



## CHAPTER 12

# The Second World War

### Syllabus

#### **The Second World War**

*Causes (Dissatisfaction with the Treaty of Versailles, Rise of Fascism and Nazism, Policy of Appeasement, the Japanese invasion of China, Failure of the League of Nations and Hitler's invasion of Poland). Brief mention of the attack on Pearl Harbour and bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Consequences (Defeat of Axis Powers, Formation of the United Nations and Cold War).*

*Cold War - meaning, NATO and WARSAW (Only meaning).*

The First World War and its harsh peace treaties sowed the seeds for the Second World War. This War was not a continuation of the First World War and the similarity in causes and characteristics are more than superficial. The damage caused by the Second World War surpassed all other wars and brought the world to the brink of complete destruction.

#### **CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II**

Although invasion of Poland by Germany was the immediate cause for the outbreak of the Second World War, the real causes for the outbreak of the war were much deeper and varied in character. They included the following:

**1. Dissatisfaction with the Treaty of Versailles:** The Treaty of Versailles, by which the First World War came to an end, created more problems than it solved. The treaty demanded annexation of German territories and creation of many States. This sowed the

seeds of bitterness and conflict. In fact, this treaty was based on the spirit of revenge and Germany was forced to sign the treaty.

All the German colonies were forcibly taken away from her and she was divided into two parts for the benefit of Poland. She was burdened with huge war indemnity which she could never pay. Her military power was reduced. This humiliation gave rise to the spirit of revenge and Germany started looking for an opportunity to do away with the harsh treaty. But this was not possible without an aggressive policy and armaments. Hence, the war became inevitable.

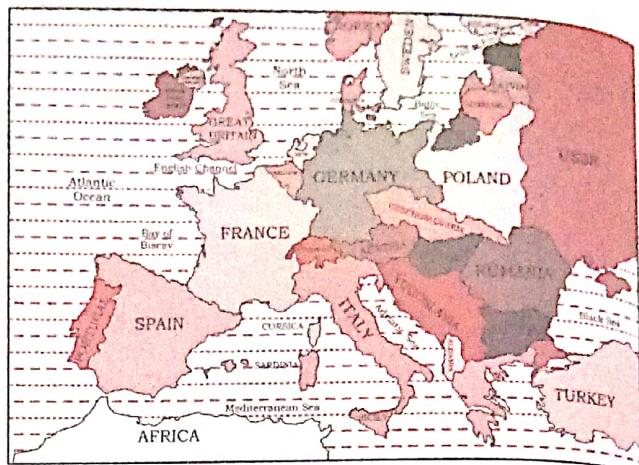
**2. Rise of Fascism and Nazism:** The rise of extreme nationalism in Italy and Germany in the form of Fascism and Nazism, respectively contributed to the causes which led to the Second World War. Italy wanted to revive the glory of the Old Roman empire. She joined the Anti-Comintern Pact in 1937 and formed a ten years alliance with Germany in 1939 to strengthen her position. Mussolini established dictatorship in Italy. He opposed the Treaty of Versailles. Italy demonstrated her imperialistic designs by attacking Abyssinia. The League of Nations failed to take any action against Italy, which exhibited the weakness of the League.

In Germany, Hitler wanted to re-establish the prestige of Germany in the international field. He flouted the military clauses in the Treaty of Versailles and declared re-armament. In 1938, he annexed Austria and dismembered erstwhile Czechoslovakia. Thus, Mussolini and Hitler drove the countries of the world towards another World War.

**3. Policy of Appeasement:** *Appeasement refers to the policy of conciliating an aggressive power at the expense of some other country.* It meant accepting the hostile demands of an aggressive nation to gain peace. Britain and France followed the policy of appeasement towards dictatorial countries like Germany and Italy because they felt that the dictators had a real cause of grievance due to the humiliating terms of the Treaty of Versailles and if their grievances were removed they would not disturb world peace. Further, they wanted to check the rising tide of Communism and Russian Bolshevism. Britain and France feared that Germany would divert towards Russian Bolshevism. They, therefore, allowed Germany to rearm and to re-militarise the Rhineland and capture Austria and Czechoslovakia. So without the Western countries' policy of appeasement, Fascism or Nazism could not have survived so long and would not have been able to unleash the Second World War.

