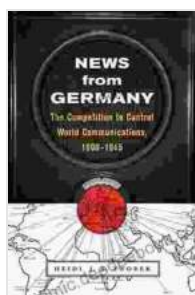


# The Competition To Control World Communications 1900 1945 Harvard Historical Studies

As communications technologies advanced rapidly in the early 20th century, competing powers struggled to control them, shaping the course of global politics and warfare.

The period from 1900 to 1945 witnessed a technological revolution in communications that transformed the way people and nations interacted. The telegraph, telephone, and radio all came of age during this period, and their impact on global politics and warfare was profound.



## News from Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications, 1900–1945 (Harvard historical studies ; Book 190) by Heidi J. S. Tworek

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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As these new technologies emerged, competing powers sought to gain control of them, recognizing their strategic importance. This competition played a major role in shaping the course of the 20th century.

## **The Telegraph**

The telegraph was the first major communications technology to have a global impact. Invented in the early 19th century, it allowed for near-instantaneous communication over long distances. This had a profound impact on diplomacy, trade, and warfare.

The British were quick to recognize the strategic importance of the telegraph. In the 1850s, they began to lay telegraph cables around the world, connecting their far-flung empire. Other powers, such as France, Germany, and the United States, soon followed suit.

By the end of the 19th century, the world was crisscrossed by a network of telegraph cables. This network gave the British a significant advantage in global communications. They could quickly and easily send messages to their colonies and allies, while other powers had to rely on slower and less reliable methods of communication.

## **The Telephone**

The telephone was invented in the late 19th century, and it quickly became a major force in global communications. The telephone allowed for real-time voice communication over long distances, which was a significant improvement over the telegraph.

The United States was the first country to develop a nationwide telephone network. By the early 20th century, the United States had the most advanced telephone system in the world. This gave the United States a significant advantage in business and diplomacy.

Other powers, such as Britain, France, and Germany, soon followed the United States' lead in developing their own telephone networks. However, the United States remained the leader in telephone technology throughout the early 20th century.

## **The Radio**

The radio was invented in the early 20th century, and it quickly became the most important communications technology in the world. The radio allowed for real-time voice and data communication over long distances, and it was not dependent on cables or wires.

The United States was the first country to develop a nationwide radio network. By the late 1920s, the United States had the most advanced radio system in the world. This gave the United States a significant advantage in propaganda and warfare.

Other powers, such as Britain, France, and Germany, soon followed the United States' lead in developing their own radio networks. However, the United States remained the leader in radio technology throughout the early 20th century.

## **The Competition for Control**

As communications technologies advanced rapidly in the early 20th century, competing powers struggled to gain control of them. This competition played a major role in shaping the course of global politics and warfare.

The British were the first power to recognize the strategic importance of communications technologies. They used their control of the telegraph

network to maintain their global empire. However, the United States soon emerged as a major challenger to British dominance in communications.

The United States' lead in telephone and radio technology gave them a significant advantage in business, diplomacy, and warfare. The United States used their control of these technologies to promote their own interests and to challenge the British Empire.

The competition for control of communications technologies intensified in the lead-up to World War II. Both the Axis and Allied powers recognized the importance of these technologies in the war effort. The Axis powers sought to use communications technologies to spread propaganda and to coordinate their military operations. The Allied powers sought to use communications technologies to counter Axis propaganda and to disrupt Axis military operations.

The Allied powers ultimately prevailed in World War II, and they gained control of the world's communications networks. The United States emerged from the war as the world's leading power in communications technology.

The competition to control world communications in the period from 1900 to 1945 had a profound impact on the course of global politics and warfare. The development of new communications technologies, such as the telegraph, telephone, and radio, transformed the way people and nations interacted. Competing powers sought to gain control of these technologies, recognizing their strategic importance. This competition played a major role in shaping the outcome of World War II and the Cold War that followed.

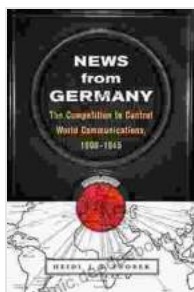
The legacy of this competition can still be seen today. The United States remains the world's leading power in communications technology, and it continues to use this technology to promote its own interests and to shape the global order.

## Further Reading

- The Competition To Control World Communications 1900 1945  
Harvard Historical Studies
- The Cable and the Satellite: The History of Global Telecommunications
- The Cambridge History of Telecommunications

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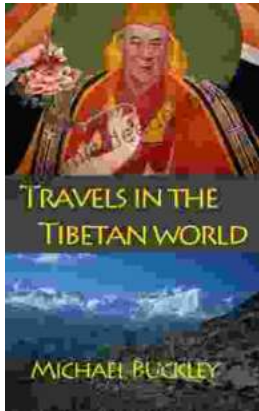


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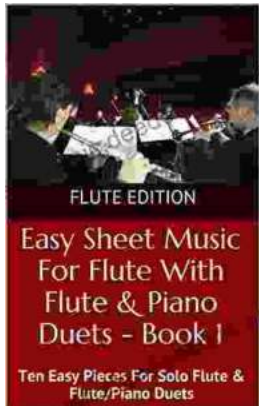
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