

World History

The following topics are covered in the World History portion of the test:

- Prehistory to 500 C.E.
- India and China (3000 B.C.E.-500 C.E.)
- Ancient Greece (1900-133 B.C.E.)
- Rome and the rise of Christianity (600 B.C.E.-500 C.E.)
- The world of Islam (600-1500 C.E.)
- Early African civilizations (2000 B.C.E.-1500 C.E.)
- The Asian world (400-1500 C.E.)
- Emerging Europe and the Byzantine Empire (400-1300 C.E.)
- Europe in the Middle Ages (1000-1500)
- The Americas (400-1500 C.E.)
- Renaissance and Reformation (1350-1600)
- The age of exploration (1500-1800)
- Crisis and absolutism in Europe (1550-1715)
- The Muslim Empires (1450-1800)
- The East Asian world (1400-1800)
- Revolution and the Enlightenment (1550-1800)
- The French Revolution and Napoleon (1789-1815)
- Industrialization and nationalism (1800-1870)
- Mass society and democracy (1870-1914)
- The height of imperialism, East Asia under challenge (1800-1914)
- War and revolution (1914-1919)
- The west between the wars, nationalism around the world (1919-1939)
- World War II (1939-1945)
- Cold war and postwar changes (1945-1970)
- The contemporary Western world (1970-present)

Prehistory to 500 C.E.

Paleolithic peoples learned how to adapt to their nomadic lifestyle, improve on their primitive tools, and use fire to their advantage, thus enabling them to create a more sophisticated human culture. The agricultural revolution of the Neolithic Age gave rise to more complex human societies that become known as the first civilizations. In this time period, there were significant cultural change, movement, and technological innovations. Early humans learned how to control fire and make tools, caves were painted with religious and decorative art, Neolithic peoples domesticated animals, and early agricultural villages evolved into highly complex societies. Early humans migrated to warmer climates during the Ice Ages, and Neanderthals inhabited Europe and Asia.

The Sumerians in Mesopotamia were among the first groups to build a civilization, and they were the first to develop a system of writing. Due in large part to the Nile, early Egyptian civilization was stable and prosperous. Massive monuments, the

pyramids, were built to honor the deaths of the pharaohs. The Israelites emerged as a distinct people. Of the other empires that came into being in Southwest Asia, the longest lasting and most powerful were the Assyrian and Persian Empires. The peoples of this time period utilized their environment and invented new technologies:

Environment: Egypt used floodwaters for farming; Phoenicia set up a trading empire on the sea; Mesopotamia created irrigation and flood control systems.

Cooperation: Assyria developed an empire-wide communication system; Mesopotamia built temples and houses for religious leaders; Palestine adhered to sacred law to maintain separateness.

Cultural Diffusion: Assyria acquired iron making from the Hittites; Persia acquired architecture from the Assyrians, Babylonians, and Egyptians; Egypt acquired bronze making from the Hyssops.

Innovation: Mesopotamia invented the arch, dome, wheel, and system of writing; Phoenicia invented an alphabet; Persia created a standing army.

India and China (3000 B.C.E.-500 C.E.)

Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism profoundly affected the way of life of the early Indians and Chinese. The Silk Road provided a means for prosperous trade. The ruler of the Zhou overthrew the Shang dynasty and established the longest-lasting dynasty in Chinese history. The Great Wall of China was built to keep out enemies.

Chinese and Indian civilizations were remarkable for their achievement and innovation. The key elements of their culture included the following:

In India:

Religion/Philosophy: Hinduism, Buddhism

Key People: Siddhartha Gautama, Asoka, Chandragupta II

Innovation: Iron plow, caste system, concept of zero, decimal system

Literature: *Mahabharata*, *Ramayana*, *Arthashastra*, Vedas

Government/Society: Patriarchal, monarchy

In China:

Religion/Philosophy: Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism

Key People: Confucius, Laozi, Qin Shihuangdi

Innovation: Bronze casting, crossbow, paper, iron plowshare, silk

Literature: *Analects*, Confucian classics, *Tao Te Ching*, poetry

Government/Society: Patriarchal, monarchy

Ancient Greece (1900-133 B.C.E.)

