

4**MODERN WORLD – II****Notes**

In the last lesson, you read about the developments during the Renaissance which brought many changes in the European society. Extraordinary accomplishments were made in the field of science. People rejected blind faith and tradition and laid more stress on observation and experiments. The coming of the printing press created political awareness about new values and ideas like liberty, equality and fraternity. Political conditions in many countries of Europe led the adventurers to discover new sea routes to many territories of the world. Missionaries ventured into new domains to spread Christianity and merchants brought in goods from different parts of the world. The time was right for technological changes that brought the Industrial Revolution and revolutionised the life of the working classes especially in England. Let us now read about the impact of the Industrial Revolution, Imperialism and Colonialism in Asia and Africa. We will also read about the two World Wars and about the formation of the United Nation Organisation in this lesson.

**OBJECTIVES**

After reading this lesson, the learner will be able to:

- describe the Industrial Revolution;
- discuss the innovations and technological changes brought in by the Industrial Revolution;
- assess the impact of the Industrial Revolution on society;
- identify the factors responsible for the rise of Imperialism and Colonialism;
- discuss the various stages of development of Imperialism in Asia and Africa;

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- trace the events which led to the two World Wars; and
- list the objectives of the United Nations Organisation.

4.1 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

In the 18th century came the Industrial Revolution. It brought social and economic changes that marked the transition from a stable agricultural and commercial society to a modern industrial society. Historically, it refers to the period in British History from 1750 to 1850. Dramatic changes in the social and the economic structure took place as inventions and new technology created the factory system of large-scale machine production and greater economic specialisation. The population which was employed in agriculture now gathered in urban factories. Do you know why this happened? Earlier the merchants supplied the family with raw materials and collected the finished products. This system did not meet the growing demands of the markets for long. So by the end of the 18th century, rich merchants set up factories. They installed new machineries, brought raw materials and employed workers on fixed wages to make machine made goods. Thus the factory system was born.

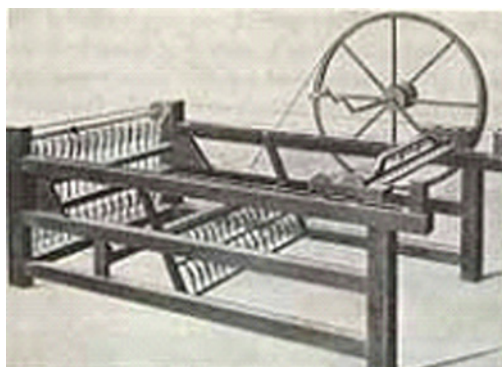


Figure 4.1 *Early Spinning Machine*

The Industrial Revolution started in Britain with the use of steam power. This was made possible with the invention of the Steam Engine by James Watt in 1769. In 1733 John Kay's invented the Flying Shuttle which simplified the process of weaving cloth and which increased the output four times. James Hargreaves invented a hand powered spinning wheel, the Spinning Jenny, to create multiple spools of thread at once. After the invention of the Spinning Jenny, cotton textiles became the key industry of this period. The presence of large quantities of coal and iron proved a decisive factor in Britain's rapid industrial development. The building of canals and roads, as well as the advent of the railroad and steamship, widened the market for manufactured goods. New periods of development came with electricity and the gasoline engine.

Britain had all the resources that were needed to make her an industrialised power. By 1850, the Revolution had been accomplished with industries becoming a dominant factor in British life. The effect of the Industrial Revolution was felt worldwide. France after 1830, Germany after 1850 and U.S. after the Civil War soon started industrialisation. Let us read further how industrialisation was achieved.

Major inventions and reforms gave a boost to agriculture in England. Important innovations took place in farming such as Jethro Tull's Seed Planting Drill which aided in planting seeds at uniform intervals and depths without any wastage. Between 1760 to 1830, the British Parliament passed nearly 1000 Enclosure Acts by which the lands which had earlier belonged to the community were combined into larger areas. Though all this helped to increase agricultural production but at the same time rendered a large number of people landless. Now only a few people were needed to work on the farms so a large number of people started migrating to cities for employment. This provided cheap and abundant labour to work in the factories.

The favorable political conditions in England further helped in the growth of the Industrial Revolution. Acts like the removal of trade barriers and a common market aided the merchants. England was able to capture the overseas markets primarily with the development in transportation. Many European countries had by now started following the Policy of Mercantilism. Under this Policy, governmental control was exercised over industries and trade. It was based on the theory that national strength was indicated by more exports and less imports. This theory also believed that wealth of a nation depends on the possession of gold and silver and the governmental interference in trade should be very limited.

What factors do you think made it possible for England to be the first country to be industrialised? England enjoyed a geographical advantage over other countries. It had a secured island location with an easy proximity to sea. But at the same time it was isolated from the rest of Europe and hence progressed unhindered. Waterways like canals, rivers and sea helped England to have the largest free trade area, without tolls or barriers. These advantages made England a favourable location for the Industrial Revolution.

4.2 INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES DURING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Many innovations, inventions and technological changes took place during this period. It helped to make the industrialised countries more powerful and efficient. Now production could be done much faster and in large quantities which made things cheaper. These inventions had maximum impact on the textile and transport industries which you are going to read now.



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**Notes****4.2.1 Textile Industry**

Technological advancements in the textile industry started a series of inventions in iron and steel production. Other countries were inspired to follow the example of England as manufactured goods from England were flooding the world markets. To safeguard their interests Britain passed laws to ban textile workers from leaking out information about industrial technology or to travel to other countries. But in 1789, Samuel Slater slipped out of England to America. He took the knowledge of British textile industry with him which initiated Industrial Revolution in America. Vast new areas were brought under cotton plantations in America which increased the demand for slaves. Similar incidents started Industrial Revolution in France and Germany also.

