

## Unit 8 - 20th Century Global Conflicts

### Practice Multiple Choice Questions

Questions 1-2 refer to the following image:



The World's Plunderers  
"It's English, you know."  
Thomas Nast, Harper's Weekly June 20, 1885

1. Which of the following causes of World War I is depicted in this political cartoon from 1885?
- A. Imperialism
  - B. Nationalism
  - C. Alliances
  - D. Militarism

**Correct Answer:**

- A. The cartoon shows the scramble for Africa between the European nations, which is a reflection of Imperialism. Conflicts between the European states over African and Asia holdings was one of the M.A.I.N. causes of World War I.

**Incorrect Answers:**

- B. Although Imperialism influenced both a rise in Nationalism in Europe as well as in the imperial holdings, such as India, it is not what this particular cartoon is trying to address.
- C. The cartoon is not a reflection of the two rival alliances that led to World War I, although in some ways Imperialism contributed to the creation of these alliances.
- D. The militarism that led to World War I was most clearly reflected in the Naval Arms Race between Germany and Great Britain, which is not something shown in this particular cartoon.

**2. Which of the following conflicts is a reflection of the actions depicted in this political cartoon?**

- A. Napoleon's invasion of Russia
- B. The Boer Wars
- C. The Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand
- D. The establishment of the Holy Alliance

**The Correct Answer:**

B. The Boer Wars were between the Boers, or descendants of the Dutch in South Africa, and the British who moved into South Africa after the Berlin Conference. This was a clash of Imperial powers, both trying to claim the same land, and the cartoon reflects the greed of the Imperial powers that would ultimately lead to conflicts between them.

**Incorrect Answers:**

- A. Napoleon's disastrous invasion of Russia, which ended in Napoleon's defeat was not related to the Imperialism reflected in the cartoon.
- C. The Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand occurred in Austria and was a reflection of the Nationalist conflict between Austria and Serbia. The cartoon is a reflection of Imperialism.
- D. The Holy Alliance formed between Germany, Italy and Russia was supposed to keep the peace in Europe through Christian principles after the defeat of Napoleon. This was not reflected in this cartoon about Imperialism.

**Questions 3-4 refer to the following excerpt:**

**Article 159.** The German military forces shall be demobilised and reduced as prescribed hereinafter  
**Article 160.** By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry. After that date the total number of effectives in the Army of the States constituting Germany must not exceed 100,000 men, including officers and establishments of depots. The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers. The total effective strength of officers, including the personnel of staffs, whatever their composition, must not exceed four thousand.... **Article 231.** The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies. **Article 232.** The Allied and Associated Governments recognize that the resources of Germany are not adequate, after taking into account permanent diminutions of such resources which will result from other provisions of the present Treaty, to make complete reparation for all such loss and damage. The Allied and Associated Governments, however, require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property during the period of the belligerency of each as an Allied or Associated Power against Germany.

Treaty of Versailles, Jun 28, 1919

**3. Which of the following best explains the reason for the Article 159 of the Treaty as well as the reason why it was such a disaster?**

- A. Germany was the first to declare War in World War I and therefore needed to take full responsibility for the war, even though it wasn't necessarily at fault.
- B. The militaristic history of Germany which goes back to the establishment of Prussia with the creation of a country around a military.
- C. The need to have Germany pay for rebuilding the Allied countries after the War ended.
- D. The reduction of the German borders and the creation of new European states that would reflect National Self Determination.

**Correct Answer:**

B. From the creation of Prussia as a state around a military, to Bismarck's plan to use war to unify Germany, German and the German people have always been militaristic. It is a large part of the German identity, so although the policy of demilitarizing Germany was a means to prevent it from being a military threat, it was also a main reason why an intense sense of revenge formed amongst the German people, ultimately leading to the outbreak of World War II.

**Incorrect Answers:**

- A. Germany was not the first country to declare war, that honor goes to Austria, which declared war on Serbia in response to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand.
- C. The implementation of reparations to be paid by Germany to help rebuild the Allies after the War, was not part of this particular Article.
- D. Germany's border was reduced and many Germans did in fact find themselves outside of the borders of Germany, causing resentments that would later lead to Hitler's expansionist policies that contributed to the start of World War II however, that is not part of this particular article.

**4. How and why did the United States get involved with the implementation of Article 232?**

- A. The Dawes Plan was established to help Germany pay its reparations in order to stop Germany from collapsing and upsetting the Balance of Power in Europe.
- B. The League of Nations established as part of President Wilson's 14 Points was designed to counter Germany or any other state that were to act as an aggressor.
- C. The US did not get involved at all, but rather moved into a period of isolation, staying out of all European affairs
- D. The Marshall Plan, introduced to provide economic aid to any country in Europe that promised to implement democracy in Europe.

