

Chapter 29

SS6H7 The student will explain conflict and change in Europe to the 21st century.

a. Describe major developments following World War I: the Russian Revolution, the Treaty of Versailles, worldwide depression, and the rise of Nazism.

The World After WWI

World War I had a profound effect on world history. Europe suffered terrible destruction, and nearly 22 million soldiers and civilians died. The results of this conflict ultimately led to economic crises, radical changes in government, and a decline in the power of many European countries. The world would never be the same!



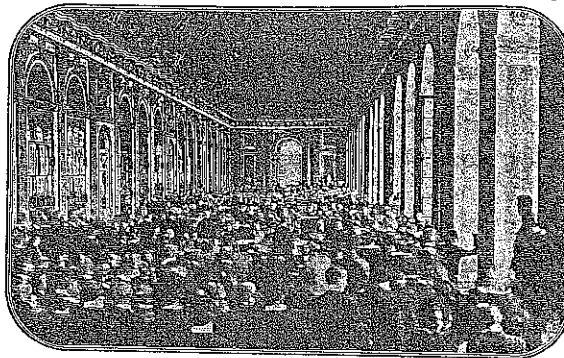
Word Definition

reparations: payment by a government to a group of people for loss or damage

The Treaty of Versailles

The treaty that ended World War I was known as the **Treaty of Versailles**. Signed in Versailles, France in 1919, it forced Germany to accept blame for the war. Germany was required to:

- **Give up one million square miles of land** after the war. Some of the land had been seized by Germany prior to the war. Much of the land that was lost was rich in natural resources that could have been used to generate income.
- **Accept full responsibility** for causing the war and pay **reparations** to other countries for the losses and damage they had suffered. This was difficult because Germany had to rebuild its own economy and country too.
- **Limit its armed forces** and stop production of nearly all war materials. It was also prohibited from uniting with Austria.



Signing of the Treaty of Versailles

Germans greatly resented the restrictions put on it by the Treaty of Versailles, and began to rise up in protest as economic conditions worsened. Germany also became isolated from and distrusted by other countries.

The Treaty of Versailles also created the League of Nations, a group of nations that vowed to work together to ensure that a world war would never occur again. The United States Senate did not ratify the Treaty of Versailles and never became a member of the League of Nations. The League turned out to be weak because it had no enforcement powers.



Think About It

Answer the questions below.

1. List four restrictions that the Treaty of Versailles put on Germany.

2. How did Germans feel about this treaty?

Treaty of Versailles
(1919)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

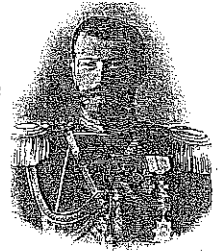
The Russian Revolution

For many years before World War I, Russian citizens had suffered under the rule of Tsar Nicholas II. The ruling class held the country's wealth, and the peasants barely had enough food to eat.



Vladimir Lenin

Russia fought on the side of the Allies in World War I and suffered terrible losses. By 1917, Russians were tired of food shortages, shivering from coal shortages, and exhausted by war. Workers united against the Russian ruler, overthrew the monarchy, and killed Nicholas and his family. This is known as the **Russian Revolution**. A revolutionary group called the Bolshevik (Communist) party seized power and established the Soviet Union under a leader named Vladimir Lenin.



Tsar Nicholas II of Russia



Quick Quiz

Put a check mark next to the items that are true about the Russian Revolution.

- 1. Russian citizens were happy and wealthy under Tsar Nicholas II.
- 2. Russia suffered terrible losses after WWI and the people were tired of being hungry, cold, and ravaged by war.
- 3. Russia fought on the side of the Central Powers during WWI.
- 4. The Russian monarchy was overthrown in the Russian Revolution.
- 5. The Bolshevik, or Communist Party, took over after the Russian Revolution.

Worldwide Depression

The world economy slumped into a worldwide depression after World War I. The European economies were in desperate shape. They had suffered great loss of life and property damage. They had borrowed money to pay for war costs and now had no money to repay the debts. Industry, shipping, and trade between countries were all affected.

European economies experienced *inflation*, a condition where prices rise and money loses purchasing power—where you cannot buy as much with a dollar tomorrow as you could buy with it today.



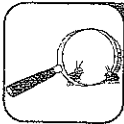
Word Definition

depression: a time where business is bad and people lose their jobs



Background Check

The worldwide depression affected the United States too. The United States suffered from the Great Depression beginning in October 1929 and lasting into the 1930s. It was the longest period of unemployment and low economic activity in modern times. By 1932, one in four Americans did not have a job!



