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Age of Progress: Was the twentieth century an era of progress? .... 1
Yes. The twentieth century was an era of immense social and technological strides that enriched humanity. (John A. Soares Jr.) ....................................................... 1
No. The twentieth century was an era of immense destruction and dysfunction that harmed humanity far more than helped it. (Julijana Budjevac) ................................................. 6

Americanization: Has Americanization been a significant threat to European cultural life? ................................. 10
Yes. Europeans, mesmerized by American military prowess and economic prosperity, willingly adapted trappings of American culture, compromising their traditional cultural identity. (Aristotle A. Kallis) ................................................. 11
No. The flow of cultural influences is multidirectional, and American culture legitimately enjoys mass popularity in Europe. (Paul du Quenoy) ................................................. 14

Britain as Part of Europe: Does Great Britain have a national identity culturally distinct from Europe? ................. 18
Yes. Great Britain's domestic traditions, geography, and worldview continue to distinguish it from the Continent. (John Wheatley) ................................................. 18
No. Great Britain's shared history and close economic ties with the Continent have made it an inseparable part of Europe. (Paul du Quenoy) ................................................. 20

Class Identities: Were social class identities important factors in twentieth-century European political life? .......... 25
Yes. European politics have been deeply rooted in visible class divisions, and experiments in political leveling have utterly failed. (Phil Giltner) ................................................. 25
No. Class identities were not as important as political ideologies, nationalism, religion, and state power in Europe during the twentieth century. (Dennis Showalter) ................................................. 28

Communists Intellectuals: Were communist intellectuals duped by Soviet propaganda? ................................. 32
Yes. Taken in by Soviet propaganda, Western intellectuals believed in communism because they were generally ignorant of its true costs and personally alienated from their own governments and societies. (Paul du Quenoy) ................................................. 32
No. Western intellectuals were thoroughly convinced that in theory communism offered the best and most promising
solutions for humanity’s problems and that Soviet failures would be overcome. (David Marshall) 37

Cultural Watershed: Was World War I a watershed in European cultural life? 40
Yes. World War I resulted in major changes and innovations in cultural expression. (Phil Giltnier) 40
No. Cultural changes and innovation were already in progress before 1914 and continued to develop after 1918. (Julijana Budjevac and Lawrence Helm) 44

Economic and Political Changes: Did economic change in twentieth-century Europe anticipate political change? 51
Yes. Industrialization and consumerism determined major political events in twentieth-century Europe. (Paul du Quenoy) 51
No. Economic change more frequently resulted from political events. (Dennis Showalter) 54

European Integration: Was the intensified momentum toward European integration after World War II an ideologically driven attempt to limit the power of the nation-states? 57
Yes. The trauma of World War II intensified attempts to adapt a federalist European system, abridging state sovereignty to gain increased security. (Peter Rainow) 58
No. Integration emerged, with significant pressure from the United States, as the answer to Western Europe’s changing strategic requirements and economic needs. (Scott Varho) 59

European Socialism: Did European socialists abandon their Marxist roots to become a centrist political force? 66
Yes. European socialists moved to the Center in the twentieth century largely because they decided to work for their major goals peacefully and democratically. (David Marshall) 66
No. European socialists became moderate but remained true to their Marxist principles. (Paul du Quenoy) 70

Existentialism: Was existentialism the expression of a generally held sense of displacement due to the chaotic conditions of twentieth-century European life? 74
Yes. The sense of meaninglessness and alienation that influenced mid-twentieth-century philosophers derived from a common reaction to the horrors and disappointments of total war, hypocrisy, and social divisions. (John Wheatley) 75
No. Existentialist philosophy was produced by intellectual malcontents who were self-absorbed, were alienated from their societies, and could find no rational purpose in their own lives. (Dennis Showalter) 77

The Far Right After 1945: Are the various post–World War II extreme Right-wing political organizations the descendants of fascism? 80
Yes. Movements such as Jean-Marie Le Pen’s National Front and Jörg Haider’s Freedom Party have perpetuated the tenets of European fascism. (Paul du Quenoy) 80
No. The post-1945 extreme Right arose from grassroots concerns about local problems and in response to new issues such as immigration and European integration. (David Marshall) 84

French and Russian Revolutions: Are there useful comparisons to be made between the French Revolution of 1789 and the Russian Revolution of 1917? 87
Yes. The violent use of state power to achieve order after revolutions displaced incompetent governments, common
to both the French and Russian Revolutions, is a meaningful study with applications to contemporary situations.

