

TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORY GST 111

Canadian Bible College

First Semester, 2002-03

Instructor: Mr. Eric de Bruyn

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The prime objective of this course is that the student will gain a better understanding of the major events and movements which have shaped Western, and to a lesser degree, World Civilization in the 20th century. Topics covered will include the following:

1. The origins, nature and consequences of World War I (1914-1918)
2. The Twenty Years Crisis of 1919-1939
 - 2.1 The founding of the Soviet Union and the development of the early Communist movement under Stalin
 - 2.2 The growth and influence of Fascism, with particular attention to Germany
 - 2.3 The Great Depression
 - 2.4 The diplomatic crises of the mid-late 1930s
3. The origins, nature and consequences of World War II (1939-1945)
4. Decolonization and the rise of Asia and Africa
5. The rise of China
6. The origins and development of the Cold War (1947-1991)
7. The collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (1989-1991)

COURSE TEXT

Daniel R. Brower, *The World in the Twentieth Century. The Age of Global War and Revolution*
5th edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance and participation
2. A field trip to the MacKenzie Art Gallery to view and comment on the exhibit "Canvas of War" featuring paintings on Canada's experiences in World War I and World War II.

Due September 18

2. Careful reading of the course text. **Due at the last class of each month in the following installments:** 1. September 27, pp. 1-74; 2. October 30, pp. 75-168; 3. November 29, pp. 170-303; 4. at Final Exam time, pp. 305-414.
3. **A plan for your research paper** which will include the following items:
 - a tentative topic
 - a question you will seek to answer in your research paper
 - a bibliography of at least five books (internet sources are unacceptable!)
 - **Due October 4**
4. A research paper or biographical study of approximately 10 pages. **Due November 13**
5. A Final Examination. To be held during **Final Exam week**.

Note: the student must hand in all assignments/exams in order to receive course credit

DETERMINATION OF THE FINAL GRADE

Field Trip assignment	5%
Paper plan/proposal	5%
Careful reading of the course text	10%
Research paper/biography	30%
Final Examination	40%

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

The student may choose one of the following essay topics, or else choose one of their own **in consultation with the instructor**. As for biographical studies, the same principle applies. (In this regard, please do not choose a pop-culture figure such as Princess Diana, Elvis or Madonna: should I receive such a paper, I will refuse to grade it and will ask you to write another paper). Regardless of which option the student chooses, it is expected that the assignment will contain both good grammar and spelling, and also that the bibliography will be adequate. Failure to do so will result in a reduced grade, perhaps up to a full letter grade (or more). The late penalty for all assignments is 5% deduction for every day late (Saturdays and Sundays count as days late).

1. Write a paper on some aspect of World War I (1914-18).
 - a) War origins: study any of the major powers (especially Germany and Austria-Hungary, but also Britain, France and Russia.) What did this power do to start the war?
 - b) War at the fronts. Examine either the Western Front or the Eastern Front with respect to tactics and difficulties

13. Choose a topic on some aspect of World War II (1939-45)
- a) the rapid defeat of France in 1940. Why?
 - b) the Battle of Britain in 1940. How did the British stave off the Nazis?
 - c) the role of Winston Churchill as British warlord and leader in her darkest days. How did Churchill rally support for a strong and stubborn war effort?
 - d) the barbarity of warfare between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union (1941-45). Reasons? Examine with respect to either of two major sieges in Russia: the siege of Leningrad, or the battle for Stalingrad.
 - e) the role of Stalin as warlord of the Soviet Union. After his initial dismal performance in 1941, how did he lead the Soviet war effort?
 - f) examine the Japanese war against China. Why did the Japanese basically only conquer the coastal areas? In this war examine the atrocities committed against the major port city of Shanghai, or the then capital of China, Nanking (currently spelled as Nanjing) which was slightly inland
 - g) why did the Japanese attack the American base at Pearl Harbour in December 1941? Why were they successful?
 - h) Did Emperor Hirohito play an active role in the Japanese war effort, or was he a more passive figure who was dominated by the military?
14. Examine France after its defeat at the hands of the Germans in 1940 until its liberation in 1944. How much resistance and how much collaboration was there? Concentrate on the northwestern one-third of the country which was occupied by the Germans for the entire war.
15. Was Vichy France truly a national renewal movement, or simply a puppet state of Nazi Germany? Marshal Philippe Petain was the head of state of this regime. How did he desire to change France? Explain how Vichy France conceived of the role of women in the new order.
16. Why was the atomic bomb developed by the United States? Why was it dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Why does this issue raise so much controversy in the Western World today, especially the United States?
17. Trace and examine the course of the Chinese Civil War, and the rise to power of Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) and his Communist forces in 1949. Why was Mao finally able to defeat President Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist government?
18. Trace the development of the Indian movement toward independence from Great Britain. Why was Mahatma Gandhi's role so crucial, and what tactics did he employ to mobilize the Indian people? Why was Gandhi unable to keep both Hindus and Muslims united in