Do you know that Arkright was called ‘The Father of the Factory System’? He created the first factory that was specially built to house machinery, where the working hours were fixed and the people were employed rather than kept on contractual basis. In 1779, Samuel Crompton invented the ‘Spinning Mule’ while Edmond Cartwright made the first water driven powered loom. The textile industry stimulated other industries such as dyeing, bleaching, and printing.

**ACTIVITY 4.1**

Try to visit a handloom center or a family of weavers near your neighborhood. Find out about the kind of work they do; whether there is division of labour between the men and the women. What kind of technology they use? What are the problems they face? Do they employ children or do their children help them in their work? Write a report on your findings.

The innovations and technological changes which led to advancement in manufacturing, transport and communication industries followed closely with chemical, electrical, petroleum and steel industries. The discovery of trade routes not only gave a boost to Industrial Revolution but also led to a competition among colonial and imperialist powers for expanding their empires to fulfill the need of industries for raw materials, new markets and cheap labour. The imperialist expansions led to struggle for supremacy and the two World Wars. The colonies were exploited; their traditional social, economic and political systems were destroyed. They started opposing the foreign rule and to establish their own nations.

4.2.2. Steam Engine

Another major achievement of the Industrial Revolution was the development and application of steam power. Even the earlier devices were improved upon and developed into machines as the number of industries had increased. So, enormous power was needed for production. In 1705, Thomas Newcomen built an engine for

pumping water from coal mines. In 1764, James Watt improved upon the design and improved the efficiency of Newcomen's engine fourfold. He introduced a chamber with a jet of cold water to condense the steam and cause vacuum. This was also a period of transfer of one technology to another. Watt used John Wilkinson's drill gun to bore the large cylinder for his engine. The steam engine soon replaced the earlier locomotive coal engines. It increased the demand for railway lines. The steam engine made the technology portable and was in demand by other industries. Now there was no need to locate the factories along rivers or lakes any longer.

4.2.3 Coal and Iron

The steam engine, coal and iron laid the foundation for modern industry. It was believed that only people with 'death wish' worked in mines. Coal was moved along horizontal tunnels in baskets and then hauled up a vertical shaft to the surface. The movement of coal from mines was totally dependent on muscle power – animals, men, women and children. The coal mines had dangerous working conditions. Unfortunately the children were preferred because of their small size.

The demand for coal went up with the increase in the use of steam power. Great progress was made in coal mining such as tunnel ventilation, transportation of coal, use of gunpowder to blast away ridges and the use of safety lamps. But the coal miners suffered from many hazards and health problems like lung disease.

Significant improvements were made in the iron industry during this time. In 1709, Abraham Darby produced pig iron smelted with coke. Earlier pig iron was smelted with charcoal which was derived from wood which resulted in fast depletion of England's forests. In 1784, Henry Cort, an ironmaster, developed a process for producing a less brittle iron. It was called wrought iron. It proved to be a very useful metal in industrial processes. In 1774, John Wilkinson invented a drilling machine that could drill holes with great accuracy. Between 1788 and 1806, the production of iron increased many times and the use of iron spread to farm machinery, hardware, shipbuilding, etc.

The development in the iron and textile industries made it necessary to invent better transportation facilities for cheaper and quicker movement of goods. It was urgently required to fulfill the need of domestic and foreign markets.

4.2.4. Means of Transportation and Communication

The improvement in the means of transport and communication was a great encouragement to the Industrial Revolution. The raw materials, finished products, food and people needed a reliable system of transportation. Improvements in bridges and road construction were made early in the 1700's. They helped to transport the



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raw materials and factory made products to their destinations. In 1814, George Stephenson built the first steam locomotive engine to run on railway tracks. Soon the steam engines and railways were transporting goods over tracks throughout England and supporting the canal transportation.



Figure 4.2 George Stephenson's 'Rocket', 1829



Do you know

The first railway line to use locomotive traction and carry passengers as well as freight was between Stockton to Darlington, in the year 1825.

During the mid-19th century wooden steam powered ships took over sailing ship. Soon after iron ship was used for travelling across the ocean. If the first phase of Industrial Revolution depended on steam, then the second phase depended on electricity. Do you know Michael Faraday had the distinction of inventing the first electric motor? Electricity now became commercially available and was used to run the factories. Faster means of transportation and communication speeding up business transactions, contacts between army units, colonies, countries and even common people. The invention of telegraph and telephone made it possible to communicate anywhere in the world instantly.

4.3 IMPACT OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The Industrial Revolution also encouraged the movement of the masses towards cities which gave birth to an urban society. The workers now lived close to the workshops or the factories where they were provided employment opportunities. But the working

conditions in the factories were miserable along with poor housing, hygiene and health conditions. The factory owners had only one motive and that was to make profit. Hence he forced the workers to work for long hours on low wages – sometimes 12 to 14 hours daily. Women and children were paid very low wages. The factories were poorly ventilated, noisy, dirty, damp and dark. Do you think this situation continued for long? Gradually the workers began to realise their strength. The pressure came from trade unions. A movement began to save the workers from the injustices of the factory system. Many laws were made to reform the working and living conditions. You will read more about it in the coming section.

**ACTIVITY 4.2**

Look around you, in your family or neighborhood or shop or market. Do you see young children, below 14 years, being employed and denied their right to study? What should be done to educate them? Give it a thought and try to find ways to help them.

