"The Futile Search for Stability: Europe between the Wars, 1919-1939

Chapter 26 Reading Guide *Western Civilization - 10th Ed. - Spielvogel*

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MAJOR THEMES / BIG QUESTIONS: (as you work through the chapter, bear these questions in mind)**

* What caused the Great Depression, and how did it affect European social classes? (PP-3, PP-4, PP-5, SP-3, NI-3, OS-5, OS-6, IS-3)
* How did Mussolini, Hitler, and Franco each rise to power? (IS-7, SP-10, OS-9, PP-11)
* What were the effects of Stalin’s economic modernization programs in the Soviet Union? (PP-3, PP-16, IS-10)
* How did totalitarian governments control their populations? (PP-11, OS-9, OS-12, SP-6, SP-8, SP-10)
* In what ways were totalitarian governments of the twentieth century like the absolutist governments of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? (SP-2, SP-6, SP-8)
* What was the impact of the mandate system in the Middle East? (SP-17)
* In what ways was technology seen as both destructive and helpful in European society? (IS-3, SP-10)
* How were the arts influenced by World War I, disillusionment, and the rise of totalitarianism? (OS-13, OS-12, OS-10, OS-8)
* How did the lives of women change during the interwar period? (SP-12, SP-1, OS-4)
* How did mass culture and leisure time affect society? (OS-4, SP-1, OS-3)

Read the blue section on page 792-793, why did Europe face such economic and social hardships following World War I? How much better off was the United States at this time?

**26.1 An Uncertain Peace**

2.) How did Europeans deal with the devastating losses following World War I?

3.) What is the ‘Lost Generation’?

4.) What ideology motivated the Treaty of Versailles? What kind of effect did it have on the various European countries? How did Germany, the United States, and others react to post-war treaties?

5.) Why did the French hold resentment towards the US after WWI?

6.) Why was France so insistent on enforcing the Treaty of Versailles in a strict manner? What was the Ruhr and why did the French troops occupy this region?

7.) What is hyperinflation? What happened to Germany’s economy by the time 1923 rolled around?

8.) Who are Gustav Stresemann and Charles Dawes? What roles did they play in assisting the German economy?

9.) What were the terms of the Treaty of Locarno? Why did it create such a sense of optimism that peace would be maintained in Western Europe?

10.) What was the Kellogg-Briand pact? Were militaries (other than Germany’s) agreeing to disarm at this time?

11.) How were Western relations with Russia in the years after Lenin’s death?

12.) What made European economics in the decade from 1919-1929 uncommonly fragile? What kind of shifts occurred during and after the war, compared to how things were before the war began?

13.) What were the two major contributing factors to the Great Depression? How exactly did each of these play a role?

14.) Why is unemployment such a major indicator and troubling factor during any economic depression?

15.) What kinds of social repercussions did the Great Depression expectedly cause?

**26.2 The Democratic States in the West**

16.) What made Great Britain’s post war experience particularly economically painful? What kinds of governmental shifts were seen to compensate for some of these hardships?

17.) How well did France cope with its most immediate needs of rebuilding the war-torn regions of Northeastern France in the post-war era? What made France’s government particularly chaotic in the Great Depression, post 1932?

18.) Scandinavian nations often utilized social-democracy to cope with the economic downturn. How well did this work and why?

19.) What made the United States’ experience of the Great Depression particularly bad? What measures did FDR take in the 1930s to restore some stability and recover?

20.) Describe what made the interwar years a period of transition for middle eastern nations.

21.) What movements led by Gandhi began in India in the post-WWI era? How did civil disobedience play a role in this?

22.) While independence for the various ethnic groups of Africa remained a distant dream, what kinds of movements did WWI tend to provoke in various regions in Africa?

23.) Who was WEB DuBois? Who was Marcus Garvey? What roles did each of these men play in advocating for African rights?

**26.3 The Authoritarian and Totalitarian States**

24.) What happened to Woodrow Wilson’s claim that WWI had been fought to establish liberal democracies across the globe? Why did it appear to actually have, ultimately, almost the exact opposite effect?

25.) Division, mistrust, fragility, anxiety. Each of these terms describes the interwar years mentality. Why? What effects (notice that is *plural*) did this have on European society?

26.) When Europeans felt victimized and fearful, they often turned to more radicalized political policies like communism and fascism. What is fascism? And why did Europeans turn to these kinds of political ideals?

27.) What is a “totalitarian state” what kinds of politics can it be applied to? What are the features of totalitarianism?

