

World War II (1939-45)



Europe on the Eve of World War II



Questions

1. “Hitler did not really want a world war. His intention was only a short war with Poland”(A.J.P Taylor).Comment
2. “World War II was a war of revenge initiated by Germany”. What was the revenge and how did it lead to the war?
3. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically? (2015)
4. “There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars”. Evaluate the statement (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks (2021)

Synopsis

- **Introduction**
- **Causes for WW II**

1. Fascism in Italy
2. Nazism in Germany
3. Militarism in Japan
4. Other Causes

□ Introduction:

- Another catastrophic event of 20th c
- 20 yrs after Versailles treaty
- Loss of life, destruction, revolutionary changes in International Politics
- **Causes:** Fascism, Nazism, Militarism, lack of co-operation and understanding among allies, economic needs and material interests of European powers, Failure of Disarmament Policy, Ideological differences b/w democratic & dictatorship countries etc

FASCISM

- A. Factors responsible for the rise of Fascism**
- B. Rise of Mussolini & his Career**
- C. Mussolini's Internal Policies**
- D. Characteristics of Fascism**
- E. Foreign Policy of Mussolini**



A. Factors responsible for the rise of Fascism

- 1) The treaties following the end of WW I were unsatisfactory to Italy.
 - For all the huge economic and human cost Italy had to bear, it got only 9000 sq.miles of territory including Trentino & Trieste from Austria-Hungary, far less than what was promised by the Allied powers with whom Italy sided in WW I.
- 2) The economic situation was grim.
 - Thousands of workers had no jobs.
 - Rising inflation was followed by a fall in production and closure of factories.

- 3) **Labour unrest** and the **working class unrest** led to increasing hold of Socialist and communist ideas which led to the **establishment of communist Party**.
 - The **landlords** and the **capitalists were scared** of the growing popularity of Communists/socialists.
- 4) **WW I Veterans** were bitter that they got very little for their sacrifices.
- 5) **Parliamentary democracy also did not help Italy either**. **Political parties/alliances were deeply divided** (linked to the Roman Catholic Church/old order or to the emerging socialist groups) and fought over every issue.
 - As many as **six govt's** were formed **between 1919 & 1922** fed up with inability of the political parties and system to throw up a strong & effective leadership.
 - It is in this scenario, Benito Mussolini emerged.

B. Rise of Mussolini & his Career

- **The National Fascist Party** (Partito Nazionale Fascista, PNF)
- Founder: **Benito Mussolini**



- Mussolini served in the Italian army in WW I & later left the army to take up journalism.
- In **1919** he started the **Fascist Party** assembling former soldiers, anti-Communists, Ultra-nationalists and other frustrated elements.
- He was a **great organizer** & in a short time set up branches of his party across Italy and attracted increasing number of followers (called **Black Shirts**)
- The Party won 35 seats in 1921 and Mussolini became a force to reckon.
- Fascist Party carried out attacks on leftist (and liberal groups) politicians to terrorise the opposition.

- In 1922 Mussolini marched to Rome with thousands of his Black Shirt cadres (**March on Rome**) and forced the **King Victor Emmanuel III** to invite him to form a new govt.
- In **October 1922**, Mussolini took over as PM and ruled till **1943**.
- The fear of disorder & Communism brought him to power.
- He ruled as Dictator; nicknamed **Il Duce** (“**The Leader**”)
 - a. Italians had not forgotten humiliation after WW I
 - b. He desired to revive the glories of the **Roman empire**
 - c. Followed **aggressive foreign policy** to win people’s support-
 - i. Need for **colonies for employment**
 - ii. Inability to emigrate due to **limitations imposed on immigration** by foreign countries.

C. Characteristics of Fascism:

- i. Extreme nationalism.
- ii. Totalitarian or authoritarian system of government
- iii. Aimed to establish **one party government and state**- individual was subordinate to the state.
- iv. Violence and war.
- v. Anti-communist
- vi. Economic self-sufficiency and militarism.
- vii. Antisemitic
- viii. Aggressive foreign policy.

D. Mussolini's Internal Policies:

- After seizing power, Mussolini carried out the following agenda.
 - i. Electoral law was amended which stated that a party which gets the highest number of votes will get $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ of seats in the legislature.
 - ii. Liberals, Socialists & Communists were marginalized and terrorised through Fascist cadres & secret police (eliminated if needed).
 - iii. A Grand Council of the Fascist Party was set up which concentrated in itself all State power.
 - iv. Unconditional loyalty to the State was propagated through control of radio/print media.
 - v. Huge funds were spent on education & public works.

- vi. A massive military/war machine was built to serve Italy's expansionism.
- vii. One of Mussolini's positive achievements was the **Lateran Treaty of 1929** which normalized relations between the **Roman Catholic Church & the State**.
- Italy recognized **Vatican City as a sovereign State** with the Pope as a head of the State and in turn the Pope recognised Italy as a state.

E. Foreign Policy of Mussolini

○ Diverted attention to **SE Europe**.

1) **1920**-Italy to surrender **Dodecanese islands** to **Greece**(Treaty of Sevres);got them back by **Treaty of Lausanne(1923)**.



2) Made peace with Yugoslavia-**Fiume** was divided between **Italy** and **Yugoslavia**.



