The Ultimate AP® World History Unit 7 Cheat Sheet

7.1 Shifting Power After 1900

Land-Based Empires Collapse

Qing China: foreign pressure, Boxer defeat & failed reforms → 1911 Revolution; Sun Yat-sen; Republic of China (1912).
Ottoman Empire: lost Balkans & Arab lands, defeat in WWI → partition; Atatürk founded secular Turkey (1923).
Russian Empire: losses to Japan (1905), WWI disasters, food shortages → 1917 revolutions → USSR (1922).
Austria-Hungary: multiethnic empire split by nationalism → broke into new states after WWI (1918).

Empire	End	Successor
Qing	1912	Republic of China
Russian	1917	Soviet Union
Austro-Hungarian	1918	Austria, Hungary, etc.
Ottoman	1922	Turkey + mandates

Revolutions

Russian Revolution: Feb 1917 tsar abdicates → Oct 1917 Lenin's Bolsheviks seize power ("Peace, Land, Bread") → civil war (Reds vs. Whites) → communist state.
Mexican Revolution (1910–20): vs. Díaz's rule & foreign-owned land; Zapata & Villa; 1917 constitution → land reform.
Effects of revolutions: new states nationalized land & resources (Mexico's oil, 1938; Soviet collectivization).

New Powers

US & Japan rose as industrial & imperial powers; Japan beat Russia (1905), the 1st Asian win over a European power.
Causes of collapse: internal (nationalism, ethnic division, economic weakness) + external (war, foreign debt).
Japan's rise: Meiji industry + victories over China (1895) & Russia (1905) → annexed Korea (1910).

⚠ Empires fell for internal AND external reasons; FRQs reward naming one of each w/ a specific empire.

✓ Compare: Qing & Ottoman both fell after failed reforms & foreign pressure; Russia fell to revolution.

7.2 Causes of World War I

Long-Term Causes (MAIN)

Militarism: arms race, esp. Anglo-German naval race (dreadnoughts); war plans like Germany's Schlieffen Plan.
Alliances: Triple Entente (Britain, France, Russia) vs. Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy).
Imperialism: colonial rivalry (Moroccan crises 1905, 1911) built distrust between Germany, France & Britain.
Nationalism: Pan-Slavism in the Balkans; Serbia vs. Austria-Hungary; French desire to regain Alsace-Lorraine.

Side	Members
Allies (Entente)	Britain, France, Russia
	+ Italy (1915), US (1917)
Central Powers	Germany, Austria-Hungary
	+ Ottomans, Bulgaria

The Spark

Assassination: Archduke Franz Ferdinand killed in Sarajevo (June 28, 1914) by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip.
Chain reaction: Austria vs. Serbia → Russia mobilizes → Germany declares war → invades Belgium → Britain joins.
Blank check: Germany promised Austria-Hungary unconditional support → Austria took a hard line vs. Serbia.
Mobilization timetables: rigid rail-based war plans meant once 1 power mobilized, others felt forced to follow.

Why It Became Global

Empires pulled in colonies; fighting spread to Africa, the Middle East & the Pacific (Japan seized German islands).
Balkans: called the "powder keg of Europe" after the Balkan Wars (1912–13) weakened Ottoman control.
Ottoman entry (late 1914): joined Central Powers → fronts at Gallipoli, Mesopotamia & the Caucasus.

⚠ The assassination was the trigger, not the cause; explain how alliances turned a local crisis into a world war.

✓ LEQ causation: pick 2 long-term causes + the trigger; rank which mattered most & explain why.

7.3 Conducting World War I

Total War

Total war: gov'ts directed whole economies to war: rationing, conscription, factory quotas, war bonds.
Propaganda: posters, films & censorship built support & demonized enemies ("the Hun"); DORA in Britain.
Women: filled factory, farm & nursing jobs → helped win suffrage in Britain (1918) & US (1920).
Colonial troops: 1M+ Indian soldiers; French West African tirailleurs; African porters in E. Africa.
Other fronts: Gallipoli (1915) failed; Arab Revolt (T.E. Lawrence) vs. Ottomans; war in German E. Africa.

New Technology

Tech	Effect
Machine gun	defense dominates → stalemate
Poison gas	terror; gas masks
Tanks	break trench lines (late)
Airplanes	scouting, then dogfights
Submarines	U-boats sink supply ships

Trench warfare: Western Front stalemate; Verdun & the Somme (1916) killed 1M+ for little ground.