**Correct Answer:**

- A. The Dawes Plan was when US banks loaned money to Germany after Germany's attempt to continue to pay reparations resulted in hyperinflation. The policy was designed to prevent Germany from collapsing and upsetting the balance of power in Europe.

**Incorrect Answers:**

- B. The League of Nations was established after World War I but it was intended to be a means in which to maintain peace in Europe through diplomacy, and it was not connected to the reparation payments that Germany was required to pay.
- C. The US did in fact go into a period of isolation, however the policy was never absolute as the US and organizations within the US did get involved in Europe when they felt the need, such as the Dawes Plan which provided money to keep Germany solvent.
- D. The Marshall Plan was the US economic plan designed to benefit the countries of Europe after World War II, not World War I.

**Questions 5-6 refer to the excerpt below:**

The independence of our country cannot be upheld unless we have an adequate industrial basis for defence. And such an industrial basis cannot be created if our industry is not more highly developed technically. That is why a fast rate of development of our industry is necessary and imperative. We cannot go on indefinitely, that is, for too long a period, basing the Soviet regime and socialist construction on two *different* foundations, the foundation of the most large-scale and united socialist industry and the foundation of the most scattered and backward, small commodity economy of the peasants. We must gradually, but systematically and persistently, place our agriculture on a new technical basis, the basis of large-scale production, and bring it up to the level of socialist industry. Either we accomplish this task-in which case the final victory of socialism in our country will be assured, or we turn away from it and do not accomplish it-in which case a return to capitalism may become inevitable.

Joseph Stalin, "Industrialization of the Country and the Right Deviation in the C.P.S.U., November 19, 1928," in J.V Stalin, *Works*, vol. 11, 1928-March 1929 (Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1954), pp. 257-58, 261-63.  
<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1928stalin.asp>

**5. Which of the following reflects why Stalin made this particular argument in 1928?**

- A. Because according to Marx and Engels a true Communist State will not succeed without having gone through the necessary stage of capitalism and the USSR skipped that step
- B. To show that Lenin's NEP was successful in establishing a strong economic base for Communism
- C. To encourage world-wide communist revolutions to provide protection and security for the Soviet Union
- D. Stalin was trying to explain the difference between Communism and Fascism and why Communism was the better option

**Correct Answer:**

A. In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels explained that communism was the end result of an evolutionary process. In order to reach that ultimate goal, a state had to go through the pains associated with a capitalist system. This excerpt shows Stalin's recognition of that process and the desire to implement programs that would fill that gap.

**Incorrect Answers:**

- B. Lenin's NEP was in fact implemented in order to introduce aspects of capitalism into the Soviet Union. However, Stalin's excerpt is more of a reflection that it did not work, than it is a reflection that it did work.
- C. It was Lenin and not Stalin who believed that the security of the Soviet Union was dependent on world-wide communist revolutions.
- D. This was published in 1928, and although Fascism was in the works at the time, it had not fully taken root in any significant way just yet so Stalin's writings would not have reflected that.

**6. What did Stalin do in reaction to the issue he is discussing here?**

- A. The New Economic Policy
- B. The 5 Year Plans

- C. The creation of the Mir
- D. The invasion of Afghanistan

**The Correct Answer:**

B. Stalin's 5 Year Plans were designed to implement aspects of capitalism into the Soviet Union with the hope that it would strengthen the base that the country was built on.

**Incorrect Answers:**

- A. The New Economic Policy or NEP was Lenin's earlier attempt to try and skip over the necessary step of capitalism. The fact that it was not particularly successful is why Stalin implemented the 5 Year Plans
- C. The creation of the Mir occurred under Czar Alexander II in 1861 as part of the reforms enacted after the Crimean War.
- D. The invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union occurred in the 1980s and was part of the Soviet desire to expand its sphere of influence, but it was not something that Stalin would have known about in 1928.

**Questions 7-8 refer to the excerpt below:**

...Fascism [is] the complete opposite of...Marxian Socialism, the materialist conception of history of human civilization can be explained simply through the conflict of interests among the various social groups and by the change and development in the means and instruments of production.... Fascism, now and always, believes in holiness and in heroism; that is to say, in actions influenced by no economic motive, direct or indirect. And if the economic conception of history be denied, according to which theory men are no more than puppets, carried to and fro by the waves of chance, while the real directing forces are quite out of their control, it follows that the existence of an unchangeable and unchanging class-war is also denied - the natural progeny of the economic conception of history. And above all Fascism denies that class-war can be the preponderant force in the transformation of society....

