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The Second World War (1939 – 45)

Multiple Choice Questions

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (c) | 3. (b) | 4. (c) | 5. (b) |
| 6. (c) | 7. (c) | 8. (c) | 9. (d) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (c) | 13. (b) | 14. (b) | 15. (b) |
| 16. (b) | 17. (a) | 18. (b) | 19. (a) | |

Short-Answer Questions

1. How was the Treaty of Versailles responsible for the Second World War?

Ans. The Treaty of Versailles was very harsh. It was a dictated peace and Germany was forced to sign it. The defeated nations, especially Germany had to cede many of her territories, and all her colonies were forcibly taken away from her. Germany was burdened with huge war-indemnity which she could never pay. Her military power

was considerably reduced. The treatment meted out to her was based on the spirit of revenge and hence, it became a major cause for the Second World War.

2. How did improper behaviour of France prove a potent cause of the Second World War?

Ans. Germany could never forget the humiliation she had to suffered at the hands of France after the First World War. Even the democratic government could not succeed in Germany because of the French behaviour. It gave rise to dictatorship in Germany which brought the Second World War closer.

3. How was the rise of Nazism in Germany responsible for the Second World War?

Ans. Hitler was leader of Nazi Party. He opposed Treaty of Versailles and wanted to take revenge from the victor countries of the First World War for it. By 1934, he took all the powers into his own hands and became the Dictator of Germany. He rejected the Treaty of Versailles and increased his military power and prepared Germany to face another World War.

4. How did the rise of Fascism in Italy lead to the Second World War?

Ans. Italy joined the Allies in the First World War with high hopes but she was not satisfied with the territories she gained. Consequently, dictatorship was established there under the leadership of Mussolini. Like Hitler, Mussolini's aggressive policy gave a severe blow to the League of Nations and created an atmosphere of hostility in the world.

5. Which parties or countries formed the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis?

Ans. Italy, Germany and Japan.

6. How did America's aloofness from European politics contributed to the Second World War?

Ans. After the First World War America kept aloof from the European politics and did not join the League of Nations. Germany could never forget the humiliation she had to suffer through Treaty of Versailles. American aloofness helped the dictators of Germany and Italy to adopt violent and aggressive attitude and they ignored the League of Nations. As a result Second World War was inevitable.

7. How did the clash of imperialistic interests bring about the Second World War?

Ans. The ambitions of Japan increased after the First World War. In 1931, she attacked China and seized Manchuria. Again there was a war between Japan and China in 1937. Many Chinese cities fell into the hands of the Japanese. Similarly Italy annexed Abyssinia and Germany annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia and came into conflicts with major nations.

8. How far was the weakness of the League of Nations responsible for the Second World War?

Ans. The League of Nations was set up to maintain peace in the world and to prevent wars. But it proved quite weak and failed to achieve her objectives. She did not have military power to implement her decisions and to punish the defaulters. There was also lack of cooperation among the member-nations and they wanted to use the League for their own purposes.

When Italy annexed Abyssinia, Japan annexed Manchuria and Germany annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia, the League of Nations could not take any actions against them, so the member nations lost their faith in the League and started amassing war materials on a large scale.

9. What was the immediate cause of the Second World War?

Ans. By the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was divided into two parts in order to give a land – route to Poland upto the sea and the Port of Danzing was also handed over to Poland.

Germany demanded it back and without waiting for the reply she attacked Poland on September 1, 1939. England asked Germany to vacate Poland but Germany refused to do so. So on September 3, 1939 England declared war on Germany and, hence, Second World War began.

10. Name any three countries of the Allied Powers.

Ans. The USA, Britain, France, USSR.

11. Name any three countries of the Axis Powers.

Ans. Germany, Italy, Japan.

12. Mention any two consequences of the Second World War.

Ans. (i) The USA and USSR emerged as a superpower on the globe. Due to their different ideologies cold war began and atmosphere remained warlike.

(ii) Period of decolonization began, consequently, many Afro-Asian countries became free from the imperialist powers.

13. What were the effects of the Second World War on Germany?

Ans. After the defeat in Second World War Germany became very weak. It was divided into two parts. Millions of German people both civilian and military had been killed during the war. The German army was reduced and all her war material was snatched away from her. It brought about the end of Nazism in Germany.

