

The Age of Anxiety

Europe's mood after the Great War



Post-WWI Europe

- Decade can be divided into two periods
 - Five Years of Painful Recovery (1919-1924)
 - Six Years of Growing Peace and Progress (1924-1929)
 - The Roaring Twenties
- Transformation of Europe
 - Period of Social Change
 - Scientific and Cultural Transformation
 - German Hyperinflation

Europe after the Great War



Social Changes of the 1920s

- Class distinctions faded away as role of aristocracy declined
- Government expansion led to expansion of “white-collar” jobs
 - Advancements in technology prevented growth of working class
- Women earned the right to vote
 - Did not effect politics as women voted like male relatives

Scientific Revolution

- Albert Einstein and Werner Heisenberg challenged traditional ideas of the universe
 - “Truth was merely a set of mental constructs”
 - Atomic world replaces classical world
- Sigmund Freud
 - Psychoanalysis was the key to understanding human behavior

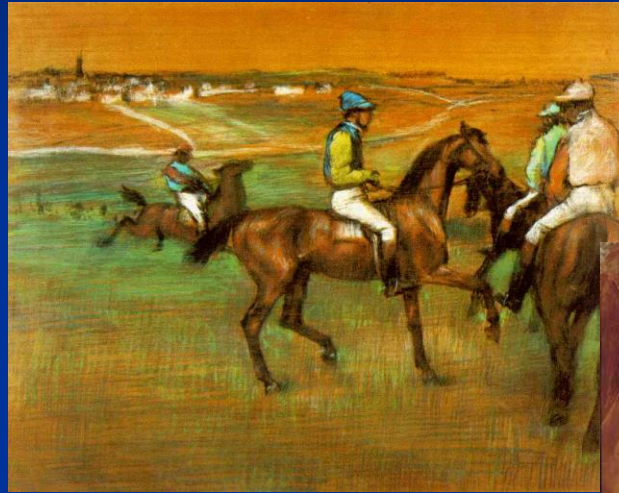
Artistic Revolution

■ Literature

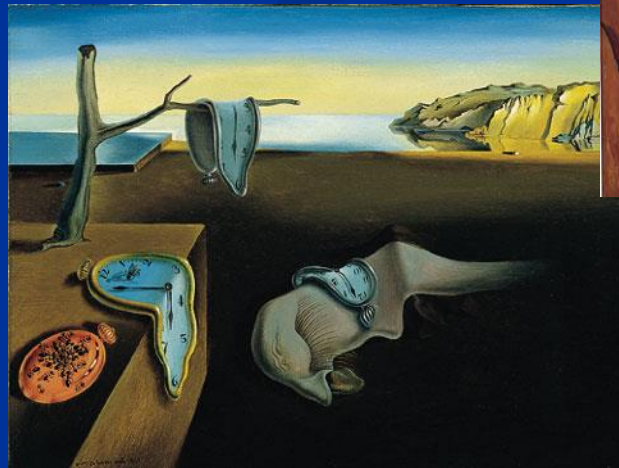
- Ernest Hemmingway
- John Steinbeck

■ Art

- Edgar Degas
- Pablo Picasso
- Salvador Dali



Race Horses
by Degas



The Persistence of Memory by Dali



Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J.)
by Picasso

German Hyperinflation

- German economy collapsed in 1923
- Loss of territory as part of Treaty of Versailles
- Hyper-inflation



FROM STABILITY TO CHAOS

German Foreign Post Card Rates 1875 - 1924

After more than four decades of rate stability, a chronicle of the efforts of the German Post Office to accommodate the devastating effects of the country's post-World War I inflation, represented by a selection of post cards to foreign destinations during the 25 rate periods before and after World War I.

GERMAN POST(AL) CARD RATES to INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS*

1 July 1875 - 31 December 1924

1 July 1875 - 30 September 1919	0.10 Marks
1 October 1919 - 5 May 1920	0.15 Marks
6 May 1920 - 31 March 1921	0.40 Marks
1 April 1921 - 31 December 1921	0.80 Marks
1 January 1922 - 30 June 1922	2.40 Marks
1 July 1922 - 30 September 1922	3.50 Marks
1 October 1922 - 14 November 1922	12 Marks
15 November 1922 - 14 December 1922	24 Marks
15 December 1922 - 14 January 1923	50 Marks
15 January 1923 - 28 February 1923	90 Marks
1 March 1923 - 30 June 1923	180 Marks
1 July 1923 - 31 July 1923	480 Marks
1 August 1923 - 23 August 1923	1,800 Marks
24 August 1923 - 31 August 1923	36,000 Marks
1 September 1923 - 19 September 1923	120,000 Marks
20 September 1923 - 30 September 1923	450,000 Marks
1 October 1923 - 9 October 1923	3,600,000 Marks
10 October 1923 - 19 October 1923	9,000,000 Marks
20 October 1923 - 31 October 1923	18,000,000 Marks
1 November 1923 - 4 November 1923	120,000,000 Marks
5 November 1923 - 11 November 1923	2,400,000,000 Marks
12 November 1923 - 19 November 1923	24,000,000,000 Marks
20 November 1923 - 25 November 1923	48,000,000,000 Marks
26 November 1923 - 30 November 1923	192,000,000,000 Marks
1 December 1923 - 31 December 1924	200,000,000,000 Marks or .20 Rentenmarks

* These rates applied to most nations with the exception of a few neighboring countries and lost territories.

Pictures of Hyperinflation



What can you do with German money in 1923?

