

Africa

Geography

- Africa has a variety of geographic features. **Rainforests** (*Congo Basin*) and **deserts** (*Sahara*) limit the amount of contact between cultures – limit cultural diffusion.
- Lack of rainfall makes farming difficult in the Sahara region and has led to a growth of *nomadic* (herding) lifestyles. **Desertification** (*increasing in size of the desert*) is caused by overgrazing and the cutting down of trees.



History

- Ancient civilizations (**Mali, Ghana, Songhai, Axum, Kush**, etc...) had well developed cultural, political and social systems.
- The **Nile River** is considered a “*cradle of civilization*”.
- Many African cultures were traditional societies characterized by extended families, rite of passage rituals, arranged marriages and subsistence agriculture.
- Most of Africa was **imperialized** by European nations after the **Berlin Conference** in 1884-1885. Industrialized nations of Europe needed the vast *raw materials* of Africa for their factories. Many African nations received their independence following WWII.
- African nationalism was led by leaders such as **Kwame Nkrumah** (Ghana) and **Jomo Kenyatta** (Kenya)
- **Apartheid** was the legal segregation of the races in South Africa. Blacks were not allowed to vote, had to live in separate areas, had limited employment opportunities and received little education. **Nelson Mandela** formed the *African National Congress* to protest apartheid. He was imprisoned for 25 years, but was released and eventually became the first black president of South Africa.
 - **Bishop Desmond Tutu** led a nonviolent effort to end apartheid by staging boycotts and protests. He won the Nobel Peace Prize.
 - **F.W. deKlerk**, President of South Africa, legalized the ANC and repealed segregation laws ending the apartheid era.



- In **Rwanda** (1994) the *Hutu* extremists began committing genocide against the *Tutsi* minority. Over 500,000 people were killed in a few months.



Contemporary Problems

- Industrialization and urbanization has contributed to a breakdown of traditional culture and caused adjustment problems with rural African groups.
- High birthrates have caused **overpopulation** concerns in some African nations.
- Ethnic tensions, **nationalism** and **tribalism** has caused tension and war throughout much of Africa.
- Since 2003, in **Darfur**, Arabic militias have killed more than 200,000 black villagers, with the unofficial approval of the Sudanese government. More than 2 million villagers have become refugees.
- The spread of **AIDS** has devastated many communities in Africa.



China

Geography

- River valleys – **Huang He, Jangzi** – in the east provide water for irrigation and transportation.
- **Monsoons** influence climate and lifestyle.
- Most people live in the southeast (water).
- Natural barriers such as the **Gobi Desert** and the **Himalaya Mountains** have protected China from invasion, but also limited contact with other cultures (little *cultural diffusion*).



Religion

- **Confucius** was a social philosopher who taught the importance of the family and respect for elders and rulers. Confucianism provided a system for an orderly society and influences Chinese society to this day.

Confucius



History

- China was ruled for many centuries by *dynasties* – Han, Tang, Song – (one family rules and passes control down their family line).
- Around 1400, under the **Ming Dynasty**, China prospered economically and culturally, but limited contact with the outside world.
- China was eventually *imperialized* by many European nations.
- **Opium War** started when the British introduced the opium trade into. The **Treaty of Nanjing** forced China to open trade ports and gave Hong Kong to the British.
- *Spheres of Influence* (areas of China controlled by outside powers) were created.

- In 1900, the **Boxer Rebellion** was a nationalistic movement to rid China of foreign control. It failed due to the superior technology of the European nations.
- In the early 1900's , **Sun Yixian** came to power to lead a nationalist movement.
- **Mao Zedong** led a communist revolution in China in 1949 – after WWII. His programs like the Great Leap Forward – 1958 – (increase industrial and agricultural production) and the Cultural Revolution – 1966 – attempted to make China into a world power. Students formed groups called **Red Guards** to attack anyone seen as non-communist.
- In 1976, Mao Zedong died and was replaced by **Deng Xiaoping**. His leadership brought more economic freedom, but little political change. The Four Modernizations (farming, industry, science & technology, defense) attempted to make China more like Western nations.



Contemporary Issues

- Traditional emphasis on the family has made China the most populous nation in the world. This has strained food production and limited the improvement of living conditions.
- The government has limited the ability of its people to participate in their government. A pro-democracy demonstration in **Tiananmen Square** in May 1989 ended with the military killing many protestors and arresting many others.
- **Hong Kong** was returned, by the British, to China on July 1, 1997.
- The government provides financial incentives to families who limit their offspring to one child




India & Southeast Asia

Geography

- **Ganges & Indus** rivers provide water for farming, and have religious significance.
- **Monsoons** (*seasonal winds*) bring the rainfall necessary for agriculture. Rice is a major food staple.
- Location of India & SE Asia on the route between Europe and the Far East has been the reason for many invasions by nations looking to start trade relations.



History

- India has been imperialized by the **British**. SE Asia was colonized by the French & Dutch.
- India received its independence following WWII due mainly to the efforts of **Mohandas Gandhi**. His ideas of *civil disobedience* and *non-violent (passive) resistance* influenced others experiencing injustice around the world. 
- **Vietnam** was the location of a civil war between the North (*communist*), led by **Ho Chi Minh**, and the South (*democracy*), led by **Ngo Dinh Diem**, that lasted over 20 years – 1950's to 1970's. The U.S. supported the South, while the U.S.S.R. supported the North (*Cold War conflict*). In 1975, the U.S. withdrew its troops and the country was reunited under communist control.
- **Myanmar** is led by a repressive military government. **Aung San Suu Kyi** led opposition to the government and has been repeatedly arrested and freed, since the early 1990's.

Religion

- The vast majority of Indians are **Hindus**. Hinduism teaches belief in *reincarnation* and the *caste system*.
- The caste system is based on the belief that people are born into certain groups in society and must fulfill the roll of their position. There is little to no social mobility from one caste to another. It is similar to *feudalism*.

- India was **partitioned** (split) into the nations of India and Pakistan because the majority of Pakistanis are Muslim and the majority of Indians are Hindu. **Jawaharlal Nehru** became India's 1st Prime Minister. After his death, his daughter **Indira Gandhi** became Prime Minister in 1966. She was assassinated in 1984, and her son, **Rajiv Gandhi** became Prime Minister. He was assassinated in 1991. Relations between the two countries has remained tense, particularly in the disputed area known as Kashmir. Both sides have *nuclear weapons*.

