1750-1900: Age of Revolution & Western Hegemony

Political & Social Revolutions:
- “Atlantic Revolutions” (1775-1848)
  - American Revolution
  - French Revolution
  - Haitian Revolution
  - Latin American Revolutions
  - Revolutions of 1848 in Europe
- Ethnic independence movements from the Ottoman Empire

Industrial Revolution:
- factory system introduced
  - mass production
  - consumer culture
- tremendous demand for natural resources & markets
  - drives imperialism
- traditional social & economic systems challenged
  - capitalism
  - socialism (or even communism) as an alternative to capitalism?
- Some nations selectively westernized to compete with the West…
  - Japan (Meiji Restoration)
  - Russia
  - Ottoman Empire
- Others fell behind…
  - China
  - Middle East
  - Sub-Saharan Africa

Western Imperialism:
- Western European nations, USA, & Japan continue/begin empire-building
- Most of Asia & Africa divided into colonies
- Qing China divided into spheres of influence

By 1914, nearly the entire world was poised for global conflict…