

# WORLD WAR AND WHAT FOLLOWED

4

## The First World War

In the previous chapter we discussed the expansion of imperialism and colonialism. When the imperialist powers entered into mutual competition, conflicts among them became widespread. The international problems which surfaced during this period caused mutual mistrust and enmity. The problems began with the attempts of imperialist powers to occupy the east European regions under the control of the Ottoman Empire. It was known as the Eastern Question. Fearing that Russia would gain control over the Ottoman territories, an alliance was formed by Britain, Prussia and Poland. The Balkan Crisis was its





immediate fallout. The Eastern Question and Balkan Crisis are considered to be the causes of First World War.

A campaign had already started to unite all German speaking people under one state. Regions in the Balkan peninsula were also included as part of the project. When Austria laid claim over the Balkan peninsula, Germany supported it. But Serbia claimed this region on racial grounds. Russia supported Serbia. The conflict between Russia and Germany over this region was known as the Balkan Crisis.



Analyse the circumstances which led to the Eastern Question and Balkan Crisis by examining the map.

### Moroccan Crisis

Let us now examine the Moroccan Crisis. A secret treaty was concluded between Britain and France in 1904. A major provision of the treaty was that if Britain was given a free hand in Egypt, she would admit the claim

of France over Morocco. The French claim over Morocco was opposed by Germany. France agreed to transfer a part of French Congo to Germany and Germany agreed to concede Morocco to France in return. Thus the problem was solved for the time being.



### Morocco and the French Congo

Morocco is an Islamic state of North Africa. The Strait of Gibraltar, connecting the Mediterranean with the Atlantic, was controlled by Morocco. This was the reason for the crisis.

French Congo, colonised by France, consisted of the present Central African republics of Congo and Gabon. About thirty French companies exploited the resources of this colony and treated the natives like slaves.

## Baghdad Rail

The construction of the Baghdad railway line was started to connect the German city of Berlin with the city of Baghdad in Iraq. Britain and Russia feared that it would enhance the commercial prospects of

Germany. Britain and France thought that Germany would extend her influence to Persia and the Ottoman Empire, to Egypt. This became one of the causes of the First World War.

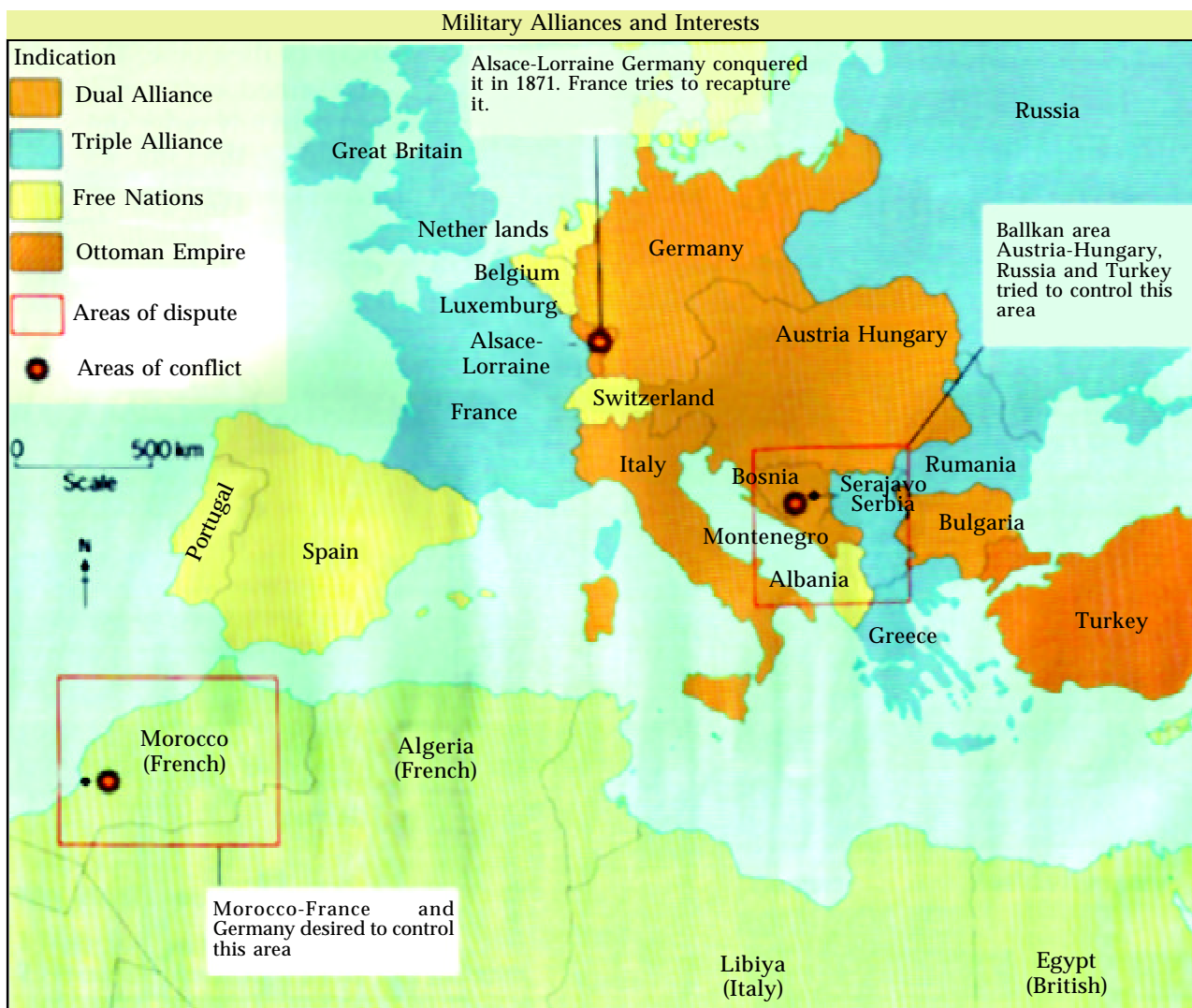


*Mark the German city of Berlin and the city of Baghdad in Iraq on the political map of the world and draw a line connecting the two cities. Explain how the construction of the Baghdad railway became a cause of the first world war.*

Why did the imperialist powers fan these crises? It was to control the colonies and exploit their resources. Therefore, the First World War is described as the imperialist war.

military alliances. Not only did these alliances lead to mutual suspicion and fear, but they also gave a clear indication that, if a war broke out, it would not be confined to a region.