Contemporary Problems

- **Rapid population growth** has made India the world's 2nd most populous country.
- The **Green Revolution** addressed the farmers inability to grow enough food to feed the population. New varieties of seeds, fertilizers, machines and irrigation were introduced in order to increase food production.
- *Industrialization* and *Urbanization* has caused the development of slums in overcrowded cities with sanitation problems and high unemployment.
- **Sikhism** is a religion that blends Hinduism & Islam. Sikhs have demanded independence in the state of Punjab. The Indian government refused and sent troops to the area. Tensions remain between the Sikhs and Hindus.
- **Mother Teresa** devoted her life to helping the poor and sick in the city of Calcutta.



Southeast Asia

Geography

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Religion

- Islam and Buddhism are two of the most popular religions that have been spread along the trade routes of this region

Contemporary Problems

- **Rapid population growth**
- The **Green Revolution** addressed the farmers inability to grow enough food to feed the population. New varieties of seeds, fertilizers, machines and irrigation were introduced in order to increase food production.

- *Industrialization and Urbanization* has caused the development of slums in overcrowded cities with sanitation problems and high unemployment.
- *Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge* were responsible for killing nearly 1.8 million people in Cambodia in the late 1970s



Japan

Geography

- Japan is an island nation (*archipelago*) with **few natural resources**, and must depend on other nations to supply them with the resources they need.
- Surrounded by water, Japan has been isolated from other cultures (*cultural isolation*) during many periods in her history.
- Mountains do not allow for a great deal of farming, therefore Japanese farmers must use their land efficiently (*terracing hillsides*) and import food.



History

- Traditional Japanese religion is **Shintoism** (spirits found in all living and nonliving things).
- Japan was ruled by an *emperor* since about 500 A.D., but fights between warlords led to the development of feudalism in the 1100's.
- For several hundred years, military rulers controlled Japan. (**Shogun, Daimyo, Samurai, Peasants, Merchants, Women**)
- The dynasty that took control in 1603 – **Tokugawa Shogunate** - brought stability and prosperity to Japan but imposed a rigid political and social order.
- In 1853, an American fleet led by **Commodore Matthew Perry**, sailed to Japan to “encourage” them to trade with the U.S.
- The **Meiji (Restoration)** government took power in 1868 and used western ideas to begin a program of *westernization, modernization* and *industrialization*. Japan turned into a major industrial power. Wealthy families (*zaibatsu*) became powerful in banking and industry.
- Japan became aggressive with its neighbors, adopting a policy of **imperialism**, in order to obtain much needed natural resources for its factories.



1894-1895...**Sino-Japanese War** – war with China over territory in Korea – Japan won

1904-1905...**Russo-Japanese War** – war with Russia over territory in Korea – Japan won

Dec. 7, 1941...Japanese forces attacked **Pearl Harbor** – brought U.S. into **WWII**

- Aug. 6 & 9, 1945 – atomic bombs dropped on **Hiroshima** & **Nagasaki**...ended WWII, but started *Atomic Age*



- Japan's new Constitution created a Constitutional Monarchy with a Representative Democracy.

Economy

- Lack of natural resources makes it necessary to import the natural resources used in modern industrial production.
- Japan has used technology and education of a highly skilled workforce to become a leading economic power in the global economy.
- Japan is a leader in the production of electronics and automobiles.
- There is a favorable "*balance of trade*", with more exports than imports.

Contemporary Problems

- Lack of living space for its population, but population growth is very small.
- Dependence on the Middle East for **oil** has caused problems.
- Traditional views of women keep them in lower positions than men in the workforce.

Latin America

Geography

- Rainforest of the Amazon River basin and the Andes Mountains isolate people from each other and prevent *cultural diffusion*.
- Most of the population lives along the coastal areas.

History

- Latin America was colonized by **Spain** – followed by a policy of *mercantilism* (mother country took natural resources from the colony and produced finished products) – benefits mother country but left colony poor and dependent.
- European explorers destroyed the ancient civilizations of the **Incas, Mayas, and Aztecs** that had well developed cultures and societies.
- The U.S. has been interested in the area because of its close proximity. The U.S. has tried to stop the spread of communism (*containment*) since the Cuban Revolution brought **Fidel Castro** and a communist government to power in 1959.
- In 1977, the U.S. signed a treaty with Panama agreeing to return the Panama Canal Zone to Panama on Jan. 1, 2000.



Religion and Society

- Most Latin Americans are Catholics, since the Spanish brought this religion during the colonization period.
- Many Latin American people are a mix of European, native Indian, and black slaves brought to work on the plantations.

Government and Economy

- Many governments have been controlled by military dictators (Cuba, etc...).
- Political and economic power has been held by wealthy landowners and backed by the military.
- Peasants and tenant farmers are in favor of land reform efforts that will give land to more people.

Argentina – 1946 : **Juan Peron** establishes a repressive military government...1983 : democratic elections...2001 : economic crisis

Nicaragua – 1936-1979 : led by repressive, anti-communist **Somoza** family...1979 : Sandanistas, pro-Communist group, overthrow Sandanistas...opposed by U.S.-backed **Contras**...1990 : democratic elections

Mexico – 1960-2000 : led by **Institutional Revolutionary Party** (PRI)...illegal immigration and drug trafficking continue to be problems with U.S.

- The economies of many countries have been based on production of one cash crop (*single cash crop economy*) for export, such as - bananas, coffee, cocoa, etc...
- Industrialization has brought many new companies to Latin America to take advantage of cheap labor.
- **NAFTA** (North American Free Trade Agreement) signed between U.S., Canada and Mexico, in 1993, to allow free trade.
- Many nations have had to borrow large amounts of \$\$\$ (capital) from developed nations creating *huge debts*.

Contemporary Problems

- Rapid population growth has shifted much of the population to cities (*urbanization*) to look for jobs, resulting in the creation of **slums** and **barrios** with overcrowded conditions and poor sanitation.
- **Deforestation** (cutting down of the rainforests) for lumber and farmland in the Amazon basin, has contributed to an increase in the **Greenhouse Effect** (global warming).
 - 50 million acres of rainforest disappearing each year
- **Drug cartels** have operated out of many Latin American nations since the 1980's (Mexico, Panama, Colombia ...)



Middle East

Geography

- The Middle East is mainly **desert**.
- People live near the coast and rivers, often separated by hundreds of miles.
- Scarcity of fresh water is a concern.
- The **Tigris-Euphrates** (*Fertile Crescent*) river valley is a “cradle of civilization”.
- Location at the crossroads of 3 continents (Europe, Africa, Asia) has made the M.E. a trading center and important strategic location.



