

WORLD WAR 1

Introduction

World War 1 refers to the first most disastrous war that was fought on a global scale from 1914 - 1918. It was fought between Britain, France, Russia, USA, Italy and their allies against Germany, Austria- Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria and their allies on the other hand. The war was fought on land, in the air, on the sea, under and above the sea by both soldiers and civilians.

The World War was the climax of international tension that had been building up in Europe after the unifications of Germany and Italy. Such tension found a line of weakness in the Balkans to explode into a global war. Bismarck prophesized it when he told a friend that; **I shall not see the World War but you Will, it will start from the near east**

History proved him a true prophet when the First World War was sparked off after the assassination of France Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne and his wife Sophia in Sarajevo by a Bosnian on 28th June 1914. Austria issued an ultimatum which Serbia was to reply within 48hours. However, Serbia failed to meet all the conditions and Austria declared war against Serbia on 28th July 1914. Other powers joined the conflict which amplified (magnified) it into a European war and finally a World War. The war ended with the defeat and subsequent surrender of Germany in 1918.

Attachments

No attachments



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CAUSES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The causes of the First World War are so complex and intertwined that no single factor can be held absolutely responsible for this catastrophic event. Even the Sarajevo double murder that sparked off the war was itself a result of accumulated tension that had piled up in Europe for a long time. It is therefore logical that the causes of the war be traced from events that created such tensions and made the outbreak of the war inevitable be examined.

1. ALLIANCE SYSTEM.

After the Franco-Prussian war, Bismarck started the alliance system to isolate France and make it difficult for her to wage a successful war of revenge against Germany. During his lifetime, France was effectively isolated and the Alliance system became an instrument of peace in Europe. However, after his resignation (1890) the alliance system and European peace were left in the hands of young, inexperienced and aggressive men like Kaiser William II which drove Germany and the world to the First World War. A number of scholars have asserted that alliance system was primarily responsible for the outbreak of the First World War. By 1914, alliance system had divided Europe into two hostile and antagonistic camps.

The two camps were the German centered triple alliance (1882) that had Austria - Hungary and Italy and the Triple entente (1907), which comprised of Britain, France, Russia and Japan as the main allies. These contributed to the catastrophe of 1914 in a number of ways.

i) It grouped the major world powers into two hostile and antagonistic camps that became fighting camps.

By 1914 there was intensive hatred, jealousy, fear and rivalry between the two camps, which climaxed in the Sarajevo assassination to spark the war.

ii) Without the alliance system, the Sarajevo incident would have remained a localised conflict between Austria and Serbia. But Sarajevo was the only place where the triple alliance and triple entente collided with all their resources, emotions and hostilities. For instance, the triple alliance made Germany to declare war on Russia and France instead of Serbia. This amplified the Austro-Serbian conflict into a global war.

iii) The dual alliance of 1879 and triple alliance of 1882 tied Germany to Austria. This explains why Germany supported Austria which support made Austria to declare war on Serbia sparking off the bloody war of 1914 - 1918. It also prompted Germany to declare war on Russia and France who were members of the triple entente. If the triple alliance had not bonded Germany to Austria and antagonized Britain and France from Germany, Germany would have found it difficult to act the way she did and the First World War would have been avoided.

iv) Bismarck's biasness against Russia in the 1878 Berlin congress forced Russia to ally with France in the Franco-Russian alliance of 1894. It was a diplomatic and defensive alliance directed against Germany and to some extent Austria-Hungary and Italy. It worsened the already bad relationship between Germany and Russia. This is what forced Germany to declare war on both Russia and France. Otherwise, Russia's mobilization after the Sarajevo assassination targeted Germany more than Austria.

v) In 1904, France moved closer to Britain and formed the Dual Entente. In 1907 Russia was admitted into the entente and this gave rise to the triple entente, which ended France's isolation in Europe and offered her an opportunity and confidence to revenge against her long time foe (enemy)-Germany. It's for this that France declined to be neutral in the Austro-Serbian conflict, which forced Germany to declare war on her.

NB. Before declaring war on France, Kaiser William II demanded France to clarify whether she would be neutral in the Austro-Serbian conflict but France declined to comment, a clear indication that she was not ready to be a spectator in the Austro-Serbian conflict.

vi) The Anglo-Franco entente and triple entente certainly determined the direction of British policy up to the 1st World War. That Britain allied with France in 1914 was not necessarily because of Germany's invasion and therefore a violation of Belgium's neutrality, British policy was shaped in 1904 and consolidated in 1907. As a result, by 1914, when Germany invaded Poland, the entente had matured to exercise enough British influence in favour of France's security.

NB. One can therefore safely argue that however peaceful Europe seemed to be, the alliance system partitioned her into two hostile, aggressive, suspicious but confidently armed camps making it impossible to localize a conflict like that of Austria and Serbia.

vii) The alliance system gave the necessary courage and strength to the small and otherwise fearful states to provoke war. This is true of Austria and Serbia. Assured of support from other camp members, Austria and Serbia became very reckless and aggressive in dealing with the Balkan affairs. Russia's backing (support) to Serbia is what made her to sponsor the Sarajevo assassination and defy Austria's ultimatum.

Otherwise, there was no way a 'tiny' state like Serbia could remain defiant to Austria in such a high profile case. On the other hand, if Austria-Hungary had not been assured of Germany's support, she would not have issued the high sounding ultimatum and risk war against Serbia because this would mean fighting Russia as well.

viii) Furthermore, the alliance system gave reinforcement to imperialism, which worsened the already dangerous situation in Europe. It bailed France out of isolation and counting on the backing of her allies, she started dreaming of re-possessing Alsace and Lorraine. Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Britain pursued their imperialistic ambitions without fear. This created more tension in Europe that led to war

ix) To maintain the defensive terms of the various alliances, each camp had to increase her military might to the highest level. This became more urgent because the alliance system had created mutual fear, hatred and hostility between the two antagonistic camps. This led to military and naval race with a common view that none of the camps should be left behind and this drove Europe to the disastrous war of 1914- 1918.

However, although the alliance system contributed to a large extent towards the outbreak of the First World War, nevertheless, its role should not be over exaggerated. In the first place it did not accurately determine the fighting camp. For instance, Italy that was a member of the triple alliance fought on the camp of the triple entente.

Secondly, states like U.S.A, Turkey and Bulgaria that were none members of any of the alliances also participated in the war. Definitely, this was due to other factors other than alliance system.

Thirdly, the inconsistent nature of alliance system becomes clear especially that Britain concluded an alliance with Japan in 1902, in which she promised to support Japan if France and Russia declared war on her yet in 1914 the three powers fought on the same side. Italy signed treaties with almost all the continental powers. This reduced alliance system to mere Jokes.

Fourthly, the creation of alliances and counter alliances was made possible because of international misunderstanding arising from nationalism and imperialism. For instance, Bismarck was able to hook Italy into the triple alliance (1882) only because she was thrown out of Tunisia by France. The

1902 Anglo- Japanese alliance was set against Russia largely for imperial interest in the Far East. This therefore shows that other factors were instrumental in the outbreak of the war. **2. ARMS RACE**

a) Naval race

Arms race was started by Kaiser William II in an attempt to challenge British naval superiority and make Germany both a land and sea power. He made this clear in 1890 when he said; our future lies on water.

This was affected by modernizing and updating weapons and tactics at sea. Sea cruisers, destroyers and sub marines. In her effort to maintain her status as a water rat/sea power, Britain built the first all-big-gun turbine driven battle ship which she called dreadnoughts. She calculated that it would take the Germans some years to use dreadnoughts effectively since they would first have to enlarge the Kiel Canal. Germany reacted faster than Britain had thought by expanding the Kiel Canal so that her forces would easily enter the Adriatic Sea in case of war. She concentrated on building dreadnoughts and by 1913; Germany had 9 dreadnoughts while Britain had 18. At the apex of 1914 Germany had 13 dreadnoughts compared to 20 for

Britain. Naval armaments were equally on a very scaring scale in France, Austria-Hungary, Italy,

Turkey etc. These were preparations for war in advance which opportunity came through the Sarajevo double murder.

That Britain entered the war under the pretext of protecting the neutrality of Belgium yet she wanted to protect her naval base against Germany's advance is a clear testimony that naval race made valuable contribution to the deadly war of 1914 - 1918.

b) Military race

By 1914, naval race had extended to military race, which increased the means as well as the spirit of violence. Huge chunks of money were spent on the production of deadly weapons for land and air raids.

These included short, medium and long-range artilleries, machine guns, tanks, poisonous gas and fighter planes. Germany in particular trained and enlarged her army to the highest degree of efficiency while France, Russia

and Britain increased periods of training and conscription. The deadly weapons were not flowers for decoration but instruments of war which had to be tested and the need to test these weapons is what made the outbreak of war in 1914 a reality.

The increasing level of armaments created universal fear, suspicion and hatred amongst the two antagonistic camps. Indeed it strengthened the alliances and increased hostility between camps. What has to be emphasized is that the powers fought with arms than treaties (alliances).

Arms race increased recklessness and created more tension and conflicts as European powers pursued their national and imperialistic ambitions. This brought in colonial conflicts that worsened the already bad relations between European powers leading to the outbreak of war in 1914.

The deadly weapons created gave confidence of victory in an event of war. This made public opinion in Europe to blindly fall in love with war. For instance, the British public opinion was in favour of war with Germany to destroy her fleet and protect British naval supremacy. The Germans on the other hand wanted war in order to prove to mankind their superiority over other races. Indeed, Germany declared war on Russia and France partly because German public opinion wanted a swift action.

Arms race played a big role in the Sarajevo incident that became the immediate factor in the war. In the first instance, the sophisticated weapon Serbia had is what was utilized by Princip to murder Franz Ferdinand and his wife. The dangerous weapons Austria had in comparison to Serbia is what made Austria to declare war on Serbia. Even Germany declared war on Russia and France because she assumed that she had the best army-and Navy. Otherwise, had it not been because of the sophisticated weapons European powers possessed, Ferdinand could have not lost his life, Austria and Germany would not have gone on rampage declaring war, Britain would not have entered war and the First World War would have been avoided.

NB. In 1899, Tsar Nicholas II called the Hague conference whose priority was to arrest arms race between the great powers. Germany took the lead in opposing such a noble idea viewing it as Nicholas II's trick to save the economically backward Russia from matching the military expenditures of Germany and Austria.

At the second Hague conference, Germany still took the lead against British naval proposal, regarding it as a plan to keep her inferior at sea. When in 1913 Sir Winston Churchill called for a naval holiday, the same Germany refused. However to Britain, a strong navy was a necessity for her and a luxury for Germany.

Britain considered Germany's building a strong navy as a move to destroy her. This partly explains why Britain declared war on Germany merely over the question of violating Belgium's neutrality.

c) Militarism

The political Landscape of Europe prior to 1914 was highly militaristic. War was seen as a divine element of the universe and a condition for progress. The role of politicians was hijacked by a powerful class of military and naval officers' whose decisions were final in foreign as well as domestic affairs. They intensified conscription to a level conducive to world peace. For example Germany and France could raise 3½ million soldiers each while Russia could raise 4 million, Britain could raise a smaller but more efficient army. All resources were diverted towards defense. These made war inevitable because the well armed huge standing armies and reserve forces could not be left bored without war. Moreover, those who advocated for war received wide reception while those who stood for peace were condemned.

However, the year 1914 was not the first time Europe was experiencing arms race. It started much earlier and if it was so important then World War I should not have waited until 1914. Even if the weapons made prior to Sarajevo incident were more sophisticated, this should have been a warning to those who wanted war not to risk. This gives room for an analysis of other factors.

3. ROLE OF THE PRESS

The role played by the mass media cannot be underrated as a cause of the 1914 - 1918 disastrous war.

Radio presenters and journalists because of the need to amass wealth over exaggerated the suspicion, fear and international tension between the big powers. For instance, the London Times poisoned the British public opinion against the Germans and radio presenters caused more fear and panic

after the Sarajevo double murder which created public outcry for war. This forced European powers to strengthen alliances and mobilize for war as Russia did.

NB. Before the outbreak of World War in 1914, there was already a newspaper war which acted as a curtain raiser to World War 1. The newspapers of two different countries often took up some point of dispute, exaggerated it and made attacks and counter attacks until a regular newspaper war was created.

Bismarck had earlier foreseen this when he lamented that; every country is held at some time to account for the windows broken by its press; the bill is presented some day in the shape of hostile sentiment in the other.

4. IMPERIALISM AND COLONIAL ECONOMIC CONFLICTS

i) After 1871, European powers went on rampage to acquire territories in Africa, Europe and the Balkans.

By 1906, areas for peaceful expansion was already exhausted and further conquest could only be made by dispossessing or displacing someone from somewhere. This laid foundation for tension, mistrust and suspicion that spoilt diplomatic relations amongst the imperialists leading to the Great War. For instance, France was bitter over Germany's conquest of Togo and Cameroon. Britain was hurt by Germany's presence in South Africa and her conquest of Namibia while Germany was irked by Britain's conquest of Uganda. Poor relation between Germany and Britain was portrayed by Kaiser William II's congratulatory message to Paul Krugger of Transvaal upon his success in repulsing the Jameson raid of 1896. Germany, France, Britain and Italy also conflicted over Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Congo.

ii) It should be noted that Germany declared war on France partly because of tension created between her and France during the scramble and partition of Africa and Asia. Britain also declared war on Germany partly due to poor diplomatic relations cultivated in the era of European conquest in Africa and Asia.

Indeed, Britain was not prepared to give up her colonies, protectorates, spheres of influence and markets to Germany. As Germany was bent on getting them at any price, Britain had to act faster and declare war on Germany.

iii) Outside Africa, Germany's commercial rivalry and strength was a disturbing factor to Japan, Britain and Russia in the Far East and the Pacific. Russian imperialism was a formidable threat to Germany and Austrian imperialistic interests in the Balkans. This explains why Russia mobilized in support of Serbia (where she had influence) against Austria after the Sarajevo incident. Russian imperialistic designs in Serbia threatened Austrian control and forced her to declare war on Serbia to crush her nationalism.

Equally so, Germany had to declare war on Russia because Russian imperialism was equally a scaring factor to her influence in the Balkans.

iv) One can therefore safely argue that Germany's support of Austria Hungary against Serbia and Russia's backing of Serbia were imperialistically motivated. This is why Lenin argues that; the war of 1914 -1918 was imperialistic the part of both sides, it was a war for the division of the world, for the partition and repartition of colonies and spheres of influence. One has to emphasize that it was Austrian imperialism that clashed with Serbian nationalism to spark off the war in 1914. Had it not been because of the need to pursue Austria's imperialistic interest in Bosnia, Franz Ferdinand and his wife would not have traveled to Sarajevo. The assassination would not have occurred and the First World War would have not broken off at least in 1914.

v) The constant confrontations over colonies in different parts of the world made the imperialists to resort to the manufacture of sophisticated weapons for conquest and consolidation of their rule. The possibility of war amongst European powers over colonies also created more need for deadly weapons. This brought in arms race and militarism that made the outbreak of war in 1914 inevitable.

vi) To some extent, imperialism contributed to alliance system, which is a cardinal factor in World War I.

The Anglo-Japanese alliance (1902) was against Russia largely for imperial interest in the Far East.

Bismarck was able to form the triple alliance in 1882 (by admitting Italy in the Dual Alliance of Austria and Germany which became triple alliance)

only because Italy was frustrated by the French occupation of Tunisia (1881).

Nevertheless, the fact that Italy and France fought on the same side shows that colonial disputes due to imperialism counted less in causing World War I. However this should not blind up from the fact that imperialism in the Balkans is what sparked off the war in 1914.

Again if imperialism was a serious factor, then Britain and France who were first class enemies in the colonial field would not have fought on the same front in the war. Yet other powers like Romania, USA and Bulgaria never involved themselves seriously in the struggle for colonies but participated in the war.

Suffice to note is that imperialism had existed for more than half a century without causing war until 1914.

If it was a major cause of World War I, then the war would have occurred in 1880's when colonial conflicts were at their climax.

Moreover, colonial conflicts due to imperialism was most intensive in Africa not Europe. If colonial disputes counts so much then World War I would have started from Africa and not Europe.

Lastly, by 1914 most colonial disputes had already been settled through the Berlin settlement and mutual agreements between European powers e.g. the Congo crisis was settled by the Berlin conference, Britain and France had reconciled over Fashoda and this explains why they joined hands in the war.

NB i) Colonial disputes due to imperialism delayed the formation of rival alliance but strengthened it after they were formed.

ii) The role of economic factor can as well be seen from France's revengist spirit against Germany for the loss of Alsace and Lorraine. Britain and France were flabbergasted by the Berlin-Bagdad railway because it was bound to jeopardize their economic interest in the region. Economic consideration was primary in the Congo crisis, Moroccan crisis and Austro-Serbian conflict that brought war.

However, one should guard against over estimating the role of economic considerations in sparking off the disastrous war of 1914-1918. Germany herself had more trade with Britain than any other power in Europe. Thus, if economic considerations mattered so much, then Britain would definitely not have fought her best customer in Europe (Germany). In 1906 a number of German industrialists openly complained about Kaiser William's aggressive character that was frustrating their trade. David Thomson clarifies that economic consideration were kept subordinate to political and strategic considerations.

5) NATIONALISM/COMPETITIVE PATRIOTISM

By 1914, a number of ill-conceived nationalistic movements had sprung up in Europe. The Great Serbian movement, Pan-Slavism, Revanche movement and Jingoism bonded themselves in the triple alliance against pan Germanism. The Great Serbian movement had a divine mission of liberating Serbians including those in Bosnia and Herzegovina who were under Austrian's control. Pan-slavinism aimed at making Russia the custodian of all Slav speaking races irrespective of where they were living. The Revanche movement in France was bent on revenging against Germany because of the 1870 – 1871 humiliating Franco-Prussian war. Jingoism aimed at maintaining British naval technological advancement above other nations while Pan-Germanism or Pan German League was created to unite all German speaking nationalities in different countries. Nationalism strengthened patriotism (love for one's country) and hatred to other nations, which made the following contributions to the First World War.

i) The desire to pursue national interest made the big powers to clash with one another, which increased tension and hostility amongst the European nations. For instance, when Germany began to build a strong navy, Britain and France protested it as a threat to their national interests. These selfish national interests made it extremely difficult for international peace conferences to succeed leaving war as the only option.

ii) The need to pursue, defend and promote national interest created prestige and made European powers to be on rampage for colonies. The struggle to promote national interests in Africa and the Balkans created some economic conflicts leading to World War I. In short, nationalism contributed to imperialism.

ii) Nationalistic feelings made France obsessed with a revengist spirit against Germany. This forced Bismarck to venture into alliance system to isolate France and avoid a French war of revenge. It's on this account that one can argue that had it not been because of the fear of French nationalism, Bismarck would not have started alliance system and the First World War would have been avoided.

v) To defend national interest and sovereignty, the big powers hastened the manufacture of deadly weapons leading to arms race and war. Nations also engaged in cut throat competition in the number of soldiers each nation could put in the battlefield, which increased militarism in Europe. Germany was in a dying need to show off and that's why she declared war on Russia and France. On the other hand, Britain, Russia and France had to defend their national interest against German aggression, which made war unavoidable

v) It was intense nationalism in Serbia that created hostility between Serbia and Austria-Hungary. The desire by Serbia to liberate all Serbians from Austria's imperialism and the attempts by Austria to tighten her control on the Serbs led to the Sarajevo assassination which sparked off the war. Actually, Princip who assassinated Ferdinand was a member of Pan-Slavism who conducted the murder just after attending an anti-Austrian meeting. The fact that the First World War broke out in the Balkans where national interests clashed most portrays the strength of nationalism in World War I. This is because the forces of Pan-Germanism and Pan-Slavism conflicted most in the Balkans leading to the outbreak of war in 1914.

Serbian nationalism clashed with Austria's imperialism to spark off war in 1914. It's therefore clear that nationalism was an important factor in World War I. However, its real significance came when it clashed with imperialism in the Balkans.

6) THE FRANCO - PRUSSIAN WAR, 1870 - 1871

i) In 1815, the Vienna Settlement gave Prussia the Rhine lands to the annoyance of France. This made Prussia to be a historical enemy of France, which climaxed into the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 - 1871.

France was defeated and forced to submit to the harshest peace treaty of the 19th century (i.e. Frankfurt Treaty of 1871). In the treaty, she lost her

mineralized provinces of Alsace and Lorraine that had up to 4 million Frenchmen. She also suffered a German army of occupation and was forced to pay a huge indemnity of 200 million pounds. This spoilt diplomatic relations between France and Germany leaving France boiling for a war of revenge. France therefore got a heaven sent opportunity of redressing the wrongs of Prussia's victory with the outbreak of the First World War. This is what forced Germany to act faster by declaring war on France before France could do so.

ii) The Franco-Prussian war changed the balance of power. It completed the unifications of both Germany and Italy at the expense of Denmark, Austria and France. Before the war, the balance of power was in favour of

France and Britain with France as a new land power. But after defeating France, Germany emerged as new land power and started challenging British naval supremacy. This forced Britain and France to ally against Germany leading to tension and the First World War.

The fear of a French war of revenge and the desire to protect and promote Germany's supremacy in European diplomacy while maintaining peace in Europe forced Bismarck to venture and start the alliance system. This sent France on a shopping spree for alliance since she could not successfully revenge against Germany single handedly. She found this in the triple alliance of 1907. The alliance system left Europe divided into two hostile and antagonistic camps, which made war inevitable. It's therefore safe to argue that if the Franco-Prussian war had not occurred, France would not have been eager for a war of revenge and consequently Bismarck would have not ventured into the alliance system hence the Austro-Serbian conflict would have remained a localized affair between Austria and Serbia.

iv) The threats of French revenge forced Bismarck to arm Germany in preparation for war. Other nations followed Germany and started prioritising defense expenditures. They were encouraged by Bismarck's policy of blood and iron through which Germany was unified from 1864 - 1871. This created arms race and strengthened militarism, which made Europe a walking bomb that exploded in 1914.

v) The war contributed to imperialism leading to colonial economic rivalry and the First World War in 1914. The loss of the mineralized regions of Alsace and Lorraine forced France to look for compensation elsewhere

most especially in Africa. Bismarck tactfully encouraged her since she would forget of Alsace and Lorraine while clashing with other powers in the scramble for colonies in Africa. This also encouraged Austria to tighten her control in Serbia, which raised Serbian nationalism leading to the murder of Prince Archduke and war.

vi) The triumph of Italian and German nationalism in 1850's through the Franco-Prussian war inspired the oppressed nations to struggle for freedom using Bismarck's policy of blood and iron. Nationalistic movements like PanGermanism, Pan-Slavism and the Greater Serbian movement in the Balkans had a direct Xeroxing (copying) from Italian and German unification struggles from 1810 - 1871. Serbia was encouraged to challenge Austria since it was the same Austria that was defeated by Italians and Germans leading to their freedom. This made Serbia to act recklessly against Austria leading to the Sarajevo assassination and consequently the First World War.

vii) The success of Germany in the Franco-Prussian war coupled with the earlier military victories made Kaiser William II to believe that Germany was the mightiest (strongest) world power. It created in him a political stigma of arrogance and aggression in his efforts to preserve Germany's supremacy. This is what made him to recklessly send a blank cheque to Austria, declare war on Russia and France and violate the neutrality of Belgium. These moves by Germany amplified the Austro-Serbian conflict into the First World War.

NB. The Franco-Prussian war indirectly completed the unification of Italy and made Italy more ambitious to recover Trentino and Trieste that were inhabited by Italians but were still under Austria-Hungary's control. This is what made Italy to quit Austria's camp (Triple alliance) and join the triple entente tactfully to recover Trentino and Trieste, which she got at the Versailles peace settlement of 1919.

7) KAISER WILLIAM II'S AGGRESSIVE CHARACTER /GERMAN AGGRESSION

The role played by Kaiser William II of Germany was of paramount importance in the sparking of World War I. He was a bellicose (war like), arrogant and cantankerous leader who could not hide his hangover for war. In his foreign policy, he tried to intervene in each and every activity of world politics in order to make Germany a world power. He declared;

"Nothing must go on anywhere in the world in which Germany does not play apart", William was too confident and proud of himself and he proclaimed; "God has called us to civilize the world". Consequently his character and policy played a cardinal role in World War I. Germany took the greatest blame in causing World War I because of the role played by Kaiser William II. He made a number of blunders and diplomatic errors that made the outbreak of the First World War inevitable.

i) He forced Bismarck to resign leaving the world with no capable statesman who could diplomatically settle world conflicts such as the Austro-Serbian conflict, which exploded into the First World War.

ii) Kaiser William II had a very poor opinion and natural hatred towards the English people and other races. This made Britain, Russia and France to form the triple entente that ended the isolation of France.

In 1897 - 1899, Joseph chamberlain, the British colonial secretary tried to negotiate an Anglo-German agreement but this failed on both occasions due to Kaiser William's aggressive naval policy and his unfriendly attitude to Britain in the Anglo Boer war. He sent a congratulatory message to Paul Krugger for repulsing the Jameson raid in Transvaal. It should be emphasized that British allies especially France and Russia were long time enemies to her (Britain) who would not have fought against Germany if it had not been because of Kaiser William's careless and aggressive policy. All these were because Kaiser William misused Bismarckian alliance system turning it to an instrument of war rather than peace as Bismarck had done.

iii) Kaiser William further antagonized Great Britain in a speech in Damascus when he offered German leadership to all Moslems in the world. This aroused British suspicions regarding Kaiser's intentions because a large number of Moslems lived in the British Empire. It also attracted the hostility of Christian powers like France and Italy against Germany, which created a favourable atmosphere for the explosion of world war I.

iv) The Berlin - Baghdad railway project that he embarked on was a threat to Russia, France and Britain whose interests in the east were bound to be jeopardized by Germany. This helped to consolidate the triple entente against Germany.

v) Kaiser William II is blamed for starting the naval race to challenge British naval supremacy and militarism to maintain Germany's supremacy.

He reinstated conscription and prolonged the period of service not only for defense but more to fulfill his imperialistic ambitions abroad. He deliberately disagreed with other leaders at disarmament conferences, yet this would have reduced arms race. Indeed, his activities and arrogance gave other powers every excuse to fear and re-mobilize against Germany just like Russia did after the Sarajevo incident.

vi) It was Kaiser William's blank cheque to Austria that increased Austria's recklessness towards Serbian.

He openly promised Austria that; ".....rest assured that his majesty will faithfully stand by Austria- Hungary as required by the obligations of his alliance and by his ancient friendship". Surely, if Kaiser William had not given this assurance, Austria would not have taken a bold step against Serbia (to the extent of declaring war). Henceforth, World War I would have been avoided.

i) It was Germany under Kaiser William II that declared war on Russia, France, violated the London treaty of 1839, which dragged Britain into war. All these are what magnified the local Austro-Serbian conflict into a European and finally a World War.

8) WEAKNESS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION AND THE COLLAPSE OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

The weakness of International organisation prior to 1914 made the outbreak of the First World War inevitable. The international court of justice at The Hague was perfectly inefficient and un able to settle major world disputes. It had neither moral authority nor force to implement its resolutions, which explains why the many resolutions of the Hague conferences of 1899 and 1907 remained on paper. The weakness of International organisation let to the collapse of International diplomacy. The outbreak of the First World War became inevitable because every state considered itself free to do anything according to its will since there was no authoritative organisation to restrain or punish her.

It should be noted that Serbia's attempt for a peaceful resolution with Austria failed because of the ineffectiveness of the international court of justice. Serbia accepted Austria's first two ultimatums and referred the third one to the international court of justice for arbitration. This failed because

of the weakness of the International court of Justice, which had been discarded by Kaiser William II since 1907.

9) THE SARAJEVO DOUBLE MURDER, 28TH JUNE 1914

The immediate cause of the First World War was the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne and his wife Sophia at Sarajevo the capital of Bosnia (Bosnia had been annexed to Austria-Hungary in 1808) by Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist. Austria that was already sick of Serbian nationalism decided to utilize the event to destroy Serbia. She considered the incident as a Serbian conspiracy to destroy the Austrian monarchy, by assassinating the heir at a time when the ageing Emperor Joseph Francis was 84 years and was expected to die any time. Germany gave Austria-Hungary a blank cheque i.e. the freedom to do anything she wishes to Serbia with Germany's unconditional support.

Assured of Germany's backing, Austria sent an impossible ultimatum to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia on 23th July 1914. She demanded a satisfactory reply within 48 hours. These demands were that Serbia should among others;

i) Declare her intention of being a good neighbour through the press and by suppressing anti-Austrian propaganda. ii) Dismiss anti-Austrian officials in her administration and the army.

iii) Allow Austria's officials into Serbia to investigate the inquiry of Franz Ferdinand's assassination.

Serbia accepted the first two conditions but rejected Austria's participation in the inquiry of Ferdinand's death on the ground that it was a violation of her independence and wisely referred the matter to the international court of justice at The Hague. However, the international court of justice had been discarded by Kaiser William II way back in 1907. Austria rejected Serbia's proposal and declared war on her on 28th July 1914. This determined the occurrence of the First World War. Russia mobilized in support of Serbia, Germany demanded that Russia should demobilize but when she refused, Germany declared war on her on 1st August 1914. Germany again demanded France to declare her neutrality and when she refused, Germany declared war on her on 3th August 1914. On 4th August 1914, German troops invaded Belgium in violation of the 1839 London treaty

that had guaranteed Belgium's independence and neutrality, which forced Britain to enter the war against Germany on the same day. Thus, the First World War was on a high gear.

Attachments

No attachments

ROLE OF EUROPEAN POWERS IN THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Each and every power that participated in the war should be held responsible although the degree of responsibility differs. In other words, the responsibility varies from country to country based on the magnitude of the blame; It should be noted that much as countries like Italy, Japan, USA, Bulgaria and Turkey participated in the First World War, they cannot be held responsible for the outbreak of the war.

This is because they joined the war later when it had already started i.e. "broken off". Thus, with or without them the First World War would still have been an important event in the history of Europe and indeed the whole world.

1. GERMANY

By article 231 of the war guilt clause in the Versailles peace treaty, Germany was solely blamed for causing World War I. It was unanimously agreed that Germany alone was responsible for the outbreak of World War I and that is why article 232 subjected her to impossible reparation of 6,600m pounds.

Although these were very unrealistic, Germany still shares the greatest responsibility in causing and sustaining World War I in as far as she;

i) Started the alliance system in an attempt to isolate France in European politics. After Bismarck, Kaiser William II misused the alliance system as a tool to raise Germany above other powers. This prompted the formation of triple entente, which became antagonistic with the triple alliance leading to World War I.

ii) It was again Germany that started the arms and naval race which was followed by other powers. This was to prepare for a French war of revenge, dominate other powers and challenge British naval supremacy. The sophisticated weapons created more suspicion, hatred, recklessness and courage leading to the First World War.

iii) In the colonial field, Germany acquired territories adjacent to Britain that was very provocative. For instance, when Britain acquired Uganda and Kenya, Germany moved to Tanganyika. When Britain declared a protectorate over Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone, Germany annexed Togo and Cameroon.

Germany also encouraged colonial conflicts between France and other powers purposely to isolate France. Kaiser William II himself irritated Britain when he congratulated Paul Kruger for his success in the Jameson raid of 1894. This worsened the already hostile relationship between Britain and Germany and partly explains why Britain declared war on Germany in 1914.

iv) In pursuit of Germany's imperialism in the near east, Germany in 1913 started building the Berlin-Baghdad railway. She continued to claim exclusive rights to train and command the Turkish army against the British claim of similar rights over the navy and foreign policy. This created more tension in the east and made it a storm centre for the explosion of World War I.

v) Germany under Kaiser William II shares a blame for militarism and chauvinism. Kaiser William II believed in the policy of "world power or downfall". The arrogance and superiority complex of the Germans increased the hostility between Germany and other races leading to World War I.

vi) The unification of Germany in 1871 distorted the balance of power in Europe and stimulated nationalism throughout Europe. In 1871, Prussia inflicted a humiliating defeat on France and completed the unification of Germany. France was subjected to a heavy war indemnity of 5 billion Francs, an army of occupation and was forced out of her two mineral rich provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. The humiliations and the losses from the Franco-Prussian war created bitter enmity between Germany and France and led to World War I.

NB. It has been argued that if Germany had not interfered in Morocco, France might have found some material compensation for the loss of Alsace and Lorraine and would have probably forgotten to revenge against Germany. However, the German interference in Morocco added the bitterness between the two countries.

vii) Germany stands in the dock of history in relation to World War I for supporting Austria's annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the annoyance of Serbia and Russia. This strengthened Austria's imperialism in Serbia and triggered off Serbian nationalism leading to the assassination of Franz Ferdinand and World War I

viii) Germany shares the guilt of World War I for issuing a blank cheque to Austria, which increased Austria's recklessness towards Serbia after the Sarajevo incident. This made Austria to issue the unrealistic ultimatum and declare war on Serbia that became a prelude to World War I.

ix) Germany is blamed for issuing an unnecessary ultimatum to Russia. In the aftermath of Austria's declaration of war on Serbia, Russia started a general mobilization and Germany sent an ultimatum demanding for her demobilization, which prompted Germany to declare war on her. Germany is therefore blamed for issuing an ultimatum on her own terms rather than seeking the opinion of other powers in dealing with Russian's mobilization. The ultimatum could have possibly humbled Russia if it was a joint declaration by the big powers of Europe i.e. Germany, France, Russia

and Austria. That it failed to humble Russia was because it was a German declaration that posed no serious threat to Russia.

x) After the Sarajevo assassination, it was Germany that magnified the Austro-Serbian conflict into a World War. She declared war on Russia, France and Belgium. The attack on Belgium violated the London treaty of 1839, which forced Britain and other powers to declare war on her.

NB. After Germany stationing her troops in Belgium in readiness for attack, France and Britain demanded that the German troops should be withdrawn but the Germans did not respond, neither they send a reply. This forced Britain to join the war against Germany.

2. AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

i) Austria's imperialism in the Balkans is what sparked off World War I. The Berlin conference of 1878 gave her the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina merely to administer and not to annex them.

However, Austria annexed the two provinces in 1908. This brought forth bitter protest from Serbia and Russia leading to the assassination of Ferdinand and World War I. It also explains why Russia mobilized in support of Serbia against Austria.

ii) Austria should be blamed for her recklessness towards Serbia through the unrealistic ultimatum.

Austria had long-term intention to fight Serbia but lacked an excuse. She purposely issued the ultimatum with stringent conditions knowing that the terms would be rejected by Serbia and that would justify war with Serbia. It's even on record that the Austrian cabinet debated and declared war on Serbia on 14th July 1914, before the ultimatum was dispatched.

iii) Austria is also to blame for violating the territorial and political integrity of Serbia. She declared war on Serbia even after Baron Von Wiesner the then Austria's ambassador to Belgrade (Serbia) reported that there was no conclusive evidence of Serbia's involvement in the Sarajevo assassination. Had Austria not declared war on Serbia; possibly other powers like Russia would have no reason to mobilize their troops and the timing of the war would have been different.

iv) Austria also got involved in the arms race and was one of the most militaristic nations by 1914. This increased her imperialistic ambitions in the Balkans, which clashed with Serbian nationalism to spark off World War I.

v) She had a very strong solidarity with Germany and was the closest to Germany than Italy and Russia in the triple alliance and Dreikaiserband respectively. This created more confidence in Germany and made her the most aggressive nation prior to 1914. Had Austria abandoned Germany like Italy and Russia did, Germany would not have been so reckless to declare war on Russia and the Austro-Serbian conflict would have remained a local affair between Austria and Serbia.

vi) Austria- Hungary is blamed for organizing the visit of Franz- Ferdinand and his wife at a time when the diplomatic relations between her and Serbia was at its lowest (worst) level. On 28th June 1914, Austrian authorities organized the royal visit that boomeranged and caused war when the royal couple was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist, Princip. Austrian authorities are therefore blamed for provoking Serbia by the visit because they were fully aware of the Serbian hostility towards Austria.

The poor relations between the two nations suggest that the Sarajevo assassination could not be accidental but an expected event that was ignored by Austria's lack of fore sight.

vii) Austria Hungary is held responsible for the outbreak of the First World War for internationalizing her conflict with Serbia. After the Sarajevo double murder, Austria rejected Serbia's demand to refer the third ultimatum for arbitration (Settlement) by the international court of Justice at The Hague. Emperor Joseph II of Austria instead consulted Kaiser William II of Germany, which dragged Germany with all her aggression into the conflict. Austria is also blamed for accepting Germany's advice to declare war on Serbia.

ix) Austria's poor diplomatic relations with Russia make her accountable for the outbreak of the First World War. Austria antagonized Russia by opposing her imperialism in the Balkans. In 1877, Russia defeated Turkey and forced her to sign the treaty of Sanstefano in which the big Bulgaria was created.

Austria allied with Britain and threatened war against Russia for her illegal creation of the big Bulgaria at the Berlin congress of 1878. Austria stood against the creation of the big Bulgaria and it was dissected into three i.e.

reduced in size. . After the Berlin congress of 1878, Austria intensified her imperial designs in the Balkans that led to further conflicts with Russia. In 1879, Austria formed the dual alliance with Germany against Russia and France. Austria's activities threatened Russia's interest and dragged her into an alliance with France i.e. France Russian alliance of 1894. This set the pace for the formation of the triple entente in 1907, which caused more antagonism and tension that led to world war I by 1914.

3. SERBIA

i) Serbia shares the guilt of World War I for engineering conflict in an economically, politically and strategically located Balkan region. In 1912, she mobilized Bulgaria, Montenegro and Greece to form the Balkan league. She used the league to fight Turkey and occupy her territories in Europe. She also fought and defeated Bulgaria in 1913, which increased her influence in the Balkans to the disappointment of Austria. Generally, Serbia contributed greatly to the Balkan wars of 1911 – 1913 during which she emerged as a leader of the Slav speaking race. This attracted the hostility of other powers particularly Germany, Austria and Turkey to defend their political, economic and strategic interest leading to the First World War.

ii) Serbian nationalism was too ambitious to guarantee peace in Europe. Serbian nationalism clashed with Austria's imperialism leading to the Sarajevo assassination and the First World War. The assassin of Franz Ferdinand and his wife was a member of the Great Serbian movement, which was against Austrian rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Whether Serbian government was responsible for the murder or not is still a subject of dispute but Serbia's failure to suppress the activities of the greater Serbian movement makes her politically responsible for the assassination.

iii) It was Serbia that provided Austria with an excuse to declare war by refusing to comply with the 3rd term of the July 23rd ultimatum. She rejected the third term of the ultimatum that demanded for the intervention of Austrian officials in the investigation of the Sarajevo double murder. This provided Austria with a convenient pretext to declare war on her. Had Serbia humbled herself to accept all the terms of the ultimatum and risked her independence, the world would possibly have been spared from the great war of 1914-1918. She also wanted war because before sending her

reply to the ultimatum, she had ordered for a general mobilization NB. This was before Austria declared war.

iv) Serbia is also blamed for being a close ally of the Triple entente that was antagonistic to the triple alliance. She was also overwhelmed with confidence that she recklessly pursued her ambitions of uniting all the Slavs in the Balkans. It intensified conflict between her on one hand against Austria and Germany on the other hand. This created more tension in Germany and Austria that made them determined to fight to destroy Serbia after the Sarajevo assassination as a way of breaking the solidarity of the triple entente alliance. It should be argued that Serbia's aggressive and arrogant attitude partly made Germany to support Austria against her.

v) Serbia's aggressive and arrogant attitude towards Austria and Germany created more tension that led to the outbreak of the First World War. This partly made Austria to issue the unrealistic ultimatum and declare war against her in 1914.

vi) Serbia is also blamed for promoting anti Austrian activities and terrorist movements like the union, death and Black Hand society. Serbia started sponsoring these movements to sabotage Austrian rule after her annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908. It was these terrorist movements that masterminded the assassination of Franz Ferdinand with his wife and sparked off the First World War.

vii) Lastly, Serbia is blamed for magnifying her conflict with Austria by appealing for Russian support.

After the Sarajevo assassination, Serbia called for Russian support against Austria. This scared Austria and contributed to her declaration of war on Serbia. Serbia's appeal to Russia also explains why Russia mobilized in support of her in the aftermath of Sarajevo double murder. It was also Russia's mobilization that prompted Germany to declare war on her. One can therefore argue that if Serbia had not appealed for Russian support, Russia could possibly not have mobilized her troops and Germany would not have found a convenient pretext to declare war on her (Russia).

4. RUSSIA

i) Russia shares the blame for supporting Balkan nationalism and the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire. Her support of Pan Slavism led to the Balkan wars of 1878 and those of 1912 - 1913. The success of Slav nationalism in Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Greece stimulated greater nationalism, which undermined the existence of the Austrian Empire and even Germany. That Austria declared war on Serbia was because Serbian nationalism supported by Russia threatened her existence and the same explains why Germany declared war on Russia.

ii) It was Russia's support to Serbian nationalism that intensified Serbia's recklessness leading to the assassination of Prince Ferdinand and his wife that sparked off war in 1914.

iii) Even after the assassination, it was Russia's support to Serbia that partly made her defiant to Austria's demands. The Russian foreign minister Sazanov told the Serbian ambassador in Russia that; Russia would in no circumstances permit Austrian aggression against Serbia. This is what encouraged Serbia to reject Austria's ultimatum in full. Otherwise, Serbia in her relatively weaker position compared to Austria would not have dared take such a bold stand against Austria.

iv) Russia's interference in Serbian affairs with a claim to be the rightful protector of Slav population and orthodox Christians in the Balkans was rejected by other powers. Although this is justifiable to some extent, it carried more of Russia's hidden imperial, economic and strategic motives than true religious and ethnic aims. This attracted the attention of other powers particularly Germany, Turkey and Austria making it impossible to localize any conflict such as the Austro-Serbian conflict.

v) Russia made Germany to declare war on her. She ordered for general mobilization on 23rd July 1914 and refused to accept Germany's ultimatum to demobilize. This forced Germany to declare war on her as the only alternative. According to Professor Fay:

"It was primarily Russia's general mobilization when Germany was trying to bring

Austria to a settlement which precipitated the final catastrophe, causing Germany to mobilize and declare war"

vi) Russia's expansionist policy in the Balkans and the desire to check Germany's advance to the east made her to get entangled in the arms race and militarism. This was to challenge Germany's military might amongst others, which forced Germany to declare war on her. Actually, Russia's mobilization was not just to assist Serbia against Austria but target fully mobilized for Germany.

vii) Russia's quitting of the Dreikaisabund in 1878 made it impossible for alliance system to be an instrument of peace. After leaving Germany's camp, she joined the French camp (Triple entente) yet France was Germany's number one enemy. This put Germany on tension, incited her to prepare for war and forced her to declare war on her (Russia) and France as well. **BRITAIN**

i) She shares the war guilt for being the most influential member of the triple entente that was antagonistic to the triple alliance led by Germany. Britain made separate treaties with Japan, France and Russia and consolidated them in the triple entente of 1907. This threatened Germany and made her to prepare for war and that is why she fought France, Britain, Russia and Japan.

ii) Britain is accused for causing World War I due to her international jealousy and self-seeking ambitions. She was the champion of colonialism, enjoyed monopoly but never wanted other powers to challenge her status as the workshop of Europe. This accounts for imperialism and colonial economic conflicts especially with the new Germany that precipitated war.

iii) Britain also protested the Berlin-Baghdad railway that aimed at increasing German trade in the east to the extent of encouraging Russia in the Balkans from 1908, which had not been the case before. She wanted to use Russia to block Germany's advance, which only brought war.

iv) By 1914, Britain had built a huge and strong naval force but still resented any other power's attempts to do so, especially Germany. When Germany tried to challenge her naval superiority, she began modernizing and speeding up naval and arms manufacture that led to the arms race. This turned European balance of power into a balance of terror to cause the First World War.

v) Britain stands in the dock of history in as far as she fought to defend her self-interest in Belgium. She had a naval base in Belgium from where she controlled the eastern waters. This is what made her to champion Belgium independence and neutrality in 1839. Thus, the British declaration of war based on the violation of London treaty of 1839 was a mere camouflage of protecting her naval base against the threats from German troops in Belgium.

vi) Britain's refusal to settle the eastern question peacefully by partitioning the Ottoman Empire made it to be a historical centre of European conflicts that developed into World War I. If Britain had accepted the Russian policy of dividing up Turkey as early as 19th century, the Balkan wars of 1911-1913 would have been minimized and World War I would have started from elsewhere not from the Balkans.

vii) The Anti German feelings and propaganda created by the British press makes Britain responsible for the First World War. The London Times exaggerated war threats by Germany after the Sarajevo assassination and turned public opinion against Germany. This encouraged Austria to declare war on Serbia and Russia to mobilize for war at the same time. The British press propaganda also influenced the government to declare war on Germany on 4th August 1914.