**4. Japanese Invasion of China:** Japanese policy of expansion was another cause of the War. Japan's ambitions rose after the First World War. She was determined to dominate the Far East. In 1931, Japan intervened in Manchuria and, in spite of the League's opposition, occupied it and set up a government there. Japan also started an undeclared war against China in 1931. China appealed to the League of Nations to declare sanctions against Japan. Britain and France, the leading members of the League did not pay any attention to the appeal. Japan joined the Berlin-Rome Axis to form the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis to further its policy of expansion and conquest. In 1933, Japan left the League of Nations and started occupying the British and American properties in China. Britain and France followed the policy of appeasement, thinking that the Japanese could be used to weaken China. Thus, a war was inevitable under these circumstances.

**5. Failure of the League of Nations:** The League of Nations was created after the First World War to prevent future wars. However, the League suffered an early blow when the USA did not join the League. Even those who joined the League were not interested in the principle of collective security.



■ Europe Before World War II

The League of Nations succeeded in allaying the threat of war in cases where the parties were small nations. The League did nothing when Poland, with the backing of France, seized a part of Lithuania in 1920.

In 1923, there was a threat of war between Italy and Greece. Italy refused to submit to the League's intervention and the dispute was settled by direct mediation of Great Britain and France. Thereafter, in every crisis, the League was either defied or ignored. The authority of the League was flouted by Japan when it seized Manchuria; and by Italy when it conquered Ethiopia.

The coercive machinery of the League was not adequate to perform the task given to it. The economic sanctions were of no use against a determined aggressor. Moreover, the member states were not willing to apply economic sanctions as it affected their economy as well. Besides, the League failed to maintain international peace and the countries of Europe lost faith in its usefulness. Thereafter, they themselves entered into mutual political and military alliances.

**6. Hitler's Invasion of Poland (Immediate Cause):** Hitler invaded Poland in September 1939 for the following reasons:

- (i) By the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was divided into two parts in order to give a land-route to Poland up to the sea and the Port of Danzig was also given to Poland. Germany wanted to regain her lost territories.

(ii) The city of Danzig was inhabited mainly by the Germans and by occupying Danzig Corridor, Germany could connect with East Prussia.

(iii) Germany signed a Non-Aggression Pact with Russia in August 1939, Poland was accused of committing atrocities against Germans living there.

On September 1, 1939, the German armies marched into Poland. France and Britain gave an ultimatum to Germany. In reply, Germany attacked France. On September 3, Britain and France declared war on Germany. Thus the invasion of Poland marked the beginning of the Second World War. The German armies completed the conquest of Poland in less than three weeks so as to ensure that no aid reached Poland.

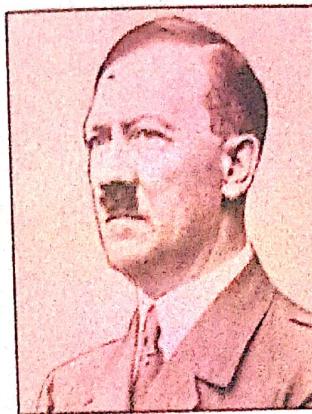
In spite of the declaration of war, there was little actual fighting for many months. Therefore, the war during this period from September 1939 to April 1940 was dormant.

### EVENTS OF THE WAR

One country after another in Europe got involved in the War, until at last the only countries which remained neutral were Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and Turkey. Germany, Italy and Japan formed an alliance and were called the *Axis Powers*. Their opponents, led by Britain, France and the U.S.A. came to be known as the *Allied Powers*.

Soon after the German invasion of Poland, the Soviet Union attacked Eastern Poland and occupied the territories which were earlier in the Russian empire. In November 1939, the Soviet Union went to war against Finland and in 1940, the Baltic States of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania which had become independent after the First World War became republics of the USSR.

**Conquest of Norway, Denmark and Holland:** Germany launched her invasion of



■ Hitler

Norway and Denmark on April 9, 1940 and within three weeks completed the conquest of these two countries. In early May began the invasion of Belgium and Holland which was completed before the end of May.

**Fall of France:** The German armies marched into France and by June 14, 1940, the capital city of Paris had fallen into German hands almost without a fight. The war conducted by Germany with great speed and force is known as *blitzkrieg* which means a 'lightning war.'

