

Chapter 1: WW1

Treaty of Versailles

- **Aims of the big three, why did they differ?**

Wilson [USA]: Advocated for a just & lasting peace, based on his Fourteen points, and probably because they didn't suffer a lot. He aimed to prevent future wars mainly through creation of the League of Nations.

Clemenceau [France]: Mainly concerned with ensuring France's security against future German aggression. He aimed to weaken Germany as much as possible as they suffered the most and for revenge.

Lloyd George [Britain]: Sought to balance the interests of France and Germany, while also ensuring Britain's economic and strategic interests.

- **Terms of the TOV**

War guilt clause: Germany forced to accept full blame for the war

Reparations: Germany to pay massive reparations to the Allies

Territorial losses: Germany had to give up many strategic & economically valuable territories

Military disarmament: German armed forces were severely limited

League of Nations: Germany not allowed to join

- **Impact/effect of the TOV on Germany**

- **Short-term**

- Wave of bitterness against the new democratic govt.

- **Medium-term**

Reparations, territorial losses, and military restrictions led to economic hardship from hyperinflation, political instability of the Weimar government, and widespread resentment of the civilian govt as blame was placed on the govt.

- **Long-term**

Rise of the Nazi Party and Hitler. The effects of the harsh terms of the treaty created a sense of resentment among the German people, contributing to the growth of extremist ideologies.

League of Nations

- **Aims of the LON**

Key aim: Resolve international disputes without war. Aim to be achieved through collective security.

Collective security: All members of the league would collectively defend each other against aggression.

Disarmament: Reduction of arms of members in League

- **Effectiveness**

- **Successes**

Upper Silesia 1921: Germany & Poland argued over upper Silesia. To solve the issue, the league oversaw a peaceful vote and divided the region between Germany and Poland

Greek-Bulgarian border 1925: Greece attacked Bulgaria over dead Greek soldiers at the border. Bulgaria asked the league for help. The League told Greece to leave Bulgaria & both sides to stand down. Greece obeyed but said the League treated smaller countries unfairly

- **Failures**

Vilna 1920: Poland seized control of Vilna, Lithuania's capital. Lithuania sought help from the League of Nations, but to no avail. Britain and France didn't want to help as they saw Poland as a possible ally against Germany.

Corfu 1923: Albania and Greece argued about their shared border. Italy was involved in helping to decide the border, but some Italian officials were killed in Greece. Italy blamed Greece, demanded compensation, and attacked the Greek island Corfu. Greece asked the League of Nations for help, but Italy said the League shouldn't be involved. Britain & France did not want a dispute with Italy. In the end, Italy won.

- **Weaknesses of the LON: Why was the LON ineffective in keeping peace?**

Lack of enforcement powers due to absence of the USA, leading to inability of enforcing decisions.

Failure of disarmament, many countries continued to build military forces.

Lack of unity of members due to conflicting interests.

Ineffectiveness of collective security as nations often hesitated to intervene into conflicts to protect their interests.

Chapter 2: Nazi Germany

Reasons for the rise of the Nazis

- **Weaknesses of the Weimar govt.: How did it enable the Nazis to gain power?**

Weimar govt. was unpopular as they were forever to blame for the Treaty of Versailles. Many felt they stabbed Germany in the back (Dolchstoß). It failed to address the economic crisis, leading to widespread discontent and resentment. People blamed their hardship & suffering on the Weimar government. This led to extremist ideas taking root as an alternative to the ineffective govt. such as the Nazis.

- **Strengths of the Nazis & Hitler: How did it help the Nazis to gain power?**

Hitler utilized his excellent oratorical skills to persuade & charm people with his speeches. He won over many wealthy business owners & industrialists who supported the Nazis financially. Nazi main beliefs appealed to many in Germany.

Impact of Nazi rule in Germany

- **Political**

- **Aims**

To establish a totalitarian state based on racial purity and authoritarian rule. They sought to eliminate political opposition, control the media, and suppress civil liberties.

get rid of freedom of ppl

*SS & SA
intimidation*

- **How did the Nazis consolidate their power?**

The Reichstag Fire Feb 1933: Mentally unstable communist set fire to the Reichstag. Hitler used it to get president Hindenburg to pass the Decree for the Protection of People & State. Hitler then arrested thousands of communists, crushing his rivals.

Enabling act March 1933: Enabling act allowed Hitler to make and pass laws without consulting the reichstag and without president approval. He used the SS & SA to intimidate opposition and pass the act. [End of democracy in Germany, established legal dictatorship of Hitler]

Nazification of Germany 1933: Bringing all aspects of the state under Nazi control. It prevented any attempts to undermine Nazi rule.

Night of the long knives June 1934: Hitler wanted to consolidate his power within the Nazi party & rid opposition to his authority. Hitler saw the SA & its leader, Ernst Rohm as a threat as he challenged Hitler's policies and the position of the army. In June 1934, the SS arrested Rohm and other SA leaders. [Hitler consolidated his power within the party & rivals were purged]

The Army and the Oath of Allegiance: President Hindenburg died soon after the Night of the long knives. Hitler took over as Fuehrer (supreme leader). The army swore an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler. [Germany was now a totalitarian dictatorship.]

- **Economic**

- **Aims of their economic policies**

- To achieve self-sufficiency & prepare for war.

- Autarky: Made Germany self-sufficient by reducing reliance on imports & increasing domestic production.

- Rearmament: Nazis invested heavily in military buildup, preparing Germany for war & violating the Treaty of Versailles.

- **Social**

- **Aims: How did it help the Nazis to ensure loyalty & obedience?**

- Aimed to establish a Nazi totalitarian state. Create a racially pure society of the Aryan race, & ensure loyalty & obedience of the German people.

- Propaganda & censorship: Indoctrinated German people with Nazi propaganda and controlled the flow of information.

- Women's roles: Nazi ideology emphasized the traditional role of women as homemakers & mothers. Women were encouraged to have many children to ensure the future of the Aryan race

Education & youth: Nazis controlled the education system & established youth organizations like the Hitler youth to indoctrinate young people with Nazi ideology.

Chap 3: Militarist Japan

Reasons why the military was able to gain power in Japan

- **Weaknesses of the civilian govt.: How did these weaknesses enable the military to gain power?**

Instability of emperor yoshihito: Emperor Yoshihito was unable to exercise control over the govt.

Lack of leadership: Weak leaders failed to address the nation's problems effectively

Party infighting: Constant political instability, conflict between Cabinet & Diet civilian politicians due to party politics made it difficult for the PM to gain majority support.

- **Strengths of the military & how they promise to solve Japan problems**

Military presented itself as a solution to Japan's problems

Discipline & order: Military emphasized discipline & order as a means to restore stability.

National unity: The Military promised to unite the nation & overcome internal divisions.

Economic prosperity: Military argued that expansionist policies would lead to economic prosperity

Examples of how the Japanese military attempted to seize power in Japan

- **Challenged the authority of the civilian govt.**

Manchuria: Invaded Manchuria without permission in 1931, making it a puppet state. → Framed chinese for bombing Japanese railway track to invade manchuria

Assassination of political leaders: Military assassinated key politicians who opposed their policies; Feb 1932 Former Finance Minister murdered. May 1932 PM Inukai assassinated.

Military takeover: Military staged coup d'état in 15 May 1932 but unsuccessful. New PM was naval admiral & cabinet had a majority of military officers, successfully kicking out civilian politicians & further consolidating their power.

Impact of Japanese rule

- **Political: How they seized power & set up a military govt.**

Increased military influence: Many positions in the govt. given to military officers, & campaign of 'electoral purification' got rid of opposition.

Emergence of control faction in govt.: Appointed general as minister for war, preparing Japan for war, modernizing military further.

Loss of political power for civilian politicians: They were unable to stop independent action of the military (Manchuria). Military control over Cabinet & finances. Growing support for the military.

- **Economic: Control over the economy & zaibatsu**

Industrialisation: Shift to war economy. Invest in heavy industries, chemical & arms production, and improving infrastructure. New zaibatsu such as Nissan helped Japan exploit resources, strengthening the economy.

Control over industry: Control exerted over zaibatsu to stop competition between them.

Improving conditions in the countryside: 1932 Campaign for Economic Revitalisation; modernize farming and increase income, helping farmers in rural areas.

