

# WHAP Review 1914-Present





## 1914–Present

### Major Developments

1. Questions of periodization
  - A. Continuities and breaks, causes of changes from the previous period and within this period
2. The World Wars, the Holocaust, the Cold War, nuclear weaponry, international organizations, and their impact on the global framework (globalization of diplomacy and conflict; global balance of power; reduction of European influence; the League of Nations, the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Nations, etc.)
3. New patterns of nationalism (the interwar years; decolonization; racism, genocide; new nationalisms, including the breakup of the Soviet Union)
4. Impact of major global economic developments (the Great Depression; technology; Pacific Rim; multinational corporations)
5. New forces of revolution and other sources of political innovations
6. Social reform and social revolution (changing gender roles; family structures; rise of feminism; peasant protest; international Marxism)
7. Globalization of science, technology, and culture
  - . Developments in global cultures and regional reactions, including science and consumer culture
    - A. Interactions between elite and popular culture and art
    - B. Patterns of resistance including religious responses
8. Demographic and environmental changes (migrations; changes in birthrates and death rates; new forms of urbanization; deforestation; green/environmental movements)
9. Diverse interpretations
  - . Is cultural convergence or diversity the best model for understanding increased intercultural contact in the twentieth century?
    - A. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using units of analysis in the twentieth century, such as the nation, the world, the West, and the Third World?

### Major Comparisons and Snapshots

- Patterns and results of decolonization in Africa and India
- Pick two revolutions (Russian, Chinese, Cuban, Iranian) and compare their effects on the roles of women
- Compare the effects of the World Wars on areas outside of Europe
- Compare legacies of colonialism and patterns of economic development in two of three areas (Africa, Asia, and Latin America)
- The notion of "the West" and "the East" in the context of Cold War ideology
- Compare nationalist ideologies and movements in contrasting European and colonial environments
- Compare the different types of independence struggles
- Compare the impacts of Western consumer society on two civilizations outside of Europe
- Compare high tech warfare with guerrilla warfare
- Different proposals (or models) for third world economic development and the social and political consequences

### Examples of What You Need to Know

Below are examples of the types of information you are expected to know contrasted with examples of those things you are not expected to know for the multiple-choice section.

- Causes of the World Wars, but not battles in the wars
- Cultural and political transformations resulting from the wars, but not French political and cultural history
- Fascism, but not Mussolini's internal policies
- Feminism and gender relations, but not Simone de Beauvoir or Huda Shaarawi
- The growth of international organizations, but not the history of the ILO
- Colonial independence movements, but not the details of a particular struggle
- The issue of genocide, but not Cambodia, Rwanda, or Kosovo
- The internationalization of popular culture, but not the Beatles
- Artistic Modernism, but not Dada

## APWH Must Know Dates & People:

### 1900/1914-present

**1905 - Russo-Japanese war and Einstein's theory of special relativity published**

**1910 -1920 - Mexican Revolution / 1911- Chinese Revolution**

**1914 -1919 - WWI/ Treaty of Versailles / 1917 - Russian Revolution**

1929 - stock market crash/Great Depression

**1931 - Japanese invasion of Manchuria**

1935 - Italian invasion of Ethiopia / 1939 - German blitzkrieg in Poland

1941 - Pearl Harbor / 1943 - Soviets defeat Germans at Stalingrad

**1945 - end of WWII - and dropping of atomic bombs on Japan**

**1947 - freedom & partition of India**

1948 - birth of Israel / [The U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

**1949 - Chinese Communist Revolution**

1950-1953 - Korean War / 1954 - Vietnamese defeat French at Dien Bien Phu

**1956 - de-Stalinization/Nationalization of Suez Canal**

**1957 - Ghana is first African nation to gain independence**

**1959 - Cuban Revolution and Invention of the silicon chip (beginning of computer age).**

1967 - 6 day war/Chinese Cultural Revolution

1973 - Yom Kippur War

**1979 - Iranian Revolution**

1987 - 1<sup>st</sup> Palestinian Intifada

**1989 - Tiananmen Square/fall of Berlin Wall - Collapse of Communist regimes in Europe;**

1990 - Namibia is the last country to gain independence in Africa

**1991 - Fall of USSR/1<sup>st</sup> Gulf war**

1994 - Genocide in Rwanda/1<sup>st</sup> all race elections in S. Africa

2001 - 9/11 attacks / War in Afghanistan

2007 - Great Global Recession begins

2011- Wikileaks - Tunisian, Egyptian, Libyan, Yemenese, Syrian, Bahraini etc. democracy movement

## PEOPLE

Woodrow Wilson	1914- Present	As president of the United States during and after World War I, he called for the creation of the League of Nations and for self-determination for all peoples in his Fourteen Points, an idealistic vision for the post-war world.
Patrice Lumumba	1914- Present	The first prime minister of the newly independent Congo liberated from Belgian colonialism, he was killed with the help of the CIA due to his Marxist leanings, a sign of the reach of the Cold War in the post-colonial world.
Mikhail Gorbachev	1914- Present	More than any other individual, he was responsible for the breakup of the Soviet Union after taking steps toward economic reform and privatization through his <i>perestroika</i> program and toward political freedoms through his <i>glasnost</i> program.
Ho Chi Minh	1914- Present	This popular Vietnamese nationalist led the war for independence against the French to become the communist leader of North Vietnam, and later the chief enemy of the United States in the region as he tried to reunite the country under his leadership.
Mao Zedong	1914- Present	After struggling for decades in China's civil war, he led the Communists to victory over the Nationalists and while initially popular for his programs of land redistribution, he led his country on the economically disastrous Great Leap Forward and the politically disastrous Cultural Revolution.

Gamel Abdel Nasser	1914-Present	As leader of Egypt, he took an internationalist position in which he refused to take sides in the Cold War which he perceived as the source of new forms of imperialism and generated a strong pan-Arab nationalism through his anti-Israel stance and his strong actions that led to the seizure of the Suez Canal.
Ayatollah Khomeini	1914-Present	He led Iran on a fundamentalist path after the successful Islamic Revolution which expelled Westerners from the country, sent the CIA-imposed shah fleeing into exile, and led to an extended hostage crisis when Muslim students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran.
Mustafa Kemal	1914-Present	Known as the “Father of the Turks,” he modernized and secularized the new nation the Republic of Turkey after the final dissolution of the Ottoman Empire saving his people from much of the post-war chaos experienced throughout Europe after World War I.
Jawaharlal Nehru	1914-Present	Following independence from the British, he guided India to democracy as its first prime minister and at the Bandung Conference in Indonesia, strongly promoted the strategy of nonalignment which encouraged post-colonial nations to chart their own course free of the Cold War influences of the U.S. and U.S.S.R.
Joseph Stalin	1914-Present	He emerged as the leader of the Soviet Union out of the power struggle that followed the death of Vladimir Lenin and pushed his nation through a series of Five Year Plans to industrialize and imprisoned or executed many communists within the government who dared to confront his power.
Muhammad Ali Jinnah	1914-Present	As head of the Muslim League, he played a major role in the struggle for Indian independence from the British, though his fear of the Hindu domination over the Muslim minority led him to break with Gandhi and fight for the creation of a separate Pakistan as a Muslim nation.
Deng Xiaoping	1914-Present	Perhaps more responsible than any other individual for the changes in China since the death of Mao Zedong, he opened up China to foreign and capitalist influences, though his liberalization policies did not extend to political freedoms as seen in the bloody response to the pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square.
Benito Mussolini	1914-Present	Disenchanted with socialism, he embraced a new political ideology of extreme militarism and nationalism in Italy that would evolve into the first movement of the political ideology known as fascism, seizing power as he gained popularity and later allying with Hitler.
Kwame Nkrumah	1914-Present	After nonviolently leading Ghana to be the first African colony to win independence and becoming its first prime minister, he became a symbol of black pride and a champion of pan-African unity during the Cold War.

## UNIT V 1914-PRESENT

The world in 1914 was clearly dominated by European nations. Despite the rise of such powers as the United States, Japan, and Russia, Britain and France still headed huge empires around the globe. After the unification of Germany, the struggle for power intensified primarily as a contest among European nations. However, beginning in 1914, dramatic events shattered European hegemony, so that only three decades later, the dynamics of world power were transformed. Always competitive and contentious, European countries turned on one another, bringing a global network of countries into their arguments in two great world wars, but the ultimate losers were the very countries that had held the reins of global power in 1914. By the early 21st century, Europeans were again scrambling to patch up their differences through regional organizations and treaties, but by that point, European global domination had long disappeared.

