

# Changes in Russia, Asia, & the Middle East

TOWARD A GLOBAL COMMUNITY (1900 – PRESENT)



# RUSSIA

- Toward the end of WWI Russia entered a civil war between Lenin's Bolsheviks (the Communist Red Army) and armies led by former tsarist officers.
- The Russian Revolution caused destruction & famine (more died in this conflict than in WWI).
- During this time various portions of the once great Russian empire became independent (ex: Ukraine) and then merged with Communist Russia to form the Soviet Union (USSR) in 1922.
- Instead of being colonies, these places (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan) merely became part of a "Union" with Russia.

- WWI & the revolution ruined the Russian economy (farmlands were devastated, factories & railroads had shut down).
- Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy, which reduced government control over different parts of the economy. (However, this move was only temporary. The Communist government still intended to control the Russian economy).



- After Lenin's death, Joseph Stalin rose as the leader of the Communist Party (he struggled for power with Leon Trotsky, the commander of the Red Army; but ultimately had Trotsky expelled from the country).
- Stalin implemented a rapid top down plan of industrializing Russia so that the USSR could increase its strength to other nations (i.e. *The Road of Bones*).



# Quick Video Summary



*Russia Revolution Lesson*

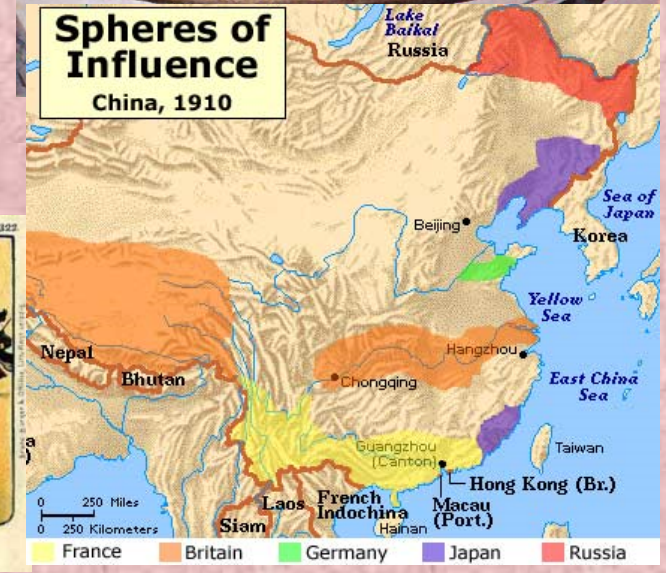
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QD-Hn8foQwo>

# CHINA

- By 1900 China was the most populated country in the world (400 million people), but farmland was not efficiently cultivated and neglected dams & dikes often led to famine and homelessness.
- Furthermore, society was divided between peasants, land owners, officials who excelled on the exam, and merchants who lived in “treaty ports.”



- China's decline during the 1800s opened it up to foreign "spheres of influence." As a result, other countries had created separate enclaves & ports for their own economic benefit.
- In 1900, some Chinese fed up with foreign intervention started the "Boxer Rebellion," but it was ultimately squashed by an international force.



- Riots and uprisings continued as people became convinced that their country needed to modernize / reform before it was gobbled up by the West.
- In 1911 rebellion became a revolution and the Chinese brought an end to the Qing Dynasty.
- The ideology behind this new China was to come from Sun Yat-sen.
  - Before the fall of the Qing he started a secret society / political party – the Nationalists, also called KMT.
  - His ideas were influenced by the West.
  - In 1912, he became president of the provisional republic of China.



**Sun Yat-sen**



- However, after only 44 days in office Sun Yat-sen was forced to hand over power to the Chinese army led by Yuan Shikai.
  - Yuan Shikai had refused to defend the Qing from the rebels, but also refused to let Sun Yat-sen create a Western-style government.
  - He declared the Nationalists / KMT illegal.
  - Following Yuan Shikai's death the Nationalists and warlords (many of who were his military officers) struggled for power.

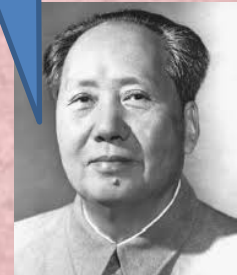


- During the **May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement** of 1919 students began to demonstrate against the military rule, foreigners, and the Treaty of Versailles ending WWI.
  - Protestors were upset because German spheres of influence were not returned to China, but instead given to Japan. In other words, parts of China would still be under the influence of a foreign nation.



- The May Fourth Movement led to . . .
  - A rise in Chinese nationalism
  - A decline in the trust toward the European democratic model (*i.e. If the western model is so great, how could this have happened?*)

*Anybody in the mood for Communism?*



- The Movement did not bring immediate political change. Instead regional warlords continued to rule China and they taxed the peasantry into universal poverty and starvation.



- Not until the 1920s under Chiang Kai-shek (a leader of the Nationalists) did China begin efforts to industrialize. However, unlike the Meiji Restoration this top down approach did not work because of incompetent administrators.



