

World History Class 09
24th March, 2024 at 1:00 PM

IMPACT OF COLONIALISM ON AFRICA (CONTINUES) (01:06 PM)

- **Arbitrary borders**
- Borders of African colonies were decided by table mapping based on the power structure of European powers.
- There was no concern for economic and administrative viability, geographical continuity and cultural homogeneity.
- Therefore, this created trouble in polity and economy- pre and post-independence as very different tribes now lived as part of one country which led to tribal rivalries.
- Colonial powers easily engaged in 'divide and rule' by arming one tribe against another. E.g. Minority Tutsis vs Majority Hutus in Rwanda. Post-independence there were coups and counter coups. This created political instability. In Rwanda in 1994, in one week in April, 5 Lakh Tutsis were killed by Hutus. Therefore, a geographic nation was not a cultural nation.
- There was a lack of economic diversity and development and many countries became dependent on the export of single items. Price crashes in the international market led to economic crashes in African countries.
- When lakhs resisted they were repressed and even mass killings occurred. E.g. In King Leopold II govt in Congo, One Crore people were killed.
- There was also rampant child labour and the hands of children were cut if parents opposed.
- After independence, underdevelopment and political instability led to Neo-Colonialism. The IMF and World Bank gave loans but linked them with conditionalities like opening up the economy to foreign businesses and not allowing expenditure on social welfare i.e. health and education etc
- They therefore could not follow independent policies despite being politically independent.
- Therefore, colonialism continued in a new form.

WORLD WAR 1 (1914-18)

CONTEXT OF WW1 (01:36 PM)

- Aggressors were not democracies. Absolute monarchies of Europe increased the chances of conflict due to the desire for empire-building. E.g. Germany had a constitution but all powers were concentrated in Kaiser and his chancellor with a weak parliament.
- Britain was the top power with the strongest navy and largest colonial empire aided by IR (1750-1850)
- Germany expanded rapidly to become the second power in Europe post-1870. It was the second naval power with an economy far ahead compared to the rest of Europe.
- Outside Europe, the US was the no. 1 world economy by 1940 but followed the policy of isolation since 1823.
- Japan was the only Asian power to have undergone IR. The US, Britain, and France were democracies while Germany, the Ottoman Empire, Italy, and Austria-Hungary were absolute or semi-absolute monarchies.
- Colonial Rivalries-
- Post-1870 Industrial Revolution began in the rest of Europe (outside Britain), therefore, there was the desire of colonies to get an assured supply of cheap raw materials and export market for factories of industrialized powers.
- The rest of Europe felt left behind by Britain and there was a race for colonies that increased tensions in Europe.
- Therefore, industrial capitalism contributed to WW1.
- Nationalism rose in Europe since the French Revolution in 1789 and people wanted their nation to be a great nation politically and economically, thus there was public support and even pressure on the governments for empire-building and for building superior economies by having colonies.

- **Geopolitical conflicts**
- **1. Britain vs Germany:**
- German naval power was rapidly expanding which made Britain anxious for its colonial empire. Therefore, there was a naval rivalry between Britain and Germany
- **2. France vs Germany:**
- Alsace-Lorraine (coal-rich) was lost by France in the 1870 Franco-Prussian War.
- Also, Germany wanted the second-largest colonial empire in line with its power status in Europe which led to conflict with France which had the second-largest empire. This rivalry manifested in Morocco.
- For example, the Madrid Conference of 1880, the Moroccan Crisis of 1906, and the Agadir Crisis of 1911.
- In conferences to colonial disputes, Germany was isolated which increased tensions between Germany vs France and Britain.
- Germany felt encircled by Britain, France, and Russia.
- Russia and France had a defensive military pact against Germany since 1894.
- Entente Cordiale of 1904 between Britain and France got converted into Triple Entente after the Britain-Russia agreement of 1907 that settled colonial rivalries of Britain-France and Britain-Russia respectively
- Therefore, Germany developed a belief that its ambitions could be achieved only by war victories.

- **Austria-Hungary vs Serbia**

- Serbia wanted a Yugoslavia that was one country for the Slavs of the Balkan peninsula.
- Austria-Hungary was a multiethnic empire with Slavs, Czechs, Slovaks, Germans, Poles, etc., therefore, Yugoslavia would have meant the loss of territory for the Habsburg Empire.
- It could have led to balkanization i.e. territorial disintegration as other ethnicities would have also demanded their own countries.
- Thus, Serbian nationalism led to tensions

- **Russia:**

- Straits of Dardanelles provided an exit to Russian trade from the Black Sea into the Mediterranean Sea.
- Therefore, freedom of navigation through the strait was an important national interest for Russia.
- The strait had rival Ottoman Empire on the east and the Balkan peninsula on the west.
- Therefore, Russia wanted a strong ally in the Balkans.
- Russia, thus supported Serbia and the Romanov dynasty of Russia was a Slav dynasty.

- **Alliance system in Europe:**

- Triple Entente of 1907 between Britain, France, and Russia.
- Triple Alliance (1882)= German, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- European powers had divided themselves into alliances which increased the chances of bilateral war getting converted into a world war.
- Therefore, alliance systems made world war more likely.

THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (02:33 PM)

- Moroccan Crisis, 1906
- Bosnian Crisis, 1908
- British-Russia Agreement, 1907
- Agadir Crisis, 1911
- First Balkan War, 1912
- Second Balkan War, 1913
- Assassination of Archduke, 1914
- **Bosnian Crisis, 1908**
- Bosnia was under the influence of the Habsburg Empire, but legally part of the Ottoman Empire and was populated by Slavs therefore desired by Serbia for Yugoslavia.
- In 1908, Habsburg annexed Bosnia from a weak Ottoman Empire (the Ottoman was a multiethnic empire and had a weak central government, weak military, and non-industrialized economy).
- In 1911, Italy annexed Libya from the Ottoman.
- In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Ottoman lost territory to Russia and there was the emergence of small independent Balkan powers.
- In the 1853-56 Crimean War, where Russia tried to take over the remaining territory of the Ottoman in Europe.
- Therefore, the Ottoman Empire was called the "Old Man of Europe".
- This created tensions with Serbia who approached Russia for help.
- Russia called a conference, but Britain and France did not attend, because they believed Germany would go to war if the issue escalated.
- Russia felt humiliated and now began militarization so it could help Serbia and protect its national interest in the Balkans in the future.
- This militarization created tension and made war more likely.

- **Agadir Crisis, 1911**
- Germany was isolated and thus felt humiliated, therefore, a stronger belief was that war was a must to achieve German ambitions.
- **First Balkan War, 1912**
- Montenegro, Serbia, Greece, and Bulgaria attacked the Ottoman and took over its territory in the Balkan peninsula.
- Tensions increased because, under the influence of Germany, Serbia was not given Albania and was created as an independent country.
- Therefore, Serbia remained landlocked.
- Also, Bulgaria was unhappy with territorial gains and this led to a dispute with Serbia.
- Second Balkan War, 1913
- Bulgaria attacked others and was defeated by Greece, Romania, Serbia, and Ottoman.
- Now, Germany developed a perception that Britain wouldn't participate in a future war as it didn't intervene in the Bosnian Crisis of 1908 and did not help Serbia (a friend of Russia) in the Balkan War.

- **Assassination of Archduke**
- Archduke Franz Ferdinand of the Hapsburg Empire was assassinated by a Bosnian terrorist while he was on a visit to Bosnia.
- Hapsburg blamed Serbia for the assassination and then declared war.
- However, this bilateral war was converted into World War I due to the existence of multiple conflicts in Europe and the alliance system.
- Russia declared military support to Serbia and mobilized the army.
- Germany declared military support to Hapsburg if Russia supported Serbia.
- Germany miscalculated that Russia would not support Serbia if Germany supported Hapsburg.
- Russia did not demobilize the army despite the German ultimatum.

- War began between Hapsburg and Serbia.
- Germany built an alliance with Ottoman and Bulgaria and declared war on Serbia, Russia, France, and Belgium.
- Germany miscalculated that Britain, an ally of Belgium, would not enter the war to avoid war expenditure.
- Germany wanted to end a two-front war with France and Russia in six weeks by defeating
- France attacked via Belgium under the German Schlieffen Plan.
- Britain declared war on Germany and its allies in support of Belgium.
- Japan, an ally of Britain declared war on the Central Powers (Germany and its allies) because it wanted the German Pacific Islands.
- Thus World War started.
- A miscalculation that mobilization of the army will not necessarily mean war.
- Italy joined in 1915 on the side of the Allied powers due to the promise of territory.
- The US joined in 1917 on the side of the Allied powers due to unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany in the Atlantic.
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- **Core events of World War I**

- Schlieffen Plan failed i.e. Germany could not defeat France in six weeks because of trench warfare that led to a stalemate and the War continued for years.

- Therefore, the two-front war continued for Germany and contributed to German defeat.

Life in the trenches was miserable and became a source of diseases.

- For example, some argue that Spanish flu originated here (Spain was neutral and therefore accepted the existence of the virus thus named Spanish flu. Allied and Central powers didn't admit to prevent demoralization of soldiers).
- By 1916-17, Germany was defeated by the British Navy.
- **Entry of the US (1917)**- the US gave loans and traded with both sides till 1917.
- The US entered the war due to unrestricted submarine warfare whereby German submarines attacked all surface vessels without verification of their identities.
- This led to the destruction of some US merchant vessels. It also came to know about Zimmerman's plan whereby Germans conspired to instigate a war by Mexico on the US.
- Also after February 1917, Russia was not ruled by Czar. Therefore it was easier for the US govt to justify entry into war to the US public.

- **Why Germany lost WW1:**

- **Resources**- Allied powers had huge resources.
- Britain had the largest empire and it was also the top European economy.
- The USA was the largest world economy.
- France had the second-largest empire.
- Italy was also industrialised.
- Therefore, the longer the war, the lesser the chances of German victory.

- **Weak Allies-** Ottoman, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria were not industrialised. Therefore, Germany was fighting WW1 single-handedly.
- **Miscalculations-**
- German victories depended on quick victories but Schlieffen Plan failed. Germany miscalculated that Britain wouldn't help Belgium and that it would not be a world war and would remain a bilateral war between Serbia and Habsburg.
- Germany assumed that France would militarily aid Russia resulting in the attack on France. Germany also miscalculated that unrestricted submarine warfare would lead to Naval victory over Britain before entry of the US.
- **Impact of WW1**
- Treaty of Versailles with Germany- In Nov 1918 Germany surrendered and signed Armistice in France
- Treaty of St Germain- Signed with Austria
- Treaty of Trianon- with Hungary
- Treaty of Sevres- Signed with the Ottoman Empire

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: WORLD WAR I (TO CONTINUE), INTER-WAR YEARS