

II. THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

11

The First World War (1914-18)

Exercises

Multiple Choice Questions

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|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (d) | 3. (b) | 4. (d) | 5. (d) |
| 6. (c) | 7. (d) | 8. (d) | 9. (c) | 10. (d) |

Short-Answer Questions

1. Why is the war between 1914 and 1918 called the First World War?

Ans. In 1914, there broke out a war which soon engulfed the whole of the world in its vicious circle. It was different from the previous wars in many respects. It was fought on land, in the air, on the sea and under the sea. New methods of destruction and defence were used in it. Because of the unprecedented extent of its spread and its total nature, it is known as the First World War.

2. Name the two alliances which divided Europe into two hostile groups before 1914.

Ans. Triple Alliance and Triple Entente.

3. What do you mean by militant nationalism?

Ans. This was an era of militant/aggressive nationalism. The love of one's own country demanded hatred for the other. The human feelings almost disappeared. Each nation thought about her own national interests and hardly cared for others. France wanted to get back her provinces of Alsace and Lorraine from Germany at all costs. Again, competition between England and Germany for commercial and colonial expansion reached the climax. The conflict between Austria and Serbia in the Balkans also proved to be dangerous for world peace. The interests of Austria and Russia also clashed in the Balkans. This

spirit of narrow nationalism proved very harmful for the whole mankind.

4. Name two countries whose imperial interests became one of the potent factors of the First World War.

Ans. France and Germany were the two countries whose imperial interests became one of the potent factors of the First World War.

5. What was the immediate cause of the First World War?

Ans. The Austrian Prince Archduke Ferdinand was murdered in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. The murderer was a Serbian. Austria put the blame on the Serbian Government for this crime and sent an ultimatum. As Serbia refused to comply with some of the conditions, because Russia instigated her, so Austria declared a war against Serbia on July 28, 1914. Later this war was converted into First World War.

6. Name the two major countries each of the two rival camps which clashed in 1914.

Ans. Triple Alliance – Germany and Austria-Hungary
Triple Entente – Britain and France.

7. Why was the League of Nations formed after the First World War?

Ans. To establish international peace and to prevent future wars, League of Nations was established after the First World War.

8. Name the treaty which was signed by Germany.

Ans. Treaty of Versailles.

9. Name the treaty which was signed by Turkey after the First World War.

Ans. Treaty of Sèvres.

10. Why could not the treaty with Turkey be put into practice?

Ans. The treaty with Turkey could not be put into practice because there was a revolution in Turkey under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Pasha whereby Turkey regained the control of Asia Minor and the city of Constantinople.

11. Why is it said that the Treaty of Versailles led to the Second World War?

Ans. The Treaty of Versailles was very humiliating for Germany. It had far reaching effects on Germany. It led to the rise of Nazism in Germany. Its leader, Hitler, violated all the terms of this humiliating treaty and plunged the world into another World War i.e. Second World War.

12. What was the main objective of the League of Nations?

Ans. (i) To achieve international peace and security and to prevent future wars by establishing international relations on the basis of justice and honour.

(ii) To promote material and intellectual co-operation between the nations of the world so that man's life may become happier and nobler.

(iii) To formulate plans for the reduction of national armament to the lowest point, consistent with national safety.

Structured Essay-Type Questions

1. With reference to the causes of the First World War, explain the following :

(a) Armament race

(b) Militant nationalism

Ans. (a) **Armament Race** : Germany started increasing her naval force and army with a great speed. She also started making arms and ammunition on a large scale. This resulted in a race for armaments between the rival groups. Every country in Europe declared that she was producing arms for her own safety. But how could all round production for arms and ammunition check the breaking out of the war!

(b) **Militant/Aggressive Nationalism** : This was an era of militant/aggressive nationalism. The love of one's own country demanded hatred for the other. The human feelings almost disappeared. Each nation thought about her own national interests and hardly cared for others. France wanted to get back her provinces

of Alsace and Lorraine from Germany at all costs. Again, competition between England and Germany for commercial and colonial expansion reached the climax. The conflict between Austria and Serbia in the Balkans also proved to be dangerous for world peace. The interests of Austria and Russia also clashed in the Balkans. This spirit of narrow nationalism proved very harmful for the whole mankind.

2. With reference to the Treaty of Versailles, explain the following :

- (a) Consequences of the First World War on Germany.
- (b) Consequences of the First World War on Austria-Hungary.

Ans. (a) Germany was compelled to sign the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919 and was forced to accept the following terms which were comparatively very harsh.

- (i) Germany and her allies were held guilty for aggression and hence she was forced to cede certain parts of her pre-war territories to Denmark, Belgium, Poland and Czechoslovakia.
- (ii) Alsace and Lorraine were returned to France. Moreover, the Saar Valley, known for its coal mines, was ceded to France for 15 years. Moreover, the two Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein which were captured by Prussia (or Germany) from Denmark in 1864 were returned to Denmark.
- (iii) Germany had also to lose all her colonial empire which was divided among the victors. Togoland and Cameroons were divided among France and England. German colonies in South-West Africa and East Africa were also taken away from her and shared by England, Belgium, Portugal and South Africa. While Japan got Shantung and Kiau Chow in China, New Zealand got the Samoa Island.
- (iv) The area of the Rhine Valley was also demilitarised. The German army was also reduced to 1,00,000 and she was not to have any air force and submarines.

- (v) Germany had to accept the war-guilt and she was compelled to pay a heavy sum (of 33 billion dollars) as war-indemnity to the Allies.

Thus, the Treaty of Versailles was very humiliating for Germany. So it had far-reaching effects on Germany. It led to the rise of Nazism in Germany. Its leader, Hitler, violated all the terms of this humiliating treaty (of Versailles) and plunged the world into another World War.

(b) The consequences of Territorial rearrangements after the First World War on Austria-Hungary.

Austria-Hungary was also forced to sign a separate treaty (of St. Germain) with the Allies by which she had to accept the following conditions :

- (i) Austria-Hungary was broken up and two separate kingdoms of Austria and Hungary were set up.
- (ii) Austria had to cede territories to Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland and was forced to accept their independence.
- (iii) Italy also gained certain territories (such as Tyrol) from Austria.
- (iv) Austria was also forced to pay a huge war-indemnity.