Athens and Sparta emerged as the leading Greek city-states. The Greek military defeated the Persian army. Greek theater, arts, and architecture flourished during the Classical Age. Greek philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle established the foundations of Western philosophy. Although Greek civilization had unique problems, all four groups of Greek cultures—the Minoans, the Myceneans, the Spartans, and the Athenians—faced common challenges in several areas, as summarized in the following table.

	<i>Minoans</i>	<i>Mycenaeans</i>	<i>Spartans</i>	<i>Athenians</i>
Environment				
a. Location	a. Crete	a. Peloponnesus	a. Peloponnesus	a. Attica
b. Factors	b. Tidal waves	b. Earthquakes	b. Farming	b. Lack of fertile land
Movement				
a. Origin	a. Unknown	a. Indo-European	a. Greek-speaking invaders	a. Greek-speaking invaders
b. Trade	b. Sea trading empire	b. Pottery	b. Trade discouraged	b. Pottery
Regionalism				
a. Government	a. King	a. Monarchies forming a loose alliance of independent states	a. Military state, oligarchy	a. Oligarchy, direct democracy
b. Values, interests, beliefs	b. Sports, nature	b. Heroic deeds	b. Discipline, military arts	b. Philosophy, art, theater, architecture
Conflict				
a. With other Greeks	a. Invaded by Mycenaeans	a. Conquered Minoans	a. Conquered other Greeks, fought Athenians	a. Fought Spartans
b. With foreign invaders		b. Fell to Greek-speaking invaders	b. Fought Persians, Macedonians	b. Fought Persians, Macedonian

Rome and the Rise of Christianity (600 B.C.E.–500 C.E.)

Romans overthrew the last Etruscan king and established a republic. Romans crushed Hannibal and won the Second Punic War. Augustus became the first emperor, signifying the beginning of the Roman Empire. Constantine proclaimed official tolerance of Christianity. Germanic tribes defeated the Romans, and the empire fell.

A series of causes and effects shaped historical events of ancient Rome:

Cause: Rome defeated Carthage and took Sicily.

Effect: Hannibal brought the Second Punic War into Italy, defeating the Romans at Cannae.

Cause: Marius recruited armies by promising them land. He required an oath of loyalty to him.

Effect: The Roman army was no longer under government control; military power rested in the hands of individual generals.

Cause: Sulla used his army to seize governmental power.

Effect: Sulla restored power to the government with a strong Senate, but his actions set the precedent for military coups.

Cause: Julius Caesar filled the Senate with his own supporters.

Effect: The power of the Senate was weakened. Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C.E.

Cause: Economic and social policies of Diocletian and Constantine were based on control and coercion.

Effect: The policies of these two emperors contributed to the empire's eventual collapse.

The World of Islam (600-1500 C.E.)

Muhammad and his followers spread the beliefs and practices of Islam. At its peak, the Arab Empire extended west and north through Spain and into France. In the seventh century, a split in Islam created two groups, the Shiite and the Sunni Muslims.

Islamic civilization was renowned for the following:

- **Innovation:** Irrigation; astrolabe; algebra; large-scale paper manufacturing
- **Movement:** Trade routes; Arab expansion in Africa, Asia, and Europe; movement of Arab center of power from Makkah to Baghdad to Cairo
- **Cultural Diffusion:** Bureaucracy relied on non-Arabs; Arabs translated Greek philosophers; Ibn Sina's medical textbook was standard in Europe

Early African Civilizations (2000 B.C.E.-1500 C.E.)

The continents' immense size and distinct geographical and climatic zones influenced where civilizations developed and how they survived. The introduction of Christianity and Islam affected the way civilizations developed and interacted. The development of trade led to the exchange of goods and cultural ideas.

African civilizations did not develop in a vacuum. As far back as the ancient Egyptians, African civilizations were open to contact with outside groups. Contact came about either through trade, migration, or war, and led to the introduction of new ideas, new ways of living, and the development of multicultural societies. The major concepts associated with cultural diffusion and contact were trade, migration, and warfare:

Trade:

Ghanaian gold was exchanged for salt from the Sahara.

Muslim traders brought cotton, silk, and Chinese porcelain from India to East Africa.

Malian farmers produced surplus crops for export.

Ivory and gold from inland Africa were brought to East Africa.

Cotton cloth, brass, copper, and olive oil were imported by Axum.

