Questions/Main ideas:

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Summary:

Notes: Chapter 1 and 2

**The Nation State**

For the past 400 years the world has been dominated by what we call the nation state.

Nation States are territorial, their boundaries do not always relate to geographic, religious, or cultural relationships. They are artificial creations. They are meant to provide security and an acceptable standard of living, and in return demand the loyalty and obedience of their people.

Above all the Nation state demands the right to preserve its internal power and determine its own expansion.

**The beginning of the modern nation state the 17th through 19th century**

The modern system of Nation States began in 1648

The European Nations agreed to recognize the sovereignty of each others nation-states and stop intervening in each others affairs.

However the more powerful nations continued to pursue their own interests to the detriment of weaker nations.

The major global powers of this time were

Great Britain,

Austria-Hungary,

Spain,

France,

Prussia (which would become Germany after the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71)

Russia.

This initially resulted in a system of collective security and later developed into a balance of power system that lasted through to the latter part of the 19th Century

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Summary:

**The Nations State pre 1900**

The beginning of the twentieth century saw a world dominated by empires engaged in a global competition for the resources necessary to feed their industrial machines. This rivalry and need for resources saw the development of overseas colonies where other, less powerful nation states were incorporated into the more powerful nation states. The powerful nation states of the 19th Century (1800’s) were convinced that their own cultures and in some cases religions were superior to those of their satellite countries.

**Nation States Continued**

This global political climate of expansionism was dominated by Western Europe, North America, Russia and Japan.

As their individual industrial machines grew in size and complexity they began to demand more resources. These powers inevitably began to develop conflicting needs, and the next century would be dominated by the result of these conflicts

Questions/Main ideas:

**Nation States Continued  
Ethnocentrism**

The powerful nation states of the 19th Century were convinced that their own cultures and in some cases religions were superior to those of their satellite countries.

They defended their expansionistic policies with concepts like “White Man’s Burden” and “Manifest Destiny” which justified their creation of global spheres of interest.

**“Ethnocentrism” The “white man’s burden”**

This view proposes that white people have an obligation to rule over, and encourage the cultural development of people from other ethnic and cultural background

So they can “take their place in the world” by fully adopting Western ways.

The term "the white man's burden" has been interpreted as racist, or taken as a metaphor for a condescending view of non-Western national culture and economic traditions,

Has also been identified as "cultural imperialism”

An alternative interpretation is the philanthropic view, that the rich have a moral duty and obligation to help "the poor" "better" themselves whether the poor want the help or not

Think/pair/ share. What is your opinion of the concept of “white man’s burden” What impact do you think this philosophy has had on global development? How did it influence colonialism? (T: 2 min, P: 2 min, S: 5 min)

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Questions/Main ideas:

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**Manifest Destiny**

Manifest Destiny is the American belief that the United States is destined to expand across the North American continent, from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific Ocean.

Advocates of Manifest Destiny believed that expansion is not only wise but that it is readily apparent (manifest) and inexorable (destiny).

The belief in an American mission to promote and defend democracy throughout the world, as expounded by Woodrow Wilson and Ronald Reagan, continues to have an influence on American political ideology and is an aspect of the belief in Manifest Destiny.

The idea of Manifest Destiny has three primary pillars

the virtue of the American people and their institutions;

the mission to spread these institutions, thereby redeeming and remaking the world in the image of the U.S.; and

the destiny under God to accomplish this work.

Questions/Main ideas:

**Examples of US expansionism influenced by the idea of Manifest Destiny**

United States annexed Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines after the American Spanish War.

The acquisition of these islands marked a new chapter in U.S. history. Traditionally, territories were acquired by the United States for the purpose of becoming new states, on equal footing with already existing states.

These islands, however, were acquired as colonies rather than prospective states.

Rudyard Kipling's poem

"The White Man's Burden", was subtitled "The United States and the Philippine Islands” This shows how close these two concepts were. White Man's Burden text

Do you see examples of these beliefs in modern global politics?

Where and How?

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Conflicts leading to WWI, The competition of the Nation State: The Franco-Prussian War**

Franco-Prussian War or Franco-German War 1870 –1871 was between France and Prussia. Victory brought about the final unification of the German Empire under King William I of Prussia.

It also marked the downfall of Napoleon III and the end of the Second French Empire

As part of the settlement, almost all of the territory of Alsace-Lorraine was taken by Prussia to become a part of Germany, which it would retain until the end of World War I.

The conflict was a culmination of years of tension between the two powers

The public release of the Ems Dispatch, which played up alleged insults between the Prussian king and the French ambassador, inflamed public opinion on both sides.