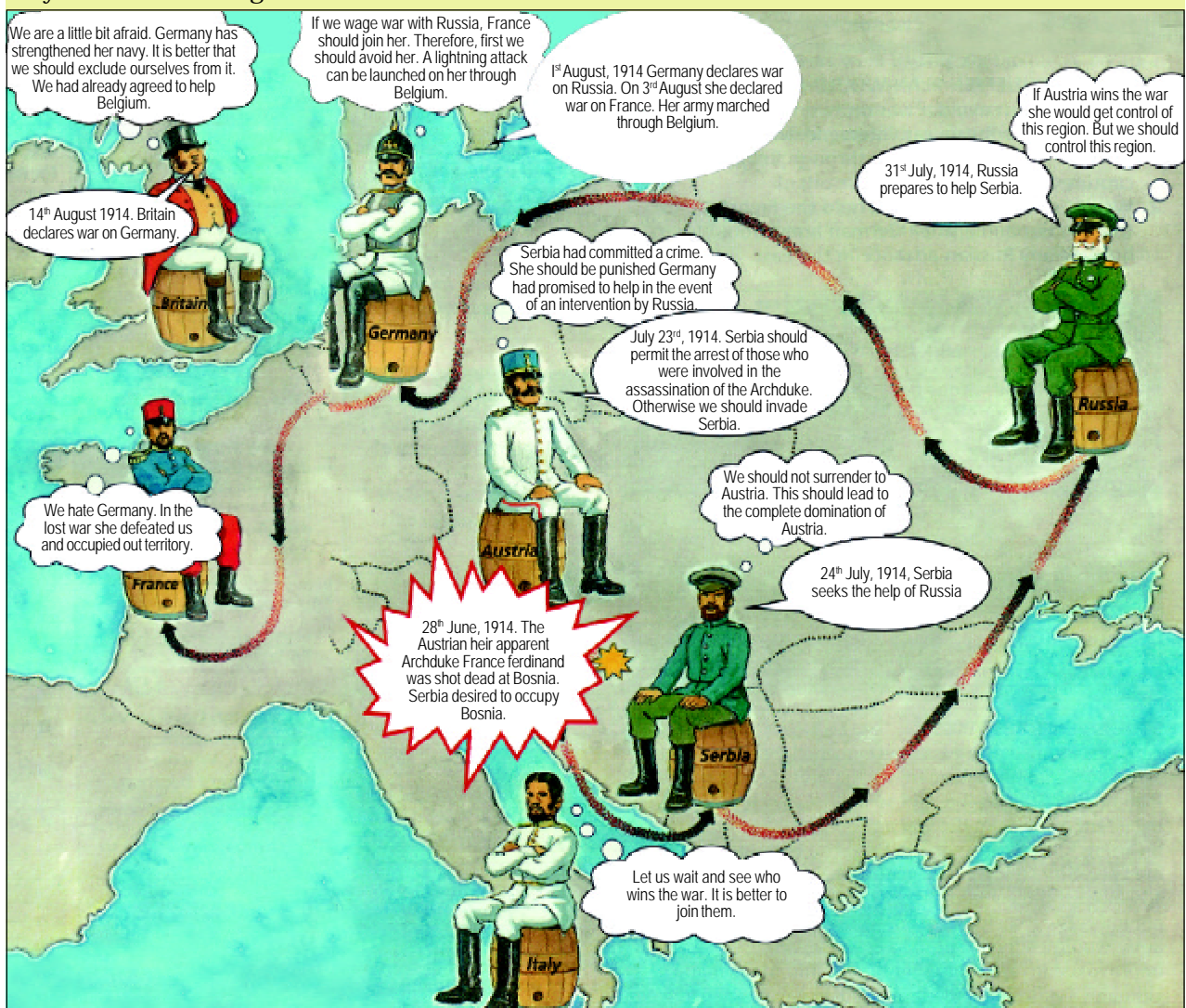
We have seen that the quarrels among the imperialist powers led to the formation of



The crises created deliberately by the imperialist powers led the world to a war. Serbia reacted sharply to the Austrian imperialist designs. The Austrian heir apparent, Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife were shot dead at the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo on 28th June 1914 by a Serbian national Gaverilo Prinsep. Austria issued an ultimatum demanding explanation from Serbia within twenty-four hours, which Serbia ignored. Thereupon Austria declared war on Serbia on 28th July 1914. Thus the First World War began. Russia rushed to the

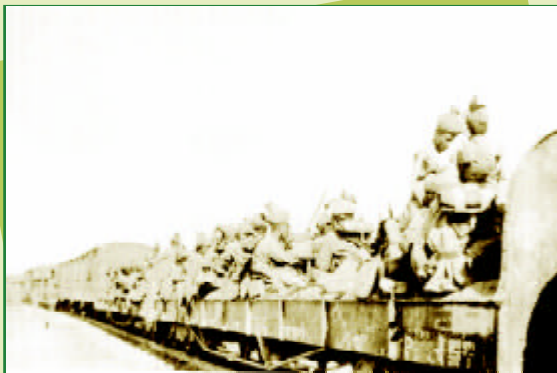
help of Serbia. Germany declared war on Russia and France as the latter had an alliance with Russia. Britain declared war on Germany. Italy withdrew from the German alliance and joined Britain while Japan, Portugal, Greece and Romania joined Britain. Turkey and Bulgaria joined Germany. Thereafter, Britain and her allies came to be known as Allied Powers and Germany and her allies were called Central Powers. The colonies were also dragged into this war fought among the imperialist powers.

Way to the War - Thought and Action





*Which were the countries involved in the international crisis that precipitated the First World War?*



Scenes from the War front

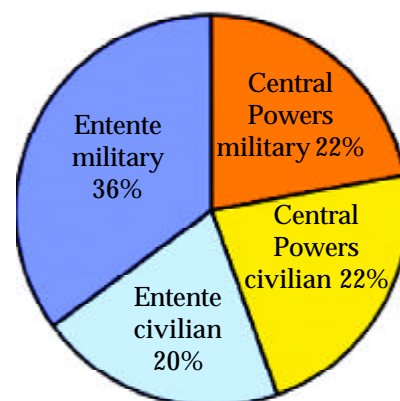
Though Germany initially made great advances in France, she was finally defeated. In the naval front ultimate victory was won by Britain. Though America kept aloof from the war in the beginning, she later joined the Allied Powers when her ships were sunk repeatedly by Germany.

This was a relief to Britain and her allies. After the Revolution, Russia withdrew from the war in 1918. The Central Powers faced repeated defeats. Finally, Germany surrendered.

The strategies adopted in the First World War were new and the technologies used

were destructive. For the first time in history, battles were fought on land, sea and air. Tanks, shells and mines were used in the War

**First World War - Deaths**



on land. Germany used poisonous gas like chlorine with no ethical consideration. Ships were sunk by using torpedoes. One of the characteristics of the First World War was the use of aeroplanes to drop bombs. About

one crore of soldiers lost their lives. World economy was shattered. Poverty and unemployment became acute. Agriculture and industry declined.



*The improvement of military weapons and the invention of new ones affect the human race. Discuss.*

## Peace Efforts

Even as the World War was going on, efforts were on to bring about peace. The Fourteen Points put forward by the American President, Woodrow Wilson, was part of this effort. A Peace Conference was convened at Paris in 1919 at the end of the war. England,

France, America and Italy attended the conference. The vanquished countries were not invited. These four big powers imposed treaties on other countries to suit their interests. Let us examine the most important of these.

