

History Notes:

Topic 1: Causes, Practises, & Effects of War:

Major Themes:

- Origins of 20th Century War: long and short term political, ideological, economic and religious causes.
- Nature of War: as an instrument of policy, strategy, and tactics, military campaigns, civil warfare, resistance movements, non-systemised or guerilla warfare.
- Non-combatants and war: war economy, the home front, women and war, the arts, media and propaganda.
- Political, social and economic effects of war: alliances, treaties, post-war changes and problems.

Topic 3: The Rise and Rule of Single-Party States:

Major Themes:

- Origins— conditions which produce single-party states.
- Establishment of single-party states.
- Ideologies of communism, fascism and Nazism.
- Importance of organisation and leadership in the maintenance of power.
- Successes and failures in solving political, social, and economic problems.
- Rôle of education, the arts, and the media.
- Treatment of women, minorities, and religious groups.
- Impact of single-party states on world affairs.

Topic 1: Causes, Practises, and Effects of War:

World War 1

- **The Rise of Germany:**

- ‘The German Question’— after the victory of Prussia over France in 1871, it was wondered whether Germany would behave as the most important military and economic power in a reshaped Europe.
- The Growth of Germany prompted concerns in 1890–1914:
 - Population from 49–66 million.
 - Economy grew faster than any other European country.
 - Germany’s steel output was higher than France, Britain and Russia combined, and coal output was 2nd behind Britain.
 - Prominence of science, industry and military (especially army & navy)
- Bismarck’s foreign policies— alliance policies— *Dreikaiserbund*, Dual Alliance, Triple Alliance, etc. all gave Germany a dominant position.
 - It was shown through the Bulgarian crisis, that Bismarck’s policies did not work— other German leaders took a stand and used expansionist policies instead— thus Germany’s dominance was increased.
- Kaiser Wilhelm’s *Weltpolitik*:
 1. Build a German navy which would match the best in the world— thus Britain would opt for neutrality in any future European war.
 2. Make Germany a major imperial power— territorial expansion overseas.
 3. Use foreign policy issues to increase support for authoritarian rule— thus weaken the appeal of socialism and democracy.
 - The policies created huge tensions, accomplished little, and soured international relations—
“It had challenged everybody, got in everyone’s way, but weakened nobody.” (Bethmann-Hollweg)
 - Led European powers to regard Germany as a threat to international peace.

- **Impact of Imperialism:**

- Was an upsurge in Imperialism between 1890 and 1914 in Africa and Asia— in that time 90% of Africa came under European rule. Came from territorial claims from agents, bankers and investors there— eg. Britain took South Africa because of its many gold and diamond mines.
- It became ‘necessary for European countries to have an Empire’.
- The result in the World was an atmosphere of heightened patriotism, the glorification of armed force, and the denial of self-determination to small powers.
- The Great Powers became obsessed with territory. This led to extreme tension, and the influence of this on future events was very significant.

- **The Drift Toward Alliances:**

- The impact of issues such as *Weltpolitik* led other European powers to make alliances among themselves.
- Started in 1894 with the Franco-Russian alliance, when France poured investment into Russia to support the development of its industry and economy.
- Germany tried to destroy many treaties— succeeded sometimes, eg. the *Entente Cordiale* was ended with the First Moroccan Crisis.