FRANCE

a) France is blamed for her desire to revenge against Germany for the humiliations and losses of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. In 1871, Prussia defeated France and subjected her to a heavy war indemnity of 5 billion Francs, an army of occupation and snatched her two mineral rich provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. After 1871, France had a burning desire not only to recover Alsace and Lorraine but also to revenge against Germany and restore her national pride and prestige as a great power.

Public opinion favoured war and a statue symbolizing revenge was erected at Strasbourg city. A revengist movement led by opposition politician General Boulanger advocated for a war of revenge against Germany. This made Otto Von Bismarck of Germany to take a precautionary measure of starting alliance system and arms race to isolate France and defend Germany. Declaration of war against France on 3rd Aug 1914 was influenced by the need to suppress her spirit of revenge.

b) Although France fought a defensive war, there is evidence that she was not willing to be neutral in the Austro-Serbian war. In the aftermath of Austria's declaration of war against Serbia, Kaiser William II of Germany demanded France to state her position in the war. However, President Poincaré declined to guarantee the neutrality of France, which forced Germany to declare war on her. It must be noted that France's refusal to guarantee her neutrality was partly influenced by her desire to revenge against Germany and repossess her mineralized provinces of Alsace and Lorraine.

c) France contributed directly and indirectly to alliance system that led to the outbreak of World War I. Indirectly, her desire to revenge the losses of the Franco-Prussian war is what primarily made Bismarck to form the Dreikaiserbund (1873), Dual entente (1879) and triple alliance (1882) i.e. to isolate her and frustrate her desire to revenge against Germany. Directly, France initiated alliances against Germany. In

1894, she allied with Russia (Franco-Russian alliance). In 1904, she allied with Britain (Dual Entente) and in 1907; Russia joined the Dual Entente to form the Triple Entente. These alliances divided Europe into two hostile and antagonistic camps leading to the collapse of diplomacy and explosion of the First World War.

d) France was also entangled/ involved in militarism, naval, and arms race. After 1871, France started rearming herself with sophisticated weapons, embarking on conscription and improving her naval capacity as a move to launch a successful war of revenge against Germany. She also ventured in colonial acquisition and adopted the policy of assimilation in her colonies in order to get more manpower to fight Germany. Radical opposition politicians like General Boulanger became more popular because of their advocacy for a revenge war against Germany. All these created fear suspicion, Jealousy and panic in Germany that culminated into the outbreak of the First World War by 1914.

e) France is also blamed for colonial rivalry and conflict that created tension and war fever by 1914.

She clashed with Germany twice for the control of Morocco in 1906 and 1911 i.e. The Tangier incident, 1905 (the 1st Moroccan crisis) and the Agadir crisis, 1911 (the second Moroccan crisis). Although these crises were settled

diplomatically, Germany was left with a spirit of revenge, which she accomplished by attacking France in 1914.

f) France assured Russia of support in the Austro-Serbian conflict, which made it difficult to localize the issue. The French President Poincare visited Russia from 20th July to 23rd July 1914 and promised French support to Russia against Austria. To quote him, Serbia has very warm friends in the Russian people and Russia has an ally, France. This is what morale boosted Russia to mobilize for war after Austria declaring war on Serbia.

g) However, in comparison to other powers, France takes the least responsibility for the outbreak of the First World War. This is because she fought a defensive war. Although she had the desire to revenge, she perused it with reasonable patience and never went for war over Alsace and Lorraine as an immediate reason. When Austria attacked France, Germany gave France a limited time to state her position and when France declined, Germany declared war on her, marched and stationed her troops in Belgium in readiness to invade France. France therefore had no other alternative other than to mobilize and defend herself, there by sharing a lesser blame.

Attachments

REASONS FOR THE DEFEAT OF CENTRAL POWERS/GERMANY IN WORLD WAR

I OR REASONS FOR THE TRIUMPH OF ALLIED POWERS IN WORLD WAR I

Background

World war I was basically fought between two belligerent camps i.e. the triple alliance and triple entente.

Germany and Austria-Hungary were the core members of the triple alliance and were called the central powers. France, Britain and Russia were the dominant members of the triple entente and were known as allied powers. Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria joined the central powers and USA joined the allied powers in 1917 after the withdrawal of Russia. Italy, though a member of the triple alliance changed camp and fought on the side of the triple entente. The war also involved colonies and other powers who joined either

of the camps. The central powers began the war with much vigour and successes but failed to sustain the war in the long run. They were overpowered with massive losses and by 1918 all had surrendered. This was due to political, social and economic factors.

1. Military superiority of allied powers accounts for their success against central powers/Germany. The allied powers had better military equipments like tanks that were first used by the British, sophisticated fighter jets and airplanes for spying on the position of troops of central powers. The central powers were militarily inferior which made them to lose several battles. The range of the German U-boats were short and inflicted maximum damage on civilians than allied troops, which attracted negative public outcry against the central powers. The Germans tried to use poison gas but abandoned it after realizing that winds were blowing it back to their own base. Besides, German allies like Turkey, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria were so weak that Germany would occasionally divert her troops to help them against the allied powers.

This diverted the German army and led to lack of concentration yet Germany was fighting on two fronts i. e. The Western front against Belgium, France and Britain and the Eastern front against Russia.

2. The naval superiority of allied powers also explains the defeat of central powers/Germany. The allied powers were boosted by Britain who had the best dreadnaughts and battleships manned by well drilled and experienced naval officers. These were effectively used to block Germany and her allies from accessing most European waters, which limited their combat operations to the mainland. Imports and exports involving central powers were therefore severely reduced, which worsened economic crisis and weakened them militarily. The British navy also demolished several German squadrons and U-boats on the Atlantic Ocean e.g. A very dangerous German squadron commanded by Admiral Graf that had inflicted severe damage on British ships on the coast of South America was finally crushed in Dec 1914. Thereafter, the several German squadrons that were scattered throughout the world were hunted down and demolished.

Naval superiority made allied powers to effectively control European waters and freely move troops to any theatre of war unlike the central powers, which made the defeat of the central powers inevitable.

3. The reckless German submarine warfare strategy also contributed to the defeat of Germany and her allies. The Germans used unrestricted U-boat warships that were banned in Europe because of their destructive nature. From mid 1915, the Germans without any preliminary warning recklessly used U-boats to sink any ship be it for civilians, merchants, traders, refugees, soldiers or passengers as long as it was sighted in the war zone. The U-boats even sunk ships of neutral countries like Spain, Portugal and USA.

This led to death of several innocent civilians' traders and refugees e.g. in May 1915; the Germans sunk the British ship (Lusitania) in which over 1000 passengers including 100 American citizens perished. This created a public outcry in America to punish Germany for the wanton massacre that made USA to join the war on the side of allies and defeat Germany. On the other hand, German's overreliance on U-boats was unsustainable by 1918. The allies countered it with the "Convoy system" which rendered the U-boat strategy ineffective hence accounting for Germany's defeat.

4. The German invasion of Belgium in 1914 was a military blunder that contributed to the defeat of the central powers. On 4th Aug 1914, Germany invaded Belgium and attacked France. This was an outright violation of the 1839 London treaty in which the great powers had pledged to respect the neutrality and independence of Belgium. This portrayed Germany as an aggressive imperial power that does not respect international treaties. It irritated European powers most especially Britain who joined the war purposely to safeguard the 1839 London treaty, which had guaranteed Belgium's independence. Thereafter, Britain used her naval power to blockade Germany in European waters, which conditioned German's defeat by 1918.

5. Poor planning based on misconception created by the Schlieffen plan also contributed to

Germany's defeat in World War I. The German war plan was devised by her chief of general staff. Count Von Schlieffen in which German troops were to quickly march through Belgium into France, overrun Paris and defeat France in about 6 weeks. Thereafter, the victorious troops were to rush to the East and defeat the 'inferior and backward' Russia in a few days.

However the plan was a fiasco right from the moment it was tried. First of all, the war started with Russia on 1st Aug before France later on the 3rd.

Secondly, the Belgians waged a strong resistance and the quick march to France was a dream. Thirdly, the inferior and backward' Russians advanced much faster and attacked East Prussia, which prompted the Germans to divert over 4 more divisions from France to the East. This disorganized and weakened German forces right from the onset and retarded their effectiveness.

6. Numerical superiority of allied powers also contributed to the defeat of Germany and her allies. The allied camp had more states including large and highly populated countries like Britain, France, Russia, Belgium, Japan, USA etc. They were boosted by common wealth forces and vast colonies possessed by allied powers. On the other hand, Germany and her allies had very few colonies compared to those possessed by allied powers. Out of German allies, only Austria was militarily stronger while Turkey and Bulgaria were militarily inferior. The scale of the war subjected the four central powers to fight the whole world, which was impossible considering the fact that they were numerically disadvantaged.

7. The entry of USA on the side of allies boosted the allies and contributed to the speedy defeat of the central powers. In 1917, USA joined the allies against Germany partly to avenge the death of about 100 American citizens in the British ship Lusitania that was destroyed by German U-boat in 1915. Prior to 1917, USA had accumulated a lot of financial gains through sale of war related equipments and she was the most stable nation. It should be noted that by April 1917, the war had reached a stalemate where either side could not make significant gains and win. However, USA's entrance reinforced allied powers with financial and military backing at a time when both camps were exhausted and fatigued. It also helped to fill the gap left by Russia's withdrawal and that explains why the central powers failed to take advantage of it by making rapid gains, which could have won for them the war.

8. Encirclement of Germany by 1917 greatly contributed to the defeat of central powers. From 1916, the allies launched three simultaneous attacks from the Western, Eastern and Italian fronts. Americans launched a full scale invasion of Germans near Verdun, British used heavy tanks to shell

German troops Amiens and Arras, and Canadians attacked German troops who had earlier on taken over Ypres. French and Belgians intensified their attacks in the North of France. This encirclement overstretched and scattered the German troops and made the defeat of central powers inevitable since Germany was the only active member by 1918.

9. High spirit of patriotism and nationalism also contributed to the success of allied powers against Germany and her allies. Allied nations like Britain, France and Italy were led by democrats who instilled the spirit of patriotism and nationalism in their subjects. Their leaders used the mass media to mobilize all abled bodied persons to fight and defeat the central powers. For instance, in 1916 when the Germans attacked the main military base of French forces at Verdun, Marshall Potein, the French commander issued an inspiring call to his troops that "they shall not pass". This call became the French patriotic slogan that inspired confidence and resilience in French troops, which made the Germans to be ejected from France.

10. The role of charismatic leadership also contributed to the success of allied powers in the War. The French prime minister, George Clemenceau and his counterpart of Britain were more experienced and competent than the leaders of the central powers. They mobilized and moral boosted their nationals to fight and defeat Germany and her allies. On the other hand, central powers were led by less experienced and shrewd statesmen. Germany after the downfall of Bismarck was led by Kaiser II and army commanders Von Hidenburg and Ludendorff, who were less oriented in European politics and military organization.

Austria-Hungary was led by Emperor Francis Joseph whose age (84 years in 1914) had partly made him incapable of holding the ramshackle empire together (the empire was crumbling due to the rise of nationalism). Turkey was led by Sultan Mohamad V who had also failed to maintain harmony and co-existence between the various nationalities struggling to regain their independence. This created internal weaknesses that reduced the effectiveness of the central powers in the war and favoured the success of allied powers in World War I.

11. The defection of Italy and Romania to allied camp also contributed to the defeat of the central powers. Italy was a founder member of the triple alliance (led by Germany) and Romania was a close ally.

Germany and Austria thus expected both states to support them in the war. However in 1916, both Italy and Romania defected and joined the allies against the central powers. This created panic, confusion and low morale in the camp of the central powers. The defection led to leakage of long war plans and strategies and boosted the morale in the allied powers that led to the defeat of the central powers.

12. Press propaganda was used to decampaign the central powers and mobilize mass support that led to the success of allied powers. The mass media was manipulated to popularize malicious and ridiculous information about the central powers. The British and French media were used by opportunistic politicians to depict Germany and her allies as imperialists who were fighting to dominate and oppress the world.

Lord Northcliffe, who was in charge of propaganda in Britain, dispatched leaflets to Austria-Hungary in which he promised the various nationalities their independence, if they deserted the Austrian Empire. The Czechs, Poles, Slovenes and Croats responded to the offer and joined the allies. They contributed to numerical superiority of allied powers that overwhelmed the central powers.

13. Economic hardship also accounts for the defeat of Germany and her allies. This was partly due to the fact that Germany diverted resources from productive sectors like agriculture to sustain the war that dragged on for 4 years. Worst of all, as the war progressed, allied powers imposed economic embargo on the central powers that banned imports and exports of food, medicine, arms and ammunitions throughout Europe. Britain enforced naval blockade where she confiscated cargoes of neutral ships trading with Germany purposely to wreck Germany's economy. This led to acute economic hardship like inflation, financial crisis, unemployment, poverty and starvation. On the other hand, allied powers easily traded in arras, ammunitions, food and medicines, which favoured them against the central powers. One should recapitulate that financial crisis led to poor armament, slow reinforcement, poor motivation and low morale that subjected Germany and her allies to defeat.

14. Internal instability also contributed to the defeat of Germany. By 1918, trade unionists, socialists and communists mobilized protests against the severe economic hardship and Germany's continuation of war against the allies. The communists attempted a revolution that was ruthlessly suppressed. These diverted attention and concentration of German leaders and soldiers from the war. On the contrary, allied nations were relatively stable with the exception of Russia. Trade unionists cooperated with their governments and workers were silenced with high wages. This created internal stability that left the allies with much freedom to concentrate on the war against Germany and her allies.

15. The abdication of Kaiser William 11 on 8th Nov 1918 and the signing of armistice by President Ebert

Was the final step in the defeat of the central powers By 1918, all German allies had surrendered and Germany was still persisting with the war amidst severe economic crisis, internal protests and threat of military coup. This forced top army commanders i.e. Ludendorff and Hindenburg to relinquish their power to the Reichstag. Kaiser William 11 was also forced by pressure of events to abdicate and flee to Holland, which made Chancellor Prince Marx to handover government control to Frederick Ebert, the socialdemocrat leader. On 11th Nov 1918, Frederick Ebert signed an armistice with the victorious powers that marked the end of the war and the final defeat of the central powers.

Attachments

No attachments

EFFECTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War was the most destructive war fought between the highly organized states of the 20th century. It was the first war on a large scale that dislocated the political, social, economic and military structures and the whole world. Every belligerent state bore lasting scars of the terrible ordeal between the years 1914 - 1918. Its impact will directly and indirectly continue to affect the style and pattern of life of mankind in the universe.

Positive impact

i) Political freedom

The war gave rise to new and independent states on the map of Europe. The Versailles peacemakers granted independence to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia etc. The independent Republic of Yugoslavia was created by merging Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro.

Rumania also became independent and even acquired Bessarabia from Russia and Transylvania from Austria-Hungary. Most of the newly created states were formerly under the Ottoman Empire. However, the merging of different nationalities brewed conflict, which led to political instability that characterized the inter-war period.

ii) Territorial re-adjustment

Some territorial changes were witnessed due to the outcome of World War I. At Versailles, France regained the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, the works of arts and her flag that were confiscated by Germany in 1871. Germany also lost Schleswig to Denmark, Eupen and Malmedy to Belgium amongst others. Italy gained Trieste and Trientino from Austria which were inhabited by Italians but still ruled by Austria. Austria lost Bosnia and Herzegovina to the newly created state of Yugoslavia and Slovenia to

Czechoslovakia. These territorial re-adjustments created new boundaries and redrew the map of Europe.

iii) Formation of the League of Nations

The formation of the League of Nations in Jan 1920 was an outcome of the First World War. The devastations and sufferings of the Great War cautioned the great powers of the necessity to avoid a war of such nature in future. This gave rise to the League of Nations as an international organisation to maintain peace in Europe. This was because the weakness of the International Court of Justice was partly responsible for the outbreak of World War I and its disastrous consequences. The League of Nations was to diplomatically resolve conflicts and protect the territorial integrity and independence of weaker states as a strategy of creating a lasting peace.

iv) Rise of Japan and USA

The war led to the rise of Japan and USA since they were not greatly affected. After the collapse of the Tsarist regime in Russia, Japan expanded

in the east. She took advantage of the eastern markets to strengthen her economy. By 1917, USA had supplied the allies with ammunitions and other supplies, which brought her economic prosperity. She also gave loans to states for financing the War and post war recovery from which she reaped a lot of interest after the war. After the war Japan and USA continued their dominance in the supply of manufactured goods to the world. This consolidated the economic, military and political influence of Japan and USA alongside Britain in European and World affairs.

V) The triumph of communism in Russia and its spread to Eastern Europe

The First World War led to the rise of communism in Russia that spread to Eastern Europe by 1939. The chaos and catastrophic effects of the war in Russia created a revolutionary mood against the Tsarist regime led by Tsar Nicholas II. Consequently, revolutionary leaders like Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky mobilized the Russians in a dual revolution that ended in a communist government on Nov 1917. Thereafter, communism spread to Eastern Europe and became a threat to capitalist Western Europe by 1939. This later created an ideological struggle between communist Eastern Europe led by USSR and capitalist Western Europe led by USA that is known as the Cold war.

vi) The downfall of conservative and autocratic governments

The collapse of conservative and dictatorial governments in Europe was also a consequence of the First World War. The negative effects of the war were blamed on conservative and autocratic regimes that were accused of provoking the war. The Germans blamed the Hohenzollem dynasty, the Russians accused Tsardom, Austrians and Hungarians 'fixed their eyes' on Hapsburg Empire as the Balkan states held the Ottoman Empire responsible for the horrible experience they went through. By 1939 these conservative and autocratic governments were over thrown and replaced by new ones.

vii) The rise of Republicanism in Germany

The First World War led to the rise of constitutional and democratic government in Germany. As Germany was on the verge of her final defeat towards 1918, there was public outcry against Kaiser William II who

eventually fled to exile and left a political vacuum in Germany. European powers like France and Britain were fed up of the autocratic German monarchical government and wanted a republican government in Germany. The British and the French therefore advocated for the establishment of a democratic government similar to those in Britain and France, which would be a puppet government of foreign powers. This led to the rise and existence of the Weimer republic which transformed Germany from a Monarchy to a democratic state between 1919 to 1933.

viii) Destruction of social class division

The war ended social class division in a number of European states. The war destroyed investments and properties of wealthy people especially the middle class and landlords in states like Britain and France.

The chaotic atmosphere created by the war favoured looting by the poor especially peasants some of whom became rich and moved to the level of middle class. During the war, people of different social classes and nationalities fled and hid together and shared the same camps, sickbays and hospitals.

After the war, it became difficult to differentiate between a peasant and a middle class since the social gap was narrowed by the war. It led to the spread of the idea of social equality and fraternity that led to the rise of cultural tolerance in Europe. This ended Social class conflicts in Europe as there was mutual respect for all mankind without prejudice.

ix) Women emancipation

The First World War contributed to the growth of women emancipation movement. It created an environment that led to social changes in Europe and indeed the world. The war led to acute shortage of men since most of them were killed and disabled. It made women to be employed in factories, shops, public office, hospitals and schools that were formally for men. They started putting on tight miniskirts and trousers as they did work that were originally preserved for men. This led to women emancipation and the idea of equality since women's talents were realized. Women formed social movements to advocate for equality with men. Consequently, in Britain all women aged 30 and above were given the right to vote.

Thus the war led to social changes in the status of women that made them to play more active role in their communities.

x) Improvement in education

There was improvement in education, science, technology and further spread of industrial revolution. This was done because it was realized that Europe needed educated labour force for progress. In Britain, the 1918 education act tried to provide a full and adequate education for the country's children. Science and technology were also improved. After the war, wartime research and inventions were used to make industries more efficient and organized. For instance, there was development of bomber aircraft industry and air travel after the war. However, the progress of science and the sufferings experienced during the War made many people to lose faith in religion and the idea of the existence of the almighty God. This led to a decline in religious beliefs that made 1920's to be referred to as the Gay years.

xi) Romanticism and merry making

The War led to a culture of romanticism and merry making in Europe. The physical and psychological effects of the war made the youngsters and other survivors to resort to merry making in an attempt to forget the miseries, trauma, and stress from the war. In London and other big cities of Europe, people resorted to dancing, jazz music, parties and other leisure activities. Other drew pictures and made art pieces depicting the terrible experience they had witnessed. All these made the post-World War I period to be codenamed Gay Twenties.

Negative impact

1) Depopulation

The greatest effect of World War I was the loss of millions of abled bodied persons let alone disabling many more. It's estimated that 13,000,000 people were killed in the actual fighting while 10,000,000 were permanently disabled. For every minute of fighting, four soldiers were being killed and nine wounded. At the national level, David Thomson reports that one Frenchman was killed every minute between August 1914 and Feb 1918. This death toll was further accelerated by famine, diseases during the war, appalling condition of prisoners of war and other calamities related to the

war. The overall consequence was depopulation that left about 10,000,000 orphans and widows.

ii) Change in the population structure

The war changed the population structure in Europe. The massive death of men especially at the battle field created a demographic structure dominated by women and children than men. The high death rate was also followed by low death rate since the number of productive people was greatly reduced. It created labour shortage that made industrialists to resort to women and children. However most of the women and children were inexperienced and inefficient, which often resulted into production of sub standard commodities that could not be solved in the world market. On the other hand, employment of children in dangerous factories and mines was the beginning of child abuse, which is a social evil up to today. Thus, the First World War can be blamed for availing a favourable atmosphere that led to child labour with all its dangers on the children. **iii) Displacement of people**

The war led to massive displacement of people in Europe. There was a large influx of homeless refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. It's estimated that about 21 million people were displaced and became homeless. Many of these were kept in camps in Western Europe during and after the war. This left the allied powers with the problem of how to repatriate and rehabilitate such displaced persons. This burden was shouldered by the international community through the League of Nations.

iv) The plight of prisoners of war

The war left behind the challenge of prisoners of war. During the war, the allied powers got many Germans, Austrians, Bulgarians, and Turks etc as prisoners of war. The central powers also managed to take a good number of Russians, British, French, Belgians etc as prisoners of war. After the war, belligerents had so many prisoners of war. For instance, Russia had about 427,000 prisoners of war. The challenge was big as such a state had to provide basic services like food, water, accommodation, medical services and security. This challenge ended after the League of Nations took over and repatriated the prisoners of war to their countries.

v) Destruction of property and infrastructure

vi) Economic decline

Britain that had dominated trade as the workshop of Europe suffered greatly due to the war. She concentrated on the production of war materials, which made her customers to switch to other countries for essential commodities. When the War ended, they could no longer renew their trade relations with Britain. Yet the few customers that remained were so devastated by the war that they did not have the money to buy British goods. Germany herself was crippled by reparations that she paid in kind and this destroyed the British trade the more. ' '''

Germany's economy suffered most as she was deprived of all her colonies in Africa, Middle East and Asia. She was disarmed and forced to pay a heavy war indemnity of £6,600m. This made Germany to be on top of the great economic depression in Europe. For instance, by 1931 Germany had 6,000,000 unemployed people while Britain had 3,000,000. **vii) The Great Depression of 1929-1933**

The First World War, contributed to the outbreak of the World economic depression of 1929-1933.

Destruction and closer of industries led to mass unemployment and low purchasing power that huge quantities of commodities unsold. International trade declined because countries were left so poor that they could not import large quantities of foreign products yet their own domestic markets were flooded with surplus products. Above all many European countries were heavily indebted to USA as a result of loans borrowed to finance the war and reconstruct the economy after the war. The repayment of such debts to USA more over in form of Gold reduced money supply and led to the outbreak of the Great Depression by 1929.

viii) The downfall of Germany and her allies

The war led to the fall and disintegration of Germany and her allies. After her defeat, Germany was partitioned into two with the Polish Corridor mining through it to the port of Danzig. The Austrian empire disappeared from the map of Europe. Austria was reduced to a small land locked country with a population entirely German speaking of about 7 million while Hungary was isolated with a population almost entirely made up of Magyar of about 8 million.

ix) The end of former treaties and alliances

The First World War destroyed and ended the then existing treaties and alliances. The German invasion of Belgium in 1914 violated the London treaty of 1839 that had guaranteed the independence and neutrality of Belgium. In 1915, Italy signed the treaty of London by which she joined the triple entente to fight against the triple alliance which she had been a member (since 1882 when she signed). With this, Italy fought against Austria and Germany who were her former allies. In 1917, Russia signed the treaty of Brest Litovsk with Germany by which she abandoned the triple entente and crossed to Germany's side after being defeated (by Germany). These shifting of sides weakened former treaties and alliances and made it impossible to renew them after the war. However, new treaties and alliances like the little entente of

Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia and France (1921-1927) and the axis alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan (1937) reemerged in the inter

war period. The new treaties and alliances had different membership some of which included former enemies of World War I, hence the dynamics of inter war politics.

x) Political changes in favour of dictatorship

The war resulted into political changes that favoured the rise of dictatorship in Europe between 1919 and 1936. The social and economic problems created by the war made people to lose faith governments that led them into the war. This undermined the pre-war governments that was used by ambitious men like Lenin, Mussolini, General Franco and Hitler to mobilize the masses that led to the collapse of the then existing governments. This was responsible for the rise of Communism in Russia in 1917, Fascism in Italy (1922) and Spain (1939), and Nazism in Germany in 1934. These were because the masses preferred strong, militant and authoritarian governments that could effectively defend their territorial integrity and independence. **xi) The Negative implications of the 1919 Versailles settlement.**

The First World War was concluded with the Versailles treaty of 1919 that had negative implications on Europe. The treaty was dictated and Germany plus her allies were forced to sign against their will. The terms of the treaty liketates; war guilt, reparations, disarmament, territorial and mandate clauses brought several negative changes against the defeated nations in favour of the victorious powers. Japan and Italy who were on the side of the victorious powers were also unfairly rewarded for their efforts. Consequently, they joined Germany in the Tokyo-Rome -Berlin axis and waged a network of aggressions that destabilized European peace in the inter war period.

xii) The outbreak of World War II

The First World War laid foundation for the outbreak of World War II. The destroyed European economy and led to economic depression that destroyed diplomatic relations and led to the outbreak of World war II by 1939. The war was also concluded by the unfair Versailles settlement that left Germany, Italy and Japan with a high spirit of revenge rather than reconciliation. It also led to the rise of aggressive leaders like Hitler in Germany and Mussolini in Italy who waged a series of aggression that climaxed into the German invasion of Poland and the outbreak of World War II. To this extent, one can conclude that the Second World War was a continuation of the First World War.

Attachments

THE VERSAILLES PEACE TREATY 1919

Introduction

The First World War finally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month. It was after a spokesman of the central powers (Germany and her allies) conceded defeat and agreed to an armistice with Marshall Forche, the commander of the allied forces. This left the leading statesmen with the task of settling the problems created by the war and maintaining world peace. After the surrender of Germany and her allies, the victorious powers met in a conference at Versailles in Paris between January and June 1919. They came out with the Versailles peace treaty; The Versailles treaty was an elaborate document of 800 words that contained 440 articles. It was a peace agreement signed between the victorious powers (who were 27 by then) and the defeated powers between 1919- 1923. The main treaty was signed in the hall of mirrors at Versailles. Other treaties imposed on the defeated powers were included in its final version, such were;

i) The treaty of St. German with Austria in September 1919.

ii) The treaty of Trianon with Hungary in June 1920. iii)

The treaty of Nully with Bulgaria in Nov 1919

iv) The two treaties with Turkey i.e. the treaty of Serves (1920) and the treaty of Lousane in 1923 (after another government coming to power).

Although a number of states were represented at the Paris conference, the terms of the peace treaty was exclusively decided by three countries i.e. Britain represented by Premier Lloyd George, France led by Premier George Clemenceau, USA represented by President Woodrow Wilson and to a small extent Orlando of Italy. Of the big three statesmen, Woodrow Wilson of USA was more realistic in comparison to his colleagues. He was an idealist professor with little experience in European politics.

However, the role played by USA in the war convinced him that he had more solutions for European problems than any of the other statesmen. Nevertheless, his inexperience in European affairs made him to be overshadowed by Lloyd George and Clemenceau who were hardheaded/tough minded debaters.

No wonder that they were able to get things done from him, which he would not have voluntarily approved of.

Attachments

WOODROW WILSON'S 14 POINTS

Woodrow Wilson wanted justice and impartiality to be extended to the defeated powers. He believed that injustice/unfairness on any of the belligerents (countries that fought) would take Europe and indeed the world back to the bad old days of war. It was against this background that he came out with 14 points, which was the basis upon which peace was concluded with Germany and her allies. The points were the outcome of his critical analysis of the causes of World War I and he made sure that they were accepted at the Paris peace conference.

It must be emphasized that Germany surrendered on condition that the 14 points and other statements made by Woodrow Wilson would be the basis of the Versailles peace treaty. Besides the 14 points, Wilson had announced that there shall be no annexations, no reparations, no punitive damages and that free acceptance by the people concerned would be the basis of any settlement. However, these principles were totally violated when the

treaty was drafted. Germany and her allies were not invited but called upon to answer charges at the conference.

The treaty of Versailles was not negotiated (as Wilson wanted) but dictated by the victors upon the vanquished (defeated) powers. It was simply presented to Germany and she was asked either to accept it in five days or face an invasion. Germany had no better choice than to sign what she called "dictated peace".

NB. Even at the time of signing the treaty, the German delegates led by its foreign minister were humiliated. They were kept in a hotel behind barbed wires and were not allowed to communicate to anybody. They were escorted in and out of the hall of mirrors where the treaty was signed like criminals escorted to and from the dock by prison warders/policemen.

ASSESSMENT OF WILSON'S 14 POINTS

To understand the composition of the Versailles treaty, it's imperative to examine Wilson's 14 points.

We need to assess the extent to which Wilson succeeded in implementing his good ideas considering that his colleagues had bad intentions upon the defeated nations. We therefore analyze whether the 14 points settled the post-war problems and avoided future conflicts or not. Thus;

1. All diplomacy and negotiations between states was to be carried out "Openly, frankly and in public view". He stood for mutual trust and confidence between nations through consultations and settling of disputes openly. This was to avoid secret treaties and alliances that had caused war in 1914. However, this was never implemented since the victor and defeated nations of Europe had very high nostalgia for revenge.

2. Wilson stressed "Absolute freedom of navigation on the seas in peace and war except in territorial water". This was partly due to the fact that naval rivalry and the determination of Germany and Britain to dominate the sea had caused naval race and led to World War I. On this sensitive issue, Wilson was out rightly opposed by Lloyd George of Britain. Britain could easily welcome the destruction and limitation of the German navy but not equality at sea. He argued that a strong navy was a luxury to Germany but a necessity to Britain.

3. He proposed the removal of trade barriers between states in international trade. This is because colonial economic rivalry and the policy of protectionism had partly contributed to the First World War.

This point worked to suit America whose industries and trade were not significantly ruined by the war.

However, other powers were so much devastated by the war that their industries and trade needed tariffs and other protective measures. They therefore rejected the idea after recovering in the long run.

4. Aware that arms race had contributed to World War I, Wilson's 4th point emphasized that nations should give guarantees that they would "disarm to the lowest level consistent with domestic safety".

While this provision was fully applied to Germany and her allies, other powers did not reduce the level of their arms. This gave Hitler an excuse to rearm Germany which resurrected the arms race in the inter war period.

5. Emphasizes impartial adjustment to all colonial claims in the interest of the colonized. Here, the interests and sentiments of the colonized were to be considered equal to those of the governments given to mandate or control. This went without any opposition from Britain, France, Belgium and Japan. This could be explained from the fact that they all wanted to gain from Germany's empire than gain from the colonized people.

6. Germany was to evacuate Russian territories because the Brest-Litovsk treaty of 1917 was forced on Russia by Germany (because Russia was defeated). Russia was to be assisted in every way that she may need and herself desire" for the free determination of her future. This idea went unopposed.

However, the principle of free determination of her future accelerated the success of the 1917 revolution, which upset democratic governance that Wilson and his associates had projected.

7. Evacuation and restoration of Belgium's independence. Belgium was the nucleus of World War I.

Germany and her allies had to withdraw all their forces from Belgium. This was accepted by both Britain and Germany since it was a primary factor why Britain declared war on Germany.

8. Provides for evacuation and restoration of French territory and the righting of the wrongs done to France in 1871 as far as Alsace and Lorraine were concerned. On this point, Wilson was successful since France recovered the two territories and even redressed the wrongs done to her by Prussia at Sedan in 1866. Britain also saw it right and fitting.

9. Provides for re-adjustment of the borders of Italy "along clearly recognizable lines of authority".

She was a member of the triple alliance but entered the war on the side of triple entente. However, she lost some territories during the war. She had to be rewarded and compensated with some other territories. Wilson did not encounter any opposition since this was in accordance to the principle of nationality and a way of rewarding an ally against the enemy.

10. Point ten States that "all peoples of Austria-Hungary were to be offered the opportunity of independent development". Austria-Hungary was hitherto (until then) made up of about 13 different races. This was a success since Britain and France could not deny democratic governments or obstruct the principle of nationality in Europe. Better still, the dissolution of Austria-Hungary and the new independent states posed no security problem in Europe.

11. Stresses the evacuation and restoration of Serbia, Montenegro, Rumania and an outlet to the sea for Serbia. Political and economic independence was to be granted to even other Balkan states. The allies adopted this point with the hope of settling the historical and contentious issues that had destabilized

Europe. This was finally affected in the treaty of St. German with Austria on Sept 1919.

12. Suggested the readjustment of Turkish territories and breaking up of the Ottoman Empire. Various nationalities under Turkey were to be granted selfgovernance (independence) while the Turkish population was to form an independent Turkey. The Dardanelles was to be open to ships and merchants of all nations. Wilson was not opposed by Britain or France who stood to benefit from the freedom of navigation and trade with the newly created states. This was later concretized by the treaty of Serves in 1920.

13. States that an independent Poland be created in those areas solely or "indisputably Polish" and the Polish state had to be granted a free and secure access to the sea (Adriatic sea). Although this was not 344 % opposed by the allied powers, there is sufficient evidence to justify that the created Poland of 1919 was neither "indisputably" Polish in population nor her access to the sea was without territorial dispute.

Both decisions incorporated and violated Germany's territory. This explains why Germany invaded Poland in 1939 to begin the Second World War.

14. Provides that an international organisation be formed to guarantee the independence of all states both great and small. This gave rise to the League of Nations whose role was very instrumental in maintaining World peace up to 1939.

If the 14 points were followed, Europe would have had peace after 1918. But as noted above, these points were violated. George Clemenceau the ageing premier who was nearly 80 years dismissed the 14 points cynically calling it "The fourteen (14) commandments" adding a contrast that "The good Lord had only ten," he emphasized the fact that "God gave us Ten Commandments, we broke them, Wilson gave us 14, we shall see",

George Clemenceau had excessive hatred for Germany and the Germans. He had twice seen German invasion of France during his lifetime and never wished to see France attacked for the third time by Germany. He therefore prayed for the destruction of Germany in order to avoid humiliation of France by Germany like in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 - 1871.

Although Lloyd George admired and valued Wilson's 14 points, he could not support him (Wilson) since the English people had a lot of negative feelings towards Germany. George himself had just won an election with a promise to 'Hang the Kaiser and make Germany pay'. These influenced him to support George Clemenceau during the conference. Thus, the difference in opinion between Woodrow

Wilson on one hand, George Lloyd and Clemenceau on the other hand had a lot of influence on the final terms of the Versailles treaty of 1919. In other words, Lloyd George and Clemenceau out competed Woodrow

Wilson which made the Versailles treaty very unrealistic in resolving the postwar problems.

Attachments

THE TERMS/PROVISIONS OF THE VERSAILLES TREATY

The terms of the treaty of Versailles was written in a document that consisted of 15 parts with 440 articles and other annexes. The most significant terms of the treaty were;

1) The war guilt clause (article 231), entirely blamed Germany for the outbreak of the World war one. By this provision, Germany was forced to accept her own responsibility and those of her allies for all the losses and damages incurred by the allied and associated governments plus their nationals in the war.

2) The reparation clause (article 232), subjected Germany to the heaviest war indemnity in the history of the world. A reparation commission was established to fix the final sum that Germany was to pay to compensate the allied and associated powers for the direct and indirect losses incurred in the war. Indirect losses included pensions for war widows and orphans. After a lot of arguments and negotiations with Germany, the commission on 27th April 1921 dictated 6,600 million pounds or 34533,000 million dollars as the final reparations and drafted a schedule of repayments. Payments was also to be paid in cash and in tangible commodities like coal, chemicals, dyes, cattle, ships, timber etc. It was also provided that Germany loses the Coal mine of the Saar valley to France to compensate the destroyed Coal mines in the North of France.

3) The disarmament clause reduced the German army to 100,000 men and the navy to 15,000 men armed with only 6 battles ships, 6 Light cruisers, 12 destroyers and 12 torpedo boats. She was to destroy her tanks, submarines and heavy artilleries. Germany was not to have any military, naval or air forces. Imports and exports of war materials were banned in Germany. Naval training and conscription were also prohibited. The allies were duty bound to appoint commissioners to ensure that Germany faithfully implements the disarmament clause. Article 160 of the Versailles treaty stated that; by a date not later than 31st march 1920, the German army must not consist of more than 7(seven) divisions of infantry and 3(three) of Cavalry i.e. not more than 100,000 men.

4) The Rhineland was demilitarized and no military force was to be maintained in that area. The

Hitherto (until then) existing fortifications and harbours in the Rhine lands, Helgoland island and

Dune was to be demolished. Germany was warned against having military bases on the

Southwest, East and Rhineland since such would jeopardize the security of her neighbours, e.g. Poland, France and Czechoslovakia.

5) The territorial clause made a lot of adjustments on the territorial alignments (boundaries) of Europe in favour of other powers against Germany. Alsace and Lorraine were given back to France, Eupen, Moresnet and Malmedy to Belgium, Schleswig to Denmark, Saar Coalfield to France until the 1935 referendum overturned the decision, Mammel to Lithuania, West Prussia and Posen (to Poland to provide her access to the sea via a corridor of land that passed through Germany), Danzig; a predominantly German town and the main port of West Prussia was made a free city under the administration of the League of Nations, Germany agreed to cancel the treaties of Brest- Litovsk and Bucharest and surrender control over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that were given independence.

6) The decolonization clause dispossessed Germany of all her overseas colonies. Her colonies were taken over by the League of Nations. Article 119 of the Versailles treaty stated that; Germany renounces in favour of the principle allied and associated powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions. Consequently, Tanganyika and Cameroon were given to Britain, German South West Africa (Namibia) to the Republic of South Africa, Togo to France, Rwanda to Belgium etc. Germany was also forced to recognize the complete independence and full sovereignty of Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria. The victorious powers reserved the right to retain and liquidate all property, rights and interests of German nationals or companies abroad and the German government was required to pay compensation to them, it was through this arrangement that Germany forfeited her property and investments in Bulgaria, Turkey, Morocco, Liberia, Egypt etc.

7) Germany was ordered to return the flags, works of art and trophies that were looted from France in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871. She

was also to compensate the University of Louvan for her documents and manuscripts that were vandalized/destroyed in 1871. Sultan Mkwawa's skull was also to be given to England.

8) International waters such as the Elba, Danube, River Niemen, Baltic Sea, Med. Sea etc were declared neutral and free to all ships of all nations. The Kiel canal was also opened to all nations.

Goods from allied nations were to be given favourable treatment on the German railway lines.

9) Kaiser William U, the German emperor was to be tried by a tribunal and was to be punished accordingly which most likely was to be death sentence. However, this was impossible because the Netherlands government refused to hand him over to the allies for the trial.

10) To ensure that the above clauses were implemented, the German territory west of the Rhine,

together with the bridge heads were to be occupied by the allied troops for a period of 15 years.

This occupation was to be prolonged in case of any defiance / misbehaviour from Germany. It should be noted that Germany's behaviour was good and all the troops were eventually withdrawn by 1930.

Attachments

No attachments



[Brainshare](#)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE VERSAILLES PEACE MAKERS

1. To re-organize Europe for the purpose of maintaining world peace, security and stability.

2. To redraw the map of Europe and restore the balance of power. This was because German aggression had destroyed the balance of power to her advantage.
3. To map out strategies that would preserve the territorial integrity and independence of countries in Europe. This was because violation of territorial integrity and independence of states had led to poor diplomatic relations and the outbreak of World War I.
4. To reconcile the warring powers of World War I most especially Germany although her aggression was to be checked for some time.
5. To free the different races dominated by the central powers (Germany and her allies).
6. Disarm both the victor and defeated powers since arms race had partly caused the disaster of 1914 to 1918.
7. To recognize the principle of nationalism and self-determination by giving independence to the oppressed nations. This was because nationalism had primarily been responsible for the outbreak of the First World War.
8. The victorious powers most especially France, wanted to permanently destroy Germany plus her allies in order to safeguard themselves against German aggression that had caused the 1870 -1871 war and the 1914 - 1918 war.

Attachments

No attachments



[Brainshare](#)

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE VERSAILLES PEACE TREATY OF 1919

1. The treaty concluded the First World War and created some relative peace in Europe. At Versailles,

Germany and her cohorts (allies) were forced to denounce war and accept defeat. The terms of the treaty e.g. disarmament and reparations

weakened Germany and her allies which safeguarded Europe and mankind from war. This is why there was a period of relative peace up to the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

2. It brought diplomatic understanding that had failed in Europe before and during the First World War.

Collective decisions were made on international issues as opposed to the pre-1914 idea of every nation for itself and God for us all. Although the treaty was un-realistic to the defeated powers, it nevertheless brought together the formerly divided Europe before 1914 to a roundtable settlement as a step towards global co-operation.

3. The neutrality of all important water bodies was guaranteed. For instance, the Dardanelles (mouth of the Bosphorus) that was an area of economic conflict was open to all ships of all nations to ensure free navigation. The treaty also removed trade barriers, which boosted international trade. Although countries pursued the policy of protectionism which undermined free international trade, the treaty has to be commended for ushering peaceful trade which renewed economic cooperation in Europe.

