Questions/Main ideas:

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**The Reconstruction of Europe   
1919-1934**

At the end of WWI the map of Europe was redrawn.

The German empire’s boarders shrank inside of Europe.

Germany also lost control of it’s colonial holdings because of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

The Austro-Hungarian Russian and Ottoman empires disintegrated into a series of successor states.

 Central Europe became politically unstable.

Nationalism again became a motivating force behind unrest in central Europe, as competing interests and national aspirations led to civil wars and social revolutions.

**Redrawing the map of Europe**

The Baltic republics left what was becoming the Soviet Union

Poland regained independence, which it had lost in the 1700’s.

Serbia grew to become what would later turn into Yugoslavia.

The Czechs and Slovaks united to become Czechoslovakia.

Romania took Transylvania from Hungary.

Italy annexed the Austrian Tyrol and Trieste.

Austria shrank into relative insignificance.

Turkish war for independence

Turkey and Greece began a war over Asia Minor.

This redrawing of the map paid little heed to large groups of ethnic minorities who would develop nationalistic sentiments of their own in the decades to follow

Notes: Recon Europe

Questions/Main ideas:

**Fascism**

A system of government marked by centralization of authority under a dictator, stringent socioeconomic controls, suppression of the opposition through terror and censorship, and typically a policy of belligerent nationalism and racism.

A political philosophy or movement based on or advocating such a system of government.

Oppressive, dictatorial control. Fascism

Word History: It is fitting that the name of an authoritarian political movement like Fascism, founded in 1919 by Benito Mussolini, should come from the name of a symbol of authority. The Italian name of the movement, fascismo, is derived from fascio, "bundle, (political) group," but also refers to the movement's emblem, the fasces, a bundle of rods bound around a projecting axe-head that was carried before an ancient Roman magistrate by an attendant as a symbol of authority and power.

The name of Mussolini's group of revolutionaries was soon used for similar nationalistic movements in other countries that sought to gain power through violence and ruthlessness, such as National Socialism.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Democracy**

Government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives.

A political or social unit that has such a government.

The common people, considered as the primary source of political power.

Majority rule.

The principles of social equality and respect for the individual within a community.

(Government, Politics & Diplomacy) government by the people or their elected representatives

(Government, Politics & Diplomacy) a political or social unit governed ultimately by all its members

(Sociology) the practice or spirit of social equality

(Sociology) a social condition of classlessness and equality

(Government, Politics & Diplomacy) the common people, esp. as a political force

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Communism**

Basic Concepts: Marxist philosophy ,Class struggle ,Proletarian internationalism, Communist party

Figures: Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Vladimir Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, Joseph Stalin, Leon Trotsky, Mao Zedong

Communism is a socioeconomic structure that promotes the establishment of a classless, stateless society based on common ownership of the means of production It is usually considered to be a branch of socialism, a broad group of social and political ideologies, which draws on the various political and intellectual movements with origins in the work of theorists of the Industrial Revolution and the French Revolution, although socialist historians say they are older.

Communism attempts to offer an alternative to the problems believed to be inherent with capitalist economies and the legacy of imperialism and nationalism. Communism states that the only way to solve these problems would be for the working class, or proletariat, to replace the wealthy bourgeoisie, which is currently the ruling class, in order to establish a peaceful, free society, without classes, or government. The dominant forms of communism, such as Leninism, Stalinism, Maoism, Trotskyism and Luxemburgism, are based on Marxism, but non-Marxist versions of communism (such as Christian communism and anarchist communism) also exist and are growing in importance since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Think/Pair/Share. What are the Basic features of Communism, Fascism and democracy? How do these ideologies interact or react with each other? Are these ideologies mutually exclusive? Could you have a Democratic Fascist state? Could you have a Democratic Communist state? What groups in society are best served by which ideology?

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Czechoslovakia**

Czechoslovakia’s creation was pivotal to the shift in the power balance of the central European states.

The creation of Czechoslovakia broke the back of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Czech nationalist movement was sparked by Tomas Masaryk and Eduard Benes.

Their desire for recognition of Czechoslovakia’s nationhood was aided by world opinion of the Czech Legion’s actions during WWI.

