

ΓΙΩΡΓΟΣ ΜΑΡΓΑΡΙΤΗΣ

Η Ευρώπη στον 20ό αιώνα



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Abstract

This textbook traces the history of Europe in the 20th century - a European century. In the 19th century the European Powers shaped the world. It was the end of a long procedure. Europe experienced a continuous rise in the previous centuries. A rise that progressively differentiated him from all the rest of the human entities of the world. In the background of its rise was the development, and eventually the adoption and dominance, of the most radical mode of production that humanity had ever known: capitalism. Europe, that is the main powers of the continent, became the cradle of this new mode of production. During the 19th century, successive industrial revolutions gave to the European system enormous power. With it he conquered the oceans and, through them, the whole world. It was what we called the period of late colonization, colonialism. Underlying the cataclysmic rush is a need: the violent imposition of the capitalist mode of production

- and the accompanying civilization - on the entire planet. Europe's triumph brought with it the seeds of decay. Colonialism had overwhelmingly benefited Britain, France while the "new" powers, Germany and Italy, felt that European triumph did not include them. In the east there was the combustible matter: the three anachronistic empires, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian, Russian, extremely vulnerable to the currents of the times. Their disintegration created a vacuum around which a multitude of claimants crowded. Starting from the developments in the Ottoman area, Belle Epoque's Europe was led to the First World War. This war did not settle European affairs. A second, even more devastating one did not provide solutions. European power had now entered a period of weakening and exit from the central world political scene. The Cold War, decolonization, and a unification attempt with defensive characteristics closed the "European" twentieth century.