There was a tremendous increase in production which resulted in lower cost of goods. Human labour was replaced with the machines and the domestic system of production came to an end. Increase in agriculture production decreased the food prices. A new source of wealth rose from the ownership of factories and machinery. This new group of people was known as the capitalists. They also organised the banking system to distribute capital from surplus income areas to those areas where it was needed. In early 1700's the first private banks were opened by goldsmith, merchant and manufacturers.

Very soon Industrial Revolution spread to other countries. The discovery of trade routes encouraged competition amongst colonial and imperialist powers for expanding their empires to fulfill the need of raw materials, new markets and cheap labour. It started a race for colonies among the European countries, rivalry particularly between England and France. Later on Italy, Germany and other countries also joined the race. These imperialist expansions led to struggle for supremacy and the two world wars about which you will read further in the lesson. They exploited the colonies and destroyed their traditional social, economic and political systems. These colonies in turn started opposing the foreign rules and fighting for their independence.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.1**

1. Which two natural resources played an important role in the birth of Industrial Revolution in England?
2. How the development in the means of transport and communication assisted the merchants?

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3. What were the reason to employ children in coal mines and factories?

4. Match the column:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| (a) James Watt | (i) Iron Industry |
| (b) Samuel Crompton | (ii) Electric Motor |
| (c) Henry Cort | (iii) Steam Engine |
| (d) Michael Faraday | (iv) Spinning Jenny |
| | (v) Spinning Mule |
| | (vi) Flying Shuttle |

4.4 THE RISE OF IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM

In the last section you read about Industrial Revolution and how it spread to the countries of the West. By the turn of the 19th century, most of the European countries were industrialised. These countries needed constant supply of raw materials and a ready market for selling the finished goods. So they began to extend control over areas which were not industrialised. The capitalists too needed new places and new industries to invest their surplus capital since these needs could not be fulfilled in their own countries or in neighboring areas. This practice of extending control or rule over the political and economic life of another country is known as Imperialism. This may be done through military or other means. Colonialism meant to acquire colonies and making them dependent by conquest or other means. It was the need for raw materials, markets and places for investment of capital which prompted the imperial nations to conquer lands outside their country. The main feature of Imperialism was economic domination of colonies by an imperial nation through military conquest, political rule or by any other method. The wealth and resources were drained out from the colonies to the imperial countries. The interest of the colonies was subjected to the interests of the imperial country. The country which conquers another land is known as the Imperial Country while the conquered land is known as a Colony. By the end of the 19th century almost all countries of Asia and Africa were under the control of one or the other European nations.

Why do you think these industrialised countries chose Asia and Africa to extend their dominance? This was because these countries were rich in resources but were politically and militarily weak and industrially backward. Unfortunately, they were too far and distant. Without good means of communication, no countries would be able to make profit from them. The growth of Imperialism coincided with the growth of transport and communication. Good roads, steamships, railways and canals were being built by industrialised nations in their own countries and in the colonies. Easy transportation of goods to and from the colonies made things easier for these countries. Troops could also be easily sent to colonies. With the development of telegraph and telephone, messages could be sent easily. Almost every country now came within the easy reach of imperial countries.

Extreme Nationalism became a major force in the extension of Imperialism. For pride, prestige and glory, some countries like Italy and Germany conquered lands belonging to others. By this time, the Europeans who had developed a feeling of racial superiority considered the people of Asia and Africa as backward. According to them, it was 'the white man's burden' to civilise the 'backward people'. So it was their duty to conquer these countries, spread Christianity and bring enlightenment to them. This feeling provided a moral justification for the conquest of these lands.

This was not difficult as adventurers and explorers played a significant role in inciting a desire among Europeans for conquering lands. They brought back valuable information about the lands they discovered and described the wealth and resources they saw in these remote lands. Do you remember reading the names of many explorers such as Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama and Ferdinand Magellan?



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4.4.1 Imperialism in Africa

Do you know that once upon a time Africa was known as the Dark Continent? Very little information was available about this continent. The missionaries and the explorers were the first to venture into the interiors. There they discovered an immense treasure of ivory, gold, diamond, timber and people who could be made slaves. Africa also had weak political systems, a backward economy and society as well as weak armies. A competition started amongst the European nations to gain power and prestige as well as raw materials and markets for their manufactured goods. The Europeans on the other hand had technologically advanced weapons which helped in their conquests. Till 1875, European possessions in Africa were limited to some forts and trading posts along the coast and a few small colonies. But between 1880 and 1910, the whole of Africa was divided up amongst the Europeans. All important decisions related to Africa and its people were taken on the conference tables of London, Paris, Lisbon and other European capitals for the next 50 years!



Do you know

France ruled the maximum number of colonies in Africa while Britain ruled over the greatest number of people.

France acquired a huge empire in North and West Africa. Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Mali and other areas in West Africa came under the French rule. Britain ruled Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Nigeria, South Africa, Rhodesia, Uganda, Kenya, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, parts of Somaliland and Libya. Germany ruled over Southwest Africa, Tanganyika, Togoland and Cameroon until German was defeated in World War I. By the time the war started in 1914, only two independent countries were left in Africa - Liberia and Ethiopia. But Ethiopia was taken over by Italy in 1935.

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An interesting feature about Imperialism was the slave trade in Africa. The Europeans started importing slaves from Africa to work on the plantations in their colonies in America. There was a regular slave market in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. Between 1500 and 1800, nearly 15 million Africans were captured and sold as slaves.



ACTIVITY 4.3

A person is discriminated and looked down upon based on his/her color, race, class, caste or region. We have many incidents of verbal and physical abuse both in India and abroad regarding the same. Do you think we are acting sensitively and maturely when we take part in such acts? How would the other person feel? Suggest some steps you can take to stop this.

