

The First World War

1. State any two objections imposed by the Treaty of Versailles on the German military power.

(2019)

Answer:

(i) The German Army was disbanded. She was allowed to keep only one lakh soldiers.

(ii) The Rhine Valley was to be demilitarized and the German territory west of Rhine was to be occupied by Allied troops for fifteen years.

2. Name the Signatory Countries of the Triple Alliance.

(2019)

Answer: Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy.

3. Why was the League of Nations established?

(2019)

Answer:

The main objective of the League of Nations was to preserve peace and settle disputes by negotiations.

4. Explain briefly the causes of World War I with reference to Nationalism and Imperialism. [3]

(2018)

Answer:

Nationalism refers to the sense of unity felt by people who share a common history, language and culture. In the latter half of the 19th century, this feeling of unity turned into extreme pride and made people believe that their country is superior to other countries. This cost the development of aggressive nationalism in Europe.

Aggressive nationalism meant love for one's own country and hatred for others. Each country thought about only its national interest and did not consider the interests of other countries.

Aggressive nationalism also led to the rise of Imperialism. Imperialism refers to the state policy of practice by which a powerful nation establishes its control over another country, either by direct territorial accusation or by gathering political and economic control. Once conquered, this country was claimed to be a colony. These colonies were essential for their progress as they could provide raw materials for their industries and was a good market for their finished products. Having in

possession of the maximum number of colonies was considered to be a symbol of power and prestige. Therefore this led to a clash of interests among nations.

5. Explain briefly the territorial rearrangements as a result of World War I.

(2018)

Answer:

Territorial rearrangements changed the political map of the world. It ended the autocratic monarchies in Germany, Russia and Austria, Hungary. It led to the birth of new states such as Romania, Czechoslovakia, Finland and Yugoslavia in Europe. Germany lost many of their territories like Alsace-Lorraine to France, Eupen-et-Malmedy to Belgium and Schleswig to Denmark. Danzig became a free port. Germany lost all its colonies to the victorious allies. Three ruling dynasties were destroyed -The Romanov in Russia, the Hohenzollern in Germany and the Hapsburg in Austria Hungary.

6. The 1914 and 1939 Wars that engulfed almost the entire world, were known as World Wars due to its unprecedented impact and damage. In this context, answer the following: Explain the immediate cause of the First World War.

(2017)

Answer:

The Sarajevo crisis - On June 28th 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Heir to the throne of Austria went on an official visit to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. There, on June 28, 1914, he and his wife were shot dead. These murders had been planned by a secret society of Serbian patriotic terrorists, called the "Black Hand."

The Austrians blamed the Serbians for this crime, leading to Austria making eleven demands and sending an ultimatum to Serbia on 23rd July.

9. Mention any four terms of the Treaty of Versailles which affected Germany after World War I.

(2017)

Answer:

(a) Germany was held guilty of aggression. She was expected to pay war reparation to the victor nations of 33 billion dollars as compensation for the war.

(b)The coal mines in the German area called Saar were ceded to France for fifteen years.

(c) The German area of Rhine Valley was to be demilitarized.

(d) The German territory to the west of Rhine Valley was to be occupied by the Allied troops for 15 years.

(e) Germany was to return Alsace and Lorraine to France; she was to hand over Eupen and Malmedy to Belgium; she was to give Schleswig to Denmark. Danzig was to be a free port in the Polish territory.

10. Name the two rival blocs formed in Europe before World War I.

(2015)

Answer:

Two rival blocs formed in Europe were Triple alliance (Germany Austria Hungary and Italy) and Triple Entente (Britain, France and Russia).

11. The War that broke out in 1914 was different from the previous wars in many ways. In this context discuss the following points briefly :

(i) How did the Treaty of Versailles seek to cripple Germany's military strength?

(ii) What was the territorial rearrangement of Europe as a result of this war?

(2015)

Answer:

(i) The Treaty of Versailles was made in a spirit of revenge. The victorious powers had deprived Germany of huge tracts of its territory.

Her military strength was completely crushed. The German army was restricted to a force of 1000000 soldiers and the navy was limited to 15000 men. The air force was totally banned.

(a) Germany was burdened with an immense war reparation of 33 billion dollars.

(b) The coal mines in the German area called Saar were ceded to France for fifteen years.

(ii) Territorial rearrangements changed the political map of the world. It ended the autocratic monarchies in Germany, Russia and Austria, Hungary. It led to the birth of new states such as Romania, Czechoslovakia, Finland and Yugoslavia in Europe.

