

**THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-1918**

The First World War broke out in 1914. It started as a European war but by 1917 it became purely a world war as it involved United States of America, Asia, Canada, Australia, Brazil, China, the Caribbean Islands and most of Africa. The cataclysm came as a disturbing calamity to the relative peace and tranquillity which the people of Europe had enjoyed since the end of the Napoleonic wars. Everyone had expected to enjoy the fruits of industrialisation and scientific developments that had started in Europe but this was however , rendered null and void by this great war of 1914. The war was fought on land and above land[air], on seas and under the seas. The war was fought by Germany and Austria-Hungary and their allies [Central powers] against Britain and France and their allies [Allied powers].

**Allied powers during World War One**

- |               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| -Canada       | -United States of America |
| -Romania      | -Italy                    |
| -South Africa | -Greece                   |
| -Georgia      | -New Zealand              |
| -Japan        | -China                    |
| -Portugal     | -Spain                    |
| -Serbia       | -Belgium                  |
| -Montenegro   | -Armenia                  |
| -Australia    | -Britain                  |
| -France       | -Russia                   |

**Central powers during World War One**

- |          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| -Germany | -Austria-Hungary |
| -Turkey  | -Bulgaria        |
| -Jordan  |                  |

**Methods of fighting used during World War One**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| -Air strikes          | -Submarine warfare |
| -Use of tanks         | -Trench warfare    |
| -Use of poisonous gas |                    |

**Seas where World War One was fought**

- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| -North Sea | -English Channel |
| -Pacific   | -Atlantic        |
| -Red sea   |                  |

**Weapons used during World War One**

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| -Tanks                       | -Hydrophone            |
| -Howitzers                   | -Rifles                |
| -Battle cruisers             | -Aeroplanes [zeppelin] |
| -Destroyers                  | -Poisonous gas         |
| -Torpedoes                   | -Cruisers              |
| -Light cruisers              | -Machine guns          |
| -Depth charge                | -Bombs [grenades]      |
| -Submarines [U-boats]        | -Cannons               |
| -Dreadnoughts [battle ships] |                        |

### **Types of ships used during World War One**

- Dreadnoughts
- Cruisers
- Submarines [U-boats]
- Light cruisers
- Battle cruisers
- Destroyers

### **European countries that had colonial interests in North Africa in early 1900s**

- Britain
- Germany
- Turkey
- France
- Italy
- Spain

### **European countries that had interests in the Balkan region before World War One**

- Britain
- Germany
- Turkey
- Russia
- Austria–Hungary

## **CAUSES OF WORLD WAR ONE**

### **Long Term Causes of World War One**

- The system of alliances initiated by Bismarck caused the First World War.
- The colonial clashes or conflicts by European powers caused the 1914 war.
- The naval race especially between Britain and Germany increased tension in Europe.
- Arms race by European powers increased enmity among European powers.
- Militarism in Europe also caused the 1914 war.
- Nationalism was another cause of world war one.
- The first Moroccan crisis [1905] and the second Moroccan crisis [1911] also contributed.
- German Weltpolitik [a policy aimed at dominating Europe] also caused this war.
- War plans such as the Schlieffen plan by Germany caused the 1914 war.
- Kaiser's utterances or tactless public statements by the Kaiser provoked other countries.

### **Short term causes/Balkan Instability/Balkan crisis [1908-1914]**

- The Bosnian crisis [1908] caused the war.
- The first Balkan war [1912] and the second Balkan war [1913] caused the 1914 war.
- The Sarajevo assassination [1914] sparked the war.

### **Causes of World War One [in detail]**

#### **1] The Alliance System**

The system of alliances was initiated by Otto von Bismarck who was the Chancellor of Germany from 1871 to 1890. Following the defeat of France by Germany in the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian war, Bismarck was determined to prevent any attempts by the French to regain the mineral rich provinces of Alsace-Lorraine or to find allies in Europe who would be prepared to assist her in a war of revenge. Generally Bismarck's foreign policy was geared towards isolating France who was seen as the greatest danger to the newly created German Reich. Alsace-Lorraine had been absorbed into the newly created German Empire.

#### **a] The Dreikaiserbund Treaty/ The League of the Three Emperors[1872]**

It was signed by Kaiser William I of Germany, Tsar Alexander II of Russia and Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary. By clever diplomacy, Bismarck managed to secure the friendship of both Austria-Hungary and Russia in spite of the conflicting ambitions of these two countries. By this treaty Bismarck hoped that monarchical friendship would form a common bond against republican France [which was one reason why he wanted France to

remain a republic]. Bismarck was able to isolate France by befriending Austria Hungary and Russia whom France could get into friendship with.

### **Terms of this Treaty**

- The league members agreed to cooperate in the suppression of subversive activities in their countries.
- They agreed to consult each other if other powers threatened European peace.
- The three monarchs agreed to consult each other about events in the Balkans.
- The three agreed to assist each other in case of an attack of any member by two or more powers.
- In case of an attack by one country, others were to remain neutral [not to intervene].

### **b] The Dual Alliance [1879]**

It was signed by Germany and Austria-Hungary

### **Terms of this treaty**

- The two countries promised mutual aid if one of them was attacked by Russia.
- The two promised mutual aid if one of them was attacked by any power assisted by Russia.
- They promised each other aid if either of them were attacked by two or more powers.
- They promised each other neutrality in the case of an attack by any other country, for example, France.
- The treaty clearly promised support to Germany in the event of a joint attack by France and Russia.

### **c] The Renewed Dreikaiserbund Treaty [1881]**

Bismarck feared that France might come into an agreement with Russia[He wanted to keep France isolated].As a result Bismarck persuaded Russia and Austria-Hungary to renew the old Dreikaiserbund .Tsar Alexander II had died and Bismarck renewed the League of the Three Emperors with Austria-Hungary and Russia .Thus the possibility of a Franco-Russian alliance was banished.

### **Terms of this Treaty**

- The three powers agreed to consult each other in matters of the Balkans.
- They promised each other neutrality if one of them was attacked by a fourth power [single] power.
- Austria –Hungary was allowed to annex Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- There was to be creation of a Big Bulgaria [the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia] under Russian influence.
- The alliance was to be renewed after every three years.

### **d] The Triple Alliance [1882]**

It was signed by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. It was an enlargement of the 1879 Dual Alliance to include Italy. Italy joined because she resented French expansion in North Africa. Bismarck secretly encouraged French ambitions in North Africa, mainly to divert her from scheming to recover Alsace –Lorraine and to bring France into collision with Italy, who had ambitions and some 20 000 settlers in Tunis area. In 1881 the French reluctant to see an Italian colony established on the borders of French Algeria, took Bismarck's hint and occupied Tunis. This threw Italy into the arms of Germany and the following year [1882] Italy joined the two powers of the 1879 Dual Alliance to form the Triple Alliance.

### **Terms of this Treaty**

- Germany and Austria-Hungary agreed to help Italy if she were attacked by France.
- Italy agreed to help Germany if she were attacked by France.
- Each of these powers agreed to help if either of the powers were attacked by any two or more powers.
- Germany and Austria-Hungary agreed that they would help each other against a Russian attack of either of them.
- In case of any war that involved Britain, Italy was to remain neutral.
- Each of these powers agreed to remain neutral if either of them was attacked by a single.
- the alliance was joined in the following year [1883] by Romania and later on by Turkey.

#### **e] The Re-insurance Treaty [1887]**

It was signed by Germany and Russia. The Dreikaiserbund was supposed to be renewed in 1887 but failed, owing to Austro-Russian antagonism over the Balkan affairs. At that time the Russian press was actively anti-German and articles were advocating a Franco-Russian alliance. This was a threat to Germany's policy of keeping France isolated. To improve the Russo-German relations, Bismarck secretly signed the Re-insurance treaty with Russia. It was signed without the knowledge of Italy and Austria-Hungary.

#### **Terms of this Treaty**

- Both promised to remain neutral if either of them was at war with a third [single] power.
- If Russia attacked Austria-Hungary or if Germany attacked France they were to remain neutral.
- They were also to try and localise the conflict.
- Germany was to support Russian claims to influence Bulgarian affairs.

#### **f] The Franco-Russian Agreement / Dual Alliance 1894**

It was signed by Russia and France. France was without an ally but by 1890 she felt she needed one, partly because of her weakness in relation to Germany and partly because she was increasingly coming into conflict with Great Britain and Italy over colonial matters. Russia had a tradition of alliance with Germany but she had come to realise that whenever Austrian and Russian interests clashed in the Balkans, Germany was likely to support Austria. Therefore in 1890 when her existing treaty with Germany lapsed, she did not renew it. The dismissal of Bismarck in 1890 marked a turning point in the relations of European countries. French isolation died a natural death as a result of Kaiser's policies. When the Re-insurance treaty needed to be renewed in 1890, Kaiser William ignored. Russia signed the Dual Alliance with France because since 1888 Russia was being given French loans, which greatly helped her to finance her industrial progress.

#### **Terms of this Treaty**

- If France was attacked by Germany alone or by Germany and Italy, Russia would help her.
- If Russia was attacked by Germany alone or by Germany and Austria-Hungary, France would help her.
- The alliance was to continue as long as the triple alliance was in force [a clear indication that they were geared towards a war].
- If the members of the triple alliance mobilised, France and Russia were to mobilise immediately.

#### **g] The Anglo- Japanese Alliance [1902]**

It was signed by Britain and Japan. Britain approached Japan in 1902 because she wanted an ally who could check Russian and German expansionist ambitions in the Far East especially China. The alliance was meant to guard against the movement of Russia in the Far East, that is, in Manchuria and Korea. Japan also wanted an ally who could help her plan for a war against Russia [Russo-Japanese war 1904]. This alliance was the first step which Britain took to end her isolation.

### **Terms of this Treaty**

- Britain was to support Japan in the Far East if Japan was in a war with two other powers.
- If either of them was to wage war against two powers, her ally was bound to join her.
- If either power went to war to maintain the Far Eastern status quo, the other promised to remain neutral.
- If Japan was at war with a third power [single power] Britain was to remain neutral.
- If Britain was at war with a third power [single power] Japan was to remain neutral.
- Britain recognised Japan's interests in Korea.

### **Why Britain abandoned the policy of splendid isolation / Why Britain looked for allies**

- She wanted an ally who could check Russian and Germany expansionist ambitions in the Far East especially China.
- All the major powers had aligned themselves, for example, the dual alliance of 1879, the Franco-Russian alliance of 1893-4 and the Triple alliance and so on.
- Britain had the desire to control Russian expansion in the Balkans.
- Arms race with Germany and other powers.
- German gunboat diplomacy
- Division of Europe into two hostile camps hinted the vulnerability of Britain.
- The Fashoda incident of 1898
- The congratulatory message of Kaiser William to Paul Krugger in 1896 after the Jameson raid failure.
- The Anglo-Boer war of 1899-1902. In this war the Kaiser gave the Boers food supplies.
- The Kaiser's proclaimed Weltpolitik threatened British supremacy
- Britain's naval superiority was being challenged by USA, Japan and Germany
- Germany looked for colonies next to British ones

### **h] The Entente Cordiale / Anglo-French-Entente / Anglo-French agreement [1904]**

It was signed by Britain and France. An entente is an agreement to settle areas of dispute. This agreement was mainly concerned with colonial matters. It was not directed against specific enemies. It was not a military alliance. It was aimed at fostering co-operation between Britain and France, especially in settling disputes concerning overseas territories. Britain and France abandoned their traditional differences. The two were drawn together by the common fear of Germany's intentions. To Kaiser William and the rest of the world, it showed that Britain preferred France to Germany. This alliance made France to work hard to draw her two friends [Russia and Britain] together.

### **Terms of this Treaty**

- Britain agreed not to oppose French aims in Morocco.
- Britain promised France a free hand in Morocco whilst Britain's occupation of Egypt was not to be opposed.
- Thus they recognised each other's interests in Africa.

-The two agreed to work together in the event of a conflict.

#### **i] Anglo-Russian Agreement [1907]**

It was signed by Britain and Russia. It was signed in St Petersburg in Russia. It was also known as the Anglo-Russian agreement. The fear of a Franco-Russian drive against India forced Britain to oppose the extension of Russian influence. Even the downfall of Napoleon III did not make the British feel secure in their possession of India. At the end of the nineteenth century Russia's position was growing progressively stronger than Britain. Russia conquered most of Central Asia and extended her influence to Manchuria and Korea, posing a threat to British interests in China. It was not a military alliance and not necessarily anti German. The agreement led to the formation of the triple entente.

#### **Terms of this Treaty**

- Britain and Russia settled their colonial disputes in Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet.
- The two also settled their differences over India.
- Tibet which was of interest to both was declared to be neutral.
- They agreed that neither of them would interfere in Tibet's internal affairs.
- The treaty recognised Britain's influence over Afghanistan.
- Russia gained control over Northern Persia.
- Britain gained control of South East and the Persian Gulf.

#### **j] The Triple Entente [1907]**

It was signed by Britain, France and Russia. France brought her two friends together. Britain and Russia ironed out their differences. The support given by Russia to France and Britain at Algeiras Conference in 1906 drew them together. This alliance was described as the anti-German club of Britain, Russia and France. This alliance was meant to counter the triple alliance.

#### **Terms of this Treaty**

- They agreed to divide Persia [Iran] into three spheres of influence.
- The Northern sphere including Tehran was to be under Russian influence.
- The Southern sphere was to be under British influence.
- Tibet which was of interest to both was declared to be neutral.
- They agreed that neither of them would interfere in Tibet's internal affairs.
- China's sovereignty was to be recognised.
- A complete balance of power was struck.

#### **Contribution of the Alliance System to the outbreak of World War One**

- It called for the inconvenience of many countries because of the feeling of insecurity.
- Bismarck's alliances helped to increase the fears of other nations especially France, which began a frantic search for allies to counter the triple alliance.
- It led to the division of Europe into two armed and equally opposing camps, that is, triple alliance and triple entente.
- The two camps increased strength year after year.
- The relations between the two camps worsened.
- The alliances operated to convert a local quarrel into a general war.
- These two camps were the ones that fought the war of 1914.
- The armies ready for war on the continent were the largest ever formed in Europe in time of peace.



### **Other Factors which led to the outbreak of World War One**

- Naval race which increased tension between Britain and Germany
- Colonial clashes which increased enmity among European powers
- The Sarajevo assassination which brought the fatal clash between allied and central powers

### **European powers involved in the System of Alliances**

- |          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| -Germany | -Austria-Hungary |
| -Russia  | -Britain         |
| -Turkey  | -Italy           |
| -France  | -Bulgaria        |

### **2] Colonial clashes /conflicts /rivalry**

They also helped to produce the cataclysm of 1914. Misunderstandings which took place among European nations as they competed to control African territories caused the war. These imperial conflicts strained relations between major powers. Almost all European countries rushed to control African land and this resulted in disputes over control of some territories, for example the clash between Italy and France over Tunisia, the Fashoda incident and so on. In 1905 and 1911, France and Germany conflicted over Morocco. Morocco was taken as a threat by the members of the Entente Cordiale of 1904 and therefore they cemented their relationship against Germany.

### **3] Naval race**

- It was the competition for building warships especially, between Britain and Germany.
- In 1870 Germany passed naval laws aimed at the construction of big warships.
- Britain who considered herself as the mistress of the sea felt threatened.
- In 1889 Britain vowed to make her navy twice stronger than any two European countries combined.
- After 1890 Germany challenged this view and began competing with Britain and passed naval laws aimed at speeding up ship production.
- Between 1898 and 1900 Germany doubled her warships from 31 to 62.
- Britain felt threatened and went on to introduce new type of ship known as dreadnought.
- This type of ship dominated the seas during world war one.
- This put Germany at a disadvantage because the dreadnought was comparably more powerful than any other battleship in existence at that time.
- It was faster and stronger than any other ship.
- This rendered other ships virtually useless.
- Germany not wanting to be outcompeted made her own dreadnought in 1909.
- Between 1909 and 1912 Germany built 9 dreadnoughts while Britain consequently laid down 18 to maintain her supremacy.
- The naval race reached its peak in 1906 with the launching of the dreadnought by Britain, which stimulated German naval rivalry.
- By 1914 Britain had built 32 dreadnoughts while Germany had 20.
- Naval race increased tension between Britain and Germany.
- Together with militarism, naval race cemented the system of alliances which had brought Europe nearer to war than to peace.

### **Types of ships involved in naval race**

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| -Dreadnoughts | -Battle cruisers |
|---------------|------------------|

-Light cruisers

-Cruisers

-Submarines

-Destroyers

#### **4] Arms race**

-It was the competition in the production of armaments.

-During the period after 1870 Germany had the finest military machine yet she continued to arm.

-France and Russia looked upon Germany's own might army with fear and began to arm.

-They increased arms to counter Germany's military machine.

-Almost all European countries embarked on making weapons in order to fully equip their armies.

-Ammunition firms mushroomed all over Europe.

-Attempts to limit armaments had failed at the Hague Conference of 1899.

-Tsar Nicholas II had suggested a 5 year halt in arms increases but no positive proposal of that kind was accepted.

-The lead in the rejection came from Germany.

-As a result the mood of militarism pervaded Europe by 1914.

-Each announcement of increased armaments expenditure by a European power was viewed as a threat by its perceived rival and this created an atmosphere of mutual fear and suspicion which played a major part in creating the mood for war in 1914.

-Once started it was difficult impossible to slow down arms race.

-On each side there was a complete lack of trust in the intentions.

-European powers piled and piled arms and once armaments were produced what was left was an opportunity to pull the trigger.

-Arms race increased insecurity among nations.

#### **5] Militarism`**

-It was an increase in soldiers by European powers.

-From the end of the nineteenth century most European powers had been increasing their armies.

-Most European countries began to introduce compulsory military service.

-Able bodied men were forced to join the army.

-France, for example, went on to increase military service from 2 to 3 years.

-Russia increased military service from three to three and half years.

-Germany increased her soldiers up to 5 million.

-Various war plans were drawn, for example, Schlieffen plan.

-Railway lines were constructed to reach possible battle fields.

-These armies were not to remain idle. A chance to put their training into use was inevitable.

#### **6] Nationalism**

-It is the wish of people with a common origin to be united or to form an independent country.

-The Balkan people, for example, were struggling to win their national independence from Turkey and Austria-Hungary.

-They were anxious to win all people of the same race under their national flags and they were anxious to establish themselves in the world so that they would be at par [same level] with other great powers.



- Some nations, for instance, in the Balkans were anxious to extend their rule over people of the same nationality.
- Serbia, for example, had freed many of her fellow countrymen from the rule of Turkey.
- She was therefore anxious to complete the task.
- Serbia wanted to wrest [take] from Austria-Hungary the territory on the Adriatic coast which was inhabited by Slavic people [Slavs].
- This explains why Serbia and Austria-Hungary were at loggerheads up to 1914.
- Thus world war one grew out of a clash between Slav nationalism and the multi- ethnic Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- Austria-Hungary had incorporated the Slav people into her empire.
- This led straight to the Sarajevo assassination.

## **7] Germany Weltpolitik**

After the resignation of Bismarck in 1890, Germany adopted a policy of Weltpolitik, a policy aimed at leadership and even dominating the whole world. Britain was not prepared to let anyone country dominate Europe. She had fought Napoleon I for this reason and was now prepared to fight Germany.

## **8] Kaiser's utterances /Tactless public statements by the Kaiser**

Kaiser's public statements caused the 1914 war. For instance, the Kaiser congratulated Paul Krugger after the Jameson raid failure. This provoked Britain.

## **9] The Schlieffen plan**

It also caused the 1914 general war. It was a German war plan devised by General Alfred von Schlieffen in 1905. According to this plan Germany wanted to invade France via Belgium yet Britain and Germany had agreed not to violate Belgian neutrality [1839 London treaty]. It was the violation of Belgian neutrality which brought Britain into the war.

## **10] The Moroccan Crisis**

### **a] First Moroccan Crisis of 1905 / The Tangier Crisis [1905]**

- Germany learnt about the secret agreement [Entente Cordial] between France and Britain.
- On this agreement French claims on Morocco were recognised by Britain while France accepted British control over Egypt.
- Morocco had been regarded by Europe as officially independent and under joint supervision by all powers since 1900.
- The Entente Cordiale meant France would ignore the independence of Morocco.
- The cordiale was also meant to exclude German interests in Morocco.
- Germany which had economic and trading interests in Morocco could, in no way, accept the takeover of Morocco by France.
- The Germany Kaiser felt that Germany's interests had been sidelined since Germany had been left out of the negotiations over the fate [destiny] of Morocco.
- In 1905 the Kaiser and his chancellor Bulow, visited Tangier, a coastal city in Morocco, in an attempt to teach France a lesson that she cannot depend on Britain alone.
- The Kaiser was keen to show that Germany was now an important power in the area.
- The Kaiser also wanted to test the strength of the Anglo-French entente [Entente cordial of 1904].
- By that time Russia was too weak to be a reliable ally as she had been defeated by Japan in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904.

-In a speech the Kaiser supported the Sultans [Moroccans] in their struggle against the French. He made a bold speech trying to convince the Sultans that Germany would support the independence of Morocco.

-Both Britain and France were angered by this behaviour of the Kaiser and threatened war.

-Germany went on to demand a conference to settle the dispute and this conference was held at Algeiras in Spain in 1906.

### **The Algeiras Conference of 1906**

-This conference was held in Spain.

-It was attended by Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Spain, Russia and Italy.

-At this conference it became clear that British backing for France was real.

-At this conference the Kaiser was humiliated. He had wanted to appear as a major power in Africa.

-Instead, his views were rejected.

-He was particularly bitter about the way he was treated, as if he had no right to speak on such matters.

-Only Austria-Hungary supported her, the rest supported French control of Morocco.

-It was agreed that Morocco should remain independent, but French and Spanish police forces were to keep order there.

-The Kaiser who felt humiliated vowed to reverse the decision when Germany's navy was powerful enough.

### **b) The Second Moroccan Crisis / Panther Crisis / Agadir Crisis of 1911**

-The Kaiser William II had been disappointed by the outcome of the Algeiras conference in 1906.

-In 1908, the French secured the election of a new Sultan of Morocco because the previous one was against the French policy in Morocco.

-In 1911, a rising occurred against this new Sultan and in order to suppress it the French forces occupied the Moroccan capital, Fez.

-The French claimed that the French citizens were in danger.

-The Kaiser sensing danger of total control of Morocco by France sent a German gunboat called the Panther, to the west coast port of Morocco at Agadir claiming to protect Germans who lived there but there were none.

-The real reasons were [a] to frighten France into giving her some colonial territory in compensation for the likely occupation of the whole of Morocco by France. [b] Germany also wanted to test the strength of the Anglo-French Entente of 1904.

-The Germany action excited British opinion as Agadir was close to Gibraltar, a British territory in the Mediterranean.

-The British and French suspected that the Kaiser wanted to establish a naval base at Agadir which would threaten Britain's trade routes.

-They also suspected that Germany wanted to destroy the Anglo-French Entente or the Triple Entente.

-This resulted in the British standing firmly behind France and it was indicated that Britain would not accept German bullying.

-The British fleet was prepared for action.

-For some weeks tension was high and there was the danger of an armed collision.

- The three countries [Britain, France and Germany] made preparation for war.
- Tension was only eased when France decided to give part of French Congo [100 000 square miles] to Germany.
- However Germany had demanded the whole of French Congo.
- In return Germany recognised the French occupation of Morocco and withdrew the Panther.
- The crisis ended without a war.

### **Contribution of the Moroccan Crisis to the outbreak of World War One**

- It made Germany to speed up her war preparations.
- Although war was averted it was only a matter of postponement.
- French hopes of a better relationship with Germany were wrecked.
- It led to further division of Europe into two hostile camps.
- The relationship between Britain and France was further strengthened. Britain and France signed a naval agreement in 1912.
- The British and French realised that they had to take a firm stand against the Kaiser's bullying tactics.
- It increased opposition against Germany in Europe.

### **11] The Bosnian Crisis of 1908**

- After the Congress of Berlin in 1878, Austria-Hungary was given the mandate to govern Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- On the other hand Serbia wanted to control them since the inhabitants of the two provinces were Serbs/ Slavs.
- In 1908, a revolution to receive the Turkish emperor, Abdul Hamid was organised by the Young Turks.
- The Young Turks' central aim was to revitalise the weakening Turkish / Ottoman Empire and then maintain the autocracy.
- The revolution shocked the major powers of Europe, especially Russia and Austria-Hungary since a strong Turkey would disturb their interests.
- Such a strong Turkish government could make Austria-Hungary lose her control over Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Therefore, before the government of the Young Turks could be established, Austria-Hungary met Russia and agreed that Austria-Hungary should annex Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Russia was allowed to move her warships through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus to the Mediterranean.
- In October 1908, Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, confident of support from Germany.
- This was a blow to Serbia who wanted to acquire the two provinces which had 3000000 Serbs.
- Serbia wanted to create a South Slav state, that is, Yugoslavia [a union of Serbia with Bosnia and Herzegovina].She wanted to create a union of all Southern Slav states under the Serbian crown.
- Russia felt cheated by Austria-Hungary since she failed to get international support of her plans for the straits.
- The annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina blocked Serbian path to the Adriatic Sea.
- The Serbian government prepared to mobilise her army.

- Serbia appealed for help from fellow Slavs.
- Russia called for a European Conference and expected support from Britain and France.
- However, Russia did not get support from Britain and France.
- Russia alone could not fight Austria-Hungary because she had not fully recovered from the defeat by Japan in the 1904 Russo-Japanese war and she was weakened by the 1905 revolution.
- German threatened to give maximum support to Austria-Hungary. Russia and Serbia gave in.
- Although Britain and France did not recognise the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary, they were not prepared to help Russia or Serbia.
- Neither Russia nor Serbia was prepared to risk war with Germany over the issue.
- Austria-Hungary kept Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Contribution of the Bosnian Crisis to the outbreak of World War One**

- It encouraged Russia to increase her army further.
- It worsened relations between Germany and Russia.
- The enmity between Russia and Austria-Hungary was increased.
- It increased tension between Serbia and Austria-Hungary that at any given time the two countries would fight over Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- It led to the formation of the Black Hand.

## **12] The Balkan Wars**

### **a] First Balkan War of 1912**

- On 12 October 1912 the First Balkan League which comprised of Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria declared war on Turkey.
- They gained a swift victory.
- They drove Turks out of most of the European territory of the Balkans.
- The Turkish government attempted to introduce a common law, a national language and so on.
- In addition, real power in Turkey rested with a few ambitious army officers who suppressed the subject peoples.
- The renewed Turkish persecution forced the Balkan states to cast their rivalry and jealousies.
- All these caused resentment to the minorities against Turkey.
- The Balkan League wanted to drive Turkey out of all her European territories.
- Each member of the Balkan League hoped to obtain a portion of the territory still under Turkish rule.
- The Balkan states witnessed the weaknesses of Turkey when it fought with Italy in 1911 in Libya.
- The Italians had declared war on Turkey in 1911 and attacked the Turkish province and very quickly defeated the Turkish forces.
- When the Serbians and Bulgarians captured Adrianople, Turkey was forced to make peace.
- Austria-Hungary and Germany had stood aside expecting that the Turks would defeat the Balkan League, but both had gravely miscalculated.
- Turkey was defeated in roughly 6 weeks.
- The great powers were shocked by this remarkable success of the Balkan states.
- They immediately called for a meeting in London to decide the future of the Balkan affairs

### **The Treaty of London [1913]**

- By this treaty Turkey lost nearly the whole of her territory in Europe to the Balkan states.
- Greece was to get Thrace and Salonika.
- Serbia was to get a larger part of Macedonia.
- The Greek government felt cheated as it did not gain a larger territory in Macedonia.
- Bulgaria was dissatisfied by this treaty and was determined to revise this treaty.
- Each government felt it gained little.
- As a result, the First Balkan League [coalition] soon fell apart.
- Austria-Hungary was concentrating on the setting up of a small state, Albania in the Eastern part of Serbia to block Serbia from possessing a port in the Adriatic Sea.
- This angered Serbia as it was its key territorial objective since it was a landlocked country.

