**UNIT 8.**

**BETWEEN TWO WARS**

**The world economic Depression (1929 – 1935)**

This was a general economic decline in economic activities after World War I or it was economic stagnation which was experienced globally. The period was characterized by low production, unemployment, low aggregate demand, low income, low prices, low investment and low economic activities.

**Causes of the economic crisis**

1. **The impact of World War I**

The impact of World War I especially in industries, crop farms, business all over were destroyed which left world economy in problems that later caused economic depression.

1. **Domestic overproduction**

This was experienced by various capitalists during the inter-war period in USA, Britain and Canada. However, when international trade was paralyzed and there was no buying and no selling this resulted in the economic depression.

1. **Poor distribution in income**

This existed in USA where between 1923 and 1926 big companies were owned by a few capitalists. They provided jobs to the few people who also earned low salary. This led to low purchasing power, leading to economic crisis.

1. **Collapse of international trade**

The world trade remained low because nations were unable to import in large quantities. This was due to the low level of consumption, hence leading to economic depression.

1. **The rise of young and weaker states after world War**

These states could not support themselves financially which made powerful countries of the world like U.S.A spending large amounts of money giving loans and grants to the newly created countries that were formed after the War such as Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia and Iraq. These loans and grants reduced the production capacity of donor countries, resulting into depression.

1. **General decline in agriculture**

The war led to General decline in Agriculture that led to great rural-urban migration throughout the world, specifically in USA and other European countries. The result was a decline in the production of raw materials which affected activities of Agro-based industries. Some factories had to close thus leading to unemployment and economic depression.

1. **Poor trading policy**

Poor trade policy after World War I also contributed to the economic depression. The defeated powers were not allowed to export their products even though they could import goods from other bigger powers leading economic depression.

1. **Increased population with limited welfare services**

After the war, there was rapid population growth in countries such as France, Germany and USSR. The rate of population growth was higher than the rate of economic development which resulted into unemployment. Thereby contributing to the economic depression.

1. **The Wall Street crash of 24th October 1929**

This led to the closure of 4200banks and people who had kept their money in these banks suffered great losses. The industries could no longer secure loans, yet their products could not sell hence unemployment consequently led to the world economic depression.

1. **High interest rate charged on foreign aid**

Financial aid which USA had granted to European countries involved in World War I caused economic losses in European countries. Such countries included Italy, France, Britain and Belgium, which wanted to defeat Germany. USA charged them high interest on borrowed loans. This greatly led economic depression.

1. **Reduced efficiency in the European labor force**

This came as a result of World War I where many able bodied people were killed. This affected efficiency in factory production which made inexperienced women and children get jobs in industries leading to the production of low quality goods that had little demand in world market.

1. **The effects of war fine or indemnity**

The Versailles Peace Treaty made defeated countries including Germany to pay a heavy war fine in form of money, they printed many bank notes leading to inflation. This contributed to the outbreak of the economic depression.

1. **The rise of economic nationalism and protectionist policy led by USA:** This policy was used by USA to protect infant industries at home and it was adopted by other countries mainly in Europe. This worsened the international trade problem, leading to the depression.
2. **Gold standard system operating in world economies by 1929**

Under this system each economy was supposed to have money in circulation that was equal to the total value of gold in its reserves. This system limited money supply for some countries that had small gold reserves and caused low aggregate demand, leading to the world economic depression.

**Effects of economic crisis (1929-1935)**

* The world economic depression led to human suffering due to unemployment, low incomes, and lack of basic facilities.
* It led to the rise of dictators in Europe such as Adolph Hitler in Germany, Benito Mussolini in Italy and Franco in Spain.
* It contributed to the weakness of the League Of Nations as various member states could not meet the financial obligations of the League.
* The economic depression led to international aggression by powerful countries against the weak ones as a way to solve their economic problems; for example, Japan and China, Italy and Ethiopia and Germany and Austria.
* It led to the decline in world trade as the affected countries started trade protectionism, for example, USA.
* It led to the formation of regional economic integration as a way of promoting trade among the different countries.
* It led to the end of the use of the gold standard. This was because it had led to world war I. since countries had no gold reserves.
* It caused severe fall in the standards of living as the cost of living became higher after the closure of many business and this affected production levels.
* It led to the closure of several banks. People feared and withdraw all their money from banks leaving them with no cash.
* It led to the outbreak of world war 2. This was due to the rise of dictators who promised to destroy socialism. Others started attacking weak nations to solve economic problems.
* It increased popularity of some economists. Like Keynes who provided solutions to the causes of economic depression.