History

- Ancient civilizations include –
 - **Hebrew** – monotheism, Ten Commandments
 - **Egyptian** – pyramids, astronomy
 - **Phoenicians** – alphabet
- The M.E. was *imperialized* by the Europeans, with independence following WWII.
- Israel was founded in 1948, as a homeland for the **Jews** (*Zionism*). This event caused tensions with the **Palestinians** (Arab) population that lived in Palestine. A clash of nationalism occurred over control of the land.
- Israel captured territory (West Bank, Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights) as a result of winning the **Six Days War** in 1967, which has caused continued tensions.
- The **Palestinian Liberation Organization** (PLO), originally led by **Yassir Arafat**, seeks a permanent homeland for the Palestinians and has used terrorism to achieve its goals.
- In 1978, the **Camp David Peace Accords** was signed between Israel (**Menachem Begin**) and Egypt (**Anwar Sadat**). It was mediated by US President **Jimmy Carter** in order to bring an end to war between Israel and Egypt.



- A cycle of war and peace has continued between Israel and many of its Arab neighbors.
- In 1979, **Ayatollah Khomeini** led an Islamic fundamentalist revolution in **Iran**. The revolution was a reaction to the westernization of Iran by **Shah Reza Pahlavi**. Ayatollah Khomeini declared Iran an *Islamic republic* (strict adherence to Islamic law, rights taken away from women, anti-Western). The law of the land is the **Koran**. Iran is now led by confrontational leader **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**.
- In 1980, Iraq (**Saddam Hussein**) invaded Iran. The war lasted until 1988.
- In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. When Iraq refused to withdraw from Iraq, the U.S. and its allies began the Persian Gulf War (1991). The U.S. quickly won the war, Kuwait was liberated, but Saddam Hussein stayed in power.
- On Sept. 11, 2001 the U.S. was attacked in NYC and Washington D.C., by **al Qaeda** terrorists. The U.S. attacked Afghanistan (**Taliban**) because we accused them of harboring terrorist groups. The Taliban was removed from power in Afghanistan.
- In 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq. The U.S. accused Iraq of harboring terrorist groups. Saddam Hussein was captured in Dec. 2003, tried for crimes against humanity and executed in Dec. 2006.



Religion

- The Middle East is the home to 3 monotheistic religions – **Judaism, Christianity, Islam**.
- Islam is the major cultural force in the region. The spread of Islam is a good example of cultural diffusion.

Economy

- The Middle East has 2/3 of the world's known oil reserves and oil profits are the basis of the region's economy.
- **OPEC** (*Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries*) regulates oil prices by controlling oil supply.



Contemporary Problems

- Tensions over land (Arab-Israeli, Iran-Iraq, Iran-Kuwait, ...) and religion (Christian-Muslim, Arab-Israeli, ...) continue to be a problem.

Russia & the U.S.S.R.

Geography

- There are *9 time zones* in Russia encompassing a great geographic and climatic diversity.
- Russia has a wealth of natural resources, but access to them has often been difficult.
- Russian history includes repeated attempts at expansion in order to gain access to a **warm water port** on the Black or Mediterranean Sea.



History

- The **Mongols** ruled early Russian history, cutting off access to the West (cultural isolation).
- The **Romanov family** established a hereditary monarchy with a *czar* as ruler and a strict social structure, with landowning nobility controlling tenant peasants or serfs (*feudalism*).
- **Russian Revolution of 1917** was caused by Nicholas II's inability to reform. A lack of industrialization caused Russia's defeat in WWI. The **Bolshevik Party**, led by **Vladimir Lenin**, set up a communist (Marxist) government and gained the support of the peasants by offering "*peace, bread and land.*"
- **Joseph Stalin** followed Lenin and turned the **USSR** (*Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*) into a totalitarian state which limited rights and emphasized obedience to the government.
- Stalin created a command economy where government planners made all economic decisions. **Five Year Plans** set production goals and led a push to industrialize. **Collectivized** agriculture was resisted by the peasants who were persecuted for not cooperating.



- USSR became a global **superpower** following WWII (1945). **Cold War** (1945-1989) was fought between the US and the USSR for influence around the world. There was no direct fighting between superpowers but many regional conflicts where they supported opposing sides-
 - **Korea** – 1950's
 - **Vietnam** – 1960's – 1970's
 - **Afghanistan** – 1980's
- USSR set up communist governments in the nations of Eastern Europe after WWII to protect against invasion from Western European nations. These countries were called “*satellites*” – Poland, Hungary, E. Germany, etc...
- A period of reduced tension (*détente*) – 1970's – included a **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)** to help reduce the threat of nuclear war.
- **Mikhail Gorbachev's** programs of **perestroika** (*capitalist economic reform*) and **glasnost** (*political freedoms of press, speech, etc...*) contributed to the breakdown of the USSR's control of satellite nations.
- A failed *coup d'état* attempt by communist hardliners in Aug. 1991, led to the disintegration of the USSR into 15 separate nations (Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Belarus, etc...).
- **Boris Yeltsin** became the first elected leader of Russia (1991-1999), and began the process of transformation into a capitalist economy and a democratic government.
- **Vladimir Putin** replaced Yeltsin, but there has been concern over his suppression of dissent and commitment to democracy in Russia.



Contemporary Problems

- In 1986, a nuclear disaster at the **Chernobyl** nuclear power plant exposed large numbers of people to deadly radiation. Radiation also spread across many nations in Europe.
- When the USSR collapsed, it refused to grant independence to **Chechnya**. Chechen rebels have fought a *nationalist terrorism campaign* against Russian leaders. Russia continues to refuse Chechen independence.
- Russia is experiencing difficulties transitioning from a command economy to a market economy.

Western Europe 509 B.C to 1200 A.D.

Ancient Greece

- Greece is made up of many mountains and islands – this geography prevented the Greeks from building a large empire like that of Egypt or Mesopotamia.
- Greece did not form a large, unified empire, but existed as a collection of small city-states known as a **POLIS**
- The two most powerful city-states were **SPARTA** and **ATHENS**.
- **SPARTA** was a warrior society, and from an early age, boys trained for a lifetime in the military. Although **SPARTA** was an excellent military state, its power declined as a result of its rigid ways and its inability to change.
- A wise leader named **PERICLES** ruled **ATHENS** from 460 B.C. to 429 B.C. Under **PERICLES**, **ATHENS** had a **DIRECT DEMOCRACY**, in which a large number of the male citizens actually took part in the day-to-day running of the government. **ATHENS** gave a greater number of people a voice in government than did any other culture of its time.
- Ancient Greek and Hellenistic culture left an enduring legacy. In addition to their ideas about government, Greeks made contributions in philosophy, literature, science, and the arts.
- **SOCRATES** – developed Socratic method: learning about beliefs and ideas by asking questions – Government put him to death
- **PLATO** – believed government should control the lives of people, divided society into three classes – workers, philosophers, and soldiers
- **ARISTOTLE** – believed one strong and good leader should rule, believed people learned through reason
- **ALEXANDER THE GREAT** built an empire that included the Nile Valley, Persia, and parts of India. Through his conquests **ALEXANDER** spread Greek culture. A new **HELLENISTIC CULTURE** arose that blended aspects of Greek, Persian and Egyptian, and Indian life.

