



Chapter 1

Overview: the modern world and
Australia (1918–present)



The inter-war years

- World War I had a devastating global impact.
- World War I brought about the end to the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires.
- The strains of war brought revolution to Russia, with the removal of the Tsar and the beginning of a communist regime.



The inter-war years (cont.)

- The Treaty of Versailles aimed to avoid any such conflict occurring again.
- Despite this, the inter-war years (1918–39), saw civil war in Spain, Japanese invasion of China, Italian attacks in Africa and German expansion in Europe.



The Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty of Versailles was negotiated between January and June 1919, by 27 nations from around the world.
- It set out punitive terms for Germany, including the 'war guilt clause', monetary reparations, reduction in Germany's armed forces and confiscation of land.
- President Wilson of the USA aimed to apply his 14 Point Plan for peace, but he was opposed by the French.



The roaring twenties

- This was a period when lifestyles changed and technology boomed.
- Consumer goods became increasingly desirable and the film industry expanded.
- Modernism influenced art, literature and architecture.
- Women insisted on greater independence, jazz music flourished and new fashions and dances evolved.



The Great Depression

- The Great Depression came after years of industrial and economic boom.
- The Wall St Crash of 1929 saw share prices plummet and the stock market collapse; leading to a banking crisis.
- Industrial production slowed and widespread unemployment resulted.
- In Australia, unemployment was also rife. Many ‘swagmen’ headed to the outback in search of work.



The United Nations

- The UN was set up in 1945 with the aim of maintaining peace and security around the world.
- The UN oversees the work of the World Health Organization, (WHO) International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- The UN Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The UN leads numerous peacekeeping missions including bringing peace in Yugoslavia, Mozambique and East Timor.



Civil rights

- Throughout the twentieth century groups have fought for political rights, from Algeria to Russia and Ireland to South Africa.
- The US Civil Rights Movement is perhaps the most famous for its fight against segregation.
- Aboriginal rights group the Progressive Association formed.
- Advances were made in the twentieth century with the 1967 referendum, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976*, and the Mabo decision in 1992.



Women's liberation movement

- The 'First Wave' feminist movement focused on issues of equality and enfranchisement.
- The 'Second Wave' of the 1960s and '70s expanded the issues to include domestic violence, homosexual rights and rape.
- Books by Friedan, Greer and Morgan publicised the issues.
- The Aboriginal Women's Movement struggled against racial issues.



The Cold War

- The Soviet Union created a communist bloc in Eastern Europe after World War II.
- The Cold War was a global ‘arms race’ for nuclear weapons between the superpowers of the USA and Soviet Union.
- Though Allies in World War II, directly after the war the two fought for supremacy.



The Cold War (cont.)

- The Cold War gets its name from the fact no direct fighting took place between the USA and the Soviet Union.
- In 1947, US President Truman announced the Truman Doctrine, offering support to nations threatened by communism.



The Cold War: Korea and Vietnam

- In 1950, communist North Korea invaded capitalist South Korea. The USA led a UN coalition that stepped in to protect South Korea.
- After three years, the war ended in stalemate.
- In 1965, the USA and Australia committed troops to Vietnam to protect South Vietnam from the communist north.
- The coalition failed and evacuated Vietnam in 1975.



End of the Cold War

- The Cold War came to an end in 1989.
- Following the new economic and political policies of the Soviet Union leader Gorbachev, there was revolution in many Eastern European countries of the former communist bloc.
- Most symbolically, the Berlin Wall was torn down in November 1989.





Post-Cold War

- In 1991, Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Kuwait.
- A UN coalition forced the removal of Iraqi forces.
- In 2001, al Qaeda carried out a series of shocking attacks on the USA, including the crashing of commercial airliners into the World Trade Center in New York City.
- In retaliation for the 2001 attacks, the USA led a UN force into Afghanistan, the base of the terrorist organisation.
- The USA, joined by Australia and other allies, extended this war on terrorism in 2003 by invading Iraq.



Technology

- Technology has developed dramatically since World War I.
- At home and at work, society has come to depend on technology.
- The growth in production and need for supplies has put pressure on the planet.



