20th-Century Global Conflicts

AP European History · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
total war /ˈtəʊtl wɔː/	In **total war**, the whole country works for victory.
political instability	**Political instability** followed the end of the war.
Cold War /kəʊld wɔː/	The **Cold War** set the USA against the Soviet Union.
objective knowledge	The war shook belief in **objective knowledge** and fixed truths.
trench warfare /trentʃ ˈwɔːfeə/	In **trench warfare**, soldiers fought from long ditches in the ground.
stalemate	The war became a **stalemate**: neither side could win.
mobilisation	**Mobilisation** gets the army ready for war.
protest	Workers held a **protest** against food shortages.
insurrection	The **insurrection** in Dublin was put down by British troops.
belligerent	A **belligerent** country is one that is fighting in a war.
theatre	The war in the Middle East was a separate **theatre** of fighting.
Russian Revolution /ˈrʌʃn ˌrevəˈluːʃn/	The **Russian Revolution** ended the rule of the tsar.
Marxist-Leninist theory /ˈmɑːksɪst ˈlenɪnɪst ˈθɪəri/	**Marxist-Leninist theory** said a small party should lead the workers' revolution.

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Provisional Government	The **Provisional Government** ruled Russia for a few months in 1917. 1917
Bolsheviks	The **Bolsheviks** took power in Russia in October 1917. 1917 10
idealism	Wilson's **idealism** led him to hope for a world without war.
League of Nations /liːg ɒv ˈneɪʃnz/	The **League of Nations** was set up to keep peace after the war.
mandate system /ˈmændeɪt ˈsɪstəm/	Under the **mandate system**, Britain and France ruled former Ottoman lands.
Treaty of Versailles	The **Treaty of Versailles** blamed Germany for the war.
reparations	Germany had to pay **reparations** for war damage.
Great Depression /greɪt dɪˈpreʃn/	The **Great Depression** left millions of people without work.
democracy	In a **democracy**, people choose their leaders by voting.
fascism /ˈfæʃɪzəm/	**Fascism** puts the nation above the individual and has one strong leader.
Stalin /ˈstɑːlɪn/	**Stalin** ruled the Soviet Union through fear.
modernisation	Stalin forced fast **modernisation** of industry.
repression /rɪˈpreʃn/	The government used **repression** to silence its critics.

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kulak	A **kulak** was a richer peasant targeted by Stalin.
famine	Millions died in the Ukrainian **famine**.
collectivisation	**Collectivisation** forced peasants onto large state farms.
Gulag	Prisoners were sent to the **Gulag**, a system of labour camps.
isolationism	**Isolationism** kept the USA out of European affairs.
appeasement	**Appeasement** gave Hitler what he wanted to avoid war.
Blitzkrieg /ˈblɪtskrɪg/	**Blitzkrieg** was a fast attack with tanks and planes.
Axis powers	Germany, Italy and Japan were the **Axis powers**.
genocide /ˈdʒenəsaɪd/	The Holocaust was a **genocide**: the murder of a whole people.
nuclear proliferation /ˈnjuːklɪə prəˌlɪfəˈreɪʃn/	**Nuclear proliferation** means more countries getting nuclear weapons.
racism	**Racism** treats people as worse because of their race.
anti-Semitism	Nazi **anti-Semitism** led to the murder of six million Jews.
collaborator	A **collaborator** helped the occupying enemy.
"lost generation"	Young writers after the war were called the **"lost generation"**.

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Word	Example
☹ **disillusionment**	**Disillusionment** spread as people lost faith in old ideals.
☹ **cynicism**	The war left many people full of **cynicism** about leaders.

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