France mobilized first, and declared war on Prussia. The other German states quickly joined on Prussia's side.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Conflicts leading to WWI in Africa**

The Boer Wars (1880–1881 and 1899–1902) were fought between the British Empire and the two independent Boer republics,

the Orange Free State and the South African Republic (Transvaal Republic), founded by Dutch settlers known as Voortrekkers.

The First Boer War (1880–1881), also known as the "Transvaal War," was a relatively brief conflict in which Boer settlers successfully resisted a British attempt to annex the Transvaal, and re-established an independent republic. This conflict is remarkable for its British/Boer casualty ratio of 10:1 .

The war most commonly referred to as the "Boer War" is the Second Boer War (1899–1902), by contrast, was a lengthy war involving large numbers of troops from many British possessions, including Canada, which ended with the conversion of the Boer republics into British colonies. These colonies were promised limited self-government. These colonies later formed part of the Union of South Africa.

Imperialism

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Conflicts leading to WWI: In China**

The Taiping Rebellion: Rise of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom

The Boxer Rebellion, or Boxer Movement, was an uprising by members of the Chinese Society of Right and Harmonious Fists against foreign influence in areas such as trade, politics, religion and technology.

The campaigns took place from November 1899 to 7 September 1901, during the final years of Manchu rule in China under the Qing Dynasty.

The rebellion was stopped by an alliance of eight nations, including Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

By 1900, Russia was busy occupying much of the northeastern province of Manchuria, a move which threatened Anglo-American hopes of maintaining what remained of China's territorial integrity and an openness to commerce under the Open Door Policy. Russia assured other powers that it would vacate the area after the crisis. However, by 1903 the Russian had not yet adhered to any timetable for withdrawal and actually strengthened their position in Manchuria.

This behavior led ultimately to the Russo-Japanese War, where Russia was defeated at the hands of an increasingly confident Japan.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Origins of the conflict between Russia and Japan**

By the late 19th century, Japan had emerged from isolation and transformed itself into a modernized industrial state in a remarkably short time. The Japanese wished to preserve their sovereignty and to be recognized as an equal with the Western powers.

Russia, a major Imperial power, had ambitions in the East. By the 1890s it had extended its realm across Central Asia to Afghanistan, absorbing local states in the process. The Russian Empire stretched from Poland in the west to the Kamchatka peninsula in the East. With its construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway to the port of Vladivostok, Russia hoped to consolidate its influence and presence in the region.

This was precisely what Japan feared, as they regarded Korea (and to a lesser extent Manchuria) as a protective buffer between them and Russia.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Conflicts leading To WWI: Russo/Japanese War**

The Russo-Japanese War (February 10, 1904 – September 5, 1905) grew out of the imperialist ambitions of the Russian Empire and Japanese Empire over the resources of Manchuria and Korea.

The Russians were in constant pursuit of a warm water port on the Pacific Ocean, for their navy as well as trade.

The recently established Pacific seaport of Vladivostok was the only active Russian port that was reasonably operational during the summer season; but Port Arthur would be operational all year.

The resulting campaigns, in which the fledgling Japanese military consistently attained victory over the Russian forces, were unexpected.

These victories, dramatically transformed the balance of power in East Asia, resulting in a reassessment of Japan's entry onto the world stage.

The embarrassing string of defeats increased Russian populace's dissatisfaction with the inefficient and corrupt Tsarist government and proved a major cause of the Russian Revolution of 1905, and ultimately contributed to the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917 and the rise of communism in both Russia and China.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**WWI Some background information**

At the beginning of the 20th Century much of Eastern Europe was dominated by three weak and crumbling empires…

Austro–Hungarian

Russian

Ottoman

Many countries formed alliances to protect themselves.

France, Russia, and Britain formed an alliance called the Triple Entente

Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed the Triple Alliance in response

There was a huge arms race in Europe in the early 1900’s

Britain and Germany were going head to head to see who could create the larger navy

All European countries expanded their armies to try and maintain a balance of power

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Prince of Austria Hungary was visiting the city of Sarajevo and was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist

When the Ottoman empire started to collapse Austria Hungary took control of Bosnia.

When Austria Hungary’s heir was assassinated Austria Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia declared war on Austria Hungary. Germany declared war on Russia. France declared war on Germany. Germany marched through Belgium to get to France (see the Schlieffen Plan.) So Britain declared war on Germany

WWI was on.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Schlieffen Plan**

The “Schlieffen Plan” called for a quick strike of annihilation against France before turning all of the German forces on Russia.

