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World History

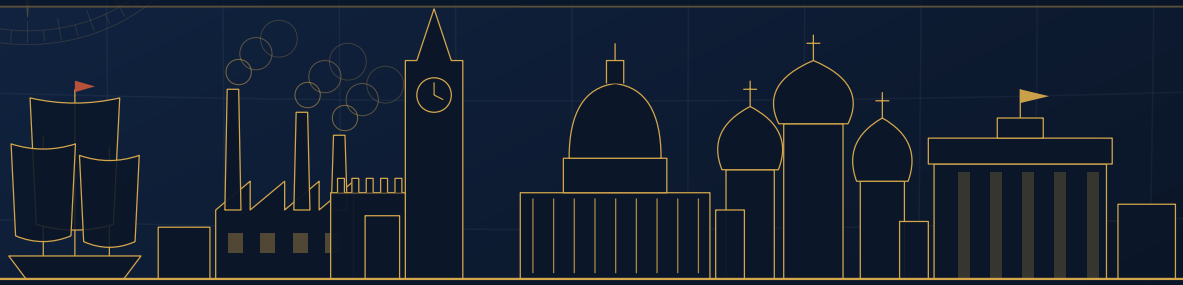
Complete notes from the dawn of the modern age to the world after 1945: revolutions, ideologies, the two world wars, the Cold War and decolonisation, with previous year questions, quick-revision panels and revision tables.

Compiled by Arvind KrS

28	4	18	107
CHAPTERS	UNITS	MAINS PYQS 2013–26	MAPS AND PICTURES

REVOLUTIONS TO THE COLD WAR: 1776–1991

1776	1789	1815	1848	1871	1914	1917	1939	1945	1991
American independence declared	French Revolution	Congress of Vienna	Revolutions in Europe	Germany united	First World War	Russian Revolution	Second World War	United Nations	Soviet Union dissolved



IN THIS BOOK

I	Revolutions that Shaped the World	II	Major Ideologies of the World
III	The World Wars	IV	The World after 1945
V	Quick Revision		

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Updated to November 2026

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World History for UPSC

Notes for UPSC Civil Services Mains, General Studies Paper I

Mains 2027 Edition · November 2026 · Compiled by Arvind KrS

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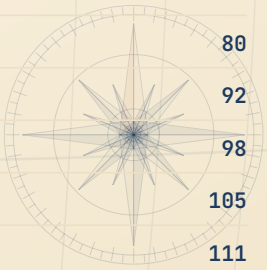
UNIT I
10 CHAPTERS

Revolutions that Shaped the World

From the end of the medieval age to the revolutions that made the modern world: the Renaissance, Reformation and voyages of discovery, the American, French and Industrial Revolutions, the Congress of Vienna, the revolutions of 1830 and 1848, the unification of Italy and Germany, and the Russian Revolution.

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WORLD HISTORY | GS PAPER I · MAINS

French Revolution

SYLLABUS

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History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. – their forms and effect on the society

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01 Causes of French Revolution
02 Role of Enlightenment Thinkers
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04 French Revolutionary Wars (1792 – 1802)
05 Jacobins and Reign of Terror
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- In 1789 France was the most populated nation in Europe and had been **growing in wealth and prestige since the time of Louis XIV.** Despite this economic growth, it was still a **very backward nation socially and politically**:
  - **socially,** because it was still divided into **feudal classes of people** (clergy–those who pray, nobles–those who fight, and the peasants–those who work);
  - **politically**, because they were still ruled by an **absolute monarch** who believed in the divine right of kings.
- The **social, political and economic conditions** of France in late eighteenth century engendered a revolution which **completely destroyed the feudal order and its state apparatus**. The revolution in its course established **new principles of politics and democracy which had seminal effect on the minds of the people of Europe and the world.**
- It became a **symbol of revolutionary action by masses and inspired many subsequent movements.** The **ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity** ingrained in the democratic societies world over have their provenance in this revolution.

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01 Causes of French Revolution

Social Causes

- **Feudal Society:** The French society and its institutions before 1789 has been usually described as the Old Regime. The French society in the eighteenth century was feudal in nature, a remnant of the middle ages. The society was uncompromisingly stratified.
- **Three Estates:** The French society was divided into three Estates. The first estate consisted of the **clergy**, the second estate of the **nobility** and the third estate of the **bourgeoisie, urban workers, and peasants**. The first two estates enjoyed many privileges by birth and were also exempted from taxation.
- **Unequal Access to Resources:** The French society primarily comprised peasants, around 90 per cent of the total population. But only a small number of them owned the land they cultivated as about **60 per cent of the land was owned by nobles, clergy and richer members** of the third estate. Moreover, the moderate growth and prosperity witnessed in eighteenth century France was unevenly distributed.
- **Feudal Privileges and Taxes:** The nobles were entitled to feudal dues, which they extracted from the peasants. The peasants were forced to render services to the nobles (Lords), either by working in his house and fields or by serving in his army. The Church too extracted its share of taxes (tithes) from the peasants.
- **Educated Middle Class:** Eighteenth century France witnessed the emergence of Educated middle class, who earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade, manufacture of goods, employment as administrative officials and by practicing profession. These educated individuals began to question the privileges available to the first two estates. The group provided the much needed leadership to the peasants and workers.

Political

- **Centralization of Power:** The royal authority was sustained by theories of divine right which rejected any form of resistance with utmost ruthlessness. An attempt to centralize the authority had been on. The Kings, who alone could call the meeting of the Estates General, a political body of the three estates, had not called its meeting since 1614. Moreover, the exceptionally expanded state apparatus had virtually destroyed the role of representative institutions. Tensions were mounting between centralizing and decentralizing pressures.
- **Rift between Nobility and Crown:** The crown had deprived the nobility of its political power but left them with various privileges. They were bitterly hostile to the growing power of the royal government.

Economic Causes

- **Brink of Bankruptcy:** Years of participation in numerous **lengthy and costly conflicts (wars)** by France during the seventeenth and eighteenth century had drained financial resource of the country. This coupled with wasteful spending by **King Louis XVI (1754-93)** and his predecessor had left the country on the brink of bankruptcy.
- **American War of Independence:** Already debt ridden country added more than billion livres (unit of currency in France discontinued in 1794) of debt by **its involvement in the American war of**

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independence. The lenders began to charge an interest of 10 per cent on the loans and an increasing fraction of the government's revenue was being spent on interest payment.

- **Defective Tax Structure:** A defective tax structure where in the nobility and the clergy were exempted from payment of taxes and the burden to finance the royal coffers fell upon rest of the population (commoners) had been becoming a matter of resentment .
- **Inflation:** In general, the **production of grains could not keep pace with increased demand due to increase in country's population pushing up prices of bread and grain**, which mattered most to the people and had a bearing on the public order.
  - An increase in grain and bread prices due to bad harvests in early 1770's angered the people, who rioted at several places. The situation became worse due to harsh weather as witnessed from 1787, when a cereal crisis on account of catastrophic hailstorm, harsh winter and drought pushed up the prices of grains and bread between 50 and 100 per cent.
- **Subsistence Crisis:** It has been held that France during the Old Regime (used to describe the society and institutions of France before 1789) frequently witnessed situations when the **wages of the workers did not keep pace with the rise in prices of bread, the staple diet of the people**.
- **Financial Reform Package:** Another event which further worsened the situation was a proposed financial reform package by **Charles Alexandre de Calonne** (Louis XVI's controller general of finance) **in 1786**. The package proposed an **imposition of a universal land tax, such that the privileged classes would no longer be exempted**. The package did not come through and Calonne recommended the calling of Assembly of Notables.

02 Role of Enlightenment Thinkers

- The **role of enlightenment thinkers** in the French revolution has been a matter of debate among the historians. Some historians contend that the presence of philosophers and their ideas brought about the replacement of old regime with the new order. It is held that although the peasants and workers had participated in revolts against increasing taxes and food scarcity in the past, they lacked the means and programme to carry out full-scale measures to change the existing social and economic order which was provided by the enlightenment thinkers and the new middle class. However, the thinkers did not espouse revolution.
- The **enlightenment thinkers questioned the customary arrangements which benefited a few and advocated confronting them for human progress**, which according to them involved growth **individual self-expression, elimination of authority and privilege based on birth, and guild regulations**. These ideas were disseminated through political discussion, clubs, academic societies and salons.
- It is important to note that the salons, the elegant drawing rooms of the wealthy urban elite, served as the gathering of philosophers and guests. It served as the rallying point of reform-minded people like **Mirabeau, Robespierre and Sieyes.**

John Locke

- In his **Two Treatises of Government**, John Locke sought to **refute the doctrine of divine and absolute right of the Monarch**. He along with Rousseau questioned the **idea of privilege by birth and advocated a society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all.**

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Montesquieu

- Montesquieu believed that where government was **more liberal** and where people thought independently, society would be less devoted to religious ritual and more devoted to morality. He **criticized France's monarchical absolutism and the Church**, offending authorities but adding to his popularity.
- In **The Spirit of the Laws**, he proposed the **idea of division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary** (as had been established in America after its independence from Britain) to prevent any one organ of the government from becoming despotic.

Jean Jacques Rousseau

- As per Edmund Burke, he was the **chief ideologue** of the French Revolution. Rousseau popularized the idea that the **Kings did not have the right to 'absolute' rule and that the government was a 'social contract' between people and the King** (their representative). **He questioned the traditional base of political, social and economic authority.**
- His **concept of 'sovereignty' of people and 'general will'** made the leaders of the revolt feel that the society as whole should decide its own interest. His democratic principle of one individual one vote was proposed by the members of the third Estate as an alternative to the extant voting system, conducted by the assembly as whole.
- Liberty, he wrote, was not to be found in any existing form of government, it was in the hearts of free men. He described existing laws as "always useful to those who own and as injurious to those who do not". And such laws, he wrote, "give the weak new burdens, the strong new powers and irretrievably destroy natural freedom".

03 Outbreak of French Revolution

Meeting of the Estates General

- France's population had changed considerably since The **non-aristocratic members of the Third Estate now represented 98 percent of the people but could still be outvoted by the other two bodies.** In the lead-up to the May 5 meeting, the Third Estate began to mobilize support for equal representation and the abolishment of the noble veto-in other words, **they wanted voting by head and not by status**. While all of the orders shared a common desire for fiscal and judicial reform as well as a more representative form of government, the nobles in particular were loath to give up the privileges they enjoyed under the traditional system.
- By the time the Estates-General convened at Versailles, the highly public debate over its voting process had erupted into hostility between the three orders, eclipsing the original purpose of the meeting and the authority of the man who had convened it.
- **When the demand of equal voting for members of all the three estates were raised, talks over the procedure of the voting process stalled**. Following this, **on June 17, 1789, the third estate met alone and formally adopted the title of National Assembly.**

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Tennis Court Oath

- The **king ordered to lock the hall** where the next meeting was scheduled to be held. Consequently, on **June 20, 1789, the third estate decided to meet in a nearby indoor tennis court.** In the Tennis court meeting, members of the third estate took the so called '**Tennis Court Oath**'. In that oath members vowed not to disperse until constitutional reform had been achieved .
- Within a week, most of the clerical deputies and liberal nobles had joined them, and on June 27, 1789, Louis XVI reluctantly absorbed all three orders into the new assembly.



Tennis Court Oath

Fall of Bastille

- The **Bastille fort had served as a royal armory and a prison and also was a symbol of the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs.** The **Storming of the Bastille fort occurred in Paris, on July 14, 1789**. This watershed event of the fall of Bastille, now commemorated in France as a National Holiday, was considered as the start of the French Revolution.
- **In July 1789, King Louis XVI surrounded Paris with troops** and dismissed Jacques Necker, a popular minister of state who had supported reforms. The dismissal of Jacques Necker sparked the feeling of distress among the people of France. The revolutionary ideas were continuously instigated by the revolutionary leaders which led to incessant rioting and looting by the mob.
- **Bernard-Rene Jourdan de Launay, the military governor of the Bastille,** fearing an attack by the revolutionaries requested reinforcement which led to arrival of a company of the swiss mercenary

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soldiers. This led to abrupt broadcasting of the rumors of an impending military coup which engendered terror among the people of France.

- A **popular insurgency culminated on July 14, 1789 when rioters stormed the Bastille fortress in an attempt to secure gunpowder and weapons**.
- The wave of revolutionary fervor and widespread hysteria quickly swept the countryside. Revolting against years of exploitation, peasants looted and burned the houses of tax collectors, landlords and elites. This agrarian insurrection which hastened the growing exodus of nobles from the country is known as the **Great Fear (started in mid of July 1789** and continued till August).
- The **National Assembly feared that the raging rural peasants would destroy all that the assembly had worked hard to attain**. In an effort to quell the destruction, the assembly issued the **August Decrees**, which nullified many of the feudal obligations that the peasants had to their landlords.
- The **August Decrees were declared with an idea of calming the people and encouraging them towards civility**. The August Decrees were revised several times during the next two years. Nevertheless, it could be inferred that the **August Decrees paved the way for the Assembly to make the Declaration of the Rights of Man and citizen**.