**The Battle of Britain:** The German Air Force began bombing raids on Britain in August 1940 with the aim of terrorizing her into surrender. The Royal Air Force of Britain conducted air raids on German territories in retaliation.

**The Battle of Stalingrad:** In June 1941, Hitler betrayed his agreement with Stalin and invaded the Soviet Union. In August 1942, Hitler targeted Stalingrad, an industrial city. In November, the Soviets were able to counter attack with fresh troops. The Germans suffered from frigid temperatures and inability to get fresh supplies. The starving Germans finally surrendered.

**The Battle for Berlin:** It began in April 1945. The Germans were caught between the British and Americans on one side and the Russians on the other. When the Allied forces closed in, on Berlin itself, Hitler committed suicide. On May 7, 1945 the last of the German armies surrendered. May 8 was the Day of Celebration of Victory in Europe.

### Attack on Pearl Harbour

America followed a policy of strict neutrality. The American Congress decided to lend or lease armaments to Britain and China, because their defence was vital to the defence of the United States.

The only military force that Japan had to fear was the US Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. On December 7, 1941, Japan under the Premiership of General Tojo, ordered a surprise aerial attack on the Pearl Harbour. The battleships were sunk and the important airfields were destroyed. 3700 people were killed. The Japanese made two crucial mistakes at Pearl Harbour—they did not destroy the ship

repair facilities at the base nor did they seek out and destroy the US carriers (Lexington and the Enterprise). As a result, most of the ships, that were damaged, were soon back in action.

On December 8, 1941, the USA joined the War halting the Japanese advance.

### Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The Americans started their offensive against Japan to liberate the islands in the South West Pacific. The American navy and air force destroyed the Japanese fleet, but Japan was still firmly and strongly established in China, Manchuria and other places.

In 1945, the Japanese in the Philippines formed a special force called the 'kamikaze' (the suicide air corps). Young Japanese pilots steered an explosive-laden plane into the side or deck of an American ship. Civilians too had been trained in the use of a variety of weapons. This made a land invasion of Japan costly and futile.

Long before the invasion on Japan was planned, scientists in United States were working on the most powerful weapon ever conceived—the atomic bomb. In July 1945, the first atomic bomb was detonated in the desert near Alamogordo, New Mexico.

After much debate, the decision to use the bomb was taken. Days before the first bomb was dropped on Japan, American planes dropped leaflets warning about the deadly weapon and urging the Japanese people and government to end the fighting.

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb ever to be used on humans, was dropped on Hiroshima. It destroyed half of the city killing thousands of people. Despite the terrible destruction, the Japanese still refused to surrender. On August 9, 1945, another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Japan surrendered unconditionally on August 15, 1945. She signed the surrender document on the deck of the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945. This day was declared as Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day). After six long years, World War II was over.

Over 50 million people perished in the Second World War. Of them about 22 million were soldiers and the rest civilians. About 12 million people lost their lives in concentration



Mushroom cloud of the atom bomb

camps or as a result of the terror unleashed by the fascists. Some countries lost a large percentage of their population. For example, Poland lost six million people, about five million of them civilians; which was about 20 per cent of the Polish population. The Soviet Union lost about 20 million people which was about 10 per cent of the population.

The various nations who took part in the war spent most of their national wealth and suffered heavy losses. The chief colonial powers lost their power and many countries like India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka became independent. Later other countries of Asia and Africa were liberated one by one from imperial control.

### CONSEQUENCES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

**1. Defeat of Axis Powers:** Up to the middle of 1942, the Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) met with remarkable success and captured large territories in Europe, Africa and

Asia. But by the end of 1942, the tide began to turn against the Axis Powers. In November 1942, the Allied forces (Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA) recaptured African territories lost by France. This was followed by their victory over Italy and then Germany.

After the defeat of Germany, the Allied Powers turned their attention towards Japan. Japan had won and had occupied most of South East Asia. The British forces liberated Myanmar, Malaya, Philippines and Singapore. In the Potsdam Conference held on July 26, 1945, the Allied Powers asked Japan to surrender, but Japan refused. Consequently, America dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan offered to surrender on the terms of Potsdam declaration and the war came to an end.

