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World civilization I

- The COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021) was a global health emergency that infected over 200 million people and killed over 4 million worldwide. It also had profound impacts on the economy, society, and politics of many countries, especially the United States.

- The pandemic caused widespread unemployment, poverty, and inequality, as well as disruptions to education, travel, and entertainment. It also exposed the weaknesses and strengths of different health systems and social safety nets.

- The pandemic also sparked debates and controversies over the role and responsibility of the government, the media, and the public in responding to the crisis. Issues such as mask wearing, social distancing, lockdowns, testing, tracing, vaccines, and treatments became politicized and polarized.

- The pandemic also highlighted the importance of science, expertise, and cooperation in addressing complex and uncertain challenges. It also revealed the need for more empathy, solidarity, and resilience in facing adversity and loss.

- The storming of the U.S. Capitol (January 6, 2021) was a violent insurrection that attempted to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. It was incited by former President Donald Trump and his supporters who refused to accept his defeat to Joe Biden.

- The storming of the Capitol was an unprecedented assault on American democracy and its institutions. It endangered the lives of lawmakers, staff, journalists, and police officers who were inside the building. It also disrupted the certification of the electoral votes by Congress.

- The storming of the Capitol also exposed the deep divisions and conflicts within American society. It showed the radicalization and mobilization of some segments of the population who believed in conspiracy theories and false claims of election fraud. It also showed the failures and biases of some law enforcement agencies who were unprepared or complicit in the attack.

- The storming of the Capitol also challenged and reaffirmed the core values of America. It provoked outrage and condemnation from most Americans and leaders across the political spectrum. It also inspired acts of courage and patriotism from those who defended and restored order and democracy.