

THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY

EUROPE BEFORE 1870

Before 1870, Germany was a confederation of thirty - nine states. Among them the largest and most important was Prussia. When Kaiser William became the King of Prussia in 1861, he appointed Otto Von Bismarck as Chancellor of Prussia in 1862.

WHO WAS BISMARCK?

Otto Van Bismarck an outstanding diplomat and statesman was born on 1st April in 1815 at Schonhausen in Brandenburg – Prussia, Germany. He died in 1898. Bismarck was from a Junker (landed family). After his birth his parents moved to their old estates where the boy developed rural setting tastes - love of hunting, riding and shooting.

After his education he began working for the government of Prussia. He was convinced that Prussia' s future greatness depended upon a strong Monarchy and not on democracy. He left the Civil service as boring and joined the Prussian Diet. Bismarck made a mark in the Prussian Diet with his speeches in which he condemned the liberals for their numerous demands.

From 1851 to 1859, he became a Prussian Minister to the Germany Confederation in Frankfurt, and was very instrumental in the unification of Germany.

On 22nd September 1862 Bismarck was appointed as Chancellor of Prussia. His main aim as chancellor was to unite all the German states under the leadership of Prussia which he achieved through a combination of diplomacy and after a series of wars.

WARS OF UNIFICATION

Bismarck knew that the unification of German as an empire would not be easy because of opposition from Germany' s neighbours, Denmark, Austria and France. He had to destroy the powers of Austria and France by fighting each of these countries separately.

PRUSSIA AND DENMARK 1864

The two quarreled over ownership of Schelswig and Holstein. He organized the Prussian army and begun by fighting over the two duchies of Holstein and Schleswig which were in union with Denmark but had their own separate constitution.

While Denmark attempted to annex the two duchies of Holstein and Schleswig under a single constitution, Bismarck rejected the attempt to annex the duchies by Denmark and claimed that they were German.

As the crisis over the Duchies between Prussia and Denmark worsened, Bismarck invited Austria to fight with Prussia against Denmark in return for Holstein and in 1864, the Danish war broke out in which Denmark was defeated.

PRUSSIA TURNS ITS BACK ON AUSTRIA – HUNGARY.

After the Danish war instead of sharing the duchies with Austria as earlier agreed Bismarck annexed both of them much to the annoyance of Austria and so this led to war with Austria in 1866. The Danes were not prepared for war therefore; Austria was crushed at the great battle of Sadowa by the superior military strength of the new Prussian army and expelled from the German confederation after only seven weeks of war.

PRUSSIA AND FRANCE 1870-1871 (FRANCO – PRUSSIAN WAR)

Before the unification of Germany States could be complete, Bismarck had to crush France and in 1870 the France – Prussian war broke out. This was caused by a succession dispute to the Spanish throne following a military uprising that deposed and forced the reigning Queen into exile.

The Spaniards were looking for a new monarch. The Spanish throne was offered to Prince Leopold, a member of the Prussian ruling family and Bismarck persuaded Leopold to accept the throne because he hoped to provoke France. The French protested because they were horrified at the prospect of being surrounded by hostile neighbours to the East and West.

France threatened war on Prussia if Leopold did not withdraw his candidature. So, he finally stepped down. France was not satisfied with the withdrawal of Leopold; she further demanded that the Prussian King should promise that Leopold or any other relative of William I would never be a candidate for the Spanish throne. For this purpose, the French ambassador was sent to the Prussian King who was on holiday at EMS but the king refused to make any promise.

When the King sent a telegram to Bismarck informing him of the negotiation with the French ambassador, Bismarck seized his chance to provoke France and changed the wording of the telegram before releasing it to the French and German press.

The telegram showed that Kaiser William I insulted the French ambassador and refused to see him when requested. French demonstrators in the streets of Paris left the French government with no option but to declare war on Prussia on 19th July 1870. Later in 1871, France was crushed at the battle of Sedan.

France made peace by signing the treaty of Frankfurt in 1871 and the following were the provisions:

- (i) French Industrial provinces of Alsace and Lorraine were annexed to Germany.
- (ii) France was told to pay war damages in terms of money and coal.
- (iii) French emperor was deported.

With the defeat of Austria and France, Germany was finally united and the new Germany Empire was proclaimed in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles, Paris in France in 1871.

BISMARCK' S HOME POLICY

After the unification of Germany, Bismarck as the chancellor faced lot of problems and the following were the problems:

1. ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

One of the main obstacles of the power of the state was the Catholic Church according to Bismarck. In 1864, Pope Pius ix condemned civil marriage and secular education. In 1870 the Vatican council came up with the dogma of papal infallibility meaning the pope does not make a mistake on issues of faith and morals and that his direction should be taken without questions.

A minority of Germany Catholics did not take this doctrine and they were ex-communicated. Some teachers and professors who tried similar views lost their jobs. Bismarck didn't agree with this because this meant that the church was interfering in the state control of education system. There was not going to be a state within a state, because of this the church launched a campaign against Bismarck.

Bismarck decided to crush the powers of the Roman Catholic Church by passing the laws against the church. These laws were called the May laws of 1872. By these laws he expelled the catholic Jesuits of Germany. He prevented Jesuits from inspecting schools; they were to be inspected by government inspectors. All schools and colleges were to be owned by the state and civil marriages were made legal.

Priests who contradicted these rules were imprisoned. The struggle against the church was called KULTUR KAMPI. Struggle for civilization against the Catholic Church which was said to be backward, however, the Pope died in 1878 and was replaced by Pope Leo xiii who compromised with Bismarck and most of the May laws were removed.

2. SOCIALISTS

Bismarck looked at this group as independent in the empire which had conceptions with other socialists in other countries. These socialists influenced the workers interest by propagating KARL MAX' S idea which aimed at overthrowing property owners so that the society can be organized under communist' s principles. These ideas threatened Bismarck.

Using the excuse of the attempts on Kaisers life, Bismarck forced a bill in parliament [Reichstag] banning the socialist movement. Under the same law the socialist newspaper was suppressed and known supporters were exiled from Germany.

To win support of the workers sick, old and disabled were to be provided with social aids, and for the workers he introduced industrial benefits accidents. In 1889, the old age personal schemes were introduced. He however failed to crush socialization totally.

3. TARIFF QUESTIONS

The other problem at home was that of cheap foreign goods flooding the Germany market threatening the home industry .Bismarck imposed high tariffs on all imported goods so that Germany could depend on local industries.

4. COLONIES

Since Germany initially never took part in the colonial race there developed a problem of colonies to supply raw materials and markets. In 1884, Bismarck accepted the idea of colonies and called for the Berlin Conference 1884-1885 for the peaceful acquisition of colonies.

5. MANY LANGUAGES

After the unification of Germany, there were many languages that were spoken in Germany; Bismarck came up with one main language [Germanisation].

6. DISPUTE WITH KAISER

Bismarck differed with Kaiser over a number of issues like socialist questions and colonies which were favoured by Kaiser William II.

In 1890, Bismarck resigned his chancellorship to mark the end of his political career.

BISMARCK' S FOREIGN POLICY

In this policy, Bismarck had four main aims;

To isolate France so that she could not wage a war of revenge for the loss of Alsace and Lorraine.

To avoid war from two countries.

To consolidate Germany' s big power in Europe

To maintain peace for a united Germany so that the country can develop politically and economically.

Bismarck was able to achieve these aims by signing treaties with other countries that he had fought wars with before. The following were treaties he signed:

THREE EMPERORS' LEAGUE OR DREIKAISERBUND – 1872.

In 1872, Bismarck was instrumental in forming the Dreikaiserbund or Three Emperors' League, a kind of a Holy Alliance. The members were Russia, Austria – Hungary and Germany.

The terms of the alliance were that the three countries would help one another to fight against the growing strength of socialism and republicanism. Secondly they agreed to consult one another on important issues especially the Balkan crisis. And further create friendship and understanding among themselves.

DUAL ALLIANCE 1879

The members were Germany, Austria-Hungary and the terms were; To support each other if a combined attack was launched against Germany or Austria-Hungary by France or Prussia and if it was France alone, Austria-Hungary would remain neutral.

RENEWAL OF THE THREE EMPEROR' S LEAGUE 1881

This was a renewal by Austria-Hungary and Germany. A written agreement was signed in; terms of the treaty were the same.

THE TRIPPLE ALLIANCE 1882

The members were Germany Austria-Hungary and Italy. Italy was brought into the alliance because Bismarck encouraged French seizure of Tunisia which was an Italian colony. The terms were; to help each other if one was to be attacked by a third power.

-Italy pledged not to be involved in any war against Britain.

THE SECRET REINSURANCE TREATY 1887

The members were Germany and Russia and the terms were that Russia would remain neutral if Germany was attacked by France and that Germany would remain neutral if Russia was attacked by Austria-Hungary.

The treaty recognized Russia' s interest in Bulgaria and Turkish strait. The treaty was to be renewed every three years.

REASONS WHY BISMARCK RESIGNED

Bismarck differed with Kaiser William II over Germany' s home and foreign policies on these issues. At home Bismarck wanted to make Anti-socialist laws permanent while Kaiser William wanted to be friends with the socialists.

Abroad Bismarck wanted to negotiate on extension and removal of the re-insurance treaty and maintain both Prussia and Austria-Hungary.

Kaiser wanted an expanded navy and colonial conquest. Bismarck thought this would bring Germany as [strong as the British navy] a British enemy with these happening, Bismarck was asked to draw an order restricting the chancellor' s power which he refused and resigned in 1890.

However, Bismarck was able to achieve the objectives of his foreign policy because he had great diplomatic skill and tact. The creation of the alliances helped to achieve peace in Europe while Bismarck was in office but after his departure, things fell apart.

REACTIONS OF DIFFERENT POWERS TO BISMARCK' S ALLIANCES

1. France was not happy with their alliances for she felt isolated completely, as she could not wage a war of revenge.
2. Prussia was annoyed with Bismarck especially at the Berlin conference in 1878. When she was unfairly treated by Bismarck when he sided with Austria-Hungary.
3. Italy was happy when she signed the triple alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary in 1882 because she was no longer weak and isolated.
4. Britain was happy because she was able to follow the policy of splendid isolation without any interference.
5. Austria- Hungary was happy because Bismarck assisted her to colonies some Balkan states and finally Balkan states were annoyed because Bismarck delayed their independence. With these mixed reactions, there was a counter signing of alliances from 1890 after dismissal of Bismarck. This divided the world into camps later leading to the outbreak of the First World War.

DUAL ENTENTE 1894

This was signed between Russia and France ending France' s isolation. This came as a result of Germany' s antagonism of Russia and also the attitude of Kaiser William II. For instance he refused to grant Russia a loan when it was pursuing economic development. Russia turned the attention to France who proved to be of help. They agreed to help each other if they were attacked either by Germany or Austria-Hungary. Russia was obliged to help France if attacked by Italy. If any member of the triple alliance mobilized then both Russia and France mobilized.

ANGLO - JAPANESE ALLIANCE 1902

This was signed to end Britain' s policy of splendid isolation and signed by Japan and Britain. They agreed that Japan was to check Russia expansion in the South East Asia and defeated the British position there.

ENTENTE CODIAL 1904

This was signed by Britain and France. The two agreed that in return for French recognition of the British position in Egypt. Britain recognized the French in Morocco. They equally similarly compromised in other parts of the World like West Africa and New Found Land. However, the Cordial Entente was not a military alliance. It was sometimes called the Anglo – French Alliance.

They agreed to support each other in their policies in Egypt and Morocco against the objectives of any other power.

They agreed to consult regularly on their navy and military matters and to have special consultations in case of change from great power. The following factors facilitated the signing of the Cordial entente of the Anglo French alliance.

ANGLO – RUSSIAN ENTENTE 1907

This was signed between Britain and Russia. According to this treaty both were to leave Tiberst. Russia agreed not to intervene in Afghanistan and Spheres of influence of Russia were drawn under British influence. The central areas were left to the Persians.

TRIPPLE ENTENTE 1907

The members of this treaty were Britain, France and Russia. This was a purely diplomatic understanding among the three member countries. It was not a defensive or military alliance. With the signing of the Triple Entente Alliance the world was divided into two camps (the Triple Entente – Britain, France and Russia and the Triple Alliance – Germany, Austria – Hungary and Italy) these two enemies were likely to crush soon or later, which happened in 1914 when the First World War broke out.

THE PATITION OF AFRICA (IMPERIALISM)

DEFINITION

This is a policy where an imperial power controls other counties by political and economical means. It can also be described as a policy of creating, organizing and maintaining an empire by a more superior power. These powers fulfilled their desire through colonization furthering their economic advantage.

During the last quarter of the 19th century through up to the early years of the 20th century (1884 -1914) several European powers were involved in organizing empires in Africa and other countries. This process was done so hurriedly that journalists coined the term scramble for Africa to refer to the partition of Africa.

REASON FOR THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR AFICAN COLONIES AFTER 1870.

The demand for colonies was low before 1876 because the Europeans were committed in the Far East and Latin America where economies were booming. Africa was also referred to as the Dark Continent hence little information was known about the interior of Africa. Europeans feared geographical barriers such as mountains, un navigable rivers, thick forests, tropical diseases, swamps and fierce wild animals.

There was a general increase for the demand of colonies after 1870 because of the following reasons which can be divided into:

ECONOMIC

1. Desire by European nations to open fresh markets where to sell their industrial product. They could not sell these in Europe because of protective tariffs which raised prices of imported goods.
2. They needed to control the source of raw materials such as rubber, palm oil to increase their industry capacity.
3. They wanted to invest surplus profit in Africa because investment opportunities were declining in Europe due to stiff competition.
4. The Europeans needed trading bases where trade could be conducted.
5. Colonies were acquired as a symbol of prestige, for example Germany and Italy, ‘ Germany wanted a place in the sun.’

6. Settlement of excess unemployed population displaced by the Industrial revolution. Britain acquired Zimbabwe and Kenya to settle her excess population. This surplus population wished to migrate and yet remain under one colonial power's flag.
7. Some colonial territories served as strategic areas. This was the case of Egypt colonized by Britain to enable her have effective control of the Suez Canal where a military base was established for defense.
8. The discovery of diamonds and gold made the colonizers to scramble for such areas to explore these minerals. Closely connected to this is the fact that European countries had acquired colonies in Africa in order to protect their traditional companies like the British South Africa Company and Imperial British East Africa Company.

RELIGIOUS

9. The missionary factor was another reason. Early missionaries appealed to their home governments to impose colonialism so that they could easily spread Christianity and the so called western civilisation.

POLITICAL

10. Others came following invitations from some individual African chiefs such as Khama of Bechuanaland and Lewanika of Barotseland
11. Ambitious men such as John Cecil and King Leopold of Belgium played an important role.
12. Colonies were got to compensate for lost territories in Europe. This was the case of France's loss of Lorraine and Alsace.
13. Work of administrators such as Lord Lugard in Nigeria

HUMANITARIAN REASONS

14. Some countries were colonized following some humanitarians who wanted to stop or end slave trade in Africa and Asia.

OTHER REASONS:

15. Other European countries looked at colonies as a source of troops. France colonization of Senegal is a good example.

MEASURES TAKEN TO AVOID ARMED CONFLICTS AND AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE REACHED.

BERLIN CONFERENCE OF 1884- 1885

To avoid armed conflicts, Bismarck convened an international conference in 1884 -85 in Berlin which he chaired. The following measures were taken:

1. Effective occupation of the area under question
2. Doubts over borders to be settled by the European countries concerned.
3. Acceptance of freedom of trade on major rivers such as the Congo and Niger.
4. Suppression of slavery and slave trade in the colonies.
5. Areas already proclaimed protectorates were accepted and recognized.
6. Notification of occupation to other powers
7. Treaties to be signed with African chiefs.

