

HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SINCE 1900s

SESSION 1-2:

BACKGROUND

- Gold standard: the system, abandoned in the Depression of the 1930s, by which the value of a currency was defined in terms of gold, for which the currency could be exchanged.
- Biggest empire: British
- Russian empire included Poland and Finland
- Spanish American War: 1898
- Late 19th century Spain had lost most of its colonies, stayed with islands because of access through navy. Eg Cuba.
- Then, the US took Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines (their first colony outside the Americas).
- French lost their American colonies so decided to go to Africa. There they had their colonial empire.
- By the 1900 the biggest economy in the world was the US. Second: Germany
- Germany and Italy new countries (in 20th century)
- Germany was very big so they felt they deserved more territory and more richness.

CLOSER TO THE WAR

- In the 19th century France and Russia were enemies. There had been invasions. Late century Britain and France attacked Russia. But then in WWI allies...
- France in 19th century had the best democracy (in Europe and maybe the world). Not many democracies. It was the biggest republic in Europe. Women couldn't vote but poor men yes. Most countries were monarchies. France was becoming allies with Russia, the most authoritarian country.
- Why? Because of **common enemies** and common interests. Their common enemy: **Germany**.
- Germany was friends with both Austria and Russia but wanted to make clear that in a war they would support Austria.
- In Austria Hungary there was the fear that Russia could take over them.

CHINA

- Tsu His (Ci Xi): Chinese Empress Dowager. Beijing, China. Managing the empire, Qing Dynasty.
- From 1899, martial arts, ideologies of foreign policy.

PEACE TREATIES BEFORE WWI

- **Anglo-Japanese Alliance.** (1902-23) that bound Britain and Japan to assist one another in safeguarding their respective interests in China and Korea.
- Britain and Japan signed a treaty also to scare France.
- The alliance served Japan in the Russo-Japanese War (1904–05) by discouraging France, Russia's European ally, from entering the war on the Russian side.

- It was renewed in 1905 and again in 1911 after Japan's annexation (invasion) of Korea.
 - On the basis of its tie with Britain, Japan participated in World War I on the side of the Allies.
 - **Treaty of Portsmouth**. Peace treaty Japan Russia. Ended the war between them. Treaty lasted for many years, until more than 1925.
 - Russian revolution in 1905, (also 1917).
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SESSION 3-4

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

- Ottoman empire had grown a lot but by 1912 it shrank.
- Abdul Hamid II emperor in beginning of 20th century
- Structure: Muslim elite. Jew and Christians running economy, minority middle class. Agricultural class
- A series of crises lead to the collapse of the empire.
- Russians were a threat to ottomans. France allied with Russians now, Britain increasingly friendly with Russia and France.
- Ottoman needs ally → Germany
- Berlin-Baghdad railway. Germans found oil around railway. This competition for the brits who had found oil in Persia made them uncomfortable.
- Bosnia had mix population of Muslims and Christians

WORLD WAR 1 STARTS

- Germany and Italy had an alliance. A **defensive** alliance. If France or Britain attacked them, they'd help each other, but if they were the ones who attacked, nothing.
- Summer 1914: Gavrilo Princip, part of the black hand, killed archduke Franz Ferdinand
- **Austria send ultimatum to Serbia**. You will accept our troops in your territory, investigations etc.
- Russia most closely related to Serbia. Ru told them say yes but not to everything.
- Germany thought: if we go to war with russia, attack France because they are weaker.
- **Schlieffen Plan**: Germany went through Belgium to attack France, cause it's 'faster'. Problem is Belgium is neutral.
- Germany must attack France immediately while Russia got its troops mobilized. Move fast.
- Austria wasn't happy with Serbian response, who accepted all terms but 2. Austria declares war.
- Germany: war with Russia, invade Belgium, attack France because military strategy said so.
- Big threat, Britain joins and declares war.
- Germany first attacks, so Italy doesn't need to join, defensive alliance.
- Britain, France, Russia, Serbia, Italy
- Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Turkey later
- **Besides Europe, first to join: Japan**. Not necessary because Britain wasn't attacked, it decided to join. Because they saw an opportunity to get Germany's colonies in the pacific.

HOW WAS THE WAR FOUGHT?

- Before these wars they had all been quick, so they thought this one too. Home by Christmas
- First war that we had more casualties from the war than from the diseases.
- Rifles
- Eastern front, longer distances. Germany surprisingly won against Russia. Attacked both Russian armies separately and defeated both.
- Turkey joined by 1915.
- Churchill: how to win the war? Gallipoli campaign
- Venizelos Greek prime minister.
- Last ally to join was Bulgaria
- Germany used undersea boats (submarines) used to sink ships of British Empire that were taking supplies to its islands.
- Fritz Haber: chemist 1868-1934 artificial fertilizers, provide agriculture for Germany, without him they would have given up before. Toxic gases. WWI. Nobel prize 1918 for fertilizers.
- Lenin: 1870-1924. Founder of Russian communist party. Leader of Russian revolution 1917. Participated in 1905 rev failed. Marxist. Minorities and majorities.

