

Unit 13

Between the World Wars

Section 1: Russia

Russian Revolution

- March 1917= Czar Nicholas II abdicates his throne; a Provisional Government takes control of Russia
- November 1917= Provisional Government in Russia is toppled by the Vladimir Lenin led Bolsheviks
- March 1918= Russia and Germany signed a peace treaty ending Russia's involvement in WWI
- Russia then entered into a period of Civil War= Bolsheviks (Red Army) vs. White Army

Civil War in Russia (1918-1920)

- Leon Trotsky commanded the Bolshevik Red Army
- White Army was comprised of very different groups:
 - Supporters of a return to czarist rule
 - Supporters of a democratic government
 - Socialists who opposed Lenin's brand of socialism
- Only the desire to defeat the Bolsheviks united the White Armies
 - Very little cooperation among the White Armies
 - Several Western nations, including the U.S., unsuccessfully sent aid and forces to help the White Army

Red Victory

- Red Army crushed all opposition and was victorious against the White forces; therefore, Lenin emerged as the leader of Russia
- 14 million Russians died in the war and in the famine that followed; Russia was left in chaos
- Russian Revolution + Civil War established a state-controlled society that lasted for decades

Lenin's Russia

- War had destroyed the Russian economy- trade was nonexistent, industrial production dropped, skilled workers left Russia
- Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy (NEP)- temporarily put aside his plan for a state-controlled economy; resorted to a small-scale version of capitalism
 - NEP allowed peasants to sell their surplus crops instead of turning them over to the government
 - Government kept control of major industries, banks, and means of communication, but let some small factories, businesses, and farms operate under private ownership
- Russia's economy recovered under the NEP

USSR

- Lenin organized Russia into several self-governing republics under the central government
 - 1922= the country was named the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)
- Bolsheviks renamed their party the Communist Party
- 1924= the Communists created a constitution supposedly based on socialist and democratic principles; in reality, the Communist Party held all the power
- Lenin had established a dictatorship in the USSR

Joseph Stalin

- 1922- Lenin suffered a stroke, he survived, but Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin began a struggle for who would succeed Lenin as the Communist Party leader
- Stalin- as general secretary of the Communist Party, he worked behind the scenes to move his supporters into positions of power
- Lenin died in 1924; by 1928, Stalin was in total command of the Communist Party
 - 1929- Trotsky was forced into exile; 1940- while in exile in Mexico Trotsky was killed by a Soviet assassin

Section 2: Stalin's Russia

Totalitarianism

- Totalitarianism= total, centralized government control; government that dominates every aspect of life
 - Totalitarian leaders are often dynamic, persuasive
 - Government uses police terror
 - Government controls all mass media, crushes opposing views
 - Leaders brand religious, ethnic minorities “enemies of the state”
- Stalin created a totalitarian regime in the USSR

Stalin and Totalitarianism

- Stalin's police attack opponents with public force and secret actions
- Great Purge= terror campaign against Stalin's perceived enemies in the Communist Party
 - Stalin ruthlessly consolidated his power in a series of purges, between 1935-1938; 8-13 million dead
 - Stalin's purges included old Bolsheviks, army officers, party members, and many others
 - Of the Central Committee of 1934, 70% were shot, and of those attending the party Congress in 1934, only 3% were left alive in 1939
- By the end of 1938, Stalin was in complete control

Stalinist Russia

- Government controls newspapers, radio, movies
- Artists are censored and controlled; work is used to glorify the Party
- Government controls all education, from early grades to college
 - Children learn the virtues of the Communist Party
 - Teachers and students who challenge the Party are punished
- Government attacks Russian Orthodox Church
- Magnificent churches, synagogues destroyed; religious leaders killed
- People lose all personal rights, freedoms

Stalin and the Economy

- "We are 100 years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this lag in ten years. Either we do it, or they crush us!" Joseph Stalin, 1931
- There was no foreign investment available for industrial/technological development in the USSR
- Russia would have to rely on domestic sources to:
 - finance the development of large-scale industry
 - create a substantial military in the face of an increasingly threatening world
- Under Stalin's command economy system, all economic decisions were made by government officials alone

Rapid Industrialization

- Stalin attempted to transform the agrarian Soviet society into an industrial power in a very short period of time
- Two "Five Year Plans"- started in 1928 for the purpose of economic development
 - quadrupled the production of heavy machinery
 - resulted in large increases in the nation's industrial and oil production
 - increased steel production from 4 million to 18 million tons per year
- Between 1930 and 1938 alone, 25 million peasants were forcibly relocated from rural areas to industrial centers
 - Farmers were transformed into factory workers by means of intensive training, ideological indoctrination, and extremely harsh industrial discipline
- However, collectivizing Russian agriculture resulted in government made famine/starvation

