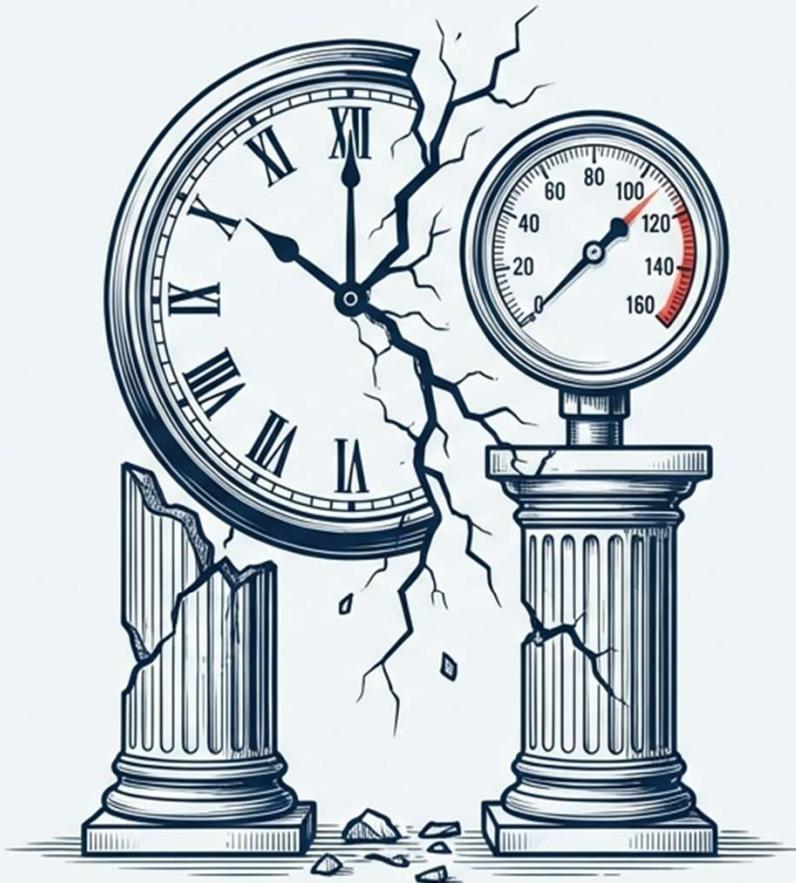


THE WORLD ON FIRE: GLOBAL CONFLICT AFTER 1900

A structural analysis of how shifting power, total war, and ideology reshaped the modern world (AP World History Unit 7).



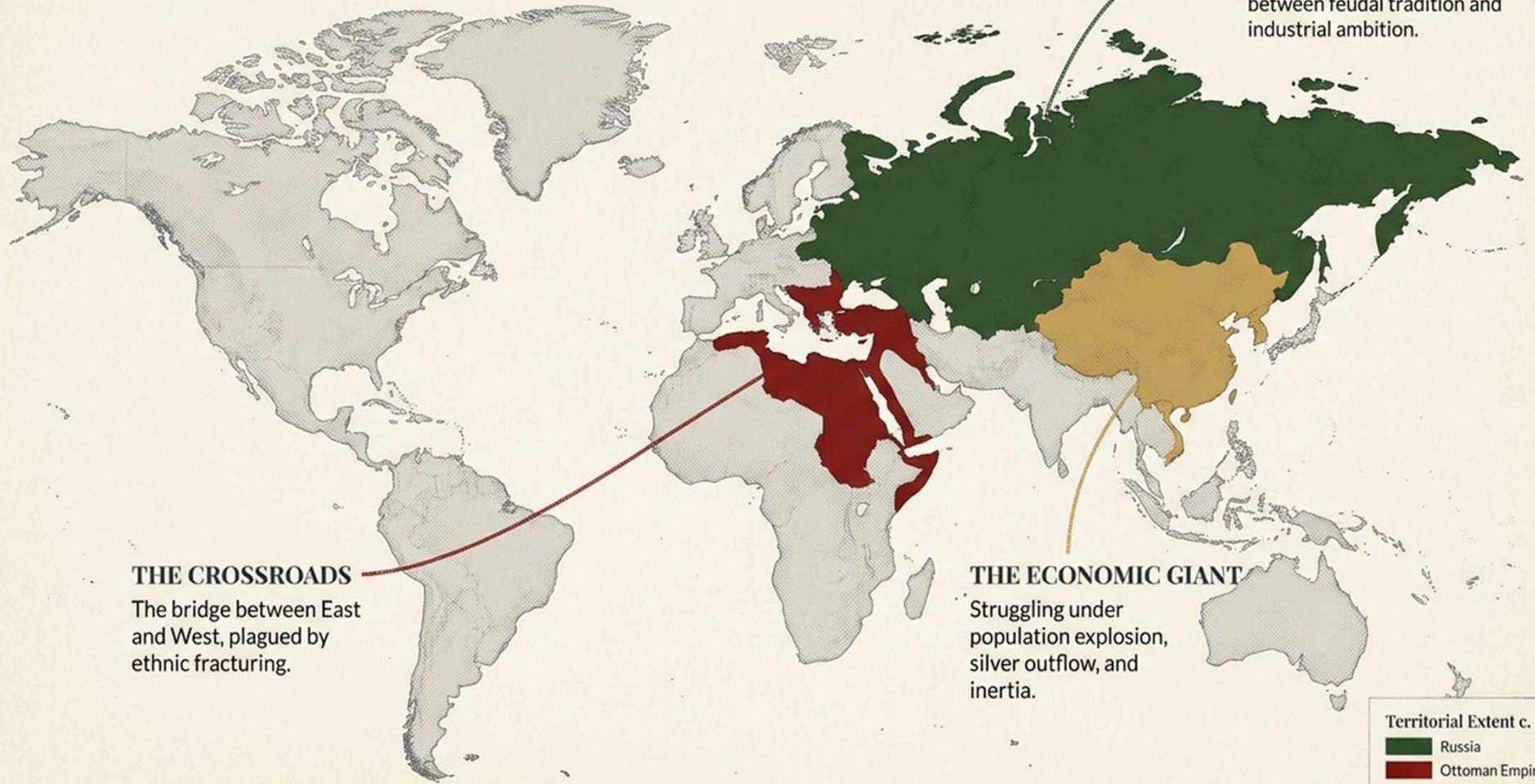
Narrative Framework:
History as a Chain Reaction (1900–1945).

UNIT QUESTIONS:

- Is war ever justifiable?
- Were WWI and WWII inevitable?
- How should governments respond to crisis?
- Why do totalitarian/authoritarian regimes exist?
- What is the responsibility of the home society in times of war?
- How should we learn about mass atrocities (genocides)?

The Giants of the Old World

in Industrial Slate (#2F3640)

