems Russia faced in World War I.
- What was the relationship between Nicholas II and the Duma like? How did Nicholas II respond?
- What factors led to crisis in Russia?
- What was the impact of the February Revolution?
- Who was Alexander Kerensky, what was the Provisional Government?

- What was the Petrograd Soviet?
- Describe, in detail, Lenin’s three concepts.
- Who were the Bolsheviks? Why was their name misleading? Who was their opposition?
- For what three reasons did the Bolsheviks come to power?
- What did Russia have to give up to remove itself from war?
- What was the result of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk?
- Describe the opposing groups that fought a civil war.
- How did Leon Trotsky help the Bolsheviks win the civil war?
- What was war communism and what were the results?
- What was the Cheka and what actions did it take?
- How did foreign intervention help the Bolsheviks win the civil war?

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

VOCABULARY

[How many of these can you remember?]

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Triple Entente <input type="checkbox"/> Russian-German Reinsurance Treaty <input type="checkbox"/> “splendid isolation” <input type="checkbox"/> Anglo-Japanese Alliance <input type="checkbox"/> Entente Cordial <input type="checkbox"/> Anglo-German arms race <input type="checkbox"/> Bertha von Suttner, Lay Down Your Arms <input type="checkbox"/> Dreadnoughts <input type="checkbox"/> Kruger Telegram <input type="checkbox"/> Algeciras Conference <input type="checkbox"/> “encirclement” <input type="checkbox"/> Second Moroccan Crisis, 1911 <input type="checkbox"/> “sick man of Europe” <input type="checkbox"/> Pan-Slavism <input type="checkbox"/> Young Turks <input type="checkbox"/> First Balkan War, 1912 <input type="checkbox"/> Second Balkan War, 1913 <input type="checkbox"/> Archduke Franz Ferdinand <input type="checkbox"/> Princip, “Black Hand” <input type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Wilhelm II <input type="checkbox"/> “blank check” <input type="checkbox"/> Central Powers <input type="checkbox"/> Allies (Triple Entente) <input type="checkbox"/> Western Front <input type="checkbox"/> Schlieffen Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Battle of the Marne, 1914 <input type="checkbox"/> trench warfare <input type="checkbox"/> Battle of Verdun, 1916 <input type="checkbox"/> Battle of the Somme, 1916 <input type="checkbox"/> Erich Remarque, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, 1929 <input type="checkbox"/> machine gun <input type="checkbox"/> tanks <input type="checkbox"/> airplane <input type="checkbox"/> poison gas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> U-boats <input type="checkbox"/> Zeppelins <input type="checkbox"/> radio <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Front <input type="checkbox"/> Generals Hindenburg & Ludendorff <input type="checkbox"/> Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, 1917 <input type="checkbox"/> Gallipoli campaign, 1915 <input type="checkbox"/> Arab revolts <input type="checkbox"/> Armenian genocide <input type="checkbox"/> British naval blockade <input type="checkbox"/> Lusitania <input type="checkbox"/> unrestricted submarine warfare <input type="checkbox"/> “total war” <input type="checkbox"/> Georges Clemenceau <input type="checkbox"/> Italia Irredenta (“unredeemed Italy”) <input type="checkbox"/> Zimmerman Telegram <input type="checkbox"/> Balfour Note, 1917 <input type="checkbox"/> Woodrow Wilson <input type="checkbox"/> Fourteen Points <input type="checkbox"/> “self-determination” <input type="checkbox"/> Paris Peace Conference, 1919 <input type="checkbox"/> Big Four <input type="checkbox"/> Versailles Treaty <input type="checkbox"/> Mandates <input type="checkbox"/> Article 231 <input type="checkbox"/> League of Nations <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Rebellion, 1916 <input type="checkbox"/> John Maynard Keynes, <i>The Economic Consequences of the Peace, 1919</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Alexander I <input type="checkbox"/> “Holy Alliance” <input type="checkbox"/> Decembrist Uprising <input type="checkbox"/> Nicholas I <input type="checkbox"/> Slavophiles |
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- Westernizers
- Alexander II
- Emancipation Act, 1861
- mirs
- zemstvos
- anarchy
- Mikhail Bakunin
- Alexander III
- “Autocracy, Orthodoxy, Russification”
- pogroms
- Count S. Y. Witte
- Nicholas II
- Russo-Japanese War
- “Bloody Sunday”
- Revolution of 1905
- October Manifesto
- Duma
- Peter Stolypin
- Russian Social Democratic Workers’ Party
- Vladimir Lenin
- Mensheviks
- Bolsheviks
- Leon Trotsky

- February Revolution
- Rasputin
- Provisional Government
- Alexander Kerensky
- Petrograd Soviet
- Army Order No. 1
- April Theses
- Kornilov Affair
- October Revolution
- Politburo
- Red Army
- Cheka
- Communist Party
- Decree on Land
- Decree on Peace
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, 1918
- Russian Civil War
- Reds
- Whites
- “war communism”
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)