LATER IN THE WAR

- 1917: Germany to win they had to sink British and neutral ships
- Germany secret negotiations with Mexico for possible alliance → Zimmerman telegram, but British got the cable (or smth) and found out
- US participation in war proved salvation for the allies. Spring 1917 declared war.
- French and Italian were exhausted and the US appeared with fresh troops. Russia had lost. It looked like Germany would win the war.
- But within a few months, Germany was defeated on all fronts. Surprise. Largely because of the US with fresh soldiers.

SESSION 5-6

WOMEN, POLITICS, WWI

- Jeannette Rankin first woman to be elected in the congress. Voted against the US going to war. Pacifist.
- Rosa Luxemburg. Communist. German, active in Germany and Poland. International Marxism but wasn't totally accepted. She criticized Lenin even after he won in the Soviet Union. WWI
- Constance Markiewicz. Revolutionary. Irish. Elected to British parliament but refused. Only woman to serve in the Irish assembly. First woman in any government. Protester. Arrested various times. Sentenced to death but not executed because she was a woman.

PEACE TREATIES AFTER WWI. TREATY OF VERSAILLES

- **Paris Peace Conference 1919.** meeting convened in January 1919 at Versailles just outside Paris. to establish the terms of the peace after World War. led to the formulation of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Russia had fought as one of the Allies until December 1917, when its new Bolshevik Government withdrew from the war. The Allied Powers refused to recognize the new Bolshevik Government and thus did not invite its representatives to the Peace Conference.
- **Treaty of Versailles 1919.** League of nations created, came into force in 1920. The US does not sign it. League of Nations basically a butcher, whoever posed a threat to peace should be attacked. Strong on paper, weak in action.
 - Germany was subjected to strict punitive measures
 - The Allies also **excluded the defeated Central Powers** (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria).
 - Required to surrender approximately 10 percent of its prewar territory in Europe and all of its overseas possessions.
 - Harbor city of Danzig (now Gdansk) and the coal-rich Saarland were placed under the administration of the League of Nations, and France was allowed to exploit the economic resources of the Saarland until 1935.
 - The German Army and Navy were limited in size.
 - Germans accepted responsibility for the war and, as such, were liable to pay financial reparations to the Allies
 - Actual amount would be determined by an Inter-Allied Commission that would present its findings in 1921 (the amount they determined was 132 billion gold Reichmarks, or \$32 billion, which came on top of an initial \$5 billion payment demanded by the treaty). Germans would grow to resent these harsh conditions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles.
 - US: The opposition came from two groups: the "Irreconcilables," who refused to join the League of Nations under any circumstances, and "Reservationists," led by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, Henry Cabot Lodge, who were willing to ratify the treaty with amendments. While Lodge was defeated in his attempt to pass amendments to the Treaty in September, he did manage to attach 14 "reservations" to it in November. In a final vote on March 19, 1920, the Treaty of Versailles fell short of ratification by seven votes.
 - Consequently, the U.S. Government signed the **Treaty of Berlin on August 25, 1921**. This was a separate peace treaty with Germany that stipulated that the United States would enjoy all "rights, privileges, indemnities, reparations or advantages" conferred to it by the Treaty of Versailles, but left out any mention of the League of Nations, which the United States never joined.
- **League of Nations dissolved in 1946** and the **UN** took over the responsibilities.
- Some republics signed a treaty to **create the USSR 1922**.

TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- Mustafa Kemal. First president of turkey, modernized turkey.
- **Treaty of Sèvres 1920.** Dismembered the Ottoman Empire. To divide the middle east. Created new kind of territory called a mandate. 3 types of mandate of what was the ottoman empire. A: ones in the middle east, Arabs. B: not as civilized as Arabs, keep them colonized for longer time, French and British. C: given to Japan and Australia forever. Mandates were in middle east, part of Africa, pacific?
- **Mustafa Kamal did not accept the treaty.** Became leader of the ppl who didn't accept it. Started fighting the Armenians, British, French.
- **Treaty of Lausanne 1923** created what is now Turkey.
- Soghomon Tehirian. Armenian revolutionary. Killed Trukish Talaat Pasha 1921 during Operation Nemesis that targeted the responsible of the Armenian Genocide. After this he

went to German court to trial but let him free claiming he had psychological trauma because he saw the murder of his family.

