

**Age of Anxiety Document Based Question (DBQ)**

**Prompt: Historians have described the interwar period between World War One and World War Two the “Age of Anxiety.” What political, cultural and economic conditions contributed to this situation? Is this a fair description of the time period?**

**Document A: Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, 1929**

I am young, I am twenty years old; yet I know nothing of life but despair, death, fear, and fatuous superficiality cast over an abyss of sorrow. I see how peoples are set against one another, and in silence, unknowingly, foolishly, obediently, innocently slay one another. I see the keenest brains of the world invent weapons and words to make it yet more refined and enduring. And all the men of my age, here and over there, throughout the whole world see these things; all my generation is experiencing these things with me. What would our fathers do if we suddenly stood up and came before them and proffered our account? What do they expect of us if a time ever comes when the war is over? Through the years our business has been killing; it was our first calling in life. Our knowledge of life is limited to death. What will happen afterwards? And what shall come out of us?

**Q: What emotions are described by Remarque? What is influencing his work?**

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**Document B: Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space, 1880-1918*, 1983**

From around 1880 to the outbreak of World War I, a series of sweeping changes in technology and culture created distinctive new modes of thinking about and experiencing time and space. Technology innovations including the telephone, wireless telegraph, x-ray, cinema, bicycle, automobile, and airplane established the material foundation for the reorientation; independent cultural developments such as the

stream-of-consciousness novel, psychoanalysis, Cubism, and the theory of relativity shaped consciousness directly. The result was a transformation of the dimensions of life and thought.

**Q: What is the main idea of the secondary source?**

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**Document C: Senator Henry Cabot Lodge Sr.. (R-MA); 12 Aug 1919**

You may call me selfish if you will, conservative or reactionary, or use any other harsh adjective you see fit to apply, but an American I was born, an American I have remained all my life. I can never be anything else but an American, and I must think of the United States first, and when I think of the United States first in an arrangement like this I am thinking of what is best for the world, for if the United States fails, the best hopes of mankind fail with it. I have never had but one allegiance--I cannot divide it now. I have loved but one flag and I cannot share that devotion and give affection to the mongrel banner invented for a league. Internationalism, illustrated by the Bolshevik and by the men to whom all countries are alike provided they can make money out of them, is to me repulsive. National I must remain, and in that way I like all other Americans can render the amplest service to the world. The United States is the world's best hope, but if you fetter her in the interests and quarries of other nations, if you tangle her in the intrigues of Europe, you will destroy her power for good and endanger her very existence. Leave her to march freely through the centuries to come as in the years that have gone. Strong, generous, and confident, she has nobly served mankind. Beware how you trifle with the marvelous inheritance, this great land of ordered liberty, for if we stumble and fall freedom and civilization everywhere will go down in ruin.

**Q: What is the historical significance of the document? What is Lodge Sr. talking about?**

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**Document D: *The Treaty of Versailles, 1920***

ARTICLE 231.

The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

ARTICLE 235.

In order to enable the Allied and Associated Powers to proceed at once to the restoration of their industrial and economic life, pending the full determination of their claims. Germany shall pay in such installments and in such manner (whether in gold, commodities, ships, securities or otherwise) as the Reparation Commission may fix, during 1919, 1920 and the first four months of 1921, the equivalent of 20,000,000,000 gold marks.

**Q: If you were German, how would you react to the two articles?**

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Document E:  
*Punch* magazine,  
England, July 28<sup>th</sup>



Cartoon from  
London,  
1920

*Moral Suggestion. The Rabbit. "My offensive equipment being practically nil, it remains for me to fascinate him with the power of my eye."*

**Q: If the snake represents "International Strife," what is happening between the snake and the rabbit?**

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**Document F: T.S. Eliot, “The WasteLand”, 1922**

What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow  
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of a man.  
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only  
A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,  
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,  
And the dry stone no sound of water. Only  
There is a shadow under this red rock.  
(Come under the shadow of this red rock).  
And I will show you something different from either  
Your shadow at morning striding behind you  
Or your shadow at evening rising to meet you;  
I will show you fear in a handful of dust.

**Q: How does Eliot embody the idea of “disillusionment”? What does he mean when he says, “I will show you fear in a handful of dust”?**

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**Document G: Treaty Between the United States of America, the British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan. Signed at Washington, February 6, 1922.**

Article VII

The total tonnage for aircraft carriers of each of the Contracting Powers shall not exceed in standard displacement, for the United States 135,000 tons (137,160 metric tons); for the British Empire 135,000 tons (137,160 metric tons); for France 60,000 tons (60,960 metric tons); for Japan 81,000 tons (82,296 metric tons).

