After the Armistice

Tracing the losses and decisions that shaped the postwar world

MWH.C.6.2 "Evaluate the lasting effects of World War I. Describe the economic destruction and unprecedented loss of life, including the Armenian genocide. Explain post-war political instability (e.g., collapse of the Russian, Ottoman..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two wartime losses, circle two postwar decisions, and write 1 beside a sentence that links a loss or decision to later instability.

A Peace That Left Questions

1. At the war's end, abandoned trenches cut across French and Belgian farmland, while damaged rail lines and factories slowed rebuilding. Governments owed enormous debts, and disrupted trade made jobs and food harder to secure. Roughly 10 million soldiers died, along with millions of civilians from fighting, hunger, and disease. During the war, Ottoman authorities deported Armenians from their homes; mass killings and deadly marches caused the deaths of about 1 million or more Armenians. This genocide destroyed communities and left survivors scattered. Economic losses and human losses together made recovery far more difficult than repairing buildings alone.

2. The war also broke apart empires whose rulers had governed many peoples. Revolution ended the Russian Empire; a civil war followed, and the Bolsheviks secured power. Defeat ended the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and new states, including Czechoslovakia, emerged from its former territory. The Ottoman Empire lost most of its Arab lands and was eventually replaced by the Republic of Turkey. New borders did not settle every dispute: groups disagreed over territory, political power, and who should govern. In this setting, promises of self-rule raised expectations that the postwar settlement did not always meet.

3. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles required Germany to accept responsibility for losses caused by the war through its "war guilt" clause. This clause helped justify reparations, payments Germany owed the victors, and fueled resentment there. The treaty also established the League of Nations; under its mandate system, Britain and France gained authority over former Ottoman Arab lands through related postwar decisions. Britain's mandate for Palestine supported a Jewish national home, a goal of Zionism, while also requiring protection of the civil and religious rights of non-Jewish communities. Many Arab nationalists sought independence instead of European rule, making mandates a source of conflict.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why would repairing rail lines and factories alone not have solved the war's damage?

2. How did the fall of two empires create conditions for political instability? Use two examples from the passage.

3. How did the “war guilt” clause affect Germany after the war?

4. How did the mandate system affect Zionism and Arab nationalism differently?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In four sentences, argue how one wartime economic or human loss and one postwar political decision could combine to undermine stability. Use a specific passage detail for each, then explain the link between them.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.6.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two wartime losses, circle two postwar decisions, and write 1 beside a sentence that links a loss or decision to later instability. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why would repairing rail lines and factories alone not have solved the war's damage?	**The war also left debts, disrupted trade, millions dead, and Armenian communities destroyed. Repairing buildings could not reverse those losses.**
2	How did the fall of two empires create conditions for political instability? Use two examples from the passage.	**After the Russian Empire fell, civil war followed. After the Austro-Hungarian Empire fell, new states emerged, but groups still disputed territory and political power.**
3	How did the "war guilt" clause affect Germany after the war?	**It helped justify reparations Germany owed the victors and fueled resentment in Germany.**
4	How did the mandate system affect Zionism and Arab nationalism differently?	**Britain's mandate for Palestine supported a Jewish national home sought by Zionists. Many Arab nationalists wanted independence rather than European rule over former Ottoman lands.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Europe's damaged infrastructure and Germany's reparations could work together to undermine postwar stability. In France and Belgium, damaged rail lines and factories slowed rebuilding. The war guilt clause helped justify payments Germany owed the victors and fueled resentment there. Economic strain across borders, combined with anger over who had to pay, could make cooperation among former enemies harder.

Accept other accurate examples from the passage, including the Armenian genocide, the collapse of empires, and the mandates. For the final task, look for a reasoned link between a wartime loss and a postwar decision, not just a list of effects.