

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR 1904-1905

The Russo-Japanese war was fought between Russia and Japan in Korea and Manchuria between 1904 and 1905. It ended in the defeat of Russia and the signing of the Treaty of Portsmouth

CAUSES OF THE WAR

The success of the Japanese in a war against China in 1895 laid ground for the Russo-Japanese war. In 1895, Japan waged a successful war against China and gained control of Korea and the strategic naval base of Port Arthur. However, Russia formed an alliance with France and Germany and forced Japan to give up control of Port Arthur. Later in 1898, Russia leased the port from China. This created antagonism between the two countries that eventually led to the outbreak of Russo-Japanese war. The defeat of China encouraged Japan to expand hence clashed with Russian expansionism in the Korea and Manchuria thus causing the war.

The building up of a powerful Japanese navy and army enabled it to revenge against Russia. The Japanese military had been reorganized by the French and German military officers and its navy by British experts.

The alliance between Britain and Japan in 1902 (Anglo Japanese naval treaty) encouraged Japan to act against Russia. This treaty made Britain neutral in the Russo-Japanese war and encouraged -Japan to fight Russia to check her expansionism in the Far East

The increased Russian activities in Manchuria and Korea led to the war between Japan and Russia. increased Russian trade and arms in the region threatened the Japanese strategic and commercial interests. Japan demanded that Russia should abandon these interests and Russia refused thus leading to the war between the two countries.

The failure of Russia to break up the Turkish Empire and make head way in the Balkans made it to expand in the Far East. This was demonstrated by the defeat of Russia in the Crimean war, cancelation of San Stefano Treaty in 1878 etc. This made it to clash with Japan which also had strategic and commercial interests in Manchuria and Korea thus causing the Russo-Japanese war in 1904.

The desire by Tsar Nicholas II to restore his tarnished image and that of his government by defeating Japan led to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war in 1904.

The Russian aggressive militarists that surrounded Tsar Nicholas II influenced the outbreak of the war. These militarists advised the king to refuse all concessions to Japan

especially with regards to Korea. This made Japan to attack the Russian fleet at Port Arthur thus causing the Russo-Japanese war.

The massive Russian railway expansion in Asia contributed to the outbreak of the war. The building of the great Trans-Siberian railway, the Chinese eastern railway across Manchuria increased Russian military activities in Manchuria, Port Arthur and attracted the hostility of Japan whose interests in China, Korea were threatened hence causing the Russo-Japanese war

The press propaganda contributed to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war. The Japan newspapers created intense anti-Russian sentiments in Japan to drive Russia out of Manchuria and Korea so that Japan could promote its interests there. This influenced the Japanese government wage war on Russia,

The economic conflicts between Russia and Japan caused the war. Both countries desire to gain the control of Manchuria's mineral wealth especially coal and precious metals to fuel their industrialization. The two powers rivaled over the control of Manchuria's agricultural products timber. The clash resulted in the outbreak of the Russo- Japanese war in 1904.

The difficult economic conditions in Russia for example high food prices, massive unemployment, starvation of the peasants encouraged Tsar Nicholas II into fighting Japan to distract the masses. The Russian Tsar thought he would divert the attention of the masses by a short victorious war against Japan.

The desire by Russia to extend her influence into Korea threatened the security interests of Japan. By 1904, there were increased Russian commercial and military activities especially in North Korea. Japan considered the independence of Korea essential for its security.

Russia's refusal to accept Japan's demand to withdraw its troops and influence from Manchuria and Korea led to the outbreak of the war.

The Japanese surprise naval attack on Port Arthur in February 1904.

Russian imperialism brought her into conflict with Japan.

THE EFFECTS OF RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

The war destroyed the Russian military power in the Pacific. The Russian Far eastern fleet was destroyed by the Japanese. This removed Russia as a major player in Europe's naval arms race-leaving only Germany to compete with Britain.

It led to massive loss of lives. The war was fought both on land and sea and thus

registered high casualties. At the battle of Mukden, the capital of Manchuria each side lost thousands of soldiers. Russia lost Port Arthur, Korea whose control was gained by Japan. Russia lost southern half of Sakhalin Island to Japan and was also compelled to move its forces from Manchuria. This was formalized by the Treaty of Portsmouth mediated by USA President Roosevelt.

The war increased discontent throughout Russia due to the Russian defeat and loss of territories. This led to political assassinations by social revolutionaries e.g. Minister of Interior Plehve in 1904, in 1906, Tsar's Uncle Grand Duke Sergius.

It led to increased demand for reforms for example rights of free speech, association, fair trial and end to the ruthless practices of the secret police, parliamentary reforms. This led to the establishment of the Russian Duma in May 1906 as the first properly constituted Russian parliament.

It made Tsar Nicholas II and his government very unpopular in Russia. This led to massive strikes and demonstrations against the Tsar in big cities championed by social revolutionaries, liberals, workers thus culminating in the Red Sunday incident in 1905

It worsened the economic hardships in Russia due to increased food and fuel shortages, high food prices, unemployment especially among the peasants and workers. This provided a fertile ground for the spread of socialism.

The defeat of Russia exposed the weaknesses and inefficiency of the Tsardom. This encouraged anti-Tsarist movements among the Russian people that led to the Russian revolution of 1905 and communist revolution of 1917.

Russian foreign activities returned to the Ottoman Empire and Eastern Europe after the loss to Japan. The Russian ambitions of having a warm-water port in the Far East were shattered completely. Russia thus began to concentrate more and more in the near East and Middle East. This laid ground for the Balkan wars as Russia encouraged the Christian Balkan states to fight the Ottoman Empire.

The defeat of Russia by a non-white country encouraged the rise of Asian and African nationalism that eventually led to the breakup of European colonial empires. The defeat of Russia marked the first time that an eastern power had ever defeated a western power in war.

The war shook China from its slumber. She felt humiliated that two foreign powers made her territory as their battleground. The patriots started advocating for major revolutionary changes which culminated in the outbreak of 1947 communist revolution.

Russia recognized the Japanese influence as predominant in Korea after one of the most humiliating naval defeats in history.

Japan won new territory and emerged as a world power. It became the first non-European and non-American power imperialist modern state.

