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# UNIT 4 WORLD WAR I : CAUSES, EVENTS AND CONSEQUENCES

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## 4.0 OBJECTIVES

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This unit deals with the First World War (1914-18). After studying the unit you will be able to:

- trace the causes of the war
- narrate the sequence of events of the war
- discuss the consequences of the war, and
- analyses the impact of the war.

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## 4.1 INTRODUCTION

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The First World War, broke out in the third quarter of 1914. Initially it was confined to Europe. Afterwards the war spread all over the world. It continued for more than four years. The world experienced an unprecedented holocaust. Established dynasties collapsed, Europe began to decline and America started to dominate. The war generated new ideologies, founded new institutions and gave birth to new leaderships in the world. The world, indeed, was transformed at the termination of the war.

This unit examines the circumstances leading to the breaking out of the First World War, proceedings of the war and how it conditioned the developments and future of international relations.

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## 4.2 CAUSES

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The war broke out in the wake of the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the heir apparent to the Hapsburg throne. He was assassinated by a group of Bosnian radical

nationalists on 28th June 1914. The assassination, however was not the real cause of the war. It was just the pretext. The causes of the war may be found in the politico-economic developments that had been taking place in the international arena since the Franco-German War (1870). There arose economic rivalries, disputes over colonies and the conflicting alliance system in Europe. The growing nationalist aspirations in the subject peoples in Europe added fuel to the fire.

### 4.2.1 Economic Rivalries

Throughout the last quarter of the 19th century and the early decades of the 20th century most of the European powers had been locked in tariff wars and had been engaged in competition for overseas markets. There had been tariff wars between Italy and France, Russia and Germany, Austria and Serbia and so on. Besides these tariff wars, there arose stiff competition among the powers in general, and between Germany and Great Britain in particular for overseas markets. Throughout the 19th century, Britain had been the supreme economic power, backed by a powerful navy and army. Germany suddenly emerged as a competing great economic power in Europe after its principalities unified as a nation state. Germany's emergence as the economic super power made it a stiff competitor for overseas markets too, where other European powers including Britain had great stakes. This competition had far reaching political repercussions. It created an undending tension in the relations between these states. These relations got further embittered when the competing countries started building up strong navies for safeguarding trade routes and merchant shipping. Germany which already had a big army, devoted its full energies for building a large navy and achieved the goal within a short period. Germany's emergence as an economic power backed by a strong navy and an army became intolerable for Britain and the other powers hostile to it. Hence rivalries intensified and a flare up became inevitable.

### 4.2.2 Colonial Disputes

The European powers, in order to ensure protected markets for their surplus capital and industrial products, got involved in conflicts for overseas colonies. Germany was the youngest in the race for colonies. With its emergence as a super economic power it became very aggressive in the demand for the overseas colonies which could provide markets for its growing economy. It was a general cry in Germany that the country must have a "place in the sun". In its struggle for acquiring colonies, Germany found Britain as the stumbling block. Britain was condemned as a selfish, "dog in the manger". The disputes for a "place in the sun" were not confined to Germany and Britain alone. All major powers were engaged in the scramble for dependencies in the years preceding the first world war. There were collisions in Africa and in Asia between the European powers for colonies. These contradictions intensified made relations between European states.

### 4.2.3 Conflicting Alliance Systems

The struggle for colonies in different parts of the world between antagonistic powers led to the formation of conflicting alliances. Germany showed the way. It signed the Dual Alliance with Austria-Hungary (1879). This Alliance aimed at strengthening Germany against a possible French attack for recovering Alsace-Lorraine. The Alliance was also designed to protect Austria-Hungary against Russia with which the former had protracted clashes in the Balkan region. The alliance became the Triple Alliance in 1882, when Italy joined Austria-Hungary and Germany, seeking their support in her struggle for colonies against France.

The partners of the Triple Alliance attempted to maintain the status quo in the continent. Others however, saw this as an attempt to dominate Europe and to isolate other states from each other. They, therefore, took steps to form counter alliances. France and Russia entered into an entente (1893). This entente was aimed at countering the Triple Alliance and also containing Britain, against whom both France and Russia had outstanding disputes over the colonies. In the course of time, however the disputes between France, Russia and Britain were resolved peacefully. They now entered into

alliances. First, the Anglo-French entente (1904) was signed and then the Anglo-Russian entente (1907) was formalised. These two ententes were transformed into the Triple Entente. Europe was thus divided into two conflicting alliances which added fuel to the already embittered international relations which were aggravated by economic and colonial rivalries.