The Kingdom of Mali (one of the greatest trading societies in West Africa which rose in place of Ghana) became rich from the profitable salt and gold trades.

Migration:

Bantu peoples slowly migrated into East Africa.

Arab merchants settled along the east coast of Africa.

Islamic scholars moved to Timbuktu, a new center for learning.

Warfare:

Kushites conquered Egyptians.

Muslim merchants gained control of Axum's trade.

Moroccan armies occupied Songhai's gold-trading centers.

Assyrians drove the Kushites out of Egypt.

The Asian World (400-1500 C.E.)

Innovations in agricultural production, the reemergence of trade routes, and a unified central government allowed China to prosper under the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties. Japan's geography isolated it from other countries and caused the island nation to develop its own unique culture. The Muslim expansion made both Islam and Hinduism powerful religions in the Indian subcontinent. Because of the geography of the region, Southeast Asian countries developed into a series of separate states with their own culture, religion, and language. In the Asian world, countries developed different political systems and forms of government. Each country, however, had strong leaders:

China: Sui, Tan, and Song dynasties; Mongols

Japan: Yamato and Fujiwara clans; Kamakura shogunate; Ashikaga family

Korea: Koryo and Yi dynasties

India: Mahmud; Timur Lenk

Southeast Asia: Vietnam—emperors; Angkor—Jayavarman; Thailand and Burma—kings; Malay—overlords

Emerging Europe and the Byzantine Empire (400-1300 C.E.)

The new European civilization was formed by the coming together of three major elements: the Germanic tribes, the Roman legacy, and the Christian church. The collapse of a central authority in the Carolingian Empire led to feudalism. In the 1100s, European monarchs began to build strong states. While a new civilization arose in Europe, the Byzantine Empire created its own unique civilization in the eastern Mediterranean.

Europe and the Byzantine Empire changed and developed during the Middle Ages in many ways:

- **Movement:** Anglos and Saxons settled in England. Monks came to England to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. Vikings, Magyars, and Muslims invaded areas of Europe.
- **Cooperation:** The Frankish ruler Clovis converted to Christianity and gained the support of the Roman Catholic Church. Benedictine rule emphasized the need for monks to work together within the monastery. The system of feudalism, based on the granting of land to nobles in exchange for military service, spread throughout Europe.
- **Conflict:** Charlemagne's death led to the decline and division of the Carolingian Empire. Schism divided the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. William the Conqueror defeated Harold Godwinson in the Battle of Hastings.
- **Uniformity:** The emperor Justinian restored the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean. Eastern Orthodox Christianity became the state religion of Kiev. The Magna Carta guaranteed rights to all English freemen.

Europe in the Middle Ages (1000-1500)

The revival of trade led to the growth of cities and towns, which became important centers for manufacturing. The Catholic Church was an important part of people's lives during the Middle Ages. During the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries, Europeans experienced many problems including the Black Death, the Hundred Years' War, and the decline of the Church.

The Middle Ages was a period marked by cultural diffusion, innovation, and conflict:

- The Crusades increased the exchange of goods and ideas between European and non-European cultures. European monarchs gained strength through new taxes and through the new armies required for the Crusades. Increased trade, especially of luxury goods, led to new importance for Italian cities. Classical texts were translated and reintroduced into Europe, leading to a revival in learning.

- The rise of towns and the middle class led to advances in all areas of society. As trade increased, the importance of towns and guilds grew. A money economy replaced bartering. Universities were founded. Literature and poetry flourished and were increasingly written in the vernacular rather than in Latin. The Romanesque style of architecture gave way to the Gothic style.
- The Hundred Years' War and the Great Schism strengthened the authority of some and weakened the authority of others. After the Hundred Years' War, the French monarchy gained power. Conflict within the English monarchy led to the War of the Roses. Conflict, corruption, and challenges by reformers weakened the authority of the Catholic Church.

The Americas (400-1500 C.E.)

The early inhabitants of the Americas probably traveled from Asia across a Bering Strait land bridge produced by the Ice Age. The Mayan, Aztec, and Incan civilizations developed and administered complex societies. Diseases that Europeans brought to the Americas contributed to the downfall of several cultures.

The following table summarizes the factors that helped shape early cultures in the Americas.

