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CHAPTER 2: THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

What Students Should Learn from This Chapter

- 2.1 Explain the origins of the international system, noting key developments following the Peace of Westphalia.
- 2.2 Discuss how the major trends of nineteenth-century European affairs affected twentieth-century world history.
- 2.3 Recognize how the First World War set the stage for the Second World War.
- 2.4 Describe the effects of the Second World War on the modern international system.
- 2.5 Analyze the Cold War's origins, its key events, and the factors that brought about its end.
- 2.6 Outline key trends in the international developments of the post-Cold War era.

Test Questions

Multiple-Choice Questions

Question type: conceptual

Section 2.1 The Origins of the Modern International System

- 1. The Peace of Westphalia increased the power of
 - a. National rulers.*
 - b. The Roman Catholic Church.
 - c. Local leaders within countries.
 - d. The Ottoman Empire.

Question type: applied

Section 2.1 The Origins of the Modern International System

- 2. According to Adam Smith, international trade
 - a. Did not truly begin until the eighteenth century.
 - b. Should occur only with allied states.
 - c. Weakened all states who participated.
 - d. Could increase a state's power without going to war.*

Question type: conceptual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

- 3. The French Revolution
 - a. Reinforced the mechanisms of the Westphalian system.
 - b. Called for republics with elected representatives.*
 - c. Was started and led by Napoleon Bonaparte.
 - d. Confined its actions within the borders of France.

Question type: applied

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

- 4. What ultimately led to Napoleon's defeat?
 - a. Lack of knowledge about European geography.
 - b. An inability to invade Prussia.

- c. An alliance of major European powers.*
- d. Lack of support among the French populace.

Question type: conceptual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

5. The creation of the Concert of Europe was sparked by

- a. The increasing power of Prussia.
- b. The French Revolution and Napoleon's empire.*
- c. A desire to promote republicanism in Europe.
- d. A need to regulate the competition for colonies.

Question type: factual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

6. How many "great powers" were part of the Concert of Europe?

- a. Four.
- b. Five.*
- c. Six.
- d. Seven.

Question type: conceptual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

7. This country practiced "brilliant isolationism" in the nineteenth century by frequently shifting alliances.

- a. Japan.
- b. France.
- c. Prussia.
- d. United Kingdom.*

Question type: factual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

8. Which of the following regions was NOT a major destination for African slaves?

- a. Europe*
- b. South America.
- c. Central America.
- d. North America.

Question type: conceptual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

9. Which of the following could BEST be described as a polyethnic empire in the nineteenth century?

- a. Austria.*
- b. France.
- c. Prussia.
- d. Spain.

Question type: factual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

10. The final impetus for the unification of Germany came with its defeat of this country in war:

- a. Russia.
- b. Denmark.
- c. Sweden.
- d. France.*

Question type: factual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

11. Which of the following countries was the LAST to become a significant colonial power?

- a. Germany.*
- b. France.
- c. Spain.
- d. Portugal.

Question type: factual

Section 2.2 Revolution, Industrialization, and Conquest in Nineteenth-Century Europe

12. In which of the following years did a non-European power defeat a major European power in war?

- a. 1815.
- b. 1856.
- c. 1861.
- d. 1905.*

Question type: applied

Section 2.3 The Great War (1914-1918) and the Flawed Peace

13. At the outset of the Great War, Germany felt it was in its best interest to

- a. Call for an international peace conference.
- b. Encourage Austria to declare war on Britain.
- c. Declare war on both France and Russia.*
- d. Declare its neutrality and call for negotiations.

Question type: factual

Section 2.3 The Great War (1914-1918) and the Flawed Peace

14. This was NOT one of the Central Powers in the Great War:

- a. Spain.*
- b. Germany.
- c. Austria-Hungary.
- d. Ottoman Empire.

Question type: factual

Section 2.3 The Great War (1914-1918) and the Flawed Peace

15. What were the expectations of the Allied Powers at the start of the Great War?

- a. They felt they would likely lose.
- b. They felt that the outcome was uncertain.
- c. They felt the war would be long, but that they would prevail.

- d. They felt they would achieve a quick victory.*

Question type: factual

Section 2.3 The Great War (1914-1918) and the Flawed Peace

16. The Great War started because of a dispute between:

- a. Germany and France.
- b. Serbia and Austria-Hungary.*
- c. Russia and Germany.
- d. Austria-Hungary and Germany.

Question type: factual

Section 2.3 The Great War (1914-1918) and the Flawed Peace

17. Which country withdrew from the Great War after a 1917 revolution?

- a. Russia.*
- b. Italy.
- c. Austria.
- d. France.