4.4.2 Imperialism in Asia

As in Africa so in Asia, the Europeans started colonising here also. The British and the French did not like the prosperous trade carried on by Portugal and Holland, whom they ultimately threw out from India. Soon the English and the French Companies made settlements here. In 1763, the British ended the French influence in India and established their own control. You will read more about the British rule in India in the next lesson. Countries like Japan and China refused to accept the western culture and way of life because of their belief in their traditional ways. The Boxer Rebellion and the Opium War gave the power to the industrialised countries to get involved in China. Gradually they accepted industrialisation and western influence. Let us read how it happened.

4.4.3 China

Chinese goods were in great demand in European countries but there was no demand for European goods in China. This one-sided trade was not profitable for European merchants so they started smuggling opium to China to demoralise the Chinese youth and exchange Chinese goods. This led to the First Opium War between China and Britain in which China was easily defeated and Britain gained many concessions for herself. She succeeded in getting all five ports of China opened for British traders. The Chinese government could not impose any tariff on foreign goods. They could not carry out any trial against British subjects in Chinese courts. The island of Hong Kong was handed over to Britain.

The Second Opium War was fought to revenge against the insult of British flag and the murder of a French missionary. China was defeated by the two European powers and was forced to concede extra territorial rights.

The Boxer's Rebellion was an organised terror against the Christian missionaries and exploitation of China after the division of China into spheres of influence. Chinese

youth tortured ‘foreign nationals’ with their fists. They had the secret support of the royal court.

4.4.4 Japan

The Meiji Restoration began in 1868 with an era of ‘enlightened rule’ which transformed Japan from a closed feudal society to the first industrialised nation. She had little natural resources of her own and needed both overseas markets and sources of raw materials.

In 1871, a group of Japanese politicians toured Europe and US. Japan framed a state led industrialisation policy. In 1877, the Bank of Japan was founded. Many steel and textile factories were set up, education was popularised and Japanese students were sent to study in the West. By the year 1905, under the slogan of ‘Enrich the Country, Strengthen the Military’, Japan rose as a formidable industrial and military nation. She was successful in conquering Formosa, Southern Sakhalin, Korea, Manchuria, Indo-China, Burma, Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines.

4.4.5 Imperialism in South and South-East Asia

South and South-East Asia includes Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaya, Indonesia, Indo-China, Thailand, Indo-Philippines. Even before the rise of the New Imperialism, many of these countries were already dominated by the Europeans. Sri Lanka was occupied by the Portuguese then by the Dutch and later by the British. England introduced tea and rubber plantations, which came to form 7/8ths of Sri Lanka’s exports.

Other countries of South East Asia also suffered under Imperialism. French troops attacked Vietnam claiming that they were protecting the Christians of Indo-China. Gradually Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were added to the French Colonial Empire. The British added Burma and the port of Singapore to gain control over the Malaya states.



Do you know

Thailand or Siam remained an independent state even though it was sandwiched between the French conquests in Indo-China and the British in Burma.

4.5 IMPACT OF IMPERIALISM

Some of the positive effects of Imperialism on the colonies were the introduction of transportation and communication like railway lines, canals, telegraphs and telephones. It also led to the growth of political consciousness and the feeling of nationalism in



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the colonies. It led to development in modern education and science which helped the nations to develop after they gained their independence.

Imperialism had a disastrous effect on the colonies. The indigenous industries were ruined and the natural resources ruthlessly exploited. China was divided into spheres of influence and thrown open to international trade. The whole of Africa, except for Liberia and Ethiopia, was divided amongst the European nations. A large numbers of Africans were sold as slaves. In South Africa, the 'white' European community ill-treated the 'black' on the basis of their dark skin. This is called racial discrimination or apartheid which was the worst impact of Imperialism.

The negative impact of Imperialism outweighs its positive one as it drained both the Asia and Africa of their wealth, raw materials and exploited their markets by selling their industrial goods thereby destroying the economy of these colonies. Their policy of racial discrimination made the people lose their self respect as well as their confidence. You will read more of about it in the next few lessons on India. In India, the Europeans came as traders but became rulers. They destroyed our prosperous economy. India which was an exporter of textile became a buyer of finished goods and exporter of raw materials. Besides, heavy taxation led to poverty of the masses.

The 20th Century saw more scientific discoveries and inventions than any other period in the human history. Starting with the steam-powered ships it ended with human visit to space, moon landings and of course the network of computers. The world shrunk with instant communication and speedy transport. Unfortunately the whole world was affected by imperialist rivalries and economic motive. This created a tension among European countries, US and Japan which entangled them in two World Wars about which you will read in the coming section.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.2

1. Define Imperialism.
2. Mention two advantages of the growth of transportation in the colonies which helped in the spread of Imperialism.
3. What was the Slave Trade?
4. Choose the right answer:
 - (a) Which of the following was known as the Dark Continent?
 - (i) Africa
 - (ii) Asia
 - (iii) Europe
 - (b) Meiji Restoration took place in which country?
 - (i) Cambodia
 - (ii) Sri Lanka
 - (iii) Japan
 - (c) Opium War was fought in?
 - (i) India
 - (ii) China
 - (iii) Burma
 - (d) Which was not a French colony?
 - (i) Vietnam
 - (ii) Morocco
 - (iii) Kenya

4.6 WORLD WAR I

Industrialisation, Colonialism and Imperialism created intense rivalry among the European nations over their possessions of colonies in Asia and Africa. This competition became more acute by the end of the 19th century when colonies were no longer available in Asia and Africa. Compromise was not possible due to mutual distrust and hostilities and in 1914 a war began in Europe which soon engulfed the entire world. It involved all the major countries of the world and their colonies. The damage caused by this war had no precedent in history. For the first time in history all the resources of the warring states were mobilised. It involved their army, navy and air force. The civilian population suffered tremendous casualties because of indiscriminate bombing. Since the war was spread over a very large part of the world for the first time, it is known as World War I. It marked a turning point in world history. It was not a sudden occurrence but the culmination of a large number of forces and developments covering a long period before 1914.