# Quick Video Summary



*Communists, Nationalists, and China's Revolutions: Crash Course  
World History #37*

• <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUCEeC4f6t>  
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*The first five minutes only!*

# JAPAN

- The government program of industrializing continued to accelerate during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (by the mid 1930s a higher percentage of Japanese households had electricity than those in Britain or the U.S.).
- The economy was also prospering (during WWI it was growing 8x as fast as China's, and 4x as fast as western Europe's!). However, this prosperity greatly depended upon foreign trade – it exported light manufactures & silk, and imported nearly all of its fuel & raw materials.
- As a result, the Japanese had a growing desire to take over parts of China.

- Furthermore, social divisions emerged between those who had adopted western culture (usually young people found in cities) and those who continued to live a more traditional lifestyle.
- Farmers (about 50% of the population) remained poor. Some farmers had their daughters work in textile mills.
- Similar to the industrialization boom in Britain & the U.S. the vast majority of factory workers were exploited (Perhaps even more so because labor unions were weak and repressed by the police).



FIG. 197. A JAPANESE FAMILY. Methodist Prints.

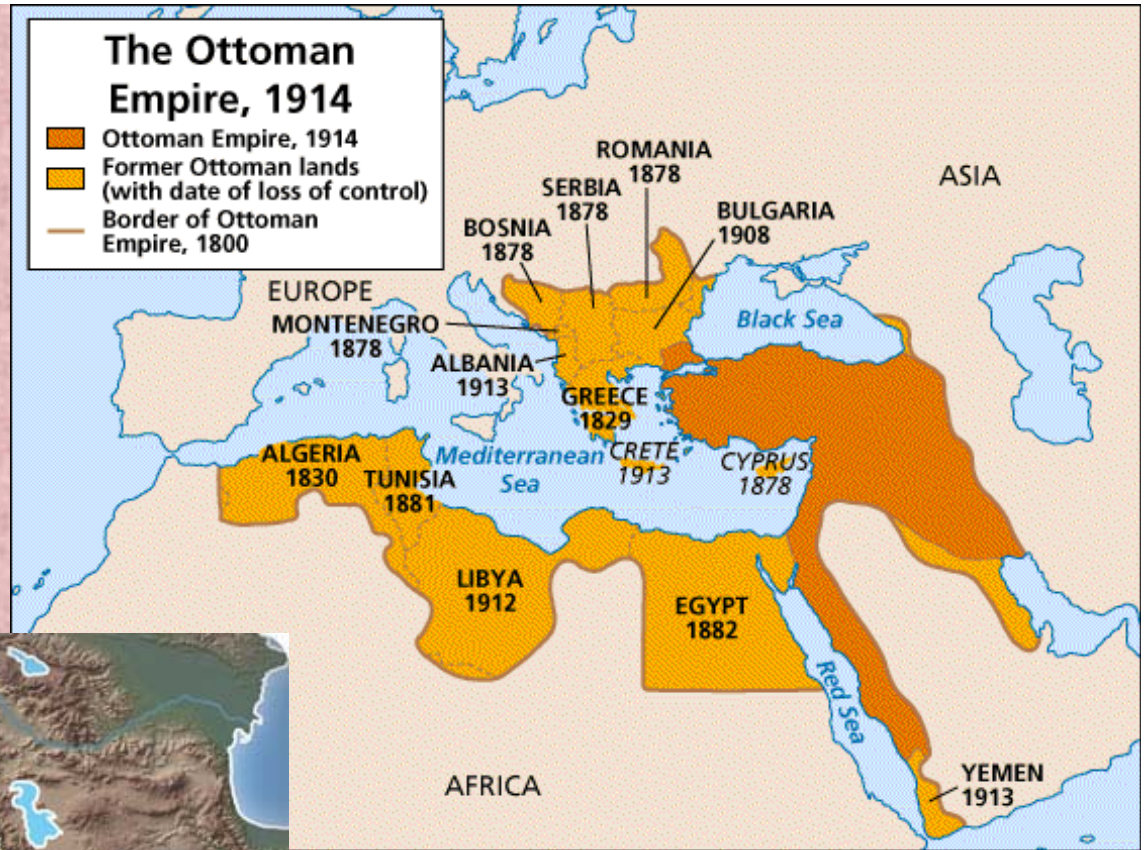
# THE MIDDLE EAST

- During WWI the people of the Middle East were often promised (or at least under the understanding that) at the end of the war independent countries would be created out of the dying Ottoman Empire.
- Instead a **mandate system** was created where nations formally under the control of others (such as those in the Middle East and parts of Africa that were ruled by Germany & the Ottoman Empire) would have slightly more independence, but would now be under the supervision of different imperial countries.



*Examples:*

Great Britain was in charge of Iraq (Mesopotamia), Transjordan (Jordan), Palestine (Israel).  
France was in charge of Syria & Lebanon.