Fall of Bastille

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National Assembly

- National Assembly was the **name of the revolutionary assembly formed by representatives of the Third Estate**. Number of clerical deputies and liberal nobles had also joined them.
- **They declared that they would not adjourn their gatherings until France had been given a new constitution** (the National Assembly took an oath to force a new constitution on the king). **Louis XVI** attempted to thwart that initiative on June 23, 1789 by ordering the three estates to resume their separate deliberations. But in the face of determined resistance he reluctantly accepted unified deliberation and voting by the head(s). On July 9, 1789, the delegates to the Estates-General declared themselves the National Constituent Assembly.

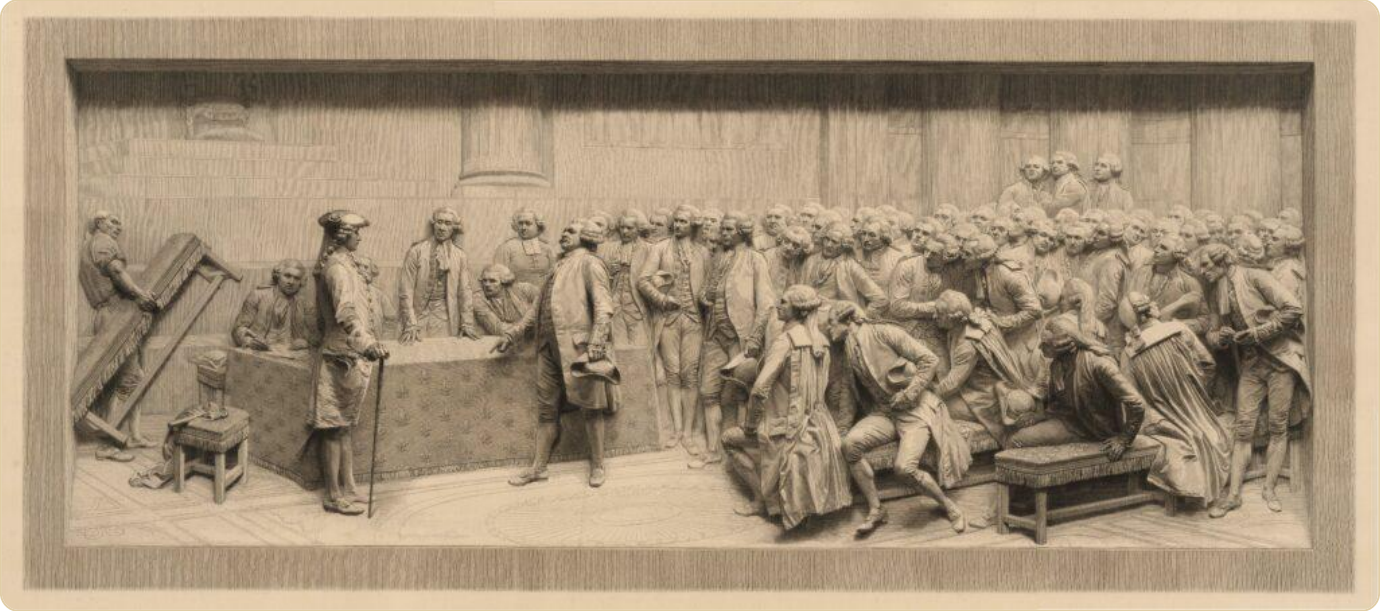


Fig. 3.1 National Assembly (French Revolution)

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Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen

- **On August 26 , 1789, the assembly issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.**
  - Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.
  - The aim of every political association is the preservation of the natural and inalienable rights of man; these are liberty, property, security and resistance to oppression.
  - The source of all sovereignty resides in the nation; no group or individual may exercise authority that does not come from the people.
  - Liberty consists of the power to do whatever is not injurious to others.
  - The law has the right to forbid only actions that are injurious to society.
  - Law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to participate in its formation, personally or through their representatives. All citizens are equal before it.
  - No man may be accused, arrested or detained, except in cases determined by the law.
  - Every citizen may speak, write and print freely; he must take responsibility for the abuse of such liberty in cases determined by the law.
  - For the maintenance of the public force and for the expenses of administration a common tax is indispensable; it must be assessed equally on all citizens in proportion to their means.
  - Since property is a sacred and inviolable right, no one may be deprived of it, unless a legally established public necessity requires it. In that case a just compensation must be given in advance.
- **Analysis**
  - It guaranteed due process in judicial matters.
  - It established sovereignty among the French people providing limited monarchy to France. Now the King had to share power with the elected Legislative Assembly, but he still retained his royal veto and the ability to select ministers.
  - The titles of the nobles were abolished.
  - New central and local courts were established.
  - Judges were to be elected.
  - Drastic action was also taken against the church. Absolute religious toleration was proclaimed.
  - The collection of tithes by the church was abolished.
  - Measures were taken for the nationalization of church properties.
- **Influenced by the thoughts of the era's greatest minds, the themes found in the declaration made one thing resoundingly clear: every person was a Frenchman – and equal.** The document proclaimed the assembly's commitment to replace the ancien regime (the political and social system in France before the Revolution) with a system based on equal opportunity, freedom of speech, popular sovereignty and representative government.
- Although subsequent French constitutions, that the Revolution produced, would be overturned and generally ignored, but the themes of the Declaration of Rights of Man and of the Citizen would remain with the French citizenry in perpetuity.
- The Declaration, together with Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, and the United States Bill of Rights, inspired in large part the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen

04 French Revolutionary Wars (1792 – 1802)

- **When the revolution broke out many of the nobles (called as French Emigres) managed to escape from France.** They **carried out propaganda against the revolution in France and tried to mobilize support from other countries.** Austria and Prussia came forward to help them. King Leopold of Austria issued the famous Declaration of Pilnitz against the revolutionaries in August 1791. In this declaration, Austria and Prussia proposed that France put Louis XVI (who fled Paris with family in June 1791, captured near border with Austria) back to the throne. These countries were wary about the fact that the French people's revolutionary sentiment would infect their own citizens.
- In **April 1792, the newly elected legislative assembly declared war on Austria and Prussia believing that French Emigres were building counter-revolutionary alliances.** It also hoped to spread its revolutionary ideals across Europe through warfare. Austria defeated the ill equipped revolutionary army. The wrath of the revolutionaries turned against the French king. **In August 1792, the mob attacked the King's palace at Tuileries (Paris).** The mob brutally massacred the guards and besieged the royal palace.

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- This was followed by the **'September Massacres'.** During this, the Radicals at Paris, led by Georges Danton (a Jacobin who was executed for questioning the extremes of the Reign of Terror), massacred numerous suspected supporters of the French king. Facing the threat of the radicals, the members of the Legislative Assembly gave up the idea of a limited monarchy. **They set aside the Constitution of 1791, declared the king deposed.**
- **The assembly was dissolved, calling for the election of a new legislature. After the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, the National Convention met in 1792.** It **abolished monarchy and declared France as a Republic.** Around the same time, the French army won a war against Austria and Prussia (Battle of Valmy).
- In **January 1793, King Louis XVI was condemned to death for "conspiracy against the public liberty and the general safety"** by a weak majority in Convention. This execution led to more wars with other European countries. The queen, Marie Antoinette, was also guillotined later on.
- When war went badly, prices rose and the sans-culottes (poor laborers and radical Jacobins) rioted and counterrevolutionary activities began in some regions. This encouraged the Jacobins to seize power through a parliamentary coup. An alliance of Jacobin and sansculottes elements thus became the effective centre of the new government. They instituted a series of radical measures, including the establishment of a new calendar and the eradication of Christianity.

05 Jacobins and Reign of Terror

- The **Reign of Terror was the most violent phase of the French Revolution, a year -long period between the summers of 1793 and 1794.** During this period **around 50,000 French citizens were executed.** Under the accusations of the counter-revolutionary activities **large number of suspected enemies of the revolution were guillotined by the thousands.** This 10-month draconian phase was regarded as the **Bloody Reign of Terror** during which the guillotine became the most potent political tool and repression the most vital political task .
- In April 1793, the National Convention created an administrative body called as the '**Committee of Public Safety**'. It was formed to supervise and expedite the work of the executive bodies of the Convention and of the government ministers appointed by the Convention. In July 1793, following the defeat at the Convention of the Girondins, the prominent leader of the radical Jacobin, **Maximilien Robespierre**, took the charge of the Committee.
- Heading the Committee of Public Safety Robespierre gained full powers to deal with the people causing the internal threats. He slowly gathered all control in his hands. As head of the committee, he decided who should be considered enemies of the republic. It was said that this committee often tried people in the morning and guillotined the same afternoon .
- The Reign of Terror brought an end to many prominent lives. Fearful of conspiracies against his life, Robespierre had argued for the execution of fellow revolutionary leaders like Jacques Hebert (the radical sans-culotte leader) and Georges Danton (a populist political leader). In consequence, however, his own popular support eroded markedly.
- On **July 27, 1794, the Thermidorian Reaction (a moderate phase in which the French people revolted against the reign of terror's excesses) led to the arrest and execution of Robespierre.** The new government was predominantly made up of Girondists who had survived the Terror. After taking power, they took revenge as well by **persecuting even those Jacobins who had helped to overthrow**

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Robespierre. The **Jacobin Club was banned**. Many of its former members were executed in what was known as the White Terror .

- A **new Constitution was approved in August 1795 which created a 'Directory' and the first Bicameral Legislature** in the French History. The two houses were called the **'Council of Five Hundred ' and the 'Council of the Ancients'.**
- The **Directory was a five-member committee which replaced the Committee of Public Safety**. It governed France from 1795 until it was overthrown by Napoleon Bonaparte replaced by the French Consulate.
- In its initial years, the Directory concentrated on ending the excesses of the Reign of Terror. It stopped the mass executions and measures were taken against exiled priests.
- The royalists were relaxed. The Jacobin political club was closed and the government crushed an armed uprising planned by the Jacobins. Also, before the constitution of the Directory, the French economy was in crisis. The treasury was empty, Assignat (paper money) had fallen to a very low value. The Directory stopped printing assignats and took measures to restore the value of the money. But after few years the Directory riddled with huge corruption. Bickering and fighting within the Directory increasingly destabilized the country. This led to its **repeal by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799**.



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06 Napoleon Bonaparte

Rise

- When the Royalists and Jacobins protested against the new regime, a young , energetic and a successful **General named Napoleon Bonaparte** was then at Paris. He was entrusted with the task of **defending the Convention against the Parisian mob**. He swiftly silenced the mob and began his brilliant career as a military general.
- The directory's four years in power were riddled with financial crises, popular discontent, inefficiency and above all, political corruption. By the late 1790s, the directors relied almost entirely on the military to maintain their authority and had ceded much of their power to the generals in the field.
- On **November 9, 1799, as frustration with their leadership reached a fever pitch, Bonaparte signed a coup (Coup d'etat), abolishing the directory and appointing himself France's 'First Consul'**. This event marked the end of French Revolution and the **beginning of the Napoleonic era.** With the start of the Napoleonic era came numerous reforms like the **Continental system, Napoleonic code**, etc .

Napoleonic Code

- The Napoleonic code was a bunch of new laws created by Napoleon Bonaparte. These laws were concerned with the issues relating, inter alia, to property, colonial affairs, family, and individual rights. In 1800, General Napoleon Bonaparte started important task of taking a fresh look at France's legal system. In 1804, he came up with and enacted a new **legal framework for France, known as the 'Napoleonic Code'.**
- In the pre-revolutionary legal order of France there was a diversity of laws. Each area had its own collection of customs. Different parts of France were governed by different laws, for instance, Roman law (governing parts of south France), Canon law, Customary law (under the feudal Frankish and the German Institutions), etc. This situation inspired Voltaire to observe that a traveler in France **'changes his law almost as often as he changes his horses'.**
- Despite efforts in the 16th and 17th centuries to organize and codify each of the local customary laws, there had been little success at national unification. Vested interests hindered efforts at codification, because reform would encroach upon the privileges accorded to the elites.
- The French Revolution not only set the stage but necessitated the building up of a new code of laws. Manors and the guilds had been destroyed, the power of the church had been suppressed, and the provinces had been transformed into subdivisions of the new national state . Demand for a new and uniform of law for the entire France was raised with the growing up of the national consciousness.
- **Hence, Napoleon Bonaparte came up with this new set of Laws, features of which could be mentioned as:**
  - All male citizens were made equal.
  - Feudal features like primogeniture, hereditary nobility , and class privileges were extinguished .
  - Civilian institutions were emancipated from ecclesiastical control.
  - It subordinated the family and women under the authority of men, deprived women of any individual rights, and reduced the rights of illegitimate children.

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- The laws were applied to all territories under Napoleon's control and were influential in several other European countries and in South America.

