

Key Understandings for Chapter 26 – Europe between the Wars

Section 25-1: The Road to World War I

- A variety of factors - including nationalism, military plans, the alliance system, and imperial competition - turned a regional dispute in the Balkans into World War I.

Section 25-2: The War

- New technologies confounded traditional military strategies and led to massive troop losses.
 - Machine gun
 - Barbed wire
 - Submarine
 - Airplane
 - Poison gas
 - Tank
- The war in Europe quickly spread to non-European theaters, transforming the war into a global conflict.
 - Armenian Genocide
 - Arab revolt against the Turks
 - Japanese aggression in the Pacific and on the Chinese mainland
- Military technologies made possible industrialized warfare, genocide, nuclear proliferation, and the risk of global nuclear war.
- During the world wars, women became increasingly involved in military and political mobilization, as well as in economic production.

25-3: War and Revolution

- The effects of military stalemate and total war led to protest and insurrection in the belligerent nations and eventually to revolutions that changed the international balance of power.
- The relationship of Europe to the world shifted significantly with the globalization of the conflict, the emergence of United States as a world power and the overthrow of European empires.
- In Russia, World War I exacerbated long-term problems of political stagnation, social inequality, incomplete industrialization, and food and land distribution, all while creating support for revolutionary change.
 - February/March Revolution
 - Petrograd Soviet
- Military and worker insurrections, aided by the revived soviets, undermined the Provisional Government and set the stage for Lenin's long-planned Bolshevik revolution and establishment of a communist state.
- The Bolshevik takeover prompted a protracted civil war between communist forces and their opponents, who were aided by foreign powers.

25-4: The Peace Settlement

- Wilsonian idealism clashed with postwar realities in both the victorious and defeated states. Democratic successor states emerged from former empires and eventually succumbed to significant political, economic, and diplomatic crises.
 - Poland
 - Czechoslovakia
 - Hungary
 - Yugoslavia