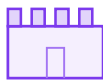


20th-Century Global Conflicts

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

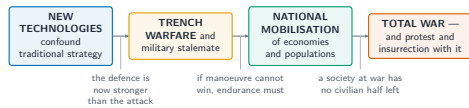
20th-Century Global Conflicts

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.

20th-Century Global Conflicts
↳ Versailles Conference and Peace Settlement

Each link is a separate examinable step, in detail

One chain, six links - and questions name a link

World War I

total war; stalemate; protest and insurrection

Versailles, 1919

idealism against the wish to punish Germany

Great Depression

determines Western democracies

Fascism rises

bitterness; fear of communism; unstable democracies

Appeasement fails

isolationism and distrust; no joint response

World War II

industrialised warfare; genocide; nuclear weapons

The Depression is the pivot: these movements existed before 1929 but could not win power until it came.

Questions ask about one link; the strongest answers show where it sits in the chain

20th-Century Global Conflicts
↳ Versailles Conference and Peace Settlement

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.

20th-Century Global Conflicts
↳ Versailles Conference and Peace Settlement

Two incompatible aims

DIPLOMATIC IDEALISM
— a settlement designed so that it does not happen again

the LEAGUE OF NATIONS — the idealist half, without the power to enforce itself

THE DESIRE TO PUNISH GERMANY
— a settlement that assigns the blame

the MANDATE SYSTEM — self-determination promised, and administered by the victors

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

20th-Century Global Conflicts
↳ Versailles Conference and Peace Settlement

Versailles, the mandates, and the two totalitarianisms

the League of Nations 国际联盟

distributed former German and Ottoman possessions to France and Great Britain through mandates

what a mandate was

colonial rule with a stated obligation to prepare the territory for self-government – and little enforcement

the lost generation 迷惘的一代

the wartime dead, and the cultural sense of a break with everything before 1914

the comparison to make

fascism against Soviet communism under Stalin 斯大林 is structural rather than ideological

the shared claim

both regimes asserted total authority over the relationship between the individual and the state

where they differ

in whom they mobilised, what they promised, and what they claimed to be restoring

The demographic consequence is stated directly: the Second World War decimated a generation of Russian and German men, with lasting effects on both societies.

20th-Century Global Conflicts
↳ Global Economic Crisis

Global Economic Crisis

5 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

20th-Century Global Conflicts
└ Fascism and Totalitarianism

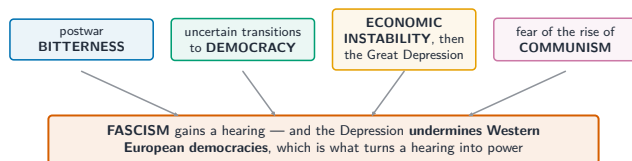
Fascism and Totalitarianism

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.

20th-Century Global Conflicts
└ Fascism and Totalitarianism

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

20th-Century Global Conflicts
└ 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.

What the CED says distinguishes the Holocaust

reproduce the framing	the CED's wording here is precise and should be used
the distinguishing feature	the use of the state's full bureaucratic and technological apparatus to carry out systematic mass murder
not the scale alone	earlier episodes of mass violence were large; this was administered
the machinery	census records, railways, industrial production and a professional civil service, all turned to the purpose
the implication	it required the participation of ordinary institutions, not only of a party

An answer that reaches only for scale or for hatred misses what the CED is asking about. The instrument was the modern state itself.

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

Continuity and Change in an Age of Global Conflict

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

Worked example – a settlement that destabilises

“Explain one way in which the peace settlement of 1919 contributed to political instability in the 1920s and 1930s.”

- **Full marks:** “The settlement combined punitive terms against Germany with an appeal to national self-determination it could not deliver consistently. That left a German republic burdened with reparations and blamed for accepting them, which gave nationalist and fascist movements a grievance ready-made.”
- A settlement destabilises by what it leaves behind.

Note the second half: self-determination promised and unevenly applied created grievances in the successor states as well.

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.

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Recap

Period 8 – key takeaways

1 Chain

war, settlement, collapse, radicals, failed appeasement, war

2 Fascism

four-part environment – use all four

3 Depression

the pivot: movements could not win until 1929

4 Mandate

imperial control renamed

Check yourself

- 1 Give the interwar chain.
- 2 Name fascism's four-part environment.
- 3 What is the Depression's role?
- 4 What is the mandate system?

Answers: war to war again ▪ bitterness, fear of communism, unstable democracies, economic instability ▪ the pivot to power ▪ imperial control renamed