



# History Workshop

National Student Speakers Association

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# Agenda

- Why Study History?
- 6 Periods for All of History (following AP World History guidelines)

# Why is History Important?

- Everything that you need to know can be found online.
- Why is it important to develop at least a rudimentary understanding of history?
- History is essential for leadership in the grander context of human life.

# One Note Before We Begin

- History is very complex.
- As such, this will be a very quick breeze over the events in history (i.e. we can't cover the Trojan War).
- This powerpoint and a recording will be uploaded to our website, so don't try and copy everything word for word – internalize the information as a story.
- There will be questions asked throughout from previous information – make sure you pay attention!





# Periods One and Two

- 600 BCE

600 BCE – 600 CE

# The Beginning of Life

- Biology covers the beginning of life.
- For our purposes, know that humans evolved from early cells created from organic matter in a very long process.
- These humans were initially nomadic in the Paleolithic Age.

# Early Civilization

- The Neolithic Age (12,000 BCE - 8,000 BCE) is when people started to create settlements due to agriculture.
- River Valley Civilizations (2500 BCE – 1500 BCE)
  - Irrigation
  - Legal Codes
  - Currency
  - Art/Literature
  - Scientific Knowledge, Numbering, Calendars
  - More Social Inequality
- Classical Civilizations (1000 BCE – 600 CE)
  - Patriarchy
  - Agriculture
  - Bureaucracy
  - Trade



# Mesopotamia

- Writing: Cuneiform – Hammurabi's Code, Epic of Gilgamesh
- Competition – lack of natural barriers i.e. desert (Egypt)
- Bronze, chariots, math around 60
- Polytheistic cruel gods, due to flooding of the Tigris and Euphrates
- Job specialization and social classes
- Marriage contracts – women still unequal
- Rivers: Tigris and Euphrates

# Egypt

- Writing: Hieroglyphics, Priests have higher status due to understanding of writing
- Polytheistic with pharaoh as a god, optimistic due to regular flowing of the Nile, belief in the Afterlife
- Divine kingship led centralized, authoritarian bureaucracy with regional governors with limited social mobility
- Women are treated better than Mesopotamia
- River: Nile

# Indus River Valley

- Writing: Unknown. Soapstone seals show trade with Mesopotamians.
- Crude weapons
- Large granaries, plumbing, cities based on grid pattern show complex centralized government
- Priests have highest status, changes in house sizes show class distinction
- Polytheistic
- Two main cities: Harappa & Mohenjo – Daro
- River: Indus

# Shang China

- Writing: Patterns on bones, very complex pictorial language as a bond between many peoples. Oracle bones to communicate with ancestors.
- Geographical separation due to Gobi Desert and Himalayan Mountains
- Centralized government with the emperor, job specialization with warrior aristocrats, bureaucrats, farmers, slaves.
- Patriarchical
- River: Huang He (Yellow)

# Americas

## Mesoamerican Olmecs

- Astronomy used to please polytheistic gods with many rituals, with giant stone heads.
- Not united politically – rare.
- Craft specializations with priests at the top with many farmers.

## Andean Chavin

- Polytheistic – stone architecture around jaguar as well.
- Most likely politically organized, public works with a capital city dominating hinterlands.
- Priests at the top with many people as farmers – built around maize.



**GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION**

**ГЕОГРАФИЧНА СІМ'ЯНКА**



# Classical Greece

- No centralized government – many city-states built around the polis partly due to rocky geography
- Polytheistic – pagan gods would be modified in Rome
- Athens first had tyrants and then accidentally gave power to the people, eventually coming to be ruled by an assembly of free men – early democracy.
- Sparta was militaristic with more freedom for women with oligarchy.
- Athens was more influential even though it lost the Peloponnesian War – many philosophy and ideas of government and history.