Section 3: Imperial China Collapses

Nationalists Overthrow Qing Dynasty

- In the early 1900s, China was ripe for revolution
 - Foreign countries controlled its trade and economic resources
 - Many believed that modernization held the key for survival
- Kuomintang- Nationalist Party of China, calls for modernization
 - Sun Yixian- first great Kuomintang leader
- In 1911, the Revolutionary Alliance overthrows the last emperor of the Qing dynasty

New Republic

- In 1912, Sun takes control as president of the new Republic of China
- Sun could not create national unity and turns the presidency over to Yuan Shikai who betrays the democratic ideals of the revolution
- Civil war breaks out in 1916- real power falls into the hands of warlords and military leaders
- China enters war against Germany hoping to gain Chinese territories held by Germany
- However, the Treaty of Versailles gives German colonies in China to Japan
- Many young nationalists turn against Sun Yixian's brand of democracy in favor of Soviet communism

The Communist Party in China

- In 1921, a group met in Shanghai to organize the Chinese Communist Party
 - Mao Zedong was among its founders
- Sun Yixian became disillusioned with Western democracy and aligns his party with the Communist Party
 - 1923- Lenin sent military advisers and equipment to the Nationalists
- After Sun Yixian died in 1925, Chiang Kai-shek (aka Jiang Jieshi) headed the Kuomintang; Chiang Kai-shek feared the Communists; vowed democracy
- However, Chiang Kai-shek's government became steadily less democratic and more corrupt, as a result many peasants threw their support behind Mao and the Communists who divided land among the farmers

Nationalists and Communists Clash

- Initially, Chiang Kai-shek put aside his differences with the Communists to fight warlords in China, but soon after turned against the Communists
- By 1930, Nationalists and Communists were fighting a bloody civil war
- Mao and other Communist leaders established themselves in the hills of south-central China
 - Mao recruited peasants to join his Red Army and trained them in guerrilla warfare
- Nationalists repeatedly attacked Communist strong holds but failed to drive them from the hills

The Long March

- 1933= Chiang Kai-shek gathered an army of 700,000 and attempted to surround the Communists' mountain stronghold
- Communist leaders realized they faced defeat and in a daring move the 10,000 man Communist force fled from the Nationalists= The Long March
- The Long March consisted of a 6,000 mile journey
 - Between 1934 and 1935, the Communists kept only one step ahead of Chiang Kai-shek
- After a year Mao and the seven or eight thousand Communist survivors settled into caves in northwestern China
 - Gained new followers

Civil War Suspended

- As the Chinese Civil War raged on the Japanese took the opportunity to invade Manchuria (an industrialized province in the northeast part of China)
- 1937= Japanese launched an all-out invasion of China
 - By 1938 Japan held control of a large part of China
- The Japanese invasion forced an uneasy truce between Chiang's and Mao's forces; Civil War was gradually suspended to fight the Japanese

Section 4: Nationalism in India

Nationalism Ignites

- Anti-colonial sentiment was fostered by an urban middle class educated in the West or Western-style schools
 - Western political thought proclaimed democracy, equality, individual freedoms, economic opportunities= all lacking in colonies
- Two groups formed to rid India of foreign rule
 - Congress Party (mostly Hindus) and the Muslim League
- In response, the British pass the Rowlatt Acts (1919), which were tough laws intended to end dissent (protesters could be jailed without trial for as long as two years)

Amritsar Massacre

- In spring 1919, 10,000 Hindus and Muslims go to the city of Amritsar to protest the Rowlatt Acts
- British troops fire on the unarmed crowd; 400 killed and 1,200 wounded
- News of this Amritsar Massacre sparks anger nationwide

Mohandas K. Gandhi

- Mohandas K. Gandhi becomes the leader of the independence movement; he would come to be called Mahatma meaning “great soul”
- Born in western India (1869); studied in London and became a lawyer; working for a law firm in South Africa he became aware of racial prejudice and exploitation; returned to India to promote independence
- Gandhi promoted non-violent, civil disobedience to protest British control in India
 - Civil disobedience= the deliberate and public refusal to obey an unjust law, uses nonviolence as the means to achieve independence
 - 1920= Congress Party backs the idea

Non-Violent Resistance

- Boycotts
 - Gandhi urges a boycott of British goods, schools, taxes, elections
 - Refusal to buy British cloth cuts into important textile industry
- Salt March
 - 1930= Gandhi organizes a protest of the Salt Acts
 - These laws force Indians to buy salt from the government
 - Salt March= 240-mile walk led by Gandhi to collect seawater for salt
 - British police brutalize protestors; Indians gain worldwide support

