

# 20th Century World History: Power, Progress, and Global Transformation

## Welcome to Your Historical Detective Journey!

Welcome to an exciting exploration of the 20th century! In this class we'll cover the big topics from the recent past that continue to shape the world we live in today. We'll take a deep look at several important topics, read primary sources, and ask deep questions about the nature and value of human society.

## What This Course Is Really About

**The Big Picture:** You'll investigate how five major forces—imperialism, scientific progress, ideological conflict, decolonization, and international cooperation—collided and combined to create our modern world.

**The Real Goal:** By the end of this course, you'll think like a historian, learn to ask informative questions, and understand how to navigate the complex world you're inheriting.

## Essential Questions We'll Explore Together

1. How did competing visions of power and progress reshape global relationships?
2. What happens when good intentions create unintended consequences?
3. How do scientific breakthroughs interact with politics and social movements?
4. Why do some communities achieve self-determination while others struggle?

## What You'll Actually Do

- **Document Detective Work:** Analyze real letters, speeches, photos, and treaties from historical figures
- **Informational Videos:** Watch short, informative videos about a variety of historical topics

- **Modern Connections:** Connect historical patterns to current global issues
- **Investigate:** Combine evidence to form your own opinion about major historical and contemporary issues

## Weekly Schedule Overview

Week	Big Question	Key Investigation
1	How did imperial competition create global war?	WWI as imperial crisis
2	How did science reshape human possibilities?	Scientific revolution & social change
3	What are different visions of modern society?	Ideological competition
4	How did WWII accelerate global transformation?	International cooperation
5	How did colonies become independent nations?	Decolonization strategies
6	How did science create new global opportunities?	Nuclear age & Green Revolution
7	What are the benefits and costs of globalization?	Economic & cultural integration
8	How do 20th century patterns shape today?	Contemporary applications

## What Success Looks Like:

- **Level 1 (Emerging):** Basic understanding of sources and simple connections
- **Level 2 (Developing):** Good source analysis with some perspective awareness

- **Level 3 (Proficient):** Complex analysis connecting multiple perspectives and contexts
- **Level 4 (Extending):** Sophisticated synthesis connecting past to present with original insights

### What You Need to Succeed

#### Required Materials:

- **Notebook or digital device** for document analysis and notetaking
- **Access to internet** for research
- **Curious mind** and willingness to consider multiple perspectives!

### How to Excel in This Class:



#### Come Prepared:

- Complete assigned readings / videos
- Bring questions and curiosity to every session
- Participate actively in discussions and debates



#### Think Like a Historian:

- Always ask: "Who created this source and why?"
- Look for multiple perspectives on every event
- Connect past events to patterns you see today



#### Communicate Clearly:

- Support arguments with specific evidence from sources
- Acknowledge complexity rather than seeking simple answers
- Connect your analysis to broader historical patterns

### Why This Course Matters for Your Future

#### Skills You'll Develop:

- **Critical thinking:** Evaluate sources, identify bias, construct arguments
- **Research skills:** Find, analyze, and synthesize multiple sources
- **Communication:** Present complex ideas clearly and persuasively
- **Global awareness:** Understand how local events connect to global patterns
- **Civic engagement:** Apply historical thinking to contemporary challenges

#### Real-World Applications:

- **Media literacy:** Recognize propaganda and bias in current information
- **Career preparation:** Analytical and communication skills transfer to any field
- **Civic participation:** Understand how to research issues and make informed decisions
- **Global citizenship:** Appreciate diverse perspectives in our interconnected world

### Final Thoughts

History isn't just about what happened—it's about understanding how we got to where we are and where we might go next. The 20th century gave us both unprecedented human achievements and devastating conflicts. By understanding these patterns, you'll be better equipped to navigate and shape the 21st century.

Remember: In this class, asking good questions is more important than having all the right answers. Historical thinking is a skill that improves with practice, and every mistake is a learning opportunity.