Socio-Political Reforms

- **Napoleon called himself the child of Revolution.** He was a supporter of the principles of Revolution, viz ., **liberty, equality and fraternity**, but he laid greater stress on equality than liberty. Napoleon said that the people of France demanded equality, for many people had been massacred in France due to liberty.
- **Centralization of the Government:** After becoming the first consul, he worked in such a way that all the powers were concentrated at one point . He centralized the government, putting control firmly in the hands of the national government. The Centralized government played a significant role in facilitating reforms in the field of education, taxation, religion, etc .
- **Abolition of Class distinction:** He completely abolished the distinction between the lower class and the upper class . Anybody could get the highest post in the government on the basis of merit. He got the cooperation of both the Jacobins and Girondists and pardoned the French emigres. Consequently, forty thousand families came back to France.
- **Reforms in Education:** In the field of education, Napoleon pursued a system of public education throughout France, as envisioned during the revolution. He setup University of France and separated the influence of Church from education. These reforms, however, were limited to boys only. Napoleon held backward views about education for girls and considered it not important for them.
- **Reforms in Art and Literature:** Napoleon was an ardent votary of art and encouraged it a lot. Napoleon asked the craftsmen of France to make beautiful articles, which led to the employment of fairly large sum of craftsmen. He also encouraged literature. Napoleon established the 'Legion of Honor ' in order to inject feeling of honor among the French people. The people were awarded and honored on the basis of their merit and not on that of birth.
- **Financial Reforms:** Napoleon realized the weaknesses of French financial infrastructure and made necessary changes to reform French economy. He introduced a system of tariffs and loans to strengthen local industry. He also laid the foundation of Bank of France to regulate currency and protect it against inflation. Roads, bridges and canals were built and repaired to facilitate trade and communications. Napoleon also provided food subsidies to keep the basic necessities of food at low prices. More employment opportunities were stimulated to cater for unemployed. Thus, Napoleon adopted multilateral approach to enhance economic development as well.
- **Religious Reforms:**
  - Napoleon brought the religion back to France after the atheistic years of the Revolution. He used to say that, 'a state without a religion is like a vessel without a compass '. But, according to him, The people must have a religion and that religion must be under the control of the government '.
  - Napoleon Bonaparte signed an agreement with the Catholic Church in 1801. This was called as Concordat. In the Concordat , Napoleon redefined the status of the Roman Catholic Church in France. He ended the breach caused by the church reforms and confiscations enacted during the French Revolution. The educational institutions would be controlled by the state. No official of the Church was

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to be allowed to open educational institution without the prior permission of state. All the Bishops would be appointed by the Pope from the proposed list of the state.

- The lower clergy were to be appointed by the Bishops. The Roman Catholic religion was recognised as the religion of the majority of French people. The Protestants and Jews were also given protection by the state.
- Thus, the Church became a part of the state due to the Concordat, and Napoleon received the favors of his opponent Church.
- While most of his reforms aligned perfectly with the ideals of Enlightenment and French revolution, there were some shortcomings as well. Napoleon refused to grant political rights to his people and freedom of speech was suppressed. Role of women was limited to household because of lack of education and unfair gender laws.

Continental System

- The **French had lost access to colonial markets because the British and allied navies prevented trading ships getting through.** This affected the French Economy and its export market very badly. The Continental system was an attempt to reshape the French export market and its economy.
- **Napoleon Bonaparte aimed to cripple Britain** (regarded as the 'merchant of the world' or 'nation of the shopkeepers').
- Since direct assault on the island nation was out of the question because of its strong Navy, Napoleon decided to do so by **destroying British trade**. Napoleon started building his own ships in prospect of building up **France's own manufacturing industry**.
- The **Continental System began in 1806 with Napoleon's Berlin Decree, which banned British ships from entering European ports.** Britain made a concerted effort to undermine the Continental System by contracting out its shipments to neutral vessels. Napoleon next issued the **Milan Decree**, in December 1807, aimed against smuggling, stated that neutral ships that stopped in Britain before landing in Europe were subject to confiscation.
- Napoleon, to some extent, was successful in gaining support of the European nations against the Britain because some way or the other nearly every European nation was envious of huge extent of Great Britain's empire. Having an edge over the naval power the world over, Britain started naval blockade against the European nations. This further led to disruption of the internal trade across the Europe.

Analysis

- Though the Continental System was disquieting Britain, it also **proved disastrous for Napoleon , because it backfired on him.** Its impacts on France and the Europe could be summed up as under:
  - French customs revenue fell substantially.
  - European nations were starved of British colonial goods: coffee, sugar, tobacco, cocoa, and cotton textiles .
  - Apart from cotton, the imported goods were addictive luxuries. This led the people to wage resentment against the French.
  - Replacement items such as sugar beet and linen were not tolerated.

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Aftermath

- The **British blockade of European ports and the scarcity of goods created a rise in European nationalism**. The rise of nationalism in Europe gave Britain the opportunity to fight France on land. Sensing a potent danger, **Napoleon slackened the restrictions**. This immediately benefited Britain – so he again tightened up the regulations in 1811.
- This led both his allies and his vassal to revolt. After 1808, Spain rose up in rebellion against the French rule. Russia refused to implement the Continental System and this led directly to the Moscow Campaign of 1812. Consequently, **Napoleon found himself faced with a war on two fronts.**

Napoleonic Wars

- The **Napoleonic wars (1799-1815)** were a continuation of the French Revolutionary wars. During the Napoleonic wars, France stood virtually alone against the rest of Europe. Along with the French Revolutionary wars, the Napoleonic wars comprise a 23-year long period of recurrent conflict that concluded only with the **Battle of Waterloo and Napoleon's second abdication on June 22, 1815.**
- In 1803 Great Britain declared war against France, and in 1805 the Third coalition against France was formed by Britain, Russia, Austria, Sweden and finally Prussia.
- In 1805 Napoleon defeated the Austrian and Russian armies at Austerlitz, the Prussians at Jena and Auerstedt (both in today's Germany) in 1806, and the Russians again in 1807 at Friedland. Napoleon signed the Peace treaty of Tilsit with the Russian Czar (in 1807) forcing the defeated powers to join the continental System. Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Portugal were also forced to join the System.
- In 1807, Napoleon occupied Portugal and in 1808, Spain. This turned out to be a blatant error which led Spain raise against Napoleonic France.
- In 1809, Napoleon attempted a forced crossing of the Danube near Vienna, but the French and their allies were driven back by Austria. The Austrian army inflicted the first defeat on Napoleon in the Battle of Aspern-Essling, after which Napoleon again defeated the Austrians at Wagram forcing another peace treaty. The battle was the first time Napoleon had been personally defeated in over a decade .
- After a period of relative peace, Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812. This campaign proved to be a fatal error. After a glorious start and occupying Moscow, the forced withdrawal during the severe Russian winter totally annihilated the largest field army to date. The disaster resulted in Britain, Russia, Austria, Prussia and Sweden forming a new coalition against France.
- In 1813 during a campaign in lower Germany, Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of the Nations at Leipzig, which involved armies from almost all the European states. Forced to retreat on all fronts back into France, Napoleon was compelled to abdicate in 1814 after the occupation of Paris by the allies. Napoleon was exiled to Elba.
- In 1815, in a desperate attempt to regain power Napoleon escaped from Elba, returned to France and rebuild an army. He started a 100 days campaign in northern France and Belgium. This was concluded with his defeat at Waterloo and his exile under British supervision to St. Helena.

◆ Napoleonic Era: A Critical Analysis

- Napoleon Bonaparte was considered by most to be the Savior of the French Revolution by ending it and putting in place a government that brought equality and stability to a torn country . Napoleon brought stability and direction to a country without a course. His unification of France left a profound impact not only on Europe, but the entire world.

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- Napoleon was not liked by other European leaders because many of the changes he made, threatened their countries' stability. His reforms made even the poor feel equal. The mainstays of the French Revolution that carried over into Napoleon's changes in government were Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. This worried other leaders because it put the idea of equality in the minds of the poor in other countries.
- Despite his defeat (in the battle of Waterloo) and the end of his empire one cannot discount many great effects Napoleon had on the Atlantic World. His institution of Laws ensured freedom and equality that set a trend throughout the world. Many revolutions that occurred after the French revolutions modelled their constitutions and beliefs on those first set by Napoleon. Freedom of religion, equality, centralized government, and strong economies were the new goals for those who wanted new regimes.
- Napoleon gave not only the French, but all who fought for revolution a direction to follow. The systems he put in place ended the tumultuous years of the reign of terror and solidified equality for the poor in France. His military conquests are still studied today at the best military academies in the world. His contributions to the Atlantic World are just as numerous as they are important. Despite his fall at Waterloo, Napoleon's legacy moved on and still impacts our world today.

07 Significance and Impact of the French Revolution

- The French revolution could be regarded as a starting point of modern history. The revolution cemented the fact that sovereignty comes from the people and not from above. It slashed off the ill effects of the society.
- It gave the people new concepts like Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and the feeling of brotherhood. Liberty ensured absence of arbitrary rule over the individual. Equality signified that all were equal before the law and social privileges in this respect stood abolished. Fraternity implied the brotherhood of humanity. The revolution thwarted the inequalities and social contradictions present in the then France.
- Further, significance and impact of the French Revolution could be elaborated into France on one hand, and Europe and the globe together, on the other.

Impact on France

- There is no doubt that the French Revolution had far reaching implication for the world. However, it had influenced France the most. The Revolution had left following social, economic and political effects on France.

Positive

- **France – The Representative of Humanity:** France became the representative of the humanity. It gave to the world of humanity three main important messages of Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality. Moreover, it led also to the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizens, which granted political liberty, like freedom of speech, press, association, worship and ownership of property.
- **French Empire became Nation:** The French nation was born because of the French Revolution. Since then, there was one France in place of different regions. The thirty million French subjects were granted equality of status as citizens of the nation and equality before law.
- **End of Despotic Rule:** Before the French Revolution, the Bourbon family ruled over France. The rulers of this dynasty believed in the theory of divine right of kingship and ruled as per their own wishes and

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whims. The French Revolution destroyed their very existence. It established a constitutional form of government and republic in France. They made the French people their own ruler.

- **Rise of Political Parties:** France became a multi-party state as a result of the 1789 French revolution. The freedom of association led to the rise of political clubs such as the Jacobins, cordeliers, Girondins that competed for power. These parties kept the government under check and in balance by criticizing bad policies.
- **Napoleon Bonaparte:** As France struggled under ineffective leadership that changed very little in the course of the daily lives of the common people, Napoleon was able to seize power with the help of military. Perhaps the most far-reaching consequence of this was the establishment of the Napoleonic Code or Code civil des Français. Essentially, the Code made the legal system fairer to all in France regardless of religion or wealth.
- **Written Constitution:** France got her first written constitution due to the French Revolution. It was also one of the first written constitutions of the European continent . It gave the right of franchise to the citizen of France. There were some shortcomings in the constitution , but it had ushered in a new era in France.
- **Abolition of Feudalism:** The Feudal system ended due to the French Revolution. With the French Revolution, the difference between the privileged and non-privileged class ended. It was an end of the old despotic system.
- **Decrease in Influence of Church:** The influence of the high priests on the society of France ended. The priests took oath on the new constitution to maintain their loyalty to the French nation. The state became the owner of the wealth of the church. The priest started receiving salary from the state. On the other hand, the French people started adopting rational attitude in place of the blind faith based on religious affiliations.
- **Administrative Changes:** Numerous changes were made in the administrative structure of France due to the French Revolution. The whole of the country was divided into 83 departments for the administrative purpose. The principle of election was adopted at the places required in administration.
- **National Guard:** National Guard replaced the royal guard of the Bourbon monarchy. National Guard was formed to protect the achievements of the French revolution. By the end of 1793, there were about 700, 000 well trained and disciplined soldiers of the National Guard that protected people and their property.
- **Re-Organization of the Judicial System:** The National Convention introduced a common judicial system for whole of France. The judicial system was made independent of the executive and legislature. The 'Jury System' was introduced to try the criminal cases.
- **Changes in the Conditions of Farmers:** The feudal system ended, which liberated the farmers from the burden of unnecessary taxes. They did not have to pay the taxes to the landlords and tithes (the religious tax) to the church.
- **Cultural Effects:** France made numerous achievements in the field of art, science, and literature due to French Revolution. Numerous schools, colleges, universities, and academies were opened in the country. The special attention was paid to art, literature, science , mathematics, technology, and physical training in the field of education. However, the French Revolution also had some negative impacts on the nation, the repercussions of which were felt for long and wide.

◆ Negative

- **Led to Reign of Terror:** The peaceful revolution that began on the 5th May 1789 changed into violence and causing reign of terror in France by 1792- 1794. During this period there was total breakdown of law

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and order, heavy massacres as people were competing to kill in order not to be killed especially by the leaders of political clubs.

- **Economic Decline in France:** The revolution led to the general decline in the level of economic activities. It hindered progress in agriculture, trade, industrial sector, transport and communication especially during the reign of terror. This led to unemployment, inflation, poverty, starvation and famine.
- **The Church and the State:** The revolution led to serious conflict between the Catholic Church and the state. Before the revolution, the Catholic Church and the state were inseparable. However, the declaration of the civil constitution the clergy, nationalization of the church property and removing privileges of the church led to poor relationship between the church and the state.
- **Relationship with other States:** The revolution led to poor relationship between France and other states. Revolutionary ideas of the French revolution were great threats to other powers and monarchs in Europe. That is why Britain, Russia, Prussia, Austria and other countries allied against France in order to prevent the spread of revolutionary ideas to their countries.

Effect on Britain

- **Effect on Reform Movements:** Pitt, the Younger, the Prime Minister of Britain in 1789, praised and welcomed the events of French Revolution, when it started in May 1789. When the British watched the blood shed which followed the revolution, they turned against it. However, the main message of liberty, fraternity and equality arrested the attention of the British. They started various movements for social and political reforms.
- **Economic Crises:** It led to Financial crises in Britain. Britain started supporting the anti -revolution parties. It also extended them the monetary help. Britain also suffered due to the economic blockade launched by Napoleon. It increased her financial liabilities and her citizens were made to suffer the load of extra taxes .
- **Influence on Ireland:** The success of French Revolution encouraged the revolutionaries of Ireland. They increased their revolutionary activities. British government was forced to adopt oppressive measures in Ireland.