### Fourteen Points of Woodrow Wilson

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 No more secret treaties</p> <p>2 Freedom of voyage through seas both in war time and peace time</p> <p>3 Free trade among the countries</p> <p>4 All countries should endeavour for disarmament</p> <p>5 Right to national self-determination for colonies</p> <p>6 Withdrawal of German army from Russia</p> <p>7 Independence of Belgium</p> <p>8 Restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France</p> | <p>9 Delimitation of the boundaries of Austria and Italy</p> <p>10 National self-determination of the East European people</p> <p>11 Freedom of Serbia for passage to the sea</p> <p>12 Right to self-determination of the people of Turkey</p> <p>13 Poland to become a free state with access to sea</p> <p>14 Formation of a League of Nations</p> |
|---|---|

## Treaty of Versailles

Among the treaties signed following the Peace Conference in Paris, this was the most important. It was signed with Germany. According to this highly humiliating treaty, many territories controlled by Germany were given to France, Belgium and Denmark. The size of her military strength was

drastically reduced. She had to surrender her battleships. Restrictions were imposed on the production of arms and ammunition. Above all, war guilt was imposed on Germany. She was forced to pay 6.6 million dollars as war indemnity.

**Treaty of Versailles - Main Provisions**

**War guilt**

- Germany was held responsible for the war.

**Disarmament**

- The number of soldiers was restricted to one lakh.
- No more conscription
- No production of tanks, submarines and war planes.

**Indemnity**

- Germany should compensate for the loss incurred by France, Belgium and Britain till 1921.
- It was not a silly amount (about 6.6 million dollars). It amounted to about 2% of the national product of Germany.

**Return of the territories conquered by Germany**

- All German colonies were divided among Britain and France.
- Germany lost Alsace-Lorraine and the Saar basin.
- The connection between Germany and Austria was severed.
- Poland was given Western Prussia and upper Silesia.
- Danzig became a free city under the supervision of the League of Nations

**League of Nations**

- Formation of the League of Nations as an international policy. But no membership to Germany till it became a country of peace.





Versailles Peace Talks

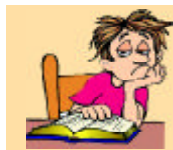
Versailles was not the only treaty which was signed in 1919. According to the Treaty of St. Germaine concluded with Austria-Hungary, Hungary was severed from Austria. As part of the Treaty of Sevres, signed with Turkey in 1920, Turkey lost all her claims over Africa and West Asia. The Caliphate of Turkey was abolished.

Through these various treaties new states emerged in Europe. They were Poland,

Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Albania.

### The Fallout of the War

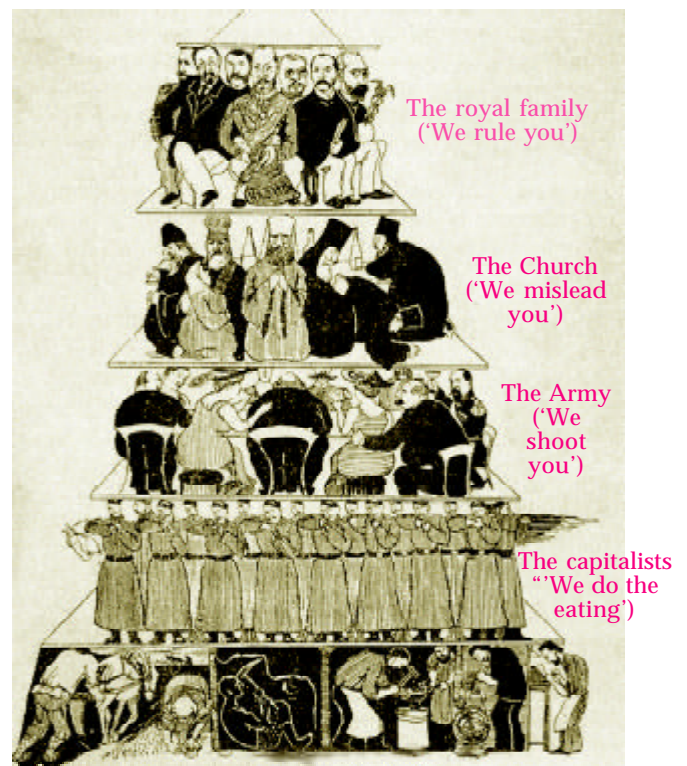
The consequences of the First World War were far-reaching. Many European dynasties with several centuries of standing such as Hohenzollerns of Germany, Hohenstaufens of Austria and Hapsburgs of Spain lost their thrones. The Romanov rule came to an end in Russia. It accelerated the democratic process in the world. In Turkey the rule of Khalif came to an end, and the country became a republic under Mustafa Kamal Pasha. After the Russian Revolution of 1917 the balance of power among the nations underwent a thorough change. Cracks appeared in the foundations of imperialism.



*Do you think that the peace treaties concluded at the end of the war were justifiable?*

### Russian Revolution

You know about the French Revolution which influenced the world so greatly. The Russian Revolution which happened during the First World War was a similar one. Russia was ruled by emperors known as the Tsars. Under the Tsars of the Romanov dynasty, Russia tried to become an imperialist power. Big landlords called the Kulaks harrassed the peasants greatly. The industrial development of Russia on the Western style made the exploitation of the working class possible. The peasants and workers protested against the despotic rule of Russia which supported the exploitation. The Social Democratic Labour Party was formed in 1898. Its main leader was Vladimir



The workers ('We work for you. We feed you')

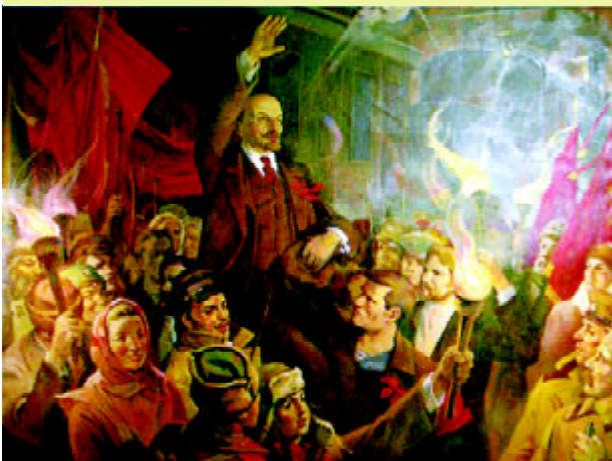
Cartoon showing the Tsarist system



Ilych Ulyanov, otherwise known as Lenin. Later this party got split into two as Bolsheviks (majority faction) or Left Wing and Mensheviks (minority faction) or Right Wing. Lenin became the leader of the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks appealed to its members to become well organised revolutionaries to fight against the imperialist government of Russia. They strived for propagating revolutionary ideas among the workers and pursued strikes and revolutionary activities as the means to achieve their goal. The Mensheviks parted ways with the Bolsheviks by putting forward reform and election as a substitute for revolution.