<i>Location</i>	<i>People</i>	<i>Economics</i>	<i>Architecture</i>
Eastern Woodlands	Mound Builders, Iroquois	Hunting and gathering, some agriculture	Longhouses, some urban centers
Central Plains	Plains	Hunting and gathering	Tepees
Southwest	Anasazi	Extensive farming	Cliff dwellings
Mesoamerica	Olmec, Maya, Aztec	Farming, trade	Large cities, religious and political structures
South America	Moche, Inca	Farming, trade	Large cities, religious and political structures

Renaissance and Reformation (1350-1600)

Between 1350 and 1550, Italian intellectuals began to reexamine the culture of the Greeks and Romans. Historians later referred to this period of European history as the Renaissance. Martin Luther's break with the Catholic Church led to the emergence of the Protestant Reformation. During the period known as the Catholic Reformation, the Catholic Church enacted a series of reforms that were successful in strengthening the Church.

The Renaissance was a period of great intellectual and artistic achievement. Religious rebirth followed in the 1500s. Italy experienced an artistic, intellectual, and commercial awakening. Ideas quickly spread from Italy to northern Europe. Protestant reformers began to challenge both secular and religious rules and practices. In response, the Catholic Church enacted reforms to reform the papacy and reaffirm traditional Catholic teachings, spreading Catholicism throughout Europe.

The Age of Exploration (1500-1800)

Europeans risked dangerous ocean voyages to discover new sea routes. Early European explorers sought gold in Africa then began to trade slaves. Trade increased in Southeast Asia, and the Dutch built a trade empire based on spices in the Indonesian Archipelago. The age of exploration brought the peoples of Europe, Asia, the Americas, and Africa into direct contact for the first time and led to a transfer of ideas and products. However, the European colonization took a great toll in human life and often had a negative impact on cultures that were conquered.

Crisis and Absolutism in Europe (1550-1715)

The French religious wars of the sixteenth century pitted Protestant Calvinists against Catholics. From 1560 to 1650, wars, including the devastating Thirty Years' War, and economic and social crises plagued Europe. European monarchs sought economic and political stability through absolutism and the divine right of kings. The rulers of Europe during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and early eighteenth centuries battled to expand their borders, power, and religion.

Conflict:

Spanish and English monarchs engaged in a dynastic struggle.

Philip II, a champion of Catholicism, resented English tolerance of Protestants.

The defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 meant that England would remain Protestant.

Dynastic and religious conflicts divided the German states.

Two German states, Prussia and Austria, emerged as great powers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Prussia built an army to protect its borders. Austria was diverse with no common culture or political rule.

Change:

Tudor monarchs brought stability and prosperity to England.

The Act of Supremacy was passed.

Foreign policy was moderate. Queen Elizabeth Tudor tried to keep Spain and France from becoming too powerful by balancing power.

Spain hoped to successfully invade England, overthrow Protestantism, and begin a return to Catholicism. The Spanish Armada, however, was defeated by England in 1588.

Uniformity:

France's Louis XIV strengthened absolute monarchy in France and limited the rights of religious dissenters.

He removed nobles and princes from royal council and kept them busy with court life.

He bribed people to make sure his policies were followed in the provinces.

Innovation:

Peter the Great attempted to modernize Russian society by introducing Western customs, practices, and manners.

He wrote a Russian book of etiquette to teach Western manners, and he mixed the sexes for conversation and dancing.

The Muslim Empires (1450-1800)

Muslim conquerors captured vast territory in Europe and Asia using firearms. Religion played a major role in the establishment of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mogul Empires. Trade and the arts flourished under the Muslim Empires.

The following table shows the characteristics of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mogul Empires.