- Germany and Britain became locked in an arms race— eg. Dreadnoughts. Weltpolitik was shown to be dangerous and provocative in the Second Moroccan crisis.
- As a result of this, diplomatic power gradually began to turn against Germany and the armies against Germany and her allies built up. Germany, in response, grew very pessimistic against the turn of power against them.
- **Impact of the Balkan Crisis:**
 - From 1912–1914 the major focus of European attention was the growth of Nationalist groups who were trying to break free of Ottoman rule. Powers were worried about who would profit from the death of the Ottoman Empire.
 - Serbia had aligned with Russia in 1903, and Austria-Hungary had tried to stop this— eg. through the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1908.
 - The Balkan League (set up 1912— Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro) tried to force the Turks out of the Balkans. The Balkan League declared war on Turkey (the 1st Balkan war) and drove the Turks out of most of Balkan European Territory. Peace negotiations in 1913 made the Balkan coalition fall apart.
 - The 2nd Balkan War— Greece, Romania and Turkey declared war on Bulgaria, who had attacked Serbia— Bulgaria was defeated in less than a month.
 - The Wars ruined the dream of the Pan-Slavic coalition— and the Ottoman Empire was completely driven out of Europe. Austria-Hungary now had to depend on Germany for support in the Balkans.
- **1914— The July Crisis and the Fatal Decisions for War:**
 - On June 28, 1914— Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot dead by Gavrilo Princip from “Young Bosnia” (a nationalist group trying to drive the Hapsburg empire out of Bosnia). His gun was provided by the Pro-Serb group “The Black Hand.” Austria pinned the blame on Serbia for this.
 - An ultimatum designed to provoke war was delivered to Serbia on 23/7/1914. It included 10 demands to quell the terrorist activities of Serb Nationalists. Serbia accepted most demands, but stated that the demands must adhere to International Law. Austria however only accepted an immediate proposal.
 - On 28/7/1914— Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia pledged military support unless AH withdrew. It made plans for mobilisation the next day, as did Germany. Britain remained ‘neutral’ to ‘wait on events’. It made proposals to Serbia, AH, Germany and Russia, which were rejected by Germany and AH. Russia mobilised on the 30th, as did Germany. It introduced the Schlieffen Plan.
 - 1/8/1914— Germany declared war on Russia after issuing an ultimatum to withdraw from Serbia. Russia had expressly stated that it wanted peace, not aggression.
 - 2/8/1914— Germany sends an ultimatum to Belgium to ask for safe passage— Britain declares war on Germany on 4/8/1914 because Belgium is neutral.
 - 3/8/1914— Germany invades Belgium and declares war on France, which became the victim of unprovoked aggression. Italy remained neutral. Britain decided it did not want to see France crushed by Germany either, and so thus joined in the conflict.
- **Views of Historians:**

- Traditional View— All powers are collectively responsible for the War starting. This is in contrast to the views of the Versailles Conference, which states that the war had been premeditated and solely worked by Germany and her allies.
- Political scientists— computer stated that the major powers saw their rivals as antagonistic and them as friendly, they were obsessed with short-term (and not good) decisions during the July crisis, and they all felt that they were the injured party in the crisis.
- Fritz Fischer: Focus on the Kaiser, Bethmann-Hollweg (German Chancellor), von Jagow (foreign secretary), and von Moltke (chief of army's general staff). He made claims of the following:
 - The continuity of German history led to war (1871-1914)
 - The German desire for territorial expansion led to war.
 - The German desire to break free of its encirclement led to war.
 - The war was a way of diverting the German populace from domestic problems.
 - At the centre of the road to war in Germany was Bethmann-Hollweg— shown by 'blank cheque' to Austria-Hungary, and last minute please for British neutrality.
- Ritter's View: Ritter claimed that it was unfair to blame Germany exclusively. His claims were:
 - Germany had no desire for world domination: its main aim was to support its ally, Austria-Hungary. During the July Crisis, Germany attempted to 'drive a wedge' between the members of the Entente Cordiale to preserve AH. It was a gamble that went horribly wrong.
 - German military planners pushed Germany into war.
- Marxist Views:
 - Germany wanted war in the interests of *Sammlungspolitik*. (The Politics of Collection. This was a strategy to weaken the influence of organised labour. and use foreign policy and imperialism to support the ruling elite.)
 - Imperial rivalry encouraged German monopoly capitalists to push for new markets and territory by means of war.
- Other Views:
 - Germany intended only a defensive or preventative war.
 - Germany went to war to achieve the aims of *Weltpolitik*.
 - Germany wanted war to reorder the alliance system
 - Germany wanted to swing the European balance of power in its favour through war.
 - Austria-Hungary's desire to crush nationalist movements in Serbia led to war.
 - The rival plans for mobilisation of the European powers led to war.