Ancient Rome

- Italy's geography helped its people to unite – low mountains presented fewer natural barriers, fertile plains supported a growing population
- **ROMAN REPUBLIC** – officials were chosen by the people – the **SENATE** was the most powerful governing body
- **PATRICIANS** – land holding upper class – supervised the business of the government and commanded the armies
- **PLEBIANS** – farmers, merchants, artisans, and traders – made up most of the population but held little power
- **ROMAN EMPIRE** – after the murder of **JULIUS CAESAR** his grandnephew **OCTAVIAN** – later called **AUGUSTUS** ruled with absolute power bringing the republic to an end
- **PAX ROMANA** (Roman Peace) – the Roman Empire took control of Europe, North Africa and Southwest Asia – Roman rule brought order and prosperity – Roman legions maintained an extensive **ROAD SYSTEM** and guarded the borders – expansion allowed the empire to take over prosperous trade routes throughout the Mediterranean
- **TWELVE TABLES** – a system of laws was Rome's greatest achievement – these laws were written and displayed in the forum
- Engineering – Arch and Aqueducts
- Fall of the Roman Empire – the army lacked discipline and order, foreign mercenaries were needed, high taxes, government corruption, population decline, and selfish lazy citizens
- The Roman Empire was divided into east and west. The east was prosperous under the control of the **BYZANTINE EMPIRE** and the west was chaotic and disorganized lacking in a strong central power. The **CHRISTIAN CHURCH** became the one unifying force of western Europe.

Medieval Europe

- Europe had many natural resources – dense forests with valuable timber, fertile soil was excellent for growing crops, supply of iron ore and coal, the oceans were used for trade and transportation.
- The Middle Ages or, **MEDIEVAL** period, lasted from about 500 to the middle of the 1400s.
- The collapse of the Roman Empire left Western Europe with no unifying government
- Political, social and economic systems such as **FEUDALISM** and **MANORIALISM** emerged, that were based on powerful local lords and their landholdings

- A strict social hierarchy existed
- The **CHRISTIAN CHURCH** emerged as a unifying force in Western Europe and had great influence over economic, and social as well as religious life.
- **BATTLE OF TOURS** – in 732 the Frankish army stopped the advance of the Islamic invaders and became the defenders of the Christian Church
- **CHARLEMAGNE** – built an empire that stretched across modern-day France, Germany and part of Italy, he was crowned **HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR** by Pope Leo III, he sent out officials called **MISSI DOMINICI** to check on conditions throughout the empire, he encouraged learning and set up a school to ensure the education of government officials, his empire fell apart upon his death.

Feudalism & Manorialism

- Kings were too weak to keep invaders out of their kingdoms – people began to leave towns and cities – and banded together in the countryside for protection and survival
- Everyone had a well-defined place in medieval society – people were born into their social position and there was little chance for moving beyond them
- **NOBILITY** – kings, queens, greater lords, lesser lords and knights – controlled the land and power
- **CLERGY** – church officials respected due to the control the Church had over society
- **PEASANTS** – bulk of the population, worked the land and served the nobles
- **FEUDALISM** – loosely structured political system in which **NOBLES** owned large sections of land – this land was divided into **FIEFS** and given to **VASSALS** or lesser lords who pledged their loyalty in return
- Knighthood – because medieval Europe was often at war, many nobles trained to become knights – knights were bound by a strict **CODE OF CHIVALRY** that required them to be brave, loyal and honest.
- **MANORIALISM** – an economic system structured around a lord's estate or manor – each group in society had a place with certain rights and responsibilities
- **SERFS** – peasants who lived on the estate, were not slaves but could not leave without permission from the noble
- Serfs farmed and worked the lord's land in exchange for the right to use some of the land to farm for their family
- The lord was supposed to protect the serfs in times of war and crisis

Roman Catholic Church

- The Roman Catholic Church became the main stabilizing force in Western Europe
- The Roman Catholic Church provided religious leadership as well as **SECULAR** or worldly leadership
- The Roman Catholic Church played a key role in reviving and preserving learning
- The Roman Catholic Church taught that all men and women were sinners but that Christians could achieve salvation or eternal life in heaven through faith in Jesus, good works, and participation in sacraments
- The Roman Catholic Church held great economic power as a result of its large landholdings and collection of the tithe, a 10% tax on Christian incomes
- The Roman Catholic Church had its own laws, **CANNON LAW**, complete with courts of justice
- The Roman Catholic Church claimed authority over **SECULAR** rulers – the kings of Europe did not always agree leading to disagreements and power struggles – the Pope sometimes **EXCOMMUNICATED** those who attempted to challenge its power
- **ANTI-SEMITISM** – the Roman Catholic Church banned Jews from owning land or practicing many occupations leading to prejudice against the Jews – over time the Jews were blamed for much of the misfortunes, famine and disease experienced in Europe – they were also blamed for the death of Jesus – the Jews began to escape to Eastern Europe

Crusades

- In the 1050s the Seljuk Turks, who were Muslims, invaded the Byzantine empire and conquered Palestine.
- The Christian Church called for a movement to drive the Muslims out of Palestine.
- For nearly 200 Years, Christians fought a series of religious wars known as the CRUSADES.
- The war failed to regain Palestine and left a legacy of hatred and distrust between Christians and Muslims
- As a result of the Crusades trade increased and the European economy expanded
- As a result of the Crusades feudal monarchs gained more power
- As a result of the Crusades Europeans learned of lands beyond their borders
- As a result of the Crusades Europeans benefited from the learning and cultural achievements of Islam