4. The treaty restored the balance of power that had favoured Germany and Austria before 1914. The sizes of Germany and Austria were reduced by giving independence to some states they had conquered prior to 1914. These included Poland, Rhineland, and Saar coal field that were detached from German control. Re union between Germany and Austria was forbidden as a strategy of weakening Germany and making it hard for her to dominate other powers.

5. The Versailles settlement made some territorial readjustments. France regained Alsace and Lorraine that were mainly inhabited by Frenchmen but forcefully annexed by Germany in 1871. Denmark also recovered Schleswig, which she had lost in the 1864 war with Prussia. Germany lost her colonies in Europe and Africa, which were given to mainly Britain and France. This weakened Germany and made her unable to revenge in the short run while it was fair to France that was unfairly treated by Germany in the 1871 Frankfurt treaty.

6. Independence was given to smaller states that were mainly under Turkish and Austrian empire. These included Poland, Iraq, Kuwait,

Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. This was the actual collapse of the Turkish and Austrian empires. The great powers evacuated Serbia, Rumania and Montenegro, which were hitherto (until then) under foreign rule. This meant that the treaty upheld the principle of nationalism and self-determination. Although nationalities like the Germans, Hungarians and Austrians were subjected to foreign rule, the degree of nationalism ignored was not greater than that of the Vienna settlement of 1815.

7. The treaty observed the democratic rights of the smaller nations. They were given freedom to determine their political destiny. For instance, a referendum was held in Upper Silesia that had a mixture of Germans and Poles. 60% voted for a union with Germany and 40% favoured Poland. They were eventually made to unite with Germany.

8. The treaty was fair to the land locked countries of Serbia and Poland. Serbia was given free access to the sea which made her to profitably engage in trade. The newly created Poland was provided with a corridor of land that passed through Germany to the port of Danzig in the Baltic Sea. This enabled her to participate in trade and gain economic stability.

9. The Versailles settlement came up with Disarmament policy which although applied only to the defeated powers, helped in maintaining world peace for some time. The disarmament clause; limited German army to 100,000, Austria to 30,000, Hungary to 35,000 and Bulgaria to 20,000. Germany and her allies were forbidden from having submarines, war planes and compulsory military service. The disarmament of Germany and her allies safeguarded Europe and the world from German aggression for sometime. Germany in particular would have brought greater chaos than she did by 1939 if she had not been disarmed. Besides, the settlement is also credited for creating awareness, in European history of the dangers of weapons of mass destruction.

10. The Versailles peacemakers adopted Woodrow Wilson's 14th point, which advocated for the formation of an international organisation to maintain peace. This gave rise to the League of Nations that made significant political, social and economic contributions to world affairs.

11. The settlement made arrangements for the exchange of prisoners of war and resettlement of displaced persons. Consequently, Germany released the allied war prisoners and likewise the allied powers.

Attachments

WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES OF THE VERSAILLES TREATY

The idea that World War I was fought to end all wars was rendered null and void by the unrealistic terms of the Versailles settlement. The unfairness of the treaty to the defeated powers created great need for revenge against the signatories of the settlement. This brought tension in Europe, which climaxed in the outbreak of yet another World War in 1939 justifying the view that the 1919 statesmen had made peace without peace. The foregoing are the weaknesses and failures of the Versailles peace treaty;

1. The treaty was imposed on Germany and her allies since there was no open and frank discussion. It was not negotiated but dictated by the victorious powers against the defeated nations making it unrealistic in an attempt to bring about reconciliation in Europe. The treaty was dominated by France, Britain and USA, who worked hard to see that the defeated powers were permanently disabled. It therefore failed to capture European public opinion.
2. Apart from Germany and her allies, the Versailles Treaty also left Italy and Japan dissatisfied. Italy and Japan were poorly compensated for the role they played in the First World War. Orlando of Italy complained of poor rewards and left the conference in protest. Japan also lost interest and pulled out by April 1920 due to poor compensation. These made Italy and Japan to join Germany and form the axis alliance. The alliance strengthened their quest for revenge and led to a series of aggression and instability in Europe.
3. Similarly, the Versailles settlement led to the rise of dictators in Europe. Mussolini of Italy, Hirohito of Japan and Hitler of Germany used the unfairness of the Versailles Treaty as a stepping stone to rise to power. They blamed their respective governments for accepting the unfair terms of the settlement and promised a militaristic approach to reverse the terms of the settlement. This undermined people's confidence in their governments and made them to accept their dictatorship.

4. The Versailles settlement sowed seeds for the outbreak of the Second World War, The terms of the treaty were too severe and harsh to the defeated powers. The war guilt, reparations, disarmament and territorial clauses were manipulated to punish Germany and thus left her longing for a war of revenge. Japan and Italy were poorly compensated and that is why they joined Germany to form the axis alliance. The need to revenge against the Versailles settlement was responsible for a series of aggressions by the axis powers, which culminated into the German invasion of Poland and the Second World War.
5. The Treaty of Lausanne ignored the plight of Armenian Christians who had for long suffered from Turkey's oppression, exploitation and persecution. During the course of World War I, Britain promised to liberate Armenia from Turkey's rule. However, this was not included in the treaty of Lausanne of 1923 with Turkey. The Armenians were left at the mercy of the Turks who continued to oppress, exploit and persecute them more than before the settlement.

The Versailles settlement fragmented Europe by creating weak states that became vulnerable to aggression. It created 7 more states out of 19 that had existed in Europe prior to 1919. These included smaller states like Poland, Serbia, Czechoslovakia and Slovenia that were so weak economically and militarily. They could not sustain their economies and defend themselves from axis aggressions. The vulnerability of these states partly gave Hitler morale to conquer them one after the other, which created tension and instability in Europe.

' Article 231 of the war guilt clause was very unrealistic as it entirely blamed Germany for causing the First World War. It says;

The allied and associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of

Germany and her allies for causing all the losses and damages to which the allied and associated governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

It's true that Germany was the most notorious trouble causer who contributed to the First World War, yet it's even more true that all those who participated in the war share some degree of responsibility.

Blaming and condemning Germany alone was unrealistic which left Germany on a look out for revenge.

Actually, Hitler's determination to destroy the war guilt clause contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War.

8. Although the Versailles settlement imposed a heavy war indemnity on Germany, it failed to ensure effective payments of the reparations. By article 232, Germany was to pay a staggering sum of £6, 600 million as war reparations. This was a huge chunk of money that could not be paid by any single nation. Worst of all, Germany was denied the means as well as the resources from her industries and colonies, which were "looted" by the Versailles "big shots". Consequently it became impossible for Germany to pay the whole reparations and Germany repudiated (refused to pay) from 1920's. Even when Germany repudiated, there was no attempt by the peace makers to force Germany to complete the payments.

9. The Versailles peacemakers failed to enforce general disarmament as suggested by President Woodrow Wilson in his 14 points. Germany was properly disarmed and left with only 100,000 soldiers just to maintain law and order". As Germany was being disarmed, the victorious powers were arming themselves to the teeth. This was exploited by Hitler to re-arm Germany which resurrected the arms race and led to World War II.

10. The territorial arrangement of the settlement ignored the principle of nationalism just like the Vienna settlement of 1815. 2.5 million Germans were dished out to Poland, 3 million to Czechoslovakia and 2 million to Yugoslavia. This is what later forced Hitler to invade Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland in order to liberate the Germans who were subjected to foreign rule by the Versailles settlement. This led to the German invasion of Poland that sparked off the Second World War in 1939 justifying how unrealistic the treaty was in bringing about a lasting peace in Europe.

11. By subjecting German colonies to be controlled by the victorious powers, the Versailles peacemakers were too severe and unrealistic. The allies took advantage of the defeat of Germany and her allies to take over their colonies and expand their territories. For instance, Britain expanded from Uganda and Kenya to Tanzania that was formerly a German territory before 1919. This was also to cripple Germany militarily, economically and

diplomatically. By this arrangement, the allied powers exhibited a high degree of self-aggrandisement.

12. The contrasting ideas of the leading statesmen were a serious weakness that made the Versailles treaty unrealistic. Clemenceau wanted to permanently weaken Germany so that she does not tamper with France's peace and security any more, Lloyd George was bent on annexing German colonies to strengthen British overseas influence and trade. General Orlando wanted to get the promises that made him to assist the triple entente against the triple alliance. Woodrow Wilson wanted justice extended to the defeated powers in order to bring reconciliation and promote world trade. This self interest led to several disagreements that made the Versailles conference to take four years just like the war itself. The Versailles peacemakers wasted a lot of time due to disagreements over the fate of the defeated powers. The first treaty of the Versailles settlement was signed on 28 June 1919 with Germany but the last treaty was signed as late as August 1923. This was equivalent to the four years in which the war was fought.

13. Although the Versailles settlement gave rise to the League of Nations, it nevertheless laid a very weak foundation for the league as a peace making body. The league was dominated by the allied powers from the beginning to the end. Besides, the settlement never considered and hence provided the League of Nations with an army. This made the League of Nations to rely on sanctions which proved useless against Nazis and Fascist aggressions of the 1930's.

14. The settlement also neglected the defeated and neutral powers. Russia was excluded simply because she had adopted communism during the 1917 revolution. Germany and her allies were also not part of it, although these powers were later admitted in the league, they attached little importance to it and by 1939 most of them had withdrawn their membership leaving it weak.

15. The time in which the treaty with Germany was signed (1919) coincided with, the fifth (5th) anniversary of the Sarajevo assassination. It was on 28th June 1919 exactly 5 years from the murder of Franz Ferdinand and his wife. This made Germany very bitter because it gave an impression that she was being held responsible for the assassination. Secondly, it was

hurriedly concluded without a proper assessment of the real causes and causers of the war. Thirdly, 1919 was when emotions and the quest for revenge were too high to guarantee justice in favour of the defeated powers.

16. The venue of the settlement meant that justice could not be extended to the defeated nations most especially Germany. Germany was forced to sign the dictated treaty in the hall of mirrors at Versailles which was the very hall where the German empire was proclaimed in 1871. The hall portrayed the existence of a united German empire. It was therefore a great humiliation and a psychological torture to Germany for the allies to force her to sign the dictated treaty in the hall of mirrors.

17. The venue of the settlement made the French Premier, George Clemenceau to become the chairman of the conference. This gave him an opportunity to have a lot of influence on the final verdict of the settlement. This was very unfortunate because France was a historical enemy of Germany.

Clemenceau himself had witnessed the German invasion of France in 1871 and 1914. He therefore used his position to totally destroy Germany's military might in order to avoid yet another invasion from Germany.

18. The Versailles peacemakers failed to implement the clause that demanded for the trial (by tribunal) of German ex-emperor Kaiser William 11 and other war criminals. This was not affected because the government of Netherlands refused to hand over Kaiser William to the allies for trial. Only a dozen of insignificant war criminals were tried and punished lightly. The most wanted ones were nowhere to be seen.

Attachments

No attachments

The Versailles treaty of 1919 that Germany was forced to sign is one of the most unrealistic treaties that have ever existed in the history of mankind. The terms were carefully and skillfully manipulated to punish Germany plus her allies and reward the victorious powers. It therefore had negative impact on the social, economical and political developments of Germany. This is what made Germany to reject the Versailles treaty in the later years which objection was justified basing on the unrealistic terms of the settlement.

- i) The Versailles framers/makers forced Germany to renounce war and accept defeat. This was done by the Weimer Republic that was hurriedly set up after the abdication of the troublesome Kaiser William II. However, this made the Weimer Republic unpopular to the majority of the Germans led by Hitler who blamed the government for accepting the Versailles settlement.
- ii) The reparations which Germany was forced to pay crippled Germany's economy and led to the great economic depression of 1929 - 1933 in Europe. It left Germany too poor to fight unemployment, inflation and poverty. This is why Germany had the worst inflation in the history of the world between 1930-1933.
- iii) Germany was weakened militarily by the settlement. She was disarmed and allowed to maintain an army of 100,000 just to maintain law and order. This left the Weimer Republic weak since even the 100,000 troops could not maintain law and order in time of political disturbance. The 100,000 soldiers could not even defend the territorial integrity and independence of the government.
- iv) Germany was deprived of her colonies in Africa and Europe. They were given to Britain, France, Belgium, Austria, Japan and South Africa as mandate states. This undermined Germany's external trade opportunities which would have strengthened Germany's economy.
- v) Germany was forced to hand back Schleswig to Denmark which she had forcefully annexed (from Denmark) in 1864. She was also forced to give back to France the mineralized provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. This seriously affected Germany's economic recovery since these territories were the richest in minerals e.g. iron and coal deposits.
- vi) The settlement scattered the Germans under the newly created states. For example, 2.5 million Germans were given to Poland, 3 million to Czechoslovakia and 2 million to Yugoslavia. The new state of Poland was provided with a corridor that passed through Germany to the port of Danzig in the Baltic Sea. This created restlessness in the Germans who were only liberated by Hitler's aggressive foreign policy.
- vii) The treaty demilitarized the Rhineland. Germany was forbidden from maintaining an army and constructing forts on the banks of the Rhine. The

fortifications that Germany had done were destroyed. This made it very hard for the Germans to maneuver and invade her neighbours in her quest for revenge.

NB. The allied troops were to occupy the Rhineland for 15 years.

viii) Germany was forced to cancel the treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest signed with Russia and Rumania respectively. By the treaty of Brest Litovsk, Russia had surrendered to Germany western part of her territory that included Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. These were the wealthiest part of Russia that Germany was forced to hand back to her.

ix) The Versailles treaty of 1919 contributed to political instability in Germany. The Weimer Republican leaders who accepted it were denounced by the Germans for signing the unrealistic treaty. This created internal opposition to the government, which made it unstable up to when it collapsed in 1934.

Hitler and Nazism exploited these circumstances to rise to power by 1934.

Attachments

REASONS WHY THE GERMANS REJECTED THE VERSAILES SETTLEMENT

Hints

NB. For details refer to the earlier notes most especially on weaknesses or failures of the treaty as far as Germany was concerned or else look in the previous notes on the negative consequences of the treaty on Germany i.e. why they rejected it with time.

i) The treaty was dictated and Germany was forced to sign. There was no discussion which could have given the Germans the chance to air their views.

ii) Germany totally opposed the war guilt clause, which put the whole blame for the outbreak of the war on her (Article 231). This was injustice of the highest magnitude since all those powers that fought in the war were guilty hence Germany had to reject the treaty.

iii) The reparation of £6,600 million was impossible to pay since no single country could pay for the destructions caused by the war. The British economic advisor J.N.K's argument that it should be £2,000 millions fell on deaf ears. Later in the 1920's the Germans defaulted, refused to continue paying the reparation and no one followed it up.

iv) Disarmament was restricted to only Germany yet disarmament was to be general. Worst of all, other powers were busy arming themselves. Germany was therefore left helpless amidst hostile and aggressive neighbours. This was why Hitler started re-arming Germany hence rejecting the disarmament clause of the treaty.

v) Loss of territories in Europe and Africa was resented by Germany. For instance, the mineral rich provinces of Alsace and Lorraine to France, Tanzania to Britain and Namibia to South Africa. She lost her markets, sources of raw materials and areas for investment to her foes (bitter enemies) which she could not swallow (accept).

vi) The settlement scattered German nationals by ignoring the principle of nationalism. For instance 2.5 million Germans were given to Poland, 3 million to Czechoslovakia and 2 million to Yugoslavia. This explains why Hitler later invaded such countries to liberate those Germans hence rejecting the terms of the Versailles treaty.

vii) The Germans complained that they were tricked to surrender based on President Wilson's 14 points.

They claimed that the 14 points was a swindle since many of the terms of the treaty violated it.

However, this was not justifiable because the 14 points of Wilson had never been officially accepted by the peace makers and the Germans had even ignored it early in 1918 when there were still chances of success. Moreover, Wilson had even added that Germany should pay for all the damages and should be completely disarmed. Thus it was not totally justifiable for the Germans to object to the reparations and disarmament clauses.

Viii) The Versailles settlement was monopolized by only 3 leading statesmen i.e. president Woodrow Wilson of USA, Gorge Lloyd of Britain and George Clemenceau of France. It was chaired by Clemenceau who was totally

biased and a bitter enemy of Germany. This is why the Germans had to reject the treaty later.

Attachments

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION 1917

Introduction

The Russian revolution of 1917 is the most important event in the political history of the 20th century. It was the first successful socialist revolution in the history of mankind. The revolution, whose causes were similar in many aspects, occurred twice in the same year (1917). The first was in March, which led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II and ended the reign of Tsardom in Russia. This gave way to the establishment of a provisional government under Prince Lvov. The immediate cause of the March revolution was acute food shortage.

The second revolution was masterminded by Lenin on 6th November 1917 through a coup against the provisional government of Lvov. This led to the establishment of the first Socialist Republic in Russia.

The immediate cause was the failure of the provisional government to address the causes of the March revolution; hence the same fate had to befall it in November.

Historically, both the revolutions of March and November are called the Russian/Bolshevik/October revolutions of 1917. The Russians called it the "October revolution" because according to the Old Russian calendar, it was in the month of October (the old calendar is behind by one month). The revolution is also known as the Bolshevik revolution because it was spearheaded by the Bolshevik party. Bolshevik is a Russian word that means majority. The Bolshevik's party was dominated by workers who were exploited by the capitalists.

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CAUSES

1. The nature of the Tsarist regime

The nature of the Tsarist regime contributed much to the outbreak of the Russian revolutions. It was characterized by dictatorship, oppression, repression, conservatism, religious intolerance and corruption.

The Tsars were insensitive to liberal demands for constitutional and parliamentary reforms, press freedom, equality of opportunities and before the law, improvement on the conditions of workers and peasants. Tsar Nicholas II himself was the law and no law could come into existence without his approval. He was so determined to maintain conservatism that he openly declared on his coronation ceremony that I will preserve the principle of autocracy as firmly and unswervingly as my late father. He dismissed liberal ministers and appointed conservative, incompetent and corrupt ministers who shamelessly took bribes and embezzled public funds. This made the liberals under the leadership of Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky to mobilize the Russians against the government through political parties, strikes, demonstrations and the Bolshevik revolutions of 1917.

2. The character and Personal weaknesses of Tsar Nicholas II (1894 -1917)

Tsar Nicholas II was physically weak and not ironic (strong) like his late father. He was a rigid. Inflexible and conservative king who was obsessed with divine rights rather than people's rights. The Tsar failed to settle the social, political and economic problems faced by the Russians prior to 1917. He could not be firm in his decisions since he was too fearful for his life after the assassination of Tsar Alexander II. In 1905, Tsar Nicholas II promised a number of reforms that made the Russians who had revolted following the Russo-Japanese war and bloody Sunday to cool down. He had promised amongst others;

Political and religious freedom, trial by jury, dismissal of oppressive officials and freedom to non Russians. However, by 1917 the Tsar had either ignored or forgotten his promises when he resorted to conservative and autocratic policies. This led to general disappointment and resignation of some capable politicians. Political parties, Liberals, Nihilists and socialists exploited such disgruntlement to intensify their activities against Tsar Nicholas II and his government leading to the outbreak of the 1917 revolutions.

After the outbreak of World War I, Tsar Nicholas II resorted to witchcraft in an attempt to win the war. He took courage and went to the frontline on August 15th 1916. This identified him directly with the failure of the Russian soldiers and the sufferings caused by the war to both soldiers and civilians. Interestingly, when he went to the frontline, the Russian affairs were left in the hands of the unpopular evil monk who caused a lot of unnecessary cabinet Reshuffles.

This was a serious mess in state affairs that called for a revolution.

NB. It appears as if Tsar Nicholas II believed that Rasputin was immortal (could not die). This was because after the murder of Rasputin in 1916, he spent two months trying to contact the evil monk through witchcraft.

ii) The fact that Nicholas II inherited a peaceful reign meant that his personal weaknesses as the last Tsar partly explain why the Russians went revolutionary in 1917 and not before.

3. The role of Tsarina and Gregory Rasputin

The negative influence of Tsarina and Rasputin in Russian politics prior to 1917 made the outbreak of the revolutions inevitable. Tsarina was the Russian Queen of German origin and Rasputin was a traditional native witchdoctor who became prominent in the royal family after healing Tsar Nicholas II's son Alexis, who was suffering from a blood disease known as haemophilia. Rasputin was considered by Tsarina as a friend and a "Divine counsellor" yet he was suspected to be involved in adultery with several women including Tsarina herself. Tsarina and Rasputin were anti reforms and unsympathetic to the Russian problems. They gave poor and fatal advice to Tsar Nicholas II not to enforce reforms. It should be noted that

Tsarina and Rasputin became the uncrowned empress and the king of Russia respectively from 1916 when Tsar Nicholas II went to command Russian soldiers in World War I. They caused unnecessary cabinet, Reshuffles and disorganized the Russian economy more than ever before. This became a serious mess in state affairs that called for mass action hence the revolution of 1917.

4. Weakness of the Duma (Russian parliament)

The weakness of the Dumma (Russian parliament) left the Russians with no option other than the dual revolutions of 1917. The Dumma had limited powers and became a rubber stamp of Tsar Nicholas II and his cabinet. The Dumma was over influenced by the Tsarist government and could not pass any law without government's approval. It was also denied powers to approve and vet ministers. Above all, the Tsar had powers to dissolve the Dumma any time at his will. Tsar Nicholas II and his Prime Minister P.A Stolypin used this power to disband the second Dumma that was dominated by opposition MPs in 1907.

Thereafter, they manipulated the election of Tsarist diehard supporters (sycophants) who dominated the third Dumma. From then onwards, the parliament became an institution to promote the dictatorial, oppressive and corrupt regime of Tsar Nicholas II prompting the Russians to revolt in 1917.

5. Effects of industrial revolution

By 1917, industrialization had created socio-economic discontents that climaxed into the revolutions. It rendered many people jobless and caused rural-urban migration. This led to urban congestion, mobs and mob justice that made the situation in Russia to be very revolutionary. For the few who were employed, the working conditions were extremely bad. Their payments were very low yet the average working hour per day was between 10-14. The huge factories of St. Petersburg were poorly lit, poorly ventilated, had fast moving machines yet there were no protective guards for workers. The government provided no practical solution to this situation. These grievances were expressed through strikes, demonstrations and protests on several occasions. However, this forced the unemployed citizens and workers to stage a revolution as the last resort in addressing their problems.

6. Grievances of the middle class

The grievances of the middle class conditioned them to actively participate in the revolutions of 1917.

They included professionals like journalists, lawyers, teachers, doctors, engineers etc who were discriminated in spite of their high levels of education and qualification. They were particularly against special

privileges that were given to the nobles and clergy in the political, social and economic structures of Russia. Besides, Industrialization led to the rise of a new middle class (wealthy and powerful businessmen) who hated the Tsarist government dominated by the old aristocrats. These new middle class and other professional middle class financed and mobilized the peasants for the revolution most especially of march 1917.

7. The rise and influence of Socialism

The rise and influence of socialism in Russia by 1917 greatly contributed to the outbreak of the Bolshevik revolutions. Socialist ideology was adopted from the teachings of Karl Marx and Engels who taught against capitalism, private ownership of property, social class inequality and advocated for the rights of workers, fair conditions of work, state ownership of property and abolition of special privileges of the nobles and clergy. Karl Marx, in his book "Das capital," analyzed the disadvantages of capitalism and private ownership of property and advocated for a revolution as the only solution to exploitation and inequality. The socialists were influenced by these teachings to form the Social Democratic Party in 1898 and Social Revolutionary Party in 1900 as a vehicle to advance socialist ideology. They condemned the Tsarist regime for its failure to address the problems created by industrial revolution such as unemployment, poor condition of work, exploitation and inequality. This created a revolutionary mood in the Russians and made it easy to mobilize the masses through strikes and demonstrations that climaxed into the dual revolutions of 1917.

8. The role of writers and the press

Other than Karl Marx, other writers and intellectuals like Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Gorky etc. were also influential in spreading revolutionary ideas in Russia. They condemned the unfair social, economic and political policies of Tsardom and advocated for mass action that inspired the Russians to adopt socialist ideology and revolt by 1917. Writers and intellectuals like Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin founded a revolutionary newspaper "Pravda" that they used to spread attractive propaganda against the Tsarist regime. The newspaper was effectively used to sensitize and mobilize the Russians against the injustices of the Tsarist regime through strikes, demonstrations and the revolutions of 1917. Although the newspaper was banned after the exile of Lenin and arrest of Stalin and Trotsky, it had already -caused popular

discontent amongst the Russians against Tsar Nicholas II and his government.

9. The role of foreign powers

The support from foreign powers such as Finland, Sweden, Poland, Switzerland and Germany greatly encouraged the Russians to revolt by 1917. Finland and Poland supported the revolution against Tsardom because they wanted to disorganize the Tsarist regime and regain their independence. It should be noted that revolutionary leaders like Stalin and Lenin who were exiled before 1917 mobilized funds, manpower and arms from such anti-Tsarist countries. Germany also supported the revolution in order to destabilize Russia so that she withdraws from participating in the war (World War I) against her. This explains why

Germany directly supported the revolution by smuggling Lenin in a disguised train up to Berlin in 1917.

This is because Germany wanted Lenin to overthrow the provisional government and pull Russia out of the war in order to weaken the allied powers.

10. The contribution of Trotsky, Lenin and Stalin

The role played by Trotsky, Lenin and Stalin made the outbreak of the revolutions inevitable. These were ambitious and revolutionary leaders who decampaigned the Tsarist regime and mobilized the masses against the government through strikes, demonstrations and the revolutions in 1917. They condemned the political unfairness, economic grievances and social injustice of the Tsarist regime and mobilized the Russians and foreign powers against the government. Trotsky became the leader of the Mensheviks party that mobilized the Russians in the first revolution against the Tsarist regime in March 1917. On the other hand; Lenin was the leader of the Bolsheviks party who led the Russians to rise against the provisional government in the second revolution of November 1917.

11. Land policy

By 1917, feudalism was still practiced in Russia yet it had been discarded in other parts of Europe. Land was a monopoly of a few landlords while the majority of the Russians were either squatters or serfs.

Although the 1861 emancipation act freed the peasants from serfdom, nevertheless it imposed a heavy emancipation fee to the freed serfs. This was paid to their ex-landlords to compensate them for their lost labour. It forced the peasants to sell their land to clear the lump sum redemption fee. Consequently, they became landless at the end of it all. The peasants regarded the 1861 emancipation policy as an illusion which gave them legal freedom and not economic freedom. This was why Lenin's ideas of nationalization of land sold like hot cakes to the majority of peasants. The revolution was therefore provoked by the need to abolish the capitalistic feudal system of landlordism promoted by Tsar Nicholas II.

12. Effects of Natural Disasters

Natural disasters like bad weather led to poor harvest, famine and starvation, which made no small contribution to the revolutions. Besides, Epidemic diseases like cholera, typhoid, influenza and dysentery invaded the major towns and cities like Petrograd making the political, situation more complicated.

Surprisingly, Tsar Nicholas closed his eyes and ears to such burning issues. This forced the Russian's into the revolutions of 1917.

13. Chain Reaction/External influence

External influence also played a role in the outbreak of the revolutions. Prior to 1917, Europe had experienced periodic revolutionary changes such as the 1789 French revolution, the 1830 and 1848 revolutions in Europe. The revolutionary principles of equality, liberty, nationalism and constitutionalism were adopted and preached by the radical Russians to the oppressed masses. This led to the rise of anti- Tsarist societies like the Bolsheviks under Lenin and the Mensheviks led by Trotsky. They were the mastermind behind strikes and demonstrations that spread revolutionary spirit amongst the Russians.

14. Nihilism

External influence especially western influence led to the rise of Nihilists and Nihilism in Russia. Nihilists were lawless and hardcore (diehard) individuals who valued their brainpower more than anything else.

They believed in testing and approving every human institution and customs through reasoning. By 1917, Nihilists had established the Nihilist Revolutionary Party with ambitions to overthrow Tsar Nicholas II through force and terrorism. They had a list of oppressive governments' officials who were systematically assassinated one after the other. Bukunin, one of their leaders advocated for the immediate destruction of the social, economic and political structures of Russia for the betterment of the Russians. This called for a revolution in 1917.

359

15. Russification policy

The Russification programme that involved russifying the conquered states (making them Russian through assimilation) contributed to the revolution of 1917. This was based on Tsar Nicholas II's political philosophy of one Tsar, one church and one Russia. Consequently, in Finland and Poland, Russian was made the official language while in Estonia and Litvinia, German (language) was banned yet they were Germans. The Jews were discriminated and persecuted because it was suspected that one of the assassins of Tsar Alexander, II was a Jewish girl and partly because of religious differences. They were denied land, right to vote, high government positions and freedom of trade. These mistreatments undermined nationalism in the conquered states, denied Tsar Nicholas II support from such states, Jews and the Russians who never wanted the policy of Russification. This explains why the Jews and conquered states greatly participated in the revolutions of 1917.

16. The Russo-Japanese war (1904 - 1905)

Russia's advancement in Asia made her to clash with Japan in the famous Russo-Japanese war. In the war, Japan thoroughly defeated Russia leaving her with 90,000 casualties and taking about 40,000 soldiers as prisoners of war. This was crowned up by the humiliating Portsmouth treaty through which Russia surrendered Korea, Manchuria, Port Arthur and the surrounding Peninsula to Japan. The humiliation of Russia in the war was a disaster not only to the Russian forces but also to the government of Tsar Nicholas II. It provoked disorder from all corners of Russia. It led to the assassination of a number of nobles, clergy and government officials. For example, Plehve the Minister of interior was murdered in 1904 and his uncle

in 1906. These became a preamble for the outbreak of the Bolshevik revolutions of 1917.

17. The Red/Bloody Sunday.

The massacre of the red Sunday also contributed to the outbreak of the Russian/Bolshevik revolutions of 1917. The humiliation of the Russo-Japanese war led to a peaceful demonstration in St. Petersburg on Sunday January 22nd 1905. It was a demonstration of about 200,000 Russians under the leadership of a youthful priest. Father Gapon. The demonstrators demanded for political freedom and better working conditions amongst others. The peaceful demonstration turned violent when soldiers guarding the Tsars' palace used force to disperse off the demonstrators leaving 92 dead and 333 injured. It intensified protests throughout Russia and consolidated the influence of socialism over the workers. This undermined the popularity of Tsar Nicholas II leading to the outbreak of the 1917 revolutions.

18. Role of Political Parties

Political parties played a great role in bringing about the Russian revolutions of 1917. They criticized the Tsarist regime and promised to provide solutions to the problems of the Russians. For instance, the Social Revolutionary Party aimed at improving the conditions of the peasants, the Liberators wanted more freedom and parliamentary democracy and the Social Democratic Labour Party wanted a communist Russia as prophesized by Karl Marx. By 1917, these parties had transformed themselves into the Bolsheviks majority party and Mensheviks minority party. The leaders of these parties most especially Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin mobilized workers through strikes, demonstrations and the revolutions of 1917.

19. Effects of World War I

The Tsarist regime was finally brought to its 'knees' by the repercussions of the First World War. From the start, the war was poorly planned; the soldiers were also, poorly facilitated, led and armed.

Three soldiers were to share two guns and others were sent to the battlefield with instructions to use weapons of fallen comrades (killed colleagues). Russia was disastrously defeated and her total casualties equaled to those of her allies put together. The Russian soldiers were fed

up with war yet Tsar Nicholas II could neither improve their conditions nor withdraw from the war. When they were ordered to suppress the revolution, they mutinied and supported the revolution. Throughout Russia, soldiers joined the revolutionaries and their representatives were appointed to the various workers committees (soviets), which made the revolutions inevitable. Betrayed by his only survival mechanism, Tsar Nicholas II had to abdicate the throne on 15th March 1917.

The First World War also contributed to economic hardship in Russia which made the revolutions inevitable. It led to conscription of peasants into the army, which deprived agriculture of labour and led to severe famine. Besides, the Germans and Austrians dismantled industries, airports, communication lines and blocked the Baltic Sea, which made it impossible for Russia to trade with the rest of the world. The destruction of Ukraine wheat field led to acute food shortage where prices were hiked by 5%. These resulted to inflation, unemployment, redundancy and rural urban migration, which led to the creation of mobs in St. Petersburg and Moscow. These mobs were behind the rampant strikes and demonstrations that resulted into the revolutions.

A number of scholars have concurred that the First World War played the greatest role in the outbreak of the Russian revolution. This can be supported by the following arguments. In the first place, the war made the Russians to take Lenin's ideas seriously. Otherwise, before the war, he was very unpopular and his revolutionary ideas were dismissed as "selfish and opportunistic". Secondly, by 1914 the fall of Tsardom was not yet a foregone conclusion because it was still popular. This was witnessed when thousands of Russians attended the celebration to mark the 300 years of Tsardom in 1913. Thirdly, the Russian declaration of war against Germany in 1914 was greatly supported by the masses. All these means that the war that lasted from 1914- 1917 played a much more serious role in the revolutions.

The political, economic, social and military weakness of Tsarist government provoked a revolution that started from St. Petersburg on 8th March 1917. Tsar Nicholas II fled to exile and this gave way to a provisional government led by Prince Lvov with Milakovic as foreign minister and Kerensky as the minister of war. However, the provisional government learnt nothing and forgot nothing from the causes of the March revolution. They failed to address the causes of the revolution, which provoked another revolution in

November. The most outstanding issues that made the provisional government to fail were that;

20. It insisted on participating in World War 1 that had devastated the Russian economy. This made the Bolsheviks who demanded for unconditional ending of the war to get foreign support from Germany and become more popular than ever before. Things were blown out of proportion when it was realized that Milyakov (foreign minister) had sent a letter to the allies informing them of Russia's determination to fight until Germany and her allies were defeated. This provoked a hostile demonstration with the slogan "Down with Milyakov" which forced Milyakov, Kerensky and even Lvov to resign.

21. The provisional government failed to improve on the socio-economic conditions of the masses. Bread quos, inflation, unemployment, poor working conditions and discrimination were still the evils of the day.

Internal reforms like redistribution of land to peasants were postponed till the end of the war. These made the masses to do away with the provisional government in November 1917.

22. The middle class who dominated the provisional government were inexperienced and not influential in Russian politics. They were few and had no wealth and prestige compared to the French middle class.

They therefore commanded little support from the workers and peasants who refused to recognize their leadership. Besides, they delayed elections to the constituent assembly just because they feared they would lose to the opposition. This made them to lose the support of the masses and rendered them vulnerable to the Bolshevik revolutions of November 1917.

23. Lastly, the return of Stalin and Lenin from exile made the outbreak of the November revolutions inevitable. They returned with a ringing call for the establishment of a socialist government of the workers and peasants. Lenin vigorously mobilized the Russians against the Provisional government with three catchwords of "peace, bread and land." His vow to end the war, provide food and land popularized the Bolsheviks party amongst the workers and peasants. Within a few months, the Bolshevik party became very popular with the workers accounting for 60% of the increased membership. Having gathered enough popularity, Lenin confidently

lamented; History will not forgive us if we do not take power now and to delay is a crime. Consequently on the night of 6th November 1917 the Bolsheviks troops occupied all public buildings. They announced the overthrow of the provisional government and the establishment of a new provisional government on 8th November 1917. Lenin became the chairman of the new government and Stalin was responsible for foreign affairs.

Attachments

REASONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE REVOLUTION(S)

1. It was a mass movement that was supported by a great majority of the Russians. The revolution was spearheaded by intellectuals and supported by peasants and workers. The peasants and workers greatly participated in strikes and demonstrations that climaxed into the revolution making its success a reality.

2. The high level of unity amongst the Russian revolutionaries also accounts for their success. They were united under the Bolsheviks party with a firm belief in the establishment of a socialist government. The confidence which they had in socialism made them determined to sacrifice their lives and property to uproot the Tsarist government and establish a socialist government.

3. The anti-revolutionaries' attempt to suppress the revolution using foreign troops favoured the success of the revolution. The Bolsheviks condemned it as a move by the opponents of the revolution to impose foreign rule on the Russians. This made even those who had been reluctant to join the revolution hence contributing to its success.

4. Paradoxically, the revolutionaries were supported by foreign powers like Finland, Sweden and

Switzerland. The revolutionary leaders like Stalin, Trotsky and Kerensky mobilized funds, manpower and arms through such friendly countries. In some instances, foreign power gave direct assistance to the revolution. For example, Germany supported the revolution to cause chaos in Russia so that she (Russia) withdraws from participating in the war against her. This is

why Germany smuggled Lenin into Russia in a disguised train. Germany wanted Lenin to overthrow the provisional government and end the war which he did in November 1917, hence the success of the revolution.

5. The personal weaknesses of Tsar Nicholas II greatly contributed to the success of the revolution. By 1917, Nicholas was too unpopular amongst the peasants, workers and his ministers. Even his own soldiers never rescued him since they were fed up with war. When the revolution began, he was too confused that he abdicated the throne in favour of his brother Duke Michael on 15th March 1917. The Duke refused his will and the revolutionaries; established a provisional Republican government.

6. The sufferings and destructions caused by World War I also accounts for the success of the revolution.

By 1917, everybody especially soldiers wanted unconditional end of the war yet the provisional government was determined to continue with the war. This earned Lenin-who promised to end the war massive support in the November revolution. The war also preoccupied European powers like France and Britain, who never wanted the communist revolution to succeed and made it impossible for them to intervene in the early stages of the revolution. Their intervention through the Russian civil war from 1919 was too late to overthrow the communist revolutionary government because it had already been consolidated.

7. The success of the revolution was also due to genuine grievances. By 1917, Russia was infested with all sorts of problems. There was inflation, unemployment, nepotism, famine, natural calamities and soldiers had lost the battle against Germany. The inability of the provisional government to address these problems made the Russians to give overwhelming support to the revolution and that's why it attracted massive support from the Russians.

8. The unpopular war policy of the Provisional government greatly contributed to the success of the Bolshevik revolution of November 1917. The Provisional government that was established after the first revolution in March continued with the Tsarist policy of fighting Germany and her allies in World War I.

The Russians had suffered a lot due to the war and expected the Provisional government to withdraw Russia from the war. They were surprised to learn that Milyakov (minister of foreign affairs) had sent a letter to the allied powers that reaffirmed Russia's commitment to fight Germany and her allies. This made the Bolsheviks whose top agenda was to withdraw Russia's participation in the war to be very popular. It's this situation that was used by the Bolsheviks to mobilize a mass demonstration that forced Milyakov, Kerensky and Prince Lvov to resign, hence the success of the revolution.

9. The timing of the revolution was strategic and this made it to succeed. The revolution was staged in 1917 at a time when the First World War had worsened the problems of inflation, unemployment, poverty, famine, starvation, anarchy and lawlessness. Besides, the army and royal troops were too demoralized by heavy military losses that they were also in a revolutionary mood. Trotsky, Lenin and Stalin noted this popular discontent and decided to mobilize for a revolution in 1917 before the war could end. One should note that if they had mobilized for a revolution before 1914 they could not have received a mass support since Tsardom was still popular to the majority of the Russians.

10. Besides, the influence of the communists over the army after the 1st Menshevik revolution in March greatly contributed to the success of the Bolshevik revolution in November. The communists dominated the leadership of the Petrograd Soviets who had control over the army and security in the city. This explains why they easily influenced the army commander Kornilov to stage a coup in October that forced the provisional government to release political prisoners and communist leaders such as Stalin. Although the coup was eventually suppressed, they nevertheless re-organized and used the army in a well coordinated revolutionary movement that succeeded in Nov.1917.

11. The release of political prisoners and the return of exiled communist leaders, i.e. Lenin and Stalin made the success of the November revolution inevitable. The Kornilov coup of October 1917 forced the provisional government to release imprisoned political leaders and allow Lenin and Stalin to return from exile. It strengthened the Bolsheviks party and reactivated opposition against the provisional government.

Lenin, Stalin and released political prisoners greatly participated in the revolutionary committee that mobilized the Russians for the success of the revolution of November 1917.

12. The inability of the Provisional government to control freedom of association, speech and press made the success of the revolution inevitable. The socialists used such freedom to mobilize workers through strikes and demonstrations against the Tsarist and later Provisional government for their failure to address the side effects of industrial revolutions e.g. unemployment, poor working condition and exploitation by capitalists. Russian journalists, intellectuals and revolutionary leaders like Lenin and Stalin also utilized such freedom to popularize the Bolsheviks manifesto that emphasized land redistribution, provision of bread (food) and peace. All these destroyed the support of the Tsarist regime and later the Provisional government and accounted for the success of the Bolsheviks revolutions of 1917.

13. The role of revolutionary leaders like Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin and Kerensky were very influential in the success of the revolution. They were men filled with revolutionary zeal who mobilized the workers, peasants and soldiers through their moving speeches. For instance, Lenin's promise of peace, bread and Land was a solution to the immediate problems the Russians were facing. This gained him mass support and made the revolution a success.

14. Lastly, the revolution succeeded because it was supported by the army. The only survival instrument for the unpopular Tsar Nicholas was the army, which unfortunately had suffered a lot from the First World War. This made them to mutiny and fraternize with the revolutionaries leaving Tsar Nicholas II defenseless. The army also maintained law and order, arrested, imprisoned and murdered the collaborators of the old regime. The Cheka (secret police) under the leadership of Felix Dzerzhinsky was established to terrorize and eliminate those who were opposed to the revolution. These measures left the revolution intact hence its success.

Attachments

No attachments

CONSEQUENCES OF THE RUSSIAN/ BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTIONS

The Bolshevik revolution of 1917 is by far the most important event in the political history of Europe during the 20th century. It is a watershed/ Landmark in the history of both Russia and the world at large. The revolution brought fundamental changes in the political, social and economic structures of Russia and Europe as the foregoing analysis reveals.

POSITIVE IMPACT

i) The revolution led to the establishment of the first communist government in the history of Russia and the entire world. The Russian revolutionaries led by Stalin and Lenin were communists who were inspired by Karl Marx's socialist ideas that was written in 1847. After the First World War, communism spread from Russia to other parts of Europe. By 1945, Eastern countries like Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Poland had adopted communism and there was an increase in socialist vote in Western countries such as France, Germany and Italy. Thus, the Bolshevik revolution led to the first socialist government in Russia that later spread to other parts of the world.

NB Russia was later transformed into a super world power with a permanent place in the security council of the United Nations organisation (U.N.O).

ii) Associated with the above was the rise to power of commoners (men of low birth) for the first time in Russia. Revolutionary leaders like Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky were commoners who rose to prominence only because the revolution had destroyed the social class discrimination that existed in Russia. By 1917, Russia was still under the ancient system of Tsardom in which important political posts were dominated by the Nobles and clergy. This system was buried together with the monarchy in 1917.

iii) The success of the Bolsheviks in November led to the withdrawal of Russia from the First World War.

The Russians had suffered greatest amongst the allies from World War 1 yet the provisional government was ready to continue with the war. Lenin promised to end the war and when he rose to power he signed the BrestLitovsk treaty with Germany on 3rd March 1918 that ended Russia's participation in the First World War. This cowardly withdrawal prompted USA

to enter the war on the side of allied powers so as to bridge the vacuum created by Russia's withdrawal.

However, Russia's withdrawal isolated her from the allied powers and explains why she was not invited at the Versailles settlement of 1919. It also explains why Russia was out of the League of Nations not until 1930's. This left the League of Nations weakened since Russia and other Eastern countries were initially blocked from joining the League because of their communist ideology. Even when Russia was eventually admitted in 1934, there was no genuine co-operation between her and western capitalist powers who felt threatened by Russian communist ideology.

NB. The treaty of Brest-Litovsk declared Ukraine independent of Russia. Russia lost 1/3 of her nationals and 1/9 of her coal mines to the independent state of Ukraine.

iv) The revolution was a check and balance to Russia's imperialism over Europe. For instance, Finland that had been under Russia since the 1815 Vienna settlement was granted her independence as a reward for her assistance in the revolution. Poland also took advantage of the political instability during the revolution to declare her independence from Russia. This was confirmed at the Versailles settlement and accepted by Lenin in the treaty of Riga in 1921. Thus, the revolution provided a favourable opportunity to countries that had been dominated by Russia to regain their independence.

v) The communist revolution of-1917 led to the collapse of feudalism in Russia. By 1917, the ancient system where land was dominated by nobles and clergy at the expense of the peasants still existed in Russia yet it was non-existent in other parts of Europe. After the revolution. Land was nationalized by the government and redistributed to peasants for collective farming and ownership. The new Land policy provided more employment opportunities and reduced rural urban migration. It also reduced famine, income inequality and the exploitation of peasants by the rich landlords. Besides, other private enterprises like industries, factories and banks were nationalized and put under the control of workers. All these measures safeguarded the peasants and workers against exploitation by capitalists.

vi) By 1917, the non-Russian nationals who had been conquered by Russia were subjected to unfair treatment. But after the revolution, they were made part of USSR in form of Republics. This equality of all races within USSR was legalized in the 1923 constitution. The Republics formed by these nationalities were granted considerable freedom that favoured the development of their language and culture. This is what transformed USSR from a backward country to one of the super powers in the world.

vii) The communist revolution contributed to the rise and growth of nationalism in Asia and Africa. The communists condemned imperialism and colonialism as the highest stage of capitalism and exploitation. They advocated for decolonization, worldwide adoption of communism and state ownership of production as a means of fighting exploitation of peasants and middle class by capitalists. They also supported decolonization movements in different Asian and African countries to fight for independence against colonialism. It was this advocacy and support against colonialism that strengthened Asian and African nationalism against colonialism, hence contributing to decolonization process outside Russia.

viii) The Bolshevik revolutions led to improved relationship between Germany and Russia. Germany assisted the Russians in the revolution with a hidden aim of causing confusion in Russia, which would make Russia to withdraw from the First World War. This is why Germany smuggled Stalin from exile in a disguised plane up to Russia. This led to better diplomatic relationship between Germany and Russia after the success of the revolution.

NEGATIVE IMPACT

ix) It led to the collapse of the Tsarist monarchy that had ruled Russia for over 300 years. Tsar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate in favour of his brother Duke Michael who declined the offer and the monarchy collapsed. Tsar Nicholas II and his family members were shot dead by the revolutionaries in 1918. This ended the Tsarist oppressive, dictatorial and corrupt regime plus the influence of the Catholic Church in Russian affairs.

x) There was massive loss of lives and destruction of property. This resulted from the clashes between the red army of the revolutionaries and the loyal supporters of the provisional government. Heavy bloodshed also

resulted during the nationalization of land that was resisted by the nobles and clergy.

Power struggle between Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks intensified violence and street battles. There were also widespread strikes and demonstrations by workers and peasants on the streets of Moscow and St. Petersburg. All these resulted into loss of lives, property, famine and exile to millions of Russians.

xi) There was a general economic decline in Russia as a result of the revolutions. The strikes, demonstrations, violence and civil war that ensued had drastic consequences on agriculture, industrialization and trade. Factories, mines and railways were grossly mismanaged leading to a decline in foreign exchange and economy. This resulted into the severe famine of 1924 that led to the death of over 1 million people.

NB. This unfortunate economic situation created by the revolution was reversed by Lenin's New

Economic Policy (NEP) that relaxed the radical communist policies.

xii) The Bolshevik revolutions led to civil war in Russia. The supporters of the Tsarist regime organized a counter revolutionary force in the north and southern parts of Russia against the revolutionary government. They were supported by the British and French up to 1924 when the counter revolutionary forces were defeated. This led to civil strife,, economic stagnation and violence in Russia from 1917 to 1924.

xiii) The Bolshevik revolutions led to the rise of Nazism in Germany and Fascism in Italy. The revolution gave rise to communism which became a threat to the property of the middle class and wealthy landlords. Hitler and Mussolini promised to fight communism and gained support from the rich landlords, middleclass and industrialists. This led to the rise of Nazism in Germany and Fascism in Italy. It should be noted Nazis and Fascist aggressions were executed under the guise of fighting communism, which had emerged from the Bolshevik revolutions of 1917.

xiv) Lastly, the Russian revolution laid foundation for cold war that divided Europe into two antagonistic camps. The revolution gave birth to communism in Russia which later spread to Eastern Europe. This created a struggle by Russia to expand communism in Europe, which clashed with the

determination of western powers led by USA that intended to contain the spread of communism and promote capitalism in Europe. It set off an ideological struggle rotating around communism and capitalism that is called the cold war. This undermined the League of Nations leading to the collapse of international diplomacy that destabilized world peace.

Attachments

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Background

The idea of the League of Nations was adopted from President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteenth point (last point), which stated that an International Organization be formed to guarantee the independence of states both great and small. To Denis Richards, the League "...**was Wilson's greatest gift of Europe**

The League of Nations was first adopted at the Paris peace conference and thus becomes an integral part of the Versailles settlement. It officially came into existence on 10th January 1920. The League had 26 articles (clauses) of the covenant (constitution) and the most important of all was the sanction clause. In the initial stage, the League was composed of only the allied and associated powers plus key neutral states. They were 42 but the number increased to 55 by 1926. However, 9 countries including United States of America, whose President had suggested the idea of forming the League did not join it. The League was based in Geneva, Switzerland, as its headquarter.

Attachments

ORGANS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The League of Nations had a number of Organs, Commissions and Committees to implement its aims and objectives.

1. The General Assembly

The general assembly met annually and comprised of representatives of all member states. All independent states were eligible to be members of the general assembly. Every member state was to send up to 3 delegates but each state would have only 1 vote. The General Assembly formulates general policy guidelines for the League of Nations and discusses the budget prepared by the council generally, the assembly discusses international social, economic and political matters that were likely to endanger world peace.

2. The Council

The council was the executive arm of the League of Nations. Its delegates consisted of 4 permanent members from the big powers i.e. Britain, France, Italy and Japan and 9 other non permanent members and adhoc representatives. However, other permanent members were later admitted with approval of the assembly and the council. The council was a smaller organ that met more frequently, at least three times a year. It handled more urgent matters with a unanimous decision i.e. its decision were to be accepted by all delegates.

3. The Permanent court of international justice

This was a Court of appeal with 15 Judges of different nationalities. It was launched on 15thFeb 1922 and worked up to October 1945. Its Judges were elected by the General assembly and the council. The primary role of the permanent Court of International Justice was to settle legal disputes amongst member states with the hope of maintaining peace, stability and natural Justice. It also had powers to advice the general assembly and council on legal issues. By 1939, the court had settled 70 major cases and successfully organized 400 International treaties. There w[^] no provision for appeal against court decision although the court could review its own Judgment basing on evidence brought before it. The headquarter of the court was at Hague in Holland where the idea was born in 1899 by Tsar Nicholas II of Russia.

4. The Secretariat.

The Secretariat was the administrative organ of the League of Nations. It was based in Geneva and led by a secretary general who was appointed by the Council and approved by the assembly. Its staff was appointed by

the Secretary General in consultation with the council. The secretariat operated throughout the year and its staff was permanently employed. The work of the secretariat was to co-ordinate all activities and other organs of the League of Nations. This includes; preparing agendas, resolutions and reports for submission to the general assembly and the council. The cost of running the secretariat was paid by member states.,

In addition to the above organs, the League had commissions and committees to handle specific and miscellaneous issues. For instance, there "were commissions for labour, health, disarmament, minority groups,

economic and financial organisation, refugees, children, women rights, mandate and drug trafficking. These supplemented the other organs in executing the role of the League in Europe.

Attachments

REASON FOR THE FORMATION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS/ AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The basic aims and objectives of the League of Nations were found in articles 9 to 17 and 23 -24 of the league covenant (constitution). Generally, the League was formed due to political, social and economic considerations.

1. The need to maintain peace

The League of Nations was an instrument to preserve and promote world peace and stability. The First World War was the worst experience (by then) that had led to massive loss of lives, displacement of people and destruction of property. It was caused partly due to the weakness of international organisation to settle disputes and preserve world peace. The league was formed to address this weakness. It was to be a forum to arbitrate and settle disputes peacefully before such disputes escalates to war. Thus, one can argue that the League of Nations was formed to maintain international relations and pre-empt the outbreak of another major war in Europe.

2. To protect the territorial integrity and independence of states

The desire to promote the respect for territorial integrity and independence of member states against aggression also led to the formation of League of Nations. Europe had suffered the dangers of French aggression of 1792-1815 and German aggression prior to 1914 that had led to wars and instability. It should be emphasized that the violation of territorial integrity of smaller states like Serbia by Austria is what sparked off the outbreak of the First World War. The league was therefore formed to avoid this by protecting such smaller and weaker states against aggression by bigger and stronger

states. This was to be achieved through sanctions and military intervention amongst others. It should be noted that article 16 provided for collective security and action against any aggressive power. This was extended to nonmembers in article 17. It was also spelt out that an aggressive power was to be expelled from the league by the council.

3 Promotion of Diplomacy

The league was formed to promote diplomacy in settling disputes. This was because the First World War was partly caused by the weakness of international organisation and the collapse of international diplomacy. The League was therefore formed to address this weakness and promote dialogue other than militarism in settling disputes. All legal issues between states were to be referred to the international Court of Justice that was the highest court of appeal. This was to promote and defend the concept of international justice.

4 Reduction of arms race

The League was formed to limit the manufacture of dangerous weapons and promote disarmament. Both the defeated and victor powers were to be disarmed to the lowest level consistent with domestic security.

Although Germany and her allies were disarmed, the league was to monitor them closely and frustrate the resurrection of arms race. This was precisely because arms race had contributed to the outbreak of the First World War. It explains why a disarmament commission was established. Its role was to conduct research and advice the council on military, naval and air issues.

5 Suppression of sea Pirates

Sea pirates were problems whose solution was to be found by the League of Nations. They were a threat to international trade in big waters e.g. Mediterranean sea, black sea, R. Danube and Pacific: Ocean. The pirates were looting and high jacking ships making trade on sea a risky venture. The league was to find a way of forming an army that would hunt for pirates on the sea and paralyze their illegal activities. This was to promote trade and peace on the sea.

6 To Control Drug Trafficking

The growing concern over drug trafficking and consumption of dangerous drugs was also responsible for the formation of the League of Nations. Drugs such as opium, marijuana and mairungi were affecting people's mind, reasoning, causing people to go crazy and promoting violence. The league was formed to monitor and frustrate the production, sales, transportation and consumption of such intoxicating drugs.

7. Social Political and Economic Co-operation

The league was also formed to promote social, political and economic cooperation on a global scale. The First World War had left problems such as inflation, unemployment, famine, social disintegration, mistrust by smaller states against bigger states because bigger states had dominated smaller states at the Versailles Settlement. Besides, there was a problem of homeless, displaced and traumatized refugees. There was also the problem of reconstruction of Europe after the war and that is why a financial commission for loans was formed. The league was therefore formed to handle the post world war Social, political and economic challenges. This is why articles 23 and 24 advocated for worldwide co-operation in handling global problems.

8. To Improve the Condition of workers.

The desire to improve on the working condition of workers and to stop exploitation of workers by employers was another issue that led to the formation of the League of Nations. Workers were being exploited through low payments, over timework for no payments in poor sanitary and risky environment.

Consequently, most workers were very poor, malnourished and demoralized. By 1920, the working conditions in industrialized nations were so poor that intervention by international organisation (League of Nations) was urgently needed. The International Labour Organisation was formed to protect workers rights and privileges against exploitation by employers.

9. Administration of Mandate States

The need for proper administration of mandate states was also responsible for the formation of League of the nations. The Versailles settlement had taken over the colonies of Germany and her allies that were in different

parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. These colonies were given to the victor's powers. The administration of such states was to be taken over by the League of Nations. This is why the league established the mandate commission that was to oversee how fairly they were being governed. **10.**

To preserve the achievements of the Paris peace settlement

The League of Nations was an offspring of the Versailles settlement and thus aimed at maintaining the achievement of the Versailles settlement. It was formed to implement treaties under the Versailles settlement like the Versailles treaty with Germany and the treaty of St German with Austria plus other treaties that were yet to be signed with other defeated powers e.g. Bulgaria and Turkey. It should be emphasized that President Woodrow Wilson came with the idea of the League of Nations in the last point of his memorandum (14th point) after realizing that the previous 13 points and other resolutions would not be affected if an international organisation was not formed. This made it very easy for the Versailles peacemakers to endorse and support the formation of the League of Nations.

Attachments

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS, 1920- 1945

The League of Nations played positive and negative roles in the social, political, economic and humanitarian developments of Europe during the inter- war period. Its achievements were more in the Economic, social and humanitarian fields as compared to politics and peace.

1. Peace

The League maintained relative peace in Europe from 1920 to 1939. It organized world peace conferences that revived the spirit of internationalism and the concert of Europe in the Inter- war period. In 1925, the league initiated the Locarno conference that led to the signing of Locarno treaty by Britain, France, Germany, Belgium and Italy. The treaty brought temporary reconciliation between Germany and her former enemies i.e. Britain and France. It made Germany to join the league from 1926 up to 1934 when Hitler withdrew Germany's membership from the

League of Nations. This also brought Germany back to international community and into the disarmament talks, which ushered a new era of peace in Europe.

Stresemann (German foreign minister, 1923-1929) stressed that the Locarno treaty introduced "a new era of co-operation among nations, a time of real peace"

2. Legal disputes

The League of Nations established the international court of justice as the highest court of appeal. It was established by article 14 of the league covenant (constitution) in 1920 as a valid and authoritative body for settling legal disputes. By 1939, the court had settled 70 cases and presided the signing of over 400 treaties. This promoted the spirit of diplomacy and dialogue as opposed to violence in settling conflicts.

Henceforth, the league is credited for promoting peaceful settlement of disputes, reconciliation and harmony in Europe.

3. Dispute between Germany and Belgium over Eupen and Malmedy

The League of Nations successfully resolved conflict over Eupen and Malmedy between Germany and Belgium. The Versailles treaty of 1919 gave Eupen and Malmedy (German territories) to Belgium. In 1920, Germany lodged a series of protest to the council of the League of Nations against the giving of Eupen and Malmedy to Belgium. The council discussed the complaint in September 1920 and wrote to the German government, that its decision regarding the transfer of Eupen and Malmedy to Belgium was final.

This bold stand by the council scared and frustrated Germany's attempt to repossess Eupen and Malmedy that was bound to bring Belgium into a serious conflict/war with Germany.

4. Conflict between Finland and Sweden over Åland Islands

The league intervened and settled a dispute between Finland and Sweden over control of Åland Islands, which bordered both nations. Finland and Åland Islands initially belonged to Sweden but were annexed by Russia in 1809. However, during the 1917 Russian revolution, Finland declared her

independence and the fate of Aaland Islands remained unclear. A serious dispute arose between Finland and Sweden for the control of the Islands. The council of the League of Nations took up the matter and established a commission of inquiry, which recommended that the Islands be given to Finland. Eventually, the council gave control over the Islands to Finland in 1921 and in April 1922 an international convention guaranteed the neutrality of the islands and granted them international protection. This ended the conflict between Finland and Sweden over Aaland Islands.

5 Conflict between Peru and Columbia over Leticia

The League of Nations successfully settled conflict between Peru and Columbia over Leticia in South America. In 1922, Peru surrendered control of Leticia to Columbia. However, in 1933 Peru invaded Columbia and captured Leticia. The league set a commission of inquiry into the crisis. The commission did its investigations and recommended that Leticia should be handed over to Columbia. This was implemented and the matter was permanently settled.

6. war between Greece and Bulgaria, 1925-1926

In 1926, the league intervened and stopped the war that had broken out between Greece and Bulgaria. In 1925, a border dispute arose between Greece and Bulgaria. The Greek army marched into Bulgaria and occupied part of her territory. Bulgaria appealed to the league, which ordered Greece to withdraw her troops and pay compensation for the damage caused. Britain, France and Italy were authorized to send military officers on the spot to enforce the resolution of the League of Nations. This forced Greece to withdraw her troops and compensate Bulgaria for the losses incurred. On the other hand, the league also settled Greek refugees from Asia Minor under the terms of the 1923 treaty of Lausanne.

7. Dispute between Turkey and Iraq

In 1926, the League of Nations settled conflict between Turkey and Iraq over Mosul. Mosul was a rich oil deposit on the Iraqi- Turkish border. Both Turkey and Iraq rivaled for the control of the disputed oil deposit of Mosul. The league instituted a commission of inquiry that recommended Mosul to be under Iraqis control. Turkey accepted the commission's report and

surrendered the area to Iraq To this extent; one can assert that the League of Nations was successful in peaceful settlement of world disputes without recourse to war.

8. Condition of workers and children

The League of Nations addressed the plight of workers and children. The International labour organisation (ILO) was formed under the leadership of Albert Thomson, a French socialist. It inspired the formation of trade unions and labour organizations worldwide. This advocated for better wages, salaries and working condition. The International Labour Organisation also advocated for the rights and privileges of workers.

In Persia, ILO condemned and stopped child labour where exploitation of young children was rampant.

Thus, the League of Nations earns a credit for spearheading the struggle to liberate workers and children against exploitation by capitalists.

9. Drug trafficking

Drug trafficking was reduced as an achievement for the League of Nations. Before the formation of the League, there was rampant drug abuse and addiction that had become a social evil. The league members formed a drug trafficking committee to monitor and finstrate the production, sales, transportation and consumption of intoxicating drugs like opium, marijuana, and cocaine. In 1925, a permanent central opium board was established to check on the licensing of imports, exports and transportation of opium. By 1945, these measures had drastically reduced the production, sales and consumption of toxic drugs. This restored peace, order and made the world a better place to live in.

10. Slave trade and slavery

The League of Nations ended the problem of slave trade and slavery. A slavery commission was established in 1924 to deal with the evil of slave trade and slave dealers. It condemned and frustrated the abduction, sales and enslavement of slaves. The league made the abolition of slave trade an international issue. It ended slave trade and slavery that were still rampant in Arab states. This was a justifiable struggle to emancipate mankind from oppression and social evils.

11. Health

The League of Nations achieved better health standards in Europe by 1945. In 1920, the first session/sitting of the council established epidemic commission that successfully dealt with the spread of cholera, dysentery and influenza from Russia to Holland. In 1923, the League of Nations established the World Health Organisation that conducted research on health related problems and possible solutions. It held many conferences to sensitize people against causes, prevention and cure of diseases. These led to an improved health standards and provided better atmosphere for physical and economic developments.

12 Resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees

The League of Nations scored a significant success in the resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees. After 1920, there were so many displaced persons and refugees scattered in different parts of Europe. The

league took good care of these victims by providing food, shelter, clothing and medicines before repatriating them to their countries. In 1927, a convention concerned with international relief union was formed to help those suffering from natural disaster and displaced person. The refugees department led by a Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen gave timely assistance to Austrian and Greek refugees.

13 Plight of prisoners of war

The League advocated for fair treatment of prisoners of war and repatriation to their mother countries.

From 1920- 1925, the league successfully repatriated all World War I prisoners of war with majority going to Germany, Bulgaria and Turkey. For instance, about 427,000 prisoners of war that were in Russia were repatriated/ returned to their respective countries. The league assisted them with food, medicines, blankets etc to help them to settle down in their countries. It should be noted that the current United Nations High Commission for Refugees was inspired by the concerns of the League of Nations over the plight of refugees and displaced persons in war situations.

14 Socio- economic achievements

The League of Nations made remarkable achievements in the social and economic fields. In 1927, the economic commission of the league organized a world economic conference that resolved to promote free international trade without restriction. The financial committee was established to provide loans for the reconstruction of Europe. It gave loans to poor countries that had been devastated by the First World War.

The countries that benefited included; Greece, Bulgaria, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Iraq and

Czechoslovakia. The financial commission also helped to reduce the problem of counterfeiting, forgery, double taxation and fluctuating value of Gold. All these measures reduced poverty that had made poor nations vulnerable to aggression and promoted peace in Europe.

15 Mandate System

The League effectively implemented the mandate system. It established the mandate commission to oversee the administration of states under the

mandate system. The states in question were Namibia, Togo, Cameroon and Tanganyika. These were former colonies of Germany that were given (Mandated) to big powers to govern on behalf of the League of Nations. The states had created problems at Versailles and had become a source of conflict between the great powers. In all, the mandate commission on behalf of the League proved effective in minimizing the exploitation of colonies by those mandated to govern them.

16 Administrations of Danzig and Saar Coalfield

The League also played a role in the administration of German ports of Danzig (1920- 39) and the Saar coal region (1920- 35) that were "grabbed" from Germany at the Versailles settlement. These states were so strategically significant that they could not be given to any single country. By taking direct administration of these states, the league avoided conflicts and war over such territories. In 1935, the league conducted a referendum in the Saar region that favoured the return of the region to Germany. In all, the mandate commission on behalf of the league proved effective in preventing the exploitation of colonies by those mandated to govern them.

17 Aggression

In 1927, The League of Nations declared all acts of aggression illegal. This resulted in to the signing of the Kellogg pact of 1928. The pact was named after the United States of America secretary of states who initiated the idea together with Briand, the French minister of foreign affairs. It was signed by 65 countries including Russia, who had not yet become members the League of Nations. The signatories of the pact renounced (rejected) war as an instrument of policy except on self-defense. The significance of the pact lies in the fact that it was signed by USA and Russia who by then were not yet members of the League. It also filled up the gap in the covenant since the covenant did not provide for safeguards against aggression.

However, the meaning of self-defense was not clearly defined in the pact. Never the less, in spite of this loophole, the Kellogg pact temporarily restrained aggression and consolidated peace for some time.

Attachments

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WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

EUROPEAN HISTORY, DEPARTMENTAL NOTES, JULY 2019

1 Conflict between Poland and Lithuania

The League of Nations is blamed for ratifying and accepting Polish aggression against Lithuania. Conflict between Poland and Lithuania arose over possession of the city of Vilna. In 1920, Poland invaded and annexed Vilna yet it had been given to the custody of Lithuania. The league did not condemn or even try to settle the conflict but accepted the Polish occupation. This was outright acceptance of aggression and militarism as opposed to dialogue in resolving conflicts.

2 Corfu incident

The League of Nations registered another setback over the Corfu incident. On Aug 1923, 4 Italians (a driver, a general and two officers), were murdered by Greek bandits on Greek territory. Mussolini held Greece responsible and retaliated by bombarding and occupying the Greek Island of Corfu. Greece appealed to the league for arbitration but Mussolini refused to cooperate and the League instead ordered the Greeks to compensate Italy for the murders. It should be noted that Mussolini withdrew Italian troops only after securing a huge compensation of 50 million Lire from Greece. Thus, the league is accused for approving Mussolini's invasion of Greek territory and ratifying a huge compensation for the murder of the 4 Italians.

3. Conflict between Bolivia and Paraguay, 1928

The League of Nations failed to settle conflict between Bolivia and Paraguay. Armed conflict (war) between the states started in December 1928. The council of the League brought Bolivia and Paraguay to around table settlement but both states continued with the bloody conflict. The League of Nations imposed sanctions on both states but other members of the league declined (refused) to implement it. In March 1935, Paraguay resigned from the League of Nations and the league lost interest in the conflict. Thus, it's safe for one to conclude that the League of Nations failed to settle the armed conflict between Bolivia and Paraguay.

4. Japanese invasion of Manchuria, 1931

The League of Nations failed to restrain Japanese aggression on China and her eventual occupation of Manchuria. In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria,

a Chinese territory and renamed it Manchukuo. The league failed to take action against Japan and many members of the league were instead in support of Japan. Lord Lynton's (an Englishman). Commission condemned the invasion and recommended that Japan should withdraw her troops. The league accepted the report but failed to implement it. However, Japan rejected the report and withdrew from the league on May 1933 and the league did not take any action against her.

In 1930's more Japanese troops poured into Manchuria to pacify the area. It was only during the course of World War II that military action against Japan was taken, by which time the league had effectively ceased to exist.

5 Italian invasion of Ethiopia, 1935

The Italo-Ethiopian crisis was yet another event that portrayed the weakness of the League of Nations.

In 1935, Italy using poisonous gas against civilians invaded Abyssinia (Ethiopia) to avenge the 1896 defeat at the battle of Adowa. No serious action was taken against Italy and by 1936 she had conquered the whole of Ethiopia. Britain and France were more concerned with the need to preserve Italy's friendship than to defend an African country i.e. Ethiopia. This was because they themselves had conquered many parts of Africa in the second half of the 19th century. Although sanction was imposed on Italy, it proved ineffective in forcing Mussolini out of Ethiopia. Thus, the League of Nations failed to live to its expectation of defending small and weak nations against aggression by big and mighty powers.

6 Germany's Invasion of Rhine lands, March 1936

Germany's invasion of Rhine lands was an event that showed the failure of the League of Nations. On March 1936, Hitler invaded the Rhine lands, which threatened the security of France and Belgium. The invasion also violated the Versailles settlement of 1919 and the Locarno treaty of 1925 that had prohibited the presence of Germany troops on the demilitarized zones of Rhine lands. The league merely condemned

Germany but took no other punitive action against her. This was because the members of the league were afraid of confronting German troops under Hitler's leadership.

7 The Spanish civil war, 1931-39

The Spanish civil war was an event that showed gross negligence and weakness of the League of Nations.

In 1931, the monarchical government of Spain was overthrown and replaced by a republican government.

General Franco picked up arms and led a co-ordinate rebellion against the republican government. From 1936- 1939, there was a bloody confrontation between General Franco's rebels supported by Italy and Germany against the Spanish republican government backed by Russia and mercenaries forces recruited from several European countries including Britain, USA and France. The League of Nations did nothing and was inactive over the bloody Spanish civil war. The league is therefore blamed for neither settling the conflict peacefully nor condemning and restraining Russia, Italy and Germany from participating in the civil war.

8 German Annexation of Austria, March 1938

The German annexation of Austria was yet another event that exposed the ineffectiveness/ weakness of the League of Nations. In March 1938, Hitler invaded and annexed Austria to Germany. Austria was made to live under German military occupation and Nazis were appointed rulers. This was an open violation of the Versailles treaty of 1919 that had forbidden the reunion of Austria and Germany. The League of Nations took no action against Hitler and German annexation of Austria. By keeping aloof, one can conclude that the League of Nations failed to preserve the Versailles settlement of 1919 for which it was formed.

9 German annexation of Sudetenland (Czechoslovakia), 1938

The League of Nations was also a failure over the German invasion and annexation of Czechoslovakia. In 1938, Hitler attacked Sudetenland (in Czechoslovakia) and in March 1939, he went ahead and merged the rest of Czechoslovakia with Germany. The League of Nations did not take any positive step to restrain German aggression against Czechoslovakia. Besides, the Munich conference delegates appeased Hitler by approving the German annexation, which was an open acceptance of aggression by one-sovereign state against another.

10 The German invasion of Poland and the outbreak of the Second World War

The German invasion of Poland and the outbreak of the Second World War were perfect testimonies that the League of Nations failed to bring a lasting peace in Europe. On 1st September 1939, German troops invaded Poland

from all fronts and almost devastated the whole country. Britain and France gave Hitler an ultimatum to withdraw within 24 hours but Hitler objected.

Consequently, Britain and France declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939, which amplified the German- Polish conflict into the Second World War. As usual, the League of Nations did not restrain or condemn German aggression and the declaration of war by Britain and France (on Germany). It must be noted that, had the League of Nations been a strong and authoritarian organisation, Hitler would have feared to violate the territorial integrity and independence of Poland, which would have averted the outbreak of the Second World War.

11 Lack of a joint standing army

The League of Nations failed to establish a joint standing military force of its own to enforce its resolutions and maintain peace. Article 16 of the league constitution, which provided that member states should send troops when called upon was undermined by an amendment of 1923 that members were free to fight or not in a crisis situation. This explains why most members of the league e.g. Germany, Japan, Italy and Russia (by 1935) refused to send their troops to fight in crisis situations. Lack of a joint standing army reduced the league to the status of a "toothless backing bull dog" that relied on sanctions, which proved useless against aggressions. This encouraged a series of aggressions that climaxed into the German invasion of Poland and the outbreak of the Second World War. It also explains why the League became ineffective in countering/ handling the Nazis and fascist aggressions over Europe in the inter war period. It should be stressed that if the League of Nations had its own standing army, Hitler would have thought twice before invading Poland. Even when he could have invaded as he did, such an army would have been used to "push" him out of Poland, which could have averted the Second World War.

12 Failure to mobilize for collective security

The League of Nations failed to mobilize its members for collective security. Nations ignored the idea of collective security in preference to their own national security. The army (Collective) had national duties to execute and in times of need could prefer to serve their country other than global duties assigned by the League of Nations. Donald Kegan argues that; "Hitler's path

was made easier by growing evidence that the league of nations was ineffective as a device for keeping peace and that collective security was a "myth" (The western Heritage, by Donald Kegan , P936). In other words, the failure of the League of Nations to mobilize members for collective security explains why there was no collective action against Hitler, which encouraged him to wage a series of aggression that led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

13 Poor organisation and system

The League of Nations was loosely organized with unclear and unstable membership. It was a laissez faire organisation with free entry and exit similar to co-operative society principle of "open and voluntary membership". There was no condition for membership and punishment for withdrawal of membership.

This explains why Germany, Japan, Italy and Russia easily joined the league in 1920's and all had withdrawn their membership by 1936. All these were possible because the League of Nations did not put strong conditions and measures against entry and exit of members.

14 Failure to involve United States of America Germany and Russia right from the start

The absence of United States of America right from the start was a serious weakness of the League of Nations. The league failed to secure the membership of United State of America yet she was the world economic and military power who could have strengthened it. U S A had played a leading role in ending the First World War and the idea of the League of Nations came from her president, Woodrow Wilson.

Her absence denied the league of the active role of its architect / parent that was crucial for its success.

Besides, the league did not involve Russia and Germany right from the start merely because of suspicion.

Russia was initially isolated because of adopting communism through the revolution of 1917 and Germany because of her pre- 1914 arrogance and aggression. Although Russia and Germany were later admitted, their

commitment was feeble/ weak and no wonder that they had all pulled out of the league by 1936. It must be noted that the absence of Russia from the start locked many eastern powers outside the League of Nations because of the strong influence Russia had over them after the 1917 revolution in Russia.

15 Failure to avert economic depression

The League of Nations failed to promote economic co-operation in Europe, which contributed to the outbreak of economic depression. It failed to implement economic reforms necessary for free trade and that is why United State of America and other Nations pursued the policy of protectionism and economic nationalism. It also failed to address the loophole in the gold standard system that limited money supply yet production of most nations had increased. These weaknesses undermined international trade and diplomatic relations between European powers leaving nations flooded with surplus products in narrow domestic market leading the great depression of 1929- 1935.

16 Failure to control re-armament

The League of Nations failed to control re- armament in the inter- war period. The disarmament commission failed to implement universal disarmament and concentrated only on Germany. As the commission disarmed Germany, others like Britain, France and Russia were re-arming themselves to the teeth in violation of the Versailles treaty of 1919. Germany insisted that the allied powers should also disarm and France took it jokingly. Her attitude was "security firsts disarmament after words," However, Hitler's attitude was that. "Because other powers had not disarmed as they had promised, it was wrong to keep Germany helpless" He concluded that; rearmament was the only road to power and national achievement". Consequently, Hitler withdrew Germany from the disarmament conference of Geneva in 1932, the League of Nations in 1934, re-instated conscription and embarked on massive rearmament that revived arms race.

17 Inadequate funding

The League of Nations had weak financial base. Very few member states co- operated in funding the activities of the league. It therefore survived on

the good will of its members and had no money of its own. The League of Nations therefore had insufficient money to finance its activities and implement its resolutions that made it to fail.

18 Failure to maintain unity

The League of Nations failed to maintain unity in the inter- war period. Selfish interest, mistrust, suspicion

and the spirit of revenge led to the formation of rival political groups and organizations for example, the Balkan pact of March 1934 v/as signed between Romania, Greece and Turkey against imperial interest of the big powers in the Balkans. Britain, United States of America, France and Russia formed the democratic alliance against the axis alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan. The formation of such alliances and counter alliances divided Europe into two hostile and antagonistic camps that led to the outbreak of the Second World War. Thus, one can blame the re-emergence of alliance system in the inter- war period led to the failure of League of Nations to maintain unity in Europe.

19 Failure of mandate system

Lastly, the mandate commission of the League of Nations was not totally successful. France encountered a lot of resistance in Syria due to her poor administration and policies against the Syrians. Britain's mandate and rule in Palestine completely failed to reconcile Arabs and Jews over the establishment of a Jewish national home. The 1930 investigation report of the mandate commission exposed the failure of Britain to settle conflicts between the Jews and Arabs over the "wailing wall" that was part of Solomon's temple of worship. Consequently, Britain surrendered her mandate over Iraq. There was also bitter resistance in the German territories in Africa e.g. Tanganyika, Namibia, Togo and Cameroon that were mandated to Britain, France and the republic of South Africa. Germany opposed surrendering her former colonies to the commission as a way of depriving her of her possession / territories.

Attachments

No attachments

REASONS FOR THE FAILURE/ COLLAPSE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

EUROPEAN HISTORY, DEPARTMENTAL NOTES, JULY 2019

The League of Nations scored a remarkable achievement as an instrument of peace in the 1920's.

However, it failed to maintain world peace in 1930's. 1930's witnessed a network of aggression that climaxed into the German invasion of Poland and the outbreak of the Second World War. The failure of the League of Nations was generally due to its own weaknesses and other factors as discussed below.

1. Lack of a joint standing army.

The League of Nations failed because it lacked a standing army of its own to maintain peace. It relied on mobilizing members to send troops to fight in case of emergency / crisis (collective security), which proved too slow and ineffective against aggression. Moreover, the idea of collective security was ignored in preference to national security since nations concentrated on using their army for their own security. Lack of a joint standing army of its own made the league to be theoretical rather than practical in handling world disputes. This encouraged the axis powers to embark on a series of aggression because they were aware that the league had no standby force that could be used against them. The success of Nazis and fascist aggressions that destabilized Europe was partly because the League of Nations had no army of its own to force them out of the territories they invaded.

2 Ineffectiveness of economic sanctions

The League of Nations failed because of ineffective penalties against aggression. It relied most on imposing economic sanction against offenders, which proved too incompetent in restraining aggression.

Sanctions were poorly monitored and not fully implemented partly because the league had no army to enforce them. The sanction imposed on Italy due to Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 excluded export of oil, coal and steel to Italy. This instead facilitated Mussolini's conquest of the whole of Ethiopia by May 1936. The league lifted/ abandoned sanction against Italy after realizing that it had failed to force Mussolini out of Ethiopia.

3 Association with the Versailles settlement of 1919

The League of Nations failed because it was an off ring of the Versailles treaty of 1919 (originated from Versailles treaty), u ""25 formed to preserve the terms of the Versailles settlement most of which were too unrealistic to guarantee a lasting peace in Europe. Germany, Italy and Japan who were cheated at Versailles hated the League of Nations as a promoter of the terms of the settlement and were determined to undermine it right from the beginning. They formed the axis alliance and embarked on aggression partly to challenge the credibility of the League of Nations to maintain peace. Other defeated and neutral powers regarded the league as an organization to consolidate the gains of the signatories of the Versailles treaty and disassociated themselves from it. All these made the league very unpopular right from the beginning and its collapse/ failure by 1939 became inevitable.

4 Absence of United State of America

The absence of United State of America right from the start left the league weakened and made its failure a foregone conclusion. In March 1920; the U.S.A senate (parliament) rejected the Versailles treaty and the League that they were meant for European and not American affairs. Besides, the League of Nations neglected some aspects of President Woodrow Wilson's 14 points. These made U.S.A to isolate herself (isolationist policy) from the League of Nations. However, this was unfortunate for the success of the league because the original idea for the formation of the league came from U.S.A's president, Woodrow

Wilson. It left the league almost as an "orphan" in the hands of Britain and France who did not take proper care of it and hence it failed. Above all, U.S.A was the world's economic and military giant / power that could have helped the League financially and militarily to fight aggression. In the absence of United State of America, the fate of the league relied greatly on Britain and France who were so exhausted and incapacitated / weakened by World War I that they did not have sufficient financial and military power to commit to the League.

5 Failure to enlist Germany and Russia right from the start

Besides United State of America, the League of Nations failed to enlist the membership of important powers like Germany and Russia in the initial stage of its existence. Germany was out of the League of Nations from the beginning because she viewed the League as an organization the victors against the vanquished/ defeated. Members of the League Were also relaxed on Germany's membership because suspicion and memories of Germany's aggression were still fresh in their minds. Germany only joined the

League of Nations in 1926 after the Locarno treaty of 1925 had reconciled her with her former enemies e.g. France, Britain and Belgium. Russia was also locked out of the League until 1934 because of adopting communism through the revolution of 1917. This kept many Eastern powers outside the League because

Russia had strong influence .over them especially after the revolution of 1917. The League therefore failed to lay a sound and vibrant foundation for its success right from the start. Although Germany and Russia were later admitted in the League of Nations, they became halfhearted members their membership by 1939.

6 Desertions by Japan, Germany and Italy

Desertion of the League of Nations by Japan, Germany and Italy left it weakened and incapable of achieving its aims and objectives in the interwar period. The league had no conditions on membership and penalties against withdrawal of membership. It was a laisez fair (loose) organization with free entry and exit of membership. This explains why Japan easily withdrew in 1933 after the league condemn her over occupation of Manchuria, Germany withdrew in 1934 after the failure of the disarmament conference of 1932 and Italy withdrew in 1936 after her occupation of Ethiopia. After deserting the League of Nations, these powers (Japan, Germany and Italy) challenged the league through a network of aggressions that contributed to its collapse.

7 Insufficient funding

The League of Nations failed because of weak economic and financial base. It did not have a clearly defined financial system of membership contribution and depended on the good will of its members.

Prominent members like Britain and France were economically weakened by the First World War and the great depression of 1929-1935. These made them to relax on giving financial assistance to the League. The

League therefore lacked sufficient resources/ funds to finance its objectives, hence its failures.

8 Appeasement policy

Appeasement policy pursued by Britain and France in the inter-war period undermined the League of Nations and contributed to its failure. The policy antagonized the issue of collective security and made the league inactive against the Nazis and fascist aggressions since the powers behind it i.e. Britain and France were the most influential members of the league. This tolerated and promoted Nazis and fascist aggressions that led to the outbreak of the second war, which terminated the existence of the League of Nations.

9 Lack of massive support

Lack of massive support/ universal support also contributed to the failure of the League of Nations. The League concentrated on Europe and ignored other parts of the world. Even in Europe, it was monopolized by gigantic (powerful) states like Britain and France against weaker and smaller states such as China, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Consequently, these smaller and weaker states lost confidence in the league since it failed to safeguard them against the Nazis and fascist aggressions of the 1930's. This denied the League of Nations massive support leaving it unpopular and incapable of performing its duties.

10 Ideological difference/ Disunity

Ideological difference within members of the League of Nations accounts for its failure by 1939. The emergence of communism through the 1917 revolution in Russia divided Europe into the East dominated by communism supported by Russia and West dominated by capitalism that was supported by France and Britain. This is part of the reason why Russia withdrew from the League of Nations, which blocked communist states of China, Czechoslovakia, Slovenia etc. from the league. Besides, democratic powers such as France and Britain were antagonistic to dictatorial states of

Germany, Italy and Japan (axis powers). It explains why there was unnecessary disagreement in the council that made it impossible to adopt a common policy against aggression. Generally, ideological difference promoted suspicion, hatred, jealousy and rivalry that doomed (failed) the League of Nations.

11 Defective system of voting and the principle of equality

Defective system of voting was also responsible for the failure of the League of Nations. The League was based on the principle of equality in voting (one man, one vote) and equality of all member states. This was defective and not practical because countries such as Liberia, Iraq and Greece could not be as important as Britain, France and Russia. The idea of one-man one vote undermined pride of super powers and partly made them i.e. United States of America, Russia, Germany, Italy and Japan to have low regards for the League of Nations. It also left the League lukewarm because a country or group of countries would refuse to approve resolutions/ decisions that were against their interest. It should be stressed that attempts to change the constitution failed because it needed a unanimous / collective decisions that was due to defective voting system.

12 Economic depression 1929 -1935

The effects of economic depression undermined the League of Nations and caused its downfall. The depression created problems like deflation, unemployment, poverty and famine that contributed to the rise of Hitler who embarked on aggression to lift Germany out of it, inter alia. Members of the League of Nations were too pre- occupied with the problems created by the depression that they neglected the league.

For instance, Britain went into hiding to re-organize her economy, Russia concentrated on spreading the gospel of communism in Eastern Europe and Germany used the opportunity to rearm herself and embark on aggression. The depression also made members financially weak and incapable of funding the activities of the League. Thus, the effects of economic depression weakened the League politically and economically and made it to fail in the inter war period

13 Re-armament and arms race

The failure of the League of Nations to control re-armament in the inter-war period also contributed to its failure to live to its expectations. The disarmament commission concentrated on disarming Germany only and ignored great powers such as Britain, France and Russia. This forced Germany to withdraw from the disarmament conference of 1932 plus the league (in 1934) and embarked on a re-armament program that led to reemergence of arms race. It led to the production of sophisticated weapons including weapons of mass destruction that created suspicion, hatred, rivalry and a series of aggression, which contributed to the failure of the League of Nations.

14 Rise of nationalism

The rise of nationalism in Europe also contributed to the failure of the League of Nations. The League of Nations was a combination of different powers with different national interest to defend. Members were too much concerned with their selfish national interest at the expense of the League, which undermined diplomatic co-operation and success of the League. For instance, Britain wanted to use the league to dominate Europe and maintain the balance of power, France was bent on using the league to encircle Germany, which amongst other reasons forced Germany out of the league in 1934. It should be emphasized that Germany, Italy and Japan hated the League of Nations because it was formed to consolidate the 1919 Versailles settlement that had undermined their national pride. The scattering of Germans in the new states of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland made Hitler to embark on a struggle for re-unification that led to a series aggression, World War II and the collapse of the League of Nations.

15 Rise of dictatorship and aggression

The rise of dictators likes Mussolini in Italy, Emperor Hirohito in Japan, Hitler in Germany and General Franco in Spain undermined the success of the League of Nations. Mussolini rose with a hangover to revenge the 1896 defeat at the battle of Adowa, which forced him to invade Ethiopia in 1935. Hitler came with a burning desire to revenge on the Versailles peacemakers, re-unify Germany and create a great German empire. Hirohito sprung with a determination to annex territories and when the League of Nations rebuked him for invading Manchuria, he withdrew

Japan from the League. It must be noted that Mussolini, Hirohito and Hitler rose with ill-conceived negative attitude against the Versailles settlement and the League of Nations and that is why they embarked on a network of aggression with intension of undermining the League of Nations. The failure of the League of Nations to contain such aggressions that led to World War II, undermined people's confidence in the league and that is why it was replaced by the U.N.O in the 1945.

16 The outbreak of World War II

The outbreak of the Second World War was the most immediate event that hastened the collapse of the League of Nations. The league failed to promote social, political and economic co-operation and that is why there were alliances and counter alliances, re-armament, hostility and aggressions that led to the outbreak of world war II. Britain, France and Russia supported Poland while Italy and Japan supported Germany. This was a perfect proof that the league had failed to maintain a lasting peace in Europe. It is this realization that prompted the Sanfrancisco delegates to replace it with the U.N.O.

