**World History Final Exam Review**

**Neolithic Age (8000-3000 BC)**

Humans first discovered how to perform agriculture and domesticate animals for food and drink. Humans switched from being nomads (people who wander from place to place hunting and gathering for food) to being settled farmers who lived in permanent villages. Farming created a steady food supply. The permanent villages created during the Neolithic Age eventually turned into civilizations

**Ancient Civilizations**

A civilization is a complex and highly organized society that includes a government, social classes, job specialization, a food surplus, writing, and religious beliefs. The first civilizations developed around 3000 B.C. in areas of land known as river valleys:

The Nile River in Egypt, the Indus River in India, the Yellow River in China, the Tigris River and Euphrates River in the Middle East [Mesopotamia: 1) Developed cuneiform- Writing system using wedge-shaped symbols. 2) Code of Hammurabi- Oldest written set of laws in the world that is known for its strict punishments of crimes (“an eye for an eye”)]

**Classical Civilizations**

A) Greece has a very mountainous geography, it was not one united civilization. Instead, Greece was divided into many independent (separate) city-states. Each city-state (or polis) had its own government and land. The two most famous city-states were Athens and Sparta. They were very different societies. Athens is known for having the first democracy in the world. A democracy is a form of government in which people can vote. Athens had a direct democracy, which means that all citizens (adult males born in Athens) were able to vote on laws.

B) Rome: Located on the peninsula of Italy. a) Trade and Transportation Networks - The Romans were able to unite the areas of their empire and grow wealthy from trade because of the roads they built on land and because the Mediterranean Sea connected areas within their empire. b) Twelve Tables of Rome - Written set of laws that stated the rules of behavior for members of Roman society. Although the laws favored the wealthy, these laws created stability (order) since they were displayed in public for all to see.

C) India

1) Maurya Dynasty: Asoka- Famous Buddhist ruler of India who wrote the laws of India on tall rock pillars (columns) that were displayed throughout India.

2) Gupta Dynasty: The Gupta Dynasty is considered the Golden Age of India since there were many achievements in art, literature, math (invention of zero), and science.

D) China

1) Trade and Transportation Networks- As with the Roman Empire, the Han Dynasty grew wealthy through trade because of the system of roads that was developed throughout the region. The Silk Road was a long trade route that extended about 4,000 miles from China in the East to the Mediterranean Sea in the West. The Silk Road connected the different classical civilizations.

Cultural diffusion is the exchange of goods and ideas between societies. The Silk Road led the exchange of many products (like Silk) and religious ideas (like Buddhism) between civilizations.

**The Monotheistic Religions**

Monotheistic religions believe in only one God. The 3 main monotheistic religions are Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

A) Codes of Conduct: All 3 monotheistic religions have codes of behavior issued by God that state the religious and moral/ethical obligations (duties) of followers:

Ten Commandments- Code of behavior for Jews and Christians (Do not kill, do not steal, do not worship false gods, etc.). Five Pillars- Code of behavior for Muslims (Make a pilgrimage to Mecca, pray five times daily, etc.).

**Religions and Philosophies of India**

A) Hinduism

1) Reincarnation- The idea that after humans die, their souls are reborn into another body.

2) Karma- Karma refers to all of the good and bad deeds that one does during their lifetime. Those who do good deeds develop good karma and are reborn at a higher level in the next life. Those who do bad deeds develop bad karma and are reborn at a lower level in the next life. Hindus follow the Caste System and believe that the social class that they are born into in this life is based on the karma they developed in a previous life.

B) Buddhism

1) Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama (also called the Buddha).

2) Buddhism is very similar to Hinduism. Both religions believe in Reincarnation and Karma.

3) The goal of Buddhists is to achieve Nirvana- Ending reincarnation and stopping the cycle of death and rebirth by accepting the Four Noble Truths and following the Eightfold Path.

**Byzantine Empire (c. 500-1453 AD)**

After the western area of the Roman Empire was conquered by invading Germanic tribes in the year 476 AD, the eastern portion of the Roman Empire survived and became known as the Byzantine Empire. Constantinople - The capital city of the Byzantine Empire. It was a great location for trade because it was located along major waterways and it was a crossroads of (link between) Europe and Asia.

