

Week 9
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Section AA
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The Age of Empire by Eric Hobsbawm

Chapter 10 "Certainties Undermined: The Sciences"

- a. The sciences as we know them began to develop in during the age of empire.
- b. Sciences, such as mathematics began to become less wordly and more theoretical.
- c. Rather than going from fact to theory, math began to go from theory to fact.
- d. The new thoeries in math met with hard resistance from the old theorists.
- e. Physics was also revolutionized, but it was not apparent at first.
- f. An experiment designed to test the theory of ether appeared to prove that it didn't exist
- g. Physicist Lorentz further disproved ether in an attempt to save the theory.
- h. Traditional physics mechanics gave way to Newtonian relativity.
- i. Prior to quantum theory, it was thought that everything about physics was known.
- j. During this time period, sciences seemed to uncharacteristically identify problems and pursue their answers.
- k. The pursuit of answers to known problems stems from a societal urge to solve them.
Bacteriology: Imperial powers who lost more soldiers to disease than war wanted to know how to reduce this problem.
Nationalism: The fight to "get ahead," such as with syphillis between Germany and France, can pressure scientist towards a particular problem.
- l. Outside of medicine and chemistry, the sciences generally did not have a direct practical use.
- m. Certain sciences had a particularly powerful political use
Biology: For egalitarian minded governments, it allowed them to explain the flaws in their system as coming from inferior people. Racist or imperial powers could use it as justification for their actions.
Eugenics: The psuedo-science stemming from biology. It applied plant breeding science to humans to help justify racism. The rise of genetics helped make it look scientific. Later, Hitler would use the thoeries to justify his actions.
- n. Mendelian genetics was rediscovered and provided the foundation for modern genetics.
- o. The revolution of science was regarded as negative because it destroyed to old foundations with counterintuitive theories.

- p. The refusal of scientists to accept the new theories led to the rise of neo-positivist sciences.
- q. The twentieth century was supposed to be a newer, better nineteenth century, but the sciences were showing that that was not the case.

Chapter 11 "Reason and Society"

- a. The intellectual crisis created by the revolution in science caused many to turn to the mysticism
- b. The rise of occult, spiritualism, parapsychology, etc. can be seen as a rejection of science.
- c. However, the rise of mysticism did not make much of an impact on science or the educated public.
- d. The public began to become more educated during the age of empire
Well schooled nations such as France had an increase of a third in primary school teachers.
Poorly schooled nations such as England and Finland had seven to thirteen times the number of primary school teachers in 1914 than in 1875.
Nations like Norway and Italy increased their secondary school teachers to four or five times their previous numbers.
- e. The education of the masses necessitated the removal of superstition
- f. In the non-European world, science meant power quite literally.
Mexico and Brazil: The ruling elite justified their power by forcing industrialization and progress into their nations.
United States: Social Darwinism justified multi-millionaires.
- g. The advance of science in Europe was accompanied by a retreat of religion.
- h. Men more the women were pushed from the church which many used to show why women were inferior.
- i. Outside of Europe, religion remained a powerful force.
- j. Europeans attempted to explain the religious movements in other countries in secular terms,
such as attempting to reduce Muhatma Ghandi to merely an anti-imperialist.
- k. The more urban an area was, the less likely a person was to be religious.
- l. The most clear beneficiary of the decline in religion was the ideological left.
- m. Marxism became popular as it clearly combined the "laws of history" with the "laws of science." Everything was going toward an inevitable better end.
- n. Marx achieved a wide base of support in crumbling empires.
- o. The social sciences were very politically sensitive, as were natural sciences that came close to humanity, such as biology.
- p. The split between the natural sciences and politics was new, originally essays were

written

that clearly connected the two.

q. Certain sciences, such as economics, split into two branches over a divide on whether history

mattered to them.

r. Sciences such as linguistics went from a social science to a more natural science.

s. The revolution in reason forced governments to rethink themselves in light of the political

power of the masses and the concept of legitimacy.

t. The newest social science with a large impact was sociology.

u. Most original sociologists considered themselves to be studying some other social science.

Chapter 12 "Towards Revolution"

a. The belle époque was not evident in the entire world.

b. To the Ottoman Empire, the war in 1914 was just a continuation of the continuous warfare it had suffered.

c. Russia and the Hapsburg Empire suffered from severe domestic problems.

d. 1914 was not at all special to China, Mexico and Iran.

e. By 1917, it was evident that the bourgeois world was to be drawn into the instability of the periphery.

f. The instability was caused by the bourgeois world interfering with the social and economic viability of the periphery.

g. China, Russia, the Ottoman and Hapsburg empires, and Persia all fell during this period.

h. Russia and the Hapsburgs were in trouble for being backward in an advanced society.

i. Persia, despite being backward and decrepit, probably would not have fallen without imperialist pressures.

j. The only thing that kept Persia around so long was intellectuals' temporary inability to combine the Koran with western ideology.

k. Morocco fell due to its strategic importance to imperial powers.

l. China had lost almost all of its power suppressing the Taiping rebellion.

m. The inability of the imperial powers to satisfactorily divide China allowed it to remain independent and caused its collapse.

n. Secret societies in China pushed for revolution, but had no good way to govern the country.

o. The Ottoman empire had been in decline for many years, but still proved militarily difficult for the imperial powers.

p. Over time, much of the Ottoman territories passed almost officially to Britain and France.