Germany lost many of their territories like Alsace Lorraine and colonies to the victorious allies. Three ruling dynasties were destroyed -The Romanov in Russia, the Hohenzollern in Germany and the Hapsburg in Austria Hungary.

12. Mention any two terms of the Treaty of Versailles signed on June 28, 1919.

(2014)

Answer:

(i) The Treaty declared Germany guilty of aggression. She was burdened with a war reparation of 33 billion dollars

(ii) The area of the Rhine Valley was to be demilitarized Germany could not maintain or construct any fortification on either bank of the Rhine.

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

(2013)

Answer:

- (i) The Sarajevo crisis is the immediate cause of the First World War. Archduke Francis Ferdinand the heir to the throne of Austria Hungary was assassinated by extremist Serbian nationalists.
- (ii) Austria saw the hand of Serbia behind the assassination and served Serbia with an ultimatum Serbia refused to accept the demands. Therefore, Austria declared a war on Serbia.

14. Name the signatory countries of the Triple Alliance (1882). State the rival bloc that was formed.

(2011)

Answer:

The signatory countries of the Triple Alliance were Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary. The rival bloc that was formed was known as the Triple Entente.

15. With reference to the First World War answer the following questions:

- (i) Explain any three causes of the First World War.
- (ii) Mention three points under the Treaty of Versailles, which affected Germany.
- (iii) What were the objectives of the League of Nations? Name the organization formed in October 1945 with objectives similar to those of the League of Nations.

(2011)

Answer:

(i) Three causes of the First World War (1914):

Race for Armaments: The mad race for armaments began soon after the Franco-Prussian war was one of the reasons which led to the first world war. Every major power began stockpiling armaments in the name of self-defence and preservation of peace. Therefore if one country increased their stockpile the other countries were compelled to do so out of fear.

Division of Europe into hostile groups: There were two kinds of states in Europe in the early 20th century on one hand there were single nation-states like France, Holland and Germany and on the other hand there were imperial states like Austria-Hungarian Empire and the Russian Empire. Germany entered into an alliance with Austria-Hungary and was later joined by Italy and came to be known as the Triple Alliance. France established friendly relations with Russia and England and thereby entered into the triple entente which was later joined by Japan.

The immediate cause: The Sarajevo crisis is the immediate cause of the First World War. Archduke Francis Ferdinand the heir to the throne of Austria Hungary was assassinated by extremist Serbian nationalists. Austria saw the hand of Serbia behind the assassination and served Serbia with an ultimatum. Serbia refused to accept the demands therefore Austria declared war on Serbia.

(ii) The Treaty of Versailles had deprived Germany of huge tracts of its territory. Her military strength was completely crushed. The German army was restricted to a force of 100,000 soldiers and the navy was limited to 15000 men. The air force was totally banned. Germany was burdened with an immense war reparation of 33 billion dollars. The coal mines called Saar were ceded to France for fifteen years.

(iii) One of the most significant consequences of the war was the creation of the League of Nations. The horrors of war convinced the leaders that there must be a mechanism to prevent war.

a) All the States of the world were prohibited from entering into any secret treaties and alliances.

b) The member-States were not supposed to maintain huge armies, warships and destructive armaments.

iii) All States were to refer their mutual disputes, if any, to the League of Nations for a peaceful settlement.

The United Nation organisation was formed on 24 October 1945 with objectives similar to those of the League of Nations.

16. How much did Germany have to pay as war reparation charges according to the Treaty of Versailles?

(2010)

Answer: 33 billion dollars.

17. There were several far-reaching consequences as a result of the First World War. In this context, answer the following:

(a) Explain how World War I brought about a changed political scenario in the world.

(b) What did France gain from the Treaty of Versailles?

(2010)

Answer:

(a) (i) Three ruling dynasties were destroyed -The Romanov in Russia, the Hohenzollern in Germany and the Hapsburg in Austria Hungary.

(ii) Rule of the Ottomans came to an end.

(iii) It led to the birth of new states such as Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Finland in Europe.

(b) (i) The coal mines in the German area called Saar were ceded to France for fifteen years although it was governed by the League of Nations.

(ii) Alsace-Lorraine, captured from France which was part of Germany, was returned to France.

18. What was meant by the term "imperialism", as a cause for World War One?

(2010)

Answer:

Imperialism refers to the state policy of practice by which a powerful nation establishes its control over another country, either by direct territorial acquisition or by gathering political and economic control.