#### 4.2.5 Rising Nationalist Aspirations

There were subject minorities in different regions of Europe. These subject minorities remained hostile towards their respective imperial rulers. The growing nationalism of these peoples made them restless against foreign rule. They were demanding the right of self-determination. The French people in Alsace-Lorraine were hostile to German rule over their territory. The Hapsburg Empire, ruled by the Austrians and the Hungarians, had been facing growing discontent by the subject peoples. Italians, Romanian, and the Slavic peoples living within the Austro Hungarian empire awakened and initiated demands for self-determination or unification with their brethren in the neighbouring states. The rulers however tried to suppress the nationalist awakenings. The nationalist movement within empires transformed into militant revolutionary movements. Secret radical and militant organisations sprang up in different places in the Balkan region. One such organisation named Black Hand which was founded by the Bosnian Serbs in Belgrade, the Serbian capital, in 1911, hatched the conspiracy to kill Archduke Francis Ferdinand while he was on an official tour in Serajevo, and assigned the job of assassinating him to Gavrilo Princip and his comrades. Princip carried out the assassination.

#### 4.2.5 The Outbreak of War

At the assassination of the Archduke, Austria issued a stiff ultimatum to Serbia on 23 July 1914. Serbia had little knowledge about the conspiracy to kill the Duke. Serbia, however, politely replied to the ultimatum, agreeing to comply with all but one of the demands. The ultimatum included, among others, the demands for apologies, suppression of anti-Austrian movements, and participation of Austrian officials in the enquiry for fixing responsibility for the murder. Serbia refused to include Austrian officials for conducting the inquiry. Austria declined to accept the Serbian reply and declared war against Serbia on the 28th July, 1914. Russia joined the fray in favour of Serbia on 30th July, Russia's involvement brought Germany into the war, Germany declared war against Russia and France on 1st and 3rd August respectively. The German strategy to attack France by vanquishing Belgium annoyed Britain. Britain declared war on 4th August. Thus the war broke out in full scale between the two blocs, consisting of Austria-Hungary and Germany on one side and France, Britain and Russia on the another. The former bloc came to be known as Central Powers and the latter became famous as the Allies.

#### Check your progress 1

**Note:** i) Use the space given below for your answers.

ii) Check your answer with the model answers given at the end of this unit.

1) Identify the root causes of the first World War.

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2) Who constituted the opposing parties in the War?

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## 4.3 SEQUENCE OF EVENTS OF THE WAR

At the outbreak of the war it was presumed that the war would be a brief encounter and there would be a victorious party. These presumptions proved to be wrong. The war was prolonged for more than four years and caused an unprecedented toll of men and material. Both the winners and the losers suffered almost equally from the war. Though the Allies won, but it cost them far dearly.

### 4.3.1 European Phase of the War

The war continued till the beginning of 1917, and was essentially an European affair. War was being fought over European issues and their control over the colonies. Europe had been the main theatre of the war. The German strategy was to end the war in a month or so. German forces, accordingly, attacked France by overrunning Belgium. German soldiers, within a few days, reached the vicinity of Paris. The Germans, however, failed to sustain this victory. The French army forced them to retreat to the Aisne River bank, which was considered the natural defence line. The warring parties failed to make much headway in either direction during the next three years. A deadlock resulted. The war took heavy casualties at this front. The casualties during the first four months alone were 700,000 Germans, 850,000 French and 90,000 Britishers.

On the Russian and Balkan fronts, however there had been decisive battles. On the Russian front the Russian soldiers could not invade East Prussia and on the Balkan front, Austria faced humiliating defeats. The Serbians drove away the Austrians. Turkey joined the Central Powers in November 1914. Turkey closed the supply line and attempted to stop the Allies from sending supplies to Russia through sea routes.

Consequently, the combined Austro-German armies inflicted humiliating defeats upon the Russian forces in the middle of 1915. With these defeats the decline of Tsarist Empire began. Meanwhile, Bulgaria joined the Central Powers and enhanced their strength and striking capabilities. Now, Serbia fell to the central powers. At this juncture Italy was persuaded to intervene in favour of the Allies. Italy's intervention however failed to influence the course of the war. The Central Powers won important victories and the whole area from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf came under their control.