### QUESTIONS OF PERIODIZATION

20th century history is probably the most difficult to evaluate, primarily because we are still so close to it. We don't have the advantage of perspective that we have for earlier eras. After all, we don't know very much yet about the chapters that follow the end of the century, and even though some very dramatic events have occurred in the early 21st century, their meaning for the future is far from clear. However, even with our limited perspective, the 20th century appears to have been a pivotal one, with major changes and new patterns being established.

Major characteristics that distinguish the time period 1914 - present include:

- **Redefinition and repositioning of the west** - During the 20th century, the term "west" came to have a new meaning. In the early part of the century, the west was centered in Europe. Although the United States and Australia were considered to be western nations, they were more or less off-spins from the European colonial powers. After World War II the western center moved to the United States, and by the end of the century, the phrase "western dominance" was a clear reference to U.S. power. Even so, power centers in other parts of the world challenged the west: Japan in the 1930s and 40s, and the Soviet Union during the Cold War era. The United States emerged as the dominant world power after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, but significant checks on that power appear to be emerging in the early 21st century. Birth control has meant that the west currently has a smaller percentage of the world's population than even before, a fact that adds to the question of whether or not the west will continue to dominate the world.
- **Increase in international contacts** - International trade and communication burgeoned during the 20th century, creating the phenomenon of globalization. Technological advancements were central to the swift, gigantic changes. In the beginning of the century, people marveled at the ability of ships and railroads to reach long-distance destinations in a few weeks, but by the end of the century, airplane point-to-point connections were measured in hours. Likewise, wired telephones were new in 1914, but by 2000 they were being replaced by cell phones and e-mail communication. Furthermore, automobiles, commercial airlines, and personal computers meant that more and more people were sharing the connections, although by century's end, many of the earth's people were still left out of the new communications network. Technological connections allowed the spread of culture and science to occur much more quickly than ever before. The century also saw the development of international organizations, starting with the League of Nations in 1918, and continuing with the United Nations, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. Migrations from Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean headed toward the leading industrial centers from the 1920s, leading many people to question whether or not regional identities were being lost.
- **The democratic transition** - Very few countries had the same type of government in 2000 that they had in 1914. Monarchies all over the world were replaced by democratic governments or authoritarian regimes, and by the late 20th century, many authoritarian regimes were being replaced by democracies.

Western democratic governments were often used as models, not only for newly independent countries, but for former powerhouses, such as the Soviet Union.

- **Changes in belief systems** - For most of world history, organized religions in all parts of the globe have been important influences on almost every other area of life, including government, family life, and culture. Many scholars see a 20th century trend away from religion toward a new reliance on non-religious philosophies such as liberalism, nationalism, and communism. Furthermore, by century's end, people in western nations, as well as some in the east, appeared to be relying less on religious explanations for social and natural phenomena than on new and rapidly developing scientific explanations. However,
- **Questioning of systems of inequality** - Although people had challenged social inequalities for many years before 1914, widespread reforms characterize the 20th century. Industrialized countries had abolished slavery in the 19th century, but major civil rights movements for racial and ethnic minorities shook the social systems around the globe in such countries as the United States, South Africa, and India. Women's rights movements also have their roots in the 19th century, but only in the 20th century did women in industrialized countries win the right to vote. Likewise, people in lands conquered by imperialist powers in earlier eras challenged international inequities, although they were far from successful in their goals for equality by the end of the 20th century.

We will analyze these important characteristics of the period by examining these topics:

- **War and diplomacy** -The first half of the 20th century was marked by two world wars accompanied by genocide, and the second half saw a change in the nature of warfare with the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. On the diplomatic front, international organizations proliferated to address the changing balance of power in the world.
- **New patterns of nationalism** - Nationalism continued to shape interactions among nations as large empires broke into smaller ethnic based countries. Widespread decolonization after World War II both reflected and promoted nationalism in former colonies.
- **Impact of major global economic developments** - The Great Depression affected some countries more than others, but it had a profound economic impact on both industrialized and non-industrialized areas as well as on world trade. New technologies promoted economic development in Pacific Rim countries and contributed to the emerging importance of multinational corporations.
- **Political revolutions and innovations** - Revolutions shook Russia, China, and many Latin American countries. Political leaders experimented with different versions of communism, socialism, and capitalism, with some turning to authoritarian methods and others to democracy, and monarchy declined in many parts of the globe.
- **Social reform and revolution** - Reform led to changes in gender roles, family structures, the rise of feminism, peasant protest, and international Marxism.
- **Globalization of science, technology, and culture** - Increasing international contacts encouraged the global spread of science and consumer culture, sparking varying local and regional reactions. Patterns of resistance to globalization raised questions of fragmentation, or the tendency for regions to turn toward local beliefs and values and resist influence from other areas.
- **Demographic and environmental changes** - Despite migrations of people from Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean to industrialized countries, population distributions changed, with North America and Europe having declining proportions of the world population. The environment was altered by continued urbanization and deforestation, and significant green/environmental movements emerged to resist the changes.

# WAR AND DIPLOMACY

Wars are old occurrences during world history, but 20th century wars were unique in that they increasingly encompassed more and more of the globe. World War I began as a European conflict that spread into other regions, but World War II and the Cold War intensified international conflict to reach almost all parts of the globe. A series of international organizations formed in reaction to the wars, and provided a diplomatic alternative to world crises.

## WORLD WAR I

World War I is an important marker event in modern history because it ushers in a new era in which the global framework changed dramatically. It also marks the collapse of European hegemony that had been solidly in place during the 1750-1914 era.

### CAUSES

The onset of war in 1914 resulted from years of tensions among European nations:

1) Nationalism - During the 19th century the identities of many European peoples intensified greatly. This nationalism set the stage for World War I in two ways:

- National rivalries - The unification of Germany threatened to topple the balance of power that had existed in Europe since the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815. The competition took many forms: industrialization, a naval race, arms build-ups, and colonial disputes over territories. In 1870, Britain controlled about 1/3 of the world's industrial output, and Germany only about 13%. By 1914 Britain had dropped to 14%, putting it roughly comparable to Germany. (The U.S. was taking a huge percentage by 1914). Britain's great dreadnought ships were challenged as Germany began to build its own super battleships and develop an impressive submarine fleet. France and Russia joined the arms buildup as all countries beefed up armies, equipment, and weapons. When one increased their military, the others would try to match and outdo the others. Colonial disputes broke out all over the globe: Britain and Russia over Persia and Afghanistan; Britain and France over Siam and the Nile River Valley; Britain and Germany in east and southwest Africa; Germany and France over Morocco and West Africa.
- Nationalist aspirations - Inherent in nationalism is self-determination, the right to form states based on ethnicity, language, and/or political ideals. This part of nationalism is apparent in the unification of Germany and Italy, and in the separation of Belgium from the Netherlands. However, in eastern Europe, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire resisted nationalist demands. Both empires confronted the nationalist aspirations of Slavic people: Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Most menacing of all were the Serbs, who were encouraged by Russia's support and promotion of Pan-Slavism, a movement to unite all Slavic people.

2) Entangling Alliances - As countries and empires built their arms, they looked to one another for support and protection. Two hostile camps emerged, bound by treaties that stated conditions under which nations would go to war with one another in order to improve their chances for self-preservation. The two major alliances were the Triple Entente (Russia, England, and France) vs. the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy). The allies generally had a common hatred for one or more of the countries on the other side.

### SPARK FOR THE WAR

In June 1914 all of Europe was an armed camp, and rivalries were very intense. The war was precipitated by Gavrilo Princip, a member of a Serbian nationalist group known as the Black Hand. When he assassinated Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne, he set in motion a series of events in which one country after the other declared war on another. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, who had an alliance with Russia. Russia declared war on Austria-Hungary, requiring Germany to declare war on Russia. And so the domino effect continued so that by August a local conflict had become a general European war.



