**Period 4: 1914 to the Present Concept Outline**

**Key Concept 4.1** – *Total war and political instability in the first half of the 20th century gave way to a polarized state order during the Cold War and eventually to efforts at transnational union*

1. World War I, caused by a complex interaction of long- and short-term factors, resulted in immense losses and disruptions for both victors and vanquished
   1. A variety of factors – including nationalism, military plans, the alliance system, and imperial competition – turned a regional dispute in the Balkans into World War I
   2. New technologies confounded traditional military strategies and led to massive troop losses

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| **Sec. 1B** | **New Technologies** | * Machine Gun * Barbed Wire * Submarine | * Poison Gas * Tank |

* 1. The effects of military stalemate and total war led to protest and insurrection in the belligerent nations and eventually to revolutions that changed the international balance of power
  2. The war in Europe quickly spread to non-European theaters, transforming the war into a global conflict

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| **Sec. 1D** | **Non-European theaters of conflict** | * Armenian Genocide * Arab revolt against the Turks * Japanese aggression in the Pacific and on the Chinese mainland |

* 1. The relationship of Europe to the world shifted significantly with the globalization of the conflict, the emergence of the United States as a world power, and the overthrow of European empires

1. The conflicting goals of the peace negotiators in Paris pitted diplomatic idealism against the desire to punish Germany, producing a settlement that satisfied few
   1. Wilsonian idealism clashed with postwar realities in both the victorious and the defeated states. Democratic successor states emerged from former empires and eventually succumbed to significant political, economic, and diplomatic crises

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| **Sec. 2A** | **Democratic successor states** | * Poland * Czechoslovakia * Hungary * Yugoslavia |

* 1. The League of Nations, created to prevent future wars, was weakened from the outset by the nonparticipation of major powers, including the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union
  2. The Versailles settlement, particularly its provisions on the assignment of guilt and reparations for the war, hindered the German Weimar Republic’s ability to establish a stable and legitimate political and economic system

1. In the interwar period, fascism, extreme nationalism, racist ideologies, and the failure of appeasement resulted in the catastrophe of World War II, presenting a grave challenge to European civilization
   1. French and British fears of another war, American isolationism, and deep distrust between Western democratic, capitalist nations, and the communist Soviet Union allowed fascist states to rearm and expand their territory

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| **Sec. 3A** | **Fascist states’ expansion allowed by European powers** | * Remilitarization of the Rhineland * Italian invasion of Ethiopia * Annexation of Austria | * Munich Agreement and its violation * Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact |

* 1. Germany’s *Blitzkrieg* warfare in Europe, combined with Japan’s attacks in Asia and the Pacific, brought the Axis powers early victories
  2. American and British industrial, scientific, and technological power and the all-out military commitment of the USSR contributed critically to the Allied victories
  3. Fueled by racism and anti-Semitism, Nazi Germany – with the cooperation of some of the other Axis powers and collaborationist governments – sought to establish a “new racial order” in Europe, which culminated with the Holocaust

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| **Sec. 3D** | **Nazi establishment of a “new racial order”** | * Nuremberg Laws * Wannssee Conference * Auschwitz and other death camps |

1. As World War II ended, a Cold War between the liberal democratic West and the communist East began, lasting nearly half a century
   1. Despite efforts to maintain international cooperation through the newly created United Nations, deep-seated tensions between the USSR and the West led to the division of Europe, which was referred to in the West as the *Iron Curtain*
   2. The Cold War played out on a global stage and involved propaganda campaigns; covert actions; limited “hot wars” in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean; and an arms race, with the threat of nuclear war

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| **Sec. 4B** | **Hot wars outside of Europe in which the U.S. and the USSR supported opposite sides** | * Korean War * Vietnam War * The Yom Kippur War * The Afghanistan War |

* 1. The United States exerted a strong military, political, and economic influence in Western Europe, leading to the creation of world monetary and trade systems and geopolitical alliances such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

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| **Sec. 4C** | **World monetary and trade systems** | * International Monetary Fund (IMF) * World Bank * General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) * World Trade Organization (WTO) |

* 1. Countries east of the Iron Curtain came under the military, political, and economic domination of the Soviet Union within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) and the Warsaw Pact
  2. The collapse of the USSR in 1991 ended the Cold War nad led to the establishment of capitalist economies throughout Eastern Europe. Germany was reunited, the Czechs and the Slovaks parted, Yugoslavia dissolved, and the European Union was enlarged thorugh admission of fomer Eastern bloc countries