	<i>Ottomans</i>	<i>Safavids</i>	<i>Moguls</i>
Warfare	Trained janissaries Conquered Constantinople	Battled Ottomans Allied with European states	Conquered India Battled Persians and British
Arts	Made magnificent mosques, pottery, rugs, and jewelry	Blended Persian and Turkish influences Excelled at carpet making and painting	Combined Persian and Indian motifs Excelled at architecture and painting
Government	The sultan governed through local rulers called pashas	The shah trained administrators	The emperor controlled semi-independent states
Trade	Merchants were the privileged class	Geography limited trade	Traded with Europeans
Religion	Sunni Muslim Religious tolerance	Shiite Muslim Religious orthodoxy	Muslim, Hindu Religious tolerance
Women	Social restrictions Can own land, inherit property, seek divorce, and hold senior government posts	Social restrictions Were kept secluded and made to wear veils	Some social restrictions Served as warriors, landowners, political advisors, and businesspeople

The East Asian World (1400-1800)

China closed its doors to the Europeans during the period of exploration between 1400 and 1800. The Ming and Qing dynasties produced blue-and-white porcelain and new literary forms. The Chinese viewed Europeans as barbarians. Both sides, however, benefited from the early cultural exchange. The Qing rulers eventually attempted to limit contact with European traders. The Qing government tried to preserve its distinct identity within Chinese society. However, the Qing brought Chinese into the top ranks of the imperial administration, sharing important government positions equally with them. Emperor Yong Le began renovations on the Imperial City, which was expanded by succeeding emperors. By the nineteenth century, Japanese and Chinese societies had changed as a result of the decisions and policies of their leaders.

Revolution and the Enlightenment (1550-1800)

The ideas of the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment laid the foundation for a modern worldview based on rationalism and secularism. Enlightenment was a movement of intellectuals who were greatly impressed with achievements of the Scientific Revolution. Enlightenment thought led some rulers to advocate such natural rights as equality before the law and freedom of religion. The American colonies formed a new nation and ratified the Constitution of the United States. As the Scientific Revolution and the ideas of the Enlightenment spread across Europe, innovations based on science and reason came into conflict with traditional beliefs.

The French Revolution and Napoleon (1789-1815)

The fall of the Bastille marked the beginning of the French Revolution. The Committee of Public Safety began the Reign of Terror. Napoleon Bonaparte created the French Empire. Allied forces defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. The French Revolution was one of the great turning points in history. The years from 1789 to 1815 in France were chaotic, and change came about in unexpected ways. Some of the major changes from this time period were:

- From the meeting of the Estates-General, the creation of the National Assembly
- From the Great Fear, the adoption of important reforms by nobility in the National Assembly
- From the Declaration of Rights, the spread of liberal beliefs
- From the March on Versailles, the return of Louis XVI to Paris
- From the Reign of Terror, the Fall of Robespierre and establishment of the Directory
- From Napoleon's coup d'état, the creation of the French Empire
- From the Battle of Trafalgar, the safety of Great Britain and birth of the Continental System
- From the Invasion of Russia, the deaths of hundreds of thousands and the downfall of Napoleon

Industrialization and Nationalism (1800-1870)

The Industrial Revolution saw a shift from an economy based on farming and handicrafts to an economy based on manufacturing by machines and industrial factories. Three important ideologies—conservatism, nationalism, and liberalism—emerged to play an important role in world history. Romanticism and realism reflected changes in society in Europe and in North America.

During this period, there were developments from industry to art, faith to science, liberalism to conservatism.

Advances:

Steam and coal became new sources of power.

Higher-quality iron led to better railroads.

Conflict:

Nationalism and liberalism became forces for change.

Conservatives attempted to suppress nationalism.

Change:

People moved to cities for factory work.

Italy unified.

Germany emerged as a strong European power.

Reaction:

Russian czars opposed the forces of liberalism and nationalism.

Science had a greater impact on people, undermining religious faith.

Diversity:

Austria-Hungary contained many different ethnic groups seeking self-rule.

Romanticism and realism were opposite artistic styles.

Mass Society and Democracy (1870-1914)

The Second Industrial Revolution resulted in changes in political, economic, and social systems. After 1870, higher wages and improved conditions in cities raised the standard of living for urban workers. The late 1800s and early 1900s were a time of political conflict that led to the Balkan crises and, eventually, World War I. New discoveries radically changed scientific thought, art, architecture, and social consciousness between 1870 and 1914.

Innovations in technology and production methods created great economic, political, social, and cultural changes between 1870 and 1914. The development of a mass society led to labor reforms and the extension of voting rights. New scientific theories radically changed people's vision of the world. Change also brought conflict as tensions increased in Europe and new alliances were formed.

Economics:

The Second Industrial Revolution, combined with the growth of transportation by steamship and railroad, fostered a true world economy.

