

World History Class 10
28th March, 2024 at 1:00 PM

PEACE TREATIES

TREATY OF VERSAILLES (ToV) WITH GERMANY (01:15 PM)

- Representatives of Germany were not allowed to speak during negotiations. They could submit their demands only in writing. Therefore, it was called '**dictated peace**' because it was very harsh and most of the German demands were rejected.
- ToV humiliated Germany and France wanted to weaken Germany permanently. Also, the core interests of Germany were not respected, therefore, it was not a genuine peace treaty and sowed the seeds of the rise of Nazism/ Hitler and WW2.
- No Arms- Germany was allowed to keep a maximum of 1 lakh soldiers, only six battleships, no tank, submarine and no aeroplanes. Therefore, Germany lost the capacity for self-defence and for maintaining domestic law and order. This led to the rise of private armies of political parties.
- Conscription was banned and Rhineland was demilitarised to create a buffer between France and Germany. Therefore, France would get an early warning if Germany attacked. But it made Germany vulnerable to foreign invasion.
- Germany was asked to pay huge war preparation of 6600 million pounds for the destruction of civilian infrastructure. France was to be the major recipient. France wanted the German economy permanently weak.
- Germany lost all colonies to victorious powers.
- Cameroon to France, German South West Africa to South Africa within British Africa etc, German East Africa to Belgium (Rwanda, Burundi), and to Britain -Tanzania
- German Pacific Islands were taken by Japan. Some German territory in Europe was given to Denmark, Poland, Poland, and Lithuania.
- SAAR and Danzig were put under the League of Nations

- SAAR was a coal-rich region near Alsace Lorraine. Its coal was to be used by France for 15 years and then a referendum on joining Germany or France. This was the revenge of France for Germany using coal of Alsace Lorraine since the 1870 Franco-Prussian war.
- Alsace Lorraine was returned to France. Danzig had a very good port and was put under LoN so Poland had access to the sea, and the Polish corridor was created and given to Poland.
- Sudetenland of Habsburg was given to Czechoslovakia (Cz) and not to Germany for the economy of Cz.
- Union or Anschluss between Germany and Austria (which had a German majority) was barred.
- War Guilt Clause - This made Germany legally responsible for WW1 and bound Germany legally to pay war reparations. It humiliated Germans as it was held responsible for the death of Millions. While in reality, all major powers were responsible.

TREATY OF SEVRES 1920 WITH OTTOMAN (02:04 PM)

- The Strait of Dardanelles was permanently opened.
- Ottoman was reduced to a very small Turkey. Some Turk-populated areas like eastern Thrace were given to Greece.
- Arabs supported the British by starting the Civil War against the Ottoman during WW1 under British officer P. P. Lawrence. They felt cheated when they were not given independence. E.g. Syria to France and Iraq, Jordan, and Palestine to Britain as colonies/ mandates.
- **The Balfour Declaration of 1917** by Britain promised the creation of Israel. The harsh treaty contributed to the Khilafat movement in India as it was a breach of promises to Indian Muslims made to get their support in WW1.
- Italy felt cheated as it was not given the promised territory (given to Greece and Yugoslavia)
- **Treaty of St Germain and Treaty of Trianon**
- Very small Austria and Hungary were created by dismantling the second largest empire in the European mainland i.e. the Austria-Hungary empire. Small size hurt economic viability. Industrially rich Sudetenland was given to Cz.

OTHER IMPACT OF WW1 (02:26 PM)

- The attitude of people towards war changed from romanticism towards war to avoiding war.
 - New weapons- Tanks, Poison gas, barbed wires, Aeroplanes, therefore now future wars are more devastating.
 - To avoid war, world powers followed a policy of Appeasement with Fascists and Nazis which made them stronger leading to WW2.
 - The US and Japan benefited most from WW1 as they captured export markets of EU powers which now could not supply goods as infrastructure got destroyed. No battles were fought in Japan and the US and US had entered the war late and therefore had less war expenditure. Also, the US gave loans and sold arms and now had political influence in the EU due to these loans
 - The economy of Europe was devastated.
 - Imperialism continued as the war was for colonies. E.g. The GOI Act of 1919 brought no responsible govt at the centre and only partially responsible Govt/ Dyarchy in provinces.
 - League of Nations (LoN) 1920 was created as an organisation to maintain world peace
 - France, Italy, Japan and Britain were the four permanent Security Council members. It adopted the principle of collective security i.e. all powers to support victims of aggression. But later this diluted as military contributions were made voluntary not compulsory
 - German Revolution of 1918 led to the establishment of the Weimar Republic in 1919.
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- **Russia**- WW1 led to the end of the Monarchy in the February Revolution of 1917 where a provisional govt came to power.
 - Russia became communist in the October Revolution of 1917 under Lenin who then signed the Treaty of Brest Litovsk with Germany.
 - This ended a two-front war for Germany as Russia exited WW1 but Russia lost Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Ukraine, and Georgia to Germany.
 - Later Russia was not even invited to negotiations of peace treaties and was not made a member of the League of Nations as now it was a communist nation.
 - Russian Civil War- Communists vs Others. Therefore Russia suffered the most from WW1 (Ukraine and Georgia were won back by Russia during the civil war)