# Greece and Persia

- Cyrus the Great established the Persian empire in 539 BCE.
- When Darius was king, there was the war of Thermopylae (300 Spartans against all of the Persians) and the battle of Marathon.
- The Athenians got the help of other city-states against Xerxes, where Athens then emerged as the central power, with many famous people like Pericles.
- However, issues between Sparta and Athens led to their weakening through the Peloponnesian War. Sparta finally won, but Macedon was growing powerful.
- Alexander the Great would then step in and make a massive empire, that when it fell apart would quickly be replaced by many other empires.



# Rome

- Started as the Roman Republic – the Aeneid by Virgil says Aeneas, a Trojan, travelled to Italy and became the ancestor of the Romans.
- Another says that Mars and Rhea Silvia had twins Romulus and Remus, left on the Tiber River, founding Rome, with Romulus killing Remus.
- Perfection of military techniques – legions, organization, conquering without repression, with consuls organizing the Senate with a non-hereditary emperor chosen by the predecessor with extensive colonization.

# Caesar

- Julius Caesar, in his struggles with Pompey, would march and take power in creating the Roman empire – many famous events in his long struggle for power such as crossing the Rubicon coming back from Gaul.
- After establishing power, he proceeded to expand until killed during the Ides of March. Then, after a civil war, Augustus Caesar stepped in and created Pax Romana, a period of peace for a century.

# Religion??

- Judaism began with the Hebrews, written down as they were taken to Babylon in chains to preserve their history into the Torah.
- Christianity began to develop with Jesus of Nazareth, a priest who was crucified by Pontius Pilate for his sayings and actions of equality. Believers say he came back in a resurrection.
- The Romans switched to Christianity after persecution in 313 AD with Constantine, who created the Edict of Milan to accept Christianity and moved the capital to Byzantine, renamed Constantinople as the Christian church developed.

# China

- The Zhou, after the Shang, had the Mandate of Heaven with Confucian values.
- After the fall of the Zhou, China fell into disarray
- First was Qin Shihuangdi who used legalism to end the Period of Warring States, before Confucianism was used by the Han.
- The Han had a Golden Age from the Silk Road with a calendar, educated bureaucrats, a strong centralized government.
- There was a large merchant class below the scholar-bureaucrats with the family values stressed importantly – patriarchal values.

# India

- Aryan religion became Hinduism, with the Vedas. Literature such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata were written at this time, with vast Indian Ocean trade.
- Arabic numerals with a 10 number system with value given to the 0 developed.
- India's history categorized mainly as small regional kingdoms.
- Mauryan and Gupta empires created based on military expansion.
- Mauryan emperor Ashoka is perhaps the most famous – converting to Buddhism and establishing edicts.
- Caste system with groups called jati, dictating actions

# Saharan & Sub-Saharan Trade

- The Berbers, nomads who lived in the desert, carried goods with Cairo being a central trade center along North Africa.
- Sub-Saharan trade was inspired by Bantu migration southwards who brought iron metallurgy with them to connect people along the Indian Ocean and to North Africa and the Mediterranean.

# Fall

- All of the river-valley civilizations fell or declined around 1200 BCE, with the classical civilizations falling around 200 and 600 CE.
- Han China fell in 220 CE, the Western Roman Empire fell in 476 CE, and the Gupta fell in 550 CE.
- In general, the attacks from nomadic invaders, corruption and weak rulers, extremely large borders, and plagues spread across the Silk Road led to their downfall.

# Western Roman Empire

- While the fall of the other classical civilizations is important, the fall of the Western Roman Empire plays a very, very large role.
- The Visigoths, fueled by hunger, starved Rome as they inched closer and closer hoping for food until Rome fell in 476 CE while the eastern part of the empire continued to live on.
- Because of this, Rome fell, and its lands became highly disorganized for the next 1000 years as the Roman Catholic Church grew in power and feudalism developed in Europe.



# Review Questions

- What was the Chinese idea that stated that rulers were legitimate when chosen by a higher power?
- Why was there a shift from nomadic groups to settlements?
- What were some characteristics of early civilizations?