In the first weeks of the war 8 German armies pushed through Belgium and attacked France.

Their plan was to take France before troops from England could join the ally forces.

The plan failed. By November the western front was locked in trench warfare, and would remain so for the next 3 years.

**The War Overseas The Western Front**

Both the Triple Alliance and The Triple Entente’s war plans were based on gaining a quick victory. This was not to be.

August 4, 1914 Britain joined the war.

By October, the French alone had lost ½ a million soldiers, and the Germans had captured France’s richest industrial region.

By November the French and English were locked in combat on the Western Front against German forces in trenches that ran from Switzerland, through France and a corner of Belgium, to the English Channel.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Timeline of World War I Battles**

28 June 1914: Archduke Ferdinand assassinated

1 August 1914: Germany declared war on Russia

3 August 1914: Germany declared war on France

4 August 1914: British ultimatum to Germany

26-30 August 1914: Battle of Tannenberg

5-10 September 1914: Battle of the Marne

6-15 September 1914: Battle of the Masurian Lakes

February to November 1916: Battle of Verdun

31 May 1916: Battle of Jutland

June to November 1916: Battle of the Somme

6 April 1917: USA declares war on Germany

**Ypres & The Gas Attack**

The second battle at Ypres lasted from April to May 1915. It was the first significant battle that Canadians had spearheaded.

Ypres marked the first time a colonial force (the Canadians) had pushed back a major European power.

The Germans dropped chlorine gas onto Allied forces from planes above.

**Battle on the Somme**

This battle was fought in the summer of 1916 and cost the lives of over 1 million men between both sides.

The original intention was to draw troops away from the Battle of Verdun where the Allied forces were attempting to break German lines.

The first day of the Somme became the bloodiest day in British human history.

Offensive methods utilizing the “Over the Top” philosophy were not up to par with the advancements of defensive weaponry.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Battle of Vimy Ridge**

Fought April 1917.

Canadian troops were under the leadership of Canadian officers who would not allow archaic strategies. Vimy Ridge was planned for months, while the battle lasted only 5 days.

Canadians used the ‘Creeping Barrage’ technique to hold defensive troops at bay while offensive troops moved in.

Once the Canadians had taken the ridge, the Germans were forced into retreat.

**Passchendaele**

Passchendaele was the third battle of Ypres in Belgium between the Allies and the Germans.

If the allies could get through Ypres they could breach the German submarine bases that was responsible for shooting down hundreds of allied and commercial ships.

Only Allied troops, with a huge Canadian contingent, were able to breech the German pillboxes because of how ripped apart the earth had been from the fighting.

Swamp-like conditions killed many forces on both sides.

**The War On The Eastern Front**

The Eastern Front was just as difficult.

The Russians were suffering devastating losses against the Germans and when Turkey joined Germany in December, it blocked Russia from her supply of arms and equipment.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Russians**

Russia managed to cross the eastern borders of Germany earlier than the Germans expected, but were unable to defeat the Germans.

They were more effective against the Austro-Hungarians in Galicia, and the Germans were forced to begin a general offensive along the Eastern Front in May of 1915.

In 1916 the Russians threatened the German capital of Berlin and the Austro-Hungarian capital of Vienna. The Germans were forced to move troops from Verdun to the Eastern Front.

From this point on the Germans would keep constant pressure on the increasingly demoralized Russian army, until Russia withdrew from the war in 1917 under its Communist Revolution.

**The Russians Continued**

The provisional government that replaced the Tsar was destroyed in the October Revolution.

The Bolsheviks (communists) under Vladimir Ilyich Lenin seized power in Russia (renamed the Soviet Socialist Republic).

Lenin immediately pulled Russia out of the war by signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ending German-Russian hostility.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The United States**

Russia’s surrender was balanced by the US entering the war.

The sinking of the Lusitania in 1915 by a German submarine attack gave President Woodrow Wilson the public support he needed to declare war against the Germans.

The real catalyst to the Americans joining the war effort was a secret plan the Germans were hatching with Mexico to support a Mexican invasion of the US if Germany won the war (Zimmerman Telegraph).

The US chose not to send troops immediately upon their entrance to the war, however they did act as an arsenal for the allies.

The Lusitania departed Pier 54 in New York on 1 May 1915.

The German Embassy in Washington had issued this warning on 22 April:

“NOTICE! TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on the ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk. IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY,  
Washington, D.C. 22nd April 1915”

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Questions/Main ideas:

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Summary:

Notes:

