

2016

UPSC Civil Services Exam

[WORLD HISTORY]

A Brief Outline for UPSC Civil Services Exam

Beginner's Note:

It is advisable that you read Old NCERTs (9th and 10th class) absolutely thoroughly. They cover almost all the topics. Don't miss even a single word. Attempt all the questions which are given at the end of those chapters. It will also serve you as a sort of answer writing practice as well.

After reading these, you may refer to the new NCERTS. Why new NCERTs? Because they are more graphic and have an interactive style. At times they are more engaging than the older ones and had explained a few topics in a much lucid manner.

Google those events/topics which are not adequately covered in these (but are mentioned just in a few lines), but never go too deep into that as you just need to have a conceptual clarity about that particular event. After doing that, you may refer these notes(though I have tried to cover everything in these notes).

Always keep things manageable. It is not so important that how much you read, but how well you read. Keep in mind that whatever you read, you have to revise that also at times of mains exam. So, limit your study material.

Best of luck!

Nitin Sangwan

AIR 28 (2016), AIR359 (2015), AIR 320 (2014)

Drop me a comment at: www.meandupsc.blogspot.in if you need some further help in the exam, have suggestions or find any major discrepancies in these notes for benefit of others.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD

Medieval and early modern period (till 17th century) has witnessed dawn of Renaissance (in art and science – Newton, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Michal Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci etc were the protagonists). This phase was followed by what is known as Modernization and Industrialization. This period also marked important political events like – French Revolution (1789-94) and American Revolution (1776-81). Colonization spree had already started before dawn of Industrialization. It provided much needed cheap raw material and even plundered capital to fuel Industrialization. Land and other natural resources were commoditized.

IMPACT of FEUDALISM

- a. Led to an unequal class structure
- b. Feudalism started in 9th century lasted for almost 1000 years and it made erstwhile state weaker and instead local provincial feuds rose which gave a fragile and weak political system prone to wars and conflicts.

- c. Feudalism made society closed and travels were minimized. It also suppressed spread of knowledge and hence paved way for 'The Dark Age' in Europe. Asia on the other hand flourished during this period.

HOLY CRUSADES

They were religious wars that started in 11th century against Islam, heretic, pagans etc. They also aimed at bringing holy places under control of church. They were also used as a façade to fulfill the ambition of local rulers on name of religion and control crucial trade routes like Silk Route.

They lead to not only military success, but also reestablishment of lost contact of a feudal society with outside world. Europe tasted new luxuries due to plunders of wars and this hunger for more of them led to expansion of trade once again. New economy of trade led to a new social class which helped in weakening of feudal system as importance of land was decreased. This also led to development of new port cities and trading centers and urban centers. This all required a centralized security apparatus also which was provided by new set of monarchies replacing local feudal lords. Wealth by trade was used to finance armies by monarch and to protect traders and expand empires. Thus, nation-state also started to appear as centralized system of control expanded.

THE RENAISSANCE

Greater travel, rising wealth and greater knowledge of outer world led to a new philosophy of life called renaissance. With rising material consumption, this worldly pleasures took place of Church advocated other worldly pleasure and hence human and not god became center of activities. Thus, humanism was a key feature of renaissance. Individualism and human potential took due place in society.

The classics were revived and a search for knowledge begins. Intellectual inquiry was another facet of renaissance apart from humanism. Invention of printing press played an important role as now books were widely available.

Renaissance began in Italy as it was center of wealth and trade at that time.

It was not only about religion and polity, but also about a state of mind. Humanism was an ideological pillar. Many paintings were secular. It was like a cultural re-birth. Advances were made in field of science, mathematics, physics, literature, painting, sculpture, architecture and astronomy.

It led to numerous sea voyages and new geographical discoveries. Direct sea routes were discovered to places like India and it reduced dependency of the West on Central Asia and West Asia. A new era of world trade was opened. It created hyper-demands and opening of new markets also provided a further push to industrial revolution.

Later, renaissance and industrial revolution gave birth to other events like – American Revolution, French Revolution and Russian Revolution.

RISE of NATIONALISM

Spirit of nationalism began to evolve with formation of nation-states. Erstwhile feudal societies had small feudal provinces which were driven by narrow concerns and were also not permanent. Evolution of large nation states bred the feeling of nationalism.

American Revolution was perhaps the first manifestation of this feeling. This feeling was also quite evident in France during and after French Revolution. It became contagious in Europe after ideals of French revolution spread in other states.

Nationalism is a modern movement in which loyalty of individuals is not to vested interests, a monarch or political group, but to a nation of people. Earlier loyalties were attached to land (in feudal society), territory and so on.

IMPACT of NATIONALISM on POLITICAL LANDSCAPE of 19th CENTURY EUROPE

Feeling of nationalism on one hand led to revolt against the autocratic monarchies, on the other hand it led to movements against foreign rule. Success of American nationalism in American Revolution sowed the seeds of nationalism in Europe as well which bore the first fruit in form of French Revolution.

First 19th century national revolt was in Serbia in 1804 which led to successful implementation of a nation state in 1817. Then, similar attempts were made by Greece against Ottoman Empire.

It led to toppling of Austrian Hungarian Empire, Romanovs of Russia and Ottoman empire.

Vienna Congress has tried to stifle the tide of nationalism, but it was evident by 1830s that nationalism is unstoppable force. In 1831, Belgium obtained independence from Netherlands. Attempts were also made by Italy, France and Poland as well in 1830s which were, however, suppressed.

Unification of Italy under Mazzini and unification of Germany were strongest manifestations of rising tide of nationalism.

Thus, nationalism broke new grounds by independence of nations from foreign rules and autocratic rules, led to unifications, led to reactionary conflicts from conservatives who wanted to restore old order and so on.

Nationalism at times also transformed into jingoism which resulted into ambitious conquests, colonialism and conflict as well. Further, ethnic nationalism also had its own hazards and it gave rise to sub-nationalities and disintegration of many states. Disintegration of Ottoman Empire was result of such ethnic nationalist feelings.

With the emergence of new industrial nationalities in second half of 19th century, a struggle for world resources also emerged. Early colonial powers resisted this attempt. It finally culminated into two world wars.

Events from 18th century onwards

Year	Event & Significance
1740-50	Marathas extend control over Northern India
1757	Clive defeats Sirajudaulah in Battle of Plassey
1770-80	Slave trade peaks. Almost all colonial powers involved in it. Several lakhs of slaves are taken across Atlantic every year with almost 2/3 rd dying enroute.
1776	US declared independence; later US constitution is drawn up in 1787
1780-90	British export of opium from India to China expands dramatically.
1789	French Revolution begins
1799	Ranjit Singh founds Sikh Kingdom in Punjab
1800	Egypt breaks away from Ottoman Empire under Mohmmad Ali who ruled Egypt for next 40 years.
1821	Simon Bolivar leads Venezuela to independence
1822	Liberia is founded in Africa as home to freed slaves
1831	Darwin sails to Galapagos Islands and developed theory of evolution
1840s	Liberal and socialist movements emerge in various European countries.
1860-70	Suez Canal is opened connecting Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea and connects Asia to Europe via a much shorter route. Thus increasing trade and commerce in an unprecedented way.
1861-65	Civil War in USA; 13 th Amendment to US Constitution outlaws slavery
1876	Famine in Deccan, 5 million died
1880-90	Beginning of European Scramble for Africa
1885	Britain annexed Burma
1893	Voting right for women in New Zealand, becomes one of the first countries to do so
1905	Japanese Navy defeats Russian fleet
1913	Hennery Ford begins assembly line production
1914-18	Frist World War
1917	Russian Revolution
1917	Belfour Declaration promises homeland to Jews in Palestine
1929-32	Wall Street Stock Exchange crashes in 1929 and is followed by Great Depression of 1932-33 which left more than 1 crore jobless
1939-45	Hitler captured power in Germany in 1933 and Second World War started in 1939 ending in 1945 after US drops atom bombs in Japanese cities.
1940-50	Afrikaner Nationalist Party wins power and introduced policy of Apartheid
1955	Bandung Conference strengthens Non-Align Movement
1958	Fidel Castro comes to power after Cuban Revolution
1963-64	Civil Rights Movement in USA in 1963, that fought for equal rights for Blacks, leading to passage of US Civil Rights Act 1964 which banned racial discrimination. Civil Rights activist Martin Luther King is assassinated 4 years later.
1964	Arab Leaders set up Palestine Liberation Authority

1969	Iranian Revolution , Shah of Iran is overthrown
1957	Russia launched Sputnik
1985	Mikhail Gorbachev assumes leadership of USSR introduced Perestroika (restructuring) and Glasnost (transparency)
1989	World Wide Web begins
1989	Mass Demonstration for Democracy at Tiananmen Square , Beijing
1990	Nelson Mandela is freed in South Africa and process of dismantling Apartheid begins
1990-2000	Gulf War between Iraq, Kuwait and USA
1998	India and Pakistan conduct Nuclear tests

Industrial Revolution

Emergence and Background

Beginning of geographical discoveries and direct sea routes opened new avenues of trade and commerce. It formed the bedrock of Industrial revolution as mismatch between demand and supply led to new innovative ways of enhancing production.

Second factor was emergence of capitalist ideology. Profit making became the core of all economic activities in Europe. Capitalists financed the voyages of sailors in search of new markets and new sources of raw material. New industries were also financed by capitalists.

New inventions were made which enhanced productivity many fold. Invention of Steam Power, Use of Mechanical Power instead of Man and Animal power changed the way production was done. Hargreaves's spinning mill, improvement of Arkwright and Crompton over that spinning mill. Invention of steam engine led to birth of Cotton Jenny, a much improved cotton weaver.

Factory production arrived as new mode of production as community or home workshop production failed to meet burgeoning demands.

Colonial quests led to discoveries of new cheap sources of raw materials and profitable dumping markets for finished products.

Faster means of communication, commoditification of labor with introduction of wage System, development of new sources of energy like coal, new durable materials like steel were the other supporting factors for the rise of Industrial Revolution.

Industrial Revolution in Britain

Industrial Revolution was first heralded in Britain in 1750s. Continental European countries could not adopt Industrial Revolution as early as Britain because Europe faced political instability. French Revolution and Napoleonic wars kept the Europe engaged. Belgium was first to follow British footsteps. Germany also has its 'Ruhr' are Industrialized. Soon other European nations followed suit.

There were many conducive factors. Britain had **adequate capital which was accumulated through colonialism**. **Disappearance of serfdom** and **'enclosure movement'** provided huge **surplus agricultural labor** which looked for employment and became source of cheap labor. (As *Industrialization started, land became valuable commodity. Big landlords started snatching the land of small farmers and this was termed as 'enclosure movement'*). Britain was also **rich with natural resources. Iron and coal** proved twin pillars of Industrial Revolution and Britain was lucky to have them in close proximity. Britain also had a **stable polity unlike Europe**. It also had a **strong navy –** a symbol of military might. **Inventions, capitalist ideology** and communication were other factors.

Salient Features of Industrial Revolution

First feature is that, Britain was the epicenter of this revolution in 1750.

Secondly, it started from textile sector. Britain used to spent huge wealth on import of foreign clothes like Dhaka Muslin, Calicut Calico and so on leading to huge forex drain. So, textile industries became a natural choice to start with.

It was also a revolution in infrastructure which was necessary for spread of it. Railways, steam boats (reduced dependence on wind sails with heavier load), Macadamized roads (pucca roads named after its inventor Macadam), new form of communication like telegraph and penny post (now it was possible to send post in a mere penny) etc lead to new globalization.

It gave birth to ideology of mercantilism which viewed world resources as limited and merchants vied for each other in a 'zero-sum game'.

A process of new globalization started in which colonies were integrated in a highly subservient manner.

It also affected agriculture. Cropping patterns were changed. Staple food crops were replaced with cash crops like cotton, indigo, tea, opium etc.

Impact of Industrial Revolution

Industrial Revolution also had certain other fallouts which were not expected. There was also opposition to these new developments. Luddite movement was such an even which was a movement launched by workers who attacked machines as they feared that machines will replace manpower. This and other movements forced Industrialists to give a serious consideration to worker's condition.

- I. Social Impact – new urban centers (like Manchester, Leeds), slums, nuclear family, urbanization, exploitation of women and children, new class formation
- II. Economic Impact – birth of capitalism, transnational trade, cheap goods, ruin of handicrafts
- III. Political Impact – colonialism gets a new fillip, new division of countries as developed

and und-developed, Europeanization of different parts of world, reforms movement like Chartist Movement started. Unions also began to form. New movements like – Socialism, Marxism also trace their roots to Industrial Revolution. Child labor laws were formed as exploitation of children increased.

American War of Independence

Discovery of America proved a boon for colonial power as it became a new source of raw materials especially spices and tobacco to prevent gold drain. It was also speculated that newly discovered place is also source of gold. Its rich coal sources were heavily exploited. Britain

Emergence and Background

Spain was successful in colonizing South America and a tussle was on between Britain and France in Northern America. Britain wanted to monopolize the resource of America and framed such policies which led to excessive exploitation of 13 American colonies which were formed by Britain. Though 13 states were ruled by governors, but their condition was not good. Some of the important developments before the War of American Independence started are –

- I. Navigation law of 1651 – It made it compulsory for American ships to navigate towards British ports before navigating for the rest of world.
- II. Export and import policy – British policy retained monopoly over certain products like cotton and tobacco.
- III. Industrial Policy of Britain – It didn't allow Americans to establish heavy industries. These economic hardships and sanctions caused much resentment among Americans.

Intellectual class also played a decisive role. It helped in spreading the ideas of injustice and unfairness and need to dislodge British hegemony. Thomas Paine published pamphlets titled 'Common Sense' which described economic exploitation of America and gave solution in form of independence. Benjamin Franklin established 'Philosophical Society of America' with the objective of awakening the Americans and many centers were established. Henry Patrick started a propaganda provoking people saying '*give me death or independence*'.

Social structure was made up of people of different nationalities and land lords were the dominant class. Their interests were directly affected by the British policy and they united themselves in wake of exploitative policies.

Immediate cause was 7 years war and its consequences. French and British tussle finally led to 7 years war – 1756-63 – which was for possession of Canada. In this war Britain emerged victorious and Paris Peace Treaty of 1763 was signed. Though Britain won, it was highly indebted in wake of war with France and wars in India.

Further, during the war years, Americans got a free hand in world trade as restrictions were loosened and they, for the first time, tasted the fruits of economic freedom in world economy. It

became a turning point in the history of America.

Events of American War of Independence

As the 7 years' war ended, Britain imposed the old restrictions like – Navigation, stamp duty, sugar duty etc – through Greenville Policy of 1765. It evoked sharp reaction from Americans and 'sons of liberty' and 'daughters of liberty' were found. They plundered the British stamp vendors and burnt them. They threatened to cut trade relations with Britain as well. This was the first open sign of unrest.

Stamp duties were abolished through Rockingham Declaration, but were retained through Townsend Plan on specific commodities like potato, glass etc. A mob protesting against these was massacred in Boston Massacre of 1770. It ruptured the relations between America and Britain. But Britain failed to realize the gravity of situation.

It was followed by Lord North's Tea Party which had twin objectives – relieve East India Co. from financial crisis and impose custom duty on tea as a symbol of British right to impose taxes in America. To fulfill this objectives, ships loaded with tea chests were sent to America. American resented this move and led by Samuel Adams they intruded into the ships furtively and dumped the tea chests into Atlantic Ocean when they arrived at Boston Harbor. This event is known as Boston Tea Party. It showed that Americans were now in no mood to subjugate to British hegemony.

Boston Tea Party led to First Philadelphia Convention which passed a resolution addressing the King George III of Britain regarding two key demands of colonies – all trade restrictions should be immediately lifted up and Americans should be given representation in British legislature. George III saw this resolution as symbol of revolt and initiated a military action which heralded American War of Independence.

As a consequence of start of the war, Second Philadelphia Convention was held representing 13 colonies and on 4th July 1776 they declared independence. In the battle that ensued, Britain was defeated and a peace treaty was signed in Paris in 1783 in which Britain declared America independent.

Third Philadelphia Convention was held in 1787 leading to formation of American Constitution

Impact of American Revolution

Rise of Modern Democratic System – It led to establishment of first republic in the world with George Washington as the first head of the state. It also gave the **world first constitution**.

Inspiration to Other Revolutionslike French Revolution – General La Fayette took the ideas of liberty home from American Revolution.

Mercantilist theory that Colonies exist for the benefit of mother country was **debunked**

However, american war of independence was not a revolution that heralded deep societal

changes. Revolution is most commonly defined as a radical change in the existing system. When measured with this yard, American war of Independence may not be termed a true revolution.

Americans wanted reforms in political system on constitutional lines and they wanted to preserve traditional rights. Their war emanated from desire for greater rights and not a change of system per se.

Further, power was not transferred in the hands of people themselves. Citizens were also a discriminated lot even after independence. Blacks were still treaded like second class citizens. Women were not given franchise. Power still rested in hands of a few. Slavery system still persisted in southern states. It was soon followed by American Civil War in which Abraham Lincoln played a crucial role.

However, revolution was significant as it led to **formation of a federal republic and a liberal constitutional** framework was laid down for the first time in history of humanity. **US Bill of Rights** that were added soon were also revolutionary in themselves.

American Revolution was a Natural and Even Expected Event in The History of Colonial People Who Had Come of Age

Instead of being a radical abrupt change, the American Revolution was a culmination of evolutionary changes that resulted in an evolved way of life. **With the social, political and economic spheres, the change occurred gradually and remained largely unnoticed.**

For example, in Political sphere, the 13 colonies already had a certain degree of independence, but they yearned to be completely free from the tyranny of the British overlords. **Each colony had its own local assembly which enacted laws on local matters.**

Economically, also situation of America was better. In **war, there was no class confrontation as it happens in a revolution.** There was **no mass poverty.** There was **no seething social discontent** and there was **no grinding oppression.** **In fact America was more prosperous than many other colonies. They had also developed a small amount of self-sufficiency to some extent and wanted to interact with the rest of the world. America was developing strategies for trading with other countries, which was forbidden.** The economic policy of mercantilism by the Home Government was what kept them aloof of having economic interaction with the rest of the world.

There was a **gradual evolution in political philosophy and organization too, which started with the First Continental Congress, progressing to the Second Continental Congress, and finally leading to the Articles of the Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution.**

American Civil War

Despite revolution, social conditions didn't change much. Condition of blacks was deplorable. Two parties came into existence after revolution. **Federal party** called for **'Compact Sovereignty'** i.e. a strong federal government and **non-federal party** supporting strong union with greater power to states. The rift

between the two turned into a struggle and the turning point came with introduction of tariff policy by the northern states to protect their indigenous industries as they favored a strong tariff policy for the protection of industries. Southern states were agrarian states and opposed this policy. This system was further complicated by the issue of 'slavery system'. Slavery system was an integral part of the agrarian economies of southern states and they wanted to retain this system. Northern states wanted to abolish slavery system as they eyed the newly liberated slaves as potential market for their industrial goods. This led to a clash.

Question of slavery was further aggravated with the purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon France in 1803. A new state was born and question arose which format the new state should adopt – whether the slave free northern model or southern model. A compromise was reached called Missouri Agreement of 1820. It stated that states above 36° N will be slavery free states and those below it will be slave states. Slavery issue came to standstill for some time after this agreement. In the meantime, people supported campaigns were launched in northern states. Many propaganda items were launched. Anti-Slavery Society was launched. A novel called Uncle Tom's Cabin by Ms Stowe highlighted the inhuman nature of slavery. Southern states became suspicious of these developments.

Because of increasing suspicion from both the sides, they started adopting policies of siding more and more states on their side. Initial gains were made by Southern states. Kansas and Nebraska which were above 36° N became slave states after Stephen Douglas, senator from Illinois, supported the concept of self-determination by the people themselves. In another instance, in Dred Scott Case federal Court held slavery as legal.

Amidst this rising influence of southern states, Republican Party was born in 1854 with sole agenda of abolishing slavery. James Brown was an anti-slave activist and he turned it into a militancy movement. He captured military arms and distributed them amongst slaves to fight landlords. Abraham Lincoln was elected as president of USA in 1860 which marked a high point in anti-slavery movement.

In a reaction to these developments, southern states formed a 'Confederation of States' in 1861 with Jefferson Davis as president of new union and he passed a 3 point resolution emphasizing – sovereignty of states, abolition of tariffs and slavery as legal. This became an immediate cause of American Civil War.

The war started on the issue of slavery, but shifted towards issue of unity of federation. Independence was seen as hard earned by Americans and issue of unity evoked strong emotional response. Lincoln raised the issue of federal unity with high propaganda. He himself went with the army to capture the states of Orleans and played a key role in strengthening pro-unity and anti-slavery sentiments. Amidst this, 13th Amendment was introduced in 1865 which abolished slavery almost 90 years after America got independence. It is said that USA was born by the effort of George Washington, but it took a rebirth with the efforts of Lincoln.

French Revolution

It is said that if American war of independence was the 'foundation' of the modern world, French

Revolution was the 'building' as it gave the fundamental ideological principles of modern world in form of – liberty, equality and fraternity.

Emergence and Background

Many French people had participated in American Revolution and they took home the ideas from American Revolution.

Economic causes – By 1780s, France still had feudal elements. Monarch Louis XVI was extravagant autocrat. His wife Mary Antoinette always sided nobility and opposed every financial reform. Palace of Versailles came to be known as 'graveyard of French National Income' as it housed more than 20,000 people and huge expenditure.

Social causes – Estate system was unequal and peasants – which were part of 3rd estate – were worst sufferers. Most of the tax burden was on 3rd estate. It was said that – '*the nobles fight, the clergy pray and the people pay*'.

Intellectual influence also played its important part. Lofty ideals of republicanism – Liberty, Equality and Fraternity became the key word of French Revolution. French Revolution artists used the female allegory to portray ideas such as Liberty, Justice and the Republic. Female allegories were invented by artists in the nineteenth century to represent the nation. In France she was christened *Marianne* (Similarly, *Germania* became the allegory of the German nation during German unification). These ideals were represented through specific objects or symbols to mobilize masses and to create a sense of collective identity among the French people.

Ideas by Montesquieu, Rousseau, Locke, Voltaire and others provided the intellectual thrust. Voltaire gave idea of creativity and freedom of expression. He said that new forces should be promoted. Montesquieu gave the idea of welfare state and separation of powers to achieve the goal of welfare state. Rousseau gave the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity and termed the state as a social contract.

Sins of the Louis XVI were the immediate causes.

Events of French Revolution

French involvement in 7 years of war in America and later involvement in American War of Independence led to huge burden at exchequer. Commoners were major source of revenue and they demanded certain changes in tax structure and other governance issues. Louis XVI was

Some important dates

1774

Louis XVI becomes king of France, faces empty treasury and growing discontent within society of the Old Regime.

1789

Convocation of Estates General, Third Estate forms National Assembly, the Bastille is stormed, peasant revolts in the countryside.

1791

A constitution is framed to limit the powers of the king and to guarantee basic rights to all human beings.

1792-93

France becomes a republic, the king is beheaded. Overthrow of the Jacobin republic, a Directory rules France.

1804

Napoleon becomes emperor of France, annexes large parts of Europe.

1815

Napoleon defeated at Waterloo.

apprehensive that if he submitted to these demands, his fate will be same as that of King of England. It led to a political deadlock.

In this situation, Turgot was appointed as finance minister who gave 4 point proposal – no more loans, no new taxes, reduction in royal expenses and no bankruptcy of France. Louis XVI invited Council of Aristocracy (Lantobill) which out rightly refused to share the burden of state. But the suggestion of reducing royal expenses didn't sound pleasant to the Louis XVI and he was also disappointed by the aristocracy. Turgot was dismissed and an opportunity to resolve the deadlock was lost. Common man was the only target left for raising resources.

Louis XVI tried to repress the aspiration of common people whom he tried to rule through ordinances. This gave birth to riots in different cities of France which demanded calling of Estates General. Estates General was a common assembly of France with 3 chambers – 1st estate, 2nd estate and 3rd estate with each estate having equal number of representatives on basis of whole group. Traditionally, Estates General met at the invitation of Louis XVI. This change in method of invitation enthused common men and they took participation in large numbers and also demanded change in voting pattern – one person, one vote.

In this situation, Louis XVI committed yet another mistake as he closed the door of Assembly Hall to prevent the assembly. In a reaction to it, representatives of 3rd estates or commoners, also aided by some liberal nobles like Mirago, gathered in the tennis court near the Assembly Hall and declared themselves as '**National Representatives**' aspiring to form a new constitution.

King Louis XVI got alarmed at this development and in a kneejerk reaction he started gathering troops around Paris and he dismissed Necker who was in charge of Estates General and a sympathizer of 3rd Estate. These steps were perceived by people as of using force. In reaction to it, people attacked Bastille which was a fort cum prison to take political prisoners out of jail on 14th July 1789 and this marked the beginning of French Revolution.

Fall of Bastille marked the fall of feudalism as well at the hands of commoners and National Assembly was formed. It became a symbolic even and peasants and workers started attacking feudal lords and their estates. Army was also now under control of the Third Estate and National Guard was formed under Lafayette. Municipal Corporation of France was formed which marked the beginning of modern administration in France.

Events Post 1789

After fall of Bastille, the Third Estate declared itself as '**National Assembly**' and acted as a constituent assembly and drew '**Declaration of Rights of Men**'. It provided for – **limited monarchy, power to a legislature, civil and human rights for all and curtailed the rights of church and nobility**. Now religious head were to be selected by state. A new currency was also introduced and the land of the feudal lords and clergy was confiscated (but not distributed among the peasantry).

Idealistic approach of national Assembly was revolutionary, but weak traditional feudal France

was not ready to accept these radical changes. These changes created suspicion in the minds of everybody – ruling class, aristocracy, clergy and commoners and even neighboring countries which were still in favor of the old order. Louis XVI escaped France along her wife.

Many problems like economic situation of France, poverty still persisted and this led to **split in National Assembly into moderates, radicals and conservatives**. There were also two extreme groups apart from these – **Émigré** (erstwhile nobility who fled France and wanted to restore old order) and **Sans Culottes** (most radicals who were made of peasants, workers and were major part of revolutionary army). Underground political clubs like **Jacobans** and **Cordelier** also emerged.

When Legislative Assembly proposed cut in powers of nobility, Émigré connived with Austria and Prussia to war on France. Austria declared '**Declaration of Pilitz**' in **1791** asking France to restore monarchy. In response of it France declared war. Initially France received setback in War and revolutionaries captured Louis and his Wife Marie. Radicals also slaughtered those who opposed revolution at home also.

In such a volatile situation, Legislative Assembly, which was formed by National Assembly, was dissolved and monarchy was also scrapped in totality and **National Convention** was formed in 1792. It declared France as a republic. France also emerged victorious in wars against Austria and Prussia. Guided by Jacobean Radicals, Louis XVI and his wife Marie were guillotined. One of the most revolutionary social reforms of the **Jacobin regime was the abolition of slavery** in the French colonies. It was finally the Convention which in 1794 legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	NATIONAL CONVENTION
Limited monarchy	Abolished monarchy, declared France Republic
Clergy was retained, but appointed by state	France was declared as secular
Human and civil rights	Called for true social reforms
Legislative assembly as key body	Directory became the key governing body

Foreign countries like England, Holland and Spain joined Austria and Prussia in a reaction to execution of French Monarch and declared themselves as '**First Coalition**' and declared war on France.

At home, Jacobans unleashed a 'reign of terror' and 'Revolutionary Tribunal' was formed to deal moderates. It marked final phase of French Revolution. Jacobans suspended constitution and thousands were massacred. Ultimately in 1794, **Robespierre** the leader of Jacobans too was executed and Jacobean club was closed and revolution ended.

National Convention redrafted constitution and a new political scheme was adopted which provided for a separate executive (**directory**) and bicameral legislature (Council of 500 and Council of Ancients). At that time Napoleon was deployed in France to defend the National Convention against mob. In 1795, National Convention dissolved itself and directory took over.

Impact of French Revolution

Vestiges of Feudalism were destroyed, France was declared Republic, Ideals of Liberty, Fraternity and Equality became the new political watchwords and it also inspired revolutionary ideas in other countries as well. It also promoted secularism when National Convention declared France as secular state. It also roused nationalistic feelings which led to rise of Napoleon.

Ideals of French Revolution were noble in spirit, but failed to leave a great impact. Changes proposed by National Assembly and National Convention were mainly from above and had little wider social acceptance. Everyone – from commoners to nobility – was skeptical of them.

National Convention was divided into a number of groups amidst the confusion and radicals hijacked the agenda and behaved in an immature manner. Wide suppression of opponents took place in the reign of terror that followed which also led to elimination of intellectuals as well.

Condition of third estate also didn't improve drastically. Land was not distributed to them and instead went into hands of capitalists. Economic reforms were lofty in design, but failed on ground.

Restriction on religion also attracted ire of conservative factions of society. Micro managing aspects of reforms like dress code as a part of social reforms irritated people.

Situation of desperation led to birth of Napoleon as a cult figure who brandished aggressive nationalism and it put France on war-path which France wanted to avoid so much at the start of French Revolution.

In India also French Revolution had its resonance. Tipu Sultan and Rammohan Roy are two examples of individuals who responded to the ideas coming from revolutionary France.

Napoleonic France

Napoleon was a soldier in infantry and was given charge of protection of famous port of Toulon and later of Paris during national convention. His marriage to widow Josephine elevated his stature as she was a highly influential lady. He was given a task of *Italian expedition* which proved turning point in his career. Italy was a bone of contention between France and Austria for its importance as a trade route. **Napoleon defeated Austria and Treaty of Lunewill was signed under which France came to possess many Italian territories and Rhine was declared its natural border. This treaty compensated war costs and opened access to resources of Italy for free.** It also diverted attention of its arch-rival Austria to Eastern Europe i.e. Balkans (as it was given Venice as compensation). It projected **Napoleon as a national hero**, he was also accepted as a guardian of Italy. Napoleon was sent on expedition to Egypt where he was defeated, but **when he returned, France was in chaos and it provided conducive opportunity to him to project himself as a savior.** Soon he declared himself emperor of France.

First priority of Napoleon was to establish peace in **France and this urged him** to go **for reforms.** Various steps taken by him in this direction were –

- I. His first act was that he wanted to **establish peace in Europe**. He wrote letters to British and Austrian monarchs urging for peace. **Treaty of Amiens** was signed between England and France and they left each other's colonies. This led to peace between France and European powers.
 - II. He also introduced **religious reforms and Concordat Agreement** of 1802 was one of them. Concordat agreement declared Catholic religion as the religion of majority (not the religion of state) and Pope was declared formal religious head (not actual). However, it took away educational rights of the Church and pope was humiliated during coronation ceremony of Napoleon.
 - III. He also announced **several economic reforms** as well. Land reforms were biggest of them (which were not very successful however). He took several measures to boost government income. Bank of France was established.
 - IV. He also took **cultural reforms**. He built many palaces and instituted Legion de Honor to satisfy the sentiments of his supporters.
 - V. He also took **educational reforms**. He launched a three tier program for education at all levels and freed it from clutches of religion and made it secular. However, education also promoted extreme nationalism and Napoleonism.
 - VI. His biggest step was, however, introduction of **Napoleonic Code**. It was a civil code and aimed at bringing law out of clutches of religion.
- These reforms brought stability to France, but in the long run it also proved disastrous for revolution as it promoted Napoleonism and not nationalism.

French Empire under Napoleon spread far and wide. England formed a 'Third Coalition' which was defeated by Napoleon. However, **he lost in 'Battle of Trafalgar'** which paved way for **undisputed supremacy of British navy for next 100 years**.

His **biggest blunder was invasion of Russia in 1812**, though Russia was on friendly terms. When he attacked Russia, Russians retreated after a fight in which Napoleon had razor thin victory. They burned all grain and killed all live stock in Moscow so that Napoleon's army doesn't feed on it. Harsh weather of Russia took a big toll on soldiers while they were returning and his 4 lakh strong army was reduced to mere 30,000.

Now a **'Fourth Coalition' was formed by Britain, Russia, Prussia, Sweden and Austria**. In **'Battle of Lipzeig'**, he lost and was sent on an island near Italian coast on pension. He tried to make a comeback, but **was defeated in 'Battle of Waterloo'**. He was imprisoned at St Helena where he died.

Napoleonic Code

While the Judicial reforms in India carried out by Lord Cornwallis are called Cornwallis Code, Napoleon established Napoleonic code, which laid the administrative and judicial foundations

for much of Western Europe.

Through a return to monarchy Napoleon had, no doubt, destroyed democracy in France, but in the administrative field he had incorporated revolutionary principles in order to make the whole system more rational and efficient. Before French Revolution, laws were lengthy, complicated and varied from region to region in France. The **French Civil Code of 1804** – usually known as the Napoleonic Code – **did away with all privileges based on birth, established equality before the law and secured the right to property and specified that government jobs go to the most qualified.** It aimed to **simplifying all the laws** and put them in a single document. This **Code was exported to the regions under French control.** In the Dutch Republic, in Switzerland, in Italy and Germany, Napoleon simplified administrative divisions, **abolished the feudal system and freed peasants from serfdom and manorial dues.** In the towns too, **guild restrictions were removed.** **Transport and communication systems were improved.**

Napoleonic code was based on 3 ideals of French Revolution –

- a. Laws should be based on reason and common sense
- b. All men should be treated equal under law
- c. They should have certain freedoms

Napoleonic Code were so far reaching **that by 1960, more than 70 countries adopted them in one form or another.** Businessmen and small-scale producers of goods, in particular, began to realise that **uniform laws, standardised weights and measures, and a common national currency** would facilitate the movement and exchange of goods and capital from one region to another.

However, his code **didn't provide for equal status to women.** The Napoleonic Code went back to **limited suffrage and reduced women to the status of a minor,** subject to the authority of fathers and husbands.

Evaluation of Napoleon – Napoleonic Empire was Doomed Because of Its Inherent and Self Defeating Contradictions

Napoleon's fetish for power led him to zenith and then to his doom. He made some terrible blunders like – Continental policy, invasion on Russia, attack on Spanish sovereignty and so on. The very economic system he was supposed to boost was badly damaged by wars.

His European Wars hit the already developing France badly. Money was diverted from development to wars.

Continental policy which aimed at **negating the naval supremacy of Britain** led to economic war between the two worsening the economic situation of France. After being defeated in direct Battle of Trafalgar Square, he tried to impose an economic blockade on Britain through Berlin, Milan etc **Declarations by forcing her allies to block British trade.** However, this policy boomeranged as Britain was a developed country and underdeveloped countries like France had to benefit a lot from her. His own people couldn't adhere to the tight blockade that he

envisaged under this policy. Russia left Napoleon on this issue.

Napoleon also failed to industrialize France like Britain and some other European countries.

Napoleon sought to popularize the ideas of nationalism, but cared little for nationalistic sentiments for others and this led to resentments even from areas that were under him.

His despotism suffocated his own people whom he had won through his war exploits. His despotism was against his own Napoleonic code.

His overwhelming drive for military sojourns led him to recruit foreign mercenaries who had little loyalty to France and this was one of the reasons for heavy casualties in Russian expedition.

'Spanish Ulcer' also hit his fate hard. Spain was on French side, but Napoleon attacked her sovereignty multiple times. He moved his troops across Spain on his Portuguese expedition without permission of Spain. He also meddled into internal affairs of Spain. His placement of his brother Joseph in Spanish after dethroning of Spanish monarch resented people as attack on their sovereignty. He could have appointed a local instead. Joseph introduced many reforms including land reforms which irked landlords who raised slogans of nationalism against French occupation. The seeds of nationalism that he sowed in foreign countries like Spain as a part of his expeditions were bearing bitter fruits for him. He wasted much of his energy in fighting Spain and an important ally was turned into enemy.

His final mistake was war with Russia. Napoleon was annoyed with Russia over Russia leaving his Continental Policy. Rift widened when Napoleon held a grand ceremony in Poland – right at the doorstep of Russia. He attacked Russia via Siberia, but his entire army was annihilated. Other European powers joined hands against him and he was defeated in Battle of Lipzik and later in Battle of Waterloo.

Alex de Tocquille summed up his character in these few words – '*He was as great as a man can be without virtue*'. He was a great military strategist and administer, but his hunger for power negated his qualities and also contradicted the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity that France stood for after revolution.

There is also alternative view which says, while French Revolution was landmark in European history, Napoleon tried to take further its ideals as he introduced reforms and took ideals of French Revolution to many other countries as a part of his expeditions. For example – rise of nationalism in Spain was a result of his promotion of nationalistic ideals. This nationalism later also led to unification of Italy and Germany also.

Another indirect fallout was that Napoleon indirectly sowed seeds of First World War when he directed attention of Austria towards eastern Europe.

Montesquieu and Separation of Powers Theory

According to him, a government has duty of maintaining law and order, public liberty and

property of an individual. He opposed absolute monarchy and favored a democratic system. He advocated constitutional form of government. According to him, administrative powers (executive, legislative and judicial) should be separate from sovereign powers.

Rousseau – The Social Contract and the General Will

He was born in Switzerland where political system was relatively liberal. According to him, man was generally good and is corrupted by society. He published '*The Social Contract*' in 1762 which has famous '*Man was born free, and everywhere he is in chains*' lines as opening lines. In this he rejected the divine authority of king and instead argued that it is the people who are sovereign. To protect their rights, liberties and properties, people should not look up to a king, but instead the people should enter into a social contract. They would give up all their rights, not to a king, but to "the whole community," all the people. He further writes that the people then exercise their "general will" to make laws for the "public good." He advocated for a direct democracy and people themselves will have the political power and all will follow 'general will'. Violators will be free to leave the community. Thus, he didn't have any concept of separation of powers as people themselves are sovereign and also had political powers. His ideal of 'general will' is reflected in US and Indian constitution also which begin as 'We the people...'. 'Social Contract' was said to be bible of French Revolution.

Congress of Vienna, 1814

After defeat of Napoleon in battle of Waterloo, Prince Metternich Chancellor of Austria convened Congress of European Powers in Vienna.

It was a first of its kind diplomatic meet in which all concerned powers affected by Napoleon attended.

After end of Napoleon's reign, European heads met from 1814 to 1815 in Vienna to settle the terms by which the Napoleonic Wars should be concluded. Outcome was 'Congress of Vienna'. Its objective was to return security and stability to Europe. It led to agreements which called for a return to Europe similar to pre-French Revolution. Most of the decisions were made by 5 great powers – Russia, Austria, Prussia, Britain and France.

Its objective was to undo the work of Napoleon. It was guided by 2 principles –

- I. The **principle of Legitimacy** – Napoleon had dethroned many monarchs, they were declared legitimate and restored. Louis XVIII was restored as French monarch, Papal states were restored to Pope.
- II. The **principle of Compensation** – Countries were compensated with the lands conquered by Napoleon. Austria gained biggest pie. It got Venice, Lombardi apart from being declared as leader of Germany. **Austria was strengthened to prevent recurrence of French Revolution like events.**

Leading power of Europe also entered into alliance – **Quadruple Alliance** (Austria, Prussia, Russia

and Britain). Similarly, Czar Nicholas proposed 'Holy Alliance' for all Christian countries. The Vienna Congress heralded ominous alliance system which ultimately culminated into World Wars.

Spirit of nationalism was suppressed as Metternich considered democracy and nationalism dangerous for the Vienna Settlement. Suppression of revolt of Naples which aimed at Italian unification was such an instance.

To contain France, Austria was strengthened at the expense of Italy and Germany. German and Italy frequently revolted to protest against control of Austria.

One positive outcome of the Congress was that there was no war for next 60 years. Metternich openly declared policy of intervention in other countries where revolts happened. Britain however opposed it, but was isolated. Soon France also joined Big 4 or Quadruple Alliance. Britain however left the Congress when other parties intervened in Spain which Britain opposed.

However, the Vienna Congress could not suppress the emerging order for too long. Attempts of revolution in 1930 and 1948 were such examples which were signs of things to come which was manifested in German and Italian unification.

German Unification

Background

German states fulfilled all requirements for industrial revolution as they had ample resources like – coal, iron and fertile land – but were lagging behind other Industrialized countries like Britain.

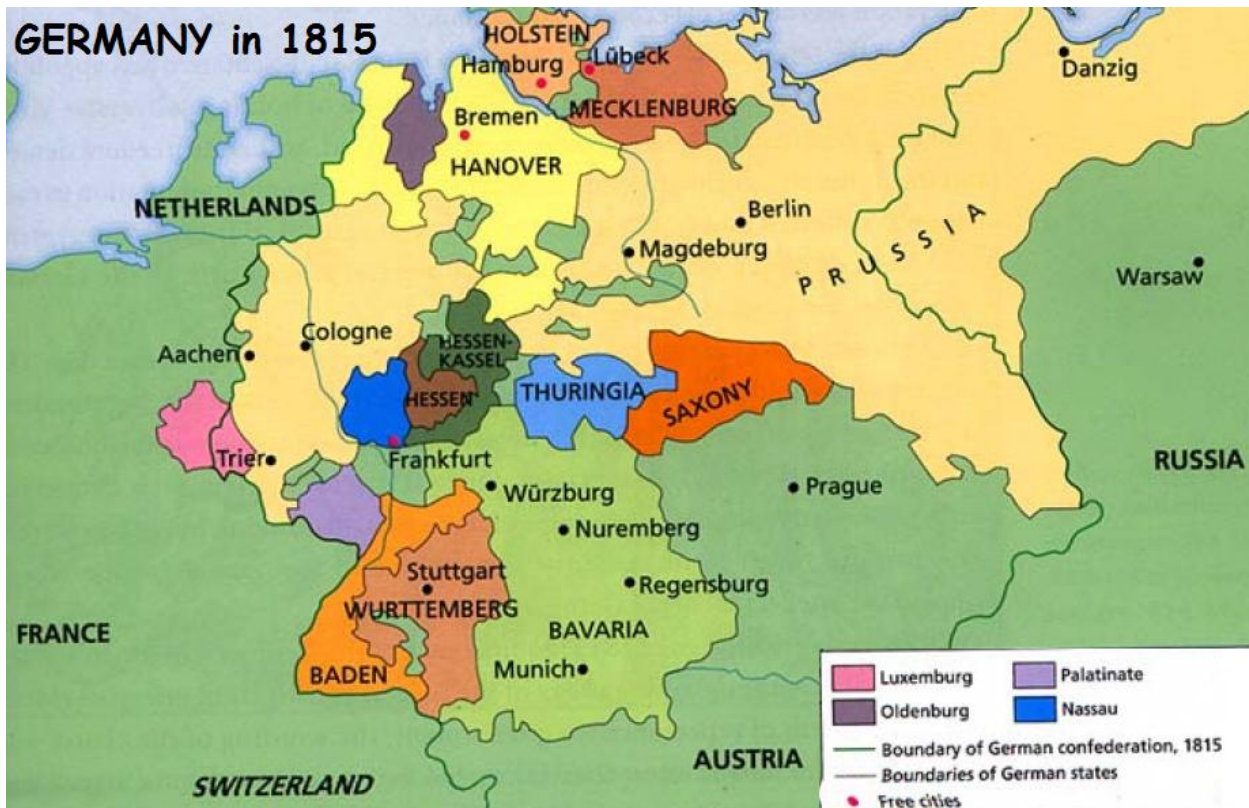
Exploitation of German state by foreign states – France and Austria – played a great unifying force. It hurt both nationalists and capitalists.

First step towards unification was taken by Napoleon himself – He unwittingly created 'Rhine State Federation' from 300 small kingdoms and German Diet was formed which remained in existence even after Vienna Congress. However, Vienna Congress made Germany Confederation of 39 states with Austria its president.

Intellectuals in Germany also played a leading role. Intellectuals like Herder, Fichte emphasized on ideological bonds of German race and through their writings glorified German concepts. Charismatic leaders like Bismarck played a lead role in such a situation.

Events of German Unification

First seed was sown when German Diet was formed by Austria as a part of Vienna settlement for smooth management of Germany. One of its features was that – for any fundamental and constitutional change, acceptance of every state was necessary (though there was no such formal relation among German states).



Second impetus was Zollverein. In 1819, a 'Customs Union' called '**Zollverein**' was formed under leadership of Prussia. This brought economic unity of Germans. After 1830, many such were created and Austria was excluded from these. It provided conducive circumstances for development of trade and industry and hence economic consolidation which laid the foundation of unification.

Thirdly, revolutions of 1830 and 1848 in Europe played an important role in further stoking the feeling of nationalism in Germany. **Revolution of 1830** in France was **against autocratic rule of Charles X** and **challenged the idea of divine rule of king**. Its important outcome was that, the ruler has to be a representative of people. **Revolution of 1848 was a socialist revolution** led by labor class. These events led Germans demand their own constitution leading to **Heidelberg Convention of German nationalists and liberals**.

It became the background of the **Second Frankfurt Parliament or German revolutionary parliament in 1848** which made two important proposals – **formulation of union of German states under leadership of Prussia and formation of a constitution of German union**. But Prussian king Fredrick William refused it as, according to him, the proposal was given by the representatives and not by King himself. Later when Prussian King in 1850 tried to unite Germany, attempt was foiled by Austria which warned it against any such move in Olmutz Convention. Thus, an attempt of peaceful unification of Germany came to head and it also made war with Austria as German destiny for unification.

Finally, rise of Prussia and Bismarck after death of Fredrick Williams played the key role. **Bismarck**

– a **resolute supporter of Monarchy** – was made Chief Minister and he took aggressive steps to bolster economy and military. He **set up imperial banks, strengthened infrastructure and promoted state socialism which strengthened economy leading to a strengthened army.** He pursued policy of **'Blood and Iron' or war.** **First war was with Denmark with help of Austria** over 'Schleswig and Holstein' question and **Denmark was defeated** and these territories came under Austrian and Prussian control respectively. Prussia alienated Austria from its European allies to regain Schleswig as it **adopted a pro-Poland attitude to win over Russia, promised Italy to help in its unification and committed rewards for Napoleon III of France.** Over dispute over fate of these two territories led **two wars between Prussia and Austria in which Prussia won** and Austrian influence in Germany came to an end leading to the completion of **first phase of unification.**

Other states of North which resisted were also annexed. Southern unification was tricky due to opposition by states themselves and by France due to jealousy over Prussian rise. **Bismarck first alienated France from European allies.** It asked France to give written demands (as Prussia had promised in lieu of help by France), when France gave these, Bismarck made them public to other nations. Bismarck wanted a pretext for war which came when Spanish throne became vacant and Leopold of Hohenzollern was announced king which France opposed. Bismarck used this opportunity to create a situation of war (it purportedly insulted a French ambassador which irked France) and finally in a confrontation with France in battle of Sedan defeated it and Southern states were also united and **Prussian monarch became German king in 1871.**

Post Unification

After unification, Bismarck pursued a foreign policy which **focused upon maintaining peace and status quo in region.** That is to preserve areas that were won by Germany. Secondly, he tried to isolate France. He followed a **policy of alliances which resulted into counter-alliances** and this divided Europe into armed camps. It **alienated Russia** and even created war like situation as it sided Austria which had rough relations with Russia. France too remained unplaced over **its loss of Alsace Loraine** and this coupled with **ambitions of Austria Hungary led to the World War.**

Italian Unification, 1870

Background



Historically, Italy had a rich history as old as Roman Empire and people had a perennial sense of belongingness and unity to a common community.

French Revolution and Napoleonic wars roused spirit of nationalism. Napoleon unwittingly laid foundation stone of unification when he created 'Republic of Italy' by unification of kingdoms of Italy.

Even after Vienna Congress, Papal States continued under rule of pope & Sardinia remained independent & finally led the movement for unification.

