

## CONCLUSION

### CHANGE OR CONTINUITY?

In the conclusion, the author summarizes the story of the origins of the modern world as told in this book, and argues that it was *interactions* among various parts of the world, not the cultural achievement of any particular part and its diffusion, that accounts for most of the story. The problem then is posed of whether or not the 20<sup>th</sup> century represents a *continuity* of earlier trends, or a significant *change* in the dynamics of world history; evidence on both sides of the question is cited, and readers are asked to arrive at their own (for now) tentative conclusions.

#### Key terms/vocabulary

interactions	Chinese Communist	APEC
contingencies	Revolution	EU
World War I	Cold War	pentimento
Bolshevik Revolution	migration	Four Tigers
Great Depression	OPEC	ethnic cleansing
World War II	NAFTA	

#### Advanced considerations:

Does "the story" (i.e. history) depend on the time and place of the observer? How might the history of the world have been told by people in various parts of the world in 1500? 1750? 1950? Does this mean that history is "relative?" Or can there be "truths" about history? Go back and re-read the Introduction, and especially notes 15 and 16 on pp. 17-18, for additional ideas about this issue. To pursue the topic further, read the book cited in note 15.

#### *Additional Web Sites to Explore*

- [The Environmental Crisis and Western Civilization:](#)
- [World War I](#)
- Post World War II U.S. Foreign Policy  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1947TRUMAN.html>  
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/nsc-68/nsc68-1.htm>
- [India's Independence](#)
- [Chinese Communism](#)
- [Soviet Union](#)