

Chapter Six

- 1. The Eastern Question, 1815-1878.**
- 2. The First World War, 1914-1918.**

1. The Eastern Question, 1815 – 1878.

This was the diplomatic problem posed in the 19th and 20th Centuries by the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, centering on the contest for control of former Ottoman territories. Any change (internal) in the Turkish domains caused tension among Europeans, each of whom feared that one of the others might take advantage of the political disarray to increase its own influence.

It can also be referred to as the problem of filling up the vacuum created by the gradual disappearance of the Turkish Empire from Europe. Or the 19th century expression referring to the problems raised by the threatened break - up and the decay of the Ottoman Empire

Between the 14th and 17th centuries, Turkey created a great Empire through conquest. At the peak of its power, it stretched from the boarders of Austria and Russia in the north through Asia Minor, Syria and North Africa (Maghreb) i.e. Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. In the Balkan peninsular it controlled Rumania, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and Albania. The ruler of this Empire thus played a major part in European politics. The H/quarters of the Empire were at Constantinople.

The Turkish Empire was composed of many races and religions but the known ones were Islam and Christianity. The Greeks believed in the Greek Orthodox Church while the Turks who ruled the Empire were Muslims and dictators and the regime was characterised by exploitation, oppression and militarism.

SIGNIFICANCE OF TURKEY'S GREAT CONQUEST

- (a) It meant that a number of nationalities or races had been subjected under one ruler, the Sultan of Turkey.
- (b) Since they had been subjected to the Ottoman rule by force and not by plebiscite, they would be a source of trouble especially when they began demanding for their national freedom and independence.
- (c) Its heterogeneous nature i.e. being made up of different people with different interests, customs, religions, races made it unlikely for the empire to last for long.
- (d) The lifespan and stability of such a heterogeneous Empire would only depend on effective rule and administrative control without which the empire would not survive.
- (e) The Empire controlled the economically viable areas e.g. Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Constantinople which were of great significance to the European powers e.g. Russia, Britain, Austria and France. This made it a very sensitive area and its fate a concern to European powers.

(f) The Empire was controlled effectively up to the 17th century after which it began to decline. Subject states broke away, others conquered by neighbours suffered weak leadership, competition.

(g) Such crumbling nature of the Empire gave way to nationalistic aspirations of the subject states which in turn drew the attention and interest of the western European powers.

The major issues of the Eastern Question included the

following: - (a) Greek War of Independence 1821 - 1832.

(b) Syrian Question - 1831 - 1841 (c) Crimean

War - 1854 - 1856

(d) Bulgarian Affair - 1875 - 1878

However, by the 18th century, Turkey had begun declining. This was due to the following factors:-

1. **Weak Administration:**

Turkey had built her power on fighting genius and its strength depended on the army. Turkish rulers did not have the same policy over all the territories they acquired. Some were peaceful while others troublesome hence requiring firm control, subject races would not take part in the running of the state which was a source of political discontent.

2. **Decentralisation of power.**

This led to inefficiency in that the Sultan was mainly interested in the tributes from territories which he claimed but left too much power in the hands of the governors e.g. Mohammed Ali of Egypt who built up Egypt to such an extent that it was more powerful than Turkey itself. These weaknesses encouraged other subject territories to rebel against the Sultan.

3. **The subject races had different ideologies and cultures.**

This, therefore, made it difficult to unite them e.g. Christians were discriminated against by the government and they catered for their own education and social services.

4. **Economic decay**

This hit the Empire due to corruption and extravagance resulting from lack of central control. Methods of tax collection and savings were poor and much of what was collected was "eaten" away. The subjects were overtaxed, a thing they resented yet Turkey could not maintain its military machinery with such a crumbling economy.

5. **Existence of powerful rivals.**

Note should be taken that each of these rivals was interested in the Balkan region i.e. France, Britain, Russia and Austria. All these wanted to extend their influence there or at least keep Turkey in control as a bulwark.

6. **Growth of nationalism.**

Emergence of the educated Elite who were opposed to the Turkish oppressive and conservative administration clamoured for their independence. The threatened decay and break up of the Empire became a subject of importance to European powers i.e.

(a) It was not clear who would take over Turkey a thing that would disturb the balance of power.

(b) The decaying Empire covered both a wide area geographically and strategically and which ever power took over the Balkan area would become a dictator thus putting other powers at ransom. Hence the rival interests in the Ottoman Empire were likely to affect her stability as was the case by the end of the 18th century.

7. **Harsh rule of the Turks.**

In the Balkans, there were many Christian races e.g. Serbs, Bulgarians, the Greeks and Rumanians. The Turkish rule was very oppressive and there was a large scale massacre of the Christians in the Balkans. The Christians were subjected to heavy taxes which resulted into torture, imprisonment, confiscation of property due to failure to pay taxes.

8. **Declining military strength of the Ottoman Empire.**

This was due to continuous wars in an attempt to suppress revolts, declining economy which did not support the army yet a huge Empire could only remain strong in the presence of a strong army.

It should be noted that at the end of the 18th century, the Ottoman Empire, though still enormous, began to decline. The efforts of the various subject nationalities in the Balkans to secure independence together with the ambitions and policies of states such as Austria, Russia and Britain in relation to the decaying Empire constituted the 19th century Eastern Question.

The Eastern Question was a term used by Diplomats at the Congress of Verona 1822 when the big powers were discussing the internal problems concerning the Ottoman Empire i.e. should it be maintained or broken up and if broken up who was to take over from the Turks and when, where and to what extent?

It became an International Question because of the following:-

1. **Britain:**

She wanted to preserve the powers of the sultan as a bulwark against a possible Russian intervention in the Mediterranean Sea, which would threaten British communication with India and the stability of her rule there. Britain therefore supported Austria in maintaining the integrity of Turkey.

Britain wanted to maintain the common monopoly over the Red Sea. She was not concerned with the misgovernment of Turkey rather the advantage of keeping Russia from capturing Constantinople, one of the most strategically important cities in the world.

2. Austria:

She was once the champion of Europe against the Turks and saw in Russia's claim a diplomatic danger than the danger the Ottoman power could pose. In order to avoid the dangers from Russia's expansionist policy, Austria advocated for the integrity of Turkey. Moreover, Austria like Turkey was made up of a conglomeration of races. If these Balkan subject races of Turkey got independence, it would set a bad example to the subject races of Austria which would lead to the disintegration of the Austrian Empire.

As a result, the question of Turkey and its integrity at the Congress of Vienna was one of Metternich's major aims in persuading France, Britain and Austria to maintain the integrity. But the Congress failed to guarantee Turkey's integrity due to the Sultan's refusal to ratify the treaty of Bucharest. This action seemed to endorse Russia's claim and to regard the Eastern Question as the domestic affair of Turkey in which Europe had no right to claim. On the other hand, Austria had strategic economic motives in the Balkan area especially on river Danube not to fall in the hostile hands of a hostile power like Russia.

Therefore, it was in the interest of Austria that Turkey should neither '**Catch fire**' nor simply '**fall down**'. She feared that revolts in Eastern Europe were bound to instigate rebellions like wildfire in the rest of Europe which were to threaten Austria. Hence under such circumstances Austria was bound to see that Turkey remained powerful in Eastern Europe.

3. France:

After 1815, France was anxious to regain her former glory and prestige which had been acquired during the revolution. It was this long standing hostility and desire for glory that forced the French rulers to take interest in the affairs of Eastern Europe.

Besides, she wanted Turkey intact as a safeguard for their commercial interests in the Mediterranean. France preferred integrity of the Ottoman Empire because she also had commercial interests and, therefore, if any other powers took control, she may interfere with that interest. She was interested in protecting the Holy places associated with the birth of Jesus. Russia too had similar interests. This resulted into a religious conflict which erupted into the Crimean War, 1854-1856.

4. Russia:

She had a strong desire to protect the Balkan people who were mostly Orthodox in religion and Slavonic in race. She considered / regarded Constantinople, the Headquarters of Orthodox faith. The treaty of the Kurchuck Kainadji of 1774 marked the establishment of Russia as a Black Sea power.

The treaty, therefore, formed the basis of Russia's claim to interfere in the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire.

Russia's desire had forced Alexander I, the Czar, to make a 'pact' with Napoleon I in 1807 at Tilsit which culminated into the Treaty of Bucharest. The treaty extended Russian frontiers to the Pruth and to the northern branch of the Danube. This extension made Russia's interest in the Orthodox subjects possible. This interest in the Orthodox subjects of Turkey, the Slavs, made her want to control the Dardanelles straits which were her only trade outlets to the Mediterranean Sea and the oceans beyond.

Russia wanted control over Constantinople, the common strategic city and Straits of the Bosphorous and Dardanelles thus interrupting British trade over the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, the above rivaling ambitions and divergency of policies of the major powers towards the decline of Turkey was what was termed the Eastern Question and made Turkey be referred to as '**The Sick man of Europe**'. This decline therefore can be regarded as one of the major events that influenced international relations in Europe up to World War I (1914 - 1918).

PHASES IN THE EASTERN QUESTION IN THE 19TH CENTURY

1. THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 1821-1832.

This war was part of the long period of accumulated problems and attempts to attain national independence. It constituted the first major phase of the Eastern Question. The Greeks were forced and became part of the Ottoman Empire under the Sultanate through conquest during the 14th century. They were put under a predominantly Muslim empire yet the Greeks were orthodox but now subjected to the harsh, exploitative, discriminative and unjust rule of the Ottoman Turks.

The mere fact that the Greeks were now under foreign rule meant that the freedom they had earlier enjoyed was no more. Note should be taken that the Greeks had enjoyed certain privileges under the Turkish administration i.e.

- (a) They were allowed complete education and religious freedom.
- (b) The Patriarch, head of the Greek Orthodox Church was accorded/awarded a recognised government position.
- (c) They were exempted from military services.
- (d) They were allowed to monopolise commerce and, therefore, became wealthy as sea Merchants.

But so long as they were under foreign rule, these privileges meant nothing to them. They remained unhappy thus the desire for greater freedom and independence was instilled in the Greeks, a situation that sparked off the Greek revolt of 1821-1832. They rose up in 1821 and formally recognised as an independent state in 1832. The Greek revolt was, therefore, a nationalistic movement against foreign rule of the Ottoman Turks with religion being used as a tool of resistance.

CAUSES OF THE GREEK REVOLT.

- 1- The rise / growth of Greek nationalism and strong desire for independence.**

It should be noted that the Turks who were an Asiatic race had, through conquest created a big empire (Turkish empire) between the 14th and 20th centuries thus the Greeks found themselves conquered and brought under their rule which was exploitative, discriminative and unjust hence denying the Greeks their freedom thus discontent which brought in a strong desire for independence thus the outbreak of the Greek war of independence.

2- Desire of the Greeks to restore their past glory, culture, custom, language and beliefs.

This was an inspiration to them. They were great people in terms of education, commerce and sports i.e. they began the Olympics and became great sportsmen. They remembered their heroism, language and culture (civilisation) of Ancient Greece all of which had deteriorated under the Turkish administration. The Greek Writers inspired them the more by reminding / emphasising the role of Ancient Greece in the world civilisation thus strengthening their desire for independence hence the Greek revolt of 1821-1832.

3- Rise / Emergence of a powerful middle class.

Though the Greeks were a subject race, they were allowed to monopolise commerce that led to accumulation of a lot of wealth which in turn gave rise to a powerful middle class. It was this class of wealthy educated men that provided ideas, financed the struggle and provided leadership of the revolt.

4- Influence of the exiled Greeks in Britain, France and Russia with their liberal ideologies.

They were appointed in key government positions i.e. the army and administration thus contributed to the Greek revolt. A good example was the appointment of Capodistrias as Russian foreign minister and Hypsilanti as an army officer. These officers made good use of their experience in politics and the army to later champion the Greek cause.

Another case in point was that the governors of Moldavia and Walachia were also Greeks who used their positions to aid the rebellion in Greece against the Ottoman Muslim Turks.

5- The influence of the Greek middle class i.e. Hypsilanti and Capodistrias.

These middle class members influenced the formation of a secret movement called the Hetairia Philike (***Society of Friends***) at Odessa to foster the growing Greek nationalism, mobilise the Greeks for a rebellion, drive out the Turks as well as their administration from Greece and establish their independence. Hypsilanti was actually the leader of Hetairia Philike and together with Capodistrias, gave the society a sense of direction (leadership) and also mobilised the Greeks for the rebellion thus the Greek war of independence of 1821-1832.

6. The encouragement by the European powers to the Greeks especially Russia.

Right from the time Empress Catherine (1792 -1796), the Russians had always encouraged movement in Greece against the Turkish rule in order to later on exploit the spoils of the Sick man. Russia promised to support the Greek nationalism and

nationalists like Hypsilanti and Capodistrias in founding the Society of Friends (Hetairia Philike) which movement began the Greek struggle. The employment of the Greek nationalists commenced a relationship between the Greeks and the Russians. It should be noted that Russia was the Headquarters of the Orthodox faith in Europe and the Greeks being Christians, she felt obliged to protect fellow Greek Orthodox Christians that had been subjected to persecution from the Muslim Turks.

Besides, she was aiming at gaining from the crumbling Ottoman Empire (political ambitions) thus Russia employed Hypsilanti (army officer) and Capodistrias (foreign minister) and later assisted them to found the Society of Friends (Hetairia Philike) which was instrumental in the outbreak of the Greek revolt in 1821.

7- The rapid disintegration of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th Century.

This encouraged the Greeks to revolt. Note should be taken that, such a huge empire created by the Turks could only survive so long as she had a strong army (military), economy, leadership / political control. But by the second half of the 19th century, all these began to decline and the Greeks took advantage to rise up against the Ottoman Turks. Taking advantage of their mastery of the Sea (navy), the Greeks were encouraged to rise up and fight for their independence thus the Greek war of independence of 1821-1832.

8- Maladministration of the local governors including the Greeks who worked on behalf of the Turks.

The Greeks were subjected to oppressive Turkish rule, brutality, exploitation and discrimination. These Ottoman administrators were arrogant, ruthless and never wanted to associate with the Greeks whom they treated as an inferior and conquered race and referred to as non-believers, pagans (infidels) due to their christian belief. The Turks never absorbed them in their civilisation thus a permanent gap was created between the Greeks and the Turks. Meanwhile, the Greeks were becoming more united and determined to throw out their masters, the Turks hence the Greek revolt of 1821-1832.

9- Religious differences that existed between the Greeks and the Turks.

This contributed to the already set struggle in that the Greeks were Christians while the Turks were Muslims who were fanatics. They under looked the Christian Greeks, discriminated against them besides subjecting them to persecution. This may explain why the Morean revolt that followed the failure of the Hypsilanti-led rebellion in Moldavia and Walachia was led by a Bishop.

The hanging of the Greek Orthodox Church leader, the Patriarch on Easter Sunday in 1822 and other two Bishops turned the political issue into a religious struggle. This situation drew the attention of the other powers i.e. Russia, France and Britain that gave their support to the Greek cause and revolt of 1821-1832.

10- The growing forces of nationalism and liberalism throughout Europe.

The above inspired the Greeks to revolt. It should be noted that these two forces were sweeping the whole of Europe in the 19th century. The European masses that had been

oppressed, exploited, discriminated against were becoming conscious and determined to fight for their independence and democracy thus the Greeks could not be left behind since they were also subjected to harsh, exploitative, discriminative and unjust rule of the Muslim Turks hence the outbreak of the Greek revolt of 1821-1832.

11- The Greeks were also subjected to heavy taxation that brewed discontent among the masses.

They were to pay land, capitation and customs taxes which did not benefit them i.e. in terms of provision of services but 'eaten' by the corrupt Turkish officials who were oppressive to the Greek Peasants. Note should also be taken that failure to pay these taxes carried heavy penalties like imprisonment and death. Their desire for economic reforms i.e. in taxation, trade as well as education could not be granted thus this situation made the Greeks revolt hence the Greek war of independence of 1821-1832.

12- Political instabilities in the Ottoman Empire. i.e. the Morean crisis of 1821, the Serbian revolts of 1804-1813 and 1815-1817, Mehemet Ali of Egypt, Ali Pasha of Jenina. These not only weakened the Ottoman / Turkish administration and hold on the Empire but also inspired the Greeks to revolt. There was no longer tight control from Constantinople (Headquarters of the Turkish administration) and taking advantage of these instabilities, the Greeks rose up against the Muslim Turks thus the Greek revolt of 1821-1832.

13- Inspiration from the earlier French revolution of 1789 and the Napoleonic era as well as the Serbian revolt of 1804-1815 caused the Greek revolt.

The catch words of the French revolution of 1789 were liberty, equality and fraternity which were later promoted and spread to other parts of Europe by Napoleon. These revolutionary ideas / ideals were later used by the Greek Nationalists / Patriots i.e. Alex Hypsilanti and Capodistrias to mobilise the Greeks to fight for their freedom thus the Greek revolt of 1821-1832.

14- Weakness of the Congress System was an encouragement to the Greeks to revolt.

The Congress System / Concert of Europe had been put in place to maintain peace in Europe and also deal with revolts in different parts of Europe where they broke out i.e. in 1820, the Congressmen issued the Troppau Protocol (during the Congress of Troppau) unfortunately this was never applied. There emerged disagreements among the member states which could not allow them adopt a common ground / stand against the revolts that threatened peace in the region. Taking advantage of these disagreements, the Greeks began the struggle for their independence hence the Greek revolt of 1821-1832.

15- British support / liberal and economic interests.

Britain was liberal and therefore gave support to liberal movements in Europe. She had also talked of the right of the oppressed to fight for their independence / freedom and thus considered these revolts genuine and supported them.

Note should also be taken that Britain had interest in the region i.e. economic which she had to protect against other forces thus her involvement in the region. The Greeks, therefore, were inspired by the British support, rose up in 1821 and were formally recognised as an independent state in 1832.

METHODS USED TO ACHIEVE GREEK INDEPENDENCE

- 1. Revival of the past Greek cultural glory** which was used to awaken and keep alive the desire for independence. The Greek nationalist like Hypsilanti, Capodistrias as well as Writers like Regas, Byron relived the past glory of the Greeks as a superior race, centre of civilisation, knowledge which were no more during the rule of the Turks whom the Greeks considered inferior but had subjected them to harsh, exploitative, discriminative and unjust rule. This situation gave the Greeks a sense of unity against a common enemy thus desire for freedom and independence.
- 2. Development of a new mode of language** with a vocabulary which broke down the difference between the Greek dialects hence fostering unity. In addition, the new language was used as a medium of communication in the mobilisation and coordination of the Greek revolt.
- 3. Use of nationalistic and liberal revolutionary ideas of Western Europe** to instigate and mobilise the Greek nationals also to rise up for desired freedom. If the French could rise up and overthrow their oppressive rulers i.e. the Bourbons, the Greeks could do the same thus the ideas from Western Europe made them rise up against the Turks.
- 4. Revolutionary movements like the Society of Friends (Hetairia Philike)** founded by Hypsilanti in 1814, a secret movement used to arouse and spread the sense of national pride / revolutionary ideas among the Greeks preparing them for action against the oppressive Turks.
- 5. Use of force / military confrontation.** Hypsilanti used this against the Greeks whom he massacred. Though his revolt was crushed due to lack of proper coordination and support from a population that was not Greek in composition i.e. in Moldavia and Walachia.
- 6. Soliciting external support from the big powers** i.e. Britain, France and Russia. The Greek Nationalists i.e. Hypsilanti and Capodistrias who were employed / served in the Russian administration got support from Russia which enabled them to found the Society of Friends that was instrumental in the outbreak of the Greek revolt. France and Britain later joined Russia to declare / formally recognise the independence of the Greeks in 1832.
- 7. Mobilisation by religious leaders** e.g. the Morean revolt was initiated and organised by a Bishop. This was because of the persecution of the Orthodox Christians by the Muslim Turks thus religion was being used as a tool to resist the oppressors i.e. the Turks.

COURSE OF THE GREEK REVOLT.

The revolt of Hypsilanti was centred in the two northern provinces of Moldavia and Walachia which were also subjected to the harsh and oppressive rule of the Turkish government. Hypsilanti's aim was first to liberate the two provinces after which he would march to Greece. Secondly, he aimed at diverting the attention of the Turks to the two provinces of Moldavia and Walachia which would give the Greeks chance to declare their freedom / independence. He had been a Greek officer in the Russian army and when the revolt broke out, he asked for military assistance from Russia, the Czar was willing to assist but was prevented by Metternich of Austria who did not want a liberal movement to change the status quo.

In Moldavia and Walachia, Hypsilanti massacred many Turkish officials and nationals but he was defeated. The revolt stood no chances in a population that was not Greek in composition. Hypsilanti escaped to Austria where he was imprisoned for 7 years. Even after this revolt had been crushed, the Greeks did not despair.

Revolt in Morea

After the fall of Hypsilanti, another revolt occurred in Morea. It was organised by one of the Bishops and local agents of Hetairia Philike that led to mass killings of all the available Muslim Turks by the Greeks. The revolt spread all over the Peninsular and about 50,000 Muslims were killed. By September, 1821, the Greeks had liberated the mainland and since the Greeks had the mastery of the sea, the Ottoman Empire was deprived of the imperial navy.

On receiving the news, the Sultan of Turkey responded by massacring about 30000 Greeks in the city of Chios (what became known as the *Chios Massacre*).