(Lawrence H. Davis) ................................................................. 88

No. The French and Russian Revolutions had fundamentally different ideologies, and comparisons between them are inaccurate. (Anton Fedyashin) ......................................................... 91

Genocide: Were twentieth-century genocides the product of age-old hatreds? .............................................................. 95

Yes. The Holocaust and other genocides resulted from ancient ethnic and religious tensions that were facilitated by modern technology. (Kerry Foley) ................................................................. 96

No. Twentieth-century genocides resulted from new ideologies, coldly rational political strategies, and technological developments. (York Norman) ................................................................. 99

German Cultural Figures: Were radical German cultural figures such as Richard Wagner and Friedrich Nietzsche influential in the development of Nazism? ................................................................. 104

Yes. Friedrich Nietzsche’s notions of the “will to power” and the Übermensch (Superman) and Richard Wagner’s anti-Semitism were key components of Nazi ideology. (Ray Hanna) ................................................................. 105

No. A legacy of anti-Semitism, the surge in German nationalism after World War I, and the economic crises of the 1920s and 1930s were the forces that shaped Nazism. Wagner’s music and Nietzsche’s philosophy were tools the Nazis perverted to promote their ideology. (Wendy Maier) ................................................................. 107

German Economic Crises: Was the economic instability of Germany after World War I caused by the victors’ demand for unreasonable reparations? ................................................................. 112

Yes. Germany’s economic troubles were caused by a high reparations burden, harsh trade discrimination, and destructive intrusions into German economic life. (Craig Romm) ................................................................. 113

No. Germany’s economic difficulties were caused by the failed policies of its own government, especially its overreliance on high inflation, heavy borrowing, and fiscal austerity. (York Norman) ................................................................. 116

Great Depression: Was the Great Depression in Europe a product of unrestrained capitalism? ................................................................. 120

Yes. The global financial crisis following the 1929 New York Stock Market crash was caused by risky business practices and unregulated capital markets resulting from unsound fiscal leadership at the national level. (Paul du Quenoy) ................................................................. 120

No. The Great Depression resulted from excessive government intervention in the international financial system and domestic economies. (Dennis Showalter) ................................................................. 123

Green Parties: Have the Green parties had a significant impact on European politics? ................................................................. 128

Yes. European Green movements have gathered major electoral support and seriously influenced national policies on energy, environmental protection, and other issues. (York Norman) ................................................................. 128

No. Green movements have been of only marginal influence; although they raise concerns about government policies, their overall effectiveness has been minimal. (Paul du Quenoy) ................................................................. 132

International Fascism: Was fascism widespread in the 1920s and 1930s? ................................................................. 135

Yes. Significant fascist movements appeared in several European nations besides Germany and Italy. (Catherine Blair) ................................................................. 135
No. Although sympathizers could be found outside of Germany and Italy, few fascist movements achieved power in other European nations. (Sarah Snyder)

International Justice: Has the concept of international justice been effectively adopted in contemporary Europe?
Yes. International justice has been highly effective in punishing and deterring war criminals and other violators of human rights and international law. (Aristotle A. Kallis)

No. International justice has been ineffective, because it rests on arbitrary legal foundations and has failed to punish many of those guilty of international crimes. (Kerry Foley)

Leninism v. Stalinism: Is there a meaningful distinction between Leninism and Stalinism?
Yes. Vladimir Lenin’s regime was much milder and less authoritarian than Josef Stalin’s. (Andrei P. Tsygankov)

No. Although Josef Stalin killed more Russians than Vladimir Lenin, the structures and mentalities of his regime were inherited from Lenin and had broad precedent in the earlier incarnation of the Soviet state. (Paul du Quenoy)

Mass Education and Culture: Did universal education and the promotion of mass culture stem from altruistic motives?
Yes. Universal education and mass culture resulted from the general desire to create an active, educated, and involved citizenry. (Paul du Quenoy)

No. European governments promoted universal education to extend control over their citizenry by systematically instilling basic beliefs that served the purposes of the state. (Dennis Showalter)

Nationalism: Was nationalism consistently important in Europe during the twentieth century?
Yes. Nationalism had a profound impact on European political, cultural, and economic developments throughout the twentieth century. (York Norman)

No. By the late twentieth century, nationalism had lost its importance as the countries of Europe engaged in greater economic and political cooperation. (Matthew Frank)

Nazism and Communism: Were there ideological similarities between Nazism and Soviet communism?
Yes. Nazism and Soviet communism converged in many significant ways, including their philosophical origins and the ways in which they impacted on government and society. (Julijana Budjevac and Lawrence Helm)

No. Nazism and Soviet communism were widely divergent ideologies that had fundamentally different origins and significantly dissimilar effects. (Paul du Quenoy)

Origins of Fascism: Was fascism an immediate product of World War I?
Yes. Fascism was an authoritarian Right-wing reaction to the radical leftist movements that arose in the turmoil caused by World War I. (David E. Marshall)

No. Although it only coalesced and developed into a mass political movement after World War I, fascism developed from strains of thought that can be traced throughout Western civilization. (York Norman)

Pacifism: Was pacifism an important factor in diplomacy between the two world wars?
Yes. Pacifists exerted a major influence over governments, societies, and diplomacy in the interwar period. (Phil Giltner) .......................................................... 189

