

## BENITO MUSSOLINI AND FASCISM IN ITALY 1922-45

### MAIN ASPECTS

Back ground information

Factors for his rise to power

Consolidation of power

Achievements

Failures

The history of Europe between 1919 and 1945 was dominated by efforts of ensuring peace and stability by establishing peace bodies known as the Versailles peace settlement and League of Nations. However the Versailles peace treaty left some states disgruntled and peace could not prevail for long. Due to the prevailing conditions, Europe witnessed the rise of two World dictators who disturbed Europe for the next period of time 1939-1945. They included Benito Mussolini in Italy and Adolf Hitler in Germany.

Benito Mussolini was an Italian born on 29-06-1883 to Alessandro Mussolini a blacksmith and his mother was a school teacher. He attended school and qualified as a teacher, he later moved to Switzerland where he worked as a builder, a butcher man and later as a journalist.

With the outbreak of World War 1, Mussolini joined the army and was not happy when Italy never realized the expected territorial gains at the end of the War, he joined the Fascist Party.

Fascism is derived from the Latin word "Fasces" meaning "a bundle of rods round an axe" symbolizing authority of the Roman magistrate over life and death in the ancient Roman Empire. In Italy it meant a group of people or a squad of people who regarded themselves as the liberators of Italy who would revive the prestige of Italy in Europe, fight socialism and communism by force. Their identification mark was black shirts and Roman salute. Mussolini found and used this Fascist Party to overthrow the Democratic Government of Victor Emmanuel III and set up a Fascist Government in 1922 and ruled up to 1943

### FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF MUSSOLINI TO POWER

The social-economic suffering in Italy helped him and the party to rise to power, since the Unification of Italy in 1871; successive Governments had failed to solve the social-economic problems in the country, such problems included, unemployment, inflation, congestion, poverty among others. These problems increased discontent among the masses leading to the rise of socialist workers' movements demanding for better working conditions. Mussolini exploited such problems, promised better conditions and gained support and rose to power.

The rise and spread of communism and socialism in Italy. In 1917 a communist revolution took place in Russia where workers had taken control over the factors of production. This encouraged the growth of communism in many states including Italy where workers organized strikes affecting the economy. Mussolini and his party strongly opposed socialism and came up with a strong anti-communist propaganda which won him support of industrial capitalists, land owners and the middle class who feared communism as a threat to their wealth and with the support of the above, Mussolini rose to power.

Mussolini's personality or the role of Mussolini helped him and fascism to rise to power. He passed through hardships; he was ambitious, determined, calculative and always struggled for recognition in society. His quality of eloquence, a critic, he joined the army and became a sergeant. This personality made him popular and through his fascist propaganda, he attracted many jobless youth (BLACK SHIRT) and masses leading to his rise to power.

The negative effects of World War 1 of 1914 on Italy, Italy joined the war expecting territorial gain. But at the end of the war, Italy got Tyrol and failed to get Trientino, Adalia, protectorate of Albania, Aegean islands and Trieste which was disapproved by the former allies e.g. France and Britain. This disappointed many Italians who later denounced the government of the time. During the war, Italy lost over 650,000 soldiers; the war was very expensive and it affected Italy's economy and left the country economically weak. For all this damage and loss, the government had nothing to show and this made people to turn to Mussolini hence his popularity and his rise to power.

Weak political leadership in the country, the leaders of Italy after World War I were weak, for instance Nitti, Giolitti, and Emmanuel III who was democratic. He failed to take military action against the fascist party, even other leaders made no socio-economical improvements. They were neither revolutionary nor developmental and this left political, economic and social problems unattended to leading to strikes, riots, disunity in the country giving the fascist party popularity.

Worsening financial situation or economic crisis in Italy. By 1922, Italy was facing economic and financial hardships. Poverty was widespread and mainly affected the peasants and government workers, industry and trade were disorganized, agriculture stagnated, the cost of living was high and standards of living was declining, the government had run bankrupt, all economic activities were in a slump. Such economic decay caused more opposition giving chance to Mussolini using the black shirts to suppress them in complicity of the government. This made the gang popular and helped him to grow more popular and vocal and it led to the rise of Mussolini who preached hope amidst worsening economic situation.

The role played by the Fascist party also facilitated Mussolini to rise to power; the party emerged at the time when the situation in Italy needed another Government or leader. The party recruited ex-service men from World War1; jobless youths among others into special terrorist squad that organized

purposeful violence throughout Italy. This party increased insecurity and this discredited the existing Government which was unable to protect the masses. This made them to long for a savior who came in the name of Mussolini.

Failure of the government of King Victor Emmanuel III to control or suppress violence in Italy, this gave way to riots and strikes. His government was too democratic and it ignored the prevailing lawlessness with the hope that it was the best way to weaken opponents as they conflicted and killed one another and that it would help the monarchy to live long. He even made a blunder of appointing Mussolini as the prime minister in 1922. Mussolini exploited such state of lawlessness to spread his propaganda against the government; he got the necessary support and rose to power.

Mussolini rose to power because of the strong support and followers he had, this was so because of the bad socio-economic conditions in Italy, he had the support of middle class capitalists, ex-soldiers, peasants and jobless youths among others.

Hegel's philosophy, Hegel was an intellectual in the university. His philosophy stated that, the state was the supreme manifestation of God on earth. He believed in state power and authority. He inspired the growth of nationalism, encouraged the rise and popularity of Mussolini to form a strong Italian state as opposed to the weak, inefficient monarchy. The philosophy made Mussolini popular considering the weakness of the monarchy leading to his rise.

Mussolini's rise to power was due to confusion and increased representation of fascism in the parliament fascism had only 22 members in the parliament. In May elections of 1921, the number increased to 35 and this meant increased support and chance for him to rise to power it gave chance to the fascist to spread their propaganda against the democratic government of Victor III.

The use of violent means by the fascist against the would- be opponents. This left fascism and Mussolini unchallenged and feared. Mussolini used the black shirts to intimidate torture and kill suspected opponents; this left the party with no serious opponents hence his rise to power.

Mussolini's appointment as prime minister, with the increasing political crisis in Italy, together with the fascist threat Emmanuel III appointed Mussolini as prime minister. This gave a chance to Mussolini to form a new government consisting of all other parties, fascist squad was changed into a national army by 1923 Mussolini had assumed full leadership, established a one party dictatorship in Italy with overwhelming support and influence.

Support of the army, the army did not interfere with Mussolini's activities, even when he organized a fascist march in 1922 in Rome, he succeeded without interference from the army this meant success of fascism because the army had no interests in repulsing/suppressing the demonstrators.

Weakness or failure of other opposition parties/ groups in Italy to gang against the fascist party e.g. Communist and socialists failed to unite against fascism this gave chance to the fascist party to gain 22 seats in the parliament which gave Mussolini a spring board to become popular and rose to power.

## MUSSOLINI'S CONSOLIDATION OF POWER

It should be noted that Mussolini came to power in Italy in 1922 and ruled until 1943 during World War II. He adopted a number of steps to consolidate his rule.

At the beginning of his regime, he first incorporated all opposition party leaders in his government. This was done to weaken them since fascism had no majority support in parliament. By including them in his government, it was easy to control them from within.

