The world Between the Wars: Revolutions, depression, and authoritarian response
Chapter 29

Interwar Period- Big Picture

- The 1920s were profoundly shaped by World War I and by movements well underway before the war.
- Three major patterns emerged:
  1. Western Europe recovered from the war only incompletely
  2. The United States and Japan rose as giants in industrial production
  3. Revolutions of lasting consequence shook Mexico, Russia, and China.
- Each of these developments brought into doubt western Europe’s assumptions about its place as the dominant global power.
The Roaring Twenties
Bouncing Back After War?

- A brief period of stability, even optimism, emerged in the middle of the 1920s.
  - Germany's new democratic government promised friendship with its former enemies.
  - The Kellogg-Briand Pact, outlawing war, was signed by a number of nations.
  - The latter part of the decade, general economic prosperity and the introduction of consumer items (consumerism) like the radio and affordable automobiles raised hopes.
  - A burst of cultural creativity appeared in art, films, and literature
    - Cubism – Picasso
  - Women, who lost their economic gains in the war's factories, but attained voting rights and social freedoms in several countries.
  - In science, important advances continued in physics, biology, and astronomy.
- Enormous challenges
  - The United States and Japan registered economic gains and political tension.
  - New authoritarian movements surfaced in eastern Europe and Italy.

Other Industrial Centers

Canada, Australia, New Zealand

- Settler societies gain Independence
  - British Commonwealth of Nations (autonomous)

- Canada saw an increasingly strong economy and rapid immigration during the 1920s

- Australia emphasized socialist programs like nationalization of railways, banks, and power plants and experienced rapid immigration as well.
Other Industrial Centers

United States
- Returns to Isolationism
- First “Red scare”, from 1917 to 1920

Japan
- Strong economy

Formation of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand
New Authoritarianism: The Rise of Fascism

In 1919, Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist Party (ITALY)
- A corporate state to replace both capitalism and socialism
- An aggressive foreign policy under a strong leader
- Mussolini takes over government in 1922
  - Eliminated his opponents
  - Stream of nationalist propaganda
  - Government directed economic programs
  - Suspends elections in 1926

New Authoritarianism: The Rise of Fascism

- New Nations of Eastern Central Europe
  - Authoritarian governments dominate
  - Same problems that plagued Western Europe

- New nations created at Versailles:
  - Czechoslovakia had Germans, Poles, Ruthenians and Ukrainians, Slovaks and Hungarians
  - Poland split Germany
  - Others: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Yugoslavia, & Turkey
  - Austria-Hungary were split into two separate countries

- Peasant land hunger, poverty, and illiteracy continued despite regime changes.
**Mexico's Upheaval**

Political and land reform, education, & nationalism

- **Porfirio Díaz**, Ruler since 1876
  - repression and corruption
  - Economy under Foreign control

- **Francisco Madero (Gonzalez)**
  - 1910, arrested by Díaz during Presidential Election
  - Supposedly, Díaz wins election
  - Revolt against Díaz; and the Mexican Revolution began
  - Díaz removed 1911, Madero assassinated by, 1913:

- **Victoriano Huerta**
  - Returns to Díaz’s style of rule
  - Forced from power, 1914

- **Emiliano Zapata & Pancho Villa**
  - Mexican revolutionaries forced Huerta out
  - Zapata: who led guerrilla fighting in the South; “Tierra y Libertad”
  - Villa: led fighting in North into USA; pursued unsuccessfully by the Army

- **Soldaderas**: Women who were guerrilla fighters in the Mexican Revolution

- **General Álvaro Obregón**: first elected president 1920

- The constitution of 1917
  - Promises of land reforms (slow to materialize)
  - Public education (more successfully met).

- **President Lázaro Cárdenas** (1934-1940)
  - Land redistributed. Mostly to communal holdings
  - Education expanded
Culture and Politics in Post-revolutionary Mexico

Indian culture influence started by Gov’t

- Diego Rivera, Communist muralist
- Frida Kahlo, Artist wife of Rivera
- José Clemente Orozco, Socialist realist painter
- Cristeros
  - Catholic/Conservative peasant rebellion to stop secularism
- Government took control of the petroleum industry.
- Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)
  - In reality a one party system
  - developed in 1920s
  - controlling force in politics until late 20th century

Revolution in Russia

- 1st (March) Revolution breaks out, 1917
  - Alexander Kerensky (White Bolsheviks)
  - Liberal provisional government
  - When reforms seemed slow in coming

- 2nd Revolution November, 1917
  - Bolsheviks (Communist Party)
  - Vladimir Lenin
  - Closes parliament
  - Congress of Soviets
    - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (Ending WWI)

- 1918-1921
  - Reaction against communism (Reds)
  - An ensuing civil war killed millions
  - Red Army prevailed
    - Leadership of Leon Trotsky
Stabilization of Russia's Communist Regime

Lenin's New Economic Policy, 1921
- Stopgap economic mix of true Communism and capitalism
- Food production gave Bolsheviks time to strengthen their grip on national politics

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1923
- “peoples’ government” in name only
- Really an authoritarian system

Soviet Experimentation
- Gains for workers, women
- This was short-lived however

Lenin dies in 1924
- Power struggle broke out among Lenin’s deputies after his unexpected death

Succeeded by Stalin
- Strong nationalistic version of Communism
- Rivals to his political philosophy were exiled and/or killed
Toward Revolution in China

- Last Qing emperor abdicates, 1912
  - 1912-1928 War lord period that involved Western-educated politicians, academics, warlords, peasants, and foreign powers, most notably Japan.