With considerable financial support from North American Czechs and Slovaks  a Czech National Council met in Prague and declared Czechoslovakia a state.

The 3 million people of German decent living along the boarders of the new state would be the excuse for the German annexation of Czechoslovakia in 1938

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Poland**

At the end of the war Poland was re-established as a nation state to act as a buffer between Germany and Russia.

The newly reformed state was given access to the sea through a land corridor that ran from eastern Germany to the port of Danzig.

The port of Danzig was administered by the League of Nations as a free city.

Although the rest of Poland had been created with some level of sensitivity to the ethnicities involved the Polish corridor to the sea was an uncomfortable mix of Poles and Germans that offered little chance of assimilation with the rest of the Polish state.

The Russians and Poles came into conflict over their extent of their shared border resulting in the allies suggesting the Curzon Line as a reasonable ethnic boundary for the east ( later the Soviet-Polish border circa 1945) The Poles however were less than enthusiastic.

This led to the Russo-Polish war of 1920

The Treaty of Riga (1921) ended open aggression.

With no agreement in place the boarder became the military position of the armies in question when the fighting stopped, the Soviet’s desire to expand into land held by Poland would help lead to the Soviet invasion of Poland in 1939. . .



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Questions/Main ideas:

**Italy**

Italy was given the Adriatic Coast and the cities of Trieste and Fiume in the Treaty of London

This was in recognition of them abandoning the Triple Alliance and joining the Allies in WWI

However The US refused to accept Italy’s claims.

Instead President Wilson supported the formation of an enlarged Slavic nation state

Yugoslavia and Italy began to have issues over Trieste and other strategic areas of the Adriatic region

Fiume was seized in 1919 by Italian war veterans under the Italian poet Gabriele D’Annunzio

The Italians then gave the region to the League of Nations, however 15 months later the Italians retook the City

In 1924 the Yugoslavian’s renounced their claim to the region in the Pact of Rome. This agreement was, however only temporary

**Turkey**

In Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk led a successful rebellion against the Turkish Sultan.

This was partially in response to discontent over the terms of Turkey’s surrender in WWI, that included Turkey giving up all of its European territories.

The Turks proceeded to resist the transfer of areas of western Anatolia  which was to go to the Greeks under the terms of the Treaty of Severs.

The next two years were characterized by massacres by both sides on the Aegean islands and in Anatolia.

The Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 ended the conflict, with an exchange of populations and Turkey continuing to control mainland Asia Minor.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The League of Nations: the Purpose**

The purpose of the League was to end conflict between nations.

It was the first item on the agenda in 1919 at the Paris Peace Conference (that resulted in the Treaty of Versailles)

It was the brain child of the US President (Wilson)

Lloyd George of Britain and Georges Clemenceau of France were willing to support the League if it meant they could depend on American military support in case of conflict that threatened their interests as nation states.

France and Britain’s lukewarm support of the League would unfortunately prove to be the least of the problems faced by the world’s first attempt at collective security.

**The Goals of the League of nations**

Membership in the League was voluntary

Members were obligated to respect and protect each other’s territories through collective action

The combined military power of all of the League members would deter other nation states from attacking League members and therefore provide collective security

This would act to stop global aggression and promote a state of world peace The League of Nations

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Some of the problems of the League of Nations**

The League was comprised of a council consisting of: Britain, France, Italy, Japan, the USA and the Soviet Union.

The USA never took its place on the council as they began a policy of “isolationism” following Wilson’s death

The Soviet Union was not admitted until 1934

The League also included non-permanent members who were elected to a fixed term on the council.

Each nation had one vote

There was a Secretariat acting as the day to day administrator of business

The League included around 20 satellite organizations and commissions.

**The Mandate System**

The level of control by the Mandatory (one of the European Nations that was victorious in WWI) power over each mandate was decided on an individual basis by the League of Nations.

The Mandatory (European Nation) power was forbidden to build fortifications or an army within the territory of the mandate and was required to present an annual report on the territory to the League of Nations.

Despite this, mandates were generally seen as colonies of the empires of the victor nations.

The mandates were divided into three distinct groups based upon the individual areas level of development

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Class A Mandates**

The first group or Class A mandates were areas formerly controlled by the Ottoman Empire

These areas also were deemed to "... have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone. The wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory.”