Thus, after the war, the Axis Powers had to face the following consequences:

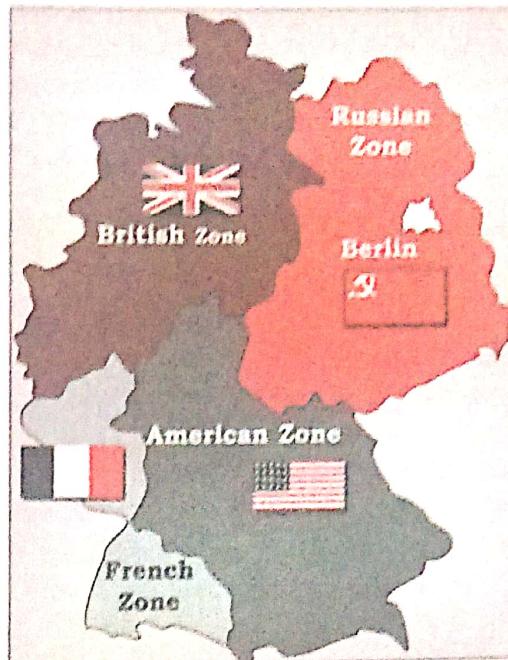
(i) At the end of World War II, Germany was divided into zones, each zone under the army of each of the Allied Powers.

(a) The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) commonly known as West Germany was administered by UK, France and the U.S. with Bonn as the capital. It came under the capitalist ideology of the Anglo-American and their Allies and became part of the Capitalist bloc.

(b) The German Democratic Republic (GDR), known as East Germany was administered by the Soviet Union with East Berlin as the capital. It came under the influence of the political ideologies of communist Russia and became part of the Communist (or Eastern) bloc.

(ii) Japan and Italy also became very weak. Unlike Germany, they were not divided into zones to be governed by conquering forces. The American army was to occupy Japan until 1952. After this period, the Japanese would resume sole control over their own affairs. Emperor Hirohito was left on the throne as a constitutional monarch and the Japanese Parliament retained some of its law making powers. All lands acquired or seized by Japan since 1895 were taken away.

**2. Formation of the UN:** The horrors of the two World Wars and the failure of the



■ Division of Germany

League of Nations led to a meeting of the Big Three—Roosevelt (President of the USA), Churchill (Prime Minister of Britain) and Stalin (Premier of the USSR) at Yalta in February 1945. They resolved to convene a conference of the representatives of all nations at San Francisco to draw up the 'Charter of the United Nations.' This led to the establishment of the United Nations Organisation on October 24, 1945. We shall study this in detail in Chapter 14.

**3. Cold War:** During the Second World War, the USA and the erstwhile Soviet Union fought together. After the war, they emerged as the world's two leading powers.

However, towards the end of the War, the apparent harmony between the USA and the erstwhile Soviet Union declined. Old mutual suspicion and ideological differences came to the forefront. After the Second World War both the countries did not engage in actual fight against each other but there was a state of extreme political tension between the two. This state of tension between countries in which each side adopted policies designed to strengthen itself and weaken the other without armed conflict, is known as the 'Cold War'.

### MEANING OF COLD WAR

The term 'Cold War', in the sense of a war waged through an indirect conflict, was first

used by the American financier and Presidential advisor, Bernard Baruch. In a speech delivered in 1947, he said, "Let us not be deceived: we are today in the midst of a Cold War."

*Cold War is defined as an atmosphere where there is no armed struggle, but the rivals continue to maintain their peace time diplomatic relations along with their hostility.*

The characteristics of the Cold War are:

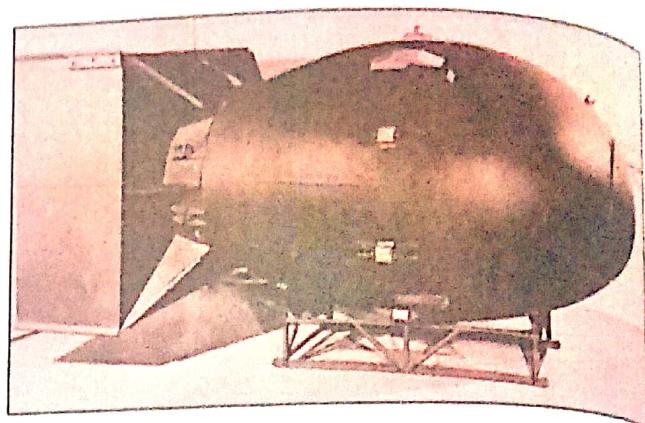
- (a) A bitter state of tension and hostility.
- (b) Absence of armed struggle.
- (c) Ideological hatred and political distrust.
- (d) Neither an era of peace nor that of war prevails.