The opposition parties/ individuals who were not incorporated were barred or eliminated like socialists and communists who were his critics; he turned himself into one of the celebrated dictators when he abolished other parties. Such leaders were either imprisoned or exiled or killed e.g. Giacomo Matteoti, a socialist member such acts scared off opponents leaving Mussolini unchallenged.

Mussolini rigidly censored the press so as to control public opinion. After coming to power, Mussolini and the fascist party put an end to freedom of press, only those papers that promoted fascists interest of views were allowed to operate.

Having realized that he came to power after exploiting the weakness of the former government, Mussolini took steps to solve the economic problems of Italy. He embarked on massive public works; roads, bridges, railways etc. were constructed. This helped him to win support from the masses. He established public works, improved transport and promoted industrialization, stabilized the national currency, launched campaigns for economic self – sufficiency to reduce on dependency.

After the elections which brought him to power, Mussolini put an end to free elections in Italy. Without free elections, the party was able to continue their domination of Italian politics with Mussolini as head without interference.

In 1925, he created a new fascist political organization called “The Fascist Grand Council”. It was made up of carefully selected fascist hardliners, the organization had powers to pass laws, it took over the role of parliament, it gave Mussolini powers to dismiss non-fascist ministers as he wished. The Grand Council also changed the parliamentary government into a corporate state system. Under this arrangement, people were grouped according to their occupations in corporations. The country was also divided into 22 corporations of industrialists, workers etc. Mussolini used this to declare workers strikes illegal. This left his government without opposition.

Mussolini took full, personal responsibility for actions of the black shirts including; violence and murder committed, he affirmed that he alone could bring order to Italy

After 1925, Mussolini disbanded the parliament, there was complete censorship of the press and he curtailed civil liberty.

He filled key posts in police and other important posts in government with new fascist's officials. They controlled all activities in the government making his stay firm.

By June 1924, he used violence carelessly like he chased the opposition from the parliament, killed Matteotti who strongly opposed him, to consolidated dictatorship further dictatorship he appointed Farinacci one of the most violent of his followers, censored the press, arrested and sent others into exile using the army and police.

He transformed Italy into a police state and used this police to keep law and order and to punish those who opposed him under his party, fascist armed spies were employed to terrorize opponents all over Italy and by 1930 all anti-fascist had been hunted down leaving Mussolini firm.

To win the support of the Catholics who were the majority in Italy, Mussolini entered into an agreement (Lateran treaty) with the Pope Pius XI in 1929. It should be remembered that in 1870 during the unification, conflicts had come up between the church and the state. To overcome this, Mussolini recognized Catholicism as the state religion, he also wished the church to taste the doses of fascism, catholic religious teachings were made compulsory, independence of Vatican was recognized, paid back the church what it lost and this made Mussolini to win the support of the Pope as well as the majority Catholics.

In consolidating his position, Mussolini embarked on a scheme of reviving the foreign glory of Italy. In 1935, he invaded Ethiopia to revenge the 1896 Adowa defeat, 1939 he occupied Albania and later in 1936 he joined hands with Hitler and formed Rome Berlin Axis and Rome and Tokyo. All those won him support from the foreign glory seekers. He also intervened in the Spanish civil war of 1936-1939, set up fascist government in Spain under General Franco Francisco (formed league of dictators).

Education system also felt him, teaching was supposed to be a long fascist ideology/principles; university professors were forced to swear or take an oath of allegiance to the fascist government. He used education to indoctrinate Italians.

He updated and strengthened his army called the Black Shirt. He turned it into a national army; it had the duty of protecting the state, Mussolini and his ambitions. The army was well equipped.

He made party membership to be a yard stick or requirement for getting jobs. He encouraged youth organizations to support him and get jobs making his stay firm.

He used economic tools such as industrialization, Hydro Electric Power, Agriculture, urban development, discouraged rural urban migration and encouraged large families.

Through racial consciousness, Mussolini passed laws preventing inter racial marriage and adopted anti-Jewish laws e.g. the Jews were fired from employment , deprived of property, excluded from schools.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF MUSSOLINI

There was constitutional development for one year, new laws were passed, and there was law and order.

His government reconciled with the Catholics and the Pope in 1929 when he signed the agreement with the pope called Lateran Pact

Made Rome a capital of Italy and Vatican declared independent and he made Catholicism to become a state religion.

He compensated the church for the losses and legalized their privileges.

He created a large army and equipped it with modern weapons and also set up an air force

He promoted Italian glory abroad by annexing Abyssinia and creating an empire there.

In 1936, he signed the Berlin, Rome, Tokyo axis to fight communism.

He encouraged industrialization, iron, steel, production doubled, motor vehicles, art craft, railways etc.

Hydro Electricity Power doubled by 1938.

Public works improved e.g. roads, railways doubled.

Agriculture improved e.g. wheat and grain production doubled.

He created a cooperate state liberal and eliminated class conflicts and ideological differences.

He brought social order and passed a number of pro – business policies.

He promoted education and fought illiteracy.

## **FAILURES OF MUSSOLINI**

He was a dictator, he abolished party systems.

He censored the press and constitutionalism.

He established a fascist state.

Protectionism which led to high levels of unemployment.

Excessive corruption and embezzlement failed to be stamped out.

His aggressive foreign policy and hostility leading to World War 11.

Failed to stabilize Italian economy, he failed to re-value currency.

Wages were low, poor working conditions and cost of living.

Social services were not extended to people in rural areas.

He ganged with Hitler causing insecurity in Europe.

Failed to control the economic depression.

His land reforms of 1923 created a class of land less, hostile people in rural areas who remained divided and indifferent to him.

#### QUESTIONS

Why did liberal Italy collapse easily to fascism in 1924?

Account for the rise and consolidation of Mussolini into power.

Assess Mussolini's contribution to Italy.

### ADOLF HITLER 1889-1945 AND NAZISM

Adolf Hitler was born in Austria in 1889 on the boarder of German. His father Alois Hitler was a customs official. Hitler did not do well at school; he wanted to join the Art Academy but rejected it for having failed to get a school-leaving certificate. Thereafter, he did odd jobs to earn a living and lived in poor conditions.

In 1913 he went to Munich a city in Germany, the following year 1914, World War 1 broke out and many young men flocked to join their country's armies and Hitler was among them. He was a brave fighter and was awarded the rank of corporal and won the iron cross.

After World War 1, Hitler was not convinced that Germany had suffered real defeat. In his view Germany was not "defeated" but "betrayed" by the traitors as he called them (Jews, Communists and the Socialists and the leaders of Weimer Republic).

In 1919, he joined a semi-military organization called National Socialist German workers party (NAZI) with the aim of denouncing the Versailles Peace Treaty and deal with the traitors and rebuild German to its former status.

In Nov. 1923 with Lunden, Adolf Hitler attempted to capture power in Munich. When the move failed, he was arrested and imprisoned. While in prison Hitler wrote his book called "Mein Kampf" (My struggle) which later became the guiding book of the Nazi. It contained his autobiography, political ideas and military tactics to use to gain supremacy of German. In this book, he showed that German were a superior race and other races were of low order and fit for subservice i.e (servants). So he advised the German to be the masters of Europe and do away with the Jews. To achieve this goal and expand German, a strong army had to be built.

#### FACTORS FOR HIS RISE TO POWER

The economic slump and its effects; this helped and brought Hitler to power. Hitler took advantages of the slump to get support of the already impoverished and humiliated Germans. The slump caused social unrest, made people hate the Weimer Republic, the middle class also feared the strength of communism, they turned to Hitler and Nazi who gave them support for the elections hence his rise to power.