Attachments

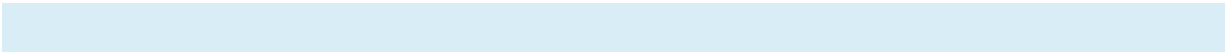
Introduction

The term Fascism refers to an axe surrounded by a bundle of rods that was used as a symbol of power and authority. In the ancient Roman Empire, "Faces" was used as a badge/ identity to show the authority of rulers and magistrates over life and death. The sticks symbolized unity and the axe was a symbol of power.

The Italian version of fascism was fascio, which refers to a group or squad of a few determined and superior men.

In the post-world war I Italy, the fascists portrayed themselves as the only symbol of authority and power for the revival of Italy and forceful elimination of socialism and communism. Fascism was founded in Milan, a city of Italy. It was composed of Industrial capitalists, middleclass men and frustrated jobless youth.

Attachments



CHARACTERISTICS AND PRINCIPLES OF FASCISM

The basic principles, programs and characteristics of fascism were;

1. It was a totalitarian /dictatorial system of government with no provision for democracy or opposition.

The leader was "all in all" and ruled through decrees. He had firm control of the army and civil service and was above the law.

2. Fascism preferred the state to an individual or group of individuals. The greatness of the state was more important than the interest of an individual.

3. Belief in extreme nationalism. It was based on superiority complex that one's own nation is superior to others. This is why Mussolini's emphasis was on creating a great, mighty, prestigious and superior Italian state above other states.

4. It was a single party state system with no provision for multipartism. Everybody had no choice except of supporting one nation, one party and one leader. The fascists were bonded together in the fascist state by the strong and intolerant personality of their leader.

5. The government aimed at establishing an independent and selfsustaining national economy.

Government was at the fulcrum/ center of directing economic programs although not through public ownership of production.

6. It emphasized violence and its own military power. Its supporters believed in the cult of violence and war as the highest court of appeal. Mussolini openly stated that peace is absurd fascism does not believe in it. In other words, fascists were irrational men who were moved to act by emotions rather than reasons and commonsense. In short, they relied on force/ militarism other than dialogue in handing crisis situations.

7. Fascism emphasised that law and order should be maintained at all cost and that people be allowed to own private property. It opposed nationalization of property and this is why communism (that advocated for nationalisation of property) became the first class enemy of fascism.

8. Indoctrination through education was yet another characteristic of fascism. The curriculum was dominated by fascist ideologies and schools became almost fascist party branches. Children, teachers, lecturers and professors were made to swear an oath of allegiance to fascist government. Children were also taught to hate other political ideologies e.g. communism.

9. Lastly, fascism supported an imperialist and aggressive foreign policy to increase the influence and prestige of the state in the whole world. This is part of the reason that drove Mussolini to adopt an aggressive foreign policy in the 1930's.

Attachments

THE RISE OF MUSSOLINI/ FASCISM IN ITALY

Benito Mussolini was born in 1883 at Romagna, in northern Italy to a black smith. He had a varied career and experience. At different times he had been a teacher, soldier, pacifist, casual labourer, journalist and socialist. He joined the First World War in 1915 and returned to journalism after sustaining an injury. He was disgusted by the betrayal of Italy at the Versailles Settlement and the inability of Victor Emmanuel III's government to handle post war problems such as inflation, unemployment, low production, rehabilitation and resettlement.

In November 1921, Mussolini founded the national fascist party at Milan with a black shirt uniform. There was total breakdown of law and order. Besides, there was confusion in parliament where political parties were so evenly balanced that it became impossible to form a stable government. Fascism had got 22 seats in parliament and Mussolini started to advocate/ demand for direct representation in government. The government rejected this demand, which made Mussolini and his supporters to march to Rome on 28th October 1922. He succeeded without resistance from the king and

army who were fed up with the viscous cycle of violence in Italy. The premier Giolitti resigned and King Victor Emmanuel III called upon Mussolini to form a government. This was a significant victory for fascism. In spite of the fascist minority in parliament, Mussolini formed his cabinet and forced the parliament to give him dictatorial power for one year. He used

emergency power to destroy the Italian parliamentary system of government and establish a classical fascist state in Italy.

Attachments

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF FASCISM AND MUSSOLINI IN ITALY

The circumstance that led to the rise of Fascism and Mussolini is attributed to social, political and economic conditions that prevailed in the postWorld War I era. Generally, the reasons for the rise of fascism and Mussolini were due to internal and external factors.

1. The repercussions of World War!

The impact of the First World War aided fascism and Mussolini to power by 1922. The war had negative consequences on Italy, which favoured the rise of strong anti-government movements. It led to the death of more than 600,000 Italians, both civilians and soldiers. Mussolini associated the democratic government with such losses, decampaigned it as weak and incompetent of handling the Italian affairs. This paralysed the democratic government and undermined its popularity in favour of fascism and Mussolini.

2. Post-world war socio' economic problems

The post war socio- economic problems conditioned the rise of fascism and Mussolini by 1922. Since the unification of Italy (1871), successive governments failed to address socio- economic grievances such as inflation, poverty, unemployment, poor standard of living, corruption and urban congestion. These problems worsened after the end of world war I. Mussolini used such problems to decampaign the liberal democratic government and popularise his fascist propaganda with promises of better working conditions and employment to all. He also promised a rapid economic transformation through a comprehensive economic recovery program. This explains why fascism won mass support from ex-soldiers, jobless and idle youth, hence the rise of fascism in the history of Italy

3. The unrealistic terms of the Versailles Settlement

The unfairness of the Versailles treaty on Italy cultivated a favourable ground for the rise of fascism and Mussolini in Italy. In 1915, Italy, a member of the triple alliance joined the First World War on the side of triple entente according to the secret London treaty of 1915. She was promised territorial rewards that included Ethiopia, Tunisia, Austrian, German and Turkish territories. However, at the Versailles Settlement, these promises were not fully implemented and Italy was poorly compensated. The Italians felt betrayed by the Versailles treaty and Victor Emmanuel III's failure to secure better terms for them.

Mussolini and fellow fascists denounced the Versailles peacemakers and Victor Emmanuel's government as traitors and promised to revenge. This made fascism and Mussolini to gain more support at the expense of other rival political parties and Victor Emmanuel III's government, hence the rise of fascism in Italy.

4. Weaknesses of Victor Emmanuel III of the democratic government

The weaknesses and failures of Victor Emmanuel III's democratic government made the rise of fascism and Mussolini in Italy inevitable. The government failed to handle crucial socio-economic problems like inflation, unemployment, poverty, high crime rate, and bloodshed. Victor Emmanuel III also failed to establish a broad based government that could have promoted unity and harmony. His government ignored violence with a false hope that the opposition would clash, weaken and destroy themselves. Mussolini exploited such negligence and violence to weaken other rival political groups and undermine the democratic government. Besides, the democratic government was led by incompetent and cowardly politicians who failed to use the army to stop the fascist march to Rome. Such weakness explains why they just called Mussolini to set up his government instead of resisting his march to Rome.

5. The communist and socialist threats

The communist and socialist threats also contributed to the rise of fascism and Mussolini in Italy. In 1917, communism emerged in Russia and started spreading to Western Europe. By 1922, Socialist and communist supporters were agitating for nationalisation of property and that government other than private individuals should control the means of production. This

became a threat to the wealth of the middle class, industrialists capitalists and landlords. Mussolini and his fascists opposed communism, promised security of wealth and clashed with socialist and communist supporters. This earned Mussolini and fascism material and financial backing from the wealthy class of Italians for their rise to power.

6. Mussolini's abilities

Mussolini's personal abilities and characters were a big push for the rise to power of fascism in Italy.

Mussolini had a wide experience as a casual laborer, teacher, journalist and a soldier, which helped fascism to attain power by 1922. His experience as a casual labourer inspired him with a spirit of hard work and exposed him to injustices suffered by the lower class in Italy. Teaching turned him into a disciplinarian and a role model who knew how to impart knowledge and morals in others. Journalism inspired him with skills in research, investigation and writing captivating articles. His life as a soldier taught him how to obey, command and gained him personal friendship amongst the soldiers. He was also a master political tactician and a gifted demagogue with rare oratory skills. His eloquence and romantic moving speeches attracted the middle class, capitalists, unemployed youth and ex-soldiers. Mussolini organized political rallies and military parades with fascist patriotic slogans that popularized fascism throughout Italy. Mussolini's mobilization ability was of paramount importance in the fascist march to Rome, which was the most immediate event that led to the rise of fascism in Italy.

7. Role of the black shirts

The role of fascist militia, the black shirt was instrumental in the rise of fascism and Mussolini to power.

The black shirt was a military wing of the fascist national political party whose name was derived from the colour of their uniform. It was a terrorist squad that was used to destroy other political groups and discredit the government. They systematically assassinated prominent opposition members especially socialist and communist political opponents. The black shirts also coerced people to support the fascist national party, which strengthened fascism and thus contributed to the rise of fascism and

Mussolini in Italy.

8. Weak parliamentary system.

The loss of respect for the parliament by the Italians favoured the rise of Mussolini and fascism in Italy.

The system of proportional representation that was introduced in 1919 made it difficult for any single party to win a mass support and form a stable government. This is because there were so many political groups with varied interests e.g. the liberals, nationalists, socialists, communists and the fascists.

Consequently, the parliament where all these parties were represented became a venue for chaos and disorganization, which weakened Victor Emmanuel III's government and provided a convenient opportunity for the fascists to march to Rome. Besides, the parliamentarians were messed up in corruption, embezzlement and bribery at the expense of people's socioeconomic problems. This made people to lose respect for the parliament and opted for fascist dictatorship under Mussolini's leadership.

9. Mussolini's ambitions.

Mussolini, the leader of the fascists was ambitious, which helped fascism to rise in Italy. Ambition made Mussolini to have a wide and rich experience as a casual labourer, teacher, socialist and a journalist.

Mussolini's ambitions dragged him to organize the first fascio in Milan in 1919 and form the national fascist party in 1921. Ambition for power made Mussolini to terrorize and eliminate rival political groups, which left fascism as the greatest threat to the democratic government by 1922. The same ambition is what made Mussolini to organize the fascist march to Rome that became a turning point in the rise of fascism in Italy.

10. Role of the press.

The press played a significant role in the rise of fascism in Italy. Mussolini, the leader of fascism was a journalist and the editor of a socialist newspaper "Avante" which exposed him and his ideas to the Italians. Mussolini started his own newspaper, "Il Popolo d'Italia" after disagreeing with the socialists

over participating in the First World War. He used the newspaper to popularise fascism throughout Italy.

Through the "Il Popolo d'Italia", the Italians were educated about the origins, aims, objectives and principles of fascism. Mussolini also used press propaganda to decampaign rival political groups e.g. socialists, communists, liberals and the democratic government itself. All these consolidated fascists' support for political take over by 1922

11. Appeasement policy of Britain and France

Appeasement policy pursued by Britain and France in the Inter war period also contributed to the rise of Fascism and Mussolini in Italy. The spread of communism and socialism from Russia after the revolution of 1917 was opposed by western countries most especially Britain, USA and France. Mussolini and his fascists also opposed and fought socialism and communism in Italy. This made Britain and France to support fascist militarism through appeasement policy. They saw fascist dictatorship as a lesser evil with hopes that fascism would liquidate communism and socialism. This made Mussolini bold and determined which encouraged him to march to Rome without fear of foreign interference.

12. Disunity and weakness of fascist political opponents.

The disunity and weakness of fascist opponents paved way for the rise of fascism and Mussolini in Italy.

Fascist political rivals regarded each other as more of a threat than fascism. The communists refused to cooperate with the socialists. The socialists were divided between moderates and hardliners. Experienced / old politicians like Giolitti and Orlando had by 1922 outlived their usefulness and confessed that Mussolini could provide better leadership than themselves. They are blamed for failing to oppose Mussolini / fascism until it was too late and too ineffectively. For instance, Giolitti supported Mussolini and only joined the opposition in 1924 when Mussolini had already entrenched fascism in Italy. Giolitti (the prime minister) and King Victor Emmanuel III supported fascism in the 1921 elections in order for the fascists to have many representatives in parliament and support the democratic government. Although the fascist party won only 22 seats and socialists party 122 seats, it never the less

gave the fascists a flat form to popularise fascism, gain national support and be in better relations with the king and his officials.

This partly explains why the king instead of resisting fascist march to Rome just welcomed Mussolini to form his government. Thus, the political miscalculation by king Victor Emmanuel IH's government and the weakness of other groups became a turning point in the rise of fascism in Italy.

13. The success of the fascist march to Rome

The most immediate event that led to the rise of fascism in Italy was the famous fascist march to Rome.

On October 28th 1922, Mussolini mobilised all fascist supporters from all parts of Italy to march to Rome.

King Victor Emmanuel III and the army declined to fight them and they entered Rome without resistance.

Besides not resisting the fascist march to Rome, King Victor Emmanuel III asked Mussolini to form his government, which became a landmark in the rise of fascism in Italy. HL peacock argues that; This was the famous fascist march on Rome which really heralded the rise of fascism to importance in Italy.

Attachments

1943:

Mussolini and fascism assumed state power over Italy in 1922 and reigned up to 1945 when Mussolini was killed. He used a combination of internal and external policies to strengthen and consolidate fascism in Italy from 1922-1945.

1. Creation of abroad based government

In the initial stage, Mussolini created a broad based government as a strategy to draw opposition closer so as to easily monitor their activities. He also appointed opposition leaders in his government in order to popularise fascism and check on subversive activities of the opposition. Thus, Mussolini disorganized and weakened opposition by scattering them in different

government departments. There was hardly any serious criticism from the opposition who were part and parcel of fascist administrative organ in Italy.

It should be emphasised that Mussolini retained authority to appoint, promote, demote and dismiss officials in the local government and provinces. He used such power to appoint only those whose loyalty to fascist ideology were unquestionable and dismiss those with questionable loyalty to fascism. By 1935, this strategy had left the local government to be dominated by fascists, which consolidated fascism in Italy.

2. Suppression of rival political opponents

Mussolini used dictatorship to suppress rival political opponents and consolidate fascism. By 1925, the socialists had gained ground due to the disputed elections of 1924 and violence against opposition.

Mussolini appointed Ferinacci, a bloodthirsty diehard supporter as secretary general of the National Fascist Party, (NFP). Mussolini and Ferinacci led gangsters of armed fascists to terrorise and "deal" with anti-fascist elements in Italy. For instance, Matteotti and Amandola were murdered when they complained of violence, rigging of the 1924 elections and demanded for Mussolini's resignation. Others with anti-fascist ideas were arrested and exiled to Lipari Island in the Mediterranean Sea or sentenced to life imprisonment. By 1935, these policies had uprooted opposition parties leaving the national fascist party as the only one in Italian political landscape.

5. Press censorship

From 1925, Mussolini instituted press censorship to control public opinion in favour of fascism.

Opposition newspapers were banned, their offices attacked, checked and locked. Anti-fascist journalists and editors were arrested and exiled to Lipari Island. Radios, films and theatres were carefully monitored and brought under state control. These measures helped to undermine rival opposition parties and strengthen fascism in Italy.

4. Control of education

Mussolini controlled Italian education system as a method of consolidating fascism in Italy. Education was centralised and textbooks based on fascist ideology were used in schools. Schools and institutions were made to teach the origin, aims and principles of fascism. The fascist Ten Commandments were taught in all schools and pinned in all public places to be mastered by all Italians. The tenth commandment, which much emphasised, stated, Mussolini is always right. Pupils and students were forced to join government youth organizations where they were indoctrinated with fascist and antidemocratic ideas. University professors and teachers were forced to swear allegiance to fascism and promised never to teach anti-fascist ideologies. These measures led to the emergence of a new generation that was completely loyal to fascism, hence consolidation of fascism in Italy.

5. Creation of corporate state system

In 1926, Mussolini transformed Italian parliamentary system into a corporate state system through the fascist grand Council. In this system, people were grouped according to their occupation in corporation (profession) each corporation sent representatives to parliament. This was to cater for the interest of various groups such as peasants, Industrialists, workers, employers and land lords to bring them under fascist control and deny communism a chance to gain support. Cooperating representatives replaced the former parliamentarians who had boycotted the parliament after the murder of Matteotti and Amandola.

These representatives, with representatives of the fascist party were to settle all problems related to wages, hours of work and other conditions of work. They passed laws that declared strikes, demonstrations and trade unions illegal. These restored law, order and peace, which earned Mussolini more support and hence consolidated fascism in Italy.

6. Establishment of fascist grand council

In 1926, Mussolini created the fascist grand council that was composed of hard-core supporters of the national fascist party. It was a supreme organ that coordinated government activities and had more influence than the parliament in Italian affairs. The members of the fascist grand council were answerable to Mussolini alone. They had authority to make and amend laws that favoured fascism at the expense of other political ideologies. For

instance, in 1928 the fascist grand council was given power to nominate the head of government and make a constitution. This increased Mussolini's power in policy making, which he used to transform Italy into a total fascist state.

7. Fascist influence on elections and parliament

Mussolini rigged the 1924 parliamentary election, which gave fascism majority representatives in parliament. Thereafter, he put an end to free election in order to maintain fascist dominance in parliament.

On 3th January 1925, Mussolini abolished a law that had given parliament power to try any minister suspected of wrong full acts. This denied opposition of a significant weapon to censor fascist hardliners who were doing injustice to other political groups in Italy.

8. Role of the army and police

Mussolini transformed the black shirt into a highly disciplined army. The army and police were reorganized and empowered to maintain law and order unlike during the regime of the democratic government when the army and the police were agents of lawlessness. The army and police under Feranacci's leadership were used to terrorise and arrest anti-fascist elements in Italy. He also used the army to spy and paralyse the activities of rival political organisations such as the socialists, communists and liberals. All these weakened opposition and helped to consolidate Mussolini's leadership in Italy.

9. Socio- economic developments

Mussolini embarked on public works schemes as a strategy to gain more support and consolidate fascism in Italy. He improved on the civil service and curbed down corruption, embezzlement and bribery that had been big problems during the previous governments in Italy. He achieved this by terrorising and inflicting heavy penalties on those who abused their office. Mussolini also constructed and improved on roads, railways, bridges, public buildings, hospitals and schools. These created employment to about 4 million Italians who were initially unemployed. Although these measures were not very successful by 1933 (due to economic depression), it never

the less helped to build public confidence in fascist government under Mussolini's leadership.

10. Persuasion and propaganda

Mussolini manipulated public opinion in favour of fascism through persuasion and propaganda. He and his cadres spread malicious propaganda against rival groups such as the socialists, communists and Jews.

Mussolini mobilised Italians against the Jews using anti-Semitic propaganda. This earned fascism support from Italian traders who were facing stiff competition from the Jews in their business.

11. Imprisonment of the communists

Mussolini's campaign against communists also helped to consolidate fascism in Italy. It should be noted that Mussolini's rise to power was partly due to his opposition to communism, for him to rise to power, Mussolini embarked on policies to eliminate communism from Italy. He arrested, tortured and imprisoned communist hardliners, which terrorised communist supporters and sympathisers. Diplomatically, this gave Mussolini and Fascism support from Britain and France who were equally scared of communist threat. It also earned fascism massive support from the clergy, capitalists, landlords and industrialists. This was because their wealth was threatened by nationalisation of property, which the communists were advocating for.

12. Familiarisation tours

Mussolini organised familiarisation tours, which helped him to acquaint himself with the problems of the common man in Italy. He mixed freely with the common man in Italy, which portrayed his love as a true nationalist. In his familiarisation tours, he freely associated with peasants and joined them in their gardens.

This strengthened Mussolini's personal relationship with the Italians made them to support him as one of their sons and helped to consolidate fascism in Italy.

13 Adventures foreign policy

In his foreign policy, Mussolini pursued aggressive and an adventurers policy, which won him support from Italian glory seekers and patriots. It also helped to divert public attention from his dictatorship at home. In 1935, he conquered Ethiopia, which event wiped off the 1896 humiliation when Ethiopians led by Menelik II defeated Italians at the battle of Adowa. He also conquered and occupied Albania in 1939.

From 1936-1939, Mussolini involved Italian troops in the Spanish Civil war, in which western democratic powers (Russia and mercenaries forces from Britain, France and United State of America) were defeated and fascist dictatorship led by General Franco regained power. These revived Italian glory, expanded the influence of fascism and consolidated fascism.

14 Alliance system

Mussolini used alliance as a method of consolidating fascism in Italy. In 1937, he allied with Germany led by Hitler and Japan under Hirohito's leadership in the famous Rome - Berlin- Tokyo axis. The alliance gave Mussolini diplomatic support that was essential in strengthening fascism. The axis powers also pledged military assistance towards one another in case of war with non-members of the alliance. The confidence created by axis alliance made Mussolini to deliberately provoke France by claiming Corsica Island, Tunisia and Djibouti. These made Mussolini and fascism very popular amongst Italian nationalists, patriots and glory seekers.

However, it should be noted that the same confidence created by the Rome- Berlin-Tokyo axis intensified aggression in Europe that led to the outbreak of the second world war, the death of Mussolini and collapse of fascism.

15. Treaty signing the Lateran pact (1929)

In 1929, Mussolini signed the Lateran pact with the Pope, which reconciled the Catholic Church and the state. It should be noted that since the unification of Italy in 1871, the Catholic Church had opposed successive post-unification governments. However, Mussolini negotiated with the Pope and signed the Lateran pact in which the Catholic Church was declared a state religion and an independent Vatican state was created. The Pope was also to be paid huge chunks of money as compensation for his losses.

In return, the Pope recognized and approved fascist government in Italy. In the words of V.D Mahajan ...the survival of Mussolini's dictatorship for more than 21 years was due partly to his reconciliation with the Pope. The pact brought Catholic Church under fascist control, made Catholics in Italy and a broad to support fascism under Mussolini's leadership.

Attachments

ACHIEVEMENTS OF BENITO MUSSOLINI/FASCISM IN ITALY, 1922-43

Mussolini and his fascist regime in Italy made remarkable achievements in the history of Italy. In his domestic and foreign policies, Mussolini scored great successes. Generally, Mussolini made remarkable achievements amidst failures in the social, political and economic structures of Italy. NB. Take a clear stand point if you are asked to Assess or examine the achievements/ contributions/ polices of Mussolini or fascism in Italy.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

DOMESTIC POLICIES AND REFORMS

1. Law and order

Mussolini/fascism restored law and order in Italy. Before and in the aftermath of Mussolini's rise to power, there was confusion, anarchy and total breakdown of law and order in Italy. However, Mussolini used tough measures such as imprisonment, torture, terror and intimidation that reestablished peace and stability. He also created an efficient spy network that checked on subversive activities of the opposition most especially his communist and socialist opponents. Strikes and demonstrations were violently suppressed, which normalised the operation of factories and industries.

2. The army

Mussolini achieved much in his military reforms. Before Mussolini rose to power, Italian army was weak and indisciplined. Different political groups like the communists, socialists, nationalists, and liberals had their own armies that were agents of violence. However, Mussolini transformed the pre 1922

armies into a highly disciplined national army by 1930. He created a large army that was well equipped with modern facilities and military training became compulsory for everybody. He also improved on the naval strength of Italy. During the fascist regime, Italy's naval power rose to the levels of France and Germany. There was also immense progress in the field of aeronautics (flying and navigating aircraft) and radio engineering, which improved the efficiency of the army. The transformed and modernised army was used in maintaining law and order, defending the independence and territorial integrity of Italy and fighting allied powers in the Second World War.

3. Infrastructural development

The fascist regime under Mussolini's leadership scored a great achievement in the field of public works.

Mussolini built and renovated roads, schools, railways, towns, hospitals, and canals. About 5000kms of railway lines were electrified. Communication was improved and telephones were used in urban areas by 1930. Mussolini also built mighty autostrade (motor ways) carving their way through the mountains and over valleys, (although at the expense of minor roads). The old monuments of Italy were properly preserved. This promoted patriotic and nationalistic feelings, which instilled confidence in the Italians.

4. Agriculture

There was a marked improvement in the field of agriculture. Agriculture was improved through afforestation, irrigation, land reclamation and giving subsidies to farmers. Farmers were motivated to use better seeds, manures, fertilizers and modern methods of agriculture. Mussolini also gave awards of gold, silver and bronze to the most productive and innovative farmers. By 1939, these measures had revolutionised agriculture to the extent that wheat and grain productions doubled. This made Italy that had suffered hunger, inflation, poverty and unemployment to become one of the prosperous and powerful states in Europe.

5. Industrialisation

Mussolini's fascist regime witnessed a significant progress in the industrial sector. Industrialisation was boosted by giving state subsidies to industrialists.

New technologies from various countries were introduced. Modern industries were built and industrial production doubled by 1939. This includes iron and steel industries, fiat company, Pirelli Rubber company and oil refineries, HEP production doubled and reduced the shortage of coal as a source of power. In 1933, an institute for reconstruction of industries was established. The state directly controlled many banks and large-scale industries in an effort to solve economic depression. All these transformed the pre-1922 backward Italy into an industrialised nation by 1939.

6. Education

Mussolini's education reform was a great achievement in the history of Italy from 1922- 1943. Before came to power, the level of education was low and many Italians were illiterate. However, Mussolini built and renovated schools, colleges, universities and libraries. This promoted education and literacy to the extent that the 1931 census indicated 80% literacy rate.

7. Corporate state system

Mussolini and his fascist regime created corporate state system to bring harmony between employees and employers. In 1926, a trade union law was enacted. It established only three kinds of union i.e. for employers, semi-skilled and unskilled labourers. Every citizen who obliged to subscribe yearly to one of the union whether joined or not people joined because failure to do so would mean no protection for one's rights yet one would have subscribed to a union. 211 employees and workers were indoctrinated with fascism, which undermined political liberalism that hitherto existed. Through the corporate state system, laws were passed that declared strikes, demonstrations and trade unions illegal.

This harmonised the relationship between workers and employers and helped to promote law, order, peace and stability.

8. Fight against communism and socialism

Mussolini succeeded in containing the spread of communism and socialism in Italy: Communism started spreading from Russia after the Russian revolution of 1917, threatening the property of the rich landlords, middle class and industrialists. He used spy network, force and terrorism to identify, isolate and paralyse the activities of communists and socialists. Although

there were established corporation for workers, communists and socialists never succeeded in establishing a dictatorship as in Russia. In this regard, one liberal Member of Parliament remarked of Mussolini He has saved Italy from the socialist danger which has been poisoning our life for twenty years.

9. Concordat with the Pope i.e. Lateran pact (agreement)

In 1929, Mussolini signed the Lateran pact with the Pope, which reconciled the Catholic Church and the state. Since 1870, there was a poor relationship between the Pope and previous Italian governments because Rome was taken away from the church as the capital of a united Italy. Determined to gain the Pope's support, Mussolini entered negotiation with the Pope and signed the Lateran pact. In the pact, the Catholic Church was declared a state religion. Rome was recognised as the capital of Italy, the Vatican was declared totally independent, the Catholic Church was to be compensated for losses incurred and the Pope approved fascist government in Italy. A number of historians have concurred that the concordat with the Pope was the greatest achievement that Mussolini registered in the political history of Italy.

FOREIGNPOLICY

Fascists/ Mussolini's foreign policy were primarily to make Italy a powerful and prosperous nation in order to revive the past glory. Mussolini was dissatisfied with the then Italian boundaries and had ambitions of expanding it. Consequently he perused an aggressive and sometimes diplomatic foreign policy that aimed at establishing a vast Italian empire.

10. Recovery of lost states

Mussolini successfully increased Italian influence in the Mediterranean Sea. In 1923, he signed the treaty of Lausanne with Greece in which Italy regained the Islands of Dodecanese and Rhodes that she had lost to Greece in 1920. A year after (1924),-Mussolini signed the treaty of Rome with Yugoslavia by which Italy regained the long disputed town of Fiume although part of it i.e. Susak and port Barros went to Yugoslavia.

11 Corfu incident, 1923-1924

Mussolini succeeded in securing compensation for 4 Italian citizens who were murdered by Greeks. On 21st Aug 1923, General Enrico, Tellini and two other Italian staff working on the territorial arrangements of Versailles treaty were murdered on the boarder of Greece and Albania (They were actually in Greece).

Mussolini reacted by forcefully occupying Corfu Island and demanded 50 million Lire compensation from Greece. The Greek government paid the 50 million Lire compensation and Mussolini withdrew his troops on 27th September 1924.

12 Influence on Albania

Mussolini successfully financed an internal revolt in Albania that overthrew president Zogu from power.

In 1926, he signed the treaty of Tirana with Albania by which Albania became a satellite state of Italy and in 1939 he annexed Albania, which became part of Italian empire. Mussolini also gave aids to Albania and exploited Albanian oil in return. This marked the first stage in Mussolini's effort to establish Italian influence in the Balkans along other great powers like France, Russia and Austria.

13 Promotion of European diplomacy

Although Mussolini was a dictator and an aggressor, he is credited for promoting European diplomacy. He promoted European diplomacy with other powers through the Locarno and Munich conferences of 1925 and 1938 respectively. Mussolini also signed commercial treaties with great powers such as Russia and France that promoted trade and improved diplomatic relations with such powers. He also signed treaties of friendship with Hungary in 1927 and Austria in 1930. In the treaty with Austria, Mussolini provided arms and money for the Austrian chancellor's private army. All these made Italy diplomatically stronger than ever before.

14 Conquest of Abyssinia (Ethiopia)

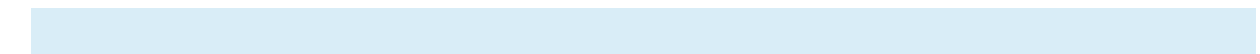
Mussolini annexed Ethiopia and made it part of Italian empire. On October 1935, conflict arose between Italian army working in Italian Somaliland and Ethiopian army at the well of "wall". The Italian and Ethiopian armies

quarreled sparking off a fight that led to the death of 30 Italian soldiers. Mussolini revenged by attacking and annexing Ethiopia to Italy. He renamed it Italian East Africa with himself as the emperor. This successfully revenged the humiliating defeat of Italians by Ethiopia at the battle of Adowa in 1896. When the League of Nations condemned Mussolini's action, he withdrew from the league and remained emperor of Ethiopia until his defeat in 1941. Thus, conquest of Ethiopia promoted Italian influence and glory abroad.

15 The Spanish civil war

Mussolini participated in the Spanish civil war in which he succeeded in restoring a fascist regime under General Franco's leadership. In 1936, a revolution occurred in Spain leading to the overthrow of General Franco and the establishment of a republican government. General Franco withdrew to Morocco, waged a guerilla war with Mussolini and Hitler's support, defeated Spanish, British plus French troops and returned to power in 1939. General Franco established a fascist state in Spain courtesy of Mussolini in Italy. This strengthened Italian influence in the Mediterranean Sea and also frustrated the rise of communism in Spain.

Attachments



WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES OF MUSSOLINI/FASCISM IN ITALY

1. Dictatorship

Mussolini is blamed for being a fanatical dictator. He established a fascist state i.e. rule by decree. In 1922, he forced the parliament to grant him dictatorial power for one year and extended it throughout his regime. The fascist Grand council and corporate state system were all instruments of his dictatorship. In 1925, Mussolini abolished political parties, which event suffocated pluralism. There after there was intensive persecution of opposition through imprisonment, exile and death that denied Italians peace, democracy, freedom of choice and expression.

2. Discrimination

Mussolini's achievements were monopolised by a few diehard supporters of fascism at the expense of the masses. In his domestic policy, he is accused of promoting dualism and more poverty in the south in comparison to other parts of Italy. He also encouraged anti-Semitism where the Jews were segregated and persecuted.

3. Press censorship

Mussolini and his fascist regime censored the press just to promote fascism. The opposition newspapers were banned and their offices were locked. Anti-fascist journalists, editors, presenters of radios, films and theaters were arrested and exiled to Lipari Island. These undermined press freedom and "killed" freedom of expression.

4. Election malpractices

The fascist regime under Mussolini's dictatorship was responsible for election malpractices. The 1924 elections were rigged in favour of the National Fascist Party. The army was used to terrorise people to vote for fascist candidates, which caused resentment that led to the murder of Matteotti and Amandola. (They opposed rigging and were murdered by fascists).

5 Failure of self-reliance

Mussolini and fascist policy of self-reliance failed to succeed. The policy of protectionism boomeranged leading to high levels of inflation and unemployment. This is because cheap and superior goods from more developed nations such as Britain and Belgium were blocked from Italy. As Economic depression came to an end, Mussolini's priority shifted from economy to military and semi-military production primarily to help him in his imperial ambitions. This led to general poverty amongst the ordinary masses in the post-depression era.

6 Economic decline

There was general economic decline during the fascist reign of Mussolini. By 1930, Italian economy had clearly deteriorated. Mussolini failed to stabilise the exchange rate and the revalued Lire too high. The welfare and conditions of work of Italian workers were the worst in Europe. They were the lowest paid in Europe yet the cost of living was very high. The rate of inflation and unemployment were also very high.

The poor state of economy made the government unable to provide services to the rural areas. By 1939, the rural areas lacked good roads, electricity, water, hospitals, schools etc.

7 Corruption and Embezzlement

Corruption and Embezzlement characterised fascist rule under Mussolini's leadership. There was excessive corruption, bribery and embezzlement of government official. This led to the failure of government programs such as poverty eradication and land reclamation. Mock/fake factories and companies were also established just to attract government subsidies, which made the government to loose huge chunks of money.

8 Failure of the battle of Natalivity / births

The battle of births declared by Mussolini was a failure by 1939. In 1922, Mussolini launched the battle of births. Mussolini argued that a nation with a big population (e.g. Germany before World War I) was powerful. Consequently, he declared the battle of births in which he aimed to increase the population of Italy from 37million to 60 million. To achieve this; high taxes were introduced for bachelors and awards were given to the most fertile mothers. Those who produced twins, triplicates, quadruplicates, etc. received the most prestigious awards. However, this policy was not very successful given that by 1940 the population had increased merely to 43.8 million. This was partly because many people fled to other countries to escape fascist oppression and dictatorship.

9 Land shortage

Land shortage in the rural areas was a problem during Mussolini's fascist rule in Italy, Mussolini's battle for births and resistance to rural -urban migration created land crisis in the rural areas. Little attempt was made to redistribute land from capitalistic landlords to the poor peasants. In 1930, about only 15 families held a total of over 1 million acres of land. Much of the land used for wheat production like hillside terraces were more suitable for olives and fruits than wheat.

10 Alliance with Hitler of Germany

In his foreign policy, Mussolini is accused for collaborating with Hitherto promote fascism and Nazism in Europe by fighting other political ideologies like communism, socialism and democracy. In 1937, Mussolini signed the Rome- Berlin axis and in 1939, he concluded the pact of steel with Hitler. This solidarity encouraged Hitler's aggression in Europe that led to German occupation of Poland in 1939 and the outbreak of the Second World War.

11 Aggressive foreign policy

Lastly, Mussolini's foreign policy was more aggressive than diplomatic. He embarked on imperial wars in Greece, Albania, Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and Spain. These wars led to loss of lives, destruction of property and hostility with other powers. His aggression and alliance with Hitler are blamed for the outbreak of World War II that led to the heaviest bloodshed and destruction of property in the history of the world. It should be noted that the Second World War came with events that led to the death of Mussolini and the end of fascism in Italy.

Attachments

WORLD ECONOMIC DEPRESSION 1929-1935

CAUSES

The world economic depression refers to the global economic meltdown or crisis that was characterised by surplus agricultural output especially in North America, closure of industrial and banking institutions, mass unemployment, financial crisis, deflation (opposite of inflation) and low purchasing power.

Generally, it was a situation of inactive/rigid economic activities that paralised the whole world from 1929-1935.

The depression started from the Canadian agricultural sector, spread to other sectors and covered the whole world after the collapse and closure of the stock market in the United States in October 1929. This global economic disaster was caused by economic, social and political factors.

1. Over Production and capitalism

The great depression was basically caused by capitalistic tendencies which emphasises profit maximisation at the expense of the workers. In 1920's, technological and scientific advancement led to over production of industrial and agricultural products. Commodities like cotton, coffee, cocoa, wheat and meat were produced in surplus/excess of domestic consumption capacity. The capitalists maximised profits by over engaging workers in the production of surplus and maintained wages as low as possible.

This reduced the purchasing power of workers with the effect that the surplus products could not be sold unless their prices were reduced. However, their prices were not reduced because it would reduce the profit margins. This left huge quantities of industrial and agricultural products unsold that forced the capitalists to stop further production. It resulted into unemployment, financial crisis and general economic stagnation.

2. Income Inequality and Massive Poverty

Persistent income inequality and massive poverty in Europe made the outbreak of economic depression inevitable. In 1920's, there was intensive oppression and exploitation of workers that most workers were living below the poverty line. Increased profits from industries were monopolised by capitalists at the expense of the workers. This created a high income gap between the rich capitalists and the poor. For example, from 1923-29, industrial profits increased by 72% while the average wage for industrial workers rose by a mere 8%. It is estimated that in 1929, about 1/3 (a third) of all personal incomes went to nearly 5% of the population (capitalists). The implication of this scenario is that money was concentrated in the hands of very few people while the general public had almost no money to buy commodities. This resulted into low purchasing power, aggregate demand and general poverty that forced price downwards. It

should be noted that people were starving not because there was no food but because they had no money to buy food that was in glut/ surplus.

NB. The great depression of 1929-35 is by far the worst in the history of the world. It was a situation where millions of people were starving, yet thousand tones of wheat were being burnt down in some areas to prevent its price from falling further.

3. The effect of World War I

The First World War devastated world economies, left it in shambles and contributed to the depression.

The war destroyed industries, ships, farms, gardens and abled man power. Its estimated that a total of over 186 billion dollars were losses that were incurred from the First World War. These had negative impacts on the level of production, purchasing power and trade. Trade declined because countries were left so poor that they could not import large quantities of agricultural products. Thus, there was low level of imports and consumption which explains why the depression was severe in USA that was the greatest producer of commodities in the inter war period.

4. Article 232 of the Versailles treaty i.e. reparation

The depression was escalated by the payment of war reparations that was imposed on Germany and her allies. Besides, Germany and her allies were allowed to pay for the reparations in form of tangible items like cattle, chemicals, ships, agricultural and industrial products. On top of this, Germany and her allies were neither free to export nor import goods to and from other European powers. This affected trade between Germany, her allies and the victorious powers of World War I, which led to the depression.

Germany and her allies resorted to borrowing loans from USA. This created a vicious cycle where money flowed from USA to the defeated powers, to the victorious powers who also paid it back to USA. This made trade and other economic activities to decline and almost came to a standstill, thus making the depression inevitable.

5. The American Loans Scheme

During and after the First World War, European countries borrowed huge loans from USA to finance the war and reconstruct their economies. When USA pressurised for repayment of her loans plus the interest, it created an economic crisis where huge chunks of money flowed from indebted countries to America not in exchange of goods and services but in repayment for loans. This reduced the level of investment, aggregate demand and purchasing power leading to financial crisis, inability to sell the countries' output and a reduction in international trade.

It should be noted that the inability of young and weak states like Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland to pay their debts forced USA to stop giving her loans to defaulters. She even charged high tariffs to foreign goods, which prevented her debtors from paying their debts in kind. This left them indebted and unable to engage in any meaningful economic activity leading to the outbreak of economic depression.

6. The Gold Standard System

The Gold standard system that determined the amount of money in circulation also contributed to the depressing economic situation. According to the system, the amount of money in circulation in an economy was supposed to be equivalent to the total value of Gold bullions in its reserve. From 1925, Gold lost value and yet the system was inflexible / rigid. Thus, it limited money supply and reduced demand in countries that had very little Gold yet they could not buy more. When USA began demanding repayment of her loans in terms of Gold, the indebted countries had to reduce their money in circulation as more and more quantities of their Gold went and were locked up in USA. This left Gold reserves in most European countries empty and caused financial crisis that gave rise to economic depression.

7. USA Policy of isolationism and protectionism.

The policy of economic nationalism and isolationism that was practiced by nations especially USA affected international trade and led to economic depression. In 1920's, nations adopted a protectionist policy in which they wanted to safe guard their infant industries and domestic markets from competition by foreign powers. USA protected her industries by charging high import duties with an ambition to export more of her products abroad. Other countries reacted in the same way not only against USA but also against other powers. This restricted international trade and left most countries flooded with surplus products in home markets hence the depression.

8. Weaknesses of the League of Nations

The failure of the League of Nations to promote economic co-operation in Europe contributed to the Great depression. It failed to ensure free trade and that is why America and other nations pursued a protectionist policy that gave rise to the depression. The League also failed to come out with a clear way of handling currency circulation, which was determined by the gold reserves thus creating a rigid economic situation.

The League even failed to come up with clear policies on debt recovery and repayment which spoilt the economic relationship between America and her debtors. All these made the outbreak of the depression inevitable.

9. Reduction in the efficiency of Labour

The post war Labour condition also contributed to the great depression. During the war, a number of capable and experienced labour force, officers and men were either killed or maimed. After the war, governments put a ban on immigration of labour from poverty hit regions to areas that were better in economic terms. There was therefore no free mobility of skilled labour from areas of underutilization to those where such labour could be fully utilised. It gave chance for children and women who were inefficient to be employed in farms and industries. Such labour depressed price levels and made the great depression inevitable.

10. Unemployment

Persistent problem of unemployment was also responsible for the outbreak of the great depression.

Unemployment was caused by over population, demobilisation process after World War I, industrial revolution and the closure of banking and industrial sectors. By 1929, over ten million people were unemployed in Europe. The purchasing power of the unemployed was zero yet governments were other welfare services. This led to acute poverty, low aggregate demand and government revenue and inability to buy commodities that caused the depression

11. Speculation by Prominent Politicians and Investors

Speculation by prominent politicians and investors created psychological fear/economic panic that made the outbreak of economic depression inevitable. As company and industrial profits increased from mid-1920, speculation about the prospect of making quick money intensified.

Consequently, investors and other ordinary people rushed to buy more shares with a hope of selling at a higher price and making abnormal profits. Eventually, the average cost price of a share rose from 9 million dollars in 1924 to 26 million dollars by 1929. However, uncertainty and panic developed from October 1929 that made many people rush to sell their shares as the price of shares dropped drastically. This was due to political and economic announcements made by prominent world class politicians through credible/respected newspapers about the depression in different parts of the world. It created negative psychological feelings that made the depression to be felt even in areas where it had not yet reached. For instance, the announcement about the collapse and closure of the prominent world stock market in the USA in October 1929 caused a sudden collapse of share prices, hence the depression.

12. Political instability

The inter war period (1919 to 1939) was a turbulent period characterised by chaos, discontent, revolutions and lack of diplomatic co-operation. In Russia, there was a civil war between the communists and the supporters of the exiled Tsar Nicholas II. Besides, Russia was isolated by western countries led by USA because she had adopted communism in 1917. This divided Europe into two and frustrated trade between the western countries led by USA and the eastern countries under the leadership of USSR. In Germany, there was political instability masterminded by Nazism. In Italy, Mussolini was having a hard time from his political opponents. There were also labour grievances and trade unions were causing more tensions between employers and employees to the extent of strikes in some instances. All these were not conducive for proper economic growth and developments, hence the great depression.