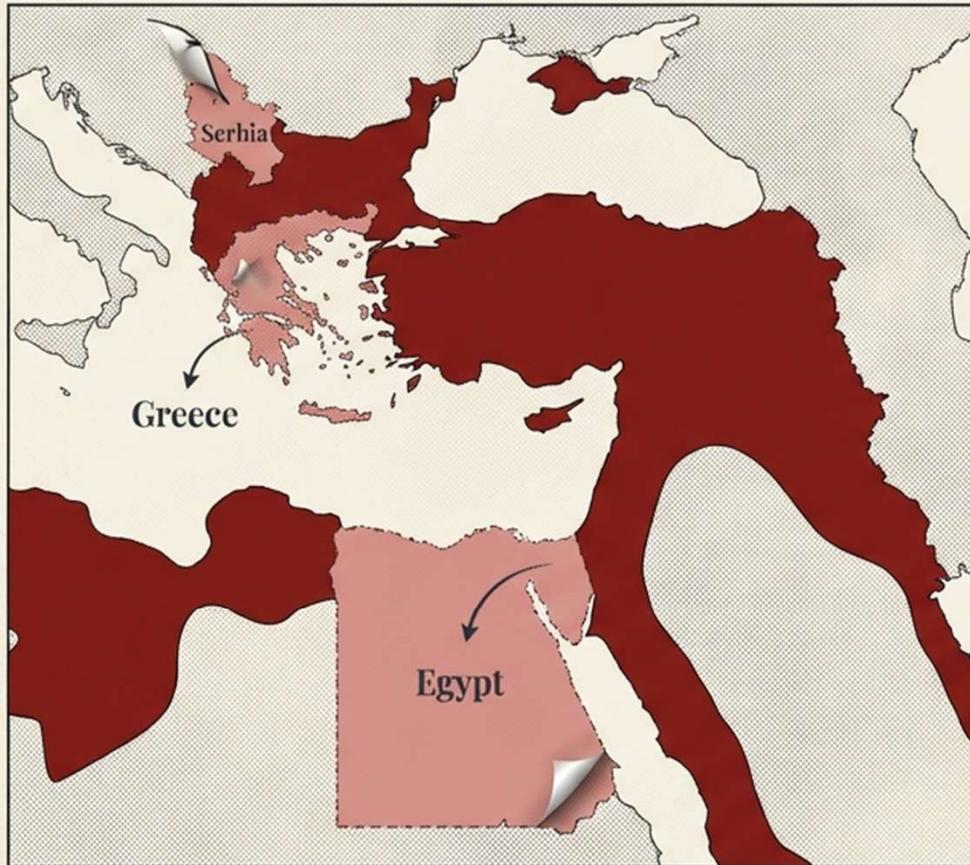


The Qing Dynasty: Weight and Opium



INTERNAL FRACTURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demographics: Population explosion led to severe land shortages and famine.• Rebellion: The Taiping Rebellion (1850–1864) by Hong Xiuquan; a civil war costing millions of lives.• Politics: Deep resistance to reform from conservative elites led by Cixi.
EXTERNAL PRESSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Opium Crisis: Mass silver outflow destabilized the economy.• Sovereignty: Defeat in Opium Wars resulted in 'Unequal Treaties' and foreign spheres of influence.
BREAKING POINT	Boxer Rebellion & Abdication of Puyi (1912)

The Ottoman Empire: Fragmentation



INTERNAL FRACTURES

- **Institutional Decay:** Corruption of the Janissaries and tax farming abuse.
- **Nationalism:** Rise of ethnic nationalism tearing at the multi-ethnic fabric.
- **Leadership:** Tension between autocratic Sultan Abd al-Hamid II and reformist Young Turks.

EXTERNAL PRESSURES

- **The Debt Trap:** Dependency on foreign loans and European economic penetration.
- **Aggression:** Recurring military defeats against Russia and Austria.

BREAKING POINT

WWI Defeat & Partition (1922)

The Russian Empire: Feudalism vs. Industry



INTERNAL FRACTURES

- **Social Structure:** The friction of Serfdom (*emancipated 1861*) colliding with rapid industrialization.
- **Unrest:** Worker exploitation leading to the creation of Soviets and the 1905 Revolution.
- **The Autocrat:** Nicholas II's refusal to cede real power to the Duma.

EXTERNAL PRESSURES

- **Military Humiliation:** Defeat in the Russo-Japanese War exposed the industrial gap.
- **Competition:** Trying to catch up to Western powers while maintaining medieval social hierarchies.

BREAKING POINT

WWI & The Bolshevik Revolution (1917)

Convergence I: The Enemies Within



Qing



Ottoman



Russia

MONARCHY VIEWED REFORM AS THREAT



Taiping Rebellion



Ethnic Nationalism

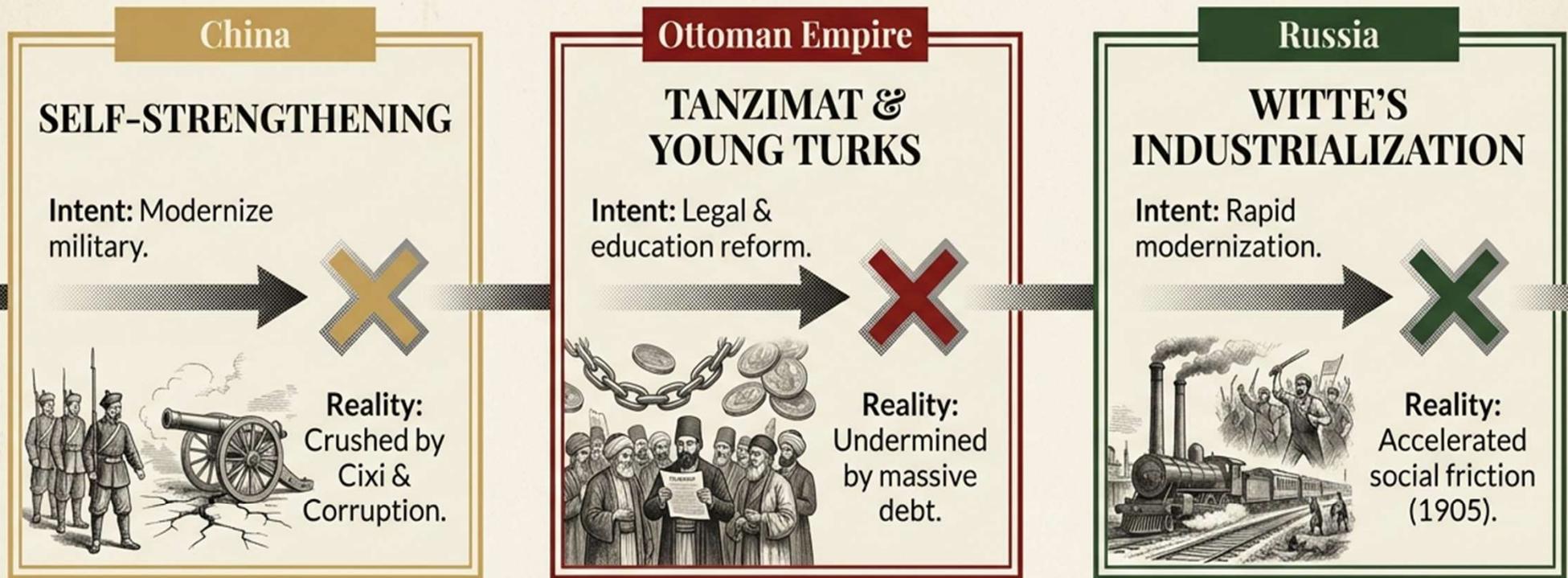


Serfdom & Strikes

HUNGER AND LAND SHORTAGES

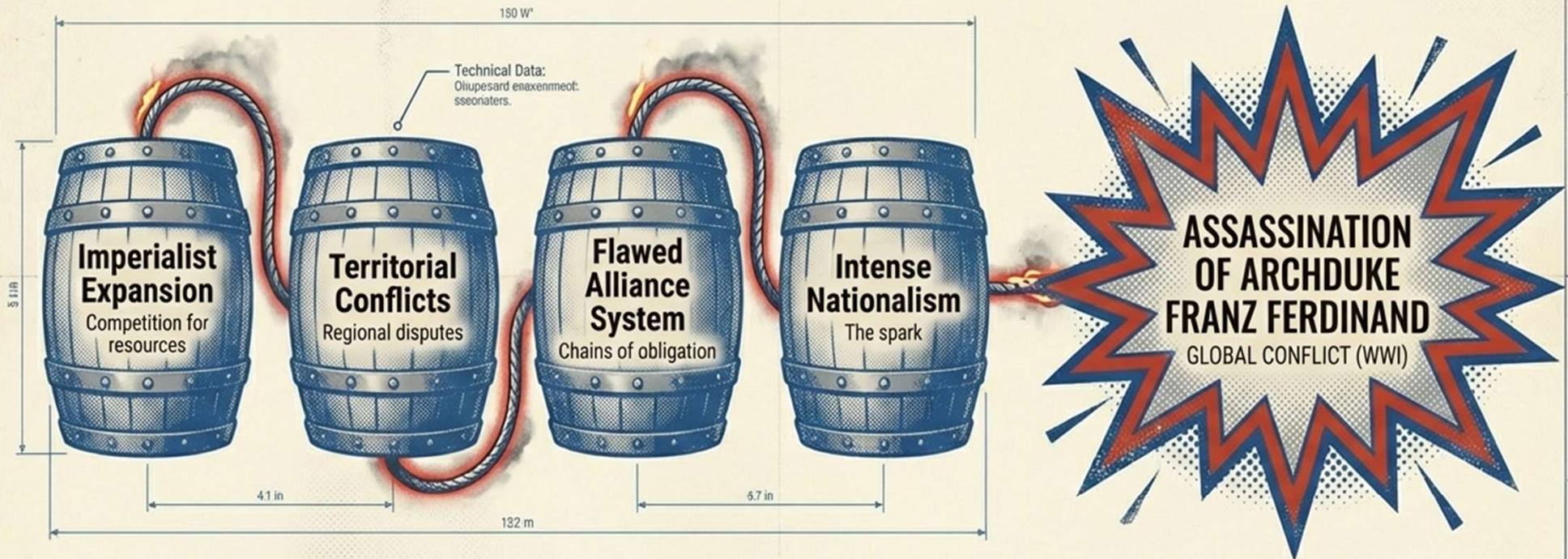
In all three cases, a **rigid leadership** refused to adapt, while the base of the pyramid crumbled under poverty and corruption.

