**STANDARD 7 NOTES**

World War I

a. The Causes

i. The –isms

1. Militarism – Glorifying the military and building strong armies.

a. Nations believe large armies with lots of firepower will deter war.

2. Nationalism – Deep sense of national identity and pride.

a. Nations with a strong sense of themselves foster rivalries with neighboring

nations, many of whom have rulers who are blood relatives.

3. Imperialism – Extending one’s influence into other territories.

a. Nations compete over imperialistic interests.

ii. Alliances

1. Network of alliances binds countries together in the event of war

a. Triple Alliance (1882) – Germany, Italy, Austro-Hungary

b. Triple Entente (1904) – Great Britain, France, Russia

c. Smaller treaties (Great Britain agreement with Belgium, etc.)

iii. Assassination

1. Archduke of Austro-Hungary, Franz Ferdinand, and his wife shot and killed on

June 28, 1914 during a visit to Sarajevo, Bosnia (in Serbia, Eastern Europe).

Shooter: Gavrilo Princip.

2. In the aftermath of the shooting, Austro-Hungary imposed a large ultimatum on

Serbia with a host of demands. Serbia agreed to some but not all demands and Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914.

iv. The assassination and war declaration set off a series of other alliance-related

declarations of war:

1. Russia mobilizes troops – Germany declares war on Russia

2. Russia appeals to France who promises support – Germany declares war on France

v. When militaries mobilize, a sense of national pride, expectation, even excitement forms.

There is a fervor for war that develops – but everyone thinks the war will be a short one, over by Christmas of 1914.

b. The Combatants

i. Central Powers: Germany, Austro-Hungary, Ottoman Empire

1. Motiations:

a. Austro-Hungary: Crush Serbia and terrorism

b. Germany: Support Austro-Hungary

ii. Allies: Great Britain, France, Russia, Serbia, Greece, Portugal

1. Motivations:

a. Serbia: Defend itself

b. Russia: Defend the region in Serbia

c. France: Avenge loss in Franco-Prussian War

d. Great Britain: Brought into war by German invasion of Belgium

c. The Course

i. Western Front (France)

1. The Schlieffen Plan

a. German military strategy to avoid fighting a costly and difficult two-front

war – involved moving quick to defeat France in the west, then

concentrate on Russia (slower to mobilize) in the east

b. Plan involved flanking French military by marching through Belgium, a

neutral country determined not to be involved.

c. Germany’s invasion of Belgium activates old agreement between Great

Britain and Belgium and brings Great Britain into the war.

d. Plan ultimately doesn’t work – Russia moves faster than expected and

Germany’s advance is pushed back at the first battle of the Marne.

2. Trench Warfare

a. Slow-moving, deadly warfare that involves fighting from deep, long,

interconnected ditches.

b. Steps for fighting in trench warfare:

i. Leave trench – avoid individual rifle fire, machine gun blanket fire

from stations

ii. Cross “no man’s land” – don’t step on a mine, watch out for heavy

artillery fire, navigate multiple lines of barbed wire and craters

from pervious artillery fire, continue to avoid individual rifle fire and machine gun blanket fire; watch out for individual explosives and poison gas in low areas

iii. Enter enemy trench – fight hand-to-hand with the enemy in close

quarters and take the trench by killing everyone in it.

iv. Hold the trench – beware of hidden dugouts in trenches where

soldiers sleep and take breaks, as well as secondary and reserve trenches behind you.

c. Many times soldiers would take a trench only to lose it the following day.

d. Trench warfare lasted for the entirety of the war in France and very little

territory was gained while millions died trying to gain it.

3. Battles of the Western Front, 1914-1916

a. Verdun – “you shall not pass”

b. Somme River

ii. Eastern Front (Russia)

1. Not fought in trenches, but just as slow and indecisive with more people killed.

2. Russia was the least industrialized nation at the time – some of their soldiers

didn’t even have rifles. Because of this they suffered heavy losses at battles like Tannenberg.

iii. Other Theaters

1. Ottomans

a. The Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers in October 1914 and

opened up a front in the Dardanelles (Eastern Europe), which had a critical Allied supply line to Russia.

b. After fighting in places like Gallipoli (1915), the Allies withdrew

suffering heavy losses.

2. Arabia

a. The Ottomans faced a revolt against their rule in the Middle East, led by

Husayn ibn Ali and supported by a British-sent colonel named T.E.

Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia). It cost them a lot of territory, including Baghdad in Iraq (Middle East).

iv. War Technology

1. The war saw many new weapons and technologies:

a. Machine Gun

i. The gatling gun had been used sparingly in the Civil War, but

World War I was the first widespread use of the machine gun.

b. Poison Gas

i. Deadly in trenches

ii. Unpredictable

c. Tanks

i. First introduced by Great Britain in 1916

ii. Used to break through no man’s land

iii. Often broke down early on

d. Air War

i. Evolved from reconnaissance to zeppelin bombings by the

Germans, to airborne dogfighting.

e. Submarines

i. Used exclusively by the Germans (Unterseeboats or U-Boats)

ii. Tremendously effective and deadly

v. The United States Joins the War

1. The United States is neutral at first, but then two things brought the U.S. into the

war:

a. Unrestricted submarine warfare

i. German U-Boats fired on any ship that brought goods to Great

Britain in an attempt to blockade them.

ii. Woodrow Wilson negotiated for the Germans to surface and

announce it would fire so neutral civilians could escape to lifeboats in 1915.

iii. They did this for a while but returned to firing without warning in

February 1917

b. The Zimmermann Telegram

i. Sent from German foreign minister to ambassador in Mexico,

offering Mexico land in the U.S. if it joined the war on the side of the Central Powers.

ii. Telegram was intercepted by the British.

2. The U.S. enters the war in April 1917.

d. The Conclusion

i. The Germans tried to mount a final offensive before the U.S. arrives in Europe, but after it

ran out of steam, the Allied counterattack pushed the Germans back into their own

borders and back into the capital.

ii. Hungry, angry Germans (who had been blockaded by the British and had no food)

revolted, and Kaiser William II was forced to step down.

iii. An armistice (cease-fire) was declared on November 11, 1918.

e. The Consequences

i. A flu outbreak in 1918 killed over 20 million people (more than the war itself).

ii. Peace negotiations were held in Paris (Paris Peace Conference), but the Central Powers

(and Russia) were not invited to participate.

iii. The Treaty of Versailles ended the war with several controversial provisions:

1. Germany accepted sole responsibility for the war and for the financial destruction.

They were ordered to pay reparations that in today’s money would be $2.7

trillion)

2. Germany was stripped of a great deal of land and their military was to be limited

to a certain size.

3. New countries rose in the wake of the old Austro-Hungarian and German empires,

but…

4. African, Asian and Pacific countries wanted the same independence, but were

forced to remain as colonies under the mandate system.

5. The League of Nations was created to facilitate international disputes, but the

U.S. refused to join it. It also had no power to do anything about disputes.

iv. The Treaty of Versailles was so poorly conceived that it is seen as a cause of World War

Great Depression

a. The Causes

i. Worldwide economics linked through reparation payments, loans, and goods

ii. Main causes: overproduction and a finance crisis

iii. Stock market in the U.S. crashes in October 1929

iv. The crisis spreads worldwide due to the linked economies

b. The Course

i. Governments worldwide tried to use different strategies to address the problem, but most

of the relief was short lived:

1. Coalition government in Great Britain: 1 in 4 unemployed

2. Lack of leadership and solutions hurts France

3. Franklin D. Roosevelt initiates New Deal in United States; government’s role

increases in society; some solutions but no large-scale success.

c. The Crisis

i. “Tough times demand tough solutions” – many nations of Europe, in their despair, turned

to charismatic figures who promised progress and brought with them more radical

governments:

1. Italy – Benito Mussolini comes to power with his Black Shirts during the March

on Rome in 1922. Mussolini initiates a fascist government that involved

government intervention in every aspect of life. The state controlled everything.

2. Soviet Union – Joseph Stalin initiates a command economy with “five-year plans”

designed to improve production and collectivization in agriculture. Stalin also

used terrorist tactics against his own people, including labor camps and

propaganda.

3. Germany – Adolf Hitler attempts to overthrow the Weimar democratic

government, fails and is imprisoned, gets out and leads the National Socialist

party (Nazis) to power. Germany’s new Third Reich (empire) put people to work in government programs and controlled the media to intimidate citizens.

World War II

a. The Causes

i. Campaigns of Aggression

1. Japan, Italy and Germany all push the envelope by invading nearby nations and

conquering:

a. Japan invades Manchuria and China (“Rape of Nanjing”)

b. Italy invades Ethiopia

c. Germany breaks the Treaty of Versailles, annexes Austria and announces

intentions to occupy the Sudetenland, a highly industrial district of

Czechoslovakia.

2. The League of Nations is not empowered to fight the aggression; they issue

condemnations that mean nothing.

3. At the Munich Conference, Hitler promises to stop invading if he is given the

Sudetenland. The European nations follow an appeasement policy, give him the land, and he breaks his word months after the conference when he takes all of Czechoslovakia.

ii. Hitler signs nonaggression pact with Russia in August 1939.

iii. After Hitler invades Poland, war is declared in September 1939.

b. The Combatants

i. Axis Powers

1. Germany, Italy, Japan

ii. Allies

1. Great Britain, France (United States is neutral in the beginning)

c. The Course

i. The Blitzkrieg

1. Hitler’s attack strategy is called the blitzkrieg (“lightning war”) which involves

aerial bombings, fast-moving tanks and infantry.