Unification was deferred for various reasons – It was broken into 9 states, Pope was against unity, many parts were under foreign rule, middle class was weak and Industrial base was low and hence lower growth of nationalism, other European states don't want to see unification as it would disturb balance of power. So despite excellent natural boundaries unification was averted.

Events of Italian Unification

Carbonari, a secret society was formed by people to liberate Italy from clutches of foreigners. Rulers of Naples and Piedmont also encouraged liberal tendencies. But these efforts were curbed by Metternich.

French revolutions of 1830 and 1848 sparked feelings of liberation, but the smaller states couldn't coordinate and Austria again suppressed movements and movement was divided into – moderates and revolutionaries (under Mazzini).

Mazzini joined Carbonari at young age. He formed 'Young Italy' movement to liberate Italy on line of Carbonari and setup Republic which was destroyed by Napoleon III. He tried to bring unification multiple times by revolts especially in Milan and Lombardi, but failed. The failure of revolutionary uprisings both in 1831 and 1848 meant that the mantle now fell on Sardinia-Piedmont under its ruler King Victor Emmanuel II to unify the Italian states through war. He was, however, the ideological spirit behind unification and major spirit behind nationalism and made unification a popular cause.

By 1848, it became apparent that without dislodging Austria unification will be difficult. **Cavour**, the PM of Sardinia took up this task. Like Bismarck, he took up the task of economic and military strengthening of Piedmont. He joined Crimean war to support England and France to win their support in its cause to liberate Lombardi and Venice from clutches of Austria. Later he tied up with Napoleon III of France to fight Austria. On excuse of rebellion in Sardinia, both waged war against Austria. However, the victory

GERMAN UNIFICATION vs ITALY UNIFICATION – Like Italy, Germany also has to overcome Austrian Hurdle for its unification and like Cavour, Bismarck played an important role. However, Bismarck commanded a stronger position in wake of economic unity that was already there and Prussia had acquired a stronghold over a large area. Further, in case of Germany, no foreign rule was to be overthrown and there was no hurdle of Pope. However, Bismarck has to overcome local forces and demand from people was not as strong as in case of Italy, further, influence of Austria was much more entrenched in Germany than in Italy and there was no figure like Mazzini who could have forced emotional unity. Cavour was more democratic and parliamentarian in approach, but Bismarck was forceful and even violent and even trampled upon liberal elements.

was incomplete as only Sardinia could be acquired (Napoleon became wary of Sardinia's rising clout and hence made peace with Austria to check it). Cavour, then moved South and took advantage of revolt of inhabitants of Sicily.

Garibaldi helped in success of revolt and later in a plebiscite it was later merged with Sardinia-Piedmont in 1860. When Prussia under Bismarck attacked Austria, Venice too became a part of Sardinia.

Finally, Rome, which under France promoted Pope's control, became part after Prussia France war. By 1871, unification was complete.

This kingdom lasted till 1946 when Italy chose to become republic.

World Wars

1890-First World War

By the last quarter of the nineteenth century nationalism no longer retained its idealistic liberal-democratic sentiment of the first half of the century, but became a narrow creed with limited ends. During this period nationalist groups became increasingly intolerant of each other and ever ready to go to war. The major European powers, in turn, manipulated the nationalist aspirations of the subject peoples in Europe to further their own imperialist aims. Europeans dominated the world till First World War. The rivalries among the European imperialist powers over colonial possessions and conflicts among various European states over European affairs led to the First World War. Post First World War world order was different from what it was earlier.

EUROPE

New phase of imperial expansion began in 1870 and most of Africa and Asia was under control of one European power or another and their rivalries often lead to wars as well. Most of these potential wars were, however, settled in conference rooms of Europe in a quid-pro-quo agreement. For example, after long conflicting claims, in 1904 Britain and France entered into a secret agreement whereby Britain was given a 'free hand' in Egypt and France was given an interrupted right of domination over Morocco. When Germany came to know about it, it demanded France to relinquish its claim over Morocco and situation almost reached to brink of war. Situation was finally saved in 1911 after France gave Germany a portion of French Congo and Germany in turn relinquished her claim over Morocco. People of these bargained territories never had a say in decisions regarding their fate. Such '**gentlemen's agreements**' were often used to solve disputes over colonies and despite these, there was growing militarization of Europe and every country feared that other country had strengthened her armies more than hers. Strengthening of armies was defended as an exercise in self-defense and a deterrent measure. As a result, tensions started to build up and war seemed to become inevitable. Some even glorified the war as a necessary phase in human progress.

India, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya were under British control in Asia. Indo-China was under French and Indonesia was under Dutch control. China was not under direct control of a single power, but was divided into 'spheres of influence' by major powers and was hence, reduced to status of an international colony. It was '**Boxer Rebellion**' of 1899 which prevented the dismemberment of China. In 1900, in what became known as the Boxer Rebellion (or the Boxer Uprising), a Chinese secret organization called the Society of the Righteous and Harmonious Fists led an uprising in northern China against the spread of Western and Japanese influence there. At first, the Boxers wanted to destroy the Qing/Manchu dynasty (which had ruled China for over 250 years) and wanted to rid China of all foreign influence (which they considered a threat to Chinese culture). When the Empress Dowager backed the Boxers, the Boxers turned solely to ridding China of foreigners. The rebels, referred to by Westerners as Boxers because they performed physical exercises they believed would make them able to withstand bullets, killed foreigners and Chinese Christians and destroyed foreign property. Although the Boxers came from various parts of society, many were peasants, particularly from Shandong province, which had been struck by natural disasters such as famine and flooding. In the 1890s, China had given territorial and commercial concessions in this area to several European nations, and the Boxers blamed their poor standard of living on foreigners who were colonizing their country. From June to August, the Boxers besieged the foreign district of Beijing (then called Peking), China's capital, until an international force that included American troops subdued the uprising. The rebellion was however suppressed by joint Anglo-German-Russian-French-Japanese which occupied Beijing, *but it averted the partition of China*. By the terms of the Boxer Protocol, which officially ended the rebellion in 1901, China agreed to pay more than \$330 million in reparations. The Qing/Manchu dynasty, established in 1644, was weakened by the Boxer Rebellion. Following an uprising in 1911 –termed as **Chinese Revolution** – the dynasty came to an end and China became a republic in 1912 with Sun Yet Sen as its president. The combination of increasing imperialist demands (from both Japan and the West), frustration with the foreign Manchu Government embodied by the Qing court, and the desire to see a unified China less parochial in outlook fed a growing nationalism that spurred on revolutionary ideas.

Similarly, Iran was also divided into three spheres of influence in 1907. Russia dominated the northwest, Britain dominated the southern part and central was a buffer between the two. Britain also had some influence in Afghanistan. Central Asia was largely under the influence of Russian Empire and Japan was the only major country in Asia which was independent. Japan had defeated China in 1897 and had occupied Formosa (today's Taiwan). Japan had also defeated Russia in 1905 and had occupied South Korea.

Africa with the exception of a few countries like Ethiopia and Liberia was divided among the European powers by beginning of 19th century. Britain had control over Egypt, Sudan, Rhodesia or Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda etc. French had control over Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Sahara, French Congo, Madagascar etc. Other colonial powers also had other stakes like – Germany occupied parts of East Africa, South West Africa, Cameroon, Togoland etc, Italy occupied Libya and Somalia. Italian ambitions to conquer Ethiopia came to a

head when her own troops were defeated by Ethiopian army in **Battle of Adowa**, 1896.

Britain was biggest colonial power, both in terms of territory under control and population under control. Europe not only dominated politically, but also economically. Just three European countries – Britain, Germany and France controlled 45% of world trade.

It was also not that all European nations were equally Industrialized and powerful. Apart from Germany, France and England, others were still not much Industrialized. Russia was a huge country and even had colonies, was primarily agrarian economy with a nascent industry. **Baltic states** (Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Finland) were part of Russian empire. Poland as a state also didn't exist as one part of it was under Russian control, one under German and another under Austro-Hungarian rule. Czechoslovakia and many areas of Slav people were also a part of Austro-Hungarian empire. Ireland was under British control.

CONFLICTS in EUROPE

Conflicts in Europe were not confined to question of colonies alone and there were tensions and antagonisms due to various other reasons also. Out of 25 European states, 5 had grown powerful over time viz. – Britain, Germany, France, Austria-Hungary and Russia.

Britain was a parliamentary democracy, House of Common was not truly democratic and there was no universal adult franchise. People of Ireland also wanted 'Home Rule'.

Germany was becoming stronger and was main rival of Britain and was also a parliamentary democracy, but emperor was still powerful. Territory of Germany included parts of Poland and Alsace Lorraine which she has taken from France after war of 1870-71.

France was a Republic since 1871 and was third biggest power. It wanted to avenge on Germany of 1871's defeat and recover Alsace Lorraine.

Austria-Hungary was the dominant power in Central Europe and Emperor Francis Joseph ruled both Austria and Hungary. Politically, it was the most troubled state of the Europe. Inhabitants of it were from various other ethnic communities also like – Czechs of Bohemia and Moravia, Slovaks, Poles, Romanians, Serbs, Croats etc and were discontented. Issue of Slav nationalism was stoked by Russia and Serbia and it created strong antagonism between Austria-Hungary and Russia.

Russia was the biggest country in Europe and had a vast empire including Baltic states, Finland, parts of Poland and areas in Northern and Central Asia. However, it was backward economically with an outdated political system with Czars as autocratic rulers. Democracy or parliament was totally absent till 1905 when a revolutionary attempt led to establishment of Duma, the Russian Parliament. Discontent among other ethnic groups was also rife due to oppressive rule.

Italy was another aspiring power, but except for her Northern parts, she was relatively backward.

Some of the tensions were also related to dismemberment of the **Ottoman Empire**. The most serious source of nationalist tension in Europe after 1871 was the area called the **Balkans**. The Balkans was a region of geographical and ethnic variation comprising modern-day Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro whose inhabitants were broadly known as the **Slavs**. A large part of the Balkans was under the control of the Ottoman Empire. The spread of the ideas of romantic nationalism in the Balkans together with the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire made this region very explosive. All through the nineteenth century the Ottoman Empire had sought to strengthen itself through modernisation and internal reforms but with very little success. One by one, its European subject nationalities broke away from its control and declared independence. The Balkan peoples based their claims for independence or political rights on nationality and used history to prove that they had once been independent but had subsequently been subjugated by foreign powers. Hence the rebellious nationalities in the Balkans thought of their struggles as attempts to win back their long-lost independence. As the different Slavic nationalities struggled to define their identity and independence, the Balkan area became an area of intense conflict. Matters were further complicated because the Balkans also became the scene of big power rivalry. During this period, there was intense rivalry among the European powers over trade and colonies as well as naval and military might. These rivalries were very evident in the way the Balkan problem unfolded. Each power – Russia, Germany, England, Austro-Hungary – was keen on countering the hold of other powers over the Balkans, and extending its own control over the area. This led to a series of wars in the region and finally the First World War.

Till the early 19th century, the entire Balkan Peninsula was part of Ottoman Empire and it fought with Russia throughout 19th century. Russia's attempt to extend her influence over the weakening Ottoman Empire was thwarted by other European powers like Britain, Germany and Austria-Hungary. Ottoman Empire grew weaker and by early 20th century, its rule over Balkans had almost ended and **Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania** emerged as independent states. However, disintegration of Ottoman Empire didn't solve the issue of nationalities in Europe. **Serbia** emerged as a champion of Slav people, many of whom also lived in Austria-Hungary and was supported by Russia for creation of a Greater Serbia which would include Ottoman provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina that were now under Austria-Hungary and some southern areas of Austria-Hungary which were inhabited by Slav people (*the Croats, Slovenes and Serbs*). Serbia encouraged discontentment in these areas and even organized conspiracies against Austria-Hungary. This region became a source of increasing tensions in Europe which finally led to WW-1. In 1908, Austria-Hungary formally annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina from Ottoman Empire (though it was under its de facto control earlier also). Serbia got enraged over this and exhorted Russia to declare war on Austria-Hungary, but **German threat to come out in support of Austria-Hungary retrained Russia. Balkan Wars, 1912-13** further intensified the bitterness between Austria-Hungary and Serbia in which some of the other Balkan states had united with Serbia with Russian support to conquer Macedonia from Ottomans. However, after Ottomans have been defeated, Austria-Hungary, with German support succeeded in making Albania an independent state rather than part of Serbia and it defeated Serbian hopes of merging Albania with herself.

FORMATION of ALLIANCES in EUROPE

Many treaties and secret alliances were signed in Europe and there was growing mistrust and became an additional source of tension. There were no permanent enemies or friends. For example, Russia had promised Serbia of support over Bosnia-Herzegovina against Austria-Hungary, but had earlier reached a secret understanding with Austria-Hungary promising her of not interfering in her plans of annexing Bosnia-Herzegovina if she supports Russian ambition of opening straits leading to Mediterranean Sea to Russia. Despite these, two major rival camps have emerged in Europe by the first century of 20th century. Already in 1882, a **Triple Alliance** was formed with Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy had been formed, however, loyalty of Italy was doubtful. In a reaction to it, Russia and France signed a secret agreement in 1894. In 1904, England and France, once long time enemies, entered into **Entente Cordiale** and its secret clauses included France giving up her claims over Egypt in return of a free hand in Morocco. Another agreement was signed in 1907 between Britain and Russia aiming at dividing Iran. It also led to formation of **Triple Entente** comprising Britain, France and Russia. It was an *Entente* or understanding and not a formal alliance. Formation of such alliances and ententes led to build up of an atmosphere of war and also indicated that in case a war broke out, it will involve large areas.

SOCIAL TENSIONS

Besides the conflicts between states, there were serious tensions and problems within states. Issue of nationalities was one of them. Though European powers had emerged as global powers, there were gross inequalities within these states at home. Workers in Industrialized nations were highly exploited and condition of peasantry was not better off either.

The period witnessed rise of trade union movement and spread of **socialist ideas**. Socialist parties formed in almost all Europe by second decade of 20th century. In 1914, socialist parties in Germany, France and Italy were single largest parties. In 1889, the **Second International** was formed and declared 1st May as day of working class and for the first time a demand of limiting work hours to 8 hours per day was raised. Socialists of all hues condemned colonialism and war. Though socialists of different hues agreed over overthrowing of capitalism eventually, there were differences of opinion among them. Second International in its **Stuttgart Congress** held in Germany in 1907 categorically condemned colonialism and called for a independence of colonies. Madam Bhikhaji Cama also attended the congress and even unfurled an Indian flag here designed by her. Socialists were unanimously against war and even thought of uniting all workers against war as they saw war as an evil associated with capitalism.

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 28th July 1914. Socialists opposed the war and in Brussels Congress of Second International, they declared a '*War on War*' and asked workers to work in direction of ending it. However socialists found themselves helpless against rising chauvinism and some socialists even supported their respective governments as they saw current situation as an existential threat to their nation. Socialist movement saw a split and it became even acute after the Russian Revolution.

USA

13 English colonies on the Eastern coast of North America declared their independence in 1776 and made an expansion after that. The westward expansion of USA took place at the cost of American Indian Tribes that lived there and their resistance was over by 1890. USA also purchased territories of Alaska and Louisiana from Russia and France respectively. It seized Texas and California from Mexico after a war.

USA also faced a **civil war** between 1861-65 when southern states, which were mainly agrarian states employing slaves, seceded the

federation. However, they were defeated in civil war, slavery was abolished and federation was preserved.



USA became a power to reckon with within three decades of end of civil war and heavy Industrialization of USA took place. USA produced 1/3rd of total steel of world by 1900. For a long time, its growth was un-noticed as most of its production was consumed at home itself. It was only by 1890s that it emerged as a colonial power. Its expansion in pacific started in 1880s and it acquired many islands like Hawaiian Islands. It also gained control over part of Samoa Island in Pacific after a tussle with Germany and England. Its domestic production was increasing and like other colonial powers, it was now looking for other markets. In 1893, USA also declared her hegemony over entire American continent and prohibited other powers to interfere in the South America. USA went over war with Spain for control over Cuba and Puerto Rico in 1898. Later she also wrested control from Spain over Phillipines. By 1900, USA had considerable influence in Latin America through rights of military intervention, protectorate or influence. USA also began to influence in internal affairs of Latin American countries purportedly to maintain order and called it as an extension of '**Monroe Doctrine**'. The Monroe Doctrine was a US foreign policy regarding Latin American countries in 1823. It stated that further efforts by European nations to colonize land or interfere with states in North or South America would be viewed as acts of aggression, requiring U.S. intervention. Its primary objective was to free the newly independent colonies of Latin America from European intervention and avoid situations which could make the New World a battleground for the Old World powers, so that the United States could exert its own influence undisturbed. The doctrine asserted that the New World and the Old World were to remain distinctly separate spheres of influence, for they were composed of entirely separate and independent nations. USA also gained control over newly built Panama Canal under Roosevelt partly by purchasing shares from French Company which built it, partly by coercing government of Columbia and declaring Panama an independent nation and partly by

using money power. Similarly, USA also interfered in affairs of Mexico as well and toppled the government there in 1913 with the help of an aspiring dictator.

When European powers in 1890s planning for a division of China, USA felt left out and called for an **Open Door Policy** which effectively meant that in case of China, no imperial country should be discriminated in terms of the areas that they claimed to be their spheres of influence. When **Boxer Rebellion** broke out, the USA joined other imperial forces in suppressing it and occupying Beijing.

USA was also racial in its approach like many other European powers and viewed white race as superior and civilized.

USA also began to make her presence felt on international sphere and was concerned about Russian designs in China. She was happy when Japan attacked Russian fleet in 1904 and it mediated to persuade Russia to recognize the territorial claims of China in Korea, Manchuria and part of Sakhalin Island which earlier belonged to Russia. USA also entered into a secret agreement with Japan which provided USA free access for trade in that region. Appeasement of USA of Japan proved dangerous later on as it stoked imperial ambitions of Japan and it emerged as major rival of USA in Pacific.

Industrialization in the USA also led to similar evils associated with Industrialization and capitalism. Workers and weaker sections were highly exploited. Child labor was rampant and women were paid meagre wages. Strikes and protests by workers were ruthlessly suppressed. On 1st May, a national workers' organization named American Federation of Labor organized a protest in Haymarket Square in Chicago demanding for 8 hours day. Police fired on them and they in turn killed a few policemen. In the ensuing trials, 7 of the protestors were sentenced to death in an unjust manner. Second International's call for workers' organizations to press for 8 hour day was also connected with this incidence.

Another issue in American history had been issue of Black struggle apart from the issue of native American Indians. Slavery continued in USA even 80 years after it was declared independent and republic and was mainly prevalent in southern states. It could be officially ended only after civil war was ended in 1865. In 1870, 15th amendment gave everyone equal right to vote. Other efforts were also taken to provide more rights to the Blacks and this period till 1870 is known as '*Reconstruction Period*'. When former slave owner southern states came to power, this process ended and by the early 20th century, blacks were again marginalized and subjected to grave discrimination. Though condition of the most of the Whites was also not better either, racism was used a tool to prevent unification of blacks and whites in form of a united front. By early 20th century a powerful anti-racial movement emerged under leadership of **W E B Du Bois**. However, it took more than 50 years before significant progress could be made on front of their social condition.

When the WW-1 broke out, USA decided to remain neutral, but in April 1917 entered the 'war to end wars' and to 'make the world safe for democracy'.

MODERN JAPAN and ITS RISE

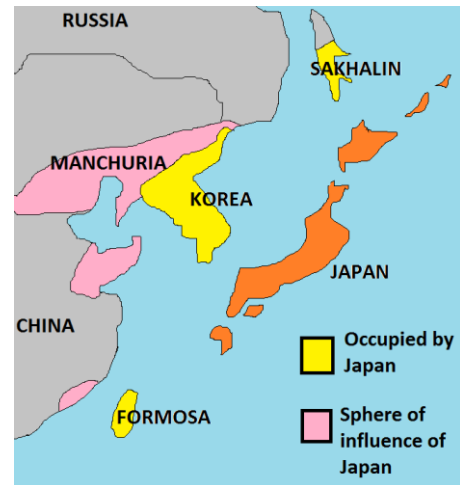
Japan was the only country to remain outside colonial clutches. Japanese military generals called 'shoguns' ruled Japan for more than 200 years and emperor was mere figurehead. Japanese society was almost feudal and it was largely disconnected from the wider world.

Japan awakened to the modern development in middle of 19th century only when its very independence was threatened. Within a few decades, it not only warded off that threat, but even became a force to be reckon with. In 1853, Commodore Perry led a fleet to Japan and threatened it with an ultimatum. Japan had to open two of its ports for US ships as a result via a treaty and similar treaties were signed with the other countries as well.

In 1868, the rule of Shoguns was ended and a new set of rulers and advisers arrived on scene who ruled in the name of emperor whose authority was restored in theory. This event is termed as '**Meiji Restoration**'. Meiji is the title that new emperor took. Within 4 decades after it, Japan transformed itself. Unlike European industrialisation which was driven by capitalism and private enterprise, it was totally backed by state. The Meiji regime, which assumed power in Japan in 1868, believed that Japan needed to industrialise in order to resist Western domination. So it initiated a series of measures to help industrialisation. Postal services, telegraph, railways, steam powered shipping were developed. The most advanced technology from the West was imported and adapted to the needs of Japan. Foreign experts were brought to train Japanese professionals. Industrialists were provided with generous loans for investment by banks set up the government. Large industries were first started by the government and then sold off at cheap rates to business families. In Japan the fear of foreign conquest spurred industrialisation. But this also meant that the Japanese industrial development from the beginning was linked to military needs.

New industries were raised by taxing the peasantry heavily which were later given in hands of capitalists. Industrialization was accomplished by impoverishment of peasantry and it led to protests as well as migration as cheap labor to urban industries. Goods of these industries were sent into global markets as local population was too impoverished to buy them. Mass education was also rapidly taken up and Japanese learned technical skills quickly which were necessary for industries. Educational system also promoted emperor worship and chauvinistic nationalism also.

Though Japan now had a constitutional government after 1889 constitution and a parliament called Diet, real power still largely rested with military. Policies of state were repressive and dissent was not tolerated. Police had large powers.



After attaining capitalist power, Japan also started to harbor colonial ambitions and East Asia was first theater of its aggression which later included entire Asia and Pacific. She attacked China in 1895 and acquired Formosa. She also forced China to acknowledge her suzerainty over Korea which was earlier under Chinese influence and Korea was finally annexed by Japan in 1910. In 1899, Japan's status as a superpower was acknowledged by USA and other European powers which cancelled the treaties which gave them concessions vis-à-vis Japan since 1854. Britain signed an alliance with Japan in 1902 to deter Russian designs which gave her a status equal to other colonial powers and Japan became first colonial power of Asia. In 1904-05 war broke out between Japan and Russia and Russia was defeated and Russia has to accept Japan's sphere of influence in Manchuria and secede some part of Sakhalin Island. During WW-1, Japan also tried to make China her protectorate, but couldn't. However, it gained influence in some parts.

Rise of Japan was imperialist in tone, but it instilled nationalism and confidence in other Asian countries especially when it defeated imperialist Russia. However, irony was that it was the Asians which were victims of Japanese aggression.

Rise of Japan and USA marked the decline of Europe as colonial powers and WW-1 further hastened it.

ASIA, AFRICA and NATIONAL MOVEMENTS

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed the rise of nationalism in many Afro-Asian countries. In many of these, nationalism arose as a part of the anti-colonial struggles for independence. Colonial rule in Africa was dictatorial. Only the "Chiefs" were allowed to rule on behalf of the foreign powers. Alternately, laws affecting Africans were created in all-white legislatures. Africans had no decision-making powers or representation, not until after the Second World War at least. The forcible takeover of land from local owners or users, increased taxation and poor working conditions led to many African protests. In 1957, Ghana, known until then as the Gold Coast, became the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence. The freedom movement was led by Kwame Nkrumah's Convention People's Party through strikes, boycotts and mass rallies.

Indian national movement was among one of the early national movements to emerge in colonies. By early 20th century, national movements had started to emerge in many countries.

