The origins and elon.com and Second World Wars The origins and second World Wars

Frank McDonough Senior Lecturer

Senior Lecturer Liverpool John Moores University



Contents

	·	
In	troduction	1
T	The origins of the First World War, 1871–1914	3
	The rise of Germany	3
	The impact of imperialism	6
	Kaiser Wilhelm, German world policy and German aims	8
	The drift towards alliances	10
	The Balkan Crisis, 1912–14	13
	1914: the July Crisis and decisions for war	15
	Document case study	19
2	The historians and the origins of the First World War	24
	War guilt: the changing debate	24
	Germany and the origins of war: Fritz Fischer and his critics	25
	The nature of the international system: alliances and diplomacy	33
	War by timetable? Militarism, armaments and war plans	33
	Nationalism	35
	An imperialist war? Marxist and economic explanations	36
3	The origins of the Second World War: 1 War and the fragile peace, 1914–33	43
	The ordeal of war, 1914–18	43
	The Paris Peace Settlement and its consequences	46
	The League of Nations and the limits of international co-operation, 1919–33	54
	The 'German problem' during the 1920s	55
	The Great Depression and its consequences	61
	Document case study	65
4	The origins of the Second World War: 2 From peace to global war, 1933-41	69
	The impact of Hitler	69
	The collapse of the League of Nations, 1935–37	71
	Neville Chamberlain, appeasement and the road to Munich, 1937–38	73
	The road to global war, 1938–41	78
	Document case study	83

Contents

5 The historians and the origins of the Second World War	90
The changing debate	90
The Hitler factor	91
The role of Neville Chamberlain and appeasement	94
French foreign policy and the coming of war	96
Mussolini's role in the origins of the Second World War	97
The Soviet Union and the origins of the Second World War	99
The Paris Peace Settlement and its consequences	102
Economic interpretations	103
The role of ideology	105
The debate over the origins of the Asian-Pacific conflict	107
Select bibliography	116
Chronology	118
Index	122

iv