This Cold War led to the division of the world into two power blocs. One bloc was led by the USA and the other by the erstwhile USSR.

#### **1. The Democratic and Capitalist Bloc:**

The bloc led by the USA, called the *Western bloc* or the *American bloc* believed in liberal democracy based on Capitalism. This bloc comprised Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Greece, Pakistan, Turkey, etc. They considered the political and social system of the USSR as objectionable and dangerous as it had no place for Parliamentary democracy and individual liberty. They projected the USSR as the enemy of world peace and Communism as a grave threat to freedom and liberty throughout the world. America tried to maintain her influence by giving economic aid to different countries. The United States, as the leader of the Free World, took upon itself, the responsibility of preventing communism from spreading.

**2. The Communist Bloc:** The bloc led by the USSR, called the *Eastern bloc* or the *Soviet bloc* believed in Communism based on Marxist theory. The Soviet bloc countries considered the Western style democracy as a farce, meant only for the rich and upper middle class. Therefore, they wanted to spread Communism in the world and bring about a change in the social system of all the countries of the world. The USSR was determined to maintain political, economic and military control of the countries in eastern Europe which had been liberated from Nazi control. Thus, by 1948, governments which owed allegiance to Moscow were established in Poland, Hungary, Romania,



■ The Atom Bomb

Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Though Yugoslavia and Albania were not directly linked to the erstwhile USSR as satellites, the governments of these two countries were also Communist. Thus, the whole Europe was divided into two power blocs.

The two blocs openly propagated against each other and considered each problem from the point of view of the bloc and left no opportunity to weaken the opponent. But at the same time, they made every effort to avoid a direct conflict.

#### **Military Alliances**

The post-Second World War period saw the division of the world in two power blocs and the emergence of two rival sets of military alliances — one headed by the USA, called the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the other, by the erstwhile USSR called the Warsaw Pact. Most of the countries of the world were drawn into either of the two systems of alliances. These military pacts further heightened the tension and added to the Cold War.

**(i) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO):** It was the biggest of the politico-military alliances formed after the Second World War. It was created by a treaty signed by 12 nations at Washington in April 1949. These 12 original members were—Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the UK and the USA. It was joined by Greece and Turkey in 1952 and Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) in 1955.

The main objective of NATO was to defend peace, security and independence of the countries on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean.

The treaty said that an armed attack against one or more of its members "shall be considered an attack against them all" and they agreed to work for policy of non-deterrence and collective security. Though the USSR objected to the presence of nuclear weapons in Europe, NATO was determined to maintain a defence arsenal that included both nuclear and conventional weapons.

At present NATO has 32 member countries, the recent ones being Montenegro (2017), North Macedonia (2020), Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024), reflecting its continued relevance. It now focusses on collective defence and deterrence, especially in Eastern Europe; crisis management and peacekeeping operations; countering modern threats such as terrorism and cyber-attacks; and partnerships with non-member countries to maintain global stability.

