AMSCO Chapter 26

The Interwar Years, 1919-1939

1. The Great Depression
2. Loss of millions of people, loss of millions of dollars, break up of Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empires
3. Germany’s war reparations in the billions caused inflation in Germany, while France and Great Britain had trouble paying back the US for war loans, and Soviet Union refused to pay pre-revolutionary debts.
4. Global downturn – agricultural overproduction and US Stock Market Crash led to global downturn
5. American investors began to remove investments in German banks, causing German inflation and bank failures, causing worst economic downturn in the West in Germany
6. Latin America, Africa and Asia suffered as colonial possessions of Europe
7. Japan also suffered as exports fell by 50% from 1929-1931
8. Keynesian Ideas
9. John Maynard Keynes rejected laissez-faire approach
10. Governments should use deficit spending (spend more than they have) to stimulate the economy
11. Cutting taxes and increasing spending would cause economic growth
12. New Deal - goal was to bring relief (those unemployed), recovery (government spending), and reform (change government policy to avoid another depression
13. By 1937 the New Deal was working to improve economy, but Roosevelt was worried about the deficit. He reversed some policies, and unemployment grew again.
14. WWII bring US out of depression, but deficits are enormous
15. Depression Elsewhere
16. All nations that traded with western powers were effected
17. Tariffs (taxes on imports) tried to save local jobs, but 30 million people worldwide were unemployed
18. Japan devalued its currency quickly, allowing for a quicker recovery as Japanese products were cheaper
19. Rise of Right-Wing Governments – while US became more liberal, most countries swung right to fascism
20. Rise of Fascism in Italy
21. Fasces – a Roman symbol of a bundle of sticks tied around an axe, representing punishment; glorification of militarism and brute force
22. Corporatism – employers, trade unions, state officials are all separate organs of the same body that can organize themselves as they wish, as long as they support the whole, or the economy; resulted in totalitarianism
23. Mussolini Takes Control
24. Italy gets very little new territory from Treaty of Versailles, causing resentment
25. Mussolini becomes a dictator, ruling all aspects of life w propaganda
26. Theory that Italy should conquer inferior nation, i.e. Libya and Somalia
27. Italy gains control of both, despite League of Nations mandate
28. Eventually allies with Hitler and invaded Albania in 1939
29. Rise of Nazism
30. WWI meant establishment of Weimar Republic
31. Weimar Republic very unpopular because of terms of Treaty of Versailles
32. Unemployment soared, alienation and resentment grew
33. National Socialist German Worker’s party legitimately gained control in 1932 elections
34. In 1933 German president Hindenburg invited Hitler to serve as chancellor.
35. Hindenburg died in 1933, opening door for Hitler to declare himself president
36. Reichstag parliament building burned and it was blamed on extremists, providing an excuse for declaring a state of emergency, outlawing of all other political parties
37. Ultra-nationalism, scientific racism, anti-Semitism all blamed Jews for Germany’s problems
38. Drive for a pure German race, free of Jews, Slavs, Communists, gypsies, homosexuals
39. Nuremberg Laws – 1935 laws that forbade marriage between Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews), stripped Jews of German citizenship, and gradually marginalized Jews in Germany; some Eastern European nations followed suit.
40. Olympic Games – 1936 in Berlin
41. Spain and Soviet Union boycotted to protest Nazi regime
42. First televised games, showed Germany in positive light
43. Kristallnacht – November 1938, Night of Broken Glass, anti-Jewish riot
44. 90 German Jews killed, almost every synagogue and many Jewish businesses destroyed; 30,000Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps (later given orders to leave Germany)
45. Hitler also declares lebensraum – drive to control more territory for Germans
46. Fascism and Civil War in Spain
47. Economic decline led to civil war between democracy and fascism
48. Spanish Republic formed in 1931, Popular Front elected in 1936 as a coalition of left wing parties
49. Key topic was land reform; conservatives and the church were opposed
50. July 1936 a military uprising started civil war, led by General Francisco Franco, leader of the Nationalists, opposed by the Loyalists
51. Foreign involvement – Hitler, Mussolini and Salazar of Portugal help nationalists with weapons. US, Soviet union, France and Britain helped the Loyalists
52. Guernica – Germans and Italians bombed Spanish town of Guernica, one of first aerial bombings in the world; tragedy portrayed in Pablo Picasso’s Guernica
53. Franco’s Victory – Franco’s Nationalists won in 1939, and he ruled Spain until 1975. While not actively involved in WWII, Spain did help the Axis powers.