Industrial growth and the development of new energy resources led to increased production of consumer goods.

Politics:

Growth of mass politics led to the development of new political parties.

Labor leaders used ideas of socialism and Marxism to form unions.

Society:

Women fought for equal rights.

Society adopted middle-class values.

Unions fought for labor reforms.

Mass leisure developed because people had more money.

Culture:

Many artists rejected traditional styles and developed new art movements.

New scientific ideas radically changed people's perception of the world.

Conflict:

Nationalism and imperialism created conflict in the Balkans and eventually led to World War I.

Growth of nationalism led to increased anti-Semitism.

The Height of Imperialism, East Asia Under Challenge (1800-1914)

Competition among European nations led to the partition of Africa. Colonial rule created a new social class of Westernized intellectuals. British rule brought order and stability to India, but with its own set of costs. The United States practiced many of the same imperialist policies as European nations.

The imperialist powers of the nineteenth century conquered weaker countries and carved up the lands they seized. Their actions had a lasting effect on the world, especially the conquered peoples of Asia and Africa. There were four themes surrounding these events:

- **Movement:** Imperialistic nations set up colonies and protectorates. Christian missionaries preached in Africa and Asia. British policy in South Africa was influenced by Cecil Rhodes, who made a fortune in South Africa by founding diamond and gold companies. He gained control of a territory north of the Transvaal, which he named Rhodesia, after himself.
- **Change:** Ferdinand de Lesseps completed the Suez Canal in 1869. King Leopold II of Belgium colonized the Congo Basin. The United States gained new territory after the Spanish-American War. The Panama Canal opened in 1914.
- **Reaction:** The British East India Company controlled India. Afrikaners set up independent republics.
- **Nationalism:** The United States created the Monroe Doctrine in 1823. In May 1857, the sepoys rebelled against British commanders. Afrikaners fought the British in the Boer War from 1899 to 1902.

Western nations used political persuasion and military strength to gain trading privileges with China and Japan. China's internal problems made it easier for Western nations to penetrate the country and strengthen their influence. Japan's ability to adopt Western ways and to maintain its own traditions enabled it to develop into a modern, powerful nation.

Imperialist powers advanced into China and Japan in the nineteenth century. China's government fell, but Japan's modernized and endured.

- **Movement:** British secured trade outlets at five coastal ports in China. Commodore Perry sailed into Edo Bay. Japan invaded Port Arthur, Manchuria.
- **Change:** Japan's Tokugawa shogunate and China's Qing dynasty collapsed. Meiji reformers instituted compulsory military service in Japan. John Hay, U.S. secretary of state, proclaimed that all major states with economic interests in China had agreed that the country should have an Open Door policy. The Open Door policy reflected American concern for the survival of China.
- **Reaction:** Tai Pin Rebellion broke out in China. Sat-Cho leaders demanded the resignation of Japan's shogun. Boxer Rebellion occurred in China.
- **Nationalism:** Meiji government reformed Japan. Japan adopted the Meiji constitution. Sun Yat-sen established the Republic of China.

War and Revolution (1914-1919)

Archduke Francis Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist. Militarism, nationalism, and alliances drew nations into war. The United States' entry into the war helped the Allies. The impact of the war at home led to an increase in the federal government's powers and changed the status of women. The Russian Revolution ended with the Communist Party in power. Peace settlements caused lingering resentment. The League of Nations was formed. Four themes emerged during this time period:

- **Cooperation** (Alliance System): Two loose alliances formed in Europe: the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy) and the Triple Entente (France, Great Britain, and Russia). Alliances drew France and Great Britain into a conflict in which they had no direct interest.
- **Conflict** (World War I): Combat took the forms of trench warfare on the Western Front, a war of movement on the Eastern Front, and German submarine warfare in the waters surrounding Great Britain. For the first time in history, airplanes were used for reconnaissance, combat, and bombing.
- **Revolution** (Russian Revolution): Military and economic crises led to a spontaneous revolution that ended the reign of the czars. The Bolsheviks overthrew the provisional government and established a communist regime.
- **Internationalism** (Peace of Paris): The peace was a compromise between international and national interests. Germany's reparation payments, military reduction, and territorial losses created a lasting bitterness that helped spark World War II.