## **NATURE OF THE WAR**

World War I is often defined by the optimism that countries had going into the war in contrast to the horror, shock, and slaughter that traumatized them by the time the war ended in 1918. The balance of power struck in 1815 had been strong enough to delay conflict so that no one alive in 1914 could remember the devastation of war, and almost every nation glorified the excitement of war. The two sides settled into the Allied Powers- (England, France, Russia, and Italy (who switched sides at the last minute); and the Central Powers; Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. The war was fought on two fronts:

- Western Front - The Western Front followed a line between France and Germany through Belgium. The French and British fought on one side against the Germans, eventually joined by Americans in 1917. The war bogged down quickly, with both sides digging trenches, and fighting from them until the war ended in 1918. The stalemate occurred partly because new technology-- machine guns and poison gas-- made any offensive attack so lethal that the army had to retreat to trenches. Attacks were followed by counter-attacks that resulted in huge casualties. It literally got to the point where each side simply hoped that the other would run out of young men first. Indeed that happened when the United States entered the war, and Germany could not match the combined forces on the Western Front.
- Eastern Front - The Eastern Front was on the opposite side of Germany from the Western Front. There Germany and Austria-Hungary fought Russia along a much more fluid battle line. The Central Powers overran Serbia, Albania, and Romania. The Russians took the offensive in Prussia, but by the summer of 1915 combined German and Austrian forces drove the Russian armies back eastward across Poland, and eventually back into Russia's borders. Russia's armies were poorly led and badly equipped, with the tsar sending men into battle without guns, food, or shoes. Mass desertions and loss of confidence in the tsar led to chaos in Russia, where a communist-inspired group called the Bolsheviks eventually took over the government and assassinated the tsar.

Russia withdrew from the war in 1917, releasing German soldiers to transfer to the Western Front, but U.S. soldiers supplemented French and British soldiers there so that the stalemate was finally broken, with the armistice occurring in November 1918. The net effect of the war was the slaughter of a huge portion of a generation of young men, primarily from Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, England, and France. Arguably, Europe never fully recovered from the loss.

## **THE VERSAILLES TREATY**

The "Great War" is a marker event in world history because it is the first in a series of events that led to declining European power and ascending power for the United States and Japan. However, the Versailles Treaty at the end of the war is almost as important event as the war itself because it changed the nature of international relations and set the stage for World War II.

Although 27 nations gathered at Versailles Palace in France in 1919 to shape a treaty, men from three nations dominated the proceedings: David Lloyd George from Britain, Georges Clemenceau from France, and Woodrow Wilson from the United States. Russia, who had pulled out of the war in 1917, was not represented. Woodrow Wilson came to the meetings with his plan, called the Fourteen Points, which was grounded in two important principles:

- Self determination -Wilson's document asserted the need to redraw the map of Europe and the old Ottoman Empire along the lines of self determination, allowing groups based on nationalism to determine their own governments.
- The need for an international peace organization - The Congress of Vienna had created the Concert of Europe in 1815, an organization of European nations bound to keep the balance of power in the region. Wilson's vision was broader, in that he advocated a worldwide organization charged with keeping the peace and avoiding another war like the one that had just occurred.

Britain and France came to Versailles with different motivations. After all, their countries had suffered a great deal more from the war than the United States had. For example, whereas Britain lost almost a million young men and France lost almost 1,400,000, the United States lost only about 115,000. A great deal of the war was fought on French soil, and so France suffered devastation of cities and countryside, and even French people who were not soldiers experienced the war first hand. As a result, George and Clemenceau were less idealistic than Wilson. Revenge and control of Germany, who was a more immediate threat to them than to the United States - were more important to them.

The treaty that resulted was a compromise among the three countries. The many provisions include these important ones:

- Germany lost land along all borders, including Alsace-Lorraine and the Polish Corridor
- German military forces were severely restricted and a demilitarized zone was created along lands bordering France and Belgium.
- Germany had to pay very high reparations for war to specific Allied Powers.
- An international organization called the League of Nations was created.
- Germany's overseas possessions were placed under the control of the League, remaining as mandates until they were ready for independence.
- The map of Eastern Europe was redrawn along ethnic lines, recreating the country of Poland, and creating Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Austria, and Hungary. Austria-Hungary as a political empire was destroyed.
- Although the Ottoman Empire was dismantled as well, the resulting pieces were designated as mandates, not independent countries.

The treaty was a fiasco that satisfied almost no one and infuriated many. The Turks and Arabs of the former Ottoman Empire, as well as people of Germany's colonies, couldn't understand why eastern European countries were created as independent countries and they weren't. What's more the British occupied many areas of the Middle East, and did not leave once the treaty was signed. The League of Nations excluded Germany and Russia from membership, and the United States Senate failed to ratify the treaty and never joined the League. As a result, the international peace organization had very limited authority from the beginning. However, the most immediate reaction came from Germany, who saw the treaty as unfairly blaming them for the war and punishing them so severely that they could not recover. Their discontent provided fertile grounds for the rise of a demagogue that of course happened in due time.

## **THE ROOTS OF WORLD WAR II**

World War II is often described as Chapter 2 of the War that started in 1914. Only 20 years of peace lie in between the end of World War I and the beginning of World War II, and in many ways the hostilities never ceased.

## **THE RISE OF JAPAN**

The Meiji Restoration of the late 19th century had greatly strengthened Japan in almost every way: militarily, politically, and economically. As the political oligarchy imitated western imperialist success and as China's strength faded, Japan's influence along the Pacific Rim grew. Japanese success against Russia in the Russo-Japanese War in the early 20th century surprised many western nations and proved that Japan was becoming a world power. When World War I broke out, Japan entered on the side of the Allied Powers, and almost immediately began to claim German territories around them. In 1915 Japan made Twenty-one Demands of China that allowed Japan a great deal of control over Chinese trade and production, even though China did not accept all of the demands.

Japan broke the post-war peace in 1931 by invading traditionally Chinese Manchuria, clearly reflecting their intention to expand their empire at the expense of China. This invasion angered the international community, and many nations reacted by enacting economic sanctions, but Japan was undeterred. From there,

China itself was threatened, even after the League of Nations condemned Japanese actions. In 1937, they began a full-scale invasion of China, and rapidly began to control more and more of the mainland.

## **EXPANSIONISM IN EUROPE**

Even as the Versailles Conference was going on, new stirrings of nationalism served as precursors of what was to come. Italy's representative to Versailles, Prime Minister Orlando, was called home early because his government had suffered a coup led by Benito Mussolini. Mussolini appealed to Italian nationalism in his quest to rebuild the glories of Ancient Rome through his military leadership. However, most menacing of all was the Nazi movement in Germany, led by an Austrian named Adolf Hitler.

### **Post-war Struggles in Germany**

After World War I ended, Germany established a republican form of government under the leadership of General Hindenburg, a hero from the war. However, the government had countless obstacles in reestablishing order and stability. War debts were crushing, vital resources in the west had been claimed by France, and inflation became rampant as the country tried to rebuild itself after the devastation of the war. When the Great Depression spread throughout Europe in 1929-30, weakened Germany was the most vulnerable to its punch. In their desperation, Germans were open to new political solutions, including those advocated by communism. On the other end of the political spectrum, Adolf Hitler, an Austrian artist who had fought in World War I, attracted attention as the leader of the German Socialist Workers Party. In a series of clever political moves, he established his party in the Reichstag, and eventually convinced Hindenburg to appoint him as chancellor. After Hindenburg died, he and his "Nazi" party came to dominate German politics with promises to restore German prosperity. That they did, but by blatantly breaking the provisions of the Versailles Treaty. He rebuilt the army, seized the resource-rich Rhineland from France, and played upon the loss of German pride suffered by the humiliations of the Versailles Treaty. His Nazi state was authoritarian and militaristic, and like Japan and Italy, also incredibly expansionistic.

### **German Expansion**

Under Hitler, Germany began claiming territory around but outside its borders established by the Versailles Treaty. The claims were backed by military force, and at first they were only the lands that Germany believed had been unfairly taken from them by the Versailles Treaty. But eventually Hitler's forces attacked the Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia with many German people, but also home to Czechs and other Slavs. Finally, with this action, Hitler experienced some reaction from the old Allied Powers.