- **Social: Ensure complete loyalty & obedience**

Total propaganda

Control of Japanese thought: Promote loyalty to state & emperor, & companies were like family. Censorship of ideas opposing govt. ideology. Kempeitai (secret police) set up to eliminate opposition.

Control of education: Education system emphasized National pride, loyalty to emperor, & community over individual. Instill patriotism, ultranationalist, & militarist ideals. (Support govt. expansive war-like policy)

Chap 4: WW2 in Europe

Reasons for the outbreak of war

- **Hitler's aggressive foreign policy: E.g. of how Germany broke the TOV & expanded territory**

Leaving the League of Nations: Abolished the Treaty of Versailles and broke a term in it. They don't need to follow the rules anymore.

Rearmament: Began to rearm and build their military through conscription to solve unemployment, breaking a term of the treaty.
Saar plebiscite: A vote in the Saar region which resulted in majority in favor of joining Germany, breaking the term of expanding territory.
Remilitarisation of Rhineland: Remilitarised a confiscated territory under the Treaty of Versailles, expanding territory & breaking the terms.

- **Appeasement policy: What were reasons for appeasement by Britain & France?**

Appeasement: Britain & France pursued a policy of appeasement, hoping to avoid war by making concessions to Germany due to the strain of WW1.

Misjudgement: They misinterpreted Germany's intentions & did not comprehend the real threat of Hitler.

US isolationism: USA wasn't in the league due to the policy of isolationism 1920s where it did not want to get involved in Europe's matters. Without the greatest power at that time, countries could not do much.

- **Failure of the LON to stop aggression: Why was the LON unable to check German aggression?**

Weaknesses:

Lack of enforcement powers due to absence of the USA, leading to inability of enforcing decisions. Ineffectiveness of collective security as nations often hesitated to intervene into conflicts.

Appeasement as the league's failure to address earlier acts of aggression contributed to a climate of appeasement.

- **Invasion of Poland 1939: How was Germany able to invade Poland? [Nazi-soviet non-aggression pact] [Invasion of Poland - immediate trigger for WW2]**

Nazi-Soviet Non-aggression pact: Germany & USSR signed a non-aggression pact, dividing Poland between them. This pact removed the threat of a soviet invasion, allowing Germany to focus on invading Poland

Invasion: Germany launched a quick invasion on Poland using advanced military technology & overwhelming force

Ultimatum/Immediate trigger: Invasion of Poland marked the beginning of WW2, as Britain & France declared war on Germany in response

Chap 5: WW2 in Asia (Japan)

Reasons for the outbreak of war in Asia

- **Aggressive foreign policy of the Jap military: What were the aims of the Jap military? E.g. of aggression by Jap**

Expansion: Belief that it's Japan's destiny to remove western powers from Asia and expand its rule over Asia. Military believed Japan needed to be self-sufficient.

Colonisation & creation of empire: Japan needs to be an equal power to the west by colonizing & creating empire. Rivalry with western powers; Japan felt they were exploited by western powers.

Creation of self-sufficient empire: Japan sought to create an empire that was economically self-sufficient & free from foreign disruption

Invasion of Manchuria 1931: Japan took advantage of the civil war in China between Guomindang & Chinese communist party. Used the Mukden incident (Framed the Chinese bomb Japanese railway) to invade Manchuria.

2nd Sino-Japanese war 1937: Japan launched full scale invasion of China, all out war with China (beginning of WW2 in Asia)

Attack on Pearl Harbour 1941: Japan launched surprise attack on Pearl Harbour, bringing the US into the war.

Relations with external powers that led to Japan's aggression: Conflict with Russia (Russo-Japanese War, 1904-05), conflict with China (1st Sino-Japanese War 1894-95), worsening relations with USA (US imposing high tariffs on Japanese goods)

- **Failure of LON to stop Jap aggression [examples]**

Ineffective enforcement mechanisms: Ineffective economic sanctions as they did not have the support of the USA & Britain as Britain seemed more interested in maintaining a good relationship with Japan, and the absence of USA in the league meant they couldn't enforce decisions effectively.

Appeasement: Many league members could not agree to ban arms sales to Japan as member countries were worried of an escalated retaliation from Japan.

