

TOPIC: WORLD WAR I

I. World War I (1914-1918)

A) World War I was a global military conflict that was fought mainly in Europe.

B) Causes of (reasons for) World War I- The war took place for several important reasons.

NOTE: You can remember the causes by just thinking of the word (M.A.I.N.):

1) Militarism- Countries in Europe (especially Germany and Britain) built up their armies and their supply of weapons in the late 1800s.

2) Alliances- Countries in Europe divided themselves into two military alliances (the Triple Alliance and Triple Entente) in order to prepare for war. This alliance system increased tension in Europe.

3) Imperialism- Countries in Europe competed with each other to take over lands in Africa, Asia, and the Balkans (Southeastern Europe). This competition increased tension.

4) Nationalism- Ethnic groups in the Balkans (Southeastern Europe) wanted to gain independence (self-government) from Austria-Hungary and they were willing to fight for it. 24 5) **NOTE:** World War I started when Archduke Ferdinand (the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary) was assassinated by Slavic nationalists in the Balkans.

C) Treaty of Versailles- This was the Treaty that ended World War I. **NOTE:** The key thing to remember is that the treaty severely punished Germany in a number of ways:

1) Germany was forced to accept blame (guilt) for causing World War I.

2) Germany was forced to pay 30 billion dollars in war reparations (money for damages caused during the war).

3) Germany had to reduce (decrease) the size of its military.

4) Germany was forced to give up some of its lands.

5) **NOTE:** The Treaty of Versailles was so harsh on Germany that it eventually helped bring Hitler (and the Nazis) to power and it helped cause World War II.

D) Key effects (results) of World War I:

1) In order to provide the people of Eastern Europe with self-determination (the right of ethnic groups to create their own governments), Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire were broken apart and much of the land was used to create new nations in Eastern Europe (such as Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia).

2) Armenian Massacre- During World War I, the Turks of the Ottoman Empire attempted to kill all of the Armenians that lived in their territory. **NOTE:** This event is an example of genocide- the attempted extermination of an entire ethnic group. Genocide is considered to be the ultimate violation of human rights.

3) Women in Europe eventually gained suffrage (the right to vote) since they had helped out during World War I by working in factories.

TOPIC: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION (BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION)

I. The Russian Revolution (also called the Bolshevik Revolution) of 1917

A) The Russian Revolution was an event where the people of Russia overthrew their Czar (king) and created a new government.

B) Causes of (reasons for) the Russian Revolution- Like all political (government) revolutions, the Russian Revolution took place because the people of Russia were unhappy with their government. People were unhappy for several reasons:

1) World War I- Russia suffered many casualties (injuries and death) in the war. World War I also created food shortages at home (people were starving).

2) Czar Nicholas II- He was the ruler of Russia at the time. People thought that he abused his power by denying (taking away) the rights of the people.

C) Bolsheviks

- 1) This was the radical (extreme) group that was leading the Russian Revolution.
- 2) The leader of the Bolsheviks was a man named Vladimir Lenin.
- 3) Lenin and the Bolsheviks gained the support of the Russian people by promising to provide them with "Peace, Land, and Bread." This slogan meant that they would take Russia out of WWI, give land to peasants, and feed everyone.

D) Effects (results) of the Russian/Bolshevik Revolution:

- 1) Czar Nicholas II was executed.
- 2) Lenin and the Bolsheviks came to power in Russia.
- 3) Russia became a Communist nation.

TOPIC: NATIONALISM BETWEEN WORLD WARS

I. Nationalism Between World Wars (1919-1939)

A) Turkey

- 1) After World War I, the Ottoman Empire was broken apart. All that remained of Ottoman lands was the country of Turkey.
- 2) Kemal Ataturk- He was the first president of Turkey. He is considered a nationalist because he made many changes in order to strengthen Turkey:
 - a) Westernization- He imitated the customs and traditions of European countries (for example, people in Turkey were required to dress like Europeans).
 - b) Democracy- He helped establish democracy in Turkey by giving people a voice in government (even women were given the right to vote).
 - c) **NOTE:** Many Muslims resented Kemal Ataturk since he eliminated Islamic laws and created secular (non-religious) laws.

B) Zionism

- 1) Zionism is the name for the nationalist movement of Jews.
- 2) Since Jews did not yet have their own country, the goal of Zionists after World War I was to create an official nation for Jews in the Holy Land (a region of the Middle East that includes the sacred city of Jerusalem).
- 3) **NOTE:** Jews and Palestinians (Arab Muslims) were fighting for the same territory.

C) India

- 1) By the time World War I ended in 1919, India had been a colony of Great Britain (England) for almost 200 years. After World War I, India began to increase its demands for independence (self-government).
- 2) Mohandas Gandhi
 - a) He is the famous nationalist leader of India who fought for independence from Britain using only non-violent methods (also called civil disobedience or passive resistance).
 - b) Salt March- Famous event where Gandhi protested British taxes on salt by leading a peaceful march to the sea to make his own salt.
 - c) Boycott- Gandhi encouraged the people of India to boycott (stop buying) British products (like clothing) that were sold in India.