4.6.1 Causes of World War I

Imperialist rivalries among the different nations like England, France, Germany and others were a major cause of the war. Earlier wars were averted because possibilities of acquiring more colonies were still there. But the situation had now changed. Most of Asia and Africa had already been divided up and possibilities of further expansion were not there. It was possible only by dispossessing some imperialist country of their colony. This division of colonies created conditions of war. In the last quarter of the 19th century, Germany had made tremendous economic and industrial progress and left England and France far behind in industrial production. She needed colonies as much as Britain to fulfill her economic needs. In the imperial race, Germany became the main competitor of England. British naval supremacy was also challenged when Germany built the largest warship 'Imperator' and built the Kiel Canal connecting the North Sea and Baltic Sea endangering the English coast line. Germany also built a railway line connecting Berlin with Baghdad which made it easier for Germany to send troops or supplies to the East. But it posed a threat to British colonies there.

Like Germany, all other major powers of Europe and Japan also had their imperialistic ambitions. Italy after her unification wanted Tripoli in North Africa which was under the Ottoman Empire. France wanted to add Morocco to her conquest in Africa while Russia had her ambitions in Iran. Japan had her ambitions in the Far East where she was able to extend her influence after the Russo-Japanese War of 1905. Austria had her ambitions in the Ottoman Empire while the United States of America was slowly emerging as a powerful nation. Her main interest was to preserve the independence of trade as it was increasing at a fast pace. The expansion of influence of any great power was posing a major threat to world peace.



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**Notes****4.6.2 System of Alliances**

Conflicts and confrontations for more colonies prompted the imperial powers to look for allies. In 1882, Germany, Austria and Italy signed the Triple Alliance pledging mutual military assistance against rival powers. England, Russia and France signed the Triple Entente in 1907. Emergence of two mutually opposed groups divided Europe into hostile camps leading to tension and conflicts among European powers. These countries competed with one another in producing deadly weapons which led to a race for armaments. Mutual hatred and suspicion disturbed the atmosphere of peace. The propaganda which was created made it clear that if war broke out the whole of Europe would be drawn into it.

4.6.3 Pan Slav Movement and the Balkan Politics

Balkan region of Eastern Europe consisted of many states such as Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and many other smaller states. Originally these states were under the control of the Ottoman Emperor or the ruler of Turkey. By the beginning of the 20th century, the Ottoman Empire began to decline. Europeans powers including Austria and Russia rushed for obtaining a foothold in the region. The matter got complicated with the resurgence of Nationalism among the people in most of these states. They were called Slavs. Since they were scattered in many of the east European states, they started a National Movement called the Pan Slav movement. Their main demand was to unite the Slavs in one state under Serbia, the state which had the largest Slav population in this movement. Serbia was supported by Russia, whereas Austria opposed Serbia and their National Movement. This resulted in rivalry between Russia and Austria. Austria did not want a strong Serbian state which would hamper her ambition of expansion. In 1908, Austria annexed two Slav states, Bosnia and Herzegovina, leading to hostility between Serbia and Austria. Between 1912 and 1914, four Balkan States fought two wars against the Ottoman Emperor for independence. Turkey was defeated and lost all her possessions in Europe. Austria hurriedly set up an independent state of Albania against the Serbian ambition of Greater Serbia. Hostility mounted between Austria on one side and Serbia and Russia on the other.

As you can see by 1914, the atmosphere in Europe was explosive. Against this background, Archduke Francis Ferdinand the heir to the Austrian throne went to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, on a state visit. As he was getting down from his car, he was assassinated by a Serbian youth on 28 June 1914. The murder of Archduke Francis Ferdinand became the immediate cause of the war. Austria held Serbia responsible for the assassination of their prince and served her with an ultimatum with various conditions. Assured of Russian help, Serbia refused to accept the ultimatum and started mobilising her troops on the border. On 28 July 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia. On 1 August 1914, Germany declared war on Russia. On 3 August 1914, Germany declared war on France. As German troops

entered Belgium, England declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914. Thus a minor incident in Europe triggered the war with all the countries joining in which soon took the shape of World War I.

4.6.4 The Course of the War (1914-1918)

World War I which started in August 1914 continued till November 1918. During this period many important battles were fought such as the Battle of Marne in 1914, Battles of Verdun, Battle of Somme and Battle of Jutland in 1916. The year 1917 saw two important developments – one was the entry of USA into the war in April and second was the withdrawal of Russia from the war in November.

In 1915, a British passenger ship Lusitania was sunk by German U Boats killing 128 US civilians who were travelling in the ship. The US Senate took a very serious view of this. Besides becoming a powerful nation, Germany would pose a threat to US supremacy. Moreover, USA being the major supplier of arms and ammunition, the continuation of war would result in economic advantage for the US. Keeping all these in view, she decided to join the war in 1917.

Do you remember reading about the October Revolution of 1917 in Russia? One of the main demands of the revolutionaries was peace. So immediately after the Revolution under the leadership of Lenin, Russia withdrew from the war and signed a peace treaty with Germany in 1918.