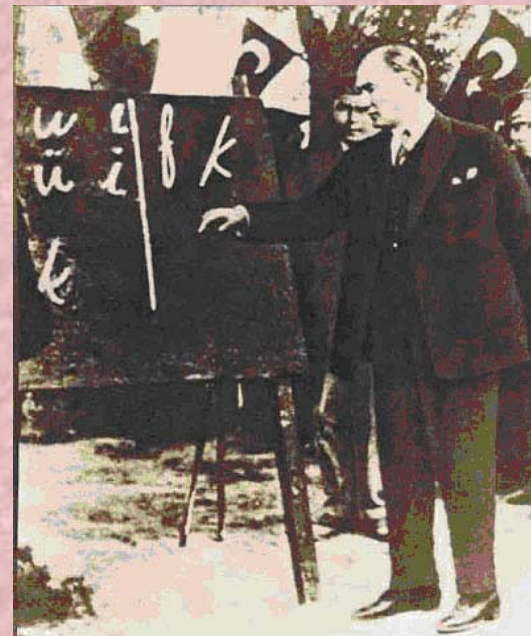


- Arabs resented the mandate system, for WWI did not bring “liberation” from the Ottomans, but rather “oppression” by the Europeans.
- The French repeatedly sent troops to their mandates to quell nationalist uprisings. The British used bribery & intimidation to bring compliance. (For example, Iraq was eventually granted independence in 1931 under the condition the British would be allowed to have access to their petroleum and keep military bases in the country).
- Some Arabs did attempt to “westernize,” but by and large the growing population in the region (between 1914 and 1939 the region’s population increased by 50%) found their European masters as self-interested opportunists.

- At the same time large numbers of European Jews encouraged by the Balfour Declaration began to immigrate to Palestine.
- The desire of these Jewish immigrants to reestablish ties to their ancestral homeland angered indigenous Palestinians.
- The British tried to limit immigration, but this did very little to please Palestinians and it only alienated Jews.  
(Remember both sides are under the impression they will be given independent countries).

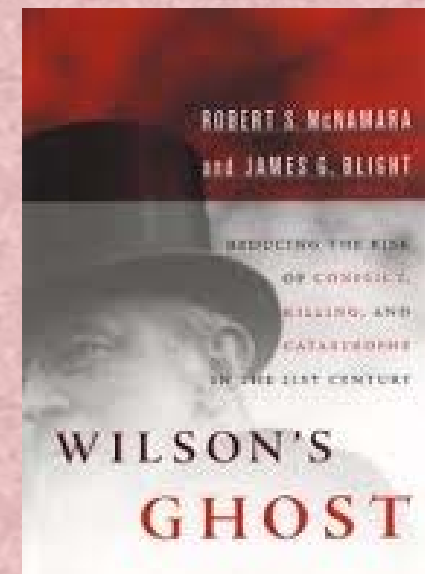


- Turkey itself (the former center of the Ottoman Empire in Anatolia) was about to collapse in the wake of WWI, but under **Mustafa Kemal** it was saved. (He led an army against invading Greeks and had hundreds of thousands of Greeks who had lived in Turkey for centuries to be expelled. In turn, Greeks expelled Turks from Greece. Today, Greece and Turkey still don't get along.)
- Kemal, better known as **Ataturk** (father of the Turks) is most remembered for “westernizing” and modernizing Turkey.
  - He abolishes the sultanate
  - He formed a secular republic
  - He changed fashion
  - Women received civil equality (& the right to vote)



# Summary

- During the age of WWI changes were taking place in Europe, Asia, & the Middle East.
  - Russian / Bolshevik Revolution (1917), the Communists are in charge
  - The Qing Dynasty in China ends (1911), a sense of nationalism emerges
  - The Middle East is turned into European “mandates,” but Turkey will modernize on its own
- However, resentment remains after WWI, and U.S. President Wilson’s ideas for a better future are not fully implemented, therefore there is unfinished business (WWII is coming!).



# Changes in Russia, Asia, & the Middle East

TOWARD A GLOBAL COMMUNITY (1900 – PRESENT)



*in a . . .*



- **RUSSIA:** During WWI a revolution / civil war took place that brought about the end of tsarist rule and the arrival of Communism (USSR) along with Lenin & Stalin. The revolution destroyed the economy for which the Communists attempted to change through government sponsored industrialization.
- **CHINA:** The terrible 1800s instigated a revolution and an end to the Qing Dynasty. Nationalism and resentment toward foreigners in China continued, groundwork for communism is laid – industrialization was slow to occur.
- **JAPAN:** Industrialization continues, however the island nation is dependent upon foreign raw materials. Social divisions emerge & there is a cultural identity crisis.
- **MIDDLE EAST:** Parts of the old Ottoman Empire are occupied by Europeans (mandate system), Arabs resented it. There was some attempt to “westernize” such as Ataturk in Turkey. The Balfour Declaration creates tension in Palestine.