

Unit - 05

FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World war was the most destructive war in the history of mankind till now. This war began in 1914 and continued for four years three months and eleven days. Before the First world war there was superiority of Europe in whole of the world. United States of America and Japan in Asia were grown as super powers by this time.

Background :

England was highly prosperous and powerful nation in Europe at this time. The best naval power was with it. The colonial empire of England was so vast and in every part of the world. Its main interest was not in the internal politics but in extending and securing its imperialistic and economic interest. Germany was the main competitor of England. Her territorial army was strongest in the world. Germany had become most powerful nation economically and industrially but number of colonies were less. Germany was situated in the mid of Europe it wanted to become the dictator of Europe under the leadership of William II. She made 'Schlieffen plan' under which invasion on France and Russia was included.

Russia was the largest country of Europe in area. The non Russian races were more in number in population of Russia. Russia was interested in the Balkan province, where a big population was its own Slav race. Russia wanted to divide the Ottoman Empire and establish the Slav Empire. Austria was the biggest opponent to Russia in Balkan. France wanted to take the revenge of 1870 when it was defeated by Germany. France by recapturing its Alsace and Lorene provinces from Germany desiring to get back the glory of past. By this time the European colonies in Africa and Asia

were established. In Asia, India, Lanka, Burma and Malaya were under the control of England. Persia, Afghanistan, Tibet, Nepal and Middle East were also under English influence. Indo China and Indonesia were under France. China was divided among the various European powers and Japan. In Africa the colonies of England, France, Germany, Italy, Portuguese, Spain etc were established.

On the question of control over the colonies of Asia and Africa so much competition had taken place. Finally when in Asia no colony was available and due to inconfidence and enmity any agreement was not possible they had thrown whole the world in to war. The first world war has not begun suddenly but were result of a series of incidents and reasons which was continued much before 1914. All the countries directly or indirectly involved in this war.

Causes of the First World war

The First world war began due to the murder of Austrian prince Ferdinand in 1914. But this was not sudden incident. Its background was prepared during 1870 to 1914 by the imperialistic interest policies and events by the imperialist countries. Since last many years several reasons were being collected due to which any one country or class can not be held responsible. Several contradictory circumstances were jointly having capacity to spark and convert into the heavy fire and same happened at the time of world war I. Bismarck said in 1891 that "I will not see the world war, but you will see and its beginning will be from east".

1. Extremist Nationalism : The spirit of nationalism was the contribution of French revolution. The unification of Germany and Italy was the result of

nationalism. But by the end of the 19th century the felling of nationalism become in its extreme form. Every nation come forward to expand its empire, reputation and glory and for that, became ready to ruin the other countries. The German king william II was viewing the dream of world politics and world empire. He was confident that the German prosperity lies in its expansion to other countries when France was in search of opportunity to take the revenge from Germany. There was fear of war any moment. The spirit of patriotism was against the peace. All were of the view that solution of the problem is war only.

2. Imperialistic rivalry between England and Germany : In the last years of the 19th century Germany progressed speedily and left England and France behind in the economic and Industrial progress. In the race of imperialism Germany wanted as much as colonies which its rival England is possessing, so that she can fulfil her economic needs. It was a shock to the British naval power, when Germany made a big warship Imperator. By constructing the keil canal Germany created a risk for English border line. Germany also Constructed a railway line from Berlin to Bagdad, in this way it become easy to send the goods to German army. It created a big risk to the eastern colonies of England.

3. Rivalry between Germany and France : Germany defeated France in 1871 war. She became bound to give its fertile and industrial provinces Alsace and Lauren to Germany France did not forget this and She was looking for an opportunity. The interest of France and Germany were common in Morocco of north Africa. In 1904 France and Britain committed a secret treaty by which France got free hand in Morocco and Britain in egypt. Because Germany was kept out of this agreement so Germany instigated Morocco against France. The clouds of war cleared only when France agreed to hand over French colony congo to

Germany in the central Africa.

4. Formation of Groups : Struggle and Confrontation engaged the imperialistic powers in searching the allies, so that in future they may seek cooperation from them. Germany, Austria and Italy formed a Tripple Alliance in 1882 for military assistance to each other, in case of war with rival country. England, France and Russia also committed a treaty in 1907. Due to formation of mutually rival groups, Europe divided in two blocks. Thus the tension and rivalry increased among the European nations. The comptetion of weapons, arms and ammunition grown up. Muthal hatered and suspicion breakdown the environment of peace in Europe. Every country was propagating war. Now it became clear that if war take place, the whole of Europe shall be thrown in war.

5. All Slav movement and Balkan Polities : The eastern part of Europe is known as Balkan region. The countries situated in this region were as, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and many other small states who were under the Ottoman empire (Turkey). In the beginning of 20th century the ottomanempire become weak and in many states of Austria and Russia the slavs were residing. Who were originally Russians. They, with the support of Russia started All Slav movement. Which aim was to liberate slave mojority state Serbia. Where Russia was in support of this movement Austria was against. Due to this the rivalry took place between Austria and Russia. Austria occupied the slav states, Bosnia and Hergegovina. Thus the Austria and serbia became rival.

6. Diplomatic Treaties : The unification of Italy and Germany initiated such an era in Europe which was the era of secret treaties. Bismarck was the originator of these secret treaties. Bismarck devided the various countries, made them lonley through these secret treaties. After defeating France, for the security of Germany he did treaties with Austria and Italy, and

made a Tripple Alliance. France was also worried about her security, formed a Tripple Entenete with England and Russia. This Tripple Entenete was renewed till 1914 constantly. As a result there was series of meetings and suspicion. The constant insecurity and propaganda gone way to the war.

7. Trade and colonial competetion : For the establishment of coloneys and to sale the finished goods of their industries and to extend their trade, there was a competetive race among the European countries which also became the reason of the world war I. By the later half of the 19th century England, France, Japan, Italy and America were speedily developed the industries. With this the demand of raw material and sale of the manufactured goods needed new markets. Increasing population and military needs also encouraged the colonial expansion. In this competetion maximum territoies were got by England and France and Germany was behind in this race. It started doing efforts for colonies after 1890 A.D. As a result England and France became enemies. Russia and Austria started increasing their influence in Balkan Province Italy was also greedy for colonies. This competetion created hatered and inconfidence among the countries.

8. Role of News Papers : The newspapers essentially represents the ideology of their country and contributes more in influencing the public opinion. In this period the news papers of all the countries with an influence of extreme nationalism presented the various events in such a way that created excitement among the people due to which peaceful understanding become difficult. When the British news papaer criticised the policies of German king william II, the German people considered England as their enemy. In the same way the German news papers instigated the English people. Franco-German relations were also vitiated due to news papers. After the murder of Ferdinend the newspapers of serbia and Austria wrote the articles against each

other were full of bitterness. It naturally created anger among the people of both the countries. Thus it can be said that the news papers palyed an important role in instigating the war. The Circumstances of war could be hold on only when there would have been some control on the press. Actually the uncontrolled press was also one of the factor of world War I.

9. International Anarchy : In the first decade of 20th century the situation of unrest and anarchy arise in Europe. The powerful countries were engaged in divididing the small states for their self interests. Such incidents took place after 1900 which maintained the international tensions.

The Russo-Japanese war (1904-05) also affected the European politics. Due to Russian defeat in the war Germany took advantage and challenged France in Morocco and created a serious situation in international sphere. Other than this when Russia could not get the opportunity for expansion in Far east it began improper interference in Balkan province.

In 1911 France sent its army to crush the rebellion of Faiz and