WHERE AND WHY BRITAIN GOT COLONIES

Britain colonized certain areas for specific reasons. In North Africa for instance she got Egypt in 1882 in order to protect British investments. She wanted to use the Suez Canal too for strategic reasons to guard the water of the Nile for the British to fulfill Cecil Rhodes' dream of Cape to Cairo and also to re occupy it since it was taken during the 1882 conquest.

Other areas of tropical Africa such as Niger, Ghana and Uganda were colonized to protect and develop trading bases to act as suppliers of raw materials such rubber, palm oil and gold.

Colonies like Nyasaland (Malawi) were got because of humanitarian movements of missionaries and anti – slavery campaign groups who requested their government' s protection to carry out their work, to act as source of raw materials and markets for their finished goods and also to realize the Cape to Cairo dream. Most of these were acquired through signing of treaties with local chiefs and at times threatening use of force.

Most of the colonies in Southern and Central Africa were acquired by Britain to act as sources of raw materials and civilisation of African to counter balance the rising economic power in Transvaal after the discovery of gold and in 1885 -86 and for investment after the discovery of diamond at Kimberly in 1869.

Other reasons were to protect missionary road from Cape to Kurumani against Germany annexation of Namibian as well as Germany possible link – ups across the Continent. Other areas were Bechuanaland (Botswana) in 1885, Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Swaziland and Lesotho.

COLONIAL CLASHES OVER COLONIES (BRITAIN, FRANCE AND GERMANY).

THE FASHODA INCIDENT OF 1898

The dispute was between France and Britain on the 6th of September 1898 at Fashoda in Sudan. This was when France wanted to link French West Africa with Somaliland while Britain wanted to link Egypt to South Africa. As the two were trying to achieve their objective they met at Fashoda where the French were under the command of Major Marchand while British troops were under Lord Kitchener.

The two forces almost fought when they met at Fashoda leading to crisis. However, during the crisis, they consulted their mother governments which ended into France backing out and Britain occupying the area.

Later the British changed their area from Fashoda to Kodak and the dispute ended in 1899 after the French government gave way to British threats.

FIRST MOROCCAN CRISIS 1905

The first Moroccan crisis was in 1905. There was dispute between France and Germany over Morocco. Morocco was an object of rival ambition between Germany and France because of its strategic position and alleged presence of iron ore deposits.

However, this time it was a deliberate move taken by Germany to test the strength of the friendship between Britain and France after the signing of the Cordial Entente of 1904. In 1905 Kaiser William II landed at Tangier in Morocco and openly proclaimed Germany support for Morocco independence and encouraged the people of Morocco against France.

This soured further the relationship between France and Germany which was settled by an international conference called Algeciras (Algiers) conference. This was held in 1906 in Spain where Britain, Italy, Spain supported French control over Morocco which was a serious diplomatic defeat for Germany who realized the strength of the new friendship between France and Britain.

SECOND MOROCCAN CRISIS (AGADIR CRISIS) OF 1911.

The Second Moroccan crisis was the Agadir crisis which took place in 1911. Kaiser William II sent a gunboat called the Panther to the Moroccan parts of Agadir, a Moroccan Sea port hoping to pressurize the French into giving Germany some compensation, perhaps Congo French. This was done after the French troops occupied Fez, the Moroccan capital to put down rebellion against the Sultan Abdul Aziz, with a seemingly French occupation of Morocco.

However, Britain was not happy and warned Germany that Britain would not stand by and be taken advantage of where her investments were virtually offered through the famous Mansion House Speech. Because of this strong stand by Britain, Germany withdrew her troops and recognized France in Morocco and France recognized Germany in French Congo (Cameroon) and war was averted and the dispute finally ended.

ALGECIRAS CONFERENCE

In 1906 the Algeciras conference was held in Spain to solve the Moroccan crisis of 1905 where Britain affirmed its support for France after the first Moroccan crisis which was an attempt by the Germans to test the recently Anglo-French alliance. To the amazement of the Germany and Britain, Russia, Italy and Spain supported the French demand to control the Moroccan bank and police. This was a serious diplomatic defeat for Germany and showed that Germany was isolated.

L. George used the slogan “ Hang the Kaiser and let Germany pay.” He wanted Kaiser William II and other Germany criminals punished. More over, Germany as a nation was to be punished through a paying for all damages of war.

Woodrow Wilson the United States president was arguing contrary to his two friends. He wanted reconciliation as he realized that revenge would lead to another war in future. He came up with fourteen (14) points which he hoped would be the basis for the peace settlement.

BRITAIN AND THE POLICY OF SPLENDID ISOLATION.

Definition of the term splendid Isolation

This is a policy that Britain followed until 1895. Under this policy Britain tried to limit her political and military involvement in European affairs and avoided alliances with other European powers by staying aloof from European affairs in the last quarter of the 19th century. She was isolated and never bothered to have any allies.

Reasons for following this policy

Britain persuaded the policy of isolating herself because of a number of factors. Here are some of them: Crimean war of 1854 – 1856 caused the British politicians and the public to urge the British government to limit Britain’ s costly commitment abroad especially in Europe.

Britain had a strong and reliable navy with which she could effectively defend herself and her colonial possessions.

Geographical Position, separated from continental Europe by the English Channel, she remained apparently safe; in her island kingdom hence by nature she was isolated.

As a result of the industrial revolution she started, she became the richest country in Europe and she did not need any economic help from any country.

Lord Salisbury’ s Government (1895 – 1902’ s regime seemed to favour isolationist stance her Britain maintained it under her rule.

Above all, Britain wanted peace in Europe so that she could continue with the policy of overseas expansion without interference. Following the settlement of the eastern question at the congress of Berlin in 1878, Britain felt that it was highly unlikely that she would be involved in any war.

Why Britain abandoned her policy of splendid isolation

However, Britain had to abandon her policy of splendid isolation for a number of reasons.

1. The formation of the Dual Entente.

In 1895 the Dual Entente was formed between France and Russia. This appeared to be a direct threat to Britain. The French-Russian agreement made it possible that should war break out between Britain and any of them, they might support each other.

After the Berlin conference of 1884-85 the scramble for Africa caused so much tension among European nations and contributed to the abandonment of Britain's policy of isolation.

The policy of splendid isolation discouraged European nations from co-operating and supporting Britain.

For example when she asked other European nations for support on the question of Turkey following the American massacre of 1896, no nation responded.

The Congratulatory Telegram from Kaiser William II of Germany to Paul Kruger the leader of the Boers during the Jameson raid when the British were defeated. This was direct provocation on the side of Britain who saw Germany as siding with Boers in South Africa.

She also faced challenges passed by nations such as France, U.S.A and Germany to Britain's military and economic power. There was competition in ship building aimed at improving the naval power between Britain and Germany and Britain saw this as a threat to her naval supremacy.

The proposed railway line from Berlin in Germany to Baghdad in Iraq which was to connect Germany directly to the middle-east was seen as a threat to British colonies of Egypt and India.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, British policy of splendid isolation started to crumble when Germany emerged as an empire. The threat of Germany's military and economic power as well as her aggressive policies towards Britain forced Britain to abandon her policy of splendid isolation finally.

How Britain abandoned her policy of Splendid Isolation.

She ended the policy of splendid isolation through a series of alliances

1. ANGLO - JAPANESE ALLIANCE 1902

This was signed to end Britain's policy of splendid isolation and signed by Japan and Britain. They agreed that Japan was to check Russia expansion in the South East Asia and defeated the British position there.

2. ENTENTE CODIAL 1904

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They agreed to consult regularly on their navy and military matters and to have special consultations in case of change from great power. The following factors facilitated the signing of the Cordial entente of the Anglo French alliance.

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4. TRIPPLE ENTENTE 1907

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THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-1918)

In 1914 the First World broke out causing far – reaching social, economical and political changes, as well as tremendous devastation and loss of life.

CAUSES

Causes of the First World War are divided into two long term causes and short term causes.

LONG TERM CAUSES.

1. NATIONALISM

There was growing nationalism among nations in Europe. The spirit of nationalism led to the establishment of nations such as Germany, France, Prussia and Serbia.

Whatever their desires and actions many nations were struggling to win independence and this was a continued threat to the existing political structure of Europe which helped to make war more likely. For example Serbia, the most powerful of the new states in the Balkans was determined to free her fellow Slavs from Turkish rule and was also anxious to drive Austria from land inhabited by the Slavic people. Austria on the other hand wanted to halt Serbian nationalism which she feared would prove a disaster to her own multinational state.

2. IMPERIALISM

Imperialism among European nations also contributed to the cause of the war. There was fierce competition among the powers for raw materials for the factories of Europe and cheap food for factories workers and colonial markets especially between Britain and Germany. The hopes and fears and national pride, patriotism and jealousies that were typical of the fifty years preceding 1914 did not make war inevitable but certainly helped to make it extremely likely. Those European powers had many colonial disputes which contributed to the outbreak of the First World War such as the Moroccan crisis of 1905 – 1906 which left Germany with bitter feelings.

Many nations strongly felt that they cannot be united and defended from attack unless they have strong armies. The consequence of nationalism and imperialism was the growth of large armies and navies and Germany for example emerged from its wars of unification in 1870 with the largest and strongest army in Europe. Thus European nations were obviously becoming steadily more prepared for war so that the nervous tension grew and the actual danger of war also increased.

3. THE ALLIANCE SYSTEM.

By 1907, Europe had been divided into two opposing and heavily armed camps namely, the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente.

The members of the Triple Alliance were Germany, Austria – Hungary and Italy. The members of the triple Entente were Britain, France and Russia. These alliances created a series of crisis which tested the alliances, for example the crises in the Balkans between 1908 and 1913. These two camps were heavily armed and were just waiting for an opportunity to go to war.

4. ARMS RACE

After 1897, the Germany government started building up an enormous navy that could challenge the might of the British navy. The Germans knew that a world wide empire would have to be defended by a powerful navy. This was so because the Germans had started building an overseas Empire like the British.

In 1900, the Germany government passed a law ordering the building of a new huge fleet of 41 battle ships and sixty cruisers. The British responded energetically to this threat by increasing the size of their navy. They introduced a new powerful battleship called the Dreadnought in 1906. The Germans responded by building similar or imitation ships.

Other countries also took part in the arms race. For example, the French increased their forces such that by 1914, France had four million soldiers. Russia also build a lot of railways and carriages for transportation of soldiers to fight Germany and Austria – Hungary. Because of a huge Russian military expenditure, Germany lived in fear that the mighty Russia force could nay time attack her.

5. THE BOSNIAN CRISIS – 1908.

Serbia wanted to bring all Slavic people under her rule. These people were mostly found in two Slavic states of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Fearing a strong Serbia, Austria – Hungary annexed the two Slavic states of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Serbia was outplayed as the Austrian move blocked her hopes of creating a large Serbian Kingdom to include most of the Southern Slavs.

As a result, Serbia complained to the big brother Russia with the desire to protect their fellow slavs, and their own desire to gain access to the Eastern Mediterranean , supported the Serbs and opposed Austria. With this support for war Serbia prepared for war against Austria Hungary. Germany readily supported Austria Hungary and asked Russia to accept Austrian move or face war with Germany. Weakened from their defeat in the Russo – Japanese War of 1904 -1905, Russians were afraid to ask for war. As a result they backed down but vowed to revenge. Russia called for an international conference hosted by Germany. In attendance were the British, French, Germany, Austrians and the Serbs. Russia request for British and

French assistance in dealing with Austria – Hungary, Fearing a war with Germany which supported Austria, Britain and France refused to assist Russia deal with Austria Hungary, as a result Russia went away disappointed and prepared for war next time Serbia came asking for assistance.

6. THE FIRST BALKAN WAR – 1912

The Ottoman Empire covered parts of two continents i.e. Europe and Asia. Wishing to get the European parts of the Ottoman Empire, Serbia Bulgaria, Montenegro and Greece formed the Balkan League in 1912. The Balkan League declared war on the Ottoman Empire in 1912 which the league won. However, the League members could not agree on how to share the Ottoman Provinces of Macedonia and Albania.

7. THE SECOND BALKAN WAR – 1913.

Bulgaria complained over her share of the European parts of the defeated Ottoman Empire. As a result, Greece, Serbia, Romania and the Ottoman Empire attacked and defeated Bulgaria. The result was that the victorious powers grabbed all the territories from Bulgaria leaving her with a small part of Macedonia.

The two Balkan War heightened tension among the great powers- Germany and Russia.

8. THE FIRST MOROCCAN CRISES – 1905

Britain had assured France of her support if she colonized Morocco. The German Kaiser who wanted to test the British and French alliances' strength declared to support Morocco maintain her independence. In 1905 the Kaiser landed at Tangier in a Germany ship called the Panther. Kaiser William II declared:

(a) Support for Moroccan independence

(b) To settle the Moroccan question, an international conference at Algiers was called, in attendance were Spain, Britain, France, Germany and Italy among others. Britain, Spain and Italy supported France' s move to colonise Morocco.

SHORT TERM CAUSES OF FIRST WORLD WAR.

The following are the short term / immediate causes of the First World War.

1. THE SARAJEVO INCIDENT

The immediate cause of the First World War was the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who was crown prince to the Austrian throne and his wife. The city of Sarajevo in Bosnia was the centre of World attention in June 1914. Bosnia was part of Austria – Hungary but many of it' s people were Serbs who wanted to be ruled by the neighbouring states. On 28th June, 1914 a Serb called Gavrilo Princip shot dead the Archduke Franz Ferdinand a heir to the throne of Austria – Hungary, and his wife.

The spark had now been lit. The assassination presented an opportunity for Austria to start a war against Serbia. On 23rd July 1914, Austria handed Serbia an almost impossible ultimatum which was to be

accepted within forty-eight hours for being responsible for the assassination. Serbia accepted two of the demands but rejected the third, which required Austrian police to go into Serbia to investigate the assassination. As a result Austria declared war on Serbia on 28th July, 1914.

On 29th July 1914, Russia started mobilizing to assist Serbia, Germany asked Russia to demobilize but this was ignored.

On 1st August, 1914 Germany, Austria's ally declared war on Russia. On 3rd August 1914, France declared war on Germany. On 4th August 1914, Britain declared war on Germany because of violating the Belgium neutrality according to the London Treaty of 1839.

1. THE SCHLIFFEN PLAN.

The Schlieffen plan was the basis of the German war plan. Ever since the formation of the Dual Entente of Russia and France of 1893, German politicians had been worried on how to fight a war on two fronts that is the western Front against France and the Eastern front against Russia. Because of this worry, the chief of the German General Staff called Alfred Von Schlieffen, devised a plan in 1906 named Schlieffen plan, which entailed attacking France through Belgium and then capture Paris within six weeks before turning to the East to attack the slow moving Russians.

WHY ATTACKING FRANCE THROUGH BELGIUM?

Because:

- (i) The Franco - German Border was hilly and mountainous
- (ii) The Franco - German Border was heavily guarded.

STAGES OF THE PLAN

- (i) A wheeling movement across Belgium by armies of the Right wing and then capture the channel ports.
- (ii) Move south wards and capture the French capital Paris, from the West.
- (iii) Push the French soldiers East wards towards Alsace and Lorraine in order to surround them and force them to surrender.

FAILURE OF THE SCHLIEFFEN PLAN.

Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914 in order to defend Belgium's neutrality agreed upon by the Great powers in the Treaty of London in 1839. Germany's attack on Belgium was violation of this treaty. Within days the British expeditionary force was in Belgium to fight against the German army. This delayed the Germany advance and gave the French more time to prepare. Russia mobilized more quickly than the Germans has expected. Germany was forced to

transfer some troops from the western Front to the eastern front before defeating France. This weakened the Germany armies on the western front and they failed to defeat France.

General Von Kluck the command of the Germany armies in France changed the Schlieffen plan. He gave up the idea of going round Paris and advanced towards the south. This left Paris and the sea ports along the northern coast of France free from attacks. This enabled France to continue the war and British reinforcements to get to France through the northern

Serbia fought bravely against Austria until October 1915 when she was attacked by Bulgaria. Austria-Hungary was obsessed by the move to smash Serbia and could not send enough troops to help Germany in the campaign.

French and British armies commanded by General Joffre counter-attacked the Germans at the battle of Marne in September 1914. The German advance was stopped and both the German armies and the Anglo-French forces began to dig defensive lines of trenches. The war of movement was over and it was replaced by a static trench warfare.

As the German armies moved far and deep into France, communication with its Headquarters in Berlin became increasingly difficult. For this reason, local commanders like General Von Kluck made changes to the Schlieffen plan without consulting the German army Headquarters. Distance from Berlin also made it difficult to supply equipment and food to German armies in France.

By December 1914 Germany had lost her numerical superiority on the western front. Large numbers of German troops had been transferred to the eastern front to fight against Russia. On the other hand British troops had continued to land in France to support France and Belgium. The Schlieffen plan had completely failed to achieve its objectives of knocking out France from the war.

Germany had to fight a war on two fronts from 1914 to 1918.

REASONS WHY GERMANS SCORED EARLY SUCCESSES.

1. Geographical Position. Germany was situated at the centre of the war zone and this enabled her to reinforce and transport her troops to the two battle fronts (east and west) at a much faster rate than the opponents.
2. The armies of the central powers (Germany with Austria - Hungary) fell under one command. This was an advantage over the Allied Powers (France, Britain, Russia and later Italy and the USA who entered the war as individual countries).
3. Germany had the best trained army on the European continent. Her troops used advanced weapons e.g. artillery, launcher, machine guns etc. Germany also devised effective military tactics that the enemy found it difficult to conquer her at early stage.
4. The communication system i.e. roads and rails were all developed and efficient to meet the demands of the war troops and other supplies were transported to the battle fronts at a faster rate than it was in the case of the allied powers.

5. Economic reasons, when Germany declared war she was economically self sufficient. The developed economy enabled her to support her soldiers in war. The German industrialists produced enough war materials which she supplied to the fighting forces. There was also enough food, medicine and troop carriers.
6. The un preparedness of the Allied Powers when the war just started assisted the Germans to become victors in the early stages of the First World War.
7. Germany had completed officers like Von Hindenburg and Ludendorff.

REASONS WHY GERMANY LOST THE FIRST WORLD.

1. The Germans had underestimated the strength of their enemies and this led to the failure of the Schlieffen plan. The Belgian army put up some strong unexpected resistance and so delayed the advance of German forces and brought in the British ground forces.
2. The German advance was checked by the French and British forces. The German forces failed capture Paris due to the battle of Marne.
3. Russians mobilized and came into the field earlier than had been anticipated and this forced Germany to move some soldiers from the Western front to counteract the Russian threat in the east.
4. According to the war plan (the Schlieffen plan) France was expected to be defeated in six weeks time. And Russia in six months time. But this war which was planned to be short and quick turned into a war of blockade and attrition. Raw materials were no longer reaching Germany due to the blockade.
5. Germany was fighting a war on two Fronts. After launching an offensive on the west, Germany was compelled to send some troops to the East to Counter the Russian threat. On the Western front the Germany forces failed to break through the British expeditionary force.
6. Germany had weak allies who contributed to the exhaustion of her resources. The fall of Greece and Turkey was a great blow to Germany as the route to the Mediterranean was closed.
7. The Germany Coast was blockaded; even the battle of Jutland in 1916 did not break the blockade. The unrestricted sub marine (U – boat) campaign of 1917 failed due to the British sea power.
8. The entry of Italy into war her detention of formidable Austrian forces which might have been deployed elsewhere at critical times weakened the central powers.
9. The entry of the United States of America (USA) brought vast manpower supplies and Morale to the Allies. At this time Germany forces were losing morale due to Trench War fare, the dead lock and constant allied bombardments.
10. By 1918 Germany was exhausted and the final assault drained her last resources of energy and morale. With American support the Allies had sufficient supplies. Mutinies were the order of the day. Germany had no alternative but to concede defeat.

PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES MOST RESENTED BY THE GERMANS.

The Treaty of Versailles was a peace treaty which was signed in 1919 between the victorious allied powers: France, Britain, Italy and United States of America and the defeated Germany and this sought to punish Germany as being the causer for the outbreak of the First World War.

One of the major provisions of the Treaty of Versailles was Germany territorial losses. The Germans soon discovered that changes had been made on every frontier. Thus they lost Alsace- Lorraine which they had taken from France in the war of 1871. The rich Saar basin was to be administered by the League of Nations for fifteen years and a plebiscite was to decide its future while Rhineland was demilitarized and Germany was banned from keeping troops in the region. The treat also prohibited any future unity of Austria and Germany. Dazing was to be become a free city under the League of Nations while Memel, another Germany Baltic port was too given to Lithuania. Meanwhile, the coal mines were given to France. Germany lost West Prussia, Silesia and Posen to the re- established nation of Poland so that the Polish Corridor now separated East Prussia from the rest of Germany. That is to say Germans were assigned to Belgium while North Schlewig was given back to Denmark.

Germany lost all her overseas colonies and placed under the various mandates of the League of Nations and some of them were shared. For instance Britain got West Togo and joined Ghana at independence while East Togo and Germany Somaliland went to France. Germany West Africa was given to South Africa and German East Africa to Britain.

In the pacific and South East Asia, Bismarck Archipelago and New Guinea were taken by Austria. Marshall Islands were obtained by Japan while Samoa I islands went to New Zealand.

To make sure that the Germans would not go to war again, their army was reduced to 100,000 men including Officers. The Air force was banned while the Navy was severely reduced to six battle ships, six tight cruisers, twelve destroyers and twelve torpedo boats.

The Navy personnel were limited to 15,000 and submarines were out lawed. Germany was not allowed to manufacture weapons such as tanks and armoured cars.

The Germans hated the Versailles Treat because they saw it as a ‘ dik tat’ (forced on them) and the policy of determination was not applied to Germany. The Germans were forced to accept the ‘ war-guilty clause’ making Germany responsible of having started the war.

But this was not all. She was also forced to pay enormous reparation for damages caused by the war. The actual amount of these reparations was never fixed although something in excess of six billion pounds was envisaged. What the Germans resented most was the loss of many German speaking nationals, valuable resources, industries and loss of territories especially to the Prussians whom they looked down upon as dung people.

Considering the tremendous losses suffered by the allies during the war and the emotional propaganda directed against the Germans by allied newspapers and politicians, it is not surprising that the demands of the victorious nations were harsh and it was this harsh treaty imposed on Germany that led to

rise of Adolph Hitler in power in 1933 and contributed to the outbreak of the second world war. By 1935 the Germans had not only denounced it, but had also done away with it completely and there was little the allies could do except sit and watch helplessly for they too realized their mistakes.

W.WILSON: The US president was arguing contrary to his two friends. He wanted reconciliation as he realized that revenge would lead to another war in future. He came up with fourteen (14) points which he hoped would be the basis for the peace settlement.

WILSON' S FOURTEEN (14) POINTS

1. A renunciation of all secret diplomacy
2. A balanced freedom of navigation on the sea both in peace and war zone except in territorial waters.
3. Removal as far as possible of economic barriers
4. Reduction of armaments (disarmament) to the lowest level
5. Impartial adjustment of colonial claims
6. Evacuation of Russian territories
7. Restoration of Belgium
8. Liberation of France and return of Alsace and Lorraine
9. Re – adjustment of Italian frontiers along recognizable line of nationality.
10. Autonomous development for the people of Austria- Hungary
11. Evacuation of Romania, Serbia and Montenegro with Serbia recovering access to the sea.
12. Self – development for the non- Turkish people of the Ottoman Empire and free passage of the Dardanelles.
13. Creation of independent Poland with free and secure access to the sea.
14. Formation of an international organisation to look into issues of peace and security.

LLOYD GEORGE: He was a British representative at the peace settlement and was in favour of a less severe settlement to enable Germany to recover quickly so that she could her role as a major customer for British goods. However Lloyd George had just won a election with slogans such as ‘ Hang the Kaiser’ and talk of getting from Germany ‘ everything that you can squeeze out of a lemon and a bit more’ . The British public therefore expected a harsh peace settlement but he settled for a compromise position between Clemenceau ‘ Tiger’ and the idealist Woodrow Wilson of USA.

CLEMENCEAU: He was a French representative who wanted harsh peace to punish and ruin Germany economically and military so that she could never again threaten French frontiers. He wanted to make Germany pay and also win permanent security against German aggression. He was nicknamed ‘ the Tiger’ .

ORLANDO: He was an Italian representative who wanted Italy to be rewarded territories in accordance with the London Treaty of 1915. Orlando wanted the ‘ terre irridente’ or unredeemed lands but was disappointed because views/conditions at London treaty differed from those of the Versailles treaty and he almost came out of the peace conference empty handed. Orlando claimed that Italians had won the war but lost the peace.

TERMS / PROVISIONS OF THE VERSILES TREATY.

TERRITORIAL LOSSES: Germany was to lose territories in Europe and outside Europe, for instance Alsace and Lorraine were given back to France, Eupen, Mamedy went to Denmark, West Prussia and Porsen went to Poland. Dazing main port of West Prussia was to be free city under the League of nations.

The Port of Mamel went to Lithuania, the Saar an important coal field was to be administered by the League of nations for fifteen years when a plebiscite would decide whether it would belong to Germany or France. Meanwhile France was to use its Coal.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania handed to Germany at Brest-Litovsk were taken away from Germany and given to Poland.

Germany armament were strictly limited to a maximum of 100,000 soldiers, no conscription, compulsory military service, no tankers, no armoured cars, no military air craft service, no submarines only light battle ships. Rhineland was permanently demilitarized (Germany troops were not allowed in the area.

ANSCHLUSS that is the Union of Germany and Austria – Hungary was forbidden because of the fear of what would be their strength.

The war guilty clause fixed the blame for out break of the First world War solely on Germany and her allies (central powers).

Germany was to pay reparations for war damages. Actual amount was not fixed at Versailles but was announced later in 1921 passed at £ 6,600 million.

Frozed amounts of coal were to be handed to France as fixed number of cattle was to be handed over to Belgium.

An international organisation for preservation of peace and security was to be set up. This came up as in the name of the League of Nations.

Germany was de-linked from international trade hence she was not allowed to trade internationally.

Germany was subjected to a democratic system of government with the establishment of the Weimer republic.

The Germany had very little choices but to sign the treaty though they strongly objected and signing took place in the hall of mirrors in the same place where the unification of Germany had taken place earlier.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The League of Nations formally came into existence in January 1920 with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. It was brainchild of the then USA President, Woodrow Wilson. The League' s principle aim was to preserve international peace and security.

AIMS of the LEAGUE of NATIONS

1. To achieve peace through collective security i.e. acting together against an aggressor.
2. To take care of mandated territories.
3. To register and supervise International Agreements.

4. To encourage disarmament.
5. To promote International co-operation in economic and social development.
6. To fight against hunger, poverty, diseases, human and drug trafficking, child labour, slavery and ignorance.

ORGANISATION/STRUCTURE of the LEAGUE.

1. **THE ASSEMBLY:** It was the Parliament of the League. It comprised representative of all member states. Each country was represented by a delegation of three but had only one vote. The Assembly met once a year and in times of emergency. Decisions made by the Assembly had to be unanimous i.e. had to be agreed by all members. Its functions were: To admit new members; To elect non-permanent members of the League' s Council; To propose a revision of new treaties; To approve the League' s budget.
2. **THE COUNCIL:** The Council was the police force organ of the League. It comprised four permanent members namely Britain, France, Italy and Japan, and four non-permanent in 1920. The number of non-permanent members increased to nine by 1926. The non-permanent served for three years on rotational basis. The Permanent members had powers to veto decisions i.e. one permanent member could stop the Council acting even if all other members agreed. It meet three times a year – September, January and May. It could also call for an emergency meeting when need arose. Any decision taken had to be unanimous. Its functions were: to deal with specific political disputes as they arose and recommend to the assembly on specific action to be taken against aggressor nations; To encourage disarmament; To advise on protection of member states; To mediate in international disputes;
3. **THE SECRETARIAT:** It was the Civil Service organ of the League. It was based in Geneva, Switzerland and was headed by a Secretary General who served on five-year periods. The functions of the Secretariat were: To carryout day-to-day administration of the League; To prepare the budget for the League; To send notices and prepare Agendas for meetings; To provide interpreters, secretaries and other personnel; To keep records of the League; To fact-find, collect and record information on health and social problems, disarmament etc.
4. **PERMANENT COURT OF JUSTICE:** This was established in 1922 at Hague in Holland and was an International court of appeal. It was also known as the World Court or Judiciary. It was made up of 15 judges drawn from different member states. Its functions were: To deal with legal disputes referred to it by member states; To give legal advice on international disputes. However, the court lacked authority to enforce its decisions.
5. **COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES:** To deal with other major and specific problems, the League had the following Commissions and Committees:
 - a. **Disarmament Commission-** Its aim was to encourage disarmament and reduction of armed forces. To try to achieve this, it organised a number of disarmament conferences e.g. the 1933 Disarmament Conference in Paris, France.

- b. Mandates Commission- Its task was to look after the former colonies of defeated power like Germany and Turkey. The colonies were shared among the Allies under the supervision of the League of Nations as Mandated Territories. Each Mandate Power was to administer its mandate territories as a trustee for the benefit of the colonized peoples and prepare them for independence.
- c. Slavery Commission- This worked to abolish slavery around the World.
- d. Minorities Commission- This worked to safeguard the interests and rights of the minority groups.
- e. The International Labour Organisation- It was set up to secure international agreements on wages and conditions of labour i.e. it acted as a watchdog over conditions of service and salaries for workers in the League' s member states. It brought together Employers, Governments and Workers' representatives once in a year. ILO collected statistics and information about working conditions and it tried to persuade member countries to adopt its suggestions.
- f. Refugees Committee- This helped to return or resettle refugees to their original homes after the end of the First World War. Much of this committee' s work was done by Fridtjof Nansen, a Norwegian explorer.
- g. Health Committee- This attempted to deal with the problem of dangerous diseases and to educate people about health and sanitation.

SUCSESSES of the LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

- a. It secured loans for Austria and Hungary to rebuild their economies after the First World War.
- b. It settled border and territorial disputes, e.g.-
 - A quarrel between Finland and Sweden over Aaland Islands. The League ruled in favour of Finland in 1920.
 - The League decided that Upper Silesia should be partitioned/divided in 1921 between Germany and Poland, who had both claimed its ownership.
 - The League decided that the province of Mosul claimed by Turkey and Iraq goes to Iraq.
- c. It settled a war between Greece and Bulgaria after Greece invaded Bulgaria because of the shooting incidents on border. The League swiftly intervened by ordering Greece to withdraw its troops from border and pay compensation to Bulgaria.
- d. It settled squabbles between Colombia and Peru, and between Bolivia and Paraguay.
- e. It carried out relief work in various countries to help refugees and other affected peoples. For instance, it solved the problem of former prisoners of war marooned in Russia at the end of the

war. After 1933, valuable help was given to thousands of people running away from Nazi persecution in Germany.