In 1824, the Sultan of Turkey appealed to Mohammed Ali, the Viceroy of Egypt for military assistance against the Greeks due to their continued resistance and threat of Russian intervention. Ali had a strong fleet headed by his son, Ibrahim Pasha. He was promised Syria, Damascus and Crete. Having secured Navarino as his base, Ibrahim Pasha and the Turks ruthlessly wiped out almost the entire Greek population in Morea. The climax was the hanging of the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church and 20 (twenty) other Bishops in Constantinople and threw their bodies in the Bosphorous. This situation excited the Russians who saw this as a just cause for intervention.

Russia thought of military intervention on the side of the Greeks but Britain was opposed to this and persuaded the Czar Nicholas I not to do so. Canning's view was that if Russia was allowed to intervene on the side of Greece, she might "*gobble Greece at one mouthful and Turkey at the next*". So, on July, 6th 1827, the big powers agreed in the Treaty of London that,

- (a) Greece should be semi-independent under Turkish overlordship and was to continue paying tributes to Turkey.
- (b) The powers agreed to force Turkey to sue for peace. And that if Turkey refused an immediate armistice, force would be applied.

However, Austria and Prussia refused to sign and the sultan of Turkey declined to accept it as he was encouraged by the division among the powers. Austria objected to the treaty

because by giving selfgovernment to Greece was a step towards weakening the Turkish Empire.

THE BATTLE OF NAVARINO, 1827.

In 1827, a joint naval force of English, Russian and French Vessels was sent to blockade the Greek coast and to prevent Ibrahim Pasha from obtaining supplies from Egypt. In the course of this operation, Cordington fleet came into conflict with the Turko-Egyptian fleets in Navarino Bay and the Turko-Egyptian fleets were sunk. The battle of Navarino Bay forced Pasha to withdraw his troops from Morea. This battle was almost accidental but decisive. Though Greek independence was not yet won, it was no longer in doubt.

The Turkish Sultan, however, decided to revenge on the Greeks thus giving an opportunity to the Czar Nicholas I to intervene. In 1828, the Czar invaded Moldavia and Walachia and began to march towards Constantinople. As a result, the Turks were forced to sue for peace and signed the treaty of Adrianople-1829 by which:-

- (a) Greece was given independence under Turkish overlordship.
- (b) Moldavia and Walachia were given autonomy.

However, the treaty did not please the big powers i.e. Britain and Austria (Moldavia and Walachia were granted independence and Russia to acquire territory in Asia). The semi-independent status of Greece was seen as an excuse for later intervention in the Balkans by Russia. Both countries decided that Greece should get full independence.

Accordingly an agreement was signed, The treaty of London-1832, May, which gave complete sovereignty to the Greek Kingdom, with Prince Otto of Bavaria as king, under the guarantee of the great powers i.e. Britain, Russia and France. She was guaranteed a loan, monarch and was thus able to get rid of Russian influence.

The Greek War of Independence led to the break away of the first part of Turkey, the Sickman of Europe. It was also observed that the war threatened the peace of Europe. In relation to this, the British decision to intervene in the struggle of the Greeks in 1827 with the view of preventing Russian expansion had shown how the major powers like Britain were involved in the affairs of the Eastern Question.

EFFECTS OF THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE OF 1821-1832.

- 1- There was severe loss of lives i.e. about 50,000 Muslims were killed in Morea and thousands of Greek nationals were also killed by the Turks. Property was also destroyed i.e. warships, ports, farmlands, buildings thus disrupting economic activities for some time.
- 2- The revolt led to the Greeks gaining their independence in 1832 under Prince Otto of Bavaria under the guarantee of the great powers thus a new independent state of Greece was added on the map of Europe.
- 3- The Greek war of independence inspired the 1830 and 1848 revolutions i.e. it aroused nationalism in Europe. The success of the Greeks was a big triumph as far as liberalism and nationalism was concerned against the forces of the old order

(conservatism). Consequently, the French, Belgians and the Poles rose up in 1830 while in 1848, the Italians, Hungarians; Germans also rose up because they were inspired by the Greeks hence the impact of the Greek war of independence.

4- It speeded up the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire i.e. Serbia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Herzegovina, Montenegro and Egypt later attained their freedom / independence thus breaking away from the Turkish / Ottoman control.

5- It also unearthed the hidden interests of the European powers towards the Balkans in general i.e. Russian claims as guardians of the Orthodox Christians, British protection of her economic and strategic interests, France too had economic and strategic interests thus her intervention was to protect that. Austria and Prussia were opposed to the revolt and preferred non- intervention. Austria feared that it would trigger off nationalistic uprisings in the empire that was composed of 13 races brought under Austrian control by force, thus disintegration of her empire.

6- Led to the Russo-Turkish war of 1828-1829 (because the Sultan of Turkey decided to revenge on the Greeks thus giving Czar Nicholas I to intervene i.e. invasion of Moldavia and Walachia) and the treaty of Adrianople of 1829. It increased Russian influence in Georgia, Eastern Armenia and the north of Danube and the declaration of protectorate over Moldavia and Walachia.

7- The Greek war of independence led to the London treaty of 1832 which alienated Russia. The treaty gave complete sovereignty to the Greek kingdom with Prince Otto of Bavaria under the guarantee of the great powers i.e. Britain, France and Russia. She was guaranteed a loan, monarch and was thus able to get rid of Russian influence a situation that disappointed Russia.

It should also be noted that, this worsened the already bad relationship between Russia and the big powers leading to the Straits Convention of 1841 (that nullified the Unkiar Sekellesi treaty of 1833), the Crimean war of 1854-1856 and the summoning of the Berlin Congress of June- July 1878 (that renegotiated the San Stefano treaty of March, 1878).

8- It led to the collapse of the Congress System (Concert of Europe) and once again Europe became divided and this was a threat to European peace yet the Congress System was put in place to maintain peace and stability after a generation of war and chaos in Europe. Britain, Russia and France supported the revolt while Austria and Prussia opposed it yet all of them were a signatory to the Concert of Europe thus practically putting an end to the Congress System.

9- Note should be taken that the Greek war of independence led to the revival of European diplomacy. It threatened peace that was desired in Europe and there was therefore need for the powers to come together to address this problem thus the calling of the Congresses of Laibach in 1821, Verona of 1822 and the London Conference of 1832 that was proof of their concern about unity if they were to achieve lasting peace in Europe.

10- It undermined the conservative elements in Europe that were anti-liberal and anti-nationalistic i.e. Metternich. The Vienna Settlement of 1815 and the chief personality, Prince Clemens Metternich ignored the rising forces of nationalism and liberalism in

Europe i.e. the Greeks against the Turks. They undermined the strength of these forces thus the triumph of the Greeks showed the myopic nature of the Vienna statesmen in handling the issues that affected Europe hence the success of the Greek war of independence was a big blow to the conservative forces in Europe.

11- It led to France losing support of the great powers because of her support for Mehemet Ali of Egypt against the Sultan of Turkey which was a welcome move to the French glory seekers and liberals but not in the best interests of the other powers of Europe i.e. Britain. Louis Philippe seemed to have supported the wrong side hence Britain (Palmerstone) intervened; Louis Philippe withdrew from Egypt, Palmerstone called the London Conference to address the problem. France was excluded which was considered a diplomatic defeat that led to Louis Philippe's unpopularity and eventually his downfall by 1848.

12- The Greek war of independence gave birth to the Syrian Question (1831-1841) and the treaty of Unkiar Skellesi of 1833 and the consequent deterioration in European relations. The Sultan of Turkey had asked for assistance from Mehemet Ali of Egypt to fight and subdue the Greeks when the Greek revolt broke out in 1821. Unfortunately, the Sultan failed to fulfill his promise for reward (territorial) hence Ali forcefully occupied Syria, a situation that led to war with Turkey and the intervention of Russia on the side of Turkey, signing of the treaty of Unkiar Skellesi of 1833 which gave Russia a lot of say in the region thus soured Anglo-Russian relations. It was only resolved by signing the Straits Convention of 1841 which gave Mehemet Ali the hereditary ruler of Egypt.

13- The Greek war intensified religious conflicts between the Christians and Muslims especially after the success of the Christians i.e. 1875 and 1896. The Turks became more aggressive and brutal in dealing with its Christian subjects by killing many of them thus isolating Turkey and intervention of the big powers which favoured the Christian minority against the Turks.

2. THE SYRIAN QUESTION, 1831-1841

This constituted the second phase of the Eastern Question and was caused by the failure of the Sultan of Turkey to fulfill his promise to Mehemet Ali of Egypt who had to occupy Syria, a situation that called for the intervention of the great powers that could not provide solutions until the Straits Convention of 1841.

Mohammed Ali had been promised Crete, Damascus and Syria for his help to the Sultan against the Greeks. Having done his part, Mohammed Ali, in 1831, demanded that the promise be fulfilled but the Turkish Sultan refused because after all, the Turkish side had not fully won the war.

Mohammed Ali, therefore, decided to grab the territories for himself and in 1831, dispatched his son, Ibrahim Pasha to Syria and to advance into Asia Minor. Soon, Ibrahim defeated the Turkish army and threatened Constantinople itself by 1832 because the way was now open for the invader.

The Sultan appealed to Britain for help but she could not help because she was busy in the Belgian Question, thus the Sultan turned to Russia which accepted to help and in

February, 1832, a Russian Squadron entered the conflict on the side of Turkey. This checked Ibrahim's advance but he had got Syria, Damascus and Palestine.

In June 1833, Russia made her friendship permanent with Turkey in the Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi which gave Russia, in a secret provision, the right to cross the Dardanelles which would be denied other countries. In the treaty made for 8 years, Russia promised to come to the aid of Turkey whenever in danger. And that the Dardanelles would be closed if Russia went to war and this would provide defence for Russia on the side of the Black sea. Russian fleet had liberty to pass through the Dardanelles to the Mediterranean.

It should be noted that by this time, the Czar, Nicholas I, had given up the policy of conquest and partition of Turkey but was now in favour of penetration and control of the foreign policy of Turkey by Russia. Hence, the treaty was more than what the European powers could allow. This meant that she could carry out oppressive policy in the Mediterranean Sea and retire securely to the Black sea as the situation arose. This secret clause caused concern in Britain.

Meanwhile in April 1839, the Sultan of Turkey sent troops to Syria to recover his territory but the expedition was not successful because the Sultan's troops were overwhelmed by the Egyptian troops. The European powers, Britain, Russia now agreed to intervene and decided that Mohammed Ali should be left with the southern half of Syria and enjoy the title of Pasha of Egypt on hereditary basis. Mohammed Ali was to surrender northern Syria and Damascus to the Sultan of Turkey.

All the above arrangement was done through the London Convention of 1840 in which France was excluded. Mohammed Ali was not satisfied with the arrangement of the four great powers and on the backing of France (Thiers) refused to agree to the loss of half of Syria. The great powers, therefore, decided to send a force to Syria to clear out Ibrahim and Britain stationed a fleet at Alexandria, to force Ali into submission. France under Louis Philippe feared confrontation with Britain and let Mohammed Ali down in 1841.

(a) So in 1841, the big powers met and signed the Straits Convention by which Syria had been completely restored to the sultan and Mohammed Ali was confirmed in his position as Pasha of Egypt.

(b) Turkey was to close the Dardanelles as well as the Bosphorous to all warships of all nations including Russia but to be free to all merchant ships thus rendering the Unkiar Skelessi Treaty ineffective.

It should be noted that the Syrian Question had ended as a great triumph for Britain. The threats and dangers of Russian expansion and intervention created by the treaty of 1833 had thus been removed by the Convention of 1841.

In the final analysis Egypt had achieved her independence and she had been the second to break away from Turkey thus another incidence to illustrate the decline of Turkey in the 19th century and how the development attracted the attention of the big powers

3. THE CRIMEAN WAR, 1854 -1856

Background

Since 1829, Russia wanted to maintain the integrity of Turkey but after 1841, Nicholas I, the Czar reverted to the desire of expelling the Turks from Europe i.e. (1844 and 1853).

During the 1848-1849 revolutions, the Eastern Question had rested until 1850 when it resurfaced. In 1850, France reclaimed the right to protect the existing Catholics in Turkey and the guardianship of the Holy places in Palestine, according to the 1740 treaty.

This French concern was a big blow to the Russian treaty of Kurchuk Kanardji of 1774 which gave Russia that right. Moreover during the revolutionary period France had neglected the holy places and it was the Russians who looked after the holy places i.e. renovated the shrines.

Russia protested and in 1853, June, occupied Moldavia and Walachia to make the Sultan withdraw the concession of protectorship to France. Other powers protested i.e. Britain and France mobilised their troops on the Serbian border. Turkey, backed by France, refused the ultimatum and demanded that Russia withdraw from the two principalities. When Russia refused, the Sultan of Turkey declared war in October.

To prepare for any eventualities, France and Britain ordered their warships up the Dardanelles thus breaking the ***Straits Convention of 1841*** and by November, 1853, the British and French forces were concentrated off Constantinople. Nicholas I, thinking that the two powers would soon sail with the main Turkish fleet up the Bosphorous to the Black Sea, ordered the sinking of the Turkish Squadron on the Black Sea at Sinope. This action was seen as an unjustified massacre and a war feeling ran high in France and Britain. The stage had thus been set for the Crimean War.

Causes of the Crimean War

1. British concern and fears over possible Russian expansion to the Mediterranean Sea and the Far East through Turkey. She therefore, had the desire to maintain the integrity of Turkey so as to check this Russian advance towards the Mediterranean Sea which was of vital interest against reactionary government.
2. Russia's desire to expand her influence into the Balkans to protect fellow Slavs and Orthodox Christians, refusal to accept French control over the Holy places which culminated into the desire to break-up Turkey. This is evidenced by her effort to exclude other nations (powers) as per the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi with Turkey (1833) or the Russian Empire e.g. 1844 and 1853, Czar Nicholas I suggested partition of Turkey among the great powers.
3. France's desire to please the Catholics by claiming the guardianship over the Holy places as guaranteed in the 1740 treaty.
4. Napoleon III's discontent over the failure of the Czar Nicholas I to call him " ***Dear Brother,***" in a manner common among sovereigns but kept referring to him as " ***My Friend***", so Napoleon III felt the Czar should be taught a lesson.

5. Napoleon III's desire to avenge the humiliation of his uncle in the Moscow Campaign of 1811-1812.
6. The instigation of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, the British ambassador to Turkey. He distrusted the Russians and accordingly advised the Sultan of Turkey to refuse a general Russian protectorate over the Christians in the Balkans.
7. The anti Russian hysteria in Britain and France.
8. The misgovernment of Turkey had led to the rise of nationalism among subject states.

Thus an opening for imperialistic ambitions by Western powers and the rivalry there led to a clash.

COURSE OF THE CRIMEAN WAR.

Following Russia's refusal to withdraw from Moldavia and Wallachia and to recall her ships out of the Black Sea to their naval base at Sebastopol, Britain and France declared war on Russia in March, 1854. Russian troops were driven from Moldavia and Wallachia by Turkish troops and demands from Austria and Russia in August 1854. The French and the British then decided to destroy the Russian base at Sebastopol, so in September, 1854, they landed an expeditionary force in the Crimean Peninsular. Elsewhere, they conducted naval operations in the Baltic as Russia and Turkey clashed in the Caucasus Sea.

The destruction of Sebastopol took much longer than anticipated and the war went on for 2 (two) years, leading to great loss of lives on Russia's side as well as the side of the allies. Sebastopol was captured in September, 1855, after the allies were reinforced by Piedmont.

Palmerstone had wanted to continue to Russian territory where Nicholas I had died but this would mean liberating Poland and other subject nationalities which would create more problems. Nicholas I was succeeded by the Liberal Czar, Alexander II, who had no personal enmity towards the French Emperor and was willing to concede most of the points at issue.

An Armistice was accordingly arranged between the powers - Britain, France, Turkey and Piedmont on one hand and Russia on the other thus ending the war. The hostilities were finally concluded with the signing of the treaty of Paris in March, 1856.

Terms of the Paris Treaty, 1856

- (a) Neutralisation of the Black Sea. Turkey and Russia were forbidden to have warships in the Black Sea.
- (b) Russia's demand for protection over the Balkan Christians was dismissed.
- (c) Moldavia and Wallachia were enlarged by Southern Bessarabia taken from Russia. They were given complete independence except that they were to acknowledge the Turkish overlordship. Serbia also got independence.

(d) The Sultan promised to treat all his subjects equally i.e. Christians as well as the Muslims.

EFFECTS OF THE CRIMEAN WAR.

1. The war did not end the Eastern Question.
2. The 1856 treaty of Paris did not last long. The Black Sea clauses were repudiated by Russia in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian war while France was busy fighting Prussia.
3. The Sultan failed to keep his promise of treating the Christians like the Muslims which resulted into another phase of the Eastern Question.
4. Russia gave up the province of Bessarabia which was annexed to Moldavia. The principalities of Moldavia, Wallachia and Serbia were granted a degree of independence, a step to the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire which they had to preserve.
5. The ambitions of France, Britain, Russia and Austria continued.
6. Massive killings and loss of property on both sides i.e. the allies and Russia i.e. Francee100, 000 soldiers, Russia - 300,000, Britain-60,000. These died either of starvation, winter, war, diseases, especially Typhoid, pneumonia and Cholera or poor hospital conditions e.g. at Scutari.
7. War destructions prompted the formation of an International group of volunteers to save life, hence formation of the Red Cross Organisation with the aim of rescuing war casualties in 1856 in Geneva.
8. Resulted into signing of the 1856 Paris Treaty which among other issues liquidated / reduced Russian influence in the Balkans. Her military bases in the Black Sea were destroyed and declared the Straits of Dardanelles closed to any warships in times of peace.
9. The war effects on Russia prompted for reforms. Having been defeated, the Czar's government lost public confidence in Russia. This was worsened by the deteriorating, social and economic conditions of the masses.

There developed a revolutionary threat which compelled the Czar to take immediate reforms both as a means to recover public confidence and avert the revolutions. Industrial reforms were also effected after realising that Russia's defeat was due to political and military weakness i.e outdated equipment against the modern telescopic equipment of the enemy.

10. The war and the Paris treaty stimulated the stronger rise of nationalism mainly due to the following:-

(a)· By granting self-government to some states i.e. Serbia, Moldavia, Wallachia, others became encouraged to rise up for self-government as well, an excuse for Russian intervention to protect the Christian Slavs.

(b) Restricting both Austria and Russia for claiming any position in the Ottoman Empire.

11. It was a final deathblow to the Congress system in Europe. An occasion when two Holy Alliance Congress powers of 1815 (Britain and France) fought against another Holy Alliance member, Russia.

12. Napoleon III gained personal prestige in France after the war. It had ended in victory for Britain, France and Turkey, an indication that the objective was achieved. Napoleon III even influenced the other Statesmen to have the peace conference in Paris under his chairmanship. For sometime, it won him military glory as well as for France and strengthened his position at home.

13. As Austria insisted on her right to control Bosnia- Herzegovina as part of her Empire against Russia's Pan-Slavism. It prepared events leading to World War I (1914-1918) **(Also refer to revision questions 3 and 4).**

4. THE BULGARIAN AFFAIR, 1875-1878.

After the Crimean war, Moldavia and Wallachia, with the aim of creating a buffer zone between Turkey and Russia, were enlarged by including Bessarabia from Russia and given self rule but paid tribute to Turkey. They had always shown strong national spirit and taken pride in their descent from Old Rome colony of Dacia.

In 1861, Moldavia and Wallachia were joined by Prince Alexander I and formed into a new state of Rumania. It was not until 1866 that Rumania was recognised as a sovereign state with Prince Charles (a Hohenzollern) as king, with the blessing of Turkey which retained nominal overlordship but the ties between the German states and Rumania increased giving Germany a useful ally on the Danube.

Montenegro and Serbia which had been initially independent made moves for closer cooperation against Turkey and as Turkey faced problems; they took chances to increase their territory.

By 1870, of all the main Balkan people, only Bulgaria was still under strict Turkish rule.

In July 1875, Bosnia and Herzegovina inhabited largely by the Serbs but not yet united to Serbia rose up against their Turkish masters because of the following:- (a) Exclusive free government employment.

(b) Heavy taxation by the Turks who took two thirds (2/3) of the peasants' crops. The revolt was soon joined by Serbia and Montenegro to help fellow Serbs by declaring war on Turkey.

(c) The unfavourable treatment of the Christians.

In 1876, Serbia and Montenegro joined in a revolt against Turkey to help their fellow Serbs. This development encouraged a small section of Bulgaria to revolt simultaneously. The Turks replied by the Bulgarian massacres in which some 5000 men, women and children were driven into local churches then burnt alive as well as mass slaughters in their march northwards against the Serbs. The news of the massacres shocked the whole world.

Russia was on the brink of intervention on behalf of the Serbs but the British Prime Minister; Disraeli suggested a conference at Constantinople in December, 1876. The great powers, Britain, Russia, Germany and Austria - Hungary agreed to send a joint note, **Andrassy Note** in which they condemned Turkish rule within the Balkans demanding that the Sultan should:- (a) Treat all his subjects equally.

(b) Restore Serbian territory already captured.

