The Simple AP® World History Unit 7 Cheat Sheet

7.1 Shifting Power After 1900

Old Empires Collapse

Qing China: weak & pressured by foreigners → 1911 revolution; China became a republic.
Ottoman Empire: lost WWI & was split up; Atatürk founded modern Turkey (1923).
Russian Empire: war losses & hunger → 1917 revolutions → Soviet Union (1922).
Austria-Hungary: many ethnic groups wanted their own nations → split apart in 1918.

Empire	Ended	Replaced by
Qing	1912	Rep. of China
Russian	1917	Soviet Union
Ottoman	1922	Turkey

Revolutions

Russian Revolution (1917): Lenin's Bolsheviks took power & built a communist state.
Mexican Revolution (1910–20): fought over land & power; led to land reform (1917).
Atatürk's Turkey: a new secular nation-state w/ Western laws, schools & alphabet.

New Powers

Japan: industrialized & beat Russia in 1905, the 1st Asian win over a European power.
Why empires fell: inside problems (nationalism, weak economies) + outside wars & debt.

⚠ Give an internal AND an external cause for each empire's fall, w/ a specific example.

✓ Compare the Qing & Ottomans: both fell after failed reforms & foreign pressure.

7.2 Causes of World War I

Long-Term Causes (MAIN)

Militarism: countries built huge armies & navies (Britain vs. Germany naval race).
Alliances: Britain, France & Russia vs. Germany, Austria-Hungary & (at first) Italy.
Imperialism: competition for colonies in Africa & Asia built distrust among European powers.
Nationalism: Slavic groups in the Balkans wanted freedom from Austria-Hungary.
Balkans: called the "powder keg of Europe" b/c of rival nationalist groups & weak Ottoman control.

Side	Main members
Allies	Britain, France, Russia
	+ Italy, US (1917)
Central Powers	Germany, Austria-Hungary
	+ Ottoman Empire

The Spark

Assassination: a Serbian nationalist killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand (June 1914).
Chain reaction: alliances pulled one country after another into the war within weeks.
Belgium: Germany invaded neutral Belgium to reach France → Britain declared war.
Global war: colonies in Africa, Asia & the Pacific were pulled in & fighting spread.

⚠ The assassination was the trigger, not the main cause; explain why the war spread so far.

✓ LEQ: pick 2 long-term causes + the trigger, then rank them & explain your choice.

7.3 Conducting World War I

Total War

Total war: governments ran economies for the war w/ rationing, drafts & war bonds.
Propaganda: posters & films built support for the war & made the enemy look evil.
Women: worked in factories & as nurses → helped win the vote in Britain & the US.
Colonial troops: over 1M Indian soldiers & many Africans fought for their rulers.

New Weapons

Weapon	Effect
Machine gun	hard to attack
Poison gas	terror, injuries
Tanks	crossed trenches
Submarines	sank supply ships

Trench warfare: both sides dug in → huge losses for little land (the Somme, 1916).

Turning Points

US entry (1917): German submarine attacks pulled the US in on the Allied side, adding fresh troops.
Russia exits (1918): after its revolution, Russia made a separate peace w/ Germany.
End: fighting stopped Nov 11, 1918; about 20M people died, & a flu pandemic killed millions more.

⚠ Total war made civilians part of the war effort & also targets of attack & blockades.

✓ SAQ: explain 1 way gov'ts mobilized their people, like propaganda or factory work.

7.4–7.5 Interwar Economy & Tensions

Great Depression

Causes: the 1929 US stock crash, bank failures, too much production & high tariffs.
Spread: world trade collapsed; countries that sold 1 crop (Brazil's coffee) were hit hard.
Germany: reparations, then the Depression → millions jobless → support for the Nazis.

Governments Step In

Country	Response
US	New Deal
USSR	Five-Year Plans
Germany, Italy	fascist control

Big change: gov'ts took a larger role in running the economy, creating jobs & programs.

Treaty of Versailles (1919)

Terms: Germany took the blame, paid huge reparations & lost land → anger.
League of Nations: weak b/c the US never joined & it couldn't stop aggression in the 1930s.
Mandates: Britain & France ruled former Ottoman lands like Iraq, Palestine & Syria.

Anti-Colonial Pressure

Gandhi: led nonviolent protests vs. British rule in India (Salt March, 1930) for independence.

⚠ Mandates weren't independence; Arabs who helped vs. the Ottomans felt betrayed.

✓ Versailles + Depression → extremists → WWII.