1. In response to the destructive impact of two world wars, European nations began to set aside nationalism in favor of economic and political integration, forming a series of transnational unions that grew in size and scope over the second half of the 20th century
   1. As the economic alliance known as the European Coal and Steel Community, envisioned as a means to spur postwar economic recovery, developed into the European Economic Community (EEC or Common Market) and the European Union (EU), Europe experience increasing economic and political integration and efforts to establish a shared European identity
   2. One of the major continuing challenges to countries in the EU is balancing national sovereignty with the responsibilities of membership in an economic and political union

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| **Sec. 5B** | **Challenges to national sovereignty within the EU** | * The creation of the euro * The creation of a European parliament * Free movement across borders |

1. Nationalist and separatist movements, along with ethnic conflict and ethnic cleansing, periodically disrupted the post – World War II peace

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| **Sec. 6** | **Nationalist violence** | * Ireland * Chechnya |
| **Separatist movements** | * Basque (ETA) * Flemish |
| **Ethnic cleansing** | * Bosnian Muslims * Albanian Muslims of Kosovo |

1. The process of decolonization occurred over the course of the century with varying degrees of cooperation, interference, or resistance from European imperialist states
   1. At the end of World War I, President Woodrow Wilson’s principle of national self-determination raised expectations in the non-European world for freedom from colonial domination – expectations that led to international instability
   2. The League of Nations distributed former German and Ottoman possessions to France and Great Britain through the mandate system, thereby altering the imperial balance of power and creating a strategic interest in the Middle East and its oil

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| **Sec. 7B** | **Mandate territories** | * Lebanon and Syria * Iraq * Palestine |

* 1. Despite indigenous nationalist movements, independence for many African and Asian territories was delayed until the mid- and even late 20th century by the imperial powers’ reluctance to relinquish control, threats of interference from other nations, unstable economic and political systems, and Cold War strategic alignments

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| **Sec. 7C** | **Indigenous nationalist movements** | * Indian National Congress * Algeria’s National Liberation Front (FLN) * Ho Chi Minh’s Viet Minh * Sukarno in Indonesia |

**Key Concept 4.2** – *The stresses of economic collapse and total war engendered internal conflicts within European states and created conflicting conceptions of the relationship between the individual and the state, as demonstrated in the ideological battle between liberal democracy, communism, and fascism*

1. The Russian Revolution created a regime based on Marxist-Leninist theory
   1. In Russia, World War I exacerbated long-term problems of political stagnation, social inequality, incomplete industrialization, and food and land distribution, all while creating support for revolutionary change

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| **Sec. 1A** | **Revolutionary change in Russia** | * February/March Revolution * Petrograd Soviet |

* 1. Military and worker insurrections, aided by the revived Soviets, undermined the Provisional Government and set the stage for Lenin’s long-planned Bolshevik Revolution and establishment of a communist state
  2. The Bolshevik takeover prompted a protracted civil war between communist forces and their opponents, who were aided by foreign powers
  3. In order to improve economic performance, Lenin compromised with free-market principles under the New Economic Policy, but after his death, Stalin undertook a centralized program of rapid economic modernization

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| **Sec. 1D** | **Soviet Union’s rapid economic modernization** | * Collectivization * Five-Year Plan |

* 1. Stalin’s economic modernization of the Soviet Union came at a high price, including the liquidation of the kulaks, famine in the Ukraine, purges of political rivals, unequal burdens placed on women, and the establishment of an oppressive political system

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| **Sec. 1E** | **Soviet Union’s oppressive political system** | * Great Purges * Gulags * Secret police |

1. The ideology of fascism, with roots in the pre-World War I era, gained popularity in an environment of postwar bitterness, the rise of communism, uncertain transitions to democracy, and economic instability
   1. Fascist dictatorship used modern technology and propaganda that rejected democratic institutions, promoted charismatic leaders, and glorified war and nationalism to lure the disillusioned
   2. Mussolini and Hitler rose to power by exploiting postwar bitterness and economic instability, using terror and manipulating the fledgling and unpopular democracies in their countries
   3. Franco’s alliance with Italian and German fascists in the Spanish Civil War – in which the Western democracies did not intervene – represented a testing ground for World War II and resulted in authoritarian rule in Spain from 1936 to the mid – 1970’s
   4. After failures to establish functioning democracies, authoritarian dictatorships took power in Central and Eastern Europe during the interwar period