The West Between the Wars, Nationalism Around the World (1919-1939)

Europe faced several economic problems after World War I, including inflation and the Great Depression. Dictatorial regimes began to spread into Italy, Germany, and across eastern Europe. The uncertainties and disillusionment of the times were reflected in the art and literature of the 1920s and 1930s. Between 1919 and 1939, the West experienced great economic and political challenges.

Political and Economic Changes:

- In Britain, the Conservative Party implemented traditional economic policies.
- In the United States, President Roosevelt developed the New Deal, a policy of active government intervention in the economy.
- In France, the Popular Front established the French New Deal, which promoted workers' rights.

Rise of Totalitarianism:

- In Italy, Mussolini led the Fascists to power.
- Stalin became dictator of the Soviet Union and purged the Communist Party of Old Bolsheviks.
- In Germany, Adolf Hitler established a totalitarian Nazi regime and started the large-scale persecution of Jews.

Innovations and Ideas:

- The artistic movements of Dadaism and surrealism reflected the uncertainty of life created by World War I.
- Radio and film transformed communications and entertainment.
- Literary techniques reflected an interest in the unconscious.
- Werner (Karl) Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle suggested that physical laws are based on uncertainty.

The Balfour Declaration issued by the British foreign secretary in 1917 turned Palestine, a country with an 80 percent Muslim population, into a homeland for the Jews. Chian Kai-shek positioned his nationalist forces against Mao Zedong’s communists. Key oil fields were discovered in the Persian Gulf area in 1938.

Between the two World Wars, a growing sense of nationalism inspired many countries to seek their independence from foreign rulers:

- **Middle East:** The decline of the Ottoman Empire resulted in the emergence of many new Arab states.
- **African and Asia:** Black Africans who fought in World War I became more politically active. They organized reform movements, then called for independence.
- **China:** In 1923, the nationalists and the communists formed an alliance to oppose the warlords and drive the imperialist powers out of China.
- **Latin America:** After the Great Depression, Latin American countries worked to become economically independent by creating new industries to produce goods that were formerly imported.

World War II (1939-1945)

Adolf Hitler’s philosophy of Aryan superiority led to World War II in Europe and was also the source of the Holocaust. Two separate and opposing alliances, the Allies and the Axis Powers, waged a worldwide war. World War II left lasting impressions on civilian populations.

World War II was the most devastating total war in human history. Events engaged four continents, involved countless people and resources, and changed subsequent history. The following table summarizes some of the themes and developments.

Country	Movement	Cooperation	Conflict
United States	Retook Japanese positions in Southeast Asia	Relaxed neutrality acts Met with Allies at Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam	Led war effort Conducted island-hopping counterattacks Dropped atomic bombs on Japan
Great Britain	Made huge troop movements in Dunkirk and Normandy	Met with Allies at Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam	Stopped Rommel at El Alamein Withstood heavy German bombing
Soviet Union	Occupied Kuril and Sakhalin Islands Took control of much of eastern Europe	Met with Allies at Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam	Defeated Germany and Stalingrad Forced Germany to fight war on two fronts

Country	Movement	Cooperation	Conflict
Germany	Took over Austria, Poland, and Sudetenland	Formed Rome-Berlin Axis Signed Anti-Comintern Pact	Used blitzkrieg tactics Conducted genocide of Jews and others Besieged Leningrad
Italy	Invaded Ethiopia	Formed Rome-Berlin Axis	Became German puppet state (northern Italy)
Japan	Seized Manchuria and renamed it Manchukuo Invaded China	Signed Anti-Comintern Pact	Attacked Pearl Harbor Conquered Southeast Asia from Indochina to Philippines

Cold War and Postwar Changes (1945-1970)

At the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a Cold War that was fought around the globe. The two new superpowers competed for political domination of the world. The United States fought in Korea and Vietnam to prevent the spread of communism. The Soviet Union used armies to maintain Soviet regimes in eastern Europe. The creation of NATO and the European Economic Community helped western Europe move toward political and economic unity during the Cold War. Some changes/conflicts and their results are listed in the following table.

