

## ***Chapter 19***

# **DEMOCRACY, ANTI-IMPERIALISM, AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

### 19.93 THE ADVANCE OF DEMOCRACY AFTER 1919

#### *Study Questions*

1. What evidence of the advance of political democracy was observable in the early postwar years? What does the poster on p. 781 tell you about one reform? What trend in social legislation emerged?
2. In the 1920s, why was Italy the chief exception to what seemed to be a rising tide of democracy?
3. Why were the new states that emerged after 1919 called accidents of the war? With what major problems did they have to contend?
4. Describe (a) the economic steps taken by the new states of central and eastern Europe to modernize themselves and (b) the land reforms that they initiated. What were the results in each case?

#### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. Democracy made advances after 1919 even in democratic countries.
2. The most conspicuous democratic innovation after 1919 was the enfranchisement of women.
3. The welfare state became more firmly established after the First World War.
4. Economically, the carving up of eastern Europe into a dozen independent states was self-defeating.

5. The new states embodied the principle of national self-determination but each also included minority nationalities.
6. Although the land reforms provoked political fears among traditional social elites, the changes in land ownership did not destroy the social and economic hierarchies in eastern European societies.

### *Identifications*

Universal suffrage

Social legislation

Self determination

Land reform smallholder

## 19.94 THE GERMAN REPUBLIC AND THE SPIRIT OF LOCARNO

### *Study Questions*

1. Why did Germany experience a revolution in 1918? How would you characterize the changes that were introduced as the result of this revolution?
2. Assess the role played by the German Social Democrats in the early years of the Weimar Republic.
3. What threats to the republic arose from the left and from the right? What does the illustration on p. 786 depict? Explain the persistent problems faced by the republic.
4. How did the French attitude toward reparations lead to the Ruhr episode of 1923? What were the results?
5. What were the effects of the Dawes Plan on Germany?
6. What circumstances brought Germany and Russia together? What were the results?
7. How did the great inflation of 1923 affect the various classes in Germany?
8. How were fundamental issues of international affairs confronted in the 1920s? What was the significance of Locarno?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. The Weimar Republic, of which the Social Democrats were the main architects in its formative years, was remote from anything socialist.
2. No one in Germany, not even the Social Democrats, accepted the treaty of Versailles or the new German frontiers as either just or final.
3. The German inflation of 1923 brought far more of a social revolution than had the fall of the Hohenzollern empire.
4. By the Dawes Plan the French evacuated the Ruhr, the reparations payments were cut down, and arrangements were made for the German republic to borrow abroad.
5. The treaties signed at Locarno marked the highest point of international goodwill reached between the two world wars.

### *Identifications*

Social Democratic party  
Occupation of the Ruhr  
War debts  
Reparations

Treaty of Rapallo  
Pact of Paris  
Rosa Luxemburg  
Gustav Stresemann

Dawes Plan  
Spartacist uprising  
Weimar Republic  
Kapp *Putsch*

## 19.95 ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENTS IN ASIA

### *Study Questions*

1. How did self-conscious Asians view imperialism? What aspects of their colonized societies justified these views?
2. How did each of the following affect the twentieth-century developments in Asia: (a) the Russo-Japanese War, (b) the First World War, and (c) the Russian Revolution?
3. Explain the nature and results of the Turkish Revolution. What sweeping changes were introduced? What does the illustration on p. 796 intend to convey? What similar developments took place in Iran?
4. What major developments occurred in the Indian independence movement in the twenty years between the two world wars? Explain the differences in attitudes that developed among the Indian nationalists. What observations about Gandhi may be formed from the illustration on p. 799?

5. Describe the background, career, and program of Sun Yat-sen. Why did Sun cooperate with Russia and the Chinese Communists? What were the results?
6. What success did the Guomintang armies have between 1924 and 1928? What caused the rift between the Guomintang and the Communists?
7. What was the Long March? What were its consequences? What does the illustration on p. 802 intend to convey?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. The revolt of Asia was a revolt against Western supremacy, but at the same time those who revolted meant to learn from and imitate the West.
2. The Russian Revolution added a new stimulus to unrest in Asia as the Bolsheviks denounced not only capitalism but also imperialism.
3. Nationalism in Asia easily shaded off into socialism and a denunciation of capitalist exploitation.
4. In Turkey, the Nationalists, led by Mustapha Kemal, put through a sweeping revolution.
5. The Turkish Republic was the first in any Islamic country to sharply distinguish the spheres of government and religion.
6. By the high level of his principles Gandhi made himself an inspiration to many groups and came to be regarded as one of the great spiritual leaders of all time in Britain and other Western countries.
7. The ideas behind the revolt of China were best expressed by Sun Yat-sen's through the three people's principles—democracy, nationalism, and livelihood.