In February 1916 the Central Powers launched an all out attack against the Allies. Their strategy was to inflict a decisive defeat on the Allies and to dictate peace terms for terminating the war. This strategy failed. Germany suffered from heavy losses both in men and material. Russia defeated the Austrians. Now Romania joined the Allies and soon Greece broke her neutrality and intervened in favour of the Allies. Now the joint offensive in the Balkan front against the Central Powers knocked Bulgaria out of the war. The Germans were defeated on several fronts. They opened unrestricted submarine warfare at sea, to block the ships carrying supplies to Britain. Though this strategy paid off handsomely, it forced America to intervene in the war in favour of the Allies. The war thus entered into a global phase.

The war now entered the fourth year. Europe incurred heavy losses both in terms of human life and in terms of wealth. Europe was on the verge of collapse. Now peace became a general demand. The German Reichstag passed a peace resolution in July 1917. Many important personalities appealed for peace in order to save European civilization. But worse was still to come.

### 4.3.2 Global Phase of the War

The intervention of USA in the war and the successful conclusion of the Russian Revolution in 1917 completely changed the complexion of the war, which was now transformed from being an European affair into a world affair. The US intervention and the Russian revolution also brought into fore differing ideologies. While the Russian revolution unleashed revolutionary ideologies, the USA sought to make the world safe for democracy and peace. President Wilson of the USA came out with his famous fourteen Point programme.

The war contributed largely to the downfall of the Tsarist regime in Russia. The Bolshevik government, installed in power after the fall of Tsar, signed the Brest-Litovsk Treaty in March 1918 with Germany and opted out of the war. Thus war between Germany and Russia ended. USA had maintained strict neutrality since the beginning of the war. She broke this neutrality for several reasons which included amongst others, Germany's unrestricted submarine attack on merchant ships, America's huge economic involvement in the war and the military preparedness within USA.

In April 1917 USA intervened in the war in support of the Allies. After joining the war President Wilson declared his famous Fourteen Point Programme which was proclaimed as the war aims of the US. The 14 points included amongst others, open covenants of peace instead of secret pacts, freedom of the seas, removal of barriers to international trade, reduction of arrangements, justice to colonial peoples, right to self-determination to the various subject minorities of Europe, and the establishment of an international body to maintain peace in the world.

### **4.3.3 End of the War**

The participation of America sufficiently enhanced the striking power of the Allies. The USA sent both men and materials. By July 1918 the number of American soldiers in the different fronts rose to more than 300,000. The Central Powers had no hope of getting fresh supplies. So they failed to bear the Allies' offensive. Consequently they surrendered during the latter half of 1918, one by one. Bulgaria surrendered in September and Turkey in October. The Hapsburg empire disintegrated and Emperor Charles abdicated in November. The Germans had now no way out. Emperor Kaiser William II abdicated and Germany surrendered in early November. The war thus ended with the victory of the Allies.

The war had continued for four years and three months. Thirty states from Europe, America, Asia and Africa were entangled in the war which overthrew four dynasties and brought into existence seven new states. The war killed more than 18 million people and the total cost was nearly \$ 333 billion.

#### **Check your progress 2**

**Note:** i) Use the space given below for your answers.

ii) Check your answer with the model answers given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Spell out some of the more important events and development during the European phase of the war.

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- 2) What are the reasons for the intervention of the USA in the War?

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- 3) Why did Russia opt out of the War?

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## 4.4 CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR

The war consumed an unprecedented number of men and materials. Europe's supremacy in the world began to decline and the USA began to emerge as a super power. Japan established its supremacy in the East. The war was terminated through a series of five separate treaties between the Allies and the individual states of the Central Powers. These treaties were the Versailles Treaty with Germany, St. Germain Treaty with Austria, Neuilly Treaty with Bulgaria, Trianon Treaty with Hungary and Sevres Treaty with Turkey. While the first four were signed in 1919, the last one was signed in 1920. The salient features of these treaties included amongst others the foundation of the League of Nations; the application of the right of self-determination in Europe only, and the non-application of the doctrine in the colonies of the European powers in Asia and Africa.