Popularity of Nazi party, it became popular because it raised people's hopes for national duty, revive the economy, and improve the living conditions of people. He used the party's propaganda to gain support from a cross section of Germans i.e. middle class, ex-soldiers, civil servants etc. would have been affected by the war, depression and the Versailles peace treaty using the party Hitler promised to revive German and give them a better living.

Using the party he created personal army (SA) Storm Troopers. He used this army and party to rise to power. By 1933 he had strong support of the army. The army was composed of un-employed youth, ex-soldiers and other groups of people thirsty for blood shedding. He used the army to intimidate and fight opposition. It created tension and fear among people and Hitler began to appear as a real hope for Germany as a competent leader.

His personality, like great leaders of his time, his personality helped him to rise to power. Though academically dwarf/poor, he was brave in army/military, leadership, attractive with a gift of eloquence, a writer and courageous with the ability to mobilize, he used these qualities to gain support and rise to power.

Hitler's propaganda, as early as 1918 Hitler had captured the attention of the Germans in a beer hall when he started speaking, he even shed tears to show them his determination to revive German to its former glory. He organized a series of campaigns throughout Germany and convinced so many especially ex-soldiers who were disgruntled with the Versailles Peace Settlement and the Weimer Republic and wished to revenge against the allies and the settlement. They gave him support and rose to power.

Effects of World War I, it was this war which in the first place opened chance for Hitler as a military and political leader. It was there that he showed his bravery and got the rank of corporal and the iron cross. He got comrades plus discipline, gained military tactics and experience which he used later. In addition, German lost in this war but to Hitler German was not defeated but betrayed and so desired to revenge. He was also angered by the unfair terms of the treaty of Versailles. It were these that forced him to join active politics and gained popularity.

Weakness of the government of Hindenburg- (Weimer Republic) There was political crisis, economic slump, disunity and generally people lost confidence in the government of Hindenburg. This forced him to invite the Nazi support then headed by Hitler himself with the aims of helping him and perhaps to control Hitler closely. He was made chancellor later became a complete leader and dictator.

The threat of communism, majority of the Germans were capitalists who saw Hitler as the only defender of their interests against the communists and socialists who had grown strong and advocated for the nationalization and redistribution of wealth. It was this threat that forced the capitalists and land owners to pour their support to Hitler helping him to rise to power.

The support of several men who worked with him before 1923, such men included Herman Goring a WW1 pilot who helped in the re-organization of (SA), Rudolf Hess also a pilot helped in party organization and Joseph Goebbels who developed the Nazi propaganda techniques that made many Germans to join the party, Ernst Rohm re-organized the army.

The Enabling Bill of March 1933 that supported the idea of giving Hitler full powers. This bill was supported by the capitalists and the Catholic Party who believed in his promises. The climax came in 1934 when Hindenburg died and Hitler assumed full presidency, chief of the armed forces and what

remained was to deal with his opponents which he did in what came to be known as the Night of the long knives, of June 30<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Humiliation of Germany, the Versailles Peace Settlement was unfair and showed that the victor powers wanted to revenge against Germany for its deeds. It was punished such that she will never threaten European peace again. It lost people; it was re-divided and lost territory among others. Through his campaigns, Hitler talked against the Versailles peace settlement and accused Weimer Republic for accepting to sign it, such campaigns and humiliation imposed on German helped him get support from German nationalists who offered him support and Nazi to rise to power.

The support of the capitalists, Hitler rose to power because of the support he got from them. They wanted him to protect their interests against the socialists. By this time German had greatly industrialized and had great influence in German. The communists had also grown so a strong and advocated for the nationalization and re-distribution of wealth, it was strong among the workers who had been exploited by the capitalists and land owners. The capitalists supported him because he would protect their wealth.

## HOW HE CONSOLIDATED HIMSELF IN POWER

After becoming a chancellor in 1933 and having won majority votes in elections, he organized his party and Hitler possessed/acquired all political powers between 1933 to 1945 he embarked on strengthening or consolidating his position and used a number of methods which enabled him to rule for 12 years.

## DOMESTIC POLICY

The Enabling Bill/law of March 1933, this bill gave Hitler full powers and he could introduce laws without the approval of the parliament which means he ignored the constitution, All laws of the state were drafted and passed by the chancellor himself Hitler. In other words, he was the law, himself. Using this law Hitler consolidated himself in power.

His next move was to dissolve the parliament and fresh elections were organized. A week before the elections, the Reichstag (parliament building) was "burnt down" by the communists but it's believed that it was the Nazi party behind this to discredit the communists. In the elections, the Nazi party got overwhelming majority votes and formed a parliament full of Nazi supporters.

In August 1933, he assumed full control of German, he passed a law that gave him more powers, and he proclaimed himself the Fuhrer (head of state) as character, president and commander in chief. As head

of the state, he introduced new policies making Germany a super power, all these made him a complete dictator for the next period to come.

Dealing with the opposition, Hitler had another policy of turning Germany into a fascist state (totalitarian) i.e. many aspects of life had to be controlled by the state. All political parties were banned apart from his nationalist, socialist party, all political activities were restricted, civil service controlled, the Jews were removed from sensitive government posts and trade unions were banned. Their funds were confiscated and leaders arrested and this policy left Hitler with no opposition.

Censorship of the press, he rigidly controlled all the activities of the press, theatres, music, Art and all publications, books which were considered to be un-German carrying dangerous messages (communists) were banned. Through these methods, public criticisms/opinions were controlled and it reduced internal opposition because of lack of communication.

Hitler also consolidated his power through the education system, he used it to propagate Nazism/Nazi philosophy. Children and teachers were indoctrinated with Nazi philosophy which emphasized German race to be superior over others, it also emphasized hatred of the Jews, books were written to fit in Nazi philosophy, subjects had to be changed e.g. History + Biology, lecturers and teachers were closely watched, children were organized into Hitler-Youth (6-10 years "little fellows") and learnt that Hitler and Nazi was always right. Children were encouraged to report and betray their parents who criticized Hitler, in this way Hitler made his position firm and felt.

Through religion and the church, Hitler dealt with Catholics and Protestants since they were the source of opposition. He first made an alliance with Catholics and advised them not to involve themselves in politics but when they created the Catholic youth league, he closed their schools. The Protestants who opposed him were arrested like the Catholics and sent into concentration camps and he brought the church under his control, through his patronage then, he made everybody cool down.

He strengthened his position when he dealt with and improved the economic status of Germany; he established industries/factories to fight unemployment, encouraged exports, set up technical institutions to provide Germany with skilled labour. He also encouraged agricultural production by paying farmers well.

He further improved public works, like roads, railways and other infrastructures were constructed to boost the economy. Through this policy, unemployment, filtration, high cost of living, poor working conditions improved, slump clearance etc. Though he was a dictator, evil service was strictly controlled; the Jews, Communists and other enemies of the state were fired from places of key position and replaced by Nazi supporters.

At least he improved the economic conditions of Germany, he had a policy of persecuting the Jews, he killed many whom he would send into concentration camps and others died in gas chamber, the lucky ones were forced into exile.