Effect on Europe

- **Responses and Reactions:** In Poland and Ireland, the French Revolution encouraged revolutionary activities. The Revolution also influenced middle class of Germany and Italy.
- **A phase of new Wars:** The rising tide of revolution in different countries became the cause of fear among the autocratic rulers. They joined to check the spread of the revolution. It pushed Europe in a spate of anti-revolutionary wars.
- **Rise of Concert of Europe:** After defeating Napoleon, the European nations organised the Concert of Europe in 1815. It aimed at maintaining the status quo and reinstatement of European royal families. It was also accompanied by the reactionary policies against the revolutionary movements in European countries.

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Permanent Effects

- **Spirit of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity:** The main gift of French Revolution was the ideas of Liberty, Fraternity and Equality. It ended the dominance of the theory of divine right of kingship. It gave a deathblow to social status by birth. It became the cause of the rise of nationalism.
- **Rise of Nationalism:** The French Revolution infused the sense of nationalism among the people of France. The people of France faced the attack of foreign power as one nation and inculcated the feeling of nationalism among them. It was soon followed by similar rise of feelings of nationalism in other countries .
- **Anti-colonial Wave:** It inspired anti-colonial movements and weakened the European colonial powers like Spain and Portugal. People in Belgium and the Balkan states succeeded in gaining independence.
  - **In Haiti**, which at the time of the French Revolution was a French colony called Saint Domingue, independence movements broke out when the National Assembly passed the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen.
- **In Asia and Africa** there were struggles for Independence inspired by the ideals of the French Revolution. In India, Tipu Sultan and Raja Rammohan Roy were inspired by the ideals of the French Revolution.
- **Growth of Democratic Ideas:** The French Revolution encouraged the rule of law, the politics of census and democratic rule.
- **Rise of Internationalism:** The French Revolution gave rise to the need of coming together at international level to face the common danger. It emerged in form of Concert of Europe. It started an era of international bodies. The origin of UN (UNO) is also traced to Concert of Europe.
  - So, in a nutshell, the French Revolution could be regarded as a turning point in the panorama of the world history which not only engendered new concepts but also encouraged the existing rational ones.

✦ Quick Revision

- **Old Regime**: feudal French society before 1789, split into three Estates; clergy and nobility enjoyed privileges by birth and freedom from taxes.
- **Third Estate**: bourgeoisie, urban workers and peasants; it bore the tax burden, and its educated middle class led the peasants and workers.
- **Financial crisis**: costly wars, royal extravagance and over a billion livres of debt from the American war left France near bankruptcy.
- **Calonne's plan (1786)**: a universal land tax ending the exemptions of the privileged classes; its failure deepened the crisis.
- **Enlightenment thinkers**: Locke, Montesquieu and Rousseau attacked divine right and privilege by birth, giving the discontented a programme of change.
- **Rousseau**: social contract, sovereignty of the people and 'general will'; inspired the Third Estate's demand for one individual, one vote.
- **1789**: Estates General (5 May), National Assembly (17 June), Tennis Court Oath (20 June), Fall of Bastille (14 July), August Decrees.
- **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (26 August 1789)**: natural rights, sovereignty of the nation, equality before law; inspired the 1948 UDHR.
- **Revolutionary Wars (1792–1802)**: Pilnitz threat, war with Austria, September Massacres; the Convention abolished monarchy (1792) and executed Louis XVI (1793).
- **Reign of Terror (1793–94)**: Robespierre's Committee of Public Safety guillotined suspected enemies; ended by the Thermidorian Reaction, July 1794.

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- **Directory (1795–99)**: five-member executive with France's first bicameral legislature; corruption and instability ended in Napoleon's coup of November 1799.
- **Napoleonic Code (1804)**: equality of male citizens, end of feudal privileges, secular civil institutions; but women subordinated to men.
- **Concordat (1801)**: healed the breach with the Catholic Church while placing the Church under state control.
- **Continental System (1806)**: Berlin and Milan Decrees to cripple British trade; it backfired, stirred nationalism and led to the 1812 Russian campaign.
- **Legacy**: popular sovereignty, liberty, equality, fraternity, nationalism and end of feudalism; inspired Haiti, Tipu Sultan and Raja Rammohan Roy.

Previous Year Questions

2025 GS I · 15 MARKS

The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain. (Answer in 250 words)

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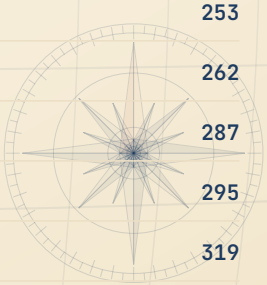
UNIT III 5 CHAPTERS

The World Wars

The road to 1914, the First World War and the peace settlement, the League of Nations, the world between the wars, and the Second World War with the founding of the United Nations.

CHAPTERS

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TOPICS COVERED IN THIS UNIT

19 **Major Events Before World War I**
Inter Imperial Rivalries · Annexation of Alsace – Lorraine by Germany · Serbian Nationalism · Moroccan Crisis · Bosnia Crisis · Agadir Crisis (1911) · Balkan Wars · Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand · Formation of Alliances

20 **World War I**
Europe in 1914 · Causes of World War I · Causes of War: A Critical Analysis · Events Leading to Outbreak of the War · Inevitability of World War I · Beginning of the War · Protraction of the War · Reasons for Loss of Central Powers · Total War · Impact of War · Peace Settlement · Impact of Treaty of Versailles · Other Treaties

21 **League of Nations**
Reasons for Formation · Objectives of League of Nations · Successes of League of Nations · Failures of League of Nations · Reasons for Failure of League of Nations · League of Nations: A Critical Analysis · Demise of League of Nations

22 **World Between 1918–39**
USA · USSR · Japan · India · China · Korea · South-East Asia · West Asia · Africa · Latin America · Europe

23 **World War 2**
Causes of World War II · Events of World War 2 · Impacts of World War II · WW II: A Critical Analysis · UN Charter

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WORLD HISTORY | GS PAPER I · MAINS

World War I

SYLLABUS

MAINS · GS PAPER I

History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. – their forms and effect on the society

CONTENTS

01 Europe in 1914
02 Causes of World War I
03 Causes of War: A Critical Analysis
04 Events Leading to Outbreak of the War
05 Inevitability of World War I
06 Beginning of the War
07 Protraction of the War
08 Reasons for Loss of Central Powers
09 Total War
10 Impact of War
11 Peace Settlement
12 Impact of Treaty of Versailles
13 Other Treaties
14 Previous Year Questions

01 Europe in 1914

- In 1914, Europe was the force to reckon with. European countries were having **vast colonies** in different parts of the world and thus decisions of the European powers used to decide the fortunes of the millions of people around the globe. European countries were strong both **economically and militarily**. Major European powers of the time were **Britain, Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia. Britain and Germany were leading** the rest in this pack. Political systems of these powers were also varied widely.
- **Britain and France were democracies. Germany had an elected lower house** of the parliament, but real powers were exercised by the **Chancellor and the Kaiser (King). Austria-Hungary and Russia were autocracies. Italy was a monarchy** with an elected parliament (but right to vote was based on property qualification).

Europe before WWI

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02 Causes of World War I

- World War I was the first of its kind war. Before it, the world had never seen war of such proportion and scale. Destruction caused by this war was far greater than any preceding conflict. It was a war fought by many countries in different continents and it continued for **four years**. It resulted in large scale deaths and changed the fortunes of many countries.
- That's why it raised the question, 'What caused the war of these proportions?' Below are listed some of the reasons which have been suggested for the escalation of the war.

Alliance System

- **Otto Von Bismarck was the Chancellor of unified Germany from 1871-90**. After the unification **in 1871**, Germany had emerged as the most powerful nation in continental Europe. **Bismarck wanted to maintain the status quo and prevented formation of any anti-German alliance** so that Germany remains supreme in the continental Europe. To achieve these objectives Bismarck adopted a system of **peacetime military alliances. Dual alliance was signed in 1879 with Austria-Hungary and in 1882 Italy joined this system making it Triple alliance**. With the **Russia, Reinsurance treaty was signed in 1887.**
- These alliances achieved the immediate foreign policy objectives of Bismarck. However, in the long term these alliance systems proved extremely harmful for the peace of Europe. These treaties were never published in totality and there was always secrecy about their nature and content. **After the exit of Bismarck from the office of the Chancellor, the counter alliances were also formed which split the Europe into two hostile armed camps.**
- In **1894, Franco-Russian alliance** was formed. In **1904, Britain and France signed 'Entente Cordiale'** and in **1907 Britain and Russia** came together and signed an alliance. Suspicions kept mounting between these opposing camps and, according to many, these alliances were the main reason for spread of war and turning war into a total war.

Colonial Rivalry

- European countries had a vast colonial empire, they were used as monopolized markets and source of raw materials for the colonial masters. **By 1900 the British Empire extended over five continents and France had control of large areas of Africa**. With the rise of industrialized countries needed new markets. The **amount of lands 'owned' by Britain and France increased the rivalry with Germany** who had entered the scramble to acquire colonies late and only had small areas of Africa.
- After the German unification of 1871, **Germany had emerged as the most powerful country, economically and militarily**, in continental Europe. However, the colonial empire of Germany was neither extensive nor economically very rewarding in comparison with many of the European countries.
- Till the time Bismarck was the German Chancellor, Bismarck did not allow German ambition to **vitiate European peace** in this matter. After his ouster from the office of the chancellor German ambitions were not kept in check by their leaders.

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- The **aggressive policies of Kaiser Wilhelm II (1888 – 1918) to acquire colonies in Africa created bad blood** between some countries and their populations, which led many to believe that it created a hostile environment which contributed towards the outbreak of World War I.

Naval Race

- **Britain was the world's greatest sea power during those days.** With an ambition to have a vast colonial empire, **Germany started building a vast and powerful navy.** At first this German naval expansion did not bother Britain because they had an enormous lead. However, the introduction of **'Dreadnought' type of battleship in 1906** changed the whole scenario. It made all other battleships obsolete. It intensified the **naval rivalry** since both countries had to start on equal terms. For many of the British, this naval expansion of Germany was the sign that Germany intended to make war against Britain.

Economic Rivalry

- It has been argued by many that economic rivalry was the main reason that Germany went to war with Britain. **Colonial rivalry was considered as a by product of this economy rivalry by proponents of this theory**. As per them to achieve the economy mastery of the world, it was necessary to destroy the British economic supremacy by war. This was the reason the German businessmen and the capitalists also supported war with Britain.

Situation in Balkan

- **Weakening of Ottoman Empire** had made the situation in Balkan problematic. It had given **rise to the aspirations and ambitions of different empires and nationalities (Habsburg Empire, Russian Empire, Serbs, Croats, Slavs** etc.). Serbian nationalism was presenting the most serious challenge in keeping the Balkan peninsula peaceful. Serbian nationalists had resented the **1878 Treaty of Berlin**. **Annexation of Bosnia, an area desired by Serbia, by Austria in 1908** made the situation more volatile and complicated .
- The Serbian ambition of creating a large South Slav Kingdom was posing existential threat to the Habsburg Empire, which was an amalgamation of many different nationalities. If the Serbs and Croats were allowed to leave the fold, it was expected that many other nationalities within the Habsburg Empire would demand their independence as well. **Russian support for Serbia had made Serbia more aggressive.**
- **Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913 had made Serbia stronger** and more determined to challenge Austrian occupation of Bosnia. It had made Austrians equally determined to end Serbian ambitions through military means. **Assassination of Austrian Archduke in 1914 did provide an opportunity to end Serbian aspirations** and Austria was determined to use it for its benefit .