(c) Grant Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina independence

The Sultan tried to fail these moves by proposing a constitution for all subjects but the powers insisted that the Sultan make some guarantees and disarm. But in March, 1877, Turkey rejected the demands.

Russia then declared war on Turkey in 1877 (Russo - Turkish War - 1877 - 1878) and was supported by Rumania, Montenegro, Serbia and Bulgarian peasants. The Turkish forces after holding out at Plevna for several months withdrew and the Russians advanced as far as Adrianople and threatened Constantinople by January, 1878. Britain decided to intervene backed by Austria-Hungary.

In March, 1878, the **treaty of San Stefano** was signed between Russia and Turkey with the great powers as observers. According to the treaty:-

(a) Serbia, Montenegro and Rumania be enlarged and made independent.

(b) Russia to get territory in Asia Minor and recover Bessarabia from Rumania at the mouth of the Danube and the latter was to get in return, a strip of Turkish territory; Russia was to get a large war indemnity, or Kars, Batum and Dobruja if it failed to pay the indemnity.

(c) Bosnia and Herzegovina were to be given home rule.

(d) Bulgaria was to be enlarged by acquiring Macedonia and Eastern Rumelia and other territories including large sections of the Greek, Serbian and Bulgarian populations bounded by Danube, the Black sea, the Aegean Sea and Albania.

(e) Big Bulgaria to be self - governing but be advised in its first two years of self rule by Russia.

(f) The straits of the Bosphorous and Dardanelles were to be open at all times to peaceful commerce (g) Turkish forts along the Danube were to be destroyed.

But the creation of the big Bulgaria caused concern to Britain which once again forced her to intervene together with Austria-Hungary in a secret treaty with Russia; Austria had agreed to get Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Faced with this combination i.e. Russia being threatened with war from Britain, gave in to the proposed revision of the treaty of San Stefano in the Congress of Berlin. It was a continental diplomatic meeting of European powers to settle the Eastern Question and avoid war. It was attended by Russia, Britain, France, Turkey, Italy and Germany (Host) under presidency of Otto Von Bismarck who promised to act as an Honest Broker.

Austria's excuse for intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the misgovernment there by the Turkish rulers.

THE BERLIN CONGRESS OF JUNE-JULY 1878.

It was called by Disraeli and hosted by Bismarck. It was attended by Britain, France, Russia, Austria, Turkey and Italy. It was called due to the following reasons:

- a- To revise / renegotiate the treaty of San Stefano i.e. to dismantle the Big Bulgaria created by the Russia.
- b- To check the threat of Russian imperialism and this would make her dominant power in the Balkan peninsular. c- To settle territorial disputes which were forming cause for a general war tension among the powers.
- d- Britain and Austria wanted to preserve and protect the crumbling Turkish Empire. Britain wanted to prevent Russia from entering the Black Sea while Austria wanted to prevent the danger of Slav nationalism that would break up the Empire.
- e- To ensure reforms and administration of justice for the Christian minority under the Turkish Sultan which they viewed as a cause of unrest in the Balkans.
- f- Bismarck aimed at averting war that was likely to be declared by Britain and Austria, the effect of which would hinder the prosperity of his newly created Empire. Friendship had existed between Russia and Germany in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian War.

TERMS OF THE CONGRESS OF BERLIN, JUNE-JULY, 1878.

1. Territorial readjustment was done and the Big Bulgaria (created by the treaty of **San Stefano**) was dismantled. It was divided into three: a- Northern parts i.e. Bulgaria proper, extending from the Danube to the Balkans.
b- Eastern Rumelia (semi-independent) was placed under a Christian governor-general but under Turkish control c- Southern part of Macedonia and the Southern Coast were restored to Turkey.
- 2- Russian imperialism in the Balkan was seriously affected though the ambitions were not destroyed.
- 3- Britain took control of the Island of Cyprus as a base for monitoring Russian imperialism and protect her economic interest.
- 4- France was encouraged to take Tunisia in North Africa as compensation. Italy got nothing in addition to being forced out of Tunisia.
- 5- The Turkish Sultan was made to promise better treatment to the subject races and the Christian minority.

6- Austria was given administrative control of Bosnia and Herzegovina yet she played no active part against Turkey. This severed (cut) Serbia from Montenegro, a cause for later conflict.

7- Serbia, Montenegro and Rumelia were declared independent states.

EFFECTS / SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BERLIN CONGRESS OF 1878 ON EUROPE.

The Congress was organised and chaired by Bismarck in Berlin from June to July 1878. It was attended by Britain, Germany, Russia, France, Turkey, Austria and Italy.

1. The Congress checked Russian imperialism in the Balkans by reviewing the treaty of San –Stefano of March, 1878 that had created the Big Bulgaria. The March treaty was a big challenge to the influence of both Britain and Austria in the Balkans and these two powers were about to resort to force so as to dismantle the Big Bulgaria. Thus the Berlin Congress dismantled the Big Bulgaria which was to be under Russia.

2. Due to the Berlin Congress of 1878, there occurred some territorial re-adjustments i.e. Britain and Austria acquired additional territories. Britain got Cyprus Islands while Austria received Bosnia and Herzegovina; Russia retained Bessarabia while Turkey regained Macedonia. France was encouraged to acquire Tunisia which strained relations between France and Italy.

3. The Congress of Berlin of 1878 led to Bismarck dominating European politics until 1890 when he resigned. He hosted and chaired the Congress thus increasing the supremacy of Germany and his own importance in European politics thus a source of prestige to Germany.

4. Peace was maintained for a period of about 30 years. This was because the issues that were likely to cause war were addressed by the Congress though later Europe had to experience conflicts.

5. The Congress was a big achievement for Germany in that Berlin became the prominent diplomatic centre of Europe i.e. hosted the Berlin West Africa Conference of 1884/1885.

6. Germany was able to move closer to the Balkan region and this increased her ambitions in the region a situation that led to German aggression later and her involvement in the conflict between Serbia and Austria.

7. The Congress also suffocated Balkan nationalism i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina were brought under Austria. This later led to the rise of nationalism in the Balkan region i.e. the assassination of the Austrian Archduke, Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie that sparked off World War I.

8. Russian imperialism in the Balkan was not completely destroyed but continued. She remained unhappy with the settlement and regarded Germany as a 'dishonest friend.'

9. The Congress of Berlin of 1878 led to loss of territories by the Balkan States i.e. Rumania lost Bessarabia to Russia, Serbia lost Bosnia- Herzegovina to Austria,

Macedonia lost an outlet to the sea and Bulgaria lost territories when her frontiers were reduced.

10. The Ottoman Empire was humiliated i.e. her territories were lost and was also forced to agree to internal reforms and guarantee the safety of her Christian subjects.

11. The Berlin Congress failed to create lasting peace in Europe in that tension continued in Europe despite the terms of the Congress being geared towards lasting peace. The tension that continued to build up led the world catastrophe of 1914-1918.

REVISION QUESTIONS

1. **“The policy of the Tsar Nicholas I towards Turkey was primarily responsible for the outbreak of the Crimean War.” Discuss.**

2. **Account for the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854-1856.**

Approach

- Identify and analyse the factors that caused the Crimean War.
- No stand point is required.

3. **‘The Czar Nicholas I of Russia was responsible for the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854-1856.’ Discuss.**

Approach

- Analyse the role of the Czar Nicholas I and show how he caused the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854-1856.
- Roles of other factors /personalities should also be analysed.
- A clear stand point should be taken.

Points to consider.

The Crimean War broke out in the Crimean peninsula in 1854 and lasted till 1856 and it culminated into the treaty of Paris of 1856. It was fought between Britain, France and Turkey that were later joined by Piedmont on one side and Russia on the other.

- It was a war that was fought on neither clear principles nor objectives, a wasteful and useless war that led to untold suffering in Europe.
- **Role of the Czar, Nicholas I.**
- He was the ruler of Russia from 1825 to 1855. He precipitated Russian expansionist policy towards the Balkan region that angered Britain and France that had wanted preservation of the integrity of Turkey but the Czar preferred disintegration of the Turkish Empire.
- In 1844 and 1853, Nicholas I suggested partition of the Ottoman Empire between Britain and Russia because he had exaggerated the weakness of Turkey as an excuse to

get access into the Balkan region to plant her influence there something Britain and France could not allow hence his role in the outbreak of the Crimean War.

- The Czar's desire to protect the Orthodox Christians from Turkish persecution led to conflict with France over the protectorship of the holy places in Palestine.
- The failure of the Czar Nicholas I to recognise French control of the holy places led to conflict.
- The Czar Nicholas I's economic interest in the Balkan region and the Mediterranean sea conflicted with the commercial interests of Britain thus a threat to Britain's interest that had to be counteracted hence the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854-1856.
- The Czar's undiplomatic attack on the British ambassador to Constantinople created conflict with Britain.
- The Czar had earlier rejected the British ambassador to St. Petersburg; Lord Stratford de Redcliffe thus a personal attack between the two caused the Crimean War of 1854-1856.
- The Czar's invasion of Moldavia and Walachia as way of forcing the Sultan of Turkey to withdraw the concession he had granted to France caused the outbreak of the Crimean War.
- The Czar's sinking of the Turkish fleet at Sinope (the Sinope Massacre) drew the attention of the big powers that later on declared war on Russia hence the outbreak of the Crimean War thus the role of the Czar in the outbreak of the war.
- The Czar's refusal to recognise the French leadership of Napoleon III. It was customary among the Monarchs of Europe to refer to each other as *dear brother* but the Czar kept referring to Napoleon III as *my friend* which meant that he was not one of them thus a cause of the Crimean war.
- However, other personalities also caused the outbreak of the Crimean war i.e.
- **Napoleon III.**
- He was the King of France from 1848 -1871 when he lost the throne in France.
- His desire to maintain the integrity of Turkey against Russian imperialism which would have interfered with the French interest in the region.
- He exploited the Turkish conflict to fulfil his hidden motive i.e. revenge on the defeat of his uncle, Napoleon I in the Moscow Campaign of 1811-1812.
- His desire for recognition by the Czar, Nicholas I as brother king but the Czar kept referring to him as *'my friend'* thus the Czar had to be disciplined hence the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854-1856.
- Napoleon wanted to win military glory in alliance with Britain against Russia thus this made him get involved in the Crimean War therefore his responsibility.

- He also pursued an aggressive policy towards Turkey to win the Catholic support at home that he had lost. His desire was to please the Church by upholding Catholic rights in the Holy land, a desire to please the liberals by confronting a power notoriously autocratic thus his involvement in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire thus his role in the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854-1856.

- Turkish Sultan, Mahmud II.

- His policy towards the Orthodox Christians as well as other nationalities like Serbs, Slavs that were persecuted by the Sultan which attracted the attention of the big powers hence their involvement in the affairs of Turkey thus his role in the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854-1856.

- The Sultan's inconsistency over the rights of protectorship of the holy places in spite of the treaty of 1740 that had granted the rights to France as a way of rewarding her for her effort to keep the Russian threat at bay.

- In 1774, the Sultan of Turkey then, signed the treaty of Kuchuk Kanakli which gave Russia the rights over the holy places but later the same rights were also granted to France which caused conflict that brought about the outbreak of the Crimean war of 1854-1856.

- The failure of the Sultan to maintain a strong government led to unrests i.e. no reforms, mistreatment of the subject races, corruption, embezzlement gave room to the outside forces / powers to interfere in the affairs of Turkey hence the Crimean war of 1854-1856.

- The Sultan's weak and inconsistent policy (foreign) i.e. in 1833, he signed the Unkjar Skelessi treaty with Russia that gave the latter exclusive accessibility to Turkey's affairs. In a promise of mutual aid, the Czar reserved the right to 'assist' the Sultan, when necessary, and there was a secret definition of how Turkey was to:

confine its action in favour of the imperial court of Russia to closing the Strait of the Dardanelles... to not allowing any foreign vessels of war to enter therein under any pretext whatsoever.

(Source:Success in European History 1815-1941 by Jack Watson, pg. 129)

Thus this inconsistency misled the Czar to think that other European powers would keep away from Turkish affairs hence the role of the Sultan in the outbreak of the Crimean war.

- Palmerstone

- He pursued the policy of maintaining the integrity of Turkey against Russia imperialistic tendencies hence he opposed the division / partition of Turkey as had been suggested by the Czar of Russia, Nicholas I.

- Palmerstone worked hard to nullify the treaty of Unkjar Skelessi of 1833 that had given Russia a lot of say in the affairs of Turkey. He did this through the ***Straits Convention of 1841*** (the London Convention of July 1841). In the Convention, the major powers expressed their:

unanimous determination to conform to the ancient rule of the Ottoman empire, according to which the passage of the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus is always to be closed to Foreign Ships of War, as long as the Porte [Turkish government] is at peace.

(Source: Success in European History, 1815-1941 by Jack Watson, page 130).

- Palmerstone was war-minded and aggressive and therefore failed to use the earlier diplomatic treaties intended to solve the Turkish conflict. He was determined to halt the Russian interest in the Turkish Empire which could only be done through fighting Russia.
- Palmerstone's support to ambassador Lord Stratford de Redcliffe who had been rejected as British ambassador to Russia caused conflict which brought about the Crimean war of 1854-1856.
- **Lord Stratford de Redcliffe**
- He was the British Ambassador to St.Petersburg but had been rejected by the Czar; Nicholas I which became a personal issue and this led to conflict that would later culminate into the Crimean War of 1854-1856.
- He advised the Sultan to open war on Russia after the Sinope massacres and this made the Turkish Sultan reject any proposal from the Russian Czar that led to the invasion of Moldavia and Walachia hence his role in the outbreak of the war of 1854-1856.
- His mastery of the British policy over the Balkans and his reckless diplomacy towards Turkey made him reject any negotiation that would have avoided war thus his role in the war. - **Take a clear stand point.**

4. 'The interests of the great powers were primarily responsible for the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854-1856.' Discuss.

Approach

- Analyse the degree to which the interests of the great powers caused the outbreak of the Crimean War.
- Other factors should also be analysed.
- A clear stand point should be taken.

Points to consider.

- The Crimean war was fought on the Crimean peninsular between Russia one side and Turkey, Britain, France and Piedmont on the other.
- The great powers included Britain, Russia, Austria and France as well as Turkey.

Interests of the great powers were as follows:-

* **Russia**

- Extension of Russian influence into the Balkans i.e. Expansionist Russian policy.
- Desire to protect the Holy places and Orthodox Christians.
- Russian economic interests in the region
- Desire to break up the Ottoman Empire
- Russia's desire to protect the Slavic race against Turkish imperialism.
- Occupation of Moldavia and Walachia.

*** Britain**

- Desire to protect British economic interest that had been championed by Ambassador Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.
- British interest to maintain the Ottoman Empire against Russian influence.
- British-Russo phobia i.e. fear of Russia.

*** France**

- French economic interest in the Ottoman region.
- Desire for French glory.
- Interest to protect the Holy places associated with the birth of Jesus and the Catholic Christians in the Ottoman Empire.

*** Turkey**

- Maintain her sovereignty and integrity
- Protect her economic interest against Russia
- Ruthless pursuance of the policy of religious persecution against the Christians - Maladministration within the Ottoman Empire.

Other factors

- Napoleon III's pursuit of personal ambitions i.e. desire for glory / enmity with Nicholas I as well as avenging the defeat of his uncle Napoleon I in the Moscow Campaign of 1811-1812.
- The aggressiveness of Napoleon III.
- Russia's false confidence
- i.e. sickness of the Ottoman Empire
- Other countries would not intervene on religious grounds.

- Austria would back her up.
- The anti-Russian attitude of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.
- The collapse of the Congress System and international diplomacy increased conflict
- The rise / emergence of ambitious leaders in Europe i.e. Nicholas I, Napoleon III, Palmerstone.
- The weakness of Turkey i.e. military and economic as well as her uncontrolled size, ineffective government / administration.
- **Stand point.**

2. The First World War, 1914 - 1918.

On the eve of the destructive war, Europe comprised nation states which came into existence due to the rising forces of nationalism i.e. Germany and Italy. Belgium had broken away from Holland; the Ottoman Empire had dissolved into its component national fragments - Greece, Serbia, Rumania and Bulgaria. No international organisation, the equivalent of the Vienna Settlement existed yet such could settle problems arising from conflicts of national interests.

There lacked a higher supreme national authority that could arbitrate among the nations in times of conflict. There were no major statesmen in Europe, the likes of Metternich and Bismarck. In such a situation, every nation competed for power and at times giving no respect for interests of others -

“Every nation for itself and God for us all.”

A state of anarchy set in, in Europe. The nation states, unchecked, especially in exercising sovereign power, except for self restraint, borne of wisdom or fear, were set on the road to disaster.

Tension had built up over a long period. Europe was already a “***Walking bomb***” as a result of rivaling interests. Conferences and negotiations could not be relied upon (if at all they were there) in solving international conflicts and rivalry. As **Strong** wrote,

“The forces of Political and Economic Nationalism of Capitalist Imperialism and of Militarism supported by Armament interests, were too firmly entrenched in the soil of the 20th Century Europe to be dispersed by Conference Resolutions. ”

It should be noted that by 1914, it appeared that all that the people (s) of the world could do was to sit on the edge of the Volcano until they were overwhelmed by an eruption. There’s already enough material for war and what remained was just a spark. This eruption (spark) began in the Balkans with the Sarajevo double murder in which Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie died.

CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

The destructive war / world catastrophe which broke out in 1914 and lasted for four years was the first of its kind to bring the industrialised countries of Europe face to face with each other. This clash of world nations was not due to one day’s act as the Sarajevo incident would suggest but a result of several factors (tension) which had mounted over long period. This situation can be explained by the following factors (both immediate and underlying):-

1. THE POISONOUS MEDICINE: THE ALLIANCE SYSTEM.

The Alliance system was started by Bismarck in his attempts to isolate France and make it difficult to wage a war of revenge and for the recovery of the two provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. Besides, it was to safeguard Germany, the new Empire and to preserve European peace. It was, therefore, an instrument of peace.

Consequently, in 1872, Bismarck bound the Emperors of Austria, Russia and Germany in a treaty of friendship, the **Dreikaiserbund**.

In 1879, Bismarck drew up a secret Alliance with Austria -**Dual Alliance**. In 1882 Italy joined the Dual Alliance and it became the **Triple Alliance**.

In 1887, Bismarck bound Russia in a separate Alliance, the **Reinsurance Treaty**.

All this time Bismarck worked hard to stay friends with Britain. As a result of this brilliant diplomacy all the mainland powers of Europe except France were now tied to Germany in a network of Alliances.

No longer did there seem any danger of Germany being encircled by a ring of enemies. France was isolated, friendless and therefore powerless.

For about 20 years, Germany enjoyed peace and security under Bismarck. Most Europeans were convinced that Germany was a contented peace loving nation which would only fight in self defence. It should be noted that all these changed after the resignation of Bismarck in 1890 after Kaiser William II had come to power in 1888. He

was vain, arrogant and unpredictable. The Alliance lost its duty of peace and instead became a system of war.

By 1894, France and Russia: had forged an alliance, **Dual Entente**, due to the neglect of Russia by the new Kaiser William II and the Pan-Slavism in Russia brought her into conflict with Austria and Germany sided with Austria.

In 1902, Britain allied with Japan the-Anglo-Japanese Alliance to gain help in the event of a war with Russia.

In 1904, France and Britain signed the **Entente Cordiale** by which France said Britain could have a free hand in Egypt. In return Britain gave France a free hand in Morocco i.e. later in 1912; Britain supported the French occupation of Morocco against the will of Germany. The Germans behaved as if it was an anti-German Alliance and were determined to break the Entente. Germany therefore provoked a quarrel with France over Morocco i.e. the first Moroccan crisis, 1905 (In 1905, the German Kaiser paid a visit to Moroccan port of Tangier where he declared that Morocco should be independent of France. Germany calculated that in the crisis that was to follow, Britain would refuse to back France, and then the Entente would collapse. But at the Algeciras Conference in 1906, set up to solve the crisis, the German plan backfired. By threatening war over Morocco, Germany pushed Britain closer to France thus the Entente became hardened).

Due to Germany's action, Britain was pushed into reaching an understanding with Russia and signed the Anglo-Russian Entente, 1907, in which the two settled their differences over Afghanistan, Tibet and Persia. Britain was now linked to both France and Russia thereby creating the **Triple Entente**.

By 1914, Europe was divided in to two camps, hostile to each other - the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria and Italy and the Triple Entente of Britain, France and Russia. Note should be taken that in the major camps existed smaller states like Serbia, Bulgaria, Rumania. The policies of the two groups (camps) soon clashed in various parts of the world and from 1906; a series of incidents disturbed the international atmosphere.

Implications of the Alliance System / How it led to World War I

(a) The European powers now felt more secure to pursue economic and political ambitions. With France out of isolation, she could certainly count on the support of her allies to recover her lost provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. Germany, Austria, Russia and Britain could also pursue their imperialist ambitions without fear. Therefore, the Alliance system increased imperialism.

(b) The Alliance System increased suspicion and mistrust among the European powers. This caused or at least increased the Arms Race as each Alliance prepared for confrontation with the other.

(c) The Alliance System grouped the major powers into fighting camps each taking a side in the eventuality of war. This therefore meant that only a spark .was required for a general war to break out.

