WWI Consequences

Focus Consequences

1. The Communist Revolution.
   - WWI placed an unbearable strain on Russia's weak govt and economy, resulting in mass food shortages and hunger.
   - Arrogance of Russia's ruling power led to a revolution and collapse of the leadership due to the Czar's failure to consider the hardship and demoralization of the Russian people.
   - The Russian system of government created a political, economic, and social backwardness that failed to grasp reality.
   - Misdirected desperation of the oppressed Russian people fuelled a revolution, and the violent overthrow of the Czar.
   - Russia suffered a series of military failures pre-WWI and experienced some of the heaviest losses of any country involved in WWI.

2. The Creation of the League of Nations.
   - An international organization where countries cooperation is to resolve disputes peacefully and through diplomacy.
   - The L.O.N. was born out of the destruction & disillusionment arising from WWI and the disorder faced by the international community — it was the precursor to the United Nations tasked with the goal to construct a peaceful global order.
   - The core principle of the L.O.N. was self-determination in order to create a world of independent states free of outside interference.
   - The L.O.N. was to provide a new system of collective guarantees of security to replace old military alliances.
   - The L.O.N. was to provide a process of disarmament.

3. The Intention to Create a Jewish Homeland.
   - United Kingdom intended to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine to help garner Jewish support for the Allied effort in WWI — this plan was approved by the L.O.N.
   - Arabs opposed the creation of a Jewish homeland for fear it would mean the subjugation of Arab Palestinians.
   - After WWI the Jewish population in Palestine increased dramatically, as did Jewish-Arab violence.
   - Arab resistance and failure to reach a compromise in the region of Palestine led to a delay by the U.K. to decide on the future of Palestine.
   - Post WWI, Jewish genocide (Holocaust) of the int'l community took up the Zionist cause & in 1948, the State of Israel was declared.

   - A dramatic increase in global demand for Japanese products as European products unavailable (export-led boom by Japan & U.S.),
   - A growth of Japanese ultra-nationalism & militarism as Japan perceived its interests were blocked at L.O.N.
   - A sense of racial superiority emerges as the foundation of Japanese nationalism.
   - A rise in Japanese imperialism in Asia-Pacific (e.g., Korean peninsula, Manchurian province in China) helps Japan emerge as a major post WWI power.

5. Maps, Territory, & Borders Redrawn.
   - A part of the Pairs 1919 peace conference was to redraw the map of Europe, the Middle East, & beyond.
   - Straight lines make uncomplicated borders and unsolvable territorial disputes.
   - Russia territory lost; new countries born or old countries reconstituted.
   - Ottoman empire is dissolved.
   - Germany empire stripped of most of its European & Middle East territories.

   - A new balance of power created in Europe in favour of the Allied powers (Triple Entente) excluding Russia — i.e., mainly U.K. & Fr.
   - The goal was to restore European stability and maintain a lasting peace, principally by weakening Germany.
   - The long & drawn-out peace process exposed the Allies' inability to cooperate in reaching a meaningful and balanced agreement on how to treat Germany (victor's justice).
   - The extraordinarily harsh terms of the treaty (Germany claimed the terms were "morally invalid") fueled German nationalism and resentment (most importantly the "war-guilt" clause that assigned sole blame for the war on Germany).
   - The treaty was never fully accepted by Germany or enforced by the Allies.
Other Consequences

- Economic Crisis in Europe & Beyond.
- Collapse of International Trade & Labour Unrest.
- Inflamed Nationalism & the Rise of Fascism.
- High Casualties & Devastation (Resolving Disputes Through Modern Warfare is Too Costly).
- Modern Warfare is an Unreliable & Unpredictable Way to Achieve Goals.
- Democracy Seemingly Triumphant.
- United States of America's Economic & Financial Prosperity.
- European Empires Disintegrate or Lose Their Grip on Overseas Colonies.
Weighing the Consequences of WW1 → Diamond Ranking & Justification

Criteria Used to Rank 6 Global Consequences of WW1

HINT — think immediate versus short—term versus long—term