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Final Exam Essay Prompt 1

The Renaissance is characterized as a time of cultural change where past values of art and philosophy are reborn. The ending of the 100 Years War and the end of the Black Plague led up to the Renaissance because citizens did not have to worry about issues of war and death and could focus on humanistic values. Italy was the mainland of the Renaissance, but the values were spread to France, Spain, and Northern European countries.

There are three basic traits that develop the Renaissance: classicism, humanism, and diplomacy. Classicism is referring back and basing values off traditions and customs from civilizations. Examples of classicism during the Renaissance consist of Roman traditions appearing in architecture, paintings, and literature from Greek philosophers. Leonardo Da Vinci is famous for painting *Mona Lisa* and includes traditional values. Humanism is the effort to try and develop the human in the best possible way to achieve the most potential. One of the most influential humanists was Erasmus. In *Education of a Christian Prince*, he stated that humans could achieve their highest potential through the Bible and Jesus Christ. Modern statecraft advanced the system of government and furthered the creation of states. Economics started appearing during this time along with politics. City-states form independent states with the help of surrounding land from the city. The Renaissance values started dwindling down with the start of the Protestant Reformation. The creation of protestant religions led to issues of church and raised tension between religions. The tensions led to violence and thus, diminished the importance of art and philosophy, ending the Renaissance.

Final Exam Essay Prompt 5

Events that led to World War II consist of lasting hatred from World War I and the rise of fascism. After World War I, there was lasting tension between Germany and other countries because of reparations and no representation at the Treaty of Versailles for Germany. Hitler’s rise to power in Germany allowed for the spread of fascism which is similar to an authoritarian system of government. Benito Mussolini was the fascist leader of Italy who would end up siding with Germany in the war. Fascism led to conflicts such as anti-Semitism and hatred of different groups of people. The aggressive foreign policy scared other countries into believing that fascist nations would try to invade and take over.

Major turning points in the war consisted of Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Stalingrad, and D-Day. The Japanese bombed a United States Naval Base in Hawaii, killing a significant number of individuals. This is a turning point because this is a reason for United States entry in the war, and without them, the Allied Powers might not have won. The Battle of Stalingrad was a battle fought in Russia by the Soviets and the Nazis. The Nazis invaded and ended up being pushed back by the Soviet Union and losing in a crucial battle. Germany did not expect to lose this battle and was shocked in the outcome. Another turning point in the war was on D-Day. D-Day was when American armies stormed the beaches of Normandy, France and defeated Germany. Germany took over France, but America helped the French take it back in this significant battle. The Axis Powers were defeated and the Allied Powers won.

The legacy that was brought to the world after the war consists of fear and lasting tensions. New superpowers emerged as other powers got weaker. The fear can be tied to the advancements in nuclear weaponry and communism. The Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States kicked off and arose the nuclear threats and fight to spread and stop communism. The Cuban Missile Crisis scared citizens of all countries because a button could be pressed and a nation could be destroyed. Tensions could still be felt because of the dislike of certain nations and the outcome of World War II. Nationalism could result from new superpowers emerging and the pride of one’s country. All were results from World War II left on the citizens around the world.