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World at War: Essay and Discussion Questions

# Explain

1. When thinking about balance of power, what factors should be considered when assessing a country’s strength?
2. How and why did World War I shape women’s roles in society?
3. How was a leader as radical as Adolf Hitler able to rise to power in Germany?
4. How did fascist regimes use existing institutions to gain power?
5. In what ways did the Soviet Union not live up to Karl Marx’s vision of communism?
6. During the United States’ history, what factors have pushed the country toward global engagement? What factors have pushed it toward isolationism?

# Analyze

1. To what extent were World War I and World War II the result of an imbalance of power in Europe?
2. In what ways were the causes of World War I and World War II similar? How did they differ?
3. How did nationalism help cause World War I?
4. Why did appeasement in the late 1930s backfire?

# Evaluate

1. Is nationalism a positive or negative force in the world?
2. What lessons does the failure of the Treaty of Versailles have for future diplomatic agreements?
3. What is appealing about Marx’s vision of communism?
4. What does the history of the Soviet Union suggest about the limitations of communism in practice?
5. Based on what you know of its rise, when would you argue the United States become a global power?