13. The collapse of the world stock exchange market in the Wall Street/The Wall Street crash

The collapse and closure of the prominent world stock market of USA in October 1929 paralysed world economies and contributed to the

depression. Rumours and press propaganda about the Wall Street crash made people rush to withdraw their savings from banks and sell their Shares at give-away prices. By June 1930, the average price of a share was 25% of its peak level in 1929 and was still falling down . It made America unable to lend any more loans and she began to demand for the once that had been lent. It affected banking institutions to the extent that over 4,200 banks were closed between 1929 - 1932. This locked people's savings and reduced the purchasing power. Industries could not secure loans yet their products were not being bought and so they also closed down. This led to more unemployment, surplus products, low purchasing power, investment and consumption that depressed price levels downwards.

Attachments

CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC DEPRESSION

The depression had short-term and long-term consequences in the political, economic and social structures of the world. Its negative consequences were more impacting than the positive consequences.

POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES

1. Rise of new economic reforms and organisations

On a positive note, the depression made governments to adopt new economic reforms and promote organisations in order to contain the depression. Co-operative societies were promoted in order to regulate production and marketing of commodities. Banks, industrialists and farmers were provided with working capital to save them from financial crisis. Unemployment benefits, social security fund, labour laws and pension schemes were reforms that were enforced to increase the purchasing power and fight poverty, famine and starvation. In Britain, the iron and steel industries of Sheffield and Birmingham were merged together in order to regulate the production and prices of their products. The need to promote greater economic co-operation made the Scandinavian countries to form the OSLO block and USA formed a regional integration with South American states. These laid foundation for the current economic organisations such as EEC and ECOWAS.

2. Growing influence of Socialism

The great economic depression strengthened the influence of socialism especially in Eastern Europe and America. The sufferings caused by the depression made people to develop hatred against liberalism, democracy and capitalism that were accused of causing the depression. On the contrary, Russia that had adopted socialism in 1917 was not affected much by the depression and this facilitated the spread of socialism in the Eastern countries of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania and Poland. In USA, there were radical political movements that started advocating for socialism as the best alternative to address the problems of the poor workers and improve the standard of living. The communist party of USA was strengthened and it played a vital role in organizing workers, blacks and whites to fight against racism and capitalism. However, this showed seeds for the outbreak of the cold war in Europe.

3. The end of Gold Standard system

The Gold standard system was abandoned because it had contributed to the depression. Countries started issuing money that was not backed by gold (fiduciary issue). It was aimed at improving the terms of trade and correcting inequalities that had arisen to form exchange rates. This revived international trade because it also opened way for countries without gold deposits to freely participate in trade. However, the Gold standard system was not completely abolished all over Europe. It was still maintained in countries such as Switzerland, Belgium, Holland and France. Nevertheless, by 1970 these countries had all abolished the system due to its loopholes.

4. Rise of economists i.e. J.M Keynes

Economic depression led to the rise to greatness of economists like J.M .Keynes. J.M Keynes analysed the causes of the depression and provided solutions to problems affiliated/related to the depression. He invented the famous Keynesian theory of unemployment in which he stated that unemployment arises due to deficiency in aggregate demand for goods especially in times of economic depression. Consequently, he suggested measures to increase aggregate demand such as; reducing taxation, subsidisation of consumers and use of expansionist monetary policies amongst others. These ideas were utilised by governments and contributed to the end of economic depression, which made Keynes to be famous.

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

1. Break down of financial institutions

In the first place, the depression led to the collapse and closure of financial institutions. Banks especially in USA diverted depositor's money to buy shares with a speculative motive of making huge profits.

However, dramatic fall in prices of shares left Banks in a hopeless situation. It created panic and speculation that made millions of people to rush to withdraw their savings from banks with a belief that their cash would be safer at home. This left the bulking institutions without money and consequently many banks were closed down. For example, over 4,200 banks were closed in America between 1929- 1932. Speculation was also responsible for the closure and collapse of stock market in the USA. The collapse and closure of financial institutions made people to lose their savings.

2. Unemployment

The depression resulted into mass unemployment due to the collapse of industrial, banking, agricultural and other employment sectors. The surplus output and low demand made the industrial, factory and Land owners to lay off workers, which resulted into mass unemployment. For instance, in USA, the number of the unemployed rose from 1.5 million in 1929, to 5 million in 1930, 9 million in 1931 and 13 million in 1932. By 1931, it is estimated that about 6 million people were unemployed in Germany, 3 million in Britain and over 3 million in France. In USA, the unemployed were nicknamed "Hoovervilles" and lived in camps under a very desperate socio-economic condition.

3. Collapse of Industries

The great depression led to the collapse of industries and other related sectors. Factories were producing surplus products yet prices and demand were very low. This subjected industrialists to heavy losses and consequently they closed down factories. It also undermined other sectors such as agriculture, trade, investment, etc. This was because the collapse of industries affected forward and backward linkages between the industrial and other affiliated sectors.

4. Low Level of Investment

The great depression of 1929-35 had negative effects on investment. The collapse and closure of the world stock exchange markets affected millions of investors who had bought their shares at very high prices.

Investors had speculatively bought many shares, moreover some of them on credit. The dramatic fall in the price and demand for shares left investors with huge losses. This was because there was no hope of selling their shares at the speculated rate in order to make the much expected profit. It discouraged investors and other people from further investment not only in shares but other sectors as well. This led to a drastic decline in government revenue because income from taxes, trade and industries were very low. It was due to this that governments failed to improve on their economies and standard of living of the people.

5. Low Standard of Living

The inactive economic situation led to a decline in the standard of living. There was famine, poverty and starvation because people did not have money to buy the glut/surplus products. Many families failed to afford the basic necessities of life and were living below the poverty line. Health, education, transport and communication were in a sorry state. It was not uncommon to see landlords confiscating their tenants' property before finally evicting them for failure to pay rent arrears. In USA, homeless people in camps were nicknamed "Hoovervilles" after the president of the USA who was blamed for the depression.

Donald MC-COY remarked of these conditions that; The American people were affected as though a war had been fought from coast to coast

NB. These poor conditions are of much interest because people were suffering and starving not because of lack of commodities but due to lack of money to buy the glut.

6. Decline in International Trade

There was a drastic decline in international trade as a result of the depression. It left countries flooded with surplus products in narrow domestic markets that could not be bought due to the low purchasing power. This forced countries to resort to protectionism as a way of protecting domestic markets against foreign competition. Consequently, the level of imports

and exports were reduced which brought international trade to almost a standstill.

7. Decline in diplomatic relations

The depression led to poor relations amongst European powers. European countries hated USA for her policy of economic nationalism and isolationism that escalated the depression. Anti-US feelings intensified as America pressurised indebted countries to repay her debts. In Europe, poor relations developed between the victorious powers and the defeated powers as the victorious powers continued to demand for war reparations from the defeated powers. This was because the depression had paralysed world economies that no one country could think and were not able to repay any loans or war reparations yet America and the victorious powers badly needed their money to offset the depression.

8. Weakened the League of Nations

The depression is one of the factors responsible for the weakness and failure of the League of Nations in Europe. It weakened the economic status of member states which made the League bankrupt and unable to finance her activities. It also made powers like Germany, Japan and Italy to resort to aggression as a way of addressing the hard economic situation. This undermined the role of the League of Nations in maintaining world peace. The depression also destroyed international co-operation as countries pursued self-sustaining national policies and protectionism. Countries concentrated on addressing the problems created by the depression and ignored the activities of the League of Nations. This is what partly made Germany and Japan to withdraw their membership from the League of Nations, which left it weakened.

9. Political changes and the rise of dictatorship

The depression resulted into political changes that favoured the rise and consolidation of dictatorship in Europe. Poverty and starvation made people to loose trust in democratic leaders and longed for militaristic dictators who promised a radical or military approach to the depression. This led to the rise of Hitler in Germany (1934) and General Franco in Spain (1939). In USA, the depression led to the rise of Franklin de-Roosevelt who defeated Hoover in the presidential elections of 1932. In many states like Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia, USA etc., the leaders used force to suppress popular uprisings caused by economic hardships, which promoted authoritarianism.

10. Second World War

The depression contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. It led to the rise of dictators whose ambitions amongst others was to destroy western democratic governments and socialism. This was responsible for the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis alliance against western democrats that created tension and led to the outbreak of war in 1939. The depression also made powerful countries to resort to aggression against weaker states as a way of getting raw materials and securing market. This is partly the reason why Japan invaded China in 1931 and Hitler invaded Poland in 1939 that sparked off the Second World War. It should be noted that by weakening the League of Nations and destroying international

relations, the depression opened way for rivalry, jealousy and hatred that culminated into the Second World War.

Attachments

HOW THE DEPRESSION WAS SOLVED

1 A world economic conference attended by 66 states was held in Genoa in 1933. It was aimed at finding solutions to the economic slump that had paralysed the world. The delegates came out with modalities that removed obstacles to free trade, stabilised world currency and enforced a uniform tax on imports and exports. These restored the pre-1929 trade relations and ended the depression.

2. Other powers resorted to drastic measures in order to deal with the depression. Most leaders became dictators and used force against strikes and demonstrations that were provoked by the slump (depression). Some powers hiked (raised) tariffs to protect infant industries. Britain for instance charged high tariffs on imported steel to safeguard her own-Steel industry from foreign competition.

Quotas were also imposed on imports and exports as strategies to protect infant domestic industries.

These were short-term methods that were used by European powers as a solution to the then depressing economic situation.

NB: When nearly every country resorted to protectionism, these measures worsened the depression in the long run.

3. "Germany-violated the Versailles peace treaty as a way of addressing the depression. She occupied the Saar coalfield, Rhine-lands and embarked on rapid industrialisation especially under Hitler. Germany even repudiated / stopped paying the heavy war indemnity that was imposed on her at the 1934 Laussane convention. These made Germany to revive her economy and participate in international trade, which pulled her out of the depression.

4. USA embarked on some reforms that contributed to the end of the depression. She depreciated the value of her dollar (deflation, in order to

increase the purchasing, power as well as sales). USA also realised her weakness and broke her pre-1919 policy of economic nationalism and isolationism. She resumed giving loans and grants to European countries. She even opened her internal markets which induced other powers to do the same. These reactivated international trade and revived European economies, which brought down economic depression.

5. Formation of regional Economic integration was used by European powers to resolve the economic crisis. Aware that protectionism and isolationism had caused the depression, European powers embarked on forming regional Economic integration to revive free trade. USA formed an integration of South American states, the Scandinavian countries formed the OSLO blocks and the agricultural states of Eastern Europe were joined together under the British Common wealth in 1932. These created and expanded trading blocks, restored free trade and economic co-operation that solved the depression.

6. Powerful states like Britain, France and USA provided unemployment benefits and relief to the unemployed and destitutes. This was free money that was given to the unemployed and destitutes who were above 18 years for the purpose of survival. This policy was later adopted by small and poor states in order to improve on the deteriorating standard of living. Such free money and relief increased money supply and purchasing power that enabled consumption of the glut/excess commodities and hence brought down economic depression.

7. Abandonment of the Gold standard system also provided a solution to the depression. By 1933, most European states discarded the Gold standard system that had contributed to the outbreak of the depression. European countries started issuing money irrespective of the amount of gold in reserves.

This increased the supply of money and hence the purchasing power. It also allowed countries without gold reserves to freely participate in international trade, which brought the depression to a standstill by 1936,

8. Some powerful states adopted an aggressive foreign policy to handle the economic slump/depression.

They embarked on territorial conquests and annexations to acquire raw materials, markets and areas of investment to address domestic problems created by the depression. For example, Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931 to exploit the abundant silk and cotton for her survival. It's also for a similar reason that Italy occupied Ethiopia and Germany invaded her neighbours by 1939. The aggressive powers were able to secure raw materials and open fresh markets for their manufactured goods, which helped them to address the problem created by the depression.

9. Socio-economic reforms were also used to address the depression. These were policies designed for the modernisation of agriculture, industry and social services. Investment in public works was undertaken e.g. construction of roads, railways, dams and bridges. Progressive taxes were imposed in order to redistribute wealth fairly. Trade unions were given powers to organise and bargain for the rights of workers. All these increased people's earnings, created more jobs and increased the standard of living as a solution to the economic slump.

10. Adoption agro-based industries were also used to provide solution to the depression by 1935. European nations built agriculturally based industries e.g. corn/maize industry in USA, cotton industry in China and wheat industry in India. Such agro-based industries promoted forward and backward linkage between agriculture and industries. This strengthened agricultural and industrial sectors, expanded employment opportunities, increased the purchasing power of the masses and revived European economy.

11. Lending was restricted because whatever money was to be borrowed would be directed to poverty alleviation other than investments. USA that was the greatest financier of Europe in the 1920's stopped giving loans because it had become a risky venture since those who borrowed before 1929 had defaulted to pay. She instead started demanding for her loans in order to boost her economy. These enabled USA that had suffered greatly from economic depression to revamp her economy and jump out of the depression.

NB) other states like Britain and France started pressing for reparations, which unfortunately was not paid by the defeated powers like Germany.

12. On the other hand, Governments took direct control of banks in order to regulate money supply, reactivate the level of economic activities and solve the depression. The Governments reduced interest rates, which increased the level of borrowing and investment. This intervention improved the level of economic activities, income and purchasing power that halted economic depression by 1936.

Government control of banks also restored people's confidence in banks with the effect that people who had withdrawn their savings (and hidden in their homes) re-banked them. This revived the financial positions of banks and saved those that were on the verge of closing, which would have worsened unemployment.

13. Military conscription was one of the strategies used to end the depression. Germany, France and Britain embarked on military conscription through which able bodied men were recruited into the national armed forces. This expanded employment opportunity and addressed the problem of unemployment that was also responsible for the prevalence of the great depression. It also improved income level and increased purchasing power. This led to consumption of glut commodities and thus reduced the challenge of surplus commodities.

14. Political changes led to the rise of strong governments that ended economic depression. The depression made people to lose trust in democratic leaders and longed for militants who promised a radical solution to the depression. This led to the rise of Hitler in Germany (1934) and the conservative government in Britain. In USA the depression led to the rise of Franklin de-Roosevelt who defeated Hoover in the presidential elections of 1932. The new governments learnt lessons from the weaknesses of the previous governments and made socio-economic reforms that led to the end of the depression.

They also used force to suppress popular uprisings caused by economic hardships that restored law and order, which reactivated economic activities.

15. Adoption of new deal policy also enabled Europe to address the depression. The new deal policy was initiated by the new USA President Franklin D Roosevelt from 1932. The policy that was adopted by other countries provided for unemployment benefits, pensions to retired workers,

minimum wages, rural rehabilitation and loans to large farmers. These measures increased employment opportunities, income levels, purchasing power and demand for goods and services, which ended economic depression.

16. Lastly, the rise and influence of J.M. Keynes was paramount in ending the depression. J.M. Keynes, a classical economist proposed solutions that helped Europe to stop economic depression by 1935. He analysed the causes of the depression and provided solutions to problems associated with the depression. Keynes invented the famous Keynesian theory of unemployment in which he stated that unemployment arises due to deficiency in aggregate demand for goods. Consequently, he suggested measures to increase aggregate demand such as: reduction of taxation, subsidisation of consumers and use of expansionist monetary policies amongst others. These ideas were implemented by European governments and contributed to the end of economic depression by 1935.

Attachments

No attachments



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BACKGROUND:

The Weimer Republic was a democratically elected government that was established in Germany after the collapse of the German empire in 1919. As Germany was being defeated in the First World War, public opinion turned against Kaiser William II who resigned and fled to exile. His Chancellor, Prince Max also failed to contain violence and resigned. This created a power vacuum and led to the rise of various political parties such as the communists, the socialists, the Republicans, the liberals and the democrats.

A Provisional government under Fredrick Ebert, the leader of the social democrats was formed to make peace and prepare for general elections. In January 1919, the constituent assembly delegates were elected.

The first meeting of the delegates was held at Weimer town in November 1919 where a new constitution (the Weimer constitution) was declared. It provided for a Republican form of government and Ebert became the first President. The government was called Weimer Republic because it was founded at Weimer town in central Germany.

NB. The National Assembly met at Weimer because Berlin the capital city of Germany was insecure with violence and clashes perpetuated by the different political groups. Although the Weimer Republic was very unpopular right from the beginning, it survived until 1933 when Hitler destroyed the constitution and instituted perfect Nazi dictatorship in Germany. Generally, the rise and downfall of the Weimer Republic was due to internal and external factors.

Attachments

No attachments

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF THE WEIMER REPUBLIC

1. The need for a democratically elected government based on western models influenced the constituent Assembly delegates in Germany to institute the Weimer Republican government. The delegates were inspired by the French and British republican systems of government to destroy the German monarchical government and adopt a republican government.
2. The defeat of Germany and the devastating effect of the First World War also contributed to the rise and existence of the Weimer Republic. By 1918, the allied powers had destroyed the German economy and there was serious famine, starvation, inflation and unemployment. These provoked strikes and demonstrations against Kaiser William II who abdicated and fled to exile. The Germans were frustrated by his monarchical government and decided to adopt a democratically elected government in the name of the Weimer Republic.
3. The resignation and abdication of Kaiser William II left a power vacuum through which the Weimer Republic rose. Due to pressure from the First World War and the hostility of the Germans, Kaiser William II fled to exile leaving a power vacuum. If Kaiser William II had not fled to exile, there would not be any-power vacuum in Germany and the Weimer Republic would possibly not have triumphed in Germany.
4. The role of foreign powers was very influential in the rise of the Weimer Republic. The monarchical government of Kaiser William II was a big problem to European powers and that is why they fought and defeated it in the First World War. Foreign powers needed a puppet government that would dance to their tunes and this is why they supported the rise of the Weimer Republic.
5. The need for reconciliation and peaceful co-existence with other European powers was also instrumental in the rise of the Weimer Republic. German aggression had isolated her from the rest of Europe and made Germany an enemy of nearly the whole Europe (with exception of a few like Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey). It had also retarded the development of Germany and undermined her position in international affairs. This forced

the Germans to adopt the Weimer Republic in order to bring peace and reconciliation between Germany and Europe.

6. The threat of communism also gave way to the Weimer Republic. The workers and the poor were influenced by the Russian revolutions of 1917 to demand for a communist regime in Germany. This led to the formation of a party known as "Spartacus" group led by Carl Liebknecht and Rose Luxemburg Who were in close contact with the Bolsheviks in Russia. They engineered strikes and demonstrations that forced Kaiser William II to exile and gave way to a provisional government.

However, communist influence was a great threat and a source of insecurity to the wealthy Landlords, businessmen and other professionals. This made them to denounce the Spartacus group and support a republican government that would maintain law, order and protect their wealth. Heavy bloodshed, clashes and insecurity in Berlin were also responsible for the rise of the Weimer Republic. It made the constituent assembly delegates to shift the National Assembly venue from Berlin to Weimer. It was from Weimer where a constitution and the Republic were declared under a social democratic leader, Fredrick Ebert.

8. The need for political liberties that brings power to the people through parliamentary election was also behind the rise of the Weimer Republic. The Germans were fed up with the dictatorship of Kaiser William II and lack of political freedom. They demanded for a reduction of the president's power to end dictatorship that gave rise to the Weimer Republic.

9. Lastly, the Weimer Republic was favoured by the need to end Prussian dictatorship and dominance in German politics. From 1871 - 1918, Prussia monopolised German politics and key positions at the expense of other states. She favoured religious intolerance where the Protestant faith was made a state religion. This was opposed by other states most especially the south German states where the catholic religion had strong influence. All these forced the Germans to wage a struggle to end such a monopoly, thus leading to the rise of the Weimer Republic.

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REASONS FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE WEIMER REPUBLIC BY 1933:

The Weimer Republic was very unstable except from 1923 - 1929 under Stress man. It was very unpopular right from the beginning and this laid foundation for its collapse. Generally, the Republic was affected by political and socio-economic problems that made its downfall inevitable by 1933. This was due to the following factors.

1. The Weimer Republic was very unpopular from the beginning because it was associated with the unrealistic Versailles treaty of 1919. The treaty for instance disarmed Germany, blamed her for causing the First World War and imposed the heaviest reparation in the history of the world on her.

The Weimer Republican leaders were blamed for betraying the Germans by accepting and signing the harsh terms of the Versailles settlement. The Republic therefore became very unpopular which opened way for Hitler to rise and destroy it in 1933.

2. Internally, the Weimer Republic was established on a very weak foundation that contributed to its collapse. The Germans had no experience and love for a democratically elected government. They were used to Prussian dictatorship and Bismarck's policy of blood and Iron. This is why the Republic was rejected and denounced right from 1919.

Internationally, the Weimer Republic was isolated which made it vulnerable to collapse. She was invited in the Versailles settlement as a "criminal" and was out of the League Nations for a long time.

This denied the Republic diplomatic support that could have prolonged its lifespan.

3. The role of various political groups like the communists, socialists, Republicans and Nazis also undermined the existence of the Weimer Republic. These parties criticised and undermined the government for accepting the Versailles treaty and failing to improve the socio-economic welfare of the Germans. They used their own armies to perpetuate violence and civil war in order to eliminate their opponents. The national assembly in which all these parties were represented became a fertile ground for chaos and disorder. All these undermined the credibility of the Weimer Republic leading to its collapse by 1933.

4. The stability of the Weimer Republic was also affected by a number of coups. In 1920, the monarchists under Dr. Kamp occupied Berlin and temporarily brought an end to the Weimer Republic. In 1923 and 1924, the royalists led by General Ludenford and the Nazi led by Hitler attempted a coup against the government respectively. Although these coups were suppressed, they nevertheless shook the Republic; left it weakened, hence contributing to its collapse.

5. The Weimer Republic had incompetent political leaders who failed to handle the post war challenges of Germany. A part from Stress man (foreign minister 1923 - 1929), the other Republican leaders failed to contain violence and insecurity that made people lose confidence in the government.

Besides, the Republican leaders were incapable of handling socioeconomic problems like unemployment and inflation, which made even the few who had supported the government to withdraw their support. This weakened the republic and led to its collapse.

6. Economic problems also affected the stability of the Republic. German economy was devastated by the First World War and war reparations worsened the problems of inflation, unemployment, famine and starvation. The 1929-35 economic depression delivered the last devastating blow to Germany's economy and created more problems. For instance, the number of unemployed Germans rose from 4 million to 6 million between 1930 to 1932. This made people to loose confidence in the Weimer Republic and support the opposition. This is why Hitler got more support and seats in the parliament during the depression, which was at the expense of the government.

7. The rise and role of Hitler and Nazism greatly contributed to the downfall of the Weimer Republic.

The unfavourable post war condition in Germany favoured the rise of Hitler and growth of Nazism.

Hitler blamed the Weimer republic leaders for betraying the Germans in the First World War and accepting the Versailles treaty. He also criticised the government for the worsening socio-economic problems of unemployment, inflation, famine and starvation. This earned Hitler a lot of

popularity at the expense of the Weimer Republic. For example, in 1929, the Nazi won only 107 seats in parliament but this increased to 230 in 1932. This growing influence of Hitler and Nazism forced president Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as a chancellor in 1933, which he used as a stepping stone to bring an end to the Weimer Republic.

8. Foreign invasion was yet another problem that contributed to the downfall of the Weimer Republic. In 1923, the French invaded and occupied the Rhur industrial region. They looted Germany's industries before they withdrew in 1926. This crippled German's economy because the Rhur had abundant source of power. The Germans blamed the Republic for its failure to defend the country and shifted their loyalty to Hitler. This is because Hitler promised to create a strong German economy and revive Germany's supremacy as opposed to the Weimer Republic.

9. Lastly, the untimely death of President Hindenburg in 1934 marked the end of the Weimer Republic. It left a political vacuum through which Hitler, rose to power and brought an end to the Republic. It was only after the death of Hindenburg that Hitler added the presidential power to himself. Otherwise, if Hindenburg had not died, Hitler's rise to power would have been delayed and the lifespan of the Weimer Republic would have possibly gone beyond 1934.

Attachments

HITLER AND GERMAN 1934-1945

Background

Hitler was an Austrian born on 20th April 1889 in the Austro-German boarder town of Brounaal. His father, Alois Hitler was a minor customs official in Austria. In 1902 his father died and in 1907 his mother also died. Hitler did not get proper education on account of his obscure background and being a total orphan. His ambition was to become a fine artist but this was frustrated when he failed to join the Vienna academy of fine art in 1907. For some time, Hitler lived a poor lonely life at Vienna as a sign painter, casual labourer of odd jobs and a street beggar. This is what shaped Hitler's personality of poor interpersonal relationship, intolerance and hatred of the bourgeoisie, the royalists, the socialists, the Republicans and the Jews.

In May 1913, Hitler went to live in Munich, a city in Germany. He fought for Germany in World War I where he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal and awarded the "Iron cross" for his bravery.

Towards the end of the war, Hitler was badly wounded and was hospitalized when the armistice was being signed. He was discharged and returned to Munich where he lived for some time on occasional work.

Hitler was very disappointed with the defeat and humiliation of Germany in the First World War. His views were that Germany was not defeated due to her military weakness but was "stabbed in the back" (betrayed) by its leaders and traitors like the Jews, Socialists, Pacifists, Democrats etc. This experience haunted him for a long time as he later wrote;

The more I tried to glean some definite information of the terrible events that happened, the more my head become a fire with rage and shame.

Hitler later joined the National German workers socialist party which was later renamed Nazi. He distinguished himself as a true patriot and his oratory and demagogic skills earned him the leadership of the party. In 1924, Hitler attempted a futile coup against the Weimer Republic for which he was imprisoned for five years but was released after only 6 months. While in prison. Hitler wrote his book

"Main Kampf (my struggle) which became the bible of the Nazis. This made him and the party more popular. By 1933, Hitler and Nazism were very popular amongst the Germans. In the elections of March 1933, the Nazi won 288 seats in the parliament. This forced president Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor, which became a flat form for his rise to power in 1934.

Attachments

THE RISE OF HITLER TO POWER

Hitler's rise to power is one of the most spectacular events in the history of great men of the world. His rise is significant not only because he established a perfect Nazi dictatorship that led to the Second World War but also

because his origin and background were more obscure than any leader history has ever seen.

His rise to power can be attributed to the post World War 1 condition in Germany but his personal character was the most important. According to Strong;

Hitler was not a military genius like Napoleon /, master of state craft like Bismarck, a diplomat like Cavour, not an experienced politician like Clemenceau/Lloyd George, not a thinker like Lenin, an organiser like Trotsky or a planner like Stalin. Although he possessed a diabolical fiare which was a sort of an amalgam of all their qualities.Its even more interesting that president Hindenburg had very poor personal opinion about Hitler and never thought of promoting him. He assured Gergor Stressor that,

I gave my word of honour that Bohemian Corporal (Hitler) will never be chancellor.

In spite of this sentiment, Hitler was appointed Chancellor by Hindenburg himself in 1933. When

Hindenburg died; Hitler added the presidential power to himself and established perfect Nazi dictatorship in Germany and over Europe for the next 11 years.

Attachments

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF HITLER TO POWER

1. The First World War and the 1919 Versailles treaty

The repercussions of the First World War and the unrealistic terms of the 1919 Versailles treaty on Germany laid foundation for the rise of Hitler and growth of Nazism. The war gave Hitler military experience, which he used to eliminate the anti-Nazi political opponents and rise to power. The war also devastated Germany's economy and left behind inflation, unemployment, famine and starvation.

These were used by Hitler to decampaign the Weimer Republic, popularise Nazism and rise to power by 1933.

Besides, the Versailles treaty blamed Germany as a sole causer of the war and imposed heavy reparations that worsened the socio-economic problems of the Germans. These made the Weimer Republic that accepted the Versailles settlement to be very unpopular in Germany. Hitler used this to decampaign the Weimer Republic and the Versailles peacemakers. This earned him and the Nazi more popularity and seats in parliament leading to his rise to power.

2 Weaknesses of the Weimer Republic.

The weaknesses of the Weimer Republic favoured Hitler's rise to power. The Weimer Republic was very unpopular amongst the Germans because it accepted the Versailles settlement that was very unfair to Germany. Hitler denounced this in the strongest possible terms and promised to revenge on the signatory powers which increased his popularity in Germany. The Republic had incompetent politicians who failed to address the socioeconomic problems of the people and maintain law and order. They did not bother about violence and civil war because they falsely thought that it was the best way of leaving the opposition to fight and destroy themselves. This made the Germans to lose confidence in the government and shift their loyalty to Nazism under Hitler. Hitler also used such violence to destroy his political opponents and remain as a champion of the opposition. This forced Hindenburg to appoint Hitler a chancellor with hopes of using him to control violence and strengthen the Weimer Republic. Hitler exploited these weaknesses to rise to power by 1934.

5. The economic depression of 1929-1933

Economic hardships due to the great depression of 1929 - 1933 greatly elevated Hitler and Nazi's position in the German politics. Of all European powers, Germany was the most affected by economic depression. About 6million Germans were unemployed and Germany experienced the worst inflation in the history of the world. This created discontent and frustration, which undermined the confidence of the Germans in the Weimer Republic. Hitler stressed the need for a strong Government that would violate the Versailles settlement, regain Germany's market and colonies as the only solution to the hard economic conditions. This earned the Nazi more popularity and seats in the parliament that contributed to Hitler's rise to power.

4. The threat of communism

The communist threat played a significant role in the rise of Hitler and Nazism in Germany. By 1934, Germany was an industrialised state and German industrialists had a lot of influence in the German affairs. On the other hand, communism had also grown strong amongst the workers who were being exploited by the capitalists. The communists advocated for nationalisation and redistribution of wealth.

Hitler strongly opposed this and promised to protect properties of private individuals. This gained him support from the middle class, wealthy Landowners and industrialists who were threatened by a communist revolution. They used their wealth to finance the Nazi party, which greatly strengthened the party and made it able to mobilise and win more seats in the parliament.

5. Role of the Nazi party

Hitler used the Nazi party as a stepping-stone for his rise to power. He drew Nazi party members mostly from the ex-soldiers of the First World War. The ex-soldiers supported Hitler because they wanted him to rise to power and address their needs such as retirement benefits and compensations to those who were maimed in the war. These ex-soldiers within the party formed a small force that was used to protect speakers at Nazi meetings and crush all political opponents. Thus, Hitler used the Nazi party to command great respect and popularity, which forced President Hindenburg to appoint him Chancellor. This opened chance for his rise to power.

6. His Personality

Hitler's rise to power can also be attributed to his extraordinary personal talent and indomitable

will power. Hitler was a gifted demagogue and an orator that earned him the leadership of the Nazi party in 1920. His mobilisation and rare skills made the Nazi party to be the strongest in Germany. He used his oratory skills and propaganda to move the audience with him. In 1933, he proclaimed in parliament that; the disqualification of a great people cannot be permanently maintained, it must be brought to an end! Hitler would also explode (shout) like thunder and ask for blood of the German enemies. He mixed politics with religion and stressed his points to the point of crying. This

showed Hitler's concern for the problems that the Germans were facing and earned him more support and seats in the parliament, hence his rise to power.

7. Hitler's writings

Hitler popularised his political ideas through pamphlets, articles in the newspapers and books which earned him more support. In his writings, he emphasised the superiority of the Germans, the weaknesses of the Weimer Republic and called for revenge against the signatories of the Versailles treaty. The most popular of all his books was "Mein Kampf" or 'my struggle' which he wrote while he was in Prison. Originally he wanted the title of the book to be "four and a half year of struggle against lies, stupidity and cowardice" but eventually agreed to a brief title "my struggle". In his writings, he gave the Germans a high-sounding 25-point programme where he promised something everybody.

He promised to protect workers against exploitation, consumers against producers, small traders against large-scale traders, property against communist threats etc. As he pronounced to everybody, Hitler was able to gain their support and rise to power.

8. The role of the Nazi storm troopers

The Nazi storm troopers, SA (Sturmabteilung) was Hitler's private army that was dominated by the jobless youths. They were a terrorist squad that used violence and terrorism to destroy the communist and socialist opponents, discredit the Weimer Republic and leave the Nazi unchallenged. They were paraded everywhere during elections to intimidate voters to vote for Nazi candidates. For example, in the March 1933 election where the Nazi won 288 seats. It was the same storm troopers that threatened Hindenburg to appoint Hitler chancellor in 1933. Hitler's appointment gave him much publicity and opportunity to popularise himself and Nazism which became a stepping stone for his rise to power.

9. Traditions of the Germans

The character of the Germans also helped Hitler and Nazism to rise to power. The Germans had no respect for a democratically elected government like the Weimer Republic. They had strong tradition for authoritarian government led by powerful army officers and men like

Vonroon, Von-molktek, Bismarck and Kaiser William II. The Germans preferred a government that could give them security and military glory than political freedom and democracy. They therefore wanted a strong man who could take them out of the chaos created by politicians since 1919. Hitler was the best choice and the Germans supported his rise to power.

10. The Death of President Hindenburg

The death of President Hindenburg in 1933 was a blessing in disguise for Hitler's rise to power. His death left the post of the President vacant, which Hitler just added to himself. This was instrumental in determining Hitler's position as a full master of Germany. Otherwise, if Hindenburg had not died, there would not have been a political vacuum and Hitler would possibly not have been the President in 1934.

Attachments

No attachments

HOW HITLER CONSOLIDATED POWER, 1934 -1945

1. Hitler centralised and vested in himself all authority over German affairs. He dissolved the past administrative structure and created his own with himself as the highest political figure. Jews and other suspected enemies of the state were dismissed from the civil service. He appointed his loyal friends, relatives and fellow veterans to administer on his behalf in the upcountry districts and the Federal states of Germany. They were responsible to him as the appointing authority and therefore worked according to his orders and policies.
2. Hitler banned all political parties and declared all their activities illegal. He started with the socialist party, then the catholic party and finally the monarchists. Such drastic actions bullied the opposition, forced their leaders into hiding and left the Nazi party as the only legitimate party in Germany.
3. He also used suppressive policies against his political enemies and saboteurs. Hitler used spies and secret police to inform him on daily events. He set special prisons (concentration camps) for those with anti-Nazi ideas. A number of them were killed. For example Ems, the leader of the socialist party was brutally murdered together with other socialist supporters. This demoralised Hitler's opponents and consolidated Nazism in Germany.
4. Hitler's anti-Semitic policy (racist policy against the Jews) destroyed their influence and helped to consolidate his power. He regarded the Jews as traitors and self-seekers with a worldwide ambition to undermine the superiority of the German race. Consequently, in 1935 Hitler enacted the Nuremburg law for the protection of the German blood and honour. The law deprived Jews of their citizenship, prohibited them from; marrying nonJews, holding government jobs, owning business or practicing their profession. Warning signs like Jews strictly forbidden in this town or Jews enter this town at their own risk were common in many public places. Jews were assassinated, arrested, unfairly tried and sent to concentration camps where they died in millions. Their shops and other properties were looted and vandalised. These, forced many Jews to flee to exile abandoning their property and investments in Germany. Henceforth, Hitler's persecution of the Jews radically eliminated their threat and consolidated his power.

5. Hitler censored the press and broadcasting to keep the Germans ignorant of his weaknesses. Dr Joseph Goebbels was appointed a minister of propaganda with exceptional power to control media and communication. Only articles that favoured Nazism were allowed to be published and those with anti-Nazi ideas were blocked. It was a criminal offence to perform communist plays like that of Bertholt

Brecht or listen to Jewish music like those of Felix Mendelson and Gustav Mahler. Internal opposition could thus not gain ground and survive due to lack of effective communication.

6. Hitler also used education to consolidate Nazi philosophy and gain more support. He encouraged parents to take their children to public schools other than religiously founded schools. School children were made to Join Hitler Youth Group Association from where they were indoctrinated with Nazi ideas. Boys underwent military training and Girls were taught to be responsible mothers in order to produce and create a huge army for Germany. Children were made to believe that Hitler was always right and that their first duty was to obey him. Teachers, Professors and Lecturers were forced to sign an oath of obedience to Nazism and to teach only Nazi ideas. All these led to the emergence of a new generation that was completely loyal to Hitler and Nazism.

7. The basis of Hitler's consolidation of power was the Enabling Law that was prepared by the Nazi Grand council and passed through the Reichstag on March 1933. It gave Hitler absolute powers to amend the constitution as long as it was in the interest of the Germans without consulting the parliament for the next 4 years. Hitler used this bill to pass Laws that strengthened the Nazi and undermined his other political opponents and parties. For instance, he used the bill to ban other political parties and left the Nazi as the only ruling party in Germany.

8. Hitler brought the church under state control since it was a potential source of opposition.. In 1933, he signed an agreement with the Pope in which he promised not to interfere in the church's affairs and the Catholic Church agreed to disband the catholic center party and to quit politics. However, when the Catholics protested the banning of the catholic youth league that was rivaling Hitler's youth group, Hitler arrested and sent to concentration camps thousands of priests and nuns. The same was done to the Protestants when they protested Hitler's appointment of a Nazi as a

Bishop and mistreatment of the Jews. Thus, by persecuting the Church, Hitler brought the church under state control although resistance to his persecution continued.

9. Hitler's pro-German foreign policy was useful in consolidating his power. His policies of revenging and violating the Versailles treaty, rearming Germany, withdrawing Germany from the League of Nations and expansionist policy to create a 3rd German empire were all in the interest of the Germans.

All these foreign adventures earned Hitler more support from the Germans although it also contributed to his downfall and death in 1945.

10. Economically, Hitler reduced the pre-1933 socio-economic problems and hardships, which earned him more support from the Germans. He modernised agriculture and farmers were paid very well. New industries were set up and technical institutions were established to provide skilled manpower. He moved workers around the country to places where jobs existed. Hitler also conditioned foreign countries to buy German products by refusing cash transaction and accepting Barter trade. All these measures reduced unemployment, inflation, famine and starvation that had characterised Germany before Hitler rose to power (economic depression).

11. Hitler abolished trade unions that had become a source of strike and instability in Germany. Their funds were confiscated and leaders were imprisoned. By June 1933, The Nazi Labour Front was created to replace trade unions. All German workers were made to belong to the Nazi Labour Front. It addressed workers problems and advocated for their rights, which checked the problems of rampant industrial strikes that had paralysed German economy during the period of economic depression.

Abolition of trade unions also safeguarded industrialists and businessmen from a communist revolution that was a threat to their wealth and investments. All these gained Hitler and Nazism massive support that strengthened Hitler's rule.

12. Hitler took advantage of appeasement policy to strengthen his rule in Germany. In the interwar period, Britain and France pursued appeasement policy in which they tried to reconcile with Germany by not resisting her

claims and aggressions amongst others. Hitler used this as an opportunity to rearm Germany, reorganise German economy and concentrate on dealing with internal opposition and the Jews. He also utilised the lack of intervention by Britain and France (due to appeasement policy) to annex the Rhine lands, Austria, Saar region and Czechoslovakia. All these popularised Hitler and Nazism in Germany, hence consolidation of Power.

13. Alliance system was also used by Hitler to consolidate his power in Germany by 1939. In 1934, Hitler signed the German-Polish pact through which he forged a friendly relationship with Poland until 1939 when he invaded Poland. In 1937, he allied with Italy and Japan in the Rome-BerlinTokyo axis. It was a defensive alliance that also checked on the threat of communism and democracy not only in Germany but the whole Europe. The alliance helped to strengthen Germany's diplomatic relations and provided Germany with external support that helped Hitler to resist allied forces from 1939 to 1945.

14. Lastly, Hitler built a strong army that was used against internal and external enemies. Gradually, he changed the storm troopers into a national highly disciplined and equipped army. The German navy, warships and aircrafts were also modernised. By 1939, Hitler had revived the German military superiority, which was destroyed in the First World War. It was this military power that enabled him to suppress internal opposition and resist the allied powers from 1939 to 1945.

Attachments

THE DOWNFALL OF HITLER AND NAZISM IN GERMANY

As Germany drew towards defeat and Berlin was about to fall Hitler committed suicide on 30 April 1945. Kaiser William II's aggressive foreign policy was responsible for the First World War and led to the downfall of the German empire. History repeated itself from 1939 - 1945 when Hitler's aggression provoked the outbreak of the Second World War and finally led to the collapse of Nazism in Germany.

Internal and external factors were responsible for the downfall of Nazism although external factors played a primary role.

WHY HITLER AND NAZISM COLLAPSED IN 1945

1. The downfall of Mussolini and the collapse of Fascism in Italy also contributed to the downfall of Hitler and the collapse of Nazism in Germany. Mussolini, who was Hitler's closest ally in Europe, was executed by his own soldiers on 28th April 1945. This affected the morale and strength of Hitler and partly made him to commit suicide out of frustration.

2. Hitler's oppression and dictatorship in Germany also contributed to his downfall. He persecuted the church, the Jews, banned all political parties and executed his political rivals like Amess the leader of the socialist party. This earned him more opposition and denied him internal support that contributed to his downfall.

3. Lack of clear political agenda and principles was also significant in the downfall of Nazism and Hitler.

The Nazi party was dominated by ex-soldiers and radicals whose chief concern was dictatorship and conquests. The party was therefore devoid of cadres who could have politicised the Germans and international communities about Nazism. This made the Nazi not to have a strong political base and contributed to its downfall.

4. The downfall of Hitler was also due to the decline of German economy. The German industries and factories were destroyed by allied bombardment during the Second World War. Agriculture and trade were also impossible during the war. This brought a serious financial crisis that affected the morale, determination and strength of the German troops and led to their defeat in the Second World War.

5. The size of the German empire by 1939 also contributed to the downfall of Hitler and Nazism. Hitler had created a heterogeneous empire that included the Czechoslovakians, Austrians, Dutch and Poles.

These nationalities were conquered and they used the event of the Second World War to resist Hitler's foreign rule, which weakened him and made his downfall inevitable.

6. Hitler's aggressive foreign policy also contributed to his own downfall and that of Nazism. Hitler terrorised and attacked his neighbours like Austria, Zchechoslovokia, Sudetland and Poland. This earned Hitler more enemies

and isolated him from the international community. It also exhausted the army and partly contributed to their failure to defeat the allies that conditioned Hitler's downfall.

7. Hitler's withdrawal from the League of Nations also made his downfall inevitable by 1945. Hitler violated the 1919 Versailles treaty and withdrew Germany from the League of Nations because it was an offspring of the Versailles settlement. This was a diplomatic blow to Hitler which isolated him from the international community and made his downfall inevitable.

8. The Second World War was the immediate event that contributed to the downfall of Hitler and Nazism in Germany. By 1945, Germany was defeated from all fronts and her economy was in shambles. The German soldiers had surrendered and the Germans were starving to death. The Russian red army had invaded and conquered Berlin. All these could not be tolerated by Hitler and forced him to commit suicide on 30th April 1945. This marked his own downfall and the downfall of Nazism.

Attachments

No attachments

WORLD WAR II 1939-1945

CAUSES

The Second World War is the most destructive war that mankind has ever experienced. It started with the German invasion of Poland on 1st Sept 1939 and ended with the surrender of Japan on 14th August 1945.

The war was fought between the axis powers of Italy, Japan and Germany (Rome-Tokyo- Berlin axis) against the allied powers led by Britain, France, Russia and USA. A number of factors played a role in this most destructive war. However, the Versailles settlement of 1919 was the primary factor in the outbreak of the war.