**Introduction to the Middle Ages (400-1400 AD)**

The Middle Ages is the period of time in Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire and before the Renaissance.

1) Feudalism: Political system of the Middle Ages in which kings throughout Europe gave land away to nobles in return for their loyalty and military service. In the feudal system, land was the basis of wealth and power. Those with more land were considered to be more wealthy and powerful. Feudalism brought social stability, order, and structure to the Middle Ages.

2) Manorialism: During the Middle Ages, most people lived on manors (areas of land owned by a noble). Each manor had homes, farmland, artisans, water, and serfs (peasants that could not leave the land and who performed farm labor for the noble).

3) Religion- During the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church (especially the Pope) was very wealthy and influential in Western Europe.

**Crusades (1100-1300 AD)**

The Crusades were the religious wars of the Middle Ages in which Christians from Europe fought to regain control of the Holy Land from Muslims. The Holy Land is a sacred area of the Middle East that includes the city of Jerusalem. Effects (results) of the Crusades: After years of fighting, trade between Europe and the Middle East increased (Italian cities such as Venice gained control over much of this trade since they had a central location in the Mediterranean Sea). Europeans learned about the many achievements that Muslims had made during their Golden Age. Feudalism in Europe began to decline as many nobles had been killed and many serfs had escaped.

**Introduction to Africa**

Geography: Africa has a very diverse (varied) geography that includes deserts (i.e.- the Sahara Desert), savanna (grasslands), and rainforests. Due to its many geographic features, Africa is a very diverse continent with many different cultures.

**West African Civilizations (300-1400s AD)**

Three of Africa’s greatest civilizations all developed in West Africa: Ghana, Mali, and Songhai all grew very wealthy for the same reason: They were located along the Trans-Saharan trade routes and they traded their gold for the salt that they needed to survive.

**The Black Death (1347-1351 AD)**

The Black Death refers to the major disease (called bubonic plague) that killed 25 million people in Europe (almost 1/3 of the population) during the late Middle Ages. Major effects (results) of the Black Death: Depopulation- The population of Europe decreased from 85 million to 60 million. Feudalism continued to decline as serfs fled from manors for better opportunities. Trade temporarily decreased.

**The Renaissance (1400-1600 AD)**

The Renaissance was the Golden Age of Western Europe. The Renaissance had the following characteristics:

1) Like all Golden Ages, there were amazing achievements in the arts, literature, and science.

2) Renaissance scholars studied art and books from ancient Greece and Rome.

3) Humanism- There was a focus on humans and life on earth instead of on God and Heaven.

B) The Renaissance began in Italy because:

1) The Italian city-states (like Venice and Florence) had great economies. These areas controlled Mediterranean trade and grew very wealthy. Much of this wealth was used to support artists.

C) The Printing Press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg. It helped spread new ideas quickly. It helped spread the Protestant Reformation since people like Martin Luther were able to print copies of their writings for others to read. It increased literacy (the ability of people to read and write) since books were now easier and cheaper to obtain.

**The Protestant Reformation (1500s AD)**

The Protestant Reformation was the religious revolution that challenged the Catholic Church and led to the further division of Christianity. Europeans were angry that the Catholic Church was too concerned with worldly issues (i.e.- money and power). Europeans were angry about indulgences- Reductions in punishment that were sold by the Catholic Church.

1) Martin Luther- German monk who created the 95 Thesis, which were 95 arguments against the sale of indulgences.

2) Henry VIII- King of England who separated from the Catholic Church because he wanted a divorce from his wife and the Catholic Church would not allow it.

B) Effects of the Protestant Reformation: The power of the Catholic Church (and the Pope) decreased. The power of monarchs (kings) increased since they gained power over religion. Religious unity in Europe came to an end- Before the Protestant Reformation, almost everyone in Western Europe was Catholic. Now there were large numbers of Protestants too.

**Pre-Columbian Civilizations (300-1500s AD)**

The pre-Columbian civilizations are the societies that developed in the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans. The 3 main pre-Columbian societies were the Maya, the Aztec, and the Inca. They were all very organized, developed, and advanced civilizations.

1) Maya They lived in the lowland region of Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America). They developed a calendar and a form of writing. Math- They invented the use of zero in math (like the Gupta of India).