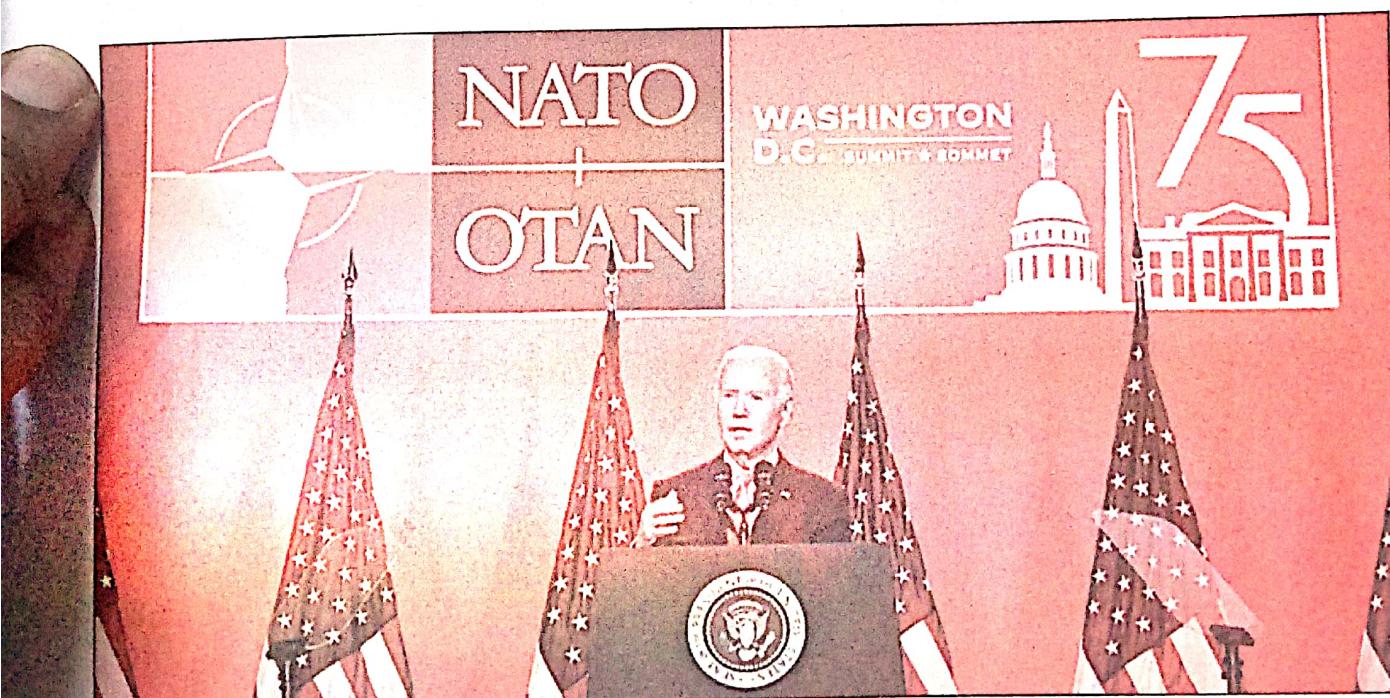
In recent times NATO has come to the forefront due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Ukraine, a neutral country, had sought NATO membership after it was attacked by Russia in 2014 and again in 2022. According to Russia NATO's enlargement into Eastern Europe has renewed tensions between Russia and the West and is the central cause of 'the Russia-Ukraine Crisis'.

**(ii) Warsaw Pact:** The formation of NATO was seen as a warning to the erstwhile Soviet

Union and the USA's preparedness to defeat communism. NATO was strongly opposed by the countries of Eastern Bloc. The immediate reason for the formation of Warsaw Pact was an agreement among Western Powers by which they admitted West Germany to NATO. It prompted the Soviet Union to set up its own alliance, the Warsaw Pact.

To meet the challenge posed by American sponsored NATO, the erstwhile USSR concluded a pact with the Communist countries at Warsaw on May 14, 1955. It was formally called the *Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance*. It was signed by Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany, Poland, Romania, the USSR and Czechoslovakia. By this pact, the signatories promised to defend each other against any attack from outside. It decided to set up a joint command of the armed forces of the member-countries under the overall command of the USSR.

Albania withdrew in 1968 and East Germany in 1990. The treaty was renewed in 1985 which provided for unified military command and for the maintenance of Soviet military units on the territories of the other participating states. After the democratic revolutions of 1989 in eastern Europe, the Warsaw Pact became moribund and was formally declared 'non-existent' on July 1, 1991.



■ U.S. President Joe Biden speaking during a press conference at the close of the 75th NATO Summit at the Walter E. Washington Convention Centre in Washington, D.C. (July 11, 2024).

## CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

The Second World War began on September 1, 1939 when Germany invaded Poland.

**Causes of the Second World War:** (i) The dissatisfaction caused by the unjust Treaty of Versailles; (ii) the rise of Fascism and Nazism; (iii) the policy of Appeasement followed by Western powers towards totalitarians; (iv) Japan's invasion of China in 1931; (v) the failure of the League of Nations; and (vi) Hitler's invasion of Poland.