(d) The system increased recklessness in dealing with international affairs. Every country was well protected and could be defended in case of war. The sense of self

restraint on individual countries was undermined and this may explain why a small state like Serbia could risk antagonising Austria.

(e) The Alliance System meant that it was no longer possible to localise conflicts i.e. issues of local character could be magnified.

(f) The Alliance System also increased the scale of the war. Under the system, minor powers could take major decisions. Some rash action on the part of Serbia could involve giant Russia in the aftermath. Russia in turn might involve France; in short a war between two nations was likely to involve many others. The nations at war would feel confident that their alliances would shield them from worst results of their actions.

It should be noted that had it not been because of the system, the murder of the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, would have remained an Austro - Serbian affair and the rest of the world would have been spared the disaster. It gave a false confidence to even weaker states hence the outbreak of the catastrophe. However, one can argue that the Alliances did not determine the side during the war i.e. Italy which was a member of the Triple Alliance fought on the side of the Triple Entente.

Secondly, other countries that participated like America never belonged to any alliance.

Thirdly the creation of Alliances and counter Alliances was a result of international misunderstandings arising from nationalism and imperialism. Therefore, other factors can also be blamed for causing World War I.

2. IMPERIALISM.

This involved cultural, political, economic and social domination of other states, it was a factor borne out of the industrialisation of Europe and the driving force was the need for markets, raw materials and new areas for investment of excess capital.

The acquisition of colonies created conflict in Africa and Asia i.e. Britain and France over Egypt,

France and Italy over Tunisia, Germany and Britain over South Africa and Germany and Russia in the Balkans, Germany and France over Morocco. It should be noted that by 1900, all the great powers Britain, Germany, France were competing for power, security and economic advantage. Each power had specific objectives, the fulfillment of which was regarded as important to national interests and in most cases, at the expense of others.

These conflicts created international tension as well as strengthening the Alliances, intensified the Arms race and militarism thus making localisation of conflicts impossible i.e. Austrian imperialism clashed with Serbian nationalism and this sparked off the world catastrophe of 1914 - 1918.

Imperialism created antagonism which took a wider perspective in the Alliances. However, note should be taken that imperialism had existed for more than half a century in Europe but no world war had broken out before 1914 and if it were to cause war, the right time should have been the 1880s.

Secondly, by 1914, the powers of Europe had settled most of their rivalries i.e. the Congo issue had been solved by the Berlin Conference of 1884- 1885, Britain and France had solved their Fashoda conflict, the White races of South Africa had compromised. Thus 1914, wasn't the worst period of imperialism.

Thirdly, the once arch-rivals in Africa and elsewhere, fought side by side in the war. This showed that imperialism counted less than the Alliance System. The arguments should not blind us from the fact that imperialism in the Balkans had sparked off the war. It affected the policies of the European powers. Disputes over colonies and commerce were a constant threat to peace during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. These colonial ambitions required an increase in armaments. The European nations recklessly pursued their old dreams regardless of the diplomatic repercussions of their Asian and African ventures.

It can be argued that the German support of Austria in Serbia and the Russian support of Serbia were a form imperialism which led to the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

Implications of imperialism

- (a)** The acquisition of colonies that would have provided raw materials and areas for investments generated a lot of conflicts in Africa, Asia as well as Europe itself. Conflicts were witnessed over Tunisia (1881), France and Britain conflicted over Egypt and the Sudan, Austria and Russia over the Balkans thus tension / conflicts which later caused the world catastrophe of 1914.
- (b)** Imperialism increased hostility and suspicion among the European powers i.e. Austrian control over Bosnia and Herzegovina made Russia suspicious and hostile towards Austria such that when Austria declared war on Serbia in 1914, Russia mobilised in support of Serbia thus the outbreak of the First World War.
- (c)** Imperialism led to the clash between Serbia and Austria that resulted into the murder of the Austrian archduke, Francis Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie on 28th June, 1914 at Sarajevo (Austrian imperialism clashed with Serbian nationalism) that sparked off the war.
- (d)** Conflicts in various places i.e. Africa, Asia and Europe intensified / reinforced the Arms race since there emerged the need to manufacture arms to defend colonial or territorial gains and to acquire new territories.
- (e)** The enlargement of the Kiel Canal by Germany arose out of the need to move easily into the Balkans. It also created hostility between Germany and other powers i.e. the Baghdad railway project threatened Britain and France as far as their Middle East economic interests were concerned thus war against Germany to defend their spheres of influence.
- (f)** Imperialism strengthened the Alliance system because in the race for colonies, each country needed allies i.e. in the Agadir crisis of 1911, Britain sided with France thus forcing Germany to abandon claims over Morocco which became a French protectorate in 1912.

(g) Italy joined the Dual Alliance thus transforming it into the Triple Alliance (1882) because of a clash with France over Tunisia in 1881 thus creating conflict which caused the world catastrophe of 1914-1918.

3. THE ARMS RACE.

This was the stock piling and the rapid manufacturing of sophisticated weapons as well as naval ships by all European powers but more especially Britain, Germany and France between 1892 and 1914. And these Arsenal complements were later to play a significant role in the outbreak of World War I

The increasing international tension arising from clashes of national interests in Africa and in the Balkans and the fact that the powers of Europe were now in two hostile camps, created an arms race

On the eve of the war, the nations of Europe were in a situation of Economic fever and living in a general condition of anarchy. Most powers of Europe began to believe that national greatness depended on great military power and naval preparedness. Due to such fear, the sizes of their armies and navies intensified and weapons improved to the latest, soldiers prepared and ready to fight.

France increased her army by increasing the conscript time and abolishing the conscript tax so that every able bodied male could serve in the army for a longer time. This move was supported by increased military spending on manufacture of weapons and tanks. This increased interest in military spending by France was in preparation for the day of "**Revanche**" on Germany for the loss of Alsace and Lorraine. By 1914, France could field about 3.5 million soldiers.

Germany did the same i.e. after Bismarck's resignation; the Kaiser William II undertook an ambitious plan to increase the navy, a policy which strained relations with Britain thus aggravating the arms race. In 1896, the Kaiser, William II announced that "**the future of Germany was on the sea**". The German navy, through a series of laws, was transformed from a coastal protection force into a battle fleet capable of challenging the might of the British Navy.

By 1914, Germany had the biggest land army in the whole of Europe. She could mobilise a force of about 5.6 million compared to that of Britain, which stood at about 0.8 million.

Despite this land power, Germany felt it was unfair to be obliged by the British to keep a small force because this would upset the balance of power in Europe. So the Kaiser, in total disregard of Bismarck's naval policy embarked on naval expansion. He was quoted as saying

"Germany must have a strong battle fleet so that the adversary in possession of the greatest naval power will only attack at the greatest risk to herself" - In which speech he meant Britain.

In 1901, Germany's naval power stood at 4 battle ships and 34 Cruisers but by 1907, she doubled her naval arsenal but Britain kept a head with the Dreadnought. Germany went ahead and expanded the Kiel Canal to accommodate the, expanded Navy and open the exit to the Mediterranean.

It should be noted that the Arms race was initiated by Kaiser William II in his attempts to challenge Britain's naval power. Powerful and destructive weapons were manufactured. Being at a disadvantage, the Russian Czar, Nicholas II initiated a Conference at The Hague in 1899 and later in 1907 aimed at checking Europe's progress to destruction by establishing armaments at the existing levels. Britain was receptive to the idea, but Germany made it clear that she regarded this merely as a device to keep the German military and naval power permanently inferior.

Role of the Arms Race in the outbreak of the War.

- (a) The Arms Race became more and more deadly as all powers got indulged in it and as technological improvements were constantly applied to the newly manufactured arms thus creating an atmosphere which favoured war.
- (b) The two Hostile camps were now properly armed with the most deadly and up to date weapons - just a spark was necessary to start the war.
- (c) With the increasing level of armaments the European powers became anxious for an opportunity for testing their weapons and hence Europe became a "**walking bomb**" ready to explode.
- (d) The Arms Race seemed to indicate that every country in Europe prepared for a seemingly inevitable war hence the catastrophe.
- (e) The accumulation of armaments increased recklessness and tension as the powers pursued their national and imperialistic ambitions.
- (f) Many people in Europe began to advocate for war. In Britain public opinion was in favour of war with Germany in order to destroy her fleet and protect British supremacy at sea.

The Germans on the other hand wanted war in order to prove to mankind their supremacy over the other races.

The competitive race for arms had a lot to contribute to the outbreak of the war, since it was working in a power vacuum where no prominent politician could control it, there was no international forum to discuss such matters and by 1914, war became the acknowledged medium hence the out break of World War I, 1914 - 1918.

4. NATIONALISM

This was the idea of self determination / independence. The second half of the 19th Century witnessed a '**wind of change**' in Europe bringing about new states. Germany and Italy had become unified, Belgium secured her independence from Holland, and Turkey was disintegrating into its component states.

The Berlin Congress of 1878 granted independence to Serbia and the other Balkan states were increasingly becoming conscious of their nationalities and asserting their independence. The Balance of power in Europe had been greatly distorted by the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 -1871. Power and prestige were manifested in acquisition of

overseas colonies. A new wave of pride developed which antagonised European powers against one another.

Those who fell under the spell of nationalism were willing to take any action to help their states, regardless of its effects on others and to promote their interests and were even ready to start wars.

National feeling, when denied self-expression in the form of independence has been a frequent cause of war.

In Europe, at this time, nationalism was expressed both internally and externally i.e. national pride and state freedom. It manifested itself in several movements i.e. Pan-Slavism in Russia, the Great French Revenge movement in France.

Pan-Slavism was a movement aimed at making Russia all Slavic races in Europe. Russia stirred up the Slavs in order to extend her influence in the Middle East. After the Berlin Congress of 1878, opposition was extended to the Austrian control over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Russia resented the outcome of the Congress by which she had been neglected and deprived of full fruits of victory.

After 1890, Russia became a direct enemy of Austria and Germany and supported Serbia which plotted against Austria. The climax of this was the murder of Arch-duke Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie on 28th June, 1914.

The Great Serbian movement aimed at an independent and recognised Serbia. Serbia had revolted against Turkey and her independence had been recognised but the Berlin Congress of 1878 seriously affected this independence. The Congress gave Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina to the annoyance of Serbia. The great Serbian movement was therefore to alter this through a plot against Austria.

The great French Revenge movement preached a war of revenge to regain the 'lost' provinces. Germany was to be defeated by use of diplomacy, war or reversal of the Frankfurt terms.

It should be noted that such nationalism had contributed to the Balkan wars of 1912 - 1913 and the most important was the murder of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife Sophie.

The implications of Nationalism

(a) As strong nations pursued their national interests, they clashed with one another and this increased tension and jealousy among the European powers.

(b) Clashes over Africa and the Balkans led to the formation of Alliances and counter Alliances which increased mistrust and suspicion.

(c) In pursuit of her national interest each power used the security of her allies to dominate the disadvantaged peoples. Thus the struggle to promote national interests in Africa and the Balkans increased European diplomacy.

(d) In the defence of national interests, the great powers hastened to manufacture enough weapons hence the arms race.

(e) Nationalism also increased militarism in Europe. Germany wanted to show off while Britain, France and Russia also militarised to check German pride.

(f) It was Serbian nationalism which clashed with Austrian imperialism and thus sparked off World War.

5. THE CHARACTER OF THE KAISER WILLIAM II.

Kaiser William II was the German Emperor of Germany from 1888 to 1918 when he abdicated. He was by no means an equal to Bismarck in diplomacy and statesmanship. In his judgement, he was impulsive, unstable, incapable of sustained effort and uncertain in his aims. He was quite emotional in pursuing German interests and the outcome was a conflict with other powers. His policy was both blundering and aggressive and his activities brought about the war.

His Role in causing World War I

(a) He led to the resignation of Bismarck and the breakdown of diplomatic Alliances between Britain and Russia and Germany on the other hand i.e. After Bismarck's resignation; the Kaiser II was persuaded not to renew the Reinsurance Treaty with Russia, leaving the way clear for an anti-German Alliance. Consequently, Russia turned to France and in 1894; they signed the Dual Entente by which both promised to fight side by side if attacked by Germany. The Kaiser II had done what Bismarck had feared, France getting Allies.

(b) He gave the governments of Russia, France and Britain every cause to fear that their vital interests were threatened and this led to the formation of counter Alliance(s) against the Triple Alliance.

(c) His policy towards the East typified by the Berlin -Bagdad railway project produced hostility between Germany and Russia. (***The Draog Nac Hosten Policy*** - Driving to the East to facilitate the economic control of the Eastern Empire). Bismarck had avoided this policy during his days due to the clashing interests of other powers.

(d) He began the Arms Race in order to challenge British naval supremacy. The Kaiser's attempt to build the German naval fleet beyond the needs of self defence forced public opinion in Britain to favour war. In France, people looked forward to the day of revenge for the loss of Alsace and Lorraine.

(e) He led to the growth of militarism in Europe i.e. mass recruitment and prolonging the period of service in order to keep enough armies for self defence and promotion of national interests abroad.

(f) It was Kaiser William II's "***blank cheque***" to Austria that increased Austrian recklessness towards Serbia. The impossible terms of the Austrian Ultimatum can be attributed to the fact that in the events of war, she could count on the support of Germany.

(g) It was Germany under Kaiser William II which declared war on Russia, France and Belgium thus violating the London Treaty of 1839 (the so called Scrap of Paper by Kaiser William II) which brought Britain into war as well as the other great powers.

(h) William II blocked all attempts to solve European problems by negotiation thus failing all efforts at disarmaments and refused to accept a British offer to reach an agreement by which German fleet would remain at about 60 % that of Britain.

(i) Kaiser William II's congratulatory message to Paul Kruger following the Jameson raid in South Africa.

(j) His imperial policy over Morocco culminated into the first and second Moroccan crises that led to the outbreak of World War I of 1914-1918.

(k) The Kaiser William II promoted Pan-Germanism which clashed with Pan-Slavism that led to the assassination of the Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie at Sarajevo on 28th June, 1914 thus sparking off the war.

(l) It was Kaiser William II who violated the independence and neutrality of Belgium on 4th August, 1914.

6. MILITARISM.

The development of nationalism in Europe and the advancement in armaments and technology influenced the general outlook of Europe. Some powers wished to challenge others, Germany took the lead in preaching the inevitability of war to show that they were better developed than the rest of mankind.

It should be noted that, this pride generated hostility and favoured recklessness. It also increased hatred against Germany by the other great powers. Every country prepared for a defensive war, armies were enlarged i.e. Germany and France could raise 5.6 and 3.5 million soldiers, respectively. Russia had about 4 million. The period of service was increased and all resources diverted to the manufacture of weapons and improving the army. Militarism also meant that the politicians were increasingly undermined by military men.

By 1914, war was inevitable, the advocates of war were better heard than those of peace and the world was ablaze.

7. THE PRESS.

The end of the 19th Century saw the rise of mass literacy accompanied by a mass circulation of press. Newspaper proprietors quickly learnt that bad news sold more papers than good news. Minor incidents were blown up into major crises. Too often newspapers inflamed nationalistic feelings by playing on national hatreds. War was treated as normal and Romantic and was presented as a quick and attractive way of settling international disputes. The press thus contributed to the already explosive situation of 1914.

8. FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR OF 1870-1871.

Emphasis should be put on the idea of revenge on the part of France to explain its role as a cause of the First World War.

France had been a very big obstacle to German unification. When Bismarck came to power, he devised a road map for unification which included war with France and this

climaxed into the 1870-1871 war that led to the defeat of France at the battle of Sedan and the subsequent treaty of Frankfurt of 1871.

Note should be taken that, by the treaty, France ceded Alsace and Lorraine to united Germany yet these were economically rich, she was subjected to an army of occupation and war indemnity. This situation left France bitter, harboured idea of revenge and therefore looked for an opportunity to redress it thus the outbreak of World War I.

With the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War, the balance of power was distorted; Germany became more powerful, reckless and arrogant thus began to challenge the British superiority (naval). This situation drove Britain closer to France as an ally, tension built up in Europe which culminated into the outbreak of World War I.

The French determination for war of revenge forced Bismarck to embark on the isolation of France thus the Alliance System. France later fought this isolation through the Dual and Triple Ententes of 1894 and 1907 respectively. She could now embark on her war of revenge.

It should be noted that the French Revenge Movement forced Germany to embark on the Arms Race which also forced other nations to join in. Resources were directed to the manufacture of arms which also strengthened militarism thus Europe became a walking bomb hence the outbreak of World War I.

9. THE FINAL CRISIS: THE ASSASSINATION OF ARCHDUKE FERDINAND ON 28th JUNE, 1914.

The root cause of the murder was the Balkan crisis. In 1912 and 1913, the Balkan wars occurred, fought between Turkey and her breakaway states i.e. Serbia, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Montenegro. These wars increased tension and reduced Turkey. From these wars, Serbia emerged confident and victorious. This confidence inspired her with an ambition to unite all the remaining Serbs in the Balkans under her rule. It was this ambition to create a greater Serbia that led her to conflict with Austria. The Austrians weren't ready to allow any further Serbian gains. Austria banked on German support. Serbia's support would probably come from Russia and may be other members of the Triple Entente.

The opportunity came on 28th June, 1914 when the Austrian Archduke, Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie were assassinated in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. The murder was carried out by a young Bosnian terrorist, Princip, dedicated to the cause of a greater Serbia.

The murder was a demonstration of Serbian indignation of Austrian influence in the Balkans. This was a clash which should have remained a local Balkan affair between Serbia and Austria but because of the Alliance System and the fact that war was long overdue; the world powers confronted one another. This murder was important for sparking off the war. Tension had already built up over the years and Europe was ready to explode. Moreover the fact that this incident brought all the powers into war shows that they were ready for it at the slightest opportunity.

The murder of the Archduke provided Austria with the right opportunity she had longed for. She regarded the matter provocative and inhuman and accordingly issued an

Ultimatum to Serbia, which was the harshest ever delivered in diplomatic history. The terms of the Ultimatum were framed in the hope of a refusal According to the Ultimatum which was to be answered within 48 hours; (a) Serbia was to suppress all Anti - Austrian propaganda.

(b) The Serbian officials to whom Austria was objected were to be dismissed.

(c) Austrian Representatives should sit on the Serbian court which investigated the Sarajevo murders.

(d) Unconditional acceptance was required within 48 hours. Hard as they were; the Serbians accepted the first two conditions but offered the 3rd to arbitration by the International Court of Justice at TheHague. Had Serbia accepted the 3rd point, it would have meant loss of her independence. Austria declared Serbia's reply unsatisfactory and on 28th July, 1914 declared war on Serbia.

The first and immediate effect of this declaration of war was Russian mobilisation in defence of

Serbia. Germany then demanded that Russia demobilise her forces and when this was rejected, Germany declared war on Russia on 1st August, 1914. Germany also demanded that France declare her neutrality and when this was refused, war was declared on her on 3rd August, 1914. On 4th August, 1914, German armies invaded Belgium thus defying the treaty of London of 1839. On the same day, 4th August, 1914, Britain declared war on Germany.

In just five weeks, a Balkan dispute had escalated into a European war. Eventually nations from every part the globe would become involved. The First World War had thus begun.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR

The 1st World War was a result of tension that had accumulated for nearly three decades. It is generally agreed that Germany shared the greatest blame for causing the war but it was also clear that the other European powers contributed to the tension which made Europe a power magazine that exploded in August, 1914. **(Also refer to revision question 4 below)**

1. Austria:

(a) The Austrian Ultimatum following the death of the Archduke Ferdinand created tension.

(b) Austrian Alliance with Germany and Italy resulted in automatic support for the Austrian position in 1914 (Triple Alliance)

(c) Austrian dominant role in Bosnia - Herzegovina brought about by the Berlin Congress of 1878 increased Pan - Slav discontent.

(d) Austrian Imperialism in the Balkans.

(e) She declared war on Serbia on 28th July, 1914 thus sparking off the World War I.

2. **Germany:**

- (a) She initiated the Alliance system following the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 -1871.
- (b) German determination to isolate France and prevent a war of revenge.
- (c) The armament programme embarked upon by Germany offended Britain.
- (d) German naval establishment after 1890 created conflict with Britain.
- (e) The aggressiveness of Germany championed by the Kaiser William II precipitated the war i.e. the Schlieffen Plan.
- (f) The Imperialism of Germany ended in the Berlin - Bagdad railway construction and the Moroccan crisis as examples.
- (g) The '**Blank Cheque**' issued by Germany gave Austria confidence.
- (h) German violation of the neutrality of Belgium on 4th August, 1914.
- (i) She declared war on Russia, France. This helped bring the great powers into war within a short time.

3. **Russia:**

- (a) A member of the Triple Entente that contributed to the division of Europe.
- (b) Russian leadership and patronage of the Pan-Slav movement in the Balkans led to her support to the Serbs.
- (c) Russian imperialism in the Balkans conflicted with Austrian imperialism.
- (d) She mobilised in defence of Serbia when Austria declared war.
- (e) Her determination to check German advance to the East. Thus she got involved in the Arms race and militarism.

4. **Britain:**

- (a) The involvement of Britain in the Alliance System by joining the Triple Entente which supported Serbia and Russia.
- (b) British declaration of war on Germany on 4th August 1914 because of her threatened economic interests in Belgium.
- (c) British concern over the threat posed by Germany over her Far East colonial possessions and also in Africa.
- (d) British role in the Arms Race.
- (e) British anxiety to remain superior in her naval build up.
- (f) Role of the British press propaganda incited the countries.