- Yuan Shikai 1912-1916
  - Takes over from Sun Yat-sen
  - Heads coalition

- Japan (1915, WWI)
  - Twenty-one demands to Yuan
  - Yuan refuses
  - Control confirmed by Versailles

China's May Fourth Movement and the Rise of the Marxist Alternative

Yuan becomes president (Emperor)

- May 4 Movement
  - Mass demonstrations
  - Call for Western political reform

- Li Dazhou
  - Marxism adopted to Chinese situation
    - Influences Mao Zedong
    - Communist Party of China, 1921

- Japan invades Manchuria 1931
  - began a long struggle over control
Seizure of Power by Guomindang

**Guomindang** (Nationalist Party of China) Sun Yat-sen
- Allies with Communists
- Supported by Soviet Union
- Whampoa Military Academy, 1924
  - Chiang Kai-shek, first leader

**Mao and the Peasant Option**
- Chiang Kai-shek succeeds as head of Guomindang, 1925
- Begins civil war in 1927 (to 1949)
  - Shanghai massacre of 1927
- Mao Zedong
  - “Long March” to Shanxi, 1934
- Maoism viewed all China “proletarian”

- China in the Era of Revolution and Civil War
- Long March

[Image of map showing Guomindang regime, Warlords' spheres of influence, Areas under Japanese control, and Route of the Long March]
China in the Era of Revolution and Civil War

The Global Great Depression

Causation
- Recession, 1920-1921

The Debacle
- “Black Tuesday” 29 October 1929
  - New York Stock Market crash

Depression deepens, 1929-1933
- Soviet Union Immune
- West
  - Welfare programs
The Global Great Depression

Responses to the Depression in Western Europe

- Governments have little impact
  - Radicalism attractive
  - Popular Front, 1936, Liberals, Socialists, & Communists
  - Ex. Léon Blum's French Popular Front

- The New Deal
  - Franklin Roosevelt

The Rise of Nazism

Fascism, 1920s

Adolf Hitler
  - National Socialist party
  - 1932 elections
  - Anti-Semitic
  - 1933, takes power
  - Totalitarian

Appeasement:
  - Rhineland, Occupied, 1936, No response
  - Anschluss, 1938
    - Political/Military takeover of Austria, No response
  - Sudetenland, 1938-1939
    - Political/Military takeover of the German speaking area of Czechoslovakia, resulted in Munich Conference, more yielding to Adolf Hitler, transferred it to Germany
  - Invasion of Poland, 1939 - WWII Starts
The Spread of Fascism

- Mussolini
  - Invades Ethiopia, 1935
  - Rome-Berlin axis, 1936

- Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939
  - Germany, Italy support Franco
  - Russia, Western volunteers support, New liberal Gov’t

- Japan invades China, 1937
  - Rape of Nanking (Dec 1937)
  - Tripartite Pact, Axis, (Sept 1940)
    - Germany, Italy, & Japan

Economic and Political Changes in Latin America

- The Great Crash and Latin American Responses
  - Conservatives
    - Remain the same? Corruption?
  - Corporatism
    - the theory and practice of organizing society into "corporations" subordinate to the state
  - Fascism
    - extreme militaristic nationalism, contempt for electoral democracy and political and cultural liberalism, a belief in natural social hierarchy and the rule of elites, and the desire to create a "people's community", in which individual interests would be subordinated to the good of the nation

Mexico

- Lázaro Cárdenas (1934-1940)
  - PRI Party (Socialist)
  - Many Reforms

Cuba

- 2 Revolutions, in 1933 (3 Presidents)
Economic and Political Changes in Latin America

Brazil was a rapidly industrializing nation "the sleeping giant of the Americas"

- 1929 Election
  - Civil war

- President (Dictator) Getulio Vargas established a corporatist regime in Brazil
  - "The father of the poor"

- 1930-1954
  - Modeled on Mussolini’s Italy
  - However, backed the Allies in World War II.
  - Much of Brazilian history since his death has been a struggle over his legacy.

- New constitution, 1937

- Influenced by Mussolini Suicide, 1954

Argentina: Populism, Perón, and the Military

- Economic collapse, 1929
  - Nationalists Take control, 1943

- Juan d. Perón (1946-1955)
  - Wife, Eva Duarte (d. 1952)

- Coalition government
  - Driven from power, 1955
  - Maintains influence
    - Exiled to Spain 18 years
    - Returns to Office 1973–1974

- Death of Perón, 1974
  - Return of military rule
The Militarization of Japan

The Militarization of Japan

- Nationalists Revolts, 1930s
  - 1930: Prime Minister Hamaguchi assassinated
  - 1931: March Incident and Imperial Colors Incident (abortive coup)
  - 1932: May 15 Incident; Prime Minister Inukai assassinated
  - 1933: proto-fascist Kokumin Domei formed
  - 1936: February 26 Incident: Prime Minister Okada Keisuke escapes assassination

- Military (Army) gains power
  - Tojo Hideki (also, Prime Minister 41-44)
    - Influence over prime ministers
    - 1936 Tōhokai (Fascist political party)

- War with China, 1937
  - Military ascendant

- By 1938
  - Control of Korea, Manchuria, Taiwan

Stalinism

From 1927

- Industrialization

- Politburo- Communist Party in USSR

Economic Policies

- Collectivization, 1928
  - Joint enterprise farming
  - Mechanization
    - Kulaks resist (Middle Class Farmers)
    - Suppression (Dekulakization)

Five-year plans
Stalinism

Five-year plans
○ Factories (#1 Industry by WWII)
○ Toward an Industrial Society

Totalitarian Rule
○ Harsh suppression of criticism

Treaty of Non-Aggression (24 August 1939)
○ Allies with Hitler before WWII (Sept 1)