CAUSES

1. THE VERSAILLES SETTLEMENT OF 1919

a) It has been argued that the Versailles settlement of 1919 sowed seeds for the outbreak of the Second World War. The peace treaty was very

unrealistic in its attempt to create a lasting peace, which ploughed ground for the outbreak of war in 1939. It was a dictated treaty that Germany was forced to endorse (sign) without negotiation. The German delegates were not allowed to defend themselves and although they tried to defend themselves in writing, their defense was ignored. The delegates were treated like criminals who were escorted in and outside the hall of mirrors. This created a strong desire for revenge, which partly made Hitler to adopt an aggressive foreign policy that dragged Europe and indeed the world to the holocaust of the Second World War.

b) The Versailles settlement imposed unfair penalties on Germany that left her longing for a war of revenge. The disarmament clause destroyed Germany's navy, air force and reduced her army to 100,000 soldiers armed with 'sticks'. Worst of all, other powers especially France and Britain started rearming themselves. This gave Hitler an excuse to rearm Germany and attack smaller nations like Poland that made the outbreak of the Second World War inevitable.

c) Article 231 of the settlement entirely blamed Germany for the outbreak of World War I and article 232 imposed an impossible sum of 6.6 million dollars as war reparations. This irritated Germany because she was accused and made to pay for a gigantic crime where everybody that fought was guilty. As L.C.B

Seaman puts it; The purpose of the settlement was not to be fair and just to the Germans but to impose drastic penalties upon her. (L.C.B Seaman: 193).

The payment of the reparations suffocated Germany's economy and contributed to the great economic depression of 1929-35. Hitler capitalised on this to rise to power and challenge the Versailles peacemakers which climaxed into the Second World War.

d) The territorial clause denied Germany most of her colonies in Europe, Asia and Africa. Germany lost many of her nationals and resources to the newly created states like Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

This was very unrealistic because it also neglected President Woodrow Wilson's principle of self-determination and nationalism. Germany remained aggrieved by the loss of her nationals and resources to the newly created

states. Indeed, Hitler's invasion of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland (that sparked off the war) were partly to liberate the Germans who were deliberately scattered in Europe by the peacemakers. This is why TAYLOR argues that; The Guns which saluted the signing of the settlement opened the Second World War.

e) Nevertheless, it was not only Germany that came out of the Versailles settlement with a quest for revenge. Italy and Japan that had fought on the side of the triple entente against triple alliance were very disappointed by their rewards. Japan regarded the rewards of a few Islands and some parts of China as poor compensations for her role and complained bitterly of being treated as an unequal at Versailles. This is why Japan occupied Manchuria, conquered more areas and quitted the League of Nations by 1933. Italy also complained of poor compensation and it was a common talk in Rome that, "Italy had won the war but lost the peace". This is partly why Orlando left the conference in protest and Mussolini invaded Ethiopia in 1935. Thus, the unfairness of the Versailles peacemakers to fellow allies made Italy and Japan to join

Germany and form the Rome-Tokyo-Berlin axis. This strengthened the desire for revenge and was responsible for a series of aggression by the axis powers that climaxed in the invasion of Poland and the Second World War.

2. APPEASEMENT POLICY

Appeasement policy has been very much blamed for causing the Second World War. It was a deliberate move to satisfy the demands of aggressive powers provided that they were within the boundaries of reality and common sense. The policy was based on dialogue and compromise as opposed to violence as a solution to axis aggression. This is because there was a general feeling that the Versailles treaty was very unfair to the axis powers and that they should not be opposed if the Second World War was to be avoided.

Neville Chamberlain of Britain started the policy in collaboration with France. He argued that; another major war could be avoided by pleasing aggressive powers like Germany.

It was due to this policy that no military action was taken against Japan when she occupied Manchuria (1931), Mussolini when he invaded Ethiopia (1935) and on Hitler when he invaded the Rhine lands (1936), Austria (1938)

and Czechoslovakia (1938). Appeasement reached its' climax in the Munich conference of

Sept. 1938 (Metternich agreement) where Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister and Deladier, the French Prime Minister accepted Germany's annexation of Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia) and Hitler promised that he would not make any other territorial demand or wage any more aggression.

Unfortunately, success and absence of military intervention gave Hitler and his allies a false impression that the appeasers were cowards and would never fight them whatever the provocation. It is this feeling that encouraged Hitler to invade Poland and refuse to withdraw as demanded by Britain and France. This set the world ablaze in the holocaust of the Second World War.

Appeasement policy gave Hitler a "breathing space" time to re organise Germany and ally with Italy and

Japan. The lack of intervention against aggression caused by appeasement policy was used by Hitler to strengthen Germany economically and militarily in preparation for war. It should be emphasised that Hitler's occupation of Rhine lands, annexation of Austria and Czechoslovakia increased Germany's economic and military strength, which encouraged him to invade Poland that triggered off the war. On the other hand, he used it to strengthen diplomatic relations and form the Roma-Berlin- Tokyo axis. The re organisation of Germany and formation of axis alliance made appeasement policy a boomerang/ backfire that led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Appeasement policy undermined the League of Nations leading to the collapse of international diplomacy.

It contradicted the idea of collective security making the league unable to act against Fascist and Nazis aggressions, because Britain and France who were pursuing the policy were the most influential members in the League of Nations. This made the Fascists and Nazis to embark on a series of aggression without fear of reaction from the league.

Besides, appeasement policy contributed to the rise of Mussolini and Hitler to power and consequently the spread of Fascism and Nazism in Europe.

Mussolini and Hitler opposed and fought against the spread of communism and socialism from Russia. On the other hand, Britain and France were also threatened by the spread of socialism and communism since the Russian revolutions of 1917. This made Britain and France to indirectly support Fascist and Nazis aggression through appeasement policy. They calculated that Fascism and Nazism would destroy communism and socialism, which would also leave the Fascists and Nazis weakened and exhausted. Unfortunately, the Fascists and Nazis waged a series of aggression under the guise of fighting communism, gained strength and provoked the outbreak of World War II by 1939.

NB. It has to be rewinded back that Britain and France decided to appease Germany and her allies because of the unfairness of the Versailles treaty. Otherwise, if the Versailles settlement was realistic, Germany and her allies would have possibly reconciled and there would be no appeasement policy and thus the outbreak of war in 1939.

3. ALLIANCE SYSTEM

The resurrection of alliance system in the inter war period cannot be neglected in the outbreak of World War II. Italy, Germany and Japan formalized the Rome-Berlin -Tokyo axis in 1937. Britain, France, USA, Belgium and Poland formed the allied or democratic powers. These alliances were based on divergent and conflicting ideologies. The allied powers were struggling to promote democracy while the axis powers were propagating and promoting totalitarianism/dictatorship. These ideologies were very incompatible and that is why the German invasion of Poland was magnified into the Second World War due to ideological differences. Once again, the alliance system had divided Europe into two hostile and antagonistic camps that made the Second World War inevitable.

NB. It has to be noted that the revival of alliance system in the inter war period can be traced to the Versailles settlement of 1919. Germany, Italy and Japan that formed the Rhine-Berlin-Tokyo axis were birds of the same feathers who were cheated or unfairly treated at the Versailles settlement. It was therefore only a matter of time that the three powers converged with a common aim of revenging against the signatories of the settlement. This also forced the "Versailles powers" to form the democratic alliance as a counter measure to the axis alliance.

4. THE ARMS RACE

Like World War I, arms race also contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War. Hitler got an excuse to rearm Germany because other powers did not disarm but were instead rearming themselves secretly. He (Hitler) argued thatbecause other powers had not disarmed as they had promised, it was wrong to keep Germany helpless. It made Germany to embark on an intensive rearmament programme.

Consequently, Hitler started a grand scheme of conscripting 500,000 men into the German armed force.

He modernised the German air force and it became one of the strongest in the world. The same challenge was taken by Japan and Italy. This made the axis powers to be confident of themselves and adopted an aggressive foreign policy that climaxed into the Second World War. On the other hand, Britain and France could not just sit back and watch these developments. They reacted by adopting a large-scale rearmament programme in which factories produced guns, tanks and fighter planes as fast as they could. Each power became anxious to display its military might and shopped for an opportunity which came through the German invasion of Poland.

NB. It was the desire to destroy the disarmament clause of the Versailles settlement that made Hitler to rearm Germany, which triggered arms race and the Second World War. Otherwise, if the Versailles peacemakers had enforced general disarmament as stipulated in the Versailles settlement, Hitler would not have got an excuse to rearm Germany, which could have maintained some relative stability in Europe.

5 THE WEAKNESS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The weakness of the League of Nations as a peacekeeping body also shares responsibility for the outbreak of the Second World War. The activities of the League of Nations was monopolised by Britain and France who unfortunately undermined it by pursuing appeasement policy. The League failed to enforce general disarmament which provided Hitler with an opportunity to rearm Germany and provoke the war. Besides, the League had no army of its own and it was considered "a toothless backing bull dog". Although article 16 provided that member states should send troops if necessary, a resolution was passed in 1923 that each country was free to

decide whether or not to fight in a crisis situation. This gave ceremonial burial to the idea of collective security, which facilitated aggression in Europe. Donald Kegan argues that.

Hitler's path was made easier by growing evidence that the League of Nations was ineffective

as advice for keeping peace and that collective security was a myth (Donald Kegan, p 936).

In other words, the weaknesses of the League of Nations encouraged Hitler's aggression in Europe that drove the world into the Second World War. By 1939, all the axis powers had pulled out of the League of Nations which made it even more difficult to restrain their aggression.

NB. However, a logical flashback reveals that the League of Nations was an offspring of the Versailles settlement (Woodrow Wilson's 14th point). Its role amongst others was to defend the Versailles settlement.

To Clemenceau, the best use of the league was as an "instrument for perpetuating the peace settlement .In fact, the weaknesses and failures of the League of Nations became a foregone conclusion because of being associated with the unrealistic Versailles treaty.

6. ECONOMIC DEPRESSION

The effect of Economic depression also played a role in the outbreak of the Second World War. The slump/depression caused a global political, social and economic crisis. This gave an opportunity for Hitler to rise to power. As other countries were busy handling the problems caused by the depression, Germany used the opportunity to rearm herself. She devoted most of her resources to the army, navy and a.ir force.

This was because America was forced out of European affairs while Britain and France went into 'hiding to reorganise their economies. This left Hitler with no serious threat since the League of Nations was even weakened by the depression.

The depression also made some powers to resort to aggression as a way of securing raw materials and markets. Mussolini urged the Italians to be war like and resurrect the former Roman Empire if they were to survive the

depression. He became practical when he invaded Ethiopia in 1935. Economic crisis also forced Japan to invade Manchuria in 1931 in order to exploit coal and silk. Hitler's invasions of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Rhine lands and Poland were partly for market and economic prosperity.

Economic depression destroyed international relations which degenerated into the Second World War. It made nations to protect their markets through protectionism and high tariffs, which increased tension and hostility that gradually graduated into the Second World War.

NB. However, a critical analysis reveals that the reparations and territorial clauses of the Versailles settlement contributed significantly to the depression. In fact the serious economic crisis that Germany faced from 1919 to 1939 was rooted in the Versailles peace treaty.

7. THE RISE OF DICTATORS

The rise and role of dictators and aggressors undermined world peace and led to the outbreak of the Second World War. In the inter war period, militants like Mussolini of Italy, Hitler of Germany, Hirohito of Japan and General Franco of Spain overthrew democratic governments and created autocratic governments based on blood and iron policy. The dictators converged in the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis and embarked on foreign aggression that was intended to promote dictatorship and destroy democracy. It created a struggle by democratic powers like Britain, France and USA to contain such aggressions, stop the growing influence of dictatorship and consolidate democracy in Europe. This created fear, panic, suspicion and hatred that exploded into war in the aftermath of German invasion of Poland. To this extent, it is justifiable to argue that the Second World War was in fact a struggle between two contradictory ideologies.

8. NATIONALISM

The rise and growth of nationalism in Europe also conditioned the outbreak of the Second World War. The Versailles peacemakers of 1919 were guided by their selfish national interests at the expense of German nationalism. Consequently, German nationals were scattered in the newly created states like Austria, Czechoslovakia, Sudetenland and Poland. The scattered

Germans were incited by propaganda from the Germans in Germany (Hitler inclusive) to demand either for reunion with their mother country or full independence. The Germans and Hitler argued that it was double standards to subject Germans foreign control when the First World War was fought for self-determination i.e. Independence of nations. This provided Hitler with a convenient pretext to annex Austria, Czechoslovakia, Sudetenland and Poland, which led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

9. IMPERIALISM

Imperialism also accounts for the outbreak of the Second World War. Britain and France manipulated the Versailles Settlement of 1919 to satisfy their imperial desires and undermine defeated powers most especially Germany. They distributed German colonies in Asia and Africa amongst themselves using the mandate commission of the League of Nations. The need to compensate the loss of German territories and influence made Germany to embark on a series of aggression that climaxed into the invasion of Poland and the outbreak of the Second World War. Alongside Germany, Japan and Italy also had burning desires to expand their territories and influence which explains why Japan invaded Chinese territory of Manchuria and Italy occupied Ethiopia. This forced France and Russia to sign an agreement in 1935 to check on German, Japanese and Italian imperialism. Thus Imperialism led to fear, suspicion, antagonism and aggression that made the outbreak of World War II inevitable.

10. ANTI-SEMITISM

World War II was also caused by anti-Semitic / racial feelings and activities against the Jews in Italy and Germany. The Nazis led by Hitler and Fascists under Mussolini's leadership had a grand programme to exterminate/Wipe out the Jews from Germany and Italy respectively. Consequently, the Jews were harassed, persecuted and massacred by Nazis and Fascist hardliners. It was opposed and condemned by France, Britain, Russia and USA. This is what amongst other reasons attracted these powers to join the War against Germany when she invaded and occupied Poland.

11. ROLE OF THE PRESS

Press propaganda was also responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War. The mass media in Germany and Poland caused war fever by

over exaggerating atrocities committed by each other. Hitler used the German newspapers and radio stations to exaggerate the persecution of the 2.5million Germans in Poland. This incited the Germans in Germany and those in Poland against Polish authorities. The Polish newspapers and radios also magnified the threats of German government and German's in Poland against the Polish government. Press propaganda created suspicion, fear, panic and tension that were used by Germany to attack Poland. It should also be noted that press reports about the atrocities committed by German soldiers in the event of invasion of Poland is what terrified other powers, like Britain, Russia and France to join the war against Germany.

12. THE COMMUNIST THREAT

The threat of communism in Western Europe also contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War.

After the Russian revolution of 1917, communism spread to Eastern Europe and started threatening Western Europe by 1939. Communist influence set in a struggle by workers and peasants against exploitation and segregation. This favoured the rise of dictators and their aggressions in Europe. Hitler of

Germany, Mussolini of Italy and Hirohito of Japan took advantage of the fear of communism amongst western capitalist countries and launched a series of aggressions in the 1930's. They did it under the pretext of fighting communism, which went unopposed up to 1938. It should be stressed that Britain and France considered Fascist and Nazis aggressions a lesser evil than communist threat and that partly explains why they pursued appeasement policy, which is one of the factors responsible for the outbreak of the second world war.

13. THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR 1931-1939

The Spanish civil war was an event that led to the outbreak of the Second World War. The Spanish monarchy was overthrown in 1931 and replaced by a republican government. The leaders of the ousted monarchy including General Franco fled to South America. In 1935, General Franco moved to North America from where he coordinated a rebellion against the republican government. From 1936-39 there was a disastrous confrontation between General Franco's rebels supported by Italy and Germany against the republican government supported by Russia and foreign mercenary forces from several European countries including Britain, USA and France.

The war ended in 1939 with the overthrow of the Republican government by General Franco who established a Fascist state in Spain. On one hand, this success intensified the hostility, hatred and antagonism of Italy, Spain and Germany against Britain, Russia and France, which became a rehearsing, ground for the outbreak of the Second World War. On the other hand, the war increased the prestige of Italy and Germany and gave them confidence of success in an event of any other war. It's this false confidence from the Spanish Civil war that dragged Hitler to attack Poland, which sparked off the Second World War.

NB. The official British and French position over the Spanish civil war was that of non-intervention to which Italy and Germany had initially consented only to violate it continuously by supporting General

Franco. The Fascist forces destroyed British and other vessels trading with the republican government of Spain. The British and French were disgusted by the violation of the principle of non-intervention and establishment of a Fascist state in Spain.

The official British and French policy of non-intervention over the war was interpreted as a sign of cowardice and fear of the Fascist and Nazi military power. This made the Fascists and Nazis to harden with their policy of aggression that dragged Hitler to attack Poland and set the world a blaze in the holocaust of the Second World War. Besides, the refusal of Britain and France to officially join Russia in the war against General Franco and his Fascists plus Nazis supporters made Russia to feel isolated and loose trust in Britain and France. This is what prompted Russia to sign a non-aggression pact with Germany in August 1939, which morale boosted Hitler to invade Poland and begin the Second World War.

The rise of General Franco and Fascism in Spain consolidated totalitarianism / dictatorship in Europe, alongside Fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany. This encouraged Hitler to invade Poland with assured support from General Franco and Mussolini hence the outbreak of World War II. -Furthermore, the consolidation of totalitarianism threatened the security of Britain, France and Russia forcing them to take action against Germany after the German occupation of Poland.

14. THE GERMAN INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF POLAND, 1st SEPTEMBER 1939

Lastly, the immediate event for the outbreak of the Second World War was the German invasion and occupation of Poland on September 1939. After occupying Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia, Hitler stepped up his claims for the Polish Corridor, port of Danzig and Posem. Hitler falsely hoped that Britain and France would not interfere as they had done when he occupied the Rhine lands, Austria and Czechoslovakia. With this false impression, Germany under Hitler attacked Poland from all fronts and almost brought it to ruins. Britain and France gave Hitler an ultimatum to withdraw within 24 hours that Hitler defied. This made Britain and France to declare war on Germany on 3rd September 1939. They were joined by Russia, the United States plus their colonies while Germany was joined by Italy, Japan and their colonies.

NB. It is questionable whether Hitler would have invaded Poland if it were not because of the need to liberate the 2.5 million Germans and territories that were given to Poland by the Versailles settlement of 1919. One can therefore argue that if the Versailles settlement had not forced the 2.5 million Germans and some German territories to Poland's control, Hitler could perhaps not have invaded Poland and the Second World War could not have been inevitable by 1939.

Attachments

REASONS FOR APPEASEMENT POLICY

These questions demand the reasons why appeasement policy was used in Europe after the First World War up to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. Thus, give a background to appeasement policy, Explain the reasons and Conclude.

Reasons

1. The Russian and communist threat forced Britain to pursue appeasement policy. The influence of Russia and communism in the Middle East, China and Europe was a great obstacle to the British interests. There was also panic amongst the propertied classes of Britain by a mere mention of the word communism. Thus, Chamberlain saw communist threat as more dangerous than fascist and Nazi aggressions and decided to compromise with the Nazis and Fascists through appeasement policy.

Moreover, the axis powers carried their aggression under the guise of fighting communism which could not be resisted by Britain.

2. The need to maintain the balance of power also made Britain to adopt appeasement policy in the inter war period. The British expectation was that the axis powers and Russia would fight and destroy themselves through aggression, which would favour her policy of isolationism. It was hoped that the axis powers could liquidate the Soviet Union, which would eliminate the Russian domination of the world through communism. It was with this reasoning that Britain did not put up any resistance against German aggression in Austria, Czechoslovakia and indirectly supported Japan and Italy to occupy Manchuria and Abyssinia respectively. However, appeasement policy boomeranged and instead facilitated the axis powers to destroy the balance of power.

3. The unrealistic nature of the Versailles settlement created a public sympathy for Germany and her allies in Britain. It was argued that a disarmed and weakened Germany was "a vast Centre of economic depression" and a line of weakness for communism. This forced Britain to try to relax the most unrealistic clauses of the Versailles treaty through appeasement policy that was to bring reconciliation and peace in Europe.

4. Internal weakness of Britain after World War I was another reason why she used the policy of appeasement. Appeasement was; almost pre-determined by the precarious state of her economy, her own indecision in policy and by sundry embarrassments within the empire. Economic depression had created problems like inflation, mass unemployment and huge debt burden. It is this precarious economic condition that created an imaginary fear of communism. It also made Britain to emphasise German economic recovery for her own economic recovery since Germany was her best customer at one time. Thus, the British economic predicament or problems forced her to follow a policy of peace which was to give her time to re organise her economy.

5. Besides economic weakness, Britain was also militarily weakened and exhausted that she could not easily fight the axis' aggression. USA and USSR had become the world super powers and Britain had lost her pre-war customers which also left her militarily weakened. Chamberlain admitted that Britain was not prepared for a full-scale war and this is partly responsible for the British policy of appeasement.

6. The bad experience of the First World War also gave rise to appeasement policy in the interwar period.

It had caused socio-economic and political destructions and disturbances to the whole world. War was therefore seen as the worst experience of mankind and there was every need to avoid it at whatever cost. This is what forced Britain and even France to follow the policy of concession and peace through the appeasement policy.

7. The anti-colonial movements especially in Asia tied the hands of Britain that she could not fight the axis' aggression. By 1919, there were revolutionary movements in British colonies that diverted the British attention towards Africa. This could not enable her fight the axis' aggression in Europe and that is why she used the policy of appeasement.

8. The weaknesses of the League of Nations was yet another reason for the British policy of appeasement. The League of Nations had no army of its own and relied-on sanctions which proved useless against the Nazi and fascist aggression in Europe. This made Chamberlain to hijack the role of the League and pursue .appeasement policy. He argued that war could be avoided through settling disputes by personal, contacts and negotiations with the axis powers, which gave rise to appeasement policy.

9. The withdrawal of USA from the concert of Europe (League of Nations) also gave rise to appeasement policy in the history of Europe, USA was the brain behind the League of Nations and she was a world military and economic super-power. Her withdrawal left European politics in the hands of Britain and France who were weak economically and militarily and hence incapable of fighting the axis powers. If USA had joined the League of Nations, the League would have been strengthened and there would be no need to appease the axis powers.

10. The inability of the British politicians to properly understand the character and ambitions of the axis powers made Britain to pursue appeasement policy. They thought that the axis powers were fighting communism yet they were using communism as a camouflage of their hidden ambition to dominate the world. Chamberlain falsely believed that Hitler meant business and would honour his word if the injustice done to Germany at Versailles were reversed. This is why he appeased Hitler at the Munich conference of 1939 in which Germany was appeased with

Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia. It was only when Hitler attacked Poland and Britain declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939 that Chamberlain realised his blunders. He admitted this on the same day (3rd September 1939) in his remarks that;

This is a sad day to all of us and to none is it sadder than to me. Everything that / have worked for, everything that I have hope for, everything that I have believed in life has crushed into ruins.

Attachments

ROLE OF EUROPEAN POWERS AND PERSONALITIES IN THE OUTBREAK OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

1. GERMANY/HITLER'S ROLE

- a) Germany was primarily responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War. Hitler started the arms race in order to avenge the disarmament clause of the Versailles settlement and dominate Europe. This was adopted by other powers and created hostility, fear, panic and recklessness that led to the Second World War.
- b) Hitler created the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis to oppose and destroy the influence of the western democratic powers led by Britain and France. This made the western powers to form the democratic alliance that divided Europe into two antagonistic camps leading to the Second World War
- c) Germany led by Hitler boycotted the League of Nations and left it weakened. The Nazi aggression challenged and made the League of Nations to fail to preserve peace in the interwar period. The weakness of the League opened way for war other than diplomacy as a means of settling world disputes hence the outbreak of the Second World War.
- d) The German and Hitler's aggressions in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Rhine lands, Sudetenland and Poland disorganised Europe and led to the outbreak of the Second World War. It also encouraged other powers like Japan and Italy to become aggressive. This escalated tension in Europe and led directly to war when Germany occupied Poland in 1939.

e) Hitler and Germany misinterpreted the British desires for peace through appeasement policy as a sign of weakness and cowardice. This made him to embark on a vicious cycle of aggression that led to the Second World War. Hitler is therefore accused of abusing appeasement policy, which made it to boomerang and cause war.

f) The German/Hitler's invasion of Poland on 1st September 1939 was the immediate event that led to the Second World War. It made Britain and France to realise the futility of appeasement policy and declare war on Germany that began the Second World War.

g) The German/Hitler's defiance to the British and French ultimatum after the invasion of Poland is what made Britain and France to declare war on her (Germany). When Germany invaded Poland, the French and British gave her an ultimatum to withdraw within 24 hours which Hitler refused to abide by. Had Hitler complied with this ultimatum, Britain and France would have had no excuse to declare war on Germany and the Second World War could have not been inevitable.

2. BRITAIN

a) Gave moral support to aggression by the axis powers as a counter measure to communism in Europe.

She encouraged the Japanese aggression in Manchuria, Italian invasion of Abyssinia, the Nazi aggressions in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Rhine lands. This provoked a vicious cycle of aggression that climaxed into the German invasion of Poland and the outbreak of the Second World War.

b) The British policy of appeasement was a boomerang that contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War. It was regarded by Hitler and Mussolini as a sign of weakness and cowardice. This encouraged fascist and Nazi aggressions that reached its peak in the German invasion of Poland and began the Second World War.

c) Britain was also entangled in the arms race that created fear, panic, recklessness, which graduated to war in 1939.

d) She was a champion of the democratic alliance that antagonised the axis alliance and caused war in 1939. Besides, Britain had allied with Poland which encouraged her to take a bold stand against

Germany and declare war after the German invasion. If Poland had not relied on British support, she would have possibly looked for a diplomatic solution other than war against Germany's occupation of her territory.

e) It was Britain that declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939, which magnified the conflict between Germany and Poland into the Second World War. This was after Germany's refusal to withdraw from Poland as demanded by the ultimatum.

f) Britain was 'a big force' behind the unrealistic Versailles settlement that sowed seeds for the outbreak of the Second World War. The settlement was very unfair to Germany, Japan and Italy and left them with nostalgia to revenge. This forced them to converge in the axis alliance and wage a series of aggression that climaxed into the Second World War.

3. FRANCE

a) France is blamed for supporting Chamberlain's policy of appeasement that led to a series of aggression and the outbreak of war in 1939. If France had not supported or opposed Chamberlain's policy, it's possible that he would have dropped it and handled the Nazi and Fascist aggression militarily. This was bound to threaten Mussolini and Hitler and hence reduce aggression in Europe. Consequently, Hitler would have possibly not invaded Poland and the Second World War would have been avoided in 1939.

b) France was the 'greatest shareholder' of the unrealistic Versailles settlement that became a foundation for the outbreak of the Second World War. The Versailles settlement was chaired by Clemenceau who skillfully and carefully manipulated the terms of the settlement to punish Germany for her crimes in the First World War and the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 - 1871. This irritated Germany and left her determined to revenge, which led to the outbreak of the war in 1939.

c) France is also blamed for her involvement in the arms race and alliance system. She entered into a number of alliances in order to strengthen her diplomatic position against Germany. In Sept 1920 she signed the FrancoBelgian treaty; which was a military alliance against Germany. Similar treaties were signed with Poland in Feb 1921, Czechoslovakia in 1924, Rumania in 1926 and Yugoslavia in 1927.

This divided Europe into two armed and antagonistic camps that exploded into the Second World War in the aftermath of the German invasion of Poland.

d) France is accused of collaborating with Britain to declare war on Germany on 3rd September 1939. If France had not supported Poland against Germany, the German-Polish conflict would have remained a localized affair between the two states. Thus, the French involvement is what magnified it into a European war and finally the Second World War.

4. RUSSIA

a) Russia is blamed for signing a non-aggressive treaty with Germany in 1939. This encouraged Hitler to invade Poland on September 1939 that triggered the Second World War. The treaty gave Hitler a false impression that Russia would not join the war against her and this is partly why she violated the British and French ultimatum to withdraw. However, Russia changed and joined the allied powers against Germany.

b) The spread and threat of Russian communism led to the rise of Hitler and Mussolini who played a leading role in the outbreak of the Second World War. It also made Britain to pursue appeasement policy, which indirectly facilitated aggression by the axis powers and led to the outbreak of war in 1939.

c) Russia's isolation from the League of Nations which also blocked communist countries in Eastern Europe from the League left the League weakened. It made the League a narrow association of a few Western powers and therefore failed to capture European public opinion. This provided a line of weakness for aggression and explosion of the Second World War.

d) Russia is also accused for joining Britain, France and Poland against Germany. This escalated the war to Eastern Europe which graduated to the Second World War.

5. JAPAN AND ITALY

a) Japan and Italy are accused for the outbreak of the Second World War for waging aggression, which partly encouraged Hitler's aggression that led to war in 1939. Japan is blamed for invading the Chinese territory of Manchuria and Italy is accused for her invasion of Abyssinia. These

started a series of aggression that climaxed into the Second World War by 1939.

b) Japan and Italy are also blamed for arms race and alliance system that contributed to war by 1939.

They are accused of joining Germany in the German centered Rome-BerlinTokyo axis alliance in 1937. This assured Hitler of support in case of war and therefore encouraged him to invade Czechoslovakia and Poland that sparked off the Second World War.

c) Lastly, Japan and Italy assisted Germany against allied powers in the Second World War. This strengthened Germany and made it impossible to defeat Germany by 1945. Indeed Japan put a stiff resistance in the east that was only broken by the US atomic bombs in August 1945.

d) Japan is accused for her reckless bombing of the U.S fleet at Pearl Harbour on December 1941. This is what provoked U.S.A to join the war against the axis powers.

6. POLAND

a) Although Poland fought a defensive war, she is blamed for signing a military pact/agreement with Britain in 1939. This threatened Germany for Germany could not tolerate a strong neighbor with powerful connections to Britain. This partly forced Germany to declare war on Poland and destroy her before it was too late.

b) Poland is also accused of occupying the German territories of Danzig, Posen, Upper Silesia and a corridor of land that passed through Germany to the Baltic Sea. These included 2.5 million German nationals that were given to her at the Versailles conference of 1919. When Hitler demanded for the German territories and nationals, Poland refused which forced Hitler to declare war and set the ball rolling for the Second World War. However, the blame for this largely rests on Britain and France who had given Poland such territories and populations at the Versailles conference of 1919.

c) Lastly, Poland is accused of declaring war on Germany after the German invasion of her territory in 1939. Although this was justifiable, she is blamed for ignoring diplomacy as a priority in resolving conflicts.

Attachments

CONSEQUENCES OF WORLD WAR II

The Second World War is the most disastrous event in the history of the world. In a real sense, it is the greatest war that mankind has ever experienced. In the war, the axis powers were finally defeated in 1945 and the allied powers came out victorious. The war affected all aspects of human life as well as international politics of that time and the present generation. Generally, the war had positive and negative consequences in the social, political and economic structures of the world some of which can be traced up to the present era.

Positive consequences

i) The war gave rise to European economic integration and regional economic organisations to improve the welfare of mankind. This led to the formation of organisations like the Organisation of European Economic Cooperation and Development (O.E.E.C.D), European Coal and Steel Community (B.C.S.C), European Free Trade Association (E.F.T.A) and European Economic Community (E.E.C) in 1958. After the war, American companies that had made abnormal profits from producing war related products bought shares in European countries which led to the formation of multi-national companies. These companies expanded their investment throughout the world e.g. B.A.T, Pepsi cola and oil companies such as Shell and Caltex.

ii) The war led to the defeat and downfall of great military dictators of Europe. The pressure of the war forced Hitler to commit suicide while Mussolini was killed by his own soldiers towards the end of the war. This marked the collapse of Nazism and fascism in the history of Europe.

Militaristic leaders in other areas like Spain and Japan were overthrown. These undermined totalitarianism and paved way for democratic governments throughout Europe.

iii) On the other hand, the war led to the liberation of states that were victims of aggression by the axis powers. The defeat of Germany and her allies was followed by the granting of independence to smaller states like Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Ethiopia that had

been under German and Italian rules. This was done by the allied powers during and after the end of the war. A number of Germans, Italians and Japanese who had settled in such conquered territories were expelled to their mother lands after the war.

iv) The formation of U.N.O to replace the League of Nations whose weakness was responsible for the outbreak of the war was an outcome of the Second World War. The idea for the formation of U.N.O came from Dumbarton Oaks war time conference of 1944 between USA, Britain, Russia and China.

Thereafter, the first draft of the U.N.O was signed in April 1945 at San Francisco. On Oct 1945, the U.N.O was officially proclaimed at its headquarter in New York with six (6) organs to facilitate its role in world affairs. The main concerns were peace, international co-operation and development.

v) The establishment of the Jewish state of Israel in 1948 and the rise of Zionism were occasioned by World War II. During the course of World War II, the Jews were persecuted and massacred by the Nazis, Fascists and Arabs. Consequently, Jewish immigrants flooded Palestine-and a serious conflict developed with the indigenous Palestinian Arabs. Britain tried in vain to resolve the conflict and referred it to the UN Security Council In 1947. In 1948, the Security Council created the Jewish state of Israel out of the Arab state of Palestine. However, this marked the beginning of a protracted conflict between the Jews and Arabs in the Middle East, which have been a constant threat to world peace.

vi) The war resulted into abandonment of appeasement policy. Appeasement policy that was intended to avoid war instead boomeranged and caused the outbreak of war in 1939. Chamberlain was so disappointed by Hitler's unending demands and invasion of Poland that he regretted for having pursued appeasement policy. The invasion made Britain and France to realise the blunder of appeasement policy and join the war against Germany. From then on wards, the policy was abandoned in the diplomatic politics of Europe.

vii) The Marshall Aid plan and COMECON were initiated to help the West and East respectively to revamp economies that were dislocated by the war. The Marshall Aid plan was an economic recovery scheme in which

food, fuel, machinery, raw materials and money (valued at \$13 billion) were given to save the collapsing capitalist economies of Europe. The Russian Prime Minister Viache Molotov responded by initiating the Molotov plan and COMECON to save the badly revenged socialist economies. These aids were to help the antagonistic blocs to reconstruct their economies and solve economic problems like inflation, unemployment, poverty and starvation.

viii) The rise and growth of nationalism in the Middle East, Asia and Africa were also due to the war. It led to the rise of USA and USSR who supported decolonisation movements especially in Africa against the British and French colonial masters. The war also weakened France and Britain and thus weakened their abilities to manage their colonies which gave the colonised people chance to fight for their independence. The few people who fought in the war were inspired with revolutionary ideas that they used to champion the move towards independence. All these contributed to the decolonisation of countries such as Ghana, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Palestine, Kuwait, Israel etc. One should acknowledge that the decolonisation process led to loss of colonies by European powers.

Negative consequences

ix) The war resulted into massive destruction of lives. Over 50 million people died as a direct consequence of the war. Of these, about 22 million were soldiers and 28 civilians. About 6 million Jews were exterminated in Germany and areas occupied by the Nazi troops during the war. There were mass killings in concentration camps which became death camps. Prisoners were made to dig mass graves &om where-, they were shot and buried. Generally, about 12 million people lost their lives in concentration camps as a result of terror unleashed by the fascists and Nazis. The overall consequence was depopulation and a change Sin the population structure.

x) Properties whose value cannot be quantified were also destroyed during the war. Intensive bombardment of towns and cities demolished properties such as industries, houses and war machineries. Industrial towns like the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were completely razed to the ground by US atomic bombs which became the worst destruction in the history of mankind by. 1970. This left behind the problem of reconstruction amidst financial crisis that befall the world due to the war.

xi) There was also a large influx of homeless refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. Thousands of them were kept in camps in Western Europe during and after the war. Most of these were people like the Jews who were fleeing the Nazi and fascist aggressions. This left the allied powers with the problem of how to repatriate and rehabilitate such displaced persons. This burden was shouldered by the international community through the UNO.

xii. On the other hand, there were migrations outside Europe. Fear of death in Europe forced some families and groups of individuals to flee as far as America, Australia and South Africa. War criminals who were wanted to answer charges for atrocities they committed during the war also fled across Europe as a strategy of evading arrest. This explains why some of the most wanted Nazi and fascist commanders were not arrested and tried.

xiii) The Second World War changed the balance of power and led to the rise of USA and USSR as super powers. The Soviet/Russian soldiers consolidated communism in Eastern Europe and Russia emerged as a super power commanding great influence in Eastern Europe. USA that did not suffer much from the war and whose atomic bombing of Japan brought the war to an end also emerged from the west as a dominant power. The rise of USA and USSR were at the expense of Britain, France and Germany who were the hitherto traditional superpowers.

xiv) The emergence of USA and USSR led to intense rivalry, suspicion, hatred and conflict that gave rise to cold war. This was partly because of the struggle by Soviet Union/Russia to consolidate and spread communism, which was antagonized by American determination to spread capitalism. This divided the world into two antagonistic ideological camps, which led to the formation of NATO by USA in 1949 and Warsaw Pact by USSR in 1955. It should be noted that Russia planted communist regimes in her areas of occupation that threatened western powers and led to the cold war. On the other hand, countries that did not want to identify themselves with the two antagonistic camps under the leadership of India formed the Non Align Movement.

XV) Economic decline was direct consequence of World War II Productive sectors like agriculture, trade, transport, communication and industries were disrupted and destroyed during the war. The British and French

economies for were shattered and left in a quagmatic state. This brought famine, starvation, inflation and unemployment to millions of survivors.

xvi) Germany was partitioned into two separated by the famous Berlin wall that belonged to

Russia had a socialist government and West Germany that was given to USA Britain and France had a capitalist, government. This was to punish Germany for her aggression that had led to the outbreak of the first as well as the second world wars. It was also to weaken Germany in order to safeguard Europe and the world from further German aggression and war.

NB. The division of Germany ended with the reunification of Germany in 1991

This only ended when the compensation bill was cleared.

xvii) Japan was devastated by the Second World War. She became a physical ruin, an economic desert and a Centre of political turmoil/ confusion. The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were razed to the ground by American atomic bombs whose effects were still being felt up to 1970. She was also forced to abandon her claims of Manchuria that was given back to china. Worst of all Japan was colonised by USA in order to compensate for the destruction of USA's fleet at Pearl Harbour in 1944. This only ended when the compensation bill was cleared.

xviii) It also stimulated rapid scientific innovations that led to the production of weapons of mass destruction. The war witnessed the use of atomic bombs for the first time in the history of mankind. This was used by USA with devastating impact on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After the war, Russia, Japan, Britain, Iraq, North Korea and Pakistan embarked on research in the production of weapons of mass destruction. This was responsible for the nuclear crisis that has degenerated to war in post-World war II era. It also enhanced arms and rearmament in post-World war II era.

However from the summer of 1942, the rapid advancement of the axis troops were systematically checked and reversed. The Nazi and Fascist troops lost several battles and by 1944 they were defeated.

Attachments

REASONS FOR THE DEFEAT OF THE AXIS POWERS/GERMANY

1 The axis powers were faced with internal opposition that made them vulnerable to defeat by the, a powers. Germany, Italy and Japan had dictators who could not rally and Mussolini were very unpopular, which made their own people to turn against them. This explains why Mussolini was arrested and executed by his own fellow fascists, which led to the surrender of Italy. This also partly made Hitler to commit suicide and marked the defeat of Germany as well. On the other hand, there was patriotism in allied countries due to charismatic leadership of Winston Churchill, FD Roosevelt, Truman and Stalin. Their popularity made it very easy to mobilise resources most especially manpower to fight and defeat the axis powers. '

2. Externally, the axis powers were faced with internal resistance from the countries that they invaded and occupied. By 1941, the axis powers had successfully occupied countries like Poland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and states of Eastern Europe. The axis rule in these states was very brutal, autocratic and full of atrocities. Such states formed resistance movements and waged a series of resistance to the axis forces e.g. local militias snipped at axis forces and blew up bridges while factory workers sabotaged industrial production through vandalism and go slow tactics. In Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Marshall Tito mobilised the Yugoslavs and successfully repulsed German troops. Such resistance diverted and weakened axis forces to the advantage of allied powers. Resistance groups also provided military information and direction to allied powers that made the defeat of Germany and her allies inevitable.

3. The naval superiority of the allied powers also explains the defeat of the axis powers. Britain and USA had the best navy in the world. They used their naval power to dominate the European coastlines and made it impossible for the axis powers to get reinforcements from Europe. In 1941, the British and American navy sunk the German sub marine and surface raiders. All these explain why Germany was very successful over her neighbours between 1939- 40 but failed in the subsequent battles like the one in Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

4. Technological superiority of allied powers also account for their success against axis powers. Britain and USA manufactured more sophisticated fighter jets, tanks^ planes, missiles, bombs and warships. In

1940, Britain produced a radar that easily detected allied warplanes and ships before they could bombard her strategic military bases. The manufacture of atomic bomb by USA and its disastrous impact on Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 is what stopped Japanese stubborn resistance and ended the war.

5. Lack of foresight was also responsible for the doom that befell the axis powers. They ignored the necessity of fighter planes. Japan for instance concentrated on the production of battleships that made her vulnerable to bombings by the allied warplanes. Germany also made a mistake of concentrating on the production of "V" rockets at the expense of strengthening her air defense. On the other hand, the allied powers concentrated on the production of warplanes, missiles and radars. These tilted the military balance of power in favour of the allies and led to the defeat of the axis powers.

6. Hitler's military blunder was also responsible for the success of the allied powers. He underestimated the military strength of allied powers. Hitler invaded England with a misconception that none of the

British colonies would assist her. He and his troops were demoralised when British colonies rallied behind their master to fight against axis powers. Hitler's invasion of Russia which was code named Operation Barbarossa (June 1941) was a military disaster. Hitler also failed to realise the dangers of acute winter where temperature was as low as -40 °C and even refused to withdraw his troops from Russian territories. He did not effectively planned for winter and the German troops did not have the badly needed heavy clothes to protect them from severe cold. This exposed them to the disastrous consequences of winter, which affected the rapid advancement of Nazi troops. This is why the 6 divisions of the Nazi troops failed to defeat Russia in 1942. This demystified the view that German troops were invincible and morale boosted Russian and other powers determination to fight Germany.

7. The success of the allied powers was also determined by the size of their population and number of colonies. USA was supported by the whole of North and South America, France and Britain enjoyed support from their several colonies in Africa and common wealth states like South Africa, India Egypt and East Africa. The 1919 treaty of Versailles deprived Germany of her colonies, which were given to France and Britain as mandate states.

Thus the axis powers had few populations and colonies that made them to be outnumbered in the battlefield. The largescale of the war divided the axis powers into thin/smaller units that were defeated one at a time. For instance, Germany failed to consolidate her initial success against Russia because the six divisions of the Nazi troops were too few to effectively monitor the area (because the area was too wide).

8. Shortage of raw materials and supplies to the is power also accounted for the success of the allied powers. The League of Nations imposed economic embargo on Japan in 1931, Italy in 1935 and Germany in 1936. This made them unable to import the necessary war materials like rubber, cotton, copper, atomic and oil products to reinforce their military strength. It also created a serious economic crisis that affected the morale, strength and determination of the axis troops to the advantage of the allied powers.

9. Paradoxically, the allied powers were actively involved in trade and others like USA and USSR gained prosperity by producing w[^] related materials. For example, Russia shifted her industries to rural mountains of the East after the German occupation of the West and produced vast quantities of arms and other war materials. USA's war industry was producing 120 warplanes and 70,000 tanks per year. By 1945, allied powers had 4 times as many tankers as the Germans. These developments compared to economic crisis of the axis powers made the axis powers unable to withstand the allies after 1942.

10. The role played by USA in the war played a decisive role in the defeat of axis powers. President FD

Roosevelt had considered World War II as a European war and promised neutrality with USA as an "arsenal of democracy" through his "cash and carry policy for arms". However, there was a radical policy change in which USA started supplying arms free of charge to Britain and France according to the Lease-lend act of March 1941. In the same year (1941), Japan invaded Hawaii Island and destroyed American pacific fleet at Pearl Harbour, which prompted USA the war against the axis powers. To join The involvement of USA boosted the allied powers with die badly needed financial, human and technical resources since she had the most stable economy. For instance, USA freely supplied tanks, warships, fighter planes

and tanks that helped to halt rapid advancement of axis powers and shift the military balance of power in favour of allied powers.

