

# The Modern World

*The 20<sup>th</sup> Century since 1945: Promises and Paradoxes (1945–Present)*



Economics and integration

Population and resources

A global society

Contemporary conflicts

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the conflicts and security issues in the post-Cold War world and be able to answer these key questions:

- What happened in Russia and Europe after the Cold War?
- What is terrorism?
- What was the War on Terror and what effects did it have?





After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Cold War, Russia had to adapt to a world where it was no longer a superpower and adjust to capitalism and democracy.

Press the buttons to find out about the presidencies of **Boris Yeltsin** and **Vladimir Putin**.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



How did the former Soviet satellite states adapt?



The reunification of East and West Germany happened very quickly in 1990 under **Helmut Kohl** and Germany's economic strength made it the leading European power. However, creating a strong, stable country was much more difficult.



East Germany was severely underdeveloped economically. It had high unemployment and a low standard of living. The legacy of oppressive rule in East Germany also had to be overcome.

In 1990, it was believed these issues could be resolved quickly, but it took many years. The issues caused rifts between the two parts of Germany struggling to become one.







# Ethnic conflict in Yugoslavia



Yugoslavia was a country in the Balkans consisting of several republics and ethnic groups. During the 1990s, it broke up in a storm of war and ethnic conflict. Watch this animation to find out about ethnic conflict in Yugoslavia.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





# The Persian Gulf War



In 1990, Iraqi ruler **Saddam Hussein** invaded oil-rich Kuwait. His troops then pushed into Saudi Arabia. By conquering these countries, Iraq would control half the world's oil.

To prevent this, U.S. President **George H. W. Bush** called for military intervention. The conflict became known as the **Persian Gulf War**. On January 16, 1991, air attacks were launched on Baghdad, Iraq's capital. In February, UN troops pushed into Kuwait from Saudi Arabia.

The Gulf War ended on February 28, 1991 with the liberation of Kuwait. Afraid of destabilizing Iraq, the U.S. did not pursue Hussein, though the UN issued trade embargos against Iraq.



What effects did the trade embargos have?



As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed, the use of **terrorism** to gain political, economic or religious advantage grew. Terrorism is the use of violence to create fear and achieve goals.

Terrorism has risen to prominence more since the 1970s. The causes of terrorism are complex but groups are often trying to advance these causes:

- nationalism, separatism and independence movements
- protests against governments and political extremism
- religious extremism
- rights of a minority group.



How do terrorists view themselves and their actions?





# Terrorist groups



Many organizations have been engaged in terrorist activity during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Can you match each terrorist organization to the correct description?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



Do you know what state-sponsored terrorism is?




The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 were the deadliest in U.S. history. In the aftermath, the U.S. increased antiterrorism measures and went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Watch this animation to find out about the War on Terror. Press **start** to begin.

**start**






As we move further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the challenges that we face are brought into focus by the study of history.



By learning from the past we can understand the context of the challenges we face and this will help us to overcome them.



Although we have made a lot of progress, the world still has numerous issues to deal with, many rooted in historical events and conflicts.



What are the biggest challenges that we have to face?







The issues facing humanity in the modern world are complex and there are many different viewpoints associated with them. Read these students' opinions on the modern world and decide how much you agree with them. You should justify your answers.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**







Test your understanding of the modern world by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary. Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.  
Press **start** to begin.

start