# Period Three

600 CE – 1450 CE

# Islam

- Islam develops around 610 CE, expanding on Christianity with the prophet Muhammad.
- It was a political and religious force, establishing a caliphate that would replace the Persian territories with a sultan.
- When Rome fell, and when Constantinople would fall as well, much of classical works would be kept alive and added to by Islamic scholars who made many advancements.
- They engaged in major trade and would have a significant influence on the rest of affairs.

# Tang Dynasty

- Merit-based bureaucracy from 618 to 906 CE, expanding upon what the Han did.

# Song Dynasty

- Further expanded on the developments of the Tang but were extremely patriarchal with foot-binding beliefs.
- In this time, China created new ways to produce iron, creating gunpowder, bombs, movable type printing, magnetic compass, coins, letters of credit, and more.
- Japan would copy much of this without the foot-binding.
- Neoconfucianism with blending of aspects of Buddhism and Confucianism to understand the nature of the soul developed.

# Europe in Feudalism

- Has fallen to serfs, nobles, knights, and very weak kings (Japan has also fallen into feudalism).
- The Pope is the ultimate religious authority.
- Efforts such as the Holy Roman Empire with Charlemagne are tried for centralization, but nobles wield too much power – the Magna Carta of 1215 is the exception.
- Crusades began to fight against Islam in the Middle East led to growth of Venice, Genoa, Milan, and Italian city-states through trade and the 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade sacked Constantinople.
- Kings start to become powerful towards the end of this period.

# Byzantine Empire

- The Church divided in 1054 over icons – creating Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy.
- The Pope led the Roman Catholic Church and the Byzantine Emperor selected the patriarch.
- Justinian is the main emperor to know about in this empire.
- Preserved classical texts from the times of the Greeks and the Romans.

# Mongols

- Nomadic group from Central Asian steppes, pastoralists, loosely organized into clans
- Temujin, who became Genghis Khan, in 1200 CE led the Mongols to conquer basically everything with his grandson Kublai Khan conquering China, stopped by the Mamluks in Egypt.
- This would create a Mongol reorganization, with trade continuing (leading to the Black Death) and major changes.



# Americas

- Maya
  - Major scientific advancements
  - Agricultural trade
  - Collapsed due to warfare and overuse of resources
- Aztec
  - Human sacrifice
  - Tributary states
  - Collapsed due to smallpox and tributary states allying with Spanish
- Inca
  - Quipu for record keeping
  - Many domesticated plants and animals
  - Collapsed due to smallpox and tributary states allying with Spanish

# Review Questions

- How is Europe doing in this time period during the Middle Ages?
- What was the writing system used by the Mesopotamians? Name something famous written with it.
- How is the rest of the world doing in this time period other than Europe?

# Period Four

1450 CE – 1750 CE



V.S.S.T

# Ottoman Empire

- Founded by Osman – collection of Turkish tribes
- Conquered Constantinople in 1453 which became Istanbul and raided the Balkans in Europe.
- They used civil service, Janissaries, and women had comparatively more equality.
- The Siege of Vienna in 1530 as they expanded into Europe generated unity in Europe to fight Muslim invaders.
- Continuity from the Romans to the Byzantine to the Ottomans, who would fall in World War I

# Mughal Empire

- Part of the Delhi Sultanate
- Main emperor was Akbar, who tried to reconcile Islam with Hinduism
- Sikhism emerged based on the teachings of Guru Nanak
- Taj Mahal built by Shah Jahan

# Tokugawa Japan

- Daimyo, or the Japanese nobles/regional lords, were called every other year by the emperor and settled in Edo (Tokyo), to try and maintain control.
- The shogunate closed Japan in the 1630s from Europeans while controlling trade, with daimyos on far islands sometimes getting away with it – based on observation of the Spanish conquest of the Philippines.

# Ming China (Early Qing)

- Ming China dominated Asia – explorers such as Zheng He made significant achievements, economic glory, and more.
- The Little Ice Age, Nomadic Invasions, pirates, inept rules, and the Silk Road falling apart due to European trade routes lead to weakening and eventual overthrow.
- The Manchus, nomads, helped to fight the Mongols and Japanese and then took China, ruling until 1911 and remaining strong until 1750.
- Separated the Chinese and Manchu peoples apart, requiring the Chinese queues at the back of the head.
- Christian missionaries had been pushed out, mainly the Jesuits, and trade except Canton which was closely monitored was stopped.

