

# WWI Consequences

## Focus Consequences

### 1. The Communist Revolution.

- ① WWI placed an unbearable strain on RUSSIA's weak gov't and economy, resulting in mass food shortages and hunger
- ② 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
- ③ the RUSSIAN system of government created a political, economic, and social backwardness that failed to grasp reality
- ④ misdirected desperation of the oppressed Russian people fuelled a revolution and the violent overthrow of the Czar
- ⑤ 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.

- ① an international organization where countries cooperation is to resolve disputes peacefully and through diplomacy
- ② 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 pre-cursor to the United Nations tasked with the goal to construct a peaceful global order
- ③ core principle of the L.O.N. was self-determination in order to create a world of independent states free of outside <sup>interference</sup>
- ④ the L.O.N. was to provide a new system of collective guarantees of security to replace old military alliances
- ⑤ the L.O.N. was to provide a process of disarmament

### 3. The Intention to Create a Jewish Homeland.

- ① 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.
- ② Arabs opposed the creation of a Jewish homeland for fear it would mean the subjugation of Arab Palestinians
- ③ After WWI the Jewish population in Palestine increased dramatically, as did Jewish-Arab violence
- ④ 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
- ⑤ Post WW2 & Jewish genocide (Holocaust) much of the int'l community took up the Zionist cause & in 1948 the state of Israel was declared

### 4. The Shifting Balance of Power in Asia (Japanese Supremacy).

- ① A drastic increase in global demand for Japanese products as European products unavailable (export-led boom by Japan & U.S.A.)
- ② A growth of Japanese ultra-nationalism & militarism as Japan perceived the its interests were blocked at L.O.N. → a sense of racial superiority emerges as the foundation of Japanese nationalism
- ③ 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.

- ① A part of the Paris 1919 peace conference was to redraw the map of Europe, the Middle East, & beyond
  - ② straight lines make uncomplicated borders and unsolvable territorial disputes
  - ③ RUS territory lost, new countries born or old countries reconstituted
  - ④ AUS-HUN empire is dissolved
  - ⑤ OTTOMAN empire stripped of most of its European & Middle East territories
- new independent States for minority populations of old empires
- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Austria        | Yugoslavia       |
| Hungary        | France enlarged  |
| Turkey         | Italy enlarged   |
| Finland        | Romania enlarged |
| Estonia        | Denmark enlarged |
| Latvia         | Greece enlarged  |
| Lithuania      | Syria            |
| Poland         | Lebanon          |
| Czechoslovakia | Iraq             |
|                | Jordan           |
|                | Palestine        |

### 6. The Signing of the Treaty of Versailles (WWI Terms of Peace).

- ① a new balance of power created in Europe in favour of the Allied powers (Triple Entente) excluding RUS — i.e., mainly U.K. & FRA
- ② the goal was to restore European stability and maintain a lasting peace, principally by weakening GER
- ③ the long & drawn out peace process exposed the Allies' inability to cooperate in reaching a meaningful and balanced agreement on how to treat GER (victor's justice)
- ④ the extraordinarily harsh terms of the treaty (GER claimed the terms were "morally invalid") fueled GER nationalism and resentment (most importantly the "war-guilt" clause that assigned sole blame for the war on GER)
- ⑤ the treaty was never fully accepted by GER or enforced by the Allies

## Other Consequences

- ◆ A Chance for Democracy in War Torn & Weakened Nations.
- ◆ 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 Triumphed.
- ◆ 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

1

2

3

4

5

6