**Q: Who benefits from the treaty? Why would this kind of treaty be created that limits aircraft carriers?**

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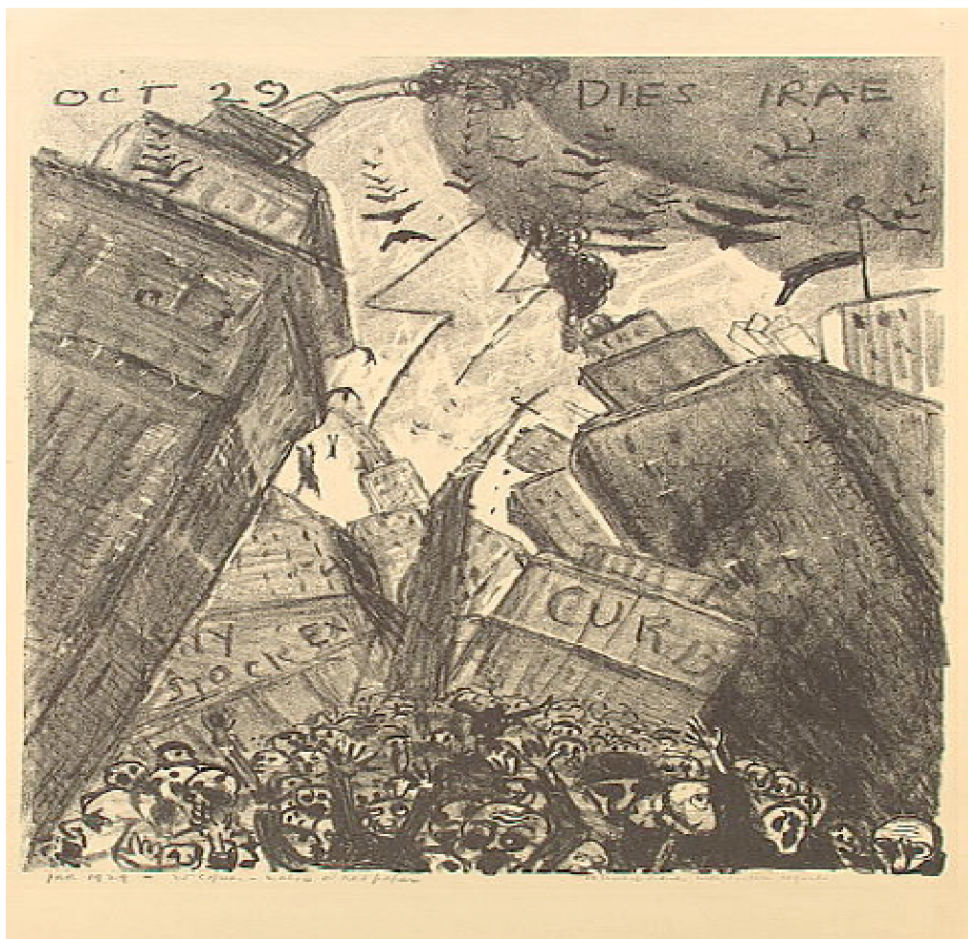
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Document H: James N. Rosenberg, *Oct 29 Dies Irae* ("Days of Wrath"), 1929



Q: What happened on October 29, 1929 that would encourage this image to be created?

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**Document I: Benito Mussolini, *The Doctrine of Fascism*, 1932**

If it is admitted that the nineteenth century has been the century of Socialism, Liberalism and Democracy, it does not follow that the twentieth must also be the century of Liberalism, Socialism, and Democracy. Political doctrines pass: peoples remain. It is to be expected that this century of the individual it may be expected that this one may be the century of “collectivism: and therefore the century of the State.

**Q: How does Mussolini feel about “Socialism, Liberalism and Democracy”? What change does he wish to see happen? Who is he?**

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Document K: Pablo Picasso, *Guernica*, 1937



**Q: What event inspired Picasso to create this image? What style of art is this? Why did Picasso choose to create the image in this way?**

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**Document L: Agreement concluded at Munich, September 29, 1938, between Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy**

Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy, taking into consideration the agreement, which has been already reached in principle for the cession to Germany of the Sudeten German territory, have agreed on the following terms and conditions governing the said cession and the measures consequent thereon, and by this agreement they each hold themselves responsible for the steps necessary to secure its fulfillment.

(1) The evacuation will begin on 1st October

(2) The United Kingdom, France and Italy agree that the evacuation of the territory shall be completed by the 10th October, without any existing installations having been destroyed, and that the Czechoslovak Government will be held responsible for carrying out the evacuation without damage to the said installations.

(3) The conditions governing the evacuation will be laid down in detail by an international commission composed of representatives of Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Czechoslovakia.

(4) The occupation by stages of the predominantly German territory by German troops will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Q: What land is being evacuated? How does this compare to the Treaty of Versailles? Who is benefitting from the Treaty?**

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