# Kongo

- African merchant princes that traded slaves with Portugal.
- Converted to Christianity, becoming a major player.
- Convinced by the Portuguese to not interact with Spain – along with most of the African areas.



# Benin

- Heavily relied on a trade economy.
- Skilled in bronze work.

# Songhai

- Once controlled by Mali, it lacked gunpowder and was defeated by Moroccan forces in 1591
- Traded salt, gold, and copper

# European Movements

- Renaissance
- Scientific Revolution
- Enlightenment

# Early European Empires



- Portugal
- Spain – the importance of 1492
- England
- France

# Exploration Desires

- Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation
- Gold
- Glory

# Russia

- After the Mongols, began with Ivan the Great (Ivan III) and then Ivan the Terrible (Ivan IV) before the Romanov Dynasty which would last until the Bolshevik Revolution in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Converted to Orthodox Christianity.
- Peter the Great tried to “westernize” Russia by emphasizing changes in education and the military.

# American Colonization

- Spanish conquistadors – Cortes and Pizarro – captured the Aztec and Incan empires
- Portugal took Brazil according to the Treaty of Tordesillas
- French took Canada, Louisiana
- British had 13 colonies
- Dutch had a few initial settlements (New Amsterdam ↔ New York)
- Columbian Exchange
- Introduction of African Slavery after natives died out

# Review Questions

- What factors led to colonization of the Americas by European powers?
- In the Roman Empire, who and why did he/she change the formal religion to Christianity?
- Why did the Renaissance happen in Europe and not any of the other formidable societies throughout the world?



# Period Five

1750 CE – 1900 CE



V.S.S.A.

# Industrial Revolution

- Began in Great Britain in the 1760s due to geographical resources, economic and political stability – early creation of textile industry, steel, machines, and more.
- Cotton gin by Eli Whitney established continuing demand for slaves – crucial towards the US Civil War.
- Spread to the rest of the world through imperialism – such as with Meiji Restoration in Japan while resisted in other areas.
- The poor were the “losers” – have most of the labor but failed to get equal wealth and success.

# American Revolution

- Since the Glorious Revolution and then the Restoration in England with William and Mary in 1689, salutary neglect had been happening.
- Oliver Cromwell had tried to restrict through Navigation Acts.
- Autonomy until the French & Indian War's huge debt led to calls for revolution.
- Thomas Paine, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and more all played crucial roles in the American Revolution
- Saratoga involved the French while the Spanish helped with supplies – led to victory.
- Articles of Confederation created initially, replaced with Constitution and a Bill of Rights as a part of the compromise

# French Revolution

- Partly inspired by the US.
- Began with uprising led by Robespierre who ran rampant and demanded freedom throughout France due to the failures of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.
- Culminated in Napoleon taking power, controlling Spain and expanding throughout Europe in the height of French power until he was brought down at the Battle of Waterloo.
- The Congress of Vienna (1815) maintained the concept of a balance of power throughout Europe.

# Haitian Revolution

- With rumors of the French freeing the slaves in Haiti, Toussaint L'Overture led the only successful revolution in the world by slaves towards the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Unfortunately, economic imperialism led to the nation's destruction and plantations continued for the sake of continuing the economy.

# Latin American Independence Movements

- Simon Bolivar envisioned a Gran Colombia that would be in Latin America, although this was highly ineffective.
- Many further revolutions would ensue because of the ignorance of the lower class since it was the creole elite of plantation owners and merchants that launched these revolutions.

# Egypt

- Successful in holding off the British through the leadership of Muhammad Ali (not the boxer).
- Expanded the empire by involving with the Ottomans.
- Sought international financing for the creation of the Suez Canal – controlled by Great Britain and France for funding.