### **Balkan States involved in the First Balkan War**

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| -Greece     | -Serbia   |
| -Montenegro | -Bulgaria |

### **Balkan States before World War One**

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| -Albania     | -Macedonia  |
| -Bulgaria    | -Serbia     |
| -Greece      | -Bosnia     |
| -Herzegovina | -Montenegro |
| -Romania     | -Thrace     |
| -Crete       | -Salonika   |

### **b) The Second Balkan War of 1913**

- This war was fought over how to distribute the spoils of victory of the First Balkan War.
- Bulgaria was angry with the settlement [Treaty of London] of 1913.
- She was not satisfied by her spoils of the war.
- She felt other countries gained at her expense.
- Bulgaria greatly resented the Greeks getting Salonika.
- Bulgaria was not happy about Serbia being given part of Macedonia because these areas were supposed to have been part of Bulgaria's share of the spoils.
- Bulgaria claimed part of Macedonia which Serbia refused to give up.
- The war broke out in June 1913 when Bulgaria attacked Serbia.
- This forced Greece, Romania and Turkey to declare war on Bulgaria.
- Serbia, Greece and Romania had formed the Second Balkan League.
- The Turks joined the war because they had seen in this dispute an opportunity of regaining some of their lost European territory.
- In less than a month Bulgaria had been quite easily defeated.

### **The Treaty of Bucharest [1913]**

- This treaty was signed after the Second Balkan War.
- Bucharest was the capital city of Romania.
- By this treaty, Serbia and Greece kept those parts of Macedonia, but under the Austro-Hungarian and Germany pressure.
- For its part, Turkey regained Adrianople. Bulgaria was forced to give up Adrianople.
- The Serbs were once again denied the Adriatic port.

- Romania got part of Bulgarian Dobruha.
- Austria-Hungary was again determined to keep Serbia landlocked.

### **Balkan States which took part in the Second Balkan War**

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| -Serbia   | -Greece     |
| -Romania  | -Montenegro |
| -Bulgaria |             |

### **Contribution of the Balkan Wars to the outbreak of World War One**

- The wars intensified bad relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary.
- Austria-Hungary with German support was determined to suppress or to destroy Serbia.
- Serbia emerged from the war victorious, stronger, more confident and aggressive than ever.
- Austria-Hungary frustrated Serbian national aims when after the Balkan wars she insisted on the formation of Albania as an independent state on the Adriatic. This move deterred Serbian expansion to the Adriatic coastline. This means Austria-Hungary was determined to keep Serbia a landlocked country.
- The Serbs were now confident that the Austrians wanted to gain a continuous territory across the Peninsula from the Adriatic to the Aegean Sea and for this purpose Serbia which stood directly in their path would have to be removed from the map as an independent state.
- The wars made the Franco-Russian and the Austro-German commitments tighter.
- The Kaiser assured the Austrians of his support if they fought a war with Serbia [the so called blank cheque].
- Turkey of course would be relied upon to support such a move.
- Serbia began to encourage Pan-Slavism in Austria-Hungary while Austria-Hungary was determined to crush Slav nationalism in her country.
- Thus after the two Balkan wars, Austria-Hungary was prepared to wage a preventive war while Serbia was prepared to wage a war of liberation.

### **Balkan States that had become independent from Turkey by 1912**

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| -Montenegro | -Romania |
| -Bulgaria   | -Serbia  |
| -Greece     | -Albania |
| -Macedonia  | -Thrace  |
| -Salonika   | -Crete   |

### **Ethnic Groups in the Balkan States**

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| -Albanians            | -Serbs        |
| -Bulgarians / Bulgars | -Greeks       |
| -Macedonians          | -Croats       |
| -Bosnians             | -Montenegrins |
| -Romani / Romanians   |               |

### **13] The Sarajevo Assassination [28 June 1914] / Sarajevo incident**

- On 28 June 1914, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand [an Austrian crown Prince], the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife were driving through the streets of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.
- They were murdered by a 19 year old terrorist, Gavrillo Princip, a local Serb.
- Princip was an ardent supporter of the Pan-Slav movement called Black Hand [which was sponsored by Serbia].



- The murderer had come straight from a meeting of an anti-Austrian society [Black Hand] in the Serbian capital, Belgrade.
- Gavrillo Princip was allegedly said to have been sponsored by the Serbian Black Hand.
- The gun which Princip used was supplied by the Serbian Black Hand.
- Princip was given the task of assassinating the Archduke and he shot him.
- Serbia was bitter about the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary as this thwarted her dream of the formation of a Yugoslav nation.
- This is why Serbia encouraged Pan-Slavism in Austria–Hungary.
- There were several organisations which were formed and Black Hand was one of them.
- Bethel, the Austrian Chancellor, welcoming an excuse for war, claimed that the Serbian government had planned the assassination.
- There was no evidence to show involvement of the Serbian government.
- Austria-Hungary consulted Germany and was given a ‘blank cheque’ full of military support.
- The spark had now been lit by the assassination, which was shortly to turn the whole of Europe into a furnace.
- On 23 July 1914, Austria-Hungary sent an ultimatum to Serbia whose demands were framed in such a way that refusal was bound to be the answer. A satisfactory answer was demanded within 48 hours.
- The three demands in the ultimatum were [a] That Serbia was to suppress all societies organising anti-Austrian propaganda. [b] That Serbia was to dismiss all officials to whom Austria-Hungary objected. [c] That Austrian police and officials were to enter Serbia to ensure that these two demands were carried out.
- Of these demands Serbia accepted the first two, but refused the third.
- The terms of the ultimatum, especially the third term, were an impractical possibility to be undertaken as they meant loss of sovereignty.
- Serbia suggested that the third demand should be submitted to arbitration by the international court of justice at Hague.
- The Austrian government refused to consider this course and on 28 July 1914 Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia and within a week the whole of Europe was ablaze.
- Britain, France and Russia had been warned by Germany not to interfere.
- Russia was not willing to see a fellow Slav country [Serbia] crushed by a stronger opponent while Germany held the ring.
- Russia too had Balkan ambitions of her own and here was a chance to pursue them.
- Accordingly on 30 July 1914 Nicholas II ordered the general mobilisation of Russian armies, in order to protect Serbia. This was a threat to Germany which sent two ultimatums. One demanded that Russia should stop her mobilisation. The other insisted that France should give clear guarantees of her neutrality.
- After receiving a refusal, Germany declared war first on Russia [1 August 1914] and secondly on France [3 August 1914].
- By the treaty of London of 1839, Britain and Prussia had promised to guarantee Belgian neutrality.
- But on their way to France, German troops entered Belgium.
- On 4 August 1914, Britain declared war on Germany.



- This was because German militarists had violated the sanctity of the London Treaty.
- Germany thought Britain would not intervene to protect the Belgian neutrality since it was a 'scrap of paper'.

-On 4 August 1914 Austria–Hungary declared war on Russia.

-Thus one after another, honouring commitments made in treaties with allies, the major powers of Europe were engaged in the most costly war the world had yet witnessed.

### **Contribution of the Sarajevo Assassination to the outbreak of World War One**

-It increased enmity between Austria-Hungary and Serbia.

-It became the match stick that lit the bone fire.

-The incident showed the extent of German support for Austria-Hungary and Russian support for Serbia.

-The event brought the clash between the Triple alliance and the Triple entente.

-The incident heightened Slav nationalism and the desire for self determination.

-It was important in that it started the war.

-There were many long term causes of the 1914 war but this incident came as an immediate cause.

### **Powers involved in the Balkan Crisis between 1908 and 1914**

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| -Bulgaria        | -Romania    |
| -Greece          | -Serbia     |
| -Albania         | -Montenegro |
| -Germany         | -Turkey     |
| -Austria-Hungary | -Russia     |
| -Britain         |             |

### **Who was to blame for the outbreak of World War One? / Contribution or part played by European powers in the outbreak of World War One**

#### **a) Germany**

-Bismarck's alliance system which was an attempt to isolate France led to the division of the world into two hostile camps. This made it difficult to localise the war.

-The German Schlieffen plan [war plan] was an indication that she was anticipating war.

-Germany took part in arms race which caused the war.

-German naval race with Britain caused the war.

-Kaiser's utterances provoked Britain, for example, he congratulated Paul Krugger after the Jameson raid failure.

-The colonial clash between Germany and France over Morocco in 1905 and 1911 caused tension.

-After the Sarajevo incident Germany gave Austria-Hungary a blank cheque to attack Serbia.

-Germany violated the neutrality of Belgium which brought Britain into the war.

-Germany supported Austria-Hungary in the Bosnian crisis.

-She fully backed Austria-Hungary's aggressiveness over Serbia thinking that Britain would not intervene.

-German's Weltpolitik since 1890 was a threat to world peace.

-She declared war on France

-She declared war on Russia.

#### **b) Austria-Hungary**

- Austria-Hungary is blamed for declaring war on Serbia.
- She pursued a careless foreign policy towards the Balkans.
- She failed to respect the sovereignty of the Balkan states by annexing Bosnia and Herzegovina which angered Russia and Serbia breeding hatred and grudge.
- She wanted to destroy Serbia once and for all.
- She made unreasonable demands meant to punish Serbia for the death of Archduke Francis Ferdinand.
- She supported the creation of an independent Albania at the treaty of London [1913] which created enmity with Serbia.
- Austria-Hungary made an agreement with Russia to partition the Balkans which angered Serbia.
- She opposed the creation of a Russian backed Slav nation in Serbia.
- This would attract the support of the Slavs inside Austria-Hungary.
- She was involved in the system of alliances.
- She involved herself in the Balkans to make up for the losses in Italy and Germany [which became unified in 1870 and 1871 respectively].

#### **c] France**

- She refused to remain neutral when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia and this forced Germany to declare war on France.
- She took part in arms race.
- She took part in militarism.
- She took part in the alliance system.
- France had a war plan called plan 17.

#### **d] Russia**

- She gave unrestricted support to Serbia making Serbia more reckless.
- She refused to remain neutral [and mobilised against Austria-Hungary] when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia and this forced Germany to declare war on her.
- She took part in arms race and militarism.
- It was opposed to Austrian and German influence in the Balkans.
- She was involved in the system of alliances.
- It protected other Slav peoples as it was the largest of Slav nations.
- It was hostile to Germany which ruled Polish Slavs.
- She made an agreement with Austria-Hungary that Austria-Hungary should take Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- She influenced the formation of the Balkan League.
- She supported Pan Slavism.

#### **e] Britain**

- She should be blamed for arms race.
- She took part in naval race.
- She supported France against Germany over Morocco in 1905 and 1911.
- She declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914.

#### **f] Serbia**

- She engineered the Sarajevo assassination which led to the outbreak of the 1914 general war.
- She sponsored anti-Austrian propaganda and terrorist activities in Austria-Hungary.

## **COURSE OF WORLD WAR ONE [1914-1918]**

### **Battle Fronts during World War One**

- a] The Western Front
- b] The Eastern Front
- c] The Balkan Front
- d] The Turkish Front
- e] The Austro-Italian Front

#### **a] The Western Front**

- This refers to the areas /states where the war was fought situated to the West of Germany.-
- Countries which fought on this front included Germany, France, Britain, Belgium and United States of America.
- The Franco-German border and Belgium was the first area to be affected by the First World War.
- Thus the war broke exactly in accordance with to the Schlieffen plan.
- The **Schlieffen Plan** was a German war plan which was devised by General Alfred Count von Schlieffen in 1905.
- Schlieffen was the chief of the General Staff in Germany.
- The plan was based on the assumption that Germany was to fight war on two fronts against France and against Russia simultaneously.
- It was based on the use of railways to move troops.
- According to this plan Germany would invade France via Belgium / Holland and Luxembourg.
- The Germans were to march through Belgium within two weeks.
- The plan aimed at swift victory against France in the West.
- France was to be defeated within six weeks.
- France was to be defeated before Russia mobilised her troops.
- The Germans also aimed at capturing Paris and encirclement of French armies as well as attacking Alsace-Lorraine before Russian mobilisation was complete.
- After defeating France, German soldiers were to be transferred to the East to fight Russia.
- This was meant to avoid fighting war on two fronts at the same time.
- The Germans were to defeat Russia within six months.
- The German forces were to occupy the Channel ports in order to prevent the landing of British reinforcements.
- When war broke out in 1914, Germany moved quickly to implement the Schlieffen plan.
- Troops moved swiftly through Belgium.
- The Germans however met resistance from the Belgians and the British Expeditionary Forces [BEF].
- The Germans were held for 3 weeks in Belgium.
- This delayed the German strike against France.
- The British came in to strengthen French defences a little earlier than Germans anticipated.
- As a result some German forces withdrew to fight the Russians in the East.
- The Germans were temporarily stopped by allied counter attacks thereby disturbing the speed and timetable.

- The French army was sent to deal with German invasion instead of invading Alsace-Lorraine.
- Germany thus made changes to the plan.
- Germany sent forces through a shorter route East of Paris instead of West.
- The French and British checked German troops at the River Marne and were pushed back to river Aisne.
- The end result was that Germans were not able to penetrate into the West of Paris and the Schlieffen plan collapsed. The German High Command lost contact with the operation.
- Germans retreated 60km and dug trenches.

### **Aims of the Schlieffen plan**

- The Germans wanted to fight war against France and Russia on one front at a time.
- The Germans were to rely on the speedy movement of German forces through Belgium.
- The Germans were to march through Belgium within two weeks.
- The Germans aimed at defeating France within six weeks.
- They were to conquer France before Russia mobilised.
- When France was defeated they were to attack Russia.
- Russia was to be defeated within 6 months.
- They were to allocate the bulk of the German soldiers on the Western front.
- They were to hold the French in Alsace-Lorraine.

They were to occupy the Channel ports in order to prevent the landing of the British reinforcements.

### **Successes of the Schlieffen plan**

- It motivated German declaration of war on Russia and France.
- War broke out in accordance with the Schlieffen plan.
- Germans were able to enter Belgium although they later met Belgian and British resistance.
- Although altered a little the plan allowed the Germans to avoid fighting war on two fronts for a short while.

### **Failures of the Schlieffen plan**

- The plan failed to anticipate that Britain might enter the war to defend Belgium.
- The quick mobilisation of France and Russia forced Germans to alter the movement of their troops.
- Resistance by the Belgians and the BEF forced Germans to fight with many powers at the same time.
- Paris could not be encircled as originally intended.

### **Events or factors which led to the failure of the Schlieffen Plan**

- The Belgians offered stiff resistance.
- The plan failed to anticipate that Britain might enter into the war to defend Belgium.
- The British Expeditionary Forces [BEF] landed in France holding up the German advance at Mons.
- France mobilised earlier than the Germans anticipated.
- Russians mobilised earlier than the Germans anticipated.
- This forced Germans to divide her forces and resources.
- Germany forces in Belgium were weakened when some forces were withdrawn to go and fight the Russians.

- British rifle fire was so rapid that the Germans thought the troops had machine guns.
- British resistance at Mons slowed German advance and gave the French more time to prepare.
- Von Kluck the German commander in France realised that he could not keep to the Schlieffen plan.
- He changed the plan to attack and instead of going round Paris he turned to the East of Paris.
- This left the Channel ports along the coast free from attack and enabled the British to reinforce to get to France.
- The French and British checked the Germans at the river Marne.
- Germans were forced to retreat to 60 km and dug defensive trenches.
- At Ypres the British troops under Sir Douglas Haig checked German forces.
- British naval blockade starved Germans of supplies.
- Fighting war on many fronts led to the failure of the Schlieffen plan.
- German allies were too weak to supply materials.

### **How important was the role played by Belgium in the failure of the Schlieffen plan?**

- The Belgians resisted and slowed down the German army.
- After the Belgian attack Britain sent the BEF of 90000 soldiers.
- Germany exhausted her resources in Belgium.
- At Mons inside the Belgian border the German progress was stopped.
- This affected their plan of a swift knockout blow to France through neutral Holland, Luxemburg and Belgium.
- It affected their plan of attacking Paris because they were delayed in Belgium.

### **Other factors which led to the failure of the Schlieffen plan**

- British entry into the war on the side of the Belgians.
- British fire power proved too much for the Germans.
- The French mobilised too quickly for the Germans.
- The Russians mobilised much earlier than was anticipated.
- British naval blockade
- Fighting war on many fronts.
- The Battle of Marne and Ypres forced the Germans to reconsider the Schlieffen plan.

### **The Battle of Marne [September 6-10 1914]**

This battle was fought between Germany and France. France was invaded by Germany. On 6 September 1914, the French commander made a counter attack. Troops were rushed from Paris in every form of transport available. The battle of Marne involved 1300000 French soldiers. The French managed to push the Germans 48km but at a heavy loss of 600000 French soldiers. The French could not make a follow up and take advantage of the victory because of heavy human and material losses.

### **Impact of the battle of Marne**

- The defeat by France was a setback for the Central powers as human and material resources were lost.
- French victory meant that Germany had to re-strategise and fight on two war fronts, especially after the failure of the Schlieffen plan.

### **The Battle of Ypres**

It was between Germany and Britain. It was fought in Belgium in October and November 1914. Poisonous gas was used for the first time with the Germans. The German Zeppelin [air ship] was used. The French and British defenders managed to maintain control of the Channel ports and war became bogged down in trenches. By the end of 1914 there was a deadlock on the Western front.

### **The Trench Warfare**

- The trench warfare was the brainchild of the German soldiers.
- One of the German soldiers was defeated at Marne and forced to retreat beyond river Aisne.
- The Germans could have surrendered at Marne and the war would have ended within two months.
- Instead of surrendering the Germans retreated some 48km to river Aisne.
- There they began to dig trenches.
- The French and British forces also adopted the idea of trench warfare.
- They began to live and fight in trenches.
- Trenches protected them from machine gun fire and the explosions of artillery shells.
- Trenches were heavily fortified with barbed wire.
- The trenches were extended into elaborate systems of defence and communication.
- It was the first of its kind.
- There were millions of soldiers on each side.
- The soldiers confronted each other below ground level.
- In between the soldiers lay the no man's land.
- Those who tried to advance to the no man's land were killed by machine guns. They were sure to die a cruel death.
- Heavy artillery was used to pound down defences.
- Poisonous gases were used.
- There was loss of morale as soldiers spent too much time in trenches.
- Diseases affected them in trenches.
- Soldiers also experienced starvation and drowning.
- There was also use of tanks in this war.
- The trench warfare resulted in a deadlock and this prolonged the war.
- This meant that from December 1914 to November 1918 the Western front was a scene of stalemate.

\*In October 1915, Bulgaria joined the war on the side of Germany while Romania joined the Entente powers in August 1916 but was quickly over run by Germans and Austrians in November 1916.

### **The Battle of Verdun [February 1916]**

This was between France and Germany. The German army commander devised a plan to frustrate the allied forces on the Western front. According to this commander [Falkenhayn], Britain was the iron pillar of the allied forces; however, it could easily be removed out of allied war by a serious submarine action. Falkenhayn viewed that France was the main German objective. Verdun was a very important French fortress and the hub [central point of activity] of the French defensive system which threatened the German lines of communication. By pulling the French manpower into the defence of the Verdun, Falkenhayn hoped to destroy the forces, capture Verdun and knock France out of war. On 21 February

1916, the Germans opened the barrage. A concentrated German infantry caused the French to retreat. The fall of Verdun was imminent with high casualties. The British, Russians and the Italians came to help France. The British under the commander Haig took control of the French Arras sector. Britain and her allies raised the offensive which compelled Falkenhayn to withdraw. The French strengthened their resistance and under the command of Marshal Petain, they put off the Germans. The Germans retreated to their trenches having failed to capture Verdun. Hindenburg and Ludendorff replaced Falkenhayn as the new German commanders. The French lost 350000 men while the Germans lost 330000 but Verdun did not fall to the Germans

### **Contribution of the Battle of Verdun to the defeat of Germany**

- Germany lost heavily in [in terms of manpower and resources]
- German advance to capture Verdun was checked by Petain who defended the fortress stubbornly.
- The allied powers poured in reinforcements.
- German onslaught was held.
- Huge offensive against Germans at Somme by the allies.
- Russian offensive under the General Brussilov in Galicia against German ally Austria-Hungary.

### **The Battle of Somme [July 1916]**

The British launched an attack on Somme. The aim was to reduce / relieve pressure on the French at Verdun. This battle was initiated by Haig. He aimed to break the German defence forces and capture German fortress at Cambria and Bapaume. The battle was a series of attacks commencing / starting on 1 July lasting through to November 1916. On both sides, many soldiers died. Germany lost morale and failed to capture Verdun though, the French and the British failed to defeat German. France changed its General Joffre, with a younger General Neville. The British Haig was replaced by other more active generals to work with Neville to put off German attacks. It was at the battle of Somme that Britain used for the first time the tanks which they had invented against Germany. It was this Somme battle that discredited Douglas Haig, the commander in chief of the Western front and that led to the resignation of the British Prime Minister, Asquith who was replaced by Lloyd George. When the allied forces finally abandoned the attack, losses on both sides were quite high. At Somme, the Germans lost over 500000 men, Britain lost over 200000 and France lost about 400000 but neither side won a decisive victory. Japan also fought on the side of Britain.

### **The Battle of Jutland [31 May 1916]**

It was fought between Germany and France. The British suffered heavy losses but they remained in command of the seas.

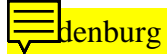
### **The Battle of Passchendaele [July 1917]**

It was fought between Germany and Britain. They fought in the mud. The British won.

### **b) The Eastern Front**

On this battle front Russia fought Germany and Austria-Hungary. On this front the war had opened with a Russian invasion of East Prussia. This resulted in the dispatching of some German forces by Moltke of Germany from the Western front. When war broke out Russia mobilised her forces swiftly than the Germans had anticipated. Germany was thus forced to divert much of her forces to the Eastern front. Germany thus began fighting war on two



fronts. The German forces on the Eastern front were commanded by Hindenburg.  Hindenburg retreated and was replaced by Ludendorff who defeated the two main Russian armies at Tannenberg [August 1914] and Masurian Lakes. This achievement was facilitated by the failure of Russian commanders to co-operate.

### **The Battle of Tannenberg [August 1914]**

This battle was between Germany and Russia. Russia was defeated. The Russian disaster in the North was partly compensated for by important successes against the Austrians in Galicia. The Russian were forced to retreat. Germany diverted much of her forces away from the Western front in 1915 to give assistance to the Austro-Hungarians. In September 1915, the Russians were driven to the Bukovina and Carpathians. They were also driven out of the Austro-Hungarian territory. Turkey entered the war on the side of Germany and this resulted in the closure of the straits [a strait is a narrow stretch of water connecting two seas]. It therefore became difficult for France and Britain to supply their Eastern ally with her war needs. Russia suffered not only from shortage of weapons and ammunition, but also of food. The devastating defeats of Russian troops made them to refuse to fight and streamed homewards from the war front in increasing numbers. By the end of 1916, strikes and food riots were rampant and in March 1917 a revolution broke out in Russia and Tsar was overthrown.

### **c] The Austro-Italian Front**

Italy, Austria-Hungary and Germany fought on this front. Italy who was a member of the Triple Alliance declared war on Austria-Hungary [in May 1915], which was also a member of the Triple Alliance. She had signed a secret treaty of London with the Entente [Allied] powers which promised her Istria, the city of Trieste, Trentino, Southern Tyrol and some Dalmatian Islands. Italy thus changed her mind and fought on the side of the allied powers. Italy fought the Austrians at Isonzo, North of Trieste. A series of inconclusive battles [11 battles] were fought here in 1916. In October 1917, combined Germany and Austro-Hungarian forces defeated the Italians at the battle of Caporetto. Italy lost 600000 men. Despite such a blow, Italy remained in the war and was counted among the victors after world war one.

### **d] The Turkish Front**

In November 1914, Turkey entered into the war on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary. The Western allies, who had supplied Russia with her war time needs through the straits and the Black Sea, could no longer continue to do so. This starved Russia of weapons, ammunition and food. This helped to force her out of the war in 1917.

### **The Gallipoli Campaign / Battle of Gallipoli**

This campaign was inspired by Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister. The aim of this campaign was to knock Turkey out of the war. The Western allies, who had supplied Russia with her war time needs through the straits and the Black Sea, could no longer continue to do so. This starved Russia of weapons, ammunition and food as well as other war necessities. The allies thus wanted to open up direct contact with Russia through the straits and the Black Sea. They also wanted to win Bulgaria over to the allied side. The first attempt was to enter through the straits and Sea of Marmora. They tried to bombard Constantinople and cause the collapse of the Turkish government. The naval attempt failed as the strong forts at the narrow waters of the Straits were defended. A second attempt was made when a

combined force of British, Australian and New Zealand troops landed on the Gallipoli peninsula. They destroyed the forts to clear the way for ships to try again to enter. The Turks were helped by the Germans under Liman Von Sanders. The allied troops were defeated and they withdrew in December 1915. There was loss of morale among the allied powers.

**To what extent did the outcome of the Gallipoli campaign benefit the Central powers?**

- Bulgaria joined the central powers after the victory of the central powers.
- The defeat of the allies made it difficult for the allies to assist Russia via the straits.
- It boosted the morale of the Central powers.
- The straits remained closed for the allied powers.
- This starved Russia of ammunitions, weapons, food and other war necessities which forced her out of the war.
- \*However, fighting on the Western front continued.
- USA entered into the war on the side of the allied powers.
- Austria continued to lose battles.

**e] The Balkan Front**

In this front, several countries were involved in the war. Romania, Serbia Albania, Montenegro, Russia, Greece, Britain, and France fought Bulgaria, Turkey and Austria-Hungary.

**The Entrance of United States of America [USA] into the First World War /The German Submarine warfare /The German U-boat campaign during World War One**

- In 1917 United States of America ended her so called isolation and entered the First World War on the side of the allied powers against the central powers.
- In December 1916 Woodrow Wilson [United States President] had tried to mediate between the allied powers and the central powers but this was a failure.
- Neither side was willing to give up war for peace.
- The British had imposed a strict naval blockade, designed to starve the enemy [Germany] of vital products like rubber, cotton, crude oil and many other commodities vital for the war.
- The Germans responded with submarine warfare or the U-boat campaign which was meant to destroy British shipping. The Germans aimed at starving Britain by cutting off British supply lines by sinking her merchant ships.
- This was thus a characteristic of war at sea.
- The Germans declared all the waters around the British Isles [Islands] a war zone and this threatened ships of neutral countries doing regular trading business.
- This German U-boat campaign was initiated by Admiral Scheer of Germany in 1915.
- The raiding of British merchant ships by Germans caused havoc in Britain.
- Germany wanted to control the Seas.
- In May 1915 the Germans sunk without warning the British ship, the Lusitania.
- 1200 people were drowned including 118 Americans.
- This angered the United States President, Woodrow Wilson who sent a warning to the Germans that a repeat of such an action would result in serious consequences.
- USA thus protested against German barbarism.
- Germany temporarily stopped the U-boat attacks.
- The major reason for temporarily stopping the U-boat campaign was the realisation by Germany that they lacked sufficient U-boats to risk American intervention.