- the struggle? What impact did this have when independence was achieved in 1947?
19. Choose a major crisis during the Cold War and explain its origins, development, impact, and outcome. Examples to choose from:
 - a) The Berlin blockade/airlift of 1948-49
 - b) The Polish and/or Hungarian revolutions of 1956
 - c) The building of the Berlin Wall in 1961
 - d) The Sino-Soviet split of the late 1950s onward
 - e) The Cuban Revolution of 1959
 - f) The Cuban missile crisis of 1962
 20. What was the Korean War (1950-53)? How did it start? Explain the critical and controversial role of General Douglas MacArthur in the conflict? How did it finally end?
 21. What was the Suez Crisis of 1956? What happened, and what was its ultimate significance for European and world politics?
 22. Explain how the Viet Nam War started. How did the Americans become involved? Why were they so ineffective in the long run in their goal of defeating the Communists, despite all of the troops and sophisticated military equipment that they poured into the conflict? Why did North Viet Nam finally win the war in 1975?
 23. What was the Cultural Revolution in China? Why did Mao feel led initiate it and keep it going? What were the results for China?
 24. Examine the Iranian revolution of 1979? Why was the Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, so unpopular? Why were the Iranian people so willing to accept the new Islamist (or fundamentalist) regime of Ayatollah Khomeini? What were the consequences of the revolution both in Iran and also internationally, especially in the world's Muslim states?
 25. Examine the role of the church, and especially Pope John Paul II, in the fall of communism in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s.
 26. Was the Soviet Union's involvement in the war in Afghanistan (1979-89) the "Soviet Viet Nam"?

REFERENCE VOLUMES

- Dear, I. C. B. and M. R. D. Foot (eds). *Oxford Companion to World War II*
- Esposito, John L. (ed). *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*. 4 Volumes
- Laqueur, Walter (ed). *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*
- Parrish, Thomas. *The Cold War Encyclopedia*
- Tucker, Spencer C. (ed). *The Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War*

- c) The impact of the war on the Home Fronts of any of the major belligerents
 - d) Examine the role of Kaiser Wilhelm II (William II) and his impact on the outbreak of the war
 - e) Examine the role of Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau in holding France in the war in 1917 and then pushing her to victory one year later
 - f) Examine Clemenceau's struggle with Marshall Foch as to whether to accept surrender of the German army on French soil, or to carry the war into Germany and force surrender there in the fall of 1918
 - g) Examine the role of President Woodrow Wilson in designing a postwar order for Europe, the Middle East and Soviet Russia
2. Examine the movement for women's rights by focusing on one of two American women: Susan B. Anthony or Margaret Sanger.
3. Examine an anti-Western revolt in the Developing World. Possible examples:
- a) the Boxer Revolt in China in 1900
 - b) the Indonesian struggle for independence from the Dutch
 - c) the Indochina battle for independence against the French (until 1954)
 - d) the Algerian struggle for independence from France (1954-62)
4. Study a genocide of the twentieth century. Examples:
- a) the Armenian genocide of World War I
 - b) the Holocaust against the Jews during World War II
 - c) the Killing Fields of Cambodia (1975-79)
 - d) the slaughters in Rwanda and/or Burundi
5. Examine a phase in Adolf Hitler's life:
- a) his youth
 - b) the period of life in Vienna, 1906-13
 - c) service in the German army, 1914-18
 - d) the immediate postwar period, 1918-1923

