

# Twentieth Century Times

News from around the world, 1919–1929

EUROPE Yellow



## PEACE, PROSPERITY RETURN

### But foundations are shaky

During the 1920s, most of Europe avoided war—though the terms of peace seemed too harsh to form a lasting solution. But for Ireland and Turkey, the fighting hadn't stopped.

#### **A** BRITAIN AGREES TO IRELAND'S INDEPENDENCE But not all of Ireland wants independence, 1921

Britain held on to Ireland throughout World War I, but it faced increasing opposition. The IRA began a campaign of bombings and assassinations in Ireland in 1919. Britain also faced international pressure to end its rule, especially from the U.S., which had a large population of Irish immigrants.

In 1921, Britain agreed to give most of Ireland independence, but said that Ireland's northern province, Ulster, could vote on whether to join independent Ireland or stay united with Britain. Ulster (or Northern Ireland) voted to remain with Britain: the majority of the population was of British descent. Religion also divided British and Irish people: most British were Protestant, and most Irish were Catholic.

This division of Ireland remained a problem throughout the twentieth century. Although independent Ireland eventually accepted Ulster's ties to Britain, the IRA never did.

#### **B** TURKEY WINS NEW PEACE TREATY Mustafa Kemal deposes sultan, 1923

The Allies dismantled the Ottoman Empire after World War I. Under the Treaty of Sèvres, they took the Middle East and reduced Turkey—the former core of the empire—to a small, Allied-controlled territory.

The empire's sultan agreed to the treaty, but nationalists in Turkey did not. They refused to recognize the authority of the sultan, and set up a rival government. They invaded territory the Allies had declared independent and fought off an Allied-supported invasion from Greece. By 1921, they had forced the Allies to negotiate a new treaty that recognized Turkey's independence and new boundaries.

Mustafa Kemal was the leader of the nationalists, and by 1923 he was the recognized leader of Turkey. He became famous as Turkey's "modernizer."

Kemal introduced Western-style reforms to Turkey, a Muslim country. He abolished traditional

Turkish clothing, including the fez for men and the veil for women. He gave full political rights to Turkish women, and encouraged them to become well educated and to participate in public life.

Kemal's most important reforms banned religion from politics. Western civil and penal codes replaced Islamic law. Religious leaders—formerly the centre of state power—lost their authority to command and punish. Religious practices disappeared from schools. Kemal endorsed religious tolerance, and faith became a private matter.



Most people know Mustafa Kemal by the name Atatürk, which means Father of the Turks. Kemal was a military man. He commanded a large, loyal following in Turkey's army. The army has played a role in Turkish politics ever since—always to prevent Turkey from reversing Kemal's secular reforms.

Stay tuned. In 2002, Turkey elected an Islamist government—a government that endorses a bigger role for religion in society. Watch your newspaper to see if Atatürk's reforms survive, or if the army moves in.

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### Big news! History happens all over the world!

Do you remember what this newspaper section is for? Every chapter has a section like this. It presents headline stories from around the world. We've organized the stories by region. Check out the map on page 9 to see where the regions are.



## COMMUNISTS GOVERN WITH OPPRESSION

### Protect their government, move revolution forward

Lenin used oppression to maintain power and control in Russia after the civil war. The government discriminated against the upper classes and took their property. It seized church property and outlawed religious education. It set up a secret police—the Cheka—to hunt down and arrest its opponents.

Russia's revolution had completely isolated it in the world. The new Bolshevik government preached communist revolution for all countries—and made enemies everywhere. The Bolsheviks had also cancelled payment on loans that Russia's tsar had received from Europe and the United States. So, although the U.S. lent its European allies money to help recover from the war, it gave no money to Russia.

Lenin used oppression for practical reasons, but it also fit with his theory of revolution. He believed an elite needed to lead the revolution, because most people wouldn't understand what to do. Through oppression, the Communist Party—the elite—could keep the revolution moving in the right direction.