3) **1926**: Treaty with Albania-**Albania** became practically a dependent of Italy.



4) 1936: Conquest of Abyssinia

- i. To rehabilitate surplus population of Italy
- ii. Raw materials & markets
- iii. Divert attention of the people from miserable economic conditions at home

iv. Strategic Reasons:

- a. Abyssinia could link the Italian possessions in Somaliland
- b. From Abyssinia, Italy also could afford to attack the British positions in Sudan and in Egypt.



v. Attitude of League of Nations & Great Powers wrt Manchurian Crisis (1931)



- 1935: Mussolini ordered Italian troops to invade Abyssinia.
- Emperor of Abyssinia appealed to League of Nations
- England, France and League of Nations- tried to stop him
- 1936: Conquest of Abyssinia; its emperor left the country-
Abyssinian Crisis
- The occupation of Abyssinia extended Italy's territories in Africa (it already had Libya, Eritrea and part of Somalia).
- This led to rivalry between Italy & France; the latter also had territories in North Africa.

- **1936:Anti-Comintern Pact: Germany-Japan**
- **1937:Italy joined it: Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis**
Hitler “**Great World Political Triangle**”
- 5) **Italy helped General Franco in the Spanish Civil War**
- 6) **1939:Mussolini occupied Albania**
- 7) **1939:Italy agreed to fight on Germany's side in case of war and when the WW II began, Italy entered the war (in June 1940).**

RISE OF NAZISM IN GERMANY

■ Synopsis

- A. Reasons for the Rise of Hitler & Nazi dictatorship in Germany
- B. Rise of Hitler & Nazism
- C. Hitler's domestic agenda
- D. Characteristics of Nazism
- E. Foreign Policy of Hitler



- Germany too went the Italian way with greater intensity.

A. Reasons for the rise of Hitler & Nazi dictatorship in Germany:

- 1) There was **massive resentment in Germany** over the humiliating conditions imposed by **Versailles Treaty** like

- a) Huge reparations (monetary compensation Germany had to shell out)
- b) Non-militarisation
- c) Allied occupation overseeing Rhineland and
- d) Loss of Germany's overseas possessions etc.

- **Kaiser Wilhelm II** became unpopular and he **abdicated**.

- 2) Between 1919 and 1930s, Germany had unsuccessful experiments with a new constitution (Weimar Republic) and Democracy.
 - It converted Germany into a republic but politically it was not able to deliver goods.
- 3) There was mutiny in the navy & protests everywhere.
- 4) The economic situation was getting worse. Food shortages, fall in production, strikes, inflation, black marketing, poor state revenues and unemployment all added to Germany's woes. The Great Depression brought its own misery.
- 5) There was scare of Communists; already Socialists succeeded in forming a short lived govt.
 - Communists launched a movement called the Spartacist Movement led by Rosa Luxemburg (Polish lady but later became a German

citizen) & attempted a brief overthrow of the govt in 1919 but it was **put down**.

- 6) Germany also witnessed severe **Political instability**; as many as **17 govt's** changed between **1919 & 1933**
- The scenario in Germany in the early 1930's was similar to what prevailed in Italy in the 1920's which favoured the rise of Mussolini. Germans too were desperate for a strong leader.

B. Rise of Hitler & Nazism

- **Adolf Hitler** (1889-1945) began his career in the German Army & took part in World War I.
- After the war, he left the army & joined ‘**The National Socialist German Workers’ Party**’ founded in **1919** by **Anton Drexler** and took over the party in 1921 & renamed it as **Nazi Party**.
- Hitler was a great demagogue and organizer.
- He totally reinvented the Nazi Party.

Adolf Hitler



- Till about the late 1920s, Hitler tried to come to power by lawful means but the **proportional representation** system did not help the party to capture power on its own but his **ideology appealed to the people** (revival of German economy, rejection of Versailles Treaty & building a vast German empire etc)
- The Nazi Party started (on Fascist Party lines) terrorising the opponents through-
 - a. Dedicated loyal cadres known as **'Storm Troopers' (or Brown Shirts)** to protect its leaders and disrupt rival party meetings
 - b. In addition, **specially trained security guards** called **'S S'** (later it became **Gestapo** or **secret police**) were created to protect Hitler and carry on activities to terrorise opponents.

- In **January 1933** his party had the largest number of seats in the parliament. Hence, the **President of Germany, Hindenburg** invited Hitler to form the govt.
- After assuming powers, Hitler went about converting Germany into a **one-party dictatorship**.
- In **August 1934**, the President died & Hitler declared himself **Chancellor-cum - President** & called himself **FÜHRER** (leader, guide)
- Nazi party attracted **wealthy landowners, industrialists** who feared a Communist Revolution; it was financed by **landowners, industrialists, anti-communist forces**.

C. Hitler's Domestic agenda

- Hitler meticulously stamped his authority and agenda ruthlessly from 1933 till his death. He promised the Germans - **National unity, safety, security and glory**
- His policies/actions can be briefly described thus-
 1. In **Feb 1933**, the Parliament building mysteriously went up in flames & Hitler blamed the Communists and banned them.
 2. In **1934**, he passed an **Enabling Act** arming himself with extraordinary powers which were later claimed to be ratified in a referendum.
 3. Like Mussolini, he made a rule that the **party** which gets the **highest number of votes** will get **2/3rd** of seats.