**NOTE:**

Economic protectionism is the economic policy of restraining trade between states (countries) through methods such as tariffs on imported goods, restrictive quotas and a variety of other government regulations.

**How was the economic depression controlled?**

* Germany on her part attempted to solve the depression by violating the Versailles peace terms where she stopped paying the war indemnity and started serious industrialization thus solving the depression
* World economic conference was held at Geneva in 1933 in which they resolved to remove obstacles to free trade and implementing a uniform tax on imports and exports
* World powers attempted to solve the depression by using an aggressive policy where they invaded weak states so as to solve the problem of market for their goods and lack of raw materials. For examples, Italy invaded Ethiopia, Germany invaded Poland and Czechoslovakia.
* America depreciated the value of her dollar so as to increase the purchasing power of her citizens.
* European countries formed regional economic integration, for example, the EEC (European Economic Community)
* The gold standard system which had caused the depression was abandoned by Countries in the World.
* Socio-economic reforms were also used to solve the depression, for example, agriculture and industrialization were modernized, and trade unions were given more powers to bargain for rights of workers.
* Powerful countries like Britain, France and USA started providing unemployment benefits to their nationals which was free money given to anybody above 18 years old for the purpose of surviving.
* Most European countries made efforts to improve on their agricultural and industrial sectors in order to increase the level of production as a way of addressing the problem of low supply and inflation.
* Some countries restricted borrowing and lending of money on grounds that the money borrowed for investment ended up being consumed. This reduced debt burden in various countries.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss the causes and effects of wall street crash.
2. Account the strategies used by different European countries to solve economic depression.

**Totalitarian regimes in Europe**

Totalitarian regime is a political system where the state recognizes no limits to its authority and strives to regulate every aspect of public and private life wherever feasible.

1. **Fascism in Italy**

The term Fascismis derived from the Latin word fasces. The fasces, were a bundle of rods tied around an axe, as a symbol of a magistrate’s authority in ancient Rome. It was made of a bundle of sticks featuring an axe, indicating power over life and death.

**Factors for the rise of Benito Mussolini and fascism in Italy**

Benito Mussolini was born in a small town of Romaginia in Italy on July 29th, 1883. His father was a blacksmith and a socialist, while his mother was a devout catholic schoolteacher. Mussolini was renamed Benito after Mexican reformist President Benito Juarez.

Mussolini was the eldest of his parent’s three children. Mussolini fought for Italy in world war one and was wounded during the war. The end of the war which made him form his own party known as the **Fascist Party.** On October 28th 1922, he organized a match to Rome and King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, he refused to suppress the matchers and he invited Mussolini to form a government on October 29th 1922, and the Fascist party got power in Italy.

**The following factors Contributed to the rise of Benito Mussolini:**

1. **Strong support from the Italian peasants:**

Due to bad living conditions of the time among Italian peasant, Mussolini in his speech promised to them better living conditions and employment for all; and as a result, the majority of Italians supported him as a promising leader.

1. **Mussolini’s strong personality helped him to rise to power:**

He was a good orator especially in his speeches which attracted the middle class, industrialists, the jobless and ex-soldiers to support him.

1. **The influence of the communists and socialists in Italy:**

The pressure of communism and socialist forced the middle class and industrialist capitalists to support Mussolini who was anti-communist to overthrow the government of King Victor Emmanuel III.

1. **The effects of World War I helped Mussolini to rise to power:**

World War I had weakened the Italian economy and the King failed to carry out the necessary socio-economic reforms, Mussolini used this to destroy the government of King Victor Emmanuel III.

1. **Corruption and embezzlement of public funds:**

The representatives in the democratic government of Victor Emmanuel III were characterized by corruption and misuse of the government resources which paved way for Mussolini’s rise to power in 1922.

