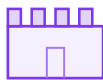


20th-Century Global Conflicts

AP European History • Unit 8

AP European History



20th-Century Global Conflicts

What we will cover

- 1 Contextualizing 20th-Century Global Conflicts
- 2 World War I
- 3 The Russian Revolution and Its Effects
- 4 Versailles Conference and Peace Settlement
- 5 Global Economic Crisis
- 6 Fascism and Totalitarianism

1

Contextualizing 20th-Century Global Conflicts

20th-Century Global Conflicts

Contextualizing 20th-Century Global Conflicts

Unit 8 covers **c. 1914 to the present** as a story of conflict, and four key concepts frame it:

- **Total war and political instability** in the first half of the century gave way to a **polarised state order** during the Cold War.
- The stresses of **economic collapse and total war** produced **internal conflicts** within European states and **conflicting conceptions of the relationship between the individual and the state** 个人与国家的关系.
- Diverse intellectual and cultural movements **questioned the existence of objective knowledge** and the authority that had rested on it.
- **Demographic change, economic growth, total war, and competing definitions of freedom and justice** altered the experience of everyday life.

2

World War I

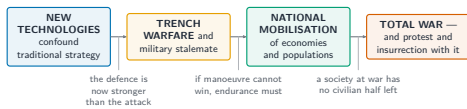
20th-Century Global Conflicts

World War I

The war was **caused by a complex interaction of long- and short-term factors** and produced immense losses and disruption. The CED's specific claims:

- **New technologies confounded traditional military strategies**, leading to **trench warfare** 堑壕战 and massive troop losses.
- The effects of **military stalemate, national mobilisation, and total war** led to **protest and insurrection** 抗议与起义 in the belligerent nations – the war turned inward on the societies fighting it.
- The war **spread quickly to non-European theatres**, becoming a **global conflict**.
- The relationship of Europe to the world **shifted significantly** with that globalisation, and with the emergence of new powers.

Technology, stalemate, then whole societies



The war spreads to **non-European theatres** for the same reason: once whole societies are committed, everything either side holds is a target

A trench on the Somme, 1916



A trench on the Somme, 1916
- the stalemate that national mobilisation was the answer to

3

The Russian Revolution and Its Effects

The Russian Revolution and Its Effects

The **Russian Revolution** 俄国革命 created a regime based on **Marxist-Leninist theory** 马克思列宁主义 – the first state to be founded explicitly on that programme, which is what makes it a turning point rather than a national event.

4

Versailles Conference and Peace Settlement

Each link is a separate examinable step

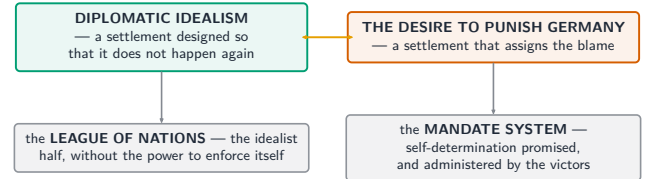


Each step is examinable on its own: Versailles' conflicting aims, the **mandate system** 委任统治, then the Depression that followed.

Versailles Conference and Peace Settlement

The conflicting goals of the peace negotiators in Paris pitted **diplomatic idealism** against the **desire to punish Germany** 理想主义与惩罚德国的意愿, and the resulting settlement satisfied neither aim fully.

Two incompatible aims



Neither aim wins outright, which is why the outcome satisfies nobody — and why “the settlement was unsustainable” needs **this** to explain it

5

Global Economic Crisis

Global Economic Crisis

The **Great Depression** 大萧条, caused by weaknesses in international trade and in monetary theory and practice, **undermined Western European democracies** 削弱西欧民主国家 and fostered **radical political responses** across Europe.

The Depression is what turned interwar bitterness into a political opportunity for movements that had existed since before 1914 but had not previously been able to win power.

6

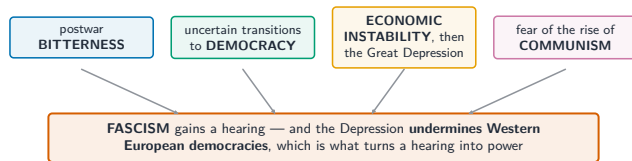
Fascism and Totalitarianism

Fascism and Totalitarianism

The ideology of **fascism** 法西斯主义, with roots in the pre-war era, **gained popularity in an environment of postwar bitterness, the rise of communism, uncertain transitions to democracy, and economic instability**. That four-part environment is the CED's own answer to “why then”, and it is better than any single cause.

The CED states the cost explicitly: modernisation came at a **high price**, including the **liquidation of the kulaks** 富农 and a **catastrophic famine** 饥荒.

The conditions fascism found



Conditions are not a cause on their own. The claim is that the existing order had already failed **twice** — in the war, and then in the economy

7

Europe During the Interwar Period

Europe During the Interwar Period

The failure to prevent a second war has named causes:

- French and British fears of another war, **American isolationism** 美国孤立主义, and deep distrust between Western democratic, capitalist nations and the Soviet communist regime prevented an effective response.
- **Fascism, extreme nationalism, racist ideologies, and the failure of appeasement** 绥靖政策的失败 resulted in the Second World War.

8

World War II

World War II

- Germany's **Blitzkrieg** 闪电战 warfare in Europe, combined with Japan's attacks in Asia and the Pacific, brought the Axis powers early victories.
- American and British industrial, scientific, and technological power, cooperative military efforts under strong leadership, and the Soviet Union's vast manpower and resources eventually defeated the Axis.
- Military technologies made possible industrialised warfare, genocide, nuclear proliferation 核扩散, and the risk of global nuclear war.

9

The Holocaust

The Holocaust

Fuelled by **racism** and **anti-Semitism** 种族主义与反犹太主义, Nazi Germany – with the cooperation of some other Axis powers and collaborators – **used industrial technology and bureaucratic structures to carry out the systematic murder of European Jewish people** and other targeted groups.

That is why this topic belongs with the technology and total-war themes rather than standing apart from them.

10

20th-Century Cultural and Intellectual Developments

20th-Century Cultural and Intellectual Developments

- The belief in **progress** characteristic of much nineteenth-century thought **began to break down before World War I** and collapsed after it.
- When the war began, Europeans were **generally confident in the ability of science and technology** to address human needs; the war and then the Depression **undermined that confidence**.
- The **challenge to the certainties of the Newtonian universe** in physics **opened the door to uncertainty** in other fields.
- The war created a **"lost generation"** 迷惘的一代 and fostered **disillusionment and cynicism** 幻灭与犬儒.
- During both wars, **women became increasingly involved** in military and political mobilisation and in economic production.

11

Continuity and Change in an Age of Global Conflict

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The unit's reasoning skill is **continuity and change**.

Exam tips

- Learn the **chain**: war, settlement, economic collapse, radical movements, failed appeasement, war again. Most questions ask about one link.
- The CED gives fascism a **four-part environment** – postwar bitterness, fear of communism, unstable democracies, economic instability. Use all four.
- The **Depression is the pivot**. Movements that existed before 1929 could not win power until it happened.
- On the Holocaust, the examinable point is the use of the **modern state's own instruments**. State it precisely.
- The **mandate system** is imperial control renamed. Saying so links the settlement to decolonisation.
- The collapse of confidence in **progress and objectivity** connects the political and cultural halves of the unit. Examiners reward that connection.