

PART VI

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IN WORLD HISTORY

Summary. During the newest stage of world history, 1914 to the present, great Western empires declined and were replaced by regional groups and multinational corporations. There are several triggers for this dramatic shift. The first is the collapse of European imperial dominance and subsequent decolonization. Another trigger was massive technological innovation in military capacity and communications. The final reason for this shift in world history was an explosion in population growth. These triggers created political innovation and a renewed globalization. But even with these changes many societies resisted changes to traditional worldviews. These key developments in the 20th and 21st centuries effected people's emotions and behaviors by decreasing birth rates and increasing consumerism.