In **Iran**, after a series of revolts, the Shah of Iran had been forced to transform Iran into a constitutional monarchy with a parliament called Majlis. With the help of foreign powers, especially Russia Shah re-established his despotic rule and abolished Majlis.

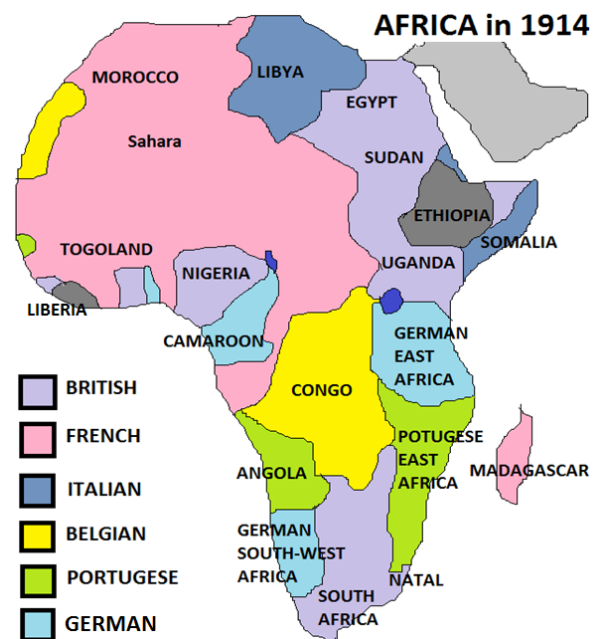
In **China** also, a number of revolutionary organizations emerged which later merged to form **Chinese Revolutionary League** led by Dr Sun Yat Sen who played a leading role in Chinese nationalist awakening. This league was guided by 3 principles – democracy, nationalism and socialism. They demanded end of **Manchu/Qing Dynasty** which had been ruling since 17th century. **Revolution** swept Southern China in 1911 and on 1st January 1912, China was declared

republic with headquarters at Nanjing and Dr Sun Yat Sen as president. In Northern China also some steps were taken to introduce constitutional monarchy with General Yuan Shi Kai as prime minister. Government of two areas disagreed on several issues and a compromise was reached under which Manchu rulers abdicated the throne. Yuan Shi Kai was made president and he harbored ambitions of becoming emperor and was also backed by foreign powers. In the meantime, Dr Sun Yat Sen formed **Kuomintang** (Guomindang) or **National Party** and gave a call for 'second revolution'. Yuan was able to suppress Kuomintang and Dr Sun Yat Sen was sent into exile. On death of Yuan in 1916, China came into control of regional warlords with foreign aids. When First World War ended, Chinese national and revolutionary movement entered a new phase.

Ottoman Empire has also lost most of its territories which were either striving for liberation or were captured by European powers. African parts of Empire were now under European powers, nationalist feelings were on the rise in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine. In Turkey also, powerful movement led by intellectuals, reformers and army officers called '**Young Turks**' was on the rise against tyrannies of Sultan and to make Turkey a modern secular, democratic state. Sultan was apprehensive of revolution and introduced reforms in form of constitutional government. Young Turks, however, couldn't agree on whether to provide equal rights to the Arab nationals of erstwhile Ottoman Empire or maintain Turkish supremacy. This ultimately dragged Turkey in ww-1 and it sided with central powers.

Africa was also partitioned among the colonial powers by end of 19th century and only a few areas were left which were also acquired in first quarter of 20th century. However, European powers had to face stiff challenges in actual possession of the continent due to various resistance movements and revolts. Nationalist movements in Africa started only after WW-1.

In **Latin America**, 20 independent states emerged after collapse of Spanish and Portuguese empires and most of them had backward, agriculture dependent economies till end of 19th century. Most of them were under rule of corrupt oligarchies and strong governments had failed to emerge. Resources of these countries were routed to European companies and later to American corporations. Foreign investment in every sphere reduced the continent into a de facto informal colony of USA. Further, there were inequalities in societies and even slavery was present in some countries. However, **acute racial disparities were absent** as was the case of USA. More than half of Latin American population was of mixed blood – African slaves, Europeans, American Indians and so on. Countries where population of American Americans



was large – Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Columbia, Venezuela, power was concentrated in the hands of white minority, only Mexico was an exception where American Indians united to get rid of foreign rule and social inequalities, but it faced a lot of political turmoil including US interference. Only Argentina had succeeded in making some progress towards building of democratic institutions and domestic economy. By the time WW-1 broke out, there was gross dissatisfaction among the people. Though, these countries were independent for almost a century, but there was little Industrialization and development. Latin America was virtually reduced to a den of warlords and a source of raw material supply. There was glaring difference between North and South America which was hard to be ignored.

First World War

Background

It was a result of growing inter-imperialist rivalries, growing chauvinism, antagonism and conflicts within Europe, formation of alliances and secret pacts, growing militarization, feverish preparations for war, were some of the marked features that harbingered war. There had been a number of crises which were temporarily resolved, but led to deep tensions.

Economic rivalries perhaps played the most important role. Struggle for colonies and resources to fuel industries led to intense competition. Newly Industrialized countries like Germany wanted a share in the colonial pie which was limited in its size.

Political development also didn't help either. Change in economic conditions also prompted Germany to adopt a new political stance. Policy of 'Cautious Continentalism' of Bismarck was replaced by 'Aggressive Imperialism' by Kaiser William II. Bismarck adopted this policy as he was aware that Germany was still in nascent phase of development and has different priorities. His formation of Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria and Italy), adoption of neutral stance towards France, pseudo-friendship with Russia, normalcy of relation with Britain were highlights of his policy. He asserted that Britain was a naval power and Germany was a land power in a bid to reassure Britain. This atmosphere of peace provided an atmosphere for German growth. Kaiser Williams II assumed power in 1888 and he was an aggressive ruler and he removed Bismarck as Chancellor on superficial grounds. He expressed his expansionist desires through concepts like – 'Welt Politics' or World Politics which called it fit for Germany to intervene in other nations. Simultaneously, military and navy were also strengthened. Germany took an open anti-British stance regarding Boer War in South Africa. Similarly, in Moroccan crisis also, it promised help to the sultan against Britain and France.

Kaiser Williams II took three important steps which shook supremacy of Britain –

- I. Naval empowerment – Germany was first country to use submarines
- II. Kiel Canal issue – to encircle Britain, the canal lied between North Sea and Baltic area

III. **Proposed railway project from Berlin to Baghdad** – to dislodge British monopoly in this area as a clear message that Germany has arrived.

These developments were an awakening call for Britain and it went ahead with 'Triple Entente' with France and Russia.

Culminating point in these developments was '**The Eastern Question**'. Ottoman Turks have occupied Constantinople in 1453 and had plans of expanding in Europe, but were stopped at Vienna. Still, a vast section of Eastern Europe came under rule of Islamic Ottoman Empire (1299-1922). Turkish rulers under the influence of orthodox Muslim priestly class exploited the Christian subjects and never gave them equal status. So, from the very beginning, the counties of Eastern Europe wanted to free themselves from the exploitative rule of Turkey. In 19th century, when the Ottoman Empire declined, many of them started

declaring independence. Montenegro in 1799, Serbia in 1820 and Greece in 1832 declared themselves independent. Thus, war started between Eastern Europe Countries and Ottoman Turkey. **Asia Minor – land between Eastern Europe and West Asia** – was of great importance as it was **heart of Silk Route**. In **1860, second oil well was discovered in Romania**. In 1869, **Suez Canal was also opened** which drastically reduced the distance between Asia and Europe. Due to strategic importance of this area, other European countries also wanted to take advantage of this volatile situation in wake of declining Ottoman Empire and wanted to increase their influence and first initiative was taken by Russia. This in its **totality is called Eastern Question**.

Alexander Czar proposed Britain to ally and eliminate Sick Man of Europe i.e. Turkey. Britain, however, refuted this proposal as it saw Russia as a future threat to its power in West Asia. So, Russia took unilateral decision which led to **Crimean Wars of 1854-56 between Russia and Turkey on pretext of saving of Christian brethren in the region under Ottoman Empire**. However, France and Britain sided with Turkey for their own self-interests and Russia was defeated leading to **Paris Peace Conference of 1856**. **Turkish Sultan promised of giving equal status to Eastern European subjects and introduced reforms**. However, this **never happened** and situation became even worse after famine broke out in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Taking advantage of this situation, Bulgaria, with Russian help, launched a war on Turkey and defeated it leading to signing of **Treaty of San Stefano, 1877**. Under this treaty, **Romania,**

Some important dates: Rise of Nationalism in Europe

1797

Napoleon invades Italy; Napoleonic wars begin.

1814-1815

Fall of Napoleon; the Vienna Peace Settlement.

1821

Greek struggle for independence begins.

1848

Revolutions in Europe; artisans, industrial workers and peasants revolt against economic hardships; middle classes demand constitutions and representative governments; Italians, Germans, Magyars, Poles, Czechs, etc. demand nation-states.

1859-1870

Unification of Italy.

1866-1871

Unification of Germany.

1905

Slav nationalism gathers force in the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires.

Greece and Serbia were accepted as independent states by Turkey. Autonomy was provided to Bulgaria under Russia protection and Russian dominance was accepted in Asia Minor. This treaty was unacceptable to Britain and Bismarck appeared as peacemaker leading to **Berlin Congress** of 1878. This Congress was landmark for the following reasons –

- I. Berlin became the center of European activity for the first time and this indicated rising status of Germany in Europe.
- II. Black Sea (Asia Minor) region was declared as neutral zone ending Russian dominance.
- III. Cyprus was given to Britain and Bosnia and Herzegovina were handed over to Austria. It led to an attack on Russian and Serbian interests as a significant part of Slav population was given to Austria. This and other provision of Berlin Congress sowed seeds of First World War and assassination of Archduke Ferdinand only hastened which was inevitable.

Berlin Congress complicated the Eastern Question instead of solving it. Two more events further complicated the situation. Serbia raised the slogan of 'Pan Slavism' – creation of a larger Slav nation under Serbian leadership including the Slav in other nations as well. This was **countered** by 'Young Turk movement' in which the awakened youths of Turkey demanded greater political reforms. This further created rift in the rival camps i.e. Serbia, Russia and Britain, Turkey. This **gave birth to Balkan League** in 1911 which included Romania, Serbia and Greece. Montenegro was apprehensive of a Turkish invasion and instead launched an offensive with the help of The Balkan League which was known as **First Balkan War** in which Turkey was defeated and through **London Conference of 1913**, Turkey left its claim over Eastern Europe forever. But this was not the end of the problems of Balkan states and nationalism. They **started fighting amongst themselves**. It led to **Second Balkan War of 1913**.

Immediate cause of the war was the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital on 28th June 1914 by a **secret group 'Black Hand'** – an **extremist Serbian nationalist group** which aimed at uniting all Serbians into a single Serbian state. Sarajevo was recently annexed by Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary blamed it on Serbia and served an ultimatum on 23rd July making 11 demands on Serbia. Serbia accepted most of them, but not all as total acceptance of them meant loss of sovereignty of Serbia. Unsatisfied by the reply, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 28th July and **Serbian capital Belgrade was bombarded on 29th July 1914**. **World War had started with this event**.

Events of First World War

Soon other countries which were also militarily linked to each other, also joined the war. Russia



mobilized her forces against Austria to force her to stop war against Serbia and Russia also didn't want Austria to expand into Balkans. Russia also had her own ambitions vis-à-vis Serbia which could have suffered if Serbia were defeated. Russia also knew that Germany will also soon join on sides of Austria.

Germany knew that if it entered into war against Russia, France will also join and as a result it started mobilizing its forces on French border whom she wanted to defeat in a quick blitzkrieg and then move towards Russia which was not to be defeated quickly. Kaiser William II of Germany declared war on Russia on 1st August 2014 and on 3rd August against France. British position was unclear as British parliament had to still merge clear on war issue. German invasion of neutral Belgium on 4th August finally ended British indecisiveness and it joined war. Thus, erstwhile alliance members except Italy were in a war now. Italy – a member of Triple Alliance – remained neutral on the ground that Germany was not a defender.

France was not as easy as Germany has thought and the war entered into a long stalemate as British forces joined French side. Trenches were dug by both sides. **Trench warfare** was a new feature of this war. Unbroken chains of trenches were dug for hundreds of kilometers with barbed wires. Soldiers in these trenches were protected from behind by machine gun and artillery fire and neither side could break other side's trench defense. **Germany used poison gas and England used tanks for the first time in the warfare,** but that too couldn't overcome trenches.

Russia registered some initial gains, but suffered heavy losses in 1915. After October Russian Revolution, Russia left the war on highly unfavorable terms as she signed a peace treaty – **Treaty of Brest Litovsk** – with Germany and had to cede many territories. **Loss of Russia from side of Allies was made up by joining of USA a few months back.**

Soon the two sides prompted others to join their side to swell their support by promising post-war territorial gains. In August, Japan also declared war on Germany as she had entered into an alliance with Britain in a hope to acquire German territories in Pacific and China. Portugal also joined on the British side and in May 1915, Italy declared war on Austria as Britain and France promised her territories of Austria and Turkey. Later Romania and Greece also joined British side and they all together came to be known as **Allied Powers**. In October 1915, Bulgaria joined on German side and was promised territories of Serbia and Greece. Turkey also joined on German side in November 1915. These countries – Germany, Austria and their allies came to be known as **Central Powers**.

Later USA joined on the side of Allies in April 1917 and number of countries engaged in war was now 27 and there was at least one from each continent. More than 6.5 crore soldiers were mobilized for war from all sides.

Outside Europe, major battles were fought in North Africa and West Asia. Britain and France wanted to cease the territories of Ottoman Empire in Arab. Both the countries supported radical **groups in Turkey on the name of supporting their cause of their freedom,** but had actually other

plans and had entered into a secret agreement – **Sykes Picot Agreement** – in 1916 to divide Arab territories amongst themselves. Britain also made a pledge in 1917 to make Palestine a home of Jews which had serious repercussions for stability of Arab region in coming years. German colonies in Asia and Africa were taken over by allies and Japan made advances in China.

The war was now an all-out war, not only weaponry, but other resources were also diverted to it. Every economic activity became subordinate to needs of war. Production lines were changed to produce goods for war. Countries also employed policy of **blockade on other enemy countries to prevent any supply reaching to them** and making them starve. Britain imposed naval blockade on Germany successfully and Germany in turn used **U Boats** for the first time to prevent supplies reaching to Britain. Often, **these U Boats sank ships of neutral countries also and one of these also sank a US ship which led to USA entering into war**. Though aircrafts were also used, they were less decisive in deciding the outcome of war.

USA had been supplying ammunition and goods to the Allied and its economy had gained from the war enormously. It had also **advanced loans to the Allied Powers** and hence had high economic stakes and it wanted them to win the war to recover its investments.

As the war protracted, both citizens and soldiers started to feel its heat and there were many protests, strikes and even army mutinies. By about middle of July 1918, the tide had started turning against Germany and it was now the only major Central Power by August 1918. In September, Bulgaria surrendered and in October, Ottoman Empire ceased to exist. Most of the ethnic groups of Austria-Hungary empire viz – Czech, Poles, Yugoslavs and Hungarians had already declared their independence. **In November, revolution broke out in Germany and German Emperor fled to Holland and Germany was declared republic. New German government signed an armistice and on morning of 11th November 1918, war came to an end.**

Impact of First World War

War took a huge toll on human life and material losses. More than 90 lakh people died.

It also led to great economic hardship. Inflation was at historic high levels in Europe. Coffers of governments were empty as a result of war and people were heavily taxed. Situation of uncertainty also provided momentum to trade union movement.

Monarchy was ended in many European countries. Kaiser William II left Germany and took shelter in Holland.

The event **led to rise of nationalism in colonies especially Africa** which had not witnessed rise of nationalism so far in a great manner. Propaganda of the rival camps exposed the hollowness of racial superiority of Western countries. Promises of self-determination were also reneged which further put colonial powers in bad light.

Fight for equal status for women and black also gained momentum as they played an important role during war.

Another significant outcome was the birth of the League of Nation.

Russian Revolution

Background

Russia was ruled by autocratic Czars and condition of peasantry was miserable in a feudal society, though serfdom was abolished in 1861. Condition of industrial workers was equally miserable. There was poor level of industrialization. Despite poor health of economy and its people, Russia Czars got themselves tangled into the Eastern Question which deepened Economic crisis in Russia. Finally Nicholas Czar jumped into WW leading to financial bankruptcy in Russia.

Middle class and intelligentsia also supported cause of workers and peasantry and they also called for a revolution. Maxim Gorky wrote 'Mother' explaining socio-economic condition of Russia. Leo-Tolstoy wrote 'War and Peace' and emphasized peace for growth and development.

Many revolutionary organizations were gaining ground including *Russian Nihilists*.

Socialist ideas had also taken deep roots by the end of 19th century and various socialist groups joined together to form **Russian Social Democratic Labor Party** was formed in 1898 led by Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov or Lenin. This part had been divided into two sections and the section known as **Bolsheviks led by Lenin gained majority in 1903 and they wanted radical changes.** **Minority section came to be known as Mensheviks who wanted gradual changes. Bolsheviks called for a total revolution by overthrow of** Czars and establishment of socialism.

Events of Russian Revolution

Condition of workers became particularly bad in 1904. Prices of essential goods rose so quickly that real wages declined by 20 per cent. The membership of workers' associations rose dramatically. When four members of the Assembly of Russian Workers, which had been formed in 1904, were dismissed at the Putilov Iron Works, there was a call for industrial action. Over the next few days over 110,000 workers in St Petersburg went on strike demanding a **reduction in the working day to eight hours, an increase in wages and improvement in working conditions.** When the procession of workers led by Father Gapon reached the Winter Palace it was attacked by the police and the Cossacks. **Over 100 workers were killed and about 300 wounded.** The incident, known as **Bloody Sunday**, started a series of events that became known as the **1905 Revolution.** The Bolsheviks led revolution of 1905 forced Czar Nicholas II to establishment of a parliament called *Duma* and also giving certain democratic rights to people of Russia. **Duma was however only symbolic and real power still lied with Czar, the nobility and the corrupt bureaucracy.**

In the meanwhile, a new form of workers' organization called Soviet came into being and later Soviets of peasants, soldiers etc were also formed.

Russia's decision to join war later exposed hollowness of its social and economic system as it

failed to succeed in a modern war fought with a backward system. It worsened the economy and also caused unrest in army which had huge casualties. Capital city Petrograd was almost on the brink of starvation in wake of acute food shortage. There were huge queues for bread in cities. When people gathered in Petrograd demanding bread, Czar sent army to suppress them. Soldiers, who are merely peasants in uniform, sided labors and refused to fire. On 12th March 1917, many regiments of the army joined the striking workers, freed many political prisoners and arrested many Czarist ministers and the insurgents controlled Petrograd. This event is known as **February Revolution** as 12th March fell in February of Old Russian Calendar. Czar tried to suppress the revolt, but failed and Duma assumed role of a Provincial Government and Czar was forced to abdicate the throne. Russia was declared republic in September 1917 and Kerensky as head of Provisional Government.

However, Provincial Government led by Aleksander Kerensky continued its involvement in war and socio-economic policies also remained almost same as Duma didn't have radical socialist members which were arrested earlier. Kerensky also didn't invite Soviets into constituent assembly. He also proposed retaining of constitutional monarchy which people hated to their core. Lenin too called February Revolution a partial victory and incomplete task. Bolsheviks led by Lenin still opposed the war and imperialism and called for a total worker's revolution. These situational factors laid the groundwork for October Revolution.

When Lenin returned from Switzerland in April 1917, he gave a call of '*No support to Provincial Government, all power to the Soviets*'. Now he felt it was time for soviets to take over power. He declared that the war be brought to a close, land be transferred to the peasants, and banks be nationalised. These three demands were Lenin's '**April Theses**'. He also argued that the Bolshevik Party rename itself the Communist Party to indicate its new radical aims. As the conflict between the Provisional Government and the Bolsheviks grew, Lenin feared the Provisional Government would set up a dictatorship. In September, he began discussions for an uprising against the government. Bolshevik supporters in the army, soviets and factories were brought together. A plan was made to overthrow the Provincial Government in October 1917 and uprising began on 25th October 1917 according to the Old Russian Calendar and Petrograd and Winter Palace was captured by Bolsheviks, Kerensky, however, escaped. This event is called **October Revolution** or Bolshevik Revolution. First act of the new government was adoption of '**Decree of Peace**' declaring withdrawal of Russia from war, second act was '**Decree on Land**' which abolished private property on land and land became a national property. The Bolshevik Party was renamed the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik). Soon, Russia also unilaterally ended unequal treaties which she has imposed on other countries like – China, Iran and Afghanistan.

A civil war followed in Russia as the old system tried to recapture the ground led by a group called **White Russians** and supported by **Western Powers** which wanted to make use of situation to control vast resources of Russia and also make lucrative investments in Russian industry. However, it was ended by 1920.

Impact of Russian Revolution

Russian Revolution had wider impact than on Russia. It marked a beginning of a new political system in form of communism which had profound future impact. Czar dynasty was first to fall followed by fall of German, Austrian and Ottoman Sultans.

It was the first true revolution by masses and power was truly given in hands of masses which didn't happen in case of American and French Revolution.

Bolshevik-founded Comintern (an international union of pro-Bolshevik socialist parties) which sparked the ideas of communism globally.

It inspired revolutionaries in many countries including India. Bhagat Singh declared capitalism and colonialism as his biggest enemies.

It also laid suspicion in the minds of other colonial powers as they saw communism as a threat to the old order and it emerged as one of the causes of WW2. Western powers appeased aggressive nationalist and fascist forces to ward off communism in countries like Germany and Italy which finally led to disastrous effects in form of mother of all wars.

A process of centralised planning was introduced. Officials assessed how the economy could work and set targets for a five-year period. On this basis they made the Five Year Plans.

However, despite all its claims, the socialism that was envisaged never arrived. People also suffered unforessenhardhship on the name of implementing socialist agenda. Many were sacrificed during collectivizations sprees. Many others were exterminated for holding 'anti-communist/revolution' views. The repressive machinery became even more cruel with the arrival of Stalin and Russia turned into an autocrat state. What followed was Stalin's collectivisation programme. From 1929, the Party forced all peasants to cultivate in collective farms (*kolkhoz*). Those who resisted collectivisation were severely punished. Many were deported and exiled and were even sent to *gulags*.

League of Nations

Gracious the Dutch writer and thinker in his '*War and Peace among Nations*' proposed an international organization to deal with global political crisis for the first time. After 1871, when conditions in Europe were not good, personalities like Dale Carnegie, H D Wales etc also emphasized upon ideology of a world political organization.

However, the real impetus came only after the World War had already happened. Woodrow Wilson in his 14 Points mentioned League of Nations for the first time and it was born in 1920 with its headquarters in Geneva.

Major failures of the league were –

- I. It lacked power to enforce its decisions. Only power it had was moral power. Ramsay McDonald made a proposal through Geneva Protocol, but it didn't happen.

- II. League of Nations **remained dominated by European Powers** right from the beginning and never had a democratic functioning.
- III. At the earliest it **worked as a platform to legitimize the unequal treaties and declaring the erstwhile colonies of Central Powers as 'mandates'** – a disguised name for colonies – of the Allied Powers countries.
- IV. **Russia and Germany were not included as members** initially. **USA didn't join the league.** Germany was admitted in 1926 after a conference. Soviet became a member in 1934, but by then both Germany and **Japan had walked out.** **In 1937, Italy also left the League.**
- V. It proved a dismal failure when contentious issues big powers. It could not prevent even a single major aggression and could neither penalize the aggressor post aggression. **Japanese aggression of Manchuria in 1931** was perhaps first major act of aggression. Though League criticized it and refused to recognize the puppet government of Japan in Manchuria, but it didn't ask Japan to take steps to return to original situation. **Italy invaded Ethiopia and later annexed it in 1936**, but little was done to prevent invasion or penalize Italy.
- VI. Finally, it **collapsed completely in the storm of Hitler and fascism.**
Although it was largely a failure, there were some achievements as well, like –
 - I. It solved many **smaller disputes** like – dispute between Finland and Poland.
 - II. It played a **role in rehabilitation** of refugees after the war.
 - III. It laid down the **principles for protection and promotion of minorities.** In India too, Karachi declaration had its echo.
 - IV. Most importantly, it played an **important role in controlling deadly diseases like – malaria, small pox etc and its specialized agency finally evolved in form of WHO.**
 - V. It was **first attempt at global platform** to make an attempt towards formulating international laws. It was later carried out **more successfully by UN which** traces its roots to this initiative only.

