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Week 11 Recitation

1. The wars of the first half of the twentieth century were the first time that there was a true threat to human rights throughout the world. Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan had taken away many people’s rights and planned to do the same for everyone they took over. The Declaration of Humans Rights makes it clear what rights need to be preserved. If they aren’t followed, you will become an enemy of other countries. The concentration camps and the Holocaust had a large effect on this. This was the largest example of the Nazi’s taking away human rights and the Allies didn’t want this to happen again.

1. Unlike the Treaty of Versailles, the Potsdam Protocols don’t treat Germany as an enemy. They seek no revenge and don’t expect to get anything from them. They treat Germany as if they were just another victim of this horrible war. They did this to avoid Germany being angry again and to prevent another war from happening. This worked very well because Germany became a democratic state that is allied with the Allies. Nazism did survive but it wasn’t popular enough to have an effect. For the most part, this strategy was much more effective than the Treaty of Versailles.
2. They can be viewed as on long ideological struggle because they were all a result of each other. Overall, this entire time period can be seen as the war against authoritarianism. During World War I and II, the fight was mostly against Germany. But the Allies were still aware of what was happening in the USSR. At the end of World War II, there was no way the Germans were going to win. It really became a battle between the US and the Soviet Union to reach Germany. Before the war even ended, the Cold War had already begun.
3. The United Nations was more effective because World War II was much more threatening to the world than World War I. World War I was seen as a pointless war and all countries didn’t want to worry about other countries. Everyone just wanted to worry about their own countries and its destruction. After World War II, all countries were in agreement that they needed to prevent something like this from happening again. Thus, the countries of the world were much more willing to take part in the United Nations.
4. In the Declaration of Human Rights, there is little about the determining your own way of government. This was because Stalin wanted to spread the USSR and communism throughout the world and was against self-determination. There is little about economic standards in the Declaration. They only included that people have the right to employment. This was because Stalin didn’t want a lot of workers rights because it wouldn’t work with communism.
5. These trials were problematic because the Allies could be seen as hypocrites. The Allies believe in self-determination of nations which came from Wilson’s fourteen points during World War I. It can be argued that they are going against this by putting the Nazis on trial. In a way they are showing that they agree with self-determination as long as you pick a government that they agree with