

COURSE MANUAL

Topics in World History Since 1914

HDS105



**University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre
Open and Distance Learning Course Series Development
Version 1.0 v1**

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Vice-Chancellor's Message

The Distance Learning Centre is building on a solid tradition of over two decades of service in the provision of External Studies Programme and now Distance Learning Education in Nigeria and beyond. The Distance Learning mode to which we are committed is providing access to many deserving Nigerians in having access to higher education especially those who by the nature of their engagement do not have the luxury of full time education. Recently, it is contributing in no small measure to providing places for teeming Nigerian youths who for one reason or the other could not get admission into the conventional universities.

These course materials have been written by writers specially trained in ODL course delivery. The writers have made great efforts to provide up to date information, knowledge and skills in the different disciplines and ensure that the materials are user-friendly.

In addition to provision of course materials in print and e-format, a lot of Information Technology input has also gone into the deployment of course materials. Most of them can be downloaded from the DLC website and are available in audio format which you can also download into your mobile phones, IPod, MP3 among other devices to allow you listen to the audio study sessions. Some of the study session materials have been scripted and are being broadcast on the university's Diamond Radio FM 101.1, while others have been delivered and captured in audio-visual format in a classroom environment for use by our students. Detailed information on availability and access is available on the website. We will continue in our efforts to provide and review course materials for our courses.

However, for you to take advantage of these formats, you will need to improve on your I.T. skills and develop requisite distance learning Culture. It is well known that, for efficient and effective provision of Distance learning education, availability of appropriate and relevant course materials is a *sine qua non*. So also, is the availability of multiple plat form for the convenience of our students. It is in fulfilment of this, that series of course materials are being written to enable our students study at their own pace and convenience.

It is our hope that you will put these course materials to the best use.



Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka

Vice-Chancellor

Foreword

As part of its vision of providing education for “Liberty and Development” for Nigerians and the International Community, the University of Ibadan, Distance Learning Centre has recently embarked on a vigorous repositioning agenda which aimed at embracing a holistic and all encompassing approach to the delivery of its Open Distance Learning (ODL) programmes. Thus we are committed to global best practices in distance learning provision. Apart from providing an efficient administrative and academic support for our students, we are committed to providing educational resource materials for the use of our students. We are convinced that, without an up-to-date, learner-friendly and distance learning compliant course materials, there cannot be any basis to lay claim to being a provider of distance learning education. Indeed, availability of appropriate course materials in multiple formats is the hub of any distance learning provision worldwide.

In view of the above, we are vigorously pursuing as a matter of priority, the provision of credible, learner-friendly and interactive course materials for all our courses. We commissioned the authoring of, and review of course materials to teams of experts and their outputs were subjected to rigorous peer review to ensure standard. The approach not only emphasizes cognitive knowledge, but also skills and humane values which are at the core of education, even in an ICT age.

The development of the materials which is on-going also had input from experienced editors and illustrators who have ensured that they are accurate, current and learner-friendly. They are specially written with distance learners in mind. This is very important because, distance learning involves non-residential students who can often feel isolated from the community of learners.

It is important to note that, for a distance learner to excel there is the need to source and read relevant materials apart from this course material. Therefore, adequate supplementary reading materials as well as other information sources are suggested in the course materials.

Apart from the responsibility for you to read this course material with others, you are also advised to seek assistance from your course facilitators especially academic advisors during your study even before the interactive session which is by design for revision. Your academic advisors will assist you using convenient technology including Google Hang Out, You Tube, Talk Fusion, etc. but you have to take advantage of these. It is also going to be of immense advantage if you complete assignments as at when due so as to have necessary feedbacks as a guide.

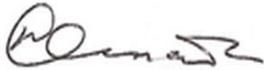
The implication of the above is that, a distance learner has a responsibility to develop requisite distance learning culture which includes diligent and disciplined self-study, seeking available administrative and academic support and acquisition of basic information technology skills. This is why you are encouraged to develop your computer skills by availing yourself the opportunity of training that the Centre’s provide and put these into use.

In conclusion, it is envisaged that the course materials would also be useful for the regular students of tertiary institutions in Nigeria who are faced with a dearth of high

quality textbooks. We are therefore, delighted to present these titles to both our distance learning students and the university's regular students. We are confident that the materials will be an invaluable resource to all.

We would like to thank all our authors, reviewers and production staff for the high quality of work.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bayo Okunade', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Bayo Okunade

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About this course manual

Topics in World History Since 1914 HDS105 has been produced by University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre. All course manuals produced by University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre are structured in the same way, as outlined below.

How this course manual is structured

The course overview

The course overview gives you a general introduction to the course. Information contained in the course overview will help you determine:

- If the course is suitable for you.
- What you will already need to know.
- What you can expect from the course.
- How much time you will need to invest to complete the course.

The overview also provides guidance on:

- Study skills.
- Where to get help.
- Course assignments and assessments.
- Margin icons.

We strongly recommend that you read the overview *carefully* before starting your study.

The course content

The course is broken down into Study Sessions. Each Study Session comprises:

- An introduction to the Study Session content.
- Study Session outcomes.
- Core content of the Study Session with a variety of learning activities.
- A Study Session summary.

- Assignments and/or assessments, as applicable.
- Bibliography

Your comments

After completing Topics in World History Since 1914 we would appreciate it if you would take a few moments to give us your feedback on any aspect of this course. Your feedback might include comments on:

- Course content and structure.
- Course reading materials and resources.
- Course assignments.
- Course assessments.
- Course duration.
- Course support (assigned tutors, technical help, etc.)

Your constructive feedback will help us to improve and enhance this course.

Course Overview

Welcome to Topics in World History Since 1914 HDS 105

This course examines the salient issues in the world history since 1914. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the major events and topics that were phenomenal, and still are relevant in human history.

The first session explains the background to the First World War. It traces the events that culminated in the outbreak of the war, which was divided into the remote and immediate causes of the war. The focus of the second session is the peace treaty of Versailles and its aftermath. It examines the consequence of the “war-guilt clause” on Germany and its implication on global peace. The Russian Revolution became the utmost concern of this course in unit three, where series of events that led to the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 are analysed. The next three lectures examine the successes and failures of the League of Nations in maintaining global peace, the impact of the Great Depression of the 1930s on world economy, and the emergent democracies and dictatorships of the inter-war years in Europe. The outbreak of the Second World War, the establishment of the United Nations Organizations, and the Cold War years that followed the war became the cardinal objectives of this course in unit seven, eight and nine respectively.

Apart from the fact that the First World War started in 1914, this same year was also significant in history because by then, virtually all African countries had come under European domination. Thus, Lecture ten of this course focuses on the decolonization process and independence movements in Africa. Lectures eleven and twelve examine the factors that were responsible for the fall of Soviet Union and the rise of Communist China respectively. The last part of the course contents analyses the concept of globalization and its impact on the citizens of the world. It also focuses on terrorism and global security as well as examines the revolution information technology has brought to mankind since its discovery in the twentieth century.

Course outcomes

Upon completion of Topics in World History Since 1914 HDS105, you will be able to:



Outcomes

- *analyse* the salient issues in world history since 1914, particularly:
 - > first and second world wars;
 - > cold war;
 - > Europe in inter-war years;
 - > colonisation of Africa;
 - > Russian revolution;
 - > rise of communist China; and
 - > information technology, globalisation & terrorism.

Getting around this course manual

Margin icons

While working through this course manual you will notice the frequent use of margin icons. These icons serve to “signpost” a particular piece of text, a new task or change in activity; they have been included to help you to find your way around this course manual.

A complete icon set is shown below. We suggest that you familiarize yourself with the icons and their meaning before starting your study.

			
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Case study</i>
			
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Group Activity</i>	<i>Help</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>
			
<i>Note</i>	<i>Reflection</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Study skills</i>
			
<i>Summary</i>	<i>Terminology</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Tip</i>

Study Session 1

Background to the First World War

Introduction

In this study session, you will learn about the events that would have degenerated into global war since 1871, but averted through diplomacy and understandings until the assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand and his wife at Sarajevo in 1914. These events in spite of the important roles played by the European leaders polarized Europe into two distinct camps namely the Tripple Alliance and Tripple Entente such that by the eve of 1914, the tension in Europe already made it glaring that outbreak of war was a matter of time.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 1.1 describe the cause and consequence of Prussia defeat of France in 1871.
- 1.2 point out the effects of National prestige on balance of power in Europe.
- 1.3 highlight the reasons for the emergent alliances in Europe.
- 1.4 explain the effects of the Balkan crisis in the outbreak of the First World War.
- 1.5 discuss the role of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife in the outbreak of the war.

Terminology

Alliance	An organisation of people / countries involved in a pact.
Balance of power	An equilibrium of power between nations.

1.1 Prussia Defeat of France in 1871



The first major event that set the stage for suspicion and alliances in Europe was the humiliating defeat of France by Prussia in the Franco-Prussian war of 1871.



Bismarck was Prussia's Prime Minister, later became first Chancellor of Germany. He tactically led France to declare war against Prussia. He altered a telegram sent by Prussia king to the French Emperor. He made it sound as if the king had treated the French envoy in a demeaning fashion. The French emperor felt humiliated, and declared war.

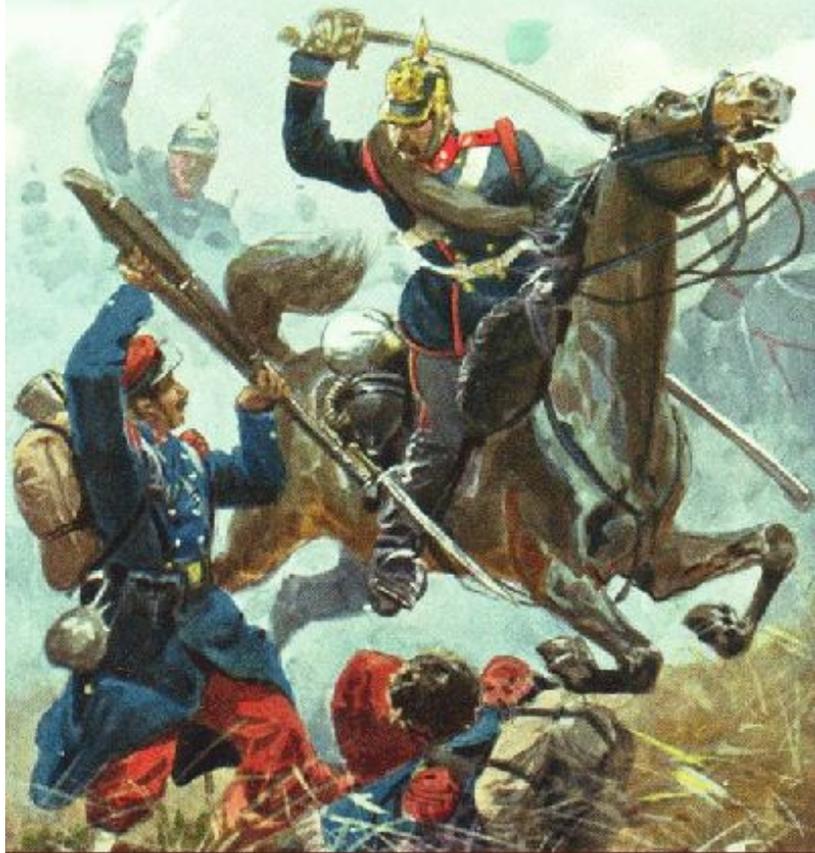
1.1.1 The Franco-Prussia War: How it Happened

The events that culminated into the Franco-Prussia war of 1871 stemmed from the vacant throne of Spain, which was billed to be taken over by Prince Leopold, a relative of the Prussian king. The news of his acceptance provoked France. France emperor, Napoleon III demanded the prince's rejection. Not satisfied with this arrangement, France ordered her ambassador to see the King for confirmation and to, secure an assurance that his relative would not again offer himself as candidate. It was the interview granted by the King to the French ambassador that was manipulated by **Otto Von Bismarck**, who gave the impression in the telegram sent to the French emperor that the King insulted the French ambassador. The French emperor felt humiliated.

The emperor at this period was not enjoying favourable image both at home and abroad. Therefore, he went to battle with Prussia. France declared war and mobilized troops against Prussia. Unknown to the French Emperor, Prussian was battle ready, crossed the French borders and defeated France army at two important places, **Sedan and Metz**.

Thereafter, Bismarck succeeded in unifying Germany after the crowning of King William I of Prussia as the emperor of United Germany.

French Defeat at Metz and Sedan



France declared war and mobilized troops against Prussia, but Prussian army was battle ready; they crossed the French borders and defeated France army at two important places, Sedan and Metz.

1.1.2 The Treaty of Frankfurt (1871)

Following the defeat of France at the battles of Sedan and Metz, she signed the humiliating treaty of Frankfurt by which she ceded her two important territories of Alsace and Lorraine to Prussia. She agreed to pay 200 million pounds as war indemnity in instalments, and till its final settlement, agreed for Prussian-army occupation of her soil.

1.1.3 Shifts in Balance of Power

Germany was unified by Bismarck after the crowning of King William I of Prussia as the emperor of United Germany. The consequence of this however, was that France diplomatic objectives were directed at circumventing Germany, particularly the need to curb the growing might of Germany in Europe. Besides,

the need to regain her lost territories made France to enter into friendship with other European nations in order to achieve her objectives against Germany. Thus, the existing balance of power in Europe began to be threatened.

1.2 National Rivalries

In the nineteenth and twentieth century, aggressive nationalism and national prestige also manifested in economic competition and colonial conflicts, fuelling dangerous rivalries among the major European powers. The industrialized nations of Europe competed for foreign markets and engaged in Tariff wars.

1.2.1 The Naval Race

Apart from economic competition, an expensive naval race further exacerbated tensions between Germany and Britain. The two nations convinced themselves that naval power was imperative to secure trade routes and protect merchant shipping. Besides, political leaders considered powerful navies as a means of controlling the seas in times of war, a control they viewed as decisive in determining the outcome of any war. Thus, the German authorities undermine naval skill of the British by announcing their readiness to build a fleet with many large battleships, the British responded through the construction of super battleships known as **Dreadnoughts**. Rather than discourage the Germans from their build up, the British determination to retain naval superiority stimulated the Germans to build their own **Flotilla of Dreadnoughts**. This naval race between Britain and Germany further threatened the existing peace in Europe.

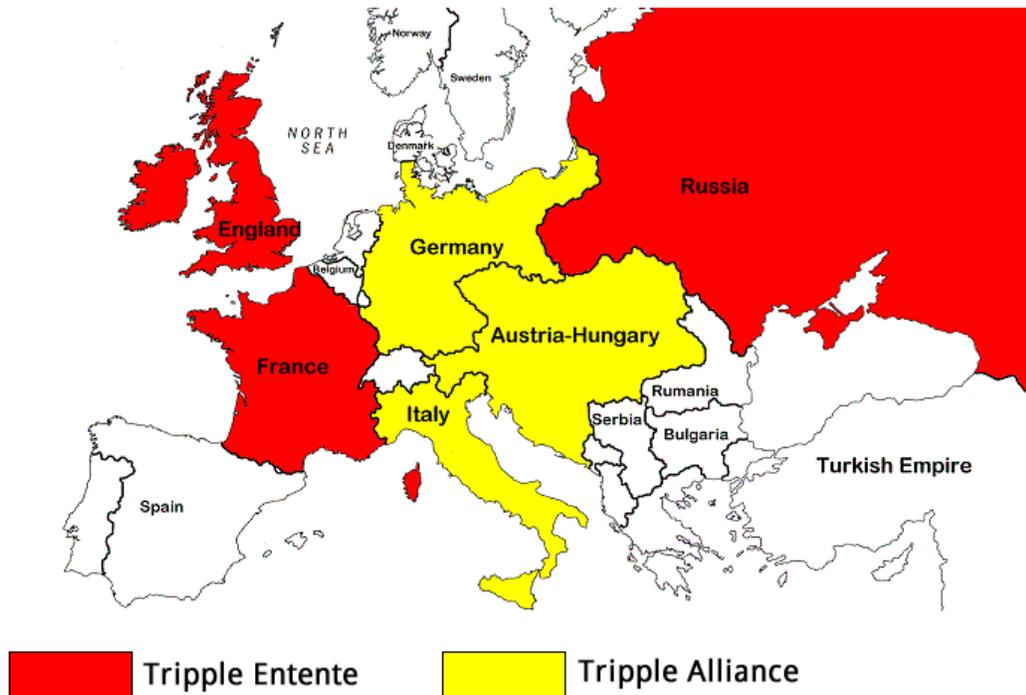
1.2.2 Colonial Disputes

Economic rivalries fomented colonial competition. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, European nations searched aggressively for new colonies or dependencies to bolster economic performance. Starting with Belgium in the Congo East of Africa, virtually all the major powers engaged in the scramble for empire.