Western Europe from 1200 to 1789

End of the Middle Ages

- Impact of the Crusades – increased European interest in the East, cultural diffusion, ships that had been used to carry crusaders back and forth to the Holy Land could now be used for trade, trade continued between the Middle East and Europe through Italy
- Italian City-States – by the late 1300s northern Italian cities had become flourishing centers of industry and trade, - Venice, Genoa, and Florence had grown rich and powerful
- **HANSEATIC LEAGUE** – traders and merchants in northern German towns united to provide security along trade routes – this organization eventually monopolized trade in the Baltic and North Seas - the league worked together to make navigation safer by controlling piracy, building lighthouses and training sailors
- The riches that **SPICES** could bring prompted many to risk their lives traveling to Asia to acquire them
- By the early 1400s Portugal began to explore the east coast of Africa. Trade brought great wealth to Portugal



Bubonic Plague

- **BLACK DEATH** was a highly contagious disease spread by fleas that lived on rats – shortly after being bitten by a flea, people developed swellings and black bruises on their skin and within a few days died in agony
- The plague first appeared in Chinese cities – the resurgence of that helped the plague spread
- Population Losses - 35 million died in China - 7000 died per day in Cairo Egypt - 1/3 of the population of Europe died – the disruption of trade caused some cities and provinces that had grown rich struggled to survive
- Economic Decline – with so many dead farm and industrial production declined
- Peasant Revolts – those who survived began to demand higher wages for increased work loads – when landowners and merchants attempted to prevent higher wages the peasants revolted

- Feudalism Declines – the peasant revolts weakened the power of the landowners and this allowed monarchs to begin to gain greater power and authority over society
- Power of the Church – people began to question their faith and the Church itself, some turned to magic and witchcraft
- Anti-Semitism – many blamed the Jews, accusing them of poisoning wells etc. – as a result many thousands were murdered

Commercial Revolution

- An increase in the importance of trade brought Europe not only an economy based on money but also a new middle class
- A growing population and an increase in trade led to the growth of towns and cities
- A new **MIDDLE CLASS** of merchants, traders, and artisans emerged – they were called the middle class because they ranked between the older feudal classes of nobles and peasants
- **GUILDS** were trade associations that made sure the quality of goods stayed high, provided social services for members, regulated hours of work and prices of goods, ensured a supply of new artisans by training young people called **APPRENTICES**
- **CAPITALISM** is based on trade and capital – when the demand for a product is great, prices rise and traders profit – however, traders can lose everything when demand falls
- **JOINT STOCK COMPANIES** – merchants sometimes joined together in partnerships – by pooling their capital (money) they could finance ventures no single merchant could have afforded – **JOINT STOCK COMPANIES** invested in trade around the world
- Individual merchants often did not have the capital they needed for overseas trade so they borrowed from moneylenders, who developed systems of **BANKING** – banks also provided Bills of Exchange
- The use of money undermined serfdom leading to the decline of feudalism – because feudal lords needed money to buy goods, peasants sold their farm products and began paying their lords with money rather than labor

Renaissance

- The period from the 1300s to the 1500s was a time of great creativity and change in Europe. This period is called the **RENAISSANCE**, which means “rebirth”. It was a golden age in the arts, literature, and sciences

- The Renaissance began in Italy in the mid-1300s and then spread northward. The cities of Italy were thriving centers of trade and manufacturing – Merchants in these cities had great wealth and were willing to promote art and education
- **HUMANISM** – artists were curious about life in the present and emphasized the achievements of individuals – instead of religious topics, humanists examined worldly subjects and re-explored the subjects of the ancient Greeks and Romans
- **PRINTING PRESS** – the invention of moveable type led to Johann Gutenberg invention of the printing press – books became cheaper and easier to make, more people began to read and write, people also had access to new knowledge about such subjects as medicine and geography- printed Bibles increased the spread of religious ideas

Reformation

- Renaissance Humanism led people to question Church authority placing increasing faith in human reason
- Strong national monarchs were emerging – they increased their power by supporting reformers against the Church
- Problems in the Church – belief the church leaders were acting more like kings fighting for power and wealth, rather than representatives of God – others objected to charging higher fees for marriages and baptisms, and selling indulgences or pardons for sins
- **95 THESES** – arguments against church abuses and the sale of indulgences posted by Martin Luther
- **MARTIN LUTHER** – did not believe in sale of indulgences, believed Christians reached heaven only through faith, did not believe that priests had special powers, had ideas that spread to northern Germany and Scandinavia, had followers that later called themselves Protestants
- **JOHN CALVIN** – believed Christians reached heaven only through faith in God, believed people are born sinners, preached predestination, had ideas that spread to Germany, France, Holland, England and Scotland, led a community in Switzerland
- **COUNTER REFORMATION** – goal was to strengthen the Catholic Church, and keep Catholics from converting to Protestantism
- **COUNCIL OF TRENT** – instituted Church reforms, ended the sale of indulgences and created the INDEX, a list of banned books
- **INQUISITION** – trials and torture were used by the Church to find and punish individuals suspected of breaking from official church teachings, traditions, and practices

- The Reformation created a loss of religious unity in Western Europe
- The Reformation caused religious civil wars for more than 100 years
- The Reformation caused Anti-Semitism – mistreatment of the Jews by both the Catholics and Protestants
- The Reformation led to witch hunts

Limited Monarchy in England

- **COMMON LAW**– established by Henry II was a set of laws that were the same for all people
- **MAGNA CARTA** – signed by King John I in 1215, forced the king to obey the law and seek permission from the Great Council of lords and clergy before raising taxes
- **PARLIAMENT** – the Great Council evolved into the representative assembly known as Parliament
- **ANGLICAN CHURCH** – desiring a divorce and annulment King Henry VIII broke from the Catholic Church during the Reformation
- **PURITAN REVOLUTION (ENGLISH CIVIL WAR)** – Parliamentary forces went to war with King Charles over his attempts to gain absolute power and rule in England – Charles was convicted of treason and executed.
- **COMMONWEALTH** – Oliver Cromwell takes control of England after the Civil War and rules as a military dictator
- **RESTORATION** – in 1660 Parliament invited Charles II, son of Charles I, to become king of England – his brother James II inherited the throne in 1685 and quickly became unpopular because of his Catholicism and absolutist policies
- **GLORIOUS REVOLUTION** – fearing the return of Catholicism, Parliament asked James’s daughter Mary and her Dutch husband, William to take the English throne as long as they agreed to the **ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS**.
- **ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS** – stated that the king must work regularly with Parliament, the king must give the House of Commons financial control, abolished excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishment, affirmed habeus corpus, meaning that no person could be held in jail without first being charged with a crime
- England became a **LIMITED MONARCHY**, a government in which a legislative body limits the monarch’s power