2) Aztec: They lived in Mesoamerica (Mexico) and established a large empire. They used a calendar and a form of writing. Chinampas were “floating gardens” that the Aztecs built in lakes in order to farm since there was a shortage of fertile land.

3) Inca: They lived in the Andes Mountains of Peru (in South America) and established a large empire. In order to improve trade and transportation, the Inca developed a vast (large network of roads (like the Romans) and footbridges in the Andes Mountains. Since the Inca lived in the mountains, they learned to farm by cutting flat areas (called terraces) into the sides of mountains, likethe Japanese used a similar technique in order to farm.

**The Age of Exploration and Discovery (1400s-1600s AD)**

A) Europeans wanted greater access to the spices and other products of Asia. Europeans wanted to find sea routes to Asia since land routes were controlled by Muslims. Improvements in navigational (sailing) technology made long sea voyages possible. These improvements include the compass and astrolabe, cartography (the science of making maps).

B) The Americas: The Spanish and Portuguese colonized (took over) land in the Americas. Lands controlled by the Spanish and Portuguese were called colonies.

1) Encomienda System- A labor system in which the Native Americans were forced to work on Spanish farming plantations (growing sugar) and in Spanish mines (getting gold and silver). Spanish landowners had total control over the Native Americans.

2) Millions of Native Americans died due to the diseases (such as smallpox) brought over by the Europeans.

3) Africa Europeans took slaves from Africa to the Americas to work on farming plantations. The voyage of slaves from Africa to the Americas was called the Middle Passage.

C) Mercantilism is the idea that colonies exist only to make the Mother Country wealthy.

1) Triangular Trade- This was the trade route taken by Europeans in the Atlantic Ocean. Europeans traveled to Africa to get slaves, brought the slaves to their colonies in the Americas, and then returned to Europe with goods from the Americas.

2) Columbian Exchange- This is the term used to describe the exchange of people, plants, animals, ideas and technology between the “Old World” (Europe) and the “New World” (North and South America) that took place as a result of exploration and colonization.

**Commercial Revolution (1500s-1600s AD)**

The term Commercial Revolution refers to the new forms of business that were introduced during the Age of Exploration. These new forms of business included: Joint-stock companies - Investors would combine money to help pay for trading projects. The expansion (growth) of banking. Capitalism - Form of business in which profits from one project are reinvested in other projects in order to make more money.

**The Age of Absolutism (1600s-1700s AD)**

The Age of Absolutism was the period in European history when nations were governed (ruled) by absolute monarchs. The term “monarch” means “king.” Absolute monarchs were kings who had total control over the nations that they ruled.

1) Absolute monarchs centralized political control, which means that they did not share power with anyone else. Absolute monarchs believed in Divine Right, which was the idea that kings received their power to rule directly from God. Absolute monarchs believed that their power was unlimited. They made laws without the consent (approval) of the people.

a) Peter the Great- He was the absolute monarch of Russia. He also westernized Russia, which means that he imitated the customs and traditions of countries in Western Europe in order to strengthen his nation.

b) Louis XIV- “Sun King” He was the absolute monarch of France.

c) Philip II- He was the absolute monarch of Spain.

**Scientific Revolution (1500s-1600s AD)**

The Scientific Revolution was a sudden and dramatic change in how people viewed the world. During the Scientific Revolution, science and reason (logic) were used to explain how the world worked. People no longer turned only to the Bible and the Catholic Church for answers.

1) Copernicus- Astronomer who developed the Heliocentric Theory- The idea that the planets revolve around the sun.

2) Galileo Galilei- Astronomer who proved that Copernicus was correct. He was put on trial by the Catholic Church because his ideas contradicted (went against) its teachings.

3) Sir Isaac Newton- Mathematician and astronomer who developed calculus and the theory of gravity.

4) Key effects of the Scientific Revolution: It resulted in the spread of new ideas throughout Europe. It challenged the traditional authority (power) of the Catholic Church since European scientists proved that many Church teachings were incorrect. The new ideas of this period directly led to the Enlightenment

**The Enlightenment (1700s AD)**

The Enlightenment was the period in European history when reason (logic) was used to understand and improve society. In fact, the Enlightenment is often called “The Age of Reason.”