- f. It worked hard to reduce the outbreak of serious epidemics in the post war period .e.g. the Health Organisation did good work in investigating the causes of epidemics and it was especially successful in combating the Typhus epidemic in Russia which at once seemed likely to spread across Europe.
- g. It helped in reducing drug trafficking in member countries.
- h. It supervised the government of mandates territories through its Mandates Commission. The commission responsible the administering the Saar coal fields was successful in organizing the 1935 plebiscite in which the majority voted for the return of the Saar to Germany.
- i. It handed over the port of Memel to Lithuania. This ended the disputes between Lithuania and Germany over who should own Memel.
- j. The International labour organisation under its French socialist Director Albert Thomas managed to collect and publish huge amount of information and approached many governments to take action for the improvement of conditions of service i.e. fixed maximum fort eight hour week and an forty eight hour day; specified minimum wages and introduced sickness and unemployment benefits and as well as old age pensions.

FAILURES / WEAKNESSES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

1. The absence of the United States of America (USA) made the League of Nations weak in the sense that it deprived the organisation of the much needed financial support from her.
2. The League of Nations had no army of its own hence it depended on collective security for maintenance of peace. Therefore, it was difficult to enforce law and order.
3. The Conference of Ambassadors in Paris was an embarrassment. The conference was established to operate temporarily until the machinery of the League became operational. Unfortunately it continued to operate even after the League of Nations had become operational. It brought confusion and undermined the authority and effectiveness of the League of Nations.
4. The League was too closely linked to the Versailles treaty and this made it unpopular and appears to be an organisation formed to perpetuity the suffering of defeated nations. It was considered as a club of victorious powers.
5. The League had serious constitutional defects which made it difficult to take swift and decisive actions for instance, it was difficult to achieve unanimous decision; the International court of Justices could only handle disputes brought to it by disputing nations.
6. The League of Nations was Eurocentric in nature and was consequently not supported by the non European countries.

7. The World Economic crisis of 1929 and the rise of dictators led to the decline of the League of Nations. The 1929 economic depression brought unemployment and falling living standards to most countries and caused extreme right wing governments to come to power in Japan, Italy and Germany. These dictators refused to keep to the rules and took a series of actions which exposed the League's weaknesses.
8. Other important powers were not involved: Germany was not allowed to join until 1926 but finally withdrew from the League in 1933. USSR only became a member in 1934. Italy left the League in 1936 after the invasion of Abyssinia (Ethiopia), and Japan also left in 1933 after the invasion of Manchuria.
9. Failure of the 1932-33 World Disarmament Conference made Hitler withdraw Germany from the League of Nations.
10. Lack of commitment by Britain and France to the cause of the League. The policy of appeasement towards Germany weakened the effectiveness of the League and gave Hitler chance to commit acts of aggression.
11. The League was financially weak therefore it depended on contributions from member countries which were not forthcoming.
12. The big powers never respected the League. They resolved their differences outside the League.
13. International interest was subordinate to National interest as a result League was rendered toothless.

BENITO MUSSOLINI IN ITALY

Mussolini was born at Dovia in 1883. His father was a blacksmith. Mussolini was an average student but managed to complete his education. He trained as a teacher, but only taught for a short time and resigned. He chanced a job as the editor of a socialist paper called Avanti. He used his position to criticize the monarchy, the church, Italian nationalism and imperialism. He lost his job as journalist when he joined the army and fought in the First World War. He fought bravely and rose to the rank of corporal.

After the First World War, Mussolini was one of the ex-servicemen who were unhappy with the situation in Italy as he was unemployed. Benito Mussolini was the founder of the National Fascist Party formed in March 1919 and ruled Italy from 1924 to 1943.

The Fascist Party was made up of ex-soldiers, industrialists; unemployed youths and some church members who feared Communist takeover. Italy's post war economic and social problems frustrated most Italian and forced them to support extremist parties like the Fascist.

FACTORS THAT FAVOURED MUSSOLINI TO RISE TO POWER

After the First World War, Italy was in disorder and faced many problems. Italians were not happy because post-war payments to Italy during the peace Treaty of Paris were not satisfactory according to the London Treaty of 1915 concluded Between Italy and the western allies.

Italy had hoped to gain Dalmatia, Albania and some other colonies of Germany and Turkey but she only gained Tyrol, Istria and Trentino. Mussolini's propaganda promise to gain colonies for Italy by force became popular.

Land shortage, rapid population growth and the restriction on emigration to the USA worsened the problem of land shortage.

Numerous political parties; the multi-party system and lack of experience in democracy led to the rise of numerous political parties.

Coalition governments which ruled Italy after the First World War lasted for short period. Mussolini was seen as a strongman who could bring about political stability.

Mussolini promised to give back the church property from government seized in 1070. This made him win the support of the Roman Catholic Church. He also won support of the business community and King Emmanuel II who feared a communist revolution in Italy.

Disparity in economic development between the industrial north and the agricultural south produced political disunity.

Inflation and prices rose by 500 percent from 1915 to 1919, unemployment was worsened by demobilization of the army and the return of ex-soldiers after the war.

There was also reduction in the production of goods. The unemployment crowded the cities and there was widespread violence, riots, strikes and demonstrations which led to the total breakdown of law and order.

The Fascist Party employed the Black Shirts which was the military wing of the party to carry out terrorist acts against their opponents and soon people began to support the black Shirts as they appeared more organized and stronger than the police.

Mussolini demanded cabinet posts in 1921 when twenty-two fascists were elected to parliament. His demand was however rejected,

The 1922 general strike led by the socialist party, presented Mussolini with an opportunity to seize power. The Fascist Black shirt went on a march to Rome to suppress the general strike. Fearing a possible Civil war Between the Communists and the fascist, king Victor Emmanuel III appointed Mussolini as Prime Minister October, 1922.

In 1923, Mussolini organized general elections because he wanted to gain majority seats in parliament due to rigging of votes and intimidation and cheating by party militants the Fascist party won

elections amid criticism from the Socialist Party led by Giacomo Mattioli. Mattioli was murdered at Mussolini's orders.

When the socialist members of parliament marched out of parliament in protest. Mussolini expelled them from the house permanently.

MUSSOLINI' S DOMESTIC POLICY

AIM

The aim of Mussolini in his home/ domestic policy was to strengthen Italy through the method of dictatorship and totalitarianism.

HOW HE DID THIS

To strengthen his political power, Mussolini formed a coalition government with the Liberal party in 1922. he kept the important posts of Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of foreign Affairs for himself.

Mussolini introduced a new electoral law in 1923 called the Acerbo Law. Any party which got 25 percent of the votes could get two third of the parliamentary seats. He rigged the elections of 1924 and his fascist party got two third of the seats in the parliament. When socialist MPs protested he expelled them from Parliament. Mussolini's changed the constitution in 1926 and banned all political parties, except the Fascist Party.

Another election law in 1926 gave Mussolini and his Fascist Grand Council the power to nominate MPs. Elections were abolished.

In order to make Italy self-sufficient in food especially wheat, an agricultural project called the " Battle of Wheat" was introduced. Under the (Battle for land), Mountain sides were ploughed the Pontine Marshes near Rome were drained and land distributed to peasants, thus grain production increased.

The " Battle for Births" was aimed at increasing the population and raise a large army for colonial conquests.

The " Battle for the Lira" was aimed at making the lira stable during the Great depression of 1929-1933. Salaries of workers were lowered but strikes were banned.

Public works created employment. Marshes were drained, roads, railways, bridges, canals and electricity power stations were built to make transportation easy.

In the field of education, Mussolini ordered the re-writing of all text books and teaching materials to include fascist propaganda like: Mussolini is always right, Italy had won the First World War for the allies, and Italians are the master race and the strongest. The education system was expanded and high institutions of learning established to provide the necessary skilled and semi skilled manpower needed in the factories and industries. Emphasis was put on new technology through the teaching of science in schools.

The Lateran Treaty and the Concordat of 1929 ended the old dispute Between the Catholic Church and the State. The Pope recognized Mussolini' s government. In exchange the Pope was given the Vatican City. The Roman Catholic faith became a state religion and the government paid compensation to the church for the property seized by the government in 1870. Catholic priests were paid by the government.

Italy became a corporate state. Trade unions and strikes were banned. Unions were replaced by co operations consisting of fascist officials, employers and employees.

MUSSOLINI' S AIMS AND MAIN EVENTS OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY.

When he came to power as ruler of Italy in 1934, Benito Mussolini followed an aggressive and dangerous foreign policy which was mainly guided by extreme nationalism.

AIM

Mussolini had a number of foreign policy objectives which he desired to achieve for Italy: Mussolini wanted the restoration of the ancient Roman Empire and the pride of Italians. He also wanted compensation for Italy which she was denied at the Treaty of Versailles settlement. His other objectives were to set up a colonial empire for Italy in Africa and secure the security of Italy' s northern border and to control the Mediterranean Sea.

COURSE

The main events in Mussolini' s foreign policy are as follows: In 1923 an Italian General and members of the Italian commission while trying to settle a dispute on the Greek border were murdered. Mussolini accused Greece for the murder of the General and demanded compensation and an apology. Greece wanted the matter to be settled by the League of Nations but Mussolini refused the League to intervene and before any final solution could be found on the matter, Mussolini invaded and occupied the Greek port of Corfu.

Mussolini then invaded Abyssinia in 1935, after the Italians occupation of Somaliland and Eritrea as he wanted to expand into this ancient Kingdom. The Italian Air force bombarded Addis Ababa from the air and the army seized the capital and forced the leaders into exile. Mussolini declared Italian King Victor Emmanuel III as the emperor of Abyssinia. The League of Nations condemned Italy and banned shipment of arms but there was no ban on the oil, coal iron and steel and the sanctions were too late and ineffective. Mussolini angered by criticism over his action especially by Britain and France withdrew Italy from the League of Nations in protest in 1936 but Ethiopia remained under Fascist occupation until 1943.

Mussolini interfered in the Spanish civil war of 1936 to 1939, He poured troops and weapons in the Spain in support of General Franco who wanted to set up a Nazi type of dictatorship in Spain. This led to tension among European powers.

In 1937 Italy joined the anti- commintern pact between Germany and Japan which was formed in 1936 to fight against Russian international communism. The new alliance became known as the Rome-Berlin- Tokyo Axis. This was a military pact which was aimed at promoting cooperation between member states in international matters, fighting socialism and communism. The Rome- Berlin- Tokyo Axis put

Mussolini in a difficult position to resist Hitler when the Nazis seized Austria in 1938. The Germany now had a common border with Italy.

In 1939, Mussolini seized Albania in his attempt to build better relations with the Balkan States especially Albania which received much Italian aid.

Germany successes in the First World War in 1940 impressed Mussolini and in June 1940 he declared war on Britain and France. The French and the Greeks defeated Italy in 1940 and in the same year British forces drove Italian forces out of Egypt.

By 1943, Italy lost Somaliland, Eritrea and Mussolini was voted out of power by the Fascist Grand Council and was kept under house arrest. Mussolini was shot dead by the Fascists in 1945.

THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

The Weimar Republic was the name given to the maiden democratic republic born in 1919 out of war-torn Germany. After the death of Kaiser William II, socialist politicians led by Friedrich Ebert then met in a quiet rural town in Germany called Weimar on 10th November, 1918 and came up with a constitution to bring about democracy to Germany.

TERMS OF THE WEIMAR CONSTITUTION

The following were the terms of the Weimar Constitution which came into effect on 19th November, 1918.

- (i) Term of office for an elected president was fixed at seven years.
- (ii) The Chancellor and his Cabinet held real power
- (iii) The Chancellor and the Cabinet were held responsible by the Reichstag (Legislative Council).
- (iv) Germans of twenty years and above elected the Reichstag
- (v) The Chancellor was elected by popular vote
- (vi) Representation in the Reichstag was by proportional vote by all political parties whether big or small.
- (vii) Political parties to campaign in the general election were formed.
- (viii) The President could suspend the constitution and rule by decree in case of national emergency.

WEAKNESS OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC.

From the beginning the Weimar republic had numerous weaknesses and problems as follows:

Firstly the choice of the town, Weimar was a wrong one because Weimar was a rural and insignificant town, so it did not inspire most of the powerful Germany groups. It was connected with inferiority by groups such as army officers, state officials, landowners and industrialists. So the government which was formed lacked the loyalty of these powerful groups.

The new government was imposed on Germany by the victorious allied powers; it was therefore, opposed, hated and not accepted by many Germans especially the conservatives.

Hunger and unemployment brought untold misery to the Germany population. There were widespread riots, demonstration and general lawlessness incited by the Russian Communist revolutions

forcing Kaiser William II to abdicate the throne to Prince Marx who was also forced to hand over power to Ebert, leader of the German Social Democratic Party.

There was no limit to the number of political parties to be formed, so several political parties came up, of which twenty four were the popular ones.

Proportional vote representation in the Reichstag of all the political parties brought a lot of confusion. Lack of experience and respect for a democratic government caused further problems.

The government was too tolerant of groups hostile to democracy, like the Nazi Party and Communist, so these built up their own private armies. This was a recipe for chaos.

PROBLEMS OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

The disunity in the country encouraged revolts and coup attempts organized by people from both the right and left wings. In 1919 socialist leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg organized a revolt called Spartacist rising. In 1920, a right wing attempted coup was organized by Derkapp and General Von Luthwitz. Both rebellions were crushed. In 1923, Hitler organized the Beer hall Putsch which also failed and Hitler was imprisoned for nine months. The new government had now become so unpopular as it failed to maintain law and order.

In 1920, when Germany failed to raise 100 million pounds to pay reparations due to the instability of the Weimar republic, France occupied the Ruhr Industrial area in a bid to force Germany to pay promptly. The Germany workers in the Ruhr out of Germany and imposed duty on all goods leaving the Ruhr to Germany.

The results of the French occupation of the Ruhr region were disastrous. There was a decline in the production of food and inflation rose sharply in Germany while unemployment rose with dismissed workers and demobilized soldiers. Germany was declared bankrupt and the Treaty of Versailles which imposed severe penalties on Germany made her economic recovery almost impossible.

Germany workers went on strike demanding for their salaries as well as salary increase since prices had gone up due to unstable government and economic weakness of Germany at the end of the First World War.

To try and answer all these problems, the government printed a lot of money and this led the currency becoming valueless.

In 1929, the economic recovery enjoyed under Gustav Stresemann came to an end following his death and the coming of the World depression. The U.S.A government withdrew its dollar loans it gave to Germany to support Dawes' s plan which wanted to revive Germany economy. The results of the withdrawal of American loans to Germany were devastating to Germany' s economic growth.

Emergency measures were instituted and this included cuts in the public expenditure, insurance benefits, unemployment benefits, salaries for civil servants. The closure of public works and services threw six million Germans out of jobs by 1930. The resultant problems particularly unemployment led to the popularity of the Nazi Party under Adolph Hitler.

GERMANY UNDER HITLER.

BACK GROUND TO HITLER.

Hitler was born in 1889 at Braunau, Austria – Hungary, in the United Germany. Hitler joined the army and fought for his country against the Allied powers in the First World War of 1914 to 1918. Unfortunately for him his country was defeated.

STAGES AND REASONS FOR HITLER’ S RISE TO POWER IN GERMANY IN 1934.

He joined the Nazi Party in 1919. This Party was made up of disappointed people and when Hitler became the leader of the Nazi Party, he blamed the Treaty of Versailles and democracy for most of Germany’ s problems.

Beer Hall Putsch.

