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Marist High School  
Eugene, Oregon  
Truman Library "Between the Wars" Lesson Plan  
August 10, 2009

Course: Advanced Placement European History (would also be suitable for American history courses).

Assignment: In an essay of 600 to 1,000 words, compare and contrast the below articles' analysis of the extent to which the Treaty of Versailles led to the coming of World War II:

Winston S. Churchill, *The Second World War: The Gathering Storm*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1948. Excerpt, "The Follies of the Victors," pp. 3-18.

John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*. New York: Harcourt, 1920. Excerpt, "The Treaty Dooms Germany to Poverty and Starvation."

A.J.P. Taylor, *The Origins of the Second World War*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Penguin Books, 1991. Excerpt, "The Legacy of the First World War," pp.41-65.

Margaret MacMillan, *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World*. New York: Random House, 2001. Excerpt, "The Hall of Mirrors," pp. 478-83.

Evaluation:

Half of the essay grade (30 of 60 points) will be on mechanics:

- Thesis and conclusion (6 points)
- Grammar and punctuation (6 points)
- Organization and structure (18 points)

Half (30 of 60 points) of the essay grade will be based on the essay's accurate analysis of differing historical interpretations of the extent to which the Treaty of Versailles did or did not lead to World War II. Grading for analysis will be as follows:

A essay: Essay acknowledges nuances of historical interpretations (e.g. Treaty of Versailles was not as crippling as once believed but a boon to Nazi propaganda; treaty reflects traditional balance-of-power politics).

B essay: Essay acknowledges differing interpretations in the articles without picking up on nuances.

C essay: Analysis interprets one article correctly but not the other or analysis attempts to state the articles have the same point of view.

D or F essay: Reflects incomplete or inaccurate interpretation of articles.