Enlightenment philosophers believed that society could be improved by using reason (logic) and natural law (universal rules that are always true). Enlightenment philosophers believed that governments receive their authority (power) from the people (NOT from God).

a) John Locke- He believed that all people have natural rights (the right to life, liberty, and property). He also said that people have the right to overthrow governments that fail to protect these rights.

b) Baron de Montesquieu- In order to prevent kings from being too strong, he believed that power in government should be divided into three branches (executive, legislative, judicial) so that there is a separation of powers and a system of checks and balances.

c) Rousseau- He believed that society is a social contract (an agreement in which all people agree to work for the common good of society).

d) Key effects of the Enlightenment: Since Enlightenment philosophers believed that people can overthrow unfair governments, the Enlightenment helped cause political revolutions in France, Latin America, and the United States

**The English Revolution/Glorious Revolution (1689 AD)**

The English Revolution (also called the Glorious Revolution) is the event in which the people of England successfully limited the power of their monarchs (kings). England’s government became a limited (or constitutional) monarchy- This is a form of government in which the power of monarchs (kings) is limited (decreased) by written laws. Laws that each limited the power of the English king in some way: The Magna Carta, The Petition of Right, English Bill of Rights

**The French Revolution and Napoleon (1789-1815 AD)**

The French Revolution was the event in which the people of France overthrew their king (Louis XVI) and fought for more rights.

1) Key causes of the French Revolution:

a) French society was divided into three estates (social classes). The people of the Third Estate were mostly peasants. They were angry that they had very few rights and paid the highest taxes (even though they had the least money).

b) France was ruled by absolute monarchs. The French people believed that these kings abused their power and denied (took away) the rights of the people.

c) The ideas of the Enlightenment inspired the French people to overthrow their unfair kings and to create a new government that protected their rights.

d) France was in an economic crisis- The kings spent too much money and put France in debt.

2) Key events of the French Revolution:

a) Declaration of the Rights of Man- This was a document written during the French Revolution that gave equal rights to the men of France and created a fair system of taxation.

b) Reign of Terror- This was an event where the leaders of the French Revolution executed thousands of people that they believed were loyal to the king. The Jacobins were the radical (extreme) group leading this event and Robespierre was the leader of the Jacobins.

3) Napoleon Bonaparte was the ruler who came to power at the end of the French Revolution. He expanded (enlarged) French territory by conquering neighboring lands in Europe. By doing so, he made French people feel nationalism (pride in their country).

**The Industrial Revolution (1700s-1800s AD)**

A) The Industrial Revolution was the change from producing goods by hand to producing goods with machines in factories. The Industrial Revolution started in Great Britain (England) because it had many natural resources coal, iron, tin, lead, waterways) that are necessary to produce and transport goods. In other words, Great Britain had favorable geography.

B) Key effects of the Industrial Revolution:

1) Industrialization- Machines were used to produce goods in factories.

2) Urbanization- The growth of cities. People came to urban (city) areas to get jobs in factories. Many cities had severe pollution from the smoke that came out of factories.

3) Bad working conditions- Workers in factories worked in dangerous conditions for long hours and low pay. Young children were frequently hired and abused in these factories.

C) Laissez Faire Capitalism (Market Economy) - This was the economic system that was used during the Industrial Revolution. It was based on the following ideas:

1) Businesses and factories should be owned by individuals (NOT the government).

2) Business decisions should be made by Individuals (the government should NOT interfere).

3) Prices should be set by individuals (NOT the government) based on supply and demand.

D) Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

1) Believed that laissez faire capitalism was bad and argued that it allowed greedy factory owners to exploit (take advantage) of poor factory workers, wrote a book called the *Communist Manifesto* that said the following:

a) All of history has been about class struggles (“Haves” vs. “Have-Nots”).

b) During the Industrial Revolution, wealthy and greedy factory owners (Bourgeoisie) were taking advantage of the poor factory workers (the Proletariat) to earn money.

c) The Proletariat should rise up, overthrow the bourgeoisie in a violent revolution, and eliminate laissez faire capitalism.

d) The Proletariat could then create a new kind of society where work and wealth was shared equally be everyone (and where social classes no longer existed).