Question type: factual

Section 2.3 The Great War (1914-1918) and the Flawed Peace

18. Which of the following countries did NOT join the League of Nations?

- a. Great Britain.
- b. France.
- c. Belgium.
- d. United States.*

Question type: factual

Section 2.3 The Great War (1914-1918) and the Flawed Peace

19. The Versailles Treaty

- a. Required Germany to pay reparations to Great Britain and France.*
- b. Restored Austria-Hungary's possessions in Central Europe.
- c. Called for decolonization across the globe.
- d. Required Germany to join the League of Nations.

Question type: applied

Section 2.4 The Second World War

20. Which of the following terms BEST characterizes Germany in 1920?

- a. Hopeful.
- b. Resurgent.
- c. Humiliated.*
- d. Expansive.

Question type: applied

Section 2.4 The Second World War

21. Which country did the MOST to contain Germany in the interwar years?

- a. France.*

- b. Great Britain.
- c. United States.
- d. Italy.

Question type: applied

Section 2.4 The Second World War

22. Of the following countries, which is MOST associated with appeasing Germany prior to the Second World War?

- a. Czechoslovakia.
- b. Italy.
- c. France.
- d. Great Britain.*

Question type: applied

Section 2.4 The Second World War

23. In 1939 the Western powers were shocked to see a treaty between these two countries:

- a. Austria and Germany.
- b. Germany and the Soviet Union.*
- c. Germany and Italy.
- d. Spain and Portugal.

Question type: factual

Section 2.4 The Second World War

24. Which country set up the Vichy regime in support of Germany during the Second World War?

- a. France.*
- b. Poland.
- c. Italy.
- d. Spain.

Question type: conceptual

Section 2.4 The Second World War

25. During the initial stage of the Second World War (1939-1940), Hitler felt it was MOST important to concentrate his efforts on occupying territory in

- a. Eastern Europe.
- b. Southern Europe.
- c. Western Europe.*
- d. Britain's overseas colonies.

Question type: factual

Section 2.4 The Second World War

26. In the 1930s, Japanese militarism was first turned on this country/colony:

- a. United States.
- b. Indonesia.
- c. China.*
- d. The Philippines.

Question type: factual

Section 2.4 The Second World War

27. This country was NOT one of the Axis powers:

- a. Spain.*
- b. Italy.
- c. Germany.
- d. Japan.

Question type: factual

Section 2.4 The Second World War

28. In 1940, Germany occupied all of the following countries, EXCEPT

- a. Norway.
- b. Sweden.*
- c. France.
- d. Belgium.

Question type: applied

Section 2.4 The Second World War

29. In 1941 Hitler made the big mistake of invading

- a. Poland.
- b. Norway.
- c. The Soviet Union.*
- d. France.

Question type: factual

Section 2.4 The Second World War

30. Where did German forces suffer their first significant defeat?

- a. Soviet Union.
- b. Yugoslavia.
- c. North Africa.*
- d. Italy.

Question type: applied

Section 2.4 The Second World War

31. Which ethnic groups were MOST targeted by Hitler?

- a. Norwegians and Danes.
- b. Slavs and Jews.*
- c. French and British.
- d. Greeks and Turks.

Question type: factual

Section 2.4 The Second World War

32. Leaders of which three countries met at Yalta in 1945?

- a. Italy, Germany, Japan.
- b. United States, Soviet Union, Great Britain*

- c. Germany, United States, Great Britain
- d. Great Britain, Germany, Italy

Question type: applied

Section 2.5 The Cold War

33. The study of the start of the Cold War includes particular focus on the psychological dispositions of this leader:

- a. Roosevelt.
- b. Truman.
- c. Mao.
- d. Stalin.*

Question type: conceptual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

34. Stalin reacted to American assertiveness by

- a. Creating buffer states in Eastern Europe.*
- b. Calling for a strong United Nations.
- c. Accepting Marshall Plan aid money.
- d. Initiating the call to create NATO.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

35. Of the four countries occupying Germany after the Second World War, which looted its zone of occupation?

- a. United States.
- b. France.
- c. Soviet Union.*
- d. Britain.

Question type: applied

Section 2.5 The Cold War

36. Initially, containment was applied in this region:

- a. Europe.*
- b. Africa.
- c. Latin America.
- d. Asia.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

37. The Marshall Plan

- a. Was applied throughout the world.
- b. Was designed to rebuild European economies.*
- c. Was supported by the Soviet Union.
- d. Was paid for by the United Nations.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

38. Which of the following countries was a NATO member in 1950?

- a. Finland.
- b. Bulgaria.
- c. Britain.*
- d. Egypt.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

39. Which of the following countries was NOT a member of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet-led alliance in Eastern Europe?