TOPIC: TOTALITARIANISM BETWEEN WORLD WARS

I. Introduction to Totalitarian Dictatorships

- A) Totalitarian dictatorships are governments where one ruler has complete control over ALL aspects of life within a country. They control the political, social, and economic features of a nation.
- B) After World War I, totalitarian dictatorships were established in 3 countries under 3 men:
- 1) The Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin.
 - 2) Italy under Benito Mussolini.
 - 3) Germany under Adolf Hitler.
- C) All 3 totalitarian dictatorships had a number of characteristics (traits) in common:
- 1) Censorship- They ended freedom of speech in their countries. The governments strictly controlled the media (i.e.- newspapers, radio, and television) of their nation.
 - 2) One political party- Only the political party of the dictators was allowed to exist. Stalin's political party was called the Communists. Mussolini's political party was called the Fascists. Hitler's political party was called the Nazis.
 - 3) People were expected to put the needs of the state (their country) before their own needs.
 - 4) They eliminated opposition (people against them) by using a secret police force.
 - 5) They used propaganda- Messages that were meant to influence the way people thought.
- D) **NOTE:** The Regents wants you to know that both Hitler and Mussolini were able to come to power because Germany and Italy were facing severe economic problems such as inflation (rising prices) and unemployment (many people had no job). The people of Germany and Italy believed that Hitler and Mussolini could solve these problems.

II. Totalitarianism under Joseph Stalin

- A) Joseph Stalin was the totalitarian dictator of the Soviet Union (Russia). The Regents wants you to know the following about him:
- 1) He established a Command (or Communist) economy- This is an economic system where the government (instead of individuals) owns businesses, makes business decisions, and sets prices.
 - 2) Five-Year Plans- Stalin tried to modernize (update) the industry (factories) and agriculture (farms) of the Soviet Union by setting economic goals every five years.
 - 3) Collectivization- Stalin took over the individual farms that people owned and forced people to live on large government farms (called collective farms) that were owned by the government.
 - 4) **NOTE:** Stalin took away food from the people of the Ukraine (an area of the Soviet Union) when they resisted (fought against) his program of collectivization. Millions of peasants in the Ukraine died of forced starvation.

TOPIC: WORLD WAR II

I. Introduction to World War II (1939-1945)

- A) World War II was the second major global conflict of the twentieth century. It was fought mainly in Europe and on the islands of the Pacific Ocean.

II. Events leading up to World War II

- A) Japanese Aggression
- 1) Japan took over Korea, Manchuria (northeastern China), and much of Southeast Asia in order to gain natural resources/raw materials (like coal and iron).

- 2) Rape of Nanking- Brutal event in which the Japanese raped and killed Chinese civilians (non-soldiers) in the city of Nanking. It was a major human rights violation.
- B) Italian Aggression- Benito Mussolini of Italy invaded and took over Ethiopia (country in Africa).
- C) German Aggression- Adolf Hitler violated the Treaty of Versailles in a number of ways:
- 1) Hitler built up the German military and drafted soldiers into the army.
 - 2) Hitler placed soldiers in the Rhineland (an area between Germany and France).
 - 3) Hitler took over the neighboring country of Austria.
 - 4) Hitler took over the neighboring country of Czechoslovakia.
- D) **NOTE:** World War II took place mainly because very little was done early on to stop Hitler, Mussolini, or Japan. For example:
- 1) The League of Nations was an international organization created after World War I in order to prevent war. It failed to stop Hitler, Mussolini, or Japan from being aggressive.
 - 2) Appeasement- This is a policy where an aggressive nation is given what they want by other nations in order to avoid war. At the Munich Conference in Germany, Great Britain appeased Hitler by giving him control over Czechoslovakia. This led Hitler to demand even more land.
- E) **NOTE:** World War II started when Hitler invaded Poland in 1939. Three days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany.

III. Key Events of World War II

- A) Invasion of Poland- This event started WWII. Poland was quickly defeated by Germany because Poland lacks natural boundaries (i.e.- it has very flat plains that were easy to conquer).
- B) Pearl Harbor- Japan launched a surprise attack against the United States. This event brought us into World War II.
- C) **NOTE:** The Regents wants you to know that Hitler failed to conquer Russia (the Soviet Union) at the Battle of Stalingrad because of the harsh climate (severe winter) and large size of the nation. The same was true of Napoleon Bonaparte 130 years earlier. Geography has always been Russia's best defense.
- D) D-Day Invasion- This was the beginning of the final Allied push against Germany. It resulted in the eventual defeat of Germany.
- E) Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki- This was the final event of World War II. The U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. Japan surrendered soon after.
- F) The Holocaust
- 1) This was the event during World War II in which Hitler and the Nazis tried to kill all Jews in Europe. 6 million Jews and 6 million non-Jews were killed during this event.
 - 2) The Holocaust is an example of genocide- the attempt to exterminate (kill off) an entire group of people. All genocides are considered human rights violations.

IV. Effects (Results) of World War II

- A) Formation of the United Nations
- 1) The United Nations is the organization that was created after World War II in order to solve international problems (like poverty and disease) and prevent future wars.
 - 2) 191 nations (almost the entire world) currently belong to the United Nations.
 - 3) The United Nations is made of 6 main bodies. 4 of them are:
 - a) The Security Council- Keeps peace between nations.
 - b) International Court of Justice- Settles disputes between countries.
 - c) General Assembly- Votes on key policies of the United Nations.
 - d) Secretariat- Responsible for day-to-day administration of the United Nations.

4) *Declaration of Human Rights*- This was a document created by the United Nations that lists the rights that ALL people should have within their nations. This includes the right to freedom of speech, the right to life, and the right to participate in government.

B) Nuremberg Trials

1) This is the court case where the surviving Nazis who helped Hitler carry out the Holocaust were put on trial.

2) 19 Nazi leaders were executed or sentenced to imprisonment as a result of “crimes against humanity” (i.e.- genocide).

3) **NOTE:** The Nuremberg Trials are important because they demonstrated that individuals in government could be held accountable (responsible) for their actions.