5. **Serbia:**

- (a) Serbian nationalism was very strong and therefore a threat to the survival of Austria-Hungary.
- (b) Its responsibility for the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in 1914 (28th June 1914).
- (c) Serbian rejection of the Austrian Ultimatum.

6. **France:**

- (a) Her strong desire to recover Alsace and Lorraine hence a war of revenge against Germany.
- (b) The recovery of France after Franco - Prussian war 1870 -1871 worried Germany and precipitated its establishment of the Alliance System.
- (c) She was involved in the Arms Race and militarism.
- (d) She was not willing to be neutral in the Austro - Serbian conflict and this led to declaration of war on her by Germany.

7. **Italy**

- (a) Did not contribute to the outbreak of the war but joined later in 1915.
- (b) Was a member of the Triple Alliance.

USA and Turkey and other powers joined later.

EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR I.

World War I was the most ferocious and destructive war the world ever experienced. It was an unprecedented disaster spread to many generations. It was fought between the powers of the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria) and the Entente powers of Britain, France, and Russia which later joined by USA and Italy and their allies. The effects were both positive and negative.

POSITIVE EFFECTS.

1. The war led to the collapse of Despotic governments in Europe i.e. the Hohenzollern dynasty ended as well as disintegration of the German Empire, the Ottoman rule ended and the Ottoman Empire completely disintegrated, the Czarism in Russia collapsed and so was the Dual Monarchy (Austro-Hungarian Empire). Note should be taken that after the defeat of Germany in World War I, she was divided into two.

2. The 1st World War led to the emergence of new independent states i.e. Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Poland. These states were granted

independence by the Versailles Peace makers but this later led to conflict which characterised the inter-war period.

3. It boosted the emancipation of Women in that it created circumstances that led to social changes in Europe and eventually the whole world. The war made women get employed in factories, hospitals, shops, public offices as well as in other aspects. This was because men were fewer in number, the idea of equality emerged since women could also perform well at tasks that were originally for men.

4. The war gave birth to the League of Nations as an international Organisation which was charged with the responsibility of maintaining peace in Europe and the whole world. The lack of such a body had caused the war hence attempts were made to avoid such a situation in future though the league later led to another world war.

5. Establishment of a Constitutional and Democratic government in Germany i.e. the Weimar Republic, 1919-1933. It was Hitler who overthrew the Republic in 1933 to start his dictatorship that led to the outbreak of World War II.

6. France regained Alsace and Lorraine which she had lost in 1870 following the Franco-Prussian War. The two had been lost to Germany and with the defeat of Germany in the War; the two provinces were given back to France. The Saar Coal fields were also given to France for 15 years.

7. The balance of power was changed in favour of Britain and France that were the victorious powers. The two began to dominate power politics in Europe.

8. It led to the development of science and technology and further spread of the industrial revolution. The period after the war was characterised by research and inventions which led to efficiency in industries, development in the aircraft industry and air travel.

9. The war led to promotion in Music, Art and Culture which stimulated romanticism. This came about due to the fact that the war had physical and psychological effects on especially the young people hence they resorted to dancing, parties and jazz music.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS

1. The war led to the rise of Dictators in Europe between 1919 and 1936. This was because of the negative effects of the war and the unrealistic aspects of the Versailles Peace Treaty of 1919. In Italy, Mussolini rose up, in Germany, Hitler emerged, while in Spain General Franco and in Russia the Communists took over.

2. The Versailles Peace Treaty of 1919 and its negative implications. The Treaty which was supposed to end the war and ensure peace was very unrealistic and instead created circumstances that led to another world catastrophe. It mistreated Germany and held her solely responsible for the outbreak of the war yet there were also other countries that took part in the war.

3. The war led to massive loss of lives i.e. it is estimated that over 30 million people perished, many left completely disabled. It left about 10 million Widows and Orphans

and about 1 million relatives without means of subsistence. Famine, diseases and poor conditions of the prisoners of war also worsened the death toll.

4. Destruction of property took place i.e. industries, farmland and other infrastructures - roads, railways, bridges and buildings

Agriculture also suffered the same i.e. crops were destroyed, livestock thus lack of raw materials. This situation led to famine, inflation and unemployment. Germany was worse hit where production fell by about 70%.

5. Led to displacement of people i.e. about 21 million people were displaced and became refugees.

6. Serious economic hardship resulted due to the war. It drained the economy and resources of the world i.e. resources were diverted to the war instead of other productive areas hence inflation, widespread unemployment, increased national debts. All these culminated into the Economic Depression of 1929-1933 which engulfed the whole of Europe and America.

7. Rise of USA and Japan and their involvement in power politics. USA joined the war in 1917, supplied the allied powers with ammunitions and other supplies. Japan expanded in the east after the collapse of Russia and thus took advantage of the eastern markets to strengthen her economy. The rise of these two as super powers shifted the political and economic power to their side.

8. The 1st World War laid the foundation for another world catastrophe which broke out in 1939 and lasted till 1945 (World War II).

9. Germany was humiliated and forced to surrender vast quantities of war materials; guns aeroplanes, locomotives, Sub marines and warships.

REVISION QUESTIONS

1. To what extent was the Alliance System responsible for the outbreak of World War I?

Approach

- Analyse the role of the Alliance System in the outbreak of the First World War
- Other factors should also be analysed / explained.
- A clear stand point should be analysed.

2. 'Imperialism was responsible for the outbreak of World War I.' Discuss.

Approach

- Analytically explain the contribution of imperialism to the outbreak of the World War I.
- Other factors should also be analysed.

- Take a clear stand point.

3. Assess the role of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand as a cause of World War I.

Approach

- Analyse the contribution of the assassination of the Archduke to the outbreak of World War I.
- Contribution of other factors should also be analysed.
- Take a clear stand point.

4. To what extent was Serbia responsible for the outbreak of World War I?

Approach

- Analyse the contribution of Serbia in the outbreak of the First World War.
- Roles of other of other factors/ countries should also be analysed.
- A clear stand point should be taken.

Points to consider

- World War I broke out in 1914 and ended in 1918 with the defeat of Germany and her friends. It was a war fought between the Triple Entente (Britain, France and Russia) and the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy though Italy fought on the side of the Triple Entente.
- Serbia was an ally of the Triple Entente and her action would later involve the two camps thus the outbreak of World War I of 1914 and 1918.
- The Serbian nationalism was a big threat to the survival of Austria-Hungary. Originally, Serbia had been an independent state but the coming in of Austria into the affairs of the Balkan region threatened her survival as an independent state because she had been subjected to Austrian imperialism and therefore she was all out to regain her independence thus doing anything that would make her achieve / retain her independence.
- Serbia was responsible for the double murder of the Archduke at Sarajevo on 28th, June, 1914 which sparked off World War I. It was a clash between Serbian nationalism and Austrian imperialism which should have remained a local Balkan affair but because of the Alliance System, it had to involve members of the different camps. The murder of the Austrian Archduke, Francis Ferdinand who was the heir to the Austrian throne and his wife, Sophie in the Serbian capital of Sarajevo carried out by a Bosnian terrorist called Princip thus Serbia's responsibility for causing World War I.
- Serbia rejected Austria's ultimatum yet she was responsible for the murder of the Archduke at Sarajevo. According to the ultimatum, Serbia was to crush all anti-Austrian

propaganda, unconditional acceptance was supposed to be made within 48 hours and Serbia was to have Austrian delegates on the committee that investigated the murders. Serbia rejected the 3rd condition of the ultimatum but Austria was not satisfied and declared war on Serbia hence her role / responsibility in the outbreak of the war.

- Serbia's aggressive attitude towards Austria and Germany created a lot of tension. She was so stubborn towards both Austria and Germany because she was sure of the support of the members of the Triple Entente and this may explain why she also rejected the ultimatum thus her role in the outbreak of World War I.
- However, there were other factors / countries that too contributed to the outbreak of the war i.e. **Austria**. She belonged to the Triple Alliance together with Germany and Italy.
- The Austrian ultimatum to Serbia after the death of Francis Ferdinand created a lot of tension. The ultimatum had been designed in such a way that Serbia would reject it which would give an opportunity to Austria to declare war on Serbia and as expected, Serbia rejected the third point of the ultimatum, a situation that led to conflict which eventually brought about the war hence the role of Austria in the outbreak of the war.
- The Austrian alliance with Germany and other members of the Triple Alliance held Austria responsible for the outbreak of the war. The activities of these members created a lot of tension, suspicion, mistrust, conflict and eventually war. When the assassination took place, Austria's issuing of the harshest ultimatum ever created tension which led to a war situation thus the role of Austria in the outbreak of the war.
- The Austrian imperialism in the Balkans led to tension among the Balkan states. It should be noted that these Balkan states had enjoyed some degree of independence but when Austria was introduced into the Balkan affairs by Germany thereby imposing her imperialism on them made them rise up. Austria had controlled Bosnia and Herzegovina and this led to Balkan nationalism that eventually resulted into the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife Sophie on 28th June, 1914 hence the role of Austria in the outbreak of the war.
- It was Austria that declared war on Serbia on 28th July, 1914 which declaration later led to Germany taking over from Austria and began threatening the Triple Entente which led to war thus the role of Austria.
- **Germany** was yet another country that caused the outbreak of World War I. She was a member of the Triple Alliance together with Austria-Hungary and Italy.
- It was Germany that initiated the Alliance System in order to isolate France after her unification in 1871, it was aimed at peace. But later Germany under the Kaiser, William II turned the Alliance system into a tool of war hence the outbreak of World War I thus the role of Germany in the outbreak of the war.
- The German armament programme eventually created a situation of war. Germany had embarked on expansion of the army as well as navy such that by 1914 Germany could avail about 5.6 million soldiers and had expanded the navy as if she was preparing for war. She had also embarked on an aggressive programme which threatened the rest of the powers in the other camp i.e. Britain, France and Russia.

- The Schlieffen war plan named after the man who designed the German war plan turned out to be a fiasco which created a lot of tension thereby leading to war hence the role of Germany in the outbreak of World War I.
- The annexation of Alsace and Lorraine and the French dream of revenge on Germany created a lot of tension. After the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War and especially after the treaty of Frankfurt of 1871, France lost two of her economically viable provinces to Germany. France was, therefore, determined to carry out revenge in order to recover the two provinces hence the outbreak of World War I thus the role of Germany.
- Germany's blank cheque (support) to Austria gave the latter confidence to declare war on Serbia. The support that Germany had promised Austria made her act in a manner that was likely to cause war i.e. she issued an impossible ultimatum to Serbia knowing very well that Serbia would reject some of the terms / points thereby causing war hence the role of Germany in the outbreak of World War I.
- Germany's violation of the London Treaty of 1839 which had guaranteed the neutrality and independence of Belgium on 4th August, 1914 led to World War I. After war had broken out between Austria and Serbia, it was Germany that took over and began to threaten members of the Triple Entente i.e. on 1st August, 1914, Germany declared war on Russia, on 3rd August, 1914, she declared war on France and on 4th August, 1914, she invaded Belgium and on the same day, Britain joined the war. What should have remained a local Balkan affair between Austria and Serbia could not remain local with the involvement of Germany thus her role in the outbreak of World War I.
- Germany's press propaganda i.e. the Kaiser's congratulatory telegram message to Paul Kruger of Transvaal in 1896 for having repulsed the British attack did not go well with the British thus adding onto the tension that was building up between the two hence the role of Germany in the outbreak of the war.
- Germany's declaration of war on Russia on 1st August, 1914, on France on 3rd August and on Belgium on 4th August, 1914 made the war a global affair which led to a lot of death, destruction of property, economic distress hence the role of Germany in the outbreak of the 1st World War.
- Another country was **Russia** which was a member of the Triple Entente together with France and Britain. Russia supported the Balkan nationalism against Austria and this may explain why she had to support Serbian nationalism against Austrian imperialism. When Austria declared war on Serbia, Russia had to mobilise on the side of Serbia which also led to declaration of war on her by Germany on 3rd August, 1914 thus her role in the outbreak of World War I.
- Russia's leadership and patronage of the Pan-Slav movement in the Balkans led her to support Serbia which encouraged her to reject the Austrian ultimatum. This made Serbia very stubborn and all out to defy the Austrian ultimatum thus her role in the outbreak of World War I.
- The Russian imperialism in the Balkans conflicted with the Austrian imperialism in the region. Russia had a lot of interests in the region which was also an area of interest

of Austria thus they clashed which led to war hence her role in the outbreak of the war of 1914-1918.

- Russia embarked on the Arms Race in competition with Germany and all this created a lot of tension in Europe especially in the Middle East. Russia felt she was prepared and when Germany wanted her to demobilise her troops she merely refused to do so which led to Germany declaring war on her on 1st August, 1914 her Russia's role in the outbreak of the war.

- **Britain** too led to the outbreak of the war. She was a member of the Triple Entente together with France and Russia. Britain's declaration of war on Germany after the latter's invasion of Belgium on 4th August, 1914. Belgium had been declared independent and neutral by the London Treaty of 1839 but on 4th August, 1914; Germany invaded Belgium thus interfering with the interest of Britain in Belgium and on the same day, Britain joined the war on the side of the Allies hence the role of Britain in the outbreak of the war.

- Britain's Arms Race and the naval rivalry led to the outbreak of the war. Britain had enjoyed military and naval superiority i.e. she was ahead in terms of weapons; she had developed the Dreadnought (some kind of battleship) as well as Cruisers. But Germany under the Kaiser, William II embarked on naval expansion thus threatening British superiority hence constituting a naval race that created circumstances which brought about the war therefore the role of Britain in the war.

- The rising nationalism worsened relations among states. Britain went to war to defend the position of Belgium when Germany invaded the latter on 4th August, 1914 thus interfering with her independence and neutrality hence Britain was responsible in the outbreak of World War.

- Besides, the British propaganda through her press brought about a war situation. The press regarded war as inevitable so as to destroy the pre-war pride of Germany and the Germans had also wanted to prove to the whole world that they were a superior race. The public opinion in Britain was in favour of war with Germany thus Britain's role in the outbreak of the 1st World War.

- **France** was another country which caused the outbreak of the war. She was a member of the Triple Entente together with France and Russia that fought against the Triple Alliance i.e. Germany and Austria-Hungary.

- The desire of France to fight a war of revenge having lost Alsace and Lorraine to United Germany in 1871 following the declaration of the German Empire in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. France was therefore determined to get back the two Provinces of Alsace and Lorraine hence her role in the outbreak of the war.

- France's quick recovery after her defeat in 1871 was a big threat to Germany i.e. she embarked on military build-up that sent strong signals to Germany. She had reorganised her military for self defence especially against Germany thus posing a big threat to Germany. In 1875, Bismarck embarked on the *War of Nerves* i.e. Germany began threatening France with war yet Bismarck had embarked on the policy of peace in order to ensure that the new German Empire developed thus the role of France in the war.

- It should also be noted that colonial conflicts between France and Germany in North Africa especially in Morocco in 1906 and 1911 brought about strained relations between the two which led to the outbreak of war in 1914 hence the role of France in the outbreak of the war.
- It should be noted that **Turkey, Italy, USA** and **Bulgaria** joined the war after it had broken out thus they were not responsible for the outbreak of the war. Italy joined the war in 1915 while USA joined in 1917. These two fought on the side of the Triple Entente while Turkey and Bulgaria fought on the side of the Triple Alliance.

Stand point.

Serbia was responsible for the outbreak of the war to a smaller extent.

Chapter Seven

1. The Versailles Peace Settlement, 1919.

2. The League of Nations, 1920 – 1945.

3. The Russian Revolution of 1917.

1. The Versailles Peace Settlement, 1919.

This took place after World War I, 1914 - 1918, fought between the allied nations - Britain, France, Russia, Japan, Italy (joined in 1915), USA (in 1917) and Rumania, all British colonies like Canada, New Zealand, Australia, India on one side and Germany, Austria - Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey on the other.

There were 70 Delegates from 32 victorious countries. There were 60 committees of Experts to help them in their search for peace.

In March 1917, the Russian Revolution broke out and in November, 1917, Russia made peace with Germany and pulled out of the war, leaving Britain, France, USA, Japan. In 1918, Germany and her 'friends' were defeated and the war came to an end. Between January and June, 1919, a peace conference was held in Versailles, Paris.

The peace settlement was concluded in five different treaties as below:-

1. Versailles Treaty, June 1919, with Germany.
2. St. Germain treaty, Sept. 1919 with Austria.
3. Neuilly treaty, November, 1919 with Bulgaria.
4. Trianon treaty, November, 1920, with Hungary.
5. Sevres Treaty, August, 1920, with Turkey. Turkey later rejected the Sevres treaty, so another treaty was signed in July, 1923, known as the Lausanne treaty.

THE TREATY OF ST. GERMAIN, SEPT, 1919, WITH AUSTRIA

Austria was broken up and divided among the neighbours and reduced to a very small size. Bosnia, Herzegovina and Palmatia were given to Yugoslavia, Bohemia to Czechoslovakia. Austria also had to pay reparations.

Besides, her navy and army were reduced in size. This clause went against the idea of self-determination. Austria had many different nationalities e.g. Magyars, Croats, Slavs, Czechs, Slovaks. These had different Ethnic roots and cultures, the Versailles Peace Settlement failed to group them into a state. Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were a mixture of different races.

NEUILLY TREATY OF NOV., 1919.

Bulgaria, like Austria, was forced to surrender territory, pay reparations and limit her army.

THE SEVRES TREATY, AUGUST, 1920

Turkey was allowed to retain Constantinople and a strip of territory in Europe, north of Marmora Sea. Some of the Turkish territories i.e. Smyria, Thrace were given to Greece. This treaty of Sevres tried to divide Asia minor into spheres of influence for the Allied powers and left a tiny bit of it for Turkish control.

This caused great discontent among the divided people and revolts started breaking out in the Turkish Empire i.e. May 1919 in Smyria, a combined force of British, French and Americans was sent there but merely spectated as the Greeks ruthlessly suppressed the revolts. Therefore, decisions for Turkey were a failure and early rifts in the settlement. All these were amended by the Lausanne treaty of 1923.

THE VERSAILLES PEACE TREATY, JUNE, 28TH 1919.

This was the most important of the five treaties signed and dealt exclusively with Germany. It was signed on the 5th anniversary of the death of Archduke, Ferdinand, 28th June, 1919, in the Hall of Mirrors, at Versailles. This popular Hall was chosen to humiliate Germany as this was the place where the German Empire had been proclaimed in 1871 with the defeat of France. It was the largest and greatest conference in terms of delegates and was more representative than Vienna Congress of 1814- 1815.

No heads of state represented their countries except Belgium, King Albert and USA - President Wilson Woodrow. The rest were represented by their Prime Ministers. The Conference started nine months after the war and this delay was because of the unwillingness of the American Congress and Public opinion to participate in the peace settlement. President Wilson Woodrow had to seek permission from the Congress to attend in person. In Britain, general elections were being held after about five years.

The leading statesmen (personalities) were.

(a) Clemenceau.

He was the French Prime Minister, who, like Metternich, presided over the Conference and represented France. He was interested in French security and was careful not to provoke Britain or U.S.A.

(b) Wilson Woodrow.

President of the U.S.A. and sincere in his search for peace and after the war, he wished to see justice done to all, insisted on democracy and national self-determination.

Wilson was also opposed to the principle of revenge on Germany because he believed that revenge would cause future problems and predicted another war which indeed happened.

The British and French representatives were for revenge on Germany. Right from the beginning, there were divisions among the members of the Congress. Wilson Woodrow was interested in mainly the League of Nations i.e. He was interested in the prevention of another war rather than the problem of the resettlement of the balance of power in Europe. He had the conception that he alone had the answer to European problems yet

he was less informed of them than others. He lacked the expanse of European politics and politicians.

(c) Lloyd George.

He was the British Prime minister. He was a brilliant negotiator but hampered by the British public opinion, with such slogans like; *'Squeeze Italy till the peoples Squeak'* and such cries like; *'Hangthe Kaiser.'* In other words, he wanted peace based on force vis a vis peace based on independence.

(d) Orlando.

He was concerned with building Italy on rich economic stand and the only one who did not speak English.

It should be noted that the characters had clashing interests and this marred the fortunes of permanent peace.

The Peace Treaty was supposed to be signed according to the principles which had been drawn by President Wilson Woodrow - the 14 points. They were a result of his own analysis of what caused international tension and war acceptance at the peace conference. The allied powers then agreed on the 14 points as guidance to restoring peace.

The Fourteen Points.

The Negotiations of the Conference were based on 14 points referred to by some writers as the **14 Commandments**. These 14 points were formulated by Wilson Woodrow of U.S.A.

Point 1:

All diplomacy and negotiations between states was to be carried out openly, frankly and in public view to avoid secret agreements. This was impossible and it was abandoned right from the start partly due to the fact that countries fought for different aims some of which conflicted. As a result, many problems were settled privately, in smaller committees.

Point 2:

Absolute freedom of Navigation of the seas both in peace and war time except in the territorial waters. Britain refused to give up its intention to search ships during war time as she was the naval power. It was accordingly dropped.