4. German **industry, S & T and defence** industry were revived, by **1940s** Germany became a **military and industrial power** - almost a world power.
5. The **myth of Aryan supremacy** was created; they were the master race (**Herrenvolk**); all other European nations were to serve the German cause.
6. Hitler gave prominence to the doctrine of **Lebensraum** claiming a need to acquire more territory to accommodate the expanding German nation (He wanted to bring all Germans in **Austria, Czechoslovakia** and **Poland** back into the **Reich**)
7. Secret Police (**Gestapo/SS**) was used to eliminate opponents.

- **Heinrich Himmler** : (Commander of the Schutzstaffel Protection Squadron; SS) and the **Gestapo**



8. **Propaganda machinery** was set up which controlled **schools, papers, media, radio** and even the **courts**.
 - His Information Minister **Goebbels** was perfect in converting lies, half truths, and myths into truths. (or at least ,he made people believe them to be)
9. **Communists, Jews, Poles & Opponents** of the regime were herded into **concentration camps** and **gassed/executed**.
 - Hitler particularly picked up the **Jews** for **cruel treatment**. They were removed from jobs, deprived of Citizenship, their businesses ruined.
 - It was surprising that many Germans supported Hitler's agenda.

D. Characteristics of Nazism

1. Extreme nationalism=Italian Fascism & Japanese militarism.
2. Anti-democratic
3. Anti-individualism
4. Anti-communism
 - Friendly posture towards Communists-Social Democrats
 - 1936-37:Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan and Italy
5. Anti-peace
 - 1929-30:Captured power;1933-36 recovered
 - Foreign Policy-artificial crisis-neighbours-WW II
6. Pro-capitalist
7. Anti-Semitism

D. Foreign Policy of Hitler

- Hitler's policy towards the countries **South and East of Germany**

1. Poland
2. Austria
3. His attitude towards Saar Valley
4. Violation of military clauses of Versailles treaty
5. Naval agreement with England
6. Remilitarisation of Rhineland
7. Hitler and Spanish Civil War
8. Hitler and the Anti-Comintern Pact
9. Annexation of Austria
10. Annexation of Czechoslovakia-Munich Pact
11. Polish Crisis

- 1933-April 30,1945 (death)-Hitler supreme in Germany
- Hitler's policy towards the countries South and East of Germany
- Real objective-South & East of Europe ie,
Austria, Hungary & Romania
 - i. Need to accommodate growing population
 - ii. Economically complimentary to Germany-Coal,Oil & Wheat



| Country | Available | Not Available |
|---------|------------|---------------|
| Austria | Coal | Grain |
| Hungary | Grains | Factories |
| Romania | Ores & Oil | Markets |

- Best results-after one political power was established in whole region
- **Caution-Policy of Peace**-prevent unity of enemies & consolidate his position within Germany
- 1. 1934:Non-Aggression Pact-Poland-10 years**
 - To advance southwards
 - **Soviet Union**-communists/jews;**Czechoslovakia**-small;**Austria**-hostile,fearful
 - Poland-German minorities; **stop-gap arrangement**

2. **1934: Hitler in Austria:**

- Hitler Austrian
- Versailles: Austria-Germany
- Instigated Nazi agitators to capture government
- England, France, Italy
- Failed-Feigned ignorance

3. **1935:**His attitude towards **Saar Valley**

- Versailles-France to occupy/exploit Saar valley-15 yrs
- **1935:Plebiscite** in favor of Germany
- Added to German resources
- Revealed Nazi techniques of propaganda



4. **Violation of military clauses** of Versailles treaty

- Peace strength:5 ½ lakh-Conscription

5. 1935: Naval agreement with **England**

- **Germany-35%** of England's navy
- Removed England's suspicion
- Master-stroke of diplomacy



6. 1936: Remilitarisation of **Rhineland**

- Exposed **France and Belgium** to German danger
- No action taken

7.1936: Hitler and Spanish Civil War (1936-39)

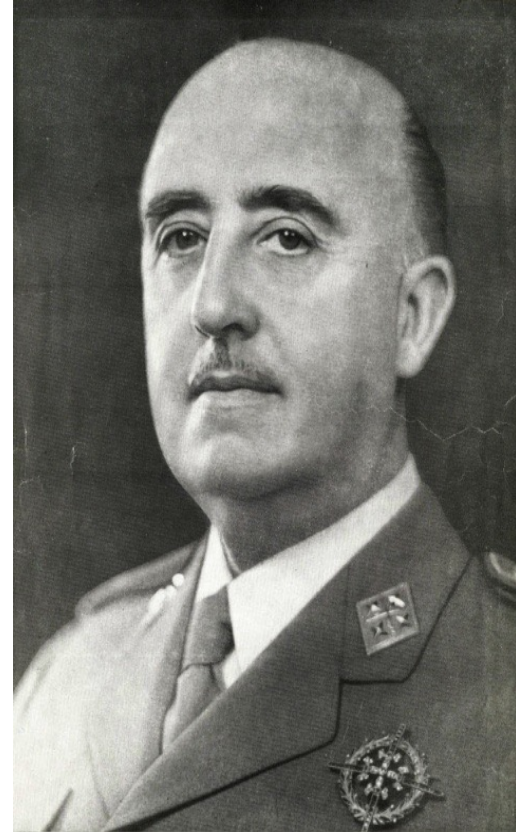
Republican govt of Spain V/s General Franco