## LENIN DIES OF STROKE, 1924

### Stalin begins program of forced industrialization, 1929

After Lenin died, Stalin emerged as the new leader of the Communist Party, partly by eliminating potential leaders among Lenin's followers. In 1929, Stalin began the forced industrialization of the Soviet Union. This caused hardship and disruption. The government decided what and how much to produce, and then assigned workers to produce it. It was like "War Communism," except the goal was industrialization instead of military victory: the government harnessed all the nation's resources to achieve it, regardless of the consequences.

## BIRTH OF CONSUMER ECONOMY

### Prosperity seems endless

The 1920s were a period of economic resurgence in North America.

Mass production, which Henry Ford first applied in 1913 to the manufacture of the Model-T, spread to other industries. Products became cheaper to produce, and cheaper to buy. In both Canada and the United States, more people had electricity than anywhere else in the world. Soon they had more electrical appliances, too—radios, refrigerators, and washing machines. By the early 1920s, Americans had ten million cars—more than a hundred times the number in 1905. These cars needed roads, which created a boom in road-building and tourism. Agriculture also boomed because farmers bought tractors and combines, and, for the first time, fertilizer.

But the 1920s also brought a resurgence of conservative values in the U.S. The war had been extremely unpopular—more than 110,000 American soldiers had died. The war had also cost a lot of money, and American people had seen few direct benefits from helping to win it. In 1920, Americans voted out the Democratic party that had held power during the war, and elected the conservative Republicans.

## PROHIBITION IN U.S.

### Alcohol banned, 1919–1933

If anything made the 1920s roar in the U.S., Prohibition did. Prohibition made the manufacture, sale and consumption of liquor illegal. Many Americans had supported Prohibition during the war, and even before. But no one could enforce it once it became law. Alcohol didn't go away, it just went underground—and became a racy way to misbehave. Organized crime became big business by supplying alcohol, and alcohol remained plentiful. Elliot Ness and his "Untouchables" made their names by busting up the liquor business of Chicago mobster Al Capone, and Canadians earned reputations as bootleggers.

## U.S. CUTS IMMIGRATION

### Expresses distrust of "foreigners"

The U.S. generally seemed to distrust the world during the 1920s, and wanted less to do with it. It didn't join the League of Nations, and it no longer welcomed

immigrants with open arms. Immigrants weren't the only targets: the Ku Klux Klan became more popular during the 1920s. The KKK wanted a Protestant, all-white America. It targeted African-Americans, in particular, with violence.





## EXPORTS, REGION FLOURISH

### But wealth remains in the hands of ruling elites

The 1920s marked a time of prosperity for countries in this region—a golden age. As Europe and the U.S. recovered from World War I, demand for this region's exports grew. Even more than before, the region's economies became integrated with American and European markets. The region exported raw resources to these markets, and then bought goods manufactured in the U.S. and Europe.

The ruling elites of the region controlled this export-import boom. Their power and prosperity came from selling things to foreign markets. Latin American governments later had to deal with whether this was how they wanted to organize their societies and economies.

## UNREST IN NICARAGUA

### Sandino leads resistance to U.S. occupation, 1926–1933

The U.S. occupation of Nicaragua began in 1912. In 1926, Augusto Sandino began a guerrilla war against the occupying American forces: the U.S. marines. He also opposed Nicaragua's government, which had invited the marines and allowed them to stay.

The U.S. withdrew from Nicaragua in 1933, because of a general change in U.S. policy towards

Latin America. Sandino immediately began peace negotiations with Nicaragua's government.

In a double-cross, military leader Anastasio Somoza killed Sandino in 1934. Somoza helped the military seize power in 1936, and became president in 1937. His family used corruption, repression and U.S. support to rule Nicaragua for more than thirty years.