Chap 6: End of WW2 in Europe & Asia

- **Strength of the Allies (USA & USSR): Reasons why the allies were able to defeat Germany & Japan [Mil advantage of the Allies, & atomic bomb]**

USA: Vast industrial capacity & abundant resources enabled them to produce massive quantities of war materials, including tanks, aircraft, and ships. They supplied large amounts of equipment & essentials, becoming an Arsenal of democracy. Their use of the atomic bomb to end the war on Japan.

Britain: Resistance to German invasion was key as they were a crucial base for the allies.

due to Hitler's
↑ strategic errors

USSR: Industrial production increased in huge amounts, allowing it to produce vast amounts of military equipment & vehicles.

*All this led to military advantage of the allies.

- **Weaknesses of Germany & Japan [Military weaknesses compared to the allies]**

Overextended forces: Both Germany & Japan had to fight on multiple fronts, which stretched their resources & made it difficult to concentrate their forces. Hitler's ineffective use of military vehicles & equipment was another factor in its defeat. Tactical errors: Germany's invasion of the USSR during winter gave USSR time to reorganise their army & Japan's attack on pearl harbour bringing USA into the war were strategic errors that led to their downfall. Both Japan & Germany poorly planned their attacks in the war.

Economic limitations: Japan was unable to effectively leverage their empire as they were too far apart. Its reliance on colonial possessions for raw materials made it vulnerable to Allied attacks.

Japan: Japan had outdated attitudes towards the war and lacked local support of conquered countries due to how brutally they treated the citizens, which wore the Japanese down.

Chap 7: Reasons for Cold War in Europe

- **Reasons why the Cold War broke out in Europe after WW2**

Differing ideologies: The US advocated for capitalism and democracy, while the USSR championed communism and a command economy. This created a deep ideological divide that fueled mistrust and tensions between the two superpowers as both saw each other as a threat to their way of life.

Competing interests: Both the US and the USSR sought to expand their spheres of influence. The USSR aimed to establish communist regimes in East Europe, while the US sought to prevent the spread of communism and promote democracy.

Misunderstandings: Communication & diplomatic efforts between the US & USSR were often hindered by distrust, especially the descent of the 'iron curtain' of Stalin's satellite states, where Churchill's speech angered Stalin. This intensified the already tense & hostile atmosphere.

Nuclear weapons: The development of nuclear weapons by both the US & the USSR heightened the sense of threat of each other, intensifying tensions and making compromise difficult.

- **Examples of the Cold War tension in Europe: How did it worsen the CW tensions?**

Berlin blockade [1948]: The USSR imposed a blockade on West Berlin, an allied zone located deep within Soviet territory, cutting off supplies to West Berlin. This was seen as an attempt to isolate and pressure West Berlin and force the allies out. The Western powers responded with the Berlin Airlift to supply West Berlin with essentials by air. This heightened tensions between USSR and the western powers as it humiliated the USSR but boosted credibility of the Western powers.

Military alliances: The formation of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in 1949 by the western powers, committed to collective security. The USSR saw this as a threat & created the Warsaw Pact in 1955 by USSR & its Eastern European communist allies. This heightened tensions as Europe was now divided into two armed camps.

Events in Turkey & Greece: There was a risk of Greece falling to communism, which meant Truman faced a prospect of an European country falling to communism. Stalin was also trying to gain influence in Turkey & wanted to get excess to the Turkish states. Truman was concerned, if Turkey became an ally of Stalin, Stalin might use it to spread communism in the Middle East, an important area to the US for its oil reserves. In response, Truman exaggerated the scale of the threat

Due to
civil war
between
the
communists
& govt.

in Greece & Turkey. This worsened relations between Stalin & himself as Stalin kept his promise to Churchill in 1945 not to intervene in Greece.

American containment policy:

Truman doctrine Mar 1947 > Policy of containment aimed at stopping the spread of communism. The USA would provide money, military equipment & advice to democratic countries threatened by communism. This meant the USA would actively resist communism, alarming Stalin. This increased tensions between them.

