Lesson 3: 20th Century Period

Historical Events

The early arms races of the century escalated into a 1)____ which involved many powerful nations: World War I (1914 - 1918). 2)________ advancements changed the way war was fought, as new inventions such as machine guns, 3)_____, chemical weapons, grenades, and military aircraft modified 4)______ and strategy. After more than four years of trench warfare in western Europe, and 20 million dead, those powers who had formed the Triple Entente emerged victorious over the Central Powers. In addition to annexing much of the colonial possessions of the vanquished states, the Triple Entente exacted punitive restitution payments from their former foes, plunging 5)________ in particular into economic depression. The Tsarist regime of His Imperial Majesty Nicholas II was overthrown during the conflict and Russia was transitioned into the first ever communist state, and the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires were dismantled at the war's conclusion.

The Soviet Union lost around 27 million 6)_______ between 1941 and 1945, almost half of all World War II deaths. At the beginning of the period, 7)________ was the world's most powerful nation, having acted as the world's policeman for the past century. Fascism, a movement which grew out of post-war angst and which accelerated during the 8)______ ______ of the 1930s, gained momentum in Italy, Germany and Spain in the 1920s and 1930s, culminating in 9)_______ ______ __ (1939- 1945), sparked by Nazi Germany's aggressive expansion at the expense of its neighbors. Meanwhile, Japan had rapidly transformed itself into a 10)___________ advanced industrial power. Its military expansion into eastern Asia and the Pacific Ocean culminated in a surprise attack on the United States, bringing it into World War II. After having had several years of dramatic military success, 11)______________ was defeated in 1945, having been repelled and invaded by the Soviet Union from the east and invaded from the west by the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Free France. The war ended with the dropping of two atomic bombs on 12)___________. Japan later became a U.S. ally with a powerful economy based on consumer goods and trade. 13)______________ was divided between the western powers and the Soviet Union; all areas recaptured by the Soviet Union (East Germany and eastward) were essentially transitioned into Soviet puppet states under 14)____________ rule.
Meanwhile, western Europe was influenced by the 15)_______ Marshall Plan and made a quick 16)_______ recovery, becoming major allies of the United States under capitalist economies and relatively democratic governments. World War II left about 60 million people dead. When the conflict ended in 1945, the United States and the 17)____ _______ emerged as very powerful nations. Allies during the war, they soon became hostile to one another as the competing ideologies of communism and democratic capitalism occupied 18)__________, divided by the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall. The **military alliances** headed by these nations were prepared to wage total war with each other throughout the Cold War (1947-91). The period was marked by a new arms race, and 19)__________ weapons were produced in the tens of thousands, sufficient to end most human life on the planet had a large-scale nuclear exchange ever occurred. The very size of the nuclear arsenal on both sides is believed by many historians to have staved off an inevitable war between the two, as the consequences of any attack were too great to bear. The policy of unleashing a massive nuclear attack, knowing a massive nuclear counterattack would be forthcoming, was known as mutually assured destruction (MAD). Although the Soviet Union and the United States never directly entered military conflict with each other, several proxy wars, such as the 20)__________ ____ (1950-1953) and the 21)_______ _______ (1957-1975), were waged as the United States implemented its worldwide "containment" policy against communism.

After World War II, most of the European-colonized world in Africa and Asia gained independence in a process of decolonization. This, and the drain of the two world wars, caused Europe to lose much of its long-held power. Meanwhile, the wars empowered several nations, including the UK, U.S., Russia, China and Japan, to exert a strong influence over many world affairs. American culture spread around the world with the advent of 22)__________, Broadway, 23)______ and ________, pop music, fast food, big-box stores, and the hip-hop lifestyle. British culture continued to influence world culture, including the "24)________ _______" into American music, leading many top rock bands (such as Swedish ABBA) to sing in English. The western world and parts of Asia enjoyed a post-World War II economic boom. After the Soviet Union collapsed under internal pressure in 1991, the communist governments of the Eastern bloc were also dismantled, followed by rocky transitions into market economies. Following World War II the 25)_______ _________ was established as an international forum in which the world's nations could get together and discuss issues diplomatically. It has enacted resolutions on such topics as the conduct of warfare, environmental protection,
international sovereignty, and human rights. Peacekeeping forces consisting of troops provided by various countries, in concert with various United Nations and other aid agencies, have helped to relieve famine, disease, and poverty, and to suppress some local armed conflicts. Europe slowly united, economically and, in some ways, politically, into what eventually became the European Union, which consisted of 15 European countries by the end of the century.

In approximately the last third of the century, concern about humankind's impact on the Earth's environment caused 26)____________ to become a major citizen movement. In many countries, especially in Europe, the movement was channeled into politics partly through Green parties, though awareness of the problem permeated societies. By the end of the century, some progress had been made in cleaning up the environment though 27)_________ is still a problem. Increasing awareness of global warming began in the 1980s, commencing several decades of social and political debate. Medical science and the Green Revolution in agriculture enabled the world's population to grow from about 1.6 billion to about 6.0 billion. This rapid 28)___________ increase quickly became a major concern and directly caused or contributed to several global issues, including conflict, poverty, major environmental issues, and severe overcrowding in some areas.

Lesson 4: 20th Century Period Music

20th-century music is defined by the sudden emergence of advanced 29)_________ for recording and 30)_________ music as well as dramatic innovations in musical forms and styles. Because music was no longer limited to 31)__________, opera-houses, clubs, and domestic music-making, it became possible for music artists to quickly gain global recognition and influence.

Twentieth-century music brought new freedom and wide experimentation with new musical styles and forms that challenged the accepted rules of music of earlier periods. Faster modes of transportation allowed musicians and fans to travel more widely to 32)_________ or listen. 33)___________ permitted giant concerts to be heard by those with the least expensive tickets, and the inexpensive reproduction and transmission or 34)___________ of music gave rich and poor alike nearly equal access to high-quality music 35)_____________. 