
From: The Modern World Global History since 1760 Course Team [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 7:05 PM
To: jeepproject@yahoo.com
Subject: Starting Week 9

Dear jeffrey epstein,

The presentations for Week 9 are now posted. Responding to some suggestion=, we are making the presentations available a little earlier.

With Week 9, we tackle three main historical problems. First, why did Worl= War I turn out the way it did? Why did the Western allies win? I do not=treat this outcome as a foregone conclusion. My argument, following other=historians like David Stevenson, is that the war's outcome was still uncer=ain even in early 1918. The Allied Powers had certain fundamentals on the=r side, but their tactical position was not so promising and the Russian c=llapse was a major boost to the Central Powers.

Second, what were the most important changes in ideas about governance ◆=80◆ political and economic — produced by the war? There is the =ise of communism, of course. But with it also came the rise of other mass=movements — anti-communism ... and that curious hybrid, fasc=sm. Empires disintegrated and mutated, the surviving ones adopted a stron=er veneer of liberal purpose. But even more interesting are the new anti=mperialisms, militant national states of which Atatürk's Turkey was t=e outstanding and much noticed model, with kindred approaches adopted by l=aders in places like Iran and the new Chinese republic.

Third, what about the effects of this "broken world" on global society and =ulture? During the 1920s, this is the realm where American influence was =aramount, not in world politics. And this cultural realm is also where Am=rican influence drew more fretful and critical commentary than any other. =This is therefore also the week in our course where it is the right time t= take a more sustained look at changing ideas about the status of women ac=oss the world. This includes the origins of modern feminism on both sides=of the Atlantic, especially in the United States. As you will see, this t=pic is about much more than a battle over political rights. Indeed, the g=obal phenomenon of "modern women" — much discussed during the 1920= — is about social roles and lifestyle.

Best wishes,

Philip Zelikow

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