**AP EURO IDENTIFICATIONS**

**CHAPTER 19: THE INTERWAR YEARS: DICTATORS AND DEPRESSION**

Section I. *Identify* and state the *Historical Significance* of the following:

1. Leon Trotsky
2. Josef Stalin
3. Benito Mussolini/ “Il Duce”
4. Paul von Hindenburg
5. Adolf Hitler

Section II. *Define* and state the *General Significance* of the following:

1. fascism

Section III: *Describe* and state the *Historical Significance* of the following:

1. The Great Depression
2. The Popular Front
3. The Weimar Republic
4. Sinn Fein and the IRA
5. War Communism
6. Lenin’s New Economic Policy (NEP)
7. Comintern
8. Gosplan/Stalin’s Five Year Plans
9. Collectivization
10. The Great Purges
11. The Reichstag
12. Nazis
13. SA (*Sturm Abteilung*, or the Storm Troopers)
14. Mein Kampf
15. The Locarno Agreements
16. Fürher
17. SS (*Schutzstaffel*)
18. Kristallnacht
19. Nuremburg Laws

***TIMELINES DUE THE SAME DAY***

**CHAPTER 19 – THE INTERWAR YEARS: THE CHALLENGE OF DICTATORS AND DEPRESSION**

CHAPTER SUMMARY

New political and economic conditions existed in Europe after the Treaty of Versailles. The map was full of new regimes, most of which attempted to establish parliamentary democracy. For most, however, the lack of a democratic tradition, popular apathy, economic problems, aggressive nationalism, and revived conservatism proved insuperable obstacles. Europe was wracked by postwar economic problems: wages fell, industrial facilities were in shambles, and European dominance over the world economy was severely weakened.

The Depression, which arose from such factors as reparations, war debts, inflation, and a decline in production and trade, engendered such frustrations and anxieties in Europe’s voters that they pressured their governments to interfere with the economy as never before. Politicians began with the orthodox approach of cutting government spending to avoid inflation, but, quickly proceeded to more radical steps. Britain, for example, abandoned the previously sacrosanct policies of the gold standard and free trade. Although unemployment and poverty remained dismal problems in Britain, the government’s relative success gave the nation new confidence in its democracy.

France was not as fortunate. Although the Depression did not arrive until 1931, it lasted longer than in Britain. The economic crisis disrupted normal parliamentary and political life. The old divisions between right and left hardened. In 1936, the socialist Léon Blum became premier. Blum succeeded in establishing some bold reforms, most notably, the Matignon Accords, which were very favorable to labor. But France was not able to overcome its internal divisions and by 1939, the Third Republic faced a deep crisis of confidence.

The consolidation of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia and its formation of the Soviet Union of Socialist Republics was the single most transforming element on the post-World War I European international scene. In Communist Russia, democracy had not even a brief period of success. The Bolsheviks frankly intended to impose their plans on the population. They likewise hoped to dominate the international socialist movement. At home, the Communists first followed a policy of economic centralization and confiscation (War Communism). This enabled them to win a civil war, but raised great popular opposition. Upon formation of the Third International (Comintern) in 1919, the Bolsheviks demanded that all European socialists give up reformism for revolution; in this they were only partially successful but they split the socialists, which benefited the Right. In 1921, Lenin retreated to a policy allowing considerable private enterprise (NEP). After his death in 1924, the party was split at first between two factions. Trotsky’s followers called for a rapid industrialization at the expense of the peasantry. The followers of Stalin wanted to continue the NEP, conduct industrialization slowly, and concentrate on “socialism in one country.” By 1927, the superb bureaucrat, Stalin, had won and had succeeded in evicting Trotsky from the party.

The text then provides an overview of the fascist experiment in Italy. Fascism, as it was called, was anti-democratic, anti-Marxist, anti-parliamentary, and frequently anti-Semitic. It spoke in the name of the middle classes and was led by the clever opportunist Benito Mussolini.

Democracy’s most important test, and one that would be crucial to its future in the West, came in Germany. The democratic Weimar Constitution was adopted in 1919. The new regime faced several problems, however: the disgrace of having signed the Versailles Treaty, structural flaws in the constitution, lack of loyalty on the part of many Germans, and a rash of extremism. In Germany, the Depression not only weakened the republic, but allowed it to be destroyed. Even before Hitler’s accession to power in 1933, the chancellors had to govern through emergency presidential decrees as authorized by the Weimar Constitution. Germany’s unprecedented unemployment aided extreme political parties such as the Nazis. Yet, in spite of Hitler’s growing power, President Hindenburg and his advisors did not wish to make him chancellor. It was only the prospect of a governing coalition of the left that frightened Hindenburg into turning to the Nazis.

Hitler’s power depended on his police and terrorist organization, the SS. This instrument was used, above all, against the German Jews, who suffered increasing persecution. But Hitler’s actions were not all negative. In economics, he achieved an astonishing degree of success, having banished unemployment and industrial stagnation by 1936.

The chapter ends with a discussion of the successor states in eastern Europe. In state after state, the desire of ethnic minorities for self-determination and the creation of ethnically defined states undermined political stability and led to the rise of authoritarian regimes. The sole exception to this pattern was Czechoslovakia.

OUTLINE

I. After Versailles: Demands for Revision and Enforcement

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II. Toward the Great Depression in Europe

A. Financial Tailspin

B. Problems in Agricultural Commodities

C. Depression and Government Policy in Britain and France

III. The Soviet Experiment Begins

A. War Communism

B. The New Economic Policy

C. The Third International

D. Stalin Versus Trotsky

E. The Decision for Rapid Industrialization

F. The Collectivization of Agriculture

G. The Purges

IV. The Fascist Experiment in Italy

1. The Rise of Mussolini
2. The Fascists in Power

V. German Democracy and Dictatorship

A. The Weimar Republic

B. Depression and Political Deadlock

C. Hitler Comes to Power

D. Hitler’s Consolidation of Power

E. Anti-Semitism and the Police State

F. Racial Ideology and the Lives of Women

G. Nazi Economic Policy

VI. Trials of the Successor States in Eastern Europe

A. Economic and Ethnic Pressures

B. Poland: Democracy to Military Rule

C. Czechoslovakia: A Viable Democratic Experiment

D. Hungary: Turn to Authoritarianism

E. Austria: Political Turmoil and Nazi Occupation

F. Southeastern Europe: Royal Dictatorships

VII. In Perspective

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Why did the Paris settlement fail to bring peace and prosperity to Europe?
2. What key factors combined to produce the Great Depression?
3. What was the relationship between politics and economics in the early decades of the Soviet Union?
4. What did fascism mean to Mussolini and his supporters?
5. Why did democracy fail to thrive in postwar Germany?
6. What shared challenges faced the successor states in eastern Europe?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What caused the Great Depression? Why was it more severe and why did it last longer than previous economic downturns? Could it have been avoided?
2. How did Stalin achieve supreme power in the Soviet Union? Why did he decide that Russia had to industrialize rapidly? Why did this require the collectivization of agriculture? Was the policy a success? How did it affect the Russian people? Why did Stalin carry out the great purges?
3. Why was Italy dissatisfied and unstable after World War I? How did Mussolini achieve power? What were the characteristics of the Fascist state?
4. Why did the Weimar Republic collapse in Germany? How did Hitler come to power? Which groups in Germany supported Hitler and why were they pro-Nazi? How did he consolidate his power? Why was anti-Semitism central to Nazi policy?
5. What characteristics did the authoritarian regimes in the Soviet Union, Italy, and Germany have in common? What role did terror play in each?
6. Why did liberal democracy fail in the successor states of Eastern Europe?