Chapter 19

Democracy, Anti-Imperialism, and the Economic Crisis after the First World War

Chapter Summary

In the years following the war, as countries struggled to repair their economies, democracy in the form of widening suffrage and social legislation spread in the western European countries and in North America. The new eastern states undertook programs of modernization, and peasant parties became the greatest force of democracy. Germany faced challenges from radicals and the increasing economic pressures brought by war damages and reparations. In Asia, anti-imperialist, nationalist movements gained momentum, in British India, the Netherlands Indies, and French Indochina, and countries that remained nominally independent under their own government, such as China, Persia, and the Ottoman Empire. The prosperity of the 1920s was brought to a halt as an agricultural depression and the crash of the New York stock exchange triggered a worldwide depression. The international system of cooperation disintegrated in the face of increasing economic nationalism.

Chapter Outline

19.93 The Advance of Democracy after 1919
   a. Gains of Democracy and Social Democracy
      i. Social legislation enacted
      ii. Mussolini
   b. The New States of Central and East-Central Europe
      i. Accidents of war
      ii. Self-determination
   c. Economic Problems of Eastern Europe; Land Reform
      i. Obstacles to modernization
      ii. Land reform
      iii. Peasant and smallholder parties
19.94 The German Republic and the Spirit of Locarno
   a. The Spartacists
   b. The Weimar Republic
      a. The German Democracy and Versailles
         i. The Versailles treaty as “diktat”
ii. French fear
iii. Soviet-German relations
b. Reparations, the German Inflation of 1923, Recovery
   i. A social revolution
   ii. The Dawes Plan
c. The Spirit of Locarno
   i. The Locarno treaties
   ii. A hopeful outlook
19.95 Anti-Imperialist Movements in Asia
a. Resentments in Asia
   i. Imperialism in Asia
   ii. Anti-imperialist revolts
b. First World War and Russian Revolution
   i. Home government concessions
   ii. Bolshevik anti-imperialism
c. The Turkish and Persian Revolutions
   i. The Turkish Republic
   ii. Separation of church and state
   iii. New regime in Persia
d. The National Movement in India: Gandhi and Nehru
   i. Gandhi’s campaign
   ii. Divisions in society and politics
   iii. Continuing struggle for independence
e. National Movements in French Indochina and the Netherlands Indies
f. The Chinese Revolution: The Three People’s Principles
   i. Sun Yat-sen and the Nationalists
   ii. Democracy, nationalism, livelihood
   iii. Antiforeign sentiments
   iv. Alliances with Russia
g. China: Nationalists and Communists
   i. Communists purged from the Guomindang
19.96 The Great Depression: Collapse of the World Economy
a. The Prosperity of the 1920s and Its Weaknesses
   i. A prosperity financed by credit
   ii. Worldwide agricultural depression
b. The Crash of 1929 and the Spread of Economic Crisis
   i. Crisis reaches the rest of the world
   ii. Unemployment
c. Political and Economic Reactions to the Crisis
   i. Economic nationalism
ii. International monetary exchanges in chaos
iii. Quotas
d. Cultural Reactions to the Crisis
   i. Modernism
   ii. Realism and extremism