

Chapter 34: An Age of Anxiety Reading Questions

Probing Cultural Frontiers - p. 793

1. By the early 1920s, people had begun questioning the superiority of European society. Why?
2. Why did people begin attacking the concept of democracy after the Great War?

Revolutions in Physics and Psychology - p. 794

3. How did new ideas in science (specifically the theory of relativity and the Heisenberg uncertainty principle) influence the way people viewed the world?

Experimentation in Art and Architecture - p. 795

4. Why did artists stop attempting to create realistic-looking paintings?
5. Bauhaus architects like Walter Gropius designed their buildings around what ideas?

Global Depression - p. 797

6. Give three reasons most nations were struggling economically following the Great War (before 1929).
7. What happened on “Black Thursday?”
8. Why did a stock market crash in the United States affect the rest of the world?

Despair and Government Action - p. 799

9. Read the section titled “Personal Suffering.” What problems from the Depression stand out to you the most?

Economic Experimentation - p. 800

10. What did governments do about the Great Depression in the first place?
11. What did John Maynard Keynes believe the government should do about the Great Depression?
12. U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt advocated increasing government control of the economy, especially in the area of jobs creation. What was Roosevelt’s policy called?

Challenges to the Liberal Order - p. 802

13. What was the Red Terror campaign?
14. After “war communism” left the Russian population in dire straits, what did Lenin do to solve the problem?
15. Who took Lenin’s place when he died?
16. Stalin began organizing the economy with Five-Year Plans. What was the goal of the first plan?

17. Stalin's collectivization plan led to the deaths of approximately three million Russians. Why were things such a disaster?
18. Under communism millions of people had starved to death and consumer goods were virtually non-existent. Why did many still claim communism as a success?
19. Since millions of people had died under Stalin's leadership, people began to question his abilities as a leader. What did Stalin do to these people?

The Fascist Alternative - p. 804

20. What common features did most fascist movements share?
21. Name two groups fascists were hostile towards.

Italian Fascism - p. 806

22. How did Mussolini rise to power?
23. What is the fascist concept of corporatism?

German National Socialism - p. 808

24. An ever-increasing number of Germans blamed the Weimar Republic for Germany's misfortunes. What, specifically, had the republic done wrong (list at least three things)?
25. What actions did the Nazi government take to ensure the growth of the German "race?" Be sure to read the section under "Nazi Eugenics."
26. As the Nazis passed the Nuremberg Laws, what was their official stated goal for the Jewish people?