### 4.4.1 Paris Peace Conference

Wars are normally terminated and peace is restored after the signing of peace treaties between warring states. The First World War was also terminated through peace treaties, mentioned earlier. When the war entered into the decisive phase, the Allied powers started considering the plans and proposals put forward by different quarters for a lasting peace in the world. At Germany's surrendering and signing of the instruments of Armistice the Allies took effective steps for holding a peace conference. The conference was ultimately called in Paris in January 1919. It continued for about six months. Thirty two countries, consisting primarily of the Allies, participated in this conference. The gathering was impressive, because most of the world leaders were present. This was the first time, in a conference like this, that non-European powers — the USA, Japan, etc. attended. Russia did not attend because it had earlier withdrawn from the war. None of the Central Powers was invited to participate in the deliberations. The conference was mainly conducted by the Big Three — the USA, Great Britain and France. But they could not totally ignore the others. However, the conflicting and narrow national interests, petty and unjust claims, and tendencies of scrabbling colonies dominated the proceedings of the conference and overshadowed President Wilson's idealism, enshrined in his Fourteen Points. The conference was called upon to tackle many complex issues which included among others the growing national aspirations of the erstwhile subject nations in Europe, the secret pacts signed during the war, the demands for compensation for the losses suffered by the European Allied powers and the redressal of the wrongs committed by Germany during the war. Germany was held responsible for the declaration of the war and the huge destruction of lives and property.

The peace conference in Paris, after its formal inauguration, appointed committees of experts and diplomats to study the different problems and issues and to make suitable recommendations to deal with them. In the context of the conflicting demands, aims and objectives of the participating countries, it was not easy for the conference to arrive at an objective and rational conclusion. President Wilson had to yield to the pressure of the European powers who were bent upon taking revenge on Germany. After protracted deliberations the conference came out with a peace treaty containing very stiff terms and conditions. It was offered to Germany for acceptance in total. Germany objected on the ground that the country was given an understanding when it had surrendered, that it would be dealt with as per the principles, contained in Wilson's Fourteen Points. It alleged that the peace terms had contained little of the 14 points. Germany's objections were brushed aside and she was asked to sign the treaty or face the consequence. Germany had to swallow the humiliation which later led to a desire for avenging the insult. The treaty, thus, sowed the seeds of another war.

#### 4.4.1.1 The Treaty of Versailles

The Versailles Treaty was signed between the Allies and Germany. It was the most important one in the five treaty series. The treaty contained 440 articles. It dealt comprehensively with the territorial, military and war guilt of the Central Powers and the economic, political and other related aspects of the peace settlement. Germany which was accused for initiating the war, was dealt with severely. Emperor Kaiser William II was accused of having committed crimes against humanity and was blamed

The war contributed largely to the downfall of the Tsarist regime in Russia. The Bolshevik government, installed in power after the fall of Tsar, signed the Brest-Litovsk Treaty in March 1918 with Germany and opted out of the war. Thus war between Germany and Russia ended. USA had maintained strict neutrality since the beginning of the war. She broke this neutrality for several reasons which included amongst others, Germany's unrestricted submarine attack on merchant ships, America's huge economic involvement in the war and the military preparedness within USA.

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for the holocaust caused by the war. Germany was asked to surrender nearly 40,000 square kilometres of territory with more than seven million people. With the loss of three territories Germany was deprived of the natural resources which were essential for its economic development. In addition, Germany was told to pay huge reparations, which after prolonged negotiations were fixed at \$33,000 million. German colonies were taken away and were described as "Mandated territories of the League" which France, Britain, and Japan distributed among themselves. Germany was militarily weakened by cutting the size of its army and navy. It was not allowed to raise an air force or to have a modern merchant navy. The Rhine was demilitarised for 50 kilometres East of the river and the Allied Commission was appointed to supervise the execution of the disarmament clauses. Germany and Austria were barred from uniting. In sum, the treaty was designed to cripple Germany and to perpetuate its subordination to the Allied powers. Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, etc. were recognised as independent states. The Treaty of Brest-Litvosk, signed between Germany and Russia, was rendered irrelevant.

The Treaty of Versailles created for the first time in the world an international organisation, called the League of Nations, with the aim to maintain peace in the world. The treaty also founded for the first time in the world another international body, known as the International Labour Organisation, to look after the welfare of the labouring people. The Treaty evolved a system of government for the mandated territories.

#### 4.4.1.2 Minor Treaties

The Versailles Treaty was followed by four minor treaties. The St. Germain Treaty was signed between the Allies and Austria. It recognised the independence of Hungary, Czechoslovakia (now Czech and Slovak, two independent republics), Poland and Yugoslavia. Austria had also to cede large tracts of territories. Her empire had disintegrated. Her population was reduced. She was reduced to a small German speaking state from being a vast multilingual empire.