Roosevelt was awarded a Nobel peace prize in 1906 for mediating to end the war.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

◆◆◆ **Discuss the effects of Russo-Japanese war (1904-05) on the internal affairs of Russia.**

◆◆◆ **Account for the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war in 1904.**

◆◆◆ **Examine the origins and consequences of the Russo-Japanese war of 1904.**

◆◆◆ **To what extent was the Russo-Japanese war responsible for the outbreak of the Russian revolutions of 1917?**

THE RUSSIAN / BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTIONS OF 1917

The Russian revolutions of 1917 occurred in two phases. The first phase which was largely spearheaded by the Mensheviks occurred in February/March 1917 and overthrew Tsar Nicholas II and ended the three-century Tzarist rule of the Romanovs dynasty (Tsardom). The leaders of the Russian Duma established a provisional government or temporary government led by Alexander Kerensky and Prince Lvov. The second phase took place in October/ November 1917 and was led by Bolsheviks of Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin who overthrew the Provisional Government and set up a communist government with Vladimir Lenin as the first leader. Both revolutions are historically referred to as the Russian revolutions

CAUSES OF RUSSIAN/BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTIONS

The weaknesses of the Russian parliament (**DUMA**) led to the outbreak of the Russian revolution. The Russian parliament was a rubber stamp in which it supported the bad policies of Tsar Nicholas II and failed to bring about the desired reforms. The powers of Duma were limited by Tsar Nicholas II, excluded middle-class liberals. This created a revolutionary spirit among the masses hence causing the Russian revolutions.

The revolt of the Cossacks Regiment led to the outbreak of the Russian revolutions. The Royal troops and other regiments in Petrograd revolted against the government and joined the demonstrators and revolutionaries instead of suppressing them and this marked the beginning of the Russian revolutions.

The effects of the bloody Sunday caused the 1917 Russian revolutions. The bloody

Sunday occurred in 1905 when the Royal troops killed about 500 people and wounded several people who were peacefully demonstrating for political reforms and better working conditions in St. Petersburg. This act of brutality increased strikes throughout Russia, led to mutinies in the army and navy and made Tsar Nicholas II and his government very unpopular which later resulted in the 1917 revolutions.

The effects of industrialization contributed to the outbreak of the Russian revolution. Industrialization led to social and economic problems for example workers worked under miserable working conditions, received very low wages and worked for 12-14 hours a day, development of slums with no running water especially in St. Petersburg, Moscow, child labour which the government failed to address. This led to discontent, strikes, labour riots that culminated in the Russian revolutions.

The rise of socialism and communism in Russia led to the outbreak of the Russian revolutions of 1917. The socialists and communists wanted to destroy Tsardom which was a capitalist and establish a democratic and communist state, that can nationalize all means of production. They thus decampaigned the Russian government and created a revolutionary spirit that led to the revolutions in 1917

The half-hearted reforms of Tsar Alexander II led to the outbreak of the Russian revolutions in 1917. He ended serfdom in 1861, introduced equality of all Russians before the law, relaxed censorship of the press etc. These reforms gave the Russians a slight taste of freedom and made them demand for more reforms like abolition of despotism hence causing the Russian revolutions. The limited nature of the reforms showed that Tsardom was incapable of meeting the needs of ordinary Russians, and it therefore caused more revolutionary activity against the state.

The personal weaknesses of Tsar Nicholas II, king of Russia from 1894-1917 led to the outbreak of the Russian revolutions. He was physically weak and unable to effectively govern the huge Russian empire, believed in divine powers of kings, despotism and failed to handle the social economic problems in the country which made him unpopular hence leading to the revolutions.

The role of the middle class and elites led to the outbreak of the 1917 revolutions. The middle class, elites, professionals hated the repression of the Russian government and advocated for political, social and economic reforms. They also financed the revolutionary political parties and spearheaded the revolutions hence making the 1917 revolutions inevitable.

The influence of Tsarina Alexandra and Rasputin caused the revolutions of 1917. They ill-advised Tsar Nicholas II to ignore the demands of the masses like freedom of

speech, worship. Rasputin replaced many ministers with his own family members and friends. Empress Alexandra was unpopular among the Russian masses because of her German origin and rumors circulated that she was a spy for Germany. This increased the unpopularity of the government hence causing the revolution of 1917.

The Russification policy led to the 1917 revolutions. This policy involved making the foreign nationalities within the Russian empire adopt the Russian cultures and customs. The people in Finland, Poland and the Jew were forced to use the Russian languages, religion. This created a lot of discontent against the government which caused the revolution.

The effects of Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905 led to the outbreak of the Russian revolutions. Russia was defeated by Japan in 1905 and lost about 136,000 people, lost the control of Port Arthur, Korea. Having lost the war with Japan and fearing the overthrow of established order, the Tsar's government agreed to a constitution and a Duma parliament. However, in the years between 1906 and 1914 the Tsar's government did not implement the promised political reforms, dissolved two Dumas and limited the extent of democracy in Russia. The conduct of the war exposed the inefficiency and corruption of the Tzarist system of government. The increased opposition against Tsar Nicholas II, led to more demands for political and economic reforms leading to the Russian revolutions.

The effects of World War I set the ball of the revolution rolling in Russia. Russia lost millions of soldiers and civilians which made Tsar Nicholas II and the Provisional Government very unpopular. The heavy losses during the war strengthened the thought that Tsar Nicholas II was unfit to govern Russia. It also affected industrial and agricultural production leading to food shortages, inflation, unemployment especially in Petrograd and Moscow that resulted in the outbreak of the Russian revolutions. In the countryside, peasants became increasingly angry about the conscription of all young men who seldom returned from the Front. The heavy losses in battles undermined the morale of soldiers who deserted the front and joined the peasants, factory workers and sailors in the demonstrations that culminated in the revolutions of 1917.

The role of press e.g. the revolutionary newspaper "Iskra" (The Spark), the Bolshevik newspaper (Pravda) led to the outbreak of the revolutions. The press exposed the poor performance of the army and massive loss of lives in World War I. sensitized the masses about the need for democracy, and exposed the dictatorship of the Russian government, spread Bolshevik propaganda and news. This created a revolutionary spirit among the masses leading to the revolutions in 1917

The presence of strong revolutionary leaders like Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky led to the outbreak of the Bolshevik revolution. Under their brilliant leadership, the Bolsheviks criticized and exposed the shortcomings of Provisional government, helped in mobilizing the masses, forming reformist political parties, undermining the government of Tsar Nicholas II and the Provisional government hence leading to the revolutions

The natural calamities like bad weather, poor harvests, and epidemic diseases led to the outbreak of the Russian revolutions in 1917. These disasters led to food shortages and severe suffering which the government failed to address thus the revolutions in 1917.

The influence of the western European ideas of democracy, liberalism, nationalism, and constitutionalism led to the outbreak of the 1917 revolutions in Russia. These ideas influenced by the French revolution inspired the Russians to rise up against their autocratic governments thus causing the revolutions.