Turning Points

US entry (1917): unrestricted submarine warfare + Zimmermann Telegram → fresh troops & supplies to Allies.
Russia exits: Bolsheviks sign Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918) → Germany shifts troops west, but fails.
Home front strain: food shortages & strikes in Germany & Russia fed revolution & collapse (Russia 1917, Germany 1918).
End: armistice Nov 11, 1918; ~20M dead; the 1918 flu pandemic killed ~50M more worldwide.

⚠ Total war erased the line between soldiers & civilians; this sets up WWII bombing & atrocities.

✓ SAQ: explain 1 way gov'ts mobilized populations (propaganda, women in industry, colonial troops).

7.4–7.5 Interwar Economy & Tensions

Great Depression

Causes: overproduction, speculation, 1929 US stock crash, bank failures, war debts & reparations, tariffs.
Spread: US loans recalled; Smoot-Hawley tariff (1930) → trade collapsed; export economies (Brazil coffee) crashed.
Germany: 1923 hyperinflation, then Depression → 6M unemployed by 1932 → voters turned to the Nazis.

Gov't Takes a Bigger Role

State	Response
US	New Deal (FDR, 1933)
USSR	Five-Year Plans, collectivization
Italy, Germany	fascist state-led economy
Japan	militarism, expansion
Brazil	Vargas's Estado Novo

Keynes: gov't should spend in slumps to create demand → basis for New Deal-style programs & later welfare states.

Treaty of Versailles (1919)

Terms: German war guilt (Art. 231), huge reparations, lost land & colonies, army limited → deep resentment.
League of Nations: weak; US never joined; couldn't stop Japan (Manchuria) or Italy (Ethiopia).
Mandates: Ottoman & German lands to Britain & France (Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon) → colonies in all but name.
New states: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia & Baltic states formed from old empires; minorities left inside.

Anti-Colonial Pressure

Self-determination promised to Europeans, denied to colonies → Gandhi's Salt March (1930), May Fourth Movement in China (1919), Egypt's 1919 revolt.

⚠ Mandates ≠ independence: Arabs expected self-rule after helping vs. Ottomans (Balfour vs. Sykes-Picot).

✓ Chain: Versailles + Depression → economic despair → extremist parties win support → WWII.

7.6 Causes of World War II

Rise of Fascism & Militarism

Fascism: extreme nationalism, one-party rule, cult of leader, violence vs. enemies; anti-communist & anti-liberal.
Italy: Mussolini's March on Rome (1922); invaded Ethiopia (1935) despite League protests & weak sanctions.
Germany: Hitler & Nazis exploit Versailles & Depression → power 1933; rearm, Rhineland (1936), Austria (1938).
Nazi state: Enabling Act (1933), Gestapo, Nuremberg Laws (1935) vs. Jews; rearmament cut joblessness.
Japan: militarists seek resources → Manchuria (1931), full invasion of China (1937), Nanjing massacre.
Spanish Civil War (1936–39): Germany & Italy aided Franco, USSR aided Republicans → rehearsal for WWII.

Road to War in Europe

Year	Event
1936	Rhineland remilitarized
1938	Anschluss; Munich deal
Mar 1939	Germany takes Czechoslovakia
Aug 1939	Nazi-Soviet Pact
Sept 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland

Appeasement: Britain & France gave in (Munich, Sudetenland) hoping to avoid war → emboldened Hitler.

Other Factors

Failed League & US isolationism (Neutrality Acts) → no collective response to aggression in the 1930s.
Ideology: Nazi racial goals (Lebensraum, "living space" in the East) made expansion central to the regime.
Axis: Germany, Italy & Japan linked by 1936–40 pacts (Anti-Comintern, Tripartite) vs. communism & the West.

⚠ WWII began in Asia in 1937 (Japan vs. China) by many accounts; Europe's war began in 1939.

✓ Compare WWI & WWII causes: alliances & nationalism vs. Versailles, Depression & fascist expansion.

7.7 Conducting World War II

Total War Again

Mobilization: rationing, war bonds, women in factories ("Rosie the Riveter"), forced labor in occupied lands.
Colonies: 2.5M Indian volunteers; African soldiers for Britain & France; resources drained from empires.
Propaganda & control: censorship & mass media; US interned 120,000 Japanese Americans (1942).