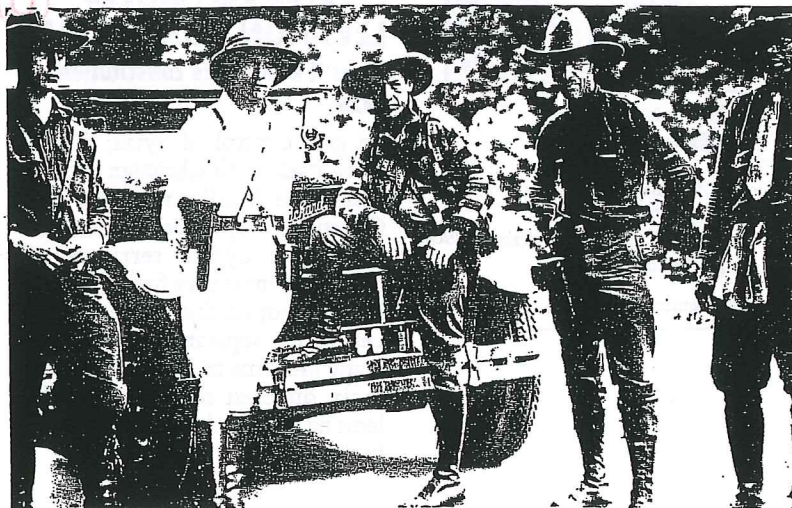
A Marxist guerrilla group eventually toppled the Somoza regime in 1979. This group called itself the "Sandinistas," after Augusto Sandino, though Sandino himself was not a Marxist.

## CIVIL WAR ENDS IN MEXICO

### Zapata killed, military president takes control, 1920

The Mexican Revolution began as a peasant uprising against wealthy landowners. It ended in a scramble for power that left conservatives in control. Mexico's new president agreed to give peasants some land—just enough to make peace with the "Zapatistas."

The new regime continued to have its opponents, including the famous Pancho Villa. Villa died in an attempted coup in 1923. But the regime held on to power, and, in the 1930s, managed to set Mexico on a stable political path for the rest of the century.



Augusto Sandino makes a commanding presence in the middle of this picture. He was a general, turned guerrilla, who fought against the U.S. occupation of Nicaragua. For seven long years, the marines tried to shut him down, but they never could.

Many people in Central America—not just Nicaraguans—celebrate Augusto Sandino for standing up to the U.S. marines.

As you read more about the history of this region, you may understand why.



# FRANCE, BRITAIN TAKE CONTROL

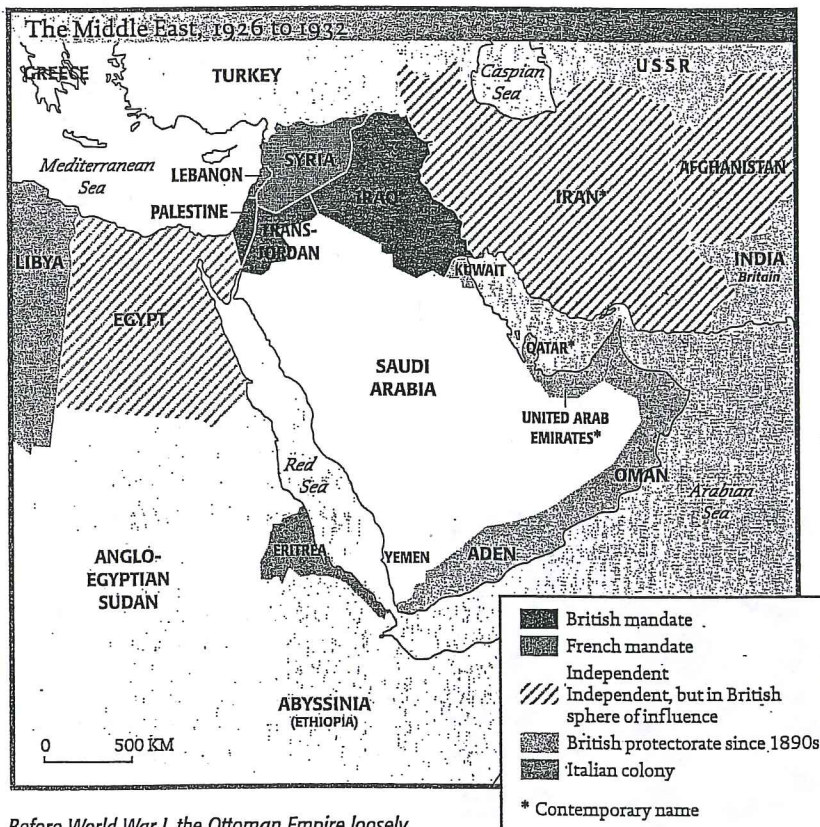
A

## League of Nations grants "mandates"

After World War I, the Allies dismantled the defeated Ottoman Empire, which had claimed most of this region. France took control of Syria, and Britain took control of Palestine, Trans-Jordan and Iraq.