The weaknesses of the Provisional Government led to the outbreak of the Bolshevik revolution. The government delayed elections for the Constituent Assembly which was to draw up a constitution for Russia and this made it unpopular among the masses. The government failed to address inflation and food shortages, implement the land reforms, improve the working conditions, and withdraw Russian from its participation in World War I etc. hence leading to the outbreak of the second revolution in November 1917. The Provisional government also freed political prisoners, relaxed censorship on the press which enabled Lenin and other Bolsheviks to carry out revolutionary activities that resulted into the second revolution of November 1917.

The land problem/feudalism led to the 1917 revolutions in Russia. Land in the country was in the hands of the nobles and clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church while millions of peasants were landless. The poor peasants became poorer as they had to pay high rent to their landlords to use the land. This created discontent against regime of Tsar Nicholas II and the Provisional government for failing to implement land reforms thus leading to the outbreak of the revolutions.

The rise of radical groups like the Nihilists contributed to the outbreak of the revolutions. The nihilists were anarchist political philosophy of these radical groups preached revolutionary violence and destruction to overthrow Tsardom and create a new society. The nihilists called for a total rejection of existing institutions and moral values, in favour of unrestricted individual freedom which contributed to the outbreak of the Russian revolutions.

The rise of reformist parties such as Bolshevik Party, Liberal Party led to the outbreak of the revolution in 1917. These parties mobilized the masses to stage strikes and demonstrations, exposed the eve of the Russian governments and created a revolutionary spirit among the masses thus causing in revolutions.

The murder of Peter Stolypin in 1911 who was in favour of land reforms in Russia led to the outbreak of the revolutions in 1917. He was Russia's prime minister between 1906 and 1911 and introduced a number of measures to improve the conditions of the peasants. His death was a set back the progressive land reforms he had initiated. However, he was notorious for persecuting the Jews which increased the unpopularity of Tzardom.

THE EFFECTS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONS OF 1917

The first Russian revolution of March 1917 led to collapse of Tsardom that had ruled Russia for over 300 years. Tsar Nicholas II was forced to resign on March 15th 1917 and that marked the end of Tsardom. He was later executed by the Communist government in 1918. In its place, a republic was established.

The revolutions temporarily checked Russian imperialism in Europe. The Bolsheviks gave independence to non-Russian nationalities so that they would carry out their own socialist revolutions. Finland that had been under Russia since 1815 was given independence in early 1918. In 1920, the Bolsheviks recognized the independence and sovereignty of Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

It laid the foundation for modern Russia and transformed poverty-stricken Tzarist Russia into a super power.

The communist leaders like Lenin, Stalin and others implemented reforms in education, agriculture, military which enabled Russia to become a super power alongside USA. This tilted the balance of power in Europe in favor of Russia.

The revolution led to cold war politics in Europe, The communist revolution challenged the values, fundamental principles of trade and industry, social, political and economic institutions of western culture. This caused an ideological struggle between the capitalist powers and communist countries which manifested clearly after 1945 with the elimination of Nazism and fascism in Europe. The world was divided into the communist bloc led by Soviet Union and the anti communist bloc ie the capitalist bloc led by USA leading to cold war.

It led to the collapse of feudalism in Russia. The land which formerly belonged to the nobles, Russian Orthodox Church, royal family and other major landowners was confiscated by the communists and distributed to the landless peasants for collective farming and ownership.

The revolutions led to massive loss of lives and destruction of property in Russia. During the revolutions, there were severe clashes between the Bolsheviks and the supporters of Tsardom and the provisional government leading to loss of property and life.

The Bolshevik revolution led to the policy of war communism in Russia between 1918 and 1921. Under the policy of war communism, the Communist government acquired full control of foreign trade, banking corporations, heavy industries, grain trade, railways, banned profiteering associated with private wealth and trade to alleviate acute economic problems.

It led to adoption of New Economic Policy (NEP) by Lenin in 1921. This policy involved combining state socialism, state capitalism and private enterprise. The Bolsheviks allowed peasants to sell surplus grain for profit, small factories in towns were handed back into private ownership and private trading of small goods was allowed.

Russian revolutions contributed to the rise of fascism and Nazism in Europe. Fascism and Nazism became very popular among the wealthy businessmen, capitalists, and middle class because of being anti-communism. As a result Hitler and Mussolini's anti-communist propaganda and their determination to destroy bolshevism contributed to their rise to power in Germany and Italy respectively.

The Russian revolution led to the granting of a new constitution in 1918. The constitution established the dictatorship of proletariat, the church was separated from the state and many members of the old Tsarist dynasty were denied the right to vote. The establishment of the United Socialist Soviet republics (USSR) in 1922 led to a new constitution in 1924 that lasted up 1936.

The revolutions led to the rise of commoners to power in Russia for the first time. The revolutions abolished discriminative social classes which enabled men of humble origins to rise to power for example Joseph Stalin who was the son of a cobbler became the president of Russia in 1924.

It led to the withdrawal of Russia from World War I in 1917. The communists led by Lenin ended the involvement of Russia in the war by signing the Brest-Litovsk treaty with Germany in 1917. However, this affected her relations with other allied powers of Britain, France, USA and this explains she was later isolated.

Russian revolutions led to signing of peace treaties between Russia and the Baltic states. In 1917, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania proclaimed their independence from Russia and the Bolshevik government -recognized their independence by signing separate peace treaties with them.

It led to the spread of communism to other countries of Europe especially after World War I. The Russian Bolsheviks supported the establishment of communist regimes in Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Countries like Albania, Bulgaria, and Poland established proletarian dictatorships following the Russian example.

It led to the signing of trade treaties with western powers because Russia wanted to acquire foreign goods, industrial technology and address widespread economic hardships and scarcities resulting from the revolution. Russia signed trade treaties with Britain, Turkey, and Germany in the 1920s.

The revolution led to the outbreak of civil wars in Russia from 1918-1921 between the communist government (Red army) and the counter revolutionary forces (white army). The enemies of the Bolsheviks especially the old nobility, reactionary monarchists, former members of provisional government and Tsarist regime collectively known as "whites" begun attacking the Bolsheviks to remove them from power. These wars led to massive loss of lives and destruction of property.

Russian revolutions led to the establishment of the first Communist government in Russia and in the world led by Lenin and Trotsky. These leaders were inspired by the works of Karl Marx. However, the Bolshevik Revolution resulted in the rise of ruthless communist dictatorship in Russia. Thousands of people were either killed or exiled to Siberia in order to suppress opposition to the communist regime, especially under Stalin.

The revolution ended the persecution and oppression of foreign nationalities in Russia as the communist government granted equal rights to all nationalities and ended the Russification policy.

It led to the formation of military camps in Europe e.g. Warsaw pact by Russia and its communist allies, NATO by USA and its allies to check communist threats.

It led to the formation of economic camps e.g. the countries of western Europe due to fear of communism decided to form an economic cooperation as well as the countries of Eastern Europe.