Following the defeat of Russia in the war with Japan in 1905, a revolution was organised against the Tsar. The emperor Nicholas II agreed to constitute the parliament called 'Duma'. When poverty and unemployment became acute, they formed Soviets, which were councils of the workers and the peasants. The police tried to suppress them. The leaders of the Bolshevik party went underground. Many were arrested and jailed. Lenin went to Switzerland to evade arrest and imprisonment. During the course of the First World War poverty was widespread and in 1917 strikes broke out. The workers demanded the withdrawal of Russia from the World War as well as the abolition of

Lenin with his followers



## Left wing, Right wing

It was during the French Revolution that the terms Left wing and Right wing came to be used widely. In the National Assembly those who supported the king were seated on the right side of the President and those who supported the revolution on the left. In the British Parliament the ministers sat on the right side of the Speaker and the opposition on the left. Subsequently those who followed progressive ideology came to be known as the Left.

Tsardom. On 12th March, 1917, several regiments of the army mutinied and joined the striking workers. They released the political prisoners and captured the capital city of Petrograd. This incident, which took place in the March 1917, was known as the February Revolution. (As per the old Russian calendar, it was in February).

## Bloody Sunday



Russian factory workers, who had to work for ten or eleven hours continuously, organised themselves under

the leadership of Fr. George Gapon in 1903 demanding improved conditions of labour. Under his leadership, about one lakh workers struck work and marched to the palace of the emperor on 22nd January, 1905. The police assaulted them brutally. More than one hundred workers died. With this incident, also known as Black Sunday, the Revolution of 1905 is said to have begun.

What were the changes brought about by the February Revolution in Russia?

When the Revolution broke out, the Tsar was not in the capital. He made an attempt to dissolve the Duma but in vain. The Duma assumed power and on 15th March formed a provisional government. The Tsar abdicated. However, the Mensheviks and their leader Alexander Kerensky who led the provisional government failed to solve the problems faced by the people. Their decision to continue the war was opposed by the Bolsheviks.

While the February Revolution broke out, Lenin was away in Switzerland. He came back to Russia secretly. He declared war on the provisional government at Petrograd. The other leaders who joined him were Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin.

Lenin declared that what the people needed was not war and poverty but peace and food.

On November 7, the united force of the workers, soldiers and the Soviets under the leadership of the Bolsheviks captured all strategic cities including Petrograd. Lenin addressed the people through the radio that the provisional government was overthrown. He promised land to the peasants and control of production to labourers, power to the Soviets and peace to all. He declared that a socialist order would be implemented in Russia. Though this incident occurred in November, according to the Russian calendar it was in October. Hence it is known as October Revolution. Kerensky escaped but the members of the provisional government were arrested. By February 1918 the new government established its power throughout the country. The Bolshevik Party was renamed as the Communist Party of Russia.

The condition of common man during Tsarist regime



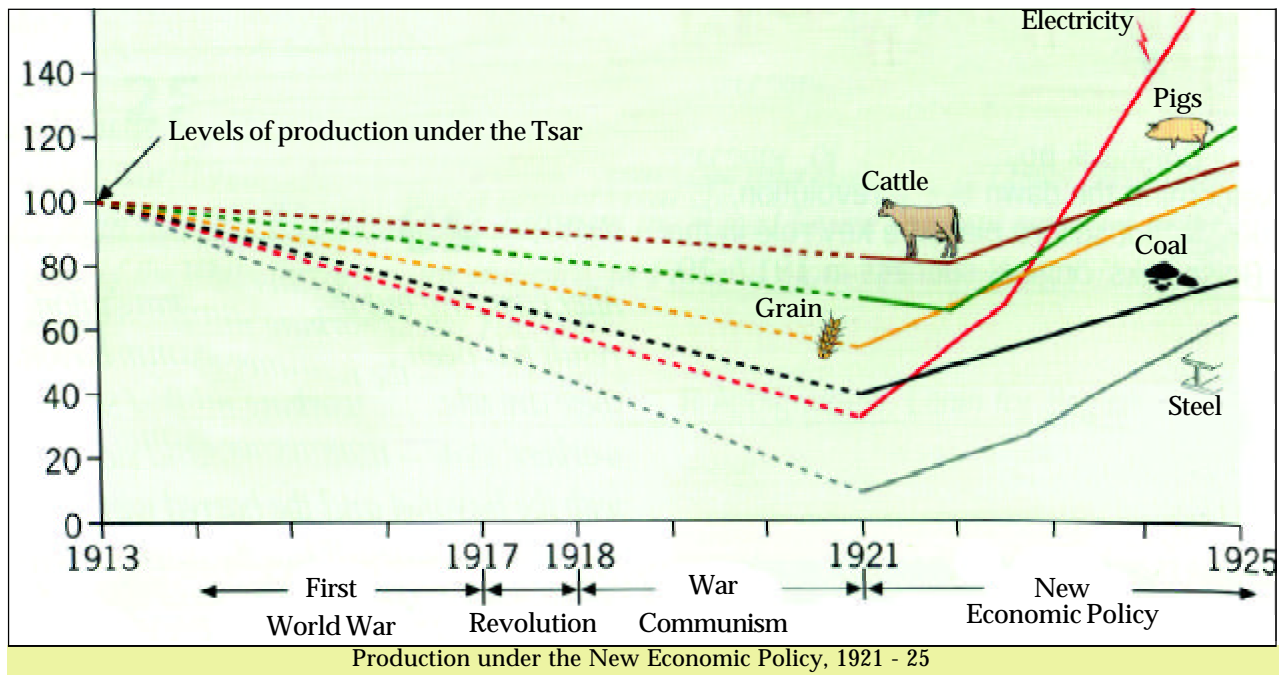
- Why did the Revolution of 1905 fail and that of 1917 succeed?
- In the picture is given the important events which led to the revolution of 1917. Examine the role played by these incidents in the victory of the revolution.

### Economic Reforms

Revolutionary Russia had to face several problems. The Civil War in Russia which lasted from 1917 to 1921 worsened the situation. The White Army, organised by the old landlords and capitalists, was given assistance by the Western powers which feared the Communist regime. They attacked Russia. This was known as the War of

Intervention. Lenin adopted urgent measures to strengthen the war torn economy of Russia. Agricultural land and estates were distributed among the peasants. Surplus products were taken over by the state and distributed among the needy. Industrial products were distributed among the factory workers in lieu of wages. It came to be known as War Communism.