Hitler's next move was to create a strong police machinery and strong army. He used it to strike terror to his enemies and these two provided Hitler with necessary secrets and information on daily basis, It was hard to criticize his government, he transformed the storm troopers (SA) into a national highly qualified, trained, equipped and disciplined army (Black strip) which he wished to use to destroy the Versailles peace Arrangement. In 1933 he withdrew from the League of Nations and by 1939, German's military might had been revived and used it to regain lost territories and people and if possible conquer other European states which caused WW11.

## FOREIGN POLICY

In his foreign policy, Hitler was a success; his major aim was to destroy the unfair Versailles peace treaty, which had been imposed on Germany, he conflicted with France, which wanted to keep German weak and small. He also wished to reunify Germany and acquire Germany lost territory. He also wished to make Germany strong and get back to her former status.

In 1933, Hitler having established a strong army, he quit the League of Nations and denounced the Trianon treaty. In 1935, he remilitarized German and conquered/gained back the Saar Coalfields, in 1936 he annexed the Rhine lands; in 1938 he marched over Czechoslovakia and Austria.

In the same year, the three dictators formalized their axis of Germany, Italy and Japan (Berlin, Rome and Tokyo axis) and the details of this axis remained secret but the strategy for it was to dominate the world.

Hitler signed the non aggressive pact with Stalin of Russia and this encouraged him to invade and occupy Poland and controlled a large part in Europe.

Hitler after conquering the Sudetenland (Czechoslovakia), he surprised Britain and France when he began to demand the Polish Corridor and claimed some areas of Poland. In 1939, September Germany (Hitler) attacked Poland a country that Britain and France had both given guarantees of support in case they were attacked. British demanded German evacuation of the Polish territory. When Germany

overlooked the ultimatum, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany and this marked the beginning of WW11.

From the above, it can be said that his foreign policy helped him to consolidate his position but at the same time it made him lose his position and life too and it led to the outbreak of WW11.

## THE GREAT ECONOMIC DEPRESSION 1929- 1934

### Main aspects

Background of the depression

Causes of the depression

Effects

Solutions

An economic depression refers to a general decline in the economic activities of the economy. It is a situation of inactive, reduced economic activities. It refers to a slump in the economy; in fact it is the opposite of monetary inflation. It was triggered by the collapse of the stock exchange on Wall Street in New York in October 1929

This situation was characterized by low production, unemployment, poverty, collapse of banking institutions, insurance companies, and closure of stock exchange markets. This state of affair led to total stagnation of the entire economy. This in turn led to general suffering of people, they starved and others even died.

The economic depression slowly but surely started in 1927-1928, it began in Canada and spread in other sectors and the whole world. It was followed by the collapse of the wall stock exchange market in New York on 'black Thursday' 24<sup>th</sup> October 1929. Several factors have been put forward to explain its occurrence; they include the following;

### CAUSES OF THE DEPRESSION

Effects of World War 1

Collapse of the Wall Street stock exchange market

Increased production versus the limited market

The operations on the vanquished states

Conscription of peasants into the army during World War 1

The policy of protectionism and isolationism caused the depression

The gold standard system operating in most economies

Psychological announcement effects

Fall in income due to unemployment and income inequality

The rise of socialism in Europe

Overpopulation

The policy of total ban on immigration

Failure of League of Nations to solve the economic crisis

Political crisis instability

The negative effects of World War 1 caused the depression; the war devastated European countries and left them in a poor state or state of a limbo and heavily indebted as they sought loans from USA to carry out rehabilitation (construction program). Unfortunately USA demanded immediate repayment of her loans at very high interest rates from European states, such states had to withdraw large amount of money from their economies in order to clear USA debts. This led to reduction in money supply in most European states and prices had to go down, industries closed because of limited profits, unemployment set in, poverty and money flowing from one direction i.e. Europe-USA hence causing depression.

The wide availability of capital enabled the US to lend abroad, about three billion dollars between 1925 and 1929, in particular to European states, of which Germany was the main beneficiary, to recover from the effects of the First World War

The great crash/collapse of the Wall Street Stock exchange market in USA in 1929, (collapse of confidence) New York stock exchange market the largest in the world collapsed. This began to link up with other factors which later caused the depression; about 13 million shares were sold causing a loss of 40,000 million dollars to investors. In post War, stock values had been pushed up to unrealistic heights by investors and speculators. However, when they collapsed, people hurried to sell their shares leading to further fall in the prices of shares consequently International business collapsed e.g. Banks, Hotels Factories or Companies were greatly affected forcing many to run away from business causing unemployment, poverty etc and in the end economic depression occurred.

By 1920s there was increased production which did not march with the available market in Europe and therefore responsible for the depression. This was as a result of technological advancement especially after World War1 e.g. there was use of machines, better methods in Agriculture leading to high yields and steady fall in prices. The production of goods in Europe and outside Europe outdistanced the ability of industrial World to absorb it all. Though that was the situation elsewhere (China, India) people were starving and could not even afford to buy food however low the price was.

Reduction in purchasing power due to stock market crash, people feared further crisis and stopped buying items to save money. This led to reduction in workforce and unemployment this further led to inability to pay installments for already bought products and were repossessed.

Bank failures also caused the depression over 9000 banks failed at the time since deposits were not insured, people lost all the savings and the surviving banks stopped giving loans due to fear of further crisis

The reparations on the vanquished states caused the depression. After World War 1, defeated powers were compelled to pay huge sums of money in form of reparation to the victors; this meant that defeated states had to tax heavily the masses in order to pay the debts. This made them poorer than ever before and could not afford to buy essential goods despite their existence. Even the capitalists were taxed heavily and this forced them out of business or alternatively charge high prices on their merchandise to cover the taxes. This was later responsible for the depression since it reduced money in circulation.

Conscription of peasants in army during World War 1, peasants were conscripted to fight hence reducing labour force and this affected the level of Agricultural production in many World economies. After the war, famine set in and many world economies suffered e.g. Russia and Germany, many died of hunger. This greatly disturbed such economies leading to a depression since people were poor to afford buying essential goods.

The policy of protectionism and isolationism caused the depression, this policy was begun by USA during and after WW1. USA insisted on exporting her goods to European states but sealed off her economy from European imports. In response to this, European states also retaliated by introducing the policy of protectionism and isolationism, and as a result, economies became flooded with domestic goods, yet domestic markets were inefficient. This resulted into reduction in price levels, following low demand and supply hence the depression.

The gold standard system operating in most of the world economies before 1929 created a situation that led to the depression. In this system, every economy had to propose a certain amount of money in circulation which was exactly equivalent to the total of gold in its reserves. This therefore limited money supply and this in turn affected effective demand of those with limited gold reserves. What made matters even worse was USA's attempt to demand her debts in terms of gold. This greatly affected the economies of the indebted states and they had to reduce prices, production, unemployment set in, poverty and the whole situation was of a depression.

Psychological or announcement effects, this particularly triggered off depression in most European economies e.g. following the collapse of the Wall Street Stock exchange market, many prominent traders, politicians through paralyzing rumors of speculators and the press sold off their shares causing panic and disorganized economic activities even before the depression could occur. This forced many European economies to suddenly freeze and businessman rushed to withdraw their monies from banks, investors cut down production, laid off workers and the crush took full shape ploughing a fertile ground for the depression.