The Neuilly treaty was signed between the Allies and Bulgaria. Bulgaria had to cede again part of her coast to Greece and some strategically important areas in the West of the country to Yugoslavia. Bulgaria's military was reduced and she was made to pay \$ 50 million as war indemnity to the Allies.

The Trianon Treaty was signed between the Allies and Hungary. As per the terms of the treaty, Hungary was reduced in size and population. It had to give up Transylvania to Romania, Croatia to Yugoslavia, the Banat to Romania and the Slovak districts to Czechoslovakia.

The Severs Treaty was signed between the Allies and Turkey in August 1920. The treaty stripped Turkey of her empire. The treaty was revised in 1923 when Turkey declared itself a Republic. The new government signed the revised treaty with the Allies at Lausanne. It had then come to be known as Treaty of Lausanne. Turkey now renounced her claim to the Arab lands. Turkey was not forced to pay war indemnity nor was she debarred from having a military as per her own requirements.

#### Check your progress 3

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answers.

ii) Check your answer with the model answers given at the end of this unit.

- 1) What are the main the terms and conditions of Versailles Treaty?

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- 2) Name the minor treaties concluded at the Paris Peace Conference.

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## 4.5 IMPACT OF THE WAR

### 4.5.1 Impact on Europe

The war had weakened Europe so much that it could not reemerge as an economic and political force. It lost ground to the United States of America. Europe faced economic decline, suffered from political crises one after another and lost her prestige in the eyes of the colonial peoples. Europe had been the leading economic power in the world. The source of Europe's economic prosperity was her vast colonies. She depended largely upon the huge income which was being earned from her massive overseas investments. The war had cut off this source considerably. Britain lost more than 25 per cent of her pre-war foreign investment, France nearly 34 per cent and Germany lost almost all. Europe yielded much of her ground to the USA, with which her economic relationship reversed from a creditor to debtor. Europe no longer remained the banker and the workshop of the world, which she had been till the beginning of the war.

The political impact of the war on Europe was also far-reaching. President Wilson's 14 points and the successful conclusion of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia unleashed new revolutionary ideas. Consequently, everywhere in the continent the old order came under severe attack. In Europe even the known democratic states had been continuing with restricted franchise. The war changed the scenario. Women who had so far no voting rights in many countries, got the right to vote. The war also initiated the process for the emancipation of women. Despotic kingdoms were wiped out from the map of Europe. The basic rights of the working people began to be included in the statute books of different countries. Last but not the least, was the loss of prestige of Europe in the colonies. Inter-European contradictions and cleavages got exposed. The block pitted one against another and damaged their own prestige irreplaceably.

### 4.5.2 Impact on the World

The impact of the war on the world was all pervading. One of the most significant effects of the war was the emergence of the USA as the super power. The war gutted Europe but made the USA affluent. USA, after the war, almost became the banker and the workshop of the world. Factories and workshops mushroomed spectacularly to meet the almost unending war-time demand for manufacturing goods. The USA, which had been once the debtor country and owed nearly \$4 billion to European states, now became the creditor country. By 1919 Europeans owed to the USA more than \$ 3.7 billion and the debt increased to \$8.8 billion in 1930. The USA became the highest manufacturing country in the world, the industrial output even surpassed the industrial outputs of all the European nations taken together. USA's contribution to the world's manufacturing goods rose to 42.2 per cent in 1930. Alongwith economic supremacy, the USA had also established its supremacy in other fields.

The impact of the war on the other parts of the world was no less. The war destroyed the Tsarist regime in Russia. The repeated setbacks on the war fronts lowered the prestige of the Tsar which expedited the impending Bolshevik Revolution and wiped out the ancient Tsar dynasty from the map of Russia. The impact of the war in the middle east was also all-pervading. The defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the war and the stripping from Turkey of her colonies hastened the revolution in the land. The revolution ended the despotic rule of the Ottoman dynasty, modernized the ancient state and founded democratic Turkey under the inspiring leadership of Mustafa Kemal.