- **Armenian genocide**: 1915. Done by the Ottoman Empire to exterminate the Armenian culture. Armenians had been doing rebellions. Around a million and a half deported to the Syrian desert (many died disease or maltreatment during deportation or in camps). Many more in massacres, part of a programme, backed by Turkish leaders. Estimates of the numbers of Armenians dead between 600,000 and over a million.
- **Treaty of Versailles**. Germany lost vast territory. Lost part of Czechoslovakia, Poland... Defeated countries must pay for the damages. Germany pay with coal and money.
- Steel main advantage for war. Done with coal and iron. Ger had coal. France had iron.

AFTER WWI

- Henri Poincaré. French Strong war leader. Prime minister.
- **German inflation** spiked because they printed money with a weak economy.
- US that wasn't really participating, joined to resolve crisis. They sent:
- Charles Dawes. American. Noble prize 1925. They sent a banker. → American banks lend money to Germany and Austria (who owed money). Germany would lend money to us, repair economy, export coal, pay France back.
- **Worked great until US went bankrupt in 1929.**

FASCISM AND GERMANY AFTER WWI

- **Benito Mussolini**. Fascist party. (young he was socialist). Moved from left to right. Originally was named by the king the prime minister.
- Nazi symbol was taken over by the fascist party. It had nothing to do with that before.
- Mussolini was leader 10 years before Hitler. He was nobody for now.
- Walther Rathenau. Jewish. Represented Germany in negotiations after WWI. Assassinated. Did the following treaty in Rapallo:
- In 1922. When Soviet Union formed. Economic conference January. For the first time the Soviets in a conference. Were the only communists but went because they wanted recognition. Discussion going nowhere because Ger had no money. **German representative and Soviet Union signed a secret treaty**: Ger not allowed much military, there will be a secret military trade in Soviet territory, Soviet gave Germany military. Ger was still democratic. Officially: Ger and Soviet no debts.
- Gustav Stresemann: German politician between the war. 1878-1929. Foreign minister of Germany.
- Aristide Briand: French politician. Foreign minister of France. Wanted to separate church from state. Won Nobel Peace Prize for reconciling (with Gustav Stresemann) relations between Germany and France. **Locarno treaty**.
- **Kellogg Briand Pact**: US with France binding treaty that prevented both countries from going to war, said it wasn't the solution. They tried to make other countries join too.
- Then the **stock market crashed**. Economy of the US downhill → Ger economy downhill. Franco-German collaboration downhill.

- Chiang Kai-shek: Dictator in China 1928-1975. Established the Republic of China. China 1920, 30s wasn't communist. At war with the communists. War started 1928-1949: Communists take over, **Mao wins.**
- Fridtjof Nansen: Norwegian. Main actor in league of nations. Won Nobel prize. Created Nansen passport for refugees for after the war to come back to their countries. Fought to give the refugees paperwork to live and give them the right to work. 1.2 million refugees arrived to Greece from turkey.

SESSION 7-8

ECONOMIC CRISIS

- Germany joined the League of Nations. Then the US went into economic crisis.
- 20s and 30s. tragic for the US. Hunger, no economic development.
- Economic crisis worldwide. Japan included.
- Reaction to crisis in the US: Protectionism: American industry first. Smoot-Hawley. Tariffs.
- Different countries reacted differently to the economic depression.
- Econ crisis causes shifts in political govns. Not always for worse (dictatorships). Spain in 1931 became a republic.
- **FDR:** President of the US 1932-1944. Only president reelected over two times. After this, implementation of max 2 times. Democrats moved from being a part of the agriculture and landowners, to a part of the poor, then to the urban poor they became more of a left-wing party. With FDR made the **Good Neighbor Policy.** Opened trade with and recognized Latin America and the Soviet Union. FDR re-legalized alcohol.

JAPAN

- Japan had a small empire in East Asia and they used it very efficiently.
- **Washington Naval Treaty 1922.** 5:5:3:1,75:1,75 US and Britain the most ships. Japan a bit less and France and Italy less.
- Americans made Britain break the alliance with Japan. US was suspicious of going to war with Japan. Britain became closer and closer with the US.
- **China was in a civil war,** Japan thought why get minerals from China, lets get China.
- Japanese military staged an incident. They blew up a bridge and blamed China to invade it. Military invaded it and then the civilian government approved (they had already invaded)
- Puppet state: Manchuria. Puppet of Japan. Many didn't recognize it.

GERMANY AND ITALY BEFORE WWII

- Germany was not the first one to start conquering. **They saw Japan and Italy conquering and saw that Britain and France didn't do anything.**
- Germany excuses: communists and Jews running the world, we need to stop this. They blamed the Treaty of Versailles for the current situation of Germany.