After Socialism, Fascism combats the whole complex system of democratic ideology, and repudiates it, whether in its theoretical premises or in its practical application. Fascism denies that the majority, by the simple fact that it is a majority, can direct human society; it denies that numbers alone can govern by means of a periodical consultation, and it affirms the immutable, beneficial, and fruitful inequality of mankind, which can never be permanently leveled through the mere operation of a mechanical process such as universal suffrage....

Benito Mussolini: *What is Fascism*, 1932

**7. Which political ideology was Mussolini attacking in the last line of this passage?**

- A. Socialism
- B. Communism
- C. Democracy

D. Fascism

**The Correct Answer**

C. Although throughout this passage it seems as though Mussolini's primary target is Marxist Socialism or Communism, in the last line he challenges the notion that a nation with universal suffrage would experience success. Universal suffrage is a staple in a true democratic system of government.

**Incorrect answers:**

A. Although throughout this passage it seems as though Mussolini's primary target is Marxist Socialism or Communism, in the last line he challenges the notion that a nation with universal suffrage would experience success. Universal suffrage is a staple in a true democratic system of government.

B. Although throughout this passage it seems as though Mussolini's primary target is Marxist Socialism or Communism, in the last line he challenges the notion that a nation with universal suffrage would experience success. Universal suffrage is a staple in a true democratic system of government.

D. Mussolini is promoting Fascism in this passage, and in fact he was one of the first to implement a truly Fascist government when he took control of Italy

**8. Which of the following is a reflection of the wide ranging impact that Mussolini's speech had on other European countries?**

- A. The Reinsurance Treaty
- B. The Schlieffen Plan
- C. The Pact of Steel
- D. The March on Rome

**The Correct Answer:**

C. The perceived strength of Italy under Mussolini did not go unnoticed by Hitler, who was also establishing a fascist government in Germany. Once the two were solidly in power in their respective countries, it was inevitable that the two would ally together, as they did with the signing of the Pact of Steel in 1939.

**Incorrect answers:**

A. The Reinsurance Treaty was not related to Mussolini, rather it was the agreement between Germany and Russia prior to World War I that delayed the inevitable direct conflict between the two countries.

B. The Schlieffen plan was not related to Italy; it was actually the German plan of attack for the beginning of World War I. The plan was to attack France, defeat it in three weeks and then turn on Russia, it was the reason Germany had signed the Reinsurance Treaty.

D. The March on Rome was Mussolini's first attempt to gain power in Italy. Although the March failed to overturn the Italian government, it did lead to Mussolini's appointment as Prime Minister of Italy more than 10 years before this excerpt was written.

**Questions 9-11 refer to the following image:**



**Are YOU in this?**

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%27Are\\_you\\_in\\_this%27\\_poster.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%27Are_you_in_this%27_poster.jpg)

9. This poster was intended to

- A. Guilt people into joining the war effort
- B. Encourage the draft
- C. Demonize the Central Powers
- D. Sell War Bonds

**The Correct Answer:**

A. Propaganda was a huge factor in World War I, and this poster is a perfect example of how governments used it to gain the support of the people. In this particular poster it is showing how everyone can and should contribute to the war effort.

**Incorrect Answers:**

- B. The poster was more likely to make a draft unnecessary, but putting the onus on the people to make the decision to get involved in whatever way they can.
- C. There were definitely propaganda posters that did demonize the Central Powers, however this particular poster does not reflect the Central Powers at all.
- D. The poster is entirely aimed at how people can physically aid in the war efforts of Great Britain and not in how they can economically contribute

**10. The general term for the concept portrayed in this poster is**

- A. Total War
- B. Trench Warfare
- C. Wartime Economics
- D. The Homefront

**The Correct Answer:**

A. The concept of Total War means that all aspects of society are involved in the country's war effort. This kind of system required sacrifices in the civilian way of life, and was the case for most European Countries involved in World War I.

**Incorrect Answers:**

- B. Trench Warfare is the term used to describe the kind of warfare used in World War I, where the front lines literally dug into the ground for protection against the opposing lines. This kind of warfare led directly to a stalemate for 4 years between the Central Powers and the Triple Alliance.
- C. The image does actually depict what the wartime economies of those countries involved in the war were, however the question asked what the concept was that was portrayed, and that is Total War.
- D. The image also does depict the Homefront during the war, but that is too broad of an answer, the concept that is being portrayed is in fact Total War.

