**Notes over World War I, World War II, Cold War**

**Section 1: World War I (1914-1918)**

A. Causes of War: World War I had many causes. The four main causes were:

1. **Nationalism**: **Devotion or loyalty to one’s country. This sometimes led to rivalries with other nations**.

2. **Imperialism**: **European powers expanded their empires by adding lands in Africa and Asia.**

3. **Militarism**: **Due to Industrial Revolution, European countries could build up military supplies and weapons.**

4. **Alliances**: **European nations agreed to defend one another from attack by rival nations.**

*During World War I, two alliances emerged*:

**Allied Powers**: **Great Britain, France, Russia**

**Central Powers**: **Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire**

B. War Breaks Out:

* In June 1914, The Archduke of Austria was assassinated in Serbia. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. As a result, more and more countries entered the war.
* The war was fought on two fronts: Germany was forced to divide its army and fight on two fronts

Western Front: Britain and France vs. Germany

Eastern Front: Germany vs. Russia

C. Trench Warfare: During World War I, both sides fought using **trench warfare: a style of warfare where each side fights from deep ditches dug into the ground.**

* airplanes, gas, tanks, and submarines are used for the first time ever

In 1917, the United States entered the war on the side of the Allied Powers. Germany surrendered on November 11th, 1918.

D. Consequences of the War:

Germany was forced to sign the **Treaty of Versailles: the official treaty that ended World War I.**

As a result of World War I:

* Germany was forced to give up land, disarm, and pay a huge amount of money to the Allied Powers
* Austria-Hungary separated and became two countries
* Ottoman Empire became Turkey
* Poland is shaped by parts of Germany and Russia
* Russia has a revolution led by **Vladimir Lenin** and becomes the Soviet Union
* Germany experiences severe poverty, political unrest, and looks for new, strong leadership

**Section 2: A Rising Threat (1919-1939)**

A. **The Great Depression: A deep, worldwide economic slump during the 1930’s in which unemployment was high**.

All of the following led to the Great Depression:

* In 1929, the U.S. Stock Market crashed causing several business and investors to go bankrupt.
* American banks stopped lending money to Europe which caused economic problems around the world.
* Unemployment skyrocketed and several banks went out of business.

B. **A War of Ideas**:

1.) **Communism:** **an economic and political system in which the state controls all industry and farmland.**

* The Russian Revolution led to the formation of a communist government.
* **Joseph Stalin: dictator of Soviet Union from 1929 to 1953 to spied on and killed his own people.**

2.) **Fascism:** **a political system that stresses national strength and military might. Violence, intimidation and propaganda are used to achieve goals**.

* **Benito Mussolini** takes power in Italy in the 1920’s and becomes dictator of Italy
* **Adolf Hitler** takes power and becomes dictator of Germany in 1933.

C. **The Road to a second world war:**

* In 1935, Italy takes over Ethiopia
* Hitler secretly rebuilds a powerful military and forms alliances with Italy and Japan
* In 1938, Hitler annexes Austria and part of Czechoslovakia

**Section 3: World War II (1939-1945)**

**1939**: On September 1st, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland. As a result, Britain and France declare war on Germany.

Two major alliances emerged:

**Allied Powers**: Great Britain, France, Soviet Union

**Axis Powers**: Germany, Italy, Japan

**1940:** Hitler had taken over much of Europe, including France, Netherlands, and Belgium.

Germany then started bombing Britain. Britain was victim to fierce bombing raids by the German Air Force. **Winston Churchill- the prime minister of Great Britain during World War II.**

**1941:** **December of 1941**: the United States was attacked by Japan at Pearl Harbor. As a result the United States, enters the war on the side of the Allied Powers. **Franklin D. Roosevelt was the U.S. President from 1933 to 1945. Roosevelt led the nation during the Great Depression and World War II**

**1942-1943**: The Allied Powers liberate North Africa and Italy from Axis control.

**1944:** June 6th, 1944, Allied Troops land in occupied France on **D-Day (the largest land invasion in the history of man).**

**1945:** U.S. and British troops invade Germany from the west while the Soviet Union invaded from the east. On May 7th, Germany surrendered bringing the war in Europe to an end.

A. **Effects of World War II**:

* Nearly 20 million military and civilian deaths (11 million Soviets, 3.2 million Germans, 405,000 Americans)
* **The Holocaust: the mass murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazis during World War II.**
* Germany was divided into four areas. Each area was under the control of an Allied Power (U.S., Britain, France, Soviet Union).
* The United Nations was formed in 1945. **The United Nations is an international peacekeeping organization aimed at promoting peace and cooperation around the world. The U.N. later helped people cope with disaster and poverty.**
* The Cold War begins between the Western Powers and the Soviet Union.

**Section 4: The Cold War (1945-1991)**

A. **Cold War-** **A long period of hostility between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers**. The Western Powers were attempting to stop the spread of Communism.

-After World War II, the United States and Soviet Union became the two most powerful countries in the world (**superpowers)**.

B. **The Berlin Wal**l- During the Cold War, Europe was divided between Eastern Europe (communist) and Western Europe (democratic).

-In 1948, the United States and other western powers formed a military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

-The divide started at the same point where allies met in Berlin during World War II.

- Germany was divided into two, separate countries:

East Germany (communist) and West Germany (democratic)

-In 1961, the Soviet Union built the **Berlin Wall a wall built by the Soviet Union to divide Berlin in half and prevent citizens in the east from escaping to the west.**

C**. Democracy Spreads and Communism Falls-** During the 1980’s, democracy continued to spread and communism continued to fail.

- Communism collapsed in Poland in 1988 and was replaced by democracy.

- Czechoslovakia became democratic in 1989

- Hungary and Bulgaria held free elections in 1990.

-November 9, 1989: The Berlin Wall Came down, uniting citizens of East and West Berlin.

- October 3, 1990: Both halves of Germany were united into one country.

- 1991: The Soviet Union collapsed and split apart into 15 countries.

D. **The European Union**- **An economic and political partnership amongst European nations that includes open borders and a common currency amongst members.**

-In 1957, European countries including France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, and Italy formed the European Economic Community. This group was renamed the **European Union** in 1992.

- In 1995, an open border policy allowed citizens to move freely among member nations.

-In 2002, most members adopted a common currency called the **Euro**.