As it would be recalled, Germany - a unified nation only since 1871 - embarked on the colonial race belatedly but aggressively, insisting that it too must have its "place in the sun". Germany imperial efforts were frustrated, however, by the simple fact that British and French imperialists had already carved up most of the world. The disputes that arose from these competitions nearly resulted into war but for the Berlin conference of 1884/85, which was called at the instance of Otto

Von Bismarck of Germany to resolve all disputes associated with Europeans competitions for colonies in Africa.

1.3 Alliances in Europe



Due to a basic desire for security, intense national rivalries and nationalist aspirations of subject minorities spawned a system of entangling alliances. While national interests guided the search for allies, each nation viewed its fulfilment of treaty obligations as crucial to self-preservation. The common characteristics underlying these alliances were to outline the circumstance under which countries would go to war to support each other. Though intended to preserve the peace, rival alliances systems created a framework whereby even a small international crisis could set off a chain reaction leading to global war. Thus by 1914 Europe major powers had transformed themselves into two hostile camps:

1. the Triple Alliance, and
2. the Triple Entente.

1.3.1 The Triple Alliance

The Triple Alliance, also known as the central powers, grew out of the close relationships that developed between the leaders of Germany and Austria-Hungary during the last decades of the nineteenth century. In 1879, the governments of the two empires formed the Dual Alliance, a defensive pact that ensured reciprocal protection from Russian attack and neutrality in case of an attack

from any other power. Fear of a hostile France motivated Germans to enter into this pact, whereas Austrians viewed it as giving them a free hand in pursuing their Balkan politics without fear of Russian intervention. Italy, fearful of France, joined the Dual alliance in 1882, thereby transforming it to the Tripple Alliance of Germany, Austria and Italy.

1.3.2 The Tripple Entente

Although with the formation of the Tripple alliance the central powers sought to protect the political status quo in Europe, but the leaders of other nations viewed the constellation of power with suspicion. This response was especially true of French leaders, who neither forgot nor forgave France's humiliating defeat during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871. Therefore, French government was determined to curb the growing might of Germany. Besides, the Tsarist regime of Russia was equally disturbed by the new alignment of powers, especially by Germany's support of Austria, while British leaders were traditionally suspicious of any nation that seemed to threaten the balance of power on the continent. The result was that the most unlikely bedfellows formed the Tripple Entente. A combination of nations commonly referred to as the Allies. The Tripple Entente originated in a series of agreements between Britain and France (1904) and between Britain and Russia (1907). Cooperation between the leaders of Britain, France, and Russia led to the signing of a military pact in the summer of 1914.

1.4 The Eastern Question and Balkan Crisis

The Balkan crisis which was a prelude to the outbreak of the First World War could be traced to the "**Eastern Question**." It could be recalled that the Balkan Penninsula, which once formed a part of the Eastern Roman Empire, remained as an integral part of the Turkish Empire. By the early nineteenth century following the fresh wave of nationalism that swept over Western Europe, the Christians subjects of the Balkan Peninsula, who had suffered in the hands of the Sultans of Turkey also longed to be free from the tyranny of the Turkish Sultans. In addition, Russia from the days of Peter the Great had been eager to bring about the downfall of the Turkish Empire and expand her own empire. However, there are other European powers, especially Britain and France, who were equally eager to thwart Russian ambition in order to maintain the delicate balance of power in Europe. Thus, Turkey was a "sick man of Europe" at this period waiting to be shared by other powers. Subsequently, three aspects dominated what is popularly called the "Eastern Question", namely:

1. the decline of the Ottoman Empire,

2. the rise of Christian nations in the Balkans against Turkish masters, and
3. the Balkan crisis as well as the intrigues of the big powers.

1.4.1 The First Balkan War (1912)

Prior to 1914, Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria formed the Balkan League to protect themselves from the future Turkish onslaughts. Turkey at this period was alarmed at the prospect of a prolonged war she had to wage. So she sued for peace in 1912 and signed the treaty of Lausanne with Italy. In spite of this, Montenegro declared war on Turkey. She was joined by the members of the Balkan league in October 1912 with the result the Turks were defeated in all the engagements. As a result Turkey sued for peace, and on May 30th, 1913 signed the treaty of London. Subsequently, Turkey lost almost all her possessions in Europe, which she had ruled for more than five centuries.

1.4.2 The Second Balkan War (1913)

Bulgaria's relation with Rumania, her northern neighbour, got strained because the latter demanded a small strip of territory. When Bulgaria refused to grant this demand, Rumania declared war on Bulgaria. Turkey joined Rumania and Serbia, Greece and Montenegro also joined the fray. All these powers defeated Bulgaria and she agreed to sign a treaty. The treaty of Bucharest was signed in 1913. Subsequently, Turkey got back the city and fort of Adrianople. Serbia and Greece got large chunks of Bulgarian territories. Rumania, which started the war, received the territories that she had earlier demanded from Bulgaria. The Bulgarians were humiliated and their bitterness towards her oppressors increased.



Activity

Following is a set of map that captures the effects of the wars on Balkan nations.

Task

Study the map, what can you say about the territories of Ottoman empire, Bulgaria, Serbia and some others as evident in the maps? Do you have any explanations for your findings?

Map of the Balkan, before and after the wars



Focus on Ottoman Empire, Serbia, Bulgaria & Greece



Focus on Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Albania



1.4.3 Balkan Crisis as a Prelude to the First World War

The major powers in Europe watched these developments in the Balkans with fingers crossed after several futile attempts to broker peace had been made. Bitter hostilities continued unabated. Serbia was backed by Russia regarding the claims over Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Austria-Hungary was not prepared to cede them at any cost. Thus Serbia's desire of annexing the two principalities dashed to the ground. This of course, increased the tension in the Balkans up to the eve of the assassination of Sarajevo in 1914.

1.5 The Sarajevo Assassination of 28 June 1914



Archduke Ferdinand & wife

The murder of Archduke Ferdinand (Crown Prince of Austria) and his wife on the street of Bosnia capital, Sarajevo, engulfed the world into a great conflict. Scholars have described this heinous crime as the immediate cause of the First World War.

Backed by Germany, Austria issued an ultimatum to Serbia for apprehending the criminals (who were hiding in Serbia) and handing them over to the Austrian authorities. Serbia rejected the ultimatum, and after the stipulated time, Austria attacked Serbia. Russia mobilized her troops to defend Serbia and warned Austria of serious consequences. Germany entered the arena to defend Austria and shortly all the powers in the hostile camps (Triple Alliance and Triple Entente) were automatically drawn into war. This marked the beginning of the First World War that shook the global peace for four years (1914-1918).



Tip

Two bullets fired on a Sarajevo street on a sunny June morning in 1914 set in motion a series of events that shaped the world we live in today. World War One, World War Two, the Cold War and its conclusion all trace their origins to the gunshots that interrupted that summer day.

Study Session Summary



In this study session, you have learned that:

1. Prussia's defeat of France in 1871 marked the beginning of the remote causes of the First World War.

2. National prestige as epitomized by race for colonies, naval race and economic competitions intensified the tension amongst the European nations of the twentieth century.
3. Formation of alliances of protection against aggression polarized European nations into Tripple Alliance and Tripple Entente groups.
4. The Eastern question and the Balkan crisis further increased the tension and suspicion in the whole of Europe.
5. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand was the ‘last straw that broke the camel back’ as far as the factors that caused the First World War was concerned.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 1.1 (tests learning outcome 1.1)

What was the main consequence of the defeat of France by Prussia in 1871?

SAQ 1.2 (test learning outcome 1.2)

Identify the various ways through which European Nations engaged in Rivalries and Competitions to boost their national prestige.

SAQ 1.3 (test learning outcome 1.3)

Identify and name the members of the two prominent alliances formed by the European nations during your period of study.

SAQ 1.4 (test learning outcome 1.4)

What do you understand by the Eastern Question?

SAQ 1.5 (test learning outcome 1.5)

Who was Archduke Ferdinand?

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Study Session 2

The Peace Treaty of Versailles and Its Aftermath

Introduction

In this study session you will examine **peace settlement** popularly referred to as the treaty of Versailles. In doing so, you will learn about the brains behind the peace conference. Also of utmost importance to be studied are the terms of the settlement and its implication for global world peace.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 2.1 *point out* the reasons why the Versailles peace conference was convened.
- 2.2 *explain* the role of Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points in the peace settlement.
- 2.3 *describe* the details of the peace settlement.
- 2.4 discuss the criticism of the treaty of Versailles.

Terminology

Treaty	A written agreement between two states.
Allies	The alliance of nations that comes together to fight a common enemy. In world war I, the alliance of Great Britain and France and Russia and other nations that joined them in opposing the Central Powers.
Treaty of Versailles	The treaty imposed on Germany by the Allied powers after the end of World War I which demanded exorbitant reparations from the Germans.

2.1 The Versailles Settlement, 1919

The Versailles peace conference took place between January and June 1919, the treaty with Germany being signed on 28 June 1919, in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. As part of general settlement arrangement, treaties were signed between Allies and other enemy powers-namely, the treaty of St Germain with Austria, the treaty of Neuilly with Bulgaria, the treaty of Trianon with Hungary and the treaty of Sevres with Turkey.

Details of the Settlement

Aggressor

Someone who attacks.

The outcome of the peace meeting held at Versailles is referred to as the treaty of Versailles. The terms of the treaty was presented to German representatives on 7 May 1919, though without their input. They refused to admit the “war guilt clause” which made the Germans ‘**aggressors**’ in the First World War. At this point Lloyd George of Britain tried to secure a few modifications in Germany’s favour, but the Allies refused to alter the war-guilt clause. The details of the treaty are pointed out as follows:

Terms of Treaty on Germany

1. Germany lost the two territories of Alsace and Lorraine to France.
2. The territories of Eupen and Malmedy were lost to Belgium.
3. Schleswig was to Denmark, some territories were given to Poland.
4. Germany agreed that Danzig city should remain a free city under the control of the League of Nations.
5. She lost all her colonies to the victorious Allies.
6. Her army was restricted to a force of 100,000 soldiers-just enough to maintain her severe depleted territory. Besides, conscription in Germany had to be abolished.
7. The Rhineland was demilitarized. This was also in addition to the fact that her naval strength was restricted to bare minimum, and the construction of battleships and submarines came to an end.
8. Germany was forced to accept the war guilt, and therefore had to a very heavy reparations of £6,500,000,000 to be paid in instalments in money and kind. Germany had to deliver to the Allies part of this payment in the form of ships (which she had to build for the Allies for five years), coal, chemicals, dyestuffs, cattle and other commodities.

ITQ

Question

Who was considered as “the invader” in the Versailles settlement?

Feedback

Germany is the aggressor.

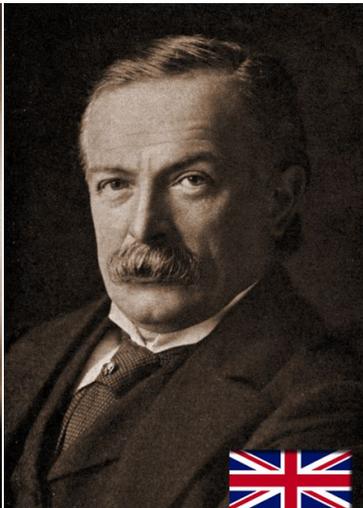
2.2 Key Personalities in The Versailles Conference

This conference was dominated by three outstanding personalities whose views and ambitions reflected in the decisions that were taken at the peace conference. They were Woodrow Wilson (USA), Lloyd George (Great Britain) and George Clemenceau (France).



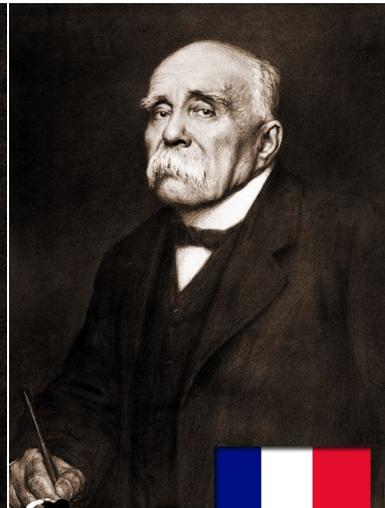
Thomas Woodrow Wilson
(US President)

He was sincere in his desire to see real justice done at Versailles, opposed to the public opinions that Germany must be punished for plunging the whole world into calamities. Such demands and attitudes, according to Wilson, could serve as the seeds of future conflict.



Lloyd George
(British Prime Minister)

A subtle diplomat who will not risk his impeachment at home. Lloyd wanted ‘justice’, but he did not want revenge. He tried to get a compromise between Wilson and Clemenceau. He also wanted to expand the British Empire and increase Britain's trade.



George Clemenceau
(French Prime Minister)

Arising from the humiliation France suffered from Prussia in 1871, Clemenceau was an embittered opponent of everything Germany. His concern was to guarantee security of France and possibly recover the loss territories of Alsace and Lorraine from Germany.

2.2.1 Woodrow Wilson Position at the Conference

President Wilson of America was an idealist who was absolutely certain that he had the answers to the world's problem. He found Lloyd George of Britain and George Clemenceau of France difficult to get on with, and eventually had to give way on a number of issues. Although he had good intentions for Europe and the world at large but he was not well informed on European affairs. He was sincere in his desire to see real justice done at Versailles and was opposed to the public opinions in both Britain and France that Germany must be punished for plunging the whole world into calamities. Wilson of course, saw in such demands and attitudes the seeds of future conflict.

2.2.2 George Clemenceau's Position at the Conference

Clemenceau hard to crack position at the conference derived from the humiliation France had suffered from Prussia in 1871. Thus, he was an embittered opponent of everything Germany, and also a fanatical upholder of the idea of French glory and power. In fact, his concern at the peace treaty was to guarantee security of France and possibly recovered the loss territories of Alsace and Lorraine from Germany.

2.2.3 Lloyd George's Position at the Conference

Lloyd George was a subtle diplomat in spite of the fact that he had earlier promised the electorates in his electioneering campaign in Britain in 1918 that he would 'Hang the Kaiser' and 'Make Germany pay'. He had the ambition of negotiating a fair settlement with Germany in the interests of Britain's trade and welfare. He was, however, unable to realize his ambition fully because back home in Britain he headed a coalition government containing a number of members quite as anti-German as George Clemenceau of France. Therefore, he was caught in the web as to negotiate favourably for Germany and risk his political career at home or do otherwise and jeopardize his good intentions for Britain's trade relations with Germany. Thus, he was diplomatic throughout the negotiations, which eventually was not favourable to Germany.

ITQ

Question

Who were the elder statesmen whose views and ambitions reflected in the decision that were taken at Versailles peace treaty?

Feedback

They were:

1. Woodrow Wilson (USA),
2. Lloyd George (Britain), and
3. George Clemenceau (France).

2.3 Assessing the Treaty

2.3.1 Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points and the Peace Settlement

President Woodrow Wilson of America after the First World War had settled down and analysed the causes of the international strife, and the outcome of which was fourteen points. It is important to state that the Germans had earlier signed the armistice on the understanding that the fourteen points enunciated by President Wilson in January 1918 would be the basis for peace settlement. These fourteen points were to serve as the basis for assessing the outcome of the peace settlement by the critics.