7.6 Causes of World War II

Fascism & Militarism

Fascism: extreme nationalism, 1-party rule, a powerful leader & use of violence.
Italy: Mussolini took power (1922) & invaded Ethiopia (1935) to build an empire.
Germany: Hitler used anger over Versailles & the Depression to win power (1933).
Nazi goals: undo Versailles, rearm & win "living space" in Eastern Europe (Poland, USSR).
Japan: military leaders took Manchuria (1931) & invaded China (1937) for resources.

Road to War

Year	Event
1936	Rhineland retaken
1938	Germany takes Austria
1938	Munich Agreement
1939	Nazi-Soviet Pact
Sept 1939	Germany invades Poland

Appeasement: Britain & France gave Hitler land to avoid war, which only encouraged him.
Weak League: it failed to stop Japan, Italy or Germany, so aggression went unpunished.
Axis: Germany, Italy & Japan joined together vs. communism & the Western democracies.

⚠ The war in Asia began in 1937 (Japan vs. China), before Europe's war in 1939.

✓ Compare causes of WWI (alliances) & WWII (Versailles, Depression, fascism).

7.7 Conducting World War II

Total War Again

Mobilization: rationing, war bonds & women in factories ("Rosie the Riveter") in the US.
Colonies: India sent about 2.5M soldiers; African soldiers fought for Britain & France.
Internment: the US forced 120,000 Japanese Americans into camps during the war.

Key Events

Year	Event
1940	France falls
1941	Pearl Harbor
1943	Stalingrad
1944	D-Day
1945	Atomic bombs

Technology

Blitzkrieg: Germany's fast attacks w/ tanks & planes conquered Poland & France.
Bombing: cities like London, Dresden & Tokyo were bombed, killing many civilians.
Atomic bombs: the US bombed Hiroshima & Nagasaki (1945) → Japan surrendered.
Pacific war: aircraft carriers & island hopping moved US forces toward Japan.
Allies: an unusual team of democracies & the communist USSR vs. the Axis powers.

⚠ Most of the 70M+ dead were civilians; the USSR & China lost the most people.

✓ WWII weakened Europe's empires & made the US & USSR rival superpowers (Unit 8).

7.8 Mass Atrocities After 1900

Genocides

Event	Years
Armenian genocide	1915–17
Holocaust	1941–45
Cambodia	1975–79
Rwanda	1994

Key Cases

Armenian genocide: the Ottoman gov't killed about 1M Armenians during WWI.
Holocaust: Nazi Germany murdered 6M Jews, plus Roma, disabled people & others.
Holodomor: Stalin's farm policies caused a famine that killed millions of Ukrainians (1932–33).
Cambodia: the Khmer Rouge forced people out of cities & killed about 1.5–2M people.
Rwanda: Hutu extremists killed about 800,000 Tutsi & moderate Hutu in ~100 days (1994).
Nanjing (1937): Japanese troops massacred huge numbers of Chinese civilians & POWs.

Common Causes

Patterns: war, propaganda that dehumanizes a group & a gov't that targets it w/ violence.
Response: Nuremberg trials (1945–46) & the UN Genocide Convention (1948) to punish genocide.

⚠ Genocide means trying to destroy a whole national, ethnic or religious group.

✓ Compare 2 atrocities by cause (ideology, war or ethnic conflict) & who carried them out.

7.9 Causation + the Exam

Big Causal Links

WWI → WWII: Versailles + the Depression → fascism & aggression → a 2nd world war.
Wars → end of empires: both wars weakened Europe's colonial powers → decolonization.

Change	Continuity
Empires collapse	Nationalism
Total war	Colonies exploited
Gov'ts run economies	Western power
US & USSR rise	Ethnic hierarchies

Arguing Causes

Rank causes: compare economic, political & ideological causes, then defend your top pick.
Context: start w/ rivalry among empires & nationalism before 1914, plus new weapons.

Exam Moves

Format: 55 MCQ, 3 SAQ, 1 DBQ & 1 LEQ; from May 2027, no choice on SAQs or the LEQ.
Stimuli: war posters, treaties, maps & graphs of unemployment in the Depression.
DBQ (7 pts): thesis, context, use 4+ docs, outside evidence & source 2 docs (HIPP).
LEQ prompts: causes of WWI or WWII, responses to the Depression in 2 countries.

⚠ Unit 7 is only 8–10% of the exam, but it sets up the Cold War & decolonization.

✓ Know the WWI → WWII chain & 1 example for each link (Versailles, Munich, Poland).