#### **The Munich Agreement and the Start of the War**

England and France answered Czechoslovakia's pleas for help by calling a meeting with Hitler in Munich in 1938. Under the leadership of Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, the Allies reached an agreement with Hitler, infamously known as appeasement, or giving Hitler the land he had already seized in exchange for his promise to not take any more. Chamberlain promised the British people upon his return home that he had achieved "peace in our time," but the war began the very next year when Hitler broke his promise by attacking Poland. England and France were still war-weary from World War I, but they reluctantly declared war on Germany. Chamberlain was replaced as Prime Minister by Winston Churchill, who had long warned Britain about the danger posed by Adolf Hitler.

## **THE NATURE OF THE WAR**

The nations of the world aligned themselves with the Allied Powers (originally led by Britain and France, later joined by Russia and the United States ) and the Axis Powers (led by Germany, Italy, and Japan.) Even though the causes of World War II were rooted in unsettled business from World I, the nature of the war was far different from any previous conflict in world history. Some distinct characteristics of World War II are:

- Worldwide participation - The war was truly fought in all corners of the globe. Only eleven countries did not become directly involved in the war: Afghanistan, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Mongolia, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tibet, and Yemen.

- Fighting in "theatres" or "arenas" - Whereas in most previous wars, including World War I, "fronts" where opposite sides clashed were identifiable, changing war technology and military techniques meant that the war was fought in two large arenas: Europe (including North Africa) and the Pacific Ocean. Fronts could sometimes be identified within arenas, but by and large the concept had become obsolete.
- Technology - Major war technologies contributed to changes in the nature of warfare. Although airplanes and tanks had been used to some extent in World War I, they came to dominate World War II. For example, in the Pacific, airplanes attacked from giant aircraft carriers that allowed the United States navy to "hop" from one set of island to the next, finally zeroing in on Japan. In Europe airplanes on both sides bombed their opponents with high explosives and incendiaries that killed millions of people and devastated the infrastructure, particularly in large urban areas. Other technologies, such as radar and more accurate and powerful weaponry, helped submarines and warships to target the enemy. The most unique and deadly technology, the atom bomb, was introduced at the end of the war.
- Widespread killing of civilians - Whereas civilian casualties were not unique to World War II, the war is characterized by deliberate targeting of non-military people. Because the bombings sought to destroy the industrial infrastructure, they focused on urban areas where many people lived. In some cases the bombs were intended to torment populations so that the enemy would surrender. The German Nazis deliberately killed Jews and many other groups of people that they considered to be inferior to them, and of course, the atom bomb killed all those in its path, regardless of their military or civilian status.

All of these characteristics combine to make World War II a total war, one that involved almost all citizens in all countries and mobilized deadly weapons created by the organizational capacity that accompanied industrialized economies. Overall, at least 35 million people died in World War II.

## **THE HOLOCAUST**

Genocide (ethnic based mass killings) characterized World War II. For example, the Japanese tortured and killed as many as 300,000 Chinese citizens in Nanking after the city had fallen. The bombings of Hiroshima killed 78,000 Japanese, and Nagasaki killed tens of thousands more. The largest slaughter resulted from Hitler's decision to eliminate Jews in Germany and eastern Europe resulted in 6 million deaths in concentration camps that specialized in efficient methods of extermination. The Holocaust was an unprecedented modern genocide that also targeted gypsies and political dissidents. The "final solution" to the "Jewish problem" included death by gassing, electrocution, phenol injections, flamethrowers, and machine guns. Others died in concentration camps from starvation and medical experiments.

## **THE COURSE OF THE WAR**

The war officially began in Europe with Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939. He used a war technique called blitzkrieg (lightning war) to quickly conquer Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France. Blitzkrieg involved bombing civilian targets and rapidly moving troops, tanks, and mechanized carriers. By 1940 only Britain resisted German attack. Germany could not execute his techniques on the island nation, so the Battle of Britain was fought primarily in the air between the Royal Air Force and the German Luftwaffe. Germany stretched its armies when it decided to attack Russia to the east, despite an earlier non-aggression treaty signed between the two countries. The attack sparked Russia's entry on the Allied side in 1941, and the Germans suffered their first defeat of the war in Stalingrad in 1942.

The course of the war changed dramatically when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii in 1941, causing the United States to enter the war. The United States fought in both arenas, Europe and the Pacific, and played a much larger role in World War II than they did in World War I.

- The European Arena - The European war strategy, devised primarily by American and British generals, began in northern Africa where combined Allied forces defeated the German forces that occupied the area. From there, Allies attacked, defeated, and occupied Italy, depriving Germany of a major ally. In 1944, Allied forces, including Canadians, crossed the English Channel in the famous "D-Day" assault on Normandy that led to the liberation of France. From there, Allies attacked across Belgium and into

western Germany, where they eventually joined Russian forces marching across eastern Germany. The meeting of the armies east and west represented the defeat of Germany.

- The Pacific Arena - By 1941 the Japanese occupied large parts of eastern Asia and were preparing to seize Australia, a major Allied Power in the area. British troops were fighting the Japanese in Southeast Asia when the Americans joined the war. With a navy seriously crippled by the Pearl Harbor attack, the United States first had to rebuild and reposition its ships, planes, and equipment, and then had to stop Japanese expansion eastward toward the American West Coast. Japan and the United States fought a great sea-air naval war that resulted in the blocking of Japanese attacks of Midway Island and the Aleutian Islands and in the successful defense of Australia. The "island hopping" campaign brought the United States very close to Japan, but the war ended with Japanese surrender after the United States dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

## **POST-WORLD WAR II INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Instead of being settled by one sweeping peace treaty, World War II ended with many negotiations and meetings. An important result of Allied discussions was the formation of the United Nations, only one of many international organizations that formed in the decades that followed World War II.

- The United Nations - The United Nations was chartered during an international meeting in San Francisco in September 1945. About 50 nations signed the charter, a number that had swelled to over 180 by the end of the century. From the beginning, the United Nations had more members than the League of Nations had, and the United States not only joined it but also headquartered the new organization in New York City. The Soviet Union and China were given permanent seats on the Security Council (along with the United States, Britain, and France), so that internationalism expanded beyond the west. Like the League, the United Nations' main purpose was to negotiate disputes among nations, but it also has addressed world issues, such as trade, women's conditions, child labor, hunger, and environmental protection.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization - NATO was formed in 1949 as a defensive alliance among the U.S., Canada, and western European nations. In response, the Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact, including eastern European nations. The formation of these two international organizations was a reflection of changing politics and a new type of warfare called the Cold War that was to last until 1991.

## **THE COLD WAR**

The Cold War describes the decades-long period after World War II that centered around tensions between the two most powerful countries that emerged from the war: the United States and the Soviet Union. The era marks the replacement of European hegemony with two competing power centers. The globe during this time was divided into three parts: the United States and its allies, the Soviet Union and its allies, and a "Third World," of unaligned, generally less developed countries that both "superpowers" competed to influence.

## **THE ROOTS OF THE COLD WAR**

The World War II alliance between the Soviet Union on the one hand, and the United States and Britain on the other, was based primarily on a mutual enemy: Germany. The lack of trust between the two "sides" was apparent even before the war was officially over at two peace conferences:

- The Yalta Conference - Early in 1945 the three countries split Germany into four pieces, including liberated France as an occupying power. However, Britain and the United States believed that Germany should be reunited as a viable country, and the Soviets wanted to destroy German industrial might. The powers also quarreled over eastern European nations, with Britain and the United States insisting that they be democratic, and the Soviet Union wanting them to be communist. Compromise was reached, but the agreement was soon to be broken.
- The Potsdam Conference - Since the Soviet Union already occupied eastern Poland and eastern Germany, it was agreed that they could maintain control, with the Poles getting part of eastern Germany

as compensation. With great difficulty, peace was negotiated with Italy, but the U.S. and the Soviet Union signed separate treaties with Japan. Tensions were high all during this conference held in July 1945.

The United States and the Soviet Union reacted by seizing control of lands that they occupied in Asia, with the northern half of Korea controlled by the Soviets, and the southern half by the United States. The U.S. maintained its occupation of Japan, China regained most of its former territory, and the old colonial powers maintained control in Southeast Asia. In Europe, the Soviet Union pushed its boundaries westward, and the nations of eastern Europe (with the exceptions of Greece and Yugoslavia) fell under Soviet domination. Since the countries of western Europe were seriously weakened by the war, they depended on the United States to help them maintain their democracies. The United States sent aid to them with the Marshall Plan, a program of loans to help them rebuild their infrastructures. The Soviets saw this as a vehicle for American economic domination, and in the words of Winston Churchill, an "Iron Curtain" descended across Europe, dividing east from west.