Scavenger Hunt

List four reasons for the worldwide depression after World War I.



Think About It

Why is massive unemployment such a serious problem in any country?

Rise of Nazism

After World War I, a democratic government called the Weimar Republic took hold in Germany. Unfortunately, this government faced huge problems. Germany's people and its economy suffered heavily after Germany was forced to pay reparations to countries devastated by World War I. Millions of Germans could not find jobs, there were riots in the streets, and Germans did not believe their leaders could improve the situation.



Adolph Hitler

A political party named the Nazi Party began to attract the attention of dissatisfied Germans, largely through powerful speeches by its leader, Adolf Hitler. Hitler wrote a book called *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), where he described his ideas to strengthen Germany, his belief that Aryans (Germans) were the "master race," and his racist feelings against Jews, Slavs, gypsies, and blacks. The Nazis believed in fascism, where a strong central government is controlled by the military and run by a dictator.

The Nazis grew in power because they:

- Offered cures for Germany's economic problems
- Appealed to German nationalism by calling for an increase in armed forces and expansion of German territory in violation of the Treaty of Versailles
- United Germans against Jews by blaming Jews for Germany's problems
- Convinced Germans that they could protect them from potential enemies like Russia
- Organized private, armed groups to terrorize anyone who opposed them
- Few people spoke out against them inside or outside Germany.

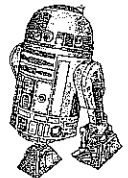


Hitler came to power in 1933 when the president of the Weimar Republic named him as chancellor. Hitler quickly destroyed the democratic government and became a dictator. He and the Nazi Party had achieved their first goal: to dominate Germany.



Look-It-Up!

One of the Nazi Party's private armies had a name you will recognize from a movie. See if you can find the name of that group. Hint: In the movie, their uniforms are white!





Quick Review

Fill in the blanks in the paragraph below. Use the Word Bank to help you. One term is used twice.

The _____ was Germany's government after WWI. They faced huge problems including _____ and _____. Germany's _____ was suffering since Germany had to pay _____ after the war. Soon, the _____, led by _____, began to attract people to its message. This group grew in power because they offered _____ to Germany's economic problems, appealed to German _____, and offered _____ from enemies like Russia. They also had private _____ that frightened anyone who opposed them. _____ became a dictator in total control of Germany.

Word Bank



Adolf Hitler	riots	solutions	protection
Nazi Party	reparations	nationalism	unemployment
economy	armies	Weimar Republic	

Chapter 30

SS6H7 The student will explain conflict and change in Europe to the 21st century

b. Explain the impact of WWII in terms of the Holocaust, the origins of the Cold War, and the rise of Superpowers.

c. Explain how the collapse of the Soviet Union led to the end of the Cold War and German reunification.

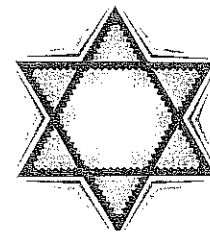
World War II Erupts

After World War I, strong dictatorships took hold in Germany under Adolf Hitler, Italy under Benito Mussolini, and Japan under Emperor Hirohito. These aggressive governments began to take over countries near them and formed an alliance known as the Axis Powers. The Allied Powers opposing them included Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

World War II started in 1939 when Germany attacked Poland, and continued until 1945 when Germany and Japan surrendered. Many of the battles had been fought in Europe, and the countries were devastated by terrible destruction and loss of life once again.

The Holocaust

Beginning in the 1930s, Adolf Hitler tried to get rid of all the Jews in Europe. Jews had been disliked and persecuted in Germany for hundreds of years. He believed that his Aryan race was superior to any other race. First, he hurt the Jews economically by ordering Germans not to shop in stores owned by Jews. Then, his army made them leave their homes and move into crowded areas called ghettos. The Jews were forced to work as slaves. Finally, Jews were forced into concentration camps or death camps where they were murdered by breathing poison gas.



As Allied troops moved across Europe after Germany's surrender, they came across some horrible sights. The troops found the camps where Jews had been imprisoned and killed by Adolf Hitler and his Nazi troops. Hitler was responsible for the murder of more than six million Jews between 1933 and 1945. This terrible period of history is known as the **Holocaust**.

