

AP European History: Chapter 26 – The Futile Search for Stability: Europe Between the Wars, 1919-1939 Overview & Schedule

The newly established, postwar democracies in central and Eastern Europe were too weak to provide stability either internally or in the European state system, especially during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The League of Nations, established after the war to employ collective security in the interests of peace, could not manage the international tensions unleashed by World War I. During the 20th century, European imperialism, power, and sense of superiority reached both its apogee and nadir. In the first half of the century, nations extended their control and influence over most of the non-Western world, often through League of Nations' mandates.

In Italy and Germany, charismatic leaders led fascist movements to power, seizing control of the post-World War I governments. Fascism promised to solve economic problems through state direction, although not ownership, of production. The movements also promised to counteract the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles by rearming the military and by territorial expansion. The efforts of fascist governments to revise the Treaty of Versailles led to the most violent and destructive war in human history (World War II), a conflict between liberal democracies, temporarily allied with communist Russia, and fascist states. When this conflict ended in the total defeat of fascism, Europe was devastated, and liberal, capitalist democracies faced centrally directed, communist states — the only viable alternatives left.

CONTENT TOPICS & Focus Questions

An Uncertain Peace

- What was the impact of World War I, and what problems did European countries face in the 1920s?

The Democratic States in the West

- How did France, Great Britain, and the United States respond to the various crises, including the Great Depression, that they faced in the interwar years?
- How did World War I affect Europe's colonies in Asia and Africa?

The Authoritarian and Totalitarian States

- Why did many European states experience a retreat from democracy in the interwar years?
- What are the characteristics of so-called totalitarian states, and to what degree were these characteristics present in Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and Stalinist Russia?

The Expansion of Mass Culture and Mass Leisure

- What new dimensions in mass culture and mass leisure emerged during the interwar years?
- What role did these activities play in Italy, Germany, and the Soviet Union?

Cultural and Intellectual Trends in the Interwar Years

- What were the main cultural and intellectual trends in the interwar years?

Historical Skill: Review the 4 historical skills assessed in the LEQ essay: Periodization, Comparison, Causation, and Continuity & Change.

AP European History: Chapter 26 – The Futile Search for Stability: Europe Between the Wars, 1919-1939 Overview & Schedule

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday, March 2

- Chapter 25 review activity
- Hopeful years: Post WWI hopes & troubles
- **HOMEWORK: Text 802-809 & Study for Chapter 25 Exam**

Friday, March 3

- Democratic States & Rise of Dictators
- **HOMEWORK: Text 809-815**

Monday, March 6

- Chapter 25 Exam
- **HOMEWORK: Text 815-819**

Tuesday, March 7

- Nazi Germany
- Triumph of the Will (1934)
- Nazi Germany: Holocaust Beginnings
- **HOMEWORK: Text 819-825**

Wednesday, March 8

- Soviet Union: Lenin & Stalin
- **HOMEWORK: Text 825-831**

Thursday, March 9

- Culture of the Interwar Years
- **HOMEWORK: Text 832-838**

***** Chapter 26 Exam Tuesday March 14; study guide and terms due**