Point 3:

Removal of economic restrictions between nations and abolition of tariffs.

This point too was unrealistic and many states rejected it. Many newly created states put up heavy tariffs to protect their infant industries e.g. many countries set up in Eastern Europe which increased economic boundaries leading to more tariffs.

Point 4:

The nations were to give guarantees that they would disarm to 'the lowest point consistent with domestic safety'

This point was disregarded as many nations refused to accept it. Clemenceau strongly agreed that it should apply to Germany but not France, stressing that France needed even a larger army to strengthen herself against German aggression.

Point 5:

No annexation without the acceptance of the annexed. The German colonies should not be annexed without the will of the natives. Some attempts were carried out to fulfil this idea e.g. the former colonies of Germany were not just grabbed by the victorious powers but instead were held as Mandates. It should be noted that some wishes of people in some colonies were never taken into account with the establishment of the Mandates System.

Point 6:

All Russian territories be evacuated and every kind of assistance should be given to Russia. This point was not fully implemented due to the outbreak of civil war in Russia.

Point 7:

Belgium was to be completely freed.

Point 8:

France was to receive back Alsace and Lorraine which point was accepted and implemented.

Point 9:

Italy was to receive her proper national frontiers. This was a difficult point to implement and the territories which Italy received only respected language and population but the principle of national boundary was not considered e.g. Some of the areas she obtained contained more Germans than Italians i.e. Tyrol.

Point 10:

The people of Austria - Hungary, were to be given the opportunity of independent development. This was carried out with considerable fairness e.g. the union of Austria and Germany was forbidden.

Point 11:

Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro were to be evacuated and given opportunity of independent development. This point was adopted.

Point 12:

People under Turkish rule to be autonomous and the Dardanelles to be open to ships and commerce of all nations.

Point 13:

An Independent Poland to be established purely inhabited by Polish nationals. This was impossible because in the new Poland, more than 10,000 people were not Poles i.e. more than 2.5 million were Germans.

Point 14:

An International organisation be formed to guarantee the independence of all states both great and small.

These points were realistic and if followed and accepted, the great powers would have gone along way to bringing about peace for Europe. Unfortunately most of them were ignored. The 14 points led the decision makers to superhuman and impossible decisions and many problems followed as a result of the Versailles Settlement.

-Negotiations were conducted in an atmosphere of bitterness against Germany because of the final atrocities she committed during the retreat when she ravaged the economic grounds of France and sank an Irish Steamer - "**Leinster**" drowning 450 men, women and children on October, 19th, 1918. -Discussions were done in secrecy and the mass media was excluded.

-The treaty was not negotiated, it was just imposed on Germany by the powers and so went Wilson's point, that of openness and Frankness in negotiation.

-It should be noted that, the French Prime minister, Clemenceau never had a lot of respect for the 14 points as shown by his cynical comment, '**The Good Lord himself had only 10.**' His primary concern was the security of France. He had twice seen the Germans attack France during his lifetime (Franco - Prussian War and World War I) and he did not want to see France attacked for the Third time during his days by the same Germany.

-He had an intense hatred for the Germans and he wished to see Germany crumbled at all costs in order to revenge the shameful scar inflicted on France in the Franco - Prussia war of 1870 -1871.

-**Lloyd George** realised the need to consider the 14 points of Wilson. Speaking to the House of Commons before the Peace Conference, Lloyd George said,

'We want a peace which will be just, but not vindictive. We want a stern peace because the occasion demands it, but the severity must be designed, not for vengeance, but for justice. Above all, we want to protect the future against a repetition of the horrors of this war.'

(Source: Modern World History, 2nd edition, by Ben Walsh, pp.83.)

But he represented a population which would have liked tough terms on Germany to break her prewar sense of superiority. He had real problems with public pressures at

home for a harsh treaty. So during the Conference, George was obliged to support Clemenceau since during his election campaign he had promised the population thus;

'If I am returned (to office), Germany is going to pay and hang the Kaiser ... and I personally have no doubt that We will get everything that you can squeeze out of a Lemon and a bit more.'

Much as he saw the need for justice, he also wished to break the German pride which had caused the war. The differences in opinion of the peace makers of 1919 influenced the nature of the Versailles Treaty i.e.

- (a) Germany was not consulted on any issue because there was no open and frank discussion and diplomacy. The treaty was imposed on her.
- (b) The realistic causes of international tension were ignored in the interest of Britain and France and at the detriment of Germany.
- (c) Germany was subjected to a lot of territorial losses which affected her economy.
- (d) Disarmament was limited only to Germany while the other powers retained their arms and armies.
- (e) Many states were created at the expense of Germany and many Germans found themselves under foreign rule.
- (f) Germany was forced to accept the war guilt clause and was subjected to huge sums of reparations to be paid in cash and kind.
- (g) France, the traditional enemy of Germany gained Alsace - Lorraine and the Saar Coal Valley from the treaty.
- (h) Germany was forced to acknowledge her membership to the League of Nations to which terms she did not subscribe.

TERMS / CLAUSES OF THE TREATY

It should be noted that the Versailles Treaty dealt with four aspects, which Historians referred to as being unrealistic. These aspects were:- I. War Guilt Clause.

2. Disarmament Clause

4. Reparations Clause.

3. Territorial Re-adjustment Clause

1. War Guilt Clause

Germany was condemned and declared guilty of causing World War I and therefore was to accept responsibility for having caused all damage suffered as a consequence of the war. She had to be punished by weakening her economically, militarily and territorially. The war guilt clause was inserted to justify reparations.

Under the War Guilt Clause, the penal clause was also inserted by which some German important people were to be punished for certain offences against the allied powers i.e. the Kaiser William II was to be punished for international morality and sanctity of International treaties. He was to be retrieved from Holland, be tried by a special court. It should, however, be noted that Holland refused to hand him over, so he was never punished. But other German war commanders and politicians were tried, jailed and others killed.

2. Disarmament Clause

To avoid further trouble from Germany, the allies imposed unfavourable military terms on Germany. She lost her war equipment, her navy, air force, artillery.

The army was limited to **100,000** men. She was forbidden to have tanks. Only a navy of six (6) battle ships and no submarines allowed. No air force was permitted at all; she was not allowed to recruit more soldiers (soldiers had to be volunteers) and no troops were allowed into the Rhineland which became a demilitarised zone since it was the border area between Germany and France. She was also subjected to an army of occupation and to pay for its maintenance. Thus the treaty restricted German armed forces to a level below what they had been before the war.

3. Territorial Readjustments

Germany was subjected to a lot of losses territorially as follows:

- (a) Eupen and Malmedy lost to Belgium.
- (b) Alsace-Lorraine lost to France.
- (c) Saarland coal fields given to France for occupation for a period of 15 years.
- (d) Upper Silesia lost to the newly created state of Poland and six percent of the population was German.
- (e) Danzig was declared a free city to provide a new outlet to the new Poland which was landlocked.
- (f) A Polish corridor was created under Polish control but inhabited partly by Germans and the Poles. The corridor ran across the German province of Posen and divided East Prussia from the rest of the country.
- (g) Germany was forbidden to unite with Austria.
- (h) Schleswig went to Denmark.
- (i) Germany lost all her over seas colonies which were given to other powers under the Mandates System e.g. part of Cameroon was given to France and the other half to Britain, the Marshal, Mariana and Caroline Islands given to Japan, Togoland, Rwanda and Burundi given to Belgium, New Guinea given to Australia, Samoa went to New Zealand and Tanganyika (German East Africa) given to Britain.

The Mandatory powers were responsible to the League of Nations for their administration of the colonies and had to hand in annual reports to the League of Nations.

It should be noted that the Mandatory system was not successful as Germany fiercely opposed this as it viewed it as a legal annexation of its colonies. She remained bitter and this caused future problems. Germany lost 13 ½ percent of her territory, with 7 million of her people to neighbouring countries.

These territorial losses had the following implications which were to affect the peace in Europe:-

(a) The German empire which had declined during the war was further disintegrated in the territorial arrangement. Her size drastically reduced by giving away her territory.

(b) German citizens placed under foreign rule thus creating a long standing problem because the Germans could not accept to remain under foreign rule. It was due to this factor that the Nazis invaded Poland and Czechoslovakia in 1939 to liberate fellow Germans.

(c) German economy was seriously affected. She lost a lot of wealth and her trade and industry were suffocated thus economic problems later i.e. lack of raw materials, inflation, unemployment. These conditions provided a favourable ground for growth of Nazism under Hitler.

(d) The territorial arrangements created room for international tension especially between Germany on one hand and the other powers on the other. Germany did not see a justification of all her losses especially after 1930 when the League of Nations had become weak.

The Reparations Clause

The Allied powers forced Germany to accept responsibility for the war and for causing all the losses and damages suffered by the allies in the war.

Accordingly, she was required to pay reparations amounting to £6.6 billion towards the cost of the war. This was so huge an amount and Germany was forced to pay some of it in kind i.e. ships, coal, timber, livestock, chemicals. It should be noted that the amount of money was unrealistic and a Reparations Committee was later set up. The figure was later reduced to £ 2000 million

These reparations had far reaching effects on the economy. Germany plunged into financial and economic crisis. State Enterprises collapsed in their attempt to raise the reparations. Germany had to experience the worst inflation ever in history. She experienced unemployment, economic hardship which created favourable conditions for the rise of Nazism.

Criticism of the Versailles Peace Treaty

The Germans bitterly criticised the treaty and complained that it had been dictated; it violated the spirit of the 14 points and demanded intolerable sacrifices that would wreck their economy.

In the years after it was ratified, the treaty of Versailles was revised and altered mostly in German favour. Numerous concessions were made to Germany before the rise of Hitler and the Allies abandoned the guarantee provisions five years ahead of schedule.

Many Historians claimed that the combination of a harsh treaty and subsequent lax enforcement of its provisions paved the way for the upsurge of German militarism in the 1930's.

Herr (Mr) Schneidermann, speaking at the National Assembly made a violent attack on the peace treaty, describing it as a murderous proposal:

"The Allies are driving the knife into the living body of the German people ... The proposed peace means the miserable enslavement of children."

The Berliner Tageblatt says,

'The terms mean the end of Germany as a great power ... The military terms are impossible.'

The Bourse Courier sums up the terms as "***Intolerable***"

Vengeance! German Nation! Today in the Hall Mirrors, a Disgraceful Treaty is being signed. Never forget it. There will be Vengeance for the shame of 1919.

The aspects of the treaty that upset Germany most were as follows:

- (a) The territorial losses (13 1/2 percent of her territory and about 7 million subjects) were far too harsh. They resented the losses to Poland in the East and that Germany was split into two by the Polish Corridor.
- (b) The high reparations claims imposed on Germany were trying to bankrupt her.
- (c) The terms of the treaty were worked out in secret and forced upon the Germans; therefore, it was a "***Diktat***".
- (d) All German colonies were taken away from her but the allies kept theirs.
- (e) The Germans hated having to accept blame for the war (War Guilt Clause).
- (f) Germans hated having to disarm without any guarantee that their allied neighbours would do likewise.
- (g) Germany suffered an army of occupation.

It should also be noted that the following could not make Germany be treated with fairness i.e.

(i) **Timing** of the conference. It was too soon after the war when temperament was still high. People had not forgotten the atrocities committed by Germany as she was withdrawing. Those memories were still fresh in the minds of the people.

(ii) **Venue:** In France which was geared towards revenge instead of creating peace.

France had suffered two invasions by Germany i.e. 1871 and 1914 and was not ready for a third invasion by the same Germany; therefore, she could not get any fair treatment.

(iii) **Character of the personalities** conflicted i.e. wanted revenge and punishment of Germany.

The settlement (treaty) was dominated by three powers i.e. France, Britain and USA.

“Germany was not allowed to be represented at the Peace Conference. She was forced to sign the Treaty (including a Clause saying she was guilty of starting the War). Countries such as France were determined to have Revenge. The Reparations were too high. Here was the basis for another War. “

However some Historians argue that the Germans had no right to grumble considering the following:

(a) Looking at the peace treaty the Germans forced on the Russians in 1918- The treaty of BrestLitovsk, Russia lost,

(i) 54 percent of her industry.

(ii) 34 percent of her population.

(iii) 89 percent of the coal mines.

(iv) She was fined 6 billion marks.

(b) The treaty did not weaken Germany anywhere near as much as the Germans complained. She was still a large country with plenty of resources. By 1925, German steel production was twice that of Britain.

(c) During World War I, the German Finance Minister made it plain that, if the Germans won, the Allies would be made to pay for the cost of the War and since Germany lost, she had to pay.

(d) **War guilt**-Most Historians today believe that Germany was most to blame for starting the First World War of 1914 - 1918.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE VERSAILLES PEACE TREATY OF 1919.

The Versailles Peace Treaty was a document that was signed on 28th June, 1919, in the **Hall of Mirrors** at Versailles. It was signed between defeated Germany and the Allied powers (France, Britain, Italy and USA) on the 5th anniversary of the assassination of the Austrian Arch-duke, Francis Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie.

The achievements were as follows:

1. It concluded World War I which was a great human catastrophe because a lot of lives were lost as well as destruction of property on both sides i.e. the Allies and the vanquished / defeated powers.

Due to the war, there was a lot of unemployment, inflation and generally economic distress had been experienced. Being the first post-war settlement, it was an achievement to bring to an end such destructive war.

2. The Peace Settlement led to the formation of the League of Nations that maintained peace for a period of 20 years. It was formed following the 14 points of Wilson Woodrow (it was the 14th point) that proposed the formation of an international body which would ensure that peace prevailed as well as guaranteeing the independence of all nations both great and small.

3. It revived an era or the spirit of international diplomacy that had failed before the outbreak of World War I. Issues were to be diplomatically handled through meetings / treaties without resorting to war. Note should be taken that the absence of such a body led to a period of anarchy in Europe i.e. the equivalent of the Vienna Settlement was not in place neither were there Diplomats like Metternich and Bismarck. Consequently, the situation in Europe was handled by less diplomatic personalities like the Kaiser William II of Germany who instead caused more problems that led to the outbreak of World War I of 1914-1918.

4. The Versailles Peace Treaty contained the aggression of Germany and her allies until 1939 when Germany invaded Poland and Czechoslovakia. It should be noted that Germany was all out to undo the treaty that had imposed harsh terms on her in 1919 i.e. she had lost all her colonies to the Mandates System thus economic distress because the colonies were sources of raw materials, markets and grounds for investments. Germany had also embarked on the policy of re-uniting the Germans that were under foreign rule and all these necessitated aggression but the Versailles Treaty contained all that until 1939.

5. As a result of the treaty, France was able to regain her lost provinces of Alsace and Lorraine that had been lost to Germany in 1871 following the treaty of Frankfurt. The treaty had also imposed War Indemnity as well as an Army of occupation on France. During the Versailles treaty of 1919, France got back the two provinces which also ended the hostility between France and Germany.

6. The Versailles Peace Treaty re-drew the map of Europe / it granted independence to a number of European states i.e. Belgium, Poland and Czechoslovakia that had been invaded and occupied by Germany due to her aggression. Germany had violated the independence and neutrality of Belgium that was guaranteed by the London treaty of 1839 when she invaded Belgium on 4th August, 1914. She also went ahead and violated the independence of Poland and Czechoslovakia but with her defeat in 1918, these states were granted their independence.

7. It promoted international trade by making the navigation of the rivers and seas free hence economic development was enhanced. Before, the international waters had

been closed to free commerce thus affecting economic activities of Europe but the moment they were opened, international trade was promoted.

8. The treaty, for the first time in European history, created awareness about the dangers of deadly weapons and it effected the disarmament of Germany. The 1st world war had shown the destructive nature of the weapons and Europe was therefore determined to ensure that no such weapons were manufactured again. Consequently, Germany had to be disarmed so as to destroy her capacity to cause more chaos in Europe.

FAILURES / WEAKNESSES OF THE VERSAILLES PEACE TREATY OF 1919.

1. The Versailles Peace Treaty failed to apportion blame for the war properly and as a result placed all the blame on Germany and left all the other countries that were involved in the war. This may explain why Germany felt it was unfair to be blamed alone for causing the war and the atrocities that were committed and she became determined to undo the Versailles Peace Treaty of 1919 thus laying the ground for another war that broke out in 1939 and lasted till 1945.

2. The Treaty failed to disarm other European powers and only disarmed Germany. This was done to destroy her capacity to cause more chaos in Europe. Consequently, the German army was prescribed at 100,000 troops, no air force was permitted, no more recruitment into the army, her navy was reduced to 6 battleships. These did not go well with Germany and she was determined to undo the treaty by violent means.

3. It led to the disintegration of the German Empire which created a lot of bitterness in the Germans. Some German nationals were put under foreign rule and this may explain why later Hitler embarked on the move to re-unite those Germans under foreign control. There were Germans in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Sudetenland and these were the states that Hitler attacked in order to reunite the Germans under foreign rule.

4. The Settlement was dictated on the Germans (**Diktat**) thus created a lot of resentment among the Germans. The German delegation was not allowed into the Hall of Mirrors as the Allies were meeting and were only invited to sign, were to accept responsibility for causing the war and therefore guilty, was subjected to disarmament, reparations and loss of territories, a situation that caused a lot of bitterness in the Germans. Note should be taken that, it is generally accepted that, the **'guns that welcomed the signing of the treaty of Versailles opened the door for another war.'**

5. The Versailles Peace Settlement failed to check German re-armament especially when Hitler came to power and was determined to undo the Versailles Treaty, make Germany great again and re-unite the Germans who were under foreign rule. Consequently, Germany embarked on rearmament as well as aggression yet the Settlement and the League of Nations that came out of it merely looked on and this situation later led to the outbreak of World War II.

6. The Settlement dissatisfied Italy which later joined the Axis powers that caused the Second World War. During World War I, Italy fought on the side of the allies (Triple Entente) and had expected to get economic gains for her participation in the war. The effect of the war was destruction of her economy i.e. unemployment, inflation and

famine, she had lost between 600,000 and 700,000 soldiers. But during the Versailles Peace Settlement of 1919, Italy almost came out empty handed and was very bitter. She later joined the Axis powers (Germany and Japan) that caused World War II, 1939-1945.

7. The Settlement led to the rise of Dictators i.e. Hitler and Mussolini in Germany and Italy respectively. These two powers were a result of the harsh terms of the Versailles Peace Settlement / Treaty of 1919. Both countries were hit by the Economic Depression, high inflation rates, unemployment that caused a lot of hostility against the allies. They, therefore, became determined to undo the Versailles Peace Treaty / Settlement by violent means, make their countries great again, embarked on aggression which eventually led to the outbreak of World War II.

REVISION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why did the Versailles Peace Settlement fail to bring lasting peace in Europe?**
- 2. 'The Versailles Peace Treaty was unrealistic in its search for European peace. Discuss.**
- 3. Assess the achievements of the Versailles Peace Settlement between 1919 and 1939.**

Approach

- Analyse the achievements of the Versailles Peace Settlement as well as its failures.
- A clear stand point should be taken.

Points to consider

- The Versailles Settlement was a document that was signed on 28th June, 1919 in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. It was signed on the 5th anniversary of the assassination of the Austrian Archduke, Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie at the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo by a Bosnian terrorist, Princip who was dedicated to the struggle for Serbian independence.
- The Treaty / Settlement was signed between the Germans and the victorious powers. Note should be taken that the German delegation was kept out of the treaty and only invited to sign thus to them it was a **Diktat** and this may explain why Germany was determined to undo the treaty at the earliest opportunity.
- The Versailles Settlement had the following achievements:-
 - The Settlement concluded World War I which was a great human catastrophe because a lot of lives were lost as well as destruction of property on both sides i.e. the Allies and the Vanquished. There was also a lot of unemployment, inflation and generally economic distress had been experienced as a result of the war and being the first post-war settlement, it was a big achievement.
 - The Versailles Settlement led to the formation of the League of Nations that maintained peace for a period of 20 years (1919-1939). The League of Nations was formed

following the 14th point of Wilson Woodrow that proposed the formation of an international body which would ensure that peace prevailed in Europe as well as guaranteeing the independence of all states both big and small. This was, therefore, no mean achievement in ensuring that Europe was peaceful and stable.