28.) Spielvogel argues the extent to which various European states can actually be considered truly totalitarian. What were some of the points raised in this argument? What do some revisionist historians think of the term? What is the reasoning behind this? (don’t be afraid to think, I’m looking for a substantial response here…)

29.) Why were the conditions in post-WWI Italy so dire in both social and economic costs? What was the myth surrounding being “cheated” out of the Treaty of Versailles?

30.) Who is Benito Mussolini? How did his early days differ from his movement in the interwar years?

31.) What elements of the Italian political landscape allowed Mussolini a window of opportunity to capture popular support from his fellow Italians?

32.) Who were the Squadristi and what did they do? How did the alliance formed between the Fascists and the Liberals work in Italy?

33.) What roles did the notions of “order” vs. “disorder” play a role in the rise of Fascism in Italy?

34.) What was the “March on Rome” and what was the alleged versus actual goal of this movement? How did it turn out35.) Why was holding an election so important to the new Prime Minister of Italy, Benito Mussolini? What kind of maneuvers did he begin to make after establishing his dictatorship?

36.) How successful were some of Mussolini’s attempts to create a police state or exercise control over all propaganda outlets?

37.) Why did Mussolimi rely on the Young Fascists so much? What was the goal of these youth organizations?

38.) What were the fascist policies regarding women and family in Italy?

39.) What might be considered some of the major shortcomings (or even full blown failures) of the Fascist movement in Italy? How did it compare to other allegedly totalitarian states?

40.) Where did Adolf Hitler come from? Describe some of his background and early formative years prior to becoming a better known political figure.

41.) What was the Weimar Republic and why was it particularly destined to fail? Put differently, what were the foremost problems facing this new government in Germany? Your response should investigate social, historical, and economic realms.

42.) Hitler’s party, the NSDAP, was originally obscure. How did it come to attract so many followers? What kinds of various elements did the party possess to make it appealing?

43.) What was the Beer Hall Putsch and how did it end?

44.) While in prison, Hitler wrote Mein Kampf. What does this mean and what kinds of arguments were laid out in this piece?

45.) How did Hitler go about reorganizing the NSDAP to achieve his goal of “Fuhrerprinzip” in the years 1925-1929?

46.) What factors in the Weimar Republic surrounding political party fragmentation and men like Heinrich Bruning and Paul von Hindenburg had sealed the fate of democracy in Germany before Hitler even became chancellor?

47.) From 1930 to 1933, the Nazi party grew in astounding numbers. What kinds of techniques did they use to garner such widespread support?

48.) Why didn’t it concern Hitler when the number of Reichstag seats held by the Nazi party dropped from 230 to 196 in just four months? What kinds of major backing did Hitler have after personifying right-wing authoritarianism?

49.) How did Hermann Goering and Hitler establish control over the police force and what excuse gave them the authority to freely arrest and imprison their opponents?

50.) What is “Gleichschaltung” and why was it an important feature of the Nazi agenda?

51.) How exactly did the Nazis manage (and I’m looking for various explanations) to seize power so quickly in Germany?

52.) Who remained as the only two viable threats to Hitler’s takeover and how did Hitler neutralize them? (Think of it this way, if Hitler is Darth Sidious in Star Wars, who played the real life roles of the Jedi Order and the Clone Army in Episode III: Revenge of the Sith)

53.) What techniques did Hitler use to gain mass appeal? What were his ideological goals for Germany?

54.) Explain Hitler’s approach to fixing the economy in Germany. How much direct control was or was not exerted over various industries? What put people to work? How were labor unions handled?

55.) What is the Schutzstaffel and what made it such an essential component of the Nazi regime? What role did Himmler play in the SS?

56.) Describe the numerous ways civilian life came under the control of the Nazis.

57.) Compare how the lives of women were affected by the Nazi regime to how they were affected under Mussolini? Are there some common features? Distinguishing features?

58.) What were the Nuremburg laws and what were they intended to achieve in Germany? How did the Nuremburg Laws evolve over time? What was Kristallnacht and how was it related to the laws?

59.) What was the policy of “War Communism” pursued by Lenin and the Red Army during the Russian Civil War? How successful was it?

60.) What was the NEP and what was it designed to achieve?

61.) When Lenin ultimately died in 1924, what was the series of events that occurred in the power struggle that ensued between Trotsky and Stalin? How did Stalin solidify his position?

62.) What made Stalin’s rule over Russia much more radical than the revolution of 1917? What were the two five-year-plans that he enacted supposed to achieve?

63.) What were the social and political costs of rapid industrialization?

64.) Under the communists, women had obtained relative equality under the law (abortion and divorce rights). How was this affected under Stalin?