The difference between War Communism and New Economic policy				
War Communism		New Economic Policy		
<p>Hard-working peasant</p>	Grows	10 tons	Grows	10 tons
	Government takes all surplus	9 tons	Government takes 50%	5 tons
	Left with	1 ton	Peasant sells	4 tons
<p>Lazy peasant</p>	Grows	1 ton	Grows	1 ton
	Government takes none		Government takes 50%	1/2 ton
	Left with	1 ton	Left with	1/2 ton



In 1921 Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy (NEP). According to this, the peasants were permitted to cultivate the crop of their choice and sell their products in the open market. The workers were paid in cash. Certain industries were started in private sector. These measures enabled Russia to strengthen her economy.

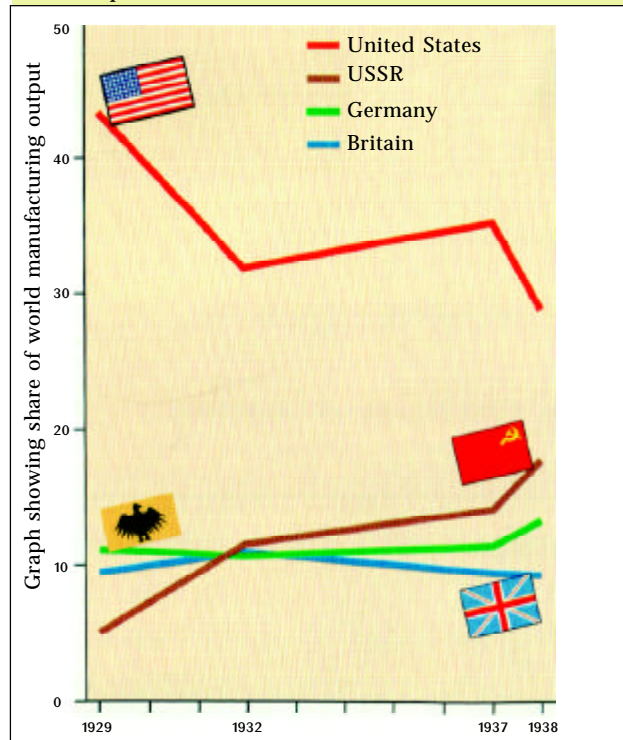
### Formation of the Soviet Union

In 1924 a new Constitution was promulgated. Accordingly, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was formed by including the republics of Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan. The Russian Communist Party became the Soviet Communist Party. In 1936 the Constitution was revised by including eleven republics. These republics, consisting of various nationalities and ethnic groups, functioned as equals under the soviet constitution.

### Five Year Plans

After the death of Lenin in 1924 the Party and Government were led by Joseph Stalin. In 1929 for the first time in the world Five Year Plans were implemented in Soviet Union. At the end of he Second Five Year

Global production and countries of the world 1929-38



*The achievements of the five year plans during the first four years.*

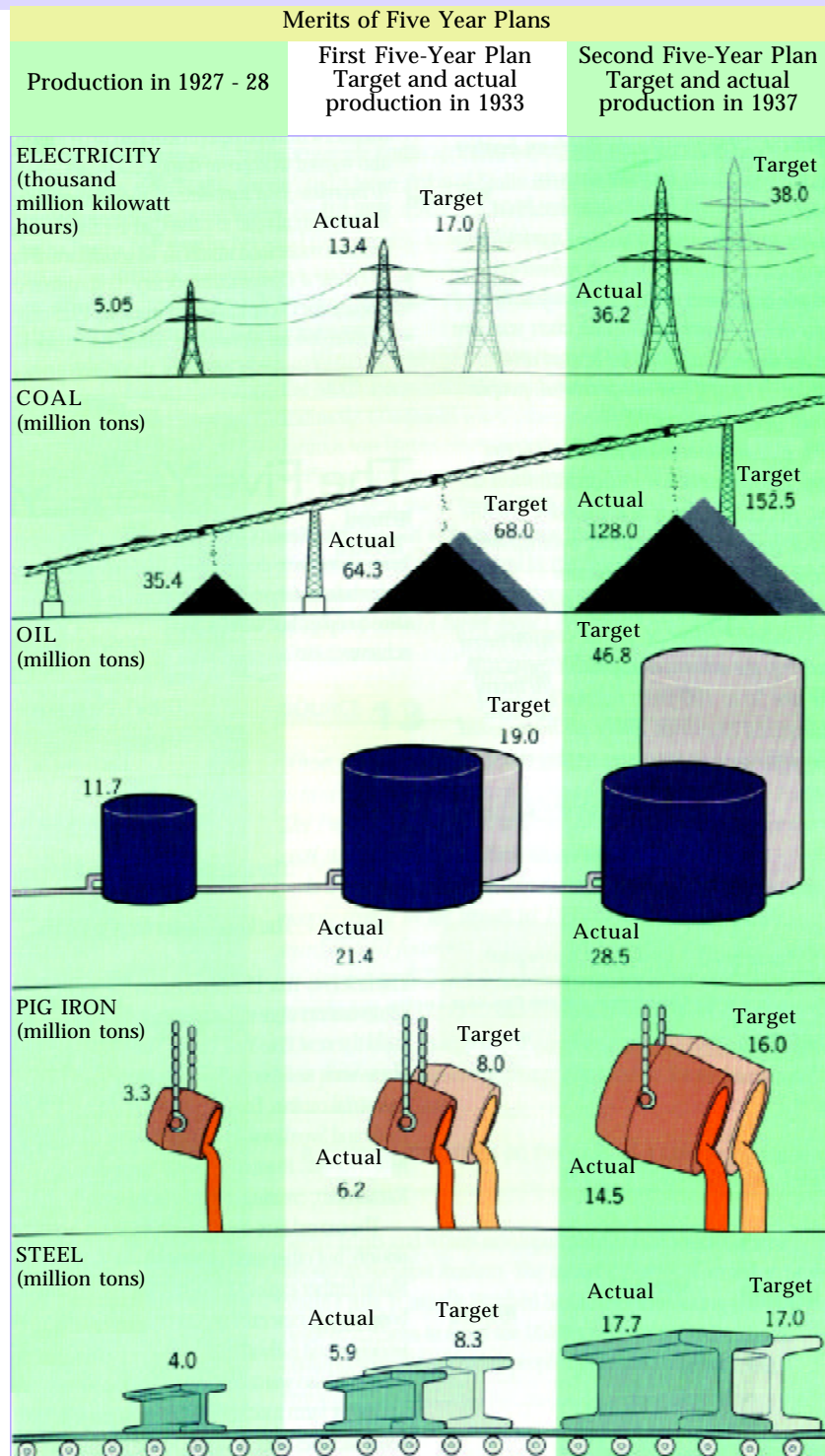
- *We had no iron and steel industries. Now we have one.*
- *We had no machine tools factories. Now we have one.*
- *We had no modern fertiliser factories. Now we have one.*
- *We had no agro-industrial factories. Now we have one.*

*(Speech delivered by Stalin in 1932 about the first five year plan)*

Plan, Soviet Union became a powerful industrial and military state. It was under the direct control of the state and by utilising the native resources that Soviet Union attained this progress. Enterprises under private ownership were taken over by the state. The private entrepreneurs were kept out of industry and commerce. Soviet Union was the only country in the world which was not affected by the Economic Depression in 1929.

