The Interwar Years

1919-1939

Collapse of Empires

- WWI Causes two empires to collapse
  - Breakup of Austria-Hungary: Austria and Hungary became independent nations. Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, Italy, and Romania each gained land.
  - Breakup of Ottoman Empire: Most of the Arab lands of the Ottoman Empire were placed under the control of Britain and France. These European powers created a system of territories out of the land, which was administered by western powers. The rest of the land became the country of Turkey.

Unfulfilled National Goals

- Germany was disturbed by terms of Treaty of Versailles.
- Italy did not get the land that they were promised in their secret treaty with the Allies.
- Japan was angry because the Allies did not recognize its claims in China.
- China was angry that Japan had been given control over former German possessions in China.
- Russia was angry over the reestablishment of Poland and the creation of Independent Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on lands that had been part of the Russian Empire.

Nationalism

Strong Nationalism continued after WWI

Indian Nationalism

- Nearly 1 million Indians served the Allied cause in Europe during WWI, but at home very few had rights.
- During WWI, Britain promised India greater self-government. After war was over they did not keep their promises.

The Amritsar Massacre: Turning point came in 1919. After attacks on British citizens in the city of Amritsar, Britain banned all public meetings.

The Amritsar Massacre

Large group of Indians assembled on April 13, British troops fired on them and killed about 400 people.

This incident convinced Indians that British rule had to END.

Gandhi

- 1920’s and 1930’s leader named Mohandas Gandhi headed the Indian nationalist movement.
- Taught nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience rather than bloodshed to win rights.
- Used tactics such as boycotting, or refusing to buy British goods.
- India did not achieve independence until a year after Gandhi’s death.
China was in great disorder after WWI. The economy collapsed, and peasants faced great economic hardships. Also during this time, foreign powers (especially Japan) increased their influence in China.

Rival Groups in China
- During this time, several movements emerged.
  - May Fourth Movement: Student movement, wanted to make China more modern... Turned to ideas such as democracy and nationalism.
  - Communists: Some Chinese turned to the ideas of Marx and Lenin. Chinese Communist party was formed.
  - Nationalists: Sun Yixian formed nationalist party, (the Guomindang). After Yixian’s death, Chiang Kai-shek took over the Guomindang.

Civil War
- Early on the Guomindang and the Communists had worked together to unite China. Over time, Chiang Kai-shek started seeing the Communists as a threat. A civil war began between the two sides that would last for 22 years.

Worldwide Depression
- After WWI economic problems emerged in Europe.
  - Returning soldiers needed jobs.
  - Nations had lots of debt.
  - Cities had to rebuild.
- Some recovery took place, especially Middle-class families.
- The U.S. experienced an economic boom and became the world’s leading economic power & provided Europe with loans to help them rebuild.
- This all came to an end with crash of the American stock market in 1929......this triggered the Great Depression of the 1930’s, a time of global economic collapse.

The Stock Market Crash
Impact of the Depression

- Banks and businesses closed.
- Millions of people were out of work, decreasing production of goods.
- Countries raised import tariffs, causing a decline in global trade.

As Great Depression continued

- People lost faith in democracy & capitalism.
- Communists celebrated what they saw as a failure of capitalism.
- Strong leaders supported intense nationalism, militarism, and a return to authoritarian rule.

Fascism

- The rule of a people by dictatorial government that is nationalistic and imperialistic. Fascist governments are also anti-communist. This form of government formed in both Germany and Italy after WWI.

Mussolini in Italy

- Italy was greatly troubled after WWI. Benito Mussolini took advantage of the unrest, gathering a following of war veterans and other unhappy Italians.
- He called the group the Fascist Party.
- In 1922, the Facists used force and terror to gain control of Italy.
- They ended free elections, free speech, and free press.
- They killed or jailed their enemies. They put the goals of the state above their individual rights.

Hitler in Germany

The Weimar Republic

- After WWI the Kaiser stepped down and Germany was in chaos.
- New democratic government, called the Weimar Republic, was politically weak.
- The troubles of the time led to the Nazi rise to power.
**The Nazi Party in Power**
- Germans wanted a leader to provide jobs and rebuild German pride.
- Adolf Hitler promised to be that leader.
- Formed the National Socialist German Workers, or Nazi party.
- Told Germans that they were a superior race destined to build a new empire.
- The popularity of the party grew and in 1933 Hitler was appointed chancellor.

**Hitler as Dictator**
- Hitler’s Germany (Third Reich) was a totalitarian state.
- Party ended civil rights, and silenced enemies with force.
  - Created jobs for many people.
  - Rebuilt Germany’s military (violation of Treaty of Versailles)
- He improved the living standard in Germany.
- Instituted programs and laws to restrict Jews and drive them out of Germany.
- Few German citizens worried about Hitler’s policies, most were pleased that he was restoring German pride as well as military and economic power.

**Japan: Militarism and Expansionism**
- Japan tried to move toward a democracy.
- There were underlying problems in Japanese society.
- Great Depression in 1929 made problems worse.
- Militarists and extreme nationalists gained power.