# Western Imperialism/Dominance

- Many examples of imperialism:
  - India
  - Indochina
  - Philippines
  - Dutch Indonesia
  - Opium Wars
  - Spheres of Influence
  - Japan – both imperialized and imperial power
  - Berlin Conference – Ethiopia and Liberia remain free
  - Suez Canal
  - Latin America
  - Spanish-American War



# Unification of States

- Germany
- Italy
- United States
  - Civil War

# Review Questions

- In the US Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation was passed freeing all slaves. After the war, the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments were all passed. Why did these amendments need to be passed if the Emancipation Proclamation already was?
- What factors contributed to Portugal's early quest for naval dominance?
- What was the significance of Germany's unification in 1871?

# Period Six

1900 CE - Present



V.S.S.T.

# World War I

- Causes: MAIN
- Leftover sentiments from Russo-Japanese War
- Started by killing of Franz Ferdinand, expanded quickly
- Russian Revolution due to the sending of Lenin at this time – resulted in Soviet Union
- Led to World War 2 – Hitler was a soldier in this war, the Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to accept full responsibility for the war that demolished them.
- Dawes Plan helped momentarily but when the Great Depression happened Germany looked towards radical leaders.

# Great Depression

- Growth was too fast – the economic crash of 1929 combined with the lack of presidential leadership led to major outcomes that affected everyone on a global scale.
- Hoover and FDR both had different solutions – Keynesian economics.
- Staved off with welfare but only officially solved with World War 2 production requirements that mobilizes nations.

# World War II

- Tried appeasement – Neville Chamberlain would be replaced with Winston Churchill due this failure such as with giving up Czechoslovakia in 1938.
- After attacks on Poland, everyone declared war.
- Britain held off, Soviets were betrayed and the fronts emerged.
- Key Battles: El Alamein, Midway, Stalingrad, Normandy
- Holocaust – led to Theodor Herzl's call for Zionism due to the Jewish diaspora, led to increased conflict in the Middle East.

# Communist China

- Mao Zedong, while initially being behind, manages to take power in 1949, sending the Nationalists to Taiwan.
- The Cultural Revolution was claimed as an effort to try and remake China that were a serious, significant failure.
- Authoritarian policies continued and still continue today, part of what helped it to grow as an economy but incidents like Tiananmen square and surveillance/control remain.

# Cold War

- Began quickly after World War 2 due to the inherent issues between democratic capitalism and authoritarian communism.
- Eastern Europe was split, and so was Berlin – small tensions would continue with many proxy wars fought.
- Development of atomic and nuclear weapons stopped any actual direct warfare between the US and the Soviets.
- Fall of the Soviets was due to Mikhail Gorbachev – he embraced perestroika and glasnost, openness with capitalism that led to Russian demise and breakup of Soviet Union.



# Korean and Vietnam Wars

- Fought in 1950s and 1970s as a proxy war.
- Korea was a stalemate between North and South Korea – as it is today.
- Vietnam was originally North and South Vietnam.
- The US didn't like communist Ho Chi Minh, so they pushed for the Southern Vietnamese against the Vietcong, losing and getting destroyed in the jungle.
- The continuation of this changed America when it came to warfare.

# Decolonization

- There were many instances of decolonization, but here are two case studies:
  - India
  - South Africa