- In 1916 Germany resumed the unrestricted U-boat campaign / submarine warfare.
- They attacked both neutral and enemy ships /vessels alike.
- It was a successful blockade on German supply lines which forced the German High Command to accept Admiral Scheer's demand for a renewal of unrestricted U-boat warfare.
- The Germans also resumed the U-boat warfare after realising that they now had sufficient U-boats [300] to win war before the United States of America intervened.
- In March 1916, Germans sunk another British ship, the Sussex, again with some Americans.
- The unrestricted submarine warfare created food shortages in Britain.
- The U-boat campaign initially proved very successful with several British ships being destroyed.
- By April 1917 about 450 ships had been lost and many people died.
- To reduce the losses in the Sea the British admiralty introduced the radar and the convoy system.
- Warships were also assisted by newly developed Depth Charge and Hydrophones.
- On 6 April, the USA responded to German submarine warfare by declaring war on Germany and her allies.
- Japan also gave naval assistance to the allied powers.
- The Germans had wrongly calculated that America would take time to mobilise her forces.
- The Germans also sent a telegram to Mexico and the German intention was to ally with Mexico in an attempt to recover for Mexico, the states of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona which the United States had conquered in 1848.
- Thus this is another factor which brought USA into the war.
- By the beginning of 1918, American industries were manufacturing armaments for both the American forces and allied forces.
- Weapons, loans, food and ammunition poured into Europe in unlimited quantities.
- Fresh American troops also reinforced the exhausted British and French forces.
- The US navy helped to effect naval the blockade on Germany.
- The entrance of USA into the war boosted the morale of the allied powers.
- The Americans arrived on the Western front [in France] and they did swig the balance of power against Germany.
- Italy gained new life and started to deliver effective blows against Austria-Hungary in the South.
- Italy had been defeated by Germany and Austria-Hungary at Caporetto.
- The Austro-Hungarian Empire disintegrated in October 1917 and Germany was fighting literally single handed.
- Although the Germans fought courageously they lacked the necessary reserves of men yet the American forces were still pouring in.
- Tanks were brought into operation and Germans had no effective reply to them.
- It was thus impossible for Germans to escape defeat.
- At 11:00 AM, on 11 November 1918, Germany surrendered and the world war one came to an end.

### **Contribution of the entrance of USA to the defeat of Germany**

- USA joined the war later when others were weak and tired of fighting.
- USA had a powerful navy, fresh and many soldiers to aid the allies.

- More tanks were made available by USA.
- USA aided the allies with food, funds, weapons and ammunition in loan to ensure that Germany and her allies were defeated.
- The entrance of USA was very timely.

### **Other factors which led to the defeat of Germany**

- Germany had weak allies
- Germany fought on many fronts
- Central powers were outnumbered by allied powers

### **Contribution of the US Navy to the defeat of Germany**

- US navy increased the scope of the war.
- German troops were demoralised by the entry of USA.
- There were fresh marines from USA.
- US navy brought a steady supply of war materials for the allies.
- The US navy helped to effect naval blockade on Germany.

### **The War at Sea during the First World War**

- Initially the battle between Britain and Germany was signalled by the sinking of a smaller British squadron off the coast of Chile in 1914 by the German Pacific fleet.
- The British Royal Navy fleet responded by having a blockade around Germany which continued until the end of the war.
- The most significant naval battle was the Battle of Jutland, in 1916 the Royal Navy recorded considerable loss to the Germans.
- Although German surface ships made poor showing their submarine campaign was the most effective and almost brought Britain to defeat in 1917.
- Germany crippled the British supply lines by sinking a majority of her merchant ships.
- Britain remained with only six weeks of supply of food.
- The unrestricted use of the U-boat, in 1915 led to the sinking of the British ship, the Lusitania in which 1200 lives were lost.
- Among these were 118 Americans.
- This was followed by the sinking of another British ship, the Sussex by the Germans in 1916.
- Again there were also some Americans in this ship.
- Thus it was this German submarine warfare which brought USA into the First World War.
- The entrance of USA demoralised the German soldiers.
- Some mutinied [rebelled] and the allies took control of the seas, thus contributing to a larger extent to the defeat of Germany.

### **Battles fought during the First World War**

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| -Battle of Somme          | -Battle of Verdun            |
| -Battle of Dardanelles    | -Battle of Gallipoli         |
| -Battle of Jutland        | -Battle of Marne             |
| -Battle of Ypres          | -Battle of Passchendaele     |
| -Battle of Heligoland     | -Battle of Arras             |
| -Battle of Caporetto      | -Battle of Tannenberg        |
| -Battle of Masurian Lakes | -Battle of Falklands Islands |
| -Battle of Cambria        | -Battle of Amiens            |

## **Why Germany and her allies [Central Powers] were defeated during the First World War?**

### **Weaknesses of the Central Powers**

- Austria-Hungary and Turkey were weakened by nationalist movements at home and could not give maximum help to Germany.
- Germany fought war on many fronts. This divided her resources.
- The German revolt at home by the socialists led to its defeat.
- The failure of the Schlieffen Plan also led to the defeat of Central powers.
- The Germans underestimated the duration of the war.
- The Central powers had poor food supplies.
- The failure of the U-boat campaign also contributed to the defeat of Central powers. The German war ships failed to overpower those of the allied powers.
- There was poor communication among the German soldiers.
- Germany had some inexperienced soldiers and commanders.
- Germany had weak allies, that is, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. They fought half-heartedly.
- Germany and her allies had a restricted number of soldiers yet almost the whole of Europe was against Germany and her few allies.
- The Central powers were few and were outnumbered by the Allied powers.
- The disintegration of Austria-Hungary in 1918 led to the defeat of Central powers.

### **Strengths of the Allied Powers**

- The Allied leaders were competent.
- The allied blockade brought about starvation of the Central powers in both food and raw materials.
- Italy joined the war on the side of the allied powers.
- Belgian resistance also contributed to the defeat of central powers.
- The allied powers gave a high joint command.
- The inexhaustible wealth of the British Empire also contributed.
- The capture of German scientists by allied powers led to the defeat of central powers.
- The allied powers outnumbered the central powers.
- Britain's superiority at sea which Germany failed to break led to her defeat.
- The entrance of USA into the First World War on the side of allied powers led to the defeat of central powers.

## **RESULTS / EFFECTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

### **Political Results / Effects of world war one**

- The Central powers were defeated.
- Self determination was given to some minorities.
- There was rise of dictators like Mussolini and Hitler in Europe.
- Franchise [voting] was introduced for women in countries like USA, Britain and France.
- Four empires collapsed, that is, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Russia.
- There was creation of new states like Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Latvia.
- There was signing of peace treaties with the defeated powers.
- There was rise of extremist parties such as Nazi party in Germany, Fascist party in Italy and Communist party in Russia.

- There was development of new ideologies such as Communism in Russia.
- There was creation of the League of Nations.
- There was rise of banditry [robbery], especially by demoralised soldiers.
- There was establishment of democratic governments in Germany and Austria, thus there was fall of monarchism.
- There was abdication of the Kaiser in Germany.
- A legacy of hatred, bitterness and suspicion was left among nations which helped to bring world war two.
- New methods of warfare were introduced, for instance, trench warfare.
- There was introduction of new weapons of mass destruction, for instance, tanks, bombs, aeroplanes, machine guns and gas.
- The map of Europe was redrawn.
- There was a shift in balance of power, for instance. Germany was left a weaker state.

### **Social Results /Effects of world war one**

- Many children were orphaned.
- Many women became widows.
- Unemployment was rampant [widespread].
- There was erosion of class and sex barriers as men of all classes had shared the same hardships in the trenches and had been forced into conduct.
- Prostitution was rampant.
- There was emergence of incurable diseases like influenza.
- There was great loss of human lives, for example, Germany lost 1900000 soldiers.
- Homeless societies were created.
- There was widespread poverty and destitution.
- There was widespread starvation and hunger.
- There was an improvement in communication, for example, radios, televisions and the code language were introduced.
- There was equality of men and women as women worked in ammunition factories together with men.
- There were poor living and sanitary conditions.

### **Economic Results / Effects of world war one**

- War gave great commercial advantage to industrialised nations outside Europe, for example, USA and Japan.
- America got a large share of world trade and became the greatest creditor nation.
- Europe became relatively poor and the people of Europe were heavily taxed to pay off the war debts.
- Countries like India now began to build industries of their own instead of depending on European countries.
- There was increased production.
- There was availability of cheaper goods.
- Workers earned low wages.
- There was land degradation.
- Inflation was high.
- Unemployment was widespread.



- There was an economic depression [not of 1929].
- There was closure of factories.
- There was destruction of infrastructure.
- British and French industries were concentrating on war materials and could no longer supply customers with the day to day goods.
- Europe lost its lead in industrial development and its people became poorer.
- Some countries lost raw materials to newly formed states.
- There was technological advancement, for example, washing machines, gramophones, radios; vacuum cleaners and so on were introduced.
- Many countries were left with war debts.
- There was payment of reparations, especially by defeated Central powers.
- There was bankruptcy in Europe.
- There were strikes, lockouts and demonstrations in Europe.

### **To what extent did women benefit from the results of the First World War?**

#### **Benefits**

- War situation created jobs for several women who would otherwise have spent much of their time at home.
- Women took up tasks usually the preserve of men, for example, in industries, the military and so on, proving wrong the notion that they were of a weaker and inferior orientation.
- Franchise [voting] was opened to women in some countries like USA, France and Britain.
- Women were freer than before, for example, in USA they could now drive cars, smoke, discuss sex openly and move freely without accompaniment by men.

#### **Non Benefits**

- Some women were left widows and took up roles of bread winners.
- Not all women were given franchise.
- The return of men from war meant that some women lost their jobs.

### **To what extent did the minority groups benefit from the effects of the First World War?**

#### **Benefits**

- Women were made free than before, for example, they had the right to vote, move freely without male accompaniment.
- Minorities like Slavs and Czechs had states created for them.
- There was recreation of states like Poland swallowed by Germany and Russia.

#### **Non Benefits**

- The Jews were scattered all over the world due to the war.
- The return of men from war meant loss of jobs by some women.

### **To what extent did the people of Europe benefit from the results of the First World War?**

#### **Benefits**

- People benefited from technological developments that occurred in production of goods during the war.
- Greater benefits only came when their countries had introduced tariffs against American goods.
- Railways were built.
- Hydro-electric power plants were incepted.



-There was an improvement in communication, for example, radios, televisions and code language.

-Equality of men and women came about as women worked in ammunition factories.

### **Non Benefits**

-Europe lost its lead in industrial development and the people became poorer.

-The people of Europe were heavily taxed to make up for war debts.

-Unemployment was widespread.

-There was destruction of industries.

### **To what extent did United States of America [USA] benefit economically from the First World War?**

#### **Benefits**

-War gave great commercial advantage to the USA.

-She exported cars and chemicals to Europe.

-USA loaned money to the fighting countries.

-USA overtook Europe to become an economic giant.

#### **Non Benefits**

-The war also brought some economic disadvantages.

-Overproduction later led to the Great Depression.

-After the war some European countries introduced tariffs on America.

-Some countries failed to pay back the American loans.

### **New States created in Europe after the First World War**

-Poland

-Czechoslovakia

-Austria

-Hungary

-Yugoslavia

-Finland

-Lithuania

-Latvia

-Estonia

### **THE PARIS PEACE SETTLEMENT / CONFERENCE**

After the First World War, many treaties were signed from 1919 to 1923 between the victorious and the defeated powers. The collective name for all these treaties was Paris Peace Settlement. The **specific treaties** were---

a) Treaty of Versailles signed with Germany [1919]

b) Treaty of St Germain signed with Austria [1919]

c) Treaty of Neuilly signed with Bulgaria [1919]

d) Treaty of Trianon signed with Hungary [1920]

e) Treaty of Sevres signed with Turkey [1920]

f) Treaty of Lausanne signed with Turkey [1923]

The Turkish government had refused to ratify [approve and make official by signing] the treaty of Sevres and signed another one [Lausanne]. Lausanne was the only one which negotiated while all others were dictated [imposed]. The names of the treaties were determined by the venues the negotiations were held. The leading states at the negotiations at Paris were the **Big Three** which are-

a) USA-represented by Woodrow Wilson

b) Britain-represented by Lloyd George

c) France-represented by Georges Clemenceau

The peace settlement was in accordance with Woodrow Wilson's 14 points which were accepted as the basis for making peace. All the defeated powers were not represented

### **The defeated powers not represented at Paris Peace Settlement**

- Germany
- Austria
- Hungary
- Bulgaria
- Turkey

### **The victorious powers represented at Paris Peace Settlement**

- a) USA represented by Woodrow Wilson
- b) Britain represented by Lloyd George
- c) France represented by Georges Clemenceau
- d) Italy represented by Vittorio Emmanuel Orlando
- e) Japan represented by Ikhali
- f) Greece represented by Venizolos
- g) South Africa represented by Jan Smuts

Jan Christian Smuts was the only one who signed both peace settlements, that is, after World War One and after World War Two. He was born in 1870 and died in 1950. He was the Prime Minister of South Africa from 1939 to 1948.

### **Woodrow Wilson's 14 points**

- 1] There was to be an end of secret diplomacy and secret treaties.
- 2] There was to be freedom of navigation on seas.
- 3] There was to be removal of economic barriers to trade.
- 4] There was to be reduction of armaments to a level consistent with domestic safety.
- 5] There was to be settlement of colonial claims with proper regard for the interests of the inhabitants.
- 6] German troops were to evacuate [move out of] the Russian territory.
- 7] There was to be restoration of Belgian sovereignty.
- 8] Alsace-Lorraine was to be returned to France.
- 9] Italy was to recover her proper boundaries [frontiers].
- 10] The subject peoples under Austria-Hungary were to be independent.
- 11] Romania, Serbia and Montenegro were to be evacuated and Serbia was to be given access to the sea.
- 12] The people under Turkish rule were to be autonomous and the Dardanelles were to be open to ships and commerce of all nations.
- 13] An independent Poland was to be created and given access to the sea.
- 14] An international Organisation was to be formed to guarantee the independence of all states, both great and small.

### **To what extent were Woodrow Wilson's 14 points followed?**

#### **Points followed**

- Points number 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 were accepted
- Belgian sovereignty was restored [7]
- Alsace-Lorraine were returned to France [8]
- The subject peoples under Austria-Hungary were made independent [10]
- Romania, Serbia and Montenegro were evacuated and Serbia was given access to the Sea [11]

-The people under Turkish rule were given autonomy [12].

### **Points not followed**

- The Allied powers met in secret [1].
- Britain refused to give up its right to search ships trading with an enemy during war time [2].
- Tariff barriers were retained and increased [3].
- There was no real attempt at disarmament [4].
- Britain and France increased their colonial holdings [5].
- The allies sent troops to attack the Bolsheviks [6].
- The boundary of Italy was not settled [9].
- Post war Poland contained millions of Germans [13].
- The League of Nations never works as Wilson had hoped [14].

### **The Aims [Views] of the Big Three at Paris Peace Settlement / Conference of 1919**

#### **a) David Lloyd George of Britain**

- He wanted an end of the German threat to the British navy and empire.
- To make Germany a non aggressive country without colonies.
- To prevent Germany from becoming economically weak so that a revival of European industry and trade is not hindered.
- To prevent Germany from becoming very poor such that the Germans won't turn to communism.
- To avoid humiliating Germans so that they have no reason to seek revenge.
- To help secure France against Germany but prevent France from becoming too powerful.
- To create a balance of power so that no one European country can threaten others.
- To hang the Kaiser
- To make Germany pay for war damages.

#### **b) Georges Clemenceau of France**

- To have revenge on Germany for France's suffering.
- To make Germany pay for the cost of damage.
- To punish Germany for the humiliation she had inflicted on France after defeating her in the 1870-71 Franco Prussian war.
- To ensure that Germany would never be able to attack France again.
- To take away German lands.
- To weaken German industries.
- To reduce her armed forces.
- To weaken Germany militarily and economically.
- To have Germany divided into small state.
- To hang the Kaiser.
- The return of Alsace-Lorraine to France.
- Prevention of Union of Germany and Austria.
- Return of French flags taken by Germany.
- Germany was to accept the responsibility of causing the war

#### **c) Woodrow Wilson of USA**

- To establish peace without humiliating defeated powers.
- To reduce armaments.
- To prevent Germany from becoming aggressive again.

- To establish lasting peace.
  - To have a fair settlement.
  - To establish an international association of nations.
  - To base the peace treaties on the 14 points.
  - To create a world made of safe democracy.
  - To punish Germany for her aggression.
  - To avoid forcing Germany to pay heavy damages.
  - He wanted self determination and to give nations democratic governments of their choice.
- \*NB Anyone of Woodrow Wilson's 14 points is accepted.

### **To what extent were the aims of Wilson fulfilled?**

#### **Aims fulfilled**

- Alsace-Lorraine was given to France.
- An international organisation [League of Nations] was formed.
- Self determination was given to minorities.

#### **Aims not fulfilled**

- Reparations were too high.
- The defeated powers were excluded from the Conference.
- Disarmament was applied only to the defeated powers.
- Self determination was denied to Germans, for example, post war Poland contained millions of Germans.
- The terms of the treaties were too harsh.

### **To what extent were the aims of Gorges Clemenceau fulfilled in the treaty of Versailles?**

#### **Aims fulfilled**

- Germany was weakened which Clemenceau wanted.
- Alsace-Lorraine went back to France.
- Germany was made to pay reparations.
- The Saar and Ruhr coal fields were to be managed by France who would take profits as compensation for war damages.
- German military strength was weakened as her air force was disbanded.
- The Rhineland was demilitarised.
- Germany was forced to sign the war guilty clause.

#### **Aims not fulfilled**

- Germany sought revenge which the French did not want because of the loss of her territory.
- Germany never paid the reparations in full because they were too harsh.
- British and American views were also considered.
- Germany was not divided into smaller states as Clemenceau wanted.

### **To what extent were the aims of Lloyd George fulfilled?**

#### **Aims fulfilled**

- Germany was made to pay reparations.
- Germany lost colonies which Lloyd George wanted.
- The Rhineland was demilitarised so as to make France secure.
- German army was reduced so as to make her a non aggressive state.

#### **Aims not fulfilled**

- Germany never paid the reparations in full.

- French and American views were also considered.
- Germany sought revenge because of her loss of territory.

## **THE SPECIFIC TREATIES**

### **1] Treaty of Versailles**

It was signed with Germany at Versailles in France. It was signed exactly five years after the Sarajevo assassination. The German delegates were never directly involved in the negotiations. They were invited only to endorse [sign] the treaty. Thus it was a diktat settlement.

#### **The Territorial Terms of the Treaty of Versailles**

- Germany lost Alsace-Lorraine to France.
- The Saar was to be administered by the League of Nations for 15 years.
- Eupen, Malmedy and Moresnet went to Belgium.
- North Schleswig was given to Denmark.
- The Port of Memel and surrounding land was placed under international control.
- The Rhineland remained part of Germany but it was demilitarised permanently.
- Poland was made independent.
- The Polish Corridor and Posen were given to Poland.
- The Port of Danzig, a predominantly German area, was made an independent city under the League of Nations. But in practise it fell under Polish control as this was to allow Poland direct access to the Sea through the creation of the Polish Corridor which led to Danzig.
- The coal and rich iron of Upper Silesia was again given to Poland.
- The union of Germany and Austria [Anschluss] was forbidden yet Austria was a German state.
- The Kiel Canal was opened to the shipping of all nations.
- The Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia were granted independence from Germany.
- Finland was made an independent state.
- Strasbourg and Metz were given to France.
- All German Islands in the Pacific Ocean were divided amongst Australia, New Zealand and Japan.
- South East Asia [Samoa Islands] went to New Zealand.
- Caroline Islands were given to Japan.
- New Guinea was given to Australia.
- Tanganyika [German East Africa] was given to Britain.
- Germany lost Namibia [South West Africa] to South Africa.
- Rwanda and Burundi went to Britain.
- Cameroon and Togo were given to Britain and France who governed them jointly.

#### **Territories lost by Germany in Europe at the Treaty of Versailles**

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| -Alsace-Lorraine    | -Eupen         |
| -Malmedy            | -Upper Silesia |
| -Danzig             | -Memel         |
| -Northern Schleswig | -Saar Basin    |
| -Moresnet           | -Strasbourg    |
| -Rhineland          | -Posen         |

-East Prussia

-Estonia

-Lithuania

-Latvia

### **Territories lost by Germany in Africa at the Treaty of Versailles**

-New Guinea

-Burundi

-Namibia

-Tanganyika

-Rwanda

-Cameroon

-Togoland

### **Were the Territorial Terms of the Treaty of Versailles fair to the Germans?**

#### **Unfairness of the treaty of Versailles**

-The terms were dictated to Germany

-Germany was greatly reduced in size.

-Germany lost colonies which were a source of raw materials.

-Germany was not allowed to have colonies yet other countries were allowed to.

-Germans found themselves as minorities in newly created states.

-Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria which was a German state.

#### **Fairness of the treaty of Versailles**

-The return of Alsace –Lorraine to France was fair as they belonged to her.

-The return of North Schleswig to Denmark was fair as it belonged. [It was taken by Germany in 1864].

-Germany had taken one third of Russian territory through the treaty of Brest Litovsk, so these territories had to gain independence.

-Germany had caused great destruction to France and Belgium.

-The demilitarised Rhineland was to act as a buffer zone [a barrier] against French insecurity.

#### **Non Territorial Terms of the Treaty of Versailles**

These included the disarmament clause / military clause, the war guilty clause and the reparations clause.

##### **a) The War Guilty Clause**

-Germany was forced to accept responsibility of causing all the loss and damage to which the allied and associated powers have been subjected as a consequence of a war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

-Germany was given the entire blame for causing the war.

-The clause accused Germany of being a war criminal who among other things violated Belgian neutrality, destroyed occupied territories, bombed civilians and sunk merchant ships [through the U-boat campaign or submarine warfare].

-Germany was forced to accept all these and was to suffer a heavy penalty.

-French flags captured in 1871 were to be returned.

-The Kaiser and other officials were to be handed over for trial.

##### **b) The reparations Clause**

-Germany was forced to pay compensation for the damages she had caused to the allied powers.

-The compensation was also to cover the suffering incurred by individual family members.

-Germany was to pay 6,6million pounds [132 million gold marks] to the allied powers.

-The payment was to be done in 30 years.

-France was to get 52% of the total amount, Britain 22%, Italy 10%, Belgium 8 % and the rest of the allies were to share 8%.

-Part of the reparations was to be paid in form of warships which were to be built by Germany for Britain for the next 5 years.

-France was to be paid with minerals like coal from Germany.

-Belgium was to be paid with cattle.

-Germany was to surrender part of her fishing fleet to the allies.

-Germany was to surrender the Saar coal fields to France for 15 years.

-German railway engines and wagons were to be handed over to the allies.

### **c) Disarmament Clause / The military Clause**

-German army was reduced to 100000 men [it was reduced to the size of the army of Greece].

-Conscription was forbidden. Thus soldiers were to be recruited voluntarily.

-German soldiers were to serve for a period of less than 12 years.

-The German General Staff of 1914 to 1918 was dissolved and was not to be reformed.

-Germany was not allowed to have warships or submarines.

-Germany was allowed to have only 6 battleships.

-Germany was not allowed to have tanks.

-Germany was not allowed to have an air force.

-Germany was allowed to have 6 cruisers [vessels].

-Germany was to have 12 destroyers.

-Germany was to have 12 torpedo boats.

-Germany navy was reduced to 15000 men.

-German naval base at Heligoland was demolished.

-Germany was banned from manufacturing heavy artillery and heavy guns.

-Germany was not allowed to have armoured cars.

-Germany was demilitarised on the Rhineland.

### **To what extent did the allied powers weaken German military power?**

-Germany army was left weak. She was left with a small sized army and prohibited to conscript.

-She was left without an air force.

-She was forbidden from having submarines [U-boats].

-The German High Command was disbanded.

### **Other side**

-Germany retained the capacity to rearm because of its industrial capacity.

-The demoralised soldiers were disgruntled and wanted to revenge.

### **Were the Non Territorial Terms of the Treaty of Versailles fair to the Germans?**

#### **Unfairness of the non territorial terms of the treaty of Versailles**

-Germany did not cause the war alone.

-Reduction of army and navy posed a threat to German security,

-The terms were dictated on Germany,

-The reparations were too high for German's ability to pay.

-Germany was forced to surrender the Saar coal fields yet she was to pay coal as reparations.

-She had to build warships for allies yet Germany's warships were destroyed.

-Germany was forbidden to have an air force yet other countries possessed some.



-Germany was not allowed rearm yet other countries were allowed to do so.

-The treaty punished innocent people of Germany instead of rulers.

### **Fairness of the non territorial terms of the treaty of Versailles**

-Germany was largely responsible for causing the war.

-She had an aggressive foreign policy.

-She had a war plan showing her aggressive intentions.

-Germany's army was to be reduced to prevent her from starting another war.

-German militarism needed to be checked hence the need for disarmament.

-France and Belgium needed compensation for destruction.

-Demilitarisation of the Rhineland was meant to give France security and safety.

-The banning of conscription in Germany would ensure security and safety of France and Belgium.

-It was Germany which had for years prepared for war through arms and naval race.

-If the Germans wanted a fair treaty they should have shown this by treating Russia fairly at the treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1917.

-Payment of reparations was a European phenomenon, for example, France was asked to pay reparations by Germany in the treaty of Frankfurt after the Franco-Prussian war.

### **2] Treaty of St Germain [September 1919]**

It was signed by Austria and allied powers.

#### **Terms of the treaty of St Germain**

-The union of Germany and Austria [Anschluss] was forbidden.

-Austria and Hungary were to be separated.

-She lost Bohemia, part of Silesia, the lower part of Austria and Moravia to Czechoslovakia.

-Bosnia and Herzegovina were given to Serbia.

-Bukovina was given to Romania.

-Galicia was given to Poland.

-South Tyrol, Trentino, Istria, Trieste and Dalmatia were given to Italy.

-Austria was made a republic [Monarch was banned].

-Her army was reduced to 30000 men.

-Austria was to pay reparations.

-Conscription was banned in Austria.

-Austria was made a landlocked country and had to make a 100km journey across Italy to reach the coast.

-Up to 80% of her industries were now under foreign control and mainly under Czech control.

-The best of her agricultural land was placed under Hungary.

-Her population was reduced from about 30 million to 6, 5 million.

#### **Were the terms of the treaty of St Germain fair to Austria?**

#### **Unfairness of the terms of the treaty of St Germain**

-The union of Austria and Germany [Anschluss] was forbidden yet the Austrians were Germany in origin.

-Her territories with strong German population were taken away.

-Austria was made a landlocked country.

-80% of her industries were now in Czechoslovakia.

- Her best agricultural land was now in Hungary.
- Her population was reduced from 30 million to 6, 5million.

#### **Fairness of the treaty of St Germain**

- Austria had been too ambitious in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Her ultimatum to Serbia was calculated to cause war.
- Payment of reparations was a European Phenomenon.

#### **How far were the terms of this treaty influenced by Woodrow Wilson's 14 points?**

##### **Influence of Wilson's 4 points**

- Creation of new states like Poland and Czechoslovakia sympathised with the principle of self determination.
- The breakup of the Austrian Empire was in line with Wilson's 14 points.
- The restoration of Italian frontiers [boundaries] was part of the 14 points.
- The covenant of the League was part of the 14 points.

##### **Other factors**

- The desire to punish the defeated powers and to weaken them was also a strong point.
- The restoration of Italian frontiers had to be matched with later settlements.

#### **3] The Treaty of Neuilly [November 1919]**

It was signed by Bulgaria and the allied powers.

