

Final Review Sheet

WORLD HISTORY 1500–PRESENT
HIST 112 WILSON FALL 2009

The exam will cover chapters 11–20, including primary sources, plus *The Underdogs* and *Things Fall Apart*.

- ▶ The first half of the exam—the identifications and multiple choice—will cover the period following the midterm (chapters 16–20 and *Things Fall Apart*).
- ▶ The essay will provide opportunities to bring together themes from the entire course.

CHAPTER 16

Throughout the nineteenth century, a new global order emerged based on the ideas of the French and American revolutions, laissez-faire capitalism, the nation-state, new technologies, and industrial organizations. Its triumph was not preordained. In various areas and among diverse peoples, alternative movements periodically surfaced to challenge this future. These rebellions, whether they emanated from political radicals, charismatic prophets, peasant movements, or anti-imperialist insurgents, developed countervisions to the emerging status quo. The conflict over the future, in many ways, was the distinguishing feature of world history during this century.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What did radical alternative movements have in common?
2. How did prophets and big men tap into Islamic and African traditions?
3. Why did the Taiping Rebellion arise in 1850s China?
4. What forces fueled European radicalism?
5. How were the alternative movements in the Americas and India similar and different?

STUDY TOPICS

1. Major characteristics of antiimperialist prophetic movements
2. Differences between 19th century European “reactionaries,” “liberals,” and “radicals”
3. Major elements of Marx’s understanding of history
4. Insurgency movements and their connection to tradition; reasons for their failures
5. Goals and appeal of the 19th century “alternative visions”

KEYWORDS

Wahhabi movement, jihad, Shaka Zulu, Opium Wars, Taiping Rebellion, Battle at Wounded Knee, Indian Rebellion of 1857, liberalism, utopian Socialism, communism, “greased cartridge” controversy

CHAPTER 17

Between 1850 and 1914, nation-state building and imperial expansion changed the map of the world. In Europe, the Americas, and Japan, exponents of the nation-state claimed that the world should be divided up into groups who shared a common past, culture, territory, and traditions. Many political leaders adopted this strategy, leading to state-led efforts to expand their territorial reach, promote economic development, and encourage the growth of a common national identity among those identified as members. Through this process, some existing countries such as Japan and the United States became new actors on the international stage. In Europe, the new countries of Germany and Italy appeared to upset the status quo. The growth of nationalism threatened multinational empires such as Austria, Russia, and the Ottoman realm. Furthermore, nationalism also led to an explosion of imperialism as many nations concluded that territorial aggrandizement was essential to their development.

The overseas expansion of European powers, the United States, Latin America, and Japan, along with the growth of new technologies and methods in communication and transportation, further knitted the world’s regional economies into a larger superstructure. They also facilitated the largest reshuffling of people and resources the world had ever seen. Territorial and economic expansion, however, challenged the very premise of nation-state building. Were nation and empire compatible?

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What was the relationship between nationalism and imperialism?
2. How did the nation-building patterns compare among the United States, Canada, and Brazil?
3. How did European nation-states forge national identities?
4. How did new materials and technologies transform industry and the global economy?
5. What were the motives for imperialism and the practices of colonial rulers?
6. How did expansionism affect Japan, Russia, and China?

STUDY TOPICS

1. Tactics states can use to reinforce nationalism and unity
2. How nation-building and nationalism relate to the American Civil War; Canadian unification; German unification
3. The separate goals of the Union and the Confederacy; how the North won the war but lost the peace
4. The advantages imperialist nations had in their quest to build colonial empires
5. Imperialist nations' justifications for colonial expansion
6. The changes in industrialization in the second half of the 19th century

KEYWORDS

Nation-building, Manifest destiny, social "Darwinism," "scramble for Africa," Ku Klux Klan, civilizing mission, Crimean War, Meiji Restoration, Spanish-American War, Treaty of Nanjing, raj

CHAPTER 18

At the turn of the century, Europeans and people of European descent occupied a commanding position in the world. They led a world in which scientific and technological advancements promised to usher in an age of progress and prosperity. Yet theirs was a world unsettled. At home social and economic dislocations were producing pronounced unrest and anxiety. Social problems abounded in cities where the rich and powerful lived right next door to the poor and the not-so-poor. Women increasingly agitated for greater independence and enhanced political and legal rights. New directions in the arts and sciences, or "modernism," questioned fundamental religious assumptions and traditional values. Abroad, agitation against indigenous elites or colonial rulers abounded. Everywhere personal and national identities came unraveled. Race, more than ever before, became a central feature of identity and justification for inequalities. National identities became even stronger. This unsettlement contributed to the tensions that caused World War I.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. How did an unsettled world produce new anxieties?
2. How did Africans and Chinese show their opposition to imperialism?
3. What were the sources of unease around the world?
4. How was cultural modernism manifested in different fields?
5. How did conceptions about race and nation change in this era?

