

8.1 Contextualizing 20th-Century Global Conflicts

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS fascism 法西斯主义

Objective

Build the skills to write the **context** for the century’s global conflicts.

You must be able to:

- name the four threads the unit opens
- explain what ‘total war’ means as a technical term
- state why the ideological battle is three-sided
- name the conditions in place before 1914

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The four threads

Total war and political instability gave way to a polarised state order and then to efforts at transnational union; economic collapse and total war created conflicting conceptions of the individual and the state; movements questioned objective knowledge, reason and religion’s moral role; and five named forces altered everyday life.

■ Total war

A war in which the state mobilises the whole society — labour, industry, food, opinion — not only an army. That is why it appears in a sentence about the individual and the state.

■ Three, not two

The battle is **between and among** democracy, communism and fascism. “Among” also allows conflict inside each camp, so a two-sided account loses a dimension.

■ Conditions before 1914

Unit 7’s alliance system and Balkan crises, industrial capacity able to sustain total war, and no shared standard for settling disputes. All were in place beforehand, which is what makes them context.

2 Practice

2.1 Define total war. [2]

2.2 State the three ideologies in the CED’s battle and what “among” adds. [2]

2.3 Name three conditions in place before 1914. [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Total war appears in a sentence about the individual and the state because it [1]

- **A** involves only armies
- **B** mobilises the whole society
- **C** is short
- **D** ends quickly

3.2 A two-sided account of the century’s ideological conflict [1]

- **A** matches the CED
- **B** loses a dimension the CED preserved
- **C** is required
- **D** covers all three camps

3.3 A ministry created to run a war economy is still operating in 1925.

(a) State what this illustrates.

[1]

(b) Explain the link to the individual-and-state thread.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 a war in which the state mobilises the whole society — labour, industry, food and opinion, not only an army.

2.2 democracy, communism and fascism; “among” allows conflict inside each camp as well as between them.

2.3 any three of: the alliance system; Balkan crises; industrial capacity able to sustain total war; the absence of a shared standard for settling disputes.

3.1 B. mobilising a society enlarges what the state does to individuals.

3.2 B. the CED names three.

3.3 (a) that wartime state expansion outlived the war. (b) powers taken for an emergency became permanent, which changed the relationship between the individual and the state.