Which meant that the area should have some say in who was the Mandatory (European country) in charge of their country

The Class A mandates were:

Iraq ( controlled by the United Kingdom),

Palestine (controlled by the United Kingdom)

Transjordan was incorporated as an autonomous area under the mandate, eventually becoming the independent Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Syria, including Lebanon (controlled by France)

By 1948 these mandates had been replaced or their territory annexed by new monarchies  in Iraq and Jordan or republican governments  like Israel, Lebanon and Syria.



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Questions/Main ideas:

**Class B Mandates**

The second group or Class B mandates were all former German territories in the Sub-Saharan regions of West and Central Africa, which were deemed to require a greater level of control by the mandatory power:

"...the Mandatory must be responsible for the administration of the territory under conditions which will guarantee freedom of conscience and religion."

The mandatory power was forbidden to construct military or naval bases within the mandates.

The Class B mandates were:

Ruanda-Urundi (Belgium), formerly two separate German protectorates, joined as a single mandate then later in administrative union with the colony Belgian Congo.

After 1946, this was a United Nations Trust Territory until the separate independence of Rwanda and Burundi

Tanganyika (United Kingdom) 1964 federated with Zanzibar, and renamed Tanzania

Two former German territories, each split in a British and a French League of Nations mandated territory, according to earlier military occupation zones:

Kamerun was split British Cameroons and French Cameroun (United Kingdom and France)

The former German colony of Togoland was split into British Togoland  and French Togoland (United Kingdom and France),

French Togoland   and British Togoland eventually ceased to exist and became part of Ghana

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Mandates in the Middle East and Africa, included:**  
1. Syria,   
2. Lebanon,   
3. Palestine,   
4. Transjordan,   
5. Mesopotamia,   
6. British Togoland,   
7. French Togoland,  
 8. British Cameroons,   
9. French Cameroun,   
10. Ruanda-Urundi,   
11. Tanganyika and   
12. South-West Africa



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Questions/Main ideas:

**Class C mandates**

A final group, the Class C mandates, were former German possessions including South-West Africa and certain of the South Pacific Islands, were considered to be "best administered under the laws of the mandatory as integral portions of its territory”.This meant that they were never going to become independent and were to “belong” to the mandatory power permanently.

The Class C mandates were :

German New Guinea (given to Australia ) after wartime Japanese/U.S. military commands under UN mandate as North East New Guinea (under Australia, as administrative unit), until it became part of present Papua New Guinea at independence in 1975. Nauru, formerly part of German New Guinea (Australia in effective control, formally together with United Kingdom and New Zealand) from 1920, 1947 made into a United Nations trust territory (same three powers) till its 1968 independence as a Republic Former German Samoa (New Zealand) 1920 a League of Nations mandate, renamed Western Samoa (as opposed to American Samoa), from 1947 a United Nations trust territory till its 1962 independence

South Pacific Mandate (Japan)

South-West Africa (South Africa)

**League of Nations: The Problems**

Membership in the League was voluntary

The League required an unanimous vote to take action against an aggressive nation

The most powerful nations in the world were not consistently members of the League, and the USA never became a member at all, this limited the Leagues effectiveness significantly.

The powers of the League resided in the members of the council so any decision that might have a negative impact on council members was unlikely.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Membership in the League**

Membership in the League was almost universal. 63 nations were part of it at one time or another with the exception of the USA which developed a policy of isolationism post 1919

Germany joined the League in 1926

the Soviet Union joined 1934

Germany and Japan both left the league in 1933, as they began to mobilize for expansion and prepare for war

 The Soviet union was expelled in 1939 for its invasion of Finland,  and there was a rash of defections in the late 1930s as various global powers began to prepare for the outbreak of WWII.

Britain and France were left as the only great powers involved and as a result, the League became very Eurocentric and ceased to effectively protect the interest of other members from different regions.

Britain and France only made use of the League when it suited their purposes and conducted all other foreign affairs independently.

Because of these factors the League lacked the ability to fulfill its mandate of promoting World Peace or any real sence of collective security.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The League in the 1920’s and 30’s**

In the 1920’s and 30’s, the league accomplished good work in the social and humanitarian fields

Its commissions and public debates helped publicize the need for cooperative actions on a number of problems.