General fall in income, due to unemployment and income inequality or poverty of the people, caused the depression. Though it's true that most states e.g. Britain, France, German etc had an economic boom, people's social-economic welfare had not been improved. So they remained unemployed hence poor and this led to a lot of products unsold because of low levels of income.

The rise and spread of socialism (communism) in Europe, following the success of the Bolsheviks revolution in Russia 1917; a communist government was established and after World War 1, many European states adopted Russian communism e.g. Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia etc. therefore the 1920's Europe was balkanized into communism against capitalism. This greatly hampered international trade since capitalists could not trade with communists. As a result, goods flooded domestic economies in the respective countries, prices went down, industries closed down, workers were laid off, and poverty became the order of the day leading to the depression.

Overpopulation caused the depression, after World War 1, there was rapid population increase in USA, France, German etc. this population growth was not counter balanced by economic development and it caused unemployment, overcrowding, diseases etc. the purchasing power was low, governments of the time were incapable of providing unemployment benefits and welfare service. This left products unsold leading to a depression.

Failure of the League of Nations to solve the economic crisis of the time, led to the depression. The League seemed to be weak in economic sphere e.g. it failed to put/effect the measures to control the levels of unemployment, it also failed to put up policies aimed at free trade therefore in accounting for the economic depression of 1929-1934, the League of Nations cannot be left innocent.

Political crisis or instability, the period between 1919-1939 was characterized by chaos, revolutions and lack of diplomatic co-operation, war against communism in Russia, Nazi in German, labor strikes in Italy, all these were not conducive for economic growth and development hence depression.

The policy of total ban on immigration also made the economic depression occur. Different states banned free movement of people especially from poverty stricken countries. This meant blocking skilled and efficient labor force where it was needed hence full employment and this resulted into involuntary employment which worsened the economic situation.

Outbreak of natural calamity that hit the US and central Canada like the long drought when the soil dried up becoming dust and was blown away mostly in large clouds on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1935 that came to be known as the "Dust Bowl" or Black Sunday" this was one of the worst storms which caused extensive damage and turned the day into night it came as result of inappropriate farming techniques and lack of crop rotation. It affected 14 states forcing farmers to sell their lands without any profit catalyzing the depression.

## EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION

The depression of 1929 had great effects both long and short term in and majorly negative and positive for the US, European economies in particular and that of the World at large and they include the following;

It led to the collapse of several governments, the governments in power at the time of the slump all suffered consequences during the next elections for example in Germany, the Weimer republic collapsed giving way to the rise of Nazi party under Hitler, Franklin D Roosevelt a democrat in USA rose to power against Wilson Woodrow, Lloyd George against Joseph Chamberlain in Britain etc.

In relation to the above, the depression sparked off insurrections or rebellions in different countries because of a huge unemployment, poverty, income inequality etc. this situation forced the masses to riot, organize strikes hence denouncing their governments for being insensitive and inconsiderate to people's suffering e.g. Germans against Weimer, in Italy etc.

The depression partly led to the failure/collapse of the League of Nations, this was so because world economies/states started abandoning the League's concept of International alliance, free trade etc and pursued individual policies for individual national survival. Even the members had no time and resources to keep the league alive. Without funds to run the league, it automatically had to die.

The depression worsened the acute unemployment, with the closure of many industries; prices sharply went down with unsold goods. This led to cutting down production, laying off factors of production, poverty was worse, people starved to death e.g. in USA, 16 million people were unemployed, Britain 4 million, German 10 million and France 3 million.

Many industries collapsed, this was as a result of persistent reduction in general price levels which affected profits. Many industries had to close down, similarly banking institutions also closed down e.g. central bank of Austria, Germany and other 500 banks in different world economies.

International relationship broke down or worsened among nations especially between European states who condemned USA for her economic nationalism and isolation and above all USA continued to demand for her repayments of war debts despite the hardships caused by the depression.

A large number of banks were closed, collapse of real estate prices, reduction in industrial production by 2 times and unemployment rose to 12 million people and farmers went bankrupt.

It led to starvation and death of thousands of people who died in USA, Britain, Germany and Russia and others were forced to migrate into new world.

Spread of Russian communism, Russia was not much affected by the economic depression; this can be attributed to the nature of the economy laid out by Lenin and Stalin i.e. communal ownership of the means of production and collective agriculture. Many European states therefore adopted communism as a solution to overcome economic crisis in the world e.g. Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland. This led to the division of the world into two camps (capitalism vs. communism)

It destroyed the international trade because most economies were not in position to import or export from one another. They also started believing in a policy of self- sustaining than a free trade policy, international alliance etc

The depression cultivated a fertile ground/sowed the seeds of WW11. In the first place, it was depression that led to the rise of World dictators like Hitler who believed that the Germans suffering was because of the Versailles settlement and that France and Britain were responsible for German's suffering. It were mainly these dictators that caused WW11 after forming alliances of dictators i.e. Nazi, Fascists and Japan (Berlin, Rome and Tokyo axis)

It led to the abandoning of the gold standard system up to today. Countries started issuing out money that was not backed by gold, this aimed at improving the terms of trade and correcting inequalities.

There was political change and rise of world dictators because of poverty, starvation and general suffering. This made people lose trust in their liberal leaders and longed for military dictators who promised changes to stop the depression e.g. Hitler and Mussolini.

Banking institutions closed down as they ran out of money. Many customers withdrew their savings and banks closed down since they could no longer continue without working capital e.g. Austria Central Bank, Central Bank of Germany etc.

General fall in prices led to losses to investors e.g. stores were full of surplus goods, manufacturers stopped the production process. This in turn reduced workers salaries, some were laid off, and purchasing power went down.

It led to the rise of economists like J M Keynes (theory of unemployment) and analyzed cyclical unemployment and suggested solutions to the problems facing Europe at the time. e.g. adoption of new economic policies and agencies to fight the depression.

In the UK the great depression helped to revive the economy and this led to the influx of investment in the old industries.

In Italy the depression led to rise of the fascist government with the promise of overcoming the this great depression and provide lasting solutions to problems of the masses

#### SOLUTIONS (SUMMARY)

A conference of 66 states was held in Geneva 1993

Drastic measures were adopted e.g. dictatorship

Raising quotas and tariffs

Violating Versailles peace treaty

USA depreciated the dollar

USA abandoned isolationism

Postponed the reparation payment

Socio-economic policies were adopted e.g. agriculture and industries

Britain and France paid unfit benefits

Pursued a foreign policy e.g. getting colonies

Restricting lending

The economic depression was a situation of inactive, reduced economic activities with very little money supply in the economy. It was characterized by the cutting of production and the factors of production, high levels of unemployment, steady falling of price levels, acute conditions of poverty and suffering.

The following were the measures adopted by the European nations to recover from the 1929-1933 Great Economic Depression.

The American government stopped lending money abroad and even withdrew their short term loans and this increased money in circulation.

In Germany, President Hindenburg issued emergency decrees or strict laws aimed at cutting expenditure and imposing new taxes.

Through Chancellor Brüning, Germany sought help from Britain for reconstruction programmes.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1931, President Hoover of USA issued his famous "Moratorium" (a delay or suspension of an activity or a law) postponing for a year all payments on debts owed to USA by other countries and this lessened the burden on those countries.

In Britain, the national government composed of the Conservatives and Liberals passed a special supplementary budget with stringent conditions like pay cuts in the armed forces.