65.) How did authoritarian regimes in Eastern European nation-states between Germany and the Soviet Union differ from the totalitarian regimes in those places? What was the last bastion of democracy in Central-Eastern Europe?

66.) How did parliamentary government die in Spain? What was the Spanish Civil War all about? How did Generalissimo Franco prevail? Franco remained in power until 1975, but how was it different from other dictatorships?

**26.4 The Expansion of Mass Culture and Mass Leisure**

67.) How did popular American culture during the Roaring Twenties infiltrate into certain regions of Europe? Give some examples.

68.) In what ways did radio and movie completely change European culture? In what sorts of fashions were these new inventions used by various people?

69.) How did mass leisure expand in the areas of sports and tourism during this era?

70.) How did organized mass culture manifest in fascist Italy and Germany? How was mass leisure different in those areas than other areas of Europe?

71.) How did pre-war avant-garde movements and beliefs continue into the post-war era? How did this manifest itself in sexuality and new attitudes about gender appropriate behaviors?

72.) Give a synopsis of each of the following post-war artistic trends via an example of a piece and its relative significance to the movement: You may want to create a chart…

German Expressionism:

Dadaism:

Surrealism:

Functionalism:

Art Deco:

73.) How did artists adapt to changing mass culture attitudes in this time?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY SOURCES (BOXED DOCUMENTS)**

1. “The Decline of European Civilization” Page 794; Questions in Box

2. “The Great Depression: Unemployed and Homeless in Germany”: Discuss the plight of the homeless in Germany in 1932. To what does the writer compare to the impact and effects of the depression? How did the growing misery of many ordinary Germans promote the rise of extremist political parties like the Nazis and facilitate seizure of political power in Germany by racist and anti-democratic forces? Would Hitler have come to power if prosperity had continued in Weimar Germany? (page 797)

3. “The Voice of Italian Fascism”: Based on this article, for Mussolini, what were the basic principles of Italian Fascism? What movements and ideologies does Mussolini vehemently oppose, and why? Why might such principles and claims that he espouses in this document appeal to a broad public in the aftermath of World War One? (page 804)

4. “Adolf Hitler’s Hatred of the Jews”: What was Hitler's attitude toward the Jews? What fueled his irrational hatred of Jews? What role might nineteenth century German nationalism have played in fueling anti-Semitism? Why do you think that such crazed views became acceptable (or at least tolerable) to large numbers of ordinary Germans in the aftermath of World War One? (page 806)

5. “Propaganda and Mass Meetings in Nazi Germany”: How did Hitler envision the role of propaganda and mass meetings in the totalitarian state? How did the stage- management of Nazi spectacles possibly contribute to the acceptance of corrupt and inhuman Nazi ideology by many ordinary Germans, such as the teacher quoted? What role does propaganda and mass meetings play in today’s society, and not merely in the realm of politics? (page 809)

6. “The Formation of Collective Farms”: What is a collective farm and how was it created? What was the reason that Stalin ordered the collectivization of agriculture? What traditions of Russian life and character did this novel unit of agricultural production attack? What social and economic costs were involved in the formation of the collectives? Were the collective farms successful? Why or why not? (page 814)

7. Opposing Viewpoints: “Spain Divide: The Poems of Two Brothers”; Page 816 – Questions in Box.

8. “Hesse and the Unconscious”: How might the German Nazis have capitalized on the psychic uncertainties and confusion among ordinary people that Hesse describes here afflicting a central character in one of the author's most popular novels? What are the political dangers inherent in a populace comprised of too many people vulnerable to the problems of Hesse's literary character? Why was Hesse popular among young Germans in the aftermath of World War I and young Americans in the counter-culture of the 1960s? (page 823)

**Key Vocabulary and ID Terms**

1. League of Nations

2. Little Entente

3. Dawes Plan

4. Treaty of Locarno

5. Kellogg-Briand pact

6. John Maynard Keynes

7. the Popular Front

8. the New Deal

9.totalitarianism

10. Benito Mussolini

11. Fascio di Combattimento

12. squadristi

13. Weimar Republic

14. Mein Kampf

15. S.A: Sturmabteilung

16. Lebensraum

17. Fuhrerprinzip

18. the Enabling Act

19. Aryanism

20. Nuremberg laws

21. Kristallnacht

22. “war communism”

23. New Economic Policy

24. Joseph Stalin

25. five-year plans

26. collective farms

27. Francisco Franco and the Spanish Civil War

28. Dopolavoro and Kraft durch Freude

29. Oswald Spengler’s The Decline of the West

30. Bauhaus School and Walter Gropius

31. “degenerate art”

32. “socialist realism”