

Chapter 11 Between the Wars: An Anxious Generation

Legacy: West and the World

- after WWI democracy was in place in most Western powers.
- Yet as 1930s progressed, Stalin in Soviet Union & Hitler in Nazi Germany created repressive totalitarian regimes.
- 1919 Peace at Versailles seemed to make another war inevitable. French & German relations remained conflicted.

A CHALLENGE TO PEACE

- France & Germany centre of postwar years. War reparations a major source of friction. Furthered by 1922 Rapallo Agreement between Germany and Soviet Union to help each other. Germany resisted payments... did not ship coal to France as promised, so French & Belgian troops marched into Ruhr to get coal themselves.. met huge resistance and strikes. German inflation was out of control.

The Search for Peaceful Coexistence

- France was harsh vs. Germany. Western nations such as Britain and US thought war reparations were too high.
- John Maynard Keynes wrote *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* argued that for Europe to prosper it needed a prosperous Germany.

- **Dawes Plan**- stretched out reparations and offered loans for reconstruction of Germany- led to a period of peace in Europe. Democratic Governments

Spirit of Peace

- Germany (Stresemann), France (Briand), Britain (Chamberlain) brought appeasement to create peace.
- **1925 Locarno Pact**- Germany promised to accept its Western borders and demilitarized Rhineland. Chamberlain, Stresemann and Briand received Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1926- Germany admitted to League of Nations
- Kellogg-Briand Pact**- outlawed wars of aggression
- Young Plan**- extended reparations to 1988.

ECONOMIC RUIN: GREAT DEPRESSION

Oct. 29, 1929- "Black Tuesday" Stock Market Crash. With Crash in America & Canada, circle of cash flow broke... Europe slid into depression as well. Every European country except Soviet Union, especially Germany was in deep depression.

- FDR in USA- New Deal- deficit spending to boost economy & jobs.
- Government intervention was high... some disliked this result.
- **Keynes & welfare state** became dominant economic theory.

Depression & Dictatorships

- Dictatorships due to economic hardships, border disputes, etc... Hungary (Horthy), Italy (Mussolini), Pilsudski (Poland), etc... Democracy pushed into the West.

THE RISE OF FASCISM

Fascism a right wing response to democracy... inspired loyalty, honour and heroism for the state. Extreme nationalism. Fascism was cult like...

- **Hitler's *Mein Kampf*** contained frightening foreshadowing: lebensraum (living space in East, annexing Austria, settle score with France, tear up Treaty of Versailles)
- Mussolini- used propaganda declared himself Il Duce, leader of Italian people. Reconciled with the Pope won his support.

THE RISE OF STALIN

Between 1914-1921- 15 million die in Russia due to war, famine, civil war. Civil War in Russia- "Reds" vs "Whites". Many countries including Canada went into Russia to fight, try to bring Russia back into war against Germany, then attempt to keep weapons from Bolsheviks. Bolsheviks felt this was a stake driven between East & West... West trying to crush communism, suspicion & distrust for remainder of 20th Century. Cheka (secret police) spread the Red Terror killing any suspected of betraying the revolution.

Concentration camps for political dissidents spread across Russia. Gov't took command of the economy. Famine in 1920-22 saw at least 5 million peasants die (obvious negative reaction toward gov't). Lenin brought in NEP, free-market reforms... 1922 Lenin suffers a stroke, battle for leadership began. Stalin quietly took power, original front runner Trotsky not chosen.

- Stalin saw need for crash program to modernize & industrialize.

The First Five Year Plan, 1929-1932: true dividing line between old Russia and the new... mass collectivization, production quotas unreachable... full employment (while west suffered through Great Depression) Stalin targeted kulaks (peasants that opposed Stalin & collectivization)...

1931-33: Up to 7.5 million peasants die in Great Famine, mostly Ukrainians (Stalin wanted to crush resistance/nationalism).

Life Under Stalin: Women made some gains, by 1950, 75% of doctors were women.

GREAT PURGE, 1935-38

- Stalin's purges saw the killing of 1 million people, and another 4-6 million sent to forced-labour camps.
- Show trials of many party leaders.
- up to 90% of generals killed, along with other high ranking officials.

HITLER & THE RISE OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

- Hitler's ideas were a jumble of old Central European hatreds: hatred of Marxists, Slavs, and Jews.
- Fighting in WWI he said was defining moment. Bitter and felt betrayed about German defeat.
- Read Hitler's rise to power (p.424-425)

Fascism in Power: The Third Reich- came to power in 1933, and took absolute power with Enabling Act- power to rule without Parliament. Nazi's now made Germany Nazi... burned books, established SA first, then purged them with the SS.

- First concentration camp, Dachau, opened in 1933.
- Nazi's created jobs, profits, etc... used mass rallies to gain popularity.

Hitler's War against the Jews- isolated Jews with various laws, made restrictions. In 1935, Hitler passed Nuremberg Laws- defined "German", Jews denied citizenship. Had to wear yellow Star of David. Continued to take steps to strip Jews of rights, possessions, life.

More Victims of the Third Reich

- communists, homosexuals, gypsies... also eugenics... Nazi's hoped to use 'negative selection' to exterminate thousands seen unfit.

Family Life Under Nazism- many young people were attracted to Nazism... older were skeptical, created conflict in the home. Also, schools came to take over role of nuclear family, used to promote racial propaganda, etc...

POSTWAR NORTH AMERICA, 1920-29

The Roaring Twenties

- rebuilding after WWI, led to increase in economic activity, more jobs... rampant materialism to forget the war... music, fashion.
- Consumerism**- new inventions, led to new products... electric irons, vacuums, washing machines, toasters, refrigerators. Advertising became important. More people were buying on credit... more luxury items such as cars. Car changed North American life.
- Revolution in Leisure**- More leisure time, new activities: movies, sports, radios, newspapers...
- Changes in the Family**- suburban lifestyle defined the post war period.

ART, MUSIC & LITERATURE

See Pages 435-445