

Thank you for reading this excerpt of *7 Seminal Moments in Modern Global Security History*.

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Preface

Welcome to the countdown of *7 Seminal Moments in Modern Global Security History*.

Each of the seven events in the 20th and 21st century has altered the course of human history.

One way or another, freedom was impacted. You probably have your own list. A careful weighing of facts and clear-eyed view of world history are persuasive in creating the list of top seven moments in global security history.

Historians, international affairs and security officials may quibble with the rankings, but these seven events are undeniably important to the fabric of modern history for their significant impact in global security affairs.

Introduction

Thucydides, the Ancient Greek historian of the fifth century B.C., is widely considered the father of realism in international relations.

The following monograph, *7 Seminal Moments in Modern Global Security History*, exhibits the pitfalls of forgetting that it is power in the international system that really matters.

These seven key events in the modern era are inflection points whose impact rippled for some time after their occurrence.

In some instances, their toxic effects continue to negatively impact global security.

Some of these seminal moments continue to shape – for better and for worse – the current global security environment.

These seven strategic moments are ranked in reverse order according to their impact in the course of world history:

Chapter One: *Treaty of Versailles (VII)* – The punitive Treaty of Versailles officially ended World War I and *indirectly* started the drive to World War II.

Chapter Two: *Russian Revolution (VI)* – This revolution led to the establishment of one of the most murderous regimes in world history that dominated the last half of the twentieth century.

Chapter Three: *Iranian Revolution (V)* – This revolution replaced a secular dictatorship with an Islamic one and its dire impact continues today.

Chapter Four: *Explosion of A-Bombs (IV)* – The War in the Pacific in World War II was cut short, but another dangerous chapter in warfare opened.

Chapter Five: *End of Cold War without Nuclear War (III)* – In two instances, the United States and Soviet Union almost contemplated a nuclear exchange, but in the end the latter collapsed from exhaustion.

Chapter Six: *September 11, 2001 (II)* – The opening salvo in the twentieth-first century from Islamic fascism marked a turning point in world history.

Chapter Seven: *Decay of US-Led Global Order (I)* – As evidenced from a sweep of human history, no country is guaranteed an easy existence, especially when its leaders just give up its advantages.

Read on and enjoy an analysis of each event.

Then contemplate the severity of each event and how the global security environment was shaped thereafter.

#7 - The Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles, signed on June 28, 1919, ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers. Separate treaties were signed with each of the losing Central Powers.

The date is significant – exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand – the spark in the “Balkan tinderbox” that set off World War I.

The Treaty that ironically concluded the “War to End All Wars” sowed the seeds for even a greater conflagration, World War II, twenty years later.

However, it would be a mistake to blame Versailles for directly causing the Second World War.

Background

A common take on the Treaty is that the victors provoked German hostility by pursuing an unnecessarily punitive settlement and thus arrived the Nazis.

Adolf Hitler, himself a soldier in the Great War, indeed capitalized on the war guilt ([article 231](#)) and reparation clauses in the Treaty that went unratified by the United States (because of [Senate opposition to the League of Nations](#)).

While the Treaty created fertile ground for a murderous maniacal demigod like Hitler, World War 2 broke out principally because he wanted war right from the start to fulfill his hateful vision.

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