**11. Which of the following is an example of something that the government would promote during a war where such a program existed?**

- A. Increase the supply of gasoline to the civilian population
- B. Encourage civilians to hoard supplies needed in case of an attack
- C. Distribute ration books and encourage the growing of one's own food
- D. Deficit spending in order to maintain the civilian lifestyle

**The Correct Answer:**

C. In order for Total War to work the civilian population must make sacrifices. One of the most common tactics used by governments to make this work is the use of ration books, forcing the civilian population to reduce their consumption in order to make sure there are enough food and supplies to keep the troops going.

**Incorrect Answers:**

A. If anything there would be a decrease in the supply of gasoline to the civilian population as the gas would be rationed to make sure there was enough to supply the military efforts.

B. The government would certainly not rely on the civilian population to hoard supplies, but would rather ask them to ration supplies so that the government could use them for the military efforts.

D. Using deficit spending could be very dangerous for a country and could spiral them into such a deep debt that they won't be able to recover. It is very likely that a country at war would have to use deficit spending to fund the war so it is more likely that the government would require the civilian population to ration.

**Questions 12-13 refer to the following excerpt:**

Even the most superficial observation shows that Nature's restricted form of propagation and increase is an almost rigid basic law of all the innumerable forms of expression of her vital urge. Every animal mates only with a member of the same species. ... Any crossing of two beings not at exactly the same level produces a medium between the level of the two parents. This means: the offspring will probably stand higher than the racially lower parent, but not as high as the higher one. Consequently, it will later succumb in the struggle against the higher level. Such mating is contrary to the will of Nature for a higher breeding of all life. The precondition for this does not lie in associating superior and inferior, but in the total victory of the former. The stronger must dominate and not blend with the weaker. ... And struggle is always a means for improving a species' health and power of resistance and, therefore, a cause of its higher development.

Excerpt from Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, 1925

**12 .Which of the following is Hitler justifying in this excerpt from *Mein Kampf*?**

- A. Anti-semitism
- B. The Anschluss
- C. The Invasion of Poland
- D. National Self Determination

**Correct Answer:**

A. In Hitler's book, *Mein Kampf*, he begins the process of laying the groundwork for the Holocaust. His plan is to rise to power on the back of the Jewish population. By using them as scapegoats for the struggles of Germany he was able to gain the support of the German people. This excerpt shows how Hitler was explaining how there is a definite racial hierarchy, which will feed into the already present anti-semitism that existed in Germany and Europe.

**Incorrect Answers:**

B. The Anschluss was the German takeover of Austria in 1936. The Austrian's actually asked Hitler to incorporate them into his Third Reich because they too had been devastated by the Treaty of Versailles and they wanted Hitler to help them recover as well. Although the anti-semitism this passage justifies did occur in Austria, it was not what Hitler was referring to.

C. The Invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 was the start of World War II and was a definite part of Hitler's plan to expand throughout Europe, however, it is important to note that the Holocaust and World War II were two distinct events, that occurred simultaneously.

D. National Self-Determination was the belief that all people of one nationality had the right to live together in their own sovereign state. This was part of Hitler's philosophy and reasoning behind his expansion, especially into the Sudetenland, the part of Czechoslovakia that bordered Germany and contained a number of German Nationals.

**13. How did Hitler solidify his beliefs expressed here into German Law?**

- A. Setting fire to the Reichstadt
- B. Invading the Rhineland
- C. The Night of Long Knives
- D. The passing of the Nuremberg Laws

**Correct Answer:**

D. The Nuremberg Laws were a series of anti-semitic laws designed to restrict the lives of the Jewish population in Germany, and thus confirming the use of them as scapegoats for the ills that plagued Germany. One of the Laws was the restriction of marriage between Jews and "Aryans", something that is clearly reflected in Hitler's rationale in this passage.

**Incorrect Answers:**

A. Setting fire to the Reichstag was a scheme concocted to gain more power in the German parliament. The plan included blaming the communists for the fire which occurred right before the Reichstag elections. This was a demonization of a political group rather than a race as is apparent in this particular passage of *Mein Kampf*.

B. Hitler's invasion of the Rhineland in 1936 was a direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles, but it was not a reflection of Hitler's racial philosophy that is apparent in this passage.

C. The Night of Long Knives was the systematic execution of communist and socialist members of the Nazi party once Hitler had gained power and no longer needed them to reach his goals. This was an attack on a political group rather than a reflection of Hitler's philosophy on race.