In 1923, Hitler attempted to seize power in a Beer Hall Putsch but his coup attempt was crushed by soldiers. Hitler was imprisoned to five years prison term but served only for nine months. During his stay in prison, he wrote a book entitled ‘ Mein Kempf’ meaning my struggle, in this book he outlined his aims in the foreign policy.

Hitler’ s personality

He came out of jail determined never to try a violent revolution again. He realized that for the Nazis to seize power in Germany, they must win the support of the majority of the Germans so that the Nazis dominate the Reichstag. Hitler was a talented orator (fluent public speaker) and brilliant organizer who devoted most of his time and energy to the organization of the Nazi Party. His attractive and effective propaganda which appealed and impressed the unemployed,

The demobilized soldiers

The demobilized soldiers and those whose wealth and hopes were lost in the post- war problems of Germany, also helped him to rise to power. In 1924, Hitler and the Nazi Party stood for elections and gained fourteen (14) seats out of 612 seats in parliament. In 1924, Hitler was not very popular as Germany economy began to show signs of some improvement following the reforms introduced by Stressman. In 1928 elections were held again and the Nazi scored even less votes – they got twelve (12) seats in the Reichstag.

The death of Stressman and Economic factors

In 1929 the death of Stresemann and the world depression led the Germans losing their sense of direction and Hitler gained popularity.

There was reduction in the production of essential goods, inflation and unemployment in the Country. Most Germans lost hope and faith in the government and were prepared to support the Nazi Party which promised to provide a strong and effective government.

Hitler impressed the millions of Germans who became jobless as a result of the world depression. Through his opposition to communism, Hitler won support of the big landowners and industrialists who

feared communist takeover. These wealthier businessmen funded his campaigns (by printing his campaign materials) and the plane they bought for him made him to be more mobile than his opponents.

As Hitler wanted the unity of all Germans, his campaigns appealed to the German spirit of nationalism- hence his support. Most Germans were militarists and thus Hitler's call for the reversal of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and promise of rebuilding German's armed forces earned him a large following.

In 1930, therefore, Hitler got 107 seats in parliament while his nearest rival, the Communist Party scored seventy seven (77) seats. In 1932, Hitler stood for presidency against Hindenburg. Hitler scored fourteen (14) million votes against Hindenburg's nineteen million votes.

In 1933, Hitler was appointed by Hindenburg as Germany chancellor and called for general elections in the same year. His aim was to secure majority seats in parliament. A day before the elections, the parliament building was burnt by Hitler's agents but the blame was put on the socialist MP who was found in the building and this bred anti-socialist feelings and brightened Hitler's political chances.

In 1934, Hindenburg died and Hitler combined the posts of presidency and Chancellery until his death in 1945 – the Weimar republic was no more.

HITLER'S HOME POLICY UP TO SEPTEMBER, 1939

When Hitler assumed power in 1934 his home policy was aimed at removing opposition to his rule and Nazi control of all aspects of the life of Germany was obtained in a variety of ways.

Hitler's main aim in his home policy was to ban all political parties other than the Nazi party. Trade Unions were abolished, their leaders arrested and executed without trial. All workers were compelled to join the German labour front which dealt with all industrial disputes and related problems. Workers wages and prices of goods were fixed by the government and strikes were outlawed. The state governments and parliaments were abolished and Germany ceased to be a federation.

The German civil service and judiciary were brought under Nazi control, so that there was no protection for anybody that the Nazis wished to terrorise. The press, radio and all forms of art and literature were subjected to a deadening censorship. Education was controlled and school textbooks were re-written to suit Nazi values.

Roehm, commander of the SA (Nazi Army) had greatly helped Hitler to get into power. When Hitler came to power, Roehm had hoped to become Defense Minister and expected Hitler to make the SA the backbone of the Germany army which could not happen. Roehm was also in favour of social reforms while Hitler wanted nationalism. Hitler began to perceive Roehm as a threat and so on 30th June 1934 Roehm and other opponents to Hitler's rule were arrested and executed all over Germany. At least 150 people lost their lives on this day which became to be known as the 'night of long knives'. Hitler replaced the SA with the SS (elite fighting Group) and the Gestapo (secret police). By July 1934, Hitler had eliminated all his opponents.

In 1936, the Nuemberg laws on race were enacted and deprived the Jews of the citizenship rights, forbade any marriage between Jews and non- Jews and nationalized Jewish property. Jews were forced to

sweep streets and wear a barge around the neck called the ‘ Star of David’ . The Jews suffered because they were accused of supporting the enemy during the World War One. Many Jews went into voluntary exile and millions were killed in gas chambers.

The great estates were sub- divided into small units and those who opposed the move were sent to concentration camps where they suffered barbaric punishments and death.

In August, 1934, Hindenburg had died and Hitler in addition to being Chancellor became both president and commander-in- chief of the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, the government embarked on public works in the form of construction of houses, roads, railways, schools hospitals, and land reclamation, conscription into the army and re- establishment of re- armament factories. This employed a growing number of people and the German economy had begun to recover.

Although Hitler’ s home policies were very radical, the German people supported his regime which had ended disorder, removed unemployment and through its foreign policy brought back national prestige.

HITLER’ S FOREIGN POLICY

When Hitler came to power 1934, he wanted to achieve so much for Germany. Some people believe that Hitler was an improviser who reacted to events, while others believe that he had a number of more of less precise objectives and had a planned time table for achieving them.

AIMS OF HITLER IN HIS FREIGN POLICY

Firstly Hitler’ s main aim was to restore Germany’ s military strength to its position before the First World War. He further wanted to regain territories lost by Germany as result of the Versailles Treaty for example Danzig and the Polish Corridor. Secondly, Hitler wanted to cancel those parts of the Treaty of Versailles he disliked.

Thirdly, he also wanted to improve on Bismarck’ s work of unification by uniting all German -speaking people under one flag and one Germany government, the Reich. Fourthly, was to undermine the League of Nations and French influence. Lastly, He aimed at purification of the German race Aryan.

In trying to achieve his aims, Hitler became aggressive and in the process he broke international laws and agreements particularly those connected to the Treaty of Versailles and League of Nations. While Britain and France wanted peace and hence following the policy of appeasement.

POLICY OF APPEASEMENT.

The policy of appeasement basically stood for avoiding war with aggressive powers by giving way to their demands. Unfortunately this policy soon turned into a negative policy especially between 1919 1939.

HOW HITLER ACHIEVED HIS AIMS.

Geneva Disarmament Conference and League of Nations

In 1934, Hitler withdrew from the Geneva Disarmament Conference and League of Nations because France rejected Germany's request to increase her armament levels. A month later, Hitler embarked on an ambitious and massive conscription and re-armament programme a move seen as a direct violation of the terms of the treaty of Versailles settlement concerning disarmament of Germany.

Occupation of Austria:

Hitler wanted Germany to unite with Austria (Anschluss) which was Germany speaking and his country of birth as he grew up in Vienna.

He encouraged the formation of the Nazi party in Austria. In 1934 Austria Nazis assassinated the Austrian Chancellor Dollfus and attempted to take over power with the help of Hitler's troops but failed. New Austrian Chancellor Schuschnigg asked for Mussolini's help.

Mussolini sent troops to Brennerpass and prevented the German occupation of Austria. However, in 1938 the Austrian Nazi leader Seys Inquart attempted to overthrow Chancellor Schuschnigg but failed.

Occupation of the Rhineland

In 1936 Hitler took advantage of the Italian invasion of Abyssinia to send troops to occupy the demilitarised Rhineland. The gamble paid off as there was little or no protest against Hitler's action.

Occupation of the Sudetenlands and Czechoslovakia

The Sudetenland was a province of Czechoslovakia which had over three million German nationals. Hitler desired to incorporate those into the German Reich. He encouraged the formation of a Nazi party in the Sudetenland. Later he claimed that the Germans in the Sudetenland had been denied the right of self determination and were persecuted by the Czechs.

The British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain held a series of meetings, one of which was the Munich Conference of September 1938 which gave the Sudetenland to Hitler. Within weeks of occupying the Sudetenland, German troops occupied half of Czechoslovakia (Bohemia and Moravia)

Occupation of Poland.

Poland was created by the Versailles Treaty. It included former German territories such as Posen, Silesia, Western Silesia and the Port of Danzig which was administered by the League of Nations.

Eastern Prussia was separated from the rest of Germany by the Polish Corridor. Hitler wanted to invade Poland and retake all the land that she had lost under the Treaty of Versailles

In 1934 Germany and Poland signed a ten year non - aggression pact. By 1939 Germany had become strong and Hitler was determined to recapture land that German had lost to Poland following the Versailles Treaty.

The invasion and occupation of Poland was preceded by the signing of the Nazi - Soviet Pact which assured Hitler of the neutrality of Russia in the event of war against Poland. Also signed the Pact of steel which assured Hitler of Italy' s support in war.

On 1st September German invasion of Poland begun and on 3rd September, Britain and France declared war on Germany and the Second World War begun.

Hitler interfered in the Spanish Civil war in 1936 to help General Franco establish a Nazi type of dictatorship in Spain. He then took Germany into alliance with Italy and Japan which became popularly known as Rome – Berlin – Tokyo Axis, arrived at helping Italy and to crush communism- a move aimed at frustrating the work of the League of Nations. Germany troops on Hitler' s orders marched in Austria in 1938 and became the real ruler of that country for the next seven years.

In 1939, Hitler annexed the whole of Czechoslovakia instead of Sudetenland, which were full of Germany population and installed a Nazi controlled government there. Britain and France took no action and war appeared eminent.

Hitler wished to get living space for the Germans by defeating the Slavs and the Poles. In August 1939 he signed the Nazi – Soviet Pact which was a non- aggressive pact in which he deceived Russians that he was for peace Hitler and Stalin agreed to share Poland. In 1939 Germany prisoners dressed in Germany Army uniforms were killed along the German – Polish border. Hitler claimed and announced that Poland attacked and killed the Germans at the border post and declared war on Poland. Britain and France wanted to protect Poland from Germany aggression and so on 3rd September, 1939 declared war on Germany- the Second World War had began.

Hitler achieved most of his unscrupulous, ruthless and aggressive foreign policy objectives but at a great cost because he took the world down with him when he plunged it into six years of the most brutal, destructive and devastating war ever fought.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Causes

The World experienced the most wide spread, horrifying and destructive war in its history, the Second World War from 1939 to 1945. There were several factors which caused the Second World War which included the following:

1. Aggression and greed of Hitler

The Aggression and greed of Hitler who wanted to rule the World. And because of distrust among the main nations especially Britain and France these could not cooperate against the dictators.

2. The rise of dictatorship

The rise of dictatorship in Europe to replace weak democratic governments after the First World War. This greatly contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War as countries like Germany and Italy under dictatorship governments carried out acts of aggression by attacking other nations which caused a lot of tension in Europe and their hostile propaganda helped their nations develop hatred for other groups of people and prepared them psychologically for war.

3. Spirit of nationalism and the theory of fatherland

Hitler in Germany encouraged the spirit of nationalism and the theory of fatherland among Germany minorities in the neighbouring countries. This led to violent campaign by Germans in Austria and Sudetenland for a union with Germany. For example Italy invaded the Greeks port of Corfu in 1923 and Ethiopia in 1936. Japan invaded the Chinese province of Manchuria in 1931. Germany occupied the demilitarised Rhineland in 1936 and seized Austria in 1938. Germany's occupation of other countries also caused tension. Japan was guilty of aggression but the League of Nations was too weak especially in dealing with aggression.

4. Failure of disarmament

The failure of disarmament also contributed to the Great War. When Hitler withdrew Germany from the Geneva Disarmament Conference in 1934, this led to failure of disarmament. Germany later embarked on an ambitious and massive rearmament programme in the same year. Germany's rearmament led to the armament race which contributed to so much tension and threat to peace in Europe. The world was already in a state of readiness for war as a result of the arms race. Meanwhile, France which declined in its military power failed to provide an effective check or keep the balance of power in Europe.

5. The Two rival and hostile camps

By 1939 Europe was clearly divided into two rival and hostile camps as a result of military pacts and alliances prior to the war such as the Rome- Berlin- Tokyo Axis, Locarno Pact and Nazi Soviet Pact. While a dispute between two defensive camps could not have caused war, their ambitions and attitudes made war more likely.

6. Policy of appeasement

In addition, the Anglo- French policy of appeasement after the First World war contributed to the war.

7. Peace treaty of Paris of 1919

Another cause was the Peace treaty of Paris of 1919 which was unsatisfactory to many nations such as Italy, Austria- Hungary, Turkey Germany and Russia. This also brought about unbalanced military power among nations.

8. Conquest for living space

Further more, Hitler's desire to achieve *the* conquest for living space in the east led to the Second World War. Hitler demanded the surrender of the Czechoslovakian province of Sudetenland accusing Czechoslovakia of ill- treatment of millions of Germans in the region. When his demand was rejected Hitler

sent an ultimatum to Czechoslovakia giving 1st October 1938 as deadline for the surrender of the territory. By the Munich Pact of September 1938, an agreement was reached by Chamberlain, Hitler, Mussolini and Daladier who were in attendance to grant Hitler Sudetenland despite protection from Czechoslovakia as a peaceful settlement to the problem instead of confrontation over Hitler's demands. In October, 1938 the Germany troops marched into Sudetenland and Hitler deceived Chamberlain that he had no more territorial claims in Europe. But by 1939, Germany troops invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia. This aroused so much tension- the appeasement policy was a complete failure and war was eminent.

Reinforced with the knowledge that he was no longer faced with the prospect of two front wars after the Nazi – Soviet Pact of August 1939, Hitler invaded Poland on 1st September 1939. Britain and France in support of Poland declared war on Germany on 3rd September, 1939- the world was at war again.

THE COURSE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

1. Germany invades Poland.

It all started when Germany invaded Poland on 1st September 1939. Britain and France in support of Poland declared war on Germany on 3rd September, 1939. Russia joined in that attack of Poland by capturing small parts of Finland. This was in accordance with the Soviet – German pact of 1939.

2. Norway attacked

April 1940, Norway was attacked and defeated by Germany. The reason for attack was the greed of Hitler and his love for power. Hitler won the war because of using superior weapons and enjoying the support of countries already under Germany control, but more especially because of the help received from the Norwegian Nazi leader called Major Quising. On 10th May 1940, Belgium, Holland, the Balkans, Luxembourg and Switzerland were all attacked by Hitler. The reason for this was that Hitler wanted to use them as neutrals, which showed, his greed and love for world power. They all surrendered one by one. This was because they were taken by surprise as thought they were neutrals.

3. Germany declares war on France

On 10th May, France was attacked by Germany with the help of the neutrals and defeated nations. She surrendered on 22nd June 1940, and two – thirds of France was occupied by Germany, leaving one – third under the control of General Petain who was a puppet of Hitler at Vichy, his capital. France was defeated because of lack of mechanisation in her army, the Maginot mentality, superior weapons used by Germany and the support Hitler got from the conquered nations under his control. Britain tried to help out France but came in late, so she only gave limited aid. British soldiers who were sent to help out France were caught and were stranded at Dunkirk beaches until they were evacuated to Britain by British planes and ships.

4. Italy joins the Second World War

On 10th June 1940, Italy joined the Second World War on the side of Hitler. She declared war on Britain and France but physically attacked Greece and Yugoslavia. However, Italy was very weak and was about to be defeated when Germany came to her aid and conquered both countries by April 1941

5. War on the sea.

The Atlantic Ocean was attacked in 1940 by Germany through sinking United States and British cargo and warships. The reason was that these ships were carrying support to the enemy nations against Germany.