### *Identifications*

Baku congress	Yüan Shih-kai	The Long March
Atatürk	Guomintang	Mao Zedong
Reza Khan	<i>The Three People's Principles</i>	May Fourth movement
Indian National Congress	Chiang Kai-shek	Mohandas K. Gandhi
Borodin	Jawaharlal Nehru	War lords

## 19.96 THE GREAT DEPRESSION: COLLAPSE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY

### *Study Questions*

1. Explain the major weaknesses in the prosperity of the 1920s.
2. What brought on the stock market crash of October 1929? Describe the events that followed.
3. Explain the impact of the Great Depression on the global economy.
4. How did the unemployment crisis affect people and the political developments? What impression do you take away from the illustration on p. 807?
5. What were the different views about the Great Depression?
6. Describe the measures taken by governments to cope with the Depression. How effective were they? How did these measures affect the world economy?
7. Discuss the impact of the economic crisis upon cultural life. How did literature and art in the 1930s differ from the 1920s?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. The capitalist economic system was a delicate and interlocking mechanism in which any disturbance was rapidly transmitted through all its parts.
2. The five years after 1924 were a period of prosperity in that there was a good deal of international trade, building, and development of new industries. But there were weaknesses in this prosperity, flaws that, under stress, were to bring the whole intricate structure to a halt.
3. The crisis passed from finance to industry and from the United States into Europe and the rest of the world.
4. Unemployment, a chronic disease ever since the Great War, assumed the proportion of a plague during the period of Depression.

5. Optimists declared that the Depression was merely a phase in the business cycle. Others felt that it represented the breakdown of the whole system of capitalism and free private enterprise.
6. One of the most marked consequences of the Depression globally was a movement toward economic nationalism.
7. The effects of the economic crisis spread to the cultural and intellectual life of the 1930s.

### *Identifications*

Margin

*Creditanstalt*

Proletarian literature

Hawley-Smoot tariff

Ottawa agreements

Modernism

Virginia Woolf

### GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 19

1. How would you characterize the 1920s from the point of view of (a) the international economy, (b) politics within the major nations, and (c) international affairs?
2. What impact did the Great Depression have on the world economy? Why did it lead to a resurgence of economic nationalism?
3. In what sense were the anti-imperialist movements in Asia a revolt against the age of imperialism? What form did they take in the interwar years in (a) Turkey, (b) Iran, (c) India, (d) and China? What were the results?

### GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 19

1. The wider history of political and economic change during the period of just 20 years elapsed between the formal close of the First World War in 1919 and the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. (p. 779)
2. The keystone of Europe was Germany, which also had its revolution in 1918. But it was a revolution without revolutionaries, a negative revolution caused more by the disappearance of the old than by any vehement arrival of the new. (p. 784)
3. The German inflation of 1923 brought far more of a social revolution than the fall of the Hohenzollern empire had ever done. The middle class was pauperized and demoralized. Middle-class people were now materially in much the position of workers and proletarians.

Their whole view of life, however, made it impossible for them to identify themselves with the laboring class or to accept its socialist ideologies. (p. 788)

4. In deeper psychology, as well as in economics and politics, the revolt of self-conscious Asians was a rebellion against an imperial system that reduced them to social inferiority and humiliation in their own societies. (p. 791)
5. In Marxist-Leninist ideology imperialism was an aspect of capitalism. Colonial peoples also tended to identify the two, not so much for Marxist reasons as because modern capitalism was a foreign or “imperialist” phenomenon in colonial countries, where the ownership and the management of large enterprises were foreign. (p. 792)
6. The postwar situation in Asia was extremely fluid. People who were not Communists hailed communism as a liberating force. Anti-European activists declared that their countries must Europeanize, at least in certain aspects of science, technology, and social organization. Nationalism overshadowed all other “isms.” In the Indian National Congress, rich capitalists worked together with socialist leaders and in relative harmony so long as the common enemy was the British. (p. 793)
7. For a people wishing to move from poverty to industrial strength and higher living standards without loss of time and without dependence on foreign capital and capitalism, the Soviet Union, with its economic planning, seemed to offer a more appropriate model and more practical lessons than the rich democracies of the western Europe, with their centuries of gradual progress behind them. (p. 796-797)
8. Never had there been such waste as in the Great Depression, not merely of machinery that now stood idle, but also of the trained and disciplined labor force on which all modern societies were built. And people chronically out of work turned to new and disturbing political ideas. (p. 806)
9. The Great Depression put an end to some aspects of the older free-market economic system. Even if such a stricken economy had internal powers of full recuperation, people would not stand for such terrifying insecurity in their personal lives.(p. 806)
10. The era that had opened with Woodrow Wilson’s dream of international economic cooperation was ending with an unprecedented intensification of economic rivalry and national self-centeredness; it was only one of the promises of the post-1919 world to be blasted by the Great Depression.(p. 808)

11. Under the harsh economic conditions of the 1930s, it became common to reject the literary exploration of psychological anxieties as inadequate or even as self-indulgent. A new kind of “realist” literature and a literature of political engagement won support from intellectuals in all industrial societies, especially among those who believed that the Great Depression had grown out of fundamental flaws and injustices in the capitalist economy. (p. 810)