- The Versailles Settlement of 1919 revived an era or spirit of international diplomacy that had failed before the outbreak of World War I. Note should be taken that, it was the absence of such a body that a period of lawlessness (anarchy) was experienced in Europe. An equivalent of the Vienna Settlement was not in place neither were there Diplomats, the likes of Metternich, Bismarck. Consequently, the situation in Europe was left to be handled by less diplomatic personalities like the Kaiser William II of Germany who instead caused more problems which brought about World War I thus the Versailles Peace Settlement ensured that peace was maintained.
- The Versailles Settlement contained the aggression of Germany and her Allies until 1939 when she invaded Poland and Czechoslovakia. It should be noted that Germany was all out to undo the Versailles Peace Treaty of 1919 that had imposed harsh terms on her i.e. she had lost her colonies to the Mandates System thus depriving her of sources of revenue, grounds for investments, markets hence a lot of economic distress to the Germans, she had embarked on the policy of re-uniting the Germans who found themselves under foreign rule and all these necessitated aggression until 1939 that caused the outbreak of World War II thus achievement of the Versailles Settlement.
- Due to the Versailles Peace Settlement, France regained her lost Provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. These two provinces had been lost to Germany in 1871 following the Treaty of Frankfurt which also imposed War Indemnity on France as well as an Army of occupation. During the Settlement, the Provinces were given back to France which also ended the hostility between France and Germany hence achievement of the Versailles Peace Settlement.
- The Settlement re-drew the map of Europe or it granted independence to a number of states in Europe i.e. Belgium, Poland and Czechoslovakia which had been invaded and occupied by Germany due to her aggression. In 1839, Belgium independence and neutrality had been guaranteed by the powers at the London Treaty but this was violated by Germany on 4th August, 1914. Germany also went ahead and violated the independence of Poland and Czechoslovakia. But with her defeat in 1918, these states were granted their independence thus the achievement of the Versailles Peace Settlement.
- The Settlement promoted international trade by making navigation of rivers and seas free. Originally, these waters were not free to free commerce and this may explain why there was uncertainty as far as the economies of Europe were concerned. But once they were opened to free commerce, international trade was enhanced thus economic development and this was an achievement of the Versailles Peace Settlement.
- The Settlement created awareness for the first time in the history of Europe of the dangers of deadly weapons and effected the disarmament of Germany. The First World War had shown the dangers of the weapons and Europe was, therefore, determined to ensure no such weapons were manufactured again. Consequently, Germany fell a victim and had to be disarmed so as to destroy her capacity to cause more chaos in Europe.

- However, much as the Versailles Settlement achieved a lot between 1919 and 1939, there were some failures / weaknesses that the Settlement registered i.e.
- The Settlement failed to apportion blame properly and as a result placed all the blame on Germany and left all the other powers that also took part in the war. This may explain why Germany felt it was unfair to be blamed alone for causing the outbreak of World War I and the atrocities that were committed. She was, therefore, all out to undo the Versailles Peace treaty by violent means thus laying the ground for another war i.e. World War II.
- The Settlement / Treaty also failed to disarm other European powers and only disarmed Germany so as to destroy her capacity to cause more trouble in Europe. Consequently, the German army was prescribed at no more than 100,000 troops, the German navy was reduced to six (6) battle ships, no air force was permitted and there was to be no conscription into the Army. All these did not go well with the Germans who were determined to violate the terms of the Versailles Treaty thus failure of the Settlement.
- The Settlement led to disintegration of the German Empire and this created bitterness among the German nationals. According to the settlement, some Germans found themselves under foreign rule thus creating bitterness in Germany and later Hitler embarked on the move to re-unite the Germans who found themselves under foreign rule. There were some Germans in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Sudetenland and these were the states that Hitler attacked in order to reunite those Germans.
- The Settlement was a ***Diktat*** and created a lot of resentment among the Germans. The German delegation was not allowed to go into the Hall of Mirrors as the Allies were meeting and was only invited to sign after the Allies had done what they felt was in their best interest. The Germans were to accept responsibility for causing the war and therefore guilty, was to accept disarmament, reparations and loss of territories, a situation that caused a lot of bitterness in the Germans. Note should be taken that, it is generally accepted that, the ***'guns that welcomed the signing of the treaty of Versailles opened the door for another war.'***
- The Versailles Peace Settlement failed to check German re-armament especially when Hitler came to power and was determined to undo the Versailles Peace Treaty, make Germany great again and reunite all the Germans who found themselves under foreign rule. Consequently, Germany embarked on rearmament as well as aggression yet the Settlement and the League of Nations that came out of it looked on a situation that later led to the outbreak of World War II hence the failure of the Versailles Peace Settlement.
- The Versailles Peace Settlement dissatisfied Italy which later joined the Axis powers that led to World War II. During World War I, Italy had fought on the side of the Allies (Triple Entente) and had expected economic gains for her participation in the war. The effect of the war was that her economy was destroyed i.e. unemployment, inflation and famine, she had lost between 600,000 and 700,000 soldiers. But during the Versailles Peace Settlement of 1919, Italy almost came out empty handed and she was very bitter. She joined the Axis powers (Germany, Japan) that caused World War II hence the failure of the Versailles Peace Settlement.

- The Settlement led to the rise of Dictators i.e. Hitler and Mussolini in Germany and Italy respectively. These two were a result of the harsh terms of the Versailles Treaty of 1919. Both countries were hit by the Economic Depression, high inflation rates, unemployment which caused a lot of hostility against the Allies. They, therefore, became determined to undo the Versailles Peace Treaty by violent means, make their countries great again, embarked on aggression which eventually led to the outbreak of World War II thus the failure of the Versailles Settlement between 1919 and 1939.

Take a clear **stand point**.

6. 'The terms of the Versailles Treaty were bound to lead to another World crisis.' Discuss.

Approach

- Analyse the terms of the Versailles treaty and evaluate the degree to which the terms were bound to lead to another world crisis.
- Analyse the degree to which they were not bound to lead to another world crisis.
- Take a clear stand point.

Points to consider

- The Versailles treaty was concluded between the Allied powers / victors and defeated Germany in 1919 and was meant to conclude World War I.

How it was bound to lead to another world crisis

- War guilt clause imposed on Germany
- Territorial adjustments were unfair to Germany therefore bound to arouse German nationalism
- Unfair / outrageous Reparations clause imposed on Germany
- Disarmament clause meant to cripple Germany incited German hostility.
- Decolonisation clause and the formation of the mandates system was unfair to Germany.
- The terms of the treaty were generally imposed on Germany and therefore a **Diktat** - The terms created the League of Nations that was dominated by the Allied powers.
- Austro-German union was forbidden by the terms of the treaty.
- Creation of weak independent states that easily fell victims to the Aggressors.
- The initial disagreement due to the ignoring of the 14 points of Wilson Woodrow.

How the terms were not bound to lead to another world crisis - Creation of the League of Nations to monitor and ensure peace.

- Granting of independence i.e. to Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Serbia reduced areas that were bound to cause crisis.
- The return of Alsace and Lorraine to France
- Disarmament of Germany checked German aggression for sometime.
- Demilitarisation of Germany also checked German aggression.
- **Clear stand point**

2. The Weimar Republic, 1919-1933.

RISE OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

The Weimar Republic was the new republican government that was established in Germany after her defeat in World War I, in 1919 and after the flight of the Kaiser William II to Holland. The flight of the Kaiser led to power vacuum which had to be filled. Consequently, a number of political parties emerged i.e. the Communists, the Socialists, the Republicans and the Democrats. The new government was by no means popular with all Germans.

In 1918, a provisional government was put in place with Frederick Ebert of the Social Democrats left to preside over it. He was to make peace and prepare for elections. In January 1919, elections took place, won by the Social Democratic party thus Ebert became the republic's first president. The first meeting of the delegates was held at Weimar where a new republican constitution was declared. This was because Berlin was thought to be too violent and unstable.

What should be noted is that, despite the fact that the republic was unstable, it was able to survive up to 1933 when Adolf Hitler overthrew it.

The rise of the Weimar Republic was attributed to the following factors:

1. There was general need for a democratically elected government that was based on western models. This situation was one that influenced the delegates of the Assembly to come up with a republican constitution the instituted the Weimar Republic government. Note should be taken that the Germans got inspiration from the British and French republican systems to adopt a republican government instead of continuing with the dictatorial monarchical government of the Kaiser William II thus the rise of the Weimar republic.
2. The part played by the foreign powers too contributed to the rise of the Weimar republic. The Kaiser's government was a problem to the powers and this may explain why they fought it and defeated it in World War I. After the defeat of Germany in the autumn of 1918, the allied powers offered Germany peace but under strict conditions i.e. she should become more democratic. What they had in mind was a government that would be their puppet and therefore dance to their tunes hence the rise of the Weimar republic.
3. Germany's defeat and the bad effects of World War I on her created circumstances which led to the rise of the Weimar Republic. With the Allied powers' defeat of Germany in 1918 came the destruction of her economy the results of which were unemployment, inflation, famine, starvation. The situation obtaining in Germany at that time caused strikes and demonstrations against the government of the Kaiser William II that forced him to flee into exile. The Germans then adopted a republic government hence the Weimar Republic.

4. Note should be taken that the abdication and fleeing into exile of the Kaiser William II created a power vacuum which had to be filled in by the new republic of the Weimar which came to power in 1919.
5. What should be noted is that the aggression of Germany had isolated her from the rest of Europe thus she became a big enemy in Europe. Germany's development was also affected as well as her position on the international scene. There was, therefore, need for reconciliation and peaceful coexistence with the other powers of Europe thus the adoption of the Weimar Republic thus its rise.
6. Due to the bloodshed, insecurity and clashes that was rampant in Berlin, the Constituent Assembly delegates had to shift the venue of the Assembly from Berlin to Weimar where a constitution and a republic were proclaimed under a Social Democratic leader, Frederick Ebert hence the rise of the Weimar Republic.

COLLAPSE OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

1. The Weimar Republic was unstable right from its inception thus laying a foundation for its downfall. Between 1919 to the end of 1923, it experienced a period of instability and crisis and struggled to survive. From the end of 1923 to the end of 1929, it experienced a period of stability under Gustav Stresemann thanks to the Dawes Plan of 1924 by which the USA provided huge loans. From October 1929 to January 1933, the Republic again experienced instability i.e. the world economic crisis. The government was unable to cope with the situation and by the end of 1932; the Republic seemed on the verge of collapse.
2. The new government was very unpopular from 1919 up to 1933 when Hitler overthrew it. The republic was founded on the defeat of Germany in World War I which made the majority to disassociate themselves from it. The Republic experienced outbreaks of violence i.e. the Spartacist uprising of 1919, the Kapp Putsch of 1920, a series of political assassinations and Hitler's Munich Putsch of 1923. This initial unpopularity led to its weakness and final collapse in 1933.
3. The Germans were not used to democracy since the 1780's, there was a traditional lack of respect for democratic government and only admired the army as the best institution to produce the right leaders for the Germans hence a poor foundation for democracy which was to be uprooted in 1933. Note should be taken that by 1922-1923 there were simply not enough Germans who believed in democracy and individual freedom to save the Weimar Republic thus its collapse.
4. The parliamentary system of government introduced in the Weimar had weaknesses i.e. it encouraged political power struggle since it allowed equal representation of all parties in an election. And since no one party ever won majority role in an election, made coalition governments difficult to avoid. The coalition governments encouraged power struggle since no one party could carry out its programmes. The power struggles between / among the ruling Democrats, Liberals, Bavarian Peoples Party, the Communists, Conservative Nationals and Nazis led to instability of the republic and its collapse.

Note should be taken that the political parties had little experience on how to operate a parliamentary system of government and also lacked leadership experience, its own army as a military wing. Disagreements became so bitter that some of the parties organised their own private armies, for self defence to begin with, thus increasing the threat of civil war i.e. The Socialists and the Nazis clashed on the streets. The combination of these weaknesses led to more outbreaks of violence and attempts to overthrow the republic hence its collapse.

5. The rise of Communism and Socialism in Germany created ideological differences which undermined the Republic. The outbreak of violence from 1919 and the difficulty the government faced in its suppression exposed the weaknesses of the Republic in controlling other events later i.e. the Communist rising in the Ruhr region where the Communists occupied most German towns and the Ruhr industrial region using strikes of the Communist model to fall over industries and satisfy the interests of the workers. This, therefore, showed the weakness of the Weimar Republic and eventually its collapse.

6. The frequent coup attempts by opposition elements e.g. Dr. Wolfgang Kapp was declared Chancellor in March, 1920, the occupation of Berlin by the Ex-servicemen forcing the whole cabinet to flee to Dresden. The President, however, called for a general strike which paralysed the capital, Kapp resigned and the government regained control. Kapp was imprisoned and nobody was punished. This was additional weakness of the Republic government.

The attempted coup by Hitler and Ludendorff, 'The *Munich Putsch*' of 1923, to overthrow the Republic but lacked support. The fact that he was arrested and imprisoned for 5 years, yet he was released after only 9 months exposed the sympathy of the Bavarian government to Hitler's aims and ambitions which made him overthrow the Republic in 1933.

7. The inefficiency of the government under Hindenburg contributed to the collapse of the Weimar Republic. From 1929, his failure to maintain law and order led to instability. The failure of the police to prevent or halt fights between the Nazis and Communists led to instability and collapse of the Republic in 1933.

8. The humiliation felt by the Germans due to the impact of the Versailles Treaty of 1919 weakened and made the Republic unpopular i.e. led to loss of German markets, sources of raw materials and areas of investment of excess capital. The Reparations payments led to bankruptcy of Germany by 1923, disarmament made the Republic defenceless to even maintain internal security and stability e.g. Germany had been left with only 100,000 infantry force, no air force was permitted, she had to accept blame for starting the war, she lost 16% of her coal and 48% of her iron industry. Most Germans were appalled, supporters of the Weimar republic felt betrayed by the allies while the opponents of the regime turned their fury on Ebert.

The injustice of the treaty became a rallying point for all Ebert's opponents. The treaty was still a source of bitterness in Germany when Hitler came to power in 1933. It should be noted that the Nazi propaganda against the Weimar Republic over reparations and disarmament made the Republic unpopular leading to the rise of Nazism.

9. The Economic Depression of 1929-1933 created problems that weakened the Republic leading to its easy collapse in 1933 i.e. caused unstable prices of agricultural products, overproduction, fall in foreign exchange earnings, bankruptcy, strikes among the Workers, widespread unemployment, social crisis and political chaos. The above, therefore, caused the Republic to lose support of the Workers, Farmers due to unemployment that led to its instability and collapse in 1933.

10. The weakness of the Republican leaders led to its collapse i.e. Ebert was dull, inefficient and a weak leader with no political (leadership) experience that made him unable to restore peace and stability. This led to frequent coup attempts to overthrow the Republic. He failed to arrest Hitler who could have died in prison on treason charges.

Hindenburg also messed up when he appointed Hitler Chancellor that made him control both the State and the Army which he used to overthrow the Republic hence its collapse.

The death of Stresemann in 1929 robbed the Republic of a very powerful foreign minister and the leading politician on the negotiating table with the French hence the years of hope and Recovery became short-lived till the collapse of the Republic.

11. The rise of Hitler and Nazism, his character and personality, oratory powers, broad appeals and the use of violence, his storm troops i.e. totally destroyed democracy leading to the collapse of the Republic. He promised to overthrow the unpopular Weimar Republic and repudiate the Versailles Peace Treaty, he also promised to form a strong government and restore national pride and fight Communism by violence, to solve unemployment problem as well as introduce better economic changes which made him appear as the real hope for the Germans. Thus he was widely accepted and the election victory of Nazism in 1933 determined the fate of the Republic hence its collapse.

REVISION QUESTIONS

1. Account for the rise and downfall of the Weimar Republic.

Approach

- Identify and analyse the factors that led to the rise and collapse/downfall of the Weimar Republic.
- No stand point is required.

3. The Russian Revolution Of 1917.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a two - in - one revolution. The first was in March, 1917 which was against the Czarist regime. Then the second one was in November, 1917 against the provisional government. These two revolutions were caused by almost the same factors. The Czarist regime had grown unpopular due to the revolutionary wave that swept the whole country. There was acute shortage of food. Food riots and strikes broke out in Petrograd (St. Petersburg).

The population demanded for increase in wages. Conditions in the factories were so poor, so many workers got seriously injured due to whipping, beating and fired for the smallest mistake. Generally, there was demand for peace, bread and land.

In November, 1917, the second revolution took place against the provisional government that replaced the Czarist regime because it had failed to solve the problems that caused the March Revolution of 1917. The March Revolution began with the forced abdication of the Czar Nicholas II from power, the intent of doing away with the aristocracy which was characterised by exploitation and oppression.

CAUSES OF THE REVOLUTION

1. Despotic Government

The despotic Czarist government did not give room for constitutional changes i.e. no constitutional or parliamentary reforms, lack of freedom of press, speech or equality before the law, no religious freedom - the Jewish and Lutheran Protestants were persecuted in favour of the Orthodox.

Besides, education was discriminative, secondly schools were entirely denied to children of the working class and the peasants. The intelligentsia was properly excluded from all local administration and the press was strictly censored. Consequently, there was widespread discontent which led to the formation of secret societies, provoked a wave of strikes and rise of reformist political parties i.e. the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks. Many of the Russian people resented the autocracy of the Czar Nicholas II and the corrupt and anachronistic elements in his government hence the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1917.

2. The Red Sunday

The general discontent in Russia was intensified by an event in St Petersburg, on a Sunday in January of 1905 About 250,000 workers staged a peaceful demonstration towards the Tsar's palace intended to give him a petition explaining their (Workers') poor conditions in the factories and demanding for better working conditions. Although a peaceful demonstration, the Cossack (Cavalry) fired at them and killed many and wounded several. The results of this unfortunate incident were rebellions and riots by

workers, peasants as well as Sailors. The incident also aroused popular concern among the disgruntled against the government. This increased revolutionary propaganda.

Desperate to keep control, Nicholas II issued the October Manifesto promising to improve conditions for the peasants and industrial workers, he also agreed to the calling of the Duma (Parliament) in which all classes would be represented. However, by 1906 the Czar made it clear that he was not willing to share any power with the Duma. This bred more discontent against the government hence the 1917 Revolution.

3. The Character of the Czar, Nicholas II, 1894 -1917

He was a real Despot and did not follow the idea of a parliament. He was quoted to have said that he would follow the '*principle of autocracy as firmly and unswervingly as my late father.*' He was a kind man and a good father but had no idea of the problems facing Russia. Therefore, like his father, Alexander III; his aim was to preserve the monarchy even if it meant the extreme use of repression.

He was deeply a conservative ruler and maintained a strict authoritarian system, believed in divine right / rule thus he assumed that the Russian people were devoted to him with unquestionable loyalty hence this ironclad belief rendered Nicholas II unwilling to allow the progressive reforms that might have alleviated the sufferings of the Russian people.

The Czar was generally a weak character who could not solve the country's problems. His approach to issues was narrow since he was less intelligent. Besides, he was under the terrible influence of Tsarina and Rasputin who misadvised him thus general discontent (revolutionary) as the masses realised that under the Czar Nicholas II there were no hopes for reforms. This led to the assassination of Rasputin in 1910, and then the revolution which led to the overthrow of Nicholas II and the Tsardom in March 1917. It should also be noted that Nicholas II ruled at a different time from that of his father, a time of social and economic changes which called for accommodation rather than repression. This repression therefore had to be challenged hence the Russian Revolution of 1917.

4. The Crimean War, 1854 - 1856

The Russian ambitions in Turkey were halted in 1856 by combined force of Britain and France. Due to this defeat, humiliating terms were imposed on her. From then onwards the Czar Alexander II needed to raise his country to a level of modern states of Western Europe. The war had shown that Russia was inefficient in the following areas,

- Her industry was unable to supply enough munitions.
- Her agriculture was unable to supply enough food.
- Her civil service was unable to organise the war.

The Czar carried out reforms in various areas i.e.

- (a) The press was relaxed

- (b) The legal system was reformed i.e. judges and magistrates were appointed for life and could not be dismissed by the government.
- (c) Equality of all before the law.
- (d) Trials to be held in public and by the Jury.
- (e) All classes became liable for military service.

It should be noted that the reforms by Alexander II led to the growth of revolutionary movements. Each reform wetted the appetite for more.

- Educational development created a more literate people able to read and understand the arguments of Radicals.
- The land reforms left many people dissatisfied.
- Industrial towns created their own problems. Using the greater freedom of the press, the movement won a great deal of support, many thousands joined thus the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1917.

5. The influence of the Nihilists.

The Nihilists were a group of revolutionaries (youth radical groups) who thought that everything from the past had to be destroyed then a new society could be built. Due to the fact that the old system could not go away peacefully, the revolutionaries resorted to terrorist tactics i.e. use of Bombs, Guns, Knives. Consequently, the government turned to repressive methods i.e. thousands were arrested and exiled to Siberia; Editors of newspapers could be dismissed if they did not reveal the names of the writers of the Nihilist articles.

Many students preached revolutionary ideas to the peasants but were not successful because most peasants did not understand the ideas. There developed desire for violent uprising to sweep the Tsarist system away hence the 1917 Russian Revolution.

6. Natural Disaster

There occurred bad weather which led to poor harvests. This was made worse by the destruction of the Ukraine wheat fields by the German forces. Famine set in, hunger increased and an inflationary situation cropped up. The government was bankrupt, therefore, provided no practical measures to rectify the situation. There was acute food shortage and generally economic distress. There were demonstrations of the masses to Petrograd (St. Petersburg) to begin a revolution which became the only alternative hence the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1917.

7. Effects of World War I, 1914 - 1918

The Czarist regime was finally brought to its knees by Russia's involvement in the Great War of 1914 - 1918. Right from the beginning of the war, there was disaster for Russia. The war yielded no gains to the Russian masses, instead there was loss of lives. Peasants were sent to the battle front without arms and as a result, they died in millions.

It should be noted that, in spite of all these losses, the Czar continued with his war policy for his ambition of getting Constantinople and all that was promised to Russia in the secret treaties with the allies.

It revealed inefficiency and corruption in the government. The great wheat growing area of Ukraine was invaded and agriculture destroyed over a large area hence unemployment and famine. The people moved from rural to urban areas where they found the situation was equally bad, they grew hungry and this economic hardship led to discontent among the people. They had to rise up against the Czarist regime. The 1917 Revolution started in form of a demonstration by students and workers in Petrograd and later spread to the rest of Russia hence the 1917 Revolution.