- Hitler created the NSDAP National Socialist German Workers' Party. Became largest party but they never had majority.
- Mussolini influenced Hitler and he thought he'd continue because he is older than Hitler but Germany was much bigger than Italy and eventually, later Hitler influenced Mussolini.
- As late as 1934 Italy and Germany were still not agreeing and having each other's backs in international issues.
- **Italy attacked Ethiopia**. Even though the treaty of the league of nations said that if one country attacks another, all will protect the one attacked, **no one protected Ethiopia** because Italy was more important. 1935-36
- Haile Selassie: Ethiopian leader.
- Germany took a land next to their territory, the **British didn't do** anything because there was not point in taking back a territory that was German.
- Then British began to have **secret negotiations** with Germany about giving them a navy.
- Neville Chamberlain: Policy of **appeasement** towards Germany. Germany did stuff and to maintain them happy Britain didn't react, they gave them that pleasure. As Germany saw Britain didn't react, they took more and more.

TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS

- **Spanish civil war 1936-39**
- France gave some assistance to the Spanish civil war, but not enough.
- Britain was neutral about the event.
- US officially neutral. In fact the US passed the **neutrality acts** in 1937. US not allowed to sell weapons to other countries.
- Pierre Laval: French politician. Independent socialist. After the WWI he moves from left to right. Retired of politics and returned to war right before WWII. He left with the Germans and was given asylum there. Pierre was a political opportunist. He went to the side that gave him the best opportunity. He was later executed.
- Maxim Litvinov: Soviet diplomat. Advocate for war disarmament and diplomatic agreements. Also served as ambassador of the US in Russia.
- Brit, France and Soviet didn't ally and attack Germany right away because they were all waiting for the other to do something about it.
- Chinese by now, felt stronger and posed a fight to the Japanese who were in Beijing trying to invade them. The fight got big and Japan went all out into war to conquer all of China.

FALLING INTO WAR

- Mussolini supported Hitler now.
- **Munich agreement 1938**: Conference in Germany between Germany, Britain, France and Italy to talk about what to do with Czechoslovakia.
- Germany invaded Austria because Hitler told Austria they had to make the Nazis part of their government and they didn't agree, so they invaded.
- Hitler said he would only get Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia) in the agreement and violated the agreement (Munich agreement) within five months. **Took Austria, took Sudetenland, German speaking nations**. But then, Germany **conquered Czechoslovakia in spring 1939**, a non-German-citizen nation and it was clear that there would be a problem.

- It was obvious that there would be war now. All of Europe the following months was a diplomatic tension of deciding on what side each country would be on.
 - Now on summer 1939 (June y eso). **Secret talks by the Soviets and Germany about the possibility of an alliance.**
 - Joachim von Ribbentrop: German foreign minister made a massive diplomatic move. **Soviet-German non-aggression pact.** Was executed after ww2.
 - Communists and Nazis. Argued about EVERYTHING. Now make a pact over Poland. Germany gets the west and the Soviets the east. Germany should get West Europe and leave Eastern Europe for the USSR.
 - Carl von Ossietzky: German pacifist.
 - **Gandhi:** fought for the rights of the Indians. In the beginning was in South Africa. Pacifist. Opposed to the British rule. Advocated a policy of non-violence. **Salt march** because the brit prohibited the Indian from selling salt. A Hindu killed him because they thought that he was being too kind to the muslims.
 - You do what you can. They negotiated with Hitler and put Gandhi in prison. They had the whole Indian people under their hand.
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SESSION 9-10

BEGINNING WORLD WAR 2

- 1939: Ger ally Italy. Ger puling crises in Poland, wanted the territory and invaded in September.
- Early phases of WW2 Hitler looked like a genius.
- Beginning, no one was attacking, they were planning. 6 months
- Germany planned to invade Scandinavia, Norway because they needed the iron and has great submarine bases. **Scandinavia was fallen by April-May**
- Very soon after this, Germany attacked on the west front.
- New warfare: **lightning war.**
- Just as France was losing, Mussolini joined the war. Join the war when you know you will win.
- 1940: Italians performed terrible.
- French gave up and **gave them the north of France.**
- British French relations reached a very low point given that the British stopped having France's back.
- Charles de Gaulle: Showed the allies the real France was the one standing up to the Germans. Created the **French National Liberation.**
- Winston Churchill: British politician, army officer, writer. Prime minister but used to be part of the parliament. Was minister in the navy in WWI. After the cold war was elected minister again. He started with the liberals and then became a conservative. Hated Joseph Stalin. He knew he needed the soviets, so he allied. Was old so he had health issues during the war. He did some things left for criticism. Persuaded Roosevelt to come help.