##### **Terms of the Treaty of Neuilly**

- Bulgaria lost Western Thrace to Greece.
- Bulgaria lost some border areas to Yugoslavia.
- Bulgaria lost access to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Bulgaria lost some of her Aegean coastline.
- Her army was reduced to 20000 men.
- She had to pay reparations to the allies.
- Bulgaria had played a relatively small part in the war and was treated less harshly than its allies.

##### **Unfairness of the terms of the treaty of Neuilly**

- Million Bulgars were under foreign rule.
- Reduction of her army left the country insecure.
- Her population was reduced.
- She lost her resources to other states.

##### **Fairness of the terms of the treaty of Neuilly**

- Payment of reparations was a European phenomenon.
- She had been part of the losing side.

#### **4] The Treaty of Trianon [June 1920]**

It was signed by Hungary and the allied powers.

##### **Terms of the treaty of Trianon**

- Hungary became independent from Austria.
- She lost Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia and part of Banat to Yugoslavia.
- She lost Trentino to Italy.
- Burgenland was passed to Austria.
- Transylvania was given to Romania.
- She lost Ruthenia and Slovakia to Czechoslovakia.

- She was to accept and recognise the newly formed states.
- She lost nearly 66% of her pre-war territory to new states.
- Her population was reduced from 22million to 8 million.
- Conscription was banned in Hungary.
- She was to pay a war indemnity [reparations].
- Her army was reduced to 35000 men.
- She was to observe the covenant of the League of Nations.

#### **Unfairness of the treaty of Trianon**

- New frontiers [boundaries] left a number of Magyars under foreign rule, for example, Romania, Czechoslovakia and the like.
- Reduction of the army left the country insecure.
- She lost resources to newly created states.
- Her population was reduced.

#### **Fairness of the treaty of Trianon**

- Hungary was made an independent state.
- Hungary could freely determine its own affairs outside Austrian influence.
- She had failed to recognise the sovereignty of the Balkan states.
- Payment of reparations was a European phenomenon.

#### **5] The Treaty of Sevres [August 1920]**

It was signed by Turkey and the victors.

#### **Terms of the Treaty of Sevres**

- Turkey lost Western Thrace and part of Aegean Islands to Greece.
- She lost Syria and Lebanon to France.
- She lost Transjordan and Iraq to Britain.
- Armenia became independent.
- Adalia and Rhodes Islands were given to Italy.
- The States of Arabian peninsula [Saudi Arabia] became independent.
- Palestine was given to Britain.
- Turkish straits were put under the League of Nations. She lost control of the Black Sea.
- The covenant of the League of Nations was to be accepted.
- Anatolia [Smyrna] was given to Greece.
- Her army was reduced.
- She was to pay reparations to the allies.

Turks were outraged by this treaty. The treaty of Sevres was never ratified and in 1923 it was replaced by the treaty of Lausanne. The treaty of Sevres became a dead letter when a nationalist revolution led by Mustafar Kemal broke out against Turkey and received military assistance from Soviet Union. Turkey declared war on Greeks and drove them out of Smyrna [Anatolia]. The allies made a new treaty of Lausanne.

#### **Unfairness of the treaty of Sevres**

- She lost too many territories.
- The allies ignored Turkish national feeling.
- Occupation by foreign troops was unfair.
- The treaty was imposed on her.
- Reduction of her army left her insecure.

### **Fairness of the treaty of Sevres**

- Payment of reparations was a European phenomenon.
- She had been part of the losing side.
- It was fair as it resulted in the opening of the straits.
- Non Turkish territories were made independent.
- Turkey had aided Germany during the war.

### **6] The Treaty of Lausanne [1923]**

- It was signed by Turkey and the victors. It was a revision of the treaty of Sevres.

### **Terms of the Treaty of Lausanne**

- Turkey recovered Anatolia / Smyrna from Greece.
- Eastern Thrace was returned to Turkey.
- The Straits and the Greco-Turkish frontiers were demilitarised.
- Italy kept Dodecanese Islands.
- Britain's possession of Cyprus was confirmed.
- Rhodes Islands were given to Italy.
- Adalia was given to Italy.
- Turkey was to pay reparations to the allies.
- Her army was reduced.

### **Countries which Italy wanted at Paris Peace Conference in 1919**

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| -South Tyrol | -Trentino |
| -Istria      | -Dalmatia |
| -Trieste     | -Fiume    |
| -Adalia      | -Rhodes   |
| -Albania     |           |

### **Weaknesses of the peace treaties signed after world war one**

- The treaties were just imposed / dictated upon countries.
  - The treaties created a group of discontented revisionists like Hitler and Mussolini.
  - Russia took no part at Paris peace settlement so it was not bound by it.
- The treaties created many weak unstable governments.

### **THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS**

It was set up in 1920, in Geneva, in Switzerland. It was the brainchild of Woodrow Wilson's 14th point. Woodrow Wilson had argued that Europe was exhausted with war. However USA did not belong to the League of Nations.

### **Leaders involved in the formation of the League of Nations**

- Woodrow Wilson of US A
- Lloyd George of Britain
- Georges Clemenceau of France
- Vittorio Emmanuel Orlando of Italy
- Jan Smuts of South Africa
- Ikhali of Japan
- Venizolos of Greece

### **Members of the League of Nations**

- |          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| -Britain | -France       |
| -Japan   | -South Africa |

- |         |            |
|---------|------------|
| -Greece | -Australia |
| -Canada | -Holland   |
| -Serbia | -Belgium   |
| -Italy  | -China     |
| -Spain  | -Ethiopia  |
| -Brazil | -Germany   |
| -Russia |            |

#### **Members of the League of Nations to 1934**

- |               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| -Britain      | -Italy   |
| -Holland      | -Japan   |
| -France       | -Belgium |
| -China        | -Spain   |
| -Ethiopia     | -Brazil  |
| -South Africa | -Greece  |

#### **Permanent members of the Council of the League of Nations before 1930**

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| -Britain | -France |
| -Italy   | -Japan  |
| -Germany |         |

#### **Aims of the League of Nations**

- To maintain world peace and security.
- To encourage international cooperation in solving social and economic problems.
- To guarantee frontiers.
- To protect member states from aggression.
- To solve disputes by peaceful means.
- To reduce armaments to the level consistent with domestic safety.
- To supervise mandated territories.
- To prevent secret diplomacy and secret treaties.
- To safeguard the rights of minorities and refugees.
- To assist needy countries economically.
- Respect and preservation of territorial integrity.
- To impose economic sanctions on aggressors.
- To help refugees.
- To control drug trafficking.
- To promote the health of mankind.
- To improve living and working conditions of people in all parts of the world.
- To fight against the spread of diseases.
- To stop the selling of girls as prostitutes.

#### **The Structure / Organs / Organisation of the League of Nations**

##### **Main Organs**

##### **1] The General Assembly**

- It was the main body of the League of Nations in which all states had representatives.
- In 1920 it had 42 members. In 1924 it had 55 members.
- It was the League's debating Chamber.
- It met once a year.

- Each member had one vote.
- Each member had equal representation [3 delegates from each].
- All nations in this body were working on basis of equality.
- It discussed any matters relating to the peace or welfare of the world and decided on appropriate course of action.
- All decisions had to be unanimous.
- It prepared the League budget.
- It elected non permanent members of the Council.
- It admitted new members and expelled members.
- It was the League's parliament.
- It elected the Secretary General.
- It proposed revision of peace treaties.

### **How successful was the League Assembly in carrying out the work of the League of Nations?**

#### **Successes**

- It was successful in preparing the League budget.
- It admitted new members into the League, for example, Germany in 1926 and Russia in 1934.
- It succeeded in appointing the Secretary General.
- It debated issues concerning the world peace.

#### **Failures**

- Since it met once a year, it failed to debate matters fully thus referring issues to the council.
- It failed to stop the withdrawal of members from the League, for example, Germany, Italy and Japan.
- It failed to stop Germany from withdrawing from the Disarmament Conference organised by the League.

### **2] The Council**

- It was the smaller body of four permanent members which became five after the admission of Germany in 1926.
- The permanent members included Britain, France, Italy, Japan and Germany. Russia joined the League in 1934 and became a permanent member to 1939.
- It also had non- permanent members, raised to 6 in 1926, to 9 in 1929 and to 11 in 1936.
- Each of the permanent members of the council had a veto. This meant one permanent member can stop the council from acting even if all other members agreed.
- It met more often, at least 3 times a year or whenever it was necessary.
- Decisions were to be unanimous just like in the Assembly to prevent great powers from imposing their will on smaller states.
- It dealt with problems when the Assembly was not in session.
- It organised sanctions against aggressors.
- It raised peace keeping forces.
- It mediated between conflicting members.
- It enforced decisions of the Assembly.

### **How successful was the Council in maintaining peace up to 1939?**

#### **Successes**

- It solved the problem of Vilna.
- It settled the dispute between Greece and Bulgaria.
- It settled a dispute between Peru and Columbia.
- It settled a dispute between Turkey and Iraq.
- It settled a dispute between Sweden and Finland.
- It settled a dispute between Germany and Poland.
- It settled a dispute between Serbia and Albania.

### **Failures**

- It failed to stop Japanese invasion of Manchuria.
- It failed to stop Hitler's acts of aggression, that is, over Austria, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Poland.
- It failed to stop Italian invasion Abyssinia [Ethiopia].
- It failed to prevent the outbreak of another world war [world war two].

### **3] The Secretariat**

- The League was serviced by a permanent Secretariat that worked at the League's headquarters in Geneva, in Switzerland.
- It was a sort of a civil service. It was made up of civil servants from member states.
- It dispatched information or reports to member states.
- It was a permanent body of officials drawn from all member states and elected by the Secretary General.
- The first Secretary General was an Englishman, Sir Eric Drummond.
- It implemented the decisions from the council.
- It did most of the work of the League.
- It looked after all paper work of the League.
- It carried out all administrative functions.
- It wrote down resolutions of the League.
- It prepared reports for the Council and Assembly.
- It kept records of league meetings and debates.
- It wrote down minutes during meetings.
- it carried out day to day activities of the league.
- It prepared the league agendas.
- It had specialist sections covering areas such as health, disarmament and economic matters.
- It translated languages [it organised translators].
- It collected information.

### **4] International Court of Justice [CIJ]**

- This body was meant to be a key part of the League' job of settling disputes between countries peacefully.
- It comprised of 15 Judges from different countries at Hague in Holland [Netherlands] who were to decide all disputes submitted to them.
- It originally had four Judges and eleven deputies who were chosen from various nations.
- The judges were appointed by the council and assembly.
- It dealt with cases referred to it.
- It had no way of making sure that countries follow its rulings.
- It advised the assembly and country if asked.



-In practise only 32 cases were heard in 22 years as governments were not willing to have judgements against them.

### **5] International Labour Organisation [ILO]**

-This body came into being in 1919.

-It distributed information on working conditions.

-Its aim was to improve working conditions of people throughout the world.

-It collected statistics and information about working conditions and it tried to persuade member countries to adopt its suggestions.

-Each member was to send 4 representatives to its Annual Conference [2 from government, 1 employer and 1 worker].

-Its purpose was to deal with workers' plight, for example, living conditions, working hours and compensation.

-It regulated working hours.

-It dealt with industrial and economic problems of the workers of the world.

-Its major task was to frame and apply international rules that governed conditions of labour.

-It was concerned with such issues as child labour, women labour and rights of agricultural labourers.

-It discussed wages and work in different parts of the world.

-Where the conditions were bad the ILO urged the nations concerned to pass laws to improve them but could apply no pressure if the government concerned refused.

-It was to create international labour standards.

-It also aimed at enhancing employment opportunities for workers.

-It discouraged forced labour and monitored the situation.

-It helped to bring cooperation between employers and employees.

### **How successful was the ILO in improving the working conditions among member states?**

#### **Successes**

-It was successful in bringing about cooperation between workers and employers across frontiers.

-It created the 8 hour working day.

-Conditions of women increased [It brought maternity protection for women].

-There was abolition of child labour and many countries stopped it.

-It helped in adoption of equal pay and benefit for work of equal value.

-It helped in crafting safety laws at the work place.

-It called for the introduction of minimum wages.

-Most member countries increased wages of workers.

-It recommended a system of international standards in all work related matters.

#### **Failures**

-Use of child labour continued in some countries.

-Wages continued to be low for most workers.

-Some employees were still not allowed to form trade unions.

-It had no mechanism to force desire for change on government and employers.

### **Commissions / Subsidiary Organs / Committees of the League of Nations / Agencies of the League of Nations**

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6] Mandates Commission             | 7] Minorities Commission      |
| 8] Drugs Commission                | 9] Refugees Commission        |
| 10] Disarmament Commission         | 11] Health Commission         |
| 12] Women Rights Commission        | 13] Slavery Commission        |
| 14] Undeveloped Nations Commission | 15] Political Asylumists      |
| 16] Military Affairs Commission    | 17] Transport & communication |
| 18] Labour Commission              | 19] Child Welfare Commission  |
| 20] Reparations Commission         | 21] Economic and Finance      |

### **Weaknesses of the League of Nations / Problems faced by the League of Nations in maintaining world peace up to 1939**

- It lacked a standing army to enforce its decisions.
- The sanctions were not effective and were difficult to enforce.
- It had **membership problem**, for instance,
  - a] USA [a major power] never joined the League.
  - b] Russia was not a member until 1934 and left in 1939.
  - c] Germany joined in 1926 but left in 1933.
  - d] Italy and Japan left the League the moment it criticised their actions in 1935.
  - e] Britain and France were the only great powers which remained members continuously throughout the 20 years [from 1920 to 1939].
- The members signed treaties outside the League, for example, Anglo-German Naval treaty [1935] and Stresa Front.
- The League was associated with hated treaties like Versailles. Defeated powers felt the League was an instrument to oppress them.
- The Great Depression of 1929-1939 hindered its work.
- The League was dominated by European powers. Its policy was mainly determined by Britain and France though countries across the world belonged to it.
- The League Assembly did not have enough time to resolve conflicts which piled because it met once per year.
- There was lack of cooperation among members, for instance, Britain and France followed the policy of appeasement.
- The acts of aggression committed by Germany, Italy and Japan made the League to fail to maintain peace.
- The members were mainly interested in pursuing their own national interests and were not committed to the League. Most countries were concerned with events affecting them, for example, no country was prepared to impose sanctions on Japan because they felt such sanctions would destroy their economies. Also half hearted sanctions were imposed on Italy because some countries like Britain wanted to benefit.
- There was favouritism, for example, Poland and Greece received much favour during the 1920s.
- The League attempt at general disarmament failed.
- The League was viewed as a club of victors. Its work was biased towards the interests of the victorious powers and their allies. The defeated powers were obliged not to respect it.

-There was also the problem of the Anglo-French differences on the role of the League. Britain did not want to give the League real authority and power while France wanted it to enforce the terms of the peace treaties.

-The League had limited financial resources.

-The rise of dictators like Hitler and Mussolini hampered its work. They were determined to reverse the peace treaties.

-Italy did not support the League fully because it did not gain much from the peace settlement.

-The **constitutional defects of the League** hampered its work. For instance,

a) The League Assembly met once a year.

b) Veto power made it impossible to make decisions.

c) Many countries disagreed with the constitution of the League which gave every state one vote only. Thus China with 500 million people carried the same weight with Latvia with 2 million people. Britain with its great industrial power had the same vote with Ethiopia.

d) The need for unanimity on all Council and Assembly decisions made the League inefficient in implementing decisions. It was impossible for all members to agree on the same issue.

### **To what extent did the structure of the League of Nations contribute to its failure to maintain world peace?**

-It had limited funds as there was no provision for this in the constitution of the League.

-The Assembly met only once a year and this was not sufficient to deal with problems.

-The League had no army to enforce its decisions.

-The League was closely tied with hated treaties like Versailles and such it was viewed as the Victors' club.

-The unanimity clause meant that each member had a veto over any decisions.

-It also depended too much on goodwill and good faith of its members.

### **Other factors which contributed to its failure**

-The rise of dictators like Hitler and Mussolini.

-Failure of disarmament.

-Disagreements between France and Britain.

-Absence of USA, which was one of the League's key architects.

-The withdrawal of some powers such as Germany, Italy and Japan.

-The policy of appeasement.

### **Successes of the League of Nations [1920-1939]**

The League was largely successful when dealing with smaller states and minor disputes.

-It settled a dispute between Sweden and Finland in 1920 over the Åland Islands. It ruled in favour of Finland.

-It settled a dispute between Turkey and Iraq in 1921 over Mosul.

-It settled a dispute between Hungary and Czechoslovakia in 1921.

-It settled a dispute between Guatemala and Honduras.

-It settled a boundary dispute between Albania and Yugoslavia.

-It settled a dispute between Serbia and Albania in 1921.

-It settled a dispute between Peru and Colombia.

-It settled a dispute between Paraguay and Bolivia.

- It settled a dispute between Columbia and Venezuela in 1922.
- It prevented a potential war between Greece and Bulgaria in 1925.
- It settled a dispute between Chile and Peru in 1925.
- It settled a dispute between Poland and Lithuania over Vilna [through the Conference of Ambassadors which gave it to Poland].
- It settled a dispute between Germany and Poland. It confirmed the division of Upper Silesia between the two.
- It administered mandated territories like Danzig and Saar.
- When the Austrian economy was on the verge of collapse in 1922 the League rescued her. It gave loans to Austria to help her industrial development.
- It helped with resettlement of prisoners of war and refugees. Homes were found for white Russians who fled after the Bolshevik revolution.
- It gave assistance to needy states and provided famine reliefs.
- The health commission combated the typhus disease in Russia.
- Valuable work was done during the epidemics that struck mankind in the post war years.
- The ILO improved on wages, unemployment benefits and working hours throughout the world.
- It ensured that minority rights were respected, for example, Germans in Czechoslovakia got the right to practice practise their own religion and to support their own language.
- It established international control over opium and other dangerous drugs.
- It worked to abolish all forms of slavery.
- It rose the minimum age at which children could be employed.
- It stopped girls from being traded as prostitutes.

### **Failures of the League of Nations**

The League was largely a failure when dealing with major powers and major disputes.

- It failed to stop the Russo-Polish war.
- It failed to stop the Polish-Lithuanian conflict which it referred to the Conference of ambassadors.
- It failed to take a decisive action against Mussolini's seizure of the Greek Island of Corfu in 1923.
- It failed to deal with Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931.
- It failed to stop Hitler from withdrawing from the Disarmament Conference 1933.
- It failed to punish Hitler from rearming Germany since 1933.
- It failed to stop Hitler from withdrawing from the League of Nations in 1933.
- It failed to stop Hitler from invading Austria in 1934; instead it was Mussolini who intercepted German soldiers.
- It failed to deal effectively with Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia / Ethiopia in 1935.
- It failed to punish Hitler for remilitarising the Rhineland in 1936.
- It failed to punish Hitler for seizing Memel from Lithuania.
- It failed to stop Hitler from annexing Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia in 1938.
- It failed to stop Hitler from invading Austria and completing the Anschluss [union of Germany and Austria] in 1938.
- It failed to stop Hitler from invading the whole of Czechoslovakia in 1939.
- It failed to stop Hitler from invading Poland in 1939.

-It failed to stop the outbreak of another world war [world war two] in 1939.

### **The Invasion of Corfu by Mussolini [1923]**

-There occurred a border dispute between Greece and Albania.

-As a result an international commission had been sent to the Balkans to settle the Greece-Albanian boundary line.

-During the course of its work an Italian General, Tellin and four of his staff were ambushed and shot dead while mapping the Greek-Albanian frontier on behalf of the Conference of Ambassadors.

-They were killed by unknown Greek assailants.

-Mussolini resorted to revenge this insult.

-He immediately issued an ultimatum to Greece demanding apology and a salute to the Italian flag, an enquiry by Greece with the assistance of an Italian official and the payment of a large reparation.

-Greece refused to accept the demands or the terms of the ultimatum, denouncing them as outrageous and violating the sovereignty of Greece.

-Mussolini who had been the Italian dictator for less than a year saw an opportunity to obtain glory and triumph of a Fascist regime.

-Mussolini in turn, ordered an Italian naval squadron to the Greek Island of Corfu to bombard the harbour.

-This was a direct contravention of the League of Nations and the Paris Peace Settlement.

-Fifteen civilians were killed and many wounded.

-The Italian marines landed and took possession of the port [Corfu].

-Greece appealed to the League for help.

-The League failed to take decisive action against Mussolini's seizure of Corfu.

-It could do nothing because Italy was a major power.

-The League left the issue to the Conference of Ambassadors which persuaded the Greeks to apologise and pay the 50million Lira which Mussolini demanded within a month.

-The amount was paid and Italian forces withdrew from Corfu.

### **How successful was the League of Nations in dealing with the Corfu incident?**

-Confronted by this defiance the League turned to the Committee of Ambassadors, a non League body.

-This body ordered a Commission of enquiry to investigate the incident.

-In September 1923 it presented its report without having discovered who was guilty of the murders.

-The Council of Ambassadors then ordered Greece to pay 50 million Lira.

-The amount was paid and Italian forces withdrew from Corfu.

\*However war was averted but many members were indignant over the handling of the whole affair.

-Some felt the League had allowed Italy to defy the body.

-Others felt the evidence obtained by the Commission did not warrant imposition.

-The League took too long to solve the incident.

-The Commission included an Italian [It was unfair].

### **The Japanese Invasion of Manchuria [1931]**

-In 1931 Japan invaded and annexed the Chinese province of Manchuria.

- The economic hardships of Japan had caused this invasion.
- This resulted from the tough tariffs which were imposed by China and USA against Japan.
- This economic crisis was caused by the closure of the US markets.
- Japan army leaders recommended the attack on Manchuria as the solution to obtain wealth from her.
- The Japanese army controlled the South Manchurian Railway which was sabotaged by the Chinese as claimed by Japan.
- In retaliation / revenge Japan invaded Manchuria, annexed it and established a puppet government and renamed it Manchukuo.
- This invasion was a direct contravention of the League of Nations.
- China appealed to the League for help.
- Japan claimed it was not invading as an aggressor but it was simply settling a local dispute.
- The Committee sent by the League reported that Japan was the aggressor.
- The League condemned the invasion and ordered Japan to withdraw but it refused to withdraw from the Chinese province.
- The League then sent a Commission under Lord Lytton to investigate the affair.
- The Commission suggested that Manchuria be governed by the League.
- Japan disagreed with this verdict and later left the League [1935].
- Hence the League failed to effectively deal with Japan.

#### **Was the League successful in settling this dispute?**

- The League accused Japan as the aggressor.
- The League condemned the invasion.
- It ordered Japan to withdraw from Manchuria.
- Japan refused to withdraw from China.
- The League failed to remove Japan from China.
- Japan refused to accept the decision by the Lytton Commission that Manchuria be governed by the League.
- Japan later withdrew from the League.

#### **The Italian Invasion of Abyssinia / Ethiopia [1935]**

- In October 1935 Italy invaded Abyssinia.
- Ethiopia was also a member of the League of Nations just like Italy.
- Mussolini invaded Ethiopia for various reasons.
- Mussolini thought that Abyssinia was rich in raw materials and would become a market for Italian goods.
- Mussolini also wanted to avenge the defeat of Italy in 1896 at the battle of Adowa by Ethiopians.
- Mussolini also wanted to settle surplus Italian population.
- He also wanted to create an empire for Italy.
- Mussolini also wanted to demonstrate that he was the true Caesar.
- Mussolini also wanted to cover up for the past humiliations and failures and to enhance Italian image and prestige.
- In 1935, Italy demanded compensation from Abyssinia after a frontier incident on the border between Abyssinia and Somaliland.
- Abyssinian president Haile Selassie appealed to the League for help.

- Mussolini poured troops in Italian Somaliland and Eritrea preparing to invade Ethiopia.
- In October 1935 Mussolini attacked Abyssinia.
- Haile Selassie was removed from power and fled to Britain.
- The League condemned Italy as the aggressor and asked Mussolini to withdraw troops from Abyssinia.
- Mussolini refused to withdraw troops from Ethiopia.
- Instead, Mussolini withdrew Italy from the League.
- The League ordered member states to impose sanctions on Italy.
- The sanctions were meant to starve Italy of necessities.
- However, Britain and France imposed half hearted sanctions on Italy.
- The sanctions were ineffective as they excluded vital resources like coal, oil and steel, the very commodities Mussolini needed desperately [for war].
- Romania and other oil producing countries were ready to impose sanctions but this was in vain.
- USA and Germany continued to trade with Italy as usual. They were outside the League.
- In May 1936 Italy completed her conquest.
- The League withdrew sanctions and failed to stop Mussolini.

#### **Was the League successful in settling this dispute?**

- The League accused Italy as the aggressor.
- It asked Mussolini to withdraw from Ethiopia.
- Mussolini refused to withdraw his troops from Ethiopia.
- The League asked members to impose sanctions on Italy.
- The sanctions were half hearted.
- USA and Germany who were not members of the League of Nations continued to trade with Italy again pointing to failure.

### **DICTATORSHIP IN ITALY**

#### **Problems faced by Italy between 1919 and 1922**

Although Italy emerged on the winning side of the First World War, she experienced serious economic, social and political problems between 1919 and 1922.

#### **Economic problems faced by Italy between 1919 and 1922**

- There was low industrial production in Italy.
- Low agricultural production
- Unemployment especially in the industrial North.
- A huge war debt
- Inflation, for example, a loaf of bread which cost 120 Lira before the war was by 1919 costing 600 Lira.
- Strikes were rampant
- There was lack of capital
- Shortage of food
- Lack of raw materials
- Closure of banks
- Decline in trade
- There were lockouts of workers by employees.
- High taxation



-Use of outdated machinery

### **Social problems faced by Italy between 1919 and 1922**

- A lot of corruption in some place
- Hunger
- The standard of living was low
- Strikes were rampant
- Increase in crime rates
- Prostitution became the order of the day
- Demonstrations were rampant
- There was no security in industries
- Poverty
- Domestic violence was the order of the day
- Less advanced education [78% illiteracy]
- The South was primitive and poor
- Brigandage or lawlessness
- Critical shortage of food
- Diseases

### **Political Problems faced by Italy between 1919 and 1922**

- The Italians were disappointed with the Paris Peace Settlement. This is because Italy had not been given some promised territories like Albania, Fiume and some Aegean Islands.
- Weak governments / governments were unpopular
- Political violence [Fascists frequently attacked socialists / communists].
- Too many political parties
- Unstable coalition governments
- Strikes and demonstrations were rampant
- Clash between the Church and the State
- Inefficient and corrupt civil service
- Fear of communism /Communist threat

\*All these problems led to the rise of Mussolini to power.

### **To what extent did the political problems contribute to the rise of Mussolini to power in 1922?**

- Mussolini took advantage of political problems to win support.
- There was a running quarrel between the government and the Pope.
- There were too many political parties which led to the formation of weak and unstable coalition governments.
- The politicians and governments were not interested in solving the problems in Italy.
- Weaknesses of the government made it to fail to deal with political violence caused by Fascists and Communists.
- Fear of Communism made the government to rely on the Black shirts [Fascists] to suppress communists thus giving Mussolini popularity.
- Danger of a civil war forced the king to invite Mussolini to become Prime Minister.