- a. Greece.*
- b. Poland.
- c. Hungary.
- d. Czechoslovakia.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

40. Mao Zedong led the successful communist revolution in this country:

- a. Korea.
- b. Vietnam.
- c. China.*
- d. Japan.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

41. This country provided major military support to North Korea near the beginning of the Korean War:

- a. Soviet Union.
- b. South Korea.
- c. China.*
- d. United States.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

42. In 1954 the United States overthrew a pro-socialist government in:

- a. Italy.
- b. Guatemala.*
- c. Vietnam.
- d. Dominican Republic.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

43. For nearly 30 years a wall in _____ symbolized the Cold War.

- a. Prague.
- b. Berlin.*

- c. Warsaw.
- d. Seoul.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

44. Decolonization in the 1950s was NOT prominent in this region:

- a. The Middle East.
- b. Africa.
- c. Southeast Asia.
- d. Latin America.*

Question type: applied

Section 2.5 The Cold War

45. Most scholars feel that the Vietnam War

- a. Could have been won with the help of other Southeast Asian countries.
- b. Should have had greater involvement from NATO allies.
- c. Was definitely in the national interest of the United States.
- d. Was not winnable for the United States.*

Question type: conceptual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

46. Chinese modernization and an opening up to the West began

- a. Shortly after the Communist revolution in 1949.
- b. Shortly after the beginning of the Cultural Revolution.
- c. Shortly after Mao Zedong died in 1976.*
- d. Shortly after the Cold War ended.

Question type: factual

Section 2.5 The Cold War

47. In 1979, the Soviet Union sent troops to support a leftist government in

- a. Afghanistan.*
- b. Bulgaria.
- c. Ecuador.
- d. Tunisia.

Question type: application

Section 2.5 The Cold War

48. Of the following people, which one was MOST responsible for initiating the changes that led to the end of the Cold War?

- a. Deng Xiaoping.
- b. Ronald Reagan.
- c. George H.W. Bush.
- d. Mikhail Gorbachev.*

Question type: factual

Section 2.6 The Post-Cold War Era

49. Which country or group of countries assumed the international legal responsibilities of the Soviet Union after 1991?

- a. United Nations.
- b. Ukraine.
- c. Russian Federation.*
- d. NATO.

Question type: factual

Section 2.6 The Post-Cold War Era

50. The Gulf War (1990-1991) was brought about by Iraq's invasion of

- a. Kuwait.*
- b. Iran.
- c. Turkey.
- d. Syria.

Question type: factual

Section 2.6 The Post-Cold War Era

51. In the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, the United States occupied

- a. Iraq.
- b. Syria.
- c. Afghanistan.*
- d. Iran.

Question type: factual

Section 2.6 The Post-Cold War Era

52. Which president attempted a “reset” with Russia?

- a. Clinton.
- b. George W. Bush.
- c. Obama.*
- d. Trump.

Short-Answer Questions

1. What were the key components of the Treaty of Westphalia?
2. What were the main goals of the French Revolution?
3. What countries did Napoleon conquer?
4. Who were the “great powers” in the Concert of Europe?
5. Define “imperialism” and “colonialism” and describe the connections between the two concepts.
6. What were the key goals of the revolutions of 1848?
7. What was the Congress of Berlin (1878) and why was it important?
8. List the key members of the Central Powers and the Allied Powers.
9. What event precipitated the outbreak of the Great War?
10. What are the main characteristics of fascism?

11. What does the term “appeasement” mean and why is it relevant to the outbreak of the Second World War?
12. Why could 1939-1940 be considered successful years for the German war effort?
13. Briefly describe two big mistakes Hitler made during the Second World War.
14. Which two ethnic groups were targeted for murder by Hitler?
15. Define “containment.”
16. What is NATO and why was it formed?
17. Why was the building of the Berlin Wall so significant?
18. Define “détente.”
19. Who was Deng Xiaoping and why was he important?
20. Why did the Soviet Union send troops to Afghanistan in 1979?
21. List at least three accomplishments of Mikhail Gorbachev.
22. What were at least two actions taken by the United States in the “global war on terror”?

Essay Questions

1. How did industrialization and the creation of new military technologies affect international relations in Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries?
2. Write an essay about the impact of nationalism on international relations from the French Revolution to the outbreak of the Second World War.
3. What was the “scramble for Africa” and why was it potentially destabilizing to the Concert of Europe?
4. Write an essay about key events in Germany’s foreign policy from its reunification to its initiation of the Second World War.
5. What factors led to the victory of the Allied Powers in the Great War?
6. What were the key provisions of the Versailles Treaty and how did they sow the seeds of the Second World War?
7. What are the main characteristics of fascism? What factors explain its success in Italy and Germany in the interwar years?
8. Write an essay about the combination of factors that led to the outbreak of the Second World War. Was the war inevitable? What could major powers have done to prevent it?
9. Why was United States involvement in the Second World War pivotal for Allied success against Germany?
10. What were the primary causes of the Cold War, and how did the Cold War develop in the 1950s?
11. In what ways did possession of nuclear weapons change the nature of the Cold War?
12. What factors brought the end of the Cold War? What were some key events and players in the process?