6. War in the North and Far East

North Africa and Middle East were all attacked by Italy in 1940 on behalf of Germany. The main aim here was to capture the Suez Canal, to be used as a strategic port and the Middle East oil fields to be used in the war. However, Italy was weak, so Germany had to send General Rommel to help her.

7. Germany declares war on Denmark

In 1941, Denmark was attacked and defeated by Germany. The cause of this attack was Hitler's greed and love for world power. Hitler won this invasion.

8. Operation Sea Lion

This is the code name for the attack of Britain by Germany from August to September 1940. Winston Churchill was the Prime minister of Britain, he took a number of measures to prepare for the Operation Sea Lion. The course of this operation was as follows; Germany sent field Marshal Goering to man the Operation Sea Lion with his Navy and Luftwaffe (air force). He started off by:

- (i) Ordering an attack on the southern coast harbours with aim of blocking the island. This move failed
- (ii) Ordering the bombing of London, the capital, for three weeks during the day. The aim here was to gain control of the air space but this move also proved a failure as the RAF managed to beat off the attacks. The use of Radar System coupled with heroism was more than a match for Goering.
- (iii) Bombing Britain as a whole to weaken the defence force at night, but it also failed due to the heroism of RAF and the Radar System.

The failure of these attacks meant Britain was not defeated by Germany, probably saving the whole world from Nazi domination as Germany was checked for the first time.

9. Operation Barbarossa (22nd June 1941)

This was the code name given to the attack of Russia by Germany. Reasons for this attack were as follows:

- (i) Hitler wanted to carve out more living space for the Germans in Russia when they would be controlling the whole world.
- (ii) Hitler regarded Russians as sub- humans only fit as slaves of the Germans.

- (iii) Germany needed the Wheatland of the Ukraine and the oil fields of the Caucasus, which were all in the hands of Russia.

During the Operation Barbarossa Britain and the USA promised support to USSR and helped through offering supplies but USSR had to depend on her own armies and arms supplies. It was a bitter war and the Soviet Union soldiers put up a great resistance helped by the severe Russian winter, for which the German soldiers were not adequately prepared. In January 1943, the German soldiers were defeated and surrendered at Stalingrad.

10. Pearl Harbour saga

The Far East, Japan was the strongest power which before the war began, had already occupied huge areas in China, Hong Kong, Indo – China and Korea. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Japan decided to join the war on the side of Germany.

On Sunday 7th December, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbour, a United States of America base in Hawaii. Many air force planes and battleships were destroyed. This action by Japan forced America to join the war on the side of the Allied Powers. Meaning the Axis powers were now facing too many powerful nations a sign of near defeat.

11. Operation Jubilee 1942

This was the name given to the first move by the allied forces to counter attack Germany. This attack was on Festung Europa, a European fortress made up of the Germany – occupied countries in the West. This was Hitler’ s idea to prevent a major allied assault on the continent, so he used forced labour gangs to build the west wall.

The allies wanted to switch off Germany quickly by destroying her where she was strongest and consequently waged a full-scale invasion of Europe and Festung Europe using several regiments such as the Royal Marine Commandos, Canadian Infantry Regiments and Royal Regiments of Canada.

The outcome was complete disaster to Allied forces as each one of these regiments was defeated by Hitler.

The lesson learnt by the Allied planners was not to wage a full scale invasion of Europe at a heavily defended port. They decided to attack from different directions.

12. The Defeat of Italy

By June 1944 Italy was defeated. She surrendered on 29th April 1945.the same month, the Soviet Union forces and American forces met in Berlin, Germany. On 30th April 1945, Hitler killed himself and was succeeded by Admiral Doenitz who on 7th May accepted the unconditional Germany surrender at Reims in France. This marked the end of the war in Europe.

13. Hiroshima and Nagasaki

In the Far East the Japanese were proving very strong for the American forces. However the Japanese military strength was tremendously reduced when the Americans for the first time in the world, used the nuclear bombs. One was dropped at Hiroshima on 6th August, 1945 and the other was dropped at Nagasaki on 9th August.

Their devastating effects on human life led to a quick unconditional surrender by Japan on 2nd September, 1945 marking the end of the Second World War between the Allied Powers led by France, Britain, Russia and later joined by USA and Central or axis Powers led by Germany, Italy, Japan and other countries in Eastern Europe.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

1. Loss of Life.

The Second World War led to loss of life. For example over eight million Germans died in the war, over twelve million people in the Soviet Union perished, six million Polish died and million were dead in France, Britain and the United States as a direct or indirect result of the war.

2. Loss of Property

The U.S.S.R had the worst property damage as a result of the war. Her total damage was estimated at over Thirty million British Pounds Sterling. European cities, especially in continental Europe, were left in ruins. In all, Europe was completely devastated by the war.

3. Formation of The United Nations Organisation (U.N.O.)

The 1941 document, called the Atlantic Charter, prepared by Roosevelt and Churchill, President of the U.S.A and Prime Minister of Britain respectively, became the basis on which United Nations Organization was formed. This new peace organization promised to keep peace, encourage co-operation between nations and defend human rights. It also promised to attack problems of mankind such as ignorance, disease, hunger and poverty.

4. Breaking down of War Time Alliances

After the war, the wartime alliance between the U.S.S.R and the U.S.A broke down. It was later replaced with the cold war. There was a clear confrontation in Europe between these two Super Powers of the world. The U.S.A was trying to stop the Soviet Union intrusion into Europe. She was fighting the increasing communism that was being ‘ infiltrated’ into the democratic capitalist Europe.

5. Formation of Communist Satellite.

By the end of the war, the USSR had taken over land in excess of 300, 000 square kilometers and controlled over 22 million people in the East European countries. Her influence had extended over 500 kilometers west of her 1939 western border. Thus, the whole of Eastern Europe became a communist satellite under the USSR and the west of Europe was capitalist democratic Europe under the United States of America. This scenario was what Churchill had predicated in 1946, when he said an iron curtain had descended over Europe. He was the one who coined the term “ Iron Curtain”

6. Creation of Two Defensive Alliances.

The cold war that developed after the second European war led to the creation of two defensive alliances by the two super powers – the U.S.S.R and the U.S.A the two powers were fearing and distrusting each other after the war. One of the defensive alliances was the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation formed in 1949 and comprising the U.S.A, Britain, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Italy and Portugal. It was later joined by Greece and Turkey. The other one was the Warsaw Pact formed by the USSR and its east European communist satellites as members.

7. Dividing of Germany

One of major effects of the war was the dividing of Germany, Hitler' s land into two, one controlled by the U.S.SR soldiers and the other controlled by the U.S.A., French and British forces, the French zone and the U.S.SR zone. The British, French and American zones took the Western side of Germany while the USSR took the Eastern side of the country, which included Berlin, a Germany city which was over 200 kilometers from the Western side of country, yet the city was also divided into zones. The Western side of the city was taken by the Americans, British and French while the Eastern side of the city was in the hands of the Soviet Union.

8. Division of Europe.

Hitler' s aim was to conquer and unite Europe. He also wanted to re – establish the pre- Versailles treaty German Empire. Unfortunately the war he started divided Europe into two zones, the East and the West the Eastern part was under the communist he hated most. Worse still, his own country was divided into two, East and West Germany.

THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION (UNO)

STEPS LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF UNO.

The United Nations Organisation (UNO) is the successor of the League of Nations. The idea of forming UNO arose from the Roosevelt – Churchill meeting of the Atlantic Charter of 1941. The Washington D.C meeting took place in 1941 and approved the Charter as an important document upon which a future peace plan could be based.

A detailed plan was finally made in 1943 during the Moscow meeting based on the Atlantic Charter and the aims of the League of Nations. Great Britain, United States of America (USA), Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) and China were the four allied powers behind the formation of UNO. The first group of nations to sign the original Charter of the new world organisation were five, namely Britain, United States of America, France, China and USSR on 20 June 1945 at San Francisco in America.

The following conferences were held before signing the charter:

- (i) In 1943, the big four met in Moscow to set up the UNO Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
- (ii) In the same year, they met at Hot- Springs in Virginia to set up the Food and Agricultural Organisation (F.A.O.).
- (iii) In 1944, they met at Breton Woods, USA to set up the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- (iv) In 1944, they met at Dumbarton Oaks where broad outlines of the Charter were finally agreed upon.
- (v) In 1944 they met at Chicago to set up the International Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
- (vi) In 1945, they met at Yalta in Crimea, USSR to discuss voting arrangements; share Germany and Berlin into four parts; join UNO which would aim at keeping peace after the war; liberated countries from German rule to hold elections to choose their government; hunt down and punish war criminals responsible for genocide, and eastern Europe to be seen as a Soviet sphere of influence.
- (vii) In 1945, the San Francisco meeting where the drafting of the UNO Charter was done. After all these preparatory meetings the charter was signed on 26th June, 1945, and the UNO came into effect on 24th October, 1945 with its new headquarters in New York, USA.

THE AIMS OF THE U.N.O

The main aims were to: maintain international peace and security, promote disarmament, promote Economic and Social development through international co-operation in order to eradicate ignorance, poverty, hunger and disease, to develop friendly relations among nations and promote respect for fundamental human rights.

ORGANS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS:

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

An organ of the United Nations in which all members are represented. It meets once a year in New York except in case of emergency meetings. It acts as a World Parliament which debates international issues and makes recommendations and each member state has only one vote. It acts as a world diplomatic centre. It elects temporary members of the Security Council. It considers applications of new United Nations members.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

This is the main peace keeping organ of the United Nations. It is composed of 15 members. The five big powers (United States America, Russia, Britain, France and China) are permanent members with powers to veto decisions. The other ten are temporary members elected for a two – year term by the General Assembly. It meets frequently as need arises. It has powers to dispatch United Nations peace – keeping forces to areas of conflict. It imposes Economic Sanctions on offending states. It makes recommendations on how disputes should be settled.

THE SECRETARIAT

This is the Civil Service of the United Nations composed of International workers. It is headed by the Secretary General based at United Nation Headquarters in New York. It is responsible for the routine administrative work of the United Nations. It keeps the United Nations records and prepares U.N reports. Keeps United Nations Financial Accounts. Provides personnel to translate the six official languages of the U.N namely English French, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and Arabic). Prepares the Agenda for the meetings of the organs, the Commissions and agencies of the United Nations.

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Is the Judicial Organ of the United Nations consisting of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and approved by the Security Council for a term of one year. Founded as part of the League of Nations in 1920 and it was called the Permanent Court of International Justice. It advises the United Nations on matters of International Justices. It advises the United Nations on matters of International Law. It interprets international Treaties and Agreements when required to do so. It deals with cases referred to it by United Nations member states. Its Headquarters are at the Hague in the Netherlands.

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

United Nation organ concerned with Human Rights and Social-Economic development

It consists of 54 members elected by the General Assembly to serve a three year term. It meets twice each year. It coordinates and supervises the work of the specialized agencies and commissions of the United Nations. It prepares draft conventions. It promotes Human Rights and Socio-Economic development.

SUCSESSESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION.

Mainly in the fields of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Secretariat and Trusteeship Council and to a lesser extent, in the field of General Assembly and Security Council.

With the Security Council, the limited success is mainly due to circumstances beyond its control but it tries its best. For example:

- (i) In 1946, it helped in the gaining of independence for Indonesia.
- (ii) Throughout the period it supervised various truces and it acted as a buffer.
- (iii) In January 1949, it failed to enforce a plebiscite which resulted in the Indo- Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971, after succeeding in maintaining peace for some year.
- (iv) In 1956, it maintained peace between Israel and Egypt up to 1967 when Nasser asked for its withdrawal so that he attacks Israel. It quickly withdrew and war broke out the same year.
- (v) In 1964, it maintained order between the Greeks and Turks in Cyprus as well as managing to calm the situation down. Bishop Makarios was restored to power
- (vi) Monitoring peace together with the organisation of African Unity (OAU) forces during the independence of Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe and in 1989, Namibia.

FAILURES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION.

In 1948, it failed to either unite or divide Palestine which was handed over to the UNO in 1948 by Britain. Palestine was divided between the Arabs and the Jews. The UNO envoy, Count Bernadotte, was assassinated by a Jewish terrorist and the Jews set up the independent state of Israel by forces in 1948.

Between 1950 1953, it failed to unite Korea which in 1989, was still divided between USA, South Korea and USSR, North Korea. In 1950, war broke out in Korea with an attempt to unite it under democracy but USSR, fought hard to try and win it over to communism. The result was that South Korea was in 1989 still under USA and North Korea under USSR.

In 1960, Moise Tshombe was controlling Katanga Province of Zaire under Patrice Lumumba. War broke out in which Lumumba was murdered. Tshombe was exiled, UNO Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld was killed while on a peace mission to strife, torn Katanga in a plane crash in Ndola, Zambia.

Restoration of failed and by 1964 the peace keeping force ran out of money and was withdrawn. Civil war continued with both sides heavily aided by big powers until in 1965 when Mobutu Sese Seko took over power. By 1989, Mobutu was still in power in Zaire.

A number of invasions took place, but the UNO Security Council failed to take action due to lack of money, for example,

In 1950 China seized Tibet and invaded north – East India in 1962.

In 1956 USSR invaded Hungary and turned it into a communist state.

In 1968 USSR invaded Czechoslovakia to re-affirm it as a communist state.

The UNO did nothing when stronger nations were flouting specific resolutions such

- (i) India avoided a plebiscite in Kashmir
- (ii) Egypt refused Israel ships to use the Suez Canal
- (iii) South Africa rejected UN authority in Namibia, until in 1988 when it agreed to UNO supervised elections.

In all these events, the UNO did nothing due to lack of money to raise an army as it received its finances from subscriptions from its members. Those who defaulted could not be forced to pay and many members were in arrears.

HOW STALIN ESTABLISHED AND CONSOLIDATED HIS POWER AS LEADER OF THE SOVIET UNION. HIS POLICIES IN INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

Joseph Stalin was a Russian dictator who ruled from 1927 to his death in 1953. Due to the role he played in the communist revolution, Lenin appointed Stalin as member of the communist party's supreme policy making body, the Politburo and promoted him to the post of Secretary General of the Party.

During his life time, Lenin feared that there would be a struggle for leadership after his death. In his letter to the Communist Party Congress, Lenin preferred Trotsky to Stalin and even recommended Stalin's removal from the post of Secretary General of the Party. Lenin however did not name his successor so when he died in 1924 he left a power vacuum in Russia. During the next three years there was a struggle for power between two most powerful men in Russia, Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky. The two men had different policies in their approach to the spread of Communism. Stalin wanted a policy of permanent communist revolution within Russia only, while Trotsky favoured a policy of a Communist revolution world wide under Russia patronage.

The outcome of the power struggle was that the communist congress preferred the policy of the dull band incapable but dangerous Stalin to the policy of the brilliant and capable Trotsky and made him a potential replacement to Lenin. Using the support of his friends in the Politburo and his position as Secretary General of the Party, Stalin did not only expel Trotsky and his followers from the Politburo but also expelled them from the Communist Party. Trotsky was finally assassinated in 1941 by Stalin's agent, in Mexico where he lived in exile.

By 1927 Stalin had strengthened his position as the most powerful man in Soviet Russia and had taken over as Lenin's successor. He was able to rid the party of his opponents because the party congress and the Politburo were dominated by his supporters.

Stalin's policy of further strengthening his positions by assuring himself of complete power reached its peak with the purges. This was Stalin's ruthless and brutal policies which came about in 1938 through which he eliminated thousands of untrustworthy men and removed the influential Bolsheviks and replacing them with his own trusted followers in the Politburo. The victims of purges were accused of disloyalty, plotting to murder Stalin, wrecking Russia's military and economic power. Through the purges Stalin was able to consolidate his position as the dictator of Russia by eliminating his potential rivals and he remained supreme.