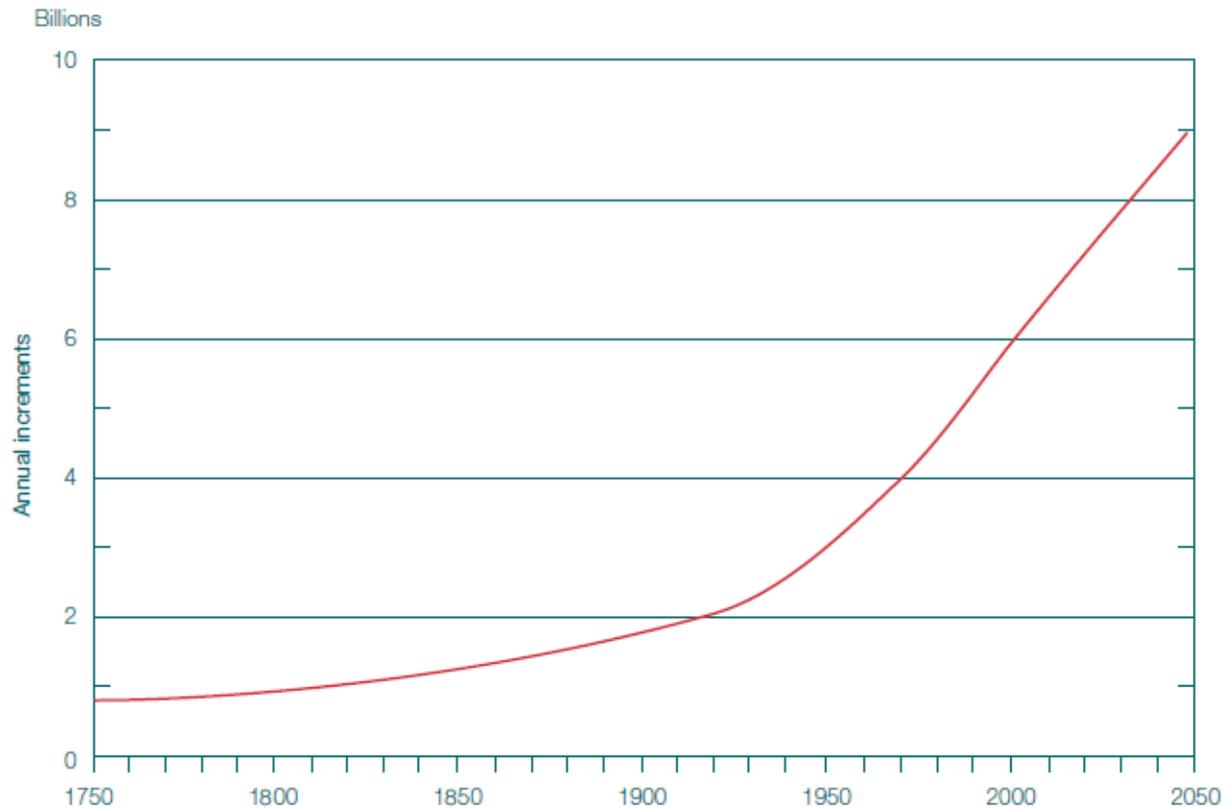


Population

- Between 1987 and 2011 the world's population has increased from 5 billion to 7 billion.
- This has been partly due to the advances in public health.
- Cultural factors also shape population growth. In China there is a heavy leaning towards male children, which has led to large numbers of female babies being abandoned.



Population (cont.)





Environment

- There has been much debate on whether the population growth of the twentieth century is sustainable.
- People in underdeveloped areas are multiplying faster, but those in more developed areas have a much greater carbon footprint.
- Organisations such as the Wilderness Preservation Society were set up in Australia to manage and save spaces of environmental value.



Environment (cont.)

- *Limits to Growth* explained how technological advances, economic expansion and population growth was not sustainable.
- The OPEC crisis of 1973 highlighted the need for renewable energy.