### **THE ARMS RACE**

The competition between the United States and the Soviet Union extended to almost all areas, including a race to develop space technology and attempts to gain support from Third World countries. However, the deadliest competition came as both countries built their nuclear arsenals. In 1949 the Soviet Union developed the atom bomb, and from that point until the 1980s, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. introduced new and increasingly powerful weapons, as well as new kinds of missile systems to develop them.

The Cold War was at its height during the 1950s and 1960s, with people around the globe fearing the worst, the outbreak of a third world war, but this time with nuclear weapons that would almost certainly destroy the world. During the 1970s, both countries saw the need to compromise, and a series of negotiations led to arms reductions. Tensions eased further during the late 1980s, partly because the Soviet Union was on the verge of economic collapse.

### **NEW PATTERNS OF NATIONALISM**

Nationalism was as important a force during the 20th century as it had been in the previous era. People under the control of imperialist nations continued to strive for their own identities, and new, independent nations popped up in Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and southeast Asia. Nationalist movements also were a major cause of the late 20th century breakup of the Soviet Union, again changing the balance of world power in the post-Cold War era.

### **NATIONALISM IN AFRICA**

By the early 20th century Europeans had colonized most of the African continent. Christian missionaries set up schools that educated a new native elite, who learned not only skills and literacy but western political ideas as well. They couldn't help but notice the contrast between the democratic ideals they were being taught in class and the reality of discrimination that they saw around them. This observation sparked nationalist movements in many places, including:

- Senegal - Blaise Diagne agitated for African participation in politics and fair treatment by the French army.
- South Africa - Western-educated natives founded the African National Congress in 1909 to defend the interests of Africans.
- Ethiopia - Italy took over Ethiopia in the years leading up to World War II, and Emperor Haile Selassie led Ethiopian troops into his capital city to reclaim his title. Ethiopians, as well as many other people in northern Africa responded to Allied promises of liberation and helped the Allies defeat the Germans that had occupied the area.

## **POST WORLD WAR II STRUGGLES IN ALGERIA**

World War II was a humiliating experience for the French. Their armies had folded under Hitler's blitzkrieg within a few days, and they had to be liberated from German control by the other Allied powers. Both world wars devastated the infrastructure of France, and the weak parliamentary government seemed to have little control over the economy. Despite these hardships (or perhaps because of them), the French were determined to hold on to Algeria and Vietnam in Southeast Asia after World War II ended. French persistence set off major revolts in both areas. In 1954 war in Algeria broke out with great brutality by both sides. In reaction to the government's inability to fight the war, the French government was totally restructured, with strong man Charles de Gaulle taking the reins of the country as its new president. Algeria finally gained their independence in 1962, but lingering bitterness and retaliation led to a stream of French-sympathizers flooding into France from Algeria.

## **DECOLONIZATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

None of the wars for independence in sub-Saharan Africa matched the Algerian struggle in scale. One by one native leaders negotiated treaties with their imperialist masters, so that by the late 1960s, the African continent was composed primarily of independent nations. A Pan-African movement was started by Kwame Nkrumah, who in 1957 became the prime minister of Ghana, and Jomo Kenyatta, a leader of Kenya, but the focus of nationalism was on independence for the individual colonies.

Independence led to many new problems for African nations. Many border disputes occurred, since colonial boundaries often did not follow ethnic lines. The borders of some countries, such as Nigeria and Zaire, encompassed several different ethnic groups that struggled with one another for control of the country. Race conflict became particularly severe in the temperate southern part of the continent, where Europeans clashed with natives for political and economic power. South Africa was left with apartheid, an attempt by European minorities to keep natives in subservient, and very separate, roles in society. The African National Congress, formed in South Africa in 1912, led a bloody struggle against apartheid, which eventually led to success when Nelson Mandela became the first native president of South Africa in 1994.

## **NATIONALISM IN INDIA**

Native elite had formed nationalist groups in India before World War I began, and the struggle against British control continued until India finally won its independence in 1947. The movement was fractured from the beginning, largely because the diversity of people on the Indian subcontinent made a united independence movement difficult. Tensions were particularly high between Hindus and Muslims. Muslims constituted only about a quarter of the entire Indian population, but they formed a majority in the northwest and in eastern Bengal.

During World War I Indians supported Britain Enthusiastically, hoping that they would be rewarded for their loyalty. However, Britain stalled on independence, and political tensions mounted. For the next twenty years, Indians and British clashed often and violently, and the colony threatened to descend into chaos. The downward spiral was halted by Mohandas K. Gandhi, a man known to his followers as "Mahatma," the "great soul." Gandhi, educated as a lawyer in Britain, had some unusual political ideas. He denounced violence and popular uprisings and preached the virtues of ahimsa (nonviolence) and satyagraha (the search for truth.) He demonstrated his identification with the poor by wearing simple homespun clothing and practicing fasting. He was also a brilliant political tactician, and he had a knack for attracting public attention. His most famous gesture was the Walk to the Sea, where he gathered salt as a symbol of Indian industry, an action forbidden by the British government. Such non-violent persistence landed him in jail repeatedly, but his leadership gave Indians the moral high-ground over the British, who eventually agreed to independence in 1947.

The independence agreement was complicated because Jawaharlal Nehru, leader of the Indian National Congress, and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leader of the Muslim League, clashed openly. Violent riots between Hindus and Muslims broke out in Bengal and Bihar, so that the British negotiated with the two organizations to partition India into two states. Most of the subcontinent remained under secular rule dominated by Hindus, but the new Muslim state of Pakistan was formed in the northwest and northeast. Independence celebrations were marred by violence between Muslims and Hindus. The partition led to massive movements of Indians from one area to the other, and Gandhi himself was assassinated by a Hindu who was upset because the partition meant

that he had to leave his home. Religious conflict continued to plague the subcontinent for the rest of the 20th century.

## **NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

In Indonesia, a nationalist leader named simply Sukarno, cooperated with the Japanese during World War II with the hope of throwing off the colonial control of the Dutch. Despite the Japanese defeat in the war, independence was negotiated in 1949, and Sukarno became the dictator until he was removed by a military coup in 1965. The British granted independence to Burma (now Myanmar) in 1948, and the United States negotiated independence with the Philippines in 1946. As in Africa, the French provided the most resistance to decolonization in southeast Asia.

Throughout the area, independence leaders were also drawn to communism, and French Indochina was no exception. The Communist leader Ho Chi Minh led his supporters against the French, capturing the colonial stronghold of Dienbienphu in 1954. Ho Chi Minh's government took over in the north, and a noncommunist nationalist government ruled in the south, which eventually came to be heavily supported by the United States. In the 1960s and early 1970s, the United States waged an unsuccessful war with North Vietnam that eventually ended in the reunification of the country under communist rule in 1975.

## **NATIONALISM IN LATIN AMERICA**

Nationalism in Latin America took the form of internal conflict, since almost all the nations had achieved independence during the 19th century. However, most were still ruled by an authoritarian elite. During the 20th century, many nations experienced populist uprisings that challenged the elite and set in motion an unstable relationship between democracy and militarism. Some teetered back and forth between democratically elected leaders and military generals who established power through force. Coups d'état became common, and political legitimacy and economic viability became serious issues.