Absolutism

- In the 1500s and 1600s several rulers in Asia and Europe sought to centralize their political power
- This trend led to **ABSOLUTISM**, in which the autocratic rulers had complete authority over the governments and the lives of the people in their nation
- Claiming **DIVINE RIGHT**, or authority from God, leaders such as Phillip II in Spain and Louis XIV (Sun King – “I am the state”) in France gained complete authority over their governments and their subjects
- England resisted the establishment of absolutism – after a civil war, England’s Parliament enacted a Bill of Rights that limited the English monarch’s power

Exploration & Encounter

- In the 1400s, seeking a greater share of the rich Asian spice trade, Europeans began to make oceanic voyages of exploration
- Benefitting from new technology, **COMPASS, ASTROLABE, CARAVEL**, the Portuguese and the Spanish were the first to establish global trade empires in the 1500s
- The Dutch, English and French soon joined them, competing for colonies in Asia, the Americas, and Africa during the 1600s and 1700s
- These interactions had a great global impact as food, people, plants, animals, technology and diseases passed from continent to continent – this was known as the **COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE**
- The **SLAVE TRADE** between Africa and the Americas developed into a huge and profitable business

Scientific Revolution

- In the 1500s and 1600s, the **SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION** changed the way Europeans looked at the world. People began to make conclusions based on experimentation and observation instead of merely accepting traditional ideas.
- Throughout the Middle Ages, European scholars believed that Earth was the center of the universe. This idea was based on Greco-Roman theories and the teachings of the Church.
- European scientists began to think differently in the 1500s. Influenced by the critical spirit of the Renaissance, they questioned the old ideas about the world.

- **NICOLAUS COPERNICUS** – challenged the belief that Earth was a the center of the universe and used mathematical formulas to suggest the universe was **HELIOCENTRIC** or sun-centered
- **GALILEO GALILEI** – used the telescope to observe the skies to further support the heliocentric model of the universe – his teachings challenged the teachings of the Church and he was put on trial and forced to take back his findings.
- **ISAAC NEWTON** – developed the laws of motion and the laws of gravity
- **SCIENTIFIC METHOD** – relied on experimentation and observation rather than on past authorities

Enlightenment

- During the 1600s and 1700s belief in the power of reason grew. Writers of the time sought to reform government and bring about a more just society.
- Despite opposition from government and church leaders, Enlightenment ideas spread. Some absolute rulers used their power to reform society.
- Over time, concepts of democracy and of nationhood from Enlightenment ideas and contributed to revolutions.
- Writers sought to use reason to discover **NATURAL LAWS** or laws that govern human behavior
- By applying the scientific method of investigation and observation scholars thought they could solve the problems of society
- The **ENLIGHTENMENT** introduced new ways of viewing authority, power, government, and law
- **THOMAS HOBBS** – *Leviathan* – people are generally greedy and selfish, only a powerful government can create a peaceful, orderly society
- **JOHN LOCKE**– *Two Treatises on Civil Government* – people have natural rights (life, liberty, property) it is the job of the government to protect these natural rights, if government does not protect these rights the people have the right to overthrow it
- **MONTESQUIEU** – the powers of government should be separated into three branches, each branch will keep the other branches from becoming too powerful
- **JEAN-JAQUES ROUSSEAU** – in a perfect society people both make and obey laws, what is good for everyone is more important than what is good for one person, **SOCIAL CONTRACT**
- **VOLTAIRE** – believed in free speech, religious toleration and intellectual freedom

Western Europe 1789 to Present

French Revolution

- Starting in 1789, the French Revolution had deep and lasting impact on France, Europe, and other areas of the world.
- Causes of the French Revolution – **ABSOLUTE MONARCHY** – under absolutism most people in France were denied basic rights and any say in government
- Causes of the French Revolution – **SOCIAL INEQUALITY** – the First Estate (nobility) and the Second Estate (clergy) were exempt from paying taxes while the third estate (middle class, working class, peasants) paid a heavy tax burden and a lack of political, economic and social rights
- Causes of the French Revolution – **ECONOMIC CRISIS** – the government with its lavish court and expensive wars spent more than it earned – this debt added to the huge tax burden of the third estate and a bad harvest in 1788 caused prices to rise, food shortages and riots
- Causes of the French Revolution – **ENLIGHTENMENT** – Enlightenment thinkers were critical of France's absolute monarchy and called for democratic reforms
- Causes of the French Revolution – **ENGLISH & AMERICAN EXAMPLES** – England's Glorious Revolution provided an example of how existing authority could be challenged and the inspiration provided by the American Colonies' successful fight for liberty and equality
- In 1789, King Louis XVI finally called the **ESTATES GENERAL**, a body made up of all three estates into session
- The Third Estate, the only elected group in the Estates General declared itself the **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** and vowed to write a new constitution for France
- Working-class people already rioting over the price of bread, stormed the **BASTILLE PRISON** on July 14, 1789. In a period known as the **GREAT FEAR**, peasants attacked nobles and destroyed their homes



- **DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN** – states all men have natural rights, declares the job of government to protect the natural rights of the people, guarantees all male citizens equality under the law, states that people are free to practice any religion they choose, promises to tax people according to how much they can afford
- In 1793, the king was executed for treason. This event was followed by a period in France known as the **REIGN OF TERROR**, led in part by Maximilien Robespierre, a radical revolutionary
- Beginning in 1795 a five-man “Directory” supported by a legislature held power in France
- In 1799, a popular general **NAPOLEON BONAPARTE**, helped overthrow the weak Directory in a **COUP D’ETAT**, or revolt by military leaders to overthrow a government – He organized a new government and put himself in charge eventually becoming “Emperor of the French”
- Much of Napoleon’s popularity came from his effective policies – price control, support for new industry, road and canal construction, establishment of a government-supervised public school system
- **NAPOLEONIC CODE** – a legal code that included many Enlightenment ideas such as the legal equality of citizens and religious toleration
- Napoleon’s Empire – from 1804 to 1814, Napoleon ruled an empire – he conquered much of Europe often replacing the monarchs of defeated nations with his friends and relatives – only Great Britain and Russia remained beyond Napoleon’s reach
- Napoleon’s Fall – inspired by **NATIONALISM**, a feeling of pride in one’s country and a desire for self-determination, people across Europe revolted against French rule – the French army was destroyed in a failed invasion of Russia – he was forced into exile – returned for a **HUNDRED DAYS** only to be defeated again and sent back into exile
- Effects of the French Revolution – the ideals of **DEMOCRACY** spread throughout Europe as people wanted liberty from absolute monarchs and unjust governments- **NATIONALISM** – this pride and sense of national identity replaced earlier loyalty to local authority and the monarch

Congress of Vienna

- After Napoleon’s defeat, European diplomats met at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 to devise a peace settlement.
- The meeting was dominated by **PRINCE KLEMONS VON METTERNICH** of Austria who wanted to restore Europe to the way it was before the French Revolution.