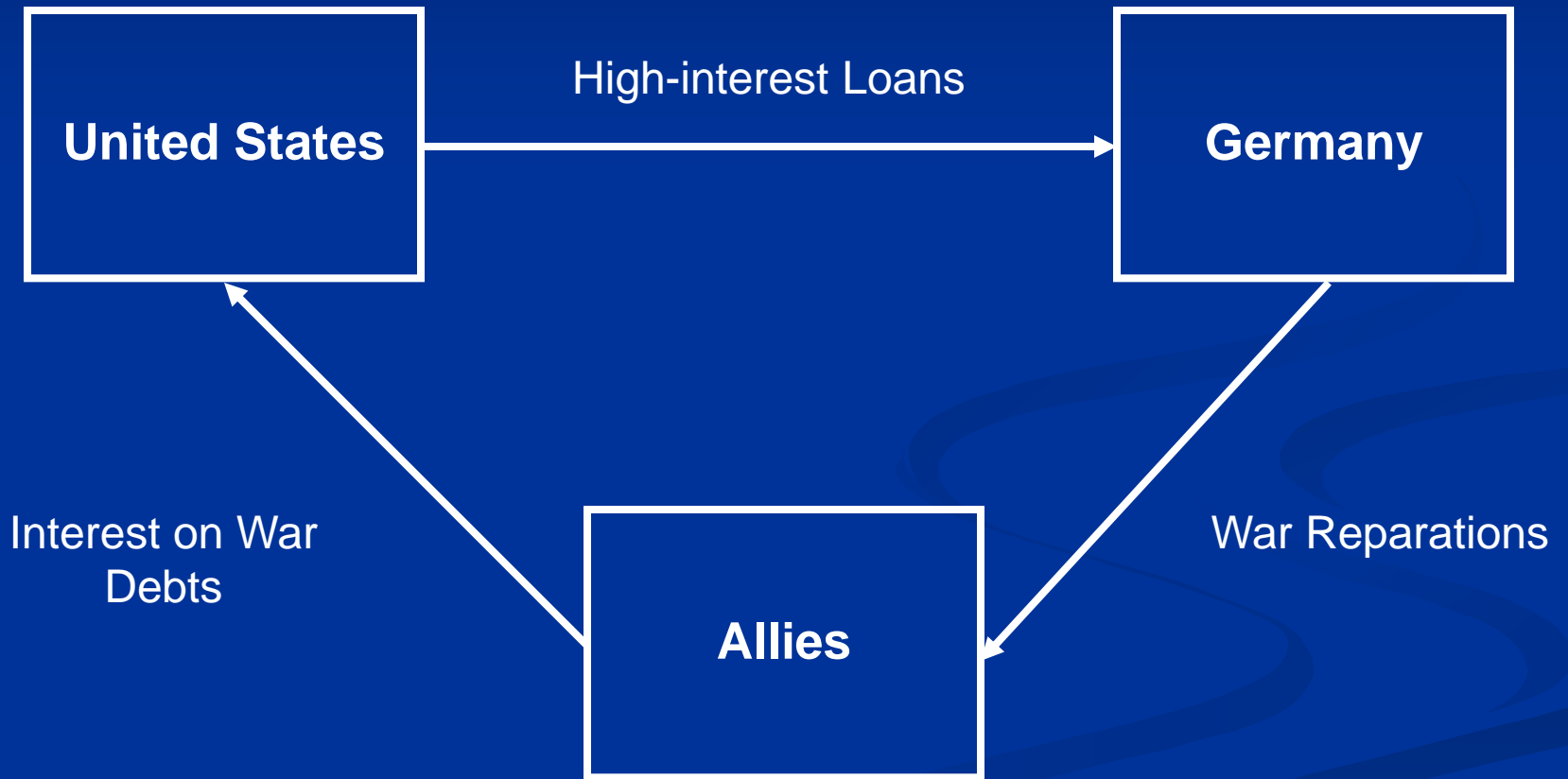
Make a fort (above) or burn it for heat (right)



The Dawes Plan

- U.S. plan to reorganize the German economy
 - Lower annual war reparations payments
 - German currency reorganized
 - U.S. loans to Germany
- Stabilizes the German economy
- 1924-1929 sees a return to relative economic prosperity

The Dawes Plan



The Great Depression

Causes of the Great Depression

- Agricultural Depression
 - Decline in wheat prices
 - “Dust Bowl”
- Bank Failures
- Overproduction of Goods
 - Production grew by 50%; wages increased at slower rate
- Credit
 - Buying goods (including stock) on margin



Effects of the Great Depression

- Decline of world trade
 - Countries turn to economic nationalism
- Massive unemployment
 - German unemployment 40%
- Global decline in industrial production
 - German production declines by 30%; France 20%
- Poverty and hunger widespread
 - Starvation in Germany

Reactions to the Depression

■ Government Changes

■ Welfare State

■ The New Deal

■ Keynesian Economics

■ Political Radicalization

■ Rise of communist and fascist parties

■ Germany and Japan turn to state controlled economic growth

Totalitarianism and Mass Mobilization

Characteristics of Totalitarianism

- Attack liberal democracy and capitalism
- State directed economy
- State more important than the individual
- Charismatic dictators
- Depend upon mobilization of the masses
- Embrace public welfare programs
- Use censorship and propaganda
- Women not permitted a public role



Rise of Adolf Hitler

- Born in Austria
 - High school dropout
- Served in World War I
- Arrested for role in Beer Hall Putsch
- Writes Mein Kampf from prison
- Became chancellor of Germany in 1933



Reforms of Adolf Hitler

- Ignores provisions of the Treaty of Versailles
 - Ends war reparations payments
 - Uses militarization to ease the burdens of the Great Depression
 - Many countries sympathized with Germany
- Nazis seize complete political control
- Beginning of the Holocaust
 - Nuremburg Laws (1935)