France and Britain governed these countries through "mandates" from the newly formed League of Nations. A mandate was like a promise to move the countries towards independence. But most of these countries remained under British and French control for the next twenty years.

Arab leaders opposed this transfer of power. Iraq revolted against the British, and French troops had to fight their way to the Syrian capital, Damascus. Syria revolted again in 1925. As the French struggled for control, they created a new problem: Lebanon.



Before World War I, the Ottoman Empire loosely controlled large parts of the Middle East. After World War I—and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire—Britain and France became the powers that controlled the Middle East.

B

## BRITAIN GRANTS EGYPT INDEPENDENCE

Maintains key areas of control, 1922

Britain encouraged Arab independence movements during World War I as a way to threaten the Ottoman Empire. At the outbreak of the war, Egypt was a colony of Britain. To keep Egypt loyal—and demonstrate Britain's good intentions to all Arab countries—Britain made Egypt a "protectorate" in 1914. This move didn't make Egypt independent. It amounted to a promise to make Egypt independent in time.

After the war, Britain had to acknowledge Egypt's demands for independence, or risk losing control of Egypt entirely. It gave Egypt limited independence: Britain remained in charge of the Suez Canal and Egypt's foreign policy.

C

## SAUDI ARABIA BECOMES A COUNTRY

Saud leader extends control over Arabian Peninsula, 1925

The Saud family had a long and powerful history, and had begun to conquer territory in the Arabian Peninsula at the turn of the century. The family took more territory when parts of the peninsula shook loose from Ottoman rule after World War I. In 1925, the Saudis declared the creation of Saudi Arabia.

D

## FRANCE SEPARATES LEBANON FROM SYRIA

Gives it a separate constitution, 1926

To gain control of Syria, France allied itself with Christian groups against the Muslim majority. The Christian groups were concentrated in the Syrian territory of Lebanon, where they formed about half the population. France made Lebanon a separate country, but many Muslims in Lebanon, and in Syria, opposed this. What problems do you think this created later in the century?





## COLONIAL RULE CONTINUES

### Nationalism, unrest growing (A)

European powers maintained their control of this region during the 1920s. Germany had had a few colonies here before World War I, but not many. Japan took control of these colonies after the war, because it was the Asian power among the Allies.

But European powers maintained their control against stiffening opposition. During the 1920s, France put down a rebellion in Indochina (now Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam). Other colonial powers faced other challenges.

## SOUTH ASIA Orange



## GANDHI LEADS MASS MOVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE

### Takes centre stage in opposing British rule (D)

Britain did not give India independence after World War I, as Indian leaders had hoped. On the contrary, Britain tightened its hold. It reinforced special police powers that, during World War I, it had used to control opposition to British rule.

A leader in the National Congress party, Mohandas Gandhi, organized civil disobedience protests against these measures. He declared a national day of prayer when all work would stop. It really amounted to a general strike. All over India, shops and businesses closed, and people protested in the streets.

Over the next twenty years, Gandhi would become famous around the world for using civil disobedience and nonviolent protest to force the end of British rule in India. Violence, however, continued to make headlines.

## BRITISH TROOPS KILL HUNDREDS AT AMRITSAR (E)

### Protestors, others shot in massacre, 1919

During this famous, bloody incident, the British arrested protest leaders in the town of Amritsar. Riots broke out, and several British people were killed. British troops then surrounded and fired on an unarmed gathering of protestors and other people in the town square. More than three hundred died, and more than a thousand were wounded.

## GANDHI ARRESTED, JAILED (F)

### Asks for maximum penalty for his "crime," 1922

Gandhi led a major non-cooperation campaign against the British from 1920 to 1922. He encouraged Indians to boycott elections, resign their public offices, and reject British products. The British arrested Gandhi in 1922 and charged him with working to overthrow the government. Gandhi pled guilty, and said he was ready to submit to the most severe penalty for following "the highest duty of a citizen": opposing an unjust government. He spent two years in prison.

