

World History: The Modern World (1800-present)

The Industrial Revolution affected more than the way people worked and lived, it changed the landscape of the world. Join us as we study the economic developments brought about by the industrial revolution as well as its consequences in social and cultural life. We will study the development and consequences of World War I, II, and the Cold War, as well as the globalization of the world and the development of capitalism of the present day.

For 8th-12th grade

Thursdays, 12:45pm-3:15pm

Stone Hill Learning Center

Karis Jang

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Course Description

In the second half of the nineteenth century, Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, the United States, and a few other countries embarked on the Second Industrial Revolution as they adopted new sources of energy and churned out ever-larger numbers of manufactured goods. In their quest for profit and power, the industrialized nations sought access to new markets and inexpensive sources of raw materials. Their desire for resources led them to seize territory in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, ignoring the rights of the people there and costing the lives of millions. Even as large and established a nation as China was not inviolable, and the European nations carved spheres of influence from it just as they did in other regions of the world. The Second Industrial Revolution, which began in the second half of the nineteenth century and lasted until the start of World War I, brought about more than economic developments. In addition to radically changing national economies and international trade, it also transformed the ways in which individuals lived and worked. Workplaces, homes, cities, and the experiences of entertainment, art, and literature were completely reshaped. Even the family underwent significant changes.

Then came the wars. World War I served as a clear demarcation line. By separating the world of empires from an emerging and more modern world, the conflict set the stage for a redrawn map of Europe. It featured many characteristics that have since become common in warfare—total war, civilian losses, massive numbers of troops in armies, and warfare that relies on military technology as well as the courageous charge of soldiers against enemies. The war was a surprise to many and was welcomed by some when it broke out in 1914. Its level of destruction, however, came to shape public opinion about war for decades. The devastation and dislocations of World War I were

so profound that much of Europe was hard-pressed to recover in its aftermath. Through the tumultuous 1920s, voters worldwide looked to authoritative leaders and parties to solve their country's problems. This tendency spawned a new approach to governance in the form of fascism and totalitarianism, which gained power and influence in many places across the globe. The resulting regimes propelled the world to a bloodier and more devastating sequel to World War I—World War II. The second global conflict in less than half a century began with Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 and Britain and France's decision to oppose it. By the summer of 1940, western Europe had fallen to German armies, and in 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union. As Europe erupted in flames, on the other side of the world, the armies of the Empire of Japan swept through Asia and the Pacific, enmeshing millions more in a brutal conflict.

In the period following World War II, leaders like Joseph Stalin and Nikita Khrushchev of the Soviet Union and Mao Zedong of China believed communism would light the way to a bright new future for humankind. The United States, the United Kingdom, and other Western countries regarded communism as a threat to freedom, instead placing their faith in capitalism and democracy to improve human life. The ideological differences between these two groups of countries, and the global-scale struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States for social, economic, technological, and military supremacy, divided the world into mutually hostile spheres in the half-century following the war. Their antagonism played out in a real but bloodless conflict known as the Cold War.

In many ways, World Wars I and II were only temporary interruptions in a centuries-long process of global integration. This process is often called globalization, the interconnectedness of societies and economies throughout the world as a result of trade, technology, and the adoption and sharing of elements of culture. Globalization facilitates the movement of goods, people, technologies, and ideas across international borders. Historians of globalization note that it has a very long history. In the days of the Roman Empire and the Han dynasty, Europeans and Asians were connected to one another through trade along the Silk Roads. In the fourteenth century, the Black Death spread from Asia to Europe and North Africa, killing people on all three continents. With the European colonization of the Americas in sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and British colonization of Australia, all of the world's inhabited continents became enmeshed in exchanges of peoples, products, and ideas that increased in the nineteenth century as the result of both technological developments and the imperialist impulses of industrialized nations. Only the world wars of the twentieth century brought a temporary halt to these exchanges. Furthermore, once the world wars were over, globalization not only resumed its pre-World War I trajectory but even gained speed, despite the Cold War and decolonization efforts in Asia and Africa. As the Cold War came to a close, the United States and increasingly powerful corporations ensured that capitalism and free-market economics would dominate the

globe.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

We expect that at the end of this course students will have an understanding of:

- The roots, development, and consequences of the industrial revolution on the world, both from an economic lens, as well as a social and cultural lens.
- The development and consequences of World War I, II, and the Cold War.
- Compare competing political ideologies during World War II
- The globalization of the world and the development and expansion of capitalism and what relevance this has to the modern day

Required Texts and Materials Needed

- 3-ring binder (with graph and/or lined paper) or notebook and folder
 - Pencil, pen, highlighters (at least 2 colors)
- World History Volume 2 from Openstax, chapters 9-16. Available online at <https://openstax.org/books/world-history-volume-2/> or for purchase through Amazon.
 - Additional primary and secondary sources will be provided in class
 - Homework assignments will be communicated to the students at the end of class every week.

