

Age of Uncertainty
World History
Kienast

The world after World War I was thrown into a state of uncertainty and anxiety

Reasons for uncertainty?

horrors of war, lost faith in establishment/institutions like democratic governments, and the failure of the Treaty of Versailles to prevent the next war.

Became a philosophy in the West (especially Britain and France, but NOT Germany and Italy)

Reflected by writers, artists, and philosophers

Writers T.S. Eliot (1888-1965), Ernest Hemingway, and Ezra Pound were all part of a “**Lost Generation**” who were uncertain about the future

Surrealism and cubism were the most well-known early 20th century art forms
Both were extreme art forms that reflected the uncertainty of the time

Philosophy of **Friedrich Nietzsche** became popular in Europe

Nietzsche argued that ancient values of strength, pride, and assertiveness were more important than reason and democracy

Argued that struggle makes people stronger

Germany and Italy were different: adopted Nietzsche’s ideas and rise of fascism

Germany and Italy impacted: change in philosophy from democratic to anti-democratic, Enlightenment to restrictive government (fascism)

Germany and Italy became aggressive