## RIOTS IN CHINA (B) AGAINST JAPANESE CONTROL OF SHANDONG

### "May 4th Movement" opposes all foreign control, 1919

Japan took Shandong province from Germany during World War I. The Treaty of Versailles left Japan in charge, as part of the terms Germany had to accept to make peace. China opposed this arrangement, but found its interests sidelined in the negotiations that led to the treaty. The massive Chinese opposition to foreign control of Shandong surprised Japan. Japan restored Shandong to China in 1922.

## LEADER IN DUTCH EAST INDIES (C) CALLS FOR INDEPENDENCE

### Sukarno founds the Indonesian Nationalist party, 1927

Indonesia had been a Dutch colony for more than two hundred years. Sukarno would eventually become the first president of independent Indonesia. But first the Dutch would jail him and exile him, then fight him for control of Indonesia after World War II.



## CIVIL WAR IN CHINA (G)

**Kuomintang purges Communists, 1927**

China's Communist Party was founded in 1921 in Shanghai.

Sun Yatsen, leader of the Kuomintang government in southern China, immediately sought an alliance with the communists. Sun wanted to invade northern China, and remove China's war-lord government from Beijing. For several years, the Kuomintang and the Communist Party worked together and received aid from the Soviet Union.

But Sun died in 1925, and the leader of the Kuomintang's army, Jiang Kaishek, took control. He opposed communism. In 1927, the Kuomintang army entered Shanghai and began to hunt down and kill communists. Mao Zedong, one of the communist leaders, fled to remote central China, where he regrouped with around ten thousand supporters. Mao had few resources. The USSR by this time had stopped sending him aid. Stalin did not like Mao's idea that peasants, not workers, would lead the revolution in China.

In 1928, the Kuomintang under Jiang Kaishek took Beijing and became China's official government. The Kuomintang strategy was to set up a democracy after a period of adjustment and direct control. Jiang began the period of direct control.

In central China, out of reach of Jiang's army, Mao recruited more supporters, and organized them into China's Red Army. Mao still had very few resources. He and the Red Army stayed in central China until the Kuomintang caught up to them again in 1934.



## NO CHANGE FOR AFRICA

**Europe remains in control (A)**

In other regions of the world, the 1920s marked a period of sharp adjustment after World War I, but change came more slowly in Africa. Germany lost its African colonies, but these colonies came under the control of other European powers. The lives of most ordinary African people changed very little.

Colonial governments—run by European administrators—shaped the lives of African people. During the 1920s, these governments boosted Africa's export of resources to Europe.

Colonies made money from these exports, but not a lot. Typically, they had to use the money to "pay their own way." They paid for their European administrators. They paid for any schools and hospitals their colonial governments decided to provide.

Some Africans supported this arrangement. They wanted more schools and hospitals, and believed colonial governments offered the best way to get them. Many Africans, however, suffered. Some colonial governments forced Africans, sometimes violently, to become labourers in the colonial economy.

At the same time, leaders began to emerge in Africa who would bring their peoples back to independence.

## FRANCE USES FORCED LABOUR TO BUILD RAILWAY (B)

**Ten thousand die, 1921–1932**

France built a railway in its equatorial colony, near what is now the city of Brazzaville. It wanted the railway to improve delivery of resources from the interior to the coast. It forced more than a hundred thousand Africans to work on this project.

All over Africa, European administrators used violence to round up African workers. This story gives only one example of "forced labour"—and it didn't make headlines at the time.

Forced labour remained in effect in French African colonies until 1946. In Congo, Belgium used forced labour until 1960.

## AFRICANS OPPOSE WHITE SETTLEMENT IN KENYA (C)

**Jomo Kenyatta campaigns for reforms and rights**

In Kenya, British settlers had forced Africans off the best agricultural land. They then used African labour to grow crops for export. This injustice stung Jomo Kenyatta.

British rule, however, also offered an opportunity to Kenyatta—access to a university education. He soon left Africa to study in Britain. Other young Africans took the same opportunity. Eventually, like Kenyatta, they returned to lead their countries to independence.