Stalin, once in power embarked on one of the most ambitious development programme in history- the industrialization and collectivization of Russia. Stalin realized that to make socialism succeed, it was necessary to make Russia a power industrialized country. His aims were to transform his backward country into an industrialized country. His aims were to transform his backward country into an industrialised country within ten years. He stated a series of five years development plans to modernize his vast country.

Since agriculture was the backbone of the Russian economy. Stalin decided to revolutionise the sector. He set up huge farms called collective farms where a number of families worked on these farms collectively under the supervision and control of the Communist party. Russian farmland was nationalized and peasant farmers were forced to give up their farms and livestock to the collective farms. The produce from the farms were sold to the state while trading in food stuff by individuals was banned. By 1937 the collectivization policy had succeeded and worked with reasonable efficiency especially with the use of machinery.

17. THE CAUSES OF THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)'S DEPRESSION OF 1929. MEASURES TAKEN BY PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS BROUGHT BY THE DEPRESSION? WHY THE MEASURES WERE OPPOSED BY THE SUPREME COURT.

The Depression was an economic slump or crisis which started in the U.S.A and later spread to the rest of the World.

The Great economic depression had both remote and immediate causes: one of the remote causes was over production of goods. The use of improved methods of production, use of labour saving machinery and wide spread use of electricity led to over production of goods. This was more prevalent in the Agricultural Sector. This led to a decline in prices. Consequently farmer's income was reduced.

In addition, changes in the eating habit and life style also contributed to the depression. To some extent, the common man in the U.S.A was responsible. In the 1920's people's life style changed in such a way as to reduce the farmers' income drastically for example, people preferred artificial fabric cloth to cotton cloth and ate fruits, vegetables and drunk milk instead of eating meat and bread, because of this wheat local market dwindled and the problem was further worsened by a decline in international trade. Many farmers were compelled to abandon their farms as some fell behind with their mortgage loans. Many farmers sought employment but unfortunately, the industrial sector was having its own problems and farmers could not find employment.

The industrial sector also experienced reproduction of goods but wealth was concentrated in only a few hands. In relation to prices of goods wages remained stagnant while prices kept on rising; consequently the workers purchasing powers weakened and most of the workers resorted to hire purchase but could not pay in time. This meant that businessmen could not make enough profit and little capital to expand their firms.

Another contributing factor to the causes of the depression was trade restriction. As result of over production of industrial goods in the late 1920s many European countries introduced high tariff on the imported goods. To some extent, it was in response to American's trade restrictions of European produced goods. American imposed tariffs on these goods.

This introduction of high tariffs severely affected American business as this contributed to the decline of U.S.A. international trade. During the First World War, the U.S.A enjoyed a favourable balance of trade. The European powers that were at war (1914 - 1918) brought American goods within a few years. After the war these nations became trade rivals rather than customers. Argentina and Canada began competing with the U.S.A in the production of meat and wheat respectively. America's loss of foreign trade as a result of rivals and trade restrictions was such that by 1928, she experienced an unfavourable balance of trade. This development contributed greatly to the depression.

The other contributing factor was the failure by Britain and France to pay back American loans, the U.S.A had given out loans to Britain and France to help them in their war efforts. These countries accumulated such heavy debts that they failed to pay back in time. Worse still, between 1924 and 1929 under Dawes plan, America gave out large sums of money to Germany. A lot of money was leaving the country and little was coming into the U.S.A reserve Bank. This had an adverse effect on the economy. Many banks ran out of the money and while long queues of people trying to withdraw their money became common.

The immediate cause of the depression was the collapse of the Wall Street Stock market in 1929. By October, 1929 share prices had fallen so low that many people chose to sell their shares. The Reserve bank had encouraged a policy of easy money and also encouraged credit inflation.

President Roosevelt (1932-45) came to power at the height of the Great Depression of 1929-1933. He introduced the New Deal as a solution to the American people. Upon resuming the economic restoration programme he came up with Hundred Days plan (4 March - 16 June 1933) Here radio chats to restore morale of the people and win their confidence were put in place. A list of proposal for new laws were drafted and presented to the Congress. These new laws passed by Congress set up new schemes for tackling the social and economic crisis.

One of the New Deal Laws and Schemes was the Emergency Banking Act. Through this act banks on the verge of collapse were provided with Federal Government funds to keep them in business. This created confidence in the Banking Industry.

Secondly was the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA). It aimed at reducing output but modernize methods; to avoid overproduction. Farmers who cut production were given a subsidy.

Thirdly, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) was set up to give cash relief to the poor and to help Local Authorities with their poor relief schemes.

Fourthly the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC): was set up to provide work for the unemployed. By 1940 two million people aged 18 - 25 years were employed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. They planted trees and cleared swamps.

Further more, The Civil Works Administration (CWA): was set up to provide work on public works. In 1935 it was replaced by Works Progress Administration (W.P.A). It built schools, roads and hospitals.

A National Recovery Administration Act (NIRA) was set up by the NIRA It abolished child labour, shortened the working week and fixed minimum wages. It also allowed workers to form Trade Unions.

The Wagner Act forced employers to recognize Trade Unions. It set up the National Labour Relations Board to handle Labour disputes.

The Social Security Act introduced old age pensions and insurance against unemployment. Relief for the poor, the handicapped and dependent children

Through National Housing Act government provided money for building more houses at low rents affordable to the poorest families. As if this was not enough a Home Owners' Loan Corporation (H.O.L.P) was set up to help house owners to pay back mortgages (house loans). Through this loans for paying mortgages at low rates of interest were given.

Lastly, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was set up to build dams to control floods; to generate electricity; to provide water for irrigation and to create employment opportunities in the Tennessee River Basins. The scheme served seven American States

The Supreme Court is the guardian and defender of the Constitution of the USA. It hears cases brought before it by people who believe that an act passed by Congress is a violation of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court declared several measures introduced by Roosevelt as interference in individual freedoms of the employers and their business firms.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) and the National Recovery Administration (NIRA) were declared invalid by the Court in 1935 and 1936 respectively

Roosevelt was said to be a Marxist Revolutionary who believed in State Controlled economy by his opponents.

COLD WAR

MEANING OF THE TERM COLD WAR

The Cold War was a war of words and competition between the Western Capitalist countries led by the United States of America and the Eastern Communist countries led by the U.S.S.R. It was also known as the war of nerves and it began after the Second World War.

This war was characterized by competition to win support of neutral countries through economic and military aid, building of arms and nuclear weapons.

REASONS FOR THE COLD WAR

There were many reasons for the Cold War. One of the major reasons was suspicion of each other's military strength. Each side thought the other side was stronger than its own side militarily. This led to an arms race.

The formation of two military alliances in Europe – the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) formed in 1949 by Western allies headed by the U.S.A. and Warsaw Pact formed in 1955 by the U.S.S.R and East European Communist Countries was another reason for the increase in international tension, leading to the ‘ Cold War’ .

They also strengthened the ‘ Cold War’ especially when each side began buying more military hardware, spying on the military secrets of the other and producing propaganda by radio and newspapers on each other. Such activities led to serious international crises that could have led to a hot war. Though such crises did not end in open wars between the two power blocs they were serious enough to worry the whole world.

INCIDENCES ILLUSTRATING THE COLD WAR.

(i) **The Yalta Conference: February, 1945**

The main players at the conference were Joseph Stalin of the U.S.S.R, Franklin Delano Roosevelt of the United States of America and Winston Churchill of Britain who met to map out the details of the post war settlement.

Roosevelt played a mediatory role between Stalin and Churchill’ s plans to push western troops as far into Eastern Europe as possible. The west was not happy with the position taken by Roosevelt.

During this conference the three leaders agreed that post- war Germany was to be divided into allied zones of occupation. Germany was to also be completely disarmed while Allies were to take machinery and goods from Germany. They were to use these to repair damage done to their own countries with half to be given to USSR which had suffered most.

They also agreed that Poland would lose land in East to the USSR and gain land in the West from Germany. The USSR which was allowed to set up a communist government in Poland promised to hold free and fair elections immediately. Other liberated countries were to be assisted to set up their own democratic governments.

War criminals were to be tried and punished. It was also at the same conference where they agreed that a new international organization (UNO) was to replace the defunct League of Nations.

(ii) **The Potsdam Conference (July 1945)**

This Conference was held at Potsdam which was the old rural suburb of Berlin between 17th July and 2nd August 1945. At this time, of the war time Big Three friends, only Stalin had remained. Clement Attlee replaced Churchill as British Prime Minister while Vice president Harry Truman became USA president on the death of Roosevelt.

No agreement was reached by wartime allies beyond terms of the Yalta conference. In fact, Truman and Clement Attlee were annoyed because Russia had occupied Germany east of the Oder line and allowed the pro – communist government of Poland to run it.

Truman used the atomic bomb against Japan without informing Russia, a clear lack of trust on the part of the USA. The Potsdam conference further looked into the details concerning the treatment of Post

– Second World War Germany. Berlin was also to be split into four – power Allied Control Commissions. USSR got a part on the East of Berlin while USA, Britain and France shared the part on the Western side.

Each power was to take reparations from its own zone as it saw it fit. It was actually publicly declared that the divided Germany was to be reunited in the foreseeable future when a peace treaty would be signed but this failed to be a reality.

(iii) **The Iron Curtain.**

Allies were suspicious of Russia's behaviour in Eastern Europe. Russia set up Communist government in all the territories that she liberated from German occupation like Poland, Bulgarian, Romania and Albania.

In a speech at Fouldain in March 1945, Winston Churchill described the pro- Communist Countries that were established in Eastern Europe by Russia as an “ Iron Curtain”

Russia continued to tighten its grip on Eastern Europe. By 1947 all states in Eastern Europe had Communist governments except Yugoslavia, and Russia treated her zone of Germany as if it belonged to her.

(iv) **The Truman Doctrine**

The fear that Russia would control Greece forced Truman to persuade Congress to accept an American commitment to free Europe from aggression by armed minorities and outside forces. Congress voted 4 billion to pay for American forces in Greece and Turkey.

(v) **Marshall Plan**

In June 1947, U.S.A Secretary of State, George C Marshall announced that the USA was willing to provide Massive aid to help European recovery go on.

The idea behind the plan was to suppress Communism. To do away with poverty was seen as the means to be available to both communists and the democratic Europe.

To the contrary Soviet Russia showed hostility and prevented her satellites from gaining though most of them could have benefited dearly from such aid.

(vi) **The COMINFORM**

The Communist Information Bureau (COMINFORM) was formed in September 1945 by Stalin. Its aim was to co – ordinate the activities of the European communist Parties to be in line with policy dictated from Moscow. It was infact, the formation of the COMINFORM which led to the purge of communist Leaders.

(vii) **The Berlin Blockade (1948 – 1949)**

In 1945, Germany was divided into four parts controlled by France, Britain, USSR and USA to prevent Germany from ever rising.

Berlin, the Germany capital was in the Russian zone and was divided into four parts on Communist lines and the remaining parts on democratic lines. In 1948 France, Britain, and USA allowed free elections in their zones and changed the Germany currency which was valueless. Allowing elections was seen by Russia as a way of bringing capitalism.

In a bid to force Western Capitalist Countries out of Berlin, Russia imposed a blockade which resulted in air lifting of supplies by Western countries into West Berlin. In this blockade all roads, rails, bridges and canal links between Berlin and the boarder in the West were cut off. Electricity from the Russian Sector was cut off. The blockade lasted for ten months between 1948 and 1949.

The three Western zones (France, Britain and USA) came together to form the Federal Republic of Germany – West Germany and the other sector in the name of East Germany remained under Russia.

In 1948 France, Britain and USA did not only allow free elections in their zones but also changed the Germany currency which was valueless. In reaction to the currency issue, Russia forbade the circulation of the new currency in their zone and Berlin as a whole. The stopping of all traffic by rail and road throughout could have begun a war; instead these countries were just fighting a war of nerves.

(viii) **The Formation of NATO – 1949**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) came about due to the realization that the Brussels group: Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg who in March 1948 had signed the Treaty of Brussels aimed not only at the revived Germany but also the military presence of the Soviet Union in Europe. The Brussels pact did not have enough power to counter balance the might of the Soviet Union.

NATO was formed in March 1949 comprising members of the Brussels Pact, the USA, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Italy, Portugal as well as Turkey and Greece who joined later in 1952. It was not an arrangement to operate only in time of war but an institution with Headquarters in Paris to exist even in peace.

NATO was seen both as a vital defensive organization against Communism aggression and a successful step towards European Co-operation. It led to the development of the German armed forces since NATO marked the final recognition of West Germany sovereignty by the Western Allies.

It was at no time an equal match for the forces of Russia and her satellites. The strength of NATO actually was that it had support of the USA with her atomic weaponry.

(ix) **The WARSAW Pact 1955. Lillian**

In response to NATO, the Soviet also organized a Warsaw Pact consisting of the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Albania in 1955 though Albania left the defense System later.

The German Federal Republic (West Germany) sponsored by Britain, France and USA with a capital at Bonn took its place in NATO. At the same time, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) settled in the Warsaw Pact Organisation. Therefore, NATO and Warsaw Pact became rival organizations.

(x) **The Korean War (1950 – 1953) Steven**

After World War II Korea was divided to make South Korea and North Korea. It was one of the Cold War spotlight essentially fought by the two super powers - United States of America (U.S.A) occupying South Korea while Union Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR)-Russia occupied North Korea. The two Koreans were divided at 38th parallel (line of latitude). In June 1950 Communist North Korea invaded South Korea. The matter was taken to the United Nations Security Council.

The Security Council condemned North Korea aggression and decided to send U.N troops led by the U.S.A to defend South Korea. The U.N forces led by Mac Arthur of the U.S.A landed in Korea and pushed North Koreans back to Yalu River. Meanwhile Chinese volunteer forces joined on the side of North Korea and UN forces were pushed back to the 38th parallel.

Commander of U.N forces, General Mac Arthur, decided to drop an atomic Bomb on China, but the U.S.A government dismissed him before hand. This could have resulted into a third World War since USSR was equally an atomic power. In July 1953 peace talks at Panmunjon divided Korea along the 38th parallel. The war ended after three years, but Korea remains divided to this day.

(xi) **The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) Bernard**

This was the most critical phase of the Cold War waged between the West and the East after World War II. Cuba, which is an island off the Coast of USA under the dictatorial government of Fulgercio Batista was over thrown by Fidel Castro in 1958. Batista went into exile in the U.S.A. While there, he organized a Cuban invasion with the help of the American government and American trained Cuban exile rebels. The American president at this time was J.F. Kennedy. In April 1961 he authorized the invasion of Cuba, at the Bay of Pigs. However, the invasion was a total failure.

The American backed invasion was a warning for Castro, who asked for help from the U.S.S.R. Indeed in October 1962 American President John F. Kennedy announced that Russia had deployed Nuclear Missiles on Cuba which were capable of hitting most of the American towns.

In return the U.S.A government announced a Naval Blocked of Cuba and demanded the withdrawal of the missiles or the U.S.A would invade Cuba. At this hour a nuclear war involving the U.S.A and Russia looked likely and world peace was greatly endangered.

Finally, Russia agreed to withdraw the Nuclear Missiles and in return the U.S.A promised not to invade Cuba. This marked the end of the missile crisis. To crown it all Russia and the U.S.A decided to install a direct telephone link between Moscow and Washington known as “ The Hot Line” in order to settle future crisis quickly.