The Reform Paradox: Too Little, Too Late



The Shared Failure: Reforms were either blocked by elites or implemented so poorly they accelerated the collapse.

A FLAWED SYSTEM TURNED REGIONAL CONFLICT INTO GLOBAL CATASTROPHE



Imperialist expansion and resource competition created the fuel. When the alliance systems locked into place, a regional crisis escalated instantly into a global conflagration.

TOTAL WAR ERASED THE LINE BETWEEN SOLDIER AND CIVILIAN

THE FRONT

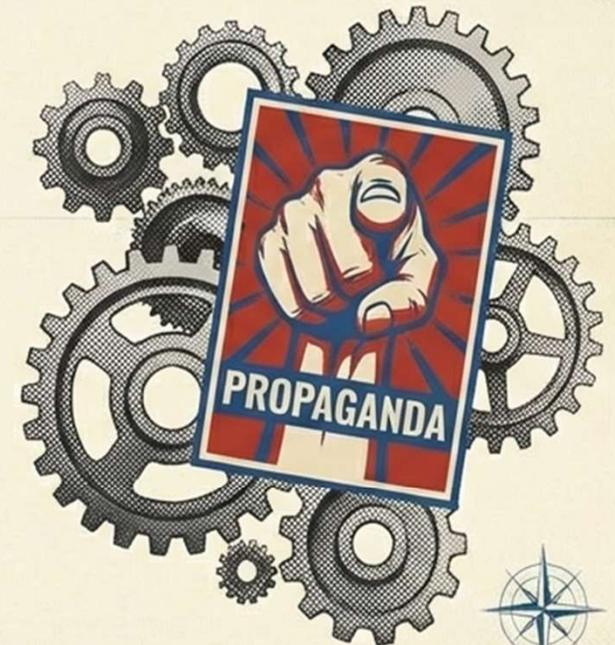


Casualties

TOTAL WAR

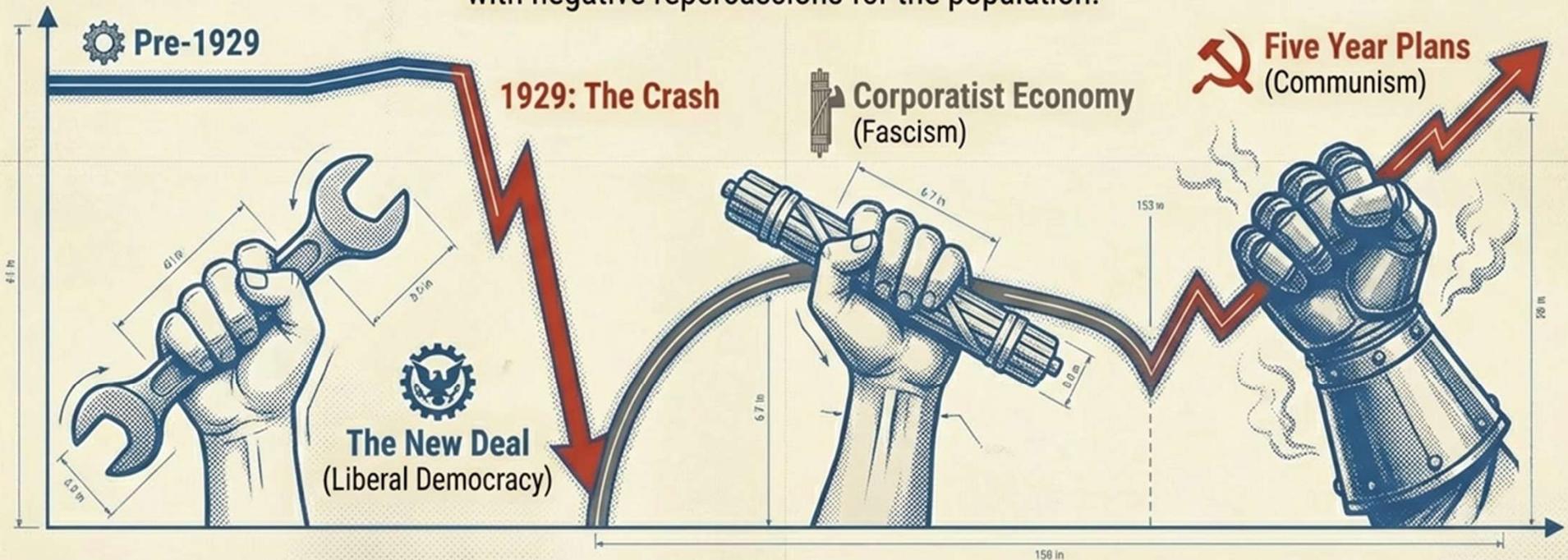
Governments mobilized all resources—political propaganda, art, media, and intensified nationalism—to mobilize populations in both home countries and colonies.

THE HOME



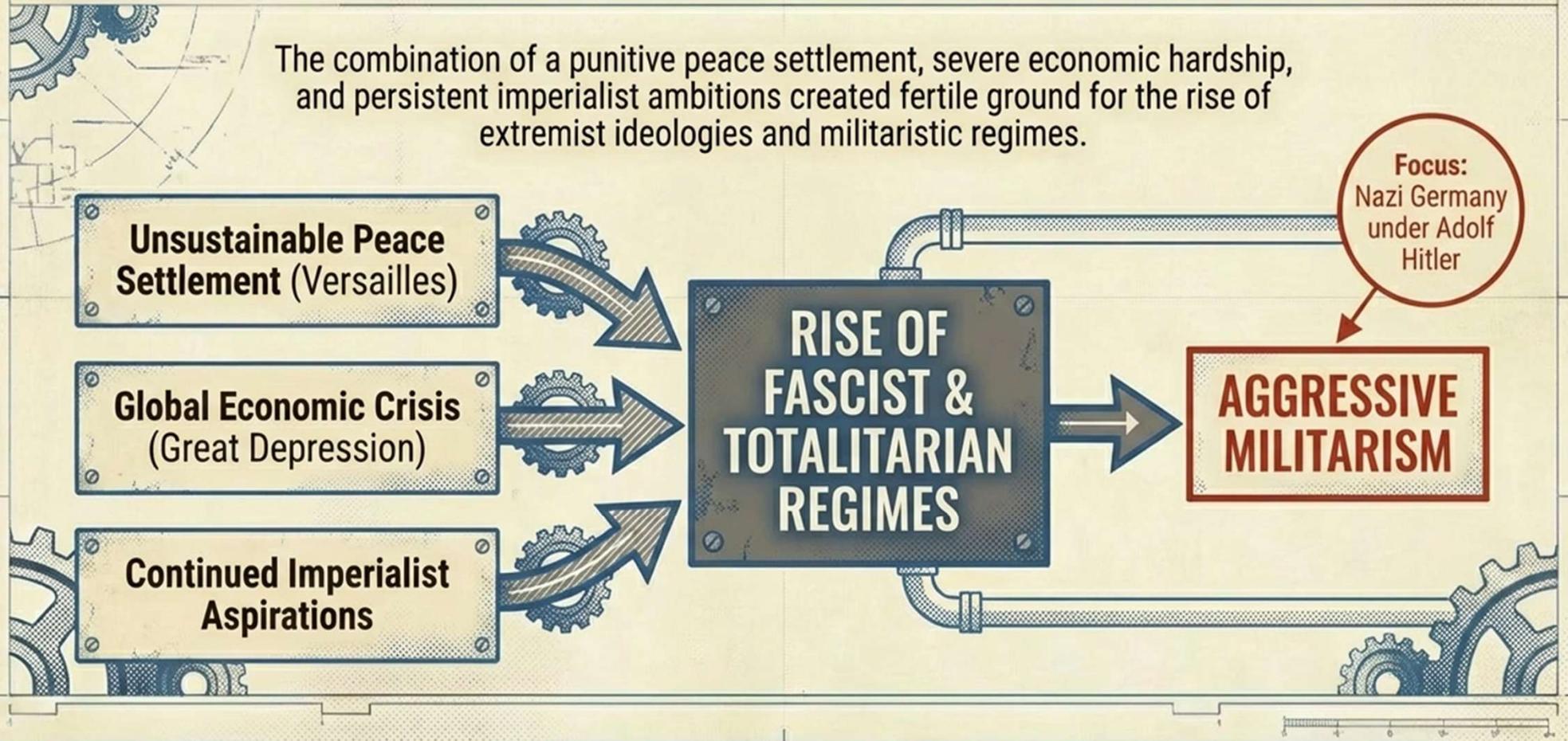
ECONOMIC CRISIS FORCED GOVERNMENTS TO SEIZE CONTROL

Following WWI and the Great Depression, governments took an active role in economic life. While some sought reform, the Soviet Union implemented repressive policies with negative repercussions for the population.