- e) his political activities from 1924-33
 - f) his pre-war years as Chancellor of Germany, 1933-39
 - g) his years as Nazi warlord, 1939-45
6. How did Hitler regard Christianity? How did he deal with both the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches (what was the general policy, and were there differences in the way Hitler treated each group)? Did the churches co-operate with the Nazi regime? Did they resist it, and if so how?
 7. Examine and explain a major foreign policy crisis during the 1930s. What caused the crisis, and how was it resolved (if at all)? Possible choices are:
 - a) the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in China, and continuing Japanese involvement in the Chinese civil war in the remainder of China
 - b) the Italian war against Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in 1935-36
 - c) the German military occupation of the Rhineland (spring, 1936)
 - d) the Anschluss (German takeover of Austria) in 1938
 - e) the Sudeten crisis and the Munich Conference (1938)
 8. Examine the development of a fascist movement in any of the European countries in the 1930s. Which types of people supported it? Why? Do not use either Germany or Italy; choose another country (Britain, France, Holland, Belgium, Hungary, Austria, Norway, or Romania)
 9. Using Germany or Italy, examine the role that women or youth were to play in fascist society.
 10. Like fascism, communism exercised a powerful attraction on many during the interwar years. Examine the role of women in the Soviet Union of the 1920s and 1930s. Compare and contrast the two decades in terms of women's roles both in propaganda and also in fact.
 11. There were many well-meaning people in the 1930s who were duped by the Nazi and Soviet regimes. Why? Explain with respect to Charles Lindbergh, the great American aviator.
 12. Examine the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39. Why was the war "internationalized" right from the start? What kind of impact did it have on Western public thought? Why was General Franco finally able to topple the forces of the Spanish government?
 13. What was "appeasement" as applied to Britain and France in the mid-late 1930s? Examine in particular with respect to Britain's leader in the late 1930s, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

VOLUMES ON RESERVE

- Banac, Ivo (ed). *Eastern Europe in Revolution*
- Barraclough, Geoffrey. *An Introduction to Contemporary History*
- Black, C. E. and E. C. Helmreich. *Twentieth Century Europe: a History*
- Brower, Daniel R. *The World in the Twentieth Century*. (the course text)
- Chadwick, Owen. *The Christian Church in the Cold War*
- Cleveland, William. *A History of the Modern Middle East*.
- Fairbank, John K. *China: a New History*
The Great Chinese Revolution 1800-1985
- Fest, Joachim. *The Face of the Third Reich*
- Gilbert, Felix. *The End of the European Era, 1890 to the Present*
- Glover, Jonathan. *Humanity. A moral history of the twentieth century*.
- Gray, Jack. *Rebellions & Revolutions. China from the 1800s to the 1980s*
- Grenville, J.A. S. *A History of the World in the Twentieth Century*
- Grunberger, Richard. *The 12 Year Reich*
- Helmreich, E. C. *The German Churches under Hitler*
- Hobsbawm, E. J. *The Age of Extremes: a History of the World 1914-1991*
- Hughes, H. Stuart. *Contemporary Europe: a History*
- Johnson, Paul. *Modern Times*
- Joll, James. *Europe since 1870. An International History*
The Origins of the First World War
- Kennedy, David M. *Freedom from Fear. The American People in Depression and War 1929-1945*.
- Keylor, William R. *The Twentieth Century World. An International History*
- Kuper, Leo. *Genocide. Its Political Use in the Twentieth Century*
- Mazower, Mark. *Dark Continent. Europe's Twentieth Century*
- Naimark, Norman. *Fires of Hatred. Ethnic cleansing in Twentieth Century Europe*
- Patterson, James T. *Grand Expectations. The United States, 1945-1974*.
- Payne, Stanley G. *A History of Fascism 1914-1945*
- Remak, Joachim (ed). *The Nazi Years*.
- Reynolds, David. *One World Divisible. A Global History since 1945*.
- Roberts, J. M. *Twentieth Century. A History of the World 1901 to the Present*
- Schmidt, Bernadotte and Harold C. Vedeler. *The World in a Crucible 1914-1919*
- Service, Robert. *A History of Twentieth Century Russia*
- Suny, Ronald Grigor. *The Soviet Experiment*
- Tannenbaum, Edward. *The Fascist Experience. Italian Society and Culture 1922-1945*.
- Thornton, Richard C. *China: a Political History, 1917-1980*
- Walker, Martin. *The Cold War, a History*
- Weinberg, Gerhard. *A World at Arms*
- Wright, Gordon. *The Ordeal of Total War*
- Wright, Gordon and Arthur Mejaia (eds). *An Age of Controversy*