German Backing for Austria

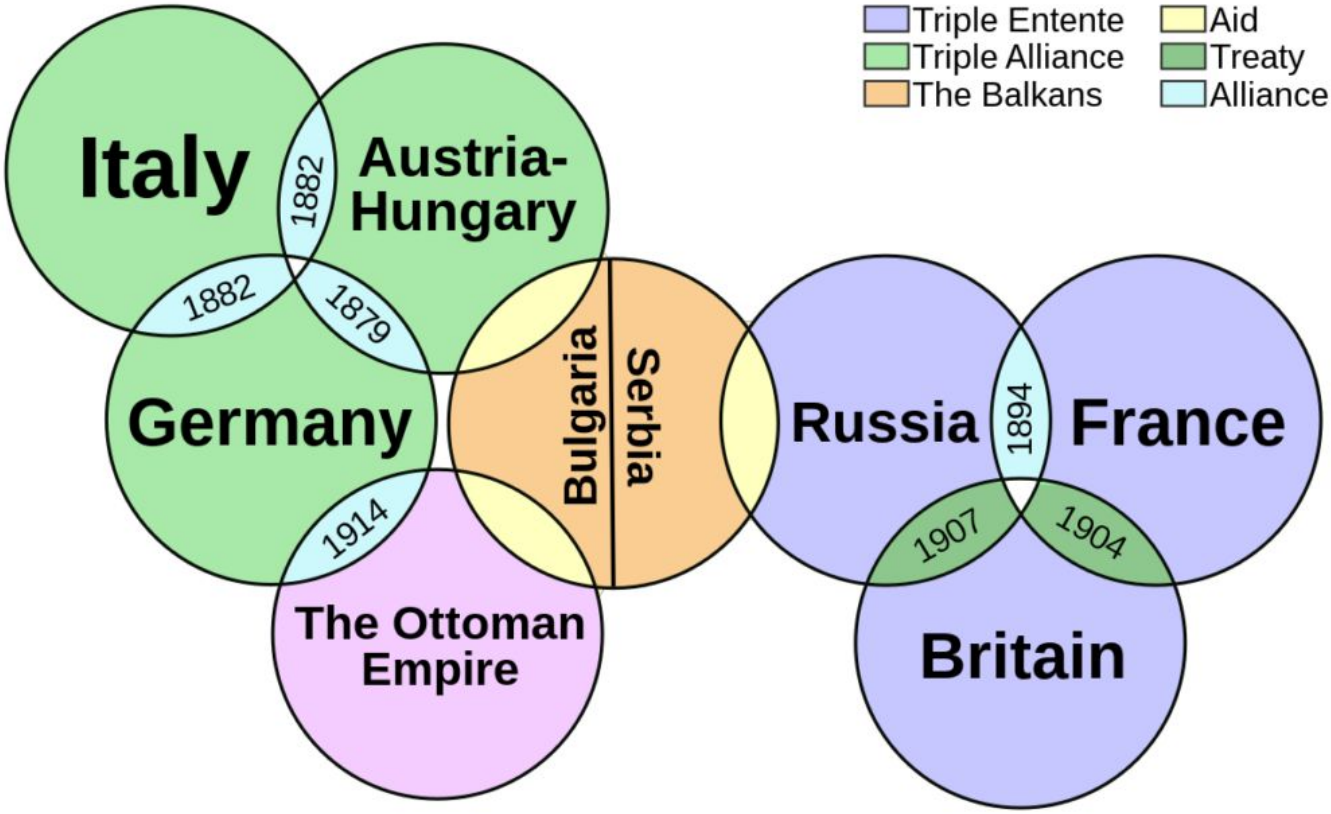
- For Germany situation on the Eastern front demanded that they support Austria-Hungary. **Austria-Hungary was the only strong ally of Germany in 1914**. In case Serbia and Russia defeated Austria-Hungary it would have left Germany without any strong partner in Europe. Germany could not allow this to happen. In this situation, the best possible solution was to maintain status quo for the time being.
- It was known that **Serbia would not declare war on Austria without the support of Russia** and **Austria would not declare war without the German support**. That's why German declaration of unconditional

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support, in 1914, for Austria in event of war with Serbia was also considered by many as an important cause for the start of the war.

Role of Press

- The **newspapers and press propagated aggressive nationalist propaganda** in their respective countries. It intensified rivalry among nations and nationalities. It made it difficult for the leaders to take liberal line and they were forced to be rigid in any negotiations which further intensified international rivalries and hostilities.

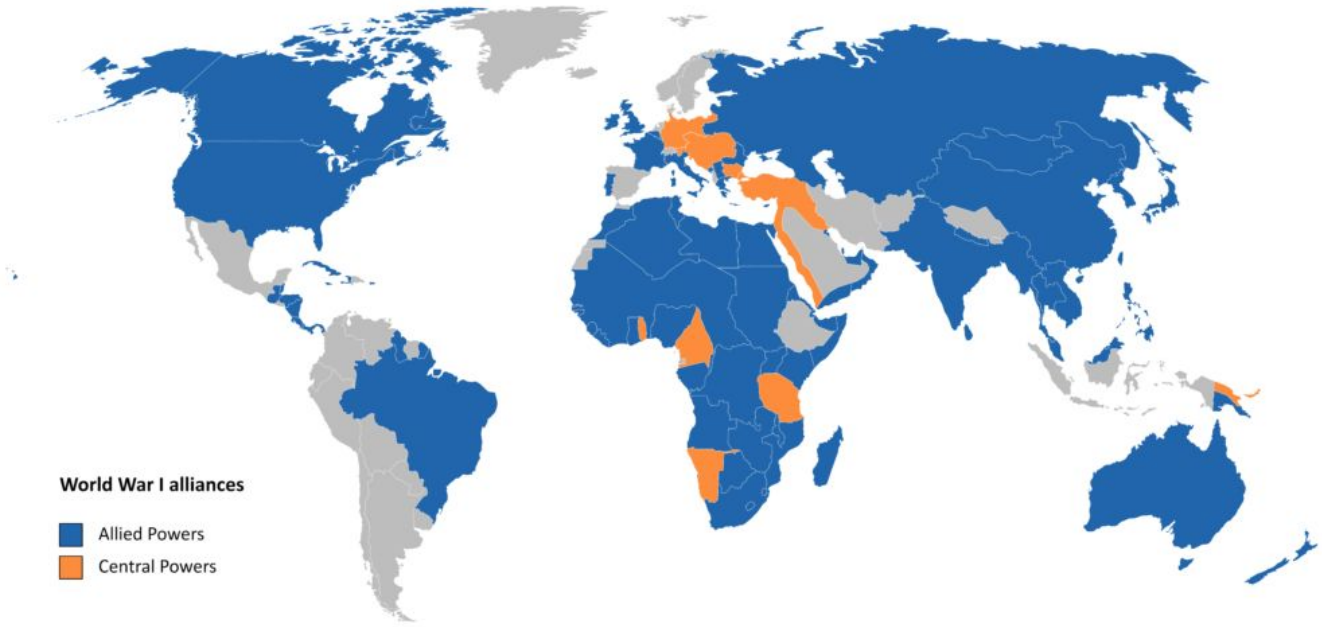


03 Causes of War: A Critical Analysis

- Although many historians believe that **alliance system** is to blame for the outbreak of World War I but in fact there was nothing binding about these alliances. During the **Russo-Japanese war French did not help Russia. Germany restrained Austria during the second Balkan war. Italy, a partner of the triple alliance, entered the war against Germany and Austria**. All these prove that alliance systems alone cannot be held responsible for the outbreak of the World War I.
- **Colonial rivalries alone, also could not explain the outbreak of the war**. Although there had certainly been disputes, they had always been settled without war. Naval race also soon lost its steam. By **early 1913 the Germans had actually reduced naval spending** in order to concentrate more on strengthening the army .

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- Critics of the economic rivalry theory point out that Germany was on the path to achieve economic supremacy. In this scenario the last thing German industrialists would have wanted was war.
- A massive conflict like World War I can never be the result of any specific factor or few factors alone. It was a **product of the prevailing politico economic and sociocultural complexities**. **Once the conflict started it became difficult for the European powers to remain neutral.** Conflict continued for the four long years and left a trail of devastations behind.



04 Events Leading to Outbreak of the War

- There were many causes of friction between nations of Europe as discussed above, there were naval rivalry, peace time military alliance system, economic rivalry, colonial ambitions, situations in Balkan etc. They culminated in a series of events which led to the outbreak of the war in 1914.

Moroccan Crisis (1905–06)

- As has been discussed above, Germany was the most powerful nation in continental Europe. But her colonial empire was not extensive and economically rewarding compared with most of the European nations. Germans resented this and **when Kaiser Wilhelm II became emperor, the Germans started pursuing colonies aggressively.**
- In an attempt to expand their empire and to test **Anglo-French 'Entente Cordiale' (1904),** the Germans announced they would assist the Sultan of Morocco to maintain his country's independence.
- **France was also interested in Morocco.** To discuss the issue an **international conference was held in Algeciras in southern Spain (Jan 1906)**. The Germans believed that most of the countries would not contest her claims, but to her amazement **Britain, Russia, Italy and Spain supported the French demand to control the Morocco bank and police**. It was a serious diplomatic defeat for Germany and it also highlighted the strength of recently signed Anglo French 'Entente Cordiale'.

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British Agreement with Russia

- There was a history of series of hostilities between Britain and Russia during the preceding century. Britain was a proud democracy and they held autocratic Russian government in contempt.
- The Russians were also seen as a major threat to the Eastern empire of Britain (India). But the weakness of Russian empire led the way for both the countries to come together. They settled their differences in **Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet.** They signed an **agreement of cooperation in 1907**. It was regarded as a hostile move by Germany and German resentment against Britain increased further.

Bosnia Crisis

- **Bosnia was a province of Turkey**. In **1878 the Congress of Berlin gave the permission for Austria to administer the province, but officially Bosnia to remain a part of Turkey**. In **1908 Austria annexed Bosnia**. At that time, the Turkish government was determined to assert their control over the province of Bosnia. The Austrian action was a deliberate move and against Serbian aspirations to take control of Bosnia. Serbian aspirations were not devoid of merit, since there were over 800,000 Serbs in Bosnia.
- The **Serbs appealed for help from their ally and fellow Slavs, the Russians**. The Russians called for a European Conference but no conference took place and Austria kept Bosnia, since Britain and France were unwilling to involve in the Balkan conflict. It was a triumph for the Austrian-German alliance, but had unfortunate consequences. **Serbia became extremely hostile to Austria**. Russia did not support militarily because they recently lost a war with Japan and was not prepared for another war. But humiliation to desert the cause of fellow Slavs, Serbia, determined Russia to support Serbia in any future conflict. Russia embarked on a massive military buildup and modernization of army in case Serbia asked for help again.

Agadir Crisis (1911)

- A **rebellion broke out against the Sultan of Morocco in capital city Fez.** On the pretext of helping Sultan **French** troops occupied Fez. The **Germans** sent a gunboat, the Panther, to the Moroccan port of Agadir, to pressurize the French into giving Germany compensation. The British were concerned about safety of their trade routes in case the Germans acquired Agadir. **British supported French** and Germans withdrew their gunboat.
- The **Germans agreed to recognize the French protectorate over Morocco. In return, they got two strips of territory in the French Congo**. It again proved efficacy of 'Entente Cordiale' and gave a further push to **anti British sentiments in Germany**. It is also known as the **second Moroccan crisis.**

First Balkan War (1912)

- **Turkey was known as the sick man of Europe** and Balkan countries wanted to take advantage of this situation. They wanted to expand their territories at the expense of Turkey. This situation resulted in the Balkan wars.
- In the **first Balkan war; Serbia, Greece, Montenegro and Bulgaria launched a series of attacks on the Turkey.** To avoid the spreading of the conflict, the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, arranged a peace conference in London, with the German government.

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- The **resulting settlement divided up the former Turkish lands among the victor Balkan powers**. However to prevent Serbia becoming more powerful **Albania was made an independent state**. Serbia wanted Albania, to get an outlet to the sea, but Austria prevented this with support from Germany and Britain.

Second Balkan War (1913)

- **Like Serbia, Bulgaria was also unhappy with their gains from the first Balkan war.** They had been hoping **to get Macedonia** but most of it was given to Serbia. **Bulgaria attacked Serbia to get what it desired, but the plan could not be successful.**
- **Greece, Romania and Turkey supported Serbia**. Bulgaria lost the war and by the **Treaty of Bucharest (1913),** they forfeited most of their gains from the first Balkan war.
- Balkan wars had serious consequences for the Europe and the world. Serbia gained from the war and emerged as a stronger nation. It strengthened her resolve to use war as a means to achieve her national objectives. It also made Austrians determined to put the brakes on Serbians ambitions of creating Grand Serbia.

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (1914)

- On **28 June, 1914 Austrian Prince Franz Ferdinand was assassinated along with his wife Sophie in Bosnian capital Sarajevo, by a Bosnian terrorist Gavrilo Princip.** The Archduke, nephew and heir to the Emperor was on an official visit to Sarajevo. The annexation of Bosnia had intensified anti Austrian feelings in Serbia and Bosnia. This assassination was reflection of those feelings.
- The **Austrians blamed the Serbia and sent a harsh ultimatum**. Serbia accepted most of the demands, but the Austrian government was determined to use this incident to put an end to Serbian menace. **With a promise of German support, Austria declared war on Serbia on 28th July, 1914**. Russia ordered general mobilization on 29th July, 1914. On 31st July,1914 Germany demanded that this general mobilization should be cancelled. **When Russia did not comply, Germany declared war on Russia on 1 August,1914 and against France on 3rd August,1914. Britain entered the war on 4th August, 1914. Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia** on 6th August,1914.

05 Inevitability of World War I

- It is a question worth looking into. Before the outbreak of the war, Europe had witnessed many conflicts and clashes in the twentieth century. However, major powers never took the matters to the battlefield as witnessed during **Moroccan crisis, Agadir crisis and Bosnian crisis**. Even during the Balkan wars major powers did not participate and issue remained localized to eastern Europe. Germany even restrained Austria when latter wanted to participate in the second Balkan war. So how come situation altered so dramatically within a short period?
- Genesis of World War I cannot be understood from adopting an event based approach. It was not the outcome of a single event. **Assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was just a trigger.** We have seen that activities of Serbia were posing existential threat to the Habsburg empire. The murder of the heir to the throne was interpreted as the direct challenge to the might of the Habsburg empire by Austria-Hungary. But when Serbia accepted most of the demands of the Austria it was thought that war could be

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averted. But Austria was determined to use this opportunity to her advantage and wage a preventive war against Serbia. **Austria probably hoped that war would remain localized like the Balkan wars.**

- But this explains the outbreak of the war but not why it became the World War. Austrians thought that if they do not react strongly it would be detrimental for the future of the empire. Also, unconditional German backing might have led them to believe that the Russians would not come to rescue of Serbia. But Russia felt that it could not allow destruction of Serbia without tarnishing the prestige of Russia as a leader of Serb Slavs.
- Once Russia ordered general mobilization of troops, situation went from bad to worse. Now it became a compulsion for Germany to support Austria against Russia because the victory of the Russo-Serb alliance against Habsburg empire would have weakened German position in Europe. When Germany declared war against the Russia other powers could not remain neutral because a German victory against Russia would have made Germany too powerful to deal with. Thus we can say that World War I was not inevitable, but the compulsions and decisions taken by leaders converted a localized conflict into a world War.