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| **Sec. 2D** | **Authoritarian dictatorships in Central and Eastern Europe** | * Poland * Hungary * Romania |

1. The Great Depression, caused by weaknesses in international trade and monetary theories and practices, undermined Western European democracies and fomented radical political responses throughout Europe
   1. World War I debt, nationalist tariff policies, overproduction, depreciated currencies, disrupted trade patterns, and speculation created weaknesses in economies worldwide
   2. Dependence on post-World War I American investment capital led to financial collapse when, following the 1929 stock market crash, the United States cut off capital flows to Europe
   3. Despite attempts to rethink economic theories and policies and forge political alliances, Western democracies failed to overcome the Great Depression and were weakened by extremist movements

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| **Sec. 3C** | **New economic theories and policies** | * Keynesianism in Britain * Cooperative social action in Scandinavia * Popular Front policies in France |
| **Political alliances** | * National government in Britain * Popular Fronts in France and Spain |

1. Postwar economic growth supported an increase in welfare benefits; however, subsequent economic stagnation led to criticism and limitation of the welfare state
   1. Marshall Plan funds from the United States financed an extensive reconstruction of industry and infrastructure and stimulated an extended period of growth in Western and Central Europe, often referred to as an “economic miracle,” which increased the economic and cultural importance of consumerism
   2. The expansion of cradle-to-grave social welfare programs in the aftermath of World War II, accompanied by high taxes, became a contentious domestic political issue as the budgets of European nations came under pressure in the late 20th century
2. Eastern European nations were defined by their relationship with the Soviet Union, which oscillated between repression and limited reform, until Mikhail Gorbachev’s policies led to the collapse of communist governments in Easter Europe and the fall of the Soviet Union
   1. Central and Eastern European nations within the Soviet bloc followed an economic model based on central planning, extensive social welfare, and specialized production among bloc members
   2. After 1956, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev’s de-Stalinization policies failed to meet their economic goals within the Soviet Union and prompted revolts in Eastern Europe
   3. Following a long period of economic stagnation, Mikhail Gorbachev’s internal reforms of *perestroika* and *glasnost*, designed to make the Soviet system more flexible, failed to stave off the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of its hegemonic control over Eastern and Central European satellites
   4. The rise of new nationalisms in Central and Eastern Europe brought peaceful revolution in most countries but resulted in war and genocide in the Balkans and instability in some former Soviet republics

**Key Concept 4.3** – *During the 20th century, diverse intellectual and cultural movements questioned the existence of objective knowledge, the ability of reason to arrive at truth, and the role of religion in determining moral standards*

1. The widely held belief in progress characteristic of much of 19th-century thought began to break down before World War I; the experience of war intensified a sense of anxiety that permeated many facets of thought and culture, giving way by the century’s end to a plurality of intellectual frameworks
   1. When World War I began, Europeans were generally confident in the ability of science and technology to address human needs and problems despite the uncertainty created by the new scientific theories and psychology
   2. The effects of world war and economic depression undermined this confidence in science and human reason, giving impetus to existentialism and producing postmodernism in the post- 1945 period
2. Science and technology yielded impressive material benefits but also caused immense destruction and posed challenges to objective knowledge
   1. The challenge to the certainties of the Newtonian universe in physics opened the door to uncertainty in other fields by undermining faith in objective knowledge, while also providing the knowledge necessary for the development of nuclear weapons and power

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| **Sec. 2A** | **Physicists** | * Werner Heisenberg * Erwin Schrodinger * Enrico Fermi * Niels Bohr |

* 1. Medical theories and technologies extended life but posed social and moral questions that eluded consensus and crossed religious, political and philosophical perspectives

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| **Sec. 2B** | **Medical theories and technologies** | * Eugenics * Birth control * Abortion | * Fertility treatments * Genetic engineering |

* 1. Military technologies made possible industrialized warfare, genocide, nuclear proliferation, and the risk of global nuclear war

1. Organized religion continued to play a role in European social and cultural life despite the challenges of military and ideological conflict, modern secularism, and rapid social changes
   1. The challenges of totalitarianism and communism in Central and Eastern Europe brought mixed responses from the Christian churches

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| **Sec. 3A** | **Christian responses to totalitarianism** | * Dietrich Bonhoeffer * Martin Niemoller * Pope John Paul II * Solidarity |