The Outline of Nazism in Power:

Gleichschaltung:

Timeline:

- 1933 21/3 Special Courts established for political crimes— 3 Nazi judges but no judges.
23/3 Enabling Act— gives Hitler the dictatorial powers for 4 years. Only the SPD votes against it.
7/4 Co-ordination of the states. Germany is divided into *Länder*, State Governors are replaced by Governors appointed under the Nazi regime.
7/4 Civil service law passed— non-Aryans and left-wingers re dismissed from Government employment (with some exceptions).
2/5 Trade unions are dissolved, trade union buildings are occupied, officials are arrested, funds confiscated.
10/5 Burning of non-German books, mostly Jewish, eg. Heinrich Heine.
14/7 NSDAP now only political party allowed. All others are abolished.
15/7 New compulsory cartels. They monopolise the market. Firms can be ordered to join new or existing cartels.
20/7 Concordat with the Pope, Pius XII. In return for priests staying out of politics, Catholics are given religious freedom.
- 1934 30/1 State assemblies & state rights abolished. States come under Reich control.
14/2 *Reichsrat* (upper house) abolished.
27/2 Independent businesses are brought under Government control under the *Führerprinzip* (Führer Principle)— this is the leadership principle, ie. all businesses are only under Government control, only those businesses that can survive are allowed to.
24/4 The People's Courts are set up to try cases of treason.
30/4 Education is brought under Nazi control— under Bernhard Rust.
30/6 'Night of the Long Knives'— Leadership of SA and other individuals are murdered and executed— 120 die, for example Röhm. The night is called 'Operation Hummingbird.'
1/8 The office of the *Reichspräsident* is amalgamated with the office of the Chancellor, effective from the death of Hindenburg.
2/8 The oath of allegiance to be sworn to Hitler by the armed forces.
24/10 The Labour Front established. Only Labour organisation allowed. It is staffed by the Nazis.
Motto is KDF— "Kraft durch Freude" (Strength through Joy).
- 1935 26/6 Introduction of compulsory Labor service for men aged 19–25. This will last for 6 months.
July Series of laws against the Jews passed (Nuremberg Laws), published at Nuremberg Rally, followed by 250 decrees during 1935–43.
- 1936 2/2 Secret police placed above the law (immunity).

- 16/3 Police unified and Nazified throughout the Reich.
Dec. *Hitler Jugend* Law— Hitler youth compulsory for boys aged 15–18. All other youth groups not absorbed by *Hitler Jugend* were banned.
- 1937 Jan. Labour front given full control of wages. Wages freeze introduced in 1933 more thoroughly applied.
Oct. Corporations with a capital of less than \$40,000 US dissolved. The creation of new corporations forbidden if capital is less than \$200,000 US. This eliminates 20% of all businesses in one single day.
- 1938 4/2 Hitler takes personal control of the armed forces: after two scandals, one a Gestapo frame-up. Hitler removes over 42 men from the Army High Command and abolishes the post of Minister of War.
Feb. Cabinet meets for the last time, then ceases to exist as a formality.
22/6 Assigned labour by state decree introduced.
9/11 Crystal Night; a ‘spontaneous’ rising against the Jews, organised by the SS. It marks a transition to a national policy rather than one of isolated incidents of Anti-Semitism.

Gleichschaltung was made possible through the support of the conservative elite. They were pleased to see the establishment of what they believed was a conservative dictatorship that would restore their power and prestige, which had been reduced during the Weimar years. The result was, as Martin Broszat puts it:

... a form of power sharing between the new National Socialist mass movement and the old conservative forces in state and society... until about 1936/7, there existed a conflict-ridden balance between State and Party, between authoritarian forces of order and the impulses coming from the party... a semi-authoritarian , semi-fascist order of Government... yet containing dynamic elements generated by the popular appeal of the masses.