(xiii) **The Vietnam War, (1956 – 1973) Chishimba**

Vietnam was part of the French Indo-China. The other countries being Laos and Cambodia. The Vietnam War of 1956 to 1973 was one of the international crises between the two super powers since 1945 where actual clash took place indirectly between these two power blocs.

To win the cold war and the USA' s determination to suppress the spread of communism were the major causes of the Vietnam War. This was after France' s failed attempt to regain control of Vietnam between 1945 and 1954 as a pre- war colony. Even if France remained in Vietnam after 1945, her forces found the Vietnamese attacks unbearable.

In 1954, France pulled out of Vietnam for good. By this time Hanoi from the northern part of Vietnam was becoming very strong. Infact, the north was an independent region under Ho' s control. The south was under Ngo Dinh Diem. However, Ho was determined to unite the two regions and form one Vietnam.

From May to July 1954, representatives of France, The Soviet Union, Britain, The United States and Several Asian States met at a Geneva Conference. The aim of the Conference was to find ways of ending fighting in Vietnam. However, the decision of the conference was very disappointing for Ho Chi Minh. It was decided to divide Vietnam and South Vietnam was created. The 17th parallel was the boundary. It was also decided that elections for the unification of Vietnam be conducted in July 1956, two years after the French left the country. The elections were never conducted. The Vietnamese were very angry especially, Ho Chi Minh who wanted a united Vietnam. As a consequence a communist guerrilla movement called Viet Cong of North Vietnam was formed in South Vietnam to fight for a free United Vietnam. It got its support from the Soviet Union and the Chinese government.

The Guerrilla attacks were a threat to Ngo Dinh Diem' s government in South Vietnam. This forced him to request for support from the United States of America. The USA did everything possible to keep South Vietnam non – communist between 1954 and 1964. It offered money, weapons and advice to anti-communist politician Ngo Dinh Diem who was assisted to form government. North Vietnam and the Communist cause were supported by Russia and China while the United states of America spend vast sums of money and effort in supplying South Vietnam and bombing North Vietnam key points and communications links though failed to effectively deal with the tough Viet Cong. It was now a war between the Soviet Union backed North Vietnam and the American backed South Vietnam. America did not find it ease in this encounter, one American soldier who tried to measure the strength of the Viet Cong stated - ' finding an enemy Viet Cong was like trying to identify tears in a bucket of water' . Even the Second World War USA- trained generals lacked experience in this war where, by 1968, 36,000 USA soldiers were killed.

From 1968, however, Richard Nixon took office as president of the United States of America. He started to solve the Vietnam Crisis. He aimed at finding a permanent solution to the Vietnam problem. He thought of withdrawing U.S.A troops in order for South Vietnamese to take over the fighting themselves. The Local army was greatly increased while Nixon supported them with modern weapons. South Vietnam was encouraged to invade both Cambodia and Laos so as to cut off supplies to the Viet Cong.

In response, North Vietnamese also invaded Cambodia and Laos and set up Communist government s there. The Viet Cong were equally still as active as ever. At this stage, the Vietnam War became bitterly

unpopular in the U.S.A. The Congress refused to vote for the money needed in that war forcing Nixon in 1973 to pull out the U.S.A troops before victory and safety of South Vietnam was not yet assured.

In 1975 North Vietnamese armies and the Viet Cong captured Saigon and took over South Vietnam with the help of outsiders. The United States of America lost in the Vietnam War largely due to Russian Long – Range Artillery as well as North Vietnamese courage and determination.

Vietnam therefore became a single country in 1975, under a communist regime. This is evidence of the cost of suppressing communism in distant parts of the world had proved unbearable for the Americans in terms of money, man power and national unity.

Gorbachev' s Reforms and the Soviet Collapse

Brezhnev died in November 1982. Two elderly members of the Politburo, Yuri Andropov, a former head of the KGB, and Konstantin Chernenko, a crony of Brezhnev' s, filled his shoes for the next several years, before they, too, expired in office. In March 1985, upon the death of Chernenko, the Communist Party' s Central Committee elected Mikhail Gorbachev as general secretary of the party.

Gorbachev launched his program of *perestroika* (restructuring) of Soviet society and economy to enhance and modernize the system, not to bring it down. His initial approach was to tighten discipline within party ranks and in workplaces and to stage a campaign against alcohol consumption. Within a year, Gorbachev assumed more radical positions and recruited advisers who favored a far-reaching overhaul of Soviet practices and institutions.

In the economic realm, Gorbachev resurrected some pieces of Lenin' s New Economic Policy of the 1920s, authorizing the formation of cooperatives and family businesses and permitting collective farms to sell some of their produce on the market at the going price. The government also relaxed restrictions on foreign trade and investment and reduced central control over the managers of state-owned firms.

In addition to pursuing economic reforms, Gorbachev soon launched ambitious political and social reforms. The most dramatic change was adopting *glasnost* (candor or openness) about public affairs. In quick succession, the Soviet authorities released Sakharov and other dissidents from prisons and exile, relaxed censorship in the mass media, kindled debate over the sins of the Soviet past, and lifted a ban on independent associations and organizations.

Gorbachev accompanied these measures with a shift in foreign policy, pledging to curb Soviet military spending and negotiate an end to the Cold War with Western nations. His most fateful decision was the electoral reform ratified in 1988, providing for competitive, multicandidate elections for the central government and for local and republican governments.

For the first time since the early 1920s, candidates not proposed by the Communist Party were allowed to run. Gorbachev in 1989 became chairman of the Congress of People' s Deputies, an elected body that had replaced the Supreme Soviet that spring. In 1990 the congress amended the Soviet constitution to allow non-Communist political parties to organize and put candidates forward in elections.

Gorbachev' s brand of reform communism opened a floodgate of spontaneous changes in all corners of Soviet society. He was quickly upstaged by public figures who demanded an immediate embrace of

Western-style democracy and a transfer of power from the central government to the 15 constituent republics of the USSR. In 1990 newly elected republican governments passed resolutions affirming their sovereignty and rights in relation to the central government.

Nationalist sentiments also sprang up in the republic-level branches of the Communist Party. In response to the erosion of his power, Gorbachev had the Congress of People's Deputies elect him the first-ever president of the Soviet Union. Most of the republics matched this move by electing presidents of their own.

Meanwhile, Gorbachev's economic policies did not improve living conditions and in some respects made them worse. Frustration over economic shortages fed anticommunist feeling, especially in the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Gorbachev steadfastly refused to use military force to quell the discontent.

The crisis hit fever pitch when a group of hardliners from the Communist Party, the Soviet military, and the KGB attempted in August 1991 to institute a state of emergency and turn Gorbachev into a figurehead leader. However, the coup collapsed within two days, largely because of opposition by the popularly elected president of the Russian republic, Boris Yeltsin, who rallied crowds of demonstrators on the streets of Moscow. The leaders of the plot soon surrendered, but Gorbachev's authority had been irreparably damaged, and he resigned as general secretary of the Communist Party. Within days all Communist Party activity was suspended. Most of the Soviet republics hurriedly announced their independence from the Soviet Union, and the Communist Party was banned in Russia and many other republics. On December 8, 1991, the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus announced the dissolution of the USSR and its replacement by a loose-knit, voluntary alliance called the Commonwealth of Independent States. On December 25, Gorbachev resigned as president and the Soviet Union ceased to exist.

THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

THE CREATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

The Arabs had lived in Palestine for over 2000 years whilst the Jews had lived elsewhere in the World. They had always been a majority in the area. From the First World War, Britain and later on the United Nations were seen by Arabs to be more on the side of the Jews than Arabs. Immigration of Jews into Palestine meant that they would actually constitute a majority of the population. The creation of Israel would prevent or delay the Arabs struggle for independence in Palestine from Britain.

To bring back and settle the Jews from exile after they were driven out of Palestine by the Romans in AD 71 was one of the reasons for establishing the state of Israel.

Secondly, was due to the work and influence of the World Zionist Organisation found in 1897 at Basle, Switzerland. This organization encouraged Jews to go back to Palestine and have a nation in their homeland.

Thirdly, was because of the support and involvement of Britain in 1917 when the British Foreign Minister, Arthur Balfour, announced that Britain supported the idea of establishment of a Jewish National home in Palestine. After 1919, when Palestine became a British Mandate, large numbers of Jews began to arrive in Palestine.

Fourthly, was the Nazis persecution of Jews in Germany after 1933 which caused a flood of refugees and by 1940 about half of the Population of Palestine was Jewish.

The other reason was the massacre of over six million Jews by Hitler during the Second World War worsened the situation and made hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees desperate to return to Palestine.

The determination of the Jews to fight for their national home made them to begin a terrorist campaign against both Arabs and the British. Such Jewish terrorist campaign led to the blowing up of King David Hotel in Jerusalem, which the British were using as its headquarters, ninety one (91) people were killed.

The British weakness and inability to cope with the situation in Palestine after the Second World War resulted in Ernest Bevin, the Labour Foreign Secretary to ask the United Nations Organisation to deal with the problem. Consequently, in November 1947, the UNO voted to divide Palestine. Early in 1948 the British completely pulled out of Palestine and let the UNO to carry out its own plan.

In May 1948, Ben Gurion declared the independence of the new state of Israel.

WHY ARABS OPPOSED CREATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

The Arabs (93% of the population in 1918) feared that Jewish immigrants would become 51% of the population. Jewish settlers belonged to an alien (European) culture, usually employed by Jews, and Arabs feared that they would be squeezed out of their own homeland; they began terrorist activities against the Jews.

The Palestine Arabs rejected the United Nations plan of forming the state of Israel and neighbouring Arab States assisted them in the 1948 – 1949 war, resulting in an Israel victory which left Arabs with much less land than the United Nations plan had assigned them.

Arabs and Jews had different religion and could not live together. Arabs claimed Palestine to be a land of their ancestors, among them Abraham and Ishmael.

Arabs had lived in Palestine for close to 2000 years while Jews had been away from Palestine for the same number of years. As a result, Arabs believed they had more right to Palestine than the Jews.

Jews gained possession over most land in Palestine through purchase of land from Arabs.

Furthermore, Arabs maintained that they did not deserve to suffer for Hitler's persecution of the Jews. And that the creation of Israel led to the problem of Arab refugees.

WHY THE ISRAELITES CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF PALESTINE?

The Israelites claim:

- God gave this land to Abraham (the ancestor of the Israelites) and his offspring. Genesis 15:18
- Palestine was promised to the Jews as a national home by Britain (according to the Balfour Declaration) in 1917.
- Hitler's persecution of the Jews (necessitated) made it possible to have a Jewish homeland.

- Palestinian refugees can be absorbed in Arab states.
- Jews found Palestine a barren desert but made it a prosperous place.
- Arabs attacked Jews in 1948 on the proclamation of the State of Israel.
- Israel is for peace but Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) is behind guerrilla attacks on Israel.
- The Camp David Agreement (1978) by Carter (USA), Sadat (Egypt) and Begin (Israel) was a comprehensive peace for the Middle East.
- Surrounded by hostile neighbours backing the PLO, Israel will not be safe with an independent Palestinian State on the West bank of the river Jordan. The PLO seeks to destroy Israel, we can never trust them.

HOW ARAB COUNTRIES OPPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Before establishment of Israel, Arabs raided Jewish settlements leading to conflicts between the two groups.

In 1949 Arab states – Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia attacked the newly found state of Israel.

In 1956 Egyptian terrorists’ raids on Israel forced Israel to join a joint attack on Egypt by France and Britain.

In 1967 Arab leaders threatened to invade Israel forcing her to attack neighbouring Arab States.

In 1973 on the Yom Kippur, Syria attacked Israel’ s Golan Heights assisted by Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Egypt also attacked Israel across the Suez Canal.

In 1973 Arab countries pushed the price of oil up, to punish countries that had supported Israeli during the War.

Arab terrorists and suicide bombers have continued to cause havoc in Israel.

THE FIRST ARAB – ISRAEL WAR 1948

When the Jews announced the creation of the State of Israel in May 1948 the Arabs were totally against this and they attacked it. Many Arab states, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia, surrounded and outnumbered the Israelis. President Weizmann and Prime Minister David Ben Gurion cry for help to the rest of the world was met with silence.

The Arabs failed to defeat the Jews because their leaders were at odds with one another, each seeking to gain an advantage from the war. The Arab armies had no coordinated plans; the Jews could concentrate on defeating first one and then another – Also their armies were badly led, officers and men fleeing in times of difficulty. On the other hand the Jews had the technical skills of British – trained officers; the determination of a people which had no option other than to fight to the bitter end.

On 7th February 1949 the war ended. Israel gained more territory than had been allocated to it by the UN proposal of 1948. Over one million Arabs fled from Palestine to live in refugee camps in Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

THE SECOND ARAB-ISRAEL WAR 1956

This began in 1956 after the Suez crisis. This crisis was caused by the nationalization of Suez Canal by Egypt. The Israelis were angered by Egypt – supported terrorist attacks from the Gaza strip.

In order to stop these attacks, Britain and France agreed with Israel for a joint attack on Egypt. The Israelis attacked Egypt in the Gaza strip in October 1956 and they occupied most of the Sinai Peninsula.

In November, there was a British and French demand on Egypt to withdraw all forces from the Canal Zone, Nasser refused. The British and French forces attacked Egypt. The Egyptian Air Force was destroyed on the ground, troops landed at Alexandria to occupy the Canal Zone.

The United States and the Russian united to condemn the Anglo-French action and they had to withdraw but it was only after Arab countries had threatened to cut off oil supplies and also after Nasser had blown up ships to block the canal.

The British and French were made to appear as aggressors and as failures and many third world countries turned to Russia for leadership.

THE THIRD ARAB – ISRAEL WAR

This occurred in 1967. It is referred to as the Six-day war. Arab leaders openly threatened an invasion of Israel due to Russian Support. Moshe Dayan had just been appointed as the Minister of Defense in Israel. He argued that attack was the best defense.

On 3rd June 1967 Israel launched attacks on all Arab airfields. Israeli troops drove Egyptian forces across the Sinai, advanced to the Jordan River against the Jordanians and routed the Syrians on the Golan Heights. On 8th June Jordan surrendered whilst on 11th June Syria and Egypt surrendered. The Israelis occupied some parts of Eastern Egypt as far as the east bank of the Suez Canal; Syria was partly occupied, including the Golan Heights. The West Bank of the Jordan remained in Israeli hands. Sporadic frontier fighting continued until the UN arranged a cease fire in 1970.

THE FOURTH ARAB-ISRAEL WAR 1973

Egypt wanted to drive out Israelis from the Sinai. Syria wanted to regain the Golan Heights.

On 6th October 1973 the Jewish Holy Day called Yom Kippur, Syria attacked the Golan Heights and received help from Jordan, Iran and Saudi Arabia; Egypt attacked across the canal and broke through the Israeli' s defensive Bar-Lev line.

The surprising attack was, at first, successful due to Russian Supplied aid and technical aid to the Arabs. The USA was, at first, reluctant to aid Israel but they later aided her and when the aid arrived-planes and artillery-Israel drove the Arabs back. The Syrians were pushed back towards Damascus.

The Israeli army drove through Sinai and captured the West bank of the Canal, leaving the Egyptian army surrounding east of the Canal and in Port Said. UN mediators and USA Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arranged a cease fire. UN forces were sent to separate the Israeli and Egyptian forces although Israel held on to her gains in the Sinai and on the Golan Heights.

As from 1973 the Arabs pushed oil prices up and by 1974 the prices were 4 times as they had been in 1972. They used this “ Oil Weapon” to threaten to cut off supplies to any country supporting Israel-Holland being the first sufferer.