The Bolshevik revolutions undermined the League of Nations due to the exclusion of Russia because of its communist ideology. As a result, the League of Nations lacked influence and power to undertake its activities

The Russian revolutions led to economic decline in Russia. The strikes and demonstrations paralyzed agriculture, trade and industries. This eventually resulted in famine that killed, many people

The Russian revolutions undermined European imperialism in Africa and Asia. The communists in Russia condemned imperialism and colonialism as the highest stage of exploitation and advocate for decolonization which inspired the colonized people to rise up for their independence

THE REASONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE RUSSIAN/BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA 1917/REASONS FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE TZARIST REGIME.

The support of the Russian army led to the success of the revolutions. The majority of soldiers in Moscow and Petrograd supported the revolutionaries instead of suppressing them and defending the government of Tsar Nicholas II hence leading to the success of the Bolshevik revolution.

The personal weaknesses of Tsar Nicholas II led to the success of the revolution. He failed to control or suppress the growing agitation among the workers thus giving momentum to the revolutionaries. He abdicated the throne in 1917 leading to the establishment of the Provisional government and the success of the revolution.

Able leadership of the revolutionaries led to the success of the Russian revolution of 1917. The revolutionary leaders like Stalin, Trotsky, Lenin, Kerensky, and Molotov effectively mobilized the workers, peasants and soldiers through their fantastic speeches e.g. Lenin promised peace, bread and land'. Thus majority Russians zealously supported the revolution leading to its success.

The disastrous effects of World War I on Russia led to the success of the revolution. The war led to socioeconomic problems of unemployment, inflation, shortages of food, and worse still, Russia failed to defeat the Germans. This discredited the Tsar's government and the Provisional Government and attracted masses to support the Bolsheviks who promised to withdraw Russia from the war.

The Russian revolution was supported by majority Russians. It was supported by the professional workers, the middle class, sailors, soldiers, peasants and workers in Russia. They participated in strikes, demonstrations which climaxed into a revolution making it successful.

The anti-revolutionaries attempt to suppress the revolution using foreign troops favoured the success of the revolution. The allied military intervention against the Bolsheviks enabled the Bolsheviks to appeal to Russian patriotic sentiments against foreign invasion. This attracted more Russians to support the revolution leading to its success.

The unity amongst the Russians led to the success of the revolution. The Russians were united under the Bolshevik Part/ with firm belief in the establishment of a socialist government. The confidence they had in socialism made them determined to sacrifice their lives and property to uproot the Tsarist government and set up a socialist government

The political amnesty offered to the political protestors by the Provisional government enabled the revolutionaries like Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky to return from exile in Switzerland, USA and Germany back to Russia. They were therefore able to mobilize the masses, organize strikes and demonstrations, and provide strong leadership to the revolutionary struggle in Russia thus leading to the success of the revolution.

The support of some foreign powers like Finland, Sweden, and Switzerland led to the *success* of the revolutions. Some foreign countries gave direct assistance to the revolution for example Germany supported the revolution to cause chaos in Russia so that it withdraws from world war I. Germany allowed Lenin and other Bolsheviks who were exiled in Switzerland to travel across Germany by a closed train to Russia.

The unpopular war policy of the Provisional Government led to the success of the

revolution. The provisional government continued its participation in world war one which was opposed by the peace-minded Russians. The communists under Lenin and Trotsky had a plan of withdrawing from the war and this gave them internal and external support which made the revolution a success Provisional government's failure to control the freedoms of speech, association and press which was exploited by the Bolsheviks to mobilize the workers, peasants, organize strikes and demonstrations hence leading to the success of the Bolshevik revolution.

The existence of well-organized political parties such as Socialist Party, Communist Party, Social evolutionary Party and various trade unions led to the success of the Russian revolution. These parties and trade unions effectively mobilized the masses and foreign support, organized strikes, demonstrations that contributed to the success of the revolution.

The use of force and establishment of the Cheka (secret Police force) to eliminate communist opposition led to the success of the Bolshevik revolution. The secret police helped to eliminate the remnants of Tsarist regime, weaken the opposing political groups like social revolutionaries and Bolshevik groups, maintain discipline and subdue opposition.

The abdication from the throne of Tsar Nicholas II on March 15,1917 and refusal of his brother Grand Duke Michael to take over the throne led to the success of the first revolution. This resulted into the establishment of a Provisional government (Liberal government) under the Prince Lvov.

The strength of the Bolshevik fighters led to the success of the Bolshevik revolution. The fighters defeated the troops loyal to the Provisional Government and gained control of Moscow hence the success of the revolution.

The withdrawal of the Mensheviks from the congress gave the Bolsheviks a majority vote and the success of the Russian Revolutions.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- 1 Account for the downfall of Tsar Nicholas II in 1917**
NB, Refer to the causes of the Russian revolution
- 2 Account for the collapse of the Tsarist regime**
NB, Refer to the reasons for the success of the revolution
- 3. To what extent was Tsar Nicholas II responsible for the outbreak of the**

1917 Russian revolutions? Expected

THE WEIMER REPUBLIC IN GERMANY 1919-1934

The Weimer Republic was a republican government established in Germany following the abdication Kaiser William II and collapse of the Germany empire during World War I. It was democratically elected in 1919 under Fredrick Ebert at Weimer town with a new constitution (Weimer Constitution). The Weimer republic lasted up to 1933 when Hitler destroyed it.

FACTORS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WEIMER REPUBLIC IN GERMANY IN 1919

The need for a democratic government led to the establishment of the Weimar republic. The Weimar republic emerged because the German masses wanted to change from a despotic government to a democratic one. Since 1871, the Germans were governed under the dictatorship of the Kaisers and after the downfall of Kaiser William II they decided to establish a democratic system where no individual could gain too much power.

The influence of the allied powers that defeated Germany in World War I led to the rise of Weimar Republic. After the defeat of the Kaiser in the war, the western powers were not prepared to see another communist regime in Germany like what had happened in Russia in 1917. Thus, Britain, France, USA supported the establishment of democratic Weimer republic in Germany.

The growth of liberalism in Germany led to establishment of the Weimer republic. The need for political liberty made many Germans to advocate for a democratically elected parliament and liberal constitution that guaranteed freedom of speech, freedom of worship. They therefore supported the Weimer Republic which formed a democratic constitution.

The effects of World War I on Germany led to the rise of the Weimer republic. The war destroyed the German economy causing severe inflation, unemployment, starvation etc. This led to strikes and demonstrations against Kaiser William II who was forced to abdicate and flee to exile thus leading to the formation of the democratic Weimer republic to heal the political, military and economic scars.