### **Other factors which led to the rise of Mussolini**

- Inflation which affected the middle class and workers whose savings were wiped out.
- Unemployment which swept the whole country
- Mussolini's ability to use propaganda
- Poverty
- Hunger
- Strikes
- Food shortages
- War debts

### **Political parties in Italy**

- Fascist Party [Black shirts]
- Nationalist Party [Blue shirts]
- Populari Party [Catholic party]
- Socialist Party [Red Guards]
- Communist Party [Red shirts]
- Liberal Party [Grey shirts]
- Republican Party

### **Italian leaders before Mussolini**

- Vittorio Emmanuel Orlando- [October 1917 to June 1919]
- Francisco Nitti-[June 1919 to June 1920]
- Giovanni Giolitti-[June 1920 to July 1921]
- Ivanoe Bonomi-[July 1921 to February 1922]
- Luigi Facta-[February 1922 to October 1922]

### **Factors which led to the rise of Mussolini to power**

- Fear of communism led to the rise of Mussolini. The industrialists and land owners feared communism and began to support Mussolini who was also against communism. They feared that if the communists seize power, their property would be nationalised. So they supported Mussolini for protection. The Catholics were prepared to support Mussolini who was a strong hand to fight the communists. Fear of communism made the government to rely on Black shirts [Fascists] to suppress communism thus giving Mussolini popularity.
- Propaganda made Mussolini to rise to power. He used propaganda to appeal to all discontented groups. He knew the demands of all sections in Italy and he used propaganda to win them. He deliberately distorted information to discredit the government and other political parties.
- Oratory led to Mussolini's rise to power. His oratory convinced many people in Italy. He promised a strong government, to unite the church and the state, law and order, adoption an adventurous foreign policy that would make Italy feared and respected. His oratory attracted many people.
- Failure of socialist and communist parties [which were anti Fascist] to unite against the Fascists enabled Mussolini to rise to power.
- Mussolini's violent sermons against the government received much sympathy.
- Use of intimidations led to his rise to power.
- Mussolini made conciliatory speeches about the Roman Catholics.
- Personal abilities of Mussolini led to his rise.
- The danger of a civil war made the king to invite Mussolini to become Prime Minister.
- Use of attractive parades
- A general atmosphere of disillusionment and frustration
- A weak economy
- Unemployment
- Inflation
- Poverty
- Hunger
- Diseases
- Social unrest
- Food shortages
- War debts

## **Stages in the rise of Mussolini to power / Steps taken by Mussolini in his rise to power up to 1922**

- Mussolini's rise to power was facilitated by various social, economic and political factors.
- These included a weak government, a general atmosphere of disillusionment and frustration, a weak economy and so on.
- In 1919 Mussolini launched an organisation that was to become the Fascist party within the next two years.
- Thus he formed the Fascist party in 1921.
- The Fascist party members wore black shirts. They were named after their uniform / shirts.
- The Fascist party was aggressive and believed in action.
- As leader of the Fascist party, Mussolini initially participated in the elections of May 1921.
- They won 35 out of 535 seats.
- Eventually Mussolini felt that parliamentary methods were ineffective against the threat of socialism.
- He embarked on the use of force. In other words his party adopted a policy of violence.
- Meetings of socialists and communists were attacked by the Fascists.
- Workers' movements were broken by the Fascists, wealthy industrialists and land owners supported Mussolini. The banks alone gave him 1, 5 million pounds.
- His private army [Black shirts] went round beating and intimidating opponents, at times forcing them to eat live toads and to drink castor oil.
- Sometimes they beat them with rubber hoses.
- Occasionally they murdered their opponents in public.
- He also adjusted his propaganda to appeal to all discontented groups.
- He got support from almost every direction, from the rich and poor, monarchists and socialists, liberal idealists and thugs, anti-clericals and priests.
- A general strike in the summer of 1922 gave Fascists the opportunity to restore order.
- The government had been unable to prevent the strike.
- As the government was too weak to deal with the strike, the illegal actions of the Fascists won them popular support.
- Landlords and industrialists sympathised with a movement which stood for strike breaking, lower wages and hostility to communism.
- Eventually Mussolini was brought to power by the March on Rome, October 1922.
- In October 1922 Mussolini demanded representation in the government.
- The government refused to accept this demand.
- This refusal was one factor which determined Mussolini to make a show of force.
- Mussolini had demanded that the country should be given a strong government capable of restoring order.
- On 28 October 1922, the Fascists staged the famous 'March on Rome' from various parts of the country.
- This posed a serious dilemma for the king Victor Emmanuel III, the Italian army and the police.
- The government appeared powerless to take action against Mussolini.
- Neither the royal family nor the army and the police took any effective action to prevent the entry of the Fascist column into Rome.

- Thus Mussolini met little resistance if any.
- On 29 October 1922, the king, Victor Emmanuel III asked Mussolini to form a government with other anti-Socialist groups.
- A coalition government was formed and Mussolini took the post of Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Home Affairs [Interior] at the same time.

### **To what extent did the use of violence assist Mussolini's rise to power?**

- Violence forced opponents to support the Fascist movement to avert death and injury.
- Violence was one of the several methods used to gain power.
- Force eventually prevailed over other methods in 1922

### **Other factors**

- Use of propaganda
- Use of attractive parades
- Parliamentary methods like participating in elections
- A general atmosphere of disillusionment and frustration
- A weak economy and a weak government

### **Government Posts held by Mussolini in Italy**

- |                                                |                                          |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| -Prime Minister                                | -Minister of the Interior [Home Affairs] |
| -Minister of Foreign Affairs                   | -Minister of Corporations                |
| -Minister of Army, Navy and Air force          | -Commander in Chief of the Militia       |
| -Head / President of the Fascist Grand Council |                                          |

### **Aims of Mussolini's Domestic Policy**

- |                                                  |                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| -To create a very strong government              | -To make Italy politically stable   |
| -To create a strong economy                      | -To establish dictatorship in Italy |
| -To create a totalitarian state                  | -To do away with democracy          |
| -To make Italy a great power once more           | -To increase the population         |
| -To make Italy self sufficient [Autarky]         | -To provide employment              |
| -To establish friendly relations with the church | -To ban strikes                     |
| -To stop the spread of communism                 | -To ban trade unions                |
| -To ban elections                                | -To revalue Italian currency        |

### **Mussolini's Domestic Policy from 1923 to 1939**

- Mussolini established dictatorship in Italy.
- He banned all opposition political parties. He made Italy a one party state.
- He ruled by decree [command] starting from 1926.
- Mussolini was opposed to democracy. In 1928 he banned voting and members of parliament were to be chosen by the Fascist Grand Council which was headed by Mussolini.
- Mussolini made Italy a totalitarian state. All aspects of life were controlled by the state.
- In 1927 Mussolini formed a secret police called OVRA. OVRA hunted for opponents in public places like cinemas, funerals, wedding ceremonies, beer halls and playing grounds. OVRA was thus meant to silence enmity.
- In 1929 Mussolini bridged the gap between the church and the state through the Lateran Treaty. Through this treaty, Italy recognised the Vatican City in Rome as a sovereign state. Roman Catholic Church was made a state religion. Religious education was surrendered to the church. In return, the Pope gave his blessing to Fascist dictatorship.

-All opponents were killed or exiled on the Lipuri Islands in the Mediterranean. For example, Giacomo Matteotti was murdered after accusing the Fascists of corruption and violence.

-Mussolini was a male chauvinist. He looked down upon women. For him, women were to be good at home where they were encouraged to bear as many children as possible, about 12 children per family on average.

-Mussolini inaugurated the battle for births. People were encouraged to bear many children. He imposed a tax on childless marriages and bachelors. He gave incentives to women so that they bear many children. Divorce was forbidden.

-There was education for all and this was free education. School teachers were to take an oath of allegiance to Mussolini and his Fascist regime. In 1931 the same was required of University lecturers. They were to promise that they would teach according to the Fascist principles. In schools pupils were encouraged to criticise their teachers and were taught to repeat the Ten Commandments of Fascism, including 'Mussolini is always right'. There was indoctrination of children. Teaching was to be Fascist and justify the ethics of violence, obedience and intellectual uniformity. Teachers had to wear uniforms. New textbooks were written to conform with Fascism.

-There was strict censorship. Anti-Fascist newspapers and magazines were either banned or had their editors replaced by Fascist supporters.

-Elected town councils and mayors were abolished and towns were run by officials appointed from Rome.

-Trade unions were banned and their offices were closed. The trade unions had been built mainly under communist and socialist leadership. This was followed by the establishment of a system of 'Corporations' in which workers, employers and the state were represented. The corporations were to settle all matters relating to conditions of work. The ministry of Corporations was introduced to supervise these corporations. The aim of this was to make both workers and employers support the interests of the state before their own.

-Lockouts of workers by employers were forbidden.

-Mussolini created employment in Italy. He did so through launching a number of public works such as draining marshes like Pontine Marshes near Rome, electrification, construction of roads, railway lines, bridges, railway stations, dams and sports stadiums. He also created employment through launching industries which manufactured air craft, motor vehicles and weapons for his foreign ventures.

-In 1926 Mussolini inaugurated the battle of wheat. He encouraged farmers to concentrate on wheat production aimed at self sufficiency which he claimed to have been achieved in 1932.

-Iron, silk and steel production increased.

-Mussolini inaugurated the battle of lira. The currency was revalued.

-Hydro electricity was doubled.

-Industry was encouraged with government subsidies.

### **To what extent did Mussolini's Domestic Policy benefit Italians?**

#### **Benefits / Positive effects**

-Banning trade unions brought about order and progress in industries.

-Law and order was restored in Italy since brigands who terrorised the people in streets had disappeared.

-A large number of people were employed through the public works.

- The battle of wheat made Italy self sufficient in terms of food.
- There was provision of good accommodation through flat construction.
- There was improved transport for the people from one place to another.
- The draining of marshes led to the increase in agricultural land.
- The Italian nation which had been for long divided into two, the supporters of the state and supporters of the Pope was united by Mussolini.
- The creation of employment improved the standard of living.

### **Non benefits / Negative Effects**

- The abolition of trade unions led to the exploitation of workers who lost their right to strike for better working conditions.
- Unemployment was not completely wiped out.
- Censorship of the press led to lack of freedom of expression.
- Italians lost their right to vote as members of parliament were to be elected by the Fascist Grand Council headed by Mussolini.
- Italians lost their freedom and now lived in fear.
- The education system was blinkered. Pupils were being indoctrinated instead of being educated.
- The battle of wheat was counter- productive and strained the budget.
- Although Mussolini restored law and order, however, this law and order applied only to non Fascists. The Fascists had the liberty [freedom] to do what they wanted with their opponents.

### **Economic Policies of Mussolini**

- Industry was encouraged with government subsidies.
- Mussolini introduced the battle of wheat.
- Land reclamation was launched, for example, draining of marshes and planting trees.
- Public works were introduced, for example, construction of roads, bridges, railways, stadiums, dams and so on.
- Mussolini introduced the battle of the lira.
- Strikes were outlawed [banned].
- Trade unions were banned.
- There was expansion of silk, iron and steel production.
- Hydro electric power was doubled.
- There was creation of a corporate state to control production, prices and working conditions.
- Lock outs of workers were outlawed.
- There was high taxation, especially for single and unmarried workers.
- Price controls were to make public life easy.
- Transport was developed with government subsidies.
- Railways were electrified.
- An eight hour working day was enacted.
- Workers were assured of such benefits as free Sundays, annual holidays with pay, social security, sports and theatre to compensate for their loss of freedom.
- The textile industry was expanded.
- There was development of synthetic rubber.

### **Benefits of Mussolini's Economic Policy**

- There was stability in prices through lowering wages and suppression of strikes and Trade Unions.
- The government fixed rents and controlled food prices thus making up for low wages.
- The lira was revalued.
- There was development of infrastructure.
- Hydro electric production increased.
- Iron and steel production doubled.
- Draining Pontine Marshes provided hundreds of thousands of acres of new farmland and eradicated Malaria.
- The public works created employment.
- Banning of strikes led to an increase in production.
- Inflation was reduced.

### **Negative Effects of Mussolini's Economic Policy**

- Unemployment was not completely addressed.
- There was shortage of basic goods.
- There was rampant corruption and inefficiency.
- Wheat production damaged other forms of agricultural output. Farmers concentrated on wheat at the expense of other crops.
- Overvaluing of the lira made exports more expensive.
- Although prices were stable, they however remained high.
- Italy was still not self sufficient in food supplies.
- Motorways [Austrada] were planned but only a few were actually started.

### **Mussolini's Social Policy**

- He encouraged high birth rates.
- There was strict censorship of the press.
- He introduced the Youth League.
- Education was made Fascist and was for all.
- He signed the Lateran treaty with the Pope.
- Roman Catholic Church was made the state religion.
- He looked down upon women.
- Mussolini created employment in Italy.
- He gave workers some benefits, for example, free Sundays, annual holidays with pay, social security, sports and theatre to compensate for their loss of freedom.
- He banned strikes.
- Teachers were to wear uniforms.
- Pupils were encouraged to criticise their teachers.

### **Measures taken by Mussolini to introduce dictatorship in Italy / Measures taken by Mussolini to consolidate his power in Italy / Measures taken by Mussolini to establish total control in Italy**

- He passed the Acerbo law [1923] which enabled him to get majority seats in Parliament.
- He eliminated opponents, for example, in 1924 Giacomo Matteotti and Giovanni Amendola were murdered.
- In 1925 he introduced censorship as radios, films; newspapers and theatre were put under strict control.



- In 1926 Mussolini banned all opposition political parties.
- In 1927 he created a secret police [OVRA] which he used to silence all enemies.
- In 1928, the Fascist Grand Council was set up to choose members of Parliament. Elections were banned.
- In 1929 there was the signing of the Lateran Treaty.
- Sloganeering and indoctrination of the youth promoted the notion that the Duce is always right.
- Education was brought under state control and was meant to glorify Fascism.
- He banned trade unions, strikes, lockouts and demonstrations.
- He controlled key ministries like Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs.
- He created the Youth League.
- He established a corporate state and Mussolini was the Minister of Corporations.
- He adopted the title the Il-Duce [the leader].
- He ruled by decree [command].
- He created a totalitarian state.
- He suppressed democracy, for instance, people were denied to vote for Members of parliament.
- The Black Shirts perpetrated terror, for example, beating opponents with rubber hoses, forcing them to drink castor oil and to swallow live toads.

#### **Benefits of Mussolini's dictatorship to Italians**

- Dictatorship ensured peace, order and stability in Italy.
- Banning of strikes, lock outs and demonstrations promoted a peaceful environment for economic development.
- It promoted a sense of nationalism.
- The Lateran treaty ended the long standing misunderstanding between the church and the state.

#### **Negative effects of Mussolini's dictatorship to Italians**

- Civil and political liberties were suppressed.
- People were living in perpetual fear.
- People could no longer freely express themselves.
- Some people lost their property and life due to violence.
- Workers were exploited under the corporate state.
- Parliament was turned into a farce.
- There was no more democracy.

#### **Features of Fascism in Italy**

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| -Totalitarianism              | -Glorification of violence |
| -Extensive propaganda         | -Abolition of elections    |
| -Dictatorship                 | -Banning of trade unions   |
| -Rule by decree [command]     | -Militarism                |
| -One Party State              | -Corporate state           |
| -Extreme nationalism          | -A strong economy          |
| -Suspension of human rights   | -Economic self-sufficiency |
| -Strict censorship            | -Absence of democracy      |
| -Elimination of all opponents | -Banning of strikes        |

- Anti-Semitism
- Anti-Communism
- Banning of opposition political parties
- National prestige
- Glorification of the leader
- Suppression of women rights

### **Aims of Mussolini's Foreign Policy**

- To make a name for himself and his country
- To pursue an adventurous foreign policy
- To put Italy on the world map
- To make Italy great, feared and respected
- To gain prestige
- To make up for the lost past opportunities on earlier decades
- To civilise Africa and gain raw materials
- To revive the greatness of the ancient Roman Empire
- To make up for the past humiliations
- To create an empire as in the time of the Caesars
- To make Italy a bulwark against Bolshevism in Europe
- To create enough living space for the Italians

### **Mussolini's Foreign Policy [1922 to 1939]**

- In 1923 Mussolini invaded the Greek Island of Corfu.
- In 1923 Mussolini recognised the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic.
- In 1924 Mussolini came to an agreement with Yugoslavia by which Italy gained Fiume.
- In 1924 Mussolini established friendly relations with Greece, Hungary and Albania.
- In 1925 Mussolini signed the Locarno Pact with Britain, France, Germany and Belgium. This treaty was meant to promote a spirit of cooperation. It was Germany which initiated this.
- In 1928 Mussolini signed the Briand-Kellogg Pact.
- In 1933 Mussolini signed a Non Aggression Pact with Russia.
- In 1933 Mussolini attended the Disarmament Conference at Geneva.
- In 1934 Mussolini intercepted German forces at Brenner Pass. The German forces wanted to invade Austria.
- In 1935 Mussolini invaded Abyssinia [Ethiopia].
- In 1935 Mussolini withdrew from the League of Nations.
- In 1935 Mussolini signed the Stresa Front with Britain and France guaranteeing the Eastern French border against German aggression.
- In 1936 Mussolini signed the Rome-Berlin Axis with Hitler. Mussolini came closer to Hitler because Hitler had refused to impose sanctions on Italy after she invaded Abyssinia.
- In 1936 Mussolini entered into the Spanish Civil War on the side of Germany and General Francisco Franco against the Spanish Republican government. Franco was anti-communist just like Italy and Germany.
- In 1937 Mussolini signed the anti-Comintern pact with Japan.
- In 1937 Mussolini signed the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis [Pact] with Germany [Hitler] and Japan [Tojo] against international communism.
- In 1938 Mussolini attended the Munich Conference.
- In 1939 Mussolini invaded and annexed Albania.
- In 1939 Mussolini signed the Pact of Steel with Hitler. They agreed to help each other in the event of a war.

## **To what extent did the Italians Benefit from Mussolini's Foreign Policy?**

### **Benefits / Positive Effects**

- Italian trade prospered and her credit stood high. In his early days Mussolini created friendly relations with other countries like Britain, France and Germany by entering Locarno Pact.
- Italy's prestige was strengthened at home after Corfu Incident.
- Italy became more secure by entering agreements with powerful countries like Japan and Germany.
- Mussolini improved relations with Albania which became an Italian satellite in 1926.
- Mussolini reduced population pressure in Italy by settling some Italians in Abyssinia and Albania.
- The Italians also began to sell their goods to Albania [market].
- There was creation of employment especially in the army.
- There were some territorial gains.
- Foreign policy in general brought prestige.

### **Non Benefits / Negative Effects**

- Mussolini's foreign policy created more enemies than friends.
- Mussolini tended to ignore domestic issues and concentrated on foreign affairs. For instance, there was misallocation of resources in Italy.
- Many Italians lost their lives during battles.
- Many children were orphaned.
- Many women became widows.
- Creation of an alliance with Germany and Japan led to the upset of balance of power and to the breakdown of international peace.
- Mussolini plunged Italy into the Second World War [1939] unprepared and lost many human lives.

## **To what extent was Mussolini's Foreign Policy influenced by that of Hitler?**

- Initially Mussolini's foreign policy was determined by Italian interests and aims.
- The Corfu incident was designed to advance national greatness in foreign policy.
- The Fiume incident and Albanian invasion by Italy was aimed at showing Italian greatness and to secure control over entry into the Adriatic.
- Invasion of Abyssinia and Albania was meant to fulfil colonial interests.
- Germany's attempted Anschluss with Austria in 1934 was strongly opposed by Mussolini.

### **Other side**

- After the Rome-Berlin Axis Mussolini became a protégé of Hitler.
- There was now mutual cooperation between the two countries [Italy and Germany] leading to the signing of the following treaties---
- Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis [1937]
- Anti- Comintern Pact [1937]
- Pact of steel [1939]
- Also the two entered into the Spanish Civil War on the side of General Franco [1936].

## **DICTATORSHIP IN GERMANY [1919-1939]**

### **The Weimar Republic [1919-1933]**

Germany after the First World War was called the Weimar Republic. It was also known as the Second German Reich. A republic is a state completely governed by elected

representatives. It is also a nation ruled by a president and not by a king. The German Empire which was created by Bismarck in 1871 and destroyed during the First World War in 1918 was known as the First German Reich. Hitler's Germany from 1933 to 1945 was known as the Third German Reich or the Nazi Reich. A Reich is a German state.

### **Problems faced by the Weimar Republic [Germany] from 1919 to 1933**

The Weimar Republic had serious problems from the beginning. These problems helped in destroying it hence leading to the rise of Adolf Hitler to power.

### **Economic Problems faced by the Weimar Republic [Germany]**

- Payment of reparations
- Hyper inflation. For instance, 1 billion marks bought a loaf of bread. In November 1923, US \$1 was equivalent to 4200000000000 marks.
- Unemployment. This was largely due to the Great Depression [1929-1939]. The population of the unemployed rose from 2258000 in 1928 to 6000000 in 1932.
- Closure of factories.
- The Great Depression of 1929 to 1939 which further caused many problems like unemployment, inflation and so on.
- Shortage of food
- Low agricultural production
- Low industrial production
- Strikes were the order of the day, for example, the 1920 General strike in Berlin.
- Bankruptcy especially due to payment of reparations
- War debts
- Shortage of raw materials
- Low wages and salaries

### **Social Problems of the Weimar Republic**

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| -Critical shortage of food  | -Low living standards   |
| -Street fights              | -Burglary               |
| -Brigandage / Lawlessness   | -Prostitution           |
| -Demonstrations             | -Strikes and food riots |
| -Sit ins                    | -Lockouts               |
| -Unemployment               | -Starvation             |
| -Hunger                     | -High crime rates       |
| -Diseases like tuberculosis | -Theft                  |
| -Low wages                  | -Domestic violence      |
| -Homelessness               |                         |

### **Political Problems of the Weimar Republic**

- The Weimar government was unpopular
- Socialist or Communist violence. They wanted to seize power.
- Unstable coalition governments. From February 1919 to January 1933 the Germans were ruled by 21 governments, each lasted an average of about 7 months.
- Imposed democracy [inexperienced in democracy]
- Attempted coups, for instance, the 1919 Spartacist revolt, the 1920 Kapp Putsch and the 1923 Munich Putsch.

-Political assassinations [1920 to 1922]. Victims of such assassinations included the Jewish Foreign minister, Walter Rathenau and Gustav Erzberger.

-Nazi violence

-Disappointment with the treaty of Versailles

-Parliamentary paralysis

-Strikes and demonstrations

-Threat of Communism

\*NB All these problems led to the collapse of Weimar Republic and to the rise of Hitler.

### **To what extent did the Economic problems of the Weimar Republic lead to the collapse of the Weimar Republic and to the rise of Hitler?**

-Inflation made the middle class to lose confidence in the government and began to support extremist parties like Nazi.

-Many of the unemployed joined the Nazi party which promised them jobs.

-The Great Depression caused people to turn to extremist parties like Nazi.

-Nazi and communist support increased during the time of the economic crisis.

-The Great Depression made the parliament to be unstable resulting in chancellors resigning, for example, Von Papen and Von Schleicher.

#### **Other factors**

-Hitler's ability to use propaganda

-Oratory

-Nazi violence

-Parliamentary paralysis

-Fear of communism by industrialists

-Too many political parties

### **To what extent did the political problems in Germany lead to the rise of Hitler and the collapse of the Weimar republic?**

-Democracy gave way to the formation of many political parties.

-Too many political parties led to the creation of weak coalition governments.

-Nazi violence forced opponents to support Hitler.

-The people resented the unpopularity of the Weimar government.

-Attempts to overthrow the government also contributed.

#### **Other factors**

-Unemployment

-Hunger

-Starvation

-Hitler's personality

-Inflation

### **To what extent did the social problems in Germany led to the rise of Hitler to power?**

-People resented the unrest due to closure of factories.

-Unemployment led to discontent in Germany.

-The Weimar republic promoted theft and brigandage.

-Hunger and starvation also led to discontent.

#### **Other factors**

-Inflation

- Too many political parties
- Nazi violence
- Oratory

### **Political Parties in Germany between 1919 and 1933**

- Social Democratic Party [Socialists]
- German Nationalist People's Party [Nationalists]
- Catholic Centre Party [Catholics]
- Communist Party [Communists]
- Liberal Party [Liberals]
- Bavarian People's Party
- Nazi Party

### **Chancellors of Germany from 1918 to 1933**

- |                                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| -Ebert [Social Democrat 1918]             | -Gustav Stresemann |
| -Franz Von Papen [Nationalist]            | -Herman Mueller    |
| -Heinrich Bruning [Catholic Centre Party] | -Von Schleicher    |
| -Adolf Hitler [Nazi]                      |                    |

### **Chancellors of Germany from 1923 to 1933**

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| -Gustav Stresemann | -Heinrich Bruning |
| -Von Papen         | -Von Schleicher   |
| -Adolf Hitler      |                   |

### **Attempts to overthrow the Weimar government between 1919 and 1923**

#### **a) The Spartacist Rising [1919]**

- This was the first of all the attempts to overthrow the government.
- Rosa Luxemburg [Red Rosa] and Karl Liebknecht made an attempt to overthrow the government.
- The uprising was centred in Berlin.
- It was inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution.
- They seized power in Berlin and major cities in Germany.
- The uprising was put down by only by the aid of the Freikorps [ex-soldiers].
- However both leaders [Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were murdered before coming for trial.

#### **b) Bavarian Uprising [1919]**

- Communist Eisner also tried to seize power.
- He was also detected by the Freikorps.
- Eisner was murdered by political opponents.

#### **c) The Kapp Putsch [1920]**

- In March 1920 Wolfgang Kapp, a right winger attempted to seize power in Berlin [Revolt in Berlin].
- He revolted when the government wished to disband the Freikorps.
- The army refused to take action.
- A general strike paralysed the capital but the government managed to gain control.

#### **d) The Munich Putsch / Beer hall Putsch [8 November 1923]**

- In 1923 Hitler attempted to overthrow the Weimar government through the abortive Munich Putsch.

- He was aided by General Ludendorff [the old war hero].
- They aimed to take over the state of Bavaria and then march to Berlin to overthrow the government.
- This Putsch [coup] took place at the peak of inflation.
- It was a failed attempt at revolution.
- The French and Belgians had occupied the Ruhr and this angered most Germans.
- In 1923 [September] both the Chancellor Gustav Stresemann and the President Ebert had called for Germany's passive resistance in the Ruhr.
- Hitler thought that it was now the time to topple the government of Bavaria in Munich [it was a regional government].
- This was to be a prelude to the takeover of the national government in Berlin.
- Thus after the march on Munich, the Nazi were to embark on the march on Berlin in a similar gesture to the march on Rome.
- Thus the Putsch was inspired by Mussolini's successful march on Rome.
- However, the consequences were different from those in Italy.
- In November 1923, Hitler hijacked a local government meeting in Munich and announced that he was going to take over the government of Bavaria.
- The Storm Troopers [SA] began to take over official buildings.
- On the next day the Weimar government police hit back.
- They surrounded the Nazi and killed 16 of them.
- These 16 Nazi people were regarded as the first blood martyrs and were remembered by Hitler in the foreword of Mein Kampf.
- Hitler had miscalculated the mood of Germans as they did not rise up to support him.
- Bavarian nationalists withdrew the support they had earlier promised.
- Hitler escaped in a car with a dislocated shoulder.
- Herman Goering badly wounded escaped to Austria. He was shot in the groin.
- Scheubner Richter was killed by a bullet.
- The rest of the Nazi scattered or were arrested.
- Hitler and his followers were dispersed by few armed police.
- Hitler and other leaders were arrested, tried and imprisoned for treason.
- He was given five years in prison and was fined 500 Rich marks.
- He only served 9 months because he impressed the judges at his trial and also because of influence from well placed Bavarians who sympathised with his right wing politics.
- At the trial Hitler condemned the Weimar government for its weaknesses.
- The Nazi Party headquarters were raided.
- Its newspaper [the People's observer] was banned.
- While in prison Hitler wrote his book Mein Kampf [My Struggle] in which he aired out his political and racial ideas.

