

# **The main developments in the history of world politics**

## **Plan:**

- 1) Theory of global politics.**
- 2) World history 1900-1945.**

The search for a unifying theory of international politics and world order has been underway for centuries. Such ideas were offered by classical and premodern theorists of politics, such as **Hobbes, Kant, List** and other geopoliticians, beginning with **Admiral Mahan** in the final decade of the 1800s, continuing with **Halford Mackinder** and **Nicholas Spykman** during the middle of the twentieth century, and ending with **Colin Gray** in the 1990s. After World War II, new theories were offered by **Aron, Waltz** and others.

Most recently, in the wake of the Cold War's end, these theories have been restated in a different form by **Samuel Huntington** (1996), **Benjamin Barber** (1995) and **Robert Kaplan** (1994, 1996).

The world is changing. Why is it changing?

What is its **trajectory** (траектория) is hardly clear to anyone. **The world of well-defined nation-states** under American rule and discipline, still offers the best hope for reducing the risks of war and **enhancing** (повышение) the possibilities for teleological human improvement.

As well as the writings of **Hobbes** **Rosenau** and others, who warned that, in the absence of government, there is only a “State of Nature”, the “war of everyone against everyone”.

Ken Booth (University College of Wales) argued that: “States are less able to perform their traditional functions. Global factors increasingly **impinge** (нарушать) on all decisions made by governments. Identity patterns are becoming more complex, as people **assert** (заявлять) local loyalties but want to share in global values and lifestyles.

The traditional distinction between “foreign” and “domestic” policy is less tenable than ever. And there is growing awareness that we are sharing a common world history”. (**Booth**, 1991)

**Rosenau’s** theory is an essentially liberal theory, and while he acknowledges the importance of economic factors between two worlds, he shies away from recognizing the central role of material and economic change and the **ancillary** (вспомогательный) processes of social innovation and reorganization.

The simultaneous (одновременный) conditions of integration are part of the process of social innovation and reorganization that go hand-in-hand with changes in production and purpose. This is to be regarded as a positive or negative development remains to be seen.

**Globalization** has challenged the authority of national governments. The growth of transnational society has given rise to problems and has **blurred** (расплывчатый) distinctive spheres of authority and decision-making. As a result, authoritative decision-making for politics is increasingly conceptualized as global governance (Rosenau, 1997)

The **complexity** (сложность) and **fragmentation** (фрагментация, разбиение) of power and authority that have resulted from globalization typically require government (national, regional, local) to interact with other organizations and institutions, both public and private, foreign and domestic, to achieve desired goals. An important **manifestation** (манифестация, проявление) of global governance is the significant expansion of regional processes focusing on international migration. Globalization has led to the strengthening of global institutions: the World Trade Organization for trade, the International Monetary Fund for finance, the World Bank for economic development, and so on.

## World history 1900-1945

1900 – 1945 were marked by massive **upheaval** (переворот). Within 45 years, the world experienced two Total Wars, a global economic **slump** (спад, кризис), and the ending of four major empires, with **tsarist** (царское) Russia being overthrown by a Bolshevik Revolution.



The consequences of the First World War were enormous. After over four years of war, the diplomats and political leaders who gathered at **Versailles in 1919 to forge** (ВОЗГЛАВЛЯТЬ) a peace settlement were **adamant** (НЕСОКРУШИМЫЙ) that their endeavors (ПОПЫТКА) must not just resolve the immediate post-war issues but also make war impossible in the future. 20 years after the **Treaty of Versailles**, another world war was under way – this war even more global in its reach than the first war. The years 1900-45 mark the most **destructive** (РАЗРУШАЮЩИЙ) period in human history.

Imperial China, long subject to foreign **incursions** (вторжение), also slid into (move) prolonged civil war. The international economy collapsed after the Wall Street Crash of 1929. Partly, as a result of the ensuing (происходить) depression, democracies crumbled (разрушаться) in the 1930s, while extreme right-wing dictatorships flourished in Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan and many countries of Latin America. The most globally significant transformation during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was Europe's effective collapse as **pre-eminent** (превосходящий других) continent.

The world dominated in 1900 by a small group of economically prosperous and **populous** (густонаселенный) European states, whose empires **encompassed** (охватывать) much of the globe, by 1945 had been replaced by one in which the major **arbiters** (властитель) of international affairs were the **two new superpowers** – the **United States of America** and the **Soviet Union**. Europe, at least temporarily, was in a state of ruin and indebtedness, with **Eastern and Central Europe** lying under Soviet occupation. The Second World War further **intensified** (активизировать) Europe's disintegration.

By 1945, Europe was shattered by its long crisis. The continent was divided between two newly **emergent** (получивший независимость) superpowers – the United States and the USSR, both of which had primarily concentrated on their own internal development in the **inter-war** (межвоенный) years. Second World War dramatically brought about Europe's collapse. Before the First World War, Europe had not experienced a conflict that **enmeshed** (запутывать) so many different countries and peoples.

