

**World History Class 11**  
**29th March, 2024 at 1:00 PM**

**INTER- WAR YEARS (CONTINUES) (01:13 PM)**

- **Locarno Treaty**
- Germany agreed to the borders of Belgium and France and Britain guaranteed Belgian borders.
- Germany agreed to keep the Rhineland demilitarised.
- Germany did not agree to the borders of Czechoslovakia and Poland. However, it promised arbitration rather than war to resolve these border disputes.
- France guaranteed the borders of Czechoslovakia and Poland however Britain did not as Britain viewed the Treaty of Versailles (TOV) as harsh and did not want to promise military support in advance.
- Italy was unhappy as the borders of Austria were not guaranteed.
- **Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928/ Paris Peace Pact**
- This pact was led by the US and France.
- Signatory nations rejected war as a tool of foreign policy therefore war now became illegal.
- Most nations signed the pact therefore contributing to an atmosphere of peace.
- However, it was a paper tiger due to the absence of punitive clauses against aggressor nations.
- E.g. Japan broke the pact in 1921, 1933, and 1937 by attacking China and the world did nothing.
- Post WW2, Japanese and German authorities were held accountable on the basis of this pact.
- **Young Plan 1929**
- WR was reduced from 6600 million Pounds to 2000 million pounds and WR was to be paid in 59 years.

## **GREAT DEPRESSION (GD) 1929 (01:35 PM)**

- **Reasons**
- **Wall Street crashed** due to speculation, lack of a regulator and high exposure of the common man to stock markets (Bubble burst)
- **Impact**- The depression in the US because all savings of common were wiped out. It led to a crash in demand that led to a crash in supply leading to unemployment and a decrease in wages that further led to a decline in demand therefore creating a vicious cycle.
- **Why US crisis converted into the world's crisis?**
- It was because the US economy was interlinked with the world economy.
- European exports to the US declined as there was no demand in the US.
- Japan's exports to the US also declined.
- Therefore, Europe and Japan's economies came under stress.
- Due to the depression in the US, US investments in Europe declined.
- A web of loans was created by the US between the US, Germany, and France. Now the US stopped giving loans to Germany and demanded back loans given by the US therefore a crisis occurred in Germany whose economy crashed.
- French economy dependent on WR from Germany also crashed.
- With 2 major European economies under stress, other European economies were also adversely affected.
- Overall the great depression led to a crash in world exports, a crash in investments, bank failure, unemployment etc.

### **NEW DEAL (02:16 PM)**

- By **Franklin D Roosevelt.**
- The goal was to create demand in the economy.
- It was a new idea as the natural response was fiscal consolidation i.e. reduced expenditure.
- The idea of Fiscal stimulus was implemented i.e. the government will create demand and put money in the pockets of companies and people.
- Unemployment allowance was given and the public works program started.
- Steps were taken to build public confidence.
- Insurance for bank deposits
- Security Exchange Commission was set up to regulate stock markets.
- Only healthy banks were allowed to open
- Big projects were started by govt to boost demand and finally, WW2 ended the depression as it created huge demand for different sectors of the economy.
- **Impact on India during 1929**
- Prices of cash crops crashed and prices of food grains declined hurting farm incomes but LR remained high increasing the indebtedness of ryots and therefore loss of land to moneylenders
- Unemployment and lower wages for the working class
- Therefore the masses were angry leading to the launch of CDM by Gandhiji in 1930
- GD 1929 contributed to the **rise of communism** because it was proof of the failure of Capitalism and the masses came under huge stress.
- There was further **rise of Fascism**. E.g. Nazism in Germany where Hitler came to power in 1933 and right wing military came to power in Japan in 1931.

