

Unit 5: The Modern Era, 1750-1914 Overview Reading Guide

Overview

1. What is the name given by historians to the period from 1750-1914?

2. Define “autocatalytic” and explain how this term describes this period in history.

3. For each of the SIX interrelated factors of the Modern Era, briefly **explain each and why it was significant.**

Factor	Description and Significance
1. Revolutionary transformation in human use of energy	
2. Unprecedented global population growth (with fossil fuel rev.)	
3. Industrial Revolution	
4. Revolution in communications and transport	
5. Democratic revolution	
6. Rise of new colonial empires	

4. Write a THESIS statement addressing **THREE of the major developments** during this time. Find the connection between them and show this in your statement.

14. “The Industrial Revolution transformed the ability of humans to reshape the world’s environment.” Explain how each of the following contributed to these changes.

Factor/Change	Explanation and description
1. Deforestation and water pollution	
2. Railroads and steamships	
3. Diffusion of plants, animals, crops	
4. Famines	
5. Colonial economic policies	

Humans and Other Humans

15. What is liberalism, why did it arise, and how did it contribute to the “modern revolution?” Include both economic and political characteristics/beliefs.

16. Describe the first phase of the Industrial Revolution (1750-1840). Include the importance of railroads.

17. How did the world becoming increasingly organized on the basis of international division of labor?

18. What crop supplanted (replaced) sugar as the leading market crop? Why and how did this occur? Identify the major economic impacts and locations in which this shift happened.

19. Why was the Opium war a turning point for European and Asian economic relations and activities? What did the British gain as a result of this war and what did the Chinese “lose?” Identify other nations that were involved with “unequal treaties.”

20. What was the result of the discovery of gold in California and the availability of this precious metal worldwide?

21. Describe how the world economy underwent a second major wave of expansion from 1880-1914.

22. Describe how this time in world history saw major economic consolidation of wealth and power.

23. For each of the following political trends, describe them and their impacts and identify its significance in world history.

Political Trend	Description, impacts and significance
1. Rise of Britain	
2. American Revolution and Atlantic Revolutions	
3. End of rule by divine right and rise of representative gov'ts	
4. Abolition of slavery	
5. Effects of rise of liberal political and economic ideas	

24. How did modern revolutions influence the rise of colonial empires?

25. For each of the following locations explain how the European powers acquired territories.

South Asia (India)	
Africa	
Southeast Asia	

26. How did the local peoples of the above place respond to European colonialism? EXAMPLES? Why were the Europeans able to gain control in these areas?