# Social Reform

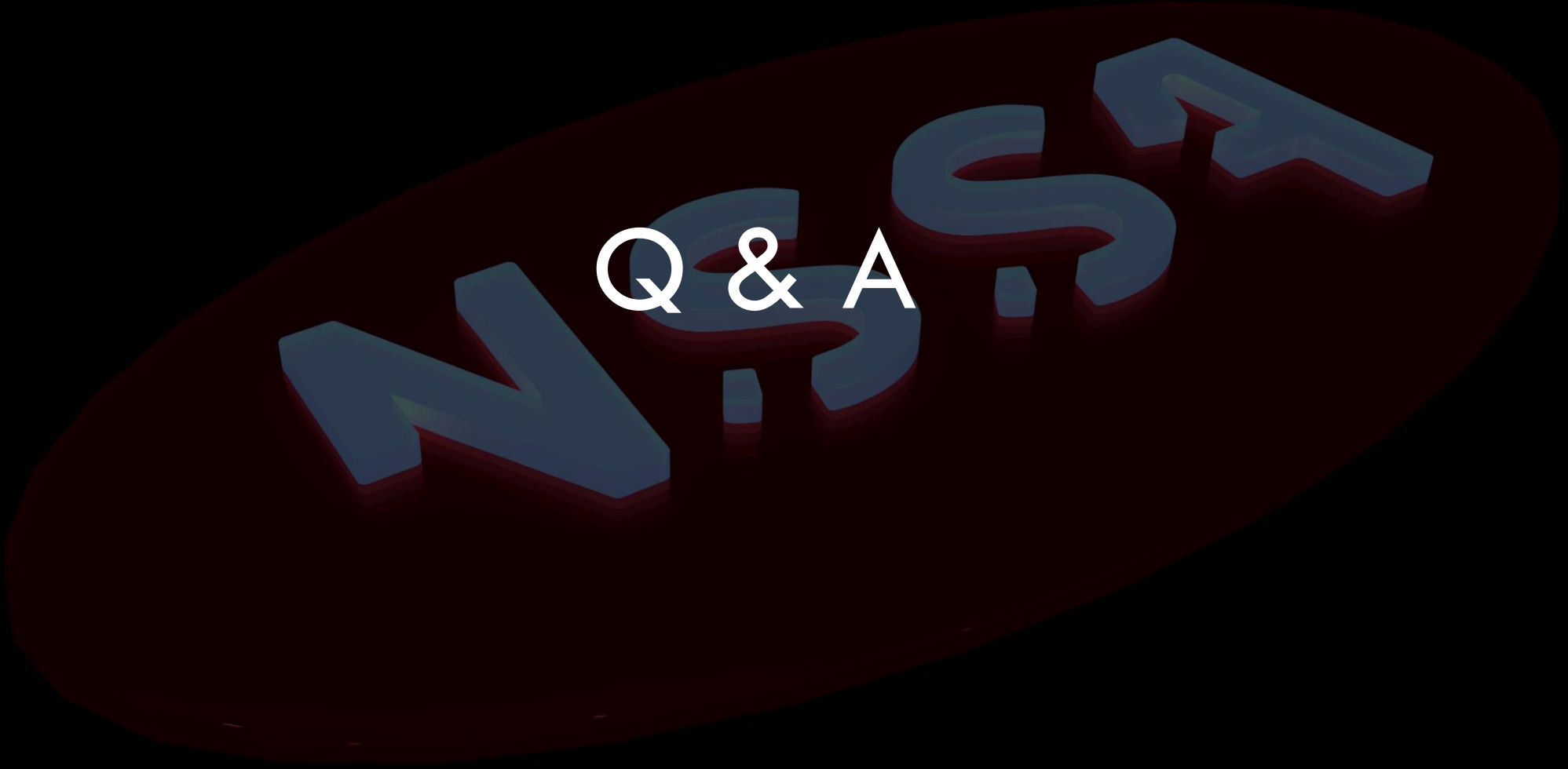
- Feminism grew through multiple waves
- Concerns about the environment
- Civil Rights
- Student Revolutions