Highlight of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points

- a) All diplomacy and negotiations between states to be carried on 'frankly and in public view'
- b) Absolute freedom of navigation on the seas both in peace and war except in territorial waters, or for international action
- c) Equality of trade conditions between nations and the removal of economic barriers-'so far as possible'
- d) The nations to give guarantees that they would disarm to 'the lowest point consistent with domestic safety'
- e) When the question of colonies was being settled the interests of the colonial peoples themselves must be given equal weight with those of the governments putting forward claims to titles over them
- f) Evacuation of all Russian territory and assistance 'of every kind that she may need and may herself desire'.
- g) Belgium to be completely freed
- h) France to receive back Alsace-Lorraine
- i) Italy to receive frontiers 'along clearly recognizable lines of nationality
- j) The peoples of Austria-Hungary to be given the opportunity of independent self-government
- k) Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro to be evacuated and Serbia given access to the sea.

- l) Non-Turkish peoples now under Turkish rule to be given independence and the Dardanelles to be open to the ships and commerce of all nations.
- m) An independent Poland to be established, inhabited by 'indisputably polish populations'
- n) An international organization to be formed to guarantee the independence of all states both great and small.

2.3.2 Criticism of Treaty of Versailles

The task that confronted the statesmen was no doubt the need to maintain peace at all cost. However, in this respect perfection was not possible. Therefore, there were various shades of opinions as to what constituted justice towards Germany. Thus, the criticisms that arose from the terms of the Versailles treaty are explainable using part of the Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points as yardstick.

1. Scholars argued that before the conference Wilson himself had qualified his fourteen points by declaring himself in favour of secrecy over 'delicate matters'. At the conference, the Council of Four deliberated in secret.
2. Lloyd George refused to accept this and it was never incorporated in any articles of the treaty or the League of Nations. Britain's naval and trading interests were the deciding factor here.
3. Trading conditions were discussed at the conference, but nothing satisfactory was achieved. In fact, it was agreed that the states could impose import restrictions of a reasonable, self protective kind, but most of the new states created by the treaties put up huge tariff barriers to protect and develop their own industries.
4. German colonies were held as mandates by various members of the allied powers. Initially, it appeared to be an improvement on the old colonial system, but the future was to show that only in a few of the mandatory territories were the real wishes of the inhabitants considered. Thus, the colonies continued to be governed in the interests of the occupying mandatory power.
5. Italy was given territories to which she had a just claim on grounds of language and population: the Italian Trentino and the cities of Goriza, Trieste and Pola. The territory of Fiume, claimed by the Italians, was however a cause of dispute. The principle of truly 'national' frontiers was not entirely maintained. The Italians also gained the South Tyrol, which contained 250,000 Germans, while the Istrian Peninsula contained 400,000 Slavs.

6. The question of Poland presented great difficulties, arising from the pre-1914 policy of the German empire in 'colonizing' Polish areas with a large German immigration. The new Poland established in 1919 contained 10,000,000 people who were not poles, including 2,500,000 Germans. The settlement meant that Poland had a 'minority' problem of great proportions, which the Nazis under Hitler were destined to exploit for their own purposes.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you learnt:

1. why the Versailles peace conference was convened;
2. the roles of the three elder statesmen - Woodrow Wilson, Lloyd George and George Clemenceau - in the Versailles peace settlement;
3. the highlight of the Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points and its relevance to the peace settlement;
4. the details of the peace settlement and its effects on Germany economically, demographically, politically and militarily; and
5. the various criticisms against the treaty of Versailles.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ2.1 (tests Learning Outcome 2.1)

The 'war guilt clause' made Germany an aggressor. Comment briefly

SAQ2.2 (tests Learning Outcome 2.2)

Why was the fourteen points of Woodrow Wilson relevant to the peace settlement?

SAQ2.3 (tests Learning Outcome 2.3)

The major Criticism against the Versailles peace was anchored on what approach?

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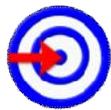
Study Session 3

Russian Revolutions of 1917

Introduction

In this study session, you will learn about Russian revolutions. To understand the Russian Revolution of 1917 in proper perspective and dimension, it is necessary to comprehend the relationship among the Russian Czars, Nobles and Serfs. It will also be proper to examine the roles of external factors.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 3.1 *describe* the tyranny of the successive Russian Czars as the poor foundation of Russian society
- 3.2 *discuss* the roles of external factors in the eventual outbreak of the 1917 Revolution.
- 3.3 *explain* the circumstances responsible for the taking over of power by the Bolshevik Regime

Terminology

Revolution	A forcible overthrow of an established government or social order, in favour of a new system.
Tyranny	A cruel and oppressive government or rule.

3.1 Background to Bolshevik Revolution (Internal Issues)

3.1.1 Tyranny of Russian Czars Before 1917

Russian serfs are Homeless peasants that settled in the land of the wealthy Russians.

The **Russian Serfs** suffered in the hands of the successive Russian rulers. They were poverty stricken, from the time of Czar Peter the Great (1689-1725), the serfs had been subjected to severe conditions up till the outbreak of the **revolution** in

Russian czar

A monarch or emperor who ruled Russia until the revolution of 1917

Revolution

A forcible overthrow of an established government or social order, in favour of a new system.

1917. They were maltreated politically, economically and socially. For instance, they could not marry without the approval of their lords. They were also subjected to heavy taxation, forced labour, conscription and other forms of ill treatment. In fact, Nicholas 1 (1825-55) once referred to serfdom as “the great evil of Russian life”. The use of secret police was characteristic of the successive administrations of the **Czars** in Russia. Political agitators were dealt with, press censorship was common practice and those believed to be anti-Czarism were sent on exile to Siberia. During the reign of Alexander II (1855-81) he freed the Serfs with the emancipation edict of March 3, 1861. However, they were not completely freed because the land given to them was grossly inadequate and they detested the annual payments, spread over 49 years. Majority of the serfs drifted to the urban centres to join other discounted groups to promote unrest which finally led to the abdication of Czar Nicholas II in 1917.

3.1.2 The Roles of the Nobles

The nobles or landowners also contributed to the outbreak of the revolution. They collaborated with the successive monarchs to put the serfs in perpetual servitude. In fact, the nobles ensured that all reforms and attempts to liberate them were obstructed. A typical example was the way the landowners manipulated the edict of emancipation of 1861 in such a way that the edict brought discontentment to the serfs rather than liberation.

3.1.3 The Resultant Effects of Industrialization

In the last quarter of the 19th century, the Russian population increased tremendously and her economic conditions turned from bad to worse. To solve some of the major economic problems such as poverty and unemployment, the Czarist government launched a new programme of industrialization. The government borrowed large sums of money from the industrially advanced European countries and USA. Though it provided jobs for many unemployed as well as the emergence of modern industry, in the long run it created other serious problems such as exploitation of labour and poor standard of living. Subsequently, workers demanded better working conditions, better wages, access to land, right to form trade union organizations, as well as share in governance. Thus, various political movements like the Democratic Labour Party, Social Revolutionary Party and the Liberal Party began to grow in the cities.

ITQ**Question**

What was the long-term effect of the money borrowed by the government to revamp and industrialise the economy?

Feedback

Though the debt initially provided jobs for unemployed as well as the emergence of modern industry, in the long run it created other serious problems such as exploitation of labour and poor standard of living.

3.2 Background to Bolshevik Revolution (External Factors)

External factors contributed immensely to the outbreak of the Bolsheviks Revolution in 1917. These external factors include the American Revolution (1776-1783) the French revolution (1789), the defeat of Russia in Crimean war (1854-56), the defeat of Russia in the Russo-Japanese war (1904-05) and the outbreak of the First World War. Let's briefly see how.

3.2.1 The Defeat of Russia in Crimean War (1854-56)

Russia suffered defeat in the Crimean war as a result of the weak, ineffective and autocratic rule of Czar Nicholas 1. Consequently, the defeat damaged the military prestige of Russia and equally undermined her influence in Europe. In fact, it has been argued by scholars that the shock of the defeat led to the untimely death of Nicholas 1 in 1855.

3.2.2 The Defeat of Russia in Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)

It would be recalled that both Russia and Japan were rivals in Manchuria and the Far East. This unhealthy rivalry led to war and eventual defeat of Russia. As a result, discontentment considerably increased against system of government in Russia. It led to the killings of government officials including Plehve, the Minister of interior, and Grand Duke Sergius, the Czar's brother. There were disorders and strikes in many parts of Russia such that the Soviets or workers in Moscow and Petrograd took to armed confrontations to demand for constitutional reforms.

3.2.3 The Impact of the First World War

The First World War was the immediate cause of the collapse of the Czarist regime in Russia. The very first battles against the Germans in East Prussia were disasters for Russia, to be followed by many other defeats before 1917. Russian serfs were the most affected because they were sent to the battle fields without adequate arms. They therefore, died in millions. In fact, it has been estimated that the total of Russian casualties were equal to the casualties of all her Allies put together. Besides, there was famine, unemployment and inflation. Consequently, there were riots and mutinies against the government which culminated in the revolution of March 1917 and Nicholas II was forced to abdicate the throne.

3.3 Circumstances Responsible for Bolshevik Regime in 1917 Revolutions in Russia

There were two revolutions in Russia in 1917. The first revolution was the February 1917 and the second one occurred in October 1917. The February 1917 Revolution was led by Prince Lvov and Kerensky, while the October 1917 Revolution was led by Vladimir Lenin, Stalin and Leon Trotsky.

3.3.1 February 1917 Revolution

By 1914, there were over three million workers in Russia and a developed class between the Russian capitalists and the workers, and this paved way for revolution. The workers consistently demanded for better wages, better working conditions and for the right of trade union organization as well as a share in government. Thus, workers embarked on strikes that promoted anarchy and unrest in Russia. This unrest of February 1917 prepared the ground for the return of Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin on April 3, 1917 as leaders of Bolsheviks.

The February 1917 Revolution was therefore a bourgeoisie revolution led by middle class. The post revolution era had dual power in Russia: the Soviets and the Provisional Government. The Soviets were found everywhere in the polity, and were mainly composed of soldiers, workers and peasants. The provisional Government was headed by Prince Lvov, but relied on the cooperation of the Soviets for the administration of the country.



On October 24 – 25, Lenin Vladimir & the Bolshevik party led Russian workers and peasants to revolution, under the slogan of: "All power to the Soviets".

3.3.2 October 1917 Revolution

In 1917, the Communist Party otherwise referred to as the party of the communists became known as the Russian Social Democratic Party (RSDLP). Members of the party were known as Bolsheviks under the leadership of Lenin. Lenin set forth the tasks of the Bolshevik party in the realm of economic relations, such as confiscation of landed estates, nationalization of all the land among others. Though the Mensheviks protested against Lenin's reforms but the decision of the provisional government to continue the war with Germany was the last straw that broke the camel's back.

It would be recalled that the masses already were dissatisfied with the bourgeoisie policies of the provisional government. Besides, the guidelines offered by Lenin and his party attracted the masses. Thus, Russians wanted peace, land, bread and freedom, and only the Bolsheviks seemed ready to grant these popular demands of the people. On July 13, 1917, there was a serious demonstration in Petrograd, and the demonstration culminated into armed attack on the Provisional Government. The Bolsheviks advanced the slogan "All power to the Soviets". Finally on October 26, 1917, by force of arms, the provisional Government was arrested and the Minister President, A.F. Kerensky fled the country under the cover of the American flag, only to mobilize forces against the Bolsheviks. The efforts to suppress the new government failed. This was how the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP) of the Bolsheviks took over the control of Russia's administration.



Reflection

Compare the collapse of the Russian monarchy with the collapse of the provisional government. Did the two governments fall apart for the same reasons or for fundamentally different reasons?

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you have learned that:

1. Tyranny and oppressive rule of successive Russian Czars before 1917 laid the foundation for the outbreak of Revolution in 1917.
2. The nobles frustrated several attempts made to emancipate the Serfs in Russia.
3. Industrialisation attracted the poor to the cities and eventually led to the growth of Political movements and trade Unions.
4. External factors such as the Crimean war, Russo-Japanese war and the First World War contributed to the outbreak of the 1917 Revolution
5. Bolsheviks were responsible for the eventual fall of the Provisional Government in October 26, 1917 Revolution.

Assessment



Assessment

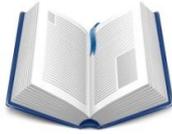
SAQ 3.1 (test Learning Outcome 3.1)

In what ways did the nobles frustrate the moves to emancipate the Serfs in Russia?

SAQ 3.2 (test Learning Outcomes 3.2 and 3.3)

- a. How did the participation of Russia in the First World War contribute to the Russian Revolution?
- b. What roles did external factors play in the 1917 Revolution in Russia?

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Study Session 4

The League of Nations

Introduction

In this study session you will learn about the League of Nations, which was one of the covenants of the treaty of Versailles. This body was saddled with responsibilities of maintaining global peace.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 4.1 *describe* the league of nations.
- 4.2 *highlight* the achievements of the League.
- 4.3 *explain* the causes of the League's failure.

4.1 Overview of the League of Nations



President Woodrow Wilson of USA proposed the League of Nations at the Treaty of Versailles, though without his country's support.

The League of Nations was one of the covenants of the treaty of Versailles. This body was saddled with responsibilities of maintaining global peace. President Woodrow Wilson of USA was the author of this idea that it was necessary to have this system on ground if the world was to be made safe from future catastrophes. After he returned home he pleaded with the Senate to approve the Versailles treaty but rejected it. So, the USA could not become the members of the League of Nations. Germany and Russia also could not become the members of the League of Nations till 1934. Therefore, from the beginning the League foundation was very weak without the membership of these three important nations.

4.1.1 Aims of the League

The League aimed at preventing wars through peaceful settlement of disputes among member nations. Secondly, it desired to preserve and protect the independence of member nations by promoting international understanding and co-operation.



The League of Nations building with inserted logo.

4.1.2 Organs of the League

The League from inception commenced with two principal organs namely the Assembly and the Council.

The Assembly

The membership of the assembly comprised all those powers that worked for the defeat of Germany and her allies. A number of neutral powers also joined the league after invitation. Each member nation sent three representatives to the assembly but exercised only one vote.

The Council

This consisted of eight members (four permanent and four non-permanent members). The Council met three or four times in a year and discussed important matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and stability. The Council's important resolutions required the unanimous approval of all its members to become effective. In the events of acts of aggression by the member nations, the League recommended economic sanctions against them. The League headquarters was located in Geneva (Switzerland). The members of the League elected the secretary-general to conduct the meetings of the League.



Hint

Besides the assembly and the council, other sub organs that assisted the League in her responsibilities were: World Court, International Labour Office (ILO), World Health organization (WHO) and International Boundaries Commission.

The World Court

This organ consisted of fifteen judges who were mostly drawn from member-countries. Its headquarters were located at Hague. The World Court heard appeals from member-countries

regarding boundary disputes with their neighbours. The world court disposed of many cases relating to boundary disputes and thus, prevented the parties from going to war. The decisions of the World Court were binding on both the parties relating to the dispute.

International Labour Office

This organ was established for the purpose of drawing the attention of member-countries to the conditions of labour and suggests improvements. The office worked for the improvement of the conditions of labourers in many countries. It recommended many measures to be adopted by member-countries for improving the welfare of labourers.

World Health Organisation

This body was founded to improve the standards of health enjoyed by the peoples of many countries. The W.H.O during this period fought malnutrition among children in many countries, and also worked for the eradication of many contagious diseases such as malaria, cholera and small-pox. The rich European countries provided substantial financial assistance to the scientists, many of who belonged to the W.H.O for research purposes. Thus, the W.H.O impacted on the lives of many around the world as an organ of the League of Nations.

The International Boundaries Commission

Boundary disputes no doubt was discussed at the Versailles peace conference after the World War I. As a result of the sensitivity of boundary disputes to breach of peace, the League from the outset set up the international Boundaries Commission to adjudicate many boundary disputes brought before it by the member-nations. It rendered great assistance to the League in settling many border problems.