Efforts were also made in Persia (now Iran) to modernise on the lines of Turkey. Progress was made in many fields although Persia did not match the modernisation efforts of Turkey. The country was industrialised to a large extent. Many factories, including textile mills, cement plants, sugar refineries, etc. were founded. In East Asia, Japan emerged as a super power. Japan joined the war in support of the Allies with the intention of capturing foreign territories as far as possible. Soon Japan took the German islands in the Pacific and the German holdings in the Shantung Peninsula. The Treaty of Versailles almost approved the Japanese demands. The treaty transferred from Germany the leased territory of Kiaochow in Shantung to Japan, who was also given the mandate to administer Germany's North Pacific islands. This emboldened Japan, which gradually became an imperialist power. China entered the war in 1917 with the hope of regaining her territories. But the peace makers did not pay heed to the Chinese demands. China refused to sign on the treaty and wild demonstration broke out throughout China against Japan in particular and against foreigners in general. The movements reoriented the Chinese national movement with radical thoughts and activities. In India the repercussions of the war were also far-reaching. During the war the British government promised to grant advanced forms of administrative reforms after the war, in exchange for India's support to British war efforts. The British did not honour their promise. Consequently the ongoing national movement in India took a different course which ultimately forced the British to accord freedom to the subcontinent.

#### **Check Your Progress 4**

- Note :** i) Use the space given below for your answers.  
ii) Check your answer with the model answers given at the end of this unit.

- 1) How did the war affect world (other than Europe)?

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### **4.6 LET US SUM UP**

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The first World War broke out in 1914 and continued upto the last quarter of 1918. The world reached an explosive situation because of economic rivalry, disputes over colonies, and conflicting alliance systems between the European countries. The growing nationalist aspirations of the subject peoples and the high military preparedness of the big powers added fuel to the fire, which ultimately engulfed the world on the pretext of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the heir apparent to the Austrian throne. War was terminated when the warring countries lost everything. Peace Treaties were negotiated and offered to the vanquished. The terms were humiliating and contained the germs of much bigger flare-ups in the future. Europe got devastated and declined as a great power. The USA emerged as the super power. Japan became a big power. Turkey was modernized and was declared a republic. Despotic rulers made way for democracy in Europe. Colonial peoples including India and the dependencies of the Europeans, though receiving a raw deal in the hands of the peace makers in Paris, got enthused because of the revolutionary ideas unleashed by the war, and were encouraged to launch more vigorous national liberation movements.

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### **4.7 KEY WORDS**

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- Tariff** : Taxes imposed on the goods imported or exported from one country to another.
- Franco-German War** : It was fought between France and Germany in 1870-71. France was defeated and the unification of Germany was achieved. The war sowed the seeds of the First World War.

**Russian Revolution** : In 1917 Russia experienced a series of revolutions which culminated in the establishment of a socialist state named Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) under the leadership of V.I. Lenin.

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## 4.8 SOME USEFUL BOOKS

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David Thomson, 1974, Europe Since Napoleon, Middlesex, England.

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## 4.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES

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### Check Your Progress 1

- 1) The root causes of the war were the economic rivalries, disputes over the colonies, conflicting alliance systems and the growing militarism in the big powers, and the developing nationalist aspirations in the subject people. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand was the immediate cause.
- 2) The powers were grouped into two blocks — the Allies and the Central Powers. Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey constituted the central powers, and France, Britain, Italy, Russia the USA and many others were the members of the Allies. The Allies and the central powers were the opposing parties in the war.

### Check Your Progress 2

- 1) Initial victories of the central powers, failure of German strategies. Defeats of Russia. Unrestricted submarine warfare. Russia's opting out of the war, the USA's intervention of the War, heavy casualties, etc.
- 2) Unrestricted submarine warfare of Germany, US investment in Europe, US military preparedness, etc.
- 3) Russian Revolution and the downfall of the Tsar.

### Check Your Progress 3

- 1) The Paris Peace Conference had prepared the terms and conditions of the treaties which terminated the First World War. Only the Allies attended the Conference which continued from January to June 1918. It recommended the foundation of the world bodies — League of Nations and the International Labour Organizations. It offered an insulting treaty to Germany and sowed the seeds of another war.
- 2) It was designed to cripple Germany and to perpetuate its subordination to the Allies. The treaty also founded the world bodies.
- 3) There were four minor treaties — St. Germain Treaty, Neuilly Treaty, Trianon Treaty and Sevres Treaty which terminated the war between the Allies and Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

### Check Your Progress 4

- 1) Europe was weakened. Despotic rule in Europe ended. Europe progressed towards a more democratic system.
- 2) The USA emerged as the world super power. Japan extended its influence in the east. Turkey was modernized. Revolution in Russia was hastened. The national liberation movement in the colonial countries became more vigorous.