#### **Leaders and Commanders who participated in Munich Putsch**

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| -Adolf Hitler  | -Erich Von Ludendorff |
| -Ernst Rohm    | -Herman Goering       |
| -Ernst Hanfs   | -Alfred Rosenberg     |
| -Rudolf Hess   | -Ulrich Graf          |
| -Johann Aigner | -Max Amman            |



-Adolf Lenk

-Wilhelm Adam

-Ludwig Maximilian Erwin Von Scheubner-Richter

### **People who died during the Munich Putsch [martyrs]**

-Felix Alfarth

-Andreas Bauriedl

-Theodor Casella

-William Ehrlich

-Martin Faust

-Anton Hechenberger

-Oskar Korner

-Karl Kuhn

-Karl Laforce

-Kurt Neubauer

-Klaus von Pape

-Theodor von der Pfordten

-Johann Rickmers

-Max Erwin von Scheubner-Richter

-Lorenz Ritter von Stransky

-Wilhelm Wolf

### **Contribution of the Munich Putsch to the rise of Hitler to power**

-It convinced Hitler that the best way to seize power was through legal means.

-Hitler used his trial as an opportunity for propaganda against the government.

-While in prison he wrote a book *Mein Kampf* which later became the Nazi Bible.

-He used his trial as an opportunity to spread his ideas.

-Every word he spoke was reported in the newspaper the next day.

-At the trial he gained publicity for himself and his ideas hence gaining popularity.

### **Other Factors**

-Oratory

-Weimar political suicide

-Inflation

-Too many political parties

-Unemployment

### **Factors which led to the rise of Hitler to power**

-The Communist danger. The men of property, the industrialists and land lords as well as the rest of the German aristocracy supported Hitler who was a strong hand against communists.

-Unpopularity of the Weimar government

-Hitler's ability to use propaganda led to his rise. He deliberately distorted the truth on a vast scale so as to gain support.

-Hitler's oratory. He promised every sector of the German community whatever needed most. He promised security to men of property, employment to the unemployed, glory, praise and honour to the generals and army, reconstruction and revival of Germany into the mightiest nation in Europe and the world to the nationalists. This made him to discredit the government and rival parties, posing as the only saviour of the nation.

-The Reichstag fire. In March 1933, the Reichstag building was burnt just a week before the elections. The Nazi laid the blame on the communists in order to discredit them. Hitler declared that the fire was the beginning of a communist uprising. He demanded special emergence powers to deal with the situation and was given them by President Hindenburg. The Nazi used these powers to arrest communists, break up meetings and frightened voters. As a result Hitler won the majority votes he wanted. Most people voted in favour of Hitler. It is highly probable that the fire was caused intentionally by the Nazi agents.

-Mistake by the Weimar politicians to appoint Hitler as Chancellor [Weimar political suicide]. In 1932 the Nazi had won 230 seats in the Reichstag. It had no majority seats. It had

two thirds out of 577 seats, but there was no single party with as many seats. Von Papen became chancellor but the Reichstag with such a number of Nazi seats was becoming ungovernable. General Von Schleicher approached President Hindenburg and stressed that there was a danger of civil war in Germany if Von Papen continued as Chancellor. The President removed Von Papen from power and replaced him with Von Schleicher. Soon after his removal from power, Von Papen began to conspire with Hitler and he suggested to Hitler that he and his friends would be prepared to support his appointment as Chancellor provided that he himself became his deputy Chancellor. He then turned to the President, Hindenburg, making the same proposals. The assumption was that, as Hitler was not an experienced politician, he would not succeed as chancellor. In the event of failure, the country would cry for Hitler's removal and Von Papen would become Chancellor again. With these assurances, Hindenburg appointed Hitler as Chancellor on 30 January 1933. Hitler however, did not fail and Schleicher was to lose his head in 1934. In 1934 Hindenburg died and Hitler became both the Chancellor and President with the title Fuhrer meaning leader. Thus the Weimar politicians had committed political suicide by assisting Hitler to come to power. Once Hitler was Chancellor, he called for elections so as to complete Nazi take over.

- Impotence [weaknesses] of the Weimar government
- Nazi violence
- Low wages
- Use of force / coercion
- The Great Depression
- Inflation
- Hunger and starvation
- Parliamentary paralysis. The Great Depression made the parliament to become unstable resulting in Chancellors resigning.
- The Storm Troopers [SA], Hitler's private army was attractive to young people out of work.
- Parades
- Unemployment
- Elections [Manoeuvring of elections]
- Rallies
- General discontent with the Treaty of Versailles
- The Munich Putsch
- Industrial unrest
- Inexperienced democrats
- The book, My Struggle, which became the Nazi bible
- Hitler's personality
- Hitler had extra ordinary political abilities
- Homelessness

\*NB All problems faced by the Weimar Republic led to the rise of Hitler.

### **Ideas expressed by Hitler in his book Mein Kampf [My Struggle]**

- To bring back all lost German territories
- To unify all Germans
- To unify Germany and Austria
- To expand Germany Eastwards

- To expel Jews from Germany
- To stop payment of reparations
- To expand territorial boundaries of Germany
- To secure enough living space for the Germans
- To restore Germany to her dominant place in Europe
- He condemned the disarmament provisions of the treaty of Versailles [100000 soldiers]

### **The rise of Hitler to power in Germany between 1920 and 1933 / Stages in the rise of Hitler to power in 1933**

- In 1920 Hitler joined the German Workers Party which later became the National Socialist German Workers' Party [Nazi]. Nazi is the German pronunciation of the letters NS.
- In 1921 Hitler became the leader of the Nazi Party.
- In 1921 the Storm Troopers [SA] was created as a private army to deal with opponents.
- In 1923 at the peak of inflation, Hitler attempted to overthrow the Weimar government through the Munich Putsch or Beer hall Putsch.
- Hitler was arrested and sentenced to five years in jail but he served 9 months.
- While in prison he wrote his book, Mein Kampf [My Struggle].
- In 1924 Hitler re-founded the Nazi.
- Hitler created his personal body guards [the Schutzstaffel] SS headed by Heinrich Himmler. By 1933 there were 5200 of them.
- Hitler set up party branches nationwide.
- In the 1924 general elections, the Nazi won 14 seats in the Reichstag.
- Nazi popularity declined during the age of prosperity in Germany [1924 to 1929].
- In 1928 the Nazi won only 12 seats.
- The Great Depression tilted the scales in favour of Hitler.
- Hitler's oratory appealed to many Germans and Nazi support grew.
- In the 1930 general elections Nazi seats rose from 12 to 107 making Nazi Party the second largest political party in the Reichstag.
- In the March 1932 presidential elections, Hitler challenged Hindenburg.
- Hitler's political position was strengthened as he won 13, 4 million votes against Hindenburg's 19, 4 million.
- In July 1932, the Nazi won 230 seats out of 577 in the Reichstag, making Nazi the largest party but with no overall majority.
- Hitler demanded to be appointed Chancellor but Hindenburg refused.
- The Nazi won 196 seats in the November 1932 elections.
- Nazi terror increased.
- Von Papen persuaded Hindenburg to appoint Hitler Chancellor hoping that they would use him.
- In January 1933 Hitler was appointed Chancellor of the Weimar Republic.

#### **Aims of Hitler's Domestic policy**

- |                                           |                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| -To create employment                     | -To expel Jews from Germany           |
| -To assemble the strongest army in Europe | -To create a totalitarian state       |
| -To create a strong economy]              | -To restore order in Germany          |
| -To make Germany a great power once more  | -To establish dictatorship in Germany |
| -To create a one party state              | -To ban strikes                       |

-To ban trade unions

### **Hitler's Domestic Policy from 1933 to 1939**

-Hitler created employment in Germany, for example, through conscription.

-He introduced a number of public works like the construction of motorways, roads, bridges, hospitals and so on.

-Rearmament programmes were put in place.

-Hitler introduced conscription and developed the German air force [Luftwaffe].

-Armament industries were incepted.

-Education was put under Nazi control and it became Nazi in orientation. Textbooks, especially, history books were re-written to suit Nazi ideology. Children were indoctrinated.

-Boys were to join Hitler's Youth League at the age of 14.

-Girls were to join the League of German maidens and chanted slogans, like, 'The Fuhrer is always right'.

-Concentration camps were established for all those who opposed or tried to criticise the Nazi government.

-Hitler made Germany self-sufficient through his Four Year Plans [Autarky].

-Hitler established Nazi dictatorship as he ruled by decree.

-He banned all opposition political parties in Germany and arrested opposition leaders. He made Germany a one party state.

-In April 1933, the civil service came under Nazi control. Officials who were not politically reliable or who could not prove they were of pure Aryan race [descent] were dismissed. Judges were expected to obey party instructions. They were to ignore crimes committed by Nazi agents.

-In 1934 Hitler combined the post of President and Chancellor and became the Fuhrer after the death of President Hindenburg.

-There was no rule of law in Germany. Hitler himself was the law.

-Hitler banned trade unions in May 1933. Their offices were raided by the SA and the SS. All German workers were to belong to the Nazi run German Labour Front. Trade unions were banned because they consistently opposed the Nazi party.

-In 1933 Hitler passed the Enabling Act in March which made Germany completely under his control and forced Von Papen to resign. This gave him power to govern without consulting the parliament.

-Hitler banned elections in Germany.

-Hitler banned strikes in Germany.

-Hitler opposed democracy. In January 1934 the Parliament was dissolved and the Reichstag was abolished.

-In 1934, Hitler embarked on the Night of the Long Knives where he was killing opponents within the party, for example, Rohm and other SA leaders who were homo sexual.

-Joy organisations were formed and holidays were subsidised.

-All enemies were silenced, usually through the use of thugs, Gestapo and so on.

-Hitler formed his secret police called Gestapo which hunted for enemies in public places like cinemas, beer halls, soccer fields, and wedding ceremonies under Himmler.

-Hitler created a totalitarian state.

-Children were encouraged to betray parents to Gestapo.

- Mass rallies were organised throughout the country and 'Hail Hitler' became the compulsory German greeting.
- Hitler was a male chauvinist. He looked down upon women.
- There was strict censorship in Germany. The press, radios, newspapers and films were put under strict censorship.
- There was elimination of opponents through purges and murders.
- Germany was made a police state.
- Propaganda was increased and Goebbels was appointed Minister of propaganda. This worked to perpetrate and exaggerate the goodness of the Nazi government.
- Religion was put under state control.
- Hitler signed the Concordat with Roman Catholic Church which promised to keep out of politics.
- Hitler adopted the policy of Anti-Semitism, a deliberate policy to exterminate the Jews.
- Local government was brought under the control of the Nazi.
- There was control of food prices.

#### **Benefits of Germans from Hitler's Domestic Policy**

- Hitler created employment which pleased many Germans.
- Germany's dependence on imports was reduced by improving production in farms and industries.
- Businessmen were happy as they were making profits because workers were well disciplined.
- Expulsion of Jews and anti Nazis from the civil service created jobs for ordinary Germans.
- Production of steel increased thereby reducing importation of steel.
- Rearmament created employment for many, for example, in armament industries.
- Inflation was reduced.
- Workers benefited from luxurious holidays.
- The country developed due to construction of roads, bridges, hospitals and schools.
- Creation of employment improved the standard of living.
- Rearmament made the country secure.
- Wages were improved particularly in strategic industries like engineering and building by 30%.
- Factories were reopened and steel mills and coal mines resumed production as new soldiers needed uniforms, equipment and weapons.
- A degree of nationalism was asserted.

#### **Non Benefits / Negative Effects of Hitler's Domestic Policy to Germans**

- The Jews did not benefit as they were slaughtered, removed from jobs and discriminated against.
- Education standards fell because of Nazification.
- Women did not benefit as they were looked down upon and denied employment opportunities even if they had qualifications.
- People lost their freedom of speech and expression.
- Property and wealth of the Jews was taken.
- Workers were denied their right to strike for better wages.
- Education system of the Jews was destroyed.

-People were deprived of their civil and political rights through banning of opposition parties, trade unions, press, introduction of violence and murder.

-Many Germans lived in perpetual fear.

-Church leaders were also critical of the Nazi as religion was brought under state control.

### **Hitler's Policy towards Jews in Germany up to 1939**

-Hitler was against Jews. He hated the Jews.

-Persecution of Jews was a policy with many Germans initially.

-Jews were members of the Semitic race [Semites].

-The Jews were used as a scapegoat for everything from Versailles onwards [depression, unemployment, communism and so on].

-The anti-Jewish campaign was given legal status by the 1935 Nuremberg Laws.

-These laws deprived Jews of German citizenship.

-It forbade them to marry non Jews.

-It ruled that a person with even one Jewish grandparent must be classified as a Jew.

-Jews were harassed in every possible way.

-Their property was attacked and burnt.

-Their shops were looted.

-Their homes were destroyed.

-A number of them were sent to concentration camps.

-They were not allowed to join formal schools and universities.

-Jews were not allowed to join the civil service.

-They were excluded from special public places like hotels.

-Jews were put into exile.

-The Jews were put into gas chambers.

-The Jews were blamed for the defeat of Germany in world war one.

-By 1939 about 6000000 Jews lost their lives in Germany.

### **Did the Germans benefit from Hitler's policy towards Jews?**

#### **Benefits**

-Germans filled up vacancies in employment left by the Jews, at universities, in schools, in the Judiciary and so on.

-Germans took over enterprises and businesses abandoned by the Jews as a result of Hitler's policy.

-Nationalist feelings were satiated especially those of Germans who blamed everything on Jews.

#### **Other side**

-Germany lost several skilled Jews such as teachers, doctors, lawyers and so on.

-Citizenship of some innocent Germans and other opportunities were lost as a result of the Nuremberg laws.

-Families were separated.

### **Groups of people that were victims of Hitler in Germany**

-Jews

-Communists

-Trade unionists

-Women

-Youths

-Lesbians

-Homosexuals

-Gypsies

- Blacks
- Catholics
- Jehovah's Witness [Watch tower]
- Industrialists
- Disabled
- Professionals [teachers, doctors, lawyers]

### **Hitler's Economic Policy in Germany**

- He introduced public works like construction of roads, bridge and so on.
- Industry was expanded to meet the needs of rearmament.
- Production of synthetic fuel, rubber and other products was increased.
- Wages were strictly controlled.
- Prices were also controlled.
- Peasants' debts amounting to 12 billion were suspended in October 1933.
- Imported food stuffs were subjected to high tariffs.
- The Hereditary farm Law of October 1933 gave smaller farmers security of tenure by forbidding confiscation and division. However, the law militated against the development of larger farm units and even against new farming methods.
- He created employment through conscription.
- He made Germany self sufficient through his Four Year Plan.
- He banned trade unions in Germany.
- Strikes for better wages were outlawed.
- He created the German Labour Front.
- Factories were reopened.

### **Hitler's Social Policy in Germany**

- Hitler encouraged high birth rates by offering marriage loans, tax allowances for dependent children and other benefits for mothers.
- There was strict censorship of the press.
- He introduced the Hitler Youth Organisation which was compulsory for those between 10 and 18 years.
- The youth were indoctrinated.
- Children spied on their teachers and parents.
- Education was brought under Nazi control.
- Strikes were banned.
- Trade unions were banned.
- The 1935 Nuremberg laws were passed which denied Jews their civil rights.
- Jews were stripped off their German nationality.
- Marriage between Jews and Germans was forbidden.
- Boys were to join Hitler's Youth at the age of 14.
- Girls were to join the League of German maidens and chanted slogans like, 'The Fuhrer is always right'.
- Joy organisations were formed and holidays were subsidised.
- The civil service was brought under Nazi control.
- Hitler was a male chauvinist. He looked down upon women.
- Religion was put under state control.
- Hitler signed the concordat with the Roman Catholic Church.
- Hitler adopted a policy of anti-Semitism directed against Jews.
- People lost their right to vote.



### **Measures taken by Hitler to consolidate his power in Germany / Steps taken by Hitler to achieve total control or establish dictatorship in Germany**

- He passed the Enabling Law [1933] which made him a complete dictator.
- He forced Von Papen to resign.
- He created a totalitarian state.
- He banned all opposition political parties in Germany.
- He banned elections.
- He purged the civil service and all Jews and other suspected enemies were removed from civil service.
- He abolished trade unions.
- Religion was put under state control.
- He banned strikes.
- He abolished the parliament.
- Education was put under Nazi control and children were indoctrinated.
- Teachers, lecturers and professors were closely watched.
- He created the Hitler's Youth.
- He created the League of German maidens.
- He encouraged children to betray their parents to Gestapo.
- He introduced strict censorship on newspapers, radios, magazines and so on.
- There was intimidation of opponents, for example, killing them in public.
- He made use of spies to identify and report opponents.
- Propaganda was increased.
- He used the secret police [Gestapo] to hunt for enemies in public places.
- He used violent sermons.
- He made use of posters and rallies.
- He appointed Nazi leaders to top posts, for example, Goering.
- He appointed Nazi governors in all states.
- He embarked on the Night of the Long Knives [1934] where he killed enemies within the party.
- He combined the post of president and chancellor to become the Fuhrer after the death of president, Hindenburg.
- School text books were re-written to suit with Nazi ideology.

### **Successes of Hitler in consolidating his power in Germany**

- He became a complete dictator.
- No one could oppose him.
- He remained in power for 12 years [1933-1945].
- Nazi was the only political party remaining. All opposition political parties were successfully suppressed.
- Use of violence by Gestapo and SS enabled Germans to submit to Hitler's demands.
- Jews, Hitler's potential challengers were completely silenced, exiled or murdered.
- Communists were suppressed.

### **Failures of Hitler in consolidating his rule in Germany**

- His rule continued to be resisted by the Catholic Church, for example, Bonhoeffer and some members of the armed forces.

- Some young people did not join the Hitler Youth Movement.
- Some nationalists resisted his rule.
- Socialists and communists continued to exist.
- Opposition was driven underground and not completely eroded.
- It was not that people submitted to Hitler but, that people lived in fear.
- Not all communists were killed on the Night of the Long Knives.
- Hitler infringed on the human rights of the Germans.

### **Features of Nazism in Germany**

- |                                          |                                     |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| -Totalitarianism                         | -Dictatorship                       |
| -Economic self-sufficiency               | -Glorification of violence          |
| -Strict censorship                       | -Extensive propaganda               |
| -Absence of democracy                    | -Abolition of elections             |
| -Elimination of all opponents            | -Glorification of the leader        |
| -Banning trade unions                    | -Banning strikes                    |
| -Rule by decree or command               | -Anti Semitism                      |
| -Militarism                              | -Anti Communism                     |
| -One Party State                         | -Extreme nationalism                |
| -A strong economy                        | -National prestige                  |
| -Suppression of women rights             | -Suppression of human rights        |
| -Banning of opposition political parties | -Purity of Aryan race               |
| -Reversing the treaty of Versailles      | -Creation of enough living space    |
| -Supremacy of the state                  | -Imperialism                        |
| -Anti- women                             | -Uniting all German-speaking people |

### **Nazi Leaders**

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| -Adolf Hitler    | -Herman Goering   |
| -Joseph Goebbels | -Heinrich Himmler |
| -Rudolf Hess     | -Martin Bormann   |
| -Ernst Rohm      | -Ludendorff       |
| -Albert Speer    | -Rommel           |

### **Aims of Hitler's Foreign Policy**

- To create enough living space for the Germans [Lebensraum]
- To stop payment of reparations
- To bring back all lost German territories
- To assemble the strongest army in Europe
- To bring back all lost Germans who lived outside, for example, in Poland and Memel
- To conquer Russia as a way of destroying communism there
- To put Germany on the world map
- To make Germany a great power once more

### **Hitler's Foreign Policy [1933 to 1939]**

\*Hitler's foreign policy was the major cause of world war two of 1939 to 1945.

- In 1933 Hitler pulled Germany out of the Geneva Disarmament Conference.
- In 1933 Hitler withdrew Germany from the League of Nations.
- In 1933 Hitler violated the Treaty of Versailles by ordering German rearmament and the creation of the German air force [Luftwaffe].

- In 1934 Hitler made a failed attempt to invade Austria. He was thwarted by Mussolini.
- In 1934 Hitler signed a Non Aggression Pact with Poland. Poland was to remain neutral when Germany was to attack Austria and Czechoslovakia.
- In 1935 Hitler signed a secret naval agreement with Britain. Germany was allowed to rebuild her navy as long as it was maintained at about 35% the size of the British navy.
- In 1935 Hitler publicly announced German rearmament.
- In 1935 the Saar was reunified with Germany. 90% of the Saarlanders voted for reunification with Germany.
- In 1936 Hitler remilitarised the Rhineland.
- In 1936 Hitler and Mussolini entered into the Spanish Civil War on the side of General Franco.
- In 1936 Hitler and Mussolini signed the Rome-Berlin Axis.
- In 1937 Hitler signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan.
- In 1937 Hitler [Germany], Mussolini [Italy] and Tojo [Japan] signed the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis or Pact. This alliance became more powerful than the League itself.
- In 1938 Hitler annexed the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia.
- In 1938 Hitler attended the Munich Conference.
- In 1938 Hitler invaded Austria and completed the Anschluss [Union of Austria and Germany]
- In 1939 Hitler signed the Pact of Steel with Mussolini. They agreed to help each other militarily.
- In 1939 Hitler seized Memel from Lithuania.
- In 1939 Hitler and Stalin [of Russia] signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Treaty / Non aggression pact. Hitler had seen the danger of war breaking out in 1939 and Germany being forced to fight on two fronts as what happened in the First World War. So the two countries agreed not to resort to war against each other. They also agreed to invade Poland and partition it between themselves. By this alliance and the invasion of Poland Germany wanted to frighten Britain and France from coming to the aid of Poland. Also in the event of a war between France and Germany, Russia would keep out of the war so that Germany would defeat France.
- On 1 September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France knocked into the conflict on the side of Poland as they had promised. Hence the Second World War broke out.

#### **Countries occupied by Germany between 1935 and 1939**

- |            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| -Rhineland | -Sudetenland    |
| -Austria   | -Czechoslovakia |
| -Poland    | -Memel          |
| -Moravia   | -Bohemia        |

#### **Benefits of Germans from Hitler's Foreign Policy**

- Germany became a powerful state once more.
- There was creation of employment due to conscription, rearmament and invasions.
- Hitler created enough living space for the Germans by annexing states like Czechoslovakia, Memel and other states.
- Security of the Germans was enhanced as a result of rearmament and conscription.

- German soldiers became experienced due to invasions.
- Hitler united all Germans who were previously not under Germany, for example, some were in Austria and Sudetenland.
- The humiliations that Germany had suffered due to the treaty of Versailles were removed, for example, disarmament and payment of reparations.
- Their pride was restored by violation of the treaty of Versailles.
- Industry obtained raw materials from occupied territories like Saar basin and Czechoslovakia.

### **Non Benefits / Negative Effects of Hitler's Foreign Policy to Germans**

- Many German soldiers died during wars or invasions.
- German soldiers did not have time to rest because of endless campaigns.
- Both human and material resources were wasted.
- Hitler created more enemies than friends, for example, France, Britain, Poland and USA which combined their forces against Germany during world war two.
- Many children were orphaned.
- Many women became widows due to invasions.
- Germany's aggressions led to the outbreak of world war two which was costly to the Germans.

### **THE SECOND WORLD WAR / WORLD WAR TWO [1939-1945]**

It broke out in 1939 and ended in 1945. It was called a world war because it included Europe, Africa, United States of America, Far East and the like. It was fought by the Allied powers versus the Axis powers.

### **CAUSES OF WORLD WAR TWO**

**1] Impotence of the League of Nations caused this war.** It failed to deal with acts of aggressions by dictators. This was largely because of membership problem.

**2] Nationalism also caused this war.** The Paris Peace Settlement did not cope with the problems sparked by nationalism. It left large groups of minorities in other countries, for example, Germans in Poland.

**3] United States isolationist policy caused the 1939 war.** USA adopted the so called policy of isolation. She did so by withdrawing completely from the European political stage after Paris Peace Conference. The withdrawal of USA from Europe gave Hitler the open platform to seek hegemony or dominance in Europe. Europe needed USA to help control Germany and her allies. USA had the strongest economy after world war one. USA also refused to join the League of Nations.

**4] The Great Depression of 1929-1939 caused the 1939 war.** It started in USA and spread across the globe. The general effects of the depression were that democracy fell into disfavour and was replaced by dictatorship in many countries of Europe. The spirit of cooperation which had been in place since Locarno [1925] suddenly vanished. Also due to this depression, governments turned against each other in a desperate attempt to protect the people's livelihood.

**5] The Spanish Civil War [1936] caused this war.** The war broke not only into a civil war but into an international conflict. Germany and Italy joined on the side of Franco. In the contrary Spanish government received help from Russia. This was thus viewed as a contest between European Fascism and anti-Fascism [Communism]. Britain, France and USA seeing

the heavy involvement of the Fascist powers [Italy and Germany] intervened on the side of the Spanish republican government indirectly [international brigade]. Japan, Italy and Germany thought that resistance would come only from Britain and France which were already weaker than the three countries put together. This civil war thus became rehearsals of world war two. Both Mussolini and Hitler tried out new methods of warfare and new weapons. This experience increased the determination of Hitler that he would win the war. The defeat of the Spanish government with the help of Russia convinced Hitler that Russia was not yet a military force to reckon with.

**6] The policy of appeasement also caused the Second World War.** Failure of the policy of appeasement by Britain under Chamberlain and France under Daladier led to the 1939 war. Appeasement was a policy of avoiding war with aggressive powers such as Germany, Italy and Japan. The policy was aimed at giving way to their demands provided they were not unreasonable. Britain and France saw it essential to avoid war which was likely to be more devastating than ever before. By giving in to Hitler's demands, the allies thought they would buy peace and tranquillity for some time. Britain believed that Hitler's demands could be satisfied thereby avoiding a major war. Many felt Italy had been cheated at Versailles and Germany had been treated too harshly. Britain therefore believed that once Hitler's demands were satisfied there would not be any need for Germany's aggression and that would lead to Anglo-German friendship. Examples of appeasement at work are----

- Britain and Germany signed a naval treaty [1935] in which Germany was allowed to rebuild her navy to 35% of the size of Britain's navy.

- No action was taken to check Germany's rearmament [1933] and actually the British were convinced that Hitler did not want war.

- The British action against the Italian invasion of Abyssinia [1935] was half hearted.

- Britain and France signed the Hoare-Laval agreement [1936].

- Britain and France did not mobilise when Germany reoccupied the Rhineland [1936].

- Britain and France gave in to German demands on Sudetenland [1938] at Munich Conference.

- When Hitler invaded Austria [1938] and completed the Anschluss, Britain and France protested but many in Britain saw it as a natural union of one German group to another.

- \*However, the aggressors [Mussolini and Hitler] saw appeasement as a sign of weakness and continued to embark on several acts of aggressions which culminated into world war two.

### **Contribution of the policy of Appeasement to the outbreak of World War Two**

- It encouraged Hitler to be aggressive.

- Appeasement was based on the mistaken idea that Hitler was trustworthy.

- It allowed Hitler to grow much stronger than Britain and France.

- It scared the USA.

- The policy also alarmed [USSR] Union of Soviet Socialist Republic. Hitler made no secret his plan to expand East wards.

- Appeasement sent message to the Soviet Union [USSR] that Britain and France would not stand in Hitler's way.

- Germany saw British and French policy as a weakness rather than strength and this made Hitler to embark on several acts of aggression which culminated into the Second World War.