The need to restore friendship between Germany and the rest of Europe led to the rise of the Weimar republic. The German militarism and aggression since 1860s had made

Germany an enemy of many European countries. Many Germans supported the establishment of Weimar republic with hope that it would restore friendship between Germany and Europe.

The abdication of Kaiser William II in November 1918 created a power vacuum which gave rise to the Weimer republic. The opposition forces and new political figures such as Fredrick Ebert came to the political scene and later formed the Democratic Weimar republic to fill the political vacuum.

The success of the Russian revolution of 1917 led to the rise of the Weimer republic. The Germans were inspired by the successful revolution of 1917 in Russia that ended the repressive Tsardom. The Germans also wished to end the reign of Kaisers and have new government with a president and constitution. Due to the inspiration and example of Russian revolution of 1917, the Weimar Republic Was set up in 1919.

The need to end the Prussian dictatorship and dominance in the German politics and affairs led to the rise of the Weimer republic. Prussia dominated politics and the key positions in the army, navy, civil service, parliament at the expense of other states. This made the Germans to set up a new government that represented all states and with a national character hence rise of Weimar republic.

The influence and opposition of the German army against Kaiser led to the rise of Weimar government. In October 1918 a mutiny broke out in the German navy and army demanding the abdication of the Kaiser. This forced the Kaiser to give up the throne leading to the establishment of Weimar republic under Ebert.

The political insecurity in Berlin characterized by bloodshed, clashes, riots and demonstrations led to the rise of Weimer Republic. This insecurity made the assembly delegates to shift the National Assembly venue from Berlin to the relatively peaceful town of Weimar which is why it became known as the Weimer Republic.

The economic hardships in Germany also contributed to the rise of the Weimer Republic. There was a sharp decline in industrial and agricultural production because the resources were diverted to the war leading to unemployment, inflation, low standards of living, and massive starvation. As result mass discontent built against the Kaiser's government eventually leading to the rise of Weimar republic in order revive the German economy.

The need to establish a government that would cater for the workers led to the formation of the Weimer Republic. The Germans wanted a government that would cater for the welfare of the workers and hence a republican government with socialist leanings was formed in the name of Weimer republic to improve on the welfare of the workers.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF WEIMER REPUBLIC

The Weimar republic ended the Prussian dominance and dictatorship in the German politics. It introduced a constitution that established a Federal Germany on the basis of fair representation of all states, granted freedom of speech, press, and worship.

The Weimar republic under the Socialist leader Fredrick Ebert signed the Versailles treaty of 1919 which saved Germany from the allied invasion and ended World War I i.e. it signed a peace treaty with the Allied powers

It paid off part of the war indemnity imposed on Germany by the victor powers in the **Versailles treaty**. The Weimar republic secured from the victor powers easier instalments of reparations and increased period for repayment of 59 years in the Young Plan of 1929.

The republic implemented economic reforms especially under Stresemann. It rebuilt the industries and factories, attracted foreign manufacturers, promoted export trade and acquired foreign loans that revived the economy of Germany. During the late 1920s, German industry almost regained its pre-war levels of output.

The government promoted cultural revival especially in architecture, art, books, films and Benin became a prosperous center of arts as many writers and artists were attracted there, hence Germ culture boomed during the Weimar period.

The Weimar government succeeded in securing foreign allies e.g. signed a treaty of Rapallo with Russia in 1922 by which both countries gave up all claims for war damages and promised s other special treatment in economic matters, USA provided millions of dollars to Germany for its industrial sector, rearm secretly and expand welfare schemes.

The Weimar republic tried to reconcile Germany with its former enemies like Britain, France e.g. in 1925, it signed 'Locarno treaties' in which Germany accepted her borders with Belgium and France, Germany also agreed to arbitration in any future border disputes with Poland and Czechoslovakia, in 1929, Germany was one of

the 60 countries to sign the Kellogg pact, where signatories renounced the use of aggressive war as a means of solving disputes. This improved the relations with France. Britain, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia and others.

The Weimar government secured Germany's admission to League of Nations in 1926. Germany was given a permanent place on the League's Council although this was delayed by the opposition of Spain and Brazil. This increased Germany's standing in European affairs.

It put in place measures to protect the farmers and industrialists by buying shares in the factories that were severely affected by the economic depression, provided unemployment pay to make life better for the working classes.

The Weimar republic rebuilt the infrastructures that had been destroyed during World War I. It got loans mainly from USA which it used to build roads, railways, bridges; 3 million new houses were built.

The Weimar republic stabilized the value of the German currency. It replaced the worthless German Mark with the currency called Rentenmark and this controlled inflation. The people and other countries regained confidence in the German currency

THE FAILURES OF WEIMER REPUBLIC

The Weimar republic accepted the humiliating and unpopular Versailles treaty. The treaty disarmed Germany, imposed a heavy war indemnity, and took away German territories, was forced to promise to respect Austrian independence.

The government was associated with defeat and dishonour. It failed to prevent political chaos and unrest in Germany e.g. in 1919 there was a communist strike in Berlin, in 1920 it faced a revolt from Free Corps in Berlin, and in 1923 there was an attempted coup by Hitler as well as numerous political assassinations.

The Weimar republic degraded traditional German culture especially by American immigrants and Jewish artists and musicians. The Weimar culture in cities was considered a moral decline/decadence in many German villages and country towns

The Weimar government failed to defend Germany against foreign invasion and

aggression e.g. in 1923, French and Belgian forces invaded Ruhr region and looted industries and minerals.

The Weimar republic failed to solve economic problems prevailing in Germany. There was a lot of unemployment, inflation, widespread income inequalities, high cost of living, industrial collapse which the republic failed to address satisfactorily e.g. by 1932 6 million Germans were unemployed.

It failed to maintain law and order in the country i.e. there were frequent strikes and demonstrations, political assassinations e.g. Walter Rathenau (German foreign Minister), Gustav Erzberger (leader of the armistice delegation) were assassinated by extremists among the Free Corps.

The Weimar governments failed to check the growing influence of communism that was spreading from Russia. This threatened the interests of the landowners, industrialists.

The republic was characterized by corruption and inefficiency. It had corrupt officials and government ministers who embezzled public resources, carried out bribery.

The Weimar republic failed to restrain the actions of Hitler and the Nazi Party and instead appointed him as chancellor, a position he used to establish a Nazi dictatorship in Germany in 1934.

It failed to control the multi-party system in the country i.e. the parliament was characterized by chaos due to the many political parties. This led to coalition governments and no party was able to carry out its programs.

The republic increased Jewish influences in Germany. It was dominated by Jewish politicians, the Jews owned most of the large department stores and banks in Berlin and other big cities. The Jewish artists and musicians flourished in Berlin.

