Schedule for The Thirty Years War of the 20th Century

Greetings:

Below you will find the syllabus for “The Thirty Years War of the 20th Century (1914-45). It’s largely based on the class that I gave my sophomores at Uni High. However, given the amount of material involved, I realize this is a very ambitious schedule, and that doesn’t include the questions and discussions that will occur. I’m already planning on a sequel in the Spring that will pick up wherever we leave off here and cover the Cold War.

The primary text is The Flow of History, a 1760 page pdf I developed during my 42 years at Uni High. (Don’t worry. We’ll only be using part of it.) It should be available on line from OLLI by the first day of class. If you can’t wait, it’s available at www.TeachersPayTeachers.com. Be aware this isn’t a traditional book, but a sort of ebook consisting of a series of 250 world history flowcharts that are hyperlinked to one another and accompanying readings. The idea of the flowcharts is to give a graphic vision of the interlocking forces and events of history, which often connect across space and time in a non-linear fashion. There’s a hyperlink at the beginning to an introduction on how to use it.

A word about the title of the course. Much like the Thirty Years War of the 17th century (1618-48), one can view the 30 year period of 1914-45 as a somewhat cohesive period, both of them centered on Germany, although in the 1600s, Germany was more the victim, while in the 1900s it was more the protagonist, caught up in what I like to call the German Revolution (1918-91).

The proposed schedule:

9/16-Causes of World War I; Flow of History (FoH) chapter 16.1

9/23 - World War I; FoH chapter 16.

9/30- WWI’s results; FoH chapter 16.3

10/7- Overview of the Russian Revolution; FoH chapter 16.5

10/14- Stalin slide show and The "Roaring 20's" & the stock market crash; FoH chapter 16.6

10/21- The Great Depression and the rise of Fascism in Italy: Mussolini; FoH chapter 16.7 and 16.8

10/28)- The Rise of Hitler; FoH chapter 16.9 and 20th century art (if time)

11/4)- The road to WW II; FoH chapter 16.10 and World War II in Europe; FoH chapter 16.11

I’m looking forward to this new chapter in my life of teaching adults who are interested in learning how we all got here and where we may be going.