### **Other causes of World War Two**

- Acts of aggressions by Dictators
- Weaknesses of the League of Nations
- US isolationist policy
- The Spanish Civil War
- Hitler's personal megalomania

### **Leaders and their countries that followed the policy of Appeasement**

- Chamberlain [Britain]
- Daladier [France]

**7] The Paris Peace Settlement, in particular the treaty of Versailles [1919] caused this war.** This treaty placed the entire blame for causing World War One on Germany. Harsh reparations were imposed on Germany and this hampered her economic growth. The treaty also forced Germany to reduce her army to 100000 soldiers among other things. These harsh terms created resentment towards the victors of the First World War. So as to do away with such harsh terms, the destruction of Versailles treaty became a major issue of Hitler's foreign policy. Over turning the treaty of Versailles meant that Germany would rearm and recover the lost territories. Whilst the treaty left Germany bitter, it left it with great potential to grow into a great state once more and exert revenge through war. Also among allies, there were countries which were dissatisfied with the Paris Peace Settlement. Italy, for example, did not get all she had been promised. Japan who also fought on the side of the allies was dissatisfied. Hence under such conditions peace would not have prevailed as the Paris Peace Settlement had sown seeds for future conflicts.

**8] The Alliance System also caused the cataclysm of 1939.** The alliances like, Rome-Berlin Axis, Anti Comintern Pact, Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis, Pact of Steel and Molotov-Ribbentrop Treaty had the effect of encouraging aggression.

### **Alliances / Treaties signed by European powers in the 1930s**

- Anglo-German naval agreement [1935]
- Rome-Berlin Axis [1936]
- Anti-Comintern Pact [1937]
- Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis [1937]
- Munich Agreement [1938]
- Nazi-Soviet Pact [1939]
- Pact of Steel [1939]

**9] Failure of Disarmament caused the Second World War.** Countries continued to increase armaments.

**10] Acts of aggression also caused the 1939 war.**

### **a] Acts of aggression committed by Japan are the following---**

- The Japanese invasion of Manchuria [1931] caused the war as it made the world to learn that it paid to be aggressive.
- Japan invaded Shanghai [1932] continuing with its aggression.
- Japan occupied Jehol, a Chinese province, in 1933.
- Japan occupied the Chinese provinces of Hopeh and Chahor.
- Japan withdrew from the League of Nations [1935] to continue with its aggression.
- Japan formed the anti Comintern Pact [1937] against USSR with Germany.
- Japan invaded China in 1937.
- Japan formed an aggressive alliance [Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis] with Germany and Italy.

### **b] Acts of aggression committed by Italy**

- In 1935 Mussolini invaded Abyssinia in direct contravention of the League of Nations.



- In 1935 Mussolini withdrew from the League of Nations to continue with aggression.
- In 1936 Mussolini sent troops to assist General Franco in the Spanish civil war.
- In 1936 Mussolini formed the Rome-Berlin Axis with Germany [an aggressive combination].
- In 1937 Mussolini signed the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis with Germany and Japan which promoted further aggressions.
- In 1939 Mussolini invaded Albania.
- In 1939 Mussolini and Hitler signed the Pact of Steel to help each other in case of a war.

### **Contribution of Italian and Japanese acts of aggression to the outbreak of world war two**

- Italian and Japanese acts of aggressions threatened world peace.
- Japanese unchecked aggression weakened the position of Britain and France in the Far East.
- These aggressions also weakened the authority of the League of Nations and led to the collapse of collective security. They exposed the weaknesses of the League of Nations.
- Japanese invasions also distracted the world's attention in European moves.
- Italy's condemnation by the League of Nations pushed her towards Hitler.
- Failure by Britain and France to stop them encouraged further aggressions.
- The unchecked aggressions made the world to know that it paid to be aggressive.

### **Other causes of World War Two**

- Hitler's acts of aggressions
- Weaknesses of the League of Nations
- US isolationist policy
- Appeasement policy

#### **a) Acts of aggressions committed by Hitler**

Hitler's foreign policy was the major cause of World War Two. His actions included the following---

- In 1933 Hitler withdrew Germany from the League of Nations.
- In 1933 Hitler withdrew Germany from the Disarmament Conference.
- In 1933 Hitler began to rearm Germany.
- In 1934 Hitler tried to overthrow the Austrian government of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss.
- In 1934 Hitler signed a non-aggression pact with Poland
- In 1935 Hitler signed the Anglo-German Naval agreement.
- In 1935 Germany announced the existence of the German Luftwaffe [Air force].
- In 1936 Hitler remilitarised the Rhineland.
- In 1936 Hitler sent troops to assist General Franco in a civil war against the Spanish Republican government.
- In 1936 Hitler signed the Rome-Berlin Axis with Mussolini.
- In 1937 Hitler signed the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis.
- In 1938 Hitler invaded Austria and completed the Anschluss.
- In 1938 Hitler invaded Sudetenland.
- In 1939 Hitler occupied Czechoslovakia.
- In 1939 Hitler signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact.
- in 1939 Hitler signed the Pact of Steel with Italy.
- In 1939 Hitler invaded Poland and World War Two broke out when Britain and France joined on the side of Poland.



## **To what extent did Hitler's Acts of aggressions [actions] contribute to the outbreak of World War Two?**

- They exposed the weaknesses of the League of Nations and that of Britain and France.
- The acts gave confidence to Hitler as he tested weapons, strength of his army and commitment of other powers to peace.
- Unchecked German aggressions encouraged Hitler to be further aggressive.
- Hitler defied the Treaty of Versailles when he ordered rearmament.
- By withdrawing from the League of Nations he was weakening a world body.
- By withdrawing from Disarmament conference and rearming Germany, he encouraged other nations to start rearming thereby threatening world peace.
- It was Hitler's invasion of Poland which brought other powers into the war.

## **Other causes of World War Two**

- Weaknesses of the League of Nations
- The policy of appeasement
- US isolationist policy
- Hitler's personal megalomania

## **The Remilitarisation of the Rhineland by Hitler [1936]**

- The Rhineland was the German territory which had been demilitarised by the allies at Versailles treaty.
- However, in 1936 Hitler remilitarised it.
- This was in direct contravention with the Paris Peace Settlement, Locarno Pact [1925] and the League of Nations.
- This happened soon after Hitler reunified the Saar region with Germany.
- Hitler had announced his decision to rearm Germany.
- In March 1936, 35000 German soldiers marched into the Rhineland.
- Britain and France did nothing about the issue.
- This was part of their appeasement policy.
- After remilitarising the Rhineland, Hitler set out to absorb all Germans into the Third Reich.
- The French also took no action because they hoped to remain safe behind the Maginot line.
- The Maginot line was a line of concrete fortifications, obstacles and weapons installations that France constructed just before the border with Switzerland and the borders with Germany and Luxembourg during the 1930s. It was named after the French minister of war, Andre Maginot.
- Mostly the French could not take action without Britain.
- Thus Hitler successfully reoccupied and remilitarised the Rhineland without meeting any resistance.

## **The German invasion of Austria [Anschluss 1938]**

- In 1938 Hitler invaded Austria and completed the Anschluss [union of Austria and Germany].
- This was a violation of the treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of St Germain.
- Hitler had issued propaganda to the world about the persecution of his followers [Austrian Nazis] by the Austrian government.
- In 1938 Hitler demanded that a pro-Nazi, Seyss-Inquart be made Chancellor of Austria.
- Austria refused.

- Hitler had always wanted to bring his homeland, Austria inside the boundaries of Germany.
- The Austrian people were mainly German.
- Germany had been conspiring with Austrian Nazis to overthrow the Austrian government.
- The Austrian chancellor Schuschnigg banned the Nazi.
- This repression provided the pretext for intervention by the German army.
- After realising that his country's sovereignty was under threat, the Austrian Chancellor decided to seek a meeting with Hitler in an attempt to check the unrest and gain time until the international situation improved in Austria's favour.
- He met Hitler at Berchtesgaden.
- He was forced to sign an agreement with the terms which put Nazis in key Austrian government posts, lifted the ban on Austrian Nazi Party and tied Austria economically and militarily to Germany.
- On 9 March 1938 Schuschnigg, realising that time would mean more Nazi control, called on the Austrians to vote to decide whether to remain independent or to unite with Germany.
- Hitler was determined to prevent the humiliation of a plebiscite whose results might go against his plans.
- He ordered plans for a military invasion to be drawn up.
- Hitler issued order to force Schuschnigg to abandon the plan for a plebiscite.
- He then moved his troops to the Austrian border.
- They crossed the boundary; Schuschnigg was arrested and sent to a concentration camp with the anti-Nazi ministers.
- A month later, Austrians and Germans voted on whether they wanted the union continue.
- The union received 99000 votes of those who qualified to vote.
- Seyss-Inquart and a cabinet of Nazis took office.
- Hitler later announced that the two nations of Austria and Germany were now one.

### **Contribution of the invasion of Austria to the outbreak of World War Two**

- Success in Austria without serious opposition from Britain and France increased Hitler's confidence in German superiority.
- Hitler believed he could continue with aggressions without serious opposition.
- It led to increased industrial base of Germany.
- Inclusion of Austria into Germany increased manpower base for war for Germany.

### **Munich Conference [1938] / Annexation of Sudetenland by Germany [1938]**

- In 1938 Hitler attended the Munich Conference.
- A Nazi party in Sudetenland led by Conrad Heinlein was ordered by Hitler to make unreasonable demands from the Czech government.
- Germany began to tell stories about the persecution of the Germans in Czechoslovakia.
- The Czech leader, Dr Benes, granted almost every concession to Heinlein.
- Before the Germans could invade Czechoslovakia Chamberlain arranged a meeting with Hitler, Mussolini and The French Prime Minister in Munich.
- He told the Czech that they ought to give up Sudetenland to Germany as no one would help if they resisted.
- On 29 September 1938, with scarcely a reference to the country concerned and certainly not allowing anyone at the Conference to represent her, the Great powers tore Czechoslovakia apart and ceded Sudetenland to Germany.

-All factories, railways, communications and raw materials had to be left intact and no compensation was to be given to the Czechs who had lost everything they possessed in the area.

-Britain and France were following the policy of appeasement.

### **Contribution of the Munich Conference to the outbreak of the Second World War**

-Success in Czechoslovakia without serious opposition From Britain and France increased Hitler's confidence in German superiority.

-Hitler believed he could attack Poland without serious opposition.

-The Munich decision on Sudetenland was an open invitation to other states to attack weak countries.

-It increased German industrial base.

-It increased manpower base for war for Germany.

-Germany felt confident to start a war.

### **Other Causes of World War Two**

-US isolationist policy

-Appeasement policy

-Spanish civil war

-Impotence of the League of Nations

### **Countries which attended the Munich Conference**

-France

-Britain

-Italy

-Germany

### **The invasion of Czechoslovakia by Germany [1939]**

-In 1939 Hitler invaded the whole of Czechoslovakia.

-This shocked the whole world.

-This invasion was done after the Munich Settlement [1938].

-At Munich Hitler had promised Britain and France that Sudetenland would be his last territorial demand.

-At Munich the independence of the remainder of Czechoslovakia was guaranteed.

-This invasion proved that Hitler had been lying at Munich.

-For Hitler, the Munich agreement was nothing but a worthless piece of paper.

-The invasion also showed that Hitler was not just interested in a Greater Germany as the Czechs were not Germans.

-The invasion was done to test the Anglo-French willingness to fight.

-This move defied Munich agreement and ended Britain's appeasement policy.

-The invasion depicted that Hitler's ambitions were insatiable.

-Hitler spread propaganda that the Czech government was ill-treating Germans in Sudetenland.

-So Hitler intended to rescue them.

-Czechoslovakia lost 70% of her heavy industries and almost all her fortifications.

-This triggered unrest in Czechoslovakia with Slovakia demanding semi-independence.

-Hitler took advantage of the situation to put pressure on the Czech president, Hacha, to request German help to restore order.

-Britain and France protested but took no action,

-Consequently the Germans occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia by invitation.

- Czechoslovakia disappeared from the map of Europe.
- Britain and France realised that Hitler could not be relied on and had insatiable ambitions.
- Britain and France rightly concluded that Hitler's next target was Poland where there was a German minority.
- Britain and France signed a military treaty with Poland promising her aid in case of an attack by Germany.
- Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia for various reasons, for example, it was of strategic importance to Hitler.
- Hitler also hated the Czechs whom he regarded as sub humans.
- He also hated them as allies of deadly enemies, Britain and France.
- He invaded Czechoslovakia as part of his Lebensraum, that is, he wanted to create enough living space for the Germans.

### **Contribution of the German invasion of Czechoslovakia to the outbreak of the Second World War**

- It increased manpower base for war for Germany.
- Success in Czechoslovakia without serious opposition from Britain and France increased Hitler's confidence in German superiority.
- Hitler believed he could attack Poland without serious opposition.
- It increased industrial base for Germany.
- The invasion depicted that Germany's ambitions were insatiable and this made Britain and France to prepare to stop German aggression.
- As a result Britain and France gave guarantees to Poland which were not mere scraps of paper.

### **Allied Powers during World War Two**

- |                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| -Britain       | -France                         |
| -Poland        | -Norway                         |
| -Denmark       | -Czechoslovakia                 |
| -Belgium       | -Holland                        |
| -China         | -United States of America [USA] |
| -USSR [Russia] |                                 |

### **Leaders of Allied Powers during World War Two**

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| -Winston Churchill [Britain]   | -Neville Chamberlain [Britain] |
| -Daladier [France]             | -Charles DeGaulle [France]     |
| -Joseph Stalin [USSR] [Russia] | -Franklin D Roosevelt [USA]    |
| -Harry Truman [USA]            |                                |

### **Axis Powers during World War Two**

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| -Germany  | -Italy   |
| -Japan    | -Spain   |
| -Bulgaria | -Romania |
| -Hungary  |          |

### **Leaders of Axis Powers during World War Two**

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| -Hitler [Germany]         | -Mussolini [Italy] |
| -Franco [Spain]           | -Tojo [Japan]      |
| -Emperor Hirohito [Japan] |                    |

### **Leaders who formed an alliance against Germany in the Second World War**

- Charles DeGaulle [France]
- Franklin D Roosevelt [USA]
- Joseph Stalin [USSR] [Russia]
- Harry Truman [USA]
- Chiang Kai Shek [China]
- Clement Attlee [Britain]

### **Leaders of European powers involved in the Second World War**

- Joseph Stalin [USSR]
- Winston Churchill [Britain]
- Neville Chamberlain [Britain]
- Daladier [France]
- Marshal Petain [Vichy France]
- Adolf Hitler [Germany]
- Benito Mussolini [Italy]
- Paul Reynaud [France]

### **Countries which took part in World War Two**

- Germany
- USA
- Poland
- Italy
- France
- Belgium
- Russia
- Sweden
- China
- Britain
- Norway
- Japan
- Denmark
- Czechoslovakia
- Spain

### **Weapons used during the Second World War**

- Tanks
- machine guns
- Torpedo boats
- war planes [spit fires]
- Missiles
- atomic bombs
- Bayonets
- bombs
- Mines
- radar
- Armoured cars
- depth charges
- Messerschmitt
- binoculars
- Poisonous gas
- radios
- Bullets
- hydro phones
- hurricanes

### **Contribution of individual countries to the outbreak of World War Two / Who was to blame for the outbreak of the Second World War?**

#### **a] Germany**

Germany was to blame for the following reasons---

- Germany pursued an aggressive foreign policy.
- Germany defied the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations.
- Germany rearmed indicating that she was preparing for war.
- Germany signed military pacts like Pact of Steel which was an indication that she wanted war.
- Hitler failed to recognise the sovereignty of states like Czechoslovakia and Poland which resulted in war.
- Hitler took advantage of the political, economic and military weaknesses of Britain and France.
- Hitler wanted to remove the stigma of defeat of world war one by winning another war.
- Hitler hated communism and wanted to conquer Russia and control it permanently.

- Hitler's insatiability left Britain and France with no option but to fight Germany.
- Hitler actually wanted war as he attacked Poland on all fronts instead of merely occupying the Polish Corridor.

#### **b] Italy**

- Italy's rearmament and conscription was a sign of preparation for war.
- Italy was involved in the alliance system especially pacts of aggression like Pact of Steel.
- Mussolini was involved in aggressions as she invaded Abyssinia, Albania and was also involved in the Spanish Civil War.

#### **c] Japan**

- Japan was involved in the alliance system.
- She was involved in aggression when she invaded Manchuria, Hopeh, Chahor and Jehol [Chinese provinces].
- Japan gave Germany much needed support which resulted in Germany being unreasonable and reckless.

#### **d] Russia**

- She signed the Nazi-Soviet pact which gave Hitler the confidence to attack Poland.
- She was also involved in the invasion of Poland.

#### **e] Poland**

- She signed a pact with Britain being guaranteed military support against Germany.

#### **f] Britain**

- Its guarantee of Polish support if it was attacked by Germany resulted in Poland refusing to German demands.
- She signed the Anglo-German Naval treaty of 1935 which encouraged Hitler to rearm.
- In 1939 Britain introduced conscription and rearmament.

#### **g] France**

- She guaranteed support to Poland if it was attacked by Germany and this resulted in Poland refusing to German demands.
- In March 1939 France introduced conscription and rearmament.

### **COURSE OF WORLD WAR TWO [1939-1945]**

#### **The Invasion of Poland by Germany / The Blitzkrieg on Poland [1939]**

- On 1 September 1939, Germany invaded Poland.
- 1700000 German forces moved in 45 divisions into Poland.
- The soldiers were supported by 1500 aircrafts.
- On 3 September 1939, Britain and France honoured their treaty with Poland and they declared war on Germany.
- This marked the beginning of the Second World War.
- Blitz means lightening and Krieg means war.
- Blitzkrieg means lightening war.
- German soldiers were to move fast and swift in a lightening like manner.
- Hitler used this approach on Poland in September 1939.
- Blitzkrieg [lightening war] was meant to conquer Poland before a friend could come to her assistance.
- Germany had fast moving troops, supported by tanks, heavy guns and a strong Luftwaffe [air force] which destroyed Polish forces.

- The Polish forces found themselves cut off from their supplies and surrounded on all sides by Germans.
- Warsaw, the capital of Poland was captured on 27 September 1939.
- Russia had also invaded Poland from the East as agreed between Russia and Germany when they signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact.
- In about three weeks the invasion of Poland was over.
- By the end of September, Poland had disappeared from the map of Europe as Hitler and Stalin had divided Poland between themselves in accordance with the Nazi-Soviet Agreement.
- Thus Germany extended her frontiers [boundaries] to include Poland.
- The Polish government collapsed and the president Ignacy Moscicki fled into exile.

### **Why the Blitzkrieg on Poland was successful?**

- Germany was superior in arms, technology, terrain and weather.
- Germany enjoyed a significant military strength over Poland.
- Germany had a total of 2, 5 million forces, Poland had 280000 men.
- Germany was also stronger than Poland in air and naval force.

### **The Phoney War / Sitzkrieg / Sitting War / Fake War [September 1939 to March 1940]**

- The period from the fall of Poland until the invasion of Norway is also known as the 'Phoney War'
- Thus for 7 months after the Blitzkrieg on Poland there was no fighting in the West.
- British, French and German forces did not attack each other during this period.
- There was no visible enemy action whatsoever.
- The reason was that some leaders of both sides hoped that a peace might be arranged if no more fighting took place.
- Britain and France adopted a defensive position arguing that they needed more time to gear up their countries for a major war. They were less prepared for the war.
- The British and French even hoped that war would be called off or that Germany would be blocked and starved into submission without fighting.
- British declaration of war on Germany was followed by air raids, gas alerts and digging of trenches and bomb shelters.
- Neville Chamberlain's government could find no way to put into effect its guarantee of Polish independence.
- France which was secure behind the Maginot Line was not militarily prepared to attack Germany and its Siegfried Line.
- Thus Britain and France realised that they could not save Poland when it was attacked by Germany.
- In Britain, rearmament, military training and the evacuation of children in London went ahead.
- On his part, Hitler hoped that the pause would weaken the resolve of Britain and France to fight and that this would encourage them to negotiate a settlement.
- Germany also used that time to further strengthen herself militarily.
- Germany was busy building up the Luftwaffe [air force] and constructing tanks to attack France and Britain.

### **Russian gains in the East**



-While very little war happened in the West, in the East the Russians absorbed the Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia and invaded Finland [November 1939], forcing her to hand over certain territories which would enable the Russians to defend themselves better against attack by Germany.

### **The Capture of Norway by Germany [9 April 1940]**

- On 9 April 1940, Germany forces invaded and occupied Norway.
- This was done without declaration of war.
- Germany attacked various points in Norway including Oslo and Bergen.
- Norwegian forces not mobilised and local Nazis under Quisling aided the Germans.
- The British forces tried to attack but the Germans were well entrenched.
- Britain and France rushed to help the Norwegians but later withdrew their troops.
- Britain withdrew in order to use forces in France.
- The withdrawal of Britain gave Germany the room to attack the Trans-Atlantic trade and also ensured German supplies of iron ore.
- Incompetence of the British effect led to the fall of Neville Chamberlain.
- He was succeeded by Winston Churchill on 10 April 1940.

### **German attack on Denmark [9 April 1940]**

- On 9 April 1940, German forces invaded and occupied Denmark.
- Again this was done without declaration of war.
- Denmark was overrun in a day.
- The German aim of attacking Denmark and Norway was to secure bases against Britain and to provide a ready supply of iron ore from Sweden.
- Britain's failure to stem this German tide resulted in the fall of Neville Chamberlain.
- He was succeeded by Winston Churchill on 10 April 1940.

### **German attacks on Holland and Belgium [10 April 1940]**

- On 10 April, Germany invaded Holland and Belgium.
- This again was done without declaration of war.
- These invasions were done a day after the invasion of Norway and Denmark [9 April 1940].
- Four days later the Dutch [Holland] surrendered.
- The Dutch government fled to Britain.
- Many Dutch were taken to Germany as slaves.
- The Belgians also surrendered on 28 May 1940.
- The chief German target in these Western drives was France.
- The invasion of Holland and Belgium was necessitated by the need to circuit the French fortifications in the South, known as the Maginot Line.

### **War against France / The German Blitzkrieg on France [1940]**

- After attacking Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg, the Germans turned against France.
- They entered France through the Ardennes Forests on 13 May 1940 to avoid the Maginot Line.
- The Allies were unable to stop the 45 German divisions compared with 12 allied divisions.
- The German advance trapped the allies and left Paris exposed to attacks.
- The French had made a fatal mistake of leaving this area [Ardennes Forests] almost undefended, believing it to be impassable for tanks'

- Most allied forces were in Flanders, anticipating a re-run of the World War One Schlieffen Plan.
- As a result this and also the superior German communication, the battle of France was far shorter than anticipated, lasting only six weeks.
- Encircled allied troops began to withdraw to the beaches of Dunkirk.
- Exhausted allied troops were rescued by British troops.
- It took 7 days to rescue 420000 British soldiers and 112000 French troops.
- Mobile German forces were protected by the Luftwaffe [air force].
- On 14 June 1940, Paris was captured and the French were forced to sign an armistice in which they gave territory to Germany, including Alsace-Lorraine.
- France thus surrendered.
- In order to further the humiliation of the French people, Hitler arranged the surrender document to be signed in the same railway coach where the German surrender had been signed in 1918.
- The surrender of France divided France into two parts; the Northern part occupied by Nazi Germany and a Southern part under French control, based at Vichy and was referred to as Vichy France.
- The reduced France with its capital at Vichy was led by Marshal Petain as Prime Minister.
- Many French soldiers, as well as those from other countries escaped to Britain.
- There General Charles DeGaulle proclaimed himself the legitimate leader of the free French forces and vowed to continue to fight.
- The fall of France left Britain and its Empire to stand alone.

### **Why the Blitzkrieg of France was successful on France / Why France was defeated by Germany?**

- France had a lot of miscalculations about the outbreak of the war and German capabilities.
- The French General, Gamelin had blundered by authorising troops to go on normal leave'
- General Gaston Billote had also informed his corps commander not to worry about shortage of weapons because he thought no serious war would break out before 1941.
- In case of attack, France expected German major thrust to be through Belgium or Holland and not through Ardennes forests, which were viewed as a major obstacle to armour and motorised vehicles.
- France realised that the Germans may attack through the Ardennes forests by 11 May 1940, but she still maintained doubts on German capabilities as they thought that it would take time for the Germans to cross the river Marne.
- The German capabilities to move through the Ardennes forests and crossing rivers caught the French by surprise.
- The geographical size of France made it possible for the Germans to almost encircle it.

### **The Battle of Dunkirk**

When Churchill came to office as the British Prime Minister, German troops launched a long attack against France. Instead of attacking the defensive lines of the Maginot Line the Germans moved into neutral and undefended territory. German Panzer troops [armoured forces] cut across the Northern age of France. British and French troops queued in the soft beaches at Dunkirk on the French-Belgian border. 200000 British troops and 140000 allied

troops were attacked by Germans. Hitler called off the final onslaught. Allied soldiers were defeated.

### **How important was the battle of Dunkirk to Britain**

- At Dunkirk the British were able to hold the Germans.
- British troops were plucked to safety.
- The Royal Air Force provided whatever cover it could.
- The “Miracle of Dunkirk” was the description of the heroic story of hundreds of ships of all sizes which sailed to Dunkirk and brought the besieged soldiers.
- \*However, the Battle of Dunkirk did not solve Britain’s problem.
- Hitler called off a final onslaught.
- In July 1940, Hitler gave orders for the invasion of Britain.
- Britain would continue to fight the Germans until the Germans were defeated in 1945.

### **The Battle of Britain / Operation Sea-Lion [1940]**

- This was the German invasion of Britain.
- Operation Sea-Lion was a German war plan code designed to weaken Britain at sea.
- After attacking France, Germany shifted her attention and resources towards Britain.
- This war was aimed at destroying the British Royal Air Force, especially the Air fields in South East England.
- Germany thought it wise to defeat Britain before an attack on Russia.
- From July 1940 to June 1941, Britain was at war alone against Germany.
- Germany was not interested in a war against Britain.
- This is why when France was knocked out; Hitler did not turn round to invade Britain immediately.
- Hitler embarked on another peace offensive in order to persuade Britain to come to a compromise peace plan with Germany.
- Churchill, the British Prime Minister rejected this.
- A direct invasion of Britain required German naval superiority.
- Hitler had no hope of achieving that superiority.
- The task was given to Goering who was in charge of the Luftwaffe [air force].
- Battles were thus fought in skies.
- The first heavy air raid on Southern England started on 10 July 1940.
- Hitler also attacked British harbours; communication centres naval bases and radar installations.
- In August 1940, bombing concentrated on London and air fields in and around London.
- Germany also bombed the British industrial cities but London remained under constant bombardment.
- British towns like Liverpool, Plymouth and Bristol were also attacked.
- Britain used radar system.
- However, Germany failed to attain air superiority over Britain.
- Although British air force suffered heavily, Britain soon rebuilt its air strength and soon inflicted heavy losses to the German bombers.
- After September the German raids slowed down.

- In September 1940, Goering postponed Operation Sea-Lion, but the British continued to bomb the Germans. Hitler refused the advice to retreat and many German soldiers were killed.
- The British pilots received assistance from the French, Belgians, Czechs and Polish pilots who were in exile in Britain.
- The German ambition to force Britain to surrender was frustrated.
- In all Germany lost 1700 aircrafts while Britain lost 1000.
- The war with Britain was not the real war in Hitler's mind.
- The British did not want to surrender and war took longer than Hitler had anticipated and postponed it.

### **Contribution of Operation Sea-Lion to the final defeat of Axis powers**

- Hitler had obtained a quick victory in the West but defeat by Britain became a setback in the war.
- British victory meant that Germany had to re-strategise and fight from two fronts, an impractical task for her.
- It accorded the Russians a chance to strengthen their position in Eastern Europe.
- The defeat proved that Germany was not invincible.
- It made Britain to remain in the war and determined to fight on.