Key Issues:  
-the need for the just treatment of non self-governing peoples  
-the traffic in women and dangerous drugs  
-the status of women and children  
-problems of communication and transportation  
-the need for free trade  
-the need for disarmament and arms control  
-the prevention of disease and other social and health problems.

The work of the League in social and economic matters was valuable and laid the groundwork for the future United Nations.

It also helped to lay the building blocks for the globalization of trade relations between nations, and the foundation for the future UN

**Japanese aggression in Manchuria: The first failure**

The Japanese occupation of Manchuria or the Manchurian crisis of 1931 is the first test of the League of Nations willingness to use its powers for the collective security of sovereign nations.

¨Japan’s expansion onto the Asian mainland was driven by Japan’s desire for the resources essential for industrial growth

¨The Japanese were members of the League and initially action against Japan was blocked by Japan’s veto vote in the League

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Manchurian Crisis 1931**

When China appealed to the League for aid both Britain and France refused to act in a military capacity.

The USA (not a member of the League) responded by proclaiming the Stimson Doctrine

This stated that the US would not recognise boarder changes achieved by force of arms

The League adopted the Stimson doctrine

The Japanese set up a puppet government in Manchuria called Manchukuo

The League sent Lord Lytton to Asia in the Lytton commission which, although it encouraged the acknowledgment of Japan’s sphere of influence in the Manchurian region, found that Japan had been the aggressor in the invasion of the region

**Japan’s Response to the Lytton Committee**

The Japanese responded to the Lytton committee’s findings by withdrawing their membership  in the League

Because Japan was no longer a member the rest of the League decided that they no longer had a responsibility to deal with the case of Manchuria and that no further action on the part of the League was necessary.

Although the decision was supported by League nations it set the stage for other expansionist nation states to begin the aggressive acts that destroyed the peace created at the Paris Peace Conference and would make a lie of the hope that WWI would be the war to end global aggression

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Rise of Mussolini in Italy**

While Japan was expanding it’s empire Italy was developing into a Fascist state

Post WWI Italy was economically and socially tumultuous and against this backdrop Benito Mussolini  rose to power Mussolini

Financed by industrialists Mussolini used Veterans of the war which he organized into groups known as the “Black Shirts” to attack strikers and communist organizers inside of Italian communities

In 1922 after a march on Rome by his supporters Mussolini “persuaded” the king of Italy to appoint him as Prime Minister.

As Prime Minister Mussolini was given dictatorial powers for one year (to restore order to the Italian infrastructure and economy)

Through the use of Fascist techniques ( terrorism) Mussolini was able to get the workers back in the factories and “the trains running on time”

**Mussolini takes control of Parliament**

As Prime Minister, the first years of Mussolini's rule were characterized by a right-wing coalition government composed of Fascists, nationalists, liberals and even two Catholic ministers.  The Fascists made up a small minority in his original governments. Mussolini's domestic goal, however, was the eventual establishment of a totalitarian state with himself as supreme leader

In June 1923, the government passed the Acerbo Law, which transformed Italy into a single national constituency. It granted a two-thirds majority of the seats in Parliament to the party or group of parties which had obtained at least 25 percent of the votes.

The "national alliance", consisting of Fascists, most of the old Liberals and others, won 64 percent of the vote largely by means of violence and voter intimidation..

This gave Mussolini a 2/3 majority in Parliament and Italy became a Fascist state

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Italy as a fascist state**

The assassination of the socialist leader Giacomo Matteotti, who had requested the annulment of the elections because of the irregularities  (beatings, intimidation and threats)  committed led many of the socialists, liberals and moderates to boycott Parliament, hoping to force Victor Emmanuel to dismiss Mussolini.

In response Mussolini declared them enemies of the state

The king, fearful of violence from the Fascists kept Mussolini in office.

Because of the boycott of Parliament, Mussolini could pass any legislation unopposed.

The political violence had worked, when Matteotti was murdered there was no popular demonstration.