Great Depression & New Deal

Cause of depression lied in the very system which promoted economic growth in Western countries. Capitalism saw concentration of wealth in the hands of few and it was not without its ill effects. Large money was borrowed to markets for growth, but a large chunk of these loans was bogus. US economy boomed during war times due to great demand from Europe. Excessive capacity was established in USA with the help of borrowed capital in many cases. As post war situation weakened demand, production dwindled. Many European countries also found themselves in a position of not able to payback American loans. Falling production led to laying off of manpower and it left thousands of workers with little cash to buy goods which led to further decline in production in a vicious cyclical manner.

As situation started to deteriorate, America curtailed the loan supply to other nations. The withdrawal of US loans affected much of the rest of the world, though in different ways. In Europe it led to the

failure of some major banks and the collapse of currencies such as the British pound sterling. In Latin America and elsewhere it intensified the slump in agricultural and raw material prices. The US attempt to protect its economy in the depression by doubling import duties also dealt another severe blow to world trade.

Similarly in agriculture sector also, agricultural overproduction remained a problem. This was made worse by falling agricultural prices. As prices slumped and agricultural incomes declined, farmers tried to expand production and bring a larger volume of produce to the market to maintain their overall income. This worsened the glut in the market, pushing down prices even further. Farm produce rotted for a lack of buyers.

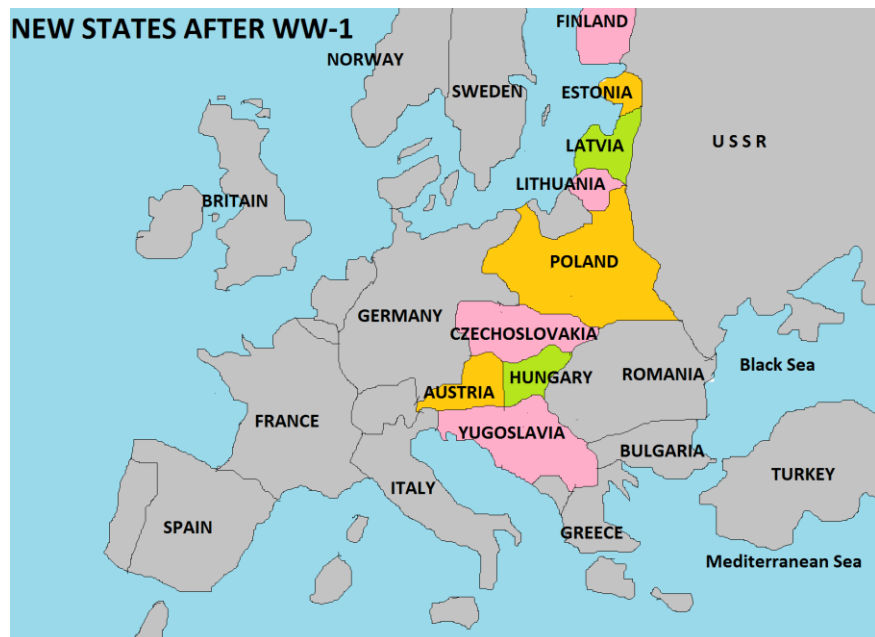
All this led to *crash in New York Stock Exchange in 1929* and it heralded the period of the Great Depression.

In this situation, president Roosevelt of the USA came up with the economic booster program called the **New Deal** which was based on the Keynesian Economics which stressed on deficit financing to bail out the economy and bring it back into momentum. It promoted government investment in public works like – roads, railways etc. Capitalism was assisted with the principles of welfarism. Education, health and social sector was promoted with capitalist aid. It promoted cooperation and assistance among the various sectors of economy instead of competition and profit ideology.

World War 1 to World War 2

Wilson, the American president, had offered **Fourteen Points** on 8th January 1918. They included – abolition of secret diplomacy, redrawing of European boundaries on the basis of nationality, freedom of seas, reduction in arms, impartial adjustment of all colonial claims (*not self-determination by colonial people*) and a proposal for an international association of nations for '*international peace, cooperation, security, disarmament and avoidance of future wars*'.

League of Nations came as a result, but ironically USA didn't join it. One of the articles of the League suggested that **if any member indulges in war, other members shall sever all relations with that member and even use collective armed forces against her.** But this **didn't happen** as no action was taken against aggressors or to prevent arms race and it was largely an ineffective organization which grossly failed to prevent another world war.



American president while entering into the war had declared that it is entering in war to secure the high goals of democracy, freedom, peace and liberty for all. However, it didn't happen post war and imperialism showed its true colours. Similarly, message of Russian Revolution was also ignored as the depressed classes failed to unite in other countries and even in Germany and Hungary, socialist uprisings were ruthlessly suppressed. In many countries of Europe dictatorial regimes came up and chauvinistic nationalism was promoted and war drums were again active.

European domination in world was now decreased, but colonial set up was still intact. Many new countries came up in Europe viz – Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Yugoslavia, Finland etc. Conflict in Europe were still alive despite the fact many new nations had emerged. Peace treaties were a major cause of heartburn as they were highly unequal in nature. Imperial rivalries were still alive.

America was now the biggest power and many countries were dependent on her in a way or the other. This became apparent during the **Great Depression** of 1929 which started with the USA, but engulfed whole Europe except Russia. The depression also laid bare the shortcomings of existing capitalist economic system.

National movements in colonies gained strength after the war as these countries witnessed the shallow nature of imperial powers during the war which slandered each other during war exposing each other.

The peace after the war was a *dictated peace* and **The Paris Peace Conference** started in Paris on 18th January and was dominated by USA, Britain and France. Apart from 14 points, Wilson had also proclaimed earlier that no punitive damages, no annexations and no contributions will be made. These principles were totally violated when peace treaties were designed. Germany and other Central Powers were not even represented in the conference. Germany was served an ultimatum of 5 days to sign the treaty or face invasion. Helpless Germany had to sign the treaty and even during signing the treaty, German representatives were humiliated. Provisions of treaty were guided by the secret agreements that were signed during the war to distribute spoils of the war. Russia made these agreements public after Revolution and exposed imperial powers, but this didn't deter Allied Powers from going for the peace treaties. Germany was forced to accept 'war guilt' and assume the sole responsibility of war and destruction in other countries though it was imperialism which had poisoned the Europe for so many years and which was actually the main cause of war.

The peace treaty signed with Germany in 1919 is known as **Treaty of Versailles**. Its provisions were highly detrimental to Germany and involved –

- I. There was loss of many territories. Return of Alsace-Lorraine which Germany had taken from France in 1871. France retaliated humility of 1871 defeat. Newly created state of Poland was provided with the access to sea through German territory. Danzing was made a free city under political control of League of Nations and economic control of Poland. Belgium, Denmark and Lithuania were also allowed to acquire some German territories. The Saar area coal mining area was also brought under League of Nation for 15 years and mines were given to France for exploitation of coal.

- II. Germany was debarred from uniting with Austria.
- III. Its military strength was severely curtailed. Rhineland was to be permanently demilitarized and was to be occupied by Allied troops for 15 years. Strength of German army was curtailed drastically to just 1 lakh soldiers and she was forbidden from possessing any aircrafts or submarines.
- IV. Germany was also deprived of all her colonial possessions which were divided by the victors. In theory, colonies of Germany were not annexed, but were League of Nation awarded them to Allied Powers under guise of what was called 'Mandates' and it was stated the people in these colonies are yet not prepared to rule themselves and in the meanwhile Allied Powers countries will oversee their development in form of mentors which was already decided by the secret agreements.
- V. To cap it all, it had to also pay a massive unaffordable £ 6600 million for reparation and its acceptance of 'war guilt'.

One positive outcome of the treaty was establishment of ILO. Similar treaties were signed with Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey which led to loss in their territories, restrictions etc. Treaty of St Germain reduced Austria into a very small nation and many nations were declared independent. As a consequence of treaty signed by the Sultan of Turkey almost whole Turkey was dismembered, Britain acquired Iraq, Palestine and Transjordan as mandate and France got Syria and Lebanon as mandates. Greece and Italy also acquired many parts. Dismemberment of Turkey led to Turkish nationalist uprising led by Mustafa Kemal and he successfully drove out Italy and Greece and Allied Powers had to revise the treaty. Turkey was declared as a republic, office of Caliph (Khalifa) was abolished and Modernization of Turkey started.

These unequal treaties became a source of major tension and new order was marked by contradictions. They mounted huge humiliation and financial costs on defeated powers and roused national anger. They are aptly said to have sown seeds of WW2. Neither Russia, nor Germany was invited to draft these treaties. Russia was even intruded by Western powers to undo the effects of revolution. China was a member of Allied Powers, but the German territories in China were given to Japan. People of colonies were never consulted while deciding their fate. Sole war guilt was placed on Germany and it filled Germans with a deep national insult – a race which thought itself as only befitting to rule others was humiliated which was to be avenged soon.

POST WAR EUROPE saw emergence of many new states out of Russian empire, Ottoman Empire, Germany and Austria-Hungarian Empire and readjustment of other boundaries. A part of Ireland was also given dominion status and other part still remained under British control. Peace treaties bred a lot of heartburn and insecurity and there was a lot of dissatisfaction over boundaries re-adjustment. As a result of it many treaties and entente were signed. Some of the territorial disputes provided for the immediate causes of WW-2.

Due to destruction, economies were ravaged and due to consequent poor unemployment and resource availability there was wide discontent in Europe. In some places inspiration was drawn from Russian

Revolution. Most serious of revolutionary outbreaks was in Germany. However, prospects of revolutionary changes in Europe were dimmed in the most countries of the Europe by 1923 as reactionary forces gained stranglehold in most of the countries backed by governments to counter threat of communism to the old order. It also happened due to lack of unity among the socialist forces. As a result authoritarian governments came to power in many European countries like Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland, Greece, Spain etc. Worst development was establishment of Fascist government in Italy and Nazi government in Germany. Only Britain, France, Czechoslovakia and Scandinavian countries managed to remain democratic in functioning.

Great Depression showed how dependent European economies had become on America. American loan was dried up and as a result recovery of many countries like Germany also stopped. Cycle of industrial closure, unemployment and impoverishment began in Europe as well and continued till 1933 when depression ended. Agrarian economies were the worst sufferers as they could not export raw material and agricultural goods. Countries imposed ban on import from each other which worsened the situation. Depression bred a gloomy economic scenario and this situation was exploited by authoritarian, semi fascist and fascist regimes.

Period of 1920s saw strikes and some degree of political instability in Britain. Even some fascist elements grew which called for violence against Jews. International position of Britain diminished as nationalist movements grew in colonies under it. When European fascist powers started aggression in 1930s, Britain chose to remain a spectator like various other European powers. France witnessed a period of stability after the war. It occupied Ruhr valley when Germany failed to pay reparation installments which was returned in 1924. Some political hiccups were there including attempts by fascists to capture power. In a significant development in 1936, Popular Front government was formed comprising communists and socialists to counter threat of fascism and improve condition of workers. It lasted for two years and it took measures like nationalization of arms industry, wage cuts were done away with, work hours were regulated. France was wary of German aggression and it formed **Little Entente** with Romania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. Earlier it had also constructed a strong defense known as **Maginot Line** in 1920s. However, when Popular Front government ended in 1938, France also toed the British line of appeasement of fascism and later also betrayed Czechoslovakia.

In **GERMANY** a parliamentary republic was proclaimed after war in 1918 known as **Weimer Republic** named after place where constitution was framed. This republic, however, was not received well by its own people largely because of the terms it was forced to accept after Germany's defeat at the end of the First World War. The infant Weimar Republic was being made to pay for the sins of the old empire. There was much discontent in Germany over the dictated peace and provisions of Versailles Treaty and many extremist groups emerged condemning these and arousing chauvinistic nationalism. Those who supported the Weimar Republic, mainly Socialists, Catholics and Democrats, became easy targets of attack in the conservative nationalist circles. They were mockingly called the '*November criminals*'. This mindset had a major impact on the political developments of the early 1930s. They were supported by the businessmen and a large section of army. They also blamed the Jews and communists for the defeat and organized assassination of them. An attempt was made to capture government by such groups led by Kapp, but it was thwarted by socialist and communist groups who united and organized protests. In

the meanwhile, in 1919, **National Socialist German Workers' Party or Nazi Party** was formed under leadership of Adolf Hitler and it also attempted to overthrow government in 1923, but failed. German economy, however, started to recover with the help of American loans which were stopped when depression hit Europe. Though Germany was doing well on political front with



establishment of democratic institutions, *economically its condition was awful*. Heavy repatriation costs, capturing of resources by foreign powers like France made situation worse. When it failed to pay repatriation installments, France and Belgium occupied its Ruhr valley which was rich in iron and coal, but luckily workers in these mines failed to cooperate with foreigners. It suffered from high inflation and its currency depreciated more than 50 times. Germany resorted to printing enormous paper money which made its currency worthless and it had to make currency reforms by announcing a new currency which wiped out savings of thousands of people primarily of middle class who suddenly became impoverished. First the economic crisis of 1923 and later the crisis of 1929-32 made situation miserable. Politically too the **Weimar Republic was fragile**. The Weimar constitution had some inherent defects, which made it **unstable and vulnerable to dictatorship**. One was **proportional representation**. This **made achieving a majority by any one party a near impossible task, leading to a rule by coalitions**. Another **defect was Article 48**, which gave the **President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree**. Within its short life, the Weimar Republic saw twenty different cabinets lasting on an average 239 days, and a liberal use of Article 48. Yet the crisis could not be managed. People **lost confidence in the democratic parliamentary system**, which seemed to offer no solutions.

Nazi party gained most from it as many despaired people turned to it for salvation. It was during the Great Depression that Nazism became a mass movement. Nazis gave a call to revive the glorious past of Teutonic Empire, aroused snit-Semitism as they blamed Jews for German defeat in war, extolled purity of German race by calling Germans as '*pure blond Aryans*' who were born to rule. Nazis also viewed communism as their greatest enemy. Army, many officers of which from ruling landlord class, also bought the Nazi idea of avenging German humiliation in war and Versailles Treaty. Industrialists also actively supported Nazis to counter socialists whom they saw as a threat to capitalism. Like Blackshirts of Italy fascists, Nazis also organized armed gangs of **Nazis called Brownshirts which went on murderous spree and killed many communists and anti-Nazis**. **Nazis had a little popularity in election, but it rose significantly post economic depression**. In **1932 elections, it emerged as single largest party**. Despite Hitler's party not winning election, **President Hindenburg appointed Hitler as German Chancellor**. Hitler

rose to power not because of winning elections, neither because of a coup, but as a result of a backstage deal with politicians and right wingers. **Left parties viz – Social Democrats and Communists failed to stem the tide of Nazis and lost opportunities to counter Hitler** as they failed to unite and could not resolve their longstanding differences. After coming to power, Hitler asked President to dissolve Reichstag, the German parliament, and **conduct elections in 1933**. Just a few days before elections, **Reichstag was put on fire** – widely believed to be an act of Nazis to spread terror, but blame was put on communists and thousands of them were arrested including GeerogiDimitrov who was in Germany at that time. Elections were held amidst these developments, but still Nazi Party couldn't win them with a majority. Hitler assumed dictatorial powers, banned socialist and communist parties and became himself president in 1934. Soon, re-armament of country started to take place in violation of Treaty of Versailles which Hitler denounced in 1935. In **1933, it withdrew from League of Nations**. **In 1936, Rhineland which was demilitarized, was again militarized.**

Nazi ideology was synonymous with Hitler's worldview. According to this there was no equality between people, but only a racial hierarchy. In this view blond, blue-eyed, Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while Jews were located at the lowest rung. They came to be regarded as an anti-race, the arch-enemies of the Aryans. All other coloured people were placed in between depending upon their external features. Hitler's racism borrowed from thinkers like Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer. Darwin was a natural scientist who tried to explain the creation of plants and animals through the concept of evolution and natural selection. Herbert Spencer later added the idea of survival of the fittest. According to this idea, only those species survived on earth that could adapt themselves to changing climatic conditions. Darwin never advocated human intervention in what he thought was a purely natural process of selection, however, his ideas were used by racist thinkers and politicians to justify imperial rule over conquered peoples. The Nazi argument was simple: the strongest race would survive and the weak ones would perish. Nazis wanted only a society of 'pure and healthy Nordic Aryans. They alone were considered 'desirable. Only they were seen as worthy of prospering and multiplying against all others who were classed as 'undesirable. This meant that even those Germans who were seen as impure or abnormal had no right to exist. Under the Euthanasia Programme, Nazi officials had condemned to death many Germans who were considered mentally or physically unfit. Jews were not the only community classified as 'undesirable. There were others. Many Gypsies and blacks living in Nazi Germany were considered as racial 'inferiors' who threatened the biological purity of the superior Aryan race. From 1933 to 1938 the Nazis terrorised, pauperised and segregated the Jews, compelling them to leave the country. The next phase, 1939-1945, aimed at concentrating them in certain areas and eventually killing them in gas chambers in Poland. Members of the Polish intelligentsia were murdered in large numbers in order to keep the entire people intellectually and spiritually servile. Polish children who looked like Aryans were forcibly snatched from their mothers and examined by 'race experts. If they passed the race tests they were raised in German families and if not, they were deposited in orphanages where most perished. Hitler was fanatically interested in the youth of the country. He felt that a strong Nazi society could be established only by teaching children Nazi ideology. This required a control over the child both inside and outside school. Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews, and worship Hitler. Even the function of sports was to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children. Information about Nazi practices had trickled out of Germany during the last

years of the regime. But it was only after the war ended and Germany was defeated that the world came to realise the horrors of what had happened.

ITALY also witnessed similar developments like Germany and there was widespread unemployment and unrest. A violent anti-democratic movement called the **Fascist Movement** emerged in Italy primarily against socialists, communists and democratic elements. They preached glory of Roman Empire and glorified war to reclaim lost pride. Post war treaties failed to satisfy the ambitions of Italy as she was also on the sides of Allied Powers and felt cheated and felt inadequate territories were given to it. In fascist movement, the ruling classes found a way to satisfy unfinished ambitions and counter socialism. **National Fascist Party** was formed in 1921 under leadership of Benito Mussolini and it recruited thousands of 'Black Shirts' to break up strikes and terrorize communists at the behest of Industrialists and landlords. Government remained a silent spectator to rising fascist violence. They even fought elections, but didn't win many seats. In 1922 they captured city of Milan and Bologna and marched towards Rome. The government instead of crushing them, surrendered and Mussolini was invited to form government. Mussolini assumed dictatorial powers and many opponents, socialists and communists were murdered and in 1926, all non-fascist organizations were banned.

Facism and Nazism difference – The main difference between Fascism and Nazism was the so-called concept of race that was central in the Nazi ideology, while the Fascists mostly rejected it. Mussolini focused on territorial expansion rather than creation of ethnically "clean" Italian state. They also had many similarities – Both were influenced by the rise of nationalism, fear from communism, crisis of the capitalist economic system and dissatisfaction with the outcome of World War I. Both ideologies were also marked by the cult of the leader, use of violence and rejection of both democracy and communism.

Three countries which showed most tremendous progress after the war were – USSR, Japan and USA. **USA** senate didn't approve Treaty of Versailles and USA didn't join League of Nation. Domestic equations further changed when Democrats were defeated by Republicans in three consecutive elections of 1920, 24 and 28. US economy had boomed during war as it was totally untouched of war and became a supplier to Europeans. After war as domestic European industries were now reconstructed and dependency on American goods was reduced. Overcapacity in American factories failed to find market and it led to start of slowdown leading to depression. Strikes took place at wide scale and mass layoffs were made. Thousands of factories were closed in 1919. However, USA recovered soon and emerged stronger and productions peaked by 1929. In 1920s USA supplied enormous credit to Europe for reconstruction and their dependence on USA increased which proved disastrous during times of the Great Depression. Large corporations emerged, but conditions of workers remained appalling. There was no strong trade-unionism as socialism was abhorred and such activities were dealt with heavy hand. American growth was rudely checked when Depression hit in October 1929. Basic cause laid in the nature of economic expansion of the US economy which kept masses impoverished that could never possess purchasing power to absorb output of American factories. The depression started with crash on stock markets which had a domino effect in form of failure of banks, financial institutions. It wiped off the savings of millions and buying capacities were further down. Industries started to close as they failed to find loans from banks and as a result. Closure of industries led to unemployment and further loss of purchasing power. In 1933, F D Roosevelt started an economic program known as **New Deal** to salvage

American economy. A large program of welfare was initiated which alleviated misery of many sections. In the same period, USA also witnessed worst racial incidences. Lakhs of them served in army during war and were not rewarded for that. Right to vote was still denied. When depression started, they were the first one to be thrown out of factories. Now racism was rampant in whole country and not just in Southern states. White gangs like Ku Klux Klan made brutal attacks on Blacks. Black people now organized themselves to fight racism. National Association for Advancement of Colored People was one such organization. In the meanwhile, a treaty was signed between USA and European powers vis-à-vis China confirming an Open Door Policy. USA also chose to ignore Japanese aggression and it followed its policy of 'Yankee Imperialism' in Latin America in form of military intervention, political coups etc which created great resentment against USA in Latin America.

RUSSIA was ostracized after the war, but emerged as a powerful country by the late 1930s. Russian Revolution had proclaimed to end the historic inequalities in the society to create a new order of classless society and a **Declaration of the Rights of Peoples** was issued. New government also announced equal treatment to all ethnic groups and even a right for self determination for them. All secret treaties were abjured, denounced and even made public. Civil war and foreign intervention was also successfully overcome by 1920s. A new system under state control emerged which led to early hardships as Russian economy was ravaged by war and industrial production was badly hit. Whatever was produced by peasants and workers was appropriated by state and this phase was known as '**War Communism**'. It created widespread discontent and even revolts at some places. In 1921, a new policy called **New Economic Policy** was introduced and War Communism was withdrawn. Peasants control over their produce was restored, salaries were paid in cash and not in kind, trade in goods was reopened and efforts were made to rehabilitate the economy. A large **numbers of cooperatives** were also set up. NEP laid the foundation of economic development and further efforts were made in 1928 when **Five Year Plans** were started which launched Russia on higher development trajectory. Vast changes were introduced in agriculture also and cooperativisation – through collective farms called *Kolkhoze* – and mechanization took place at large scale which also had a great human toll as it was done in a coercive manner.

At political level also consolidation was done and peoples of various ethnic identities joined together to form **USSR or Soviet Union** in 1924 which included a federation of many Soviet republics like Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Turkmen, Caucasian etc. These erstwhile Soviets were provided equal status and freedom of developing their own culture and language. USSR constitution even provided to them right to secede. USSR also escaped Great Depression as its economy was not based on capitalism and state control helped in averting the crisis. When WW-2 started, USSR was a major industrial and military power. Despite such growth and development, little premium was put on individual rights and democratic values. Bolshevik Party or the Communist Party of Soviet Union became the sole party and political dissent was strongly dealt with even within party. Bolsheviks which promoted liberty, democracy and participation of all was now transformed into an autocratic organization after death of Lenin in 1924. Fierce battle for succession followed and there were strong differences over what shape socialism should take in USSR and what should be role of USSR in spreading socialism internationally. Stalin emerged victorious and he got eliminated his opponents including Trotsky who was a close ally of

Lenin and one of the faces of Russian revolution. Stalin had assumed dictatorial role by 1930s. Dictatorship of Stalin led to great distortion in the building of socialism. Period of Stalin which involved elimination of political opponents, writers, revolution veterans, military men, civil officers and so on is known as the **Great Purge**. Enormous crimes were committed in the name of preserving socialism and independence of USSR which could be revealed only later on.

