

Assignment

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The causes of Great Britain's relative economic decline, 1870-1914 were ineffective education system, inadequate technical skills and the failure of the ruling class to organize a synchronized government. With 30% of the population living under starvation, they lacked the resources to take their children to school thus limiting growth of human capital (Hunt, Martin, Rosenwein, Smith, Lualdi, p. 137). With its mercantilism economic policy which increases trade within Great Britain while weakening other economies. They did this through local industry subsidies and embargoes on goods coming in to improve balance of trade. Other emerging economies encouraged cross border trade with America doing a booming business with Germany. Due to this competition, Great Britain was thus weakened as an economic powerhouse coupled with high military spending in preparation for World War 1.

2. The factors that led to the rise of Nazism include: The impact of spreading propaganda Nazis carried out an anti-Semitic propaganda which depicted Jews as collaborators with the allies to commit treason against the German Republic. They told the citizens through a variety of media including leaflets that their economic woes were caused by the Jews who dominated the financial sector. The fear of communism With the rise in communism in Germany, Hitler rose on an issue that with the dominance of Communist Party members in the Reichstag, the Russians will enter the German economy and dominate trade. He told them that only the Nazi party could keep communism policies at bay. Big business sentimentalism with the German economy Germany economic dominance was greatly reduced in the region because of short-change from the Treaty of Versailles which hurt local production (Hunt, Martin, Rosenwein, Smith, Lualdi, p. 127). The economy went down under the Republican regime; Hitler therefore came into power

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promising economic reforms and boom which the citizens bought. He promised to squash the treaty, reenergise the Germans and take back the colonies lost to other powerhouses. 3. The key changes in strategy and policy that permitted the Axis powers to win World War II include the tactical approach used to fight the Germans. They weakened its economy and resource base first to ensure they had little energy and financial resources to improve their military capabilities. Their oil fields were bombed to cut energy supply. They had to rely on coal to run their machines which was expensive and has a tedious energy conversion process. The attack had to be effectively planned due to inadequate trained forces and military gear. Under the directions of Churchill, the allied forces divided responsibilities in order to get Hitler on all fronts. America was to invade his military establishments in Africa while the rest take the ground force to Germany. This invasion surprised the Germans and divided their command. 4. The causes of collapse of the Soviet Union include the following: Worsening economy The region was so robust with myriad of infrastructural and geographical challenges which made it difficult to plan. Those in charge of state planning could not deliver on their task as they could not effectively structure devolved systems for spurring economic gains. The energy among the population could not be synergised thus limiting innovation with managers also faking economic indicators' figures to show the central command that the economy was doing well. Mikhail Gorbachev tried to salvage the situation by establishing more controls as deficits grew; he also reintroduced capitalism so that everyone applies his own effort to grow rather than depending on the state for social programs. However, this was not enough and the union eventually fell. Focus on defence The Soviet Union concentrated in gaining military powers by

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having more military tanks and other military gears; they wanted to reach United States' military budget and capabilities. By 1971, they were at par with America. What they did not realize is that the US had a budgeting system that ensured military budget did not consume much of their GDP. The blind arms rush caused budget cuts in vital organs of the economy thus limiting growth. The countries would then disintegrate because of such failed policies and action plans. 5. There is a steep rise of secularism and Islam in Europe with France being the hardest hit. Mosques are springing up in France while church congregation figures going low day by day (Hunt, Martin, Rosenwein, Smith, Lualdi, p. 127). The number of religious leaders and church custodians has reduced by half in 40 years in Europe. The causes of this trend include the rise in political Islam sentimentalism among the population; this is fuelled by globalization and geopolitics. The numbers of Muslims immigrants to Europe are also increasing and they take with them the radical message that Islam is the future and the western powers are the enemy (Lu, p. 71). Secularism on the other hand has been growing due to underlying concerns among citizens that the state should be divided from the church. This enables citizens to practice whichever religion they feel like with state support; Muslims also hail this concept as it has allowed them to practice their customs and adorn their cloths without victimization. Works cited Making of the West, 4th Ed., Vol. 1 + Sources of Making of the West, 4th Ed, Vol. 2. Bedford/st Martins, 2012. Print. Lu, Angela. " WORLD | Secular Europe's Islamic spiritual fix | Angela Lu | Feb. 7, 2013." WORLD | Today's News, Christian Views. N. p., 7 Feb. 2012. Web. 8 May 2013. .