(Soviet Union)

(Hitler & Mussolini)

- General Franco came to power
- England & France neutral

General Franco



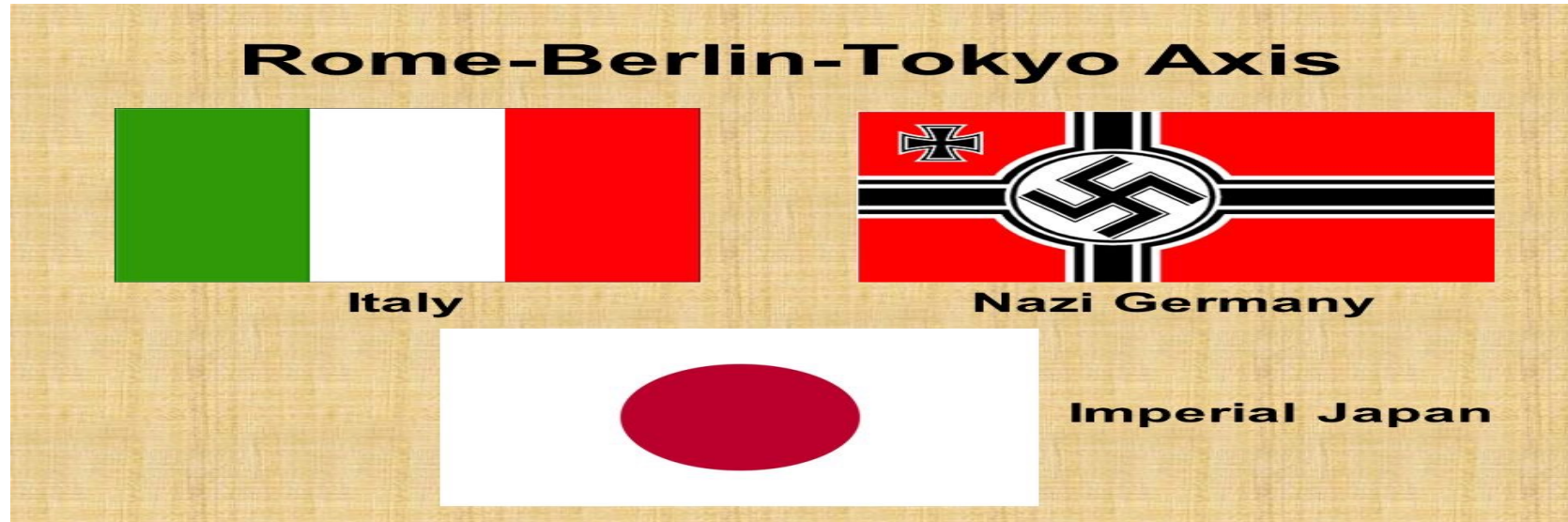
8. Hitler and the **Anti-Comintern Pact**

1936: Germany signed Anti-Comintern Pact with **Japan**

1937:Italy

- **1937:Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis**

- All 3 opposed to Communism



9.1938:Annexaton of Austria ('Anschluss')

- 1934:Mussolini had opposed Hitler on the question Of Austria
- After signing Anti-Comintern pact Mussolini gave Hitler a freehand wrt Austria
- 1936:Hitler's pact with Austria-cordiality
- Instigation-Nazi leaders of Austria taken into cabinet
- 1938:Announcement of Plebiscite
- Arthur Seyss-Nazi Minister of Interior, Austria
- Austrian Chancellor was asked to either resign or postpone the Plebiscite, failing which German troops would enter Austria.
- Arthur Seyss became Chancellor-Invited Hitler to save Austria from internal chaos

Arthur Seyss



- **Western democracies did nothing**

- Austrian National Bank-£ 20 million gold and foreign exchange to German treasury
- Germany-Direct contact with **Italy, Hungary & Yugoslavia**





10. 1938: Annexation of Czechoslovakia



- Created by the Peace of Paris, 1919
 - Many minorities-Sudeten Germans
 - i. Strategic-easier to penetrate into S.Europe
 - ii. Industrialized
 - a. Large number of forts
 - b. Treaties with **France & Soviet Union**
- Advantages
- Difficulties

- **Strategy:**

- i. Exploited passive policy of western democratic countries
- ii. Encouraged to stage demonstrations against their govt
- iii. Demanded 'Right of self determination' for Sudeten Germans

- **Right of self-determination:** All people have the right to freely determine their **political status** (without external interference) and freely pursue their **social, economic and cultural development**
- **Course**
 - i. Soviet Union proposed conference with **England, France and USA**- collective action to defend-Proposals rejected
 - ii. War of nerves won by Hitler
 - iii. Chamberlain-**policy of appeasement**-1938-England and France-**area occupied by more than 50% Germans to be transferred to Germany immediately**-Czechoslovakia agreed.
 - iv. Hitler increased demands
 - Germany **X** Czechoslovakia (GBR & France)

v. Franklin D.Roosevelt-peace conference to settle matter amicably;Mussolini peace;Chamberlain “You can get the essentials without the war and without delay”

vi.1938:**Munich Pact**

Settlement reached by Germany, Great Britain, France, and Italy that permitted German annexation of the Sudetenland, in Western Czechoslovakia.