# Review Questions

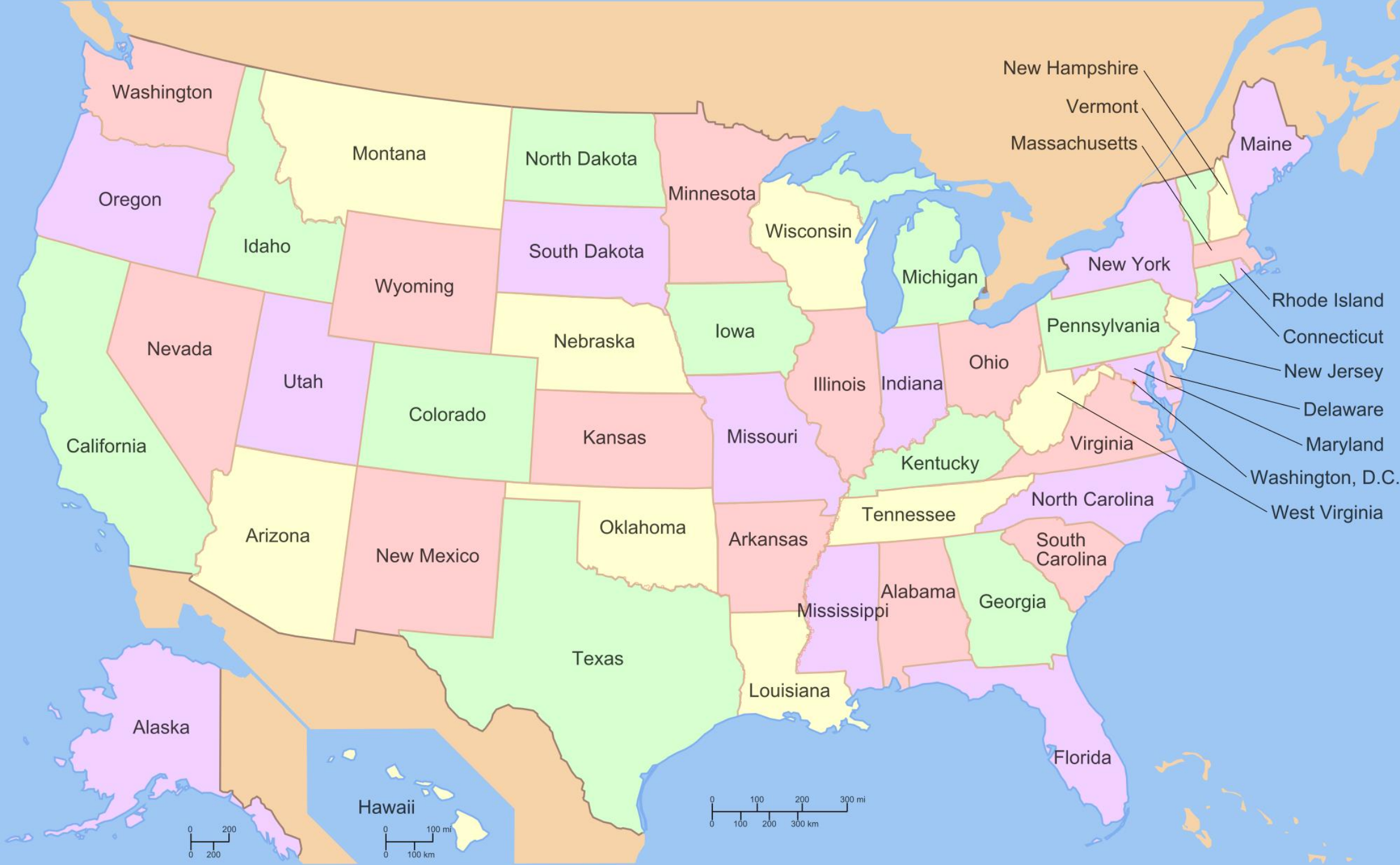
- How is the unification of Germany, World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II all connected?
- Which sub-Saharan migration brought new languages and metallurgy?
- What were some major events of the Cold War and what was its conclusion?

# Contact

- If you are looking for more resources, make sure to check out our website at [www.nationalstudentspeakers.org](http://www.nationalstudentspeakers.org)
- My email is: [aniruth@nationalstudentspeakers.org](mailto:aniruth@nationalstudentspeakers.org)



Q & A



Washington

Oregon

Idaho

Nevada

California

Arizona

Alaska

Hawaii

Montana

North Dakota

Wyoming

Utah

Colorado

New Mexico

Texas

Minnesota

South Dakota

Nebraska

Kansas

Oklahoma

Wisconsin

Iowa

Missouri

Arkansas

Louisiana

Michigan

Illinois

Indiana

Kentucky

Tennessee

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