4.2 Achievements of the League of Nations

The most remarkable achievement of the League of Nations was that it averted wars for the next twenty years after it was set up. Besides, countries, large and small, frequently depended upon her for the settlement of disputes. The decisions taken by the League were to a certain extent respectfully obeyed by the member-nations. The following disputes were solved by the League of Nations:

1. Dispute between Finland and Sweden over Aland Island in 1921.
2. Dispute between Germany and Poland over Silesia in 1921

3. Dispute between Greece and Bulgaria in 1925
4. Dispute between Iraq and Turkey over Mosul oilfield in 1926
5. It arbitrated in the dispute between Greece and Italy during the Corfu crisis and averted a possible war between Yugoslavia and Albania;
6. The League successfully supervised the administration of the colonies coming under the mandate system;
7. It helped Austria, Hungary and Greece with economic aid and brought about the resettlement of the refugees. It also checked the spread of many diseases. It checked trafficking in slavery and narcotics.

4.3 Causes of the League's Failure

The League indeed succeeded in preventing wars for twenty years, but this achievement and others earlier mentioned pale into insignificance as a result of the outbreak of the World War II. It would be recalled that from the outset the big powers gave co-operation grudgingly to the League. Consequently, the League became a toothless Bulldog and this contributed to its failure. Other causes of its failure are highlighted thus:

1. The league had no military force of its own to enforce its decisions on erring member-nations when they flouted the international laws. In fact, the league was unable to prevent aggression committed by member nations. As a result, Italy invaded Abyssinia, Japan invaded Manchuria and refused to withdraw their forces in spite of the League's order and economic sanctions.
2. The League could not instil and enforce discipline. For instance when Japan was branded as aggressor after her invasion of Manchuria, the Japanese delegate in the League of Nations walked out.
3. The League also failed to bring about a satisfactory disarmament. For instance Germany began to rearm herself in 1935 and thereby violated one of the clauses of the treaty of Versailles. She occupied the Rhineland in 1936 without bothering about the League's reprisals. In fact, by the time Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938, the League could do little to assist that unfortunate nation.
4. The Global Depression of the 1930s weakened the League financially, and with the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 the League died a natural death.



Reflection

The ultimate collapse of the League of Nations during the catastrophe of the Second World War has not principally led to a conviction that the ideas upon which the organisation was founded were superfluous. On the contrary, because of the outbreak of the Second World War, the importance of an effective, collective security system was underlined in a dramatic way - the United Nations Charter."

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you learnt that

- a) the League of Nations was set up after the First World War to guarantee world peace and prevent outbreak of war;
- b) the Assembly and the Council were the major organs of the League;
- c) apart from the major organs, the League also had sub organs such as: World court, ILO, WHO and IBC;
- d) the League prevented war for twenty years
- e) the League was unfortunately, a toothless Bulldog because it had no military force of its own to enforce its decisions on erring member nations when they flouted the international laws.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 4.1 (tests Learning Outcome 4.1)

- a) Why was the League of Nations set up?
- b) Why did USA refuse to join the League from the beginning?

SAQ 4.2 (tests Learning Outcome 4.2)

Mention two achievements of the League

SAQ 4.3 (tests Learning Outcome 4.3)

What factors were responsible for the failure of the League?

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Study Session 5

The Great Depression and the Global Economy

Introduction

By 1928, world trade had become heavily dependent on American finance. In that year, Wall Street experienced ‘the Great Bull Market’ as the price of shares rose to unrealistic heights. Then on 28 October 1929, the stock market crashed. American capital for investment dried up, leading to a rapid worldwide collapse of industrial confidence. Thus, the world plunged into an economic depression that was so severe, and so great that it has become known as the Great Depression.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 5.1 *explain* the causes of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- 5.2 *discuss* the spread and impact of the Depression on Global Economies.
- 5.3 *describe* the New Deal of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as a panacea to the problem.

Terminology

Depression	A prolonged downturn in economic activity.
Economy	The state of a country or region, in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.
Global Economies	The economy of the world, comprising of different economies of individual countries, with each economy related with the other, and affecting in one way or another.

5.1 Causes of the Great Depression

Arising from the world war by the middle of the 1920s, some semblance of economic normality had returned, and most countries seemed on the way to economic recovery. Industrial productivity had returned to pre-war levels as businesses impacted greatly on the damages the war inflicted on industries, transportation and equipment. However, this prosperity was short-lived as many serious problems and dislocations remained in the economy.

5.1.1 Payment of War Debts and Great Depression

It would be recalled that after the First World War, the economic recovery of Europe were tied to a tangled financial system that involved war debts among the Allies, reparations paid by Germany and Austria, and the flow of US funds to Europe. Therefore, the government of Austria and Germany relied on USA loans and investment capital to finance reparation payments to France and England. Also, the French and British governments in turn, depended on these reparation payments to pay off loans taken out in the United States during the Great War. It was then a faith accompli that whatever happens to the economy of the USA would definitely affect the economies of countries that depended on her. In fact, by the summer of 1928, U.S lenders and investors started to withdraw capital from Europe, placing an intolerable strain on the financial system.

5.1.2 Crash in the Capital Stock of the USA

Although depressed state of agriculture, overproduction and falling prices played vital roles in the depressed economy, the major cause of the depression was the crash in the stock of the USA in 1929. Prior to this period, it would be recalled that the United States enjoyed a boom after the Great War. Industrial wages were high, and production and consumption increased. Many people in the US invested their earnings and savings in speculative ventures, particularly the buying of stock on margin-putting up as little as 3 percent of a stock's price in cash and borrowing remainder from brokers and banks or by mortgaging their homes. By October 1929, tension mounts in the stock market as a result of speculations on the worldwide economic slowdown. Consequently, investors pulled out of the stock market. In fact, on black Thursday (24 October), a wave

of panic selling on the New York stock exchange caused stock prices to plummet.

As a result of the panic, thousands of people from all walks of life, from poor widows to industrial tycoons, lost their life savings, and by the end of the day eleven financiers had committed suicide. The crisis deepened when leaders called in loans, thereby forcing more investors to sell their securities at any price.

ITQ

Question

What was the cause of the great depression?

Feedback

If you say the crashing in stock market and imbalance in war debt payment caused the depression, you are in order.

5.2 Impact of Depression on Economies

In the wake of this financial chaos came a drastic decrease in business activity, wages and employment. Consumer demand no longer sufficed to purchase all the goods that businesses produced, and when businesses realized that they could not sell their inventories, they responded with cutbacks in production and additional layoffs. With so many people unemployed, demand plummeted further, causing more business failures and soaring unemployment. In the 1930s the slump deepened, and by 1932 industrial production had fallen to half of its 1929 level. Most societies experienced economic difficulties throughout the 1930s. US investors, shaken by the collapse of stock prices, tried to raise money by calling in loans as they became due. Banking houses in Austria and Germany became vulnerable to collapse, because they had been major recipients of US loans. Germany did not escape the ravages of the depression. In fact, the Great Depression destroyed the international financial and commercial network of the capitalist economies. In response, most countries around the world tried economic nationalism, which further worsened the situation.

5.3 Panacea to the Great Depression

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal

In America, the parties divided over their political response to the problems. The Republicans, favouring a traditional laissez-faire approach, were defeated in the 1932 elections by a

Democratic party, led by Franklin Roosevelt. He instituted a New Deal, based on substantial public investment, the showpiece of which was the publicly owned Tennessee Authority, designed to provide industrial infrastructure for one of the country's poorest regions. Besides, his proposal for dealing with the national calamity included legislation designed to prevent the collapse of the banking system, to provide jobs and farm subsidies, to give workers the right to organize and bargain collectively to guarantee minimum wages, and to provide social security in old age. This programme of sweeping economic and social reforms was called the New Deal. Its fundamental premise, that the Federal government was justified in intervening represented a major shift in US government policy and started a new trend toward social reform legislation that continued long after the depression years.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you learnt that:

1. payment of heavy reparations made countries like Germany and Austria to be heavily indebted to USA;
2. depressed agriculture, overproduction and falling prices dislocated the economies of the world;
3. the major cause of the Great Depression was the crash in the stock market of the USA;
4. the Great Depression spread to other parts of the world and impacted negatively on the global economies;
5. Franklin Delano Roosevelt provided solution to the problem with the New Deal programme.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 5.1 (tests Learning Outcome 5.1)

What are the causes of the Great Depression of 1930s?

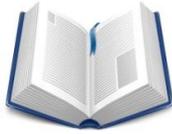
SAQ 5.2 (tests Learning Outcome 5.2)

Can you mention two major impacts of the Depression?

SAQ 5.3 (tests Learning Outcome 5.3)

In what ways did Franklin Roosevelt respond to the Depression?

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Study Session 6

Dictators in Europe in the Inter-war Years, 1918-1939

Introduction

The inter-war years period in Europe, 1918-1939 was a remarkable period in the global history. This was because the period witnessed the rise of dictators in European nations of Italy, Germany, Russia and Spain, whose activities was not only felt in their domains but globally. In fact, it has been argued by scholars that these were the period that produced Adolf Hitler of Germany - the man believed to be the architect of the Second World War.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 6.1 describe the rise of Benitto Mussolini of Italy.
- 6.2 analyse the circumstance that led to the emergence of Adolf Hitler in Germany.
- 6.3 discuss the nexus between the 1917 Bolsheviks revolution and the rise to power of Lenin and Stalin in Russia.
- 6.4 highlight the factors that enhanced the emergence of Franco in Spain as a dictator.

Terminology

Dictator	A ruler with total power over a country, typically one who has obtained control by force.
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6.1 Rise of Benito Mussolini in Italy

After the peace conference of Versailles, Italy was not satisfied because most of her demands for additional territories were turned down. In addition to the deep frustration, her government was haunted by ever-growing problems of



Italian dictator Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) rose to power in the wake of World War I as a leading proponent of Facism.

poverty, hunger, unemployment, disease and inflation. The consequence of all these was that the Communists and the socialists encouraged the people to revolt. Thus, riots, strikes, revolts and conspiracies became synonymous with Italian societies. In fact, by 1921; it was obvious that Italian society required a fearless and determined leader to salvage the country. This leadership was found in the emergence of Benito Mussolini.

6.1.1 Mussolini and Facism in Italy

In the election of 1921, a new party won just 36 seats in the Italian parliament. Its leader, Benito Mussolini, had a background as a socialist, but proclaimed that he would save Italy from the menace of communism. The party appealed to ancient Rome I its extended arm salute and the symbol of the fasces, which gave the movement its name. The black -shirted fascists used intimidation, first to come power and then to eliminate all political opposition. Mussolini's rule achieved some legitimacy when, in 1929, he negotiated a treaty with the highly conservative papacy.

6.1.2 The Lateran Treaty (1929) with the Pope

Mussolini was a proactive leader who recognized the fact that he needed the support of the common people, a majority of whom were staunch Catholics. Therefore, in order to warm his ways into their hearts he negotiated a settlement with the Pope, in which the Pope was recognized as the ruler of the Vatican City, and a large amount was paid to him as compensation for the lost of his territories. In return, the Pope recognized Mussolini's government as legitimate and agreed to appoint bishops after consulting the Italian government.

6.1.3 Mussolini and the Italian Economy

He made a giant stride to revamp the dampened economy of Italy through various policies such as:

- a) He reduced government expenditures in order to control inflation in the economy.
- b) Redundant government officials were dismissed.
- c) The government imposed heavy taxes on the rich.
- d) Strikes and lock-outs in the factories were outlawed.
- e) He fixed 8 hours-a day as working time in factories, and compelled factory-owners to contribute to life insurance of their employees.
- f) He adopted scientific methods of agriculture to boost food production.

- g) He also encouraged exports in order to improve Italy's foreign exchange reserves.

6.1.4 Mussolini's Foreign Policy and His Failure

However, in spite of all the above highlighted approach and achievement, Mussolini had his own shortcomings. Mussolini dreamt of expanding the Italian empire, particularly of converting the Mediterranean Sea into Mare nostrum (our sea). Therefore, he took some diplomatic decisions that later turned unfavourable to Italy. For instance, he attacked Ethiopia, a poor backward country in Africa. For conquering this country, the League of Nations sanctions Italy. Therefore, the conquest proved very expensive for a poor country like Italy. By 1936, Mussolini concluded a treaty of friendship with Germany that was later converted to a military alliance with Germany in 1939. Besides, Mussolini conquered Albania, a small country in the Balkans. This military alliance with Germany made Mussolini to fight alongside Germany in the Second World War, which was disastrous for Italy.

6.2 Germany in the Inter-war Years



Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) was the leader of Nazi Party & German Chancellor. He oversaw fascist policies that resulted in millions of deaths.

In a similar circumstance like Italy, Germany in spite her difficulties was able to make a rapid economic recovery due to the efforts of an experienced industrialist, Gustav Stresemann. But this recovery proved to be short-lived one, as Europe was overtaken by the great Depression.

Consequently, foreign investors and German businessmen lost all hopes of recovery and closed their companies. Millions of Germans were thrown out of jobs. In fact, the Germans suffered untold hardship. At this point, the National Socialists (Nazis) party held a promise to the Germans of a bright future. The leader of the Nazis at that time was young Adolf Hitler.

6.2.1 Adolf Hitler and Nazis Party

It would be recalled that the Austrian-born Adolf Hitler became the leader of the German National Socialist, or Nazi party in 1921. Having failed in an attempt to take control of the Bavarian government, he set about reorganizing his party as a military movement, not hesitating to purge his own followers. He directed his appeal to a German people who were frustrated by military defeat, humiliated by the loss of empire and European territory, and in many cases, impoverished by hyperinflation. Hitlers's philosophy was laid out in his early book *Mein Kampf*. This described both his military ambitions

for Germany and his obsessive hatred of the Jewish people.

Hitler in the 1930s capitalized on the economic depressions brought about by the Depression, and brought his party to power in 1933. He then quickly set up a reign of terror. While the Jews were his prime targets, political opponents, gypsies, the handicapped, and anybody not considered to be of true Aryan descent also suffered. Despite this, his popularity remained high among most Germans. His armaments and other public works programmes appeared to be bringing a return of prosperity, while military success restored national pride.



Mussolini's relationship with Hitler was very strong. They shared similar views.

6.3 Russia in the Inter-war Years



Stalin (1878-1953)

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 was followed by three years of civil war, during which White Russian armies supported by foreign troops, tried to overthrow the new communist state. Lenin and his followers emerged successful, but at a huge cost. It is estimated that some 13 million died in the civil war and through the famine it caused; economic life was at standstill. In 1921, as an emergency measure, Lenin largely freed the economy and recovery followed rapidly. Lenin died in January 1924, leaving two men contending the succession, Trotsky and Stalin.

6.3.1 Stalin and Dictatorship in Russia

Trotsky and Stalin was the leading contender after demise of Lenin for the throne of Russia. Trotsky proclaimed that the new Russian society could only flourish within a communist world,

and the prime task was therefore to export revolution. His opponent, Stalin, argued that the priority was to build the Soviet Union by creating 'communism' within one state'. When Stalin emerged victorious, it appeared as though the forces of moderation had prevailed. Stalin assumed autocratic power and created a personality cult, not dissimilar to those constructed around Fascist dictators. He set himself the objective of changing the Soviet Union from a largely medieval economy to a major modern state within a few decades. Virtually all the old political leaders and a high proportion of military officers were executed to ensure that nobody would be able to challenge for power. Millions more suffered and died in labour camps. In fact, the new administrators of the country were tied to Stalin by a common guilt, and by an increasing web of petty corruption.

