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> \*\*<Final Summary>\*\*

We chose ‘History’ as our first travel destination for broad and shallow knowledge for intellectual conversations. To understand history, we looked at time. Time can be divided into ‘Linear Time’ perspective and ‘Cyclical Time’ perspective. Each perspective on time led to ‘Linear (Progressive) History’ perspective and ‘Cyclical (Repetitive) History’ perspective. And we chose the perspective where the history progresses.

With this premise, we divided history into 5 stages. Primitive Communism, Slave society, Feudalism, Modern Capitalism, and Contemporary era. We again divided these into 2. Primitive•Ancient•Medieval and Modern•Contemporary.

First, history from Primitive to Medieval era transitioned around means of production. Means of production creates products, people who own both owned power, then authority. In short, owning means of product means owning power. Primitive era had no means of production so they were equal. Ancient era had land and territory as means of production, and owner was a king. Medieval era had manor, and owners were king and lords. Modern era had factory and capital, and bourgeoisie monopolized them.

Marx tried to predict who will own what kind of means of production in the next era, and thought it is the most rational and scientific way to predict future. He thought it would be workers who will own means of production, and Communism, with workers in the center of the world, will be the last stage of the development of history. But only look at the results, Communist revolution was not realized. Like Fukuyama said, new economic system after Capitalism seemed impossible. Capitalism might not be the ultimate system, but might be the best system people have found with how flexible and simple it is.

After Medieval era, we explained Modern and Contemporary era around the nature of Capitalism. Modern industrialization brought Capitalism, and its nature led Modern and Contemporary history. Its nature was oversupply. To solve oversupply problem, demand had to be increased. There were two ways: ①pioneering new market, and ②cutting prices. First, to pioneer new markets, whole world jumped into competition for colonies. We call it Imperialism. The age of Imperialism was concluded with WWI after Germany belatedly joined the colony competition. The surface reason was the assassination of Austrian prince, and underlying reason was the colony competition. After WW1, the market seemed to stabilize, but oversupply problem resurfaced. The event which it exploded was the Great Depression. There were a lot of efforts to solve the Great Depression. US modified Capitalism with the New Deal policy. Russia abolished it with Communist revolution. Germany readied for war to overcome the economic crisis, and it led to WWII. After WWII, the world went into competition between Capitalism and Communism around the winners of WWII, US and Soviet Union, called the Cold War. The Cold War was concluded with disbandment of the Soviet Union with economic downturn. After the Cold War came Neoliberalism where Capitalism reigns solo, and we’re here today.

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<Modern> Industrialization → Capitalism (supply > demand)

Imperialism era (late 19C ~ early 20C) → WWI (1914~1918)

The Great Depression (1929~) → WWII (1939~1945)

<Contemporary> The Cold War (1945~1991) → Neoliberalism (1991~today)

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There are two core concepts that move history. Means of production, and oversupply. These two have moved history. They both have something in common. They’re both economic concepts. The core idea that moved ‘history’ is ‘economics’. Actually economics is rather than a field of study, but more of a main foundation that regulates and determines various events such as history, politics, society, culture, etc.