On foreign policy front, Russia was excluded from Paris Peace Conference and USSR was not recognized by USA for long time. In 1921, it entered into treaties with Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan which strengthened independence of these countries. In 1930s she took a **categorical stand against fascist aggression when most of the Western countries chose to appease fascists in** a hope that it will destroy communism. It **joined League of Nations in 1934 and opposed colonialism and imperialism**. It also tried to revive communist movement as Second International was disbanded during WW-1 and in 1919, a conference was held in Moscow attended by communists from all over the world and **Third Communist International or Comintern was formed**. By 1930s, there were communist parties in more than 60 countries and Russian Revolution was seen as a model in many colonial countries. At the same times, communist parties in these countries were seen with suspicion for their links with USSR and efforts were made to suppress them. This period also witnessed **division in communist ideologies** as was evident in the **cleavage between the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party** of Germany which facilitated Hitler to capture power as they failed to unite against him. Communists have realized it in 7th Congress of Comintern, Georgi Dimitrov, a communist leader from Bulgaria, gave a call for unification of communist and socialist groups in form of **Popular Fronts** to check rise of fascism. Many such popular fronts were formed and they even prevented formation of fascist governments in many European countries.

JAPAN emerged stronger after the war and now harbored ambitions of asserting regional hegemony. Economy of Japan grew during and after war, but its growth was constrained by dependency on others for raw material and it also forced her to establish control over Chinese resources. Economic growth in Japan was also accompanied by exploitation of peasantry who had extremely small holdings and workers under the domination of 'Zaibatsu' a small group of wealthy class which had political backing also. Farmers and peasants protested at times, but were ruthlessly suppressed. Politically, though Japan was declared a parliamentary government in 1920s, military continued to remain a major force in political life of the country. It formed associations with secret societies which worked against ideas of democracy, peace, socialism and liberty. Military promoted chauvinism and called for protecting Japanese culture and termed it pure. Dissent was suppressed and this political setup of Japan came to be known as '**military fascism**' and its growing affinity with Germany and Italy was natural. She made significant gains after the WW-1 in Pacific and in China. When Chinese attempted national unification, it posed a threat to Japanese plans of hegemony. In an act of aggression, in 1931 she occupied Manchuria and established a puppet government there and this was followed by a massive invasion of China in 1937. Japan also signed **Anti-Comintern Pact** with Germany.

CHINA also witnessed great upheavals in post WW-1 period. After the war, China had two governments, one led by Dr Sun Yat Sen headed Kuomintang with capital in Canton and other headed by General Yuan with capital Beijing. Decision of Paris Peace Conference to give some parts of China to Japan led to

strong anti-imperialist protest in May 1919 in form of **May Fourth Movement** in Beijing which soon spread to other parts of China. Influenced by Russian Revolution, **Communist Party of China** was formed in 1921 which soon united with Kuomintang for goal of Chinese unification. A national revolutionary army was formed with Russian help and it launched operations against warlords in 1925. But with death of Dr Sun Yat Sen, Communist Party and Kuomintang parted ways and China was headed for **Civil War**. Foreign powers like Japan, Britain and USA intervened in different overt and covert manners to take advantage of situation. A split occurred in Kuomintang in 1927. General Chiang Kai Shek who was chief of national revolutionary army of Kuomintang was also becoming wary of communist elements and he also took steps to eliminate them. A transitory communist government was formed in Canton in what is known as **Canton Uprising** in December 1927 which was short lived as it was suppressed. Soviet support was now discarded largely and widow of Sun Yat Sen also went into exile and a long civil war ensued between armies of General Kai Shek and Communist Party of China. However, Japanese occupation of Manchuria in 1931 led to anti-Japanese feelings in the country, but Communist Party and General Kai Shek failed to unite against Japan. In this period, a new communist leader Mao Zedong or Mao Tse-tung emerged who strengthened the party especially in rural areas and declared peasantry as main force behind revolution. General Kai Shek further grew antithetical to Communist rise and launched a massive attack on them in 1934. To escape annihilation, more than 1 lakh communist moved north-western China covering a distance of more than 10,000 km and this event is known as **Long March**. One fallout of this was that while covering this distance, communist spread the message of socialism, fighting Japan and uniting China which won them lakhs of supporters, seized lands for landlords and redistributed it. They also built support against Kai Shek who was now seen as pro-landlords as his only focus was to eliminate communists. When a massive attack was made on China in 1937, General Kai Shek retreated and was forced by his soldiers, who captured him, to form a united front with the communist help to ward off Japan. Communist led by Mao Zedong emerged as true representatives of China during this period.

IRAN was under influence of British and Russians by an agreement of 1907 until 1917 when Russia unilaterally gave up her claims over northern areas. Britain was lone force now which signed a new agreement in 1919 with Iran and took control over her military and economy which caused wide resentments. Reza Khan, an army officer, finally overthrew the British backed government in 1921 and annulled the 1919 agreement. He tried to modernize Iran by improving infrastructure and education, but was often tyrannical in outlook and could not set an example like Mustafa Kemal of Turkey.


PALESTINE became a British mandate after WW-1 and the region was mired in serious conflicts. In late 19th century, a movement called **Zionism** to secure separate homeland for the Jews started in Europe. It proclaimed that all Jews, irrespective of their country, are one nation and can have one state in Palestine where they had their own kingdom 2,500 years ago. During WW-1, under Zionist influence, Britain declared setting up of a separate Jewish state in Palestine. In the meanwhile Arab nationalism also grew stronger. While nationalist aspirations of Palestinian people were suppressed, Jews started to settle in Palestine in large numbers and took the best lands and rendered Palestinians landless. In 1929, there was an Arab rebellion calling for the independence of Palestine and putting an end to Jewish migration, but it was brutally crushed by the British. British government proposed to divide the land

among Jews, Arabs and British, but it was rejected by all. Situation took another turn after WW-2 which turned the situation even more volatile.

OTHER AISAN COUNTRIES were also under direct or indirect control of imperial powers. Korea was under control of Japan and Japan used it as a base to launch attacks on China and USSR. Phillipines was reduced to an economic colony of USA and most of its raw material was exported to USA and was also dependent on USA for major imports. After a few uprisings, autonomy was granted to Phillipines in 1935 with a promise of freedom later on. In Indo-China (Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam) struggle against French colonial rule was led by Ho Chi Minh who also formed Communist Party of Indo-China. Similarly, in Dutch East Indies, or Indonesia, movement was started against Dutch rule. Malya peninsula and Sri Lanka struggled against British rule. Afghanistan declared independence in 1920s and was first ruled by liberal ruler and later by one who wanted to establish a constitutional monarchy. Iraq, along with Transjordan and Palestine was a British mandate after the war and Britain gained control over its oil resources, but Iraq gained independence in 1930.

EGYPT witnessed rise of a powerful nationalist movement in 1918 led by an organization called **Wafd** and in wake of continuous resistance, Britain declared that Egypt is no longer its protectorate. Britain, however, kept her armies stationed in Egypt on the name of protecting her trade interests through Suez Canal. In the meantime elections were held in Egypt and Wafd party won 4 times in 6 years, each time the government was dissolved on British instigation. Finally, in 1936 Britain agreed to sign a new treaty ending British occupation and only 10,000 troops were allowed to stay in Suez area which later proved a great source of conflict.

SOUTH AFRICA witnessed further strengthening of racial oppression in post-war period. White population in South Africa constituted British and Dutch origin Boers. In 1912, **African National Congress** was formed. Blacks were subjected to gross discrimination and segregation. They were required to carry identity cards at public places. They were prohibited to take skill training and were denied good jobs, good lands. They were asked to move to areas called 'Tribal Reserves' and were to seek permission to work in cities or farms of whites. They didn't had any political rights including right to vote. In 1930s, whites launched a German fascist like campaign to further suppress blacks.

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES  also witnessed nationalistic uprising after WW-1 whose degree varied from one state to another. There were now about 50 countries in Africa and except Liberia – a home of free slaves – and Ethiopia all were under colonial rule. Many of the states, especially those in southern Africa, were newly created and had multiple communities with little common past and this delayed development of shared feeling of nationalism. Many new organizations were set up and most important of these was **Pan African Congress** led by Du Bois who had earlier played an important role in setting up of National Association of Advancement of Colored People in America. First meeting of the Congress was held on sidelines of the Paris Peace Conference and it pressed for equal right for blacks and a self determination right for Africa. Many other conferences were held later on to organize black people from all over the world and spread nationalistic ideas. Another pan-African movement was launched by a Jamaican named Marcus Garvey and he set up Universal Negro Improvement Association and he urged black Americans to shift to Africa for betterment of their brethren. **Negritude Movement** was a cultural

movement which stressed on uniqueness of African culture. Italian invasion of Ethiopia was widely condemned and became a rallying point in whole Africa.

LATIN AMERICAN countries continued to be dominated by landlords and army. But unlike Africa and Asia, in almost all Latin American countries socialist organization had come up. When Great Depression hit America, Latin America was also affected greatly as raw material of Latin America was supplied to American and European industries which now imposed ban on imports of raw material as production went down. American military and covert interventions continued in some countries as before. Mexico was the torchbearer in the movement to rise against American and European hegemony. She was the first Latin American country to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR. In 1930s many steps were taken to confiscate land from landlords and bring it under state control. Later railways and petroleum industries were nationalized by ending control of American and British companies. It was a big victory of people as they themselves now controlled the resources of country. Example of Mexico was later followed by the other Latin American countries as well. In 1927, many Latin American countries formed an all-American Anti-Imperialist League and opposition of USA was also growing. USA now relied less on military intervention and instead followed a policy called Dollar Diplomacy since 1920s which involved increase in investment in Latin America to control their economies. Troops were withdrawn from a few countries like Nicaragua and Panama, but this didn't end American hegemony and non-interference was not adhered to in subsequent years.

Second World War

Background

League of Nations remained dominated by European Powers right from the beginning and never had a democratic functioning. It worked as a platform to legitimize the unequal treaties, remained ineffective due to non-joining of big powers and remained a total failure in curbing aggressions. Japanese aggression of Manchuria in 1931 was first major act of aggression followed by Italian aggression in Ethiopia.

Though League criticized it and refused to recognize the puppet government of Japan in Manchuria, but it didn't ask Japan to take steps to return to original situation. Japan soon left the league and later launched a big attack on China. Italy invaded Ethiopia and later annexed it in 1936, but little was done to prevent invasion or penalize Italy. Russia was the only country which raised voice in league against fascist aggression, but its voice was unheeded.

Germany in 1930s faced grave economic and social crisis. Burden of compensation of war guilt, impact of depression, loss of resources by Treaty of Versailles, instability of Weimer Republic, appeasement policy of the Western powers, animosity between Aryans and Jews (as Germans thought that Jews financially helped Britain during war period and sided with enemy) and so on gave birth to aggressive nationalism.

Germany faced a lot of political turmoil. Germany had a powerful monarchy from 1871 to 1914, so, people had no experience of democratic institutions. Infant Weimer Republic which was formed in such a situation couldn't handle the pressure. It witnessed two coups in short

duration – by Kapp and Ludendorff. Hitler too sided with Ludendorff and soon captured power.

Formation of pacts and alliances began as the world started to polarize. Germany and Japan signed **Anti-Comintern Pact** in 1936, which was later joined by Italy also. Italy and Germany signed an agreement on political cooperation named **Rome Berlin Axis**. By 1937, a block of Germany, Italy and Japan as aggressor powers had emerged nurtured by the appeasement policy of Britain and Germany. They had huge imperialistic ambitions – Germany wanted to conquer Europe, Italy wanted to axe Balkans, the Arabs and parts of Africa and Japan wanted to be a master of Asia and Pacific.

First victim of aggression was Spain. A Popular Front government was formed in 1936 in Spain with big majority, but the fascist forces led by General Franco united all anti-republic and fascist elements and **Spanish Civil War** started in Spain as fascist wanted to topple a democratically elected government. Fascists in Spain called for external help from Italy and Germany which was promptly sent. Republic also sought help from Britain, France and USA, but they chose not to intervene. Only USSR provided active support to thwart fascist aggression. Spanish Civil War attracted great international attention and attracted widespread condemnation of stand of Britain and France. Anti-fascist from over 50 countries volunteered to defend Spanish republic. International solidarity also reflected the concern world over about fascism. Pablo Picasso painted '*Guernica*' to depict a ravaged city of Spain with the same name. By 1939, Franco had captured most of the parts of Spain and Britain, France and USA recognized his government. Spanish Civil War is often termed as a dress rehearsal for the big war as new weapons were tested in the battleground of Spain by fascist forces. Fascist also tested the nerves of Britain and France and it make them more confident about their future wars.

Similarly, in Asia also Japan had tested its aggressive stance by acquiring Manchuria and later attacking China in 1937.

Post WW-1 treaties prohibited political cooperation between Germany and Austria. EngelbertDolfuss had established his dictatorship in Austria during early 1930s and there were clamors in Austria by fascist groups of its unification with Germany, but Engelbert was opposed to it and he was also opposed to socialism as well. Engelbert was assassinated in 1934 and Austrian Nazis tried to capture power through a coup, but it failed and Hitler also didn't intervene. But after success of fascist in Spain and success of Italy in Ethiopia embolden them and Hitler marched with his forces into Austria in March 1938 and Austrian Nazis assumed power and unification with Germany was complete in a gross violation of earlier treaties. Western powers didn't make an issue of it in furtherance of their policy of appeasement and according to them eastward expansion of Germany was not a threat to peace and instead strengthen it.

Most shameful incidence of appeasement came when **Czechoslovakia's** Western allies – including France with whom she had an entente as well – handed her over to Germany. It was a democratic, Industrialized country which became independent after WW-1. A part of it called Sudetenland had significant German population and Germany made it a basis of putting forward

its claim over it which Czechoslovakia had refused earlier. Only Soviet Union offered Czechoslovakia of help against aggression as she had a pact with her in 1935. In September 1938, Hitler, Mussolini and PMs of France and Britain met in Munich to sign the **Munich Pact** which made Czechoslovakia a part of Germany. Neither Czechoslovakia whose fate the pact decided, nor Russia was invited to discuss it. Czechoslovakia surrendered Sudetenland without seeking Soviet help. Later Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia to claim the remaining parts as well.

Events of WW2

Next target was **Poland** as Germany demanded back the corridor separating it from eastern Prussia which was given to Poland after WW-1. Both Britain and France had promised Poland of help in case of aggression, but Hitler had not taken it very seriously. Britain and France now wanted to cooperate with Soviet Union as they themselves could not intervene as they had no border with Poland and only Soviet Union had, but no headway was made as Poland was anti-Soviet since long time and didn't want Soviet help even when its very existence was threatened. Soviet Union signed a **Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact** with Germany in August 1939 and in next month, Germany launched an attack on Poland on 1st September 1939 and it fell within 3 weeks. 2 days later, France and Britain declared war on Germany. WW-2 had begun. Western powers didn't come to rescue of Poland and nor did they retaliate upon Germany despite declaration of war. Initial fight was very slow in pace and was limited to a small part of Eastern Europe and a few naval skirmishes. This lasted for 7 months and this phase of the war is called '**Phoney War**'.

Soviet Union too occupied parts of Poland claiming that they were taken away by Poland during WW-1 and acquisition of these parts was necessary to check German aggression towards it. Soviet Union also launched offensive on Finland which lasted for one year before they signed a peace treaty. In this period, Soviet Union also established naval basis in Baltic States like Lithuania, Latvia etc which were earlier its part before they declared themselves independent after WW-1. Later, they again became part of Soviet Union in 1940.

Germany used to get important iron ore supplies from Sweden and to take control on those supplies it need to control other Scandinavian countries viz Denmark and Norway as well. A fascist leader of Norway Vidkun Quisling was already in touch with Hitler and Hitler launched an invasion on Norway and Denmark in April 1940 and both were captured, Sweden remained neutral. With these acquisitions, German had acquired important naval and air bases in Europe. Next month, in May 1940 Germany launched an attack on Belgium, Luxemburg, Netherlands (Holland) and France. Within a few days, the first three surrendered. Phoney War had ended.

In the meantime, leadership change happened in Britain (Chamberlain was replaced by Churchill) and France and new France president offered little resistance to Germany and offered peace. Italy was aloof till now, but seeing imminent fall of France, joined war in June 1940. New French president gave up Alsace Lorraine and Northern France to Germany and he was limited to just half of France known as **Vichy France** (after the name of new capital Vichy) and became a

puppet of Germany. Colonel Charles de Gaulle was one of the army officers who wanted to give a fight to Germany and he escaped to Britain and organized Free France movement.

After conquering almost all Western Europe, Germany now turned her attention to England and codenamed the operation as **Sea-Lion** and for it control of English Channel was necessary to mobilize troops. To control British Channel, it was necessary to prevent British Navy and Airforce ineffective and for this, German airplanes launched an offensive on British ports and airfields, but Britain countered it effectively. Later, the two sides bombarded important cities of each other to bring morale down. This fight was known as **Battle of Britain** and Germany largely failed in its plans to occupy Britain as it did in case of France, Belgium, Norway etc.

In the meantime, war had spread to other parts of Europe and Africa as well. Italy launched attacks in Somalia, Sudan and planned to move into Egypt, but British forces thwarted this bid by 1940 and only Libya was under control of Italy when Germany joined it along here. German troops tried to make advances under General Rommel, but German aggression was repelled almost completely by May 1943.

Germany, Japan and Italy signed a **Tripartite Pact** in 1940 and each promised others of support in case of attack by external powers. Germany and Italy also approved Japan's plans of controlling the Pacific and Asian regions. The pact was soon also joined by Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania and German troops were sent to these countries to prepare invasion on Russia and in the meantime, Greece and Yugoslavia also fell. In Europe only Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey remained neutral. By June 1941, apart from neutral states and Russia and Britain whole Europe was under German control. This was pinnacle of the power of Hitler.

Germany loathed communism and despite signing non-aggression pact, it had designs to attack Russia and control her vast resources which according to her will made her invulnerable. He planned total annihilation of Russian race and planned to substitute it with Aryans. This plan also included extermination of Jews and enslavement of Slavs. Invasion plan of USSR was drafted in 1940 and was codenamed **Operation Barbarossa** and Germany planned to take over whole Soviet Union within a few weeks which Hitler grossly underestimated. When an attack was launched in June 1941, Soviets were caught underprepared and suffered heavy losses, lost many cities including Kiev, Odessa etc and some blame it on Soviet Union putting too much trust in non-aggression pact. Non-Aggression Pact, Soviet invasion of Poland and occupation of Baltic States made Soviet Union very unpopular

Some important dates

August 1, 1914
First World War begins.

November 9, 1918
Germany capitulates, ending the war.

November 9, 1918
Proclamation of the Weimar Republic.

June 28, 1919
Treaty of Versailles.

January 30, 1933
Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.

September 1, 1939
Germany invades Poland. Beginning of the Second World War.

June 22, 1941
Germany invades the USSR.

June 23, 1941
Mass murder of the Jews begins.

December 8 1941
The United States joins Second World War.

January 27, 1945
Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz.

May 8, 1945
Allied victory in Europe.

internationally. Germany had also approached Moscow and hoped that they will soon run over the whole Russia before winter starts. However, the battle prolonged and winter arrived. German troops were not adapted to such severe winter and German heavy equipment also failed. In January, Russia counter attacked and started to regain its territories. Operation Barbarossa had failed and it marked decline of German onslaught leading to final defeat. Attack on USSR was a historic blunder as Hitler exposed the German western front to British aerial bombing and the eastern front to the powerful Soviet armies.

USA adopted similar stance of appeasement as that of Britain and France. Americans were sympathetic to the British cause in war, but were opposed of entering into it. Earlier USA supplied to arms and goods on cash basis to Britain, but when British resources dried up, American legislature brought a legislation to empower president to make supplies to any country whose existence was vital to American security. From now on Britain started to receive huge supply under 'lend-lease' system which in 1941 was extended to Russia as well. Another important declaration was made by the **US president and UK PM after a meeting in August 1941 known as Atlantic Charter**. Though it **didn't set out any military commitments** in explicit terms, it set out certain principles for constructing a better future. It stated that **two countries will not go for territorial aggrandizement, respect the rights of all people to chose a government of their choice, self-rule rights for those who were deprived of it and final destruction of Nazi tyranny**. Later **USSR also joined it**. Ironically when colonies like India raised the points of charter regarding self-determination rights, **Churchill refused to entertain them saying the charter was applicable to only those areas which were under German rule**. Charter, in a way became a statement of war.

USA had still not directly entered into the war, but the December 1941 invasion of Japan, which was now under an even more aggressive ruler, on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, Pacific provoked it to join war as it declared war on Japan. Germany and Italy declared war on America. German invasion of Soviet Union and Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor made the war truly global.

Japan had by now occupied many areas in Pacific and Asia including **Singapore, Indonesia, Burma, Malaya, Thailand, Phillipines and many islands in Pacific**. Anti-Fascist alliance was formed by **USA, USSR and Britain in form of a Grand Alliance**. Vast arsenals of USA were now for annihilation of fascist powers.

When summers again arrived, Hitler re-launched his offensive in USSR in July 1942. **Battle of Stalingrad** started and by November, German forces had reached outskirts of Stalingrad. But Russians gave a fitting reply and as winters arrived German forces and equipment were again debilitated. Russian armies surrounded German troops and their supplies were cut-off which starved the German soldiers. City of Stalingrad was also razed as people themselves burnt their homes to destroy food and other things so that they cannot be used by Germans. Germans suffered the biggest defeat till date and more than 3 lakh German and her allies soldiers died and the remaining alive 90,000 were taken prisoners. This in a way turned the direction of war in a decisive manner.

USSR had asked Britain to open a **Second Front** to divert German strength in July 1941 when Germany had attacked USSR, but Britain didn't pay any heed to it and instead forces were diverted to Africa. USSR thought that Britain and USA want her to bleed and preserve their powers to emerge victorious later on. But, after Battle of Stalingrad, scenario changed and now there was better coordination among the three. Germany launched another assault on USSR in 1943, but was repelled and it lost 5 lakh soldiers in what is known as **Battle of Kursk** and by 1944 German forces had retreated from Eastern Front. Soviet army was also assisted by civilians who carried out guerilla warfare and played a crucial role in German defeat.

In other theaters of war, Axis Powers faced setback including in Africa, Asia and Pacific by 1943. Discontent was now growing in Italy and there were strikes in army as well and morale was down. Mussolini was removed in July 1943 and Italy withdrew from war and Italy surrendered unconditionally in September 1943 as Allied forces landed in Italy. However, Northern Italy was captured by Germany and Mussolini was also freed from detention and declared head of Northern Italy, but resistance kept on growing stronger. In 1945, anti-fascist forces captured Northern Italy also and Mussolini was captured and executed marking end of fascism in Italy. In the meantime, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania were also liberated during 1943-44.

In June 1944, **Second Front** was opened in Western Europe after a meeting was held in December 1943 among Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin in Tehran. On 6th June allied forces landed under General D Eisenhower on beaches of Normandy in France and this day was called **D-Day**. Soon, France, Luxemburg and Belgium were liberated. Opening of Second Front proved decisive in war and broke the back of Germany. By January 1945, end of Germany was in sight. Soviet Union launched another offensive on eastern front and soon Warsaw, Vienna and Budapest were also liberated. Soviet armies entered into Berlin in April 1945 and Hitler committed suicide on 30th April 1945 and Germany surrendered unconditionally in May 1945.

After German surrender, a conference was held at Potsdam, Germany and was termed **Potsdam Conference** attended by America, Britain and USSR in July-August 1945. Its **subject was Germany**. In this conference, **agreement was reached upon western border of Poland and transfer of a part of East Prussia to USSR**. Agreement was reached on **banning fascist organizations, destruction of German military power, restructuring of German economy and most importantly, division of Germany into 4 zones**. It was also decided to bring Nazi war criminals to trial which later took place at Nuremberg.