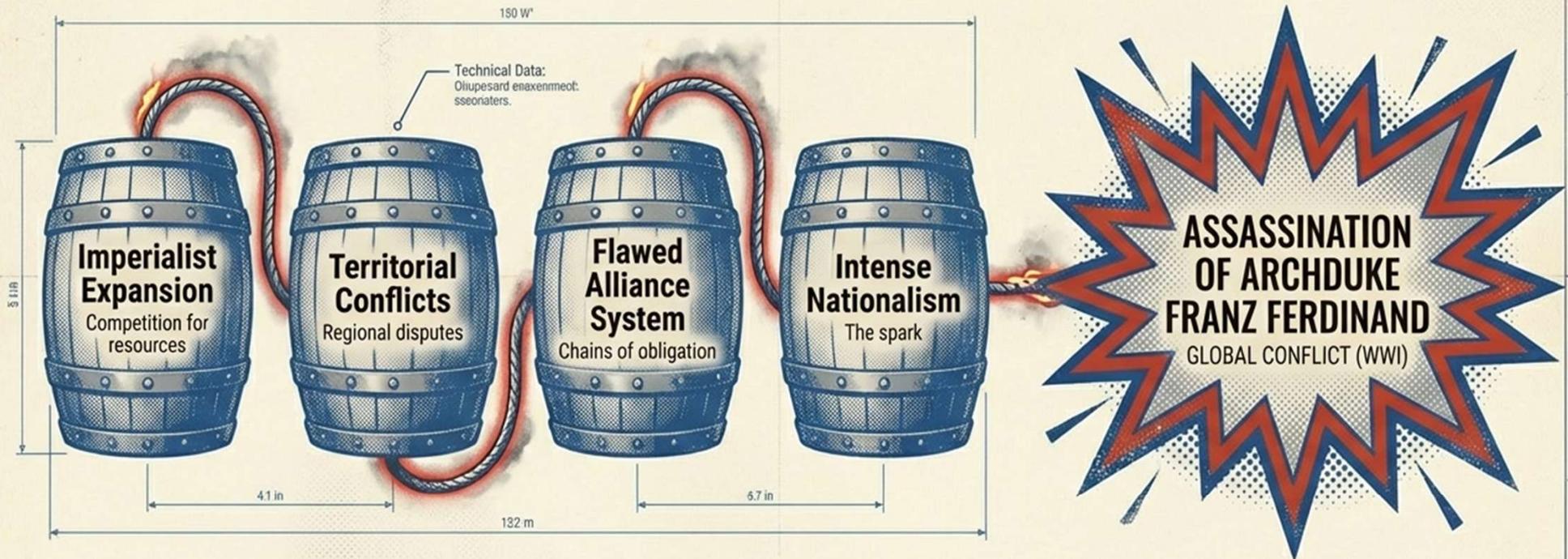


UNSUSTAINABLE PEACE AND EXTREMISM TRIGGERED THE SECOND EXPLOSION

The combination of a punitive peace settlement, severe economic hardship, and persistent imperialist ambitions created fertile ground for the rise of extremist ideologies and militaristic regimes.



A FLAWED SYSTEM TURNED REGIONAL CONFLICT INTO GLOBAL CATASTROPHE



Imperialist expansion and resource competition created the fuel. When the alliance systems locked into place, a regional crisis escalated instantly into a global conflagration.



TOTAL WAR: MOBILIZATION & INNOVATION

AP WORLD HISTORY TOPIC 7.3

World War I was the first total war. It represented a conflict where the traditional laws of war were disregarded, and all societal resources—human, industrial, and psychological—were fully mobilized to destroy the enemy.

KC-6.2.IV.A.i

THEMATIC FOCUS: TECH
Human adaptation and innovation shaped development with both intended (victory) and unintended (casualty) consequences.

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EARLY W. J. JONES BY FRANK O. BULL

EARLY W. J. JONES BY FRANK O. BULL

INDUSTRIALIZED MORTALITY: TECHNOLOGY & CAUSALITY



THE STALEMATE

New military technology favored defense over offense. Rapid-fire machine guns combined with barbed wire forced armies into trenches, creating a deadly stalemate that traditional charges could not break.



CHEMICAL WARFARE

Chemical weapons like chlorine and mustard gas introduced a new psychological terror and physical devastation, representing an innovation designed specifically to bypass the deadlock of trench warfare.



KEY CONCEPT CONNECTION: The disconnect between 19th-century military tactics and 20th-century industrial weaponry directly led to unprecedented levels of wartime casualties.

CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON GERMANY: POST-WWI RESTRICTIONS

- **RHINELAND:** Demilitarized zone. Germany forbidden from stationing troops or building fortifications; Allied troops temporarily occupied it.
- **ANSCHLUSS:** Germany forbidden from political union with Austria to prevent a larger, more powerful state.
- **BALTIC STATES:** Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania emerged as independent nations after the collapse of German and Russian imperial control.
- **WAR GUILT CLAUSE:** Article 231 forced Germany to accept full responsibility for causing World War I, justifying punishment and reparations.
- **GERMAN ARMY:** Limited to 100,000 volunteers. Conscription banned. Tanks, heavy artillery, and air force prohibited. General staff dissolved.
- **GERMAN NAVY:** Restricted to a small fleet (six battleships, few smaller vessels). Submarines banned.
- **REPARATIONS:** Required to pay £6.6 billion (approx. 132 billion gold marks) to compensate Allies for war damages.

THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES: REDRAWING THE MAP, RESTRICTING GERMANY

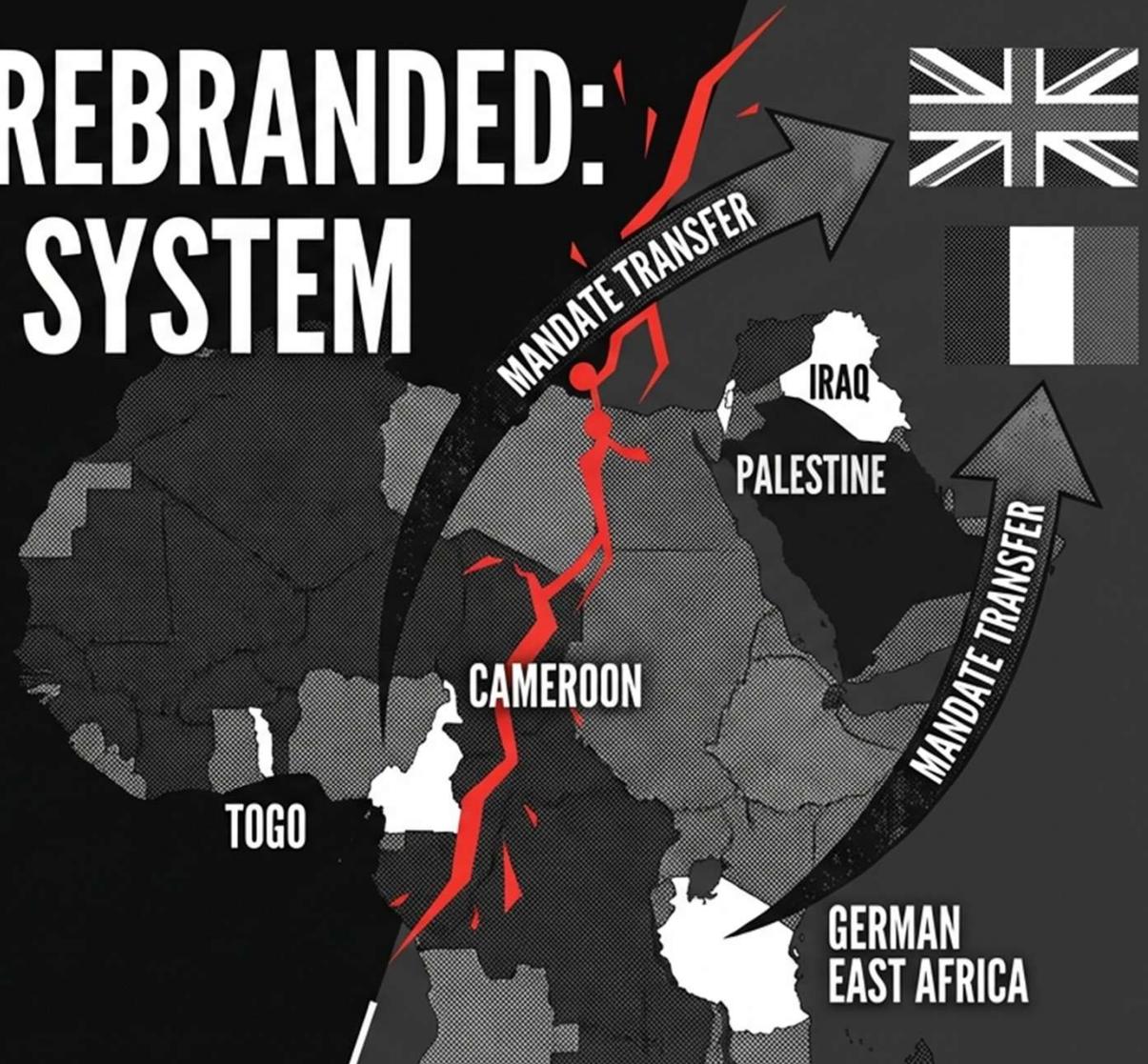
The Treaty of Versailles was a complex and restrictive agreement that significantly altered the global political and economic landscape.

- **Significant Territorial Reduction:** The treaty reduced Germany's population and territory by approximately 10 percent, forcing the nation to cede land to several neighboring countries.
- **Restoration of Land and New Sovereignty:** It returned Alsace and Lorraine to France and resurrected Poland, providing the new Polish state with a "corridor" to the Baltic Sea that separated East Prussia from the rest of Germany.
- **Seizure of Overseas Colonies:** All of Germany's overseas colonies in China, the Pacific, and Africa were taken away and placed under the control of Allied nations like Great Britain, France, and Japan through the League of Nations mandate system.
- **The "War Guilt" Clause:** The treaty included a specific clause that deemed Germany the aggressor in the war, making the nation legally and morally responsible for all losses and damages sustained by the Allied powers.
- **Massive Financial Reparations:** Consequently, Germany was forced to pay reparations for civilian damages, an amount eventually set at \$33 billion in 1921, which many economists at the time believed would destabilize international finances.
- **Severe Military Restrictions:** To prevent future aggression, the German army was restricted to 100,000 men, and its general staff was entirely eliminated.
- **Banning of Advanced Weaponry:** Germany was strictly forbidden from manufacturing or possessing armored cars, tanks, submarines, military airplanes, and poison gas.
- **Establishment of the League of Nations:** The treaty incorporated the Covenant of the League of Nations, an international organization designed to supervise mandated territories and reduce global armaments to ensure lasting peace.

IMPERIALISM REBRANDED: THE MANDATE SYSTEM

THE PROMISE: League of Nations "tutelage" for former colonies.

THE REALITY: A continuation of imperial rule. Germany's colonies were transferred to Britain and France, not granted independence.





CHALLENGING THE ORDER

While the West relied on diplomacy, Italy and Japan turned to autarky and force.

DRIVERS OF CONFLICT:

1. **FASCISM:** Glorification of the state and war.
2. **RESOURCE INSECURITY:** Seizing territory for raw materials.

JAPAN'S 'NEW ORDER'

The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere



MANCHUKUO (1931): A puppet state for resource extraction.

TOTAL WAR (1937): Aerial bombing of Shanghai and atrocities in Nanking.

THE COLLAPSE OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY

Event: Italian Invasion of Ethiopia (1935)



THE LEAGUE'S FAILURE:

Weak sanctions gave Mussolini a free hand and signaled to Hitler that aggression would go unpunished.





CRACKS IN THE EMPIRE

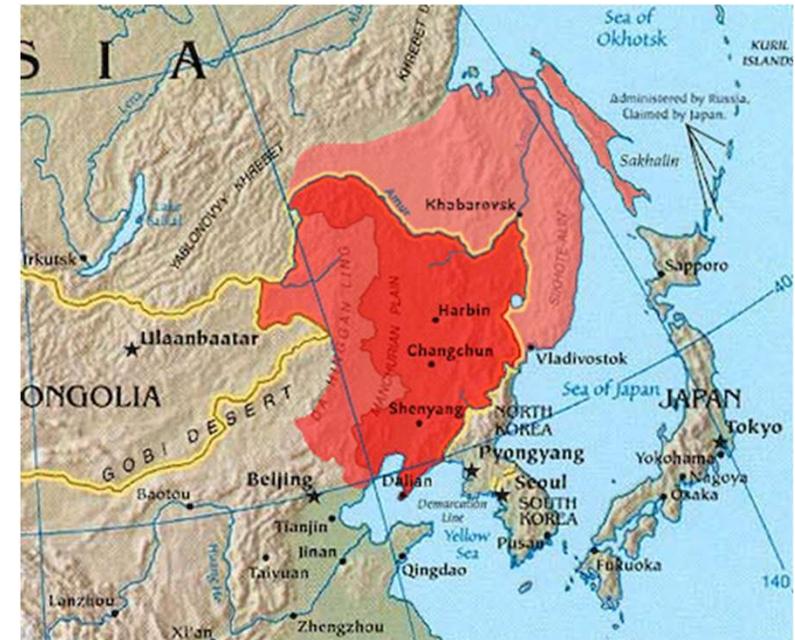
GLOBAL RESISTANCE:

INDIA: The Indian National Congress & Gandhi pushed for Swaraj (Self-Rule).

WEST AFRICA: Labor strikes challenged French colonial authority.

Scenario 1: What Actually Happened

- League of Nations condemn Japan's invasion, but no action is taken.
- Japan simply leaves the League of Nations
- Japan continued expanding into China and Southeast Asia.
- The brutality of the war became known as the "Rape of Nanking."
- Japan grew more confident that other world powers would not stand up to them.



SCENARIO 2: What Actually Happened

- Britain and France did nothing, allowing Hitler to strengthen his position.
- This was called **APPEASEMENT**-giving into demands and aggression to avoid war.
- Hitler grew bolder, believing the Allies were weak and would not stop him.
- The League of Nations (without the US in it) showed it had no power to stop aggression.

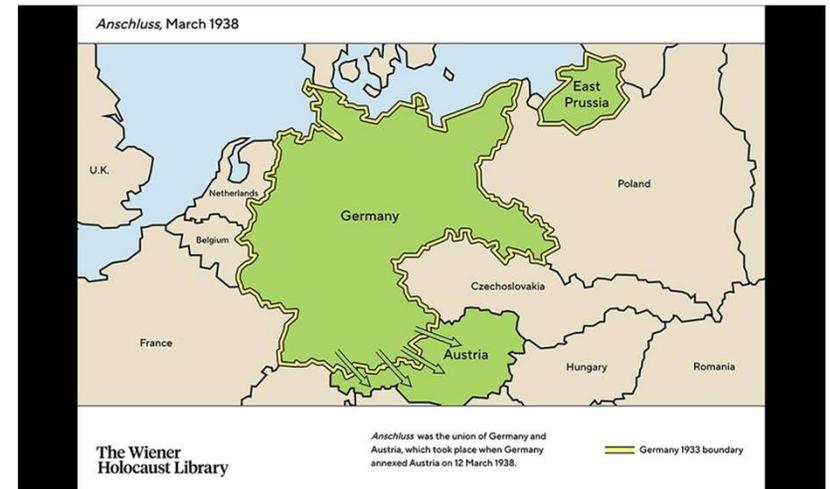


***MARK YOUR MAP:** Label Rhineland and draw arrows from Germany into it.

Scenario 3: What Actually Happened

- Britain and France again appeased Hitler, hoping to avoid war.
- Austria was fully absorbed into Nazi Germany.
- Jewish persecution escalated dramatically in Austria.
- Hitler grew more confident that he could expand without resistance.

