

Paper 1: The Move to Global War

This prescribed subject focuses on military expansion from 1931 to 1941. Two case studies are prescribed, from different regions of the world, and both of these case studies must be studied. The first case study explores Japanese expansionism from 1931 to 1941, and the second case study explores German and Italian expansionism from 1933 to 1940. The focus of this prescribed subject is on the causes of expansion, key events, and international responses to that expansion. Discussion of domestic and ideological issues should therefore be considered in terms of the extent to which they contributed to this expansion, for example, economic issues, such as the long-term impact of the Great Depression, should be assessed in terms of their role in shaping more aggressive foreign policy.

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 increasing tensions between the US and Japan

Paper 2: Authoritarian states (20th century)

This topic focuses on exploring the conditions that facilitated the rise of authoritarian states in the 20th century, as well as the methods used by parties and leaders to take and maintain power. The topic explores the emergence, consolidation and maintenance of power, including the impact of the leaders' policies, both domestic and foreign, upon the maintenance of power. Examination questions for this topic will expect students to make reference to specific authoritarian states in their responses, and some examination questions will require discussion of states from more than one region of the world. In order for students to be able to make meaningful comparisons across all aspects of the prescribed content, it is recommended that a minimum of three authoritarian states should be studied.

Emergence of authoritarian states

- Conditions in which authoritarian states emerged: economic factors; social division; impact of war; weakness of political system
- Methods used to establish authoritarian states: persuasion and coercion; the role of leaders; ideology; the use of force; propaganda

Consolidation and maintenance of power

- Use of legal methods; use of force; charismatic leadership; dissemination of propaganda
- Nature, extent and treatment of opposition
- The impact of the success and/or failure of foreign policy on the maintenance of power

Aims and results of policies

- Aims and impact of domestic economic, political, cultural and social policies
- The impact of policies on women and minorities
- Authoritarian control and the extent to which it was achieved

Paper 2: The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)

The Cold War dominated global affairs from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s. This topic focuses on how superpower rivalries did not remain static but changed according to styles of leadership, strength of ideological beliefs, economic factors and crises involving client states. The topic aims to promote an international perspective on the Cold War by requiring the study of Cold War leaders, countries and crises from more than one region of the world.

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; detente
- 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 impact of Cold War tensions on two countries (excluding the USSR and the US)

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

Paper 3: Japan (1912–1990)

This section begins with post-Meiji Japan and the reasons for Japan's failure to successfully establish a democratic system of parliamentary government. It explores the rise of militarism and extreme nationalism that led to expansion in Manchuria and China. It also examines the desire to establish a Japanese empire in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific, known as the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

- The impact of the First World War and the post-war conferences
- Taisho democracy: the growth of liberal values and the two-party system

- Reasons for, and impact of, the rise of militarism and extreme nationalism: increasing influence of the army in politics; political coups and assassinations
- Invasions of Manchuria (1931) and China (1937), and impact on relations with the West; Three Party/ Tripartite Pact (1940); US embargo (1940)
- Japan and the Pacific War (1941–1945): decision to attack Pearl Harbor; initial successes; reasons for defeat
- The US occupation (1945–1952): social, political and cultural changes; the reverse course (1950)
- Reasons for Japan’s “economic miracle”; social, cultural and economic impact of globalization

Paper 3: China and Korea (1910–1950)

This section focuses on China and Korea between 1910 and 1950. It examines the rise of nationalism and communism in China after the establishment of the Chinese Republic, as well as the nature of Japanese rule of Korea, which had been formalized with the annexation in 1910, and which became more oppressive during the years of the Sino-Japanese War. The section concludes by examining the reasons for the victory of the communists in the Chinese Civil War and the consequences of this defeat for the nationalists.

- Rise of national identity in China: Yuan Shikai; Sun Yixian; 21 Demands (1915); new culture movement; Treaty of Versailles (1919); May Fourth movement (1919); effects of warlordism
- Nationalist rule of China: Guomindang leadership and ideology; Jiang Jieshi; successes and failures of domestic policy during the Nanjing decade (1927–1937)
- Rise of communism in China: Chinese Communist Party (CCP) ideology; First United Front; Shanghai massacre (1927); Yan’an; Jiangxi Soviet; Long March; Mao Zedong
- Impact of Japanese invasion of China; Manchuria (1931); Second United Front; Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945); Chinese Civil War (1946–1949); nature of conflict; reasons for communist victory
- Impact of Japanese rule of Korea: social, political and economic effects of annexation (1910); impact of the Sino-Japanese War on Korea: Japanese use of forced labour, conscription and comfort women; division of Korea at 38th parallel (1945); Syngman Rhee; Kim Il-Sung
- Taiwan and Republic of China (ROC): nature of Jiang Jieshi’s rule: martial law (1949); White Terror (1950); beginnings of Taiwanese independence movement

14: The People’s Republic of China (1949–2005)

This section focuses on China under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party, and the great changes as the Communist Party under Chairman Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) extended its rule and Mao’s vision of a socialist state. The focus of this section is on the impact of domestic political, social and economic policies. It also examines modernization of China’s economy since Mao’s death.

- Consolidation of the communist state (1949–1961) under Mao Zedong; key policies; land reforms; rectification campaigns; Hundred Flowers campaign (1956)
- Transition to socialism; successes and failures in economic developments (1949–1961); First Five-Year Plan; Great Leap Forward; Second Five-Year Plan
- Social developments; women’s rights; health; education
- Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution: causes; Gang of Four; political, social and cultural impact
- Foreign policy and foreign affairs 1949–1976; Sino-American relations; establishment and breakdown of Sino-Soviet relations; China as a regional and global power
- Power struggle following the death of Mao Zedong; Hua Guofeng, the re-emergence of Deng Xiaoping and the defeat of the Gang of Four
- China under Deng Xiaoping (1976–1997); economic developments; Four Modernizations; political developments; causes and effects of Tiananmen Square (1989); Jiang Zemin

Assessment component	Weighting
<p>External assessment (5 hours)</p> <p>Paper 1 (1 hour) Source-based paper based on the five prescribed subjects. Choose one prescribed subject from a choice of five. Answer four structured questions. (24 marks)</p> <p>Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes) Essay paper based on the 12 world history topics. Answer two essay questions on two different topics. (30 marks)</p> <p>Paper 3 (2 hours 30 minutes) Separate papers for each of the four regional options. For the selected region, answer three essay questions. (45 marks)</p>	<p>80%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>35%</p>
<p>Internal assessment (20 hours)</p> <p>This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.</p> <p>Historical investigation Students are required to complete a historical investigation into a topic of their choice. (25 marks)</p>	<p>20%</p>