

20/01/21

# First World War

## ⇒ Causes of First World War

- General cause: The 19<sup>th</sup> century was comparatively an era of peace since 1815 (Vienna Congress) upto 1914 ~~there~~ had not been a general widespread war <sup>there</sup> in Europe. but certain fundamental causes had ~~the~~ origin in 19<sup>th</sup> century which led to First World War.
- The basic causes were:-
  - A) The system of alliances
  - B) Militarism and armament race
  - C) Force of Nationalism
  - D) Imperialism and Economic rivalries

### ⇒ System of alliances

- After unification of Germany in 1871 Bismarck in fear of war started making alliances like League of three emperors (Germany, Russia, Austria) or League of alliance, or dual alliances etc.
- The system of rival alliances mark the liquidation of 19<sup>th</sup> century relationship, ~~abandonment~~ of traditional relation and creation of suspicion.

### ⇒ Militarism and armament race

- The armament race was the outcome of mutual distrust and suspicion the European state started competing with one-another in building ~~there~~ armies and navys. Big Armies and big military budget became common in Europe even the political leaders who promise to make strong armies became popular in their country. Germany wanted to build a large Navy, this compelled Britain to spend large amount in maintaining her Naval supremacy, this turned into a direct verbal conflict when the King of Germany (Kaiser William) declared "We Germans fear god and nothing else in the world, our future ~~ties~~ upon the water and Ocean is indispensable for Germanies greatness"

- The armament race continued at full speed Austria, Russia, France increased their Army strength from 30% to 50%. even small nation made preparation believing a European war was im-pending.
- Thus the nation of Europe were divided into two rival camps ready to face each other with full strength and preparedness.

### → The Force of Nationalism

- While the spirit of nationalism rightfully created a number of new states including Italy and Germany in 19<sup>th</sup> century, its effect in the case of some state was divisive. The divisive effect of nationalistic spirit was clearly evident in the areas of Balkan. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century nationalism had disintegrated the Ottoman empire. At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century there was also a threat of disintegration of Austria. (Serbian issue).

### → Imperialism and Economic rivalries

- The most important source of international conflict was imperialism and economic rivalries among European nations. The alliances of European states since 1871 had been largely based on their imperialistic policies and national ambitions for example in 1904 there was a friendly treaty between France and Britain who were traditional enemy for centuries when the issue of colonial claims in Africa was to be decided.
- In the field of colonial activities rivalry between Britain and Germany were equally bitter. As German industry and commerce expanded Germany felt need for colonies, made an earnest search for colonies but found that most of the desirable portion of the earth had been already colonised. Germany declared that other nations were trying to keep her away from achieving a rightfull place under the sun. Germany even threatened to use force to achieve her goals.

2.

⇒① First Moroccan Crisis (1905)

⇒② Bosnian Crisis (1908)

⇒③ Second Moroccan Crisis (1908)

⇒④ Third Moroccan Crisis (1911)

⇒⑤ Balkan Wars (1912-13)

⇒⑥ Murder of Archduke Ferdinand

- The system of alliances, Armament Race, etc were the deeper causes of the 1st World War but these causes lead to series of specific crises which finally brought about 1st World War.

⇒ First Moroccan Crisis (1905)

- France arrived at an understanding with Great Britain by which Britain was given a freehand in Egypt and France was given in Morocco (Gibraltar dell) while consulted Italy and Spain in this matter it ignored Germany.
- The Kaiser landed at Morocco and made a speech declaring Sultan of Morocco as an independent sovereign ~~to~~ to this crisis past without any conflict.

⇒ Bosnian Crisis (1908)

- In the treaty of Berlin (1878) had placed provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina under Austrian Administration but officially this provinces were ~~under~~ Turkish empire. In 1908 Austria annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was a serious blow to Turkish empire.
- The Kaiser was deeply ~~hurt~~ because Austria did not disclosed the plan of annexation to him in advance but still he extended support to Austria.

## ⇒ Second Moroccan Crisis (1908)

- Some German officers gave undue trouble to Frenchman and it turned into a crisis but later a compromise was made between them.

## ⇒ Third Moroccan Crisis (1911)

- In 1911 at a protest against french annexation in Morocco, Germany send a gun boat immediately to help France. Britain also send a strong Naval force there. It again threatened European war. France to diffuse attention by compensating Germany by giving some land.

## ⇒ Balkan Wars (1912-13)

- Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria were the part of the Balkan federation. In 1912 this federation fought against Turkey. Lots of territory of Turkey slipped off from his hold. Now the Kingdoms of Balkan peninsula quarrelled among themselves on the question of distribution of newly slipped off territory mostly for macedonian.
- Bulgaria declared a war in 1913 against all other Balkan states in these wars. Germany tries to ~~restrict~~ Austria and France tried to ~~restrict~~ Russia in - supporting - gaining territories.