Not only did human being kill one another in greater numbers than in any other span (пролет) of 4 decades, but they also found more **barbaric** (варварский) methods of doing so: from the Nazi genocide of **6 million Jews** carried out in the concentration camps, to America's dropping of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** in August **1945**. The world of 1945 was almost unrecognizable from that of 1900. The story of these years is one of disintegration. A series of empires collapsed in Austro-Hungary, Turkey and Russia in the course of World War I.

# Key features of the world in 1900

**European states dominate the global pattern of international relations:**

- 1 in 4 of the world's population lives in Europe;
- the European 'great powers' (Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia) have a concentration of military power, as well as dominating world trade.

**Colonial empires of European states (especially Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal) cover much of the world:**

- approximately 500m. people live under European colonial rule;
- search for colonies continues; especially Germany in Africa and Tsarist Russia in Asia.

**Several territorial empires in a **protracted** (затяжной) state of collapse:**

- the Habsburg empire (covering Austro-Hungary and much of central Europe and the Balkans);
- the Ottoman empire (centered on Turkey and **encompassing** (охватывая) much of the Middle East and the Balkans);
- Tsarist Russia;
- Imperial China.



## **Global capitalist economy:**

- in 1900 centered on the UK, as the world's largest imperial and trading power, but increasingly under threat;
- rapid industrial expansion in North America;
- Japan modernizing and industrializing.

# Key features of the world in 1945

## **Prominence** (ИЗВЕСТНОСТЬ) of the US and USSR:

- US first nuclear superpower, after explosion of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 1945;
- US emerges (ВЫХОДИТЬ) from World War II as major creditor nation and center of the international economy;
- USSR in economic ruin after war, but Red Army occupies all Eastern and much of Central Europe, to Berlin and beyond.

# Collapse of Europe:

- rapidly divided between East and West; Germany **split** (раскол) until 1989;
- national economies in ruin; large debts owing to US;
- European colonial empires undermined by war; by Japanese overrunning of colonies in South-East Asia.

# **Growing nationalism in the colonial empires:**

- war time ‘Atlantic Charter’ makes commitment to national self determination;
- India seeking independence (achieved in 1947);
- Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam an independent republic in 1945.

## **Civil war in China:**

- ended with victory of Mao and establishment of the Peoples Republic of China in 1949;
- together with the population of the USSR, one-third of the world lived under communist rule.

## QUESTIONS

- 1** In what ways did Europe dominate international politics at the start of the twentieth century?
- 2** Why was Germany regarded as a 'problem' after its unification in 1871?
- 3** What factors resulted in the outbreak of World War I in 1914?
- 4** What were the main weaknesses with the post-war peace settlement?
- 5** Was Germany treated unfairly by the Treaty of Versailles?
- 6** Why were the US and the USSR not more active in international politics between the First and Second World Wars?

- 7 Why did the Wall Street stock-market crash of October 1929 have such profound international consequences?
- 8 In what ways was Japan a 'threat' to the European great powers during the first half of the twentieth century?
- 9 Is it fair to regard the Second World War as 'Hitler's War'?
- 10 What were the weaknesses with the policy of appeasement?
- 11 How far was the Second World War responsible for Western Europe's eclipse by other powers?

Hobsbawm, E., *Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914–91* (London: Michael Joseph, 1994). This is an extremely readable and thought-provoking look at the century which Hobsbawm regards as beginning in 1914.

Keylor, W., *The Twentieth Century World: An International History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992). This book provides an excellent overview of the entire century, with lengthy sections of the period up to 1945. Economic factors are dealt with particularly well.

Mazower, M., *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (London: Penguin, 1999). An incisive and provocative history of Europe in the twentieth century, synthesizing a great deal of material with engaging verve.

Ross, G., *The Great Powers and the Decline of the European States System, 1914–45* (London: Longmans, 1983). A short, but detailed, diplomatic history, outlining the collapse of the 'states system' comprised by the European Great Powers, and containing useful chronologies.



## **World War I and after**

Henig, R., *Versailles and After, 1919–33* (London: Methuen, 1984). A pamphlet setting out the main terms of the post-war peace settlement.

Joll, J., *The Origins of the First World War* (London: Longmans, 1984). A useful synthesis of the debate on the origins of the war.

## **World War II**

Iriye, A., *The Origins of the Second World War in Asia and the Pacific* (London: Longmans, 1987). In the same series as Joll's book, this volume examines the growth of Japanese imperialism and the onset of the war.

Finney, P., *The Origins of the Second World War* (London: Arnold, 1997). A recent assemblage of key articles, covering the range of historiographical debates over the origins of the Second World War, interpretations of the nature of the 'dictatorships', and appraisals of appeasement.

Robertson, E. M. (ed.), *The Origins of the Second World War: Historical Interpretations* (London: Macmillan, 1971). A useful collection of articles illustrating the extent of the row over Taylor's thesis; including a vicious exchange between Taylor and his chief opponent, Hugh Trevor-Roper.

# **The main developments in the history of world politics**

Plan:

- 1) World history 1945-1990.
- 2) The end of the cold war.
- 3) World history since 1990.