The Weimar republic failed to provide solutions to the economic depression of 1929 to 1935 which increased social and economic misery and led to financial bankruptcy e.g. many banks closed and many thousands of Germans lost their savings, industries collapsed

The Weimar republic failed to restore/revive the military power and glory of Germany i.e. it accepted the disarmament clause of the Versailles treaty that militarily disabled Germany.

The Weimar government failed to liberate the Germans from foreign rule in the neighboring countries after World War I. Many Germans were persecuted in Poland, Czechoslovakia but the democratic government did not take the necessary measures to liberate them

THE PROBLEMS FACED BY WEIMER REPUBLIC AND REASONS FOR ITS COLLAPSE BY 1933

The Weimar republic was unpopular right from the start except between 1923-1929 under the control of the foreign Minister Stresemann. The republic faced political, social and economic problems that led to its collapse by 1933.

The Weimar republic accepted the humiliating and unpopular Versailles treaty. The treaty disarmed Germany, imposed a heavy war indemnity, and took away German territories. The Weimar government was associated with defeat and dishonour and the German nationalists could never forgive it for that. This increased opposition against the Weimar republic eventually leading to its downfall in 1933.

The rise of Nazism under Adolf Hitler led to collapse of Weimar republic. Hitler and Nazis carried out a great propaganda campaign blaming the Weimar government for all the problems of Germany and setting out Nazi solutions to the problems. As result many Germans supported Hitler which later led to demise of Weimar republic by 1933.

Traditional lack of respect for democratic government among the Germans was another problem faced by Weimar republic. Many, Germans within the army, big business, civil service, and judiciary admired the army and officer-class as the rightful leaders of Germany and had little respect for democratic institutions. The democratic Weimar republic was thus rejected in favor of a more authoritative Nazi government under Adolf Hitler in 1933.

The weaknesses of the Weimar constitution led to the collapse of democracy in Germany. It was based on a system of proportional representation for all political parties. Unfortunately, there were so many different groups that no party could win an

overall majority. In 1928, in the Reichstag. There were social democrats, Liberals, nationalists. Catholics, Communists, Nazis. This led to coalition governments and no party was able to carry out its programs and later chaos in the parliament and unstable governments which undermined the credibility of republic leading to its collapse 1933.

The Weimar democratic republic was the first of its kind and thus lacked experience on running a democratic system of governance. The political parties had very little experience of operate a democratic parliamentary' system. The parties had not learned the art of comp¹ e.g. communists and nationalists refused to support social democrats, disagreements among parties became so bitter which undermined the republic leading to its collapse.

The republic was faced with many uprisings and revolts in Germany. The republic was challenged by the communist uprising in January 1919 which exposed the weakness of the government as it relied on anti-communist private forces to crush the uprising. The two communist leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg did not receive a fair trial, they were simply executed. Other uprisings included Free Corps revolt in Berlin in 1920, attempted coup by Hitler in 1923 etc. All these weakened and undermined the republic leading to its eventual collapse.

The series of political assassinations undermined the Weimar republic and led to its collapse. Walter Rathenau (German foreign Minister], Gustav Erzberger (leader of the armistice delegation) were assassinated by the Free corps and nationalist, anti-Semitic youths. In all, between 1919 and 1922 there were 376 political murders. When the government sought strong measures against such acts of terrorism, it received strong opposition from right-wing parties.

Opposition from professional groups undermined the Weimar republic. Throughout Germany, the legal and teaching professions, civil service and German army tended to be anti-Weimar for example the courts of law gave light penalties to right-wing offenders especially after political assassinations, some Bavarian authorities who supported Hitler released him after only 9 months in prison instead of 5 years.

The outbreaks of violence and increased threat of civil war in Germany due to the expansion of private armies attracted the masses to Nazi propoganda. There were regular street fights usually between Nazis and communists. All parties had their meetings broken up by rival armies and the police seemed powerless to restore and maintain

law and order. This exposed the Weimar government as incapable of keeping law and order and the masses began to favor a return to strong authoritarian government to maintain strict public order.

The effects of the economic depression of 1929-1935, economic problems contributed to the collapse of Weimar Republic. The worst affected were the middle classes and small capitalists who lost their savings and many began to look towards the Nazis for improvement. There was a lot of unemployment, inflation, high cost of living which the republic failed to address satisfactorily e.g. by 1923 a loaf of bread cost 100,000 million marks, by 1932 6 million Germans were unemployed. This undermined the republic, increased its unpopularity leading to its collapse in 1933

Weimar republic lacked support of the German army. The army and the ex-soldiers hated the disarmament clause imposed on Germany by Versailles settlement because they wanted to revive: Germany's strong military power. Many of them like Ludendorff (German supreme commander of World War I) supported the Nazi party which promised the revival of German military power. With the loss of army support, the republic would not survive any longer and hence collapsed in 1933.

The French invasion of Ruhr region in 1923 discredited the Weimar Republic. France invaded the region and confiscated raw materials, manufactured goods and industrial machinery before they withdrew in 1926. This disappointed many Germans who blamed the republic for having failed to defend German territory against French aggression which increased its unpopularity and eventually led to its collapse in 1933.

It faced a lot of opposition from the many political parties. In the German parliament, there were at least 8 political parties with different interests e.g. Social Democrats, Free Corps, Conservatives. Nazis. The Nationalists and Free Corps e.g. wanted a revival of German military glory and restoration of Kaiser. All these parties worked to discredit the government, undermined it and finally led to its collapse by 1933.

The friendship of the Weimar republic with the German enemies especially western powers, League of Nations through the 'Policy of fulfilment' attracted the hostility of the German nationalists and made it unpopular leading to its collapse.

Weimer republic had weak politicians and this contributed to its collapse. Apart from foreign Minister Stresemann (1924-1929), the Weimer politicians lacked ability to handle the internal violence and uprisings, solve the prevailing social and economic problems. The government was made up of corrupt officials and government ministers who embezzled state funds.

In 1925 Hindenburg was elected President. He had been one of Germany's war leaders under the Kaiser and was a prominent critic of the Weimar Republic. Before he took up the post of President, he actually asked the permission of the ex-Kaiser William II. This undermined the republic and finally led to its collapse in 1933.

The death of outstanding personalities with skilful leadership e.g. Fredrick Ebert, its first leader died in 1925, Gustav Stresemann who had done much to improve the German economy died in 1925, President Hindenburg died in 1934 and his death gave chance to Hitler to establish Nazi dictatorship which marked the end of Weimar republic.