Marshall plan June 1947 > US would use its economic power to stop the spread of communism; an economic aid plan to help recover weakened economies in Europe so that they will not be attracted to communism. The US shipped supplies to democratic countries in Europe to aid their economic recovery. Recipients were extremely grateful & saw it as a generous gesture by the US. This helped bind the US & its allies closer together against communism & led to creation of opposing spheres of influence. This intensified hostilities & rivalry between the USA & USSR. Stalin was angered & believed the US was establishing control & domination in Western Europe to advance into Eastern Europe & threaten soviet control.

Cominform (equivalent to Truman Doctrine): Soviet response to Truman doctrine. Tightened control on satellite states, & trade was only to be done with Cominform members. Economic aid was offered to the satellite states.

Comecon (equivalent to Marshall Plan): Soviet response to Marshall plan. Set up to coordinate Cominform's economic politics. United the economies of Eastern Europe & Soviet Union to help each other recover from the war.

Chap 8: Korean War [Study in the context of CW as an example of proxy war]

- Reasons for the Korean War

Consequence of the Cold War. After WW2, Korea was divided along the 38th parallel into North Korea under communist influence & South Korea with US support. Tensions between the two sides as Kim Il Sung (NK) & Syngman Rhee (SK) disliked each other intensely. Both wanted to reunify Korea under their own rule. Tensions escalated from border skirmishes first instigated by the south to capture territories in the North, subsequently fierce fighting often broke out by the borders.

- Role of external players that became involved: How did they contribute? What was the effect of their involvement?

US: The US intervened in the war due to Truman's belief that the USSR is trying to spread communism to Asia by instigating the war. He aimed to stop the spread of communism. He provided military aid & supplies to South Korea, pressured the UN to condemn North Korea's actions, & helped turn the tide of the war for the south.

USSR: Indirectly participate in the war. It trained & organized the NKPA, making them a formidable fighting force. Supplied military aid & trained air forces of China & NK.

China: Entered to defend its shared border, fearing that a unified non-communist Korea would pose a threat to its security. NKPA (NK) & PLA (China, People's Liberation Army) pushed the UN forces back to the 38th parallel.

- Impact of the KW on the CW & its players (USA, USSR, China, NK, SK)

The Korean War worsened relations & heightened tensions between the superpowers as it led to creation of anti-communist alliances and the Warsaw pact. It confirmed China as an influential player in the

international arena. The war was extremely costly for the US. The US intensified military power & increased military budget.

Chap 9: Vietnam war [Study in context of CW & proxy war]

- Reasons for the Vietnam War

Internal divisions: Vietnam was divided into North & South along the 17th parallel from the Geneva accords May 1954, with north under communist rule & south under western influence. The division created peace but not stability. North Vietnam under Ho Chi Minh was politically stable while South Vietnam under Ngo Dinh Diem was unpopular & corrupted, Diem regime was weak.

South Vietnam Insurgency 1954-1960: Disruption & harassment against Diem's regime by former Viet Minh. Diem responded with harsh & repressive measures. North Vietnam supported the insurgency, with the Viet Cong in action, they took orders from Ho. They used guerilla warfare & best known for the Tet offensive, a surprise attack on South Vietnamese cities during tet (Vietnamese new year). They also created the Ho Chi Minh trail which allowed supplies to be transported to its fighters in 1961 to 1963. As it escalated, external powers became involved, such as the US & led to the Vietnam war.

- Role of external players that became involved in the VW: How did they? What was the effect of their involvement?

France: Initially sought to maintain control over Vietnam but the fierce resistance from the Viet Minh & the humiliating defeat at Dien Bien Phu of the 1st Indochina war made the French lose interest in keeping Vietnam as a colony as the cost of the conflict outweighed the benefits. French troops withdrew under the Geneva accords May 1954 and Vietnam was divided along the 17th parallel.

US: Belief in the Domino Theory; if Vietnam fell under the control of the communist bloc, other countries would also fall under communist rule like a row of dominoes. Urgent need to stop the spread of communism. Military & economic assistance was provided to south Vietnam. Entered the war in August 1964 after North Vietnamese patrol boats attacked the USS Maddox, a US destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin.

USSR & China: Provided military & economic assistance, supplying weapons & ammunition to the Viet Cong, the communist insurgency in south Vietnam, & training North Vietnamese soldiers & military officers. Economic aid helped to sustain North Vietnam's war effort.