Mussolini had been successful Rise of Fascism

**Il Duce**

In 1925 Mussolini appointed an all Fascist government

Italy was now a one party state Mussolini had eliminated all of his political opponents

By 1926  all government powers were invested in him personally as Il Duce

Italy had become a totalitarian regime



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Questions/Main ideas:

**The invasion of Ethiopia (Abyssinia)**

In an effort to realise an Italian Empire or the New Roman Empire as supporters called it, Italy set its sights on Ethiopia with an invasion that was carried out rapidly.

Italy's forces were far superior to the Abyssinian forces, especially in regards to air power and were soon victorious.

¨Emperor Haile Selassie was forced to flee the country, with Italy took the capital Addis Ababa and proclaimed it part of the Italian Empire  in May 1936, making Ethiopia part of Italian East Africa.

**The League’s response to the invasion of Ethiopia**

The League placed sanctions on Italy in response cutting off the Italians from British and French arms, and other materials excepting; food, coal, scrap iron, rubber, copper, and oil. Italy had no real pressing need for the banned British and French goods, however as the USA promised to make up any shortfall Italy did experience, these measures meant very little

The American intervention not only destroyed any punitive effect of the League’s decision. It also compromised French and British trade relations in the region.

They did not give Ethiopia military support (despite its membership in the League)

Britain did not close the Suez Canal to Italian military transports

Italy destroyed the fierce, but very badly equipped Ethiopians and the League effectively did nothing.

However damaging Italian British relations did provide one of the contributing factors that drew the Italians closer to Germany now under the leadership of Adolf Hitler

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Questions/Main ideas:

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**The Spanish Civil War**

The Spanish Civil War broke out in in June 1936

The Spanish Civil War was never a threat to international order but major powers became involved which distracted world opinion from central Europe and Asia

By the end of the war, 600,000 Spaniards would be killed or murdered, and after the war, another 1 million would be arrested and sent to concentration camps

Spain would be a Fascist State under the leadership of General Francisco Franco.

**Lead up to the Spanish Civil War**

In the early part of the 20th century, Spanish workers demanded better working conditions and a redistribution of the immense wealth of the church and landowners

There was also a call for a republican form of government

Peasants began demonstrating for the breakup of the vast estates held by the aristocracy.

In 1923, General Primo de Rivera was appointed PM, set up a military dictatorship and crushed disturbances using military force; remained in power until 1930 when he was dismissed.

Between 1931 and 1936 the parties elected alternated between left and right wing until left wing parties won a majority in February 1936

When the government moved to break up the estates of the rich, its supporters went on a rampage, raiding churches and abusing churchmen and women

The property classes retaliated, turning the streets into bloody battlegrounds

In June, the army held a coup against the government moved in and overthrew the government.

This began 3 years of civil war with massacres and atrocities committed by both sides.

Questions/Main ideas:

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**Fascist Nationalists versus the Socialist Republicans**

Right-wing forces under General Francisco Franco and Nationalist forces were flown into southern Spain from Africa by German and Italian aircraft.

Nationalists dominated the south while Republican supporters held the Northern Basque region of Spain. Anarchy in Spain

Franco hoped to crush the opposition quickly by advancing on Madrid. The city was besieged by four columns but Franco could not prevail

The arming of workers and peasants changed the character of fighting as they resorted to extremes of violence and atrocity.

The German army supported Franco’s army by carrying out bombing raids using undefended republican cities as target practice

Meanwhile brigades like the Mackenzie-Papineau from Canada came to Spain to aid the republicans.

The Soviet army took over these brigades and subjected them to communist propaganda. This was also an attempt to convince France and Britain to  oppose Germany.

Questions/Main ideas:

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**Failure of the League to act in Spain**

The Soviets pulled out in 1938.

Without Soviet aid, republican forces were quickly routed by Nationalist armies in 1939

Hitler hoped to receive Spain's support in WWII in return for Germany’s aid during the Spanish Civil War.

But Franco was a Nationalist and although he did supply Germany with Iron Ore and provide a haven for U-boats, he did not take the final step and join in the hostilities during WWII.