In August 1945, American aircrafts dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which caused more than 3 lakh deaths and Japan too surrendered in September marking end of World War. Some historians termed dropping of bombs as highly unethical as Germany had already surrendered and Japan was growing weak and end of war was already in sight. This unfortunate event, as Einstein predicted, started an unending race for nuclear weapons which was to threaten humanity forever. Further, Soviet Union was also about to enter war against Japan. It is also argued that USA used them to demonstrate her military prowess and assert her hegemony in post-war period.

IMPACT of WW2

WW-2 was much more disastrous than the WW-1. A total of more than 5 crore people died and more than \$14 trillion worth of damages were done.

In Germany, in 1939, orders were issued to kill chronically insane and incurable and 70,000 people were killed. Millions of people died in German concentration camps.


Brutal scientific experiments were done on people. Gas chambers were used to kill thousands of people at a time. Healthy people were used in industrial firms where they worked till death. Even human skin was used in some products.

In 1941, Hitler ordered to make a 'final solution to the Jewish problem'. More than 1 crore civilians were killed by Nazis. Number of military-men died was also very high. 75% of total Jew population of Europe was wiped out which stood at 60 lakh and this is termed as **Holocaust**.

More than 2 crore Soviet soldiers and civilians died which was 10% of total population. In Poland alone more than 65 lakh people died, half of them were Jews. Later Nuremberg and Tokyo trials took place for war crimes.

Resistance Movements during WW2

Resistance movements in various countries had started during the war and even before war when fascism was growing stronger. In **Yugoslavia** it was led **by Communist Party headed by Josip Broz Tito**. In **Poland** also communists were active along with another group led by General Sikorski. In France, **General Charles de Gaulle formed the Free France movement** and communists also brought together various anti-fascist groups to form a National Front. In **Greece** also resistance movement was led by **communists**. In **Italy** also communists played a leading role and they joined hands in 1942 to overthrow Mussolini under leadership of Palmiro Togliatti. In Asia also, **resistance movements grew against Japanese hegemony**. Japanese atrocities in the newly acquired areas were primarily responsible for intensification of resistance movements. **Communists were generally the leading force except in Thailand**. **Vietnamese communists were led by Ho Chi Minh**. In **Burma Aung Ssan led anti-fascist league**. In India also, support was provided to anti-Nazi efforts.

Another development that took place while the war was going on was issuance of **Declaration of United Nations** on 1st January 1942 by 26 countries. It was a formal constitution of anti-fascist group. Later major powers met in Moscow in October 1943, in Cairo in December 1943 and Tehran in December 1943. Leaders met in September 1944 in Dumbarton Oak near Washington which was later joined by  China as well and formation of UN was discussed. Later **when fall of Germany was imminent, Yalta Conference** was held in USSR in February 1945. It declared **unconditional surrender of Germany as a common aim, future of Germany was also decided and it was decided that Germany be divided into four zones under US, Britain, USSR and France each**, agreement was reached on new frontiers of Poland, **USSR agreed to enter war against Japan after German defeat, important decisions were taken regarding setting up of UN, a meeting of UN** in San Francisco to draft UN Charter. UN Charter became effective from 24th October 1945. Charter also defined the structure and principle organs of the United Nations

viz – General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, ICJ, Secretariat. **UN Declaration of Universal Human Rights** was also made which set the tone of the changing world priorities.

Redrawing of national boundaries

Colonization and Decolonization

Colonization refers to occupation of foreign territories, while imperialism means political control. Imperialism is a corollary of colonialism, but there may be imperialism even without colonialism – through puppet governments etc.

Colonization is the ideology by which a country seeks to conquer and colonize (forcibly settle, rule over) another. The colony becomes a subordinate part of the colonizer's country, and is exploited in various ways for the colonizing country's gain. Related to imperialism, but involves a **more sustained interest in settling down to live in and govern the colony (i.e., exercising detailed and local control) rather than (as with imperialism) plundering and departing, or ruling from a distance.**

Colonization started before Industrial revolution in 16th century. Some of these were settler colonies where colonizers settled permanently (like current Australia), some were under direct political control (Like that of India) and thirdly, there were other examples of indirect colonialism under which a country was though not ruled politically but was exploited by various other means (19th century China is one such example).

Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society

LIBERALISM

It is a philosophy which gives **ideas of liberty and equality**. It **rejects ideas of divine theory, state religion, absolute monarchy and so on and instead argues for free and fair elections, civil rights, freedom of religion and so on.**

It sets that **individuals have a say in the government and they have certain rights.**

John Locke was one of the torchbearers of this ideology and according to him, each man has a **natural right to equality, liberty and property**. **State is a guardian of these rights** and it should not violate social contract.

It served as foundation ideology if French Revolution and other ensuing revolutions. It also promoted – **Constitutionalism and Republicanism.**

Liberalism and Nationalism – While liberalism keeps individual and his rights first and sometimes even at the expense of state, **nationalism on the other hand may require individual to surrender some rights for nation and common good**. In today's context, both the concept complement each other and a **'Liberal Nationalism'** is a more common ideology in operation

which provides for individual freedom and rights. Individuals are able to enjoy such rights because they have a security of a national identity.

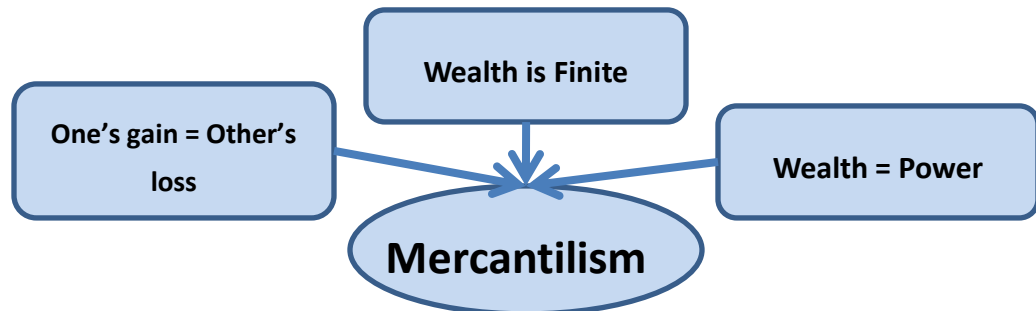
MERCANTALISM

Its origin can be traced from France of 16th century when import bans were put in place against Spanish woolen goods and export of bullion. Britain in 17th century passed Navigational Acts to keep other countries out of its territory.

Mercantile is a business enterprise that makes profit primarily through trade, buying goods cheap and selling them at higher prices

The theory stand on three premises –

- a. Wealth is power
- b. Wealth is finite



c. So wealth accumulation is a zero sum game in which loss of one is gain of another. A country must export more goods than it imports and should sell at higher profits. Raw materials were procured at low prices from colonies and were sold at high prices. Thus, mercantilism prioritized the interests of colony and not the empire. Bullion was considered as most valuable and hence there was stress on its accumulation. There was also a run for occupying more colonies for wide markets and wide sources of supplies.

It also involved raising of tariff and non-tariff barriers to keep others from out of race.

Agreements were made with weak states to keep others out of competition.

The ideology faded out with growth of Industrial Revolution. Further, new ideas of Laissez faire prevailed over mercantilism. In modern economy theory trade is not zero sum game and one state may have advantage in one field and the other in others. A positive balance of trade at all times is simply not possible.

UTALITARIANISM

It argues that a course of action is best that leads to maximization of happiness and minimization of sufferings of all. John Stuart Mill and Jeremy Bentham were the first to put forward this theory.

CAPITALISM – A CRITIQUE

- a. Class dominance and class struggle

- b. Monopolising tendencies
- c. Inequalities
- d. Commodification of labor
- e. Greed, war, colonialism as byproducts of capitalism.

SOCIALISM and RISE of SOCIALISM

It is a system of production in which means of production are collectively owned and not privately owned. It has following features –

- a. Production is need based and not greed based
- b. Equal opportunities for all members of society

Socialism took various forms in its evolution –

- a. Utopian Socialism
- b. Marxist Socialism or Revolutionary Socialism – Communist Manifesto in 1848 declared that *‘Proletarians have nothing to lose, but their chains. They have world to win. Working men of all countries, unite.’*
- c. Fabian Socialism or Democratic Socialism (Fabian Society was a British society which aimed to achieve socialism through gradual reforms)

CAPITALISM vs IMPERIALISM

Colonialism is the *practice* of economic exploitation of one territory by another by means of occupation. The ideology that drives this activity is imperialism which calls for expansion of one country's hold physically or indirectly over others. Colonialism has economic basis for expansion, imperialism strives to extend the empire itself.

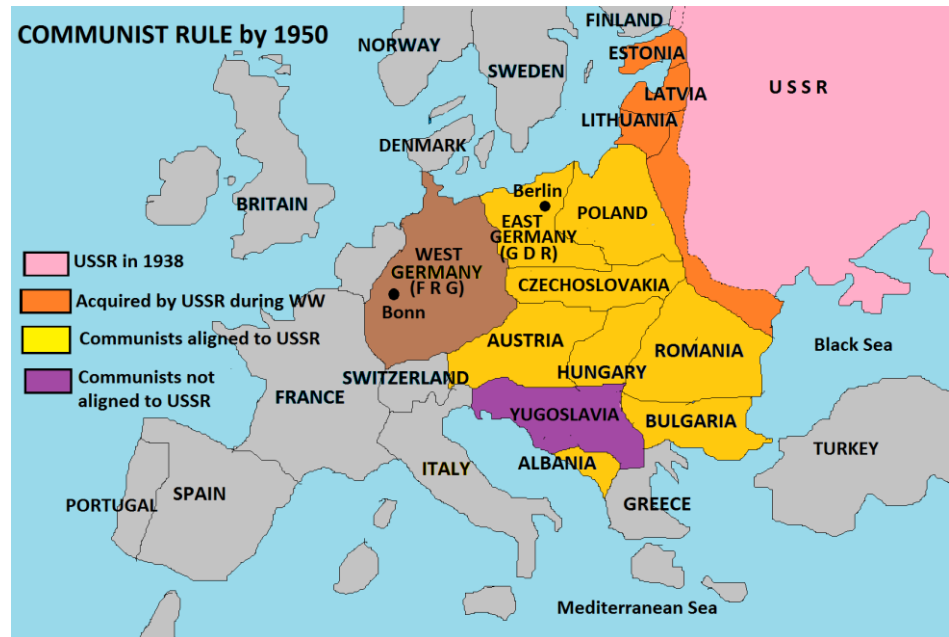
OLD IMPERIALISM vs NEW IMPERIALISM

Old Imperialism is referred to imperialism that existed from 16th century to middle of 19th century. New Imperialism started from middle of 19th century.

OLD IMPERIALISM	NEW IMPERIALISM
Focus was only on establishing coastal trading posts	Focus shifted to deep penetration as means of communications improved and need to explore new markets and resources
Lives of common people were largely untouched	Cultural imperialism also started to take shape. People were forced to adopt Western ways
It has largely economic dimension	It has also political and social dimensions as well. Economies were significantly altered to suit the needs of imperial countries.
It was largely a European phenomenon	Japan, USA also became party
It was fueled by Mercantalism	It was fueled by Industrialization
Social Darwinism (survival of fittest and white man's burden), Population pressure, Technology, military needs, missionaries etc were other reasons for spread of new Imperialism.	

Post WW-2

After the war, a bipolar world emerged concentrated around USA and USSR or around two ideologies of capitalism and communism. Communists came into power in many Eastern European countries. There was tension, and subdued confrontation between Soviet block and Western block which came to be known as **Cold War or armed truce**. Cold War started a fresh race of weapons. Many new nations emerged which were now masters of their destiny and democracy became a dominant political system, though autocratic systems also remained in many places. Apart from a bipolar world, many newly independent countries chose to remain neutral and chose to focus on development instead on groupism and this gave rise to **Non-Alignment Movement**. World economic system, however,



continued to remain backward and newly independent countries were worst sufferer of it. Advancement of technology and access to it has further widened the gulf between developed and developing countries. By 1990s, Cold War ended with collapse of Soviet Union and liberation of 15 republics and end of communist governments in Eastern European countries.

USA emerged as a major power as her economy boomed even during time of War. After war, from 1948-52, USA also provided huge funds to the tune of \$12 billion for European Recovery which was also known as **Marshall Plan** named after US secretary of state and it helped European economies to recover pre-war levels within a very short period. In fact, Western Europe and Japan emerged as major economic rivals of USA in international trade and production. US supremacy for the first time was shaken when **Sputnik** was launched by the Russia in 1957 which put first satellite in space. US retaliate by putting two astronauts on moon in 1969.

Japan was occupied by American forces for some after war. A number of reforms were initiated in the political system. Power of big landlords was broken. A new constitution was given to Japan. Though Japan remained a monarchy, but powers of king were curtailed. War was renounced in constitution itself and it even prohibited Japan to have a standing army or navy. US occupation ended in 1952. Japan made tremendous progress in Industrialization which is termed miraculous as she herself didn't have any natural resources and it was technological advancement which proved her asset.

Most of the **Latin American** countries suffered from same ills after war as they suffered before. New

regimes which promised radical changes were always viewed by the USA in a skeptical manner and its intervention continued. Political instability became a common feature of these countries and economic condition was similar to that of any developing country. In many countries, American multinational became dominant in some of them establishing monopolies and controlled their economies. To maintain their dominance, these companies also promoted undemocratic regimes at times. CIA also undertook covert operations on the name of countering communist threat.

COLD WAR started after World War ended and in this war there were two opposite camps based on two ideologies and it was cold because the two major powers never actually fought a war with each other. Major differences emerged between Soviet and Western block over future of Germany and Japan. Western powers signed a treaty with Japan despite Soviet opposition. Many trace origin of Cold War in post Russian Revolution scenario. Western powers created an atmosphere of anti-communist feeling and even tried to scuttle the revolution through covert operations in Russia which came to be ended in 1920. Russia was

COLD WAR TIME-LINE

- 1947: American President Harry **Truman's Doctrine** about the containment of communism
- 1947-52: Marshall Plan: US aid for the reconstruction of the Western Europe
- 1950-53: Korean War: division of Korea along the 38th Parallel
- 1954: Defeat of the French by the Vietnamese at Dien Bien Phu, Signing of the Geneva Accords, Division of Vietnam along the 17th Parallel' Formation of SEATO (A US-Asian alliance on lines of NATO)
- 1954-75: American intervention in Vietnam
- 1961: US-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba; Construction of the Berlin Wall
- 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1972: US President Richard Nixon's visit to China
- 1979-89: Soviet intervention in Afghanistan
- 1985: Gorbachev becomes the President of the USSR; begins the reform process
- 1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall; mass protests against governments in eastern Europe
- 1990: Unification of Germany
- 1991: Disintegration of the Soviet Union - End of the Cold War era

ostracized by Western powers and US didn't recognize USSR for many years. Later by their appeasement of fascism, they tried to stoke anti-communist fire and direct it towards Soviet Union. Even during war, though Western powers joined hand with Soviet Union, they had their own unified command which excluded USSR and they deliberately delayed opening of Second Front. Soviet victories against Germany created unease in Western powers.

This period was also marked by communist hysteria against 'godless communism' in USA and government officials, teachers, artists and scientists were viewed with great suspicion and many were fired and even detained for so called 'anti-American' activities.

Developments in Eastern Europe revived the pre-war phobia of communism as communist governments were formed in seven East European countries which were liberated by USSR. Communist governments in Czechoslovakia and Poland especially alarmed Western countries as they saw it a violation of **Yalta Conference promises which called for formation of democratic governments in liberated countries through free elections.** Developments in Germany further complicated matters. **Potsdam Conference had divided Germany into four parts under four powers,** but **envisaged a single**

economic system with single currency. Berlin was also divided into similar four zones. But later in 1949, Western powers merged their part together to form Federal Democratic Germany or West Germany with Bonn as capital and German Democratic republic or East Germany with Berlin as capital which was also divided into West Berlin and East Berlin though Soviet Union opposed this division of Berlin and in 1948, she closed all the roads leading to West Berlin and West Germany. This Soviet blockade created a situation of war as neither side budged and Western powers airlifted all supplies to West Berlin before Soviet Union lifted the blockade in 1949 and the crisis averted. In the mean time a new military alliance **NATO** came into existence in 1949 with West European countries as members along with USA, Canada and Iceland and US gave massive military aid to NATO members. West Germany also became its part in 1955. A wall was erected between East and West Berlin in 1961. Formation of military alliance further created antagonism. Soviet Union retaliated with formation of a military alliance with East European countries called **Warsaw Pact**. Western Germany developed on capitalist lines, while eastern Germany developed on communist lines and Western Germany also grew phobic of communism. This separation was later formalized by declaration of two independent states. Greece was also center of tussle between communism and capitalism and a civil war ensued post independence. There was an uprising in Hungary in 1956 and change of government in Yugoslavia in 1968 and in both cases USSR made armed intervention and again pro-Soviet governments were installed. Soviet Union also sent her troops to Afghanistan in 1979 to help Afghan government crush Afghan fighters which were armed by USA to counter USSR and it was at this time that Al-Queda was born with US aid which later under Osama Bin Laden led a terror attack on twin trade towers on 9/11 2001. USA and her NATO allies invaded Afghanistan in **Operation Enduring Freedom**.

First open reference to Cold War was made by the then former PM of Britain Winston Churchill in 1947 during a speech in US in which he said that an **Iron Curtain** has descended across the European continent which referred to the division of Europe into pro-Soviet and pro-Western areas and that East European states lived in strict censorship isolated from the rest of the world. He also appealed American and British political establishment to counter Soviet influence. US decision to intervene in Greece Civil war after Britain backed out made first overt act in Cold War. US president put forth a doctrine called **Truman Doctrine** which stated that it is the responsibility of US government to support the freedom of people around the world. It in a way declared Communism as a greatest threat to free world and declared US as guardian of free world. This doctrine guided American foreign policy for years to come and US saw every conflict in light of struggle between US and USSR.

Slowly Cold War took the whole world into its grip and NATO style military alliances like SEATO, CENTO, Baghdad Pact cropped up supported by Western powers. US monopoly in nuclear weapons was also broken in 1949 by USSR when it conducted an atomic test and race for dangerous weapons started. USA conducted Hydrogen bomb test in 1952 and USSR followed in 1953. Some even claimed that American scientists passed on atomic secrets to USSR and there were many spy stories making round which further created mutual suspicion. Western powers received another shock when **People's Republic of China** was established as another communist power. In the preceding years, Civil war had resumed in China in 1946 after external threat of Japan was no longer there. In this Civil War, Chiang Kai Shek's forces were completely defeated despite US supply and he fled to Taiwan which was freed from Japan

after war. Western powers refused to recognize PRC for over 20 years and tried to dislodge communist rule in mainland China and instead, recognized Taiwan as China. PRC was also kept outside UN and instead her seat was given to Kai Shek ruled Taiwan. US also intervened in many other regions and watched every activity through lens of communist threat. It even confronted with anti-colonial nationalism in many areas.

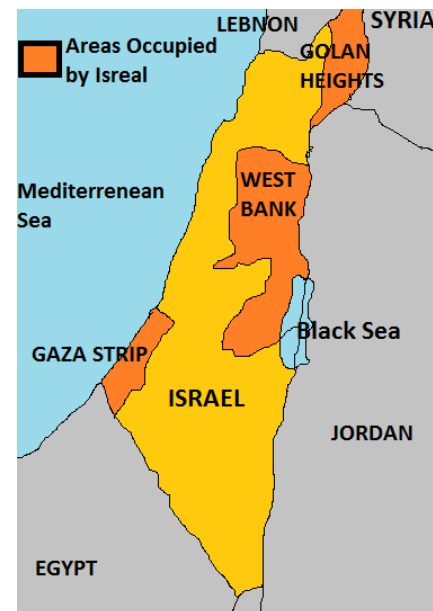
The first war in which USA got directly involved was **Korean War** of 1950. After Japanese defeat, Korea was also divided like Germany into two zones – Northern zone under USSR and Southern under USA and division was along 38th parallel and in 1948, Southern Korea declared itself Republic of Korea and Northern Korea declared itself as People's Democratic Republic of Korea and soon Soviet and American troops left Korea by 1949 and despite having ideologically opposite governments, the two Koreaes stated unification as their goal. In 1950, war broke out between the two and North Korea entered South. At this juncture US military intervened and in a reaction to it China too moved its troops and war entered a stalemate. India played an important role in bringing armistice in 1953 which holds till date and two sides retreated to pre-war boundaries. 1.5 lakh American soldiers died in this war and 40 lakh Koreans died. The war remained a localized one though it created a major scare of snowballing into a global war and use of nuclear weapons was also imminent.

In 1950s, USA pursued policy of brinkmanship under secretary of state Dulles i.e. pushing the adversary to utmost limit by provocations and advancements to extract concessions and it heightened tensions. Many other countries acquired nuclear power on dubious ground of having a 'deterrent' capability. Other doctrines like **MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction)** were given which implied that in case of nuclear war neither side will survive as even aggressor will not be spared. Military alliances in Asia were aggressively formed which even included and promoted many undemocratic regimes as well and massive military aid was given to member countries of these alliances and it created tension with neighbors which were not part of these alliances. It was in this context that **Non-Aligned Movement** was born. Dulles called non-alignment as '*immoral*'. CIA was established in 1947 and it played an important role in destabilization of various governments especially in those areas which were strategically important and where natural resources like oil were found. CIA backed right wingers and autocrats to keep off communist and other pro-communist rulers. In Iran, a democratic government was overthrown and Shah was put as president with CIA support in 1951 as the then Iraqi PM tried to nationalize British controlled refineries. Shah was despotic and his rule ended only after Iranian revolution of 1979 after which US-Iran relations deteriorated completely.

Another important international development happened in Vietnam, revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh proclaimed independence of Vietnam in 195 from French rule, but France tried to re-establish it with US support. Ho Chi Minh was supported by Soviet Union and popular support within country was immense and as a result France was defeated in 1954 and Vietnam was divided into two parts north and south which were to be re-united after 1956 elections. It was certain that Ho Chi Minh's party to win elections, but the US started to develop South Vietnam as a separate state under corrupt and autocratic rule of Ngo Dinh Diem and tried to maintain anti-communist rule in South. US saw Vietnam as an important piece in communist framework and argued that if Vietnam is made free of communist rule, it will have a domino effect on other communist countries as well and if it fell under communist rule, opposite will

happen. This belief dragged USA into a protracted **Vietnam War** in which US dropped more bombs than it did in Europe during WW-2. It led to immense unpopularity of the USA around the world and even at home. The North Vietnamese government viewed the war as a colonial war, fought initially against France, backed by the US, and later against South Vietnam, which it regarded as a US puppet state. It was a debacle for USA which left Vietnam in 1975 in which more than 60,000 US troops died and an entire country was ravaged and millions of Vietnamese, Cambodians died. Vietnam soon united and it was a great humiliating defeat for the biggest military power.

Arab World was another major area of turmoil. Arab nationalism was one of the major causes and Western antagonism to it made Arab region conflict prone. West intervened in Arab in the name of preventing communism. Israel emerged as the biggest source of conflict and Jewish settlement further stoked Arab nationalism. UN passed a resolution in 1947 to divided Palestine into two parts – an Arab state and a Jewish state. West quickly recognized Israel and it was followed by **Arab-Israel War** in 1948 in which Arabs were defeated and millions of Palestinians were rendered homeless to take refuge in other Arab countries. Arab states refused to recognize Israel and saw it as a danger to Arab nationalism. In 1967, another war broke between Israel on one side and Egypt, Jordan and Syria on other side known as **Six Days War** in which Arabs were again defeated and Israel occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, a part of Egypt in Sinai peninsula and Golan Heights from Syria. **Another war happened in 1973 between Israel and Arabs in which Arab countries declared that they wouldn't ship oil to pro-Israeli countries.** European countries distance themselves from the conflict and even USA was forced to put pressure on Israel for declaring ceasefire.