(Martin Broszat, *The Hitler State*)

Organisation and Leadership: The Successes and Failures of Solving Political, Social and Economic Problems:

‘Castro’s immediate objective in his early years was the nationalisation of manufacturing industries, and the redistribution of land.’ (Cowie)

- Large plantations subdivided and land is redistributed:
 - Farms of 67 hectares established for food production.
 - 1340 hectares for sugar and rice.
 - Less productive land for cattle ranches.
 - 70% of cultivatable land worked on by 1400 cooperatives.
 - Rapid industrialisation in the hope of diversifying the economy, making Cuba less reliant on her two major export crops, sugar and tobacco.

‘Despite the spirit of insurgency and the climate of enthusiasm, the early years of the Cuban social revolution were disappointing.’ (Cowie)

- Through the American trade embargo of 1961 the sugar industry faltered.
 - As a consequence:
 - ‘... the new industrialisation ventures also failed, due to lack of expertise and shortage of markets...’ (Cowie)
- The USSR stepped into the breach offering huge development loans at $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

After the difficulties of the first few years, the social and economic revolution was attained.’ (Cowie)

‘What did the Revolution find when it came to power? ... 600,000 unemployed.. three million unemployed... three million without electric lights... three and a half million lived in huts and shacks... thirty-seven and one half percent illiterate... seventy percent of rural children had no teacher... eighty-five percent of the small farmers paying rents (thirty percent of their income)... public utilities, electricity, and telephone services all belonged to US monopolies... A major portion of the banking business, of the importing business, and the oil refineries, the greater part of the sugar production, the best land in Cuba, and the most important industries in all fields belonged to American companies.’ (Cowie)

- Better health services.
- Higher standard of living.
- Illiteracy drastically reduced by 1970 to 4%
- Secondary school enrolments trebled from 1960–1970
- Industrial school enrolments from 6,000 to 30,000
- University enrolments doubled.
- Agricultural research stations established to ensure the advancement of Cuban agriculture.

‘In Cuba production in 1970 will be double that in 1958.’ (Castro in a speech on 2 Jan 1969, 10th anniversary.)

'The expectations of immediate plenitude were not fulfilled. (However,) the conditions improved during the 1970s, with the Cuban people assured of standards of living higher than most other peoples of central and south America.' (Cowie)

The encouragement of the cooperative approach to produced was a major emphasis in the 'moral revolution' (Cowie). A widely used slogan was 'The road to Communism is to create wealth through *conciencia*' (an amalgam of conscientiousness, commitment, and consensus.')

'(Castro)... needed a new program and the instruments with which to implement it... Castro simply did not know what to do as is illustrated by his speech when he became Prime Minister...' (Suàrez)

'This progressive radicalisation which led Castro to positions more and more incompatible with the original aims of the struggle against Batista was interrupted by his visit to the United States.'

Origins:

- **Long term factors**

Cowie:

The Platt Amendment ... over the passage of time ... (became, according to) the critics and opponents of the USA ... a formula for continued American dominance of the economy. It was later claimed that although Cuba had ceased to be a Spanish colony, it became instead an economic colony of the USA.

NB. By the Platt Amendment Cuba undertook, *inter alia*, to lease naval bases to the USA, and to permit the USA to intervene in Cuban affairs if this was necessary to preserve Cuban independence.

Over the decades between 1902 and 1959 the administration of Cuba was frequently disrupted by uprisings and military seizures of power:

- In 1906 the Cuban administration collapsed under rebellion from within, and another period of American administration followed (1906–9):

Three presidencies spanned the period 1909–1925, but corruption in government was widespread and the US intervened again on several occasions.

- General Gerardo Machado was elected President in 1925, and established a dictatorship in 1928, resorting to a rule of terror and suspension of speech.