The League of Nations did not intervene in the civil war in spite of its commitment to act against foreign aggression

Very little aid was given to Republican forces by either France, or Britain

The two countries established a Non-Intervention Committee

In England over 11 million people signed a “Peace Ballot” protesting British involvement in any conflict synopsis of the Spanish Civil War

**France in the interwar years**

The French had been devastated by WWI

The majority of the war had been fought on French land.

The French had lost 1.3 million dead and another 3 million wounded 1/3rd of which were permanently disabled by their injuries

In addition to human costs the French had lost tens of thousands of buildings , hundreds of kilometres of railway and over 9000 factories

Also on their way out of French territory the retreating German forces had destroyed the coal and iron mines in Lorraine by flooding them and destroyed land as they retreated as a last protest against their enemies.

Although France had won the war they now faced a Germany that had an industrial complex largely unscathed by the conflict who outnumbered them by about 20 million people

Questions/Main ideas:

**Further problems for France**

France’s economy was further damaged when the Bolsheviks in the new Soviet union renounced the debts of tsarist Russia and seized all foreign assets.

France turned to England and the USA for support against German expansion, however the isolationist policy in the US followed after Wilson’s death and the unpopular idea of further involvement on the continent on the part of Britain left France vulnerable to any threat by Germany

**France interwar issues continued**

France depended on keeping Germany’s military growth contained.

The French wished to annex the Rhineland , however were blocked by the Americans who proposed a mutual defence treaty (that never manifested) to substitute occupation

When the Americans failed to ratify the treaty France was left in a vulnerable position in the N.E. frontier.

This resulted in the creation of the Maginot Line of stationary fortifications

These fortress survived the attack of May 1940, they had two vulnerable gaps One in Lorraine, where the Ardennes forest was though to provide a barrier for tanks and along the Belgian boarder

Both of these weaknesses would be exploited by the Germans later in 1940.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The French Economy, US involvement in Europe and the Dawes Plan**

The French had been counting on the financial reparations promised in the treaty of Versailles to cripple the German economy.

The German governments attempts to make the reparation payments had caused significant economic difficulties for the German people

Germany had been denied access to world markets for it’s goods and this made actually meeting the reparation payments difficult at best.

The amount of these payments proved to be too great for the German economy and in late 1922 Germany defaulted.

In response to this, French troops occupied the Ruhr River valley

 This occupation of the centre of the German coal and steel industries outraged the German people, who in response passively resisted the occupation by the French troops, by refusing to work or contribute to the French attempt to extract their mineral wealth

To defuse the situation and increase the chances of Germany resuming reparation payments, the Allied Reparations Commission asked Charles G. Dawes to find a solution to which all parties would agree.

The Dawes committee was entrusted with finding a solution for the collection of the German reparations debt, declaring that America would provide loans to the Germans, in order that they could make reparations payments to Britain and France. The Dawes Plan was enacted in 1924.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**France and the Successor States**

France tried to create a sort of collective security against German re-armament by allying with the successor states along Germany’s eastern borders.

Russia had traditionally provided a counterweight of power to keep Germany’s aspirations in check.

Now France looked to an alliance  with The Little Entente Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia France supported this alliance by signing treaties with each member country.

France also signed treaties with Poland to create a theoretical Cordon Sanitaire. This barrier was meant not only to keep out German aggression and re-establish the threat of a two front war with Germany it was also intended to keep the ideological spread of communism contained.

All it really achieved was drawing Germany and the Soviet Union closer together.

The inability of the successor states to get along made any military threat from the “cordon sanitaire” unrealistic

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Other attempts at creating security**

France was not alone in desiring a sense of security from Germany developing expansionistic ideas.

In  addition to seeking to consolidate some level of collective security with Germany’s neighboring nation states a number of international agreements emerged aimed at limiting aggression.

The Washington treaties of 1921-2 2

Aimed at limiting the naval arms race

The Locarno Pact 1925: Defined Germany’s western borders with France and Belgium, the Germans agreed to demilitarize the Rhineland, and give up claim to Alsace-Lorraine, in return for membership in the League of Nations.

Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928: an international treaty "providing for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy.”

Like the League of Nations these agreements and alliances would unfortunately provide only the illusion of security, as none of the participants would be willing to come to the aid of each other in case of a military event that seemed to threaten only one.