### A different Foreign Policy

Soviet Union adopted fresh policies in international relations. She had no role in the Peace Conferences at Paris. She concluded separate treaties with Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan. The treaties were meant to ensure the sovereignty of these states. In 1934 Soviet Union became a member of the League of Nations. It was Soviet Union that opposed colonialism and imperialism.



The government and policies of Soviet Union influenced the history of the world in a big way. Freedom movements began to gather momentum in the colonies. Working class all over the world had a new sense of direction. Communist Parties and workers' unions were formed in many countries. The socialist planning of the Soviet Union was adopted by many countries. The 'New Deal' of America and the economic theories of Keynes were in some ways influenced by Soviet Union. Jawaharlal Nehru adopted the Soviet model of planning after India became independent.

## First World War and America

You know about USA which is popularly known as America. America did not join World War when it broke out. The War was concluded according to the Fourteen Points prepared by the American President Woodrow Wilson. It advocated a peace settlement of no territorial loss or annexation. The League of Nations was founded according to the Fourteen Points. But the US Senate rejected the treaty of Versailles and declared that she would not join the League.



A cartoon that ridicules the non-participation of America in the League of Nations



*How do you evaluate the American policy of not joining the League of Nations which was founded on American initiative?*

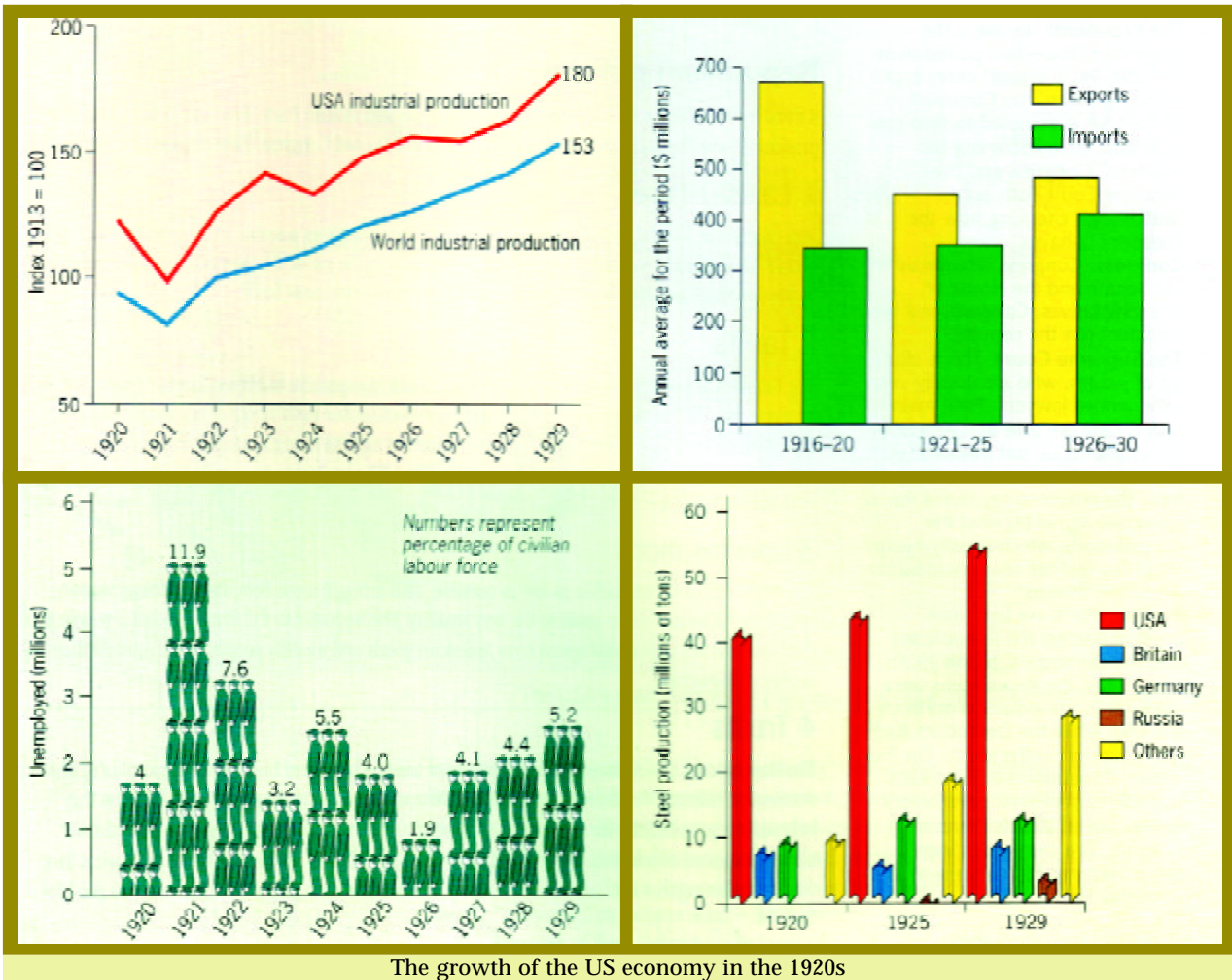
America achieved tremendous economic growth at the end of the First World War. American Dollar replaced the British Pound to become the standard of world economic exchange.

Though America had refused to join the League of Nations, she tried to expand her sphere of influence over the rest of the world. This had severe consequences for Europe. America lent money to many European countries including Germany. Though Germany was demilitarised, America financed her heavily in manufacturing arms and ammunitions. In 1922, she concluded treaties with Japan, Britain, Italy and Germany. In China she adopted the Open

Door Policy by enabling all nations to interfere in her affairs and thus to prevent Japan from extending her influence there. But later, when Germany and Italy began invading the neighbouring states, America did not prevent them. This enabled the growth of Nazism and Fascism.

## World Economic Depression

We have seen the economic growth achieved by America. But the world was thrown into an economic crisis in 1929. Though capitalism had gained much, majority of people were suffering from starvation. Though production was increased by the use of science and technology, the people had no purchasing



The growth of the US economy in the 1920s

power. Amidst the economic growth in America about one half of the families were starving. It was the crash of the share market which led to the economic crisis. About ten thousand banks crashed between 1929 and

1932. The cultivators could not sell their products. They lost their land also. This is known as the Great Depression.

The crisis which originated in America spread to the rest of the world.

