

Test #2 Study Guide

This study guide covers the three main topics we have addressed in class since the last test – Progressive Reform, World War I, and the Origins of the Great Depression. Be sure to print the lecture notes and use them as you work through the questions below.

For study questions on David Nasaw's *Children of the City*, you should refer to the study guides posted on the syllabus.

1. How was the Progressive reform movement of the 1910s a “response to industrialization”?
2. Why were Progressives worried about social turmoil and economic inequality? How did they try to get wealthy Americans to share their concerns about the possibility of increasing class conflict?
3. Why did Progressives worry that immigration and the growth of cities would contribute to the “disorder” of society?
4. How did the Progressives propose to create a more humane and “ordered” society? Why was a “unitary culture” to their liking?
5. Why do some observers say Progressives’ approach to solving social problems was grounded in “innovative nostalgia”? Explain how Progressives incorporated BOTH “nostalgia” and “innovation” into their social vision.
6. How did Progressives differ from Social Darwinists? How, for example, did their views on how to address urban poverty differ?
7. In the debate over “nature” vs “nurture,” where did the Progressives stand? What about the Social Darwinists? How do we know?
8. In order to improve the human environment, Progressives sought to think “systematically.” What does “thinking systematically” entail? Why was it important to think systematically in a society that had become increasingly interdependent?
9. What is a pragmatist? How do we know Progressives were pragmatists?
10. How did civil service reform change the ways in which government employees were hired?
11. In looking at how Progressives set out to solve social problems, how do we know they were both “interventionists” and “optimists”?
12. How did the “Social Gospel” approach to religion differ from earlier theology?
13. What is the difference between a “social control” Progressive and a “social justice” Progressive? [Think in terms of how each would “solve” the problem of trash piling up in poor neighborhoods.]
14. Progressives believed there were limits on how much government could intervene to help disadvantaged people live a better life. What did they believe government should not do?
15. Why did a Serbian nationalist’s assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 start a conflict that engulfed all of Europe?

16. Why were the Russians, French, and British on the same side in World War I? Why were the Germans and Austrians on the same side?
17. What issues produced tensions among the European powers during the years leading up to World War I?
18. By 1914, certain technologies and innovations had advanced further than others. What were some of these technologies and innovations? How did the uneven advance lead to staggering casualties on the battlefields of Europe?
19. How did Wilson apply the values of the Progressive reformers to the making of foreign policy? What role did morality play in Wilson's policies?
20. Why was it difficult for the U. S. to remain neutral once war broke out in Europe? What steps did many Americans – particularly bankers and investors – take that made it more likely the U.S. would enter the war on the Allies' side?
21. Why was the British navy's blockade of German ports an effective tactic?
22. Why did the Germans resort to submarine warfare? Why was German submarine warfare a major reason why the U.S. entered World War I?
23. Why did the Germans pledge to stop using submarine warfare but then reverse this pledge? If resuming submarine warfare was likely to lead the U. S. to declare war on Germany, why did the Germans take this step anyway?
24. What was the Zimmermann Telegram and why was it significant?
25. Explain how Wilson's 14 Points – particularly Points 9-13 – tried to address the reasons that Europe had gone to war in the first place.
26. Why did the U.S. Congress object to Article 10 of the League of Nations charter?
27. Why was the United States called the "engine of prosperity" after World War I?
28. How did German war reparations and French and British war debt involve the United States? How did this 3-way relationship work and why did it cause international economic instability?
29. What were some alternatives to the circular system of debt repayment and reparations? Why would they have made the world economy more stable? Why were such alternatives never implemented?
30. Why was the U.S. government's refusal to forgive European war debts during the late 1920s and early 1930s a bad idea?
31. What were the two causes of hyperinflation in Germany during the 1920s? Why did the German government pursue a policy of hyperinflation?
32. Who opposed the German policy of hyperinflation and why?
33. Why did the Dawes Plan temporarily stabilize the international economy?
34. Why did stock prices rise so rapidly during the 1920s? What role did "buying on margin" play in fueling the rise in stock prices?
35. What caused the U.S. stock market crash in 1929 and why did this crash have a global effect?
36. What was the unintended consequence when the Austrian government froze the assets of one of the nation's largest commercial banks?
37. Why did the U.S. government raise the tariff on most imported goods in the early 1930s? Why was doing this a bad idea?
38. Why did the high tariffs of the 1930s have a *global* effect?

39. Why did cutting taxes on the wealthiest Americans during the 1920s not necessarily mean that wealth and prosperity “trickled down” to those at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder?
40. Why did many wealthy people who received a major tax cut use the money to speculate on stocks rather than to build factories or hire more employees?
41. Why did the economy suffer when the housing and auto markets slackened during the mid- to late-1920s?
42. What are the two main powers of the Federal Reserve? By using these powers, how did the Federal Reserve end up making the Great Depression worse?
43. Why was it a bad idea for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates as the Great Depression was beginning? Why did doing this create the wrong economic incentives?
44. In what ways did lack of economic knowledge contribute to the Great Depression?