The national government took Britain off Gold system and allowed the value of the pound to resettle about 30% below par value.

Most of the European governments and dominions abandoned the gold standard system and countries started issuing currencies into circulation regardless of the amount of gold in reserve this increased money in circulation and uplifted the purchasing power.

Many governments tended to assume more drastic powers to control currency and exchange rates, raised tariffs, imposed stiffer taxes on imports.

Many countries adopted and sought regional or sectional arrangements like the "Oslo group" of Scandinavian states, the agricultural lands of Eastern Europe and the British commonwealth of the Ottawa agreements of 1932.

Countries adopted more comprehensive, collective action like the ending of the reparations by the Lausanne convention of July 1932. E.g. Germany blamed the terms of 1919 Versailles treaty and she refused to pay the remaining balance on the war reparation, occupied the Saar coal fields, begun rapid industrial strategies with bias in re-armament policy.

There was the calling and convening of the world economic conference which was attended by 66 states in London in June 1933 to discuss ways of overcoming the slump.

The election of Franklin D Roosevelt in 1932 brought to USA the politics of courage, vigor and determination and with his slogans of the thing we have to fear is "fear itself" hence restoring economic hope and certainty in USA.

In USA Roosevelt, launched his "new deal" the basic idea of the plan was state intervention in all areas of life, based on stringent federal control of credit, his glass steagall act of June 1933 where he tried to restore confidence in the American banking, regulated powers of the treasury department and tried to counter the effects of the crisis on industry by regulating production and mass unemployment.

Another important measure to overcome the depression was the organization of public works and civil works, the government focused on the construction of infrastructures and land development this proved to be effective and the US economy began to recover.

In Britain the national government used emergency powers to re-organise tariffs, cutting expenditures and presenting a series of balanced budgets.

There was gradual recovery of trade that was strengthened by agreements signed by Britain on one hand and Denmark, Germany, Argentina and even the Soviet Union on the other.

In France, the government governed by a decree, laws to control wages, prices and rents were introduced

In Russia, though less suffered the effects of the depression, the first five years plan led to the re-organization of Russian industry, doubled general industrial production and a vast public investment program.

Some countries began to restrict immigrations both in bulk and nationality to limit the escalating levels of unemployment like Canada, Argentina and Brazil.

In Germany, Hitler violated the Versailles settlement and stopped paying reparations, industrialization programmes were rejuvenated and the economy slowly recovered from the slump.

European leaders resorted to dictatorship like force was applied against the demonstrators as strikes; quota system was also imposed on both exports and imports.

Many countries adopted unemployment relief schemes; countries started giving unemployment benefits or allowances to the unemployed above the age of 18 years for survival in states like USA Britain and in other countries.

Some countries embarked on a radical foreign policy or economic aggression to spill over the effects of the depression like external market and exposure of unemployed labor. Japan invaded Manchuria, Italy invaded Ethiopia and Germany invaded the Rhineland and Czechoslovakia in 1938 leading to the outbreak of world war II

Policies were adopted to restrict borrowing and lending since this reduced money in circulation from the lending countries.

In America, the government of Roosevelt carried out great intervention in economic affairs like farmers relief act, federal aid to farmers and big schemes of public works that provided housing and other better conditions of living.

The revival of international trade and removal of tariffs especially between America and far East-Japan, China and others, this helped to reduce the surpluses.

There was the revival of international relations through diplomatic talks and economic conferences that were held and came up with policies to solve the depression like free trade policy, currency stabilization, uniform, import and export taxes which opened ways for economic co-operation that eventually reduced surpluses in home markets.

## SECOND WORLD WAR 1939- 1945

### MAIN ASPECTS OF WORLD WAR II

Background of the war.

Main participants in the war

Causes of the war

Effects of the war

Reasons why the allies were victorious.

At least after World War 1 most people in Europe had a deep conviction and hope that peace would prevail in the world and a number of measures were taken to avoid the occurrence of another war. So the Versailles peace treaty and League of Nations were put in place. Unfortunately in 1939 Europe and the world at large witnessed yet another catastrophic World War II. It was fought between Germany, Japan and Italy with the allies also called central powers/axis powers against Britain, France, Russia and USA with the allies also called allied powers. It lasted until 1945.

World War 1 had threatened world peace and leading statesmen seemed to have learnt what exactly war meant. Powers therefore wanted peace unfortunately whatever they did was challenging what had been suggested like the Versailles peace treaty and the principle of collective security or peace proved to be weak or hard to maintain.

Generally the outbreak of World War II was because of the prevailing conditions that had become complex for the peace body the League of Nations to handle. It occurred with serious economic, social and political effects on the World. It started with Hitler's invasion of Poland 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1939 and ended with the bombing by America the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 8<sup>th</sup>. Aug.1945.

## CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II

The unfairness or weakness of Versailles peace treaty, led to the outbreak of World War II, the settlement had been blamed for filling the Germans with bitterness and desire for revenge. After her defeat in World War I, Germany was forced to sign the Versailles treaty, this truce did not consider Germany interests and concern, it humiliated Germany in that Germany lost territory and people to newly created states such as Czechoslovakia, Poland and Netherlands and her overseas possessions. She was to disarm, reduce the army to 100,000 only, paid heavy preparation, lacked sincerity and justice, failed to promote co-operation, it increased or bred Germany's discontent leading to aggression and hostility and aroused militant nationalism, the timing, place and decision making all prepared Germany for another war. These terms were unfair to Germany and it stirred or sowed seeds of emotions among the masses to revenge against the victor powers.

Effects of World War I, the war caused disastrous effects on the defeated powers. These conditions made the occurrence of another war inevitable. The settlement that could have solved them was hurriedly concluded and it was also unfair to the defeated powers. It were such conditions that forced Hitler when he rose to power to oppose the allied powers, embarked on re- armament program, violating the principles of the League of Nations making conditions ripe for war.

Weakness of the League of Nations led to the outbreak of World War II, the League of Nations which had been formed in 1920 to ensure the idea of collective peace and security using diplomacy to solve conflicts was toothless, it was criticized because it failed to secure general disarmament and to control potential aggressors. The League was an organization of peace but it had no capacity and authority to do so. In addition the league under the Anglo- French hegemony, like Vienna and Versailles settlement, it came to be detested by the defeated powers for they were not incorporated in it, they were humiliated

instead. More so, it failed to contain major aggressors such as Japan, Italy and Germany and the worst of it came when it failed to win membership of U.S.A and to contain its members who withdrew from it and later threatened World Peace.

Appeasement policy caused World War II, this was followed by the British premier Chamberlain and later by the French representative Edward Deladier, of avoiding war with the aggressive powers/ dictators e.g. Japan, Italy and Germany by giving way to their demands provided they were not too unreasonable. E.g. Japan acquired Manchuria; Hitler acquired the Rhineland, Austria and Czechoslovakia and embarked on re- armament programme. The appeasement policy reached its climax at Munich where Britain and France were so determined to avoid war with Germany and allowed Hitler to liberate the Germans in Czechoslovakia. In the process, Germany acquired vast lands in Europe; such conditions produced tension and forced the powers to re-arm themselves because the more they appeased the aggressors, the more they strengthened themselves militarily. This caused threat to international peace in 1939 and no action was taken against aggression and dictatorial powers and this resulted into war, i.e.;

Hitler and Mussolini gained support at home because of this policy and this scared other powers.