Munich Agreement Sept 30, 1938



□ Provisions of Munich Pact

- i. Czechoslovakia was to **evacuate all the territory occupied by the Sudeten Germans** without damaging the existing installations.
- ii. The government of Czechoslovakia was to be held responsible if any damage was done to those installations
- iii. The territory to be evacuated by Czechoslovakia was to be **occupied by the German troops**
- iv. An **International Commission** was to be set up to decide in which areas the plebiscite was to be held.
- v. The **Sudeten German prisoners** who were serving the terms of imprisonment for political offences should be **released**.

“The old man (Chamberlain) has signed the death warrant and now it is for us to fix the date”- Ribbentrop, the foreign minister of Germany

- The Munich Pact-culmination of appeasement and warrant of death for the western democracies

“It was a symbol of the collapse of collective security”

- England & France: Hitler-**Soviet Russia**, Western democracies likely to gain.
- **March 1939**: Hitler invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia and completed its conquest by the end of 1944.

11.1939:Polish Crisis

- 1934:Non Aggression Pact with Poland
 - i. German minorities oppressed
 - ii. Poland asked to give back Danzig to Germany
- Poland-England & France
- Germany abrogated the Non-Aggression Pact with Poland & also repudiated Anglo-German Naval Agreement of 1935
- Hitler's master stroke of diplomacy-Pact with Soviet Russia

Aug 23,1939:Treaty of Non-Aggression OR Molotov Ribbentropp Pact ▲

- i. Signed in Moscow by German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov
- ii. Adolf Hitler used the pact to make sure Germany was able to invade Poland unopposed.
- iii. Enabled these two powers to partition Poland between them
- iv. The pact also contained a secret agreement in which the Soviets and Germans agreed how they would later divide up Eastern Europe.



- Pact weakened the defenses of Poland, England & France
- **Sept 1, 1939**: Attack on Poland - **Polish Crisis**



Militarism in Japan

- 20th c: Powerful country in Far East
- Japanese Militarism-WW II
- **Causes**
 - i. Over population
 - ii. Meiji Era (1868-94): industries, raw materials, markets-Economic Imperialism
 - iii. Desire for ‘World Power’ status-colonies
 - iv. Expansionist doctrines-Black Dragon Society etc

(The Black Dragon Society or Amur River Society, was a prominent paramilitary, ultranationalist group in Japan. Its public goal was to support efforts to keep the Russian Empire north of the Amur River and out of East Asia)

v. **Western Imperialism** in its neighborhood

vi. Lack of faith in Democracy, failure of responsible party govt, faith in authoritarian rule-**glorification of emperor**

vii. Economic Depression

- Army, expansionists-**Forward Policy wrt China**-Economic problems
- **1931: Manchurian Crisis**: Occupation of Manchuria

Conquest of Manchuria: 1931



- **Sept 18, 1931: Mukden Incident/Manchurian Incident:** Seizure of the **Manchurian city of Mukden** by Japanese troops in 1931, which was followed by the Japanese invasion of all of Manchuria and the establishment of the Japanese-dominated state of **Manchukuo (Manzhouguo)** in the area.
- When LoN condemned Japan, she left it
- **1936:** Japan signed **Anti-Comintern Pact** with Germany
(Beginning of **Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis**)
- **1937:** **Ind Sino-Japanese War**-Peking, Nanking

Mukden Incident:

On the night of September 18, 1931, Japanese troops used the pretext of an explosion along the Japanese-controlled **South Manchurian Railway** to occupy Mukden. The **Lytton Commission** appointed by the League to investigate the situation labeled Japan as the aggressor, but Japan withdrew from the League and continued to occupy Manchuria until 1945.

Japanese troops gathering outside Mukden, Manchuria, September 1931



- **Sept 27, 1940: Axis alliance**
 - **Tripartite Pact** signed between **Germany, Italy & Japan** at **Berlin** which set up the **Axis Powers** of WW II.
 - The Pact provided for **mutual assistance** should any of the signatories suffer attack by any nation not already involved in the war.

Tripartite Pact or Axis Pact

Sept 27, 1940-Berlin



4. Other Causes:

- i. Ideological differences between dictatorship and democratic countries
- ii. Weakness of democratic states and a sense of over-confidence in the strength of Axis powers
- iii. Failure of Policy of Disarmament
- iv. Weakness of the League of Nations
- v. Problems created by National Minorities

4. Other Causes

- i. **Ideological differences** between dictatorship and democratic countries

Dictatorships-Germany, Italy, Japan

V/s

Democracies-England, France, USA

“The struggle between the two worlds cannot permit no compromise. Either We or They”-**Mussolini**

- Differences in attitude towards individual
- ✓ **Democracy**-Individual-creator and beneficiary
- Totalitarian**-Individual subordinate to State
- ✓ **Democracy**: 'Haves'-status quo-political/territorial;no immediate expansion
- Totalitarian**: 'Have Nots'; demanded territories (GIJ)
Germans- 'Master race'

ii. Weakness of Democratic states and a sense of over-confidence in the strength of Axis powers