6.4 Spain in the Inter-war Years



6.4.1 General Franco and Dictatorship in Spain

By the 1930s, the days in which Spain had been a great European power were long past, and she had therefore avoided involvement in the First World War. In 1933, a right-wing government came to power, which provoked rebellion by national minorities. In early 1936, a left-wing government was elected with a large majority. General Franco, modelling himself on the Fascist dictators, led a mutiny of the army in Morocco and invaded the mainland. The army, the political right and the Roman Catholic Church aligned with Franco, while left wing groups and the national minorities aligned with the elected government. Franco received assistance from the Fascist states, while the government was supported by the Soviet Union and a variety of international volunteers. The bitter war lasted until 1939, when Franco achieved the position of dictator, which he held until his death in 1975.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you examined the rise and falls of dictators in Europe, particularly in the inter-war years. In focus were: Mussolini of Italy, Hitler of Germany, Stalin of Russia and General Franco of Spain.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 6.1 (tests Learning Outcome 6.1)

Mention the factors that enhanced the victory of Mussolini in the 1921 election

SAQ 6.2 (tests Learning Outcome 6.2)

How did Mussolini warm his way into the hearts of the masses

SAQ 6.3 (tests Learning Outcome 6.3)

Describe the social, political and economic situation in Germany before Hitler

SAQ 6.4 (tests Learning Outcome 6.4)

Mention two dictatorial policies of Stalin in Russia

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Study Session 7

The Second World War, 1939-1945

Introduction

In this study session, you will explore the expansionist bid of Germany under Adolf Hitler, and how the weakness of the League of Nations was capitalized on by the super powers. The consequence of which was the 'might makes right' which was characterized of the super powers as depicted by the various aggressions and annexations of smaller territories by the big Nations.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 7.1 *identify* the factors responsible for the Second World War.
- 7.2 *explain* America's entry into World War II.
- 7.3 *analyse* Germany's last battle and the American bombing of Hiroshima.



German soldiers at Balkan

7.1 Factors Responsible for the Outbreak of the Second World War

Several factors were responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. However, for the purpose of our study, focus shall be on: the outcome of the treaty of Versailles, the failure of the League of Nations, the Japanese attack on Manchuria, the economic Depression of the 1930s and the rise of Dictators and Adolf Hitler in Europe.

7.1.1 Terms of Treaty of Versailles

The outcome of the treaty of Versailles was not welcome by Germans, who considered it a diktat- a dictated term. As it would be recalled Germany was made to pay heavy reparations of £6,500,000,000 and she lost her colonies overseas, which were lucrative markets and sources of raw materials for her industrial growth. Besides, she lost Alsace and Lorraine to France. Germany was demilitarized in the Rhineland. Her military strength reduced to 100,000 with no General staff and opportunity to conscript into the army. In fact, the terms of the treaty was detested by the German. Therefore, Adolf Hitler opined that the peacemakers at Versailles erred in their decisions. Hence, he seized the opportunity using his party the Nazis to exploit the grievances against the terms of the treaty to wipe up sentiments and discontentment in Germany. Thus, Adolf Hitler embarked on expansionist bid which culminated in the outbreak of the second World War in 1939.

7.1.2 Failure of the League of Nations

Immediately after the First World war in 1918, the League of Nations was set up to prevent future outbreak of War by settling amicably disputes that might arise from the intense competitions and rivalries amongst the European. Though, the succeeded in maintaining peace and order as well as settled disputes that could have degenerated into war, but by the 1930s, the intense rivalries and competitions began to surpass the power of the League such that apart from sanctions, the Leagued could not enforce her decisions on erring member nations. This was because the League did not have a standing army of its own. Also, the super powers cooperated grudgingly with the League. Thus, the world in the 1930s witnessed several aggressions, particularly from the super powers against the smaller countries. It was then just a faith accompli for the war to start.

7.1.3 Japanese Attack on Manchuria

As it would be recalled, a veritable test on the weakness of the League of Nations was the Japanese attack on Manchuria- an integral part of China. The failure of the League to curb Japanese aggression encouraged Mussolini of Italy to invade Abyssinia which was a member of the League of Nations. Also, the failure of the League to deal with Italy also motivated Germans to denounce the Locarno treaty of 1925 and to re-occupy the Rhineland militarily and unilaterally in 1936. Thus, this marked the beginning of the Berlin-Rome -Axis, which later manifested in the World War when Italy, Germany and Japan joined forces.



China marched on Manchuria

7.1.4 Great Depression and World War II

The Great economic Depression of the 1930s impacted negatively on countries like Germany, Italy, Russia and Spain. For instance in Germany, the heavy reparations to be paid by Germany was a big burden on the economy. The economic downturn led Germany to run into currency crisis which was aggravated by the late 1920s and 1930s depressions. Also, it is important to note that it was economic hardship that led Japan to invade Manchuria with a view to settling part of her industrial problems as regards markets and investment. Similarly, the economic pressures and the poor standard of living aided the rise to power of authoritarians like Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini of Germany and Italy respectively.



Hitler, a German dictator, repudiated the terms of Treaty of Versailles.

7.1.5 Rise of Dictators in Europe in the 1930s

The inter-war years in Europe witnessed the emergence of dictators who later upset the balance of power and consequently led Europe to the Second World War. For instance Benito Mussolini founded the Fascist party in Italy. He was dissatisfied with the outcome of the Versailles peace treaty. Apart from invading Abyssinia against the regulations of the League in the 1930s, Italy also annexed Albania contrary to expectations of other European powers particularly Britain and France.

In Germany, Adolf Hitler emerged as the next dictator who was also not satisfied with the outcome of the treaty of Versailles. He became autocratic and quickly repudiated the terms of the treaty. Thus, Hitler embarked on expansionists bid as well as violated the regulations of the League of Nations on several occasions. For instance, Germany militarized the Rhineland, rivaled both Britain and France in armament race. Hitler annexed Saar after conducting a plebiscite. Hitler introduced conscription and repudiated all the terms of the treaty of Versailles. Germany seized Czechoslovakia and Danzig, which embittered Britain, and as a result declared war on Germany. This of course, marked the beginning of the Second World War.

ITQ

Question

What led to the failure of the League of Nations

Feedback

The weakness of the League of Nations to enforce sanctions led to its failure.

ITQ

Question

Which two countries were the first to declare war on Germany?

- (A) Italy and Spain
- (B) Britain and France
- (C) The United States and the USSR

Feedback

Britain and France were the first set of countries to declare war on

Germany.



Tip

The expansionist bid of Hitler made her to incur the wrath of Britain, particularly her attack on Danzig, which invariably led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

7.2 America's Entry into World War II

From the outset of the War United States of America was neutral to the displeasure of Britain and France. However, the indifference of America to the war changed when the American Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act to give President F.D. Roosevelt the authority to supply weapons on a loan basis to Britain and her allies fighting the axis powers. Meanwhile, it is important to note that the USA tried to restrain Japan from her military adventures in the Pacific by taking several measures such as the cancellation of the trade treaty and the freezing of the Japanese assets in the USA.

However, Japan under the Premiership of General Tojo surprisingly attacked Pearl Harbour where U.S pacific fleet had its base. The US government was shocked of this December 1941 attack. Then USA decided to throw all weight behind Britain and France to fight the war to victory. A formal declaration of war was made on the axis powers. Though the axis powers got the support of Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, there were in all 49 nations waging war with the axis powers.

7.3 Germany's Last Battle and the American Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The battles were intense for Germany because Germany had to fight on many fronts. The British made their advance from Belgium to Germany from north-western side. The Americans moved along the river Rhine into the very heartland of Germany. The Russians reached the outskirts of Berlin in 1945. Hitler committed suicide and Germany surrendered to the Allies in May 1945.



The refusal of Japan to surrender led to the American bombing of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively.

In spite of the defeat of Japan by America in February 1945 the Japanese refused to surrender. An ultimatum was given to Japan to surrender but the Japanese government led by the military leaders refused to do so. On August 6, 1945 the city of Hiroshima was destroyed by the Americans after dropping of an atomic bomb. On August 9, the American forces dropped another atom bomb on Nagasaki. As a result of the bombing of the two cities, the Japanese forces surrendered to the Americans on September 2, 1945.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you examined the factors that culminated in the outbreak of the Second World War. You also explored the entry of America into the war and the final battles of the war.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 7.1 (test Learning Outcome 7.1)

Highlight the factors responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War

SAQ 7.2 (test Learning Outcome 7.2)

Which event propelled America to join the Second World War?

SAQ 7.3 (test Learning Outcome 7.3)

Why was Japan bombed in 1945 by America?

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Study Session 8

The United Nations Organisation

Introduction

In this study session, you will explore the reasons for the setting up of the United Nations Organizations, the principal organs, specialised agencies, achievements and failures.

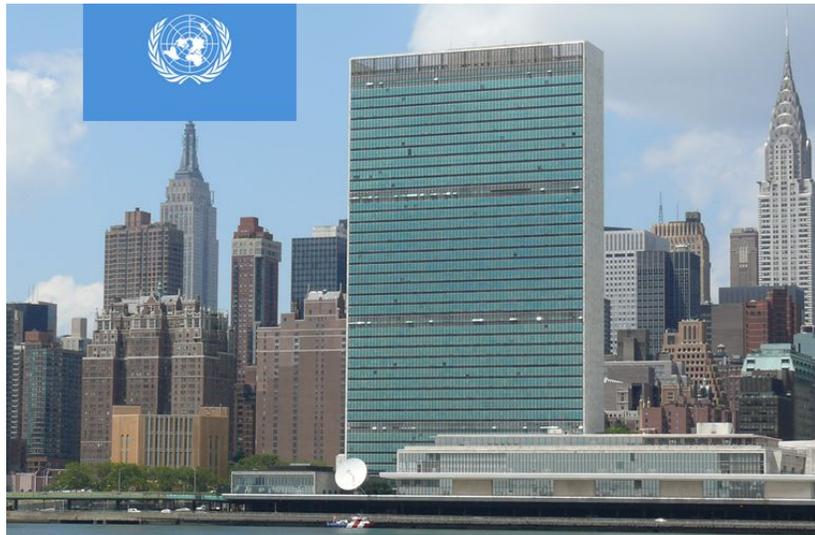
Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 8.1 *explain* the reasons for setting up of the United Nations.
- 8.2 *point out* the functions of the principal organs of the UN.
- 8.3 *highlight* the various achievements of the UN since 1945
- 8.4 *discuss* the shortcomings of the UN since the time it was founded.



The United Nations Headquarters @New York, USA

8.1 Overview of the United Nations Organisation (UNO)

In 1945, representatives of the world's nation met in San Francisco to set up a new League for United Nations. This was an initial move by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin of USA, Britain and Russia respectively.



Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at a meeting.

Delegates from 50 nations met in San Francisco on April 25, 1945, and drafted the UN charter containing 111 articles. This was unanimously approved. Thus by October 26, 1945 the United Nations was born after the charter establishing it was ratified by five permanent members of the security council and representatives of 45 nations. The headquarters of the UN was located in Paris, but later on shifted to New York. The UN has among has as its objectives, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Geneva Conventions in order to influence all nations to follow international laws so as to make the world a better place to live in.

8.2 Principal Organs of the United Nations

The principal organs of the United Nations are six, and they are the General Assembly, the Security Council, Trusteeship Council, the Economic Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.

8.2.1 The General Assembly

Almost two hundred nations send their representatives to the General Assembly which meets once in year, and each nation has one vote to exercise at the time of electing non-permanent members of the security council, or electing members to the Economic and Social council or electing judges of the international court. The General Assembly elects its own President and vice-Presidents every year. The Secretary – General may convene a special session, if so desired by the Security Council.

8.2.2 The Security Council

It is the most important organ of the UN. It consists of five permanent members (US, UK, Russia, France and Peoples Republic of China), and ten non-permanent members with a two year term. It hears complaints of member states regarding threats of war and violation of peace treaties, and takes immediate steps to resolve the issues. It tries to settle disputes among nations by arranging negotiations. It employs sanctions and economic military interventions to deter aggressor. The five permanent members enjoy the power of exercising the veto, and all resolutions need their concurrence for passing. The council elects its president on rotation and whose term is only one month. In recent years, India, Germany, Japan and Brazil have staked their claims to a permanent seat in the council. It is however, important to note that since the Gulf war 1, the Security Council has not only restricted to peace-keeping role but also as a peace-enforcer.

8.2.3 Trusteeship Council

The UN charter provided for Trusteeship system for the people of those territories who were unable to govern themselves. So they were entrusted to nations like France, UK, USSR, China and the US for temporary governance till such time they could be recognized as independent states or willing to join other independent states. The original trust territories held by these powers have become independent.

8.2.4 The Economic and Social Council

The UN was established not only for maintaining international peace and security in the world but also to undertake work for lifting the common masses of developing countries. The major concern of this council is to promote better standard of living for the people. In fact, matters like economic conditions, education, culture and health come under this purview. The council also set up Regional commissions such as the ECE (Economic Commission for Europe), ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), ECA (Economic Commission for Africa), ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America), and ECWA (Economic Commission for West Asia), for the purpose of better governance and focus.

8.2.5 The International Court

It consists of 15 eminent judges drawn from different nations to hear appeals on disputes brought before it. Its headquarters is at Hague. All member-states who have signed the UN Charter

have automatically become parties to the statutes of the court. The decisions of the court are binding on the parties to the dispute. For example, the international court settled the dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon over Bakassi peninsula.

8.2.6 The Secretariat

The Secretariat is the backbone of the UN. The offices of the UN are located within the secretariat under the headship of Secretary General. The UN Secretary General is the chief executive officer. He is elected by the General Assembly for a term of five years. He convenes the meetings of the Security Council to deal with important problems affecting world peace and security. He is ably assisted by his staff drawn from several countries, notably by deputy secretary-general, under secretary-generals and assistant secretary-generals. The expenses for running the UN are shared by member-nations- bulk of the money coming from the US. Several agencies of the UN maintain their offices located in the capital cities across the world.

8.2.7 UN Specialised Agencies

United Nations uses independent and specialized agencies in carrying out its activities. Some of them are: Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD i.e. World Bank), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) among others as well as funding agencies.

ITQ

Question

Why was the UN created?

Feedback

UN was established after the Second World War to settle disputes and prevent outbreak of future global war.

8.3 Achievements of the United Nations

The successes recorded by the UN since its establishment in preventing wars are numerous. Some of its achievements are summarized thus:

1. UN was able to avert World War on several occasions. For instance, the Suez Canal crisis in 1956 would have

blown into a full-fledged world war (France and UK pitted against Egypt) but for the intervention of the UN. The US at that time supported the UN efforts for maintaining peace, France and the UK had to make humiliating retreat.

2. In 1962, the United Nations played an important role in averting a nuclear war between the two super powers over what is known as 'Cuban Missile Crisis' The USSR had to remove its missiles from communist Cuba buckling under the US threat of waging a nuclear war.
3. Another veritable achievement was how the UN waded into the matters that arose between the state of Isreal and Arab Nations in 1948. It would be recalled that after the birth of Isreal, the Arab Nations took up the cause of displaced Palestinians, which resulted in armed conflict. Israel won, but the UN had to intervene and arrange armistic agreement.
4. UN also waded into peace-keeping mission of various degrees all over the world. From Congo to Liberia. From Cyprus to Kuwait as well as rendering intelligence and military support to fight terrorism in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Parkistan etc
5. The UN has been able to muster the support of its 14 major programmes and funds as well as 18 independent specialized agencies for achieving its various objectives. For instance, the economic institutions like the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO have helped developing nations to overcome major crises in their economies like the debt burdens etc, and persuaded the rich countries to remove trade restrictions imposed on the poor. The UNESCO has been doing good work in the preservation of culture and promotion of educational and scientific activities.

8.4 Failures of the United Nations Organisation

As far as the United Nations is concerned it is difficult to assert that the UN has failed in as much as the body has prevented the outbreak of world war since its establishment. However, the body has recorded some shortcomings as far as maintenance of disputes are concerned. Some of these are summarily highlighted as follows:

1. UN after the Gulf War has been described as a pawn in the hands of the USA. This is because the affairs of the UN had since been dominated by the USA influence and financial strength.