- Mexico - At the beginning of the century, Mexico was ruled by Porfirio Diaz, a military general who enriched a small group of elites by allowing them to control agriculture and welcoming businessmen from the United States to control industry. The Revolution of 1910 began not with the exploited poor, but with elites that Diaz did not favor, almost all of them military generals. As early as 1911 the revolutionary fervor had spread to peasants, who were led by regional strongmen, such as Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa. Despite the creation of a democratic-based Constitution in 1917, the revolution raged on, with every President assassinated during his term of office until Lázaro Cárdenas took over in 1934. Finally, the country stabilized under an umbrella political party (PRI), which tightly controlled Mexican politics until the 1990s, when some signs of democracy began to appear.
- Argentina and Brazil - These two countries have many differences in language, ethnicity, and geographical settings, but both were controlled by elites. Early in the century, Argentina's government represented the interest of landowners that raised cattle and sheep and grew wheat for export, and Brazil's elite was made up of coffee and cacao planters and rubber exporters. In both countries, the gap between the rich and poor was great, with the elite spending lavishly on palaces and personal goods. However, the Great Depression hit both countries hard, and stimulated coups against the governments. Getulio Vargas took over in Brazil in 1930, and instituted a highly authoritarian regime. Military revolts characterized Argentina, with Juan Peron, supported by Nazi interests, leading a major coup in 1943. Authoritarian rule in both countries continued on into the second half of the century.
- The Cuban Revolution and its aftermath - Revolutions against dictators were often inspired by communism, especially after the Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro in 1959. Military leaders of Brazil led a conservative reaction by staging a coup of the democratically elected government in 1964. There the "Brazilian Solution" was characterized by dictatorship, violent repression, and government promotion of industrialization. A similar pattern occurred in Chile in 1974 where the socialist president Salvador Allende was overthrown in a military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet. Socialist Sandinistas led a rebellion against the dictator of Nicaragua in 1979, where their communist affiliations led them to disfavor with the conservative United States government led by Ronald Reagan. The Reagan administration supported Contras (counterrevolutionaries) who unsuccessfully challenged the



Sandinistas. By the 1990s, most Latin American nations had loosened the control by the military, and democratic elections appeared to be gaining ground. However, they continued to be economically and militarily dominated by the United States.

## **MAJOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS**

World War I not only shattered the power of European nations, it also left their economies seriously weakened. However, after a period of post-war recession, economic prosperity returned by the mid-1920s, most markedly in the United States. Mass consumption rates rose for several years, fed by new technologies such as the radio, rayon, household appliances, and the automobile. However, the stock market crashes of 1929 put an end to the recovery in Europe as well as the boom in the United States.

### **THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

The stock markets in the United States had boomed during the late 1920s, but the optimism of investors that drove the markets upward far outstripped the strength of the economy. When the bubble burst in October 1929, the New York Stock Exchange tumbled, losing half of its value within days. Millions of investors lost money, as did the banks and brokers who had lent them money. New York banks called in their loans to Germany and Austria who in turn could no longer pay war reparations to France and Great Britain. The series of events led to a domino effect of crashing markets in Europe and other industrialized countries, ushering in the deepest and most widespread depression in history. Companies laid off thousands of workers, farm prices fell, and unemployment rates soared. The catastrophe caused many to rethink the free-enterprise system, and increased the appeal of alternate political and economic philosophies, such as communism and fascism. The Depression had a serious effect on the global economy, with global industrial production dropping about 36 percent between 1929 and 1932, and world trade sinking by 62 percent. France and Britain escaped the worst by making their colonies and dependents buy their products instead of products from other countries. However, Germany suffered greatly. Already crippled by the Versailles Treaty, the depression in Germany meant that half of its population lived in poverty by the early 1930s. Japan's economy also took a nosedive, partly because the country's economy was very dependent on exports from the distressed international market to pay for imported food and fuel. The Depression devastated other countries that depended on international trade, such as Brazil and Columbia for their coffee, Argentina for its wheat and beef, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies for their rubber, and Ceylon and Java for their tea. Countries less dependent on international markets managed to escape the worst of the economic malaise.

The Depression only ended with the advent of World War II, when production demands from the war stimulated the U.S. economy sufficiently to create jobs for workers and sell agricultural products on the world market.

### **TWENTIETH CENTURY TECHNOLOGY**

The new inventions sparked by the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century continued to develop during the 20th century. New military technologies resulted from the two world wars, including tanks, poison gas, airplanes, jet engines, radar, submarines, and improved weaponry. The most dramatic and dangerous new type of weapon was nuclear, but nuclear energy also had the potential to be harnessed for power for peaceful endeavors. When applied to industry, many of the World War II technologies increased productivity, reduced labor requirements, and improved the flow of information. After both world wars, pent-up demand for consumer goods spawned new inventions for peacetime economies. Improvements in existing technologies kept economies healthy during the 1950s and 60s, especially as European countries began to recover from the war. Trucks, airplanes, and trains became bigger and faster, cutting transportation costs. Both the United States and the Soviet Union built highway systems and airports and constructed nuclear power plants.

### **THE COMPUTER AGE**

One of the most important new technologies of the 20th century was the computer. At first they were large and very expensive, so that only large corporations, governments, and universities could afford them. However, desktop computers began replacing typewriters by the mid-1980s, and by century's end, computers

were smaller, more powerful, and more affordable than ever before. The internet rapidly developed and expanded during the 1990s, and its ability to connect computers to one another and access information transformed communications by the early 21st century.

## **MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS**

Computers helped make possible the proliferation of multinational corporations. As early as the 18th century, large companies had conducted business across national borders. However, with improved transportation and communications, these corporations became truly international in the late 20th century with their multinational ownership and management. International trade agreements and open markets reinforced the trend. Many of the companies were American (General Motors, Exxon, Microsoft) or Japanese (Honda, Sony), but by 2000 many other multinational corporations were headquartered in countries with smaller economies. One result of the growth of transnational corporations was the increasing difficulty that national government had in regulating them. Often the companies simply repositioned their plants and labor force by moving their bases to countries with fewer regulations and cheaper labor. As a result, the worst cases of labor and environmental abuses tended to occur in poor nations.

## **THE PACIFIC RIM**

Another important development of the late 20th century was the increasing economic strength of many countries and cities along the "Pacific Rim," such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Japan experienced a faster rate of economic growth in the 1970s and 1980s than did any other major developed economy, growing at about 10 percent a year. In contrast to the American model of free enterprise, giant Japanese business conglomerates known as keiretsu have close relationships with government. The government supports business interests in industry, commerce, construction, automobiles, semiconductors, and banking through tariff and import regulations. By 1990 Japan enjoyed a trade surplus with the rest of the world that caused many observers to believe that Japan would soon pass the United States as the world's strongest economy. However, by 2000 the Japanese economy was slowed by overvalued stocks and housing, speculation, and corruption.

South Korea, as one of the Asian Tigers (along with Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore), followed the model of close cooperation between government and industry. Through a combination of inexpensive labor, strong technical education, and large capital reserves, South Korea experienced a "compressed modernity" that transformed the country into a major industrial and consumer economy that, despite a recession in 1997, continued into the early 21st century. The initial economic bursts of Singapore and Hong Kong were based on shipping and banking and commercial services, and Hong Kong eventually developed highly competitive textile and consumer electronic industries. Despite the conflict with mainland China, Taiwan's economy grew rapidly, beginning with small, specialized companies.

In China after Mao Zedong's death in 1976, Deng Xiaoping emerged as the new communist leader. He advocated a socialist market economic, a practical blend of socialism and capitalism, to solve China's economic woes. By century's end, China's economy had expanded rapidly, and by the early 21st century, China was granted membership in the World Trade Organization, and was rapidly become one of the most important trading nations in the world.

## **IDEOLOGIES AND REVOLUTIONS**

Many of the conflicts of the 20th century, including World War II and the Cold War, represent important ideological clashes between industrialized democracies and industrialized totalitarian powers. Two important ideologies that greatly influenced the century were communism and fascism.

- Communism - Karl Marx's communist theory was revolutionized during the early 20th century in Russia by Vladimir Lenin, a leader of the Bolsheviks, a group that eventually took over the country. Whereas Marx envisioned revolutions of the proletariat (workers) as occurring in capitalist countries where workers were most oppressed, Lenin advocated democratic centralism. He and a small group of leaders became a "vanguard of the revolution," leading in the name of the people, but concentrating

control in the hands of a few. Even though his version of communism emphasized equality and the destruction of class distinctions, the highly centralized control translated into totalitarian power. In China, Mao Zedong's communism stressed the importance of agriculture and the peasants, but he also exercised totalitarian power after his takeover of the country in 1949.