54. Rise of a Repressive Regime in Brazil
55. “Sleeping giant” because Brazil was shifting from agriculture to industry, but large land owners still dominated the economy
56. Getulio Vargas seizes control in 1930
57. Middle class thought he would help establish a democracy, but Vargas adopted Mussolini’s policies of stripping away political freedoms by using censorship, abolition of political parties, imprisonment of opponents, hyper-nationalism (did not use violence as in Italy)
58. Brazil sided with allies in WWI and gradually moved toward democracy
59. Political Revolutions
60. Continuing Revolution in Russia
61. Lenin and the Soviet Union abolished private trade, distributed peasant crops to feed workers, and took ownership of factories and heavy industry
62. Russian Civil War 1918-1921, widespread starvation
63. Ethnic groups revolted against Soviets
64. Workers went on strike
65. Peasants hoarded food supplies
66. Industrial production dropped, food production dropped
67. New Economic plan (NEP) reintroduced private trade for small scale farming
68. Joseph Stalin took over Politburo after Lenin’s death in 1924, and held control for 30 years.
69. Abandoned NEP, set up five year plans to transform USSR into an industrial power
70. Collectivized all agriculture, taking from private farmers to be run by collectives, where peasants were forced to work following detailed plans and reaching specific goals
71. Farmers killed livestock and burned crops in retaliation
72. Millions of peasants starved to death, but heavy industry did grow, there were plenty of factory jobs and living costs were low
73. Stalin executed or imprisoned for life all his opponents, while pushing USSR into industrial and military power, and employment was high compared to the rest of Europe
74. Mexican Revolution
75. Porfirio Diaz as dictator, most peasants owned no land, while most of Mexico’s resources were under control of foreign investors
76. Opposition forces under Francisco Madero take control and exile Porfirio.
77. Madero was elected president in 1911.
78. Emiliano Zapata spoke for the peasants about land distribution, universal suffrage and public education, all of which were slowly implemented
79. Lazaro Cardenas followed, and nationalized the oil industry despite foreign investor anger
80. Upheaval in China
81. 1911 fall of Qing led to instability until 1949.
82. Sun Yat-sen led Chinese Republic in 1912, but regional war lords still held power w regional armies
83. At Paris Peach conference after WWI, China expected independence from spheres of influence, but instead European controlled Chinese lands were given to Japan. All urban classes rioted in protest
84. Communists and Nationalists
85. Chinese communist party (CCP) led by Mao Zedong versus Nationalists (Kuomintang) led by Sun Yat-sen and later Chiang Kai-shek
86. Long march – Mao and communists retreated into interior and later completed the Long March of over 6,000 miles and one year, ending in northern China
87. Communists and nationalists unite in 1935 to kick out the Japanese and again in 1945 after WWII.
88. Growth of Nationalism in Southwest Asia, South Asia, and Africa
89. Widespread Anticolonial sentiment
90. Activists and colonial armies had hoped for independence at Paris Peace Conference
91. Only white countries in eastern Europe were granted independence
92. Former Ottoman and German colonies and territories were put under mandate system
93. Self-determination in Turkey
94. Nationalists led by Mustafa Kemal win independence from British in 1921, establishing Republic of Turkey
95. Kemal followed a European model of a secular nation, including public education, suffrage for women, end to polygamy
96. Independence Movements in India
97. Indian National Congress established
98. In Amritsar, Punjab, a group of nationalist meeting in a public garden were killed by British colonial forces, killing over 300 peaceful protestors, and strengthening independence movement
99. Mohandas Gandhi proposed civil disobedience by peacefully breaking laws and serving jail time, getting public opinion on their side
100. Gandhi also boycotted British goods,
101. Salt March – Gandhi led thousands of Indians to the Arabian Sea to pick up a few grains of salt in violation of British law prohibiting Indians from producing own sea salt
102. Two-State Solution Introduced
103. Muslim Indian leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah proposed a separate state, Pakistan, for Muslims in South Asia, leaving India to Hindus. Many Indian nationalist were opposed.
104. Independence Movements in Africa
105. European-educated African intellectuals from middle and upper classes worked for colonial governments.
106. This elite became the nationalist force, rejecting European authority
107. Black Pride rises as part of Negritude Movement which started in French West Africa
108. Neocolonialism in Latin America – actions taken by one government to indirectly control another country
109. Monroe Doctrine (Latin America is our neighborhood, Europe stay out) and Roosevelt Corollary (US will intervene in Latin America if these countries become unstable)
110. 1912 President Howard Taft began “dollar diplomacy” which invested US dollars, not bullets, in Latin America
111. US investments increased dramatically in bananas, oil, copper and other resources
112. US Marines were sent to Haiti and Dominican Republic when US economic interests were threatened
113. FDR’s good neighbor policy renounced US military intervention, but after WWII, US once again became interventionist in the face of fears that communism would spread to Latin America
114. Augusto Sandino in Nicaragua waged guerilla warfare in protest of US imperialism, and the Sandinistas of the future were named after him
115. Cultural and Intellectual Movements
116. Militarism, imperialism, nationalism all led to WWI.
117. New approaches to study appeared after, such as psychology and quantum mechanics
118. Art –surrealist artists like Salvador Dali and Frida Kahlo painted images from their dreams
119. Literature – Virginia Woolf and James Joyce developed stream-of-consciousness technique where characters thoughts are presented unfiltered or structured
120. Science – Paradigm shifts occurred in numerous fields, like relativity and astronomy