- They wanted to establish a **BALANCE OF POWER** or a distribution of military and economic power that prevents any one nation from becoming too strong
- They also wanted to restore power to the monarchs
- The Congress of Vienna was the first of many reactions in Europe against the revolutionary ideals of the 1700s and 1800s
- It was a victory for **CONSERVATISM**, a set of beliefs held by those who wanted to preserve traditional ways

European Nationalism

- The Vienna settlement helped to maintain peace among nations in Europe for almost 100 years but it did not stop revolutions from occurring inside of many nations
- Revolts occurred in many places across Europe from the time of the Congress through about 1850
- **LIBERALISM** – people opposed the power of monarchs and sought democratic reforms
- **NATIONALISM** – people wanted independent nation-states that were free from foreign rule
- **REVOLUTIONS OF 1830** – the French alarmed by their monarch’s attempt to restore absolutism, successfully revolted and created a constitutional monarchy. Attempts to gain independence in Greece and Belgium were successful while similar attempts in Italy, Germany and Poland were defeated
- **REVOLUTIONS OF 1848** – liberals and radicals in France, Austria, Italy and Germany attempted to overthrow the elite conservative regime, these revolts frightened many of Europe’s rulers and forced many concessions and reforms from the ruling class
- In general, however, most of the revolts of 1830 and 1848 failed due to a lack of widespread support, division among the revolutionaries, and being crushed by powerful government forces
- The three great leaders of Italian nationalism were Giuseppe Mazzini (formed the Young Italy movement and his speeches provided the inspiration to the movement), Count Camillo Cavour (prime minister of Sardinia who formed alliances with France and Prussia and used diplomacy and war to drive Austrian power from Italy), and Giuseppe Garibaldi (leader of the Red Shirts, an army that won control of southern Italy and helped unite with the north)
- **OTTO VON BISMARCK** was appointed chancellor of Prussia, and believed that the only way to unify Germany was through a policy of “**BLOOD AND IRON**” and that the only way to unite the German states was through war.

Industrial Revolution

- In the mid-1700s, the Agrarian Revolution in Europe contributed to an increase in population
- The Agrarian Revolution led to the Industrial Revolution, which began in Great Britain and then spread to other countries
- Economic and social conditions around the world changed dramatically as a result of the Industrial Revolution.
- Many new ideas about how to deal with the problems of industrialization developed and reforms were enacted
- Eventually, industrialization led to mass migration and increased global trade
- **FACTORIES** – brought workers and machines together in one place
- **ADAM SMITH** – wrote *The Wealth of Nations* which promoted **LAISSEZ FAIRE** ideas
- **CAPITALISM** – stated that the economy should be governed by the natural forces of **SUPPLY AND DEMAND** and competition among businesses
- **THOMAS MALTHUS** – *Essay on the Principle of Population* where he argued that because population tended to increase more rapidly than the food supply, the poor would continue today, but because he believed in laissez faire did not urge the government to step in to help the poor but rather encouraged the poor to have fewer children.
- **SOCIAL DARWINISM** – belief that successful businesspeople were successful because they were more naturally fit to succeed than others – war allowed stronger nations to weed out weaker ones – also played a part in racism and the belief that one race is superior to another and the rise of imperialism.
- **KARL MARX** – *The Communist Manifesto* – argued that history was a series of class struggles between wealthy capitalists (bourgeoisie) and the working class (proletariat) and that in order to make profits capitalists took advantage of the proletariat, encouraged the proletariat to rise up and overthrow the capitalist class, creating its own society where they were in control of the means of production and establish a communist society in which wealth and power would be equally shared
- **SADLER REPORT** – this report by the British Parliament revealed the horrible working conditions faced by children in the factories – led to the Factories Regulations Act of 1833 that limited work hours and controlled the conditions for child workers

New Imperialism

- From the mid-1800s through the first decade of the 1900s, western nations pursued an aggressive policy of expansion
- European powers were motivated by economic, political and social factors as well as by a strong sense of nationalism
- During this time Great Britain took control of India
- In Africa, several European nations engaged in a scramble for colonies.
- Imperialistic nations forced unequal trade agreements on China
- Imperialism had many immediate and long-term effects on the colonial nations and also had an impact on Europe and the rest of the world
- Imperialism led to increased competition and conflict
- **WHITE MAN'S BURDEN** – offered a justification for imperialism with the idea that the white imperialists had a moral duty to educate people in nations they considered less developed. Missionaries spread western ideas, customs, and religions to people in Africa and Asia
- Short Term Effects on the Colonies – large numbers of Asians and Africans came under foreign rule, local economies became dependent on industrialized powers, some nations introduced changes to meet imperialistic challenges, individuals and groups resisted European domination, Western culture spread to new regions, traditional political units were disrupted or destroyed, famines occurred in lands where farmers grew export crops for imperialist nations in place of food for local use
- Long Term Effects on the Colonies – western culture continued to influence much of the world, transportation, education, and medical care were improved, resistance to imperial rule evolved into nationalistic movements, many economies became dependent on single cash crops grown for export
- Effects on Europe and the World – the west discovered new crops, foods and other products, Westerners were introduced to new cultural influences, competition for empires created and increased conflict between imperial powers, these conflicts sometimes led to war, the industrial nations controlled a new global economy

World War I

- As the 1900s began, the people of Europe had enjoyed nearly a century of relative peace, yet at the same time, forces were pushing the continent toward war.

- Nationalistic feeling, a glorification of the military, imperial rivalries, and tangled alliances led to unrest
- War was sparked in the Balkans, where the Ottoman Empire had once maintained control (**BALKAN POWDER KEG**). Soon all of Europe was at war (**ALLIANCES**).
- Industrialization and technology had allowed nations to develop more destructive weapons that resulted in millions of deaths
- As Russia left the war and the United States entered, the Allies gained control and an armistice was signed
- **TRENCH WARFARE** – the troops dug trenches along the front, very little ground was gained by either side in this way and many soldiers were killed
- **TOTAL WAR** – the war was fought at home as well as on the battlefield – in a total war all of a nation’s resources go into the war effort – governments drafted men to fight in a war, raised taxes and borrowed money to pay for the war, rationed or limited the supply of goods at home so that the military could be provided for, used the press to print propaganda to spread ideas and to promote a cause or to damage an opposing cause, women at home took jobs that the soldiers had left behind, some joined the armed services, other women went to the fronts as nurses
- **ARMISTICE** – on November 11, 1918 an agreement to end the fighting was signed
- The Allies, bitter at the destruction, insisted that the Central Powers make **REPARATIONS**, payments for war damages they had caused.