1. **Political inefficiency of King Victor Emmanuel III:**

King Victor Emmanuel III was very weak in maintaining order in Italy and this assisted Mussolini to come to power.

1. **The role played by Fascist terrorist Party:**

This group of Fascist terrorist or Black shirts used a lot of violence throughout Italy and killed many people who opposed Mussolini and the king failed to control the situation which helped Mussolini to rise to power.

1. **The parliamentary elections in May 1921:**

The elections increased the number fascist members of parliament (MP) from 2 to 35 which increased propaganda against the regime of Victor Emmanuel III.

1. **The 1919 V.P.T unfairly rewarded Italy:**

The Versailles Peace Treaty unfairly rewarded Italy which made the democratic government of Victor Emmanuel II unpopular and this contributed to the rise of Mussolini to power.

1. **Weakness of King Victor Emmanuel III:**

He refused to use army force against Mussolini and handed over power to him in 1922 when he matched along the streets of Rome with his army of the Black Shirt.

1. **The great loss of Italy in World War I:**

Also, Italy lost 600.000 soldiers and King Victor Emmanuel III was criticized for having caused all these losses for which Mussolini take advantage of these losses to destroy the government of King Victor Emmanuel III.

**12. Pope Pius XI and the Roman Catholic Church**

The pope mobilized the church to support fascism and Benito Mussolini whom they argued would fight against communism. The pope also campaigned against the monarchical government which had annexed the Papal States in 1871. Mussolini used this opportunity to rise to power.

**Reasons for the downfall of fascism in Italy**

* **Censoring the press**

Newspapers of fascist critics were stopped from publishing articles. More so, radio presenters, news editors and producers were often arrested and harassed. This made the fascist regime unpopular.

* **Dictatorship**

In 1925, Mussolini banned political parties in Italy and established a single party system (fascist state). He crashed the opposition leaders and tortured them. This made the fascist regime unpopular.

* **Corruption, embezzlement and corruption during Mussolini’s regime**

During Mussolini’s regime, corruption, embezzlement and bribery were rampant in Italy. A number of government programs like land reclamation and poverty eradication were rendered a failure. Money disappeared in the pockets of government officials.

* **Mussolini’s regime was discriminative**

It favored fascist supporters and discriminated against those who opposed it. He neglected southern Italy where people seemed not to support his regime compared to other regions in Italy. His government also discriminated against the Jews.

* **Election malpractices in 1924**

Mussolini rigged election in favor of the fascist party. The army intimidated and tortured people to make them vote candidates of fascist party. This made the fascist regime unpopular.

* **Failure in the policy of economic self-reliance**

The fascist government adopted protectionist policy to promote domestic industries by protecting infant industries. The policy failed. It gave rise to inflation and unemployment. This is because cheap and better quality products imported from England and Belgium was stopped.

* **Poor land policy**

There was land shortage in Italy mainly in rural areas due to Mussolini’s policy of increasing birth rates and restrictions of rural urban-migration. Land was unfairly distributed. For example, more than 1 million acres of land was owned by only 15 families at the expense of majority peasants.

* **Failure in the social services sector**

Before 1943, there were no efforts made to establish any official state health insurance and employment scheme. This brought suffering to Italians especially during the 1929-33 great economic depression in Europe. They hated Mussolini and his fascist party.

* **Benito Mussolini alliance with Adolf Hitler**

This alliance led to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. They signed the Rome-Berlin axis with prime objectives to promote Fascism and Nazism respectively in Europe. This led to the outbreak of 2ww.

**How did Mussolini consolidate himself to power?**

* + - 1. He banned all political parties which left the Fascist party unchallenged.
      2. He put to an end free election rights in Italy in order to maintain the Fascist party dominating in the Parliament.
      3. He censured the press which controlled potential fascist opponents.
      4. He created the Fascist armies and spies which were used to threaten and control the opposition.
      5. He signed agreement with pope (**Lateran Pact)** in 1929, and his target was to solve long-term problems between the catholic and the state, so that he could win majority support of the Catholics and to his government.
      6. He declared that strikes are illegal in Italy.
      7. Teachers and professors from university and colleges were forced to take an oath promising that they will never teach materials not in line with the Fascist Government.
      8. He undertook public programs which created jobs to the unemployed. thus, capturing majority support from the Italians.
      9. he undertook a foreign policy so as to revive Italy’s status and glory. For instance, Mussolini’s policy to revenge the 1896 Adowa incident made Mussolini to become popular among the Italians.
      10. He employed force and violence to get rid of any form of opposition. i.e. anti-fascist citizens were arrested and killed.

