

The Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression and How World War I led to World War II

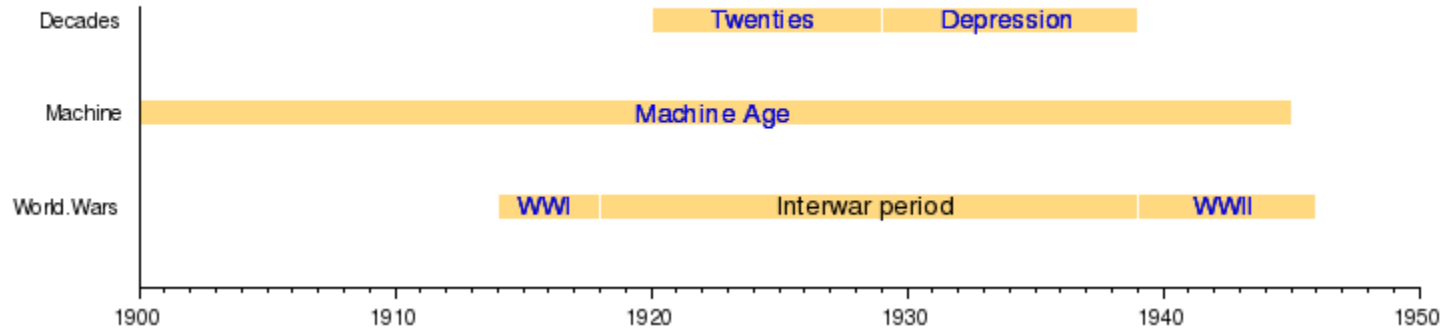


What is the “Time Between the Wars”?

- The years **1919-1939** reflect a period of great change and dramatic differences.
- This 20 year period was between the **end of World War I** and the **beginning of World War II**.
- Europe was devastated after WWI
 - **Europe...the 1920's saw great hardship and struggles** and the 1930's began a period of economic recovery
 - **United States...the 1920's saw great economic conditions** and the 1930's saw the “Great Depression”



When: <http://www.sparknotes.com/history/european/interwaryears/timeline.html>



Where and Why : <http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/>

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Inter-War Period (1919 - 1939)
Global Disposition and Tension Preceding World War II

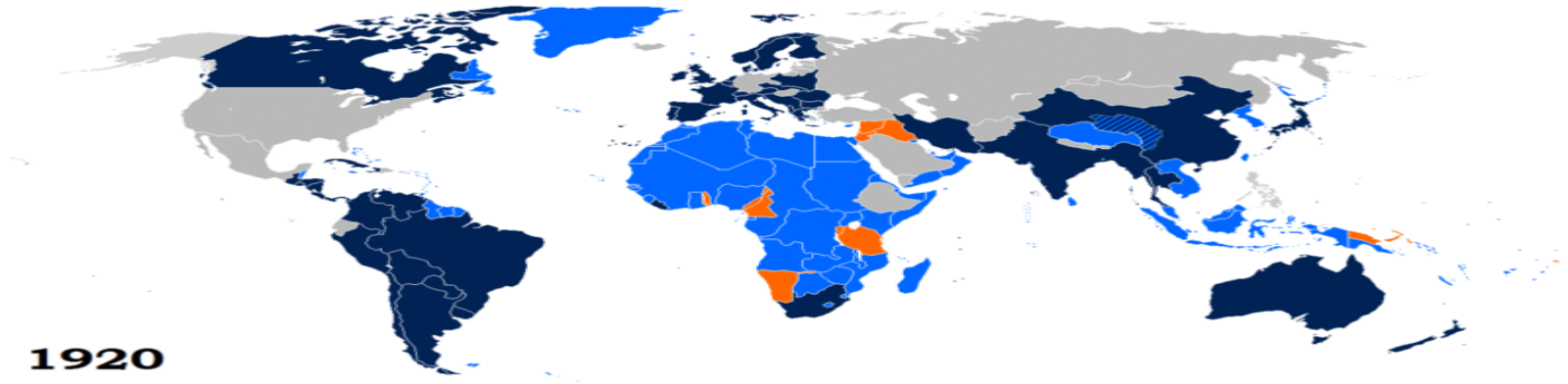
Go to European History Interactive Map

Go to World Disposition Map

Inter War Disposition of Colonies, Not Each Country



Members of the League of Nations



What are the Roaring Twenties?

The Roaring Twenties <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcemYjTdvZ8>

- The 1920s are often called the Jazz Age. African American musicians combined Western harmonies with African rhythms to create jazz. Much of today's popular music has been influenced by jazz.
- While Europe recovered from the war, the United States experienced a boom time. Europeans embraced American popular culture, with its greater freedom and willingness to experiment. The nightclub and the sounds of jazz were symbols of that freedom.
- After the war, rebellious young people, disillusioned by the war, rejected the moral values and rules of the Victorian Age and chased after excitement.



How did some segments of society react to the “Roaring Twenties”?

Reactions to the Roaring Twenties

- Not everyone approved of the freewheeling lifestyle of the Jazz Age/Roaring Twenties.
- For example, many Americans supported **Prohibition**, a ban on the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. The Eighteenth, or Prohibition, Amendment was **ratified in 1919**. It caused an explosion of **organized crime** and **speakeasies**, or illegal bars. The Amendment was **repealed in 1933**.
- Also In the United States in the early 1900s, a **Christian fundamentalist movement** swept rural areas. Fundamentalists support traditional Christian ideas about Jesus and believe that all of the events described in the Bible are literally true. **Popular fundamentalist preachers traveled around the country holding inspirational revival meetings. Some used the new technology of radio to spread their message.**



What is "The Great Depression"?

