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LEQ Prompt #9

 Prior to 1900, Europe was at the center of political power. To support the developing Industrial Revolution, Europe took part in imperialism and colonization across most of Africa for the cultivation of cash crops and natural resources. As a world wide implication of decolonization emerged, countries across the world experienced a shift in political power and leadership making them susceptible to the surfacing ideologies at the turn of the 19th century. Claim: As ideas of Nationalism appeared across many Countries across Europe and Asia, it created self pride from citizens for their country and motivation for freedom across imperialized countries. While ideas of Nationalism profoundly strengthened and benefited countries across the globe, Communist and Fascist ideologies, while they appeared good in the beginning, ultimately diminished smaller countries and led to the downfall of larger Countries through political instability.

After World War I, with Europe in disarray, countries seeked a way out of the depression that was caused by the war. Germany’s solution to success was communism and eventually, with the help of communism, Hitler brought them out of the depression. This came at a cost though, as Hitler went on a reign of terror, expanding his territory and killing millions of jews, but ultimately being defeated at the hands of the allies. After World War II, Joseph Stalin adopted communism, but lost the trust of the U.S., which led to the emergence of the Cold War. Stalin tried to impose communism on all the surrounding lands of the Soviet Union and into Europe in order to sustain The Soviet Union as a global superpower. The adoption of communism to the neighboring countries gave rise to new leaders and political ideologies, such being Chairman Mao, who founded the People’s Republic of China, which was China’s official adoption of communism. Another political influence during the Cold War was Ho Chi Minh, who was the prime minister of Vietnam. He sought to free Vietnam from colonial superpowers, so he adopted communism as a new political ideology. The less powerful countries were forced to pick a side between capitalism and communism leading to global tension among nations and the reliance of these smaller nations on a central power for direction on leadership.

Nationalism had long existed, largely arising the Age of Exploration, but with the onset of World War II as well as decolonization, Nationalism served a purpose much larger than itself. It can be noted that during World War II, nationalist ideologies gave Germany its drive to gain land as well as conquer the Jewish people. Fueled by a hatred of non-germans, The Nazi Party committed mass genocide of the Jewish people and conquered more lands in the name of Germany. This left many countries in disarray and millions of Jews killed because of the nationalist idea that ‘my nation is better than your nation and mine deserves more.’ On the other hand, nationalism which had once been used as purpose to colonize lands during the age of imperialism, began to backfire against the colonizers. Colonized societies, now proud of their national identities, used nationalism to further decolonization of their lands. Since Europe was weakened by World War II, colonies pursued decolonization because of their nationalist ideologies and were able to achieve freedom from their colonizers because of it. Overall, during the period of 1900 to the present, nationalism had affected many societies whether it be by helping further pursue the ideologies of World War II or by furthering decolonization sentiments.

Fascism is a political ideology that was largely popularized during World War II with its main purpose to promote Nationalism at all costs. With its most recognized leaders in the Nazi and Italian regimes, Fascist ideas promoted the actions taken by these leaders, such as rapid expansion and national power that overall negatively affected outside nations. As mentioned with Nationalism, this led to multiple conflicts throughout the world, and Fascist ideals usually include demonizing other races, which led to the mass genocide of the Jews. This ultimately led to other world powers to unite against this way of political governance to stop further issues from starting. Once introduced, Fascism allowed for leaders to corrupt Nationalism in a negative way and disrupted the societies of neighboring nations. Overall, fascism harmed many societies and challenged existing social and political orders.

In the 1900s, Europe developed new ideas and modificated ways of the government using communism, nationalism, and fascism. These new ideologies challenged and questioned the political and social order of the nation. Communism had brought an uprising in power for new leaders and started new laws of work and independence. Nationalism had started a revolution for Europe and gave hope and brought unification throughout the nation. Lastly, Fascism had supported and commercialized nationalism greatly, creating other nations to decline. Overall, these ideologies have changed throughout the years, from being more essential to the nation to non relevant at times.