Field Trips (Number of trips TBD depending on Student Interest)

- **Thomas Edison National Historical Park**- West Orange, NJ
 - Walk through Thomas Edison's home as well as laboratory rooms, libraries, greenhouses (exotic plants), and historic vehicles, and Glenhouse mansion!
 - \$11 per student
- **Cooper Gristmill**- Morris County, NJ
 - Students will get to see the only restored water-powered mill in New Jersey grind grain in real time, a fun way to see industrial history in real time!
 - \$5/per student (potentially +\$10 for special events they sponsor for homeschool students)
- **Battleship New Jersey**
 - BB62 was built at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, and launched December 7, 1942—just a year after the Pearl Harbor Attack brought America into WWII. Students will get to see USS *New Jersey* which led the Pacific Fleet under Admirals Spruance and Halsey and fought in the two largest naval battles in history. She was reactivated to fight in the Korean War, and again to fight in the Vietnam War, when she was the

world's only operating battleship. She was reactivated for a third time in the Cold War to halt Soviet expansionism and resolve conflicts in the Middle East. After fighting fascism, communism, and terrorism, she was decommissioned for the final time in February 1991.

- \$15 per student

- **National Museum of Industrial History** - Bethlehem, PA

Open to all Learning Center students

<https://www.nmih.org/educate/field-trips/>

- Costs \$15 per student

Grading

- Quizzes on the book (1 per chapter + class discussion) as well as quiz corrections
- Individual Research on industrialization - choose one area of industry and bring examples of before and after industrialization
- Research Project
- Individual Essay on globalization
- Participation (can be fulfilled through writing *or* speaking)
- Late assignments will lose 5 points per day late

Disability Resources

I am committed to providing appropriate accommodations for any students who may need them. Please either reach out to me directly or have the student talk to me after class/during the break time.

Note about Food/Drinks:

Per the spirit of the age of food development (and the popularization of afternoon tea in the 1840s), I will be offering tea to any students who so desire during the duration of the class. I will have both caffeinated and non caffeinated options.

Class Schedule (Dates Provided are an Approximation, subject to change)

Week 1 (Sept 10)

- Introduction to World History class
- Discussion of Expectations & AI/laptop policy
- Techniques: Employing Active Reading while reading textbooks (please bring a highlighter to class)

Homework: If unable to make it to the first class, please fill out the food allergy/aversion form. Read 9.1-9.4 in the textbook.

Week 2-4 (Sept 17, 24)

- 9.1-9.4 - Expansion in the Industrial Age
 - Empires' Agendas (Who were the big players, what were their strategies...and who was "winning"?)
 - Discussion of Colonization (9.3) and Resistance
 - Diving deeper: Special mini lectures on the Meiji Empire and Empress Cixi (9.4)
 - Discussion of Media
 - Techniques: Geography

Quiz on 9.1-9.4

Field Trip 1 Thomas Edison National Historic Park (Corresponds to 9.1)

Week 5-9 (Oct 1, 8, 15, **No class on Oct 27**, Nov 5)

- 10.1-10.5 - Life and Labor in the Industrial World
 - A day in the life of... the everyday laborer, the wealthy merchant, royalty
 - Medical developments and hygiene improvements (and failures)
 - Exploring Food (and food preservation)
 - Child Labor
 - Comparing labor standards to today
 - Techniques: Primary Source Analysis

Assignment:

- Fictional Biographical Report (Research time in class and some work expected to do at home)

Week 10-14 (Nov 12, 19, Dec 3, Dec 10)

- 11.1-11.5 - World War I
 - Treaties and Alliances
 - Assassination of Franz Ferdinand and the start of WWI
 - Special mini lectures: Naval Poetry & Women in wartime
 - Discussion of Naval Power, OPTIONAL field trip to **Battleship New Jersey**

Quiz

Week 15-18 (Jan 7, Jan 14, 21)

13.1-13.4 - Political Ideologies

- Group Research Project comparing Ideologies across nations

Quiz & Discussion

Week 20-24 (Jan 28, Feb 4, Feb 11, Feb 18)

World War II

13.1-13.4 - World War II

- Quiz

Week 24-28 - Special Topics (Feb 18, Feb 25, March 4, March 11)

Quiz & Discussion

Week 29-32

- 15.1-15.4 - Contemporary World & Capitalism

Essay on globalization and its implications for the modern age