### Economic Crunch here also

*The world economic crisis of 1929-33 affected our country also. Hundreds of peasants became lease holders and hutment dwellers. The Economic Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Travancore narrates those things. It deals with the fall of prices of farm products, increase in debts and interests, wage cuts, increase of unemployment, increase of poverty, loss of work to labourers, etc. About 50% of the workers employed in tea and rubber plantations were retrenched. The price of 1000 coconuts in 1928 was Rs.65; it declined to Rs.15 in 1931. The price of paddy, 24 chakrams per five maunds, was reduced to 15 and the price of pepper, from Rs.650 to Rs.140. This was the case with all other commodities. (28 chakrams = Re.1)*

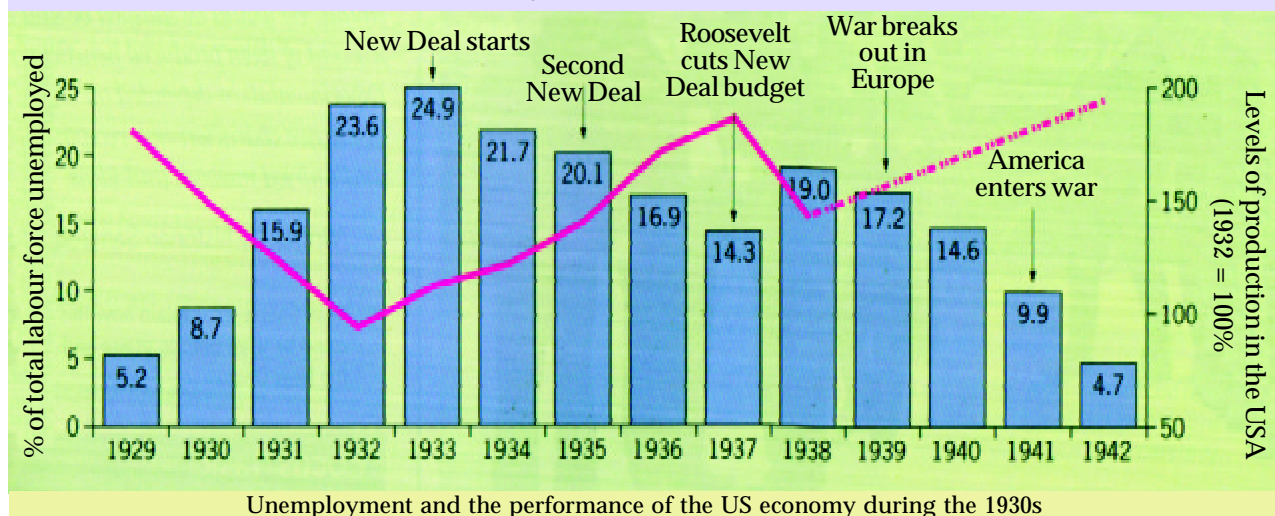
America started remedial measures after 1933. It was Franklin D. Roosevelt, the President of America who initiated this. He introduced a programme of action known

as New Deal. He tried to redress the grievances of the people by launching welfare measures. But the Blacks in America did not gain anything from them.

### New Deal

New Deal was the recognition of the need for a national planning policy. Relief to the unemployed and the poor, Recovery of the economy and Reform to ensure that there was no such crunch in future were the three components of this programme. The theories of the British economist John Maynard

Keynes were the guiding principles of the New Deal. He put forward the idea of mixed economy by suggesting that the private sector need not always be successful and that the public sector should be given priority.



- New Deal enabled lakhs to get employment
- It improved the position of the American banking sector
- It halted the decline of business concerns
- Projects like the Tennessee Valley Authority enhanced the standard of life and employment potential of backward areas.
- New projects like schools, roads, hydro-electric projects, etc. were started
- However, the basic economic issues were not resolved
- Compared to the European countries the recovery of American economy was slow.

- People had no faith in the economic growth. They were ready to deposit only 75% in 1933 compared to the deposits in 1929.
- When President Roosevelt stopped assistance to New Deal in 1937 the country rolled back to economic recession.
- Production fell by 67% between May 1937 and May 1938.
- There were six million unemployed people in America in 1941
- Unemployment was controlled only after America joined the Second World War.



*Did excessive privatisation cause economic crisis? Discuss in the light of the Economic Depression of 1929.*



## Anti-Imperialist Struggles in the Colonies

The first world war and the Russian Revolution influenced the anti-imperialist struggles in the colonies in Asia and Africa. In March 1919 thousands of people revolted against the Japanese in Korea.

The decision of the Paris Peace Conference to transfer Shan Tang to Japan was opposed by the Chinese who revolted in 1919. The Chinese Communist Party was founded in 1921 under the influence of Russian Revolution. At the end of the First World War there existed a government at Canton under the Koumintag Party and the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat Sen. In 1924 a National Revolutionary Army was formed under the united leadership of the Koumintang and the Communist Parties which was assisted by the Soviet Union. They waged war against the warlords and the monopoly of industrial houses from Japan and Britain. Chiang Kei Shek, who assumed the leadership of the Koumintang after the death of Sun Yat Sen, tried to suppress the Communist Party which led to a long civil war between the two in China.

You have already studied the anti-colonial struggle which took place in India during this period. The protest against the Jallianwalabagh massacre, the Non-Cooperation Movement, boycott of the Simon Commission, Civil Disobedience Movement etc. were part of the struggle for Indian independence.

## Fascism and Nazism

The First World War ruined Germany and Italy economically. Unemployment and poverty threw up peoples' protests. The government of both the countries had to face popular unrest. Italy got nothing though she was with the victors. It was in these circumstances that the Fascist Party in Italy



A hoarding showing the publication of Hitler's autobiography *Mein Kampf* in 1925

*The war of 1914 was certainly not forced on the masses; it was even desired by the whole people.*

*There was a desire to bring the general feeling of uncertainty to an end once and for all. And it is only in the light of this fact that we can understand how more than two million German men and youths voluntarily joined the colours, ready to shed the last drop of their blood for the cause.*

*For me these hours came as a deliverance from the distress that had weighed upon me during the days of my youth. I am not ashamed to acknowledge today that I was carried away by the enthusiasm of the moment and that I sank down upon my knees and thanked Heaven out of the fullness of my heart for the favour of having been permitted to live in such a time.*

*(Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler Volume 1 Chapter 5 Page 155)*

under Benito Mussolini and the Nazi Party in Germany under Adolf Hitler gained popular support.

The Fascio de Combattimento founded by Mussolini in 1919 was reorganised as the National Fascist Party in 1921. Adolf Hitler

## Steps which increased popular support for Nazism in Germany

- Strong propaganda campaign under Joseph Goebbels. Hitler toured around the country in a special aircraft in 1932 for election campaign. House - to - house campaign was organised. Posters bearing the picture and ideas of Hitler were circulated.



Adolf Hitler is welcomed by a crowd of Nazi supporters in 1933

- The Brown Shirts organised to combat the Communists and the 'Hitler Youth' became popular in Germany.



Jewish women who were imprisoned from Budapest in Hungary

- The Brown Shirts physically assaulted political opponents. Public meetings of political parties were disrupted.
- Hitler was a good orator. He became the symbol of strength. Several party workers were trained in oratory.
- Hitler addressed the middle class, peasants, unemployed, youth, etc. who were the victims of the economic ruin of Germany.
- He promised houses to the houseless, job to the jobless and trade to the traders and they were assured job and security. His slogan was 'Bread and Work'.
- Hitler denounced the Versailles Treaty and declared the restoration of the grandeur of Germany which was a morale booster to those who were agitated by the humiliation of Germany.
- To those who looked for those responsible for German ruin, Hitler pointed at the Jews and the Communists.