14. What were the effects of the Second World War on Italy?

Ans. Italy became very weak after the Second World War. Italy was deprived of her conquests and colonies. Her military power was reduced and she was forced to pay heavy war indemnity. Fascism came to an end in Italy.

15. What were the effects of the Second World War on Japan?

Ans. Japan became very weak after the Second World War. The Japanese Emperor was deprived of his power and prestige. The American General, McArthur was given complete

control of Japan. He gradually rebuilt and modernised Japan.

16. How did the Second World War affect England?

Ans. England became weak after the Second World War. The economic loss suffered by England made her a second rate power in Europe. All colonies ruled by England started to get freedom gradually.

17. How did the Second World War affect France?

Ans. France became weak after the Second World War. She witnessed political instability. She no longer remained a powerful country in the world as her all colonies obtained freedom gradually.

18. Name the two powers which became superpowers soon after the Second World War.

Ans. (i) United States of America.
(ii) Soviet Union.

19. How was the world divided into two blocs after the Second World War?

Ans. America tried to maintain her influence by giving economic aid to different countries and on the other hand Soviet Union tried to influence many countries by spreading the Communist ideology. The world was divided into two blocs — the Communist Bloc led by USSR, and the capitalist Bloc led by USA.

20. When and why was the United Nations Organisation established?

Ans. The United Nations Organisation was established on 24 October 1945. Its main aim was to establish peace and to prevent war in the world.

21. In what ways were the reasons for the wars in 1914 and in 1939 similar and how were they different?

Ans. Both the World Wars started due to colonial rivalries among powers of Europe. The Second World War had the germs of the Treaty of Versailles concluded after the first World War. Personalities and ideologies of Hitler and

Mussolini were very much responsible for the Second World War.

Structured Essay-Type Questions

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

- (a) Unjust Treaty of Versailles.
- (b) Clash of imperialistic interests.
- (c) Weakening of the League of Nations.

Ans. (a) The Treaty of Versailles was very harsh. It was a dictated peace and Germany was forced to sign it. The defeated nations, especially Germany had to cede many of her territories, and all her colonies were forcibly taken away from her. Germany was burdened with huge war-indemnity which she could never pay. Her military power was considerably reduced. The treatment meted out to her was based on the spirit of revenge and hence, it became a major cause for the Second World War.

(b) The ambitions of Japan increased after the First World War. In 1931, she attacked China and seized Manchuria. Again there was a war between Japan and China in 1937. Many Chinese cities fell into the hands of the Japanese. Similarly Italy annexed Abyssinia and Germany annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia and came into conflicts with major nations.

(c) The League of Nations was set up to maintain peace in the world and to prevent wars. But it proved quite weak and failed to achieve her objectives. She did not have military power to implement her decisions and to punish the defaulters. There was also lack of cooperation among the member-nations and they wanted to use the League for their own purposes.

When Italy annexed Abyssinia, Japan annexed Manchuria and Germany annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia, the League of Nations could not take any actions against them, so the member nations lost

their faith in the League and started amassing war materials on a large scale.

2. With reference to the results of the Second World War, explain the following :

- (a) Effects of the Second World War on Japan.
- (b) Effects of the Second World War on England.
- (c) Effects of the Second World War on Russia.

Ans. (a) Japan became very weak after the Second World War. The Japanese Emperor was deprived of his power and prestige. The American General, McArthur was given complete control of Japan. He rebuilt and modernised Japan.

(b) England became weak after the Second World War. The economic loss suffered by England made her a second rate power in Europe. All colonies ruled by England started to get freedom gradually.

(c) The Communist Bloc under the leadership of USSR came in picture strongly after the Second World War. The Cold War i.e. ideological differences began between USA and USSR.

3. With reference to the Second World War, discuss the following :

- (a) The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and its aftermath.
- (b) America's attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Ans. (a) The government of the United States dropped the atom bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The two bombs killed over 3,20,000 people almost instantaneously and completely wiped out large parts of the two cities. The effects of these bombs on the health of those who survived and on their children continue to this day.

(b) America dropped nuclear weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945 respectively during the final stage of World War II. On August 15, Japan announced its surrender to the Allies.