## ⇒ Murder of Archduke Ferdinand

- By 1913 the tension in Europe reached to its culmination. On June, 28 - 1914, Archduke Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated by Serbian terrorist terrorist (Black Hand). Austrian foreign minister declared that the time had come for settling the Serbian question ~~once for all~~ once.

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## ⇒ Implication of First World War

- Political Implication
- Economic Implication
- Social Implication

### ⇒ Political Implication:

1. Decline of Empire (All Historical or traditional Empire like German Empire, Russian Monarchy, Austrian Monarchy, etc lost their Powers)
2. Creation of New states (at the end of the war independence of Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia was recognised).
3. Growth of Democratic Government (People considered this war as a result of ego and prestige issue of the big leaders so people demanded democracy in their respective country).
4. Rise of dictatorship (Nazism in Germany, Fascism in Italy, Lenin in Russia, etc were the dictators who came in power).
5. Emergence of USA on world scene (This world war destroyed all big economy of Europe and they face with difficult problem of economic reconstruction and USA emerged as centre of economic wellness and prosperity).
6. Spread of Nationalism (Many of the countries specially the colonial state were highly inspired by the 1<sup>st</sup> world war were they saw half of big empire, they realised that if they could spread blood for preserving the freedom of any other nation why not for their own country).

## ⇒ Economic Implication

- 1) The 1<sup>st</sup> World War caused economic loss, wastages, and vast destruction. By the
- 2) By the end of this war the national debt of all European countries was four times their earnings. Countries like France, Belgium, Italy, Russia, Serbia, etc. were completely ruined financially.
- 3) Government of all nations ~~has~~ <sup>have</sup> already invested all money ~~more~~ in the war so no focus on improvement of industries, trade, agricultural production, etc. So in order to meet the requirements the government of all European nations had to import essential items from abroad.
- 4) The prices of all good <sup>shoot</sup> up considerable, people had to live from hand to mouth, many countries begin to feel scarcity of needful.
- 5) Owing to heavy amount of loans the country had two issues new paper currencies, it lead to inflation of money, value of money decreased and economic policy of many countries became directionless.
- 6) To recover the government of different country increased taxes so ~~over~~ <sup>overwhelming</sup> burden on already suffering population. So wave of discontent among the people which paved the way for revolution in some countries.

## ⇒ Set back to education and Policies to develop it

- ⇒ Destruction of culture (Many scholars, Poets, scientist and other lost their lives, Many beautiful building were destroyed)

## → Paris Peace Conference

- After the end of the war the discussion to outcome of 1st World War & continued for several month and the big power succeeded in completing the draft of Paris peace conference. Under this conference treaties were concluded with defeated countries like Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Turkey, Germany, etc. All the treaties were combined in one and was called treaty of Paris. The most important among these treaties was treaty of Versailles.

### Treaty of Versailles

- The provinces of Alsace Lorraine were taken away from Germany and were given back to France, Germany gave Malmedy to Belgium. Many of the areas of earlier West-Prussia was given to Poland (This became cause of conflict and 2nd World War started with this plebiscite).
- Plebiscite was to be conducted in Northern Part of Germany and was given to Denmark. Germany had to renounce province of Memel.
- Port of Danzig was snatched away from Germany and was made a free city under the protection of League of Nations.
- The German military is should not exceed more than 1 Lakh soldiers, the universal compulsory military service for forbidden and abolished.
- German submarine and Navy ships were handed over to Britain.

## ⇒ Emergence of Totalitarianism in Europe

- Treaty of Versailles was a ~~dictated~~ peace, humiliating treaties, with harsh terms, revengeful treaty and one sided treaty "The treaty of Versailles was not a peace, it was an Armistice for 20 years only".  
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## ⇒ Emergence of Totalitarianism in Europe

- The totalitarian states born close relationship close resemblance in so far as they "Dictate the total behaviour of every citizen like How he should vote, what he should read, what he should do and every where they threaten neighbouring countries and refuse to work with the League of Nations except on ~~these~~<sup>their</sup> own terms".
- They sacrifice the individual for the sake of state and ~~these~~<sup>their</sup> motto was "Every thing for the state, Every thing within the state and nothing outside the state"
- The government of Totalitarian states had full control on the economic aspect of the nation. Russia had already nationalised all the Industries, mills and Factories putting an end to private Enterprise, in Germany and Italy, they regulated the existence of private enterprises with regard to their production, profits, working hours of labourers, their wages, etc.
- In those nations the opposition of government was unpardonable offence. Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler punish and shoot their enemies and their rivals.
- There happened to be a complete hold over (control of) ruling party over press, public speeches and Journalism. In such nation there was invariably lack of separation of powers (Exe/Legi/Judi) in short the dictator's control legislature and judiciary both in addition to his executive powers. (This type of govt existed in Europe between 1920 to 1940)