**Britain in the interwar period**

Britain was less concerned about the wellbeing of the French economy and more concerned about regaining world markets lost to Americans and Japanese competition during the war. The British believed it was in their best interest to create a balance of power between France and Germany, therefore the British did little to discourage the German attempts to re-arm. The British had lost a significant amount of the revenue generated by the Shipbuilding and textile industries to US and Japanese competition during the war. The public was bitter over economic difficulties faced by Britain post war and Britain was plagued by Labour unrest, making the British politicians reluctant to involve themselves in unpopular policies of continental enforcement. Britain during the interwar period

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Germany during the interwar period**

German reaction to the Treaty of Versailles was bitter and resentful.

Germany had done well on the western front and had won the war in the east

The people had expected to be able to keep the gains made in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and sit in on the Paris Peace conference.

Instead they were offered unconditional surrender or the resumption of a renewed allied assault.

The German people had a very hard time understanding why they had lost the war. Their disappointment and anger was fuelled by propaganda that suggested that certain politicians had betrayed the army and the state. There was also a growing sense of anti-Semitism in some areas. This myth is known as the  “Dolchstoß” or “stabbed in the back” myth. It blames the Jews of the world and certain members of the German military for betraying Germany and ending WWI not because of Germanys defeated, but as an act of treason.

The inability of Germany to re-enter world markets and their anger at the allied countries from WWI combined with the difficulties the Soviet Union was facing with industrial growth led to the Rapallo agreements of 1922 which saw Soviet food, oil and other natural products exchanged for German skills and knowledge, thus two former enemies began to make the first tentative steps toward alliance

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Weimar Republic**

In late 1918 the government in Germany was replaced by the Weimar Republic with President-elect Scheidemann as chancellor.

He had emergency powers if the Reichstag failed to reach agreement.

The Reichstag though dominated by moderate parties was not sympathetic to the terms of the treaty of Versailles and was determined to overturn the agreement

From the beginning the Germans violated the terms and spirit of the Treaty.

They trained in the Soviet Union under terms spelled out in the “Rapallo agreements”, they kept the officer corps of the military intact and generally set about to save their armed forces from the destruction called for in the T of V.

Political unrest plagued the new republic as Communists and right-wing factions tried to topple the government in attempted coups

In Jan 1919 the “Spartacist putsch” saw Communists stage demonstrations throughout the Ruhr.  A short Communist regime rued in Munich until bands of war veterans took it back

This was followed by the right-wing “Kapp putsch” in March of 1920

In the mist of this rule by martial law and presidential decree became common

Normalcy re-appeared in 1924 with the re-emergence of the moderate parties

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Problems of the Weimar government**

The most obvious problem the Weimar government  faced were the reparation payments

An initial payment had been made with the transfer of property from the wealthy

Understandably this left the people involved unhappy with the government.

Further payments were meant to be made with profits from competing in world markets

Unable to trade and facing long term military occupation Germany turned to the USA

The loans provided by the USA and the Dawes Plan (Followed by the Young Plan) left Germany very vulnerable to fluctuations of the American economy

The influx of American money also sparked the hyperinflation of 1923. This wiped out the savings of pensioners and made life intolerable for people on fixed incomes.

This combined with the French invasion of the Ruhr caused demonstrations against the government to spread Hyperinflation in Germany

Hitler’s Bavarian Nazi Parties attempted “Beer Hall Putsch” in Munich was only one of hundreds of examples of political instability



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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Great Depression Affect on Germany**

The Dawes Plan created a five year period of relative stability  and economic growth for Germany. The Dawes Plan and the Lacarno Pact

In 1929 further modifications to reparation arrangements were made under the Young Plan

However the crash of the American market and the onset of the Great Depression would show how dependent on American investment the German economy had become.

 WWI had cause the world market focus to shift from Europe to the USA

Because conditions in Europe the USA was the only truly solvent nation among the great powers. So American loans had financed reconstruction activities and further tied international economies to the USA

So when the USA’s stock market collapsed in Oct. 1929, it took the economies of many other nations with it and began the Great Depression.