Between the Wars

- After World War I, global problems remained. The Treaty of Versailles punished Germany. The League of Nations had little power. Old empires had collapsed, and new nations had come into being. Nationalism continued to cause conflict.
- World War I had disillusioned many, altered society, and prompted new forms of expression. In Europe and the United States, women struggled to gain the right to vote
- In 1929, the global economy crashed, leading to a worldwide depression. During this time fascism, a new kind of dictatorship, rose in Italy and Germany. In Japan, aggressive military leaders gained power.
- Great Britain and France’s ideas guided the **TREATY OF VERSAILLES** – land was taken from Germany, Germany’s army and navy were limited and accept full responsibility for the war and pay huge reparations, or large sums of money to help undo war damages

- The Treaty of Versailles also formed the **LEAGUE OF NATIONS**, a group of more than 40 countries that hoped to settle problems through negotiation not war. The countries that joined the League of Nations promised to take cooperative economic and military action against any aggressor state
- Weaknesses in the economies of the United States and other nations around the world led to the **GREAT DEPRESSION**
- As the Great Depression continued, some people lost faith in democracy and capitalism, Extreme ideas of many types arose. Communists celebrated what they saw as the failure of capitalism. Strong leaders supported intense nationalism, militarism and a return to authoritarian rule.
- **FASCISM** – is the rule of a people by dictatorial government that is nationalistic and imperialistic. Fascist governments were also anticommunist. Fascism emerged in both Italy and Germany after World War I.
- Nazi Rise to Power – German war debt, loss of German colonies, wish for revenge, doubts about Weimar Republic, political quarrels, wish to return to strong leader, inflation, worldwide depression, unemployment, use of terror and force, idea of a super race, shift of blame to minority groups

World War II

- During the 1930s, Italy, Germany and Japan sought to build new empires. At first the democratic powers did not stop them. When German aggression became impossible to ignore, in 1939, World War II began
- With advanced technology, the war covered a larger area and was more destructive than any before. Civilians became involved on a larger scale as well
- At first, the Axis powers – Germany, Italy, and Japan – won major victories. After the entry of the United States and the Soviet Union into the war on the Allied side, however, the tide began to turn
- The war finally ended in 1945. It had many lasting effects. There were enormous losses of life and property. The United Nations was formed to try to maintain peace. Europe became divided, with communist governments in Eastern Europe and democratic governments in Western Europe.
- **APPEASEMENT** – the western democracies gave in to Germany's aggressive demands to maintain peace – at the **MUNICH CONFERENCE** the western democracies agreed that Germany would seize control of the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia

- In August 1939 he made a pact with Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union. In the **NAZI-SOVIET PACT**, the two enemies agreed not to fight each other.
- **YALTA CONFERENCE** – the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union decided they would divide Germany temporarily
- On August 6, 1945 an American plane dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. They dropped another bomb on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 forcing the Japanese emperor to surrender.
- Impact of WWII – 75 million dead, economic ruin and destruction of much of Europe and Asia, the western nations occupied West Germany and Japan building new governments with democratic constitutions that protected individual rights and liberties

The Holocaust

- One of Hitler’s goals was to create “living space” for Germans who he considered racially superior. He planned to destroy people he found inferior
- Jews were the main target, but he also wanted to destroy or enslave others, including Slavs, Gypsies, and the mentally or physically disabled
- The attempt to destroy an entire ethnic group is called **GENOCIDE**
- Hitler set up **CONCENTRATION CAMPS** or death camps like Auschwitz, Jews were starved, shot, or gassed to death – more than six millions Jews died
- **NUREMBERG TRIALS** – allied leaders agreed to punish those responsible for “crimes against humanity” – the trials demonstrated that leaders could be held accountable for their actions during war

Cold War

- After World War II, Japan and West Germany adopted constitutions that built democratic governments
- Two major powers emerged from the war: the United States and the Soviet Union
- Political and economic differences between the USA and USSR led to a division of Europe that would last more than 40 years
- The conflict between democracy and communism also spread around the globe, resulting in a buildup of arms as well as a race to explore space
- The United Nations experienced both failure and success in the quest to maintain peace in the years after 1945

- With help from the United States and Great Britain, democracy and free enterprise were restored to the nations of Western Europe
- Eastern Europe, however, was occupied by armies of the Soviet Union
- Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union, wanted to spread communism throughout the area. He hoped to create a buffer zone of friendly governments to prevent possible attacks from Germany and other western nations
- Although Stalin had promised free elections for Eastern Europe, he instead supported the establishment of procommunist governments throughout the region.
- Soon Europe, was divided by an imaginary line known as the **IRON CURTAIN**. In the East were the Soviet-dominated communist countries. In the West were the western democracies led by the United States
- The word **SUPERPOWERS** has been used to describe each of the rivals that came to dominate global politics in the period after World War II. Many other states in the world came under the domination or influence of these powers.
- **SATELLITES** – procommunist governments in eastern Europe, loyal to the Soviet Union
- **TRUMAN DOCTRINE** – economic and military program designed to help other nations resist Soviet aggression – based on the theory of **CONTAINMENT** which involved limiting communism to areas already under Soviet Control
- **MARSHALL PLAN** – was an economic aid package designed to strengthen democratic governments and lessen the appeal of communism
- **NATO** – western military alliance
- **WARSAW PACT** – eastern military alliance
- **ARMS RACE** – the two superpowers spent great amounts of money to develop more and more powerful weapons – the arms race raised the level of tension between the two superpowers – it also raised fears among many people that the superpowers might become involved in a conflict that would destroy the world
- **SPACE RACE** – the superpowers also competed in space –
- **CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS** – angered by American interference in Cuba, Castro sought closer ties with the Soviet Union. Castro allowed the Soviets to build nuclear missile sites in Cuba – the United States demanded the removal of the missiles and ordered a naval blockade of Cuba – the Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for a pledge from the United States not to invade
- **DÉTENTE** – easing of Cold War tensions, missile reductions treaties SALT I & II