Tatiana Mieleszko

April-13-2011

World History Honors Block 2

Ms. Elemen

Post WW1 Essay

 The world experienced a plethora of changes in the post WW1 era such as The Great Depression, causes and effects of The Great Depression, and the rise of totalitarian governments in Europe. Several causes of The Great Depression were WW1 and American economic problems, such as the Stock market crash and bank failures. A few of the effects of the depression were a rise in unemployment, hoarding of money, and a feeling of desperation among the people in the economically depressed countries. The rise of totalitarian governments and dictators can be attributed to the effects of the great depression and the weak governments each country had at the time, as well as many other factors. The Post WW1 era was very dark and full -of changes, many of them not very good.

 There are many reasons why the world experienced a depression in the 1930s, some economic and others political. WW1, I believe, was a major cause for The Great Depression. Many countries lost a great deal of money and land to WW1 and a lot of people died lowering the work force and killing off any potentially great leaders. This loss of money and people caused economies to slow and eventually helped contribute to the depression. Another cause of the depression was the failing banking systems in America. The Stock Market Crash of 1929 made people panic and reluctant to borrow money or invest slowing the economy further. The Great Depression changed the world in a variety of ways.

 The Great Depression was a major event and like many major worldwide events it affected the world greatly. One of the effects the depression had on the world was it helped cause WW2. The people in Germany felt hopeless and were desperate for someone to help save their country/economy. This economic hardship was great for Hitler because he saw Germany was in great need of a leader and used Germany’s desperation to gain power. Another effect of The Great Depression was that the U.S. government set up relief programs to help the unemployed become employed across America. Some of the jobs were building bridges while others were digging trenches, the government also set up an Arts Program for writers, painters, etc. The Great Depression wasn’t the only negative event to occur during the 1930s.

 During the 1930s there was a rise in totalitarian governments, with dictators as the leaders, throughout Europe. In Russia there was Stalin, Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, and Tojo in Japan. I think the best explanation for the rise of these dictators and their totalitarian governments would be the worldwide economic depression at the time they came to power and the previous war that helped cause the depression. As I stated in my previous paragraph Hitler came to power due to Germany’s economic hardships and desperation for a leader. I believe the same was probably true for all the other countries that had dictators rise to power in their country. These dictators promised the citizens a new government that would take care of them and help them through these tough times. I’m sure that was very appealing and brought much hope to the citizens, which is why the citizens supported these leaders and their new governments. Also I highly doubt any of the citizens knew they were gaining dictators not leaders and being stripped of their rights and freedom as well. It’s unfortunate that humans manipulate each other so easily and use each other’s weaknesses to get ahead.

 The world changed a great deal after WW1, politically, economically, culturally, etc. Most of these changed were negative, like the Great Depression and rise of dictators in Europe. However some of the changes were positive, such as the government relief programs for the unemployed. Even though some of the changes in the Post WW1 era were bad, like the depression, I think it was good the world experienced them because I believe we learned from them and now we know how to prevent similar problems in the future. I hope we never experience some of the horrible things that happened in the Post WW1 era and that we continue to learn from past mistakes.

**Works Cited Page**

Elemen, Jennifer. "Post WW1 Era." World History 10 Honors. World History. Kennedy High, Fremont. 12042011. Lecture.

Ellis, Elisabeth Gaynor., and Anthony Esler. "13 The Rise of Totalitarianism." *Prentice Hall World History*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. Print.

Hitler, Adolf. "Speech Delivered by Hitler." Political Meeting. NSDAP Meeting, Salzburg. 7 Aug. 1920. Speech.