8. Revolutionary Examples from Europe

The Revolutionary examples of Liberal democratic movements in Europe were an inspiration to the Russians. They learnt through examples that Revolutions could be a way to get liberty and fraternity. E.g. the 1789 French Revolution, the 1830 Revolutions in Poland, Italy, Belgium. The Russian radicals adopted and began to preach the revolutionary ideas of the west (i.e. Revolutionary ideas -liberty, equality and fraternity) to the Russians. The result was that people began to advocate for reform but the Czarist government merely turned a deaf ear. This created a revolutionary situation which led to the outbreak of the Russian Revolution of 1917.

9. Effects of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905

Throughout the 19th Century, Russia had been defeated militarily and diplomatically. i.e. In 1856, she lost in the Crimean war. In 1878, she lost diplomatically to Britain and Austria in the Berlin Congress. The disaster of 1904 -1905 worsened the military and diplomatic position of Russia. Russia embarked on an advance towards Asia and the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway in 1891 and the Eastern railway of 1903. It should be noted that such developments brought under Russian control, Manchuria and Korea. This situation provoked Japan to declare war on Russia.

In 1904, war broke out which led to the defeat of Russia with a loss of about 136,000 lives. This defeat was disastrous to the Russians as well as the Czarist regime hence discontent throughout the country. The murder of his Minister of Interior, Plehve in 1904 and of his uncle in 1906 showed great revolutionary indignation of Czardom.

The Liberals demanded for freedom of speech and association, fair trial and an end to ruthless practices of the Secret Police, there was an intense campaign for strikes and demonstrations in the big cities. Russia was forced out of Manchuria and Korea and also lost Port Arthur to Japan.

The above situation fuelled up widespread strikes followed by demands to end the weak regime. This sparked off the 1917 Revolution in Russia.

This came about as a result of the desire of the Czar, Alexander II to create a modern Russia. He embarked on industrial development which resulted into growth of large manufacturing towns and increase in urban population due to the rural - urban migration.

The above situation resulted into worsening labour conditions which provoked the masses to revolt. There was acute urban congestion, political chaos by the redundant unemployed. Demand for better working conditions, right of Trade Union Organisation and better wages.

It should be noted that the resulting gross poverty, starvation and deaths forced the hungry, jobless or the exploited urban dwellers to rise up against the Czarist regime which had failed to address the unemployment, urban congestion, food and accommodation shortages. The developments in industrialisation also led to the rise of a new middle class which demanded for a share in the government dominated by the old civil servants. This development of a Russian capitalist community favoured a revolution to overthrow the Czarist regime.

10. The Land Question

This worsened the conditions of the rural masses (peasants) and many joined in the revolution. The 1906, Emancipation policy was a relief to the peasants from serfdom, giving them freedom to sell or live on their land plots.

However, the Redemption fee was too high with high interest rates. This fee was to be given to their Ex-landlords as compensation for loss of Labour from the peasants. So the peasants were forced to sell their land in order to pay the redemption fee (they resented the redemption payments to the state). In the process of its implementation, a rural class of the landless was created and this had the desire to abolish the landlord system which was supported by the government or to control the system itself hence the Russian Revolution of 1917.

11. The Rise of Socialism and Socialist Parties

The rise of socialist reform parties led to the outbreak of the 1917 Russian revolution. These began in the form of socialist democratic party and social Revolutionary party which later transformed into major revolutionary parties - Bolsheviks (majority men) led by Lenin and the Mensheviks (Minority men) led by Trotsky. These Parties demanded for reforms in the political, social and economic systems.

They aroused revolutionary emotions through socialist propaganda and mobs through strikes e.g. St. Petersburg strike (cotton workers' strike) of 1885-56 organised by Lenin and use of propaganda. It should be noted that by 1917, the propaganda and activities of such parties had gathered enough force hence the 1917 Revolution in Russia.

12. Revolt of the Cossacks

These were the loyal troops to the Czar and he regarded them as his greatest supporters but towards the end of February, the situation turned against him. The regiments were ordered to suppress strikes, put down the demonstrations but instead rose up in mutiny and fraternised with the Revolutionaries. This strengthened the strike movements under the leadership of the Bolsheviks, Mensheviks and the Social Revolutionaries. Everywhere, towns and up country - troops joined the Strikers and Soldiers' representatives were appointed to various Workers Committees (Soviets). The Russian parliament (Duma) also denounced the Czar, Nicholas II who lost hope and had no option but to abdicate.

13. The Policy of Russification

This was the forced absorption of the minority nationalities in Russia into Russian values and culture.

These minority nationalities included the Poles, Finns, Ukrainian. They were to accept the Orthodox Christian faith, learn Russian language which was supposed to be dominant and it was criminal to behave like a non-Russian.

In Poland, the Polish language was banned in public places and was replaced by Russian, no Pole or Roman Catholic was to hold an official position. Among the Finns, Ukrainians, Lithuanians and Belarusians, the teaching of native languages was forbidden.

What should be noted is that, the policy of russification caused a lot of discontent that generated the idea of change among the minority nationalities hence the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1917.

14. The Czar Alexander II's half-hearted reforms.

Due to the political, social and economic inefficiency that characterised the Czarist regime, the Czar Alexander II carried out reforms to address the situation i.e. changes in the local code like trial by the jury and few trials were held in secret, Judges were adequately paid, granted security against arbitrary dismissal, censorship was relaxed, expansion of educational facilities, **Zemstva** (district or provincial assemblies / elective councils for local government in the country side) were set up, reforms in the economy i.e. expansion of industry and railways, reforms in the army, military discipline was made less barbarous. Emancipation of the Serfs i.e. emancipation decree merely liberated them from the landlords but instead enslaved them with many having no access to land thus the so called liberation was only in theory.

It should be noted that these reforms never satisfied the middle class professionals nor the Serfs. The middle class professionals desired more liberal reforms based on western lines. Thus the Czar's reforms wetted the appetite for more since they considered his reforms inadequate hence the revolutionary spirit that cropped up in Russia which caused the Russian revolution of 1917.

15. Weakness of the Russian Army.

It should be noted that the Russian army was so weak and discontented and therefore could not live to the expectations of the Russian masses. The weakness was portrayed during the defeat of Russia in Japan during the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905.

The army had inadequate supplies, logistics and weaponry, lack of equipment, soldiers went hungry, lacked shoes thus ineffectiveness that led to massive casualties and military reverses during World War I of 1914-1918. This situation caused dissatisfaction among the General Staff, led to defections i.e. when the revolution broke out, the Cossacks joined the masses hence the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1917.

The Bloody Sunday and the death of father Gapon in January of 1905 caused the revolution. Father Gapon who was a priest of peasant origins led a vast crowd of about

250,000 to present a petition to the Czar for reforms. Unfortunately, the army panicked at the sight of such a big crowd and fired on them killing many and wounding several. The death of the demonstrators aroused the indignation and fury of every class in Russia thus the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1917.

The forceful military conscription had a negative implication on agriculture and also caused social unrest. The energetic youth were forced to join the army thereby affecting agriculture hence food shortage, famine and generally bad economic conditions that caused discontent among the Russian masses thus the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1917.

16. Weaknesses of the Russian Dumas.

The Dumas (Parliaments) were generally weak and therefore could not control the state of affairs in Russia. The Dumas had little power, could not control the Czar's finances, could not select or dismiss his ministers, and could not insist on legislation. The Czar preferred to try to fit the Dumas into his own autocratic system. Consequently, Nicholas II dismissed several Dumas i.e. the 1st Duma lasted only 73 days in 1906, the 2nd Duma survived for three months in 1907, the 3rd lasted from 1907 to 1912 while the 4th from 1912 to 1917. In dismissing the first Duma, the Czar Nicholas II had declared:

'A cruel disappointment has befallen our expectations. The representatives of the nation, instead of applying themselves to the work of productive legislation, have strayed into spheres beyond their competence.'

(Source: Success in European History, 1815-1941 by Jack B Watson, pg. 220.)

The dismissal of these Dumas caused a lot of discontent among the Russian people thus the 1917 Russian revolution.

17. Industrialisation and its effects.

Industrialisation in Russia caused revolutionary situation in Russia. In the 1880's and 1890's Russia embarked on heavy industrial growth i.e. she expanded her railways, increased her iron and steel production, grain production also increased as well as textile manufacture.

There was expansion of towns and factories with which came dreadful conditions in the towns i.e. overcrowding, poor pay / wages, unemployment, child labour, poor living conditions. All these led to discontent among the masses that worsened the long history of political discontent.

Note should be taken that the Czarist government provided no practical solution to address these issues thus the masses resorted to revolutionary violence hence the Russian revolution of 1917.

SUCCESS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1917.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a *two* in *one* revolution. The first one occurred in March against the *Czarist regime* which led to the establishment of the *Provisional* government while the second one occurred in November against the *Provisional*

government. The following factors explain why the Russian revolutions of 1917 were successful:

1- The Czarist government failed to control or suppress the growing agitation among the Workers.

The bad conditions i.e. overcrowded housing, long working hours, constant risk of injury and death from poor safety and sanitary conditions, harsh discipline, inadequate wages. led to strikes and demonstrations which the government of the day could not stop. These were massively supported thus the 1917 revolution hence success.

2- The abdication of the Czar Nicholas II on 15th March, 1917 in favour of Grand Duke Michael who declined the offer. Note should be taken that by 1917, the Czar Nicholas II, the last of the Romanov dynasty, had become unpopular among the Russian masses i.e. Peasants, Workers even his own Cabinet Ministers as well as the Army. He was generally weak, could not control the situation in Russia by this time thus abdication.

The refusal of the throne by Grand Duke Michael resulted into the establishment of a Provisional government by the Revolutionaries. The Provisional government was charged with the responsibility of addressing the causes of the 1917 March revolution that overthrew the Czarist regime thus success.

3- The mutiny of the Cossack regiment and its support to the revolutionaries.

The army was the only institution that still had support for the regime of the unpopular Czar but later turned against the regime. This was due to lack of equipment, Soldiers went hungry, lacked shoes, munitions and even weapons, war weariness and huge losses at the battle fields i.e. in the Crimean war of 1854-1856, the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905 and World war I of 1914-1918 made them turn against the regime / Nicholas II. Consequently, the Cossack rose up / mutinied and joined the revolutionaries, had to ensure there was order in Russia, Collaborators of the Czarist regime were arrested, some imprisoned thus success.

4- Foreign Support:

The revolutionaries got support both moral and financial from Germany, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland. The revolutionary leaders i.e. Kerensky and Trotsky were able to mobilize resources through the above countries as well as direct support. A case in point was the German role in smuggling Lenin in a 'train' into Germany and later Lenin was instrumental in the overthrow of the Provisional government. The Germans hoped that Lenin's activities would cause more chaos that would weaken Russia or even if the Bolsheviks came to power, they would lead Russia's withdrawal from the war- (World War I.) thus success of the 1917 revolutions.

5- Able leadership of the Revolutionaries:

The leaders of the revolutions i.e. Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin and Kerensky were men who exhibited excellent leadership. They were determined to bring change, had the revolutionary zeal, were Orators and their speeches were very appealing to the suffering Russians. Lenin had promised to bring peace, bread and land as the immediate

solution to the problems of the Russians. This, therefore, led to massive support for the change they were promising hence success of the 1917 Russian revolutions. **6-The Disastrous effects of World War I on Russia.**

It should be noted that the involvement of Russia in the great war of 1914-1918 had disastrous effects on Russia politically, socially and economically. There were inadequate supplies, logistics and weaponry which led to heavy losses. This, therefore, strengthened Russia's view of Nicholas II as a weak and unfit to rule.

It led to famine / starvation, loss of lives, destruction of property. A case in point was the German destruction of the Ukraine Wheat fields.

By 1917, all sections of the Russians especially the Soldiers wanted an end to the war unfortunately the provisional government's policy was to continue with the war. Lenin exploited this situation by promising to end the war thus success of the Russian revolutions of 1917.

7- Unpopular War policy of the Provisional government.

The provisional government came into effect after the abdication of the Czar Nicholas II and the refusal of the throne by Grand Duke Michael. It was to address the causes of the March revolution of 1917 that ousted the Czarist government.

It should be noted that, by 1917, the Russians wanted an end to / withdrawal from the war but the Provisional government's policy was to continue with the war in spite of the disastrous effects i.e. loss of lives, destruction of property. There were massive demonstrations of the Workers and Soldiers against the continuation of the war.

This situation, therefore, made the Russians rally behind the revolutionaries who opposed the continuation of the war thus the success of the Russian revolutions of 1917.

8- The Appealing Manifesto of the Bolsheviks.

The Bolsheviks had promised to establish a Socialist government, address inflation, unemployment, nepotism, famine, put an end to the war / withdraw Russian involvement in the war, land, peace and bread and also announcements of elections. All these were appealing / attractive to the Russians that they had to give their support to the revolutionaries hence success of the Russian revolutions of 1917.

9- Popular Support from the Masses:

By 1917, Russia was faced with a lot of problems i.e. high inflation rates, rampant unemployment, a lot of nepotism, famine, natural calamities, discontent among the Soldiers that were defeated by the German forces. All these were not addressed by the provisional government under Kerensky.

When the Bolsheviks / Revolutionaries appeared on the scene, the Russian masses i.e. intellectuals, peasants and workers gave them overwhelming support hence success.

10- Failure of the Provisional government to control the freedom of press and association. This was exploited by the Bolsheviks. The Provisional government that came to power in March 1917 was to address the problems which caused the

revolution in March; unfortunately it was weak and could not do so. Kerensky who was Prime Minister in the Provisional government promoted freedom of speech a situation which led to the emergence of *Iskra* or the *Spark* and Lenin's '**What isto be done**' in 1902, asserting his own belief in a dedicated revolutionary party, strictly disciplined and professional to lead Russians into a Marxist state.

(Source: Success in European History, 1815-1941 by Jack Watson, page 216).

Lenin also published the '*April Theses*' in 1917 that called for uncompromising opposition to the Provisional government and also urged the people to support the Bolsheviks in a second revolution. The *Iskra* of Lenin and company became the main mouth piece of the Russian Marxists. Lenin's slogans, '*peace, land and bread*' and '*All power to the soviets*' contrasted sharply with the cautious message of the provisional government hence increasing support for the Bolsheviks thus success of the 1917 Russian revolutions.

11- The application of force and establishment of the Cheka at the end of 1917.

The **Cheka** was a secret police under Felix Dzerzhinsky to rout out potential opposition. It was to fight counter revolution, deal with drunkenness, speculation and crime in general. It was a formidable political police force for use against all kinds of opposition to the government.

Felix Dzerzhinsky defended the Cheka as a necessity:

'It must take into account only one thing, the victory of the revolution over the Bourgeoisie, so the Cheka must defend the revolution and conquer the enemy even if its sword falls occasionally on the heads of the innocent.'

(Source: Success in European History, 1815-1941 by Jack Watson, page 302).

The use of force and establishment of the **Cheka**, therefore, led to the success of the 1917 revolution in Russia.

12- Weakness of the Provisional government.

The provisional government that came to power after the March revolution in 1917 and was meant to address the causes of that revolution unfortunately it was very weak. It failed to fulfil what the Russian wanted most i.e. food, land and peace instead it continued with war to which the people were opposed. It failed to bring food into towns and food prices soared upwards thus lost support of the people.

The provisional government could not manage the situation in Russia at this time i.e. hold-ups and robberies that were rampant, chaos everywhere in Russia, collapse in discipline of the soldiers who had been fighting in the war. All these caused discontent among the French hence the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1917.

RESULTS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The Russian Revolution or Bolshevik Revolution was a major turning point in the history of Russia. It brought fundamental changes in the political, social and economic set up in Russia.

(a) The Revolution caused the collapse of the Czarist regime and the end of the Romanov dynasty that had ruled Russia for over three decades. With the abdication of the Czar Nicholas II and the refusal of the Grand Duke, Michael, to take over as the new Czar, came the end of Czardom in Russia and the establishment of a Workers' Republic.

(b) Abdication of the Czar, Nicholas II in favour of the Grand Duke, Michael (his brother) who declined the throne and the establishment of provisional government under Kerensky.

(c) Establishment / consolidation of the first Communist party under the leadership of Lenin. Stalin and Lenin got inspiration from the social ideas of Karl Marx thus the success of the Bolshevik's 1917 revolution led to the socialist government, the first of its kind in Russia.

(d) Russia was forced out of the 1st World War. Russia had generally suffered as far as the war was concerned and the general feeling in Russia was against the war yet the provisional government's policy was to continue with the war. Lenin had promised to end the war and withdraw Russia from it and indeed when he came to power, he signed the treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918.

Note should be taken that by signing the treaty, Russia was isolated thus she was left out and no gains from the Versailles Peace Settlement of 1919 and not even made a member of the League of Nations until 1930's.

(e) It gave rise to commoners who became revolutionary leaders such as Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky. This was due to the fact that the revolution had destroyed the discriminative social class system in Russia.

(f) The Revolution brought Russia into a prolonged war between Lenin's Communist Party and the Social Revolutionary group opposed to the Russian losses in the war.

(g) It brought to an end Russian claim over Poland. With the outbreak of the Russian Revolution and the civil strife that followed, the Polish population asserted their independence.

(h) A lot of lives were lost as well as property destroyed. This was due to the clash between the supporters of the Provisional government and the Red Army of the Revolutionaries, the power struggle between the majority men (Bolsheviks) and the minority men (Mensheviks). Note should also be taken that strikes and demonstrations of the workers and peasants too led to loss of lives and destruction of property as well as famine.

(i) It led to the collapse of feudalism in Russia. After the revolution, land was taken from the Kulaks, nationalised and redistributed to the majority Peasants for collective farming and ownership (collectivisation). This gave a lot of say to those that had earlier

been denied ownership of land hence a lot of employment opportunities that reduced rural-urban migration. It further reduced famine, income inequality and exploitation by the rich landlords as the Peasants acquired land.

(j) Large scale nationalisation of banks, railways and the larger industrial undertakings. Factories were placed under the control of committees elected by the workers. This safeguarded the Peasants and Workers against exploitation by the Capitalists.

(k) The revolution laid the foundation for the Cold War which led to division of Europe into two camps that were antagonistic. The communism that was a result of the revolution in Russia later spread to Eastern Europe. This clashed with the interest of the Western powers led by the USA that were all out to contain the spread of communism and promote capitalism thus an ideological war was sparked off.

REVISION QUESTIONS

1. Account for the collapse of the Tsardom in Russia in 1917.

Approach

- Identify and analyse the factors / reasons that caused the collapse of the Tsardom in Russia.
- No stand point is needed.

2. Why was there a revolution in Russia in 1917?

Approach

- Identify the factors that caused the Russian Revolution of 1917 and analyse / explain them.
- No stand point is required.

3. Examine the causes and consequences of the Russian Revolution of

1917. Approach

- Identify and explain the causes and consequences of the Russian Revolution of 1917.
- No stand point is required.

4. To what extent was Czar Nicholas II responsible for the outbreak of the Russian revolutions of 1917?

Approach

- Analyse the degree to which the Czar Nicholas II was responsible for the outbreak of the Russian revolutions.
- Other factors should also be analysed.

- A clear stand point should be taken.

Points to consider.

- Nicholas II was the Russian Czar from 1894 up to 1917.
- Russia was a multiracial empire composed of the Latvians, Ukrainians, Mongos etc.
- Czar Nicholas II was a dictator.
- His extensive secret police network was brutally effective.
- He banned political parties while radical critics of his regime were either imprisoned or exiled.
- He censored the press and banned political meetings.
- Lacked legal and constitutional restraints on choice of ministers, exercise of political power or formation of national policy.
- His anti-Semitism and absolute autocracy.
- He disregarded reforms during the industrial revolution i.e. socio-economic reforms like poor working conditions, long working hours etc.
- Banning of Trade Unions.
- Participation and failure in the Russo-Japanese war of 1905 leading to the Cossack mutiny.
- Failure to reform the Army.
- Interference in the functioning of the Dumas i.e. 1st Duma of 1906, 2nd Duma of 1907, 3rd Duma and 4th in 1912-1917.
- His failure in Land Reforms.
- Nicholas III's association with Rasputin (the evil monk).
- His war policy of 1914-1917 i.e. made mistakes by appointing himself Supreme Commander in August, 1915; tactical blunders caused heavy losses of Soldiers.
- Granted amnesty to Exiles who turned against him.
- His failure to curb corruption.
- Nicholas III promoted the policy of Russification i.e. one Tsar, one Church, one Russia.

Other factors

- Weakness of the Dumas.
- Role of Lenin.
- Weakness of the Provisional government under Kerensky.

- Role of Rasputin and Tsarina.
- Impact of industrialisation and rise of Socialism (Middle Class influence).
- Influence of Western Ideologies.
- The Impact of the Russo-Japanese war of 1904.
- Support of foreign powers e.g. Germany aided the return of Lenin.
- Natural calamities i.e. bad weather, poor harvests.
- Alexander III's half-hearted reforms.
- Effects of World War I on Russia.
- Unpopularity of Czardom.
- Rise of Nihilism in Russia.
- Revival of revolutionary parties i.e. Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.
- Policy of Russification.

*** A clear stand point.