- **Fascist leader Franco won the Spanish Civil War** (1936-39) after defeating communists
- It was because these leaders projected themselves as the saviour of Capitalism from the rising threat of communism post-GD 1929
- GD 1929 led to a policy of appeasement i.e. tolerating or promoting illegitimate behaviour of aggressors.
- From 1933- 39 the world did nothing when Hitler broke TOV because the USA, Britain France etc did not want war expenditure as the economy had weakened post-GD 1929 therefore Fascists were emboldened i.e. the belief that the world would not ever act terefore they became more and more aggressive. When the threshold was hit WW2 began.
- The rise of Fascism resulted in the decline of rivalry between the communist USSR and the capitalist West.
- **US, USSR, France and Britain-** Allied powers in WW2 where they defeated fascism but after that resumed their rivalry 1945- 91
- GD 1929 did not impact the USSR economy as it was not interlinked with the economy of the capitalist world because it was isolated since 1920 due to sanctions.
- From 1929, the USSR did rapid IR under Stalin and got industrialised by WW2

## **WORLD WAR 2 (WW2) (02:51 PM)**

- **Reasons**
- Harsh and unjust Treaty of Versailles
- GD 1929 contributed to the rise of communism which led to fascists projecting themselves as the saviour of capitalism
- In Germany, GD 1929 led to an economic crisis therefore, the popularity of the Weimar Republic came down and Hitler's popularity increased. He promised to restore German pride by breaking TOV
- Therefore, Nationalism, Anti-communism and failure to resolve GD 1929 by the Weimar Republic led to the rise of Hitler.
- Policy of appeasement- Increased popularity of fascists among people
- Failure of **League of Nations(LON)** or weak LON- LON did not have its own army and therefore was dependent on members and the principle of Collective security was weakened when in 1923 military contribution was made voluntary.
- Hitler was determined to break TOV and bring German-populated areas into Germany i.e. create a third Reich or third empire of Germany.
- **Lebensraum/** living space- An allegedly long-term goal of Hitler was to capture all areas up to the Ural mountains and if this was the goal then WW2 was inevitable.
- **Role of USSR-** It signed a non-aggression pact in 1939 with Germany therefore ending the possibility of two fronts against Germany. This boosted the chances of Hitler waging war.
- USSR wanted to buy time to prepare for future German attacks. Thus, shifted factories to the east of the Ural mountains for uninterrupted supply in case of a German attack.

## LOSS OF AXIS POWERS IN WW2 (03:33 PM)

- Until 1942, Germany was very successful. It defeated France as France was unprepared and there was a lack of military alliance between France and the USSR
- France followed a defensive policy. E.g. Did not attack Germany during 6 month Phony war
- This gave Germany time for military mobilisation
- German Blitzkrieg- simultaneous, rapid and massive attack by air and ground against the enemy to create shock and awe resulting in a quick victory, therefore, the Airforce played a crucial role.
- After 1942, Britain and the USA made effective use of the Air Force while France neglected the Air Force.
- **Resource imbalance-** The US was the largest economy, Britain had the largest colonial empire and the USSR had huge resources and had industrialised from 1929 to 1942 and had the largest army. Therefore, the longer the war, the lesser the chances of Axis victory.
- **Germany** could not achieve victories in the later phase. It lost the battle of Stalingrad against the USSR because Germans were unprepared for October rains and harsh winters.
- It also failed to defeat Britain in the battle of Britain where Germans lost more aircraft than Britain.
- The US focused more on the production of Aircraft carriers therefore defeating Japan and recapturing Pacific islands.
- **Italy proved to be a weak military ally** and Germans had to rescue Italian forces. Therefore, diverting resources away from the USSR front.
- By 1943, Britain defeated Italy.
- **Two big mistakes** were made by the Axis powers-
  - Attacking the USSR in June 1941
  - Attacking the US in Dec 1941

### **IMPACT OF WW2 (04:04 PM)**

- More than 40 million people died of which half were Russians.
- Holocaust against Jews.
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan where Nuclear bombs were dropped by the US in 1945 to force Japan to surrender.
- Italy lost all its colonies.
- Japan lost all territories captured in the last 90 years.
- USSR took over a huge territory in Eastern Europe. E.g. It took back the baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and converted eastern Europe into its sphere of influence.
- Germany and Austria were converted along with Berlin and Vienna into 4 occupation zones Britain, France, the US and the USSR.
- Europe was weakened and lost its superpower status and combined with the pressure of the US, the USSR and the UN, began the process of decolonisation.
- The rise of two superpowers with two opposite ideologies and state systems i.e. the US and the USSR who now fought the Cold War (1945- 1991)

### **TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS- FASCISM**