	Conflict/Crisis	Significant Event(s)	Result(s)
Greece (1944-1949)	Civil war erupted	Great Britain aided government forces against communism	United States created Truman Doctrine
Berlin (1949)	Soviets and Western powers divided Germany	Western powers airlifted supplies to Soviet-blockaded West Berlin	Blockade was lifted
Korea (1950-1953)	Civil war began when North Korea invaded South Korea	United Nations forced fight to save South Korea from communism	United States extended military alliances around the world
Berlin (1961)	Refugees escaped from East to West Berlin	Soviets built Berlin Wall	Berlin Wall became symbol of divided Germany
Cuba (1962)	Soviets supported Castro's totalitarian regime in Cuba	United States invaded Bay of Pigs; Soviets placed nuclear missiles in Cuba; United States blockaded Cuba	Soviets withdrew missiles; hotline was established between Moscow and Washington, D.C.
Vietnam (1964-1973)	Civil war erupted between North and South Vietnam	United States intervened to prevent North Vietnam from taking over South Vietnam	United States withdrew from Vietnam; Vietnam was reunited by communists

The Contemporary Western World (1970-Present)

Political and social changes led to the end of the Cold War and the fall of communism in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Economic challenges helped bring about and accompanied these sweeping political and social changes. Society and culture reflected these changes with the advent of the women's movement, the growth of technology, and a rise in terrorism.

The end of the Cold War brought dramatic economic, political, and social changes to Europe and North America. Many of these changes can be understood through the themes of conflict, change, regionalism, and cooperation. Some of the major events in postwar society are categorized according to these themes:

Conflict:

- Serb forces carried out “ethnic cleansing” of Muslims.
- Terrorism became a regular aspect of modern society.
- Soviet troops crushed a reform movement in Czechoslovakia.
- Nicolae Ceausescu was arrested and executed.

Change:

- The Soviet Union adopted a policy of perestroika under Gorbachev.
- Lech Walesa became the first freely elected president of an eastern European nation in 40 years.
- The national debt tripled in the United States during Ronald Reagan’s presidency.
- Television, movies, and music spread American culture throughout the world.

Regionalism:

- Ethnic Albanians declared Kosovo an independent province.
- Bosnia Serbs fought Bosnia Muslims and Croats.
- Bands of German youths attacked immigrants.
- Intense fighting broke out between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland.

Cooperation:

- British women protested against nuclear weapons.
- East Germany and West Germany were reunited into one nation.
- The Soviet Union and the United States signed the INF Treaty.

Latin America (1945-Present)

Many Latin American nations have experienced severe economic problems, and their governments have been led by military dictators. Successful Marxist revolutions in Cuba and Nicaragua fed fears in the United States about the spread of communism in the Americas.

Africa and the Middle East (1945-Present)

From the 1950s to the 1970s, most African nations gained independence from colonial powers. Israel declared statehood on May 14, 1948, creating conflict and struggle between the new state and its neighbors.

Asia and the Pacific (1945-Present)

Communists in China introduced socialist measures and drastic reforms under the leadership of Mao Zedong. After World War II, India gained its independence from Britain and divided into two separate countries, India and Pakistan. Japan modernized its economy and society after 1945 and became one of the world’s economic giants.

Challenges and Hopes for the Future

Today’s world faces the challenges of protecting and preserving the environment, addressing economic and social changes, implementing new technologies, resolving political conflicts, and eliminating international terrorism. The world’s inhabitants must adopt a cooperative global vision to address the problems that confront all humankind. At the beginning of the

twenty-first century, the world has become a global society. Nations are politically and economically dependent on one another, and the world's problems are of a global nature:

Cultural Diffusion:

Jumbo jetliners transport passengers around the world.

Many corporations have offices in more than one country.

Advances in communication, such as the Internet, connect people around the globe.

Technological Innovation:

The science of ecology is born.

American astronauts landed on the moon in 1969, and exploration of space continues to be a world-changing development.

Super strains of corn, rice, and other grains produce greater crop yields.

Health care advances prolong lives.

Developments in transportation and communication transform the world community.

Cooperation:

The Earth Summit met in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, to examine the challenges to the environment and propose new solutions.

Nations enact recycling programs and curb the dumping of toxic materials.

The United Nations promotes world peace.

Nongovernmental organizations advocate social and environmental change.

Conflict:

Massive growth in world population causes overcrowding and hunger in many countries.

Regional, ethnic, and religious differences continue to produce violence around the world.

International terrorists remain a threat to peace and security.