After the war, many Holocaust survivors were afraid to go back to their former homes and many countries restricted where they could go. Finally, when the State of Israel was established in 1948, thousands of Jewish people flooded into their new homeland.



Reading Activity

A young German-Jewish girl named Anne Frank wrote a diary during the two years she and her family spent hiding from the Nazis during World War II. Read the excerpt from her diary below and answer the questions.

"Fine specimens of humanity, those Germans, and to think I'm actually one of them! No, that's not true, Hitler took away our nationality long ago. And besides, there are no greater enemies on earth than the Germans and Jews." October 9, 1942

1. Why does Anne dislike the Germans even though she is German herself? _____
2. What does Anne mean when she says that Hitler "took away our nationality long ago"? _____
3. What do you think it would be like to hide and never leave your home for two years? What would you miss? _____



Essential Skills

Number the following events in the correct order.

- _____ Germans disliked and persecuted Jews.
- _____ Allied troops found German prison camps where Jews were imprisoned and killed.
- _____ Hitler ordered Germans not to shop in stores owned by Jews.
- _____ The State of Israel is established.
- _____ Jews were forced into concentration camps and killed.
- _____ Jews ordered to move into ghettos.



Enrichment

Historians need proof to find out what happened in the past. There are two kinds of sources—primary and secondary. Primary sources are records made by people who actually participated in an event, like letters, journals, and photographs. Secondary sources are records of an event written by someone who was not there, like encyclopedia articles, newspaper articles, and books.

1. Is Anne Frank's diary a primary or secondary source? _____
2. If you read a book that someone had written about Anne, would that be a primary or secondary source about her? _____

It's Cold Out There!

At the end of World War II, the Allied armies freed all the nations in Western Europe that had been conquered by Germany, helped them form new governments, and gave them money to rebuild their cities. Then the Allies left Europe. Things were different, however, in Eastern Europe. Soviet troops moved into countries like Poland, Romania, Hungary, and the eastern half of Germany and set up their political system known as Communism where the government controls everything.



Word Definition

space race: competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to launch satellites and land on the moon

After the war, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the world's two "superpowers" with the military and political strength to influence worldwide events. Distrust developed between the United States and the Soviet Union. The U.S. did not like the way the Soviets were expanding their territory. The two countries had different beliefs and political systems, and both of them stockpiled weapons in case of war. These feelings grew into a state of tension called the "Cold War" because it never involved fighting. In addition to military might, the Cold War involved competition in science (like the "space race") and alliances with the growing nations in Asia and Africa.



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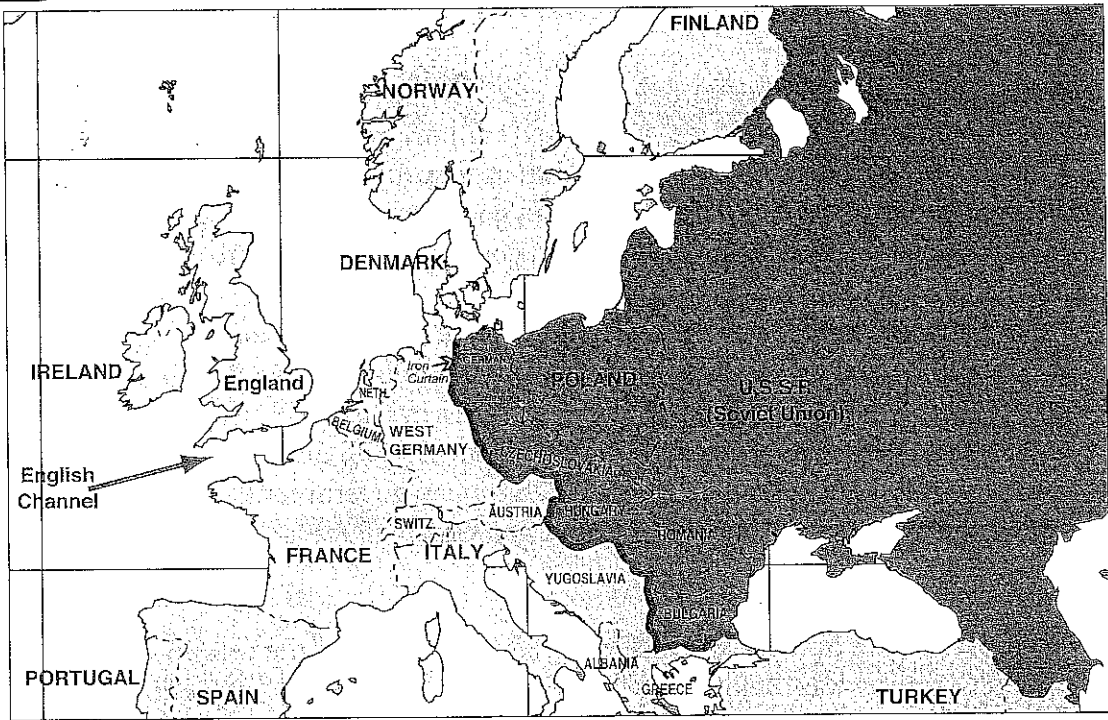
The "Iron Curtain" Falls

