1. The Industrial Revolution

18th-19th century

Britain being the first to undergo industrialization gave them a small boost in the world competitive stage. While the secrets of industry spread quickly throughout Europe providing all of Europe with an edge over the rest of the world, Britain still utilized their lead to outdo their European neighbors.

2. Unification of Germany

19th century

Unification was a long and difficult process for Germany. It revealed the numerous social, religious, political, and cultural differences between the German states and conflict arose from those differences. However, eventually Germany achieved stability and began looking out to the rest of Europe in search of an ally. These were the first steps that eventually led to World War I.

3. Marxism

19th century

Marxism is the economic and political theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels that hold that human actions and institutions are economically determined and that class struggle is needed to create historical change and that capitalism will ultimately be replaced.

4. imperialism

Late 19th and early 20th centuries

Imperialism resulted in European countries racing each other to cut up and claim various parts of the world. Europe laid claim to various countries and populated territories all over the globe. Places like Africa are still feeling the effects of European influence today.

5. the (first) Opium War

1839-1842

The East India Company began the secret sales of opium to China. Chinese officials took notice of the spike in opium and instituted policies overseeing the confiscation of opium, the blockading of trade. And confinement of foreign merchants. In response Britain used their navy to institute a swift defeat of Chinese forces and force the signing of The Treaty of Nanjing.

6. Meiji restoration

1868

The Meiji Restoration was a restructuring of Japan’s political system. It put power back into the hands of the emperor. As a result, Emperor Meiji used this power to spark major change in Japan. Japan became an imperial power and underwent industrialization making them the world power they are today.

7. The Bolshevik revolution

1917

Russia suffered a social fracture that left them divided. One of the major groups were the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin who revolted and took political control.

8. The Great Depression

1929

Throughout the 1920’s, America’s economy was rapidly expanding in the wake of World War I. The stock market boomed as a result. While America entered a slight recession, the stock market continued to expand until stocks reached unjustifiable levels. People began trading stock in mass resulting in a massive crash beginning the worst economic period in American history.

9.  Zaibatsu

Early 20th Century

The large family-controlled banking and industrial groups that owned many companies in Japan before World War II.

10. Fascism

Early 20th Century

Fascism came into prominence in the early 20th century. It is characterized by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition, and control of industry and commerce.

11. The Truman doctrine

Mid-20th century

US President Harry Truman created his foreign policy, The Truman Doctrine, to counter Soviet geopolitical expansion during the cold war.

12. the Cuban missile crisis

October 1962

After America secretly deployed ballistic missiles in Italy and Turkey, the Soviet Union worked with Cuba to place nuclear missiles on the island. This created a 13-day confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States with the island country of Cuba caught in the middle. Finally an agreement was reached. The Soviet Union would remove their missiles from Cuba as long as the United States removed their missiles from Turkey and Italy and agreed to never invade Cuba without direct provocation.

13. the Korean War

Mid-20th century

As a result of the cold war, Korea was split into two distinct regions with their own governments both claiming to be the true government of all Korea. When North Korea began invading South Korea it sparked a conflict forcing other countries to choose sides. The UN, with the United States as its primary force, aided South Korea, while China and the Soviet Union offered aid to their communist ally North Korea. Eventually an armistice was signed creating the Korea Demilitarized Zone, however a peace treaty was never signed meaning the two Koreas are still technically at war and periodic conflicts still occur today.

14. The Vietnam war (the second Indochina war).

20th century

Conflict between the northern and southern forces continued

15. Europe Union

16. The Great Proletarian Cultural revolution

17. Indian partition

18. the question of Palestine

19.  Islamic revolution in Iran

20. African Union

Essay questions:

1. WWI

2. WWII

3. the Cold War

4. the Korea War

5. the rise of Japan after WWII (reasons)

6. the Palestinian-Israeli conflicts

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7. the decline of the Soviet empire

-underestimated the degree that non-russian ethnic groups would resist assimilation

-economic planning failed to meet their needs particularly considering the arms race they entered with the US

-Communist ideology never took firm root

-Gorbachev(last leader) rose to power in 1985

-Gorbachev implemented free speech and attempted economic reform. Both policies had a negative impact on the soviet union