06 Beginning of the War

- **Austria declared war on Serbia on 28th July, 1914. Russia ordered general mobilization on 29th July, 1914.** On 31st July, 1914 Germany demanded that this general mobilization should be cancelled. When Russia did not comply, **Germany declared war on Russia on 1st August, 1914 and against France on 3rd August, 1914.** Britain entered the war on 4th August,1914. **Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia** on 6 August,1914.
- **Turkey entered the war on November 1914 and joined the Central Powers. Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary** in May, 1915. The Italians were promised Trentino, the south Tyrol, Istria, Trieste, part of Dalmatia, Adalia, some islands in the Aegean Sea and a protectorate over Albania by the Allies (A secret treaty was signed in London). In **October, 1915 Bulgaria joined the Central Powers. Romania joined the Allies/Entente Powers in August 1916.**
- Most significant event of the war was the **entry of the USA in April 1917.** It was **caused partly by German U-boat campaign and by the discovery of the German conspiracy with Mexico.** Germany was trying to persuade Mexico to declare war on USA. The **entry of USA tilted the war in favour of the Allies.**
- They supplied Allies' men and materials which they were in dire need of. Most important was the **psychological boost** it gave to the Allies and the corresponding blow it gave to German morale. Importance of entry of the USA for the Allies can be understood better if we take into account the fact that the Russia withdrew from the war in December 1917.

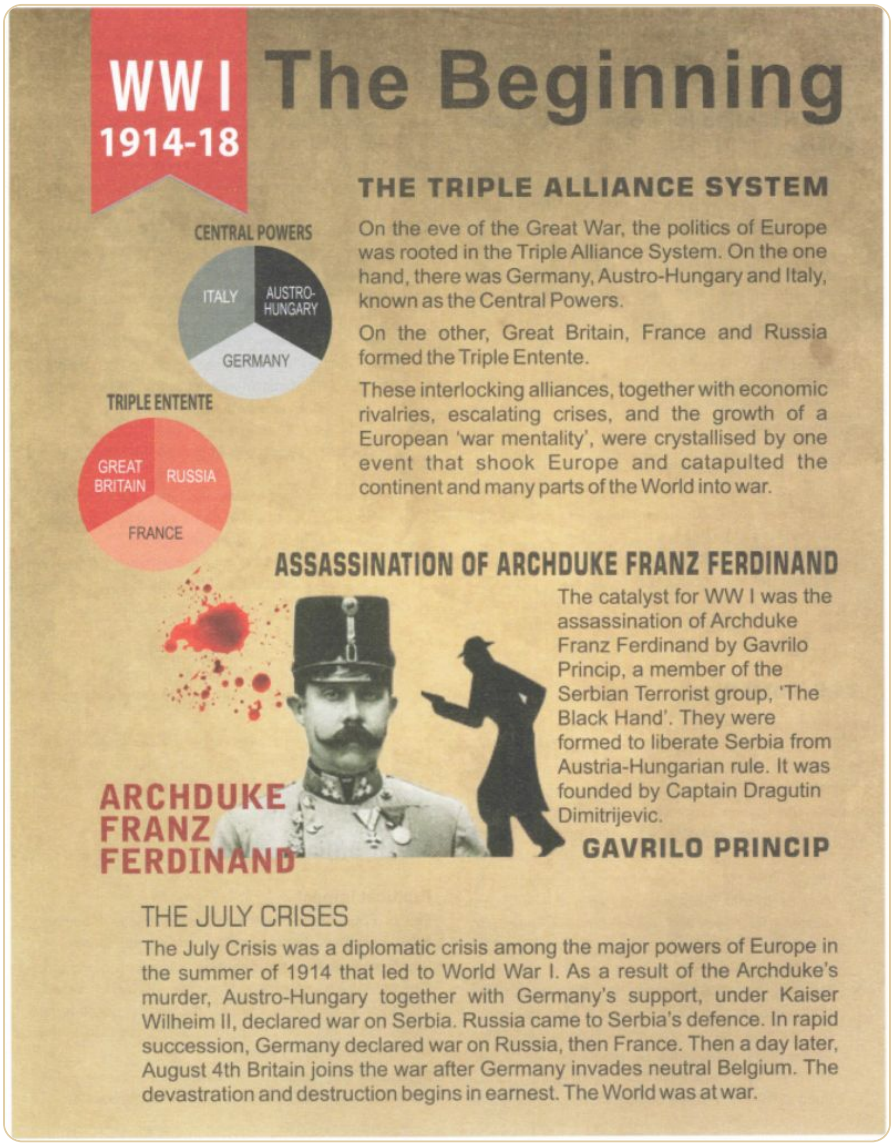
07 Protraction of the War

- When the war started most of the people **expected it to be a short war.** But with the time, scope of war kept on increasing. Soon **all major powers of Europe entered the war.** Theatre of war was also **extended**

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beyond Europe. Colonies also participated in the war efforts of their colonial masters by providing men and materials. The main reasons which made the war last so long are following:

- The **two sides were evenly balanced before the entry of the USA.**
- Theatre of the war was extensive, including many countries, thus defeat in single or some battles could not decide the fate of the war.
- The main countries involved in the war had **very strongly held war aims** which were antagonistic in nature. Thus, it was almost impossible to reach an acceptable negotiated solution.
- The **nature of warfare (Trench warfare)** also made it difficult to get the quick decisive victory. Only when tanks were used on a large scale in an effective manner, stalemate on the western front can be overcome.
- **Mass support for the war** was maintained through the use of mass propaganda. Newspapers, printed materials, films and advertisements were used to encourage and motivate general public and military forces.



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08 Reasons for Loss of Central Powers

- **Germany, the most powerful country among the Central powers, was fighting the war on two fronts.** It affected her war efforts .
- **Allied sea power was decisive.** Making it difficult for Central Powers to receive supplies through ports, creating severe food shortages. It also affected exports of the Central Powers.
- The **German submarine campaign failed to achieve complete blockade of the Allies**. Unrestricted submarine warfare had an important consequence as it brought the USA into the war.
- The **entry of the USA helped the Allies in their war efforts.** It brought vast resources of the USA to the allies, and in a long drawn out war, it was always strength of resources which decides the fate of the war. Entry of the USA also made up for the withdrawal of the Russia from the war .
- **Germany was badly let down by her allies**. Germany did not get any considerable support from her allies and it was always on them to rescue their allies. In the end it proved too much for the German army to fight on multiple fronts.

09 Total War

- The **concept of total war was put forward by German General Ludendorff in 1935 in his book titled 'Total War'.** He analyzed the character of the conflict seen and concluded that this war was different from other wars fought in human history. The concept of total war was later amplified and was linked to the **nuclear age in 1949 by the American General Curtis Lemay**. The total war is characterized by:
  - **Participation of the total national resources**. No distinction was maintained between the resources allocated for military and civilian purposes. The military needs take precedence over civilian requirements during a total war.
  - **Not only the military forces, but the whole nation participates in a total war**. Political leaders participate by forming alliances and counter alliances. Industrialists participates by producing war goods. The labourers participate by providing their labour unconditionally. Women participate by providing their services in hospitals, factories, shops and at homes (Left behind by male family

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members for war). The cultural groups play their role by motivating soldiers and civilians alike. Even older population participate by looking after household activities.

- **Most of the nations of the world participate**, either directly or indirectly, in a total war.
- A total war is fought on **several fronts simultaneously** in different parts of the world. Quite unlike a traditional war, which is limited to one or a few places.
- **Latest weapons and technologies** are used in a total war. Tanks, submarines and airplanes were used in World War I for the first time.
- **Use of weapons of mass destruction.** These weapons are used to inflict maximum damage on enemies. **Chemical weapons** were used in the World War I.
- **No distinction is maintained between combatants and noncombatants in a total war.** Civilian targets are deliberately selected to force the enemies into submission by breaking their resolve. During both the world wars civilian targets and cities were deliberately selected.
- A **total war is also characterized as a war of attrition**. In these wars both the parties suffer from the complete degeneration of their fighting capacities.
- A **total war is always a long drawn out conflict**. The outcome is not decided by one or few battles.
- A total war ends with complete defeat of one party.
- A total war is also characterized by the **total impact**. Not only the military forces, but civilian population also bears the suffering of the war. All aspects of life, be it economic, polity or social, get seriously affected by the total war.
- Total war is also characterized by the **development of new military infrastructures and institutions**. Allied Supreme War Council was set up during the World War I.

10 Impact of War

Political Impact

- **Fall of Four Great Empires:** German empire, Austrian- Hungary empire , Russian empire and Ottoman Empire.
- **Emergence of New Nationalities** in the form of Poland , Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Serbia emerged as a powerful nation. Fragmentation of Ottoman empire resulted in the emergence of modern Turkey.
- **Spread of Democracy:** Democratic governments came up in Germany, Austria, Hungary and other new states.
- **Nationalism** was intensified during the war and also as a result of the war, especially for the losing powers like Germany which paved way for future waves of Nazism and Fascism.
- The **new balance of power** emerged in the world as a result of World War I. The German might was shattered for time being. France and Britain were left as major powers in the Europe. **USA also emerged as a world power.**
- **Discontent over the failure of the peace process** to satisfy the aspirations of many countries resulted in the emergence of the totalitarian regime in countries like Italy, Germany and Japan.

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- **Communism and socialism got an impetus** due to the result of the devastation caused by World War I. Led to **Russian and Turkish Revolutions**. Formation of **League of Nations.**

Economic Impact

- **World War I had a Devastating Effect on the European Economy**: Total economic impact of the war was estimated at 400 billion dollars.
- **Economic Supremacy of Europe was Greatly Reduced**: Before World War I, Europe was the manufacturing continent of the world, but her capabilities were greatly reduced and USA emerged as the manufacturing powerhouse.
- **Change in Direction of International Trade**: Europe became an importer of goods from Asia and America during the post war period.
- The American economy was greatly benefited from the World War I because USA supplied the military as well as civilian goods to Europe during and after the war. It helped in emergence of America as the great economic power.
- **Growth of Industries in the Colonies**: The outlook of European colonial masters changed significantly towards the colonies after 1919, regarding industrialization of colonies. Some industries were encouraged with a view that in future wars they will serve their colonial master's needs. Colonies were considered relatively safe from attacks of enemies.
- **European Debt Crisis:** The European nations had taken huge loans from the American government during the war period. When after the war, time for repayment came, it pushed Europe into a debt crisis.
- **Hyperinflation in Europe:** This was the result of the destruction of the industries and change in the pattern of production during the war period.
- **Emergence of Labourers** as an important economic class due to short supply of the work force. The trade unions had started emerging and gradually these unions were accorded recognition by the governments in Europe after World War I.

Socio-Cultural Impact

- **Extreme Devastation of Men and Material in Europe:** Huge death numbers and civilian casualties (More than 8.5 million soldiers had died and more than 21 million wounded) affected social institutions like family, marriage and put them under severe stress. Most of the dead were young men which led to gender and demographic imbalances.
- **Anti-War attitude** emerged in Europe after the first World War. The strategy of using war as an instrument of national policy had begun to be questioned. Moves of democratic regimes to redevelop the military infrastructure was opposed strongly in countries like Britain and France.
- A sense of disillusionment and pessimism had begun to be reflected in cultural fields. Music, literature and paintings etc. were used by people to emphasize on peace and opposed the war in the Europe.
- **Liberation of women** and increased female participation in labour force. Women Liberation was greatly assisted by the circumstances caused by the War. During the prewar period, the social outlook was strongly against the participation of women in the public activities. However, the compulsions of the war had forced the European societies to accept the participation of women in economic and other public activities. The women worked in large numbers in the hospitals, schools and factories during the war period. This new found spirit of liberation had continued to get momentum even after the end of the war.

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- In 1918, the female suffrage was granted by the Britain and in 1920 same was extended by the USA.
- The need of the reconstruction of the socio-cultural life had enhanced the significance of the education in the Europe. The governments took initiatives in the spread of education.
- In 1925, the free and compulsory primary education was declared national policy by France and in 1933 the French government declared the secondary education also free and compulsory.

11 Peace Settlement

Treaty of Versailles

- The **Paris Peace Conference was convened in January 1919 at Versailles** just outside Paris. The conference was called to establish the terms of the peace after World War I. Though nearly thirty nations participated, the representatives of the **United Kingdom, France, the United States, and Italy became known as the "Big Four."**
- The **"Big Four" dominated the proceedings** that led to the formulation of the Treaty of Versailles, a treaty that ended World War I.
- The Treaty of Versailles articulated the compromises reached at the conference. It included the planned formation of the League of Nations, which would serve both as an international forum and an international collective security arrangement. **U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was a strong advocate of the League as he believed it would prevent future wars.**

War Aims

- As explained earlier, **except for Serbia and Austria, almost all of the countries participated in war without having clear war aims**. As time progressed, different countries expressed different war aims as per their priorities and nationalist aspirations. **War aims were also expressed to motivate people and troops and to give them some clear objectives.**
- British Prime Minister mentioned, in Jan 1918, British war aims. They included defence of democracy and returning to France Alsace-Lorraine, which were taken by Germany in 1871.
- The war aims of the USA were stated by American President Woodrow Wilson in his famous fourteen points (Jan 1918). (Two more points were added by the Wilson later when Germans were retreating from Belgium and France).