By 1930s. Britain was ready for war against Germany.

Some allied military powers felt that Germany had genuine grievances because she felt cheated by the terms of Versailles treaty.

Chamberlain argued that the League of Nations was weak and he decided to have personal contact with Hitler and Mussolini.

There was fear of communist Russia by Britain and France who thought that the threat of communism was more dangerous than Hitler. Therefore many British politicians were ready to overlook Hitler's aggression policies and hope to use him to prevent communism instead of containing Germany aggressions, the policy strengthened the aggressors there by causing the war.

The effects of World economic depression of 1929 – 1933, the depression had negative or disastrous effects on world economies, it has been mentioned to have caused World War II in that, it caused inflation, unemployment, poor levels of agriculture and industrial output, international trade collapsed and general suffering of the masses leading to the outbreak of the war since without it, world dictators e.g. Hitler would probably never have come to power and interstate political cooperation would not have worsened.

The rise of world dictators with their parties e.g. Nazism and Fascism, in Germany and Italy respectively. These organizations had different objectives to satisfy, their leaders used them against their international enemies as they called them. The dictators like, Hitler, Hirohito and Mussolini United and were more determined to oppose and reverse the unfair terms of the Versailles treaty and League of Nations and disturb the peace of the world again. Hitler caused the war in that he made Germany masses hate victor powers after WW 1, he wished to revive Germany Glory, re- build Germany army, re- conquer Germany territories and nationals, his aggressiveness and desire to undo the Versailles treaty made WW II inevitable. When Mussolini on the other hand, became the premier of Italy, he embarked on the policy of revenge against France and Britain, he also showed his ambitions in colonial expansion and it was for this reason that he occupied Abyssinia to revenge for the defeat of the battle of Adowa. When the League condemned him, he withdrew from the League and started arming Italy with the blessing of Hitler and the 2 joined hands together against world peace.

*The anti- Semitism policy mainly carried out by Adolf Hitler, it was Nazi policy or philosophy which emphasized hatred against the foreigners especially, the Jews. Hitler cherished everything German to the end.*

The revival or re- occurrence of the alliance system, this system had largely been responsible for WWI and equally caused WW II. Chamberlain who thought of solving European problems through the policy of collective action and security started this policy. He urged members to join hands against aggressors in an attempt to unite against aggressors; the policy gave a chance to the aggressors also to group themselves as a counter force against the allied powers and formed the axis powers. (Berlin, Tokyo and Rome axis/ alliance threatened France, Britain and USA who hurriedly concluded theirs. Once again, the continent had been divided into two hostile camps, this increased tension, arms race and the possibilities of another war.

The revival of the Arms race and military preparedness. Caused World II, whereas the Versailles treaty had proposed disarmament, powers never observed it. More so the policy was one sided the victor powers never disarmed this made Germany to embark on the re- armament program when powers fore saw the possibility of the occurrence of another war, they turned to arms race and military preparedness .e.g. Hitler who withdrew from the League of Nations and embarked on the re- armament and re- militarization and other power did the same making World War II inevitable.

Conflicts between democracy and dictatorship or ideological difference led to the outbreak of World War II, the war was between two conflicting ideas. I.e. democracy versus dictatorship, Britain, France and U.S.A versus Japan, Italy and Germany e.g. Mussolini had once remarked, "the Struggle between the

two worlds present no compromise, either we win or lose". And liberalism of democratic states was reflected in Chamberlain's statement that, "we do not want to fight, but by jingo if we do, we have the ships, we have the guns and we have the men too." So the conflict between the conflicting ideas caused World War II.

Change in balance of power in favour of the axis powers made Britain and France attempt to destroy the Germany power. This change of balance of power was due to the Versailles treaty that reduced Germany's economy and military power. The treaty provoked Germany to re- arm especially after the rise of Hitler and this made Britain and France to be more determined to destroy Germany because she had started threatening World peace once again leading to the occurrence of the war.

The role of the press and newspapers had profound effect in causing World War II, Nazi books on Hitler's race theory, magazines, newspapers and radios were used to mobilize support of the Germans against their enemies. Even Chamberlain after the Munich agreement he made a number of press releases which were intended to prepare the masses about possible war on radio broadcast and in newspapers like the English or London Times. When Germany attacked Poland, Britain declared war on Germany and followed after making press releases and so were other countries and the World was at war once again.

Hitler's invasion of Austria in 1938 caused World War II, his aim was to re- unify Germany, get back the lost territories and peoples and also undo the Versailles treaty but above all revive Germany glory in Europe. The invasion was treated as an open Germany aggression aimed at disturbing World peace, it also encouraged other dictators to violate international law, revive the arms race and alliance system. It also encouraged people like Mussolini to invade Ethiopia and Albania.

Japan' imperialism in the East and her invasion of China- Manchuria and Mukden incident, the invasion encouraged re- armament and conscription among the aggressive powers, it also encouraged Hitler to sign the non- aggressive pact with Stalin of Russia which encouraged him to attack Poland. It further allowed Hitler to control large areas with the necessary resources like timber, manpower and many others, the invasion further encouraged Hitler to attack other states like Czechoslovakia in 1938 and later Poland which sparked off the war.

The Spanish civil war of 1936- 39 which brought Gen. Franco to power caused World War II in the civil war divided continental Europe and increased hostility between dictators like, Germany, Italy and Spain

against democrats like Britain, France and Russia. This war brought together dictators who teamed up against World peace and caused World War II.

The rise of imperialism in Europe as it was witnessed by Italian occupation of Ethiopia, Japan's occupation of China (Manchuria) Germany invasion of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland which sparked off world war II.

The most immediate cause of World War II was Germany's invasion or attack on Poland in 1939. After occupying Austria and Czechoslovakia Hitler made plans to occupy Poland, he demanded that Dazing which was part of Poland be incorporated into Germany. Within less than a week Hitler occupied Poland against Britain's and France's consent. So on September 1<sup>st</sup> 1939, Germany's armies attacked Poland, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany, France joined and World War II had begun.

## EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR II

The war resulted into high death rates where over 50 million people lost their lives. Its believed that Russia lost 15 million, over 6 million Jews died, Germans 3.7 million, 2 million polish Yugoslavia 1.6 million, Japan 1.2 million, Italy 1 million, Britain 600,000, Romanians 500,000, the French 300,000, America lost 292,000 while China lost 22 million among others died during and after the war.

World War II led to the death of two world dictators. i.e Adolf Hitler of Germany and Benito Mussolini of Italy.

It led to destruction of property.i.e houses, factories, communication networks, nearly all Germany cities were destroyed; Agriculture disrupted leading to food shortage hence famine and starvation. However, some countries gained from the through supplying of war material and these were, Switzerland, Canada, USA and Sweden this strengthened their economies.

There was population re- organization, the war caused many people to be displaced and consequently became refugees in various countries and others had been taken as prisoners of war. E.g. million people were taken to Germany into forced labour and many Jews fled to avoid persecution. After the war allies had to transferring these people back to their countries, so the allies had to transfer the German – speaking people from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Austria.

The destruction of World War II also touched the economic sector. I.e. the economies of different states remained devastated and this led to scarcity of food leading to famine, decline in the standards of living.

In countries like Russia, People resorted to eating dogs, cats and grass, fuel was scarce and this caused great suffering during winter.