Britain Grants Gradual Independence

- Gandhi and his followers gradually reaped the rewards of their civil disobedience campaigns and gained greater political power for the Indian people
- 1935= Parliament passed the Government of India Act
 - Gave India local self-government and some election reforms
 - Act did nothing to calm rising tension between Muslims and Hindus
- 1947= It was not until after WWII, that the British House of Commons passed the Indian Independence Act
 - divided India into two dominions, India and Pakistan, and called for each dominion to be granted its independence

Section 5: Nationalism in Southwest Asia

Turkey

- At the end of World War I, the Ottoman Empire was forced to give up all its territories except Turkey
- Mustafa Kemal= Turkish general, overthrows Ottoman sultan
- 1923= Kemal becomes president of the Republic of Turkey
 - Splits government from religion, modernizes Turkey
 - Kemal dies in 1938; given name Ataturk (“father of the Turks”)

Persia Becomes Iran

- Before WWI both the British and Russians had spheres of influence in Persia
 - British effort to take Persia after WWI spurs a nationalist revolt
- 1921= Reza Shah Pahlavi seizes power and begins modernization
 - Changes name from Persia to Iran in 1935

Arabia Unified

- In 1932, Abd al-Aziz Ibn Saud unifies Arabia as Saudi Arabia
- Keeps many Islamic traditions, but modernizes life in some ways
 - brought some modern technology, such as telephones and radios, to the country
 - however, modernization in Saudi Arabia was limited to religiously acceptable areas
- No effort to bring democracy

Oil Drives Development

- Discovery of oil in the 1920s and 1930s in Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait brings new foreign investment to Southwest Asia
 - Huge sums of money invested to explore the region
- Western nations try to dominate the region to keep control of oil

Section 6: A Worldwide Depression

Post World War I

- The peace settlement at the end of WWI had left nations unhappy and eager to revise it
- 1920s was a time of insecurity, a short-lived upswing and finally economic collapse in Europe
- U.S. + G.B. refused to honor defensive military alliances with France
- France searched for security by strictly enforcing the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles against Germany

War Reparations

- According to the Treaty of Versailles Germany was forced to pay \$33 billion dollars in reparations-\$2.5 billion a year
 - Paid the first installment in 1921; the following year Germany claimed it could not pay any more due to an economic crisis
 - France sends troops to occupy the Ruhr valley to operate and collect money from German mines

German Response

- Germany's new democratic government was set up in 1919 and was known as the Weimar Republic
 - Millions of Germans blamed the Weimar government, not their wartime leaders, for the country's defeat and postwar humiliation caused by the Versailles Treaty
- Weimar government printed more paper money to deal with the economic crisis
 - out of control inflation occurs
 - German mark becomes worthless

Dawes Plan

- Dawes Plan- reduced reparations and stabilized Germany's payments on the basis of its ability to pay; saved Germany from an inflationary crisis and stabilized the economy
- Loan of \$200 million given to Germany- opened the door for U.S. investment in Europe
- American banks began lending Germany money privately to pay the reparations
- Germany then paid the loans to France and Britain, which they then used to buy goods in the United States
 - If U.S. loans/investments were cut the entire system would fail

A Flawed U.S. Economy

- Weaknesses in the American economy caused serious problems:
 - Wealth is distributed unevenly
 - Most people are too poor to buy goods produced
 - Factory owners cut back on production, lay off workers
 - Farmers produce more food than people can eat
 - Many farmers cannot repay loans and lose their land

The Great Depression

- Stock Market Collapse
 - During the 1920s stock prices soar; many people buy stocks on credit
 - Investors begin a large sell off of stocks, which lowers prices
 - October 29, 1929= stock market collapses as prices fall very low
- The 1929 stock market crash in the United States signaled the beginning of the Great Depression
- Investors lost 40% of their portfolios in one month
 - The resulting panic eventually became a depression throughout the world, creating massive strains on the European and American social and political fabric

World Response to the Crisis

- Britain
 - British voters elect coalition government
 - Government brings about slow, steady economic recovery
 - Preserves democracy by avoiding political extremes
- France
 - France had a relatively self-sufficient economy; preserves democracy in spite of economic troubles
- United States
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is the American president during the Depression (elected in 1932)
 - New Deal- Roosevelt's program of government reform to improve the economy within a democratic framework; with the New Deal Roosevelt used large public works projects to help provide jobs
- Italy and Germany
 - In response to political turmoil and economic crises, Italy and Germany turn to totalitarian dictators