STUDY TOPICS

1. How modernism reflects a loss of confidence in older traditions and beliefs
2. The origins of increasing resistance to colonial rule
3. Reasons for the failure of the Boxer Rebellion
4. The effects of industrial cartels on free market competition
5. How race grew in importance as an element of both nationalism and imperialism
6. The shifting role of women in industrialized nations; in colonized nations

KEYWORDS

Maji-Maji revolt, Boer War, anarchism, Pullman strike, cultural modernism, Jim Crow laws, Zionism, pan-Germanism, pan-Slavism

CHAPTER 19

World War I shook the foundations of the nineteenth century European-centered world. The war involved not just soldiers, but whole societies. And although most of the action centered on Europe and involved European powers, the scale and the scope of the conflict dragged Asian, African, and North American societies into the whirlwind. The war catalyzed the momentum toward mass participation, mass consumption, and mass production—or modernism—that was already emerging at the dawn of the century. During the 1920s and 1930s, long after the fighting ended, leaders and peoples around the globe struggled with this development. How should societies be organized to reflect these new values and assumptions? The Great Depression of the 1930s heightened this dilemma as it became clear that mass production and consumption had failed to meet the material needs for many members of society. In the wake of these developments, three competing visions emerged for how to be modern: liberal, authoritarian, or anticolonial. Not only was this an intellectual competition, it meshed with geopolitical rivalries and imperial networks, making the world a tinderbox of tension by the end of the 1930s.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What were the different forms of political modernity?
2. In what ways did the Great War change the world?
3. How was mass culture utilized by different political systems?
4. How are mass production and consumption related?
5. How did different political systems respond to economic, political, and social disorder?

STUDY TOPICS

1. Reasons why Austria, Germany, Russia, and France needed to go to war in 1914
2. How Britain and the United States got pulled into the war
3. Short-term and long-term legacies of World War I
4. The political implications of mass culture
5. The effects of mass production and mass consumption on society
6. Effects on the Great Depression on European powers; the United States; colonized nations
7. Reasons for the decline of liberalism after World War I; popular support for authoritarian leaders

KEYWORDS

Russian Revolutions of 1917, Great Depression, Bolsheviks, Versailles Treaty, League of Nations, gulag, Weimar Republic, Nazi, fascism, New Deal, anticolonialism

CHAPTER 20

The Second World War destroyed the European-centered world that had emerged in the nineteenth century. In place of European world leadership and European empires emerged a three-world order. The United States and Soviet Union headed the First World and Second World respectively. Each believed that its ideology—liberal capitalism and communism—had universal application. Soon after World War II, these two camps became engaged in a “cold war” to expand and counter each other’s global influence. The Third World consisted of formerly colonized and semi-colonized people caught in between the two superpowers and their rival ideological blocs. While able to sweep away foreign rule, they were unable to overcome deep-rooted problems of poverty and underdevelopment. Moreover, Third World nations often became the staging ground for cold war conflicts. By the 1960s and 1970s, stresses appeared in this three-world order. Unrest and discontent boiled to the surface in all three worlds in different forms. New sources of power, be they multinational corporations, nongovernmental organizations, oil-rich states, or the shifting balance of economic wealth between or within each world, posed new problems and rethinking about current configurations.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What challenges did each world bloc face?
2. In what ways was World War II a global conflict?
3. How did the United States try to contain the spread of Communism?
4. To what extent did decolonization involve large-scale violence?
5. What were the successes and failures of each world bloc?
6. What were the major fissures that developed in the three-world order?

STUDY TOPICS

1. The origins and legacies of World War II
2. The “three world order”
3. How the U.S. aimed to ensure Communism did not spread to Western Europe
4. How the end of World War II led to Cold War rivalries
5. The success of Mao Zedong’s revolution
6. The spread of decolonialization after World War II and its effects on European and ex-colonial peoples

KEYWORDS

Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere, Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Yalta accords, blitzkrieg, Hiroshima, Pearl Harbor, Berlin airlift, Berlin Wall, Viet Minh, McCarthyism, Prague Spring, Great Leap Forward

THINGS FALL APART

- ▶ What are Okonkwo's main characteristics as he is depicted in the first few chapters? How does he change?
- ▶ In what ways is Okonkwo presented as unusual for his culture?
- ▶ Why is Okonkwo’s relationship with his son Nwoye so difficult?
- ▶ How are women’s roles presented in the novel?
- ▶ Why do you suppose Ikemefuma’s death was though necessary? Why is Okonkwo asked not to take part in the his killing? Why does Okonkwo act as he does
- ▶ What is Okonkwo's attitude toward his daughter Ezinma?
- ▶ How is the notion of white men first introduced into the story? What values are associated with them?
- ▶ Given that Okonkwo has killed people before, what makes the accidental killing of the boy at the funeral so serious?
- ▶ What does Okonkwo’s mother mean when she says “mother is supreme”? Why does he not understand her?
- ▶ Achebe focuses on the doctrine of the Trinity, the notoriously least logical and most paradoxical basic belief in Christianity. How does this belief undermine the missionaries' attempts to discredit the traditional religion? Why is Nwoye nonetheless drawn to convert to Christianity?
- ▶ What clashes in values are created by the functioning of the British courts?
- ▶ Why do some of the villagers--even those who are not converts to Christianity--welcome the British?
- ▶ How is Rev. Smith different from Brown? What is the result of his black and white thinking?
- ▶ What are the British trying to accomplish? What do they say is their motive in colonizing the Africans?
- ▶ Why do you think Okonkwo dies the way he does?
- ▶ What’s Achebe’s point in ending with the Commissioner musing on the title of the book he’ll write?