**The Second World War:** (i) On September 1, 1939 German armies marched into Poland. France gave an ultimatum to Germany and in reply Germany attacked France. On September 3, 1939 Britain and France declared war on Germany; (ii) Germany, Italy, Japan formed an alliance called the 'Axis Powers', whereas Britain, France and the USA formed another alliance, known as the 'Allied Powers'; (iii) Germany annexed Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France. The war conducted by Germany in France with great speed and force is called 'blitzkrieg', meaning a 'lightning war.'; (iv) In June 1941, Hitler invaded Russia. But the Germans failed when the Soviets launched a counter attack; (v) The US joined the war after Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour; (vi) In the Battle for Berlin, the Germans caught between the British and Americans on one side and the Soviets on the other; surrendered on May 7, 1945; (vii) Japan refused to surrender. The US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On September 2, 1945 Japan surrendered and the Second World War came to an end.

**Consequences of the Second World War:** (i) Defeat of the Axis Powers; (ii) Formation of the UN to bring peace and avoid another world war; (iii) Cold War.

**Cold War:** After the Second World War, the USA and the erstwhile USSR emerged as two great powers representing contrasting ideologies leading to a state of extreme political tension but no armed conflict between the two rival blocs. (i) The Capitalist bloc led by the USA; and (ii) The Communist bloc led by the USSR. USA led bloc formed a military alliance NATO which was countered by USSR led Warsaw Pact.

## EXERCISES

### I. Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Hitler invaded Poland in
  - (a) September, 1939
  - (b) September, 1919
  - (c) October, 1936
  - (d) July, 1942
2. Which of the following was the immediate cause of The World War II?
  - (a) Japanese Invasion of China
  - (b) Failure of League of Nations
  - (c) Hitler's Invasion of Poland
  - (d) Rise of Fascism and Nazism
3. Arrange the following events in chronological order.
  - (i) Treaty of Versailles
  - (ii) Hitler's invasion of Poland
  - (iii) Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour
  - (iv) Japanese invasion of China
  - (a) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)
  - (b) (i), (iv), (ii) and (iii)
  - (c) (i), (iii), (iv) and (ii)
  - (d) (i), (iv), (iii) and (ii)
4. When was the first atomic bomb dropped and where?
  - (a) August 6, 1947; Berlin
  - (b) August 6, 1945; Hiroshima
  - (c) August 8, 1945; Nagasaki
  - (d) August 8, 1947, New Mexico
5. Arrange the various conferences in chronological order.
  - (i) Potsdam
  - (ii) Yalta
  - (iii) San Francisco

- (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) (b) (iii), (ii) and (i)  
(c) (ii), (i) and (iii) (d) (ii), (iii) and (i)

6. Which of the following was NOT done during the Cold War?

- (a) Piling up of arms (b) Military alliances  
(c) Actual combat (d) Proxy wars

7. NATO was primarily formed to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) protect communist countries  
(b) defend democratic nations from the threat of communism  
(c) promote isolationism  
(d) promote the policy of non-alignment.

8. Which of the following statements best describes the Warsaw Pact?

- (a) A military alliance of capitalist countries  
(b) An alliance formed to protect democracies  
(c) A non-military economic union  
(d) A military bloc of communist countries led by the erstwhile USSR.

9. What does the cartoon given below depict about NATO through the missile?

- (a) NATO's role in curbing nuclear arms  
(b) NATO's defence relies on nuclear threat  
(c) NATO's attempt at declaring the USA as super power  
(d) NATO's decision to start direct war with the USSR.



B. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements (I) and (II).

1. (I) The peace treaties signed after the end of the First World War sowed the seeds for the Second World War.  
(II) The Second World War was a continuation of the First World War.  
(a) (II) contradicts (I) (b) (II) is the reason for (I)  
(c) (I) is true but (II) is false (d) (I) and (II) are independent of each other.
2. (I) The Treaty of Versailles was signed to end the First World War and prevent further wars.  
(II) The Treaty of Versailles sowed seeds of bitterness and conflict which finally culminated in the Second World War.  
(a) (II) contradicts (I) (b) (II) is the reason for (I)  
(c) (I) is true but (II) is false (d) (I) and (II) are independent of each other.
3. (I) Hitler wanted to re-establish the prestige of Germany after the First World War.  
(II) Hitler flouted the military clauses in the Treaty of Versailles and declared re-armament.  
(a) (II) contradicts (I) (b) (I) is the reason for (II)  
(c) (I) is true but (II) is false (d) (I) and (II) are independent of each other.
4. (I) Britain and France followed the policy of appeasement towards dictatorial countries like Germany and Italy.  
(II) They wanted to check the rising tide of Communism and Bolshevism.  
(a) (II) contradicts (I) (b) (II) is the reason for (I)  
(c) (I) is true but (II) is false (d) (I) and (II) are independent of each other.