- Post 1919-20-England & France drifted

England:

- a. Policy of isolation & aloofness in European politics
- b. Trade & Commerce
- c. More to gain from German economic recovery

France:

- a. Germany might take revenge
- b. German population increasing more than hers

- c. Asked for guarantees from England and USA-failed
- d. Opposed revision of Peace settlement of 1919
- e. Entered into **military pacts**-Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland-liability, did not enjoy sense of security.
- f. **1935**: Alliance with **Soviet Russia** & agreement with **Italy**-
Unhappy
 - Democracies not ready for war; divided house
 - **Policy of Appeasement**-Hitler (Austria, Sudetenland), Mussolini (Abyssinia, Dodecanese etc)



iii. Failure of **Policy of Disarmament**

- **Militarism & violation of disarmament policy**-important cause for WW II
- Versailles-disarmed Germany-others expected to do the same; England did; France and others didn't
- Disarmament conferences failed
- Hitler-scrapped antithetical clauses;**Luftwaffe**;1935-conscription;Rhineland remilitarized
- **Japan & Italy** did the same.....**Democratic ditto**

iv. Weakness of the **League of Nations (LoN)**

- No effective international organization for reconciliation, arbitration between the 2 camps
- LoN dead-Manchuria & Abyssinia
- Alternative-Trial of strength by armed conflict
- Some used the League to serve their personal ends

v. **Problems** created by **National Minorities**

- Wilson-14 points-**Principle of National Self determination**
- Applicability conditioned-economic necessity, military defence,religious and political traditions & punishing defeated nations
- **Central Europe**-National minorities inter-mixed so that drawing a clear-cut frontier was impossible
- Members of one nationality included in boundaries of other states-**Hot beds of discontentment and dissent**

- WW I-fought for self determination of nationalism>
- i. Why Austria forbidden to unite with Germany?
- ii. Why large part of Germany put under foreign rule?
- Hitler-Germans persecuted, right to liberate them
- Pretext-Annexation of Austria, Czechoslovakia & Poland

Course of the War



1) Sept 1, 1939: Germany invaded Poland



- **Sept 17, 1939: Soviet Union** occupied **Eastern Poland**
Poland divided between Germany and Soviet Union
- 2) **Nov 1939: Soviet Union** attacked **Finland**, demanded part of Finnish territory;
 - **Reason:** Germany might conquer Finland and thereby endanger the safety of Russia



3) 1940: Germany occupied Norway, Denmark, Holland & Belgium

- 1940: France surrendered

4) Italy joined war after collapse of France

- North Africa: Italy V/s GBR

- Mussolini with Hitler's help conquered Yugoslavia, Greece & Crete





5) **Battle of Britain** (July 10-Oct 31,1940)

RAF V/s Luftwaffe: First defeat of Hitler's forces



5) **Aug 14,1941**:Signing of the **Atlantic Charter**

- Signed by British PM **Winston Churchill** & President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** (non-belligerent USA) after four days of conferences aboard warships anchored at Placentia Bay, off the coast of Newfoundland-enuciated war aims



Atlantic Charter (Aug 14, 1941)

- A statement of common aims, the charter held that
 1. Neither nation sought any aggrandizement
 2. They desired no territorial changes without the free assent of the peoples concerned
 3. They respected every people's right to choose its own form of government and wanted sovereign rights and self-government restored to those forcibly deprived of them
 4. They would try to promote equal access for all states to trade and to raw materials
 5. They hoped to promote worldwide collaboration so as to improve labour standards, economic progress, and social security
 6. After the destruction of "Nazi tyranny," they would look for a peace under which all nations could live safely within their boundaries, without fear or want
 7. Under such a peace the seas should be free and
 8. Pending a general security through renunciation of force, potential aggressors must be disarmed.
- The Atlantic Charter was subsequently incorporated by reference in the Declaration of the United Nations (January 1, 1942).

7) Japan sweeps across SE Asia

8) **Dec 7, 1941**: Japan's attack on **Pearl Harbor**



9) **General Mac Arthur** –Supreme Commander in Pacific



Lord Mountbatten



- **Lord Mountbatten**-Commander in SE Asia, Delhi

10) Africa front: 1941-43

- Abyssinia, Italian Somaliland & Tripoli captured by Montgomery
- N.Africa-Cleared off from German and Italian troops