- q. Intellectuals attempted to revive Turkey through revolution, but failed.
- r. The aim to revive Turkey and industrialize changed into a nationalist movement.
- s. The leader of the Turkish revolution abolish Islam as the state religion, unveiled women, and created many schools.
- t. The Mexican revolution was the first in which the masses played a major part in the dependant world.
- u. British imperial holdings began to be able to have more and more independence nearing the end of the age of empire.
- v. Several British holdings, such as India and Egypt, began ot have independence movements.
- w. The revolution in Mexico was helped by economic ties to the United States.
- x. The war in 1914 helped push the Russian revolution.
- y. Lenin pushed forward a "bourgeois revolution" by "proletarian means."

Chapter 13 "From Peace War"

- a. Prior to 1914, the normal framework for Europe was peace.
- b. Despite this, the general staffs of Europe made plans for war.
- c. As war drew closer, it was still generally unexpected, though it was more and more plausible.
- d. Armed service prior to 1914 was mainly civilian in nature and often seen as the the coming of age for young men.
- e. Quite unaware of the dangers of a major war, European powers rushed to be the best armed and most powerful nation in the world.
- f. As nations purchased more weapons, the weapon industry and governments became more closely tied together.
- g. Despite the advantages to the business, no weapons industrialist pushed for war.
- h. It is difficult to find the cause for World War I, as no government was pursuing an agenda that only war could solve.
- i. The only possible cause for war was the slow decline of diplomatic negotiations which increasingly carried the threat of war, real or imagined.
- j. The peacetime alliances solidified the powers together against each other, although it was not clear until the 1910's that Britain would be more inclined towards France and Russia, traditional enemies, than Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- k. The differences between alliance members still, however, did not seem to involve other members of the opposing alliance.
- l. German naval build-up, seen as a threat by Britain and a status symbol by Germany, caused

Britain to become fearful of Germany.

m. The breakdown of diplomacy is evident in that the assassination of the heir to Austria's throne

seemingly started the war as the alliances were drawn into war with each other.

n. Patriotism and Nationalism on a scale never since seen caused there to be far fewer desertions than previously thought and caused the war to be a very bloody.

o. No nation had a problem with recruiting citizens to the army during World War I.

Epilogue

a. The war changed the way the world counted, now casualties and deaths due to a single cause

could be numbered in the millions.

b. The economies of the world had to devise a new system of economics to prevent another

pointless war.

c. The world today is shaped very much by the results of the age of empire.

Questions:

1. In what ways did the revolution in the sciences affect the political forces in the developed world?

2. How did the politics of the western world affect the rest of the world?

3. Why did European diplomacy break down?

4. Was the nationalist feeling felt by the people of the European states justified prior to World War I?

5. In what ways is the world today affected by the age of empire?

Outline of Chapter 9

"An Unsettled World, 1890-1914"

PROGRESS AND UPHEAVAL

"The decades leading up to 1914 were a time of unprecedented possibility for some, and social disruption and economic frustration for others."

~ lots of reform movements

~women entered work force

~"Race became a central part of new identities and a justification for inequalities."

DISCONTENT WITH IMPERIALISM

~many in Europe started questioning the harsh realities of colonization

Unrest In Africa

~uprisings

~Boer War over gold in South Africa

~Britain put Africans in concentration camps

The Boxer Uprising In China

~ Started with two German missionaries being killed

WORLDWIDE INSECURITIES

"The Imperial Power's overcame their differences and put down the Boxers in China."

Imperial Rivalries Come Home

~Germany and Russia competing with each other

Financial, Industrial, and Technological Insecurities

~J.P. Morgan "rescued the dollar from financial panic"

~Diaz was ousted in Mexico as a result of financial panic

~railroads: seen as very good or very bad

Urbanization and Its Discontents

~migration towards the cities

The "Woman Question"

~education more available to women and access to "male" jobs

~birth control and lower birthrate in America

~ Worldwide women were able to vote gradually starting late 1890's

Class Conflict In A New Key

~socialist movements and welfare systems

CULTURAL MODERNISM

"Above all, modernism in arts and sciences replaced the certainties of the Enlightenment with the unsettledness of the new age."

Popular Culture Comes of Age

~soccer popular for middle class in Europe, Baseball for US, cricket in India

Europe's Cultural Modernism

~sociology

~Sigmund Freud and Gustave le Bon

Cultural Modernism In China

~seeking balance between western thought and Chinese learning

RETHINKING RACE AND REIMAGINING NATIONS

~"Race was now considered a biologically defined determinant of behavior and belonging

Nation and Race In North America and Europe

~no more land to expand into

~Jim Crow Laws

~".white well-to-do male Europeans, like their American counterparts, looked to racial purity to shore up the civilizations they saw coming apart at the seams."

Race-mixing and the Problem of Nationhood in Latin America

~celebrated pre-modern national identities

Sun Yat-Sen and the Making of a Chinese Nation

~Han nationalism was his goal

~the 2,000 year old Chinese dynasty fell

Nationalism and Invented Traditions In India

~instead of race, they clung to their common colonial history and culture to unite

The Pan Movements

~pan-Asianism, pan-Islamism, pan-Africanism, pan-Slavism, pan-Turkism, pan-Arabism, pan-Germanism, Zionism

Questions:

"In response to political upheavals, economic uncertainties, social disruptions, and modern ideas, personal and national identities came under scrutiny. Race became a central part of the new identities and a justification for inequalities (311)."

#1 Looking back at the time period between 1900-1914, how could one preserve their "personal and national identities" without appealing to race?

#2 Is it morally wrong to identify a nation by their race?

#3 Do you agree with the nationalist movements in the early 20th century? How could they have been more effective (or) where did they go wrong?

#4 Is it possible to unify a people without creating division somewhere else?