Review Sheet

Key Terms

Age of Anxiety

Dadaism

Existentialism

Martin Heidegger

John Maynard Keynes (“Economic Consequences of the Peace”)

Treaty of Versailles

Article 231

League of Nations

Isolationism

Stock Market Crash

The Great Depression

Leon Trotsky

Joseph Stalin

5 Year Plans

Farm Collectivization

The Purge Trials

Gulag system

Benito Mussolini

Fascism

Weimar Republic

Adolf Hitler

National Socialist German Workers’ Party (Nazis)

*Mein Kampf*

Nuremberg Laws

Axis Powers

Appeasement

Nonaggresion Pact

Atlantic Charter

Blitzkrieg

Holocaust

The Yalta Conference

Superpowers

Key Concept Outline

(Class discussion on Disillusionment/1920s Culture)

4.3 During the 20th Century, diverse intellectual and cultural movements questioned the existence of objective knowledge, the ability of reason to arrive at truth, and the role of religion in determining religious standards.

1. The widely held belief in progress characteristic of much of 19th century thought began to break down before World War I; the experience of war intensified a sense of anxiety that permeated many facets of thought and culture, giving way by the century’s end to a plurality of intellectual frameworks.
2. When World War I began, Europeans were generally confident in the ability of science and technology to address human needs and problems despite the uncertainty created by the new scientific theories and psychology
3. The effects of world war and economic depression undermined this confidence in science and human reason, giving impetus to existentialism and producing post-modernism in the post-1945 period.
4. Science and technology yielded impressive material benefits but also caused immense destruction and posed challenges to objective knowledge
5. The challenges to the certainties of the Newtonian universe in physics opened the door to uncertainty in other fields by undermining faith in objective knowledge, while also providing the knowledge necessary for the development of nuclear weapons and power.
   1. Werner Heisenberg’s “Uncertainty Principle”
6. Medical theories and technologies extended life but posed social and moral questions that eluded consensus and crossed religious, political, and philosophical perspectives.
   1. Eugenics
   2. Birth Control
   3. Abortion
7. Military technologies made possible industrialized warfare, genocide, nuclear proliferation, and the risk of global nuclear war.

IV. During the 20th Century, the arts were defined by experimentation, self-expression, subjectivity, and the increasing influence of the United States in both elite and popular culture.

1. New movements in the visual arts, architecture, and music demolished existing aesthetic standards, explored subconscious and subjective states, and satirized Western society and its values
   1. Cubism
   2. Dadaism
   3. Surrealism
   4. Compositions of Igor Stravinsky (Rite of Spring), Arnold Schoenberg (Pierrot Lunaire)
2. Throughout the century, a number of writers challenged traditional literary conventions, questioned Western values, and addressed controversial social and political issues.
   1. Erich Maria Remarque (*All Quiet on the Western Front*)

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Key Concept 4.2 The stresses of economic collapse and total war engendered internal conflicts within European states and created conflicting conceptions of the relationship between the individual and the state, as demonstrated in the ideological battle between liberal democracy, communism, and fascism.

1. The Russian Revolution created a regime based on Marxist-Leninist theory.
2. The Bolshevik takeover prompted a protracted civil war between communist forces and their opponents, who were aided by foreign powers. (War Communism
3. In order to improve economic performance, Lenin compromised with free-market principles under the New Economic Policy, but after his death, Stalin undertook a centralized program of rapid economic modernization.
   1. Collectivization
   2. Five-Year Plan
4. Stalin’s economic modernization of the Soviet Union came at a high price, including the liquidation of the kulaks, famine in the Ukraine, purges of political rivals, unequal burdens placed on women, and the establishment of an oppressive political system.
   1. Great Purges
   2. Gulags
   3. Secret police
5. The ideology of fascism, with roots in the pre-World War I era, gained popularity in an environment of postwar bitterness, the rise of communism, uncertain transitions to democracy, and economic instability.
6. Fascist dictatorships used modern technology and propaganda that rejected democratic institutions, promoted charismatic leaders, and glorified war and nationalism to lure the disillusioned.
7. Mussolini and Hitler rose to power by exploiting postwar bitterness and economic instability, using terror and manipulating the fledgling and unpopular democracies in their countries.
8. (Chapter 20) Franco’s alliance with Italian and German fascists in the Spanish Civil War–in which the Western democracies did not intervene–represented a testing ground for World War II and resulted in authoritarian rule in Spain from 1936 to the mid-1970s
9. After failures to establish functioning democracies, authoritarian dictatorships took power in Central and Eastern Europe during the interwar period.
   1. Poland
   2. Hungary
10. The Great Depression, caused by weaknesses in international trade and monetary theories and practices, undermined Western European democracies and fomented radical political responses throughout Europe
11. World War I debt, nationalistic tariff policies, overproduction, depreciated currencies, disrupted trade patterns, and speculation created weaknesses in economies worldwide.
12. Dependence on post-World War I American investment capital led to financial collapse when, following the 1929 stock market crash, the United States cut off capital flows to Europe.
13. Despite attempts to rethink economic theories and policies and forge political alliances, Western democracies failed to overcome the Great Depression and were weakened by extremist movements.
    1. Keynesianism in Britain
    2. Popular Fronts in France and Spain

Key Concept 4.1 Total War and political instability in the first half of the 20th century [for next unit] gave way to a polarized state during the Cold War and eventually to efforts at transnational union.

II. The conflicting goals of the peace negotiators in Paris pitted diplomatic idealism against the desire to punish Germany, producing a settlement that satisfied few.

1. Wilsonian idealism clashed with postwar realities in both the victorious and the defeated states. Democratic successor states emerged from former empires and eventually succumbed to significant political, economic, and diplomatic crises.
   1. Democratic successor states: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia
2. The League of Nations, created to prevent future wars, was weakened from the outset by the nonparticipation of major powers, including the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union.
3. The Versailles settlement, particularly its provisions on the assignment of guilt and reparations for the war, hindered the German Weimar Republic’s ability to establish a stable and legitimate political and economic system.

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III. In the interwar period, fascism, extreme nationalism, racist ideologies, and the failures of appeasement resulted in the catastrophe of World War II, presenting a grave challenge to European civilization.

1. French and British fears of another war, American isolationism, and deep distrust between Western democratic, capitalist nations, and the communist Soviet Union allowed fascist states to rearm and expand their territory
   1. Remilitarization of the Rhineland
   2. Munich Agreement and its violation
   3. Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact
2. Germany’s *Blitzkrieg* warfare in Europe, combined with Japan’s attacks in Asia and the Pacific, brought the Axis powers early victories
3. American and British industrial, scientific, and technological power and the all-out military commitment of the USSR contributed critically to the Allied victories
4. Fueled by racism and anti-Semitism, Nazi Germany–with the cooperation of some of the other Axis powers and collaborationist governments–sought to establish a “new racial order” in Europe, which culminated in the Holocaust.
   1. Nuremberg Laws
   2. Auschwitz and other death camps

Key Concept 4.4 Demographic changes, economic growth, total war, disruptions of traditional social patterns, and competing definitions of freedom and justice altered the experiences of everyday life.

1. The 20th century was characterized by large-scale suffering brought on by warfare and genocide as well as tremendous improvements in the standard of living.
2. World War I created a “lost generation,” fostered disillusionment and cynicism, transformed the lives of women, and democratized societies.
3. World War II decimated a generation of Russian and German men, virtually destroyed European Jewry; resulted in the murder of millions in other groups targeted by the Nazis including the Roma, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and others; forced large-scale migrations; and undermined prewar class hierarchies.