

Course Content for IB HL History

Paper One

Case study 1: Japanese expansion in East Asia (1931–1941)

Causes of expansion

- The impact of Japanese nationalism and militarism on foreign policy
- Japanese domestic issues: political and economic issues, and their impact on foreign relations
- Political instability in China

Events

- Japanese invasion of Manchuria and northern China (1931)
- Sino-Japanese War (1937–1941)
- The Three Power/Tripartite Pact; the outbreak of war; Pearl Harbor (1941)

Responses

- League of Nations and the Lytton report
- Political developments within China—the Second United Front
- International response, including US initiatives and in

Case study 2: German and Italian expansion (1933–1940)

Causes of expansion

- Impact of fascism and Nazism on the foreign policies of Italy and Germany
- Impact of domestic economic issues on the foreign policies of Italy and Germany
- Changing diplomatic alignments in Europe; the end of collective security; appeasement

Events

- German challenges to the post-war settlements (1933–1938)
- Italian expansion: Abyssinia (1935–1936); Albania; entry into the Second World War
- German expansion (1938–1939); Pact of Steel, Nazi–Soviet Pact and the outbreak of war

Responses

- International response to German aggression (1933–1938)
- International response to Italian aggression (1935–1936)
- International response to German and Italian aggression (1940)

Paper Two Topic 1

Cold War

Rivalry, mistrust and accord

- The breakdown of the Grand Alliance and the emergence of superpower rivalry in Europe and Asia (1943–1949): role of ideology; fear and aggression; economic interests; a comparison of the roles of the US and the USSR
- The US, USSR and China—superpower relations (1947–1979): containment; peaceful co-existence; Sino-Soviet and Sino-US relations; détente
- Confrontation and reconciliation; reasons for the end of the Cold War (1980–

1991): ideological challenges and dissent; economic problems; arms race

Leaders and nations

- The impact of two leaders, each chosen from a different region, on the course and development of the Cold War
- The economic, social and cultural impact of the Cold War on two countries, each chosen from a different region

Cold War crises

- Cold War crises case studies: detailed study of any two Cold War crises from different regions: examination and comparison of the causes, impact and significance of the two crises

Topic 2

Origins and rise of independence movements, up to the point of independence: Vietnam and Zimbabwe

- Development of movements: role and relative importance of nationalism and political ideology Development of movements: role and relative importance of religion, race, social and economic factors
- Wars as a cause and/or catalyst for independence movements
- Other internal and external factors fostering growth of independence movements

Methods used and reasons for success

- Methods of achieving independence (including violent and non-violent methods)
- Role and importance of leaders of independence movements
- The role and relative importance of other factors in the success of independence movements

Challenges faced in the first 10 years, and responses to the challenges

- Challenges: political problems; ethnic, racial and separatist movements
- Social, cultural and economic challenges
- Responses to those challenges, and the effectiveness of those responses

Paper Three

The Cold War and the Americas (1945–1981)

- Truman: containment and its implications for the Americas; the rise of McCarthyism and its effects on domestic and foreign policies of the United States; social and cultural impact of the Cold War on the Americas
- Korean War, the United States and the Americas: reasons for participation; military developments; diplomatic and political outcomes
- Eisenhower and Dulles: New Look and its application; characteristics and reasons for the policy; short term and long-term impact on the region
- United States' involvement in Vietnam: the reasons for, and nature of, the involvement at different stages; domestic effects and the end of the war; Canadian non-support of the war; Latin American protest against the war
- United States' foreign policies from Kennedy to Carter: the characteristics of, reasons for, and successes

and failures of the policies; implications for the region: Kennedy's Alliance for Progress; Nixon's covert operations and Chile; Carter's quest for human rights and the Panama Canal Treaty (1977)

- Cold War in one country of the Americas (except the US): reasons for foreign and domestic policies and their implementation

Civil rights and social movements in the Americas post-1945

- Indigenous peoples and civil rights in the Americas
- African Americans and the civil rights movement: origins, tactics and organizations; the US Supreme Court and legal challenges to segregation in education; ending of segregation in the south (1955–1980)
- Role of Dr Martin Luther King Jr in the civil rights movement; the rise of radical African American activism (1965–1968)—Black Panthers, Black Power and Malcolm X; role of governments in civil rights movements in the Americas
- Feminist movements in the Americas; reasons for emergence; impact and significance
- Hispanic American movement in the United States; Cesar Chavez; immigration reform
- Youth culture and protests of the 1960s and 1970s: characteristics and manifestation of a counterculture

The Second World War and the Americas (1933–1945)

- Hemispheric reactions to the events in Europe and Asia: inter-American diplomacy; cooperation and neutrality; Franklin D Roosevelt's Good Neighbour policy—its application and effects
- Involvement and participation of any **two** countries of the Americas in the Second World War
- Social impact of the Second World War; impact on women and minorities; conscription
- Treatment of Japanese Americans, Japanese Latin Americans and Japanese Canadians
- Reasons for, and significance of, US use of atomic weapons against Japan
- Economic and diplomatic effects of the Second World War in any **two** countries of the Americas