

**Overview of Unit 10: European Civilization: 1871 - 1914**  
**Economy, Politics, Society and Culture**  
Chapters 14 and 15

Unit 9 was about the formation and consolidation of large nation-states; Unit 10 is what large nation-states do and how they act. Basically, nation-states compete for power, influence, prestige, wealth, etc.

Overall, both Units 9 and 10 reflect many changes both inside individual nations and throughout all of Europe. Those changes were

- positive *and* negative
- stabilizing *and* destabilizing
- issues and questions regarding the positive developments
  - Positive developments but for whom?
  - Were the positives equitably distributed?
  - What was the price for others? Who paid?

In many ways, this time period in Europe, known as the Victorian Age, was very similar to the issues and themes of the Gilded Age in America at a slightly later time period.

The problem is that stability provides opportunities for progress. Progress is good. Progress yields new ideas. *However*, new ideas can often cause stress, anxiety, and instability. Many good things for the downtrodden: i.e. progress

- more democratic trends
- varying degrees of social programs
- unions
- feminism
- science, literature, the arts, religion

However, many of these same things became irritants which caused stress, tension, confusion, anxiety, uncertainty, etc. Then add in things like nationalism, imperialism, industrialism, militarism, and bad lines on the map going all the way back to the Congress of Vienna in 1815

**Again, keep in mind, we are leading up to WWI (!!!) which was the result of confusion, stress, frustration, resentment, fear, humiliation, lack of clarity, changing definitions, unexpected developments, polarization, clashing values, identity crises, etc.**

**All of this is ironic because Europe was supposed to have clarified all this after Napoleon.**

**Ch. 12 – 13: politics, diplomacy, nations**

**These issues were visible**

**Ch. 14 – 15: social, cultural, intellectual, economic trends**

**These issues were not very visible, thus many problems were ignored or swept under the rug. (WWI, for many people, was very unexpected)**

- a. Europe had a vision of itself as the most advanced civilization in history- in some ways, that was a fair assessment**
- b. However, there was an underlying sense of stress and anxiety; an underlying sense of raised expectations yet unfulfilled potential = bad mood (sort of schizo)**
- c. Bad mood on the inside often leads to aggressive behavior on the outside**