By July 1918, Germany began to collapse. Bulgaria and Turkey surrendered in September and October respectively. On 3 November 1918, the Austrian Emperor surrendered due to widespread unrest in Austria. After similar revolts by the German people, German Emperor Wilhelm II fled to Holland and Germany was proclaimed a Republic. The new government signed an armistice on 11 November 1918, bringing an end to World War I.

In the course of the war, many new weapons such as machine guns, poison gas, liquid fire, submarine and tanks were used. New strategies and military techniques were experimented by both sides. England used naval and economic blockade, tanks and air raids. The French used trench warfare and Germany used U Boats and submarines to sink ships under the sea.

4.6.5 Immediate Consequences of World War I

World War I was one of the most disastrous and frightening events the world had witnessed. A million people including innocent civilians lost their lives. There was a large scale damage of property in most of the European countries. The total expenditure was estimated at a staggering figure of 180 billion dollars. The economy of most of the countries was shattered resulting in social tension, unemployment and poverty.



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Between January and June 1919, the Allied Powers met at a conference in the palace of Versailles, Paris to decide the future of the defeated powers. Though the representatives of nearly 27 countries attended the conference, the decisions were taken by Heads of State of Britain, France and USA. Russia was excluded and the defeated powers were not allowed to attend. The Allies signed different treaties with the defeated powers. The most important of them were the Treaty of Versailles signed with Germany, the Treaty of St. Germain with Austria and the Treaty of Sèvres with Turkey.

The Treaty of Versailles shattered Germany politically, economically and militarily. Germany was held guilty of aggression and was asked to pay a huge amount of money as compensation for the war. Alsace and Lorraine which were taken from France in 1871 were to be returned to France. Rhineland, the land between France and Germany, was demilitarised and brought under the control of the Allied powers. The coal rich Saar Valley was given to France for 15 years. German army was disbanded. Ships were sunk and the army was restricted to 100,000 soldiers only. Germany was deprived of all her colonies. Much of her territories in Europe were given to Belgium and Poland.

The Treaty of St. Germain separated Hungary from Austria and Hungary was made an independent state. Austria had to recognise the independence of Hungary and had to give part of her territories to Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia. The Treaty of Sevres broke up the Ottoman Empire. Some of its states were given to the Allied Powers as mandates. For example, Palestine and Mesopotamia were given to Britain and Syria to France. The Allied Powers were to look after these countries till they became self-reliant.

The war and the peace treaties transformed the political map of the world, particularly Europe. After the October Revolution in Russia, the ruling dynasty of the Romanovs was overthrown. By the end of the war, Hohenzollern Dynasty of Germany and Hapsburg Dynasty of Austria were removed and Republic Government was set up. Monarchy was also abolished in Turkey after a Revolution in 1922. Two new states - Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia - were created out of the territories taken from the defeated powers. Hungary emerged as an independent state. Baltic States such as Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Finland were made independent states. The states of Rumania and Poland were enlarged in size. All this changed the boundaries of most of the states of Europe.

It was evident that the peace settlements were dictated and unequal settlements which were imposed upon the defeated powers. They had no say in the deliberations. The end of the war saw the end of European supremacy and emergence of USSR and USA as major powers. The period also saw the strengthening of National Movement in the countries of Asia and Africa. Even before the war ended in November 1918, the US President Woodrow Wilson had proposed a peace program known as the

Wilson's Fourteen Points. The most important point was the proposal for the establishment of an international organisation maintaining peace and security in the world. On the basis of this proposal, the League of Nations was set up in 1920.

4.6.6 The League of Nations

The League was the first international organisation set up in 1920 with its headquarters at Geneva. Its main aims were to maintain peace and security in the world, prevent future war, promote international co-operation, settle international disputes peacefully and improve the conditions of labourers in member countries. But unfortunately, the League failed to prevent war and conflict for which it was set up. When Italy attacked Ethiopia in 1935 and Japan attacked Manchuria in 1936, the League could do nothing. Also, mutual rivalries among nations for the possession of colonies continued exposing their imperial ambitions.



ACTIVITY 4.4

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed”- Mahatma Gandhi. Do you think this quote holds true? Why or why not? Justify with the help of examples.

4.7 THE WORLD BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS

The period of twenty years between the two World Wars experienced tremendous changes. There were positive developments like national awakening in countries of Asia and Africa and popularity of Socialist Movement in the Soviet Union and in other countries. The world also saw the worst form of dictatorship in many countries of Europe, especially in Italy and Germany. A major economic crisis took place which affected almost every part of the world, particularly the most advanced countries of the West. The period also witnessed the worst economic depression in USA in 1929, which affected the economy of the entire world.

4.7.1 Causes for the Growth of Fascism and Nazism

After the war, a number of political movements arose in Europe which was given the name Fascism. They had a number of features which were common that is hostility to democracy and socialism, and the aim to establish dictatorship. They were supported by the rulers, the upper class aristocrats and the capitalists because they promise to save them from the danger of socialism. They let loose a systematic campaign of terrorism and murder which the government showed little interest in curbing.



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The dictatorship introduced in Italy by Mussolini is referred to as Fascism. The term Fascism is derived from Latin word *fascēs* which stood for ‘symbols of authority’ in Ancient Rome. In 1922, Mussolini came to power with the support of the Italian King and ruled like a dictator from 1925 to 1943. Mussolini banned all political parties and introduced some reforms to get the support of the people. The arrogance of Victorian powers, the inability of the existing governments to cope up with post-war problems, the helplessness of the League of Nations and failure of democratic forces to check fascism made the rise of dictatorship possible.