**B. Nazism in Germany**

Adolph Hitler was born on April 20th 1889 on Austro-Germany border town of **Brounnal.** He failed to join the Vienna academy of fine art in 1907 as he was not particularly bright. He even failed to gain a usual school learning certificate. At the age of 13, his father died but depended on pension left behind by his father and worked as a painter.

He fought for Germany in World war one and at the end of the war, he had risen to the rank of corporal. Later he joined National socialist Germany workers party, which made him a leader in 1920 and later became NAZI. By 1933, the strength of Hitler’s Nazi party forced president Hindenburg to appoint him as a chancellor, hence his rise to power when Hindenburg died in August 1934.

* 1. **Factors for the rise to power of Nazism in Germany**

Some of the factors that led to the rise to power of Nazism and Adolf Hitler in Germany are:

* + - * **The talent and personality of Adolf Hitler**

He was a blessed demagogue with rare skills and that’s why they made him a leader of the Nazi party in 1920, which was a stepping stone of his rise to power.

* + - * **The effects of World War I**

The war enabled Hitler to acquire military skills which he used to suppress the enemies of Nazi party. World War I also made him popular as a celebrated military officer.

* + - * **Adolf Hitler writings (publications)**

He wrote articles in various newspapers. Hitler’s most important publication was “Mein Kampf” (My struggle) which he wrote while in prison. This made him popular thus rise to power.

* + - * **The negative impact of the 1919 Versailles Peace Treaty**

The participants of Versailles Peace Treaty imposed a huge war indemnity(fine) on Germany. This left her economy in poor state and the Weimar republic vulnerable and succumbing to downfall. This gave a chance for Nazi party to rise to power.

* + - * **Weakness of the Weimar Republic**

This republic was unpopular because its leaders accepted to sign a dictated and harsh Versailles Peace Treaty which left Germany humiliated. Similarly, the government failed to solve the problems of unemployment, inflation, famine and starvation. Hitler and Nazi party promised to solve these problems which earned him popularity.

* + - * **The negative effects of the 1929-1935 world economic crisis**

The crisis created a lot of miseries in Germany including unemployment, inflation, famine and starvation. Germany masses lost confidence in the Weimar Republic. They turned their support to Adolf Hitler and Nazi party.

* + - * **The role played by Nazi storm troopers**

This was Hitler’s private army. It was formed to eliminate enemies (opponents) of Nazi party. They carried out a lot of vandalism and acts of sabotage in Germany. This made Weimar republic unpopular and masses supported Nazi party.

* + - * **The support Hitler gained from the army**

A good number of army leaders including General Ludendorff who was the Germany supreme commander in World War I supported Hitler. This made Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as a chancellor.

* + - * **The effective organization of Nazi party**

It had representatives in almost every town of Germany. The Nazi party strategically adopted ‘Swastika’ flag as its national emblem which symbolized peace, unity and development. This greatly inspired a good number of Germany patriots to support Nazi candidates during the 1933 elections.

* + - * **The death of Marshal Von Paul Hindenburg on August 1st 1934**

He died at the age of 82, creating a power vacuum in Germany. Hitler quickly took over his position. He became the Chancellor, President and Supreme Commander-in-chief of Germany armed forces. This led Nazi party rise to power.

**Reasons for the downfall of Nazism and Adolf Hitler in Germany**

* + - * **Lack of comprehensive and clear political agenda:**

His regime was mainly dominated by World War I ex-service men who lacked a comprehensive and clear political agenda and meaningful principles. They had no experience as far as political affairs were concerned.