2) **NOTE:** The ideas of Marx and Engels eventually became the foundation of Communism. Countries that became Communist (like the Soviet Union and China) were inspired by Marx

**Introduction to Nationalism**

Nationalism is a feeling of love, loyalty, and devotion to one’s country. Someone who feels this love, loyalty, and devotion is known as a nationalist. Nationalism usually develops in areas where people share a common language, culture, and history.

**Unification of Italy and Germany (1870-1871 AD)**

Up until 1870, both Italy and Germany were NOT yet countries. Instead, they were areas that were divided up into many different states, each with its own government. Due to feelings of nationalism, the Italian-speaking people of Italy wanted to combine their separate states to form one united nation with one government. Similarly, the German-speaking people of Germany wanted to combine their separate states to form one united nation with one government.

**Introduction to Imperialism**

Imperialism (also called colonization) is when a strong country conquers a weaker country. The area that is taken over is known as a colony. During the 1800s, many European nations such as Great Britain, France, Germany took over lands throughout Africa and Asia.

A) Causes of (reasons for) imperialism- The European nations imperialized/colonized lands in Africa and Asia for several important reasons: Europeans wanted raw materials/natural resources (like coal, tin, iron) in order to make goods in their factories. “White Man’s Burden”- This was a racist poem that encouraged Europeans to civilize (help improve) the people that they took over by teaching them European customs and religious beliefs (like Christianity). Social Darwinism- This was the idea that it was natural for strong countries (like the European nations) to take over weaker countries (like nations in Africa and Asia).

**Imperialism in India, China, Africa (1800s-1914 AD)**

The Europeans generally had a very negative impact on the regions that they colonized (took over) in India, China, and Africa:

1) “Scramble for Africa”- Over 90% of Africa was taken over by European countries that raced to take over the continent.

2) China- After the British began smuggling opium into China, the Chinese fought back in the famous Opium Wars. After being defeated, China was carved up into spheres of influence (areas where trade was controlled by different European nations).

3) India- India was taken over by Great Britain and ruled for almost 200 years.

B) The people of Africa and Asia did not like being ruled by European nations. As a result, they fought many wars to kick out the Europeans and gain independence (self-government):

1) Sepoy Mutiny- Rebellion in which India tried (but failed) to gain independence from Great Britain (England).

2) Boxer Rebellion- Rebellion in which China tried (but failed) to gain independence from the various European nations that controlled them.

**Imperialism in Japan**

From 1600-1854, Japan was largely isolated and wanted little contact with the rest of the world.

A) Meiji Restoration (1868-1912) This is the period in Japanese history when Japan was ruled by Emperor Meiji.Japan began a rapid program of modernization and westernization.

1) Modernization- Japan industrialized (built factories, machines, roads, communications).

2) Westernization- Japan adopted the customs and techniques of Western countries (Europe and the United States). Japan changed its government, military, education system, and technology.

B) Japanese Imperialism

1) Now that Japan had factories, it needed natural resources/raw materials (like coal, tin, iron, and lead) to make products. Since Japan had very few natural resources of its own, Japan took over Korea and part of China to gain these resources.

**World War I (1914-1918 AD)**

World War I was a global military conflict that was fought mainly in Europe.

B) Causes of (reasons for) World War I- The war took place for several important reasons. **NOTE:** You can remember the causes by just thinking of the word (M.A.I.N.):

1) Militarism- Countries in Europe (especially Germany and Britain) built up their armies and their supply of weapons in the late 1800s.

2) Alliances- Countries in Europe divided themselves into two military alliances (the Triple Alliance and Triple Entente) in order to prepare for war. This alliance system increased tension in Europe.

3) Imperialism- Countries in Europe competed with each other to take over lands in Africa, Asia, and the Balkans (Southeastern Europe). This competition increased tension.

4) Nationalism- Ethnic groups in the Balkans (Southeastern Europe) wanted to gain independence (self-government) from Austria-Hungary and they were willing to fight for it.

5) World War I started when Archduke Ferdinand (the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary) was assassinated by Slavic nationalists in the Balkans.

C) Treaty of Versailles- This was the Treaty that ended World War I. The key thing to remember is that the treaty severely punished Germany in a number of ways:

1) Germany was forced to accept blame (guilt) for causing World War I.