VERDICT ON PEACE TREATIES (03:08 PM)

- The principle of self-determination or self-government was not followed for losing powers and colonies.
- SAAR and Danzig under LoN, Sudeteland was with Czechoslovakia- many Germans lived in these regions.
- Many Turks now lived under the rule of Greece. Arabs and other colonies were not given independence.
- The principle of economic viability was followed in the case of Poland and for industrial requirements of Czechoslovakia but *Anschluss* that made economic sense was barred. Therefore this principle was not followed for losing powers.
- Universal disarmament was a mandate of LoN but it was only Germany that was selectively disarmed.
- Only losing powers lost colonies.
- The war guilt clause was unjust as it blamed only Germany- unjust war reparations of 6600 million pounds
- Russia did not get back Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Finland were made independent countries
- LoN 1920 was not truly representative of the world as Germany and Russia were not members. Therefore LoN was seen as an allied organisation which hurt its ability to resolve disputes diplomatically as it was not trusted by others

INTER-WAR YEARS (03:20 PM)

- **1919-24**
- **Italy**
- After WW1, there was high unemployment and inflation and the economy of Italy was under the burden of US rules.
- In 1919, Italy adopted a system of proportional representation- more democratic but led to unstable coalition governments.
- There was a rise of communist violence in Italy inspired by the communist revolution in Russia and due to the poor economy.

- **March on Rome** 1922- Here Mussolini captured power by projecting himself as a saviour of capitalism therefore getting the support of the propertied class (* communism desires end of private property). Therefore there was the rise of Fascism in Italy.
- Mussolini followed an aggressive foreign policy. E.g. In the 1923 Korfu incident where an Italian member of the boundary commission of the League of Nations (LON) working on the Albania-Greece dispute was killed.
- Italy began bombing Greece and also demanded compensation
- LON decided in favour of Greece but Britain and France, to avoid war, forced Greece to pay compensation and in 1924, Italy threatened war and forced Yugoslavia to give up control of Fiume which was under the joint administration of Italy and Yugoslavia.
- **Turkish Nationalism-** Turks were unhappy with the Treaty of Sevres.
- Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, a military officer led Turks into war against Greece and forced Greece to exit Turk-populated areas.
- The US had gained a lot from WW1. It got export markets in Europe but still, it rejected requests to forego loan repayment. This created pressure, especially for France.

- 1923- **French occupation of Ruhr**
- France was dependent on war reparations (WR) from Germany for rebuilding its economy and repaying US loans.
- Germany defaulted on instalments of WR in 1923 as its economy was very weak after the war and also suffered the loss of territories/ colonies.
- France was also under US pressure and the US did not recognise the dependency of France on WR for repaying loans.
- In 1923, France, and Belgium entered the demilitarised Rhineland and occupied the Ruhr industrial region.
- German workers responded with passive resistance when French forces seized goods worth millions of pounds and tried to force German workers to continue production so France and Belgium could extract WR in kind if not in cash.
- **Impact-**
- German economy crashed as Ruhr was an important supply region and there was now hyperinflation and a run on the banks that led to the failure of banks.
- Germans felt humiliated.
- **Hitler** tried to use this as an opportunity to capture power by imitating the March on Rome in his Munich Beer Hall Putsch (1923) but he failed as Bavarian police stayed loyal to the government.
- Now the US realised French dependence on WR from Germany. US economy by this time was interlinked with the European economy via trade and investment and therefore the crisis in Europe had negatives for the US economy.
- Therefore, the US partially gave up its policy of isolation by political and economic intervention to resolve this crisis.

- **Dawes Plan 1924**
- It facilitated loans to Germany.
- Germany is to pay whatever it can annually to France as WR.
- In the long term, Germany would also repay US loans.
- US exports to France and Germany would rise as their buying would increase. France and Belgium were to withdraw from Ruhr.
- Therefore, the German economy became dependent on US loans and the US created a web of loans.

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS-INTER-WAR YEARS (TO CONTINUE)