The German version of Fascism is known as Nazism. It was established by Adolf Hitler. He promised to reverse post-war settlements and restore German power and glory. His vision of rebuilding Germany into a great nation inspired many Germans to join him. It acted like a balm on the wounds caused by the humiliation after World War I. Many people supported Nazism because it seemed to offer a way out of the economic decline. The success of the Nazis proved disastrous not only for the German people but for the entire Europe and many other parts of the world. It led to dictatorships being established in Hungary, Rumania, Portugal and Spain. The growth of anti-democratic government in so many countries led to World War II.

4.7.2 Developments in Other Parts of the World

England and France too had to face severe economic crisis, scarcity and unemployment but they continued with their democratic governments. Despite workers’ strikes and other disturbances in England, the problems were sought to be solved by forming a Coalition Government consisting of Labour, Liberal and Conservative Parties in 1931. In France, a Popular Front Government consisting of Left Wing Parties was set up in 1936.

Soviet Union emerged as the first Socialist State of the world. Under the new government, socialist principles were introduced in economy and it was the only country to remain unaffected while all the Western capitalist countries suffered due to the Economic Depression in 1929.

Though USA participated in World War I, the country did not suffer much material loss. Industrial prosperity, political stability and economic growth made it a super power. However, she suffered the worst economic crisis in 1929 due to overproduction. Prices of commodities declined leading to the fall in share prices. The banks closed down and people lost their lifelong savings. The loan which USA had given to the European countries after World War I had to be withdrawn. It resulted in economic instability in the European countries also. The new government that came to power in USA under Franklin Roosevelt introduced a program of economic recovery called the New Deal. Under this, many reforms were introduced such as creating new employment opportunities, giving help to the farmers, etc.

Japan was the only country in Asia which emerged as an imperialist country. You have already read that it defeated Russia in 1905. During the period between the two World Wars, Japan became a strong military power and supported Fascism. She signed the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis with the fascist powers. She also signed the Anti-Comintern Pact to check the spread of communism along with Germany and Italy, indicating their hostility to Soviet Union.

4.8 WORLD WAR II

We have read about the League of Nations and how it failed in its aim within twenty years after its formation. Even though it was set up with the aim of preventing future war, World War II started on September 1939. Let us find out why the war took place.

4.8.1 Causes of World War II

World War II, like the earlier war, started in Europe and assumed the character of a world war. The fascist countries wanted to re-divide the world for imperialist gains and thus came into conflict with the established power. We know that Germany was politically, militarily and economically shattered by the Treaty of Versailles. She sought revenge and was ready to have a trial of strength with the Allied Powers. The position of Italy was no better. Though Italy joined the Allied Powers during World War I with the hope of imperial gain, she did not gain any colonies after the war. She lost nearly 600,000 people during the war. Both the Fascist and Nazi Parties glorified war and promised to their people that they would bring back the lost glory of their countries through war. They began to follow an aggressive policy of expansion through conquests. Germany annexed Rhineland in 1936, Austria in 1938 and Czechoslovakia in 1938, while Italy attacked Ethiopia. This resulted in social tension and conflicts among European nations.

You have read about the rise of Japan as a military power and also her support for fascist powers. By signing the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis, these three powers committed support to each other. Japan was given a free hand to expand control in Asia and the region of the Pacific while Germany and Italy would have a free hand in Europe.

The success of the Soviet Union alarmed the Western Powers. Being capitalist countries, they wanted to check the spread of Communism. So they adopted a systematic policy of favoring Italy and Germany, who were anti-communists. This policy is referred to as the Appeasement Policy. German army which was restricted to 100,000 soldiers after World War I increased her strength to 800,000 soldiers without any protest from the western powers. Even when Hitler put aside the Treaty of Versailles and annexed Rhineland and Austria, the western powers remained silent



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spectators. In 1937, Civil War began in Spain between the popularly elected Government and the fascist leader under General Franco. Hitler supplied arms and ammunition to overthrow the democratically elected Government in Spain. Soviet Union appealed to England for collective action against General Franco. When the whole world sent support to the existing government, England and France did not take any action. This Appeasement Policy reached its climax when Hitler invited the Prime Ministers of Britain and France to Munich in August 1938. The Munich Pact was signed by them in 1938, allowing Germany to annex Sudetenland in the Northern part of Czechoslovakia. Later, the whole of Czechoslovakia was annexed. The Policy of Appeasement strengthened the fascist powers.

It was now clear that Britain and France wanted Germany and Italy to act against the Soviet Union. To stall these plans, Soviet Union signed a pact with Germany by which both agreed not to attack one another. This gave her some time to prepare for future confrontation while Germany obtained the neutrality of the Soviet Union. The scene was set for World War II when Germany attacked Poland on 1 September 1939. Britain declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939.

4.8.2 Consequences of the War

The war came to an end in September 1945. This was the most destructive war in human history. It caused unprecedented loss of life, property and resources. Big buildings were razed to the ground and thousands of people were uprooted from their homelands. The German Jews were either exterminated or sent to concentration camps. The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were almost wiped off when atomic bombs were dropped on them. The danger of nuclear holocaust was one of the major consequences of the war. Germany was divided into four zones, each under the control of one of the victorious powers. The Nazi Party was banned and the German army disbanded. Japan was placed under US supervision. In 1949, when monarchy was re-established, US troops were withdrawn.

Imperialism weakened with USA and Soviet Union emerging as super powers. The world was now divided into two power blocs – the Communist Bloc headed by Soviet Union and the Western Bloc headed by the USA. The tension and unarmed conflict that developed between these blocs started the Cold War which continued for a very long time.