***MARK YOUR MAP:** Label Austria and show arrows from Germany moving into it.



Scenario 4: What actually happened

- Without consulting Czechoslovakia, they agree to give Hitler the Sudetenland in exchange for a promise that he will not take more land.
- British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain famously declares, "**Peace for our time.**"
- Czechoslovakia is furious, but they have no choice.
- Just months later, he breaks his promise and invades the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Mark Your Map: Shade in the area around the **Sudetenland** and draw German arrows into that and all of Czechoslovakia.

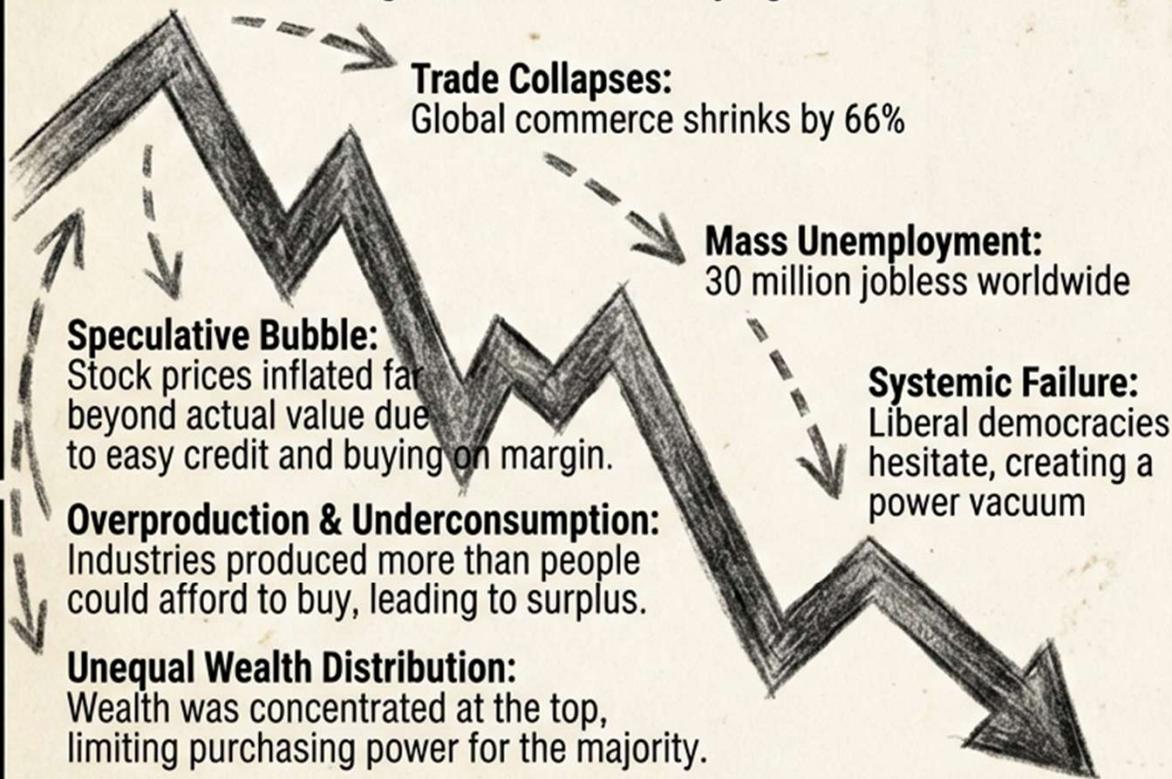


Good news, lads! I have a piece of paper here saying Hitler will now behave.



THE CATALYST: A WORLD ECONOMY IN COLLAPSE

Pre-1929: The Roaring Twenties & Underlying Issues



1932: Global Stagnation

“HIGH RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT... CONVINCED MANY EUROPEANS TO SUPPORT AUTHORITARIAN PROGRAMS.”

PATH I: THE SOVIET UNION

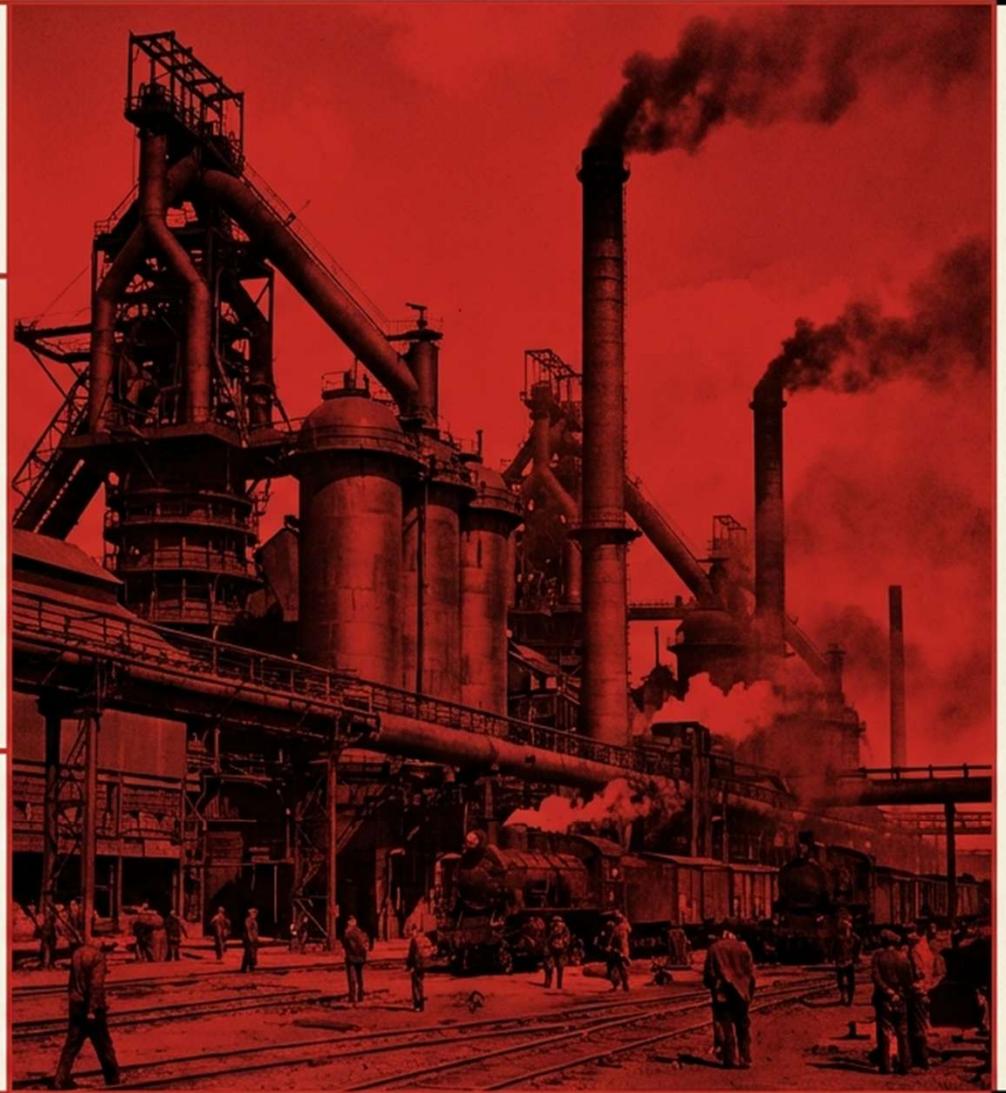
The Five Year Plans (1928–1932)

“WE DID NOT HAVE AN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY. NOW WE HAVE ONE. IN THE OUTPUT OF ELECTRIC POWER WE WERE LAST . . . NOW WE RANK AMONG THE FIRST.”