11) Attack on mainland Italy

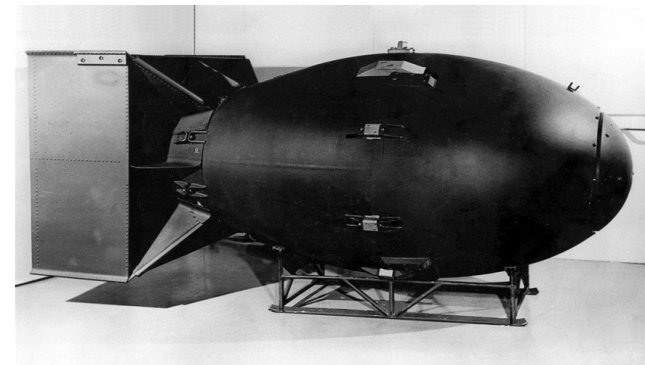
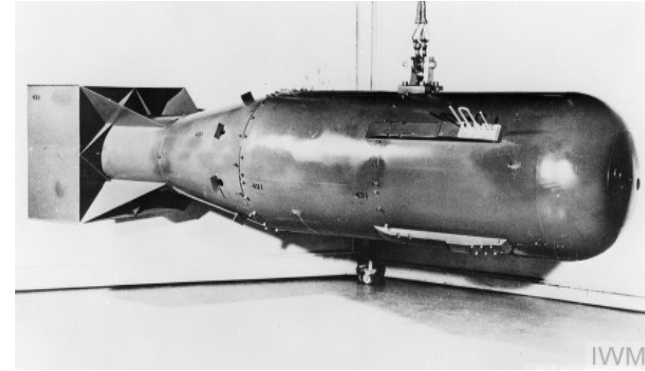
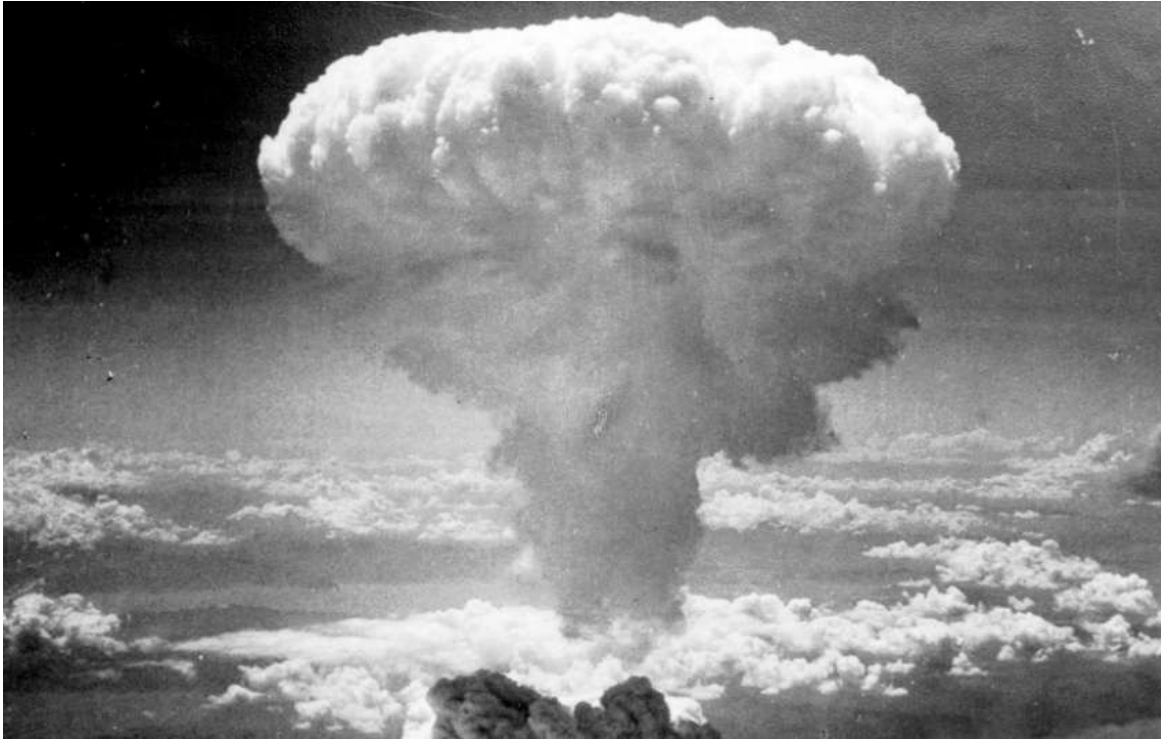
- Revolt in Italy; 1945: Mussolini arrested and shot dead

- 12) 1943-44: Britain and USA invaded the European continent
- Germans expelled from France
 - Gen. Eisenhower crossed Rhine, moved towards R. Elba-
Russians invaded Germany from east
 - Germans could not afford to fight on 2 fronts
 - Hitler, Goebbels and Himmler committed suicide
 - May 7, 1945: Germany surrendered unconditionally

13) **Aug 6, 1945**: Atomic bomb on **Hiroshima**-Little Boy

Aug 9, 1945: Atomic bomb on **Nagasaki**-Fat Man

Aug 14, 1945: Japan surrenders unconditionally



Boeing B-29 Superfortress “Enola Gay”



- **Hiroshima**: “Little Boy”-12k-15k TNT;13 sq km;1.4 lakh/3.5 lakh population died
- **Nagasaki**:74,000 died
- “Hibakusha”



□ Why Axis Powers lost the war?

- 1) **Germany and Italy** ran **short of raw materials/supplies** like oil,metals,cotton etc
- 2) **Allied Powers demonstrated superior air and naval power.**
 - **UK perfected radars** to detect German navy and air crafts and attacked them precisely.
- 3) **Germany and Japan took on too much.**
 - **Germany** found it difficult to engage the Allies from Russia's west coast and to the west coast of France and from the Mediterranean to N.Europe.