Over ½ of the German people were effected by the Great Depression

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The decline of the Weimar Democracy**

The unrest and economic distress of the inter war years allowed Hitler to gain access to the Reichstag in 1928

Within 4 years as a result of the economic turmoil caused by the Great Depression Hitler’s party had risen from 12 to over 200 seats in the Reichstag.

As the parties loyal to the democratic, parliamentary republic found themselves unable to agree on counter-measures, their Grand Coalition broke up and was replaced by a minority cabinet.

The new Chancellor, Heinrich Brüning  of the Centre Party, lacked a majority in parliament, and had to implement his measures through the president's emergency decrees.

Tolerated by the majority of parties, this rule by decree would become the norm over a series of unworkable parliaments and paved the way for the authoritarian forms of government to come under Hitler

When Brüning proposed land reform that would break up large estates he was blocked by President Hindenburg and forced to resign.

Brüning’s successor Franz bon Papen governed solely by decree. The Nazi Party continued to gain ground in the Reichstag.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Rise of Hitler**

Hitler’s message was simple and very effective

In the midst of escalating unrest his program of law and order appealed to the wealthy classes.

When it looked like the Nazi party might fail due to lack of funds German industrialists came to the rescue

Hitler promised a hands-off policy with industrialists and to rid the Nazi party of socialists in return for the 1933 promise of the industrialists to pay off the Nazi election debts

Early in 1932 when the new chancellor von Schleicher began to investigate misuse of funds, conservative elements in the Reichstag demanded that President Hindenburg replace von Schleicher with Hitler

On Jan 30,’33 Hitler formed a coalition government as Chancellor of Germany

Hitler's rise to power

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Hitler takes control**

Within 6 months Hitler had concentrated all of the political power of the state within the Nazi party

He gained support by promoting nationalism, anti-Semitism and anti-communism

Hitler was able to blame the fire in the Reichstag building on communists, this gave him the excuse he needed to suspend civil rights and destroy opposition to his rule.

He was still unable to gain an absolute majority in parliament

In March of ’33 Hitler was able to coerce parliament into signing the Enabling Act.

The Enabling Act  was passed by the Reichstag (Germany's parliament) on March 23, 1933 and signed by President Paul von Hindenburg the same day.

It was the second major step, after the Reichstag Fire Decree through which Adolf Hitler obtained plenary powers  using legal means.

The Act granted Hitler the authority to enact laws without the participation of the Reichstag for four years.

Total control now lay in Hitler’s hands

**Hitler begins to eliminate the opposition**

The passage of the Enabling Act reduced the Reichstag to a mere stage for Hitler's speeches.

It held no debates and enacted only a few laws.

With this combination of legislative and executive power, Hitler's government further suppressed the remaining political opposition.

The Communist Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party (SPD) were banned

all other political parties were forced to dissolve themselves.

Finally, the Nazi Party was declared the only legal party in Germany.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Hitler consolidates his power**

All regional and local police powers were centralized in Berlin under the Gestapo.

The Reichsrat (which represented local governments) was abolished

Trade Unions were abolished

By the summer of “33 only the Church and the army could still be considered rivals to Hitler’s total control

Hitler  used the SA paramilitary to consolidate control of the military. Then when the leadership of the SA seemed to threaten his total control he used the SS to purge the SA

Because the SA's demands for political and military power caused much anxiety among military leaders, Hitler used allegations of a plot by the SA leader Ernst Röhm to purge the SA's leadership during the Night of the Long Knives.

Opponents unconnected with the SA were also murdered.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Hitler becomes Füehrer**

 When President Paul von Hindenburg died in  August 1934, rather than holding new presidential elections, Hitler's cabinet passed a law proclaiming the presidency dormant and transferred the role and powers of the head of state to Hitler as Füehrer und Reichskanzler (leader and chancellor).

Hitler also became supreme commander of the military, whose officers then swore an oath not to the state or the constitution but to Hitler

This action technically violated both the constitution and the Enabling Act.

The constitution had been amended in 1932 to make the president of the High Court of Justice, not the chancellor, acting president until new elections could be held.

The Enabling Act specifically barred Hitler from taking any action that tampered with the presidency. . Hitler's rise to power

However, no one dared object. With this action, Hitler effectively removed the last remedy by which he could be dismissed from office—and with it, all checks and balances on his power Hitler speaks

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