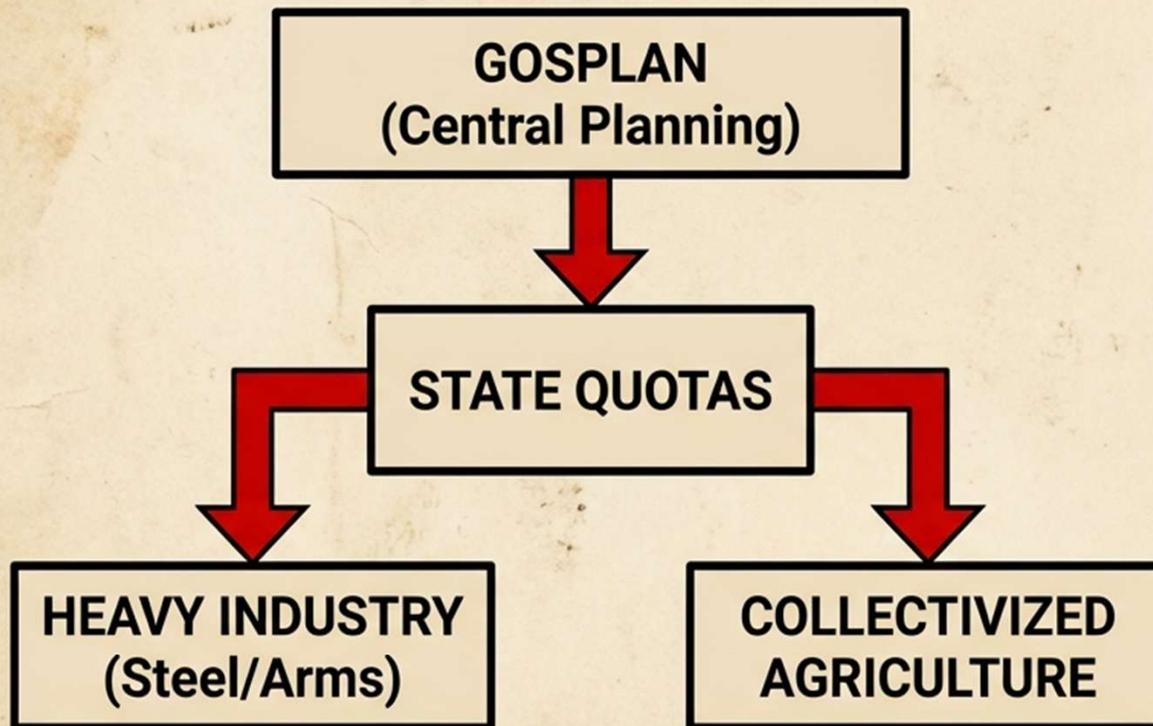
— Joseph Stalin, 1933

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT:

Risen from **48%** to **70%**
of the total economy in four years.



THE METHOD: COMMAND & COLLECTIVIZATION



The state did not just regulate the economy; it **seized it**.

- Elimination of private enterprise
- Resources redistributed by force
- Focus on capital goods over consumer needs

Collectivization: Merging private farms into state enterprises to feed the industrial machine.



THE COST OF MODERNIZATION



HUMAN & ENVIRONMENTAL TOLL

- **Holodomor:** Man-made famine to break resistance to collectivization.
- **The Gulag:** Forced labor camps system for dissenters.
- **Environmental Collapse:** Irrigation projects shrunk the Aral Sea to <10% of its original size.

“He who does not work, neither shall eat.”

Path 2: The Collapse of American Prosperity

The 1929 stock market crash triggered widespread bank failures, mass unemployment, and the evaporation of consumer wealth. A previously booming capitalist system ground to a halt, leaving millions destitute.



THE METHOD: REGULATION & PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER, NOT OWNER

Public Works: Direct job creation (WPA, CCC) to lower unemployment.



Social Safety Nets: Social Security Act.



Banking Reform: FDIC and regulations to restore trust.



Critical Distinction: Private property remained. The government managed the game but did not own the pieces.

DIVERGENT GOALS



SOVIET UNION



Primary Goal: National Power & Defense.

Motivation: "Prepared for every contingency... in the event of an attack from without."

Focus: Heavy Industry (Iron, Steel, Tractors).



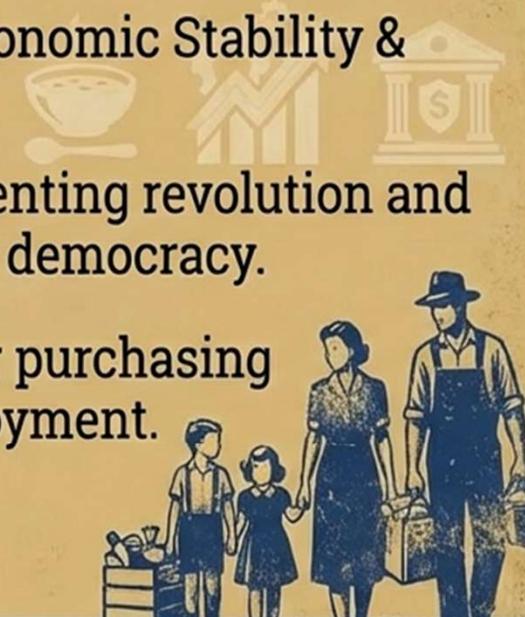
UNITED STATES



Primary Goal: Economic Stability & Social Welfare.

Motivation: Preventing revolution and restoring faith in democracy.

Focus: Consumer purchasing power and employment.



Critical Distinction: Different paths for different challenges, with lasting global consequences.

Path 3: Hyperinflation and German Humiliation

The devastating burden of the Treaty of Versailles and the “Young Plan” (enforcing \$26.35 billion in debt over 58 years). This led to astronomical **hyperinflation** and soaring unemployment (30% by 1932), fueling the “stabbed in the back” myth.

Value of German Currency, 1914-1923	
Date	Number of German Marks to the U.S. Dollar
1914	4.2
1919	14.0
1921	76.7
August 1923	4,620,455.0
November 1923	4,200,000,000,000.0

By November 1923, the exchange rate reached 4.2 trillion German marks to a single U.S. dollar.



Banknotes used to light the stove (Berlin: 9 August 1923)

THE THIRD PATH: THE FASCIST ALTERNATIVE



"The brutal reality of Nazi imperialism... aimed at the complete racial reconstitution of Europe."

— Mark Mazower

While the US reformed and the USSR commanded, nations like Germany and Italy chose a darker 'middle' path: Fascist Corporatism.

German Response: Pursued Autarky (economic self-sufficiency), funded through massive money printing (Mefo bills), and rapidly boosted military, violating the Treaty of Versailles.

The Spectrum of State Intervention

As the global crisis deepened, governments abandoned laissez-faire economics, but their methods diverged drastically:

CONTROL

A large, semi-transparent red gear icon is positioned behind the text for the 'CONTROL' section.

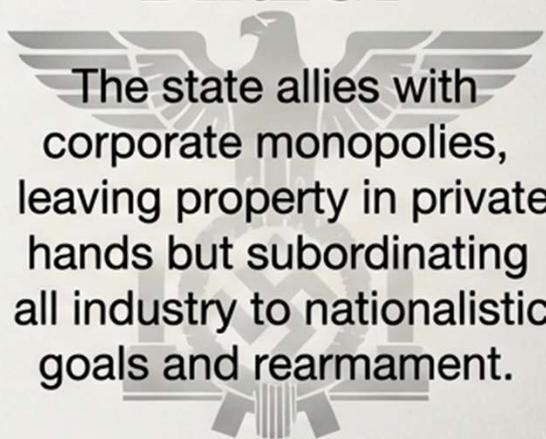
Total command economy. The state owns the means of production and dictates all economic activity.

REGULATE

A large, semi-transparent blue gear icon is positioned behind the text for the 'REGULATE' section.

The state intervenes to stabilize capitalism, protect workers, and provide a social safety net while maintaining private ownership.

DIRECT

A large, semi-transparent grey eagle icon with spread wings is positioned behind the text for the 'DIRECT' section.

The state allies with corporate monopolies, leaving property in private hands but subordinating all industry to nationalistic goals and rearmament.

The Armenia Genocide

The Armenian Genocide was carried out by the "Young Turk" government of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923. Starting in April 1915, Armenians in the Ottoman armies, serving separately in unarmed labor battalions, were removed and murdered. Of the remaining population, the adult and teenage males were separated from the deportation caravans and killed under the direction of Young Turk functionaries. Women and children were driven for months over mountains and desert, often raped, tortured, and mutilated. Deprived of food and water, they fell by the hundreds of thousands along the routes to the desert. Ultimately, more than half the Armenian population (1,500,000 people) was annihilated. Pontic Greeks and the Assyrians were also targeted by the Ottoman Turks.