* + - * **The execution of Benito Mussolini on April 28th 1945:**

The execution of Mussolini on April 28 1945 by his Army officers which caused dilemma in Adolf Hitler’s future political survival. He decided to commit suicide on April 30th 1945. This marked an end to the political career and life history of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

* + - * **Hitler’s dictatorship and oppressive policies**

Under his orders, most of his opponents were imprisoned or killed. For example, Captain Roehem, the leader of storm troopers was short dead on June 30th 1934. These and many others atrocities made him unpopular.

* + - * **The size of the Germany Empire**

Hitler created a huge empire through conquering weak states such as Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland. The conquered states turned against Nazi party and Hitler hence contributing to downfall.

* + - * **Hitler’s withdrawal from the League of Nations**

He stopped the payment of war indemnity. This led to the breach of the 1919 Versailles Peace Treaty causing an automatic withdrawal from the League of Nations. This left him isolated, and led to his eventual downfall.

* + - * **The decline of Germany economy**

Many industries and agriculture farms were left in a bad state. This was because of heavy bombings by the Allied Forces during World War II. This led to misery in Germany in form of starvation, inflation and unemployment. This later led to the downfall of Nazi Party.

* + - * **The invasion of Poland on September 1st 1939**

This was the immediate cause for the outbreak of World War II which became a turning point to the political career of Hitler and the Nazi Party in 1945. After Germany’s defeat, Hitler decided to commit suicide on April 30th 1945. This was the final blow to the Nazi Party which later disintegrated.

**How did Hitler consolidate himself to power?**

1. He banned all political parties which left the Nazi party unchallenged.
2. He put to an end free election rights in Germany in order to maintain the Nazi party dominating in the Parliament.
3. He censured the press which controlled potential Nazi opponents.
4. He created the Nazi armies and spies which were used to threaten and control the opposition.
5. Teachers and professors from university and colleges were forced to take an oath promising that they will never teach materials not in line with the Nazi Government.
6. He undertook public programs which created jobs to the unemployed. thus, capturing majority support from the Germans.
7. He employed force and violence to get rid of any form of opposition. i.e. anti-Nazi citizens were arrested and killed.
8. He reduced the pre-1933 economic problems which earned him more support from Germans.
9. Clergy men were warned to sign an oath promising never to teach materials that were against the Nazi party.
10. He violated Versailles Treaty, he re-armed Germany and withdrew from LON which earned him more support from Germans.

**Characteristics of Nazism and Fascism**

The two totalitarian regimes, Nazism and Fascism, developed in different countries and were led by different leaders but had the same and common characteristics or principles such as:

1. **Extreme nationalism:**

Emphasis on rebirth of the nation after a period of decline with an implication that one’s own states are superior to all.

1. **Abuse of human rights:**

Both disliked the importance of human rights where some people were killed others imprisoned without trial

1. **Identification of enemies:**

The identification of enemiesas a unifying cause in order to divert the people’s attention from other problems.

1. **Rampant or extensive sexism:**

Males dominated and these regimes inevitably viewed women as second-Class citizens.

1. **Press censorship:**

The overall control of mass media through the control of licensing and access to resources and appeal to patriotism.

1. **Defense and protection of the religion:**

This was because fascist regimes attached to predominant religion and wanted to be the defender of the religion.

1. **Suppression of intellectuals and artists:**

This was because intellectual and academic freedom were considered subversive or supporters of revolution to national security and the patriotic ideal.

1. **Corruption or Fraudulent elections:**

There was corruption in election or fraudulent elections to both organized fake elections so as to get intended results.

1. **Extreme nationalism**:

There was extreme Nationalism and emphasis on rebirth of the nation after a period of decline with an implication that one’s own state is superior to all.

1. **Emphasized one Party state:**

There was no room of democracy and One party state was essential and both used dictatorship.

1. **Military strength and violence**:

Both fostered that they got power by force and they were to use violence to their opponents.

**UNIT 9.**

**CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)**

**Introduction**

The Second World War was the most destructive war that mankind has experienced. It started with Germany invasion of Poland on September 1st 1939 and ended with the surrender of Japan on September 2nd 1945.