### **Other Factors**

- Stiff resistance by Russia
- Entry of USA on the side of allied powers
- German miscalculations
- Lack of raw materials in Italy and Japan

### **Operation Barbarossa / The invasion of Russia by Germany [June 1941]**

- This was the German invasion of Russia.
- Britain's unexpected strong resistance led Germany to decide to attack Russia.
- This again was done without declaration of war.
- This implies that the 1939 Non Aggression Pact with Russia made no sense to Hitler.
- It was signed for a short term convenience to prevent Russia from coming into the war while Germany was at war with France and Britain in the West [to avoid war on two fronts].
- Hitler wanted enough living space for Germans [Lebensraum].
- He envied the fertile Ukraine which was the bread basket of Russia [USSR].
- Victory over Russia would boost resources for the invasion of Britain.
- Russian moves against the Baltic States [Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia], Finland and Romania increased German mistrust on Russia.
- Hitler wanted to conquer Russia before Britain and USA strengthened their position.
- On 22 June 1941, 3 million German forces invaded Russia.
- The Blitzkrieg or Lightning war method was use.
- German army included Italians, Romanians, Fins and Hungarians.
- Its target was to reach Leningrad, Moscow and the Caucasus before winter.
- Winter was considered Russia's ally.
- Churchill had warned Stalin about this but Stalin refused to believe that Hitler would attack Russia and went on to deliver supplies to the Germans.
- The German army advanced in 3 groups.

- They destroyed much of the Russian air force on the ground as they were attacking without warning.
- On all these fronts, the Russians were driven back with great losses.
- Stalin ordered the Russians to adopt the scorched earth policy as they were retreating.
- They destroyed everything in the way to starve the Germans and deprive them of shelter.
- Factories, industrial machinery and equipment were moved to Siberia, far away from the enemy.
- By September the Germans had blocked Leningrad.
- 700000 Russians were encircled in Kiev.
- By the end of 1941, they were at Rostov on the Don.
- By December 1941, the Germans were approaching Moscow.
- However, winter set in.
- Their clothing and their vehicles could not take the icy weather.
- During the winter of 1941 to 1942, the German army froze.
- The Russians were assisted by the British and Americans.
- They received 13000 planes.
- By August 1942 Stalingrad was under attack by Germans.
- This battle lasted six months and the Russians had not surrendered.
- In the spring of 1943 the Russians drove Germans back a few kilometres from Leningrad, about 160km from Moscow.
- In July 1943 the Germans counter attacked at Kursk.
- In one of the decisive battles of the war in which a million men and some 3000 tanks were engaged, the armies of Nazi Germany in 7 days suffered a crushing defeat.
- By the end of 1943 the Germans were almost out of Soviet Union [Russia] losing Bulgaria, Romania, most of Hungary and more than half of Poland to Russia.
- Russians managed to relieve Leningrad from the German siege [900 day siege] and the rest of Russia was liberated.
- The Germans surrendered to the Russians.
- About 2 million German soldiers had died.
- The Russian winter, scorched earth policy, the resistance from the Russians and the vastness of the Russian territory led to the defeat of Germany.

### **Contribution of Operation Barbarossa to the final defeat of the Axis Powers**

- The defeat was a catastrophe [disaster] to the Germans.
- The invasion of Russia greatly weakened Germany.
- The defeat shattered the myth that the Germans were invincible and boosted Russian morale.
- The Russians followed up with more counter attacks forcing the Germans to retreat.
- It was only a matter of time before the Germans, now heavily outnumbered and short of tanks and guns, were cleared out of Russia.

### **Battles fought on Soviet / Russian soil during Operation Barbarossa**

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| - Battle of Stalingrad | -Battle of Leningrad |
| -Battle of Kiev        | -Battle of Kursk     |
| -Battle of Varonezh    | -Battle of Moscow    |

### **The German Blitzkrieg during the Second World War**

- Blitz means lightening and Krieg means war.

- Blitzkrieg thus means lightening war.
- It was a German method of fighting which involved the mass movement of German troops.
- It involved a lot of aerial bombardment by many planes.
- German air force covered the ground troops.
- This method was meant to catch the enemies by surprise.
- It also aimed at defeating the enemy before her allies came to her help.
- There was swift movement of tanks and infantry battalions like lightening.
- Bombers attacked enemy air fields and communication centres.
- Parachutists dropped behind enemy lines to capture bridges and other important targets.
- Dive bombers moved ahead of the tanks attacking enemy strong points.
- Tanks broke through weak points in the enemy lines and travelled fast across the country.
- Foot soldiers [infantry] were very mobile through the use of vehicles and motorised divisions.
- The Germans used heavy guns which could pump out nearly 400 rounds per minute.
- Infantry was protected by armoured cars, gun carrying vehicles and tanks.
- This method enabled the Germans to make a quick victory over Poland, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and France.

#### **How successful was the Blitzkrieg in achieving Germany's war plans?**

- Initially Germany conquered many countries with its blitzkrieg.
- Both Poland and France fell in a short time.
- Even on Operation Barbarossa at first Germany succeeded.
- The combined use of air force, armoured tanks and infantry proved too much for many countries.
- Germany was able to hold sway for nearly 4 years.
- \*However, allied powers later copied Hitler's methods and began to defeat Germany.
- American entry into the war in 1941 also tipped the balance in favour of the allies.
- Also Blitzkrieg was meant to be used for a short war but this was not to be.

#### **Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbour and the Entrance of USA into the Second World War [7 December 1941]**

- In December 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbour [the United States Pacific Base].
- This attack was tied up with Japan's economic situation.
- For some years Japan had hoped, by expanding beyond Manchuria or into South East Asia, she would gain resources that would enable her to complete the conquest of China and establish her Greater East Asian Co-prosperity Sphere.
- Japan's neutrality Pact with Russia [USSR] in April 1941 and the German invasion of Russia in June 1941, relieved Japan of fear of Soviet interference.
- In July 1941 Japan overran what remained of French Indo-China [Vietnam].
- The Dutch government in exile that ruled the Netherlands East Indies could offer little resistance to Japanese plans.
- The Japanese set up bases in French Indo-China but United States of America [Roosevelt] demanded that the bases be withdrawn.
- However, following the Japanese aggression in Indo-China, the Dutch, the British and USA cut off trade with Japan [26 July 1941] who therefore could not get oil from Borneo or Sumatra.



- The Americans also assisted the Chinese who were still at war with the Japanese.
- The Japanese tried to persuade the Americans to lift the embargo but America insisted on Japanese withdrawal from both China itself and Indo-China.
- In October 1941, General Tojo, the razor, became Prime Minister of Japan.
- There was no hope of agreement between Americans and Japanese because USA insisted on Japanese withdrawal, hence war seemed to be the only solution.
- On 7 December 1941 waves of 360 Japanese bombers destroyed the American Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii Island.
- It was a surprise attack which initially destroyed 121 air craft on the ground, including 5 battleships and 2403 American soldiers.
- All in all, 350 American air craft, 8 battleships and 3700 men perished.
- This happened within 2 hours.
- This attack on Pearl Harbour was organised by Admiral Yamamoto.
- This attack was done without declaration of war.
- The attack, however, failed to deliver the blow it would have wanted.
- Enormous stores of oil were left intact which supplied the USA fleet in the future battles.
- After attacking Pearl Harbour, the Japanese attacked Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore as well as the Philippines.
- With one blow Japan crippled the US Navy and gained temporary control of the Pacific, for her own purposes.
- On 8 December [the following day] USA and Britain declared war on Japan.
- On 9 December 1941, China formally declared war on Japan.
- On 11 December 1941, Japan's partners, Germany and Italy declared war on USA.

### **Contribution of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour to the defeat of Axis powers**

- Entry of USA played a significant role in the Pacific Islands.
- USA brought financial, material resources and manpower.
- Germans were over stretched [USA, USSR, Britain].

### **Other factors**

- The Russian winter
- Hitler's failure to destroy the British army at Dunkirk
- Use of atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki

### **War against Japan**

- The South American States like Costa-Rica, Nicaragua, Haiti, Honduras, Cuba, El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic all declared war against Axis powers in December 1941.
- The involvement of America into the war made it a world war.
- The Japanese were initially brilliantly successful.
- Hong Kong fell on 25 December 1941 [on Christmas day].
- Up to December 1941, the war was restricted to China and Japan alone.
- From December 1941, Japan invaded almost all of South East Asia and drove the Dutch, the French, the British and the Americans out of the area [South East Asia].
- Japan captured all of Indo-China.
- By February 1942, the Japanese had conquered Malaya, captured Singapore and renamed it Shonan.



- Japan further captured New Guinea, Indonesia and so on.
- Japan defeated an allied Pacific Fleet [Britain, Russia, America and France which had signed a Grand Alliance] in the Java Sea and they occupied Java in March 1942 and thereafter, the rest of the Netherlands East Indies.
- The Japanese overran the Philippines.
- From Thailand the Japanese invaded Burma and took Rangoon on 12 March and Mandalay a few weeks later and the British withdrew to India.
- Indo-China [Vietnam], Laos and Cambodia were parts of the French Empire.
- France could not defend them because France was largely occupied by German forces.
- Malaya, Burma and several Islands captured by Japan were British colonies.
- Their survival depended on British defence but in 1940 Britain had lost most of her weapons at Dunkirk in France.
- Between December 1941 and June 1942 Japan had advanced rapidly through South East Asia.
- However, after July 1942, the tide turned against Japan.
- Thus the Japanese miracle was temporary.
- The American, British and Australian forces began pushing the Japanese back.
- American mobilisation of resources was unbelievably intense.
- By the end of 1943 the Americans had won air and naval superiority over the Japanese.
- The Japanese made a thrust towards Midway Island.
- The Americans who knew the Japanese plans won a decisive victory at Midway.
- The Japanese never recovered from the loss of the four carriers sunk at Midway.
- The Americans captured Guadal canal.
- The British invaded Burma.
- In February 1945 the Americans landed on Iwojima, 1200km from Tokyo and here Americans lost 4000 lives.
- The Americans also captured Okinawa which cost 12000 Americans and 120000 Japanese lives.
- The Australians recovered Borneo.

### **The Invasion of Sicily and Italy [1943]**

- In July 1943, the allies decided to attack the Italian Island of Sicily.
- The invading armies were Americans, British and Canadian.
- As the allied powers advanced, Italian morale began to drop.
- Taking advantage of Italian discouragement President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill ordered the surrender of Hitler and Mussolini.
- On 25 July 1943 the world heard that Mussolini had been removed from office by the king and that Marshal Pietro Badoglio had been appointed Premier [PM].
- The fall of Mussolini and the disbanding of the Fascist party set off peace.
- There were demonstrations all over Italy.
- Badoglio however declared that Italy would continue to fight alongside Germany.
- Two weeks after the fall of Sicily, Montgomery and his army protected by air power landed in Southern Italy.
- Mussolini's replacement, General Pietro Badoglio, negotiated an armistice with the allies on 8 September 1943.

- On 8 September, General Eisenhower announced over the Algiers radio that Italy had been granted a military armistice.
- Hitler then declared Italy a vassal state continuing the fight.
- Nazi Germany thus moved quickly into the confused situation, disarmed Italian formations and prepared to defend Italy on their own.
- A German Commando raid led by Otto Skorzeny rescued Mussolini and installed him as the head of the Italian Social Republic, a Nazi puppet state in Northern Italy.
- He continued in this role until he was captured and executed by mobs on 28 April 1945, as the Allied forces closed in on Milan.
- German troops occupied Genoa, Rome, Milan and Naples and fighting ensued between Germany and Italian soldiers.
- To stop Germany from consolidating her hold over Italy the allied forces launched an amphibious attack in Naples on 9 September.
- German troops drove allied powers almost to the Sea.
- The British poured fresh troops into Italy and on 1 October the allied powers recaptured Rome.
- The German determination to make Italy their battlefield and the sinking of the Italian battleship, Roma by the Nazis brought Italy into the war on the side of the allies.
- On 13 October 1943 Badoglio formally announced that Italy was at war with Germany.
- Allied powers defeated the Nazis in Italy and Sicily.

#### **Importance of allied victory in Italy to the final defeat of the Axis powers**

- The invasion of Italy resulted in the defeat of Italy.
- Both Italy and Germany suffered heavy casualties in this war.
- This war led to the surrender and arrest of Mussolini.
- The Italians turned against Germany and helped allied powers.

#### **Other factors which led to the defeat of Germany and her allies**

- Germany had too many countries to fight.
- The axis powers were surprised by the Russian counter attack and the Russian winter.
- The USA dropped atomic bombs in Japanese cities.

#### **The Invasion of Normandy**

- On 6 June 1944, British, Canadian and American troops landed on Normandy coast in France and by July 1944 the Germans were beaten.
- 6 June 1944 is referred to as "Doomsday".
- The German positions were heavily fortified but meticulous planning and good organisation by the allied powers enabled them to gain an upper hand.
- The Russians had virtually cleared the Germans out of Russia and were now advancing through Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania.
- Under the direction of the new American commander, Dwight D Eisenhower, the allied powers pushed inland and soon broke through German defences.
- The Germans tried to organise an offensive but were soundly defeated at the battle of Bulge.
- In the middle of July 1944, Rommel, who was now a Field Marshal, demanded that Hitler should recognise that Germany was defeated and on 20 July 1944 an attempt on Hitler's life was made by Colonel Stauffenberg, Chief of Staff of the German reserve army.
- But Hitler would certainly not consider surrender and the Germans however, fought on.

### The fall of Berlin

- In December 1944, a German army again drove through the Ardennes into France.
- The allies were forced back. But the Americans could not be driven from their key positions and the battle of Bulge ended in the defeat for Germans.
- The allies renewed their advance to Berlin, which they hoped to reach by Christmas.
- But by Christmas they had not reached the Rhine.
- In March 1945, allied troops crossed the Rhine River in Germany and advanced inland.
- The Russians made their way to Germany through Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland.
- In the spring of 1945, Russians reached the River Oder while Western allies crossed Rhine and occupied the devastated Ruhr.
- The Russians entered Berlin and advanced units of Russians and American forces met on the river Elbe on 25 April 1945.
- Hitler continued to give orders from his concrete shelter beneath the headquarters of the German Chancellor.
- Most of his generals refused to take orders from him.
- The American first army after a rapid advance in August encircled and destroyed a large proportion of the German armour at Falaise.
- In Autumn, when allies were concentrating on strengthening their supply lines and were therefore advancing slowly, Hitler made the mistake of thinking that he could counter attack.
- German towns had been subjected to heavy bombing and allies were advancing from both the East and the West.
- In the course of their advance the allies found horrifying evidence of the unsurpassed brutality of the Nazi system.
- The British and American troops liberated concentration camps, such as Belsen and Buchenwald, while the Russians had found the extermination camp at Auschwitz in Poland, where millions of Jews had been killed.
- Mussolini was captured and shot dead by Italian partisans on 28 April 1945.
- On 7 May 1945, the German armies surrendered.
- Hitler shot himself and died.

### **Battles fought between Germany and allied powers in Europe during World War Two**

- |                                         |                      |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| -Battle of Britain [Operation Sea-Lion] | -Battle of Dunkirk   |
| -Battle of Stalingrad                   | -Battle of Bulge     |
| -Battle of Kiev / Kiew                  | -Battle of Kursk     |
| -Battle of Varonezh                     | -Battle of Moscow    |
| -Battle of Berlin                       | -Battle of Leningrad |

### **Countries that were invaded by Germany during World War Two**

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| -Poland                | -Belgium       |
| -Norway                | -Denmark       |
| -Holland / Netherlands | -France        |
| -Britain               | -USSR / Russia |
| -Czechoslovakia        |                |

### **Cities in Europe which were attacked by Germany during World War Two**

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| -Stalingrad | -London    |
| -Paris      | -Leningrad |

- Kiev
- Copenhagen
- Coventry
- Moscow
- Warsaw
- Liverpool
- Bristol
- Olso
- Minsk
- Kursk
- Brussels
- Bergen
- Plymouth

#### **States in Eastern Europe that fell under communist control**

- Poland
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Albania
- Latvia
- Czechoslovakia
- Yugoslavia
- Hungary
- Estonia
- Lithuania

#### **The Bombardment of the Japanese Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki [August 1945]**

- After the death of Franklin D Roosevelt in 1945, vice president, Harry Truman became the president of USA.
- He had to decide whether to use the atomic bombs against Japan.
- It was an experiment.
- It seemed that an invasion of Japan might meet prolonged resistance, with great loss of life on both allied powers and Japan.
- Truman's military advisers said it was not necessary, but Truman decided to use the atomic bombs.
- These atomic bombs were supposed to be used to attack Germany.
- The bombing of the Japanese cities was a strategy of saturation bombing to destroy civilian morale.
- For the Americans, bombing Japan would end the war quickly and made the invasion of Japan unnecessary.
- On 6 August 1945, the American plane in the sky dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.
- About 75000 people died and more than 75000 died from the after effects of that bomb, that is, radiation poison.
- On 8 August 1945, USSR [Russia] declared war on Japan and invaded Manchuria.
- On 9 August 1945, a second atomic bomb [plutonium] was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki.
- About 50000 people were killed.
- These events of 6 and 9 August 1945, forced emperor Hirohito to insist that the struggle must end.
- Japan surrendered unconditionally on 14 August 1945.
- Thus the Far East war and the Second World War came to an end.

#### **Contribution of the Bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the defeat of Japan**

- Some military commanders wanted to fight to the last but the bombing forced the Emperor Hirohito to surrender.
- The Japanese suffered heavy casualties.
- Morale was reduced on the part of the Japanese.

- The Japanese army was paralysed.
- Bombing ended Japanese stubborn resistance.

#### **Other factors**

- The Japanese economy was already collapsing as many factories were destroyed.
- Japan had been defeated at the battles of Coral Sea, Midway and Leyte Gulf.
- In 1945 many people were starving and industrial production collapsed.
- Japanese resources were overstretched.
- Japan had too large area to control and defend.

#### **Part played by USA in the Second World War**

- America's early contribution was the bar of oil to the Japan because of her aggressions in 1941.
- America also demanded that Japan should leave China and Indo-China that she had partially occupied.
- After Japan had wiped out US pacific fleet at Pearl Harbour in 1941, America formally declared war on Japan.
- She joined the war on the side of the allies.
- In My 1942, the US navy overran a Japanese force in the Carol Islands.
- USA established links with Australian forces to block Japanese effort to conquer New Guinea.
- US forces defeated the Japanese at Midway Island and halted Japanese advance to India.
- In 1942, US forces joined with Britain in Algeria and began the attack on Axis forces in North Africa.
- On 7 May 1943, they entered Tunisia and defeated Axis forces who then surrendered.
- In 1943-1944, US forces moved swiftly across the Pacific reclaiming bases that had earlier fallen to Japanese forces.
- In August 1943, Dwight Eisenhower, the US general led a campaign across the Mediterranean and overran Sicily before entering Southern Italy.
- Italy surrendered, in 1943, after the overthrow of Mussolini.
- In 1944-1945, they fought German forces that had entered Italy.
- They moved to the Western front against Germany through occupied France which they freed.

#### **How important was the role played by USA towards the defeat of the Axis powers**

- USA brought extra help at the right time to give allies the offensive again.
- USA provided its vast resources which tilted the scales in favour of the allies.
- USA sea power was effective in defeating Japan, 75% of Japan's merchant ships were sunk by USA submarines.
- USA bombings destroyed Japanese homes and factories.
- USA dropped atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 causing Japan to surrender unconditionally.
- USA supplied war equipments to the allied powers.
- Extra machinery and war supplies boosted morale of the allies.
- It destroyed the effectiveness of Japan by dropping atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- USA defeated Japan at the battle of Midway.

- USA helped Britain in defeating Germany and Italy in North Africa.
- USA sunk ships belonging to German allies.

### **Other factors which led to the defeat of Axis powers**

- Germany had weak allies.
- The collapse of the German economy
- Failure of Operation Barbarossa
- Chinese resistance to Japan and the eventual defeat of Japan in China.

### **Generals who participated in the Second World War**

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -General Charles DeGaulle [France] | -George S Patton [USA]            |
| -General Gamelin [France]          | -Wavell [Britain]                 |
| -General Gaston Billote [France]   | -Auchinleck [Britain]             |
| -General Tojo [Japan]              | -Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto [Japan] |
| -Zhukov [USSR]                     | -Von Paulus [Germany]             |
| -Dwight D Eisenhower [USA]         | -MacArthur [USA]                  |
| -Erwin Rommel [Germany]            | -Erich Von Manstein [Germany]     |
| -Colonel Stauffenberg [Germany]    | -Omar Bradley [USA]               |
| -Marshal Pietro Badoglio [Italy]   | -Montgomery [Britain]             |

### **Why Germany and her allies [Axis powers] were defeated during World War Two?**

- Germany had too many countries to fight, for example, USA, Britain, France, and Russia.
- The axis powers were surprised by the Russian counter attack and the Russian winter.
- USA dropped atomic bombs in Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which led to the defeat of Japan.
- Hitler's decision to attack Russia resulted in war on two fronts.
- Operation Barbarossa stretched Germany's resources as she fought had to fight on the West and on the East.
- The strength of USA, its wealth, resources and fighting forces led to the defeat of Axis powers.
- Tactical mistakes on the part of Axis powers.
- The strength of USSR [Russia], its people's will to resist, its vast army and ability to manufacture weapons.
- The superiority of air power of allies
- German industry was seriously damaged by allied bombing.
- Naval superiority of allied powers.
- Failure of Operation Sea-Lion [Battle of Britain]. Germany lost heavily, for example, 1700 air craft.
- The invasion of Germany by the allies cut off supply of aid and other raw materials.
- The defeat of Italy left Germany fighting alone in Europe.
- Weaknesses of Italy also led to the defeat of axis powers.
- Unexpected resistance in the occupied territories like France, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Denmark, and Poland.
- Axis powers suffered from the problem of manpower shortage and use of inexperienced forces.
- Reliance of forced labour by axis powers.
- Hitler refused to follow advice of his generals.

- Failure of Operation Barbarossa caused the defeat of Germany.
- The combined industrial power of Britain, Russia and USA was far greater than that of Germany and Japan and given continued allied co-operation, economic power was sure to be the determining factor.
- Hitler's miscalculations
- Collapse of the German economy as more and more people were drafted into the war effort, creating labour shortage.
- Britain had the whole Commonwealth behind her.
- Radical theory of Nazism created more enemies for Axis powers.
- Chinese resistance to Japan and the eventual defeat of Japan in China.
- The British Hurricane and the Spit fire fighters had an outstanding performance against German bombers.
- Germany lost her experienced pilots.
- Defeat of Germany's allies
- Radar gave advance warning of German attacks.
- There were resistance movements against Germans in France, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Denmark and Poland.

## **EFFECTS / RESULTS OF WORLD WAR TWO**

### **Political Results / Effects of world war two**

- The Axis powers were defeated.
- Japan surrendered after Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.
- A new international organisation, the United Nations Organisation, was formed. It was a successor of the League of Nations.
- Germany was stripped of all military power and was forced to pay reparations to the allies.
- Former Nazi leaders were hunted down, dismissed from their positions and brought to trial at Nuremburg in November 1945.
- Japanese Prime Minister, General Tojo was executed.
- The war led to European domination of the world. USA and USSR emerged from the war as the leading states with China and Japan also increasingly playing an important role in world affairs.
- There was the development of the Cold War. It was the non co-operation, rivalry and tension [short of armed conflict] between USA and USSR that developed after 1945. It was caused by the difference in Ideological principles between Communism and Capitalism.
- Germany was divided into four zones, each under one of the allies.
- There was development of nuclear arms race.
- The imperial ambitions of USA as a world power were greatly enhanced.
- New states emerged, for example, West and East Germany, North and South Korea.
- World war two speeded up the process of decolonisation in Africa and Asia.
- There was formation of NATO and Warsaw Pact.
- Western Europe became largely an area of democratic governments.
- There was emergence of new governments and new leadership in several countries, like France, Germany and Italy.

### **Economic Results /Effects of world war two**

- Infrastructure like roads, railways and harbours were destroyed.



- Economies crumbled due to destruction caused by the war.
- There was free movement of goods.
- Most countries especially allied powers were left heavily indebted to USA.
- Agriculture was paralysed.
- There was opening of new markets.
- There was poverty in some countries.
- Bombs made land unproductive.
- There was massive unemployment.
- There was starvation due to shortage of food in Europe.
- There was formation of economic blocks.
- Industries were destroyed.
- There was destruction of property.
- Trade was disturbed and ships were destroyed.
- There was a shift in line of production, for example, from arms of war to consumer goods.
- There was technological advancement.
- German resources were plundered by invading forces.
- There was creation of IMF [International Monetary Fund] and WB [World Bank].

### **Social Results / Effects of world war two**

- Refugees swarmed all over Europe.
- Atomic bombs caused long standing effects. They brought air born diseases like lung and heart diseases.
- There was emergence and spread of diseases.
- Millions of people who were prisoners of war needed to be repatriated and rehabilitated.
- Many lives were lost. Millions of people died.
- Poverty was on the increase.
- Schools and hospitals were destroyed.
- Some adopted violence as a way of life.
- Prostitution became the order of the day.
- There was drug abuse.
- Many women were widowed.
- Many children became orphans.

### **To what extent did the people of Europe benefit from the political results of World War Two?**

#### **Benefits**

- Some minorities got self determination, for example, from the creation of a Jewish homeland.
- There was fall of dictators, for example, in Germany and Italy.
- New political ideologies were introduced, for example, communism.
- There was intervention by the United Nations Organisation to solve political disputes, for example, Hungary, Czechoslovakia.

#### **Non benefits**

- Some political ideologies were enforced on people who might not have preferred them.
- Some people found themselves separated from their kith and kin, for example, East Germany and West Germany.

-Effects of the Cold War were strongly felt.

### **To what extent did the minority groups benefit from the Second World War?**

#### **Benefits**

-Some benefited by getting self determination, for example, Jews were settled in Israel. A new state of Israel was formed with the blessing of the UNO.

-Some got recognition and protection from the law, for example, Blacks in the Diaspora.

-Serbs and Croats were settled in their respective areas.

#### **Non Benefits**

-Not all minority groups got self determination.

-Some groups were incorporated into new and bigger states creating a recipe of further conflicts in future.

-Some minority groups got independence at the expense of other races like Jews in Israel over Arabs in Palestine.

-Others remained scattered throughout the world while nations were created for others, for instance Jews had a state created for them.

### **Did the people of Germany benefit from the results of the Second World War?**

#### **Benefits**

-Hitler's tyrannical rule ended with defeat.

-German Jews were freed from concentration camps or persecution.

-Peace was restored.

-Germans in West Germany received aid and the country recovered economically.

#### **Non Benefits**

-Germans were humiliated by defeat and division.

-Division of Germany led to splitting of many families.

-Women were widowed.

-Children were orphaned.

-The war led to death of many Germans and some were wounded.

-German resources were plundered by invading forces.

-Germans in East Germany were forced to be Communists.

-East Germany lagged behind in economic development.

### **How did division of Germany affect the German people?**

-Allies punished ordinary Nazis.

-Industrial Cartels like Krupps, IG Forben industries and Siemens were broken up causing unemployment.

-Scientists were taken away by Americans and Russians to develop technology in those countries.

-There was uneven development between the Russian and American controlled zones.

\*However, Some re-education was attempted especially by the Americans who tried to remove the ideas of German superiority from German textbooks.

-Germans in Western controlled zones enjoyed more freedoms than those in Russ

