

HISTORY

UNIT 1.OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I AND ITS AFTERMATH

PARAGRAPH:

1. DISCUSS THE MAIN CAUSES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Introduction:

The First World War which took place in 1914 is a turning point in the world.

Causes:

European alliances and counter alliances

- In 1900 the European powers were divided into two armed camps.
- Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed one alliance in 1882 called central powers.
- The other camp consisted of the Allied powers- England, France and Russia.
- Entente Cordiale was formed by England and France in 1904.
- It became Triple Entente with the inclusion of Russia in 1907.

Violent forms of Nationalism

- With the growth of nationalism, the attitude of “my country right or wrong, I support it” developed.
- The militant forms of nationalism were
 - England’s Jingoism
 - France’s Chauvinism and
 - Germany’s Kultur

Aggressive attitude of German Emperor

- Emperor Kaiser Wilhem II of Germany was assertive and aggressive.
- He proclaimed that Germany would be the leader of the world.
- The German Navy was expanded.
- Germany’s aggressive diplomacy and rapid building of naval bases embarked Britain on a naval race.
- It increased the tension between the two powers.

Hostility of France towards Germany

- France and Germany were old rivals.
- In the Franco Prussian war of 1871, France lost Alsace and Lorraine to Germany.
- It rankled in the minds of the French.
- German interference in Morocco added to bitterness

Imperial Power politics in the Balkans:

- Due to Young Turk Revolution of 1908, both Austria and Russia agreed that Austria should annex Bosnia and Herzegovina, while Russia should have freedom to move her warships through the Dardanelles and to the Mediterranean.
- Austria annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- This was opposed by Serbia.
- Germany gave firm support to Austria.
- The enmity between Austria and Serbia led to the outbreak of war in 1914.

The Balkan Wars:

- Turkey was a powerful country in the first half of 18th century.
- The Turkish and non-Turkish people of different nationalities in the Balkan indulged in frightful massacres and atrocities.
- The second half of the 18th century, taking advantage of the Greeks political and economic instability of the Turkish Empire, followed by others began to secede, one after another, from the Turkish control.
- Macedonia had a mixed population.
- There were rivalries among Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro for the control of it.

First Balkan War:

- In March 1912, the Balkan League was formed.
- The league attacked and defeated Turk's forces in the 1st Balkan war (1912 – 1913).
- Treaty of London was signed. As per the treaty,
- The new state of Albania was created.
- The Balkan states divided Macedonia among themselves.
- Turkey was reduced to the area around Constantinople.

Second Balkan War:

- The division of Macedonia did not satisfy Bulgaria.
- So, Bulgaria attacked Serbia and Greece.
- Bulgaria was defeated.
- The Second Balkan war came to an end by the Treaty of Bucharest in August 1913.

Immediate Cause:

- On 28 June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, nephew and heir to Franz Joseph, the emperor of Austria-Hungary was assassinated by Princip, a Bosnian Serb at Serajevo, the capital of Bosnia.
- Austria taking this opportunity to eliminate Serbia as an independent state.
- Russia gave support to Serbia. So Germany declared war on Russia.
- The German violation of Belgian neutrality forced Britain to enter war.

Conclusion:

The First World War a deep impact on European society and polity. The war had involved and affected more population than in the past.