Key Events

Year	Event
1940	Blitzkrieg; fall of France
Dec 1941	Pearl Harbor → US enters
1942–43	Stalingrad turns tide east
June 1944	D-Day, Normandy
Aug 1945	Hiroshima, Nagasaki

Technology & Strategy

Blitzkrieg: tanks + aircraft + radio → fast breakthroughs (Poland 1939, France 1940); stalled in the USSR.
Air war: strategic & firebombing of cities (London Blitz, Dresden, Tokyo) → mass civilian deaths.
Pacific: aircraft carriers (Midway 1942) & US island hopping (Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Okinawa) toward Japan.
Atomic bombs: Hiroshima (Aug 6) & Nagasaki (Aug 9, 1945) → Japan surrenders; nuclear age begins.
Industrial output: US "arsenal of democracy" & Soviet factories moved east outproduced the Axis.
Toll: ~70–85M dead, most of them civilians; USSR lost ~27M, China ~15–20M, Poland ~6M (~17% of its people).

⚠ Allies were an alliance of convenience: democracies + communist USSR vs. fascism; it split after 1945.

✓ Link Unit 7 → 8: WWII weakened European empires & made the US & USSR rival superpowers.

7.8 Mass Atrocities After 1900

Genocides & Mass Killings

Event	Years	Victims
Armenian genocide	1915–17	~1M+ Armenians
Holodomor	1932–33	~4M Ukrainians
Holocaust	1941–45	6M Jews + others
Cambodia	1975–79	~1.5–2M
Rwanda	1994	~800,000 Tutsi
Bosnia	1992–95	Srebrenica 8,000

Key Cases

Armenian genocide: Ottoman gov't deported & killed Armenians, accused of siding w/ Russia in WWI.
Holodomor: Stalin's forced collectivization & grain seizures → famine targeting Ukrainian peasants.
Holocaust: Nazi racial ideology → ghettos, mobile killing squads, death camps (Auschwitz); Roma, disabled people & others also killed; Kristallnacht (1938) foreshadowed it.
Cambodia: Khmer Rouge (Pol Pot) emptied cities to build a rural communist society → killing fields.
Rwanda: Hutu extremists killed Tutsi & moderate Hutu in ~100 days; colonial ID cards hardened ethnic lines.
Nanjing massacre (1937–38): Japanese troops killed Chinese civilians & POWs on a mass scale (estimates up to 300,000).

Common Causes

Patterns: wartime cover, propaganda dehumanizing a group, state power, nationalist or utopian ideology.
Response: Nuremberg trials (1945–46), UN Genocide Convention (1948), ICTR & ICTY tribunals.

⚠ Be precise: genocide = intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, not all mass death.

✓ Compare 2 atrocities by cause (ideology, war, ethnic conflict) & by the state's role in each.

7.9 Causation + the Exam

Big Causal Links

WWI → WWII: Versailles resentment + Depression + failed League → fascism & military aggression.
War → empire's end: both wars drained Europe & spread self-determination → decolonization (Unit 8).
Tech → total war: industrial weapons raised death tolls & made civilians targets in both world wars.
Economy → politics: the Depression discredited liberal gov'ts & boosted fascism & communism alike.

Change	Continuity
Empires collapse	Western power still dominant
Total war on civilians	Nationalism drives conflict
Gov'ts manage economies	Colonies exploited for war
US & USSR rise	Racial & ethnic hierarchies

Arguing Significance

Rank causes: economic (Depression) vs. political (Versailles) vs. ideological (fascism); defend your top choice.
Thesis template: "Although alliances turned a crisis into war, nationalism was the deeper cause of WWI b/c..."
Context: open w/ late-1800s imperial rivalry, rising nationalism & industrial arms races among the great powers.

Exam Moves

Format: 55 MCQ (40%), 3 SAQ (20%), DBQ (25%), LEQ (15%); from May 2027 answer all 3 SAQs & 1 LEQ, no choice.
Stimuli: war posters, treaty excerpts, unemployment graphs, maps of mandates & battle fronts, photos.
LEQ prompts: causes of WWI or WWII, gov't responses to the Depression, effects of total war on society.
DBQ (7 pts): thesis, context, 4+ docs, outside evidence, sourcing on 2 docs, complexity (HIPP).

⚠ Unit 7 is only 8–10% of the exam but feeds Units 8–9; know the causal chain from 1900 to 1945 well.

✓ Go-to evidence: Franz Ferdinand, Versailles, New Deal, Munich, Pearl Harbor, the Holocaust.