The Weimar government faced the problem of allied blockade which brought Germans to near starvation at the time when the new government was trying to consolidate its administration

The death of President Hindenburg in 1934 marked the end of the Weimar republic. He left a political vacuum which Hitler exploited to establish a Nazi dictatorship by combining the office of the president and chancellor which terminated the Weimar republic.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the factors for the rise of Weimer Republic in Germany in 1919
2. Account for the rise and fall of Weimar Republic in Germany
3. Assess the achievements of the Weimar Republic in Germany between 1919 and 1933
4. Examine the successes and failures of the Weimer Republic
5. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Weimar Germany between 1919 and 1932.
6. Account for the failure of Weimar republic by 1933.
7. Why was there so much opposition to the Weimar government in its early years?
8. Examine the problems faced by Weimer Republic in Germany between

1919-1933

9. Account for the collapse of the German Weimer Republic by 1933
10. "It was the rise of Hitler that led to the collapse of the Weimar Republic in Germany" Discuss
11. What were the challenges that confronted Republicanism in Germany between 1918-1933
12. Why was the Weimer Republic in Germany short-lived?
13. "The collapse of the Weimer Republic was inevitable" Discuss
14. Account for the failure of democracy in Germany between 1919-1933.

THE WORLD ECONOMIC DEPRESSION IN EUROPE OF 1929-1935

The great economic depression was the situation characterized by massive unemployment, low levels, low consumption levels, low prices, low levels of production, poverty, economic stagnation low demand and generally a period of inactive economic activities between 1929 and 1935 across the world . It started with the fall in the Canadian agricultural sector and by 1929 it had spread all over Europe.

THE CAUSES OF ECONOMIC DEPRESSION OF 1929-1935

The effects of World War I led to the economic depression. The war destroyed commercial ships e.g. 40 % of Britain's merchant fleets were destroyed by German submarines in the war making it difficult to export its goods; industries, agricultural farms, infrastructure in France, Britain, and Belgium were devastated. This reduced the economic activities in the affected countries hence leading to economic depression.

The effects of gold standard system which many European economies operated led to economic depression. The system determined the amount of money in circulation. The system had economic rigidities by limiting money supply and reducing purchasing power in countries that had little gold. This undermined economic activities which led to economic depression.

The economic nationalism and protectionism caused world economic depression. USA protected her industries by charging high import tariffs and foreign countries also refused to buy American goods. This discouraged international trade and left

Europe with surplus products thus leading to industrial breakdown, laying off workers, low prices, and low economic activity hence economic depression.

The wide spread Income inequalities and poverty in Europe e.g. Italy, France, Germany, and Britain reduced the purchasing power of individuals. The wages for industrial workers were very low while industrial profits were very high and thus there was low purchasing power in the hands of the general public. This led low demand, low production of commodities and falling prices thus leading to the depression.

The wide spread unemployment in most European countries due to demobilization process after World War I and closure of industries led to economic depression. Unemployment was high e.g. in Britain, it stood at 1 million, 10 million in Germany which led to low purchasing power, low incomes This left the industrial and agricultural output unsold, which led to laying off of workers, low production levels collapse of some industries thus economic depression.

The American loans scheme to European countries caused the economic depression. During and after the world war one, European countries borrowed huge loans to finance the war and reconstruct their economies. The repayment of the loans, created an economic situation huge amounts of money flowed from Europe to USA without any exchange of goods and services. This affected economic activities thus leading to economic depression.

The collapse of the American stock exchange market at the wall Street caused the economic depression. This left the European countries like Austria, Germany that were heavily dependent on American loans and investors to finance their industrial development hard-hit. Without the American loans, the European industries declined, workers were laid off and unemployment increased thus causing the economic depression. Also many people lost money which affected their purchasing power as they could no longer buy consumer products. The fall in share prices made it difficult for entrepreneurs to raise the money to run their companies. This led to collapse of companies and consequently many workers became unemployed. The American bankers and businessmen demanded the repayment of the money they had lent to Germany, France, and Britain which caused economic collapse in Europe.

The speculation and rumours by politicians and the press about it in different countries caused the economic depression. Such rumours affected investment plans and

many investors were uncertain of engaging in economic activities. There were widespread speculations in the press that an economic slump would hit Europe. This affected investment plans especially among the rich industrialists and hence paralyzed economic activities in Europe.

The weaknesses and failure of League of Nations to implement economic policies necessary for free trade led to economic depression. It failed to ensure free trade leading to protectionism that caused the depression. It also failed to come up with a clearway of handling currency in circulation, which was determined by the gold reserves that created economic rigidities that resulted into economic depression.

The Versailles settlement 1919 led to the outbreak of economic depression. The payment of war reparations e.g. money, cattle, ships, minerals that were imposed on Germany and her allies to the victor powers led to the decline in economic activities and affected international trade thus leading to the depression.

The effects of capitalism and over production due to improved technology and greed for profits caused the depression. Many industrialists and farmers, encouraged by the high profits produced too many goods for the home market to absorb. As a result, later in the 1920s, the manufacturers produced less and many workers were laid off leading to unemployment.

The policy of economic nationalism/ Protectionism pursued by some countries. After world war 1 countries of Europe and USA used protectionism in order to safeguard their economies against foreign competitions but the policy instead shattered international trade hence leading to the great economic depression e.g. USA, the less affected economy after the war adopted the policy by which she charged high import taxes as a way to discourage importation while pursuing an aggressive exportation of her industrial and agricultural output which later affected the countries that had depended on her.

The nature of the American loan or credit scheme led to the outbreak of the economic depression. During and after world war one, both the victor and defeated European nations borrowed huge loans from USA in order to sustain the war and to rebuild the destroyed economies respectively thus at the end of the almost all European countries were involved in repayment of American loans from 1924, when USA pressurised the repayment of outstanding loans this created a situation where huge sums of money and Gold flooded from European economies

to the USA not in exchange of goods and service but rather in repayment of loans this reduced the level of invest, aggregate demand and purchasing power across Europe hence leading to the great economic depression.

The heavy war indemnity /Reparation. At the end of world war one Germany and her allies like Austria and Bulgaria were fined huge sums of money for the damages caused during the war. To make matters worse they were force to surrender some of their economically rich territories to the allied powers which limited their economic prosperity e.g. Germany lost the rich mineral territories of Alsace and Lorraine, the Saar coal and all her African colonies on to of this the defeated nations were neither free to export nor import from other European countries all this strained relations and highly affected international trade between the victor and defeated nations and the world at large.

THE EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC DEPRESSION OF 1929-1935

The economic depression had short term and long term political, economic and social consequences

Economic depression shattered international trade. Countries used higher tariffs to protect their domestic industries and markets. This affected economic relations in terms of reduced trade and foreign investments among the great powers. The level of imports and exports was reduced which brought international trade to almost a stand still.

It led to collapse of industries and other production sectors due to low prices, narrow domestic markets. There was low purchasing power and poor industrial performance which led to low investment and low standards of living for people. The banking institutions closed because they run out of money for example Austrian central bank in 1930, central bank of Germany, stock markets.