2. Once the war begins, Hitler conquers all of Poland and France by summer of

1940.

3. In Africa, General Erwin Rommel conquers much of North Africa in 1941-1942.

ii. Operation Sea Lion

1. At this time, Great Britain is all that stands between Hitler and full occupation of

Europe.

2. The German Luftwaffe begins to bomb first military targets, than cities like

London nightly.

3. The British stood strong and kept morale high, the Royal Air Force fought hard,

and Hitler was forced to call off the invasion in May 1941.

iii. Momentum Stalls

1. Hitler invades the Soviet Union, breaking his pact, in June 1941. They were

about to conquer the entire country when the winter set in. After a two-and-a-half year siege of Leningrad, and an equally bloody attack on Stalingrad, Hitler had to leave Russia without taking it.

iv. Pacific Theater

1. Japan pretended to negotiate for peace with the United States when the war

broke out, all the while planning an attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

2. December 7th, 1941 – Japanese force launches a massive multi-phased attack on

the Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The fleet is crippled but not destroyed.

3. The next day, FDR asked Congress to declare war on Japan, calling the attack “a

date which will live in infamy.” The declaration opened up the Pacific Theater of the war.

4. Early on in the Pacific theater, Japan conquered a lot of territory.

v. Allies Fight Back

1. Dwight Eisenhower takes command in 1942 in Africa, traps Rommel’s army and

forces their surrender in May 1943.

2. In the Pacific, the Japanese suffer huge losses at the Battle of the Coral Sea and

the Battle of Midway.

vi. D-Day and V-E Day

1. D-Day (June 6, 1944) – A combined Allied army invades occupied France at the

beaches of Normandy. Through hell and fighting, they re-take France and liberate Paris on August 25.

2. In March of 1945, Russia and the Allies were closing in to Germany. At this

point, Axis powers begin to fold:

a. Mussolini caught and executed

b. Hitler commits suicide on May 6

3. The Germans surrendered on May 7th (known as V-E or Victory in Europe Day)

vii. The Pacific War

1. Japan continued to fight after the European war ended.

2. General Douglas MacArthur begins an “island-hopping” campaign, taking back

the Pacific island by island.

3. Facing the cost of an invasion of Japan, the United States unleashed a new

technology it had been developing – an atomic bomb – dropping it on Japan on August 6, 1945 at Hiroshima. More than 70,000 people were killed.

4. After a second bomb fell in Nagasaki on August 9th, the Japanese surrendered.

d. The Consequences

i. Allies uncover atrocities of the Holocaust on their march through Europe. Germans and

Austrians involved in the Holocaust were tried in the 1930’s at Nuremberg. Several top officials received death sentences. Similar trials were held in Japan over atrocities

committed there.

ii. The United Nations was formed to mediate conflicts in the future.

iii. Alliances break apart and the foundation is set for the Cold War.

Nationalism

a. Definition

i. Strong sense of self as a nation – fierce sense of identity.

ii. The nations below use the fervor of nationalism and post-war situations to fight for their

independence from colonizing mother countries.

b. India

i. India had wanted freedom from Great Britain after serving for them in World War I, but

Britain (after promising to grant them autonomy and self-rule during the war) proposed very small reforms.

ii. The Indian National Congress party protested under the leadership of Mohandas Gandhi.

Gandhi organized nonviolent protest acts such as boycotts and the Salt March (March

1930).

iii. When World War II started, the British once again pressed angry Indians into service.

Despite more protest, many Indians did serve with the British.

iv. After the war, the British realized they had to grant India independence, but also had to

address violence between the Hindu population of India and the Muslims. The solution was to create two separate nations: Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. These nations became independent on August 15, 1947.

c. Africa

i. Parts of Africa were controlled by many different nations during the Scramble for Africa

in Period 5. This was because of the natural resources rich in the area.

ii. Due to this difference, some nations achieved independence easily (Nigeria, Ghana).

Some nations saw violent fights for control in areas with large settler populations (Kenya, Algeria).

iii. The unrest from these decades of control lasts to this day, with civil wars and power

changing hands continuously.

d. Middle East

i. After the Holocaust, the Jews expelled from their homes in Europe were supported in a

quest to gain their own homeland in the Middle East. They relocated to Palestine in

droves.

ii. The United Nations tried to put a plan together to create two states: an Israel for the Jews

and a Palestine for the Arabs. The Palestinians disagreed with the plan and launched a series of unsuccessful wars against Israel. Israel and Palestinians are still fighting to this day.