The war was fought between the **Axis powers**, that is, Italy, Germany and Japan or Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis against the **Allied powers** which included Britain, France, Russia and USA.

**Causes of the Second World War**

1. **The weaknesses of the Versailles Peace Treaty:**

The peacemakers at Versailles were unrealistic and instead of creating peace they prepared the ground for outbreak of the Second World War as already explained.

1. **The Alliance System or military alliances:**

The Alliance System divided the World into two hostile camps (Axis power and Allied democratic power), which created enmity, fear, mistrust, and suspicion leading to the war.

1. **The appeasement policy:**

This was adopted by France and Britain in order to pacify Hitler and Mussolini by giving them whatever they demanded which encouraged Hitler to invade Poland, Mussolini attacked Ethiopia and Japan attacked Manchuria.

1. **The weaknesses of the League of Nations:**

It failed to promote peace since its formation as it failed to control World dictators like Mussolini and Hitler.

1. **The effects of the World economic depression**

The dictators became aggressive by attacking other countries partly as a solution to the economic depression.

1. **The rise of the dictators:**

The period between wars was characterized by the rise of dictators who formed the Axis Alliance and started an aggressive foreign policy leading to 2ww.

1. **The rise and growth of nationalism:**

Hitler used nationalistic feelings to demand the occupation of Poland, leading to the Second World War;

1. **The role of the media:**

Media exaggerated the military capacities of the countries, especially of Germany and the Allied powers, creating a war atmosphere among the World powers and also on other hand small issues into big ones leading to 2ww.

1. **The Spanish war of 1931–1939:**

This was a civil war between the members of the Republican Government supported by Allied democratic powers and General Franco supported Axis powers. The war increased enmity between allied and Axis powers.

1. **Germany’s invasion of Poland on September 1st, 1939:**

After the invasion, Britain and France gave Germany an ultimatum of 48 hours to withdraw from Poland Hitler neglected the ultimatum, leading to the outbreak of the war.

1. **Arms race:**

Hitler takes decision to rearm Germany because other powers did not disarm themselves and at the same time Hitler adopted a foreign aggressive policy leading to WW II.

1. **Hitler Anti-Semitism policy:**

The Allied democratic powers wanted to revenge on Hitler for having killed the Jews by attacking Germany.

**The course of the Second World War**

The war started on September 1st 1939 when Germany troops moved into Poland and within four (4) weeks Poland surrendered because the new kind of warfare called **lighting war,** where tanks and planes were used, and although Britain and France joined, they could not offer any help to Poland.

After defeating Poland, Hitler planned to attack France and Britain and in April 1940, war started in western side as Hitler’s forces captured Denmark despite attempts of France and Britain to stop Hitler’s forces and in May 1940, Neville Chamberlain resigned and was replaced by Winston Churchill.

In September 1940, Hitler’s forces invaded the Soviet Union but Germany forces were defeated because of heavy rains, muddy roads and severe winter of -38oc.

In December 1941, without warning, Japan destroyed the American naval base at Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean which attracted USA in World War II with Japan, Italy and Germany but USA had France, Britain and Russia, making world war inevitable.

In Africa, Britain was fighting with Italy and Germany for the control of Mediterranean Sea. But the British defeated the Italians and Germans and in July 1943, Sicily was invaded, began march through Italy towards Germany.

In 1942, the Allied powers started series of bombing on Germany and in February 1945, 135,000 people died and in April 1945, Berlin had been turned down and people were starving. By April 1945, Germany was on a point of collapse and on April 30th 1945, Hitler and his wife Eva committed suicide which marked the defeat of Germany the Second World War.

With the war won in Europe, the allies poured their resources into defeating Japan. The Japanese showed that they would fight to death rather than surrender. US president HARRY TRUMAN decided to use the new weapon to defeat Japan.

On August 6th 1945, an American plane dropped an atomic bomb “**little boy”** on the city of Hiroshima, killing more than 84,000 people and leaving thousands more slowly dying of poisoning radiation, but the government of Japan refused to surrender.

And on August 8th, 1945 the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and invaded Manchuria. Still, Japanese leaders did not respond.