* 1. Reform in the Catholic Church found expression in the Second Vatican Council, which redefined the Church’s dogma and practices and started to redefine its relations with other religious communities
  2. Increased immigration into Europe altered Europe’s religious makeup, causing debate and conflict over the role of religion in social and political life

1. During the 20th century, the arts were defined by experimentation, self-expression, subjectivity, and the increasing influence of the United States in both elite and popular culture
   1. New movements in the visual arts, architecture, and music demolished existing aesthetic standards, explored subconscious and subjective states, and satirized Western society and its values

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| **Sec. 4A** | **New movements in the visual arts** | * Cubism * Futurism * Dadaism | * Surrealism * Abstract Expressionism * Pop Art |
| **New architectural movements** | * Bauhaus * Modernism * Postmodernism | |
| **New movements in music** | * Compositions of Igor Stravinsky * Compositions of Arnold Schoenberg * Compositions of Richard Strauss | |

* 1. Throughout the century, a number of writers challenged traditional literary conventions, questioned Western values, and addressed controversial social and political issues

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| **Sec. 4B** | **Writers** | * Franz Kafka * James Joyce * Erich Maria Remarque * Virginia Woolf * Jean-Paul Sartre |

* 1. Increased imports of United States technology and popular culture after World War II generated both enthusiasm and criticism

**Key Concept 4.4** – *Demographic changes, economic growth, total war, disruptions of traditional social patterns, and competing definitions of freedom and justice altered the experiences of everyday life*

1. The 20th century was characterized by large-scale suffering brought on by warfare and genocide as well as tremendous improvements in the standard of living
   1. World War I created a “lost generation,” fostered disillusionment and cynicism, transformed the lives of women, and democratized societies
   2. World War II decimated a generation of Russian and German men; virtually destroyed European Jewry; resulted in the murder of millions in other groups targeted by the Nazis including Roma, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and others; forced large-scale migrations; and undermined prewar class hierarchies
   3. Mass production, new food technologies, and industrial efficiency increased disposable income and created a consumer culture in which greater domestic comforts such as electricity, indoor plumbing, plastics, and synthetic fiber became available
   4. New communication and transportation technologies multiplied the connections across space and time, transforming daily life and contributing to the proliferation of ideas and to globalization

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| **Sec. 1D** | **New communication technologies** | * Telephone * Radio * Television | * Computer * Cell phone * Internet |

1. The lives of women were defined by family and work responsibilities, economic changes, and feminism
   1. During the world wars, women became increasingly involved in military and political mobilization as well as in economic production
   2. In Western Europe through the efforts of feminists, and in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union through government policy, women finally gained the vote, greater educational opportunities, and access to professional careers, even while continuing to face social inequalities

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| **Sec. 2B** | **Feminists and Feminism** | * Simone de Beauvoir * Second-wave feminism |

* 1. With economic recovery after World War II, the birth rate increased dramatically (the Baby Boom), often promoted by government policies

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| **Sec. 2C** | **Government policies promoting population growth** | * Neonatalism * Subsidies for large families * Child-care facilities |

* 1. New modes of marriage, partnership, motherhood, divorce, and reproduction gave women more options in their personal lives

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| **Sec. 2D** | **New modes of managing reproduction** | * Birth-control pills * Scientific means of fertilization |

* 1. Women attained high political office and increased their representation in legislative bodies in many nations

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| **Sec. 2E** | **Women who attained high political office** | * Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain * Mary Robinson of Ireland * Edith Cresson of France |

1. New voices gained prominence in political, intellectual, and social discourse
   1. Green parties in Western and Central Europe challenged consumerism, urged sustainable development, and by the late 20th century, cautioned against globalization
   2. Gay and lesbian movements worked for expanded civil rights, obtaining in some nations the right to form civil partnerships with full legal benefits or to marry
   3. Intellectuals and youth reacted against perceived bourgeois materialism and decadence, most significantly with the revolts of 1968
   4. Because of the economic growth of the 1950’s and 1960’s, numerous guest workers from southern Europe, Asia, and Africa immigrated to Western and Central Europe; however, after the economic downturn of the 1970’s, these workers and their families often became targets of anti-immigrant agitation and extreme nationalist political parties

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| **Sec. 2D** | **Anti-immigration, right-wing parties** | * French National Front * Austrian Freedom Party |