People living in countries controlled by the Soviet Union could not leave. Armed guards watched over the borders. In a 1946 speech, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill warned that an "Iron Curtain" had fallen across the continent of Europe, meaning that a dividing line now existed between Eastern and Western Europe.



Map Skills

Look at the map showing the Iron Curtain. Answer the questions below.



1. List the countries behind the Iron Curtain.

2. What country was split in two? _____



Hard-To-Believe-But-True!

No one is sure who used the term "iron curtain" first to describe a political boundary. But it comes from the actual iron curtain used in German theaters to separate the stage from the audience in case of a fire!



Essential Skills

Match the terms on the left to the correct definition on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Communism | a. dividing line between Eastern and Western Europe |
| ___ 2. superpowers | b. government controls everything |
| ___ 3. Cold War | c. country dominant in military and political strength |
| ___ 4. Iron Curtain | d. tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union |

The Cold War Ends

The weapons buildup, space race, and continued support of its Communist countries cost the Soviet Union a lot of money. Compounding that money drain was a faltering, stale, command economy with little growth. All too often, government planning left many Communist countries with barely enough food and goods to meet their citizens' needs.

A new Soviet leader named Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985. He wanted to modernize the economy and agreed to decrease military spending to ease international tensions. Unfortunately, the economies in Eastern Europe did not improve and protests among the people grew louder. In 1989, Gorbachev said that the Soviets would no longer help Eastern European governments put down domestic protests, and countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia began to break away from Soviet rule.



Mikhail Gorbachev
Photo by Colton Pictures

One of the most stirring examples of this new independence was the **reunification of Germany**. When Germany was divided in two after World War II, the city of Berlin was divided too. The Soviet Union controlled the eastern half of the city, and the Allies controlled the western half. The U.S. helped West Germany set up a democratic government. In 1961, East Germany built a wall separating East Berlin from West Berlin.

In 1989, after weeks of unrest, East Germany relaxed its borders and allowed its citizens to travel to West Berlin and West Germany. Overjoyed East Germans climbed atop the Berlin Wall and began to take it apart. When Gorbachev refused to help them, the East Germans let go of their power. A new government was elected, and Germany was reunited in 1990.

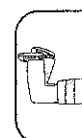


The fall of the Berlin Wall
Photo by Lear21

In 1991, a group of Soviet leaders tried to take over the government. They failed, and the Soviet republics declared independence. The Soviet Union came to an end, and officially split into 15 republics. The Cold War was over!



- ___ 1.
- ___ 2.
- ___ 3.
- ___ 4.
- ___ 5.
- ___ 6.



List the



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Essential Skills

Write T for True and F for False.

- ___ 1. The Soviet command economy was a strong, growing economy.
- ___ 2. Mikhail Gorbachev increased Soviet military spending and continued Cold War policies.
- ___ 3. Gorbachev refused to help Eastern European governments put down protests by their citizens.
- ___ 4. The city of Berlin was divided after World War II.
- ___ 5. Germany has never been reunited into one country.
- ___ 6. The Soviet Union split into 15 republics in 1991.



Look-It-Up!

Use the Internet or an encyclopedia to find the names of the 15 republics that used to be part of the Soviet Union.

List them here. _____



Write About It

After WWII, many East Germans moved to West Germany for better jobs and living conditions. To stop this outflow of people, East Germany built a wall. The Berlin Wall was first constructed in the dark, early morning hours of August 13, 1961. The people of Berlin woke up to find a barbed wire fence (later made of concrete) separating the city! Armed guards patrolled the wall. Families and friends were separated. Write about how you would feel if you lived in East Berlin and you could not leave.