It led to widespread unemployment in most European countries due to the collapse of industrial, agricultural and other employment sectors e.g. in USA, 13 million people were unemployed by 1932, in Britain unemployment went to over 1 million, over 3 million in France and over 10 million in Germany.

The depression led to break down of international relations amongst countries. Europe hated USA for her policy of economic protectionism that escalated the depression. Anti- US feelings intensified in Europe as it demanded for repayment of her debts.

The relations worsened between Germany and victor powers over war reparations.

It led to political unrest and rise of dictators in Europe like Hitler in Germany, later General Franco in Spain in 1936. They took advantage of the socio-economic misery created by the depression to undermine the existing governments and rulers.

The economic depression undermined the performance of League of Nations because political unrest and declining economies made the active members like Britain and France to lose commitment as they concentrated on recovering their economies. This paved way for the collapse of the League of Nations.

It facilitated spread of socialism and communism in Europe due to worsening economic conditions. The sufferings caused by the depression made most Europeans to develop hatred against liberalism and capitalism that were accused of causing the depression. As a result, socialism spread to Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania and Poland.

The depression laid foundation for the outbreak of World War II in 1939. It led to the rise of dictators who waged a series of aggressive wars as a way of getting raw materials and securing markets and territories which culminated in the German invasion of Poland in 1939 that sparked off World War II.

The economic depression facilitated the downfall of unpopular regimes in Europe and the rise of promising ones. In Germany, for example it led to the fall of Weimar republic in favour of Hitler's Nazi regime in 1934, the rise of General Franco in Spain in 1936. Strong authoritarian governments were favoured because of promising radical changes to address the economic depression e.g. in Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece.

The gold standard system was abandoned as European countries converted their gold reserves into foreign exchange. This revived international trade since it opened way for countries without gold deposits to freely participate in trade.

It led to adoption of new economic policies and reforms to fight the depression. It led to the development of macroeconomic policies intended to temper economic downturns and upturns for example British economist John Maynard Keynes developed the ideas in his General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money (1936). Keynes's theory suggested increases in government spending, tax cuts, and to counteract depressions. There were also

the New deal policies of Roosevelt in USA, economic reforms of Stresemann in Germany.

It led to the closure and collapse of financial institutions. Millions of people withdrew their savings from banks and this left many banks without money and thus many were closed down e.g. in USA about 4200 banks were closed, the Austrian Central Bank closed in 1931, stock markets collapsed. The closure and collapse of financial institutions made people to lose their savings.

The depression brought about closer economic relations among the European states as a measure to recover their economies. This paved way for the formation of European economic cooperation

It led to severe poverty due to low incomes and purchasing power Millions of people in Europe and USA could not afford the basic necessities of life like food, shelter, medical care, and education. The working conditions worsened for the workers leading to poverty, social unrest and the deterioration in the standards of living

MEASURES ADOPTED TO OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION OF 1929-35

Various countries of the world started to recover from the great economic depression at different time. In most countries, recovery began in 1933. *The following strategies/measures were employed to address the depression.*

The governments intervened in economic systems to protect free market systems from radical revolutions e.g. in France, a wheat office was established to fix prices and regulate the district of grain, there was government control of banks, the Doctors' mandate in Britain.

Countries started charging high tariffs on imports like in Britain a general tariff of 100 % on all imports was instituted to protect nascent local industries, so the economic nationalism and protectionism were adopted and free trade abandoned.

The government expenditure was reduced in order to address economic demands e.g. through salary cuts for all government employees especially in the navy and army e.g. in Britain, France The expansion of public works like construction of bridges, dams, high ways to provide employment, adoption of New Deal policy from Franklin Roosevelt.

There was change of regimes in favour of strong governments to deal with the situation for example Conservatives took over power in Britain, Nazis in Germany, in France the Left parties became popular. There was also outright use of force against rioters and other forms of social unrest.

There was abandonment of gold standard system by most European countries in the early 1930s. States no longer pegged their currencies to price and amount of gold reserves. This increased the supply of money hence increasing the purchasing power of individuals e.g. in Britain, Italy, Scandinavian countries.

Unemployment benefits were given to nationals in Europe like Britain, France and USA and they were encouraged to invest in economic activities.

The European countries embarked on establishing trading blocks to promote free trade for example British Commonwealth in 1932, the agricultural lands of Eastern Europe and Scandinavian countries formed Oslo Group. This revived international trade and free trade.

There was adoption of social economic reforms in Europe to modernize agriculture, industry and social services. Progressive taxes were introduced to redistribute wealth fairly and trade unions were given the right to bargain and negotiate for better conditions of workers especially in USA, Britain There was cancellation of the peace agreements of 1919.

Germany responded by violating the terms of the Versailles treaty as a means of addressing the slump for example Nazi government refused to pay war indemnity to the allied powers. In 1931, USA offered a one-year moratorium on all payments between countries. These included inter-allied debts and reparations from defeated powers. This enabled countries to reinvest as much capital as possible in their failing economies.

There was adoption of the New deal policy started by Franklin Roosevelt in USA *The USA government provided unemployment benefits, pension to the old, rural rehabilitation schemes, and aid to women and children, prohibition of child labour.*

European countries embarked on massive rearmament programs which stimulated their economies especially in Germany, Britain, and France. These programs provided employment which reduced unemployment problems caused by the slump

Some countries engaged in economic imperialism as some countries adopted aggressive policies of conquest to acquire raw materials, markets and areas of investment to address the slump for example Japan invaded Manchuria (China) in 1931 to access silk and cotton, Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1936.

New economists and policies emerged such as Keynes and his Keynesian theory of unemployment which provided solutions to economic problems that Europe was facing.

Countries began borrowing to finance their recovery from the depression. USA embarked on giving out loans to western European countries like Germany, Britain and France. This helped these countries to recover faster than the eastern countries.

Adopted devaluation of national currencies to boost exports for example in Britain, USA which helped to revive international trade and increase the purchasing power

The governments pursued policies of self-sufficiency to reduce unemployment for example agro-based industries were promoted to boost production in Italy, Germany and France.

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 helped to end the economic depression. The mobilization of manpower following the outbreak of war in 1939 finally ended unemployment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "The outbreak of the 1929-35 Great economic depression was inevitable" Discuss
2. "The Wall Street crash was responsible for the occurrence of the 1929 economic depression" Discuss
3. Examine the causes and consequences of economic depression of 1929.
4. Discuss the major features of the economic depression in the period between 1929-35.
5. Discuss the reaction of European countries to the economic depression of 1929.
6. Account for the end of the economic depression by 1936
7. Examine the measures used by various governments to overcome the economic depression by 1936