No. Though popular, pacifism was a relatively weak political force that had little impact on decision making and ultimately failed to stop World War II. (Craig Romm) ............................... 193

Public Intellectuals: Did the public intellectual have an influential role in twentieth-century European thought? ................................. 196
Yes. Public intellectuals substantively shaped the political and social debates of modern Europe. (Jonathan Judaken) ................................. 197
No. In an age of mass politics, mass media, and professional specialization, the public intellectual ceased to exercise any serious political influence. (Christopher E. Mauriello) .......................... 201

Public Opinion: Was public opinion influential in twentieth-century political decisions? ................................................................. 206
Yes. In an age of democratic politics and mass information, public opinion was an essential factor in political decision making. (Paul du Quenoy) ................................................................. 206
No. Politicians, skillful at manipulating public opinion, more frequently used it as an excuse for their policies than as a guiding force. (Dennis Showalter) ......................................................... 209

Punishing Former Communists: Were there justifiable reasons for the failure to prosecute former communist leaders for criminal abuse of power? ................................................. 213
Yes. In the nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, deep examinations of the past and the prosecution of former communist leaders have been seen as stumbling blocks to national reconciliation and stable political transitions. (Dennis Showalter) ................................................................. 214
No. Most former communists have escaped punishment because they used their continuing political influence to receive legal immunity and to obscure or conceal the records of what happened under the regimes they served. (Paul du Quenoy) ................................................................. 216

Russia as Part of the West: Is Russia part of the West? ............... 222
Yes. Despite the divergences of Russia’s remote past, in modern times Russia has unequivocally become a Western state and a fully integrated part of Europe. (David Goldfrank) ................................................................. 222
No. What has been called Russia’s Westernization was only a series of superficialities that have been unable to mask distinctly un-European patterns of culture, politics, tradition, and interests. (David Goldfrank) ................................................................. 226

Short Twentieth Century: Is it appropriate to view the period 1914 to 1991 as a “short twentieth century”? ................................. 228
Yes. The outbreak of World War I and the collapse of the Soviet Union mark a distinct historical period during which colonialism and empire building gave way to liberal democracy and capitalism. (York Norman) ................................................................. 228
No. Viewing the period 1914 to 1991 as a short twentieth century ignores important continuities in European warfare, diplomacy, and politics. (Paul du Quenoy) ................................................................. 231

Spanish Civil War: Was the Spanish Civil War a struggle to safeguard democracy from the threat of fascist tyranny? ......................... 234
Yes. While the causes were complex, the Spanish Civil War was reduced to an ideological struggle between the Left and the Right. (Lisa Abend) ................................................................. 235
No. The Spanish Civil War resulted from the Nationalists' attempt to impose order on a country paralyzed by anarchy and to replace a Republican government directed by communists who were just as tyrannical as the fascists. *(Catherine Blair)*

Stalin's Economic Policies: Was Josef Stalin's reorganization of the Soviet economy a successful endeavor?  
Yes. Though brutal, Stalin's crash program of industrialization saved the U.S.S.R. from German conquest in World War II and transformed it into a superpower thereafter. *(Paul du Quenoy)*

No. Stalin sacrificed agriculture to industry and free enterprise to nationalism. In the process he starved millions of his people to death and created a dysfunctional economy that was bound to fail. *(Paul du Quenoy)*

Thought and Culture: Was the modernist revolt against rationalism in Europe bolstered by scientific discovery?  
Yes. New scientific and pseudoscientific inquiries that demonstrated the significance of random occurrence in nature and the role of the subconscious in human behavior propelled the movement against realism and rationalism. *(Paul du Quenoy)*

No. Modernism was an expression of individuality in reaction to the stultifying standardization of life, government, and society. *(Catherine Blair)*

Ukrainian Famine: Was the Ukrainian famine of 1932–1933 caused by genocidal government policies?  
Yes. Josef Stalin deliberately targeted the Ukrainian people for mass destruction and used starvation as his weapon. *(Paul du Quenoy)*

No. Although many Ukrainians died of starvation, there was no consistent plan to punish them collectively, and many members of other nationalities in the Soviet Union also died in the famine. *(John Pawl)*

Welfare State: Has the welfare state been effective?  
Yes. Comprehensive state-sponsored social welfare programs and economic intervention have provided necessary remedies for the needs of European societies. *(Phil Giltner)*

No. The welfare state has long been an unwieldy and counterproductive burden that most European nations can no longer afford. *(Craig Romm)*

Women: Has the emancipation of women in the twentieth century radically changed European social and political life?  
Yes. The inclusion of women into electorates, political parties, and professions has reordered social and political priorities. *(David J. Ulbrich)*

No. Most women who entered public life were moderates who advocated mainstream positions on political and social issues. *(John Pawl)*