

## Chapter 19 - 20: Major Themes

### **A. The moderate middle ground, represented by basic democratic / liberal values, is unstable in the face of mounting economic, territorial and political problems:**

demobilization ---> unemployment ---> overproduction = great disillusionment  
even the victors in the war were having significant problems = great disillusionment

yet- some advancements in democratic trends (A) (Italy as the only exception in western Europe)

- a. new states had written constitutions
- b. growing enfranchisement of women
- c. moderate socialists made gains through legislative / parliamentary processes
- d. labor unions grow
- e. social legislation: 8 hr. work day, old age and accident insurance

yet- several underlying problems

- a. new nations are "accidents of war" (A) no gov. experience, no traditions, no roots
- b. land reform in E. Europe not working (A)
- c. all new states contained ethnic and nationality minorities- will come back to haunt
- d. Weimar Rep. in Germany not effective (B)
  - Social Democrats too radical and not radical enough
  - pressures from Marxists on left and disaffected army officers on right
  - would Germans accept new democratic government? (B)
  - would Germans accept new German frontier and provisions of Treaty? (B)

### **B. Relationship between international situation and development of internal, democratic policies**

1. Treaty of Versailles undermines democracy in Germany (B)
  - a. both the Weimar Republic and Treaty were products of defeat
  - b. if democracy means accepting the Treaty, then democracy will fail in Germany
  - c. all of this was imposed upon the Germans- war guilt, reparations, etc.
2. Treaty of Versailles undermines democracy in France (B) no trust in the Treaty
  - a. fear of German revival
  - b. Rhineland was still part of Germany
  - c. US is isolationist---> no guarantees for French security
  - d. France made alliances with Poland and Czechoslovakia (shades of WWI?)
3. Germany is diplomatically isolated- makes deal with Communist Russia in 1922 (Rapallo) (B)
4. France occupies Ruhr Valley- Germany cannot pay reparations---> strikes, inflation in Germany
5. Locarno (1925) and Kellogg-Briand (1928) are misleading and disillusioning (B)
6. Global depression further undermines democratic ideals

### **C. Imperialism and European domination over Asia are also severe tests for democratic values (C) (don't worry too much about this section)**

### **D. Great Depression (D, E) both causes and cures represent major adjustments and challenges to fundamental democratic / liberal beliefs and behaviors**

1. international economy too interlocked (strengths = weaknesses)
2. most economic growth financed by speculation, credit, and buying on margin
3. wages lag far behind production
4. agricultural depression
5. dilemma- regulation necessary but not part of liberal/dem. ideals YET regulation looks too much like command economic system of Italy and Soviet Union

Just like alliance system prior to WW I, the entire economic system breaks down  
Nations revert to economic nationalism (protectionism, tariffs) yet these things hurt trade  
thus, imports and exports decline which causes national currencies to collapse  
which adds to the terrible inflation and over-valuation which helped cause the depression

Corresponding cultural reaction- modernism, realism, self-preservation, as an instinct, replaces optimism  
and faith in democratic and liberal traditions

#### **E. Major direct challenges to democratic / liberal values in specific nations**

1. France and Britain (F)
  - a. loss of markets leads to trade restrictions, unemployment and "welfarism"
  - b. political instability in England and France- pressure from Labour Party and Soviet-style ideas---> "Zinoviev Letter"
  - c. problems with Irish
  - d. fascist agitation in France as a result if economic troubles
2. rise of Fascism in Italy (G)
  - a. Mussolini
  - b. "Fascio di combattimento"
  - c. Blackshirts
  - d. March on Rome Oct. 22, 1922
  - e. nature of Italian fascism- national solidarity and state management of economy
  - f. efficiency and order = power of the state "Corporative State"
3. rise of Hitler in Germany (H)
  - a. personal background of Hitler- Bavaria
  - b. National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi) use of violence
  - c. *Mein Kampf*
  - d. destruction of German middle class (death of moderate social and political elements)
  - e. use of propaganda and electoral politics starting in 1928 ---> 1930 ---> 1932
  - f. Reichstag fire
  - g. Nazi state- Third Reich---> anti-Jewish, anti-communism, anti-western and liberal / dem.