Egypt asked Britain in 1954 to withdraw her forces completely under Gamal Abdel Nasser and Soviet support. After Egypt started receiving Soviet arms, USA stopped help which she provided for building of Aswan dam on Nile. In July 1956, Suez was nationalized and it made Britain and France insecure as Suez was a major route of their trade and they tacitly supported Israel to attack Egypt in October 1956 and joined themselves later on. It was widely condemned in UN and even by USA and France and Britain had to withdraw when Soviet Union issued an ultimatum of using missiles. This marked a victory of Arab nationalism and strengthened Soviet influence in the region. Nasser also made active effort to unite Arab nations. US was alarmed at this and she proclaimed **Eisenhower Doctrine** which called for curbing 'international communism' by supplying arms and finances to willing Arab nations and also supporting pro-West autocratic regimes.

Another notable event during Cold War was **Cuban Missile Crisis** of 1962. America had installed nuclear missiles in different parts of the world aiming Soviet Union, but Soviet Union generally didn't have such installation. Each side had, however, submarines around the world carrying such missiles, but these had limited range and hence made it necessary to install long range missiles near enemy territory. After 1959 revolution, government under Fidel Castro came to power displacing Batista – a military dictator

and a close ally of USA – and it alarmed USA as it also started developing closeness with USSR and China, though Castro was not a communist and reorganized his party as a communist party only in 1965. Che Guevara was one of important leader of revolution who was born in Argentina, but joined Castro in 1956 and was murdered by CIA in Bolivia in 1967. US even tried to topple this government in 1961 through Bay of Pigs, but grossly failed. USA, however, keep on promoting anti-government elements. IN 1962, US spy planes took pictures of Cuban sites which were being prepared for missile docking just 150 km from USA. Although Soviet Union had done something which US was doing since long, it raised sharp reactions from USA and created a danger of war between the two. US even imposed a naval and air-blockade on Cuba and threatened to launch attack on Cuba. USSR blinked in this game of brinkmanship and removed missile on US promise of not attacking Cuba and remove missiles from Turkey. US intervention continued post war also in many countries on the name of containing communism. In Chile, a socialist government was overthrown with CIA in hand in glove of General Pinochet in 1970s and it attracted global criticism. A democratic government could be restored in Chile only in 1990s. Similar interventions were made in Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, El Salvador and so on.

On the one hand, there were events which were raising tensions vis-à-vis Cold War, there were other incidences also which aimed at diffusing tensions. Formation of NAM was one major development as it dissuaded many neutral countries from joining two rival camps. Many scientists and peace groups also propagandized about fall-outs of a future nuclear war and disarmament became an important issue in all international forums. In 1960s, rigid military alliances also showed signs of crack, France and Pakistan withdrew from SEATO in 1970s. There was also split in communist movement as a result of hostility between USSR and China in 1950s which lowered the perceived threat of communism. US-China relations also improved and China was admitted to UN in 1971. Some steps were also taken towards disarmament like Test Ban Treaty was signed between USA and USSR in 1963. In 1973, USA and USSR also started SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) to limit certain categories of missiles. NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) was also signed by many countries, but it was discriminatory since it prevented other countries from acquiring nuclear weapons and had no provisions for those who already possessed them and hence was seen as an attempt to limit nuclear weapons to an elite group. However, disarmaments initiatives received a major setback when USA launched a new missile program in 1980s called Strategic Defense Initiative or 'Star Wars Program' and it aimed at deploying missiles into space and hence could take arms race to outer space.

In the meanwhile, the Soviet system, became very bureaucratic and authoritarian, making life very difficult for its citizens. Lack of democracy and the absence of freedom of speech stifled people. Most of the institutions of the Soviet state needed reform: the one-party system represented by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had tight control over all institutions and was unaccountable to the people. The party refused to recognize the urge of people in the fifteen different republics that formed the Soviet Union to manage their own affairs including their cultural affairs. Although, on paper, Russia was only one of the fifteen republics that together constituted the USSR, in reality Russia dominated everything, and people from other regions felt neglected and often suppressed.

In the arms race, the Soviet Union managed to match the US from time to time, but at great cost. The Soviet Union lagged behind the West in technology, infrastructure (e.g. transport, power), and most

importantly, in fulfilling the political or economic aspirations of citizens. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 (It lasted for 10 years) weakened the system even further. Though wages continued to grow, productivity and technology fell considerably behind that of the West. This led to shortages in all consumer goods. Food imports increased every year. The Soviet economy was faltering in the late 1970s and became stagnant.

End of Cold War was imminent in 1980s. In 1989, monopoly of communist parties in Eastern Europe came to an end as Soviet control over government of these countries was loosened up under new Soviet leadership of Gorbachev. Germany was re-united in 1990 and in 1991, Warsaw Pact was formally dissolved in 1991, but not only NATO was not dissolved, it expanded its membership. In USSR also monopoly of communist party came to an end in 1991 and USSR itself disintegrated by end of 1991. USA emerged winner in the Cold War and world transformed into uni-polar world for a long time to come.

In 1991, US involved herself in **Gulf War** against Iraq when Iraq occupied Kuwait. Though USA was victorious in this war, Iraq was not occupied and severe restrictions were put on export of Iraqi oil, supply of food and medicines despite the fact that Iraq had retracted from Kuwait. Even UN 'food for oil' program was not allowed to run smoothly by Western powers. It was again invaded in 2003 on the name of possessing weapons of mass destruction, though UN reports in 2002 had pointed contrary to it and later they were found correct as no WMDs were found. USA used pre-emptive strike and declared Iraq as a danger for world peace and democracy. USA used 'Shock and Awe' strategy in this war – use of cluster bombs and precision guided bombs to hit bang on target and create terror. Iraq was totally devastated in war and is now rife with sectarian conflicts which were not so severe during Saddam's rule and Saddam was also anti-Al-Queda which is a global menace now. After capture of Iraq, its oil was also under American control – which was also the real motive of war – and all sanctions of its export were lifted.

Civil Rights Movement in USA

Blacks were given equal status by 13th Amendment, but segregation was a part of life even after WW-2. A powerful civil rights movement emerged in 1950s which achieved significant success in next two decades. The most powerful leader of this movement was Martin Luther King who was deeply influenced by Gandhiji and he launched a powerful protest movement against segregation of blacks and whites. Students played a very significant role in that. A huge rally was organized by Martin Luther King in 1963 near Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC where he delivered his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech which roused feelings of millions for cause of blacks. Parallely, a militant movement 'Black Power' also emerged. Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968 and it sparked race-riots in USA. It was only after such movement that equal civil rights were conferred to blacks in 1969.

Post War Decolonisation

Within 25 years after the WW-2, most of the colonies became independent as nationalist movements had gained strength in most of these countries post WW-1. These nationalist movements had, in fact, played an important role in defeat of Axis powers. One exception was South Africa which, though, was a republic, but its majority black population was ruled by minority white and blacks were grossly

subjugated under system of apartheid. It was only in 1994 that apartheid ended by effort of African National Congress (ANC) led by Nelson Mandela which was originally formed in 1912. Palestine was another state which failed to attain statehood and political rights due to Israeli blockade.

In Africa, in 1960, 17 countries became independent and this is termed as 'The Africa Year'. Nationalist movement in Kenya was led by Jomo Kenyatta. Algeria became independent after long struggle against France in which key role was played by the National Liberation Front and it was declared independent after a referendum was held in France in 1962 in which overwhelming population voted in favor of Algerian freedom. In Ghana, struggle was led by Kwame Nkrumah. In Congo the movement was led by Patrice Lumumba. In Guyana, movement was led by Dr Cheddi Jagan who was of Indian origin. By the end of 1960s, most of the African colonies had become free. One of the major forces which accelerated the process of eradication of imperialism from Africa was the **Organization of African Unity** which was formed in 1963 which was formed at a pan-African congress held in Addis Ababa. In 1960s, it played a particularly crucial role in spread of African nationalism. Colonial powers didn't exist smoothly in most cases and tried to resist nationalism. In Zimbabwe, freedom could be achieved as late as 1980. Even after granting independence they tried to retain their influence. Since, boundaries of many African countries were arbitrarily drawn by colonial rulers, there were heterogenic ethnic groups within a same nation even after independence. It often led to violence and conflicts. For example – In Congo, President Lumumba was assassinated purportedly with CIA support and later in 1990s it was drawn into a genocidal war between Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda. Recently, Sudan was divided into two parts.

WW-2 was viewed as a war of democracy and freedom and it strengthened freedom movements in colonies also. When imperialist powers tried to re-assert their hegemony, they faced stiff resistance movement. Some of these tussles transformed into Cold War conflicts as well as in case of Korea, Vietnam etc when US came in support of imperialist powers. In some other authoritarian rulers came as in case of Cambodia where radical communists formed government known as **Khmer Rouge** headed by Pol Pot which went on barbarous spree against its own people in an attempt to establish primitive communism and more than 20 lakh Cambodians were killed. It was finally ended by Vietnamese intervention in 1979.

In Arab, Arab League was formed post WW-2 which helped in uniting Arab population and spreading nationalism. In 1964, **Palestine Liberation Organization** (PLO) was formed with support of Arabs under leadership of Yasser Ali Arafat for Palestinian freedom. **Oslo Agreements** were signed in 1990s between PLO and Israel which raised hopes of creation of Palestine, but little progress was made further. **West Bank** was partially ruled by **Palestinian Authority** which was formed in 1994 by Arafat and Arafat headed it till his death in 2004 and leadership was transferred to Mahmoud Abbas. Israel has since grown deeper into West Bank and has increased its settlements and imposed a blockade on Gaza strip. Israeli occupation of Jerusalem is another contentious issue as it is considered a holy city by both Arabs and Jews. A new force in form of 'Hamas' came into being in Gaza Strip which is branded by Israel as a militant organization. Solution of Palestine problem is central to establishing peace in west Asia. Continuous injustice done to Muslims in Palestine is also used by terrorists as a legitimizing cause of their activities.

Imperialist powers weakened during war and many of them like France, Belgium and Holland came under German control as well. Growth of communism also blunted edge of imperialism post war. Their economies were shattered and they have to themselves depend on foreign aid for reconstruction in form of Marshall Plan and hence cannot continue to wage a protracted war in colonies. Their propaganda of 'superior civilization' was also busted by rival camps during war and hollowness of their ideals was exposed. Instead, ideals of self-determination, democracy, universal human rights were now more popular even within colonial powers also. French invasion of Vietnam and later British and French invasion of Egypt along with Israel were widely condemned even at home. Colonial powers extended other ideas like – prevention of genocides, ensure smooth transition, ethnic conflicts etc – to retain their rule, but didn't succeed. Scholars also hold the view that now the cost of maintaining colonies became too high and hence colonies were to be left. Further, there was solidarity among people of different nations for their mutual cause. For example – India actively supported African cause. New international organizations and forums were used to spread anti-imperial ideas.

Political development in the recently independent countries took different trajectories. Democratic transition was not often smooth, nor without reverses. India is one of the few countries which were able to preserve democratic institutions. In some countries like Afghanistan, Iraq etc fundamentalists have gained considerable hold. In others like Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, Egypt etc military junta has dominated at times. Some like Sri Lanka, Sudan and Congo are struggling amidst ethnic violence.

Post War Europe

Europe was divided into Western Europe and Eastern Europe with diverging ideologies and allegiance to USA and USSR. There was autocratic rule in some countries like – Portugal, Spain etc. Even in West European countries governments were formed with support of socialists in countries like France and Italy and such governments took important steps to minimize inequalities. Greece initially suffered a civil war and later came under military rule and became a democracy only in 1974. Development of West Germany was most spectacular and it outstripped all other European countries.

Another significant development was end of European hegemony in world politics. Some of the countries like France and Portugal made attempts to retain their colonies, but they failed.

However, at the same time, programs of European unification also began. First major step was establishment of European Economic Community in 1957 with 6 countries and they formed a common market. It, in 1993, transformed into European Union and most of the members of EU were also members of NATO also. Some of the members of EU also went for monetary integration and adopted Euro as a common currency. Other common institutions like European Parliament, European Court of Justice were also formed.



East European countries were often termed as 'satellites' of Soviet Union and they developed their economies on Soviet lines. Many of the evils like gross inequalities, rule of landlords and old ruling class

were avoided. These countries didn't receive aid under Marshall Plan of US for European Reconstruction and had to rely on Soviet aid which was not as significant as American aid. Further, their economies were linked with Soviet economies and hence, developed similar weaknesses. Agriculture remained particularly backward, but industrial growth was not much less than West European countries. In most of these countries communist governments came to end between 1989 and 1991.

Another major development was **breakup of Yugoslavia**. Yugoslavia emerged as independent after WW-1 itself, fought against Nazi aggression bravely during WW-2 and became a federation of 6 republics after the WW-2. It was a communist country, but rejected Soviet hegemony and was one of the founder members of NAM under rule of Tito. After collapse of USSR, republics of Yugoslavia also demanded independence which was also backed by USA and other Western powers. By 1992, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia and Macedonia declared their independence. Remaining two republics viz – Serbia and Montenegro formed new Yugoslavia state. However, this division couldn't stop the tensions which emerged due to ethnic diversity and antagonism in these countries. Declaration of Bosnia-Herzegovina was followed by large violent incidents in which thousands of people of different ethnic backgrounds like – Serbs, Croats, Muslims etc died who lived there in a multi-ethnic society. Serbs in Bosnia control a large area supported by Serbia and there is an ongoing conflict between Serbs and Muslims and it is often termed as an ethnic cleansing exercise. US led NATO troops even conducted horrible raids in Serbia and in 2006, Montenegro separated from Serbia and Yugoslavia ceased to exist. Another conflicting zone was Kosovo which is a region in Serbia having ethnic Albanian population and was in conflict with Serbs. It declared independent in 2008 and US recognized it instantly while many other countries including India, Russia and China have not.

Post War China

Communist Part emerged victorious in civil war in 1949 and People's Republic of China was formed. It embarked on a radical social reform agenda and carried out land reforms and established industries. It took help of Soviet Union and also signed an agreement with India in 1954 called **Panchsheel** for mutual peaceful co-existence. Indian also recognized Tibet as its part as a part of it. In 1954, after death of Stalin, communist China parted ways with Soviet as difference were created over what shape communism should take. This split led to split in many communist parties world over as well. Chinese stance on Tibet also changed and it ended in Indo-China war of 1962. In the meanwhile, China took tremendous steps for economic growth and this phase under leadership of Mao Zedong is known as **Great Leap Forward**. The period of 1966-69 is called period of **Cultural Revolution** in China. It saw great political turmoil in China on the name of continuing the revolution. Thousands of people were disgraced and removed from their jobs by the mobs of students and Red Guards. Centers of higher education were closed down and restrictions were imposed on cultural activities. All this led to significant disruption of economic life of China. China was admitted to UN in 1970s and her relations with USA also improved.

After Mao's death in 1976, Deng Xiaoping became the most important leader and he took radical steps for economic and social reforms and during this time damage done by Cultural Revolution was undone. Relations with Soviet Union also normalized and with India also to some extent. It was this time when China was projected on a high growth trajectory and both private and foreign investment were

promoted and a new socialism – departure from earlier one – emerged viz ‘**market socialism**’. Another significant feature was **limited civil liberties of the people and urban-rural disparities**. People have little say regarding new industrial development and consequent displacements. **Hong Kong, which had become a part of Britain in 1842 after First opium War, was also now transferred to China**, but it retained **considerable autonomy and its economic structure also remained largely capitalistic**.

Despite so many changes, China failed to build democratic polity and Communist Party remains single controlling body. Several protests have been made in the past, most notable being **Tiananmen Square** protest of 1989 by the students demanding more democratic rights in what is termed as **Democratic Movement**. It was brutally suppressed by People’s Liberation Army which resorted to indiscriminate firing in which several thousands were killed.

Post War Soviet Union and Disintegration of USSR

Soviet Union won admiration of anti-fascist elements during WW-2. It made **significant development on the front of military, industry and technology, but standard of living of people remained low as consumer goods industry was not promoted. In heavy industry also, major developments were made in space and defense and many other areas were neglected**. Economy was a command economy with centralizing tendency. **Excessive defense and space expenditure weaken Soviet economy** fundamentally as little funds were

available for other sectors and social welfare. At **political front also, Stalin ruled like a dictator and Communist Party was single political party till 1991**. During his time dissenters were sent into forced labor camps called ‘**Gulags**’ and prisons. In the mad race with the US, USSR spent it most of energy in Weapons and other non-socialist activities and the state soon become hollow from inside. The

DISINTEGRATION OF USSR

- 1985 March: Mikhail Gorbachev elected as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; appoints Boris Yeltsin as the head of the Communist Party in Moscow; initiates a series of reforms in the Soviet Union
- 1988: Independence movement begins in Lithuania; later spreads to Estonia and Latvia
- 1989 October: Soviet Union declares that the Warsaw Pact members are free to decide their own futures; Berlin Wall falls in November
- 1990 February: Gorbachev strips the Soviet Communist Party of its 72-year-long monopoly on power by calling on the Soviet parliament (Duma) to permit multiparty politics
- 1990 March: Lithuania becomes the first of the 15 Soviet republics to declare its independence
- 1990 June: Russian parliament declares its independence from the Soviet Union
- 1991 June: Yeltsin, no longer in the Communist Party, becomes the President of Russia
- 1991 August: The Communist Party hardliners stage an abortive coup against Gorbachev
- 1991 September: Three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania become UN members (later join NATO in March 2004)
- 1991 December 25: Gorbachev resigns as the President of the Soviet Union; the

bureaucracy soon spread its tentacles and the common man felt the pinch in every republic. After years of being told that the Soviet system was better than Western capitalism, the reality of its backwardness came as a political and psychological shock to the people. The 70 years old Communist Party became

unresponsive and often showed apathy that hurt the people. In other East European countries also similar tactics were used which gradually led to rise in unpopularity of the communist governments. Yugoslavia was expelled from the world communist movement in 1948 for her refusal to accept Soviet control.

Repression ended only on death of Stalin in 1953 and Nikita Khrushchev became president. Nikita gave concept of peaceful co-existence and many disarmament measures were taken during 1950s. Soviet Union even supported NAM in many cases and liberation of many countries was supported. In this period, policy of peaceful co-existence even created rift in the communist movement as Mao Zedong led China still believed in inevitability of war and revolution against bourgeoisie. Despite his espousal of peaceful coexistence, it continued to interfere in East European countries – most notably in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

A truly democratic government was formed only after Mikhail Gorbachev became Russian president in 1985. Gorbachev made an attempt at redemption by declaring his intent to revive Soviet Union economy and political system as he advocated – **Glasnost** and **Perestroika** – i.e. transparency or openness and restructuring. Glasnost involved openness in government working, openness in political discourse, removal of civic disabilities and so on. Non-communist parties were also allowed to enter politics. Perestroika aimed at re-structuring the economy, but little was achieved. Failure on economic front also led to strengthening of demands of autonomy by republics.

USSR was a union of Soviet Republics. One of the major issues with the Soviet Union was dominance of center and Russia in this union. The communist ideals could not be fully realized and it paved way for dissatisfaction. Corruption, high centralization and high handed attitude further alienated republics. This bid at liberalization led to emergence of pent up frustrations and ethnic disputes emerged. Fall of many other socialist states around the globe at the same time also led to the rejection of single party authoritarian state.

Gorbachev's decision to normalise relations with the West and democratise and reform the Soviet Union had some other effects that neither he nor anyone else intended or anticipated. The people in the East European countries which were part of the Soviet bloc started to protest against their own governments and Soviet control. Unlike in the past, the Soviet Union, under Gorbachev, did not intervene when the disturbances occurred, and the communist regimes collapsed one after another.

In the meanwhile, Gorbachev further introduced greater political reforms. He introduced direct elections and ban on political parties was ended. Baltic republics (Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia) were the ones which were most vociferous and soon legislatures of many of the republics started passing legislations undermining the control of the central government and endorsing independence.

This unrest also alerted military and Communist Party which tried to do away with Gorbachev government in a failed coup as popular agitation was led by Boris Yelstin who was president of Russia. But the coup attempt heightened the fear in minds of people about the undoing of the reforms by a new government and as a result many of the republic started to declare unilateral independence. Russia and its close aides mooted on idea of dissolving the Soviet Union, but retaining the unity via a

loose alliance which later came to be known as **Commonwealth of Independent States**. However, soon Gorbachev resigned in December 1991 and with this ended Soviet Union and Cold war. Russia became heir of USSR and inherited permanent membership in Security Council and its nuclear arsenal. Break-up was sudden and unexpected. With this also came to end 'practically existing socialism' as an alternative to capitalism.

Post **USSR disintegration, authoritarian regimes came** up in many of the 15 republics. In Russia also environment of political instability prevailed for some time and mafia like Industrialists prevailed who became billionaires within short time period by plundering the natural wealth of Russia. **NATO expanded post disintegration and despite its promises and earlier treaties, missiles were stationed in Poland** and Czechoslovakia.

India and Cold War

India's policy was neither negative nor passive. As Nehru reminded the world, nonalignment was not a policy of 'fleeing away'. On the contrary, **India was in favor of actively intervening in world affairs to soften Cold War rivalries.**

The non-aligned countries were more than merely mediators during the Cold War. The challenge for most of the non-aligned countries — a majority of them were categorized as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) — was to be more developed economically and to lift their people out of poverty. Economic development was also vital for the independence of the new countries. Without sustained development, a country could not be truly free. It would remain dependent on the richer countries including the colonial powers from which political freedom had been achieved. The **idea of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) originated with this realization.**

India's policy of non-alignment was criticized on a number of counts. Here we may refer to **only two criticisms** —

First, India's non-alignment was said to be **'unprincipled'**. In the name of pursuing its national interest, India, it was said, **often refused to take a firm stand on crucial international issues.**

Second, it is suggested that India was inconsistent and took contradictory postures. Having criticized others for joining alliances, **India signed the Treaty of Friendship in August 1971 with the USSR for 20 years.** (In the wake of Pak War). This was regarded, particularly by outside observers, **as virtually joining the Soviet alliance system.**

Non-Aligned Movement

It emerged in background when some countries had already emerged independent and wanted to preserve their independence and promote others as well. It **emerged as an institution**, which promoted **an anti-colonial ideology**. It saw the **emerging bi-polar world and arms race as threat for independence of newly emerged nations as well as to larger** humanity. It also **recognized the unequal world order and wanted to make it more democratic.**

The movement was given a formal shape in 1961 when the **first conference was held in Belgrade,**

Yugoslavia, but its roots can be traced to Asian Relations Conference held in Delhi in March 1947. In wake of imperial threats and Cold War politics, several concerned leaders of newly independent countries including Nehru, Chou En Lai of China, Sukarno of Indonesia, Nasser of Egypt met in 1955 in Afro-Asian Bandung Conference, Indonesia which was attended by total 29 Afro-Asian leaders. It laid down many principles of non-alignment and proved to be a landmark in the history of NAM. It was biggest conference of countries of Asia and Africa representing half of the world population. After historic UN conference of 1960 in which 17 newly independent countries were made UN members, it was decided by NAM leaders to hold their first official conference in Belgrade and formalize NAM. This conference was attended by 25 nations as full members. It laid down principles of peaceful mutual coexistence, anti-racial, anti-imperialism and anti-Cold War. It also addressed letters to US and the USSR presidents to come together for negotiations.

Today it has around 120 members which are 60% of the members of UN and apart from UN it is the largest forum in the world and includes all countries of Africa. It remained in existence even after Cold War ended as the principles which it wanted to promote like – peaceful coexistence, anti-racial, equality, democracy, eradication of poverty and unjustness etc are still relevant in an unequal world where peace is still a far reality. In past, there had been rapid globalization and free market pose a threat of economic imperialism to developing nations. Terrorism is another emerging threat apart from growing American hegemony in a unipolar world.