Fourteen Points of Woodrow Wilson

- **Open covenants of peace**, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view (End to secret alliances which had created an atmosphere of fear in the Europe).
- **Absolute freedom of navigation** upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.

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- The **removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade** conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.
- Adequate guarantees given and taken that **national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point** consistent with domestic safety.
- A **free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment** of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.
- The **evacuation of all Russian territories** and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their good will, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own interests, and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy.
- **Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty** which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one another. Without this healing act the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impaired.
- **All French territories should be freed and the invaded portions should be restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia** in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be corrected, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.
- A **readjustment of the frontiers of Italy** should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.
- The people of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development.
- **Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be evacuated**; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan states to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality; and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan states should be entered into.
- The **Turkish portion of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty**, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.
- **An independent Polish state should be erected** which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

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- A **general association of nations must be formed** under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.
- These points achieved publicity when the Germans later claimed that they had expected the peace terms to be based on these fourteen points of the Wilson and hence they were cheated by the Allied powers. However, it is important to note that when Germans themselves had an opportunity they treated Russia very harshly in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.
- There were disagreements among the victor powers about the nature of peace agreements. France wanted a harsh peace. It wanted to destroy Germany so that in future it could not pose a threat to the French frontiers.
- Britain was in the favour of a less severe peace treaty. It wanted Germany to recover quickly so that it can be a market for the British goods. Britain also wanted Germany to pay the reparations which can only be possible if the German economy recovers quickly. Although Britain wanted to destroy the German navy so that it could not pose a threat to the British navy in the future. USA wanted a lenient peace.

Different Peace Settlements

Treaty of Versailles with Germany (1919)



- World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919. Negotiated among the Allied powers with little participation by Germany, its 15 parts and 440 articles reassigned German boundaries and assigned liability for reparations.

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- The treaty, negotiated between January and June 1919 in Paris, was written by the Allies with almost no participation by the Germans. The negotiations revealed a split between the French, who wanted to dismember Germany to make it impossible for it to renew war with France, and the British and Americans, who did not want to create pretexts for a new war.
- **Territories taken away from Germany in Europe:**
  - Alsace-Lorraine to France.
  - Eupen, Moresnet and Malmedy to Belgium.
  - North Schleswig to Denmark (after a plebiscite).
  - West Prussia and Posen to Poland. Poland also got the best portion of Silesia, containing regions very rich in mineral wealth.
  - Danzig port was internationalized i.e. it was to be a free city administered by the League of Nations.
  - City of Memel was given to Lithuania.
  - Saar (Coal rich region) was to be administered by the League of Nations for fifteen years and for such times France was given the right to use coal mines of the area. After fifteen years a plebiscite was to be held and people have to decide whether they want to unite with France or Germany.
  - Germany to give up the gains made via the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were set up as independent states.
  - Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria.
  - African colonies of Germany were taken away by victor European powers.
- Germany was allowed to maintain only maximum of 100,000 troops and no conscription was allowed. Germany was also prohibited from having tanks, armoured cars, military aircraft or submarines and allowed to maintain only six battleships (Remaining navy was captured by Britain).
- Rhineland was to be permanently demilitarized.
- The War Guilt clause put the blame for the outbreak of the war solely on Germany and its allies.
- Huge war indemnity of 6600 million pounds was imposed on Germany. The actual amount was not decided at Versailles. It was announced later in 1921. (J.M. Keynes, an economic adviser to the British delegation at the conference, urged the Allies to take 2000 million pounds. Like many others he thought that 6600 million pounds is too high an amount and Germany would not able to afford it. Their prediction became reality when soon Germany began to default on her annual installment).

◆ Implementation of the Treaty

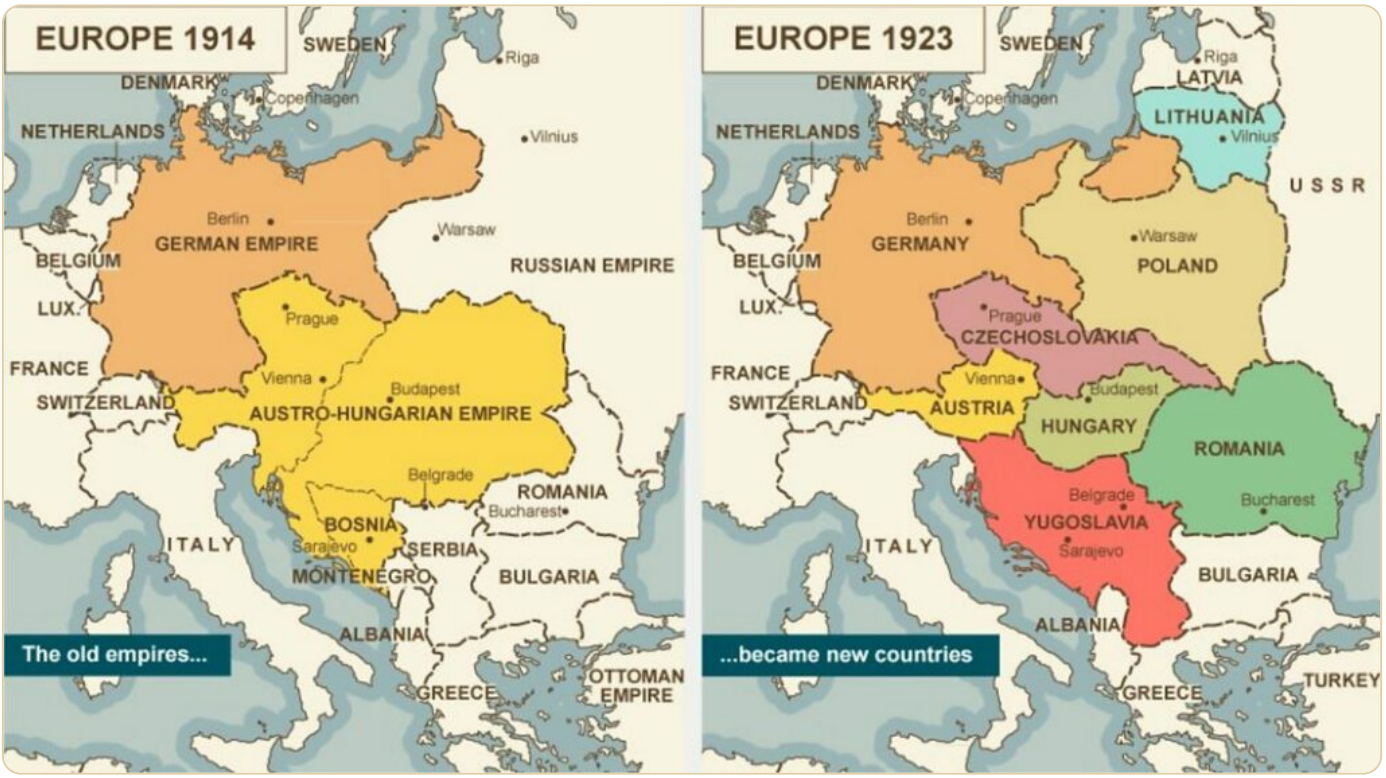
- The Treaty of Versailles was bitterly criticized by the Germans, who complained that it had been **"dictated"** to them, that it violated the spirit of the Fourteen Points, and that it demanded intolerable sacrifices that would wreck their economy.
- For five years the French and the Belgians tried to enforce the treaty quite rigorously, leading in 1923 to their occupation of the Ruhr.
- In 1924, however, Anglo-American financial pressure compelled France to scale down its goals and end the occupation, and the French, assented to modifying important provisions of the treaty in a series of new agreements.
- Germany in 1924 and 1929 agreed to pay reparations under the Dawes Plan and the Young Plan, but the depression led to the cancellation of reparations in 1932. The Allies evacuated the Rhineland in 1930.

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- Germany violated many disarmament provisions during the 1920s, and Hitler denounced the treaty altogether in 1935. From March 1938 through March 1939, Hitler overturned the territorial provisions of the treaty with respect to Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Memel, with at least the tacit consent of the western powers. On September 1, 1939, he attacked Poland to alter that frontier, as well.
- The British and American governments after 1945 sought to avoid many of the problems that had been raised by the Treaty of Versailles, especially regarding reparations, and the division of Germany and the Cold War enabled them generously to rebuild the western zones and to integrate them into a western alliance without renewing fears of German aggression. Meanwhile, they deferred certain fundamental issues for so long that no formal peace treaty was ever written to end World War II.
- Many historians claim that the combination of a harsh treaty and subsequent lax enforcement of its provisions paved the way for the upsurge of German militarism in the 1930s. The huge German reparations and the war guilt clause fostered deep resentment of the settlement in Germany, and when Hitler remilitarized the Rhineland in 1936 (a violation of the treaty), the Allies did nothing to stop him, thus encouraging future German aggression.

12 Impact of Treaty of Versailles

Physical Impact



- The **Treaty of Versailles radically altered the Geography of Europe**. The Treaty had clauses that resulted in areas of land being taken from Germany. The following maps illustrate the scale of these losses:
  - From these maps it is clear that Germany suffered large territorial losses. The provinces of Alsace and Lorraine returned to France; parts of Schleswig were ceded to Denmark; to the east, new countries were created to roughly match the ethnic balance of the area and finally, The Polish Corridor ' was

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created which gave the Poles a broad strip of land that connected it to the sea – and consequently separated Eastern Prussia from the rest of Germany.

- All of Germany's overseas colonies were annexed by the Allies , either to become colonies or areas that were managed until independence could be maintained autonomously. In total, Germany lost over one million square miles of land (28,000 of which had previously formed part of European Germany) and 6 million subjects.

Financial Impact

- The **Treaty of Versailles blamed Germany for the First World War**. As a result of this, Germany was also held accountable for the cost of the war and the Treaty dictated that compensation would have to be paid to the Allies.
- These payments, called **reparations**, would be paid monthly and would total some **£6,600 million (This figure was agreed by the Allies in 1921).**
- Remember that the economic might of Germany had been stretched to the limits during the war, and she would have to reconstruct her own economy at the same time as paying Reparations. In addition, Germany had lost some of her most precious sources of raw materials as her colonies, and some of the areas ceded to other countries, were rich sources of income. These factors would make it harder for the German economy to cope.
- Further to this it is important to note the casualties suffered during the war. Germany lost some 1.7 million men during the war, and a further 4.2 million are listed as being wounded.

Political Impact

- The Treaty triggered a **number of political reactions**. Firstly, the government of the day resigned, having refused to sign it. The incoming government had no choice but to sign the Treaty but was accused by some, General Ludendorff for example, of stabbing the German people in the back.
- This theory grew in popularity as the economy suffered and many, former soldiers in particular, believed that the politicians had lost the war rather than the army. (For some it was hard to accept that they could have lost the war whilst troops were still stationed in France, having not lost the ground that they had taken in 1914.)
- This, amongst other things, led to a growth in the number of people who distrusted the Weimar Republic and were unwilling to support it. This manifests itself in uprisings such as the **Kapp Putsch and the Munich Putsch**, though there are other factors which led to these uprisings.
- The Treaty also called for the **trial of the former Kaiser**. This never happened as the Dutch government refused to hand him over, but this effectively stopped any chance of a restoration of the monarchy in Germany.
- In Western Europe the Treaty signaled the beginning of a period of isolation for Germany. She became an outcast in international politics and was feared and distrusted by the Allies. This had a significant impact on the role that Germany would , and potentially could, play in European and World affairs in the early post war climate.
- However, whilst it is evident that Germany became politically isolated in the West, some historians would point out that their isolation has been exaggerated by Westerners (by Fuller). The Treaty of Rapallo for example shows that there was scope for Germany to develop relations in the east, in this case with the

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Soviet Union, and, they would point out, the newly formed nations were in need of economic partners – with Germany being a likely dominant partner in that sphere.

Other Impact

- **Conflict over control of the "Polish Corridor", land taken from Germany to give Poland access to the Baltic Sea, was an immediate cause of the German invasion of Poland in 1939**. Central powers trying to defy or revise policies of the Treaty of Versailles became a destabilizing factor in international politics. Italy was promised territories by the Triple Entente, but the agreement was nullified. **This angered Italy and caused them to switch sides in World War II.**
- The once German-controlled territory, Shandong, in China was placed under Japanese control instead of being returned to China. This led to the May 4th movement where China took this territory back.
- The Ottoman Empire had territories taken away after the war. Most of its territories in Eastern Europe were taken away, and the Empire soon disbanded.
- Woodrow Wilson proposed the idea of self-determination, where nations previously under German or Ottoman control could decide their own political status. The Treaty of Versailles was not ratified by the United States Government. Instead the US Senate made a separate treaty with Germany in 1921. The US refused to ratify the first treaty.