- **Impact of the VW on the CW & its players**

US: Damaged confidence in how the US managed international relations, reflected in the international decline in American prestige. The war demonstrated that the ideology of the West was not always morally superior. The atrocities committed by the US damaged its reputation & the Congress now exercised greater oversight of presidential actions. The US sought greater understanding with the USSR in the period of détente (reduction of tension), & improved diplomatic relations with China.

USSR's rise: The USSR's support for North Vietnam strengthened its position as a global superpower.

Chap 10: End of Cold War

Reasons for the end of Cold War

- **Decline of the USSR**

Political decline: Dissatisfaction with the Communist Party grew, leading to opposition from E.European states & demands for political freedom. This highlighted the failure of communism to provide good living standards. Ageing soviet leaders were ill-equipped to deal with challenges & made numerous unwise decisions.

Economic decline: Soviet economy was stagnant & underperforming. It became overwhelmed by increasing demands and struggled to cope, & made poor decisions. Fighting proxy wars & supporting its communist allies with a weak economy became a huge financial burden. Arms race with the US strained their resources, especially the development of nuclear capability. Prioritizing spending in the military over other sectors such as consumer goods & education led to deterioration of people's lives & widespread corruption. Lives of people in the USSR were in stark contrast with Western Europe & USA, hence terrible criticism of the Soviet economy.

- **Strength & superiority of the US military & economy**

Economic might: President Reagan introduced successful liberalization (loosening of governmental control), which led to financial boom in the 1980s.

Military might: With the booming economy, they increased US defence budget & produced new weapons, renewing arms race with the USSR. They also started the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or 'Star Wars programme'; launching satellites into space, tracking & destroying any nuclear missiles targeting America. This forced the USSR to increase its defence spending despite resources already being stretched.

- **Impact of Gorbachev's reforms (New thinking)**

Glasnost(openness): Focused on creating more openness where information would be better communicated with the public by relaxing censorship of media, exposing them to popular western media.

However, this revealed the truth behind Stalin's purges. Many felt the govt. had lied to them, lost confidence in the communist govt & thus wanted independence. Glasnost created a platform of uncontrollable criticism to communist rule, contributing to the disintegration of the USSR.

Perestroika(restructuring): Series of political & economic reforms meant to kick-start the stagnant 1980s economy of the USSR. It aimed to increase efficiency & fight the problem of corruption. In 1987, it allowed market forces to be introduced into the Soviet economy; it is no longer illegal to buy & sell for profit. However, it failed: There was no overall increase in output. Infrastructure such as roads & storage facilities remained inadequate. Shortages of food & necessities persisted. The govt still controlled the means of production, which meant business owners still had to pay high taxes & deal with dishonest officials. Moreover, Communist party's leadership of the govt was not rejuvenated. Instead, it led to mounting criticism of Gorbachev. Changes took time & did not happen fast enough for the people, thus people lost faith.

De-ideologization of Soviet Foreign Policy: Gorbachev cut spending on defence & adopted a new attitude of cooperation & friendly stance towards the world. He focused on international trust & cooperation rather than confrontation for the future of USSR. 1989, Gorbachev adopted the Sinatra doctrine; USSR would no longer intervene in other countries to support communist regimes or takeovers.

Reagan-Gorbachev summits: Gorbachev wanted friendly relations with the West. They agreed to further reduce their nuclear weapons. Reagan also declared he no longer thought of

the USSR as an evil empire due to the changes Gorbachev was making.

- **Collapse of the USSR: End of Cold War**

March 1989, Gorbachev made clear to the Warsaw Pact leaders that the Soviet army would leave E.Europe & would no longer prop their countries up, they now have to listen to their people. 9 Nov 1989, the Berlin Wall became overrun & guards abandoned it, jubilant crowds began to dismantle it. The Berlin Wall was a symbol of Cold War bi-polarity. There was no longer any 'wall' separating East & West Berlin, & the collapse of the Iron Curtain. Many E.European states began to agitate for independence from the USSR in 1989. Dec 1991, Soviet republics signed an agreement to dissolve the Soviet Union. 25 Dec 1991, Gorbachev resigned as president of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union is now officially dissolved. The Cold War has ended.