The wedding rings of those, who were assassinated in Nazi concentration camps

- The German industrialists were afraid of the Communists. They supported the militarisation of Germany. They longed for a strong government. Therefore, they financed the Nazis. In return, Hitler promised them the liquidation of trade unions.

The march of Nazi army



- Hitler's friendship with the media magnate Alfred Hugenberg helped him to boost his image through strong propaganda in the newspapers. Hugenberg was the owner of a large number of newspapers in several countries.

who joined the army and fought the war was disappointed at the defeat of Germany. In 1922 he was deputed to observe the activities of the German workers' party. Later he resigned from the army and became the leader of the National Socialist Party (Nazi) of Germany.

The ideology put forward by both Fascism and Nazism was similar. Hero worship, racism, glorification of the past, craze for war etc. were some of them. The Fascists worked among the people by projecting the glory of the ancient Roman empire. Hitler projected the purity of the Aryan race, and held that Aryans should rule Germany and that the Germans should rule the world. Accordingly, the Jews were to be exterminated. The Nazis argued that the Jews were responsible for the economic ruin of Germany. Both the Fascists and Nazis opposed the socialists, Communists and the democrats. Freedom of the press, parliamentary democracy, class war and anti-war movements were all said to have been conspired by the Jews to belittle the Aryans. The Fascists organised a militia known as Black Shirts and the Nazis organised a similar one called Brown Shirts.

In the elections held in Italy in 1921, the Fascists did not get the majority. Even then they marched to Rome, threatened the Emperor and captured power. In the elections of 1924 the Fascists scored a majority and they consolidated power. Italy suffered the brutalities of Fascist regime. The Communist Party and labour unions were prohibited. Censorship was imposed on the press and the cinema. The media was used greatly to propagate Fascist ideology. Provisional governments were dismissed. Several Socialist and Communist leaders were executed. Thousands were



Mussolini

imprisoned. Misery of the people increased. Economy deteriorated.

Mussolini entered into an agreement with the Catholic Church of Rome and declared it the official Church. This earned for him the support of the Church. The Pope was made the head of the newly formed independent state of Vatican. Mussolini's craze for war led him to conquer Abyssinia (Modern Ethiopia), Spain and Albania. At last the dictatorship of Mussolini was

### Ideology of Goebbels



*The most trusted confidant of Hitler was Joseph Goebbels. He was the architect of the Nazi policy of ethnic cleansing. He was appointed as Propaganda Minister to propagate Nazi ideology. He extended his propaganda project by utilising newspapers, radio, cinema, music and literature. His theory was that if a lie was repeated one thousand times, it would become truth.*

overthrown due to internal disturbances. Hitler, who propagated that only the Nazis could solve the problems of Germany, was ably assisted by Goebbels. Huge amounts of money were spent on ideological propaganda.

According to the Weimar Constitution of Germany, sovereign power rested with the President. Hitler, who was holding the post

of Chancellor, took over the office of the President when Hindenberg died. Hitler vowed to liquidate both the Jews and the Communists. Jewish migration to Germany was prohibited. Jews were dismissed from jobs. Lakhs of Jews were tortured and executed in concentration camps and gas chambers. Hitler refused to pay for war reparation.



*What were the strategies adopted by the Fascists to make their programme successful?*

### **Spain and Fascism**

After the First World War, Spain became the arena of the encounter between Fascists and Communists. Monarchy, republicanism and Fascist imperialism were experimented in Spain one after the other. In 1931 Spain was declared a republic after putting an end to monarchy. There were several political parties in Spain with reputation and Communist ideologies. But there was no unity among them. Civil war broke out

consequent on the breakdown of law and order. In the elections of 1936 the Left and the Right won equal number of seats in the Parliament. When a Fascist member of Parliament was murdered, Civil War broke out. General Franco took over the leadership of the Fascists. Russia, Mexico and France supported the Republicans. Germany and Italy supported Franco. It is worthy of note here that Jawaharlal Nehru visited Spain and supported the Republicans. The revolt of

### **Guernica**



*The painting of the great Spanish painter of the twentieth century, Pablo Picasso. Guernica was a Spanish town crushed by the bombings of the Fascists. Picasso was reacting to the brutal Fascist regime through his painting entitled 'Guernica'.*

Franco was characterised as the Fascist war against Communism. Finally Franco became victorious and the Fascist dictatorship under the title of Falangism was imposed on Spain.

### Fascism in Japan

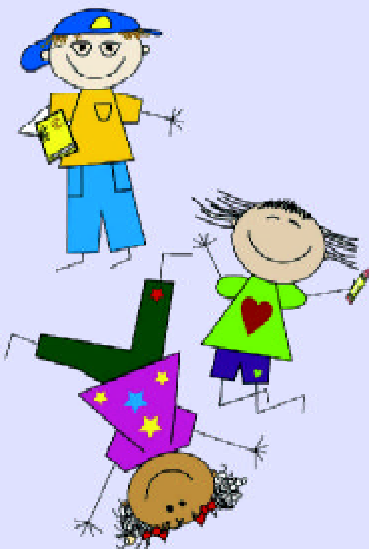
Mention has already been made of the victory of Japan over Russia in the war of 1905. Japan grew into an imperialist state. After the First World War, she entered into separate treaties with England, America and France at the Washington Disarmament Conference. It led to a controversy in Japan. Baron Tanaka, a former soldier who became the Prime Minister of Japan, pleaded for imperialist expansion. He appraised the Japanese Emperor that imperialism was

magnanimous and recommended a forward policy. He declared that if one should conquer the world China should be conquered; the conquest of China would be possible only through conquering Manchuria and Manchuria should be acquired. Manchuria can be conquered only through the imperialist expansionist policy of conquest of Korea. This was known as Tanaka Memorial. The conquest of Manchuria in 1931 emboldened Japan to become more aggressive. A Fascist regime was established under Tojo who succeeded Tanaka as Prime Minister. In 1936 Japan joined Germany in the anti-Communist alliances and thus became a partner in the Fascist expansionist policy.



*Examine the role of Tanaka Memorial in transforming Japan as an imperialist power?*

### Activities



- Prepare a seminar paper about the emergence of Fascist regimes after the First World War and the circumstances which led to the Second World War.
- Discuss the violation of human rights in the First World War.
- Prepare an essay on the influence of Russian Revolution and the growth of Soviet Union on the world.
- What were the international issues which led to the First World War?
- How will you differentiate between War Communism and New Economic Policy?
- How did the Five Year Plans influence the progress of Soviet economy?
- Fascism and Nazism were the most brutal phase of nationalism. Examine the statement.