13 Other Treaties

Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye

- Officially signed on September 10, 1919 by the victorious Allies of World War I on the one hand and by the Republic of German-Austria on the other and came into force on July 16, 1920.
- The treaty officially registered the **breakup of the Habsburg Empire**, recognizing the independence of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (Yugoslavia) and ceding eastern Galicia, Trento, southern Tirol , Trieste, and Istria.
- The **treaty reduced Austria to a small state** of 8 million people and allocated former non-German speaking territories to the new states of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.
- The **union of Austria with Germany was expressly forbidden without the consent of the Council of the League of Nations because the allied powers wanted Germany to remain weak**.
- The Austrian Army was reduced to 30000 men and broke up Austro-Hungarian navy, distributing it among the Allied powers.
- The Austria created by the treaty was financially and militarily weak and therefore a chronic force of instability in Europe between the two World Wars.

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Impact of the Treaty

- **Austria Lost**
  - Bohemia and Moravia, the industrial provinces of Austria, were given to Czechoslovakia.
  - Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, parts of erstwhile Habsburg Empire, were given to Serbia.
  - Galicia was given to Poland.
  - Bukovina was given to Romania.
  - Trentino, Istria, Trieste and South Tyrol were given to Italy.

Treaty of Trianon

- Officially signed on June 4th 1920 between most of the Allies of World War I and the Kingdom of Hungary.
- Hungary had been compelled to cede 72% of the territory held by her for thousand years. Of 20 million inhabitants of Hungary, 13.4 million i.e. 64 % of the original population were torn away.
- The Hungarian Army was not to exceed 35000 men.
- Hungary was deprived of 62.2 % of its railroad network , 73.8% of its public roads 64.6% of its canals, 83% of its iron ore mines.
- Citizens of former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy differing in race and language from the majority of the population of the territory, shall within six months (join a state), if the majority of the population of the State has the same race and language as the person exercising the right to opt.
- **Hungary lost over 2/3 of its territory to Yugoslavia, Romania and Czechoslovakia.**

Impact of the Treaty

Hungary Lost

- Slovakia and Ruthenia were given to Czechoslovakia.
- Croatia and Slovenia were given to Yugoslavia.
- Transylvania and the Banat of Temesvar were given to Romania.

Treaty of Neuilly

- The treaty of Neuilly was the peace treaty signed by defeated Bulgaria and the World War I victors in November 27,1919.
- Bulgaria was forced to reduce its army to 20,000 men, cede lands to Yugoslavia and Greece that involved the transfer of 300,000 people.
- Bulgarian army was limited to 20,000 men.
- Bulgaria was commanded to pay reparations exceeding $400 million, and recognize the existence of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.
- This treaty was not effective because Bulgaria did not follow the treaty until 75 % was remitted from it.
- By this treaty, the coastal Bulgaria (Western Thrace) was given to Greece. (Aegean coastline)
- Some territories were given to Yugoslavia and Romania.

More than one million Bulgarians were left under foreign governments as a result of the treaty.

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Treaty of Sevres

Ottoman Empire

- The Ottoman Empire had for a long time before World War I been considered what the Tsar Nicholas I of Russia described as **"the sick man of Europe."**
- And as the Ottoman Empire lost political influence, many of the countries under its rule rebelled for independence, and by the 20th Century, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Greece, and Serbia had all gained independence.
- However, despite having lost much of its power, the Ottoman Empire was still located in a valuable geographical position. The Bosphorus and the Dardanelles were of great interest to Russia, since it would allow easier naval communication with the rest of the world, allowing imports and exports to quickly pass through Russia. The attempt to gain control over the Balkans was the main reason why Russia joined World War I.

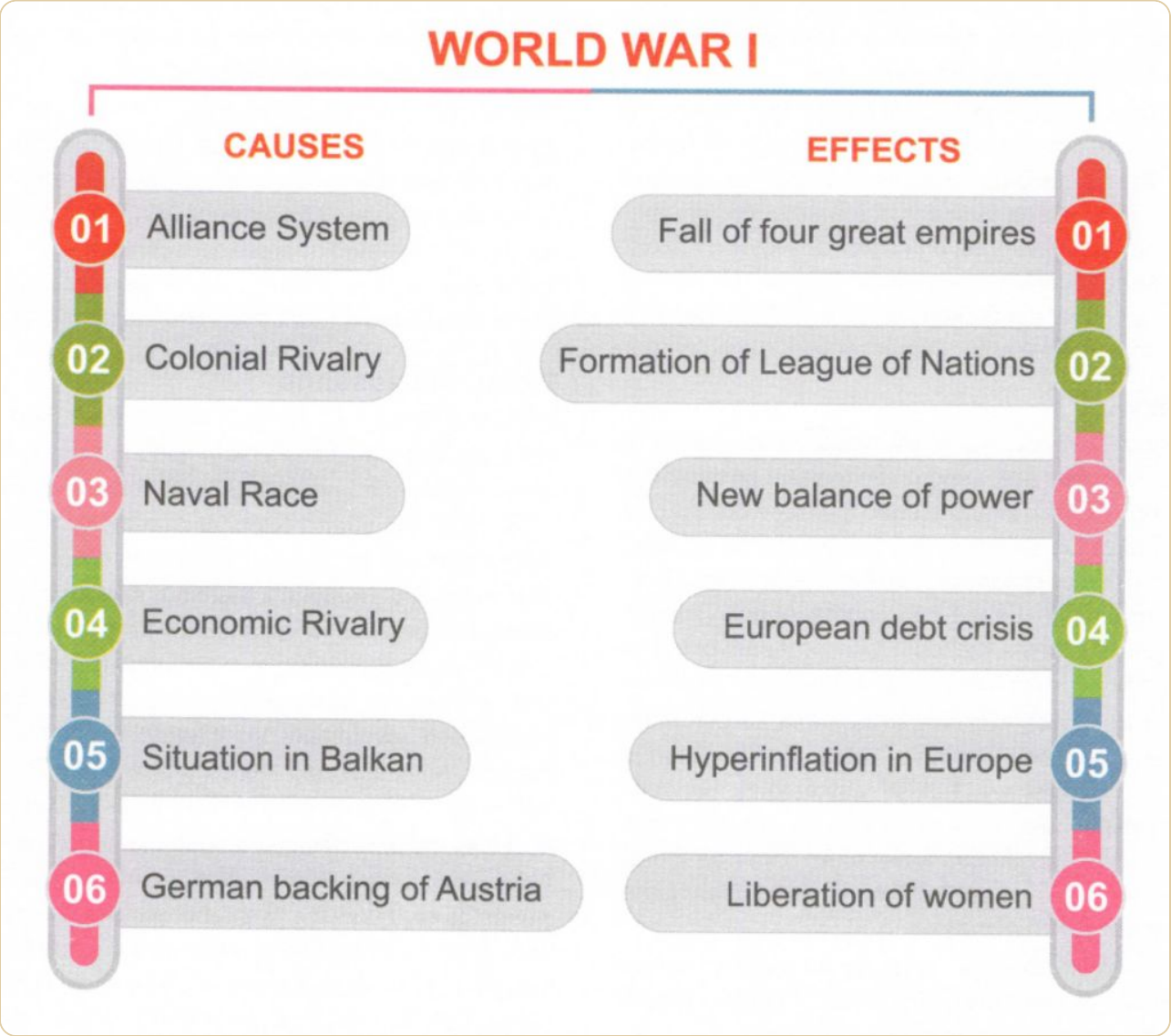
THE TREATY

- The Treaty of Sevres was the first peace treaty signed by the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I on the 10th of August 1920. Its main aims included the allied control over the straits of Dardanelles, the independence of the Hejaz, Turkish loss of control over Sudan and Libya, Greek control over Eastern Thrace and Turkish Aegean islands, and League of Nations mandate with political control by France and Britain over Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Syria.
- The Treaty of Sevres was nearly as harsh as that made for Germany, with the intention of liquidating the Ottoman Empire, and abolishing Turkish sovereignty. In Asia, continent which held most of its empire, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Transjordan were given over as British mandates, as Syria and Lebanon were, on the other hand, passed on as French mandates.
- Other than this, Smyrna and its bordering nations underwent Greek mandate until a plebiscite determined its final fate. Turkey however, maintained Anatolia.
- Armenia and Kurdistan gained independence, and became separate republics. In Europe, Italy gained the Dodecanese and Rhodes, previously contested in the **Italo-Turkish war in 1911**, and the Thrace and Aegean Islands were given to Greek control. Turkey remained with power over Constantinople and its surrounding area, including the Strait of Dardanelles, which was both neutralized and internationalized, allowing any ship to freely pass.
- The Ottoman Empire lost much of its power and influence, mainly over the Middle East with the creation of new countries, and internationalization of the Strait of Dardanelles and the Strait of Bosphorus.
- Other than this, Mustafa Kemal Pasha gained more supporters as he disagreed with the treaty, and led the Turkish War of Independence, abolishing the Sultanate.
- Due to the international recognition of the new government on November 1st of 1922, a new treaty was to be made. The Ottoman Empire lost the control over its economy as it was given to the Entente , however only France, Italy and Britain had any power over the Turkish economy. This included control over their national bank , imports and exports, national budget, financial regulations, the tax system, and even requests for loans and debt repayments.
- Also, there was no commerce whatsoever with the Germany and its allies as it was strictly forbidden. The current Turkish government, led by the Sultanate agreed with the Treaty of Sevres, though not many people did. And with the motivation of a better treaty, Mustafa Kemal led a rebellion and the Turkish War

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of Independence, which overthrew and abolished the Sultanate. He emerged the leader of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, which demanded a new treaty. The Treaty of Lausanne.

Treaty of Lausanne



- After the Treaty of Sevres was signed but never ratified. However, after Mustafa Kemal Pasha led the Turkish War of Independence and ended the Sultanate on November 1st of 1922, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey was recognized as the new government by the Treaty of Lausanne. The Treaty of Lausanne, signed July 24 1923, allowed the new Turkish government to be the only defeated country to be represented in the formulation of the Treaty.
- The terms of the Treaty of Sevres were cancelled, as the new Turkish government didn't approve. The main aims of the new treaty included the expulsion of the Greeks, and the control of Constantinople given back to Turkey.
- As it was the only defeated country to negotiate its treaty, Turkey recovered Thrace and many Aegean Islands, alongside land from the Syrian border, the Smyrna district , and nationalized the Straits of Dardanelles and Bosphorus, though kept it demilitarized. Turkey also regained full control over all of their territory, and international Zones of Influences were withdrawn. Other than this, the limitation on their

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military was cancelled, and no reparations were paid by Turkey. However, Turkey surrendered all former territories beyond their new drawn borders. A separate treaty was also signed with Greece.

- One of the greatest accomplishments of the Treaty of Lausanne was that it wasn't signed in France, and was the only peace treaty of World War I that allowed the defeated country to represent itself, and argue during the formulation of the treaty, which was finally signed on July 24th of 1923.
- However, it was only on August 6th of 1924 that the Treaty was put into practice. Turkey, amongst its territory, reclaimed some political power as they were once again in complete control of the Strait of Dardanelles and the Strait of Bosphorus, which remained an important passageway of trade for the rebuilding countries after the destruction of World War I.
- This also improved their economy, which they regained control over, as there were large markets with merchandise and merchants from around the world. Nevertheless, German commerce was still strictly forbidden.

✦ Quick Revision

- **Alliance system**: Bismarck's Dual Alliance (1879), Triple Alliance (1882) and Reinsurance Treaty (1887) were countered by the Franco-Russian alliance (1894), Entente Cordiale (1904) and Anglo-Russian agreement (1907).
- **Naval race**: The 'Dreadnought' (1906) made older battleships obsolete, put Britain and Germany on equal terms and sharpened their rivalry.
- **Balkans**: Ottoman decline, Serbia's South Slav ambition and Austria's annexation of Bosnia (1908) made the Balkans the most volatile region of Europe.
- **Moroccan crises**: Algeciras (1906) and Agadir (1911) were German diplomatic setbacks that proved the strength of the Entente Cordiale.
- **Balkan Wars (1912–13)**: Serbia emerged stronger and bolder, while Austria became determined to end Serbian ambitions of a Greater Serbia.
- **Trigger**: Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated at Sarajevo on 28 June 1914; backed by Germany, Austria declared war on Serbia on 28 July 1914.
- **Critical view of causes**: Alliances were not binding and colonial disputes were usually settled; the war grew out of combined politico-economic and socio-cultural complexities.
- **Inevitability**: The war was not inevitable; the compulsions and decisions of leaders turned a localised Austro-Serbian conflict into a world war.
- **Entry of USA (April 1917)**: Provoked by U-boat warfare and the German overture to Mexico; it offset Russia's exit and tilted the war towards the Allies.
- **Total war**: Whole nations, resources and civilians were mobilised; new weapons, chemical arms, attrition and many fronts marked a long war ending in complete defeat.
- **Political impact**: Four empires fell, new nation-states arose, the USA rose as a power, and discontent with the peace fed fascism and Nazism.
- **Economic and social impact**: Europe lost economic supremacy to the USA and faced debt and hyperinflation; trade unions, women's work and suffrage advanced.
- **Fourteen Points (Jan 1918)**: Open diplomacy, freedom of the seas, disarmament, nationality-based frontiers and a general association of nations.
- **Treaty of Versailles (28 June 1919)**: Germany lost territory and colonies, was limited to 100,000 troops, accepted war guilt and was assessed £6,600 million in reparations.
- **Other treaties**: Saint-Germain (Austria), Trianon (Hungary), Neuilly (Bulgaria) and Sevres (Ottoman Empire); Kemal's resistance replaced Sevres with Lausanne (1923).

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