IB HL History

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Most sections in this lesson are taken from articles published in Paret, Peter, ed. Makers of Modern Strategy. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. Authors and titles of specific articles are given in the headings. Page references within the outline, unless specifically indicated, all come from this work

I. "Engels and Marx on Revolution, War, and the Army in Society," Sigmund Neumann and Mark von Hagen

   a. Marx and Engels among the ancestors of modern total war
      i. Understood the fourfold nature of modern war:
         (1) Diplomacy
         (2) Economics
         (3) Psychology
         (4) Military
   
   b. Engels' analyses of Revolution of 1848 are brilliant
      i. Do not start an insurrection unless prepared to face the consequences
      ii. Once begun, always maintain the offensive and initiative
      iii. Patience and timing are indispensable for strategy

   c. Class struggle and war
      i. Societies exist only in relative civil peace between classes
      ii. During a crisis, class struggles may be projected internationally, when ruling elites declare war on each other
      iii. War may place too great a strain on the social fabric, catalyzing a revolution

   d. Engels and the Army
      i. Development of the army essential for social growth
         (1) Favored conscription for strongest defense
         (2) Conscription also transforms the nature of the army away from long-serving professionals
      ii. Investigated the impact of technological change on military organization and success
      iii. Understood the interpenetration of political and military factors, of civilian and military spheres


   a. Lenin impressed with Clausewitz' analysis of interaction of politics and
war
i. Crisis of Brest-Litovsk
   (1) Bukharin wished to continue fighting at all costs, believing it would lead to a world wide revolution
   (2) Lenin demanded an immediate, if humiliating, peace in order to save the gains of Socialism in Russia

b. Early Red Army
   i. Lenin wanted a militia--a citizens' volunteer army
   ii. Leadership had to be entrusted to former Czarist officers due to lack of expertise among citizens
      (1) Necessary therefore to politicize and control the Red Army (hence the political commissars)
      (2) Years elapsed before the Red Army achieved both technically competent and communist officers
 iii. Leon Trotsky is the early War Commissar and molds this army
      (1) Mikhail Tukhachevsky, a radical, tries to export revolution to Poland by the bayonet
      (2) Effort fails, but the idea of a regular army whose purpose is to export revolution lasts

c. Frunze-Trotsky debates
   i. M.V. Frunze called for a regular army drawn from the masses
      (1) Mass warfare: total mobilization of the state
      (2) Cadre army, not a militia
      (3) Primacy of the offensive over the defensive
      (4) Centrality of maneuver
      (5) Pursuit of technical competence and training
      (6) Whole country should be prepared for war, including militarization of key industries and centralization of military authority
 ii. Trotsky called for
      (1) Militia, ie. an army of the masses
      (2) Points to the effectiveness of maneuver under Suvorov, who led armies of serfs
      (3) Trotsky's campaign, while biting, was essentially negative; he had no clear counter-proposal, and he ultimately loses the debate
 iii. "Marxism as a dynamic theory of historical progress saw defense only as a temporary condition until the offense could be seized." (657)
 iv. "Soviet political doctrine is explicitly defensive, but Soviet military strategy is undeniably offensive, even preemptive in character." (658, emphasis added)
d. Stalin  
   i. "Socialism in one country" protect the Soviet revolution  
   ii. "Trotsky and others argued that to build the Soviet state in the  
       absence of world revolution would require a degree of coercion and  
       militarization that would create dictatorship." (660)  
   iii. Stalin assumes that Russia will be attacked by capitalism, and  
       wants a ring of "brother states"  
       (1) What is good for the Soviet Union is good for the  
           proletarian revolution  
       (2) Seeds of Soviet policy following Yalta can be seen in the  
           early 1930s  
iv. "Socialism in one country" provides a political rationale for Frunze  
    to prepare the whole nation for war  
v. Tukhachevsky developed ideas on how diplomacy could serve  
    military objectives  
    (1) Ironically, Stalin purges Tukhachevsky on the eve of the  
        Second World War, along with 60% of the commanders at division  
        level or higher  
vi. Political and military expertise must be united in order to plan and  
    manage a war  
vii. By 1932, the Soviet Union had been launched on a path of military  
    industrialization  

e. World War II  
   i. Victory of the whole nation  
   ii. Strategic dispersal of industry, one of Tukhachevsky's ideas,  
       crucial to ultimate victory  
   iii. Partisan warfare successful  
iv. Soviet command leadership improved steadily  
v. Soviets, after Stalingrad, relied on surprise, maneuver, and  
    overwhelming quantitative superiority to annihilate the enemy  
vi. Above all, a war of attrition between two societies  

f. Modern Thought  
   i. Combined armed (including nuclear) operations emphasized  
   ii. Maneuver and surprise emphasized  
   iii. military strategy is clearly offensive  
   iv. Society is to be prepared for continuous struggle  
   (1) As of this writing, the internal reforms of Gorbachev may  
       change that basic structure of Soviet society, and hence, the  
       assumptions of future Soviet military thought