At the end of the 1920s, an economic crisis began in the United States and spread to the rest of the world.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6whSWn1RRM>

In the **autumn of 1929**, jitters about the economy caused many **people to sell their stocks at once**. Financial **panic set in**. Stock prices crashed, wiping out the fortunes of many investors. The Great Depression, a painful time of global economic collapse, had begun quietly in the summer of 1929 with decreasing production. The **October stock market crash aggravated** the economic decline.



Bank run at American Union Bank



The Depression Spreads

The economic problems quickly spread around the world.

American banks stopped making loans abroad and demanded repayment of foreign loans. Without support from the United States, Germany suffered. It could not make its reparations payments. France and Britain were not able to make their loan payments.

In 1932 and 1933, global world trade sank to its 1900 level. The Great Depression spread misery from the industrial world to Latin America, Africa, and Asia.



How did industrialization and drought make things worse?

THE DUST BOWL!

The **Dust Bowl**, also known as the **Dirty Thirties**, was a period of **severe dust storms that greatly damaged the ecology and agriculture of the US and Canadian prairies** during the 1930s.

A **severe drought** and a failure to apply dryland farming methods to prevent wind erosion caused the phenomenon.

Extensive deep plowing of the virgin topsoil of the Great Plains during the previous decade had displaced the native, deep-rooted grasses that normally trapped soil and moisture even during periods of drought and high winds. Rapid mechanization of farm implements, especially small gasoline tractors and widespread use of the combine harvester, significantly impacted decisions to convert arid grassland (much of which received no more than 10 inches (250 mm) of precipitation per year) to cultivated cropland.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2CiDaUYr90>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYOmjQO_UMw



How did America react in the post WWI era?

The Red Scare” and Isolationism in the United States

The **United States** emerged from World War I in good shape. A late entrant into the war, it had suffered relatively few casualties and little loss of property. However, the United States did experience some domestic unrest. **Fear of radicals and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia set off a “Red Scare” in 1919 and 1920.** Police rounded up suspected foreign-born radicals, and a number were expelled from the United States.

The **“Red Scare”** fed growing demands to limit immigration. In response, Congress passed laws limiting immigration from Europe. Earlier laws had already excluded or limited Chinese and Japanese immigration.



What is Isolationism?

- **Isolationism** is a National policy of **avoiding political or economic entanglements with other countries.**
- **Isolationism** has been a **recurrent theme in U.S. history.**
- The term is most often applied to the **political atmosphere in the U.S. in the 1930s.**

Isolationism was a major factor in **America's reluctance to concern themselves with the growth of fascism.**



How did the Spanish Civil War reflect the effects of isolationism?

On **April 14, 1931** the **Spanish monarchy was overthrown** and In the ensuing years, the government became increasingly divided between the **socialists of the extreme left and the monarchists of the extreme right**.

In the elections of February 1936 the **left won a clear majority**. The **right reacted with fervor**. Generals Goded, Mola, and **Francisco Franco decided to overthrow the government**. The Nationalists took control quickly, in many cases aided by supplies from Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler.

The **Republicans**, were aided by the **Soviet Union**. With only **limited support from France, and none at all from Britain**, One source of support for the Republicans was the presence of the **International Brigades**. These groups of leftist volunteers were made up mostly of workers, who volunteered for adventure and or genuine political idealism.

Comparatively, the Republicans received inadequate support. The **French Popular Front was sympathetic to the republic, but conservatives in the government, who did not want to get involved in a foreign war**. Most important was the stance taken by **Britain, which was more concerned about the spread of communism than fascism**. The British urged the French not to get involved, and remained detached from the situation themselves. This attitude amounted to tacit support for Franco, and forced the Republicans into the arms of the Soviets. **Stalin aided Spain in efforts to strengthen his position against Germany, to appear as the defender of legitimate government**

Italy and Germany use the Spanish Civil War as a “practice war” for the future.

- There were **50,000 Italian soldiers in Spain** at the height of their involvement, and hundreds of airplanes were sent, along with tanks and artillery. The **Germans were far less generous, but sent the famous Condor Legion of about 100 planes, which was largely responsible for the Guernica bombing.** Germany also made a great contribution in the form of specialists and instructors.
- On **April 25, 1937**, the small northern town of **Guernica was bombed by the Nationalists**, and civilians were gunned down as they fled the scene. In this brutal massacre 1500 died and 800 were wounded, **The bombing of Guernica**, while the casualty figures pale in comparison to later numbers, **was crucial in crushing the spirit of the Republicans** and convincing many that to resist the Nationalists was to open the doors to bloodbath.
- **The Spanish Civil War is sometimes referred to as a dress rehearsal for World War II.**



Wisdom

Economic Problems (Rapid Growth, Great Depression, War Debt)

Unstable Political Systems (Rising Socialism and Communism, failing democracies, insecurity)

Societal and Cultural transitions (Roaring Twenties, post WWI modernism, Feminism, end of Victorian morals)

All lead many societies wanting **STRONG, STABLE AND TRADITIONAL** Leadership...thus we enter a period called...**The Rise of Totalitarianism!**