Source: Henry Morgenthau, Sr. *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* (Doubleday, Page & Co., 1918,) Fig. 50.



[Click to see a map of this Genocide.](#)

GENOCIDE

WHERE IS THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE (AND ARMENIA)?

Today's Borders



War Front

Red Outline=Area where Armenian Genocide Occurred

GENOCIDE

The Killing Fields: The Cambodian Genocide

From 1975-1979, Pol Pot led the Khmer Rouge political party in a reign of violence, fear, and brutality over Cambodia. An attempt to form a Communist peasant farming society resulted in the deaths of 25% of the population from starvation, overwork, and executions. By 1975, the U.S. had withdrawn its troops from Vietnam, and Cambodia lost its American military support. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge seized control of Cambodia. Inspired by Mao's Cultural Revolution in Communist China, Pol Pot attempted to "purify" Cambodia of western culture, city life, and religion. Different ethnic groups and all those considered to be of the "old society", intellectuals, former government officials, and Buddhist monks were murdered. "What is rotten must be removed" was a slogan proclaimed throughout the Khmer Rouge era.



Source: The History Wiz Web site (www.historywiz.com/cambodia.htm)



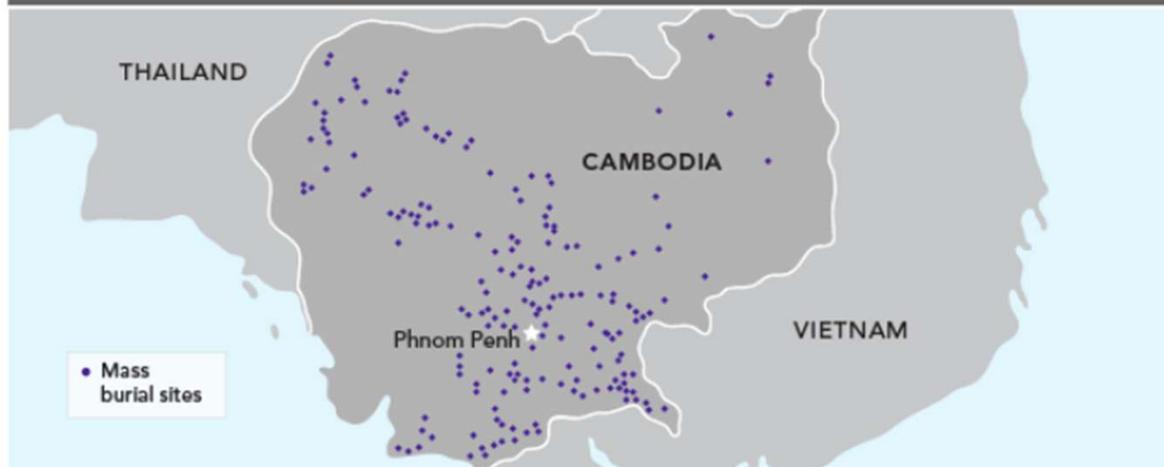
Click to see a map
of this Genocide.

GENOCIDE

MAP 1: CAMBODIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS



MAP 3: MASS BURIAL SITES FROM KHMER ROUGE PERIOD, 1975-79



Source: Cambodia Genocide Program, Yale University

Note: Burial sites on map are approximations only. For more detail information, see <http://gsp.yale.edu/provincial-killing-fields-maps-genocide-sites>.

The Rawandan Genocide

Beginning on April 6, 1994, groups of ethnic Hutu, armed mostly with machetes, began a campaign of terror and bloodshed which embroiled the Central African country of Rwanda. For about 100 days, the Hutu militias, known in Rwanda as *Interhamwe*, followed what evidence suggests was a clear and premeditated attempt to exterminate the country's ethnic Tutsi population. The Rwandan state radio, controlled by Hutu extremists, further encouraged the killings by broadcasting non-stop hate propaganda and even pinpointed the locations of Tutsis in hiding. The killings only ended after armed Tutsi rebels, invading from neighboring countries, managed to defeat the Hutus and halt the genocide in July 1994. By then, over one-tenth of the population, an estimated 800,000 persons, had been killed. The country's industrial infrastructure had been destroyed and much of its population had been dislocated.

Source: The History Place - Genocide in the 20th Century Web site
(www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/genocide/rwanda.htm)



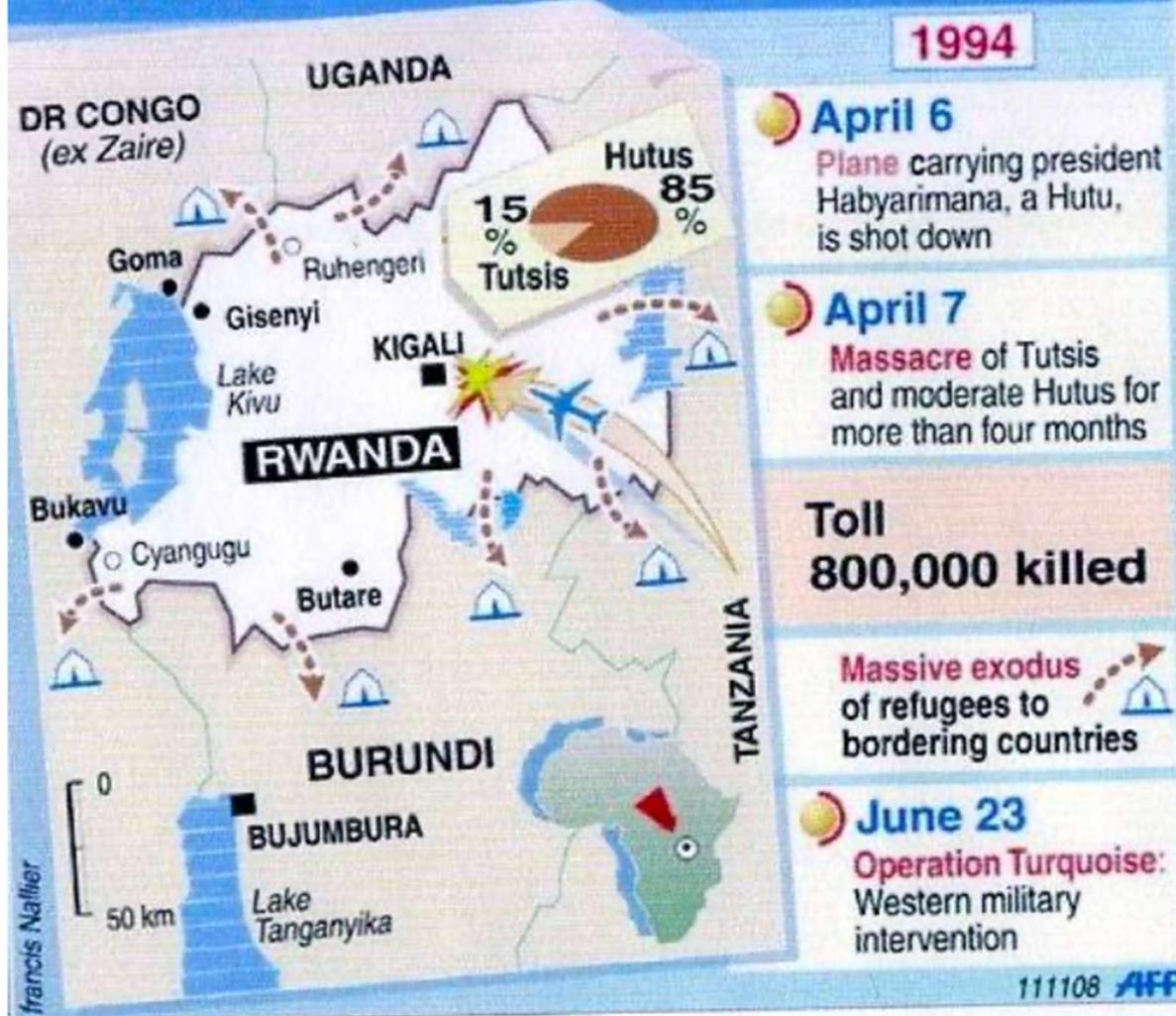
Source: Father Ryan High School Web site (www.fatherryan.org/holocaust/rwanda/picture.htm)



Click to see a map
of this Genocide.

GENOCIDE

The Rwandan genocide



Map an chronology of the 1994 Rwandan genocide

GENOCIDE