



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.6.3**

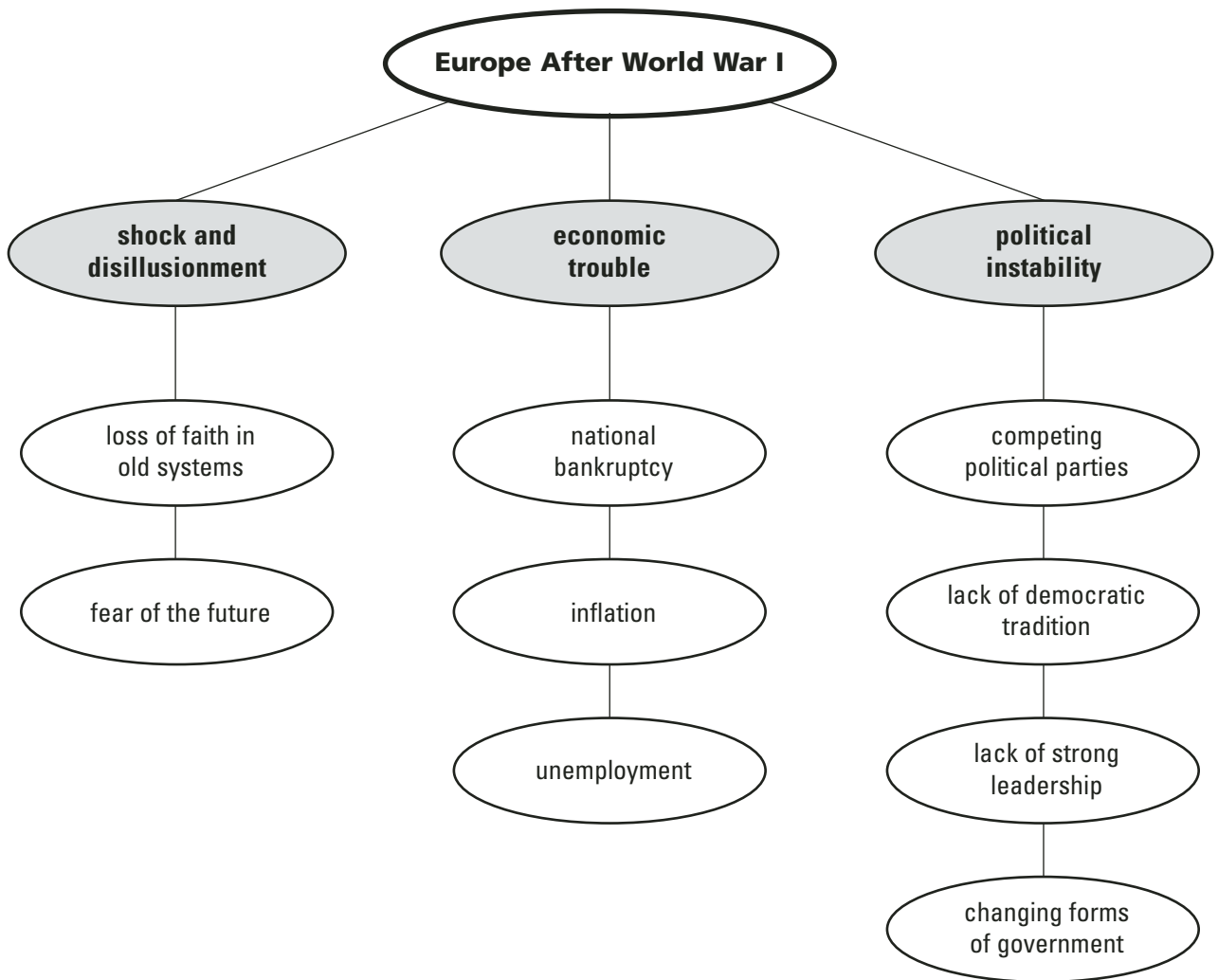
## *Postwar Disillusionment in Europe*

**Specific Objective:** Understand the widespread disillusionment with prewar institutions, authorities, and values that resulted in a void that was later filled by totalitarians.

**Read the summary and cluster diagram to answer questions on the next page.**

World War I shook the economic and political foundations of Europe. The war left nearly every major nation bankrupt and, after centuries of rule by kings, brought an end to the continent's last great empires.

The diagram shows some of the troubles facing postwar Europe. In several countries, these troubles paved the way for the rise of **totalitarian** government—a government which takes total control over nearly every aspect of people's lives.





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## *Postwar Disillusionment in Europe*

**Directions:** Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

**1 Which statement *best* describes national economies in Europe after World War I?**

- A In most areas, wartime industry brought significant economic gains.
- B Western Europe remained economically strong, but the economies of eastern and southern Europe were devastated.
- C Almost all the major economies were bankrupt.
- D Although the war battered most European economies, with the help of wartime reparations paid by Germany, they soon rebounded.

**2 By the end of World War I, what political tradition had essentially ended in Europe?**

- A rule by the old empires
- B totalitarian government
- C the democratic tradition
- D competition among political parties

**3 Which generalization is *true* of political life in postwar Europe?**

- A People clung to old forms of government.
- B Strong leadership made the public anxious.
- C Many countries had no organized political parties.
- D Changing forms of government created a sense of insecurity.

Use the quotation to answer questions 4 and 5.

“It is the State which educates its citizens in civic virtue, gives them a consciousness of their mission, and welds them into unity.”

—Benito Mussolini, from *The Social and Political Doctrines of Contemporary Europe*,  
edited by Michael Oakeshott

**4 In the quotation, what post-World War I problem is Italian dictator Benito Mussolini *most likely* addressing?**

- A economic change
- B a sense of loss
- C weak political systems
- D unemployment

**5 In the quotation, what is most central to Mussolini’s solution to political turmoil?**

- A state-run education
- B individual opinions
- C shared wealth
- D a leader’s moral choices