2. UN has failed in the disarmament campaign, particularly its failure to discourage the stockpiles of nuclear weapons, and thereby rid the world of nuclear wars.
3. The UN has failed to resolve the West Asian Crisis. For instance Israel has defied UN Security resolutions number of times without meaningful reprimand.
4. UN failed in preventing the aggressions against many countries by the big powers: Russia's aggression on Hungary (1956), on Czechoslovakia (1968), and Afghanistan (1978-79)
5. On the issue of human rights, it could do nothing in China, Myanmar and some countries in Africa and Latin America.
6. UN has not been able to sanction the United States over aggression or violation of territorial laws against other countries of the world.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you examined why the UNO was established. You also learnt about the structure of the organization, her achievement and setbacks.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 8.1 (tests Learning Outcome 8.1)

Mention the brains behind the formation of the UN after the Second World War

SAQ 8.2 (tests Learning Outcome 8.2)

Highlight the principal organs of the UN

SAQ 8.3 (tests Learning Outcome 8.3)

Do you agree with the view that the UN has achieved its objectives?

SAQ 8.4 (tests Learning Outcome 8.4)

What would you consider as the major shortcoming of the UN?

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Study Session 9

The Cold War and Global Tension

Introduction

This study session exposes you to the ideological warfare that existed from the end of the Second World War until the end of the late 1980s between groups of communist and non-communist nations.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 9.1 discuss the causes of the cold war.
- 9.2 analyse the dynamics of the armament race between the Eastern and Western blocks.
- 9.3 explain diplomatic relations and end of the cold war.

Terminology

Cold War	A state of political hostility that existed from 1945 to 1990 between countries led by Soviet Union and Countries led by United State.
Diplomacy	Tactical negotiations between nations.

9.1 Meaning and Causes of Cold War

9.1.1 Concept of Cold War

According to the World Book Encyclopedia, the concept of **Cold War** is used to describe the intense rivalry that existed from the end of World War II in 1945 until the late 1980s between groups of communist and non-communist nations. The cold war was between the Eastern and the Western block. The Eastern blocks were made of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its communist allies. The Western blocks were the United States and its democratic allies, such as the Western European countries.

9.1.2 Causes of Cold War

Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the Era of the Cold War

It would be recalled that the Yalta Conference of 1945 marked the high point of wartime unity and cooperation between the Allies and the Soviet Union. However, Soviet Union wanted to control the countries in Eastern Europe that were freed from German occupation by Soviet armies. The Soviet Union did not honour the declaration on liberated Europe in which the Allies promised to hold democratic elections in such liberated countries.

The cold war also centred on the use of USSR military forces to install communist governments in Eastern Europe. The action of USSR or Soviet was not in conformity with U.S government's insistence upon the right of self-determination for the people of Eastern Europe. In like manner, when the USSR suffered enormous losses in the war with Nazi Germany, the USSR looked upon Eastern Europe as a bulwark against any invasion from the West.

Western Europe in the Era of the Cold War

Immediately after the Second World War, the Soviet Union cut off almost all contacts between the West and the territories it controlled in Eastern Europe. In like manner, Western Europe adopted a containment policy to hold back communist expansion. In 1948, the Western Allies established the German Federal Republic, known as West Germany. In 1949, the Russian zone in Germany became the communist-governed German Democratic Republic, known as East Germany.



Reflection

Logic would dictate that as the USA and the USSR fought as allies during World War Two, their relationship after the war would be firm and friendly. This never happened and any appearance that these two powers were friendly during the war was illusory.

Their 'friendship' during the war was simply the result of having a mutual enemy – Nazi Germany.

9.2 Significance of 1949 to the Cold War

In 1949, the Allies formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), a military alliance which was to defend West Germany and to prevent Soviet expansion. In the same year, 1949, the USSR also set up the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) to unite the communist-ruled states of Europe under Soviet leadership. Rivalry began between NATO and the Soviet Union such that in 1949, the

Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb which further accelerated fear and mistrust between the Eastern and Western blocks. The year 1949 was also significant to Russia for it was in that year that the Chinese communists gained control over the mainland China against the U.S backed Nationalist government led by Chian-kai-shek. Secondly, Russia manufactured the atom bomb and thus broke the American nuclear monopoly.

9.2.1 Spread of Ideological Rivalry and Invention of Weapons of Destruction

The next few years witnessed the spread of the cold war, with armed conflict breaking out in Korea (1950-1953), the enunciation 'Dulles Doctrine', the establishment of Warsaw Pact (1955), the production of hydrogen bombs and their explosions by both the U.S and Russia in 1952 and 1953 respectively. The United States Government formed another military alliance called SEATO in 1954 to defend free countries against the two communist giants -Russia and China. Eventually, it got involved in the Vietnam War (1954-1973). In fact, after Stalin's death the cold war did not end, instead the nuclear arms race between the two super-powers continued when both of them produced inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM). Russia launched its man-made satellite, "Sputnik" to outer space and the U.S became jealous. Thus, their rivalry in Space began.

9.3 Diplomatic Relations and the End of the Cold War

In the 1970s, things changed in the international scene such that better relations existed between Eastern and Western blocks. It would be recalled that in 1963, the U.S, U.S.S.R and Britain signed an agreement to stop testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere. The European community increased trade with the Eastern bloc. It is important to note that some nations which were caught up in cross fires of the raging cold war decided to remain neutral and formed what is known as the Non-Aligned movement in 1961. The status of Berlin was settled in 1972 and in 1973; both East and West Germany joined the United Nations. China and U.S established diplomatic relations. The first Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreement was reached between the U.S and U.S.S.R. The cold war came to an end when the U.S.S.R withdrew its troops from Afghanistan in 1989. Also, the Soviet Union reduced its conventional military forces in Eastern Europe. In 1989, Communist rule came to an end in many Eastern Europe

countries like Poland, Hungary, Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia. In fact, in 1990, both Eastern Germany and Western Germany were united.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you underscored the meaning and causes of the Cold war. You also examined the significant events of 1949 and how the Cold war ended.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 9.1 (test learning outcome 9.1)

What do you understand by the term Cold War?

SAQ 9.2 (test learning outcome 9.2)

How apt is the description that 1949 was indeed the year of the Cold war?

SAQ 9.3 (test learning outcome 9.3)

What would you consider as the end of the cold war?

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Study Session 10

Decolonisation of Africa

Introduction

In this study session, you will learn examine the process of the abandonment by the Western powers of their former colonies in Africa - a long process preceded by the nationalist struggles. This struggles and negotiations climax with granting of independence to colonized African countries.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 10.1 discuss the link between second World War and the growth of nationalist movements in Africa.
- 10.2 describe the decolonization process in African countries.

Terminology

Decolonisation	The undoing of colonialism.
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10.1 World War II and the Growth of Nationalist Movements in Africa

The Second World War ended in 1945 but it influenced the growth of **nationalist movements** in Africa. One of the important influence was because when Britain, one of the greatest colonial masters lost her prestige at the initial stage of the war as a result of defeat by Japan, a non- European power. Africans saw this as a weakness on the part of Britain, and therefore psychologically imbued the colonized people of Africa to be determined to get their freedom from Britain. Also, it is important to note that the Africans who were conscripted into the European army and who fought sides by sides with the Europeans realized that giving equal opportunity the Europeans were not in any way superior to the Africans. Thus,

the demobilized soldiers returned to their country to give support to the nationalists in pressing for freedom.

10.1.1 Reactions of Africa to the Atlantic Charter



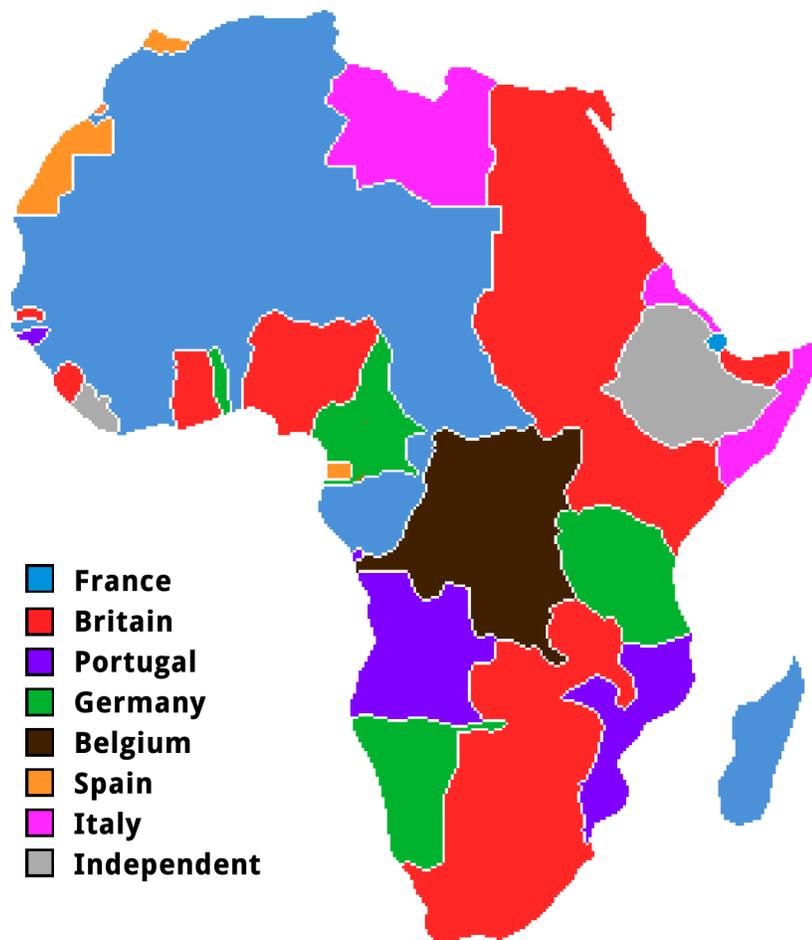
President Roosevelt of America and Winston Churchill of Britain met to sign the Atlantic Charter.

The **Atlantic Charter**, which gave the right to all peoples to choose the form of government under which they would live, was an added impetus for the Africans to demand for their freedom. It could be recalled that both President Roosevelt of America and Winston Churchill of Britain were signatories to the Charter. While Churchill interpreted this declaration to mean that it applied only to European states, President Roosevelt maintained that the clause applied to all humanity regardless of race, creed and other criteria. Besides, the U.S.A and Russia even questioned the moral foundations of colonialism. In fact, all these acted as a catalyst, forcing Britain to grant independence to overseas countries like India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon.

Finally, the Second World War also promoted the formation of political parties in Africa, which of course contributed to struggle for independence movements in Africa. Besides, the post-war depression worsened the economic condition of the Africans, which led to frustration and bitterness against colonial domination. This depression of course, encouraged political dissatisfaction, which consequently promoted nationalist movements in Africa.

10.2 The Road to Independence in Africa

The road to independence in Africa varied from region to region. This was because African countries were colonized by different European nations. Thus, in understanding the road to independence in Africa, the explanation shall be divided into three, namely: nationalism in British Africa, nationalism in French Africa and Nationalism in the rest of Africa. This is important because nationalism preceded decolonization in Africa.



Colonisation map of Africa

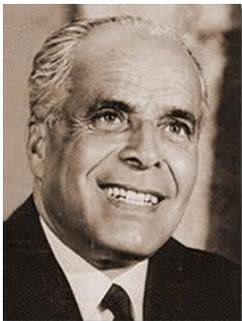
10.2.1 Nationalism and Decolonisation in British Africa

The British no doubt colonized many of the African countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Gambia in West Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Somalia in East Africa, Zambia and Southern Africa etc. In Africa generally, the British

began to experience opposition to foreign rule in about the 1930s. Initially, it started with the demand by the nationalists for more participation in the administration of the colonies. However, by 1945 precisely, after the Second World War, it changed to agitations for self governance and independence as a result of both internal and external factors. Notable nationalists in the British African countries were Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), Nnamdi Azikwe and Obafemi Awolowo (Nigeria), Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya), Julius Nyerere (Tanzania) Keneth Kaunda (Zambia) and Milton Obote(Uganda) The struggle of these personalities against the British colonial administration facilitated the granting of independence to their countries.

10.2.2 Decolonisation in French Africa

France pursued the colonization process in Africa with enormous resources and commitment. Thus, at the end of the scramble for colonies, France was a country to beat in terms of possession in Africa. Unlike the British Africa, nationalism started late in French Africa because France operated a different system of administration from Britain in administering her possessions. For instance in West Africa, France established a federation for her colonies. These colonies included Senegal, French Sudan, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Dahomey, and Niger with Mauritania. Before independence each colony was given a choice to become independent or become part of France. All except Guinea voted to become part of the French community. Gradually each colony began to have second thoughts. Subsequently, they demanded full independence by about 1960. Also in the 1960s, the four French colonies of equatorial Africa, namely, Chad, Gabon, Republic of Congo (Brazaville) and Central African Republic received their independence.



Habib Bourguiba
(1903 – 2000) led Tunisia
to independence

In the French North Africa, particularly in Tunisia, Habib Bourguiba led a nationalists group who protested against the domination of the Assembly by the French. Although, he was not tolerated by the French authority as he was exiled along with the Sultan, in 1954, negotiations resumed between the nationalists and the French which ended in granting of self government to this colony in 1955. Similar thing was experienced in Morroco after the second World War where the nationalist and Sultan Mohammed Ben Yousef mounted pressure on the French administration in Morocco which culminated in the independence of Morocco in 1956. In the case of Algeria, it was rebellion and armed struggle because a section of the French army and the French settlers also rose in

rebellion against the French government fearing that it would grant independence to the colony. It was for this reason that Algeria's independence could not be achieved early.

Similarly, in South Africa, the independence was delayed because the country had to face the problem of Apartheid, which was adopted as a policy in 1948. In fact, African National Congress (ANC) and other African political movements had to struggle it out with the Europeans until the 1990s when the legal apparatus of apartheid was dismantled. It can therefore, be seen that the process of decolonization in Africa was not through the roundtable agreement between the Africans and the Europeans, but rather, varied as dictated by circumstances in the various places.

ITQ

Question

Highlight two major catalyst to the decolonisation of Africa.

Feedback

You are correct to highlight Second World War and the Atlantic Charter.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you highlighted catalysts to decolonization. You also observed the nature of the process across board.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 10.1 (tests Learning Outcome 10.1)

What would you regard as the positive impact of Africans participation in the World War II

SAQ 10.2 (test Learning Outcome 10.2)

- a) Mention four Nationalists in four of the British colonized countries in Africa.
- b) Two African countries experienced delay in gaining independence, and also had to rise up in revolts and

rebellions against colonial authorities. Mention these countries.

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Study Session 11

The Fall of Soviet Empire

Introduction

In this study session you will learn about the gradual decline of the Soviet Empire from the death of Stalin in 1953 to the tearing down of the Berlin wall in Germany in 1990, which was the last straw that broke the camel's back. You should highlight the various factors that enhanced the fall of the empire, in the course of your study.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 11.1 trace the beginning of the weakness of the Soviet Empire before its final collapse in the 1990s.
- 11.2 explain the role of the Afghanistan war in the decline of Soviet Empire
- 11.3 discuss the reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev and the breaking up of the Soviet Union.

Terminology

Communism	A form of socialism that abolishes private ownership.
Perestroika	An economic policy adopted in the former Soviet Union, which was intended to increase automation and labour efficiency, but led to the end of central planning in the Russian economy.

11.1 Background to the Collapse of Soviet Empire

As early as 1953, the year that Stalin died, there were signs of unrest among the subject peoples of the Russian Empire. Yugoslavia, while remaining communist, had already loosened her ties with the Soviet bloc. Anti-Soviet riots in East Germany in 1953 and Poland in 1955 were followed by rebellion in Hungary in 1956.

The profound unpopularity of Russian domination and of the repressive puppet regimes continued to be demonstrated by a haemorrhage of refugees crossing from East to West Germany. In 1961, the East German authorities responded by building that ultimate symbol of the cold war- the Berlin wall. Meanwhile, by 1968, a reforming communist government in Czechoslovakia was again overthrown by Soviet tanks. By this time, large Russian forces were tied down on the eastern frontier to check an increasingly hostile China. It is important to note that within the Soviet Union, the government was going through strains of administration. Thus, by the early 1970s, there had been indications of a failing empire even before other factors subsequently crept in to facilitate the final collapse of the empire.