The next day, on August 9th, 1945, the USA dropped a second atomic bomb nicknamed “**Fat Man”** on Nagasaki, killing more than 40,000 people and Japan had no alternative but emperor Hirohito broadcasted news of Japanese surrender.

On September 2nd, 1945 the formal peace treaty was signed on board the American battleship Missouri, which was anchored on Tokyo Bay. The Second World War was over.

**Explain reasons why axis powers were defeated in world war II**

The axis powers were defeated by the allied powers because of the following reasons:

* They had a numerical advantage because the axis powers were few in number compared to the allies
* Germany, as a leader of the axis powers, had many internal weaknesses that made her fail to get massive support at home because her leader Hitler was a dictator
* Germany did not have support from the countries she had occupied
* The dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by Americans which forced Japan to surrender
* The economies of the axis powers were weak compared to those of the allied powers and they were suffering from a serious shortage of raw materials and other essential military hardware.
* The allied powers were much more experienced in fighting on sea than on the axis powers
* Hitler failed to realize the danger of winter and refused to withdraw his troops from Russian territory. The strong winter weakened German troops at the battle of Stalingrad leading to the loss of approximately 300,000 killed, wounded or captured soldiers.
* The axis powers underestimated the military capacity of the allied powers.
* Lack of the foresight because the leaders of the axis powers ignored the importance of fighting planes instead the Japanese concentrated on the production of battleships which were defeated by allied powers.

**Consequences of the Second World War**

* **Heavy loss of lives:**

It led to loss of lives where it was estimated that about 62,000,000 to 76,000,000 people died and about 45,000,000 people wounded and about 21 million people were displaced from their homes.

* **Great destruction of infrastructure:**

Massive destruction off infrastructure, especially in France and in Japan due to heavy bombing of major cities

* **Large number of refugees:**

The war led to Large influx of homeless refugees and a thousands of them were in camps of western Europe and most of them were the Jews who were running away from Adolph Hitler

* **Formation of United Nations:**

The World War II paved way to formation of United Nations Organization (UNO) in 1945 to replace the League of Nations that had proved incapable of controlling world peace.

* **Production of nuclear weapons:**

The World War II led to production of nuclear weapons which up to now have disorganized world politics

* **Defeat of world dictators:**

The war led to the defeat and downfall of dictators in Europe, for example, Adolph Hitler who committed suicide and Benito Mussolini who was killed by his own soldiers towards the end of the war.

* **Decline in Agriculture:**

There was economic decline since agriculture, trade, transport, and industries were destroyed, which brought famine, starvation, inflation and unemployment among European countries.

* **Balance of power:**

The war changed balance of power in the world because of the rise of new superpowers, that is, USA and USSR.

* **The rise and growth of Nationalism:**

The war led to the rise and growth of nationalism in the Middle East and in Africa leading to decolonization process

* **Partition of Germany:**

It led to partition of Germany into two zones till 1989; East Germany or Democratic Republic of Germany which was controlled by Russia and West Germany or Federal Republic of Germany was controlled by USA, Britain and France.

.**The cold war:**

It led to the outbreak of **cold war** which was a non-violent confrontation between the western capitalists that were led by USA and Eastern communists who were led by USSR.

**Consequences of the Second World War on Africa**

## Discuss the effects of 2ww on Africa.

## 

**1.** It led to the rise of African nationalism which led to the decolonization of Africa like Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda etc.

**2.** It helped in the changing of attitudes of Europeans themselves towards their colonies, including the fulfillment promise of social, political and economic reforms in their African colonies.

**3.** The Second World War also contributed to the rise of African elites who played a big role in developing African nationalism for independence struggle such as Kwame Nkruma, Jommo Kenyatta etc.

**4.** After the Second World War European nations were not able to continue running vast overseas colonies in Africa and Asia and they start preparing them for independence.

**5.** It led to over exploitation of African resources by European powers in order to recover their ruined economy.

**6.** During the Second World War, some African soldiers lost their lives as they were carried in Europe to fight on the side of their colonialists like Rwanda faught on the side of Germans against the Belgians.

**7.** The Second World War inspired anti-colonial nationalism among Africans in general where Africans hate Europeans and demanded for independence.