- Fascism - As communism became more popular in Europe, especially as capitalism faltered with the Great Depression, fascism developed as an alternative doctrine to countries in economic distress. Fascism, an authoritarian political movement that sought to subordinate individuals to the service of the state, first developed under Benito Mussolini in Italy. Mussolini advocated an extreme nationalism that claimed to regain the power and glory of the ancient Roman Empire. Fascism spread to other countries, including Germany, where Adolf Hitler fashioned it into Nazism. Struggling under the oppressive restrictions of the Versailles Treaty and the economic stresses of the Great Depression, Germany was particularly susceptible to Hitler's message of restoring glory and strength to the nation. The Nazis not only suppressed communism, but their highly centralized government destroyed trade unions, crushed the judiciary and the civil service, took control of all police forces, and removed enemies of the regime. Nationalism assumed the face of racism with the purging of Jews and other eastern European people.

Whereas fascism played an important role in World War II, communism sparked numerous revolutions, including those in Russia and China.

## **COMMUNISM IN RUSSIA**

During World War I Russia had the largest army in the world, but its generals were incompetent and the soldiers were poorly equipped. The war inflicted incredible hardship on the Russian people, and by early 1917, soldiers were deserting en masse from the war front, citizens were demonstrating, and workers were striking. In the chaos that followed, the tsar abdicated, and a provisional government was put in place. When the autocratic government toppled, revolutionary groups that had been repressed for decades became active, and the communist-inspired Bolsheviks seized control of parliament. Under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin, Russia withdrew from the war and was named the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. After a four-year civil war, Lenin established his control over the country, and the U.S.S.R. became the first communist regime of the 20th century.

## **STALINISM**

When Lenin died in 1924, his position as General Secretary of the Communist Party was eventually claimed by Joseph Stalin. Stalin emphasized internal development, and set in place Five-Year Plans that set industrial goals designed to strengthen the power of the Soviet Union. Stalin did not focus on producing consumer goods. Instead his plans increased the output of electricity and heavy industry, such as iron, steel, coal, and machinery. Agriculture was collectivized, a process that abolished small private farms and forced farmers to work on large government-controlled farms that produced food to support industry. Stalinism was characterized not only by industrialization and collectivization, but by brutal, centralized control of government that held little resemblance to Marxist doctrine. Despite his purges of untold millions of people, Stalin did lead the Soviet Union to industrialize faster than any country had ever done. By the late 1930s, the U.S.S.R. was the world's third largest industrial power, after the United States and Germany.

## **POST-STALIN ECONOMIC CRISES**

Russia emerged from World War II as a superpower, largely as a result of Stalin's focus on industrial strength. However, economic development was uneven. The USSR produced a great army, developed a sophisticated missile program, and participated in a "race to space" with the United States. Much money was spent on maintaining control over satellite states, but the consumer failed to grow. By the mid-1980s, the country was on the verge of economic collapse, although the severity of its problems was largely unknown to outsiders. Mikhail Gorbachev attempted to revive the country through a 3-pronged program:

- Perestroika - Economic reforms attempted to infuse some capitalism into the system, reduce the size of the army, stimulate under-producing factories, and stabilize the monetary system.
- Glasnost - Loosely translated as "openness", glasnost attempted to loosen censorship restrictions and allow nationalist minorities to address their concerns to the government.
- Democratization - Gorbachev's plan allowed some choice of candidates for the national congress, a body that in turn selected a president.

The Gorbachev reforms backfired after a conservative coup attempt in 1991. Although the coup failed, and Gorbachev retained his position as president, the crisis resulted in unrest that quickly brought an end to the U.S.S.R. as the republics one by one declared their independence. By the year's end, Gorbachev had no job because he had no country, and Russia - the largest of the republics - emerged under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin. The 1990s saw a weakened Russia struggling to establish a democracy and regain some of its former power.

## **COMMUNISM IN CHINA**

Communism emerged in the early 20th century shortly after the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. The Communist leader, Mao Zedong, accepted a great deal of support from the U.S.S.R., but he did not gain control of China until 1949. Until then, the country was ruled by nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek. Mao gained strength as a result of the Long March of 1934-5, as he and his followers evaded Chiang's army that pursued him for thousands of miles. With the Japanese occupation of China before and during World War II, the two men called a truce, but when the war ended, Mao's army emerged as the stronger one, with Chiang and his supporters finally being driven to the island of Taiwan. In 1949, Mao claimed main land China for communism, renaming the country the People's Republic of China.

## **CHINA UNDER MAO**

At first, Mao accepted a great deal of aid from the Soviet Union, establishing Five-Year Plans modeled after those instituted by Stalin. However, Maoism always differed the Soviet-style communism, partly because Mao believed in the importance of keeping an agricultural-based economy. He broke with the Soviet Union in the late 1950s and instituted his Great Leap Forward to compensate for the loss of Soviet aid. This program emphasized both agricultural and industrial development, but the economy nose-dived. Mao responded with the Cultural Revolution in 1966 - a much more profound reform in that it encompassed political and social change, as well as economic. Mao was still unhappy with China's progress toward true egalitarianism, and his main goal was the purify the party and the country through radical transformation.

A primary goal of the Cultural Revolution was to remove all vestiges of the old China and its hierarchical bureaucracy and emphasis on inequality. Scholars were sent into the fields to work, universities and libraries were destroyed. Emphasis was put on elementary education - all people should be able to read and write - but any education that created inequality was targeted for destruction.

## **CHINA UNDER DENG XIAOPING**

When Mao died in 1976, the country was on the verge of collapse, traumatized by massive changes brought by the Cultural Revolution. His successor, Deng Xiaoping, encouraged a practical mix of socialism and capitalism called the socialist market economy, a tactic that brought better economic health to China. During the late 20th century, China became more and more capitalistic while still retaining centralized control by the government. Tensions between economic reform and the centralized communist political system erupted into popular disruptions, most famously at Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989. By the early 21st century, China remained the largest (and one of the only) communist-controlled country in the world, but had become increasingly prosperous with the government openly encouraging trade with capitalist countries.

## **SOCIAL REFORM AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION**

The 20th century saw the spread of international Marxism, as first the Soviet Union, and eventually the People's Republic of China, sought to influence other countries to turn to communism. Their efforts were countered by the United States, that sought to spread capitalism and its form of democratic government. However, by mid-century, communist parties were entrenched in countries in many parts of the globe, especially in Latin America and Southeast Asia. As communism supported egalitarian revolts, democratic countries of the west instituted their own versions of social reform.

## **FEMINIST MOVEMENTS**

Both World Wars had the effect of liberating western women from their old subservient roles of the 19th century. In both cases, when men left for war, women stepped into jobs that kept the economies going during wartime. One effect was the granting of suffrage to women after World War I, first in the United States, but eventually to most countries in western Europe. After World War II, women saw no comparable gain, partly because of the Red Scare that developed in the late 1940s and early 1950s in the United States. The fear of the international spread of communism led to increased suspicions about citizens' loyalty to their country, and so many responded by embracing a traditional way of life.

After the Red Scare faded, the feminist movement revived during the 1960s to claim other rights than suffrage for women. One area of change came with abortion and birth control rights, as feminists asserted that only with birth control measures would women be able to free themselves from the age-old tendency of "biology determining destiny." Birth control pills ensured this freedom, and some legal protections for abortion emerged during the 1970s. Another area of change was economic employment, which by century's end was 40-50% of the workforce in most industrialized countries. The U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination on the basis of both race and sex.

## **BLACK NATIONALISM**

The women's movement was spurred by a surge of black nationalism during the 1950s. Blacks in Africa asserted themselves through independence movements that resulted in the widespread decolonization of the era. Blacks in the United States responded to the leadership of Martin Luther King, who relied openly on Indian leader Mohandas Gandhi's methods of passive nonresistance and boycotting to attain equality in the United States.

The Soviet Union often pointed to the discrimination that black Americans experienced as an indication of the evils of capitalism. One result was the civil rights movement, led by King, that led to vast legal changes in the United States for blacks. Segregation was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954, and national legislation outlawed many other forms of discrimination in 1964 and 1965. During the 1980s an anti-apartheid movement in South Africa led to similar legislation there, and eventually to the 1994 election of the first black president, Nelson Mandela.

## **GLOBALIZATION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURE**

Since the classical period, world history has involved a tension between the differing natures of individual civilizations and the forces of interaction that cause civilizations to share common culture, science, and technology. By the late 20th century these two counter-trends were apparent in the interactions of nations worldwide: globalization and fragmentation. Globalization is an integration of social, technological, scientific, environmental, economic, and cultural activities of nations that has resulted from increasing international contacts. On the other hand, fragmentation is the tendency for people to base their loyalty on ethnicity, language, religion, or cultural identity. Although globalization and fragmentation appear to be opposite concepts, they both transcend political boundaries between individual countries. At the beginning of the 21st century it is possible to predict that new homogenizing forces will further reduce variations between individual cultures or that a new splintering among civilizations is taking place, with each region advocating its own self-interest.