- **Japan** too found it hard to defend its annexations from India-Myanmar border to Indonesia and from Manchuria to Papua-New Guinea.
 - **Mussolini** was incompetent as a military leader adding to Axis powers' problems.
- 4) The **combined resources of USA, USSR & UK were far more** than those of the Axis Powers.
- **Once Italy fell**, Allied powers were able to move part of their war machinery to push back the Japanese from Myanmar.
 - Russian and American war machine doubled their production of **tanks and battle equipment**, including **aircraft** which the Germans and Japanese could not match.

5) Axis powers made many tactical mistakes such as-

- a) Germany's winter campaign in Russia(exposing troops to deadly winter)
- b) Germany's obsession with producing rockets instead of aircraft.
- c) Japan focused too much on Battleships than on aircraft.

- ❑ **No comprehensive peace treaty was signed** (unlike in the case of WW I) by Allied powers with Axis powers. They were dealt with separately.
- **2 important conferences** were held at the end of the war by the Allied powers. These were:
 - I. Yalta Conference** (in USSR, Feb 1945 - USA, USSR, UK, France)

- **Achievements:**

- i. Outlines of the division of Germany
- ii. Division of Korea
- iii. Russia agreed to enter the war in Asia against Japan in return for Kuril islands (they are now with Russia)
- iv. Finalization of the UN at a future conference at San Francisco.

II. Potsdam Conference {in Germany, July-Aug 1945:USA (Truman),UK (Attlee),USSR (Stalin)}

- Was the last post-WW II summit
- **Achievements:**
 - i. **Ultimatum to Japan to surrender** unconditionally or face disaster.
 - ii. **Eastern Europe** to come under **Soviet influence**
 - iii. **Banning of Nazi Party**
 - iv. **Details of division of Germany**
 - v. A **Council of foreign ministers** to decide other details

6. Provisions

1. Italy

- i. Had to give up her right over Greece, the Rhodes and other Dodecanese islands
- ii. Renounce her right over African colonies-recognize the independence of Abyssinia & Albania
- iii. Had to submit to the demilitarization of frontiers with France & Yugoslavia
- iv. Pay a heavy war indemnity

2. Germany

- i. Was divided into **4 zones**-each administered separately
- ii. **Berlin-joint occupation**, each assigned a sector
- iii. An **Inter-allied body** was charged with governing the city
- iv. 1947: England, USA, France-economic unity; rejected by Soviet Union
- v. W. Germany (**FRG**)-new currency (1948), Constitution(1949)-**Bonn** (Capital); made a **NATO** member(1955)
- vi. Soviet Union framed a constitution for its zone (**GDR**)
 - Thus, Germany was caught in the cold war

3. **Japan:** Had to sign a **Peace treaty (1951)**

- i. Japan had to recognize **independence of Korea**
- ii. Japan renounced her claims over **Formosa, Kuril island & Sakhalin**
- iii. Had to give up all **special rights and interests in China**
- iv. Agreed to **maintain stable, friendly, trading & maritime relations** with all signatories of the treaty

□ Consequences of WW II

1) Human cost of the war was stupendous

- Nearly **5 crore** people (if not more) **died** due to aerial bombing and battles.
- Most of the deaths were of **Russians, Germans, Poles, Japanese & Chinese**
- Another **2 crore** were rendered **homeless**; an equal number were wounded/injured.

2) Industrial centers & cities in Europe were ruined.

According to some estimates-

- **France** lost half of its wealth,
- A major part of **Germany** including its industrial centers were ruined,
- 30% of **Italy** was badly damaged,
- **Japan** suffered heavy damages (1.5 million died in Hiroshima & Nagasaki bombing and millions developed diseases later)

- 3) **Japan** surrendered all its overseas acquisitions including a complete withdrawal from China; Japan became an ally of the USA.
- 4) **Italy** lost her **African colonies** and gave up claims on **Albania**.
- 5) **Germany** was eventually divided into 2-East & West. The West came under Allied influence; East under Soviet influence.
- 6) Post-War, **lakhs left homes in Germany, Poland & Czechoslovakia** (mostly German speaking) to West Germany.
- 7) **European domination of world affairs ended**. **UK, France, Germany & Italy** lost their clout and military power.
- 8) **USA and Soviet Union gained immensely** and became superpowers.
 - **USA** gained economically by **interest payments** of European nations who had taken loans to meet the cost of the war.

- **Soviet Union** was able to extend its influence in more or less entire **Eastern Europe** and the **Baltic**.
- 9) **WW II inaugurated the Cold War**. From 1945 to about the 1990's, the world was divided into a US led camp and another led by the USSR.
- 10) **Communist govt's** were established in **Hungary, Bulgaria & Romania**. In addition, **Yugoslavia & Czechoslovakia** became Communist states.
- 11) WW II also **led to arms/missile race, nuclear weapons race & space race** b/w USA & USSR; later **UK, France** and **China** also successfully developed nuclear weapons.

12) The war led to greater **Urbanization and urban redevelopment.**

13) WW II started the process of **Decolonization in Asia.**

- To begin with **England** withdrew from India, Srilanka & Myanmar.
- **France** left Indo-China and **Dutch** withdrew from Indonesia.
- The war **destroyed the invincibility of colonial powers.**

14) One of the positive consequences was the **setting up of the United Nations** (after learning lessons from the failure of the League of Nations). The UN experiment proved more successful.



UNITED NATIONS

End of WWII

