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Description automatically generated**Early 20th Century Conflicts Research Project**

**Big Question (Learning Objective)**

In the period from 1900-1945, challenges to the existing political order led to military conflicts around the world. Develop an argument that evaluates how challenges to the existing political order led to one or more global or regional military conflicts.

**Instructions**

1. Groups: You may work alone or with ONE partner. Each group (or individual student) will then be assigned a broad historical theme to serve as the basis for their project.
2. Narrowing a Topic: Gather information on your broader assigned theme and begin brainstorming ways to narrow your topic. Find a specific concept that interests you!
3. Create a Research Question: After selecting a specific topic and gathering background information, add more focus with a research question. Consider the following:
   1. The “so what” of your specific topic. Why does this topic matter to you?
   2. Why should it matter to others?
   3. What aspect of the more general topic you will explore?
   4. Is your research question clear?
   5. Is your research question focused?
   6. Is your research question complex? (Questions shouldn’t have a simple yes/no answer and should require research and analysis)
4. Hypothesis: You will then need to construct a thesis (supported argument) that responds to this question. Your thesis is the foundation of your research. Consider the following:
   1. Why does your argument matter?
   2. How might others challenge your argument?
   3. What kind of sources will you need to support your argument?
   4. What if the research and sources disprove my argument?
5. Create a Presentation: Create a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation for your research project. It must contain the following:
   1. Title page
   2. Your posed question and thesis
   3. 100–200-word abstract
   4. Primary and secondary sources
   5. Data and statistics
   6. Images
   7. Citations
   8. Conclusion
   9. 8-15 total slides
6. Class Presentation: You will present your research and defend your thesis to the class. Presentations should be between 4-6 minutes. Be prepared to answer questions from your peers at the end.

**DUE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rubic**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Components** | **25 Points** | **20 Points** | **15 Points** | **<10 Points** |
| Research Question and Thesis   * Question posed is clear, focused, and complex. * Thesis fully answers the posed question. * Thesis provides a complex and nuanced argument that addresses the counterargument and makes insightful connections. | Exceeds expectations.  (meets all criteria at a high level) | Meets expectations | Somewhat meets expectations | Does not meet expectation |
| Abstract   * Clearly and concisely summarizes the topic, its context, and research findings in 100-200 words. * Includes key vocabulary words. | Exceeds expectations.  (meets all criteria at a high level) | Meets expectations | Somewhat meets expectations | Does not meet expectation |
| Research   * Ideas are presented in a logical, clear, and concise progression. * Material is substantially developed and cited. * Research is summarized rather than reliance of heavy quotes. * Uses a variety of historical evidence and examples that support the thesis. * Sources are reputable and relevant. | Exceeds expectations.  (meets all criteria at a high level) | Meets expectations | Somewhat meets expectations | Does not meet expectation |
| Overall Presentation   * Speaker is well-prepared and demonstrates a high level of effort, comfortability with the topic, and attention to detail. * Viewers gain confidence of the presenter’s knowledge and ability as a researcher. * Includes a brief conclusion that reviews significance of findings. * Overall presentation is organized, enlightening, and holds audience interest. * Demonstrates professionalism. | Exceeds expectations.  (meets all criteria at a high level) | Meets expectations | Somewhat meets expectations | Does not meet expectation |

**Broad Historical Theme List**

* Collapse of old empires
* Rise of new empires
* Fall of Europe’s old order
* Revolutions
* Changes in warfare/battle tactics
* Rise of totalitarianism and dictators
* Cult of personality
* Nationalism, fascism, and communism
* Oppressive political or social ideologies
* Liberal political or social ideologies
* Use of Propaganda
* Role of women and/or minorities
* Atrocities/genocide
* Individual rights vs national security
* Spheres of influence
* International law (success or failures)
* Shifting foreign policies
* Unstable alliances
* Colonial troops and combat

**Planning**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assigned Era** |  |
| **Narrowed Topic** |  |

**Research Question**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| My research question is… | Why does this topic matter to you?  Why should it matter to others?  What aspect of the more general topic you will explore?  Is your research question clear?  Is your research question focused?  Is your research question complex? (Questions shouldn’t have a simple yes/no answer and should require research and analysis) |

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**Hypothesis**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| My thesis is… | How might others challenge your argument? |