## **FORCES FOR GLOBALIZATION**

The cross-cutting forces of the past century or so have increasingly homogenized cultures. Most civilizations find it very difficult to isolate themselves from the rest of the world since they are tied together in so many ways. Some factors that promote globalization include:

- Modern transportation and communication - People are able to go from one area of the world to another much more easily than at any previous time in history. Likewise, communication is faster and more reliable than ever before. Satellites transmit images and voices instantaneously across great distances, and the internet allows people to communicate regularly and extensively often with one person not knowing exactly where the other's message is actually coming from.
- Increasing international trade - Trade among different geographical areas is just about as old as civilization itself, but many barriers to international trade were removed during the second half of the 20th century.
- Spread of "popular culture" - The popularity of Western fads and fashions, from clothes to television to sports, leads to cultural contact between ordinary people in everyday life. Although this phenomenon may be seen as the "westernization" of world culture, in recent years culture from other lands has influenced the west as well.
- Sharing of international science - Today scholars in both science and social science come together at international conferences and confer by e-mail or telephone to discuss ideas and share information. Nationality is secondary to their mutual interests.
- International business - Like scientists, businessmen from around the globe meet together, especially since large corporations headquartered in one country often have branches in other areas of the world. As a result, business leaders learn from other organizational forms and labor policies.

## **FORCES FOR FRAGMENTATION**

All through history, regions and civilizations have combined distinctive traditions, experiences, and beliefs that unify them at the same time that they set them apart from others. The late 20th and early 21st centuries are no exception. To date, no pattern of modernization has obliterated key boundaries between the major civilizations. Some factors that encourage fragmentation include:

- The decline of European power- A major factor that led to the mid-20th century de-colonization in Africa and Asia was the desire for cultural and political independence from European nations that had dominated them during the preceding decades.
- The breakup of multicultural empires - During the 20th century, many multicultural empires broke apart, leaving their subject people to quarrel among themselves. When British India broke into two countries - India and Pakistan - old hostilities between Hindus and Muslims came to the surface. Likewise, when the Ottoman Empire broke up after World War I, Slavic and Muslim peoples fragmented so deeply that intercultural wars broke out in the Balkans many decades later.
- The end of the cold war - The end of the cold war gave many nations dependent on American or Soviet aid the opportunity to reassert themselves in new ways. For example, the Soviet breakup gave independence to many subject states that have fragmented into different countries. In the Middle East, leaders of the 1979 revolution in Iran committed themselves to ousting U.S. influence and reinvigorating Islamic traditions.

Do supranational regional organizations such as NATO, NAFTA, OPEC, and the European Union encourage globalization or fragmentation? The case may be argued either way. The fact that nations within each organization must cooperate with others may be seen as a stepping-stone to internationalism since trade and communications barriers have decreased within the regions. From this point of view, regional organizations represent a movement away from national organizations toward international ones. On the other hand, it may be argued that they are just larger units that represent conflicting regions, each with their own loyalties and points of view that separate them from the others.

# DEMOGRAPHIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Dramatic changes occurred in the 20th century in migration patterns, birthrates and death rates, and types of urbanization. Continued industrialization, expansion of agricultural production, and technological innovations also impacted the world's ecosystem, inspiring "green" movements to pop up in many areas.

## MIGRATIONS

Two distinct types of migrations characterized the 20th century:

- Rural to urban - The industrialized nations saw significant migrations from the farm to the city during the 19th century, and that patterns continued well into the 20th century. However, developing nations experienced this shift in population even more profoundly, with migrations from rural areas to urban centers increasing threefold from 1925 to 1950. Cities such as Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, and Johannesburg developed shantytowns sprawls that impressed developed countries as signs of economic failure. However, most migrants to cities made economic gains until the scale of the migration grew to such proportions that many cities have not been able to keep up with the demand for services. Nearly every poor nation today still faces the challenge of rapidly growing cities.
- Global migration - Whereas most countries of the 20th century experienced internal migration from rural to urban areas, another major migration occurred among countries, with people leaving the developing world to emigrate to industrialized nations. For example, illegal immigration across the border from Mexico to the United States has increased significantly. In Europe, migrations from Islamic countries were encouraged beginning in the 1960s when an expanding European economy needed new sources of labor. However, as the size of the immigrant populations grew and the economies slowed, right-wing anti-immigration political movements sprang up in reaction, especially in Germany and France.

## POPULATION INCREASES

Human reproductive and life expectancy patterns changed profoundly in the second half of the 20th century. By the late 1960s Europe and other industrial societies had made a demographic transition to lower fertility rates and reduced mortality. Lower birthrates occurred as more women went to work, couples married at later ages, and birth control methods became more effective. Death rates declined as well, as modern medicine and better health led to increased longevity. The number of births in the developed nations was just enough to replace the people that died, and populations began to stabilize. Many experts predicted that the same thing would occur in developing nations once their industrialization process was more advanced. However, as of the early 21st century, the demographic transition has not occurred in developing or less developed countries around the globe.

## THE GROWTH OF DEVELOPING NATIONS

Whether the transition will occur in the future is open to debate. However, some political leaders of developing nations have encouraged high birth rates, thinking that a larger population would increase political power. In other areas, cultural patterns enforce values that support large families. Whatever the reasons, at current rates, most of the population increases of the 21st century will almost certainly take place in developing nations. Areas of rapid population increase include most nations of Africa and Latin America. In Asia, the populations of India and China have continued to grow despite government efforts to reduce family size. In China, efforts to enforce a limit of one child per family have led to female infanticide as rural families have sought to produce male heirs. In India, forced sterilization led to public protest and electoral defeat of the ruling political party. In both countries, population rates have slowed, but the population bases are already so large that a real slowdown is unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future.

## CONTRASTING POPULATION PYRAMIDS

Population pyramids show the distribution of a country's population by age group and by gender. At the beginning of the 21st century, these pyramids for industrialized nations contrasted greatly with those of developing nations. The slow rates of growth in industrialized nations and the contrasting rapid growth in developing nations create strikingly different population compositions. In industrialized nations, the percentage

of older people is increasing, and the percentage of younger people is decreasing. These differences create demands for social security and healthcare for senior citizens that challenge the ability of a shrinking labor pool to finance through taxes. In contrast, the populations of young people are exploding in developing countries, resulting in job shortages and unmet demands on the education systems. Poor nations, then, often find it impossible to create wealth since education and jobs are in such short supply.

## **"GREEN" MOVEMENTS**

During the 1960s environmental activists began movements devoted to slowing the devastating consequences of population growth, industrialization, and the expansion of agriculture. These "green" movements raised public awareness of the world's shrinking rainforests and redwood trees, the elimination of animal species, and the pollution of water and air. Predictably, pressure on environments is greatest in developing countries, where population is increasing the most rapidly. By the early 21st century, environmental movements were most effectively in industrialized nations, where they have formed interest groups and political parties to pressure governments to protect the environment. Some governments have rewarded energy-efficient factories, fuel-efficient cars, and alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power. However, these movements have had less success in developing nations, where deforestation and pollution continue to be major problems.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

Although the 20th century is so recent that our analytical perspective is limited, in many ways the era appears to be a pivotal one, with major changes and new patterns being established. Since 1914 two world wars and a cold war have led to the decline of European power and the rise of the United States. Politically, more and more nations are experimenting with democratic governments, and authoritarian regimes appear to be on the decline. Social inequality has been challenged on many fronts, and gender, racial, and social class distinctions have been altered radically in at least some areas of the world. By the early 21st century, the forces of globalization clash with those that encourage fragmentation. Perhaps it is this dynamic that will shape our future. Will advances in global connections, trade, and communication lead to a more unified world, or will regional differences fragment the world in ways that will lead to division and conflict? Both patterns have occurred in world history, but never before has either encompassed virtually all people on earth. Despite the fact that these tendencies are deeply rooted in time, they promise that at least some developments of the 21st century will be new, different, and extremely challenging.