## **II. Short Answer Questions**

1. What was the issue between Germany and Poland that led to the Second World War?
2. How was the Treaty of Versailles responsible for the Second World War?
3. How did the rise of Fascism and Nazism lead to the Second World War?
4. What was the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis? Why did Italy join the side of Germany and Japan in the Second World War?
5. What was the immediate cause of the Second World War? Which incident brought the USA in the Second World War?
6. Why did the USA drop atom bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
7. With reference to the newspaper headline given below, what is meant by V-J Day and what made Japan to surrender to the Allies.



8. Mention two important consequences of the Second World War.
9. What is meant by the 'Cold War'?
10. Mention any two characteristics of the Cold War.
11. Give two causes that led to the Cold War.
12. Name two countries each belonging to the Capitalist Bloc and the Communist Bloc.
13. What were the views of each of the two Cold War blocs about the other bloc?
14. Name any two countries which became independent after the Second World War.
15. Name the two military alliances formed during the Cold War.
16. Explain briefly NATO's principle of collective security.

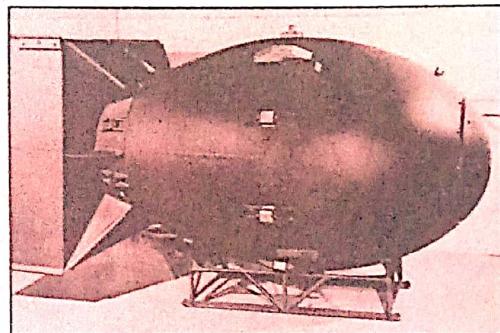
## **III. Structured Questions**

1. State how each of the following factors were the causes of the Second World War:
  - (a) The failure of the League of Nations.
  - (b) The Aggressive Nationalism of Germany.
  - (c) The Policy of Appeasement.
2. The League of Nations was unable to eliminate power struggles leading to another World War. In this context describe how the following were connected with the Second World War:

- (a) Japanese invasion of China.  
 (b) Ideological differences between nations.  
 (c) Hitler's invasion of Poland.
3. Look at the newspaper clipping given below and answer the questions that follow:



- (a) Japan declared war against which country? Where did Japan order an attack? What were the consequences of the bombing of Hawaii?  
 (b) Japan made two crucial mistakes during this attack. What were these mistakes and what were the consequences of these mistakes?  
 (c) How was this attack finally avenged by the USA?
4. Study the picture on the right and answer the questions:
- (a) Identify the object in the picture. Which country was responsible for its production?  
 (b) Where was this object used for the first time? How did it bring an end to the War?  
 (c) How can a future war be avoided following the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi?
5. With the surrender of Japan, the Second World War was finally over. The war had far-reaching consequences. Against this background, write short notes on:
- (a) Effect of World War II on Japan.  
 (b) The division of Germany.  
 (c) Division of the world into two Power Blocs.
6. With reference to the consequences of Second World War, explain the impact on the following:
- (a) The Axis powers. (b) Origin of the Cold War.  
 (c) The formation of the UN.



7. The cartoon given below show Uncle Sam forgiving a sword while reading about the Russian's proposal for an international arms treaty.
- The cartoon reflects which consequence of the Second World War? Give any two of its characteristic features.
  - Who is conventionally referred to as Uncle Sam? What attitude is he likely to be expressing while reading the message? What policy is reflected in the phrase "For Defence of Free World"?
  - What is referred to by the statement "Russia calls for halt in international arms race"? Whom, do you think, the cartoon is criticising, the USA, the USSR or both? Give reasons to support your answer.



#### IV. Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)

- How was the Second World War different from the First World War?
- The dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan during the Second World War heralded an era of Nuclear Warfare. Give your views on the given statement.
- Find out the causes of the recent war between Ukraine and Russia.
- Do you think the concept of Cold War is still visible in the 21st century global geopolitics? Give reasons to support your answer.