A major impact of the war was the foundation of United Nations Organisation (UNO) about which you will read in the next section. The world has since then undergone many changes. Its political map has changed. A large number of nations of Asia and Africa who had suffered under colonial rule are now independent. Together they are now a major force in the world.

**ACTIVITY 4.5**

The world has seen devastating world wars and continues to witness conflicts and struggles till today. Enlist at least five problems which come in the way of world peace. Suggest ways to address these issues and how you as an individual can contribute to make the world a better place to live in.

4.9 FOUNDATION OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

The horrors of the war made the world leaders realise the need for an international organisation for peace. World leaders such as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Soviet Leader Stalin and US President Roosevelt met at various conferences to decide about the formation of this organisation. Finally, on 24 October 1945 at a conference in San Francisco, the United Nations Charter was adopted by the members of 50 nations and the United Nations Organisation (UNO) was formed. Since then 24 October is celebrated every year as UN Day, all over the world. The UNO is based on the principle of sovereignty and equality of all nations. The main aims of the UNO are to maintain peace and security in the world, to prevent future war, to solve international disputes peacefully and to promote international cooperation.

**Do you know**

The UN flag consists of the official emblem of the organisation - a circular world map, as seen from the North Pole, surrounded by a wreath of olive branches in white centered on a light blue background.

4.9.1 Objectives of United Nations Organisation

Like the League of Nation, which was established after World War I, the UN too had a major objective of maintaining international peace and security. It also had another major objective to develop friendly relations among nations on the basis of equality and achieve international cooperation in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems. To promote human rights and fundamental freedom for the people of the world was one of the aims of the UN. It was also to act as a common platform for harmonising the activities of various nations for the attainment of the objectives of the UN.

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INTEXT QUESTION 4.3

1. Name at least four Balkan states.
2. Which countries formed the Triple Alliance?
3. Give at least three causes of World War I.
4. Name two countries which adopted dictatorial governments after 1920.
5. What was the main cause of the Great Depression of 1929?
6. When and where the UN was formally constituted?



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

- The new wave of Colonisation known as New Imperialism in the last quarter of the 19th century.
- The main factors behind colonial expansion were the needs created by the Industrial Revolution, growth of transport and communication, desire for power, extreme nationalism and an urge to civilise men.
- Japan was the only Asian country to rise as an imperialist power.
- The intense imperialist rivalry among European countries and formation of military alliances resulted in the outbreak of World War I in 1914.
- The consequences of the war included harsh and humiliating treatment to Germany in the form of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, defeated powers losing their colonies, major territorial changes in Europe, breaking up of the Ottoman Empire, independence of Hungary and setting up of the League of Nations.
- Growth of Fascism in Italy led by Mussolini and Nazism in Germany led by Hitler suppressed democracy, freedom, socialism and communism between 1919-1939.
- The Policy of Appeasement of the western powers towards Germany and Italy led to the outbreak of World War II.
- Formation of the UN, division of Germany, weakening of imperial powers and the emergence of independent states in Asia and Africa were some of the consequences of World War II.
- The post-war situation witnessed the emergence of two super powers – the USA and the Soviet Union - and the beginning of a bitter Cold War between the two military power blocs.
- United Nations Organisation was formed for peace and harmony in the world at the end of the war.



TERMINAL EXERCISES

1. How the inventions in the textile industry revolutionised the production of cotton cloth?
2. What were the various factors – political, economic, geographical and technological – which contributed to industrialisation in England?
3. State both the advantages and the disadvantages in the society with the coming of the Industrial Revolution.
4. Why did the industrialised countries start fighting amongst themselves for the control of the areas where Industrial Revolution had not taken place?
5. What made Japan join the race for colonies?
6. Mention both the positive and the negative effects of Imperialism on the colonies.
7. Examine the consequences of World War I.
8. How did the Appeasement Policy by the western powers led to the rise of Fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany?
9. Describe the course of events during World War II.
10. What are the main objectives of the United Nations?
11. Mark the following places on the given outline map of the world:
 - (a) Any two colonies each of Britain and France.
 - (b) The Triple Allies and the Triple Entente of World War I.
 - (c) The Allies and the Axis Powers of World War II.



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ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

4.1

1. Coal and Iron.
2. They provided a faster and reliable means of transporting raw materials and factory made products to their destination, speeding up business transactions.
3. Children were employed because their small size helped them move better in the horizontal and narrow coal mines. Plus, they were paid very low wages compared to older men and hence were preferred in factories.
4. (a) iii
(b) v
(c) i
(d) i

4.2

1. Imperialism is defined as the practice of extending control or rule over the political and economic life of another country.
2. The two ways were:
 - (a) It made easier the flow of goods to and from the colonies to the imperial country.
 - (b) Troops could be easily sent to colonies and keep them under control.
3. The importing of people from Africa by the Europeans to work as slaves on their plantations in their colonies in America was the Slave Trade.
4. (a) i
(b) iii
(c) i
(d) iii

4.3

1. Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro.
2. Germany, Austria and Italy.

3. The main causes of World War I were:
 - (a) The rise of Germany as an industrial nation led to its growing need for raw materials, hence imperialist rivalry for colonies began with England and France.
 - (b) System of Alliances divided Europe into two hostile camps – Triple Alliance and Triple Entente – leading to tension and conflicts.
 - (c) The resurgence of nationalism in the Balkan States known as the Pan Slav Movement. People now wanted to be independent and remain under foreign control.
4. Italy and Germany.
5. Overproduction resulted in the declining prices of commodities, leading to the fall in share prices. The banks closed down and people lost their lifelong savings. This was the Great depression of 1929.
6. The UN was formally constituted on 24 October 1945 at a conference held in San Francisco, USA.

**Notes**