2) Germany was forced to pay 30 billion dollars in war reparations (money for damages caused during the war).

3) Germany had to reduce (decrease) the size of its military.

4) Germany was forced to give up some of its lands.

5) **NOTE:** The Treaty of Versailles was so harsh on Germany that it eventually helped bring Hitler (and the Nazis) to power and it helped cause World War II.

D) Key effects (results) of World War I:

1) In order to provide the people of Eastern Europe with self-determination (the right of ethnic groups to create their own governments), Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire were broken apart and much of the land was used to create new nations in Eastern Europe (such as Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia).

2) Armenian Massacre- During World War I, the Turks of the Ottoman Empire attempted to kill all of the Armenians that lived in their territory.

**The Russian Revolution (also called the Bolshevik Revolution) of 1917**

The Russian Revolution was an event where the people of Russia overthrew their Czar (king) and created a new government.

B) Causes of (reasons for) the Russian Revolution- Like all political (government) revolutions, the Russian Revolution took place because the people of Russia were unhappy with their government. People were unhappy for several reasons: World War I- Russia suffered many casualties (injuries and death) in the war. World War I also created food shortages at home (people were starving). Czar Nicholas II- He was the ruler of Russia at the time. People thought that he abused his power by denying (taking away) the rights of the people.

C) Bolsheviks: This was the radical (extreme) group that was leading the Russian Revolution. The leader of the Bolsheviks was a man named Vladimir Lenin. Lenin and the Bolsheviks gained the support of the Russian people by promising to provide them with “Peace, Land, and Bread.” This slogan meant that they would take Russia out of WWI, give land to peasants, and feed everyone.

D) Effects (results) of the Russian/Bolshevik Revolution: Czar Nicholas II was executed. Lenin and the Bolsheviks came to power in Russia. Russia became a Communist nation.

**Nationalism Between World Wars (1919-1939)**

A) Turkey: After World War I, the Ottoman Empire was broken apart. All that remained of Ottoman lands was the country of Turkey. Kemal Ataturk- He was the first president of Turkey. He is considered a nationalist because he made many changes in order to strengthen Turkey:

B) Zionism is the name for the nationalist movement of Jews. Since Jews did not yet have their own country, the goal of Zionists after World War I was to create an official nation for Jews in the Holy Land (a region of the Middle East that includes the sacred city of Jerusalem).

C) India: By the time World War I ended in 1919, India had been a colony of Great Britain (England) for almost 200 years. After World War I, India began to increase its demands for independence (self-government). Mohandas Gandhi is the famous nationalist leader of India who fought for independence from Britain using only non-violent methods (also called civil disobedience or passive resistance). Salt March- Famous event where Gandhi protested British taxes on salt by leading a peaceful march to the sea to make his own salt. Boycott- Gandhi encouraged the people of India to boycott British products (like clothing) that were sold in India.

**Introduction to Totalitarian Dictatorships**

Totalitarian dictatorships are governments where one ruler has complete control over ALL aspects of life within a country. They control the political, social, and economic features of a nation. After World War I, totalitarian dictatorships were established in 3 countries under 3 men:

The Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. Italy under Benito Mussolini. Germany under Adolf Hitler. Totalitarianism arose because people lost faith in their governments after World War I. Each dictator that came to power did so by promising to restore order and stability to their country after WWI.

**Introduction to World War II (1939-1945)**

World War II was the second major global conflict of the twentieth century.

**Events leading up to World War II**

A) Japanese Aggression: Japan took over Korea, Manchuria (northeastern China), and much of Southeast Asia in order to gain natural resources/raw materials. Rape of Nanking- Brutal event in which the Japanese raped and killed Chinese civilians in the city of Nanking. It was a major human rights violation.

B) Italian Aggression- Benito Mussolini of Italy invaded and took over Ethiopia

C) German Aggression- Adolf Hitler violated the Treaty of Versailles in a number of ways:

1) Hitler built up the German military and drafted soldiers into the army.

2) Hitler placed soldiers in the Rhineland, took over the neighboring country of Austria, took over the neighboring country of Czechoslovakia.

D) **NOTE:** World War II took place mainly because very little was done early on to stop Hitler, Mussolini, or Japan.