The war resulted into change of balance of power; there emerged super powers like USA and USSR as leading powers of the world. USA emerged powerful because it suffered relatively little from the war, this was so because no war or actual fighting took place on America's soil so it never suffered casualties, infrastructures instead it gained from the war through supply of equipment and USA was rich in resources so the war did not affect her. American influence or domination over the world started in 1947 with the Marshal plan which was aid given to European countries to recover from the effects of the war. This gave USA political influence in Europe, so USA emerged out of the war militarily powerful while Russia came out as an enlarged entity. The rise of these super powers led to the outbreak of cold war.

World War II led to the spread of communism in Eastern Europe, communist movements begun and this affected many states like, Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Estonia, Czechoslovakia, Lithuania and Finland. Communism also spread to the under- developed Asia and Africa.

Rivalry between Russia and USA began leading to the cold war. During the war the Soviet Union (Russia) and USA had been close allies forgetting their ideological differences, however after the war the friendship and cooperation died and was replaced by antagonism, this antagonism made the world to be divided into two hostile blocks both countries highly suspected each other.

German was defeated and divided into two .i.e. the federal Republic of German led by USA, France and Britain in West German and the German democratic republic formed by Russia Eastern Germany. It explains why they constructed the Berlin wall to demarcate the Eastern Germany from Western Germany.

It led to the de- colonization of Asia and Africa. Armed revolts came up in Asia and many countries started securing their political independence. In 1947 India and Pakistan got their independence and later Indonesia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam got their independence. The same trend was experienced in Africa where Sudan, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria etc got their freedom from western domination.

The war need prompted progress in science and technology e.g military weapons were produced in large numbers. In 1945, an atomic bomb was used in the war in Nagasaki and Hiroshima and the world was left under threat of a nuclear war. AK 47, RPG 56, MIG 57 all were manufactured during and after the war.

The post war period brought the need for re- construction and integration e.g. after the war the European countries saw the need of integrating which led to the formation of the European Economic Community in 1952.

The most lasting effect of the war was birth of internationalism. The UNO came into being to replace the League of Nations as an instrument of peace and human development and it has been successful compared to its predecessors.

European domination of the World ended .e.g. Countries like Germany had been devastated; Italy and France were on the verge of bankruptcy while Britain had been affected by the costs of war. She had overseas debts, many of her former colonies had been sold off and her ability to export had been reduced.

War brought about the fall of dictators Hitler committed suicide because he feared to fall in the hands of the Russians who were already fighting them while Mussolini was murdered by some of his countrymen.

The war disrupted the processes of recovery, which started from 1930s, leading to economic crisis due to payment of heavy war debts.

USA took over control of Japan after the latter had been bombed seriously. USA became dominant in the World affairs up to now. i.e. Acting as the policeman of the world.

Korea was divided into two i.e South Korea under USA and North Korea under Russia.

## FACTORS TO EXPLAIN WHY THE ALLIES WERE VICTORIOUS OVER THE AXIS POWERS;

World war II started in 1939 and ended in 1945 it was between the Axis powers of Italy, Germany, Japan and the allies against the allied powers of Britain, France, Belgium, Russia and USA later. From July 1943 to August 1945 the allied powers defeated the axis powers because of the following reasons.

The axis powers were weak, among them it was only Germany that was strong industrially therefore economically sound. Italy and Japan were still weak. More over Italy had proved a liability because at times Hitler had to direct his forces to help the Italians during the war.

Britain and France used the common wealth forces i.e. from their colonies whereas Italy had no colonies, Germany had few territories from which to draw reserves and most of its colonies had been taken in 1918.

The allied powers enjoyed vast resources of Russia and USA where as the axis powers had no country whose resources could measure to the ones as USA and Russia.

Britain had an effective navy power and air force. The strength of Britain lay in her navy and air power, which was superior, compared to the axis powers. These attributes were used to advance over the axis powers.

The entry of USA into the war in 1941 tilted the balance of power in favor of the allied power because she provided the badly needed equipment like tanks, clothes, amendments, food e.t.c. whereas the axis powers had no external boost.

The leaderships of Churchill and Roosevelt were good and able leaders like Hitler on the other hand was a dictator, rigid and frequently clashed with his generals where he lost loyalty of his forces; this undermined the moral ability to continue with the war.

In every territory occupied by Germany, there developed resistance movements among the people as they carried out acts of sabotage on the Germany force. They provided information to the allied troops and this enabled the allied troops to succeed.

For the allies, the war was total struggle for everybody. i.e. men and women. All the people rallied behind the fighting soldiers, they provided food, clothing and attended to the sick. The population put up heroic resistance against the axis power in Russia, Burma and France.

The axis powers underrated the mighty of the allied powers. The allied powers had been greatly affected by World War I and were still recovering and more over had adopted the appeasement policy, which to the axis powers was a sign of weakness.

The effects of weather, the Germans were affected by the Russian weather where it was very cold below 0°C it was extreme winter which the Germany forces couldn't manage.

Russia was a big country and this helped it to stage a prolonged resistance against the Axis powers, which had begun invading it in 1914. This prolonged resistance, exhausted the axis powers thus leading to their defeat.

The Axis powers had not expected the war to take such a long time. Their military ability was over stretched and therefore became exhausted especially when USA joined on the Allied side.

The atomic bomb which was thrown on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945 on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1945 greatly weakened and demoralized the Axis powers. Germany consequently surrendered on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945.

The Russian withdraw from the Axis side in 1941 put Germany into a permanent disadvantage of a two front's war. Russian withdrawal from the war on the Axis side was because, Stalin had refused to withdraw from Lithuania and Estonia and because Hitler's Hatred of communism, that broke relations between Russia and Germany. As a result, Hitler was forced to organize operation Barbarossa against Russia. Russian withdrawal made Hitler lose the support yet Russia was very rich in resources, which

would have made the Axis powers to win the war. Now combined with the resources from the British Empire, Chances of Axis victory appeared very slim.

The frequent Axis power's mistakes led to their defeat in 1945. The Axis powers made grave tactical mistakes. Hitler's attack against Russia was a great mistake since he didn't provide for the winter campaigns were about 300,000 of his soldiers perished and about 100,000 were forced to surrender. The losses were brought about by the fact that Hitler refused to withdraw as advocated by his commanders thus leading to serious losses.

Also the Japanese concentrated in production of warships, which could easily be destroyed through aerial bombing instead of producing Aircrafts, this was a big blunder. USA already had produced about 120,000 aircrafts and his was too much for the Axis powers. The Germans and Japanese couldn't match with the Americans in the war.

International hatred against Axis powers also led to their defeat, this was so because it generated poisonous public resentment against the Nazi and Fascist dictators, which created sympathy among the neutral states to support the allies, this strengthened their side making the axis powers to be defeated.

The determination of the allied side also led to the defeat of the axis powers. The leaders from USA, Britain and USSR were determined to defeat the axis powers. Following the defeat of France in Dunkirk in 1940, Churchill the British Prime Minister warned with determination. "We shall fight in the seas and Oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence in the air, we shall defend our island whatever the cost may be. We shall fight in the beaches, we shall fight on the landing ground, we shall fight in the field and in the

Streets, we shall fight in the hills and in valleys we shall never surrender". With such determination German defeat was expected. It was a question of time and place and occurred in 1945 with USA bombing the Japanese cities.