11. Press propaganda through the mass media e.g. newspaper, radio and magazines also aided the success of allied nations against axis powers. Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill used the London times and British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to inform the world that the allies were fighting dictatorship, persecution and barbaric leadership. Franklin D Roosevelt utilised the Voice of America (VGA) to mobilise Americans and the whole world to fight the axis powers. Such press propaganda created a negative public opinion against axis powers and made it difficult to mobilise the masses for effective military campaign. It also favoured the formation of resistance movements in areas controlled by axis powers that made the success of allied powers inevitable.

12. The downfall of Italy in September 1943 and the defection of Badoglio who succeeded Mussolini was paramount in the success of allied powers against axis powers. In the aftermath of Anglo-American invasion of Italian mainland on 3rd September 1943, Badoglio withdrew Italy from the axis camp and joined the allied powers. This betrayed axis powers and led to leakage of military secrets and information to the advantage of allied powers. It also reinforced the allied camp given that Italy was used as a strategic base for aircraft and store for war materials. These played a crucial role in the subsequent defeat of Germany and Japan that marked the triumph of allied powers in World War II.

13. The death of prominent axis leaders i.e. Mussolini and Hitler also contributed to the defeat of axis powers.

By 1945, Italy and Germany could no longer withstand the fire power of allied nations and there was public outcry for immediate end of the war. In 1943, Mussolini fled to Northern Italy from where he was assassinated by disgruntled fascist supporters. He was replaced by Badogho who defected and helped the allied powers against the axis powers. In 1945, Hitler out of desperation committed suicide in a bunker. He was succeeded by a weak willed Admiral Doenitz who accepted to surrender unconditionally on 7th May 1945. The death of Mussolini and Hitler denied Japan of their inspiring leadership and support and that was why she (Japan) surrendered unconditionally in the aftermath of the dual bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

14. The role of US atomic bombings was the most instrumental in the final success of the allied powers.

Japan had occupied vast parts of the east and defeated the US troops at Pearl Harbour in 1941. They had high moral and determination to fight even after the surrender of Germany and Italy. However, they were demoralised and hence surrendered because of the USA's atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. USA used US B-29 bomber to demolish Hiroshima on 6th Aug 1945 and Nagasaki on 9th Aug 1945. These forced Japan into unconditional surrender that marked the final success of the allied powers and hence defeat of the axis powers.

Attachments

No attachments

COLD WAR POLITICS

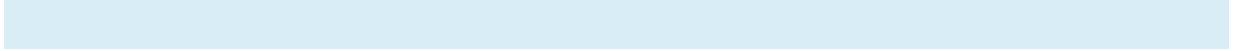
Introduction

The cold war refers to the global state of affairs that was characterised by persistent tension and conflicts between the western countries led by USA and Eastern countries led by Russia. Precisely, it was a propaganda war or diplomatic war or an ideological war that involved the inevitable clash between communism and capitalism. It was not a state of armed struggle but a situation in which the rivals i.e. USA and USSR while maintaining their peacetime diplomatic relations continued to have secret hostility, malice, sabotage and diplomatic aggression towards each other. The conflict remained "cold" because there was no actual fighting between the two antagonistic camps and it was "war" because it was a conflict of the most serious and deadly nature.

Although the cold war was manifested openly in the aftermath of the Second World War, it started mildly in 1917 after the birth of communism in Russia. Thereafter, the western countries considered the Soviet Union a greater enemy than Hitler and Mussolini. They pursued appeasement policy to Hitler and Mussolini because they felt that communism was a greater danger than fascism and Nazism. From 1960 - 70, the cold war was basically

between the members of the War-Saw pact led by USSR and NATO under USA. It finally ended with the collapse of USSR on 3rd October 1990.

Attachments



CAUSES OF THE COLD WAR

1. Ideological conflict (communism Vs capitalism)

The emergence of communism after the success of the 1917 Russian revolution laid foundation for the outbreak of the cold war. Communism was able to spread to eastern European countries and became a serious threat to the western powers who saw it as a challenge to their capitalist ideology.

Consequently, the troops that had been sent by western powers to help Russia in the war against

Germany was used in vain to crush the communist state at birth (because the plan was foiled by the red army). However this conspiracy could not be forgotten by the Russians and left a legacy of intense bitterness that led to the cold war.

2. Russia's expansionist policy (Sovietisation of Eastern Europe).

During and after the Second World War, Russia occupied most of the areas that fell in the hands of the allied forces in order to spread and strengthen communist regimes in eastern countries like Poland, Belgium, Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Albania and East Germany. This alarmed USA who tried to frustrate Russian expansion and hurried to expand her areas of influence in Western Europe and the third world countries, hence the cold war. The cold war was therefore a clash between the Sovietisation policy of Russia and "Americanisation" policy of USA.

i). The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Aid Plan.

The Truman doctrine/Marshall aid plan made the outbreak of the cold war inevitable. Aware that

communism was born and bred in poverty, USA came up with the Marshall Aid Plan that was started by General George Marshall (the US secretary of state 1945 - 47). This was a gigantic scheme in which food, fuel, machinery, raw materials and money (valued at \$13 billion) were sent to save the collapsing capitalist economies of Europe from further communist influence. The aid was strings attached to capitalism. The soviet Prime Minister Viache Molotov blatantly announced Moscow's (Russia's) opposition to the plan.

He counter balanced by initiating the Molotov plan and establishing the council of mutual economic assistance. This move and counter moves constituted the cold war.

4. The Iron Curtain Speech^ March 1946

Winston Churchill's speech on "world affairs" especially the Iron Curtain Speech made in the West

Minister College at Fulton (USA) escalated the East-West tension. In this speech, he proclaimed that;

From Stettin on the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the face of the continent. Behind that line lies all the capitals of the ancient states of central and

Eastern Europe ...all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in the soviet sphere and all are subject....to control from Moscow.

The Russians received this message hysterically. Government papers worsened the situation by printing sections which seemed to suggest that war against USSR was about to start. Stalin openly accused Churchill and Truman of preparing a new war against Russia. This ended wartime alliance and was the beginning of outright political struggle called the cold war.

NB. Churchill was no longer the British prime minister having lost the general election of 1945.

However, his views still carried great weight (as a former premier).

5. Post war Future of Poland

The post war future of Poland raised tension between USA and Soviet Union to fever point. This became a sensitive issue given that the German occupation of Poland is what dragged the allied powers to take up arms against Germany. The problem was that the Soviet Union had established a communist regime in Poland (at Lublin). Britain and USA protested and wanted Poland to be free from soviet influence and have democratically elected government. This set in motion a struggle by the Western powers to destroy the communist government on one hand and the soviet determination to meet this challenge on the other hand made the cold war inevitable

NB. Stalin argued that Poland should have a friendly government to Russia because in the two world wars, Germany had invaded Russia through Poland. Although this is true, it carries more of Russia's disguised imperialism to extend her communist ideology over Europe.

6. Failures of Yalta and Postdom conferences

The self-interests of the big powers at Yalta and Postdom conferences made no small contribution to the cold war. Among others, these conferences were intended to determine the fate of the defeated countries like Germany after the end of the war. However, each power had different intentions and attitudes over such countries. Britain wanted to set up democratic governments there, France wanted to set up strong army fronts in those countries, USA wanted to empower them economically and

extend capitalism to them while Russia wanted to spread communism to those countries. Eventually, each country started pursuing different programs in its area of occupation. When the western powers joined hands, Russia felt justified to meet the challenge which resulted into the cold war.

NB. Towards the end of 1945, Britain and France had occupied western Germany while Russia occupied the eastern part as a strategy to check German aggression. The occupation was to be temporal. However as Britain and France withdrew, Russia refused on the ground that she wanted to create a buffer state. This was opposed by other powers including America, which escalated tension between the two blocks.

7. Rearmament

As tension mounted, the super powers revived the manufacture of more sophisticated and deadly weapons in preparation for war. After the Second World War, it was generally felt that USA was the strongest nation due to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, there was also a fear of Russia since it was the red army that defeated Hitler. Russia was not sleeping; she went down on research, made a similar atomic bomb in 1949 and exploded it. America reacted by manufacturing its anti, which set in motion the cold war. On the other hand, development of sophisticated weapons made war a risky venture because both sides would be completely destroyed hence the war remained cold.

8. Alliance system

The resurrection of alliance system after the Second World War became a vehicle for the cold war. In 1949, USA formed the N.A.T.O. as a tool to safeguard Western Europe from communism and Russian imperialism. USSR reacted by forming the War Saw pact in 1955 to safeguard Eastern Europe from capitalism and American imperialism. This divided Europe into two hostile and antagonistic camps hence the cold war.

9. Spy Net work

The role of Spy network contributed a lot to the development of the cold war. Secret agents and organisations were used to leak out military secrets and technology between the two antagonistic camps. The Soviet Union used the notorious secret organisation known as KDG and

Cominform/Communist Information Bureau while USA used C.I.A. Their agents sometimes brought dangerous, exaggerated and threatening information that intensified the suspicion, jealousy and hatred between the two states.

10. The role of men on the spot

The role of men on the spot helped to destroy the harmonious relationship between the western and eastern blocks. Kennan, an American ambassador in Moscow and a specialist in soviet affairs advised USA to oppose USSR everywhere with an emphasis that; The USA must regard the Soviet Union as a rival, not a partner in the political arena.

In USSR, Zhdanov, a fanatical Marxist and the closest political ally of Stalin believed that the main aim of USA was to strengthen imperialism, hatch a new imperialistic war and combat communism. He consequently advised Stalin to oppose and wage war against capitalism and imperialism. Thus, Kennan greatly influenced public opinion and USA's policy against USSR while Zhdanov shaped Moscow's / Russia's hostility against USA that led to the outbreak of the cold war.

11. Economic Motives

Economic reasons were also responsible for setting in motion the cold war. USA and USSR rivaled to acquire raw materials for their industries, markets for their manufactured products and areas for investment. For instance, USA was bitter over Russia's influence in the east because it would block her from tapping oil and investing in oil companies in the Middle East. This caused more tension between the two super powers leading to the cold war.

12. Strategic Motives

The scramble for areas of strategic importance has also been held responsible for the outbreak of the cold war. Areas that were scrambled for included outstanding deserts, ports of Danzig, Mombasa and the Cape of Good Hope, major seas and waters like Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Baltic sea. These places were strategically important for trade, testing weapons, research and scientific experiments.

13. The weakness of UN O

The weakness of UN O also contributed to the outbreak of the cold war. As an international organisation where America and Soviet Union were permanent members, UNO was the only reliable tool to stop conflicts between the two super powers. However, U N failed to stop arms race, which caused more tension between Western and Eastern Europe. It also failed to ensure unity amongst its members and that is why USA formed NATO, which became the vehicle for cold war. If UNO was a strong peacemaking Organisation, it would have maintained unity and co-operation between U S A and USSR and the cold war would have been avoided

14. Intervention of USA and USSR in civil wars

The role of USA and USSR in the liberation and civil wars throughout the world escalated the east-west tension and led to the outbreak of the cold war. USA and USSR supported either the ruling government or rebels as long as their ideologies and influence were accepted, in the Chinese war of 1949, USA supported the government of Chiang Kaishek and USSR supported the rebel forces of Mao Tse-Tung until he succeeded. As for the Korean crisis of 1950-1953, USA supported South Korea while USSR supported North Korea. The Cuban missile crisis of 1952 and the Vietnam war were the worst events in the relationship between America and the Soviet Union. These events made the outbreak of the cold war inevitable.

15. The death of charismatic leaders

The death of compromising leaders and the rise of new and uncompromising leaders made the cold war inevitable. President Franklin D Roosevelt who was tolerant to the Russians was replaced by the intolerant Truman (in U S A). On the other hand, the rise of uncompromising leaders like Stalin, Molotov and Churchill worsened the east-west tension. These were new and inexperienced leaders who heightened the propaganda, jealousy, mistrust and hatred between the eastern and western blocks and made the cold war an inevitable event in the post-World War II era.

Attachments

CONSEQUENCE/SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLD WAR

EUROPEAN HISTORY, DEPARTMENTAL NOTES, JULY 2019

The cold war brought positive and negative political, social and economic consequences not only in Europe but the entire world up to the present era.

Positive consequences

1. Spread of communism

The cold war led to the spread and consolidation of communism in Eastern Europe. Russia was alarmed by the growing threat of the Western powers led by USA and hurried to strengthen her influence in the East. By 1949, she had succeeded in setting up communist governments in the Eastern states of Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Albania. Russia aimed at using these states as satellite states on her western frontiers against the west in an event of a "hot war".

2. Military balance of power

The cold war created a military balance of power in Europe. The tension and conflicts it caused prompted USA and USSR to venture into manufacture of weapons of mass destruction such as atomic, biological and nuclear weapons. Thereafter, USA brought western states under her control through NATO (1949) while USSR did so to eastern countries through the WARSAW PACT (1955). This led to emergence of USA as a super power in western Europe and Russia as a dominant power in Eastern Europe. It should be noted that possession of sophisticated weapons by USA and USSR made outright military confrontation too risky and that is why both states resorted to proxy wars using other states.

3. Formation of Non Align Movement

The rise and existence of Non Align movement (NAM) was a consequence of the cold war. This was done by states that wanted to be neutral in the cold war. The Non-Aligned Movement was formed at the Bandung conference for Asian and African countries in April 1955. The conference was spearheaded by Nehru of India and sponsored by the governments of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia.

NB: The Non Aligned states were divided amongst themselves and such divisions weakened the movement. With time, the non-aligned members ceased to be neutral and took sides in the cold war.

4. Decolonisation

The cold war contributed to the decolonisation of a large part of Africa and other races that were still under colonialism. Karl Marx defined imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism and this made it a target of the communist states led by Russia. After the Second World War, these states sponsored political movements that aimed at uprooting colonialism and imperialism. For example, the MAU MAU and FRELIMO movements for independence were assisted by Russia. It was due to such assistance that some African states regained their independence from 1950 - 1970.

However, to another extent the cold war delayed the decolonisation process especially in Africa. This is because America supported colonialism since it was a sign of capitalism. This is what delayed the independence of S. Africa and Angola up to the 1980's and 1990's.

5. Foreign Aid

The cold war led to increased flow of foreign aid to member countries of the two camps. USA assisted Western Europe through the Marshall Aid plan as a reward for accepting capitalism while Russia assisted Eastern Europe through the Molotov plan and council of mutual economic assistance, for being loyal to communism. These ideology biased foreign aids were extended to Africa by USA and USSR as long as their political ideologies were adhered to. All these assistance contributed to economic recovery of the world after the Second World War.

6. Education

The cold war indirectly promoted education. America and Russia embarked on an intensive

mobilisation programme as a strategy to strengthen their political ideologies and undermine each other.

They competed in awarding scholarships for students to study in their countries. These students were indoctrinated with either the communist or capitalist political ideologies that they were supposed to promote on returning back to their country. Such students and countries got accidental benefits from the cold war.

7. Space exploration

The cold war resulted into space exploration in an attempt by USA and USSR to surpass and threaten each other. On September and October 1959, Russia sent Rockets Lurik II and Lurik III respectively to the moon. These adventures were to counteract the American. Pioneer V satellite that was sent to the sun. In 1961, Yuri Gagarin of Russia and Armstrong of USA made successful adventures into the space. It's important to stress that all these efforts for space exploration were done on rival basis because of the cold war.

Negative consequences

8. Political instability

There were political unrests as a result of indirect military confrontation between USA and USSR in different parts of the world. USA and USSR

sponsored capitalist and communist wings respectively to rise to power in an attempt to spread their ideologies. For example, America supported South Korea in the Korean war of 1950-53. In the Chinese war of 1949, America supported Chiang Kaishek while Russia supported Mao-Tse-Tung. Such support and counter support by America and Russia was also evident in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Vietnam, coups in third world countries and Arab-Israel conflict, which were very destructive military adventures.

9. International terrorism

The cold war led to international conflicts and terrorism sponsored by the two antagonistic camps. The two super powers used suicide bombers, high jacking of planes and ships, kidnapping and assassinations to eliminate their real and potential enemies. These were common in the Middle East, Balkans, Kashmir and Africa. It was under these circumstances that Samora Michael and Indira Gandhi were assassinated.

10. Arms race

The possibility of cold war graduating to hot war led to the resurrection of arms race. Russia went back to her five-year plan of heavy industry and armaments. USA and the west reacted by speeding the manufacture of nuclear weapons. There was also increased scientific research in military hardware, nuclear science and rearmament in Europe. These led to the production of weapons of mass destructions such as atomic, biological and nuclear weapons in preparation for actual war with the rival camp. These weapons became a constant threat to world peace and stability. On the other hand, the threat of such weapons of mass destruction has led to SALT talks and nuclear test ban treaties between the west and eastern block states.

11, Alliance system

Tension caused by the cold war led to the revival of alliance system after the Second World War. USA formed NATO in 1949 as a defensive tool against communism and its threats to the west. USSR reacted by forming War-saw pact in 1955 as a counter measure to NATO and the threat of capitalism from western powers. There were also economic organisations like EEC, OEEC, SEATO, Arab league etc. These were based on either communist or capitalist political ideologies. These alliances created fear,

suspicion and antagonism that hindered cooperation amongst European powers.

12. Formation of secret international spy network and organisations

The cold war led to the formation of secret spy network and organisations that were used to leak out military secrets and technology between the two antagonistic camps. USA used the CIA and FBI, USSR used the KDG and Cominform or Communist Information Bureau and Israel used MOSSAD.

These organisations and spy networks played a significant role not only in the American/Russian affairs but the whole world.

13. Weakness of the United Nations Organisation (UNO)

The cold war weakened the UNO and was partly responsible for its failures by 1970. UNO was formed to create and maintain world peace and unity amongst others. This was made impossible because USA and USSR who were the key players in the cold war hijacked the role of UNO and divided the world into two conflicting camps. Ideological difference between USA and USSR hindered the success of the Security Council since America and Russia were permanent members of the Security Council. They used their veto powers to further or promote their political ideologies.

14. Dictatorship

The survival of dictatorship in Africa and elsewhere was partly due to support from either the communist or capitalist blocks. This was done as long as these ideologies were implemented. For instance, USA supported apartheid regime in S. Africa because it was a symbol of capitalism. Russia supported Fidel Castro in Cuba because of his pro-communist policies.

NB Other dictators in Africa amongst others; Mobutu Seseseko of Congo, General Idi Amin of

Uganda and Kamuzu Banda of Malawi survived because of support from either the communist or capitalist states one at a time. This led to the survival of dictators with their exploitative and oppressive regimes.

It should be noted that huge chunks of money was wasted in arms race, intelligence networks, support of dictators and funding rebellions in different parts of the world during the cold war. It is estimated that the amount of

money squandered during the cold war could finance the budgets of developing nations for more than one financial year.

15. Partition of Germany

The cold war led to the division of Germany and the Berlin blockade of 1948-1949. During the Second World War, different parts of Germany were occupied by Russia, USA, Britain and France. Germany was partitioned by the four powers into four zones of occupation. However, the cold war tensions made three zones/ areas of occupation to form western Germany. This left East Germany under Russian control. West Germany had a capitalist political ideology and East Germany had a communist form of Government.

NB. In 1948, the western powers introduced currency reforms in West Germany. This forced Russia to blockade the city of Berlin by closing all its entrance and building the Berlin wall. The western powers reacted by air lifting the necessary food supply to western Germany from June 1948 to September 1949. Thus, one can argue that the cold war made Germany to be partitioned and turned into a theatre of conflict between the eastern and western block states.

Attachments

U.N.O Background

The U.N.O. is a new global/international organisation that was formed by allied powers to replace the League of Nations, whose weaknesses had made great contributions to the outbreak of World War II. The general idea of the UNO was formulated at the Dumbarton Oaks conference (USA) by Britain, USA, Russia and China on Oct 1944. The 1st draft of the UN charter was later signed by 51 nations on April 1945 at San Francisco conference (USA). Thereafter UNO was officially declared on Oct 1945 at its headquarter in New York. The UN was created with six organs to implement its aims and objectives i.e. the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.

NB: The UN has original members and new members who can be admitted by some criteria. The membership is open to all peace-loving states who accept the rules contained in the charter and who in the judgment of the organisation are willing and able to execute their obligations. The Security Council plays the most significant role in admitting or refusing admission of any state. Membership of a state can be suspended on the recommendation of the Security Council and a state can be outlawed by the general assembly.

Attachments



ORGANS OF THE U.N.O

i) The General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of representatives from all members of the UN, who has one vote each. It meets once a year in September but special sessions can be called in times of crisis by the members themselves or by the Security Council. The General Assembly has powers to discuss, review, supervise and criticise the activities of other organs of the U.N.O. The General assembly also has powers to admit, suspend or expel any member. Decisions on issues of major importance require a two third majority but minor issues could be resolved by a simple majority.

ii)The Security Council

The Security Council meets more often than the General Assembly. It was created with 11 members of the UN out of which five are permanent members i.e. Britain, USA, Russia, France and China. In 1965 its membership was increased to 15 with the same 5 permanent members. Each member of the Security Council has one vote and every permanent member of the council has the right to veto the decision of the General Assembly. Resolutions require 9 of the 15 members that must include the 5 permanent members. The primary duty of the Security Council is to maintain World peace and Security. It has to submit annual or special reports to the General Assembly. **iii)The Economic and Social Council**

The economic and social council comprises of 27 members who are elected for three years by the General Assembly. Its main function is to

make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and other socio-economic problems. The Council executes responsibilities assigned to it by the General Assembly and those requested by member states. It also supervises and co-ordinates other commissions and specialised agencies like WHO, ILO, FAG, UNICEF, UNESCO, IMF etc. (about 30 in all).

iv) The Trusteeship Council

This is an improvement of the mandate commission of the League of Nations. Its members were elected by the General Assembly. It was to look after the mandated territories of the defunct League of Nations in order to ensure fair treatment by the mandated states. The states in question were 11 in total. They were territories taken from Germany and her allies after World War I and those grabbed from Italy and Japan in 1945. The trusteeship council visited the territories under the trusteeship system to assess how they were being administered. The Council could send questionnaires to states concerned with the aim of getting information regarding the political, economic and social developments of the mandated territories. The major aim of the council was to prepare the territories for either self-rule or union with other existing states.

v) The International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is an improvement of the permanent Court of International Justice of the League of Nations. It is based at the Hague with 15 judges of different nationalities, elected for a three year term by the General Assembly and Security Council jointly. The court caters for legal matters especially cases between two or more states. It also advises the other organs on legal issues.

vi) The Secretariat

The Secretariat is the administrative organ of the UN. The Secretary General is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Secretariat. He or she is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a 5 year term. The Secretary General is assisted by a large number of subordinates who have to scrutinize the various roles of the UNO. The Secretariat is based at New York as its headquarters. The Secretary General in accordance to the UN charter brings issues to be discussed before the council and makes annual report about the performance of the

Secretariat. The bill for maintaining the Secretariat is paid by all member states of the UN. However, USA makes the biggest contribution in comparison to other members of the UN.

Attachments



WHY U.N.O WAS FORMED

1. The Primary concern of the U.N.O was to create and maintain law, order and peace. The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 was a perfect proof that the League of Nations was incompetent in maintaining world peace. There was therefore need for a stronger international organisation that would bring the world together and maintain peace. This gave rise to the UNO.
2. The need to stop aggression was an issue behind the formation of UNO. This was because Kaiser William II and Hitler's aggression were primarily responsible for the outbreak of the First and Second World wars respectively. The wars were the worst experiences that mankind had ever faced. The UN was therefore formed to protect weaker nations who are vulnerable to aggression from powerful states in order to avoid yet another destructive war.
3. The desire to bring to justice those who committed crimes against humanity was also responsible for the formation of UNO by 1945. These included the Nazi and fascists who conducted mass killings of the Jews, communists and other innocent civilians during the Second World War. These were serious crimes that could not be handled by the domestic laws of the different states. The UN was therefore formed to carry out a series of trials through military tribunals like the Nuremburg tribunal and to punish those found guilty.
4. The UNO was to enforce disarmament and stop arms race that was responsible for the outbreak of the two world wars. Besides previous weapons like poisonous gas, long range artilleries, missiles and war planes, there was also atomic bomb that was made and used by US on Japan. These weapons of Mass destruction were a great threat to the survival of human race. The Security Council was to create awareness of the danger of weapons of mass destruction and enforce measures to stop the manufacture, proliferation and use of such weapons.
5. The UNO was formed to facilitate decolonisation and democratisation of those nationalities who were dominated and oppressed. Colonialism and dictatorship had outlived their usefulness and there was a desire for independence and democracy especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The UN through the trusteeship council was to ensure a peaceful transformation from colonialism and dictatorship to independence and democracy. This was because nationalism had been a source of tension that was partly responsible for the outbreak of the two World Wars.

6. The UNO was also formed to check on threats to the environment which was potentially dangerous to mankind. Weapons of mass destruction especially atomic bombs used in World War II had destroyed the world habitat flora and fauna. In addition testing of dangerous weapons like chemical weapons on deserts and water was causing a serious environmental hazard to mankind. All these explain why efforts were made to establish the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). It was to control pollution, desertification and improve on the rural and urban settlements amongst others.

7. The UNO was also concerned with the need to eliminate the problem of human and drug trafficking. By 1945, the war atmosphere had made human trafficking and consumption of intoxicating drugs to flourish. The sales and consumption of opium and marijuana were on a scaring level to peace and security. These drugs were causing social unrests, making people to run crazy, idle and disorderly in the society. There was therefore need for an international organisation to handle such global threats to mankind hence the formation of UNO.

8. The UNO was also founded to rehabilitate and resettle prisoners of war and displaced persons who were made homeless by the Second World War. Besides, oppressive, tyrannical and despotic governments had forced several people to flee to neighboring states for fear of persecution. The prisoners of war, Internally Displaced Persons and refugees were faced with the challenges of psychological problems and a acute need for humanitarian assistance or lack of basic necessities.

The UNO through the UNRWA (United Nations Relief Works Agency) and UNHCHR were to provide food, water, shelter, medical care and psychological treatment to prisoners of war, displaced persons and refugees in the World.

9. The UNO came with the need to improve economic co-operation and status of the World. World economies were shattered by the destructions caused by the Second World War. It was to mobilise funds to

help weaker and poor states to reconstruct and strengthen their economic positions. Trade

6. Similarly, children's rights and welfare were promoted and protected by UNO.' Children's rights were officially declared in 1959 and it was promulgated to the whole world through various sensitisation programs. The rights declared included the right to education, parenthood, name, nationality, play, leisure etc. UNICEF funded children's education most especially funding the girl child education and welfare in many countries of the world. All these, reduced the abuse of children's rights and other related injustices against children.

7. UNO reduced the sales and consumption of intoxicated drugs like opium and marijuana. This was achieved by sensitizing people through seminars and mass media such as radio, TV, magazines etc. about the dangers of such drugs and drug abuse generally. The anti-drug commission declared the above drugs illegal and those who handled them were to be severely punished by respective countries. These measures checked on the production, transportation, sales and consumption of such drugs. Eventually, the rate of crimes committed by consumers of such drugs was significantly reduced by 1970.

8. Environmental threats were successfully checked and reduced by the UNO. By 1970, the UN had embarked on a global sensitisation program to control pollution, desertification and improve on rural and urban settlement patterns. Bio diversity program with emphasis on afforestation and reforestation programs alongside utilisation of world forest were promoted. These were accomplished through the mass media, workshops and seminars. These programs helped to conserve the environment against threats like pollution and desertification.

9. Decolonization and democratization was achieved by the U.N.O through the Trusteeship council.

The council was able to oversee the administration of the mandate states and provide guidance towards the granting of independence. The council was able to guard against exploitation and oppression of the colonies by those powers mandated to govern them. This facilitated independence of Countries like Libya, Somali land, Namibia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Israel and

Palestine. The U.N.O was also influential in promoting democratic governance in the post independent era of such countries. This helped the colonised states to recover easily from the long term consequences of colonial oppression and exploitation.

10. U.N.O scored success in the reduction of cultural intolerance and racial segregation. It achieved this through joint research and cultural exchanges. By 1970, UNESCO had offices in all the member states where people were sensitised about the value of other cultures. UNO also decampaigned Apartheid in South Africa and anti-semitism in Europe. In 1970, the Economic and social council organised a global youth conference in which the challenges facing the youth were discussed. This promoted international co-operation and tolerance amongst people of diverse cultural background.

11. As far as world peace is concerned, the U.N through the Security Council registered some achievements. It diffused many conflicts and tensions that could have led to the outbreak of the third world war. The Berlin blockade by Russia in 1948 was lifted through the intervention of the President of the Security Council from 1950-53, it dealt with conflict between North Korea and

South Korea where a truce was signed in July 1953 and hostilities ended. In 1960, the council settled the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. The Suez Canal crisis was also peacefully resolved in 1956 when the General Assembly compelled France, Britain and Israel to withdraw their offensive weapons from Egypt. A number of other political conflicts were also successfully resolved by the International Court of Justice. Thus, the role of the UN through the

Security Council and General Assembly was very instrumental in the preservation and maintenance of global peace, security and stability.

12. Disarmament was one of the most remarkable contributions of UNO towards world peace. In 1946, the Security Council set up the atomic energy commission to control the production of atomic energy and weapons. In 1963 and 1969, the council presided over the signing of test ban treaties that banned the -production and use of weapons of mass destruction such as chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The Security Council also initiated SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) in 1948

and SALTII in 1956 through which nations cooperated to limit the amount of long range missiles and bombers in their possession. Although the UN partially failed in disarmament, it succeeded in reducing the production of such weapons and frustrating attempt by countries like USA who possessed such weapons from using them.

13. The establishment of the Jewish state of Israel in 1948 was an achievement for UNO. The congress system had granted the Jews citizenship in various states where they had fled due to persecution.

However during the course of World War II, the Jews were again persecuted and massacred by the Nazis, Fascists and Arabs. After World War II, a serious dispute and often wars arose between the Jews and the Arabs. In 1947, the conflict was brought to the UN Security Council, which did a series of investigations. In 1948, the council created the Jewish state of Israel out of the Arab state of Palestine. This was a positive step in the protection of minorities and displaced persons from homelessness, persecution and massacre.

14. Increased membership since its inception in 1945 is a testimony of UN's success. In 1945 when UNO was formed, only 51 states signed the charter and became members. However, UNO's popularity tremendously increased due to numerous achievements it registered to the extent that its membership grew to over 100 by 1970. This brought more states together and increased the level of cooperation that maintained global peace, law, order and stability.

15. Lastly, UNO addressed the issue of justice and accountability for international crimes committed during the Second World War. The International Court of Justice based at Hague was one of the organs of UNO created to handle legal issues related to war crimes and compensation. Nazi war criminals such as Goebbies who was Hitler's chief of propaganda and Himmler Heinrich were tried at the Nuremburg tribunal although they committed suicide. Several other Nazis, Fascists, Japanese, Italians etc. who persecuted the Jews and committed other crimes were also tried and punished accordingly. Other than war crimes, the court also resolved several disputes that involved member states by 1970. This laid a sound and vibrant foundation for justice, accountability and peaceful resolution of disputes in Europe.

Attachments

WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES OF THE UNO

The loans and grants from IMF and world bank had some negative consequences on the development of the third world countries they had strings attached that promoted political ideologies of the western capitalistic powers sometimes the third world countries were forced to invest in non-priority areas on the directive of the lending body i.e. IMF or world bank besides it accelerated unemployment because of the so called experts who were sent and paid very highly to monitor the aids or projects worst of all the loans were lent at very high interest rates and that is why poor countries who depended on such loans became poorer by 1970.

2. Although the UNO reduced drug trafficking, it failed to eliminate it completely. This was because the UNO did not have an effective and competent force to control drug trafficking on land, air and the sea. Thus, the sales and consumption of cocaine, opium and marijuana continued to the extent that it became an acceptable way of life amongst many societies in the middle east. This promoted anti-social behaviours and crimes like murder, defilement, suicide bombing etc. These undermined peace, stability and prosperity in Europe by 1970.

3. The decolonisation and democratization programs were incomplete by 1970. The UNO did not have a clear policy for granting independence to the colonised nations. The independence especially of African nations was mainly due to the efforts of the oppressed and exploited Africans other than the UN. Moreover, America and other Western capitalists were against decolonisation.

This is because imperialism is the highest form of capitalism and that is why USA supported apartheid, which explains why South Africa, Angola and Mozambique were still colonised by

1970. The rise and existence of autocratic and undemocratic leaders like Fidel Castro in Cuba,

Kamuzu Banda in Malawi and Mobutu Sese Seko in Congo demonstrate the failure of the democratisation program of the UN. This was because

some members of the UNO especially USA and USSR supported such dictators as long as they were able to further their political ideology.

4. The rise and existence of neocolonialism and its associated evils in third world countries exposed the failure of UNO. After colonialism, European powers resorted to neocolonialism as an indirect means to control, exploit and oppress the third world countries. This was accomplished through imposing unfavourable foreign political ideologies like capitalism and communism, economic policies such as liberalisation and establishment of military bases e.g. USA in the Middle East and Africa by more developed nations in less developed countries. By 1970, these practices had led to underdevelopment of third world countries and subjected formerly independent states to depend on their former colonial masters in a neo colonial relationship. The UNO is therefore blamed for keeping aloof as neocolonialism undermined the independence and democratisation process of nations.

5. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 failed to totally achieve its objectives by 1970. It was not fully accepted in many states especially in Arab nations as a western concept designed to undermine traditional culture. For instance, provision for equality between man and woman was rejected as a ploy to destroy the family tradition that had sustained communities since nations were created. It did not also have laws to punish those who violated the rights stated in the declaration. The UDHR just presents a strong moral appeal and a common standard of rights to be achieved by all nations. This made many governments and dictators to easily violate human rights with impunity (without punishment) as there is no legal provision for punishment in the UDHR.

6. The promotion and protection of children's rights failed to succeed in some other ways. The UN emphasised the rights of children without the corresponding duties that made many nations who believed in children working for their families to ignore it. The UN did not also provide a law to punish those who violated children's rights by 1970, thereby making it easy for those who violate children's rights to do so with impunity. Worst of all, some rights of the children that were promoted by the UN contradicted cultural practices of some societies. For instance, the right to equality between girls and boys could not be accepted in many African and Arab states because the society valued boys more than girls. This explains why

such societies continued to violate the right to education of the girl child more than boys through early marriage. Thus, UNO failed to fully achieve its objective of promoting children's rights by 1970.

7. In the field of politics and peace, the UN failed more than it succeeded. This was due to the inherent weakness of the UN itself. For instance, the veto powers of the five permanent members of the Security Council made it impossible to resolve and implement several problems and policies respectively. For example, Russia invaded Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1958 respectively and vetoed the Security Council's resolution to withdraw her troops on both occasions. This means that the veto powers of the five permanent members gave them a "license" to wage aggression and block any UN resolution against them.

8. The UN failed to stop cold war politics and its associated tension in Europe. During the cold war, western countries led by USA and the eastern countries led by USSR embarked on sabotage, propaganda, and diplomatic aggression in a bid to promote antagonistic ideologies of capitalism and communism. In this period, the role of the UN was hijacked by USA and USSR to perpetuate their conflicting political ideologies. Disputes were settled by either USA or USSR yet the UN ever if not rarely condemned America or Soviet Union for ignoring the UN as a peace making body.

9. Germany remained divided between the West and East in spite of the existence of UNO. Before 1945, Germany was a united nation with a strong economy and a high spirit of nationalism.

However, cold war politics made Germany to be partitioned into two i.e. west Germany with the ideology of capitalism and East Germany with communism. In 1948, the Berlin wall was created to completely separate West Germany from East Germany. Although the blockade was lifted in 1949 through the intervention of the UN Security Council, Germany nevertheless remained a divided country between the West and East. This was associated with diplomatic aggression, sabotage and hostility perpetuated by USA and USSR on the background. UNO should therefore be discredited for its negligence that made Germany to be torn apart during the cold war era.

10. The UN failed to fully wipe out cultural intolerance and racism. Though the UN embarked on global sensitisation campaign against racism and

cultural intolerance through UNESCO, the campaign was not fully successful by 1970. People still remained intolerant and failed to live in harmony with those from diverse cultural background. For instance, Arabs and Jews, Europeans and Africans; often failed to live in harmony and that was why they fought each other on racial basis. Apartheid in S Africa where Africans were systematically segregated by the whites was the worst form of racism that the UNO failed to address. The fact that Apartheid and other cultural arrogance cited above still existed by 1970 illustrates the failure of UNO.

11. The UN'S policies on disarmament, weapons of mass destruction and space exploration were great failures. By 1945, it was only America with Atomic bomb but nearly all the super powers had such weapons of mass destruction by 1970. Even third world countries like India, Pakistan, North Korea and Iraq possessed such weapons. Even when the testing of such weapons was outlawed (prevented) by the UN, America and Russia persisted to do so. The UN and America practiced double standard of frustrating smaller nations from acquiring weapons of mass destruction while the great permanent members of the UN continued to maintain and manufacture such weapons.

There was also the misuse of space for exploration by 1970. All these violated atomic energy commission terms of 1946, SALT talks and test ban treaties, whose primary objective was to ensure effective disarmament without weapons of mass destruction and space exploration.

12. Politically and militarily, the UN registered more failures as an instrument of peace by 1970. The Iraq-Iran war persisted for 8 years without any concrete settlement by the UN. It also failed in the Chinese war of 1953 where America openly supported Chiang Keiserk and Russia supported Maotse-tung. In the Vietnam war of 1967-73, USA Intervened and perpetuated the conflict and the UNO did nothing against USA.

The UN totally failed in the Arab-Israeli conflict since it was formed up to 1970. From 1948 when the state of Israel was created, the Israelites and Arabs conflicted over the disputed territories in areas like the Gaza strip and Jerusalem city. Tension boiled to war point when Israel on her own terms declared Jerusalem her city. An Ineffective economic sanction was imposed on Israel, which never compelled her to change her position on Jerusalem. This led to suicide bombings, violence and counter violence that

led to massive death and destruction of property. The UN proved incompetent of resolving the conflict, which made it to remain one of the most serious conflicts in the world by 1970.

The UN failed in the Korean war of 1950-53 because of the double standard policy of USA and USSR who are permanent members of the Security Council. In the war, USSR supported North Korea while USA backed South Korea, which rendered UN's policy of uniting North Korea and South Korea a total failure.

The UN's diplomatic and military intervention in the Congo crisis of 1960s failed to yield peace.

In 1960, Belgium prematurely granted Congo independence leaving behind intertribal war that the UN failed to settle. It was a shame to UN that Congolese Prime minister, Patrice Lumumba and UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjold lost their lives during the crisis in Congo. The UN is blamed for failure to restore law and order in Congo that was taken advantage of by Mobutu SeseSeko, the then Congolese army commander to rise to power (1966) and establish a classic despotic government in Congo. Above all, the UN intervention in Congo was condemned by Russia as a USA's guise to extend her imperialism. Worst of all, the Congo venture was too expensive that it almost brought the UN into financial crisis, given that Russia and other states declined to pay their share of the cost

13. Lastly, the UN failed to totally eradicate terrorism in the world. By 1970, the world experienced rampant assassinations, hijack of planes, planting of time bombs and suicide bombings especially in Asia and the Middle East. The most disastrous ones occurred in the Middle East between the Palestinians and Israelis over the disputed Gaza strip and Jerusalem city. Terrorism was also perpetuated by USA and USSR to enforce their rival political ideologies of capitalism and communism respectively. It was ironical that USA and USSR who are permanent members of the Security Council could resort to terrorism without being restrained by the UNO.

NB 1: The UN has failed to bring to Justice the al-shabab who are the mastermind of world terrorism.

2 Over reliance on sanctions other than military intervention is a fundamental weakness of the UN.

It was only successful in Rhodesia where a trade embargo was declared but failed in South Africa, Israel and Portugal.

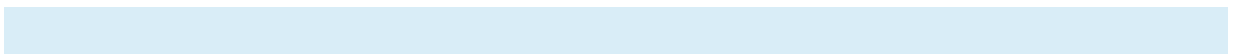
There is no doubt that the UNO largely failed to maintain world peace but one should note that the issue of world peace has always been a complex and complicated issue for any international organisation. This is because every state whether big or small is determined to do all that it can to promote its own interest, regardless of the interest of other states or mankind as a whole. In an atmosphere where there is violence all over the world and each state is spending huge chunks of money on arms and defense, peace in the world will remain a dream, which no international organisation can achieve. All that can be done is to reduce the prevailing tension and conflicts in the world, which the UN has undoubtedly played its role.

However, the role of UNO in maintaining world peace was supplemented by the contributions of other regional and continental organisations in different parts of the world. This was done by O.A.U that settled several disputes and conflicts in Africa and hence preserved peace in Africa.

The South African Development Co-operation (S.A.D.C) also maintained peace and settled conflicts peacefully amongst the states of Southern Africa, the E.A.C. did the same in East Africa before its collapse, the NATO and the Warsaw Pact also maintained peace, harmony and Unity between the western and eastern countries respectively.

ECOWAS and EEC brought Economic integration and co-operation amongst the West African and European nations respectively. These climaxed into political co-operation and hence ushered peace amongst the West African and European nations. One can therefore argue that by bringing peace and co-operation within their areas of influence, such organisations played a supplementary and complementary role to the UN in maintaining world peace.

Attachments



DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Abdicate: To relinquish/surrender one's ruling position or power.

Abolish: Official end of a law, system or practice.

Abrogate: To end/formally revoke an agreement, treaty or constitution.

Absolutism: Complete/totalitarian system of rule where the ruler is unquestionable and unchecked e.g. by Parliament, judiciary or executive.

Account for: To explain or give reasons for an event, e.g. outbreak of a war or revolution.

Aggression: Angry and threatening behaviour, spoken or physical actions that causes harm to a person, group of persons, country/declaration of war.

Aggressor: A person or country that is the first to declare war/attacks.

Alliance: An agreement where each member state party promises to help one another e.g. when attacked by none member states.

Allies: An alliance of nations joining together to fight a common enemy, e.g. Britain, France, Russia plus others against Germany and her supporters in the first and second world wars.

Ambassador: A very important person (VIP) who is sent to represent his nation in a foreign country and he or she is officially recognized by the host country.

Amnesty: An act of forgiving political opponents or those who violated the law.

Analysis: A detailed study or investigation where the key issues are identified described and objectively evaluated.

Anarchism: From Greek word 'Anarchia', which means non-rule. A radical political view that a society would be better without law, government or leadership.

Anarchy: Total breakdown of law and order in a society due to failure by government or leadership.

Anschluss: The union of Austria and Germany in March 1938.

Anti-clericalism: Social/political view based on hostility to the Catholic Church, and especially to the power and privileges of the clergy.

Anti-commintern pact: Agreement signed between Germany and Japan (Nov 1936), which asserted both countries' hatred to international communism (Italy signed in 1937).

Anti-Semitism: Anti-Jewish feelings due to either religious or racial difference or both, used by Hitler and Mussolini to persecute the Jews.

Apartheid: A South African policy of complete legal separation of the races, including banning of all social contacts between blacks and whites.

Appeasement: The name given to the policy of attempting to avoid war through concession, conciliation/peaceful settlement of conflicts. Associated with Anglo-French policy towards axis powers in the inter war period.

Arbitrary: Not bas