

Writing Assignment #3: Interwar Years DBQ

Historical Background:

On June 28, 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was signed by the Allied nations of Great Britain, France, and the United States and by a defeated Germany. The framers of this treaty hoped that it would stabilize Europe and ensure that another catastrophic war would never happen again. However, the two tumultuous decades following World War I known as the interwar years were filled with hardships and uncertainty that led directly to the outbreak of World War II.

Prompt:

What were the social, political, and economic effects of World War I?

Directions:

Read and annotate each document. Answer the questions that follow each document. Then, complete the graphic organizer for putting your paragraph together. Lastly write a Step Up to Writing paragraph answering the prompt. You must cite the documents and type your response.

The Documents

Document 1

Source: Excerpt from Erich Maria Remarque's novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*, 1929

"I am young. I am twenty years old; yet I know nothing of life but despair, death, fear, and fatuous superficiality cast over an abyss of sorrow. I see how peoples are set against one another, and in silence, unknowingly, foolishly, obediently, innocently slay one another. I see that the keenest brains of the world invent weapons and words to make it yet more refined and enduring. And all men of my age, here and over there, throughout the whole world see these things; all my generation is experiencing these things with me. What would our fathers do if we suddenly stood up and came before them and proffered our account? What do they expect of us if a time ever comes when the war is over? Through the years our business has been killing; -- it was our first calling in life. Our knowledge of life is limited to death. What will happen afterwards? And what shall come of us?"

1. Based on this document, what impact did World War I have on young soldiers?
2. Does this document show a social, political, or economic effect?

Document 2

Source: Excerpt from economist John Maynard Keynes's book, *The Economic Consequences of Peace*, 1920

“The treaty [of Versailles] includes no provision for the economic rehabilitation of Europe - nothing to make the defeated Central Powers into good neighbors, nothing to stabilize the new States of Europe, nothing to reclaim Russia; nor does it promote in any way a compact of economic solidarity amongst the Allies themselves; no arrangement was reached at Paris for restoring the disordered finances of France and Italy, or to adjust the systems of the Old World and the new.”

3. Based on this document, how did World War I and the Treaty of Versailles affect European economies?

4. Does this document show a social, political, or economic effect?

Document 3

Source: Excerpts of the Treaty of Versailles, 1919

“Article 231: The Allied and Associated Powers affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damages to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequences of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Article 235: In order to enable the Allied and Associated Powers to proceed at once to the restoration of their industrial and economic life, pending the full determination of their claims, Germany shall pay in such installments and in such manner (whether in gold, commodities, ships, securities, or otherwise) as the Reparation Commission may fix, during 1919, 1920, and the first four months of 1921, the equivalent of 20,000,000,000 gold marks.”

5. Based on this document, how did World War I and the Treaty of Versailles impact Germany?

6. Does this document show a social, political, or economic effect?

Document 4

Source: Excerpt from Benito Mussolini's book *The Doctrine of Fascism*, 1932

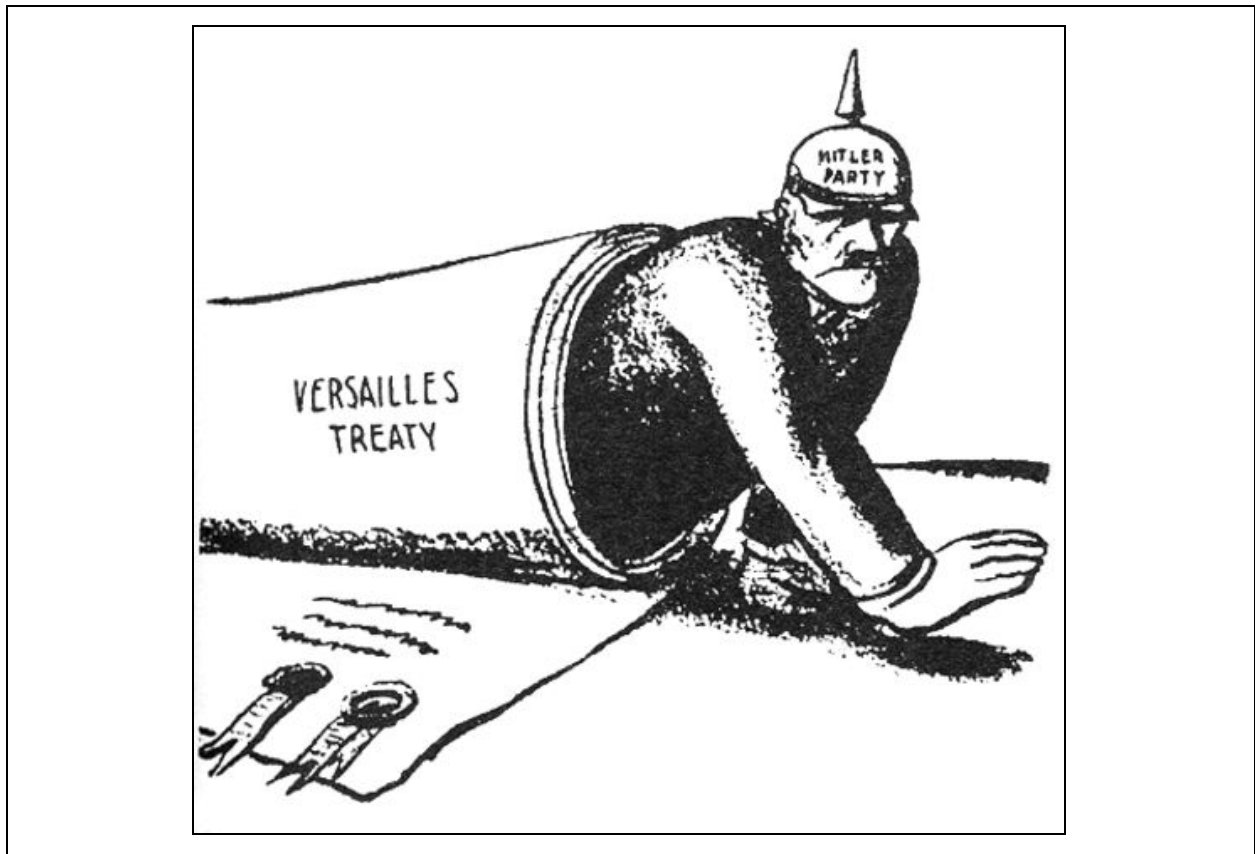
"If it is admitted that the nineteenth century has been the century of Socialism, Liberalism, and Democracy, it does not follow that the twentieth must also be the century of Liberalism, Socialism, and Democracy. Political doctrines pass; peoples remain. It is to be expected that this century may be that of authority, a century of the "Right," a Fascist century. If the nineteenth was the century of the individual it may be expected that this one may be the century of "collectivism" and therefore the century of the State."

7. Based on this document, why might World War I lead to the rise of fascism, revolutions, and other changes in governments?

8. Does this document show a social, political, or economic effect?

Document 5

Source: Daniel Fitzpatrick's political cartoon in the newspaper, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 1930



9. Based on this document, how did World War I and the Treaty of Versailles lead to the rise of fascist dictators like Hitler?

10. Does this document show a social, political, or economic effect?

Document 6

Source: James N. Rosenberg, *Oct 29 Dies Irae ("Days of Wrath")*, 1929



11. Based on this document, how did art after World War I reflect societal values and ideals?

12. Does this document show a social, political, or economic effect?