The Berlin Wall fell in 1989

11.2 Afghanistan War and the Collapse of Soviet Socialist Republic

One of the fundamental factors that accelerated the disintegration of the USSR was the war in Afghanistan, which was a disastrous adventure for USSR. It would be recalled that President Jimmy Carter of the USA supported Mohammed Ziaul-Haq, who in turn funded the anti-Soviet Mujahedeen movement in Afghanistan. However, the USSR decided to support the Afghanistan government controlled by the people's Democratic Party of Afghanistan against the Mujahedeen movement. As a result, tension brewed between the USA and the USSR. Subsequently, President Jimmy Carter of the USA decided to place a trade embargo on the USSR and pronounced that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was "the most

serious threat to the peace since the Second World War". By the time President Ronald Reagan assumed office as the president of the USA in 1981, the tension between USSR and USA increased up till 1986, when Mikhail Gorbachev became the president of the USSR. Though Gorbachev came up with reforms termed glasnost (political openness) and perestroika (economic restructuring), targeted at revamping the economy, the Soviet economy was already in ruin.

11.3 Reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev

Another significant factor that propelled the collapse of the USSR was the reforms that were introduced by President Mikhail Gorbachev. He had genuine motives in introducing the reforms, but the reforms backfired. Gorbachev belonged to the reform-oriented technocrats that had begun their careers under Nikita-Khrushchev (1953-1964), and the technocrats had rapidly consolidated their power within the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union). President Gorbachev however, in his reform introduced the Law on Cooperatives. This law permitted private ownership of businesses in the services, manufacturing, and foreign trade sectors. Also, his reform concerning glasnost (political openness) resulted in greater freedom of speech and the press became less controlled. It is important to state that Gorbachev pushed his reforms too far because these reforms were opposed by the majority of the communist party.

11.3.1 Gorbachev Reforms and Nationalism in the Soviet Union

The different reforms introduced by Gorbachev accelerated the breaking up of the Soviet Union. The media took advantage of press freedom to expose the social and economic problems that the government had long denied and concealed. Problems such as: poor housing, alcoholism, drug abuse, pollution and large scale corruption became public knowledge. Disaster such as the one at Chernobyl of 1986 where about 7000 died that been concealed became public knowledge. These revelations fired the nationalism spirits in the people of different territories that made up the Soviet Union. Consequently, many of the Soviet Union governments (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania) were brought down as revolution swept through Eastern Europe in the 1990s. The nationalists and radicals in these countries demanded for their independence.

11.3.2 Perestroika and the Soviet Union Economy

Gorbachev economic policy was not radical enough to save the dwindling economy of his country. Though, he tried to liberalize the economy but he still left behind fundamental elements of the Joseph Stalin system, such as price controls, exclusion of private property ownership, government monopoly over most means of production and the inconvertibility of the ruble. As a result, by 1990, the Soviet government had lost control over economic conditions with disastrous consequences. Government revenues reduced, local government withheld tax revenues from the central government because of their desire for regional autonomy.



Tip

Gorbachev radical reforms accelerated the collapse of the Soviet Union.

11.3.3 Elections and the Final Collapse of Soviet Union

From the 1990s, 15 constituent Republics of the USSR held their first competitive elections. Reformers and ethnic nationalists won many of the seats. This led to the constituent Republics to begin to assert their national sovereignty over Moscow. On March 17, 1991 in a Union wide referendum, 78% of all voters voted for the retention of the Soviet Union in a reformed form. However, in August 1991, there was a failed coup d'état to unseat Gorbachev. Following this coup, Soviet Republics accelerated their demand for independence and indeed declared their sovereignty one by one. Besides, there were food shortages in Central Russia which called for food rationing in Moscow in December 1991. Boris Yeltsin, who won 57% of the popular vote for the post of President of the Russian SFSR decided to disband the USSR in accordance with the treaty union of 1922, so as to remove Gorbachev and the Soviet government from power. The Russian population supported this step. Finally, the collapse of the Soviet Union took place following the popular referendum in Ukraine on December 1, 1991, wherein 90% of the voters opted for independence. Thus, the Soviet Union was officially dissolved and was replaced by the Commonwealth of independent states.

Question

What facilitated the final collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991?

Feedback

Elections and poor economy enhanced the final collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, we examined the background to the fall of Soviet Union. Some of the important factors were Gorbachev reforms and the Afghanistan war.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 11.1 (tests learning outcome 11.1)

When was the Berlin Wall built?

SAQ 11.2

What did Soviet Union get in return for supporting the Afghanistan government against the Mujahideen Movements?

SAQ 11.3

What would you consider as the major shortcomings of Gorbachev reforms?

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Study Session 12

The Rise of Communist China

Introduction

In this study session, you will examine the factors that facilitated the rise of Communist China, especially the revolution of Mao-Dze-Dong in China and the foreign relations of China during the period.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 12.1 explain Communism in China under the leadership of Mao-Ze-Dong.
- 12.2 describe China under Deng Xiaoping.
- 12.3 discuss China's Foreign Relations up to 1999.

Terminology

Marxist-Leninist principle

Following the ideas of Marx expanded to include those of Lenin. It provided the guiding doctrine of the Soviet Union.

12.1 Communist China under Mao-Ze-Dong



Mao-Dze-Dong (1893 – 1976)

After the overthrow of China's Nationalist government, the Communists under the leadership of Mao-Zze-Dong took over the reins of government. He was influenced by the Marxist-Leninist principles, which reflected in his five-year economic and social development plan. Mao first of all introduced the 'Commune system', which was targeted at rural development after the individual land-holdings were abolished. He revamped the educational system, and urged the Chinese to embrace the virtue of self-reliance.

In spite of his good intentions for the development of China, his economic development strategy popularly referred to as the **Great Leap Forward** undertaken between 1957 and 59 suffered setback. In fact, it was said that nearly 27 Million people

The Great Leap Forward was Mao's attempt to modernise China's economy so that by 1988, China would have an economy that rivalled America.

perished due to frequent famine and floods. Subsequently, Mao had to step down for a while, but regained his strength. It is on record that Mao achieved a lot for China both locally and internationally. Between 1966 and 1969, he launched the 'Cultural Revolution' and appealed to the citizens to follow his thought and participate actively in his economic development plan. Before his death in 1976, Communist China acquired nuclear weapons - a great step in achieving Big-power status in the world. In fact, the Communist China in 1971 replaced Chiang's Formosa (Taiwan) in the security council of the UN.

12.2 China under Deng Xiaoping



Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997)

After the demise of Mao Dze-Dong in 1976, his successor after overcoming a stiff challenge from Madam Mao and her 'Gang of Four' was Deng Xiaoping. He rejected Mao's ideas and came up with his own economic construction policy. Unlike Mao, he advocated socialist market economy. His reforms came to be known as the "Four modernizations", namely modernization of agriculture, industry, science and technology and defence. Special economic zones were created in the coastal regions of China to implement his theory of economic construction. Part of his impact was that in 1982, he gave a new constitution to the people.

However, in spite of his administrative skills and giant stride at creating difference in China, his administration violated human rights. This was because China under Deng did not give attention to democratic aspirations of the people. Consequently, in 1989, Tiananmen tragedy took place in which peaceful demonstration demanding political reforms was crushed leaving nearly five thousand killed and another ten thousand injured. Besides, leaders of the demonstration mostly students were also arrested to consternation of the western world. Thus, China was condemned for violating human rights.

ITQ

Question

Mao created his political movement in countryside during the Great Leap Forward, true / false?

Feedback

False, he created factory.

12.3 China's Foreign Relations in Historical Perspective

China during the era of the Cold War supported Soviet Union, backed Communist North Korea against South Korea. In 1962, China took over Tibet after suppressing a rebellion, and also invaded India. This invasion of India by China was a flagrant betrayal of agreement on the part of China because she had earlier signed a treaty of peaceful-Coexistence (Panchsheel) with India. It is important to note that China preferred to be isolated than associating with other countries of the World. China had isolated herself for a long time that the world was not aware of what was happening there. Although, India recommended China's entry into the UN, but did not last long because China hated western countries and so China was barred entry into the UN.

China preferred communism to capitalism, and was always ready to support communist countries against capitalist countries. A veritable example was China's support for North Vietnam against US supported South Vietnam in the Vietnam War. The defeat of South Vietnam was indeed a victory for the Communists in 1975. This however, marked a turning point in the China's relations with the western countries, which improved a little in 1976.

China's change of status on nuclear weapons and market reforms impressed the western countries. In response, Britain handed over her colony of Hongkong to China in 1997. Also, China signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and her relationship with the U.S improved a little. In the spirit of new China, Portugal handed over the territory of Macau to China in 1999 after ruling it for nearly 442 years. Currently China's attitude towards the U.S has improved, and China since early nineties has attracted foreign investments of over \$40 billion, in fact, China has gained entry into World Trade Organisation.



Tip

China's foreign relations at the early period of the Cold War were bifurcated in nature.

- One to promote communism by rendering support to communist states against non-communist countries.
- Second to remain isolated from the western world.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you learnt how communist China developed.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 12.1 (tests Learning Outcome 12.1)

How would you describe the leadership of Mao-Dze-Dong in China?

SAQ 12.2 (tests Learning Outcome 12.2)

Mention the four cardinal points of Deng Xiaoping's reforms in China

SAQ 12.3 (tests Learning Outcome 12.3)

Comment on China's foreign relations at the early period of the Cold war era

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Study Session 13

Globalisation

Introduction

In this study session, you will explore the trend towards a single world economic system which began to replace the cold war political and economic dividing lines. Thus, you will learn the concept of globalization, its features, advantages and disadvantages.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 13.1 define the concept **globalisation**.
- 13.2 identify the features of globalization.
- 13.3 explain its benefits and disadvantages to the third world.

Terminology

Globalisation	Increasing integration of economies around the world.
Third world	The economically underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Latin America, considered as an entity with common characteristics, such as poverty, high birth rates, and economic dependence on the advanced countries.

13.1 Concept of Globalisation

Globalisation as it is used today, refers to the growing interactions in world trade, national and foreign investments, capital markets and the ascribed role of governments in national economies. While the ancient, medieval and the more recent international entrepreneurs depended largely on their national governments for support, sponsorship, financing, patenting and gun-boat diplomacy, today's globalizers want to minimize or neutralize the role of government in their national

economies. It is important to make a distinction between globalization and internationalization. The difference between the two is that while globalization focuses on the economic capitalism and world market power, internationalization is best exemplified in the founding and operation of the League of Nations, the United Nations Organization and other regional political organizations, like the African Union, that seeks to create one world or continent based on strong and effective national, sovereign, individual state governments. Globalization therefore, seeks to encompass all the countries of the world into one economic unit, possibly, without governments or borders. That is while internationalization aims at improving relationship between and among sovereign nation states, globalization seeks to undermine the very concept of the sovereign nation state.

It is also important to know that there are three regions in the world today which emphasize and are trying to impose globalization. They are the European axis, mainly Britain, France and Germany; the North American axis, mainly USA and Canada, and, the Pacific Rim axis, notably Japan. The dominance of these three axes in the economies of the world and the direction in which they seek to lead the other countries of the world, have led some economists to argue that:

“we should not be talking of globalization of the world economy but of “Triadization” of the world by the three powerful axes of Europe, North American and Japan”.

13.2 Features of Globalisation

The main features of globalization that concerns us in this study are: promotion of free market, privatization and deregulation of economies, global institutions, budgetary austerity and currency devaluation. It has been noted that the hallmark of globalization is the promotion of the free market, individual initiative, private enterprise, ruthless competition and capitalism into a credo. The logic of the survival of the fittest becomes, once again, as in the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries of the physiocrats, Adam Smithsonian and the utilitarian economists.

13.2.1 Global Institutions as Feature of Globalisation

Global institutions in the globalization process have become very important in the process of restructuring the economies of the poor countries. The ratification of the revised General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), since 1995, marked a landmark in the development of the global economic system. The World Trade Organization's mandate consists of regulating world trade for the benefit of the international banks and transnational corporations as well as supervising the enforcement of national trade policies. In other words, the leading globalisers now enjoy collaboration with the IMF, the World Bank, GATT and the World Trade Organization in the surveillance of the economies of the developing countries in the direction of the market, away from undue influence and control from the state and its government.

13.2.2 Good Governance as Feature of Globalization

Good governance, incorruptibility, multi party system of government, sustenance of democracy and human rights are additional attributes of globalization, even when the very nature of the economic and political solution imposed by globalization on the country precludes the practice of genuine democratization or the promotion of human rights and human dignity. The result is that very few of the governments of the globalized countries, particularly in Africa, meet the criterion of instituting or practicing true democracy.

13.2.3 Currency Devaluation as a feature of Globalization

It has been noted that in spite of the existence of individual country's separate currency, globalization dollarizes the domestic currency, domestic prices and government budgets. With the ever recurrent devaluation of the national currency, the urge to hold the USA dollar, the British Pound, the German Deutsche Mark, or the Japanese yen, and now the Euro, becomes irresistible. This, in turn, causes further recurrent devaluation of the local currency of developing countries.

13.3 Globalisation and the Third World Countries

The U.S and its financial institutions like the IMF, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization have been extolling the virtues of capitalism and advocating globalization as the mantra for eradicating all the economic ills of the Third World countries (i.e poor countries). Globalization aims at integrating the economy of poor countries with those of other countries by means of encouraging liberalization and privatization. However, there is no doubt that the Third World countries have been caught in the web of the globalised world. For instance, those Third World countries which sought loans from these

financial institutions, particularly the I.M.F and the World Bank have been asked to fulfill certain conditions. In like manner, those who joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) must adhere strictly to certain rules.

It is no exaggeration to say that Globalisation is making the rich countries richer and the poor poorer. Professor Stiglitz (Nobel-Laureate and Former World Bank's chief) has proved that the economies of the Third World countries have been damaged by globalization programme. At this juncture, we may then ask, does it mean that no benefits accrued to the Third World from globalizing? Economists point out that free trade, improves efficiency, finances (foreign Investments), factor incomes and gains from migration of skilled workers are benefits of globalization. However, rather than for all these to have taken place, Multinational corporations of western countries became the real beneficiaries of the globalization programme. It is estimated that the poorest countries lost 3% to 5% of their export earnings because of globalization, and in fact paying more for their food -imports. "The top fifth of the world's people in the richest countries enjoy 82% of the expanding export trade and 68% of the foreign direct investment, while the bottom fifth only gathers barely 1 percent (See Human Development Index of UNDP).

Therefore, it safe to conclude that the prescriptions of the IMF, World Bank, and WTO for the ailing economies of the Third World have not gone far well and the people are protesting everywhere. These protests are led by labour union leaders, leading intellectuals, social activists etc.



Tip

Openness to globalization will, on its own, deliver economic growth is a myth: Integrating with the global economy is, as economists like to say, a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for economic growth. For globalization to be able to work, a country cannot be saddled with problems endemic to many developing countries, from a corrupt political class, to poor infrastructure, and macroeconomic instability.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, we discussed globalization and its implications on developing countries.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 13.1 (tests Learning Outcome 13.1)

Can you differentiate between internationalization and globalization.

SAQ 13.2 (tests Learning Outcome 13.2)

Discuss the main features of globalization.

Bibliography



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<http://www.globalization101.org/what-is-globalization/>
retrieved Jan 2016.

Joseph Stiglitz (2003), *Globalization and Its Discontents* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company), p. 4.

Study Session 14

Terrorism and Global Security

Introduction

In this study session, you will examine terrorism and its implications on global security of lives and property.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 14.1 *describe* an act of terrorism.
- 14.2 *identify* the known terrorists group in the world.
- 14.3 *discuss* consequence of terrorism for global peace and security.

Terminology

Terrorism	The use of violence or threat to violence or coercion for a political or ideological goal.
Security	The state of being free from danger or fear.

14.1 Definitions of Terrorists and Terrorism

Terrorists are people who are prepared to risk their own lives to make a political point, whether it is to attack a hated target or an individual, or to destroy whole communities.

Terrorism is considered as the acts of killing and destroying others without any just cause in order to make a political point. Terrorism has caused immense sufferings, and terrorist outfits exist in many parts of the world to avenge the wrongs perpetrated by some states.

14.2 Terrorists Group in the World

Some of the known terrorists groups in the world have been demanding separate state, like the Basque in Spain, the Irish

Republican Army in Northern Ireland, the Intifada in West Asia, Kashmir in India, the LTTE in Sri Lanka, Hamas in Jordan, the Abu Sayaf in the Philippines, Al Qaeda (hiding in Pakistan and Afghanistan) and recently the Boko Haram sects in Nigeria. They indulge in kidnapping, torture and killings, of their supposed enemies. Many innocent people have been their victims.



Reflection

Is religion is an important cause of terrorism?

-False. Most terrorists “espouse religious zealotry (although many do not actually practice it), but it is their anger and desperation, derived from their circumstances, that drives them to religion and so to the militant groups, not the other way around.

14.3 Terrorism, Global Peace and Security



World Trade Center Hit by Osama Bin Laden Al Qaeda Network

On September 11, 2001, the terrorists belonging to an Islamic group called al-Qaeda hijacked airlines filled with fuel and used them as bombs to attack the World Trade center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. This attack unleashed a ‘war against terror’ by the U.S. Thus, President George W. Bush of the United States did not lose much time in declaring America’s war on terrorism. He appealed to all

countries of the world to join this relentless battle to eradicate this evil from the face of the earth, no matter how much time it takes, or sacrifices to be made.

Initially, Taliban's Afghanistan which gave shelter to Osama Bin Laden-the leader of Al-Qaeda and his followers faced the U.S airstrikes. Mullah Omar and Osama Bin Laden fled, leaving Afghanistan to be occupied by coalition forces. The U.S and her allies set up an interim government, led by Hamid Karzai. The Pakistani Government, which had been a staunch supporter of Taliban Government in Afghanistan, was forced to co-operate with the U.S forces-amidst protests from the members of the extremist Islamic organizations. It is important to note that, before this period, India has always accused Pakistan of sponsoring cross-border terrorism, and the U.S is quite aware of it. In fact, the U.S government became worried about some Pakistani scientists having colluded with the Al-Qaeda in attempting to make atom bomb.

Osama Bin Laden ran away to an unknown destination for a very long time, and President George W. Bush continued searching for him and members of his endlessly till the end of his tenure. Meanwhile, President Barack Obama who succeeded president Bush of America had already promised the electorates his electioneering campaign that Osama Bin Laden would be caught either dead or alive. Although, the search for Osama lasted years, but President Obama who was undeterred deployed and mobilized all resources at this disposal to fights terrorism and to search for Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda team. In 2007, the combine team of U.S CIA agents, Terrorism and Counter Terrorism group discovered Al-Kuwaiti- a courier of Osama Bin Laden, who was put on surveillance for months only to discover through him that Osama Bin Laden had been residing in Parkistan over the years. Without wasting time, Obama made available for U.S intelligence, U.S security and Soldiers the necessary support which culminated in the killings of Osama Bin Laden in a 45 minutes 'shoot to kill operation'. Thus, this marked the end of the endless search for Osama Bin Laden –leader of Al-Qaeda network since 2001.

Study Session Summary



In this Study Session, you learnt that terrorists are people who are prepared to risk their own lives to make a political point, whether it is to attack a hated target or an individual, or to destroy whole communities. Terrorists' mode of operations

Summary

was to kidnap, kill, maim and torture their supposed enemies.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 14.1 (tests learning outcome 14.1)

Who is a terrorist?

SAQ 14.2 (tests learning outcome 14.2)

Highlight the terrorists group that you know around the world

SAQ 14.3 (tests learning outcome 14.3)

In which country was Osama Bin Laden killed?

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Study Session 15

Information Technology and The Global Village

Introduction

We will be capping this course with a session on the growth of information technology and its' making of the world a global village. Also, you will examine the benefits and shortcomings of this aspect of breakthrough in science and technology.

Learning Outcomes



Outcomes

When you have studied this session, you should be able to:

- 15.1 *define* and *use correctly* the term: information technology.
- 15.2 *point out* the benefits of information technology.
- 15.3 *highlight* the shortcomings of information technology.

Terminology

Information technology	The use of computers and telecommunications to store, retrieve and transmit information.
Global village	The world considered as a single community linked by telecommunications.

15.1 Overview of Information Technology

After the **industrial revolutions**, there had been series of inventions and scientific breakthrough. One of such remarkable feat is the emergence of **information technology**. In fact, information technology has been described as the second industrial revolution of the twentieth century. It is rated as the best and fastest-growing industry in the world. Acquisition and dissemination of knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the different fields, like business, education and

production has brought about cascading effects.

15.2 Benefits of Information Technology to Mankind

Information Technology has impacted greatly on mankind. It has been said that this is the age of information, and since information acts as an important instrument of knowledge, the use of IT as popularly referred to, have enabled many countries around the world to boost and attain overall growth in education, economy, health, sports etc. Three countries are known to be key players of this IT industry. They are India, Germany and America. Indian for instance has been a front-ranking leader of this industry, reaping and making millions of Dollars in knowledge transfer, expertise and consulting. In fact, the software professionals of India have made a mark by technical skill and zeal all over the world. Knowledge in the IT as a resource and utility “is now fast becoming the one factor production, threatening both capita and labour”

15.2.1 Information Technology and Telecommunication

It has been established that along with information technology, the telecommunication technology has made rapid advances. This has manifested in the way and manner giant telecommunication companies, transnational and multinational corporations have taken the advantage of satellite communication to increase their business tremendously.

15.2.2 Integration of Information Technology to other Devices

The use of internet, computer, cameras, camcorder, electronic gadgets and other luxury items are made accessible to by information technology devices such internet. In fact, the quality of life of many middle-class people across the globe has greatly improved. Modern offices have made their work and business transactions easier through the use of computers, fax machines, telephones, intercom, cine-projectors etc. Besides, super-computers and artificial intelligence have added a new dimension to our ways of acquiring information and intelligence. In fact, new technology has enabled the U.S and its allies to defeat the enemies without difficulty, and the recent wars in the Gulf and in Afghanistan provide classic examples. The U.S used satellites surveillance system to trace the desired targets for bombing. It is indeed, safe to conclude that information technology was the second industrial revolution.



Home screen of a social media application, facebook, which hosts over 1 billion active people across the globe with real time technology. You are likely to be a user, are you?

15.3 Shortcomings of Information Technology

Information technology and electronic device knowledge is been used by some experts to perpetrate some antithetical practices across the globe. Some of these practices are cybercrime, bank fraud and theft, fake dating, pornography, networking of terrorists group, examination malpractices, internet hacking etc. As a result the United Nations resolved that all countries should make provision for cyber-laws in their constitutions in order to provide for regulations. In fact, Indian parliament, as one the leading countries in information technology has passed what is known as cyber-laws.

Study Session Summary



Summary

In this Study Session, you saw the great impact of information technology on business. You also examined its shortcomings.

Assessment



Assessment

SAQ 15.1 (tests Learning Outcome 15.1)

What would you regard as the symbol of the second industrial revolution of the twentieth century?

SAQ 15.2 (tests Learning Outcome 15.2)

Mention three leading countries in the IT world.

SAQ 15.3 (tests Learning Outcome 15.3)

Highlight the various shortcomings associated with the use of information Technology.

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Notes on Self Assessment Questions

- SAQ 1.1:** The consequence of the defeat of France by Prussia was that the two territories of Alsace and Lorraine that belonged to France were taken over by Prussia.
- SAQ 1.2:** The Europeans engaged in naval race, economic competitions and the race for colonies in Africa to boost their various national prestige during the period of our study.
- SAQ 1.3:** The two prominent alliances were the Tripple Alliance of Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy on one hand and the Tripple Entente of France, Britain and Russia on the other hand.
- SAQ 1.4:** Three aspects dominated what is popularly called the “Eastern Question” namely the decline of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of Christian nations in the Balkans against Turkish masters, and the Balkan crisis.
- SAQ 1.5:** Archduke Ferdinand was the heir to the throne of Austria, who was assassinated at Sarajevo in 1914. His death culminated in the final outbreak of the First World War.
- SAQ 2.1:** It was relevant because the Germans had earlier signed the armistice on the understanding that fourteen points enunciated by Woodrow Wilson in January 1918 would be basis for peace settlement.
- SAQ 2.2:** The war guilt made Germany an aggressor because the representatives of German at the peace conference were not allowed to defend Germany, and the decisions of the peace meeting dictated unfavourable judgment against Germany. Thus, Germany was deprived politically, economically, militarily and made to pay heavy reparations to the victorious Allies.
- SAQ 2.3:** It was anchored on “secrecy over delicate matter” approach.
- SAQ 3.1:** The nobles collaborated with the successive monarchs to put the Serfs in perpetual servitude by manipulating the edict of

emancipation of 1861 in such a way that the edict brought discontentment to the Serfs rather than liberation.

SAQ 3.2: A. The First World War ruined Russia economically and politically. Russian Serfs were the most affected because they were sent to the battle without adequate arms, and died in their millions. Thus, the casualties suffered generated reactions against the government. Russia participation in the war degenerated into unemployment, inflation and famine

The poor standard of living degenerated into riots and mutinies against the Government which culminated in the revolution of March 1917, and Nicholas II was forced to abdicate the throne.

B. The defeats of Russia in Crimean war (1854-56), Russo-Japanese war (1904-05) and the outbreak of the First World War battered the image of the Russian Government both at home and abroad. Thus, the government became unpopular at home such that it began to experience opposition, which culminated into revolution in 1917.

SAQ 4.1: The League of Nation was a child of necessity proposed at the peace conference of Versailles and set up in 1918 to prevent war and guarantee world peace.

SAQ 4.2: USA Congress refused to approve the request of President Woodrow Wilson for US to join the League in spite of the fact that he was the brain behind the setting up of the League.

SAQ 4.3: The League succeeded in preventing global war for twenty years

The League settled many boundary disputes as well as supervised the administration of the colonies coming under the mandate system.

SAQ 4.4:

1. The League failed to secure the cooperation of the big powers
2. The League did not have a standing army of her own, which limited her power over erring member nations
3. The failed in bringing about the disarmament as stipulated in his objectives
4. The League was not well financed because the big powers that should give her the necessary financial support either did not join or joined late.

SAQ 5.1: The Great Depression of the 1930s was caused by:

1. Overdependence of other countries on the financial strength of the USA, particularly in the payment of loans
2. Depressed Agriculture, overproduction, under consumption and falling prices of goods and services in the USA.
3. Speculations and final crash in the stock market of the USA at the Wall Street

SAQ 5.2: The two major impacts of the Great Depression were:

1. Collapse in investment, industries and businesses around the world
2. Soaring unemployment and poor standard of living

SAQ 5.3: Franklin Delano Roosevelt responded to the Depression by designing lofty programmes in his New Deal as follows:

1. Legislation designed to prevent the collapse of the Banking system
2. Designed programmes to provide jobs and farm subsidies
3. Guaranteed minimum wages to workers
4. Provided social security for the aged
5. Facilitated the right of workers to bargain collectively
6. Embarked on large scale public investment

SAQ 6.1: The factors that enhanced the victory of Musolini in the 1921 election are:

1. The nature of Italian society after the First World War, which was characterized by poverty, unemployment, disease and inflation.
2. The poor standard of living degenerated into riots, strikes and revolts such that Italy society required a fearless determined leader to salvage the country. This leadership was found in Benito Mussolini.

SAQ 6.2: Mussolini gained the support of the people by signing the Lateran treaty with the Pope. This made the Pope to be recognized as the ruler of the Vatican city, knowing full well that majority of the were staunch Catholics.

SAQ 6.3: Germans society before the emergence of Adolf Hitler was characterized by military defeat, humiliated by the loss of empire and European territory, and in many cases, impoverished by hyperinflation.

SAQ 6.4:

1. Stalin executed virtually all the old political leaders and a high proportion of military officers in Russia in order not to tolerate oppositions.
2. He operated a labour camp where millions suffered and died.

SAQ 7.1: The factors responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War are:

- a. Unfavourable terms of the Versailles Peace treaty on Germany and Italy
- b. Failure of the League of Nations to settle disputes and enforce sanctions on erring members
- c. Japanese attack on Manchuria, Italy annexation of Abyssinia and Germany occupation of Danzig
- d. The great Depression of the 1930s
- e. The rise of dictators in Europe during the period of study

SAQ 7.2: Japan attack on Pearl Harbour where USA Pacific fleet had its base.

SAQ 7.3: The refusal of Japan to surrender after her defeat by the American forces in February 1945.

SAQ 8.1: Three elder statesmen namely Franklin Roosevelt (USA), Winston Churchill (Britain) and Joseph Stalin (Russia).

SAQ 8.2: The principal organs of the UN are: General Assembly, the Security Council, the Trusteeship council, the Economic council, the International court of justice and the Secretariat.

SAQ 8.3: Yes, the UN has to a great extent settle disputes that would have degenerated into war. It has prevented the outbreak of global war since its establishment, and it has contributed through its various specialized agencies and funds to economic, social and general standard of living of the global citizens.

SAQ 8.4: The overbearing influence of the United States of America on UN activities.

SAQ 9.1: The term cold war can be described as an ideological and arm race that started after the Second World War in 1945 until the late 1980s between groups of communist and non-communist nations.

SAQ 9.2: It was indeed the year that the Allies formed NATO to prevent Soviet expansion, also USSR set up Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON). It was also significant for

Russia because the Chinese communists gained control over the mainland China backed by the U.S.

SAQ 9.3: The unification of both Eastern Germany and Western Germany in 1990.

SAQ 10.1: It demeaned the prestige of the Europeans as well as exposed their weaknesses to their subject such that the Africans felt that given equal opportunities the Europeans were not better than they thought.

SAQ 10.2:

- a) Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), Nnamdi Azikwe(Nigeria), Jomo Kenyatta(Kenya) and Kenneth Kaunda(Zambia)
- b) Algeria and South Africa

SAQ 11.1: The Berlin Wall was built in 1961.

SAQ 11.2: The Soviet Union incurred the wrath of the USA, which placed trade embargo on the country as well as threatened her with war and the use of nuclear weapon against her.

SAQ 11.3: Freedom of speech and media, as well as economic liberalism was considered the major shortcomings. This is because the freedom of media empowered the journalists to expose the misdeeds of the government as well as mobilized opinion against the government, while the economic liberalism was against the communist ideologies.

SAQ 12.1 Mao Dze-Dong impacted greatly on China, and had to his credits numerous achievements. He touched the citizens in all aspects of life i.e. education, food production, manufacturing, health and defence.

SAQ 12.2 The four cardinal points of Deng Xiaopings reforms are modernization of agriculture, industry, science and technology and defense.

SAQ 12.3 China's at the early era of the Cold war isolated herself from other countries of the world, and by the time it started relating with countries, her foreign relations was centred on promoting Communism until after her victory in 1975 and in the 1990s that China started relating very well with the western world.

SAQ 13.1: The difference between the two is that while globalization focuses on the economic capitalism and world market power, internationalization is best exemplified in the founding and operation of the League of Nations, the United Nations Organization and other regional political organizations, like the African Union, that seeks to create one world or continent

based on strong and effective national, sovereign, individual state governments.

- SAQ 13.2:** The main features of globalization are: promoting free market, privatization, deregulation of economies, global institutions, budgetary austerity and currency devaluation.
- SAQ 14.1:** A terrorist is one who is prepared to risk his own live to make a political point, whether it is to attack a hated target or individual, or to destroy whole communities
- SAQ 14.2:** The known terrorists groups are LTTE in Sri-Lanka, Hamas in Jordan, the Abu Sayaf in Philippines, Al-Qaeda networks, and Boko Haram in Nigeria.
- SAQ 14.3:** Osama Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan in an operation shoot to kill following the discoveries of his hideout through his courier-Al Kuwaiti.
- SAQ 15.1:** Information Technology
- SAQ 15.2:** The three leading IT countries are: India, Germany and the United States of America.
- SAQ 15.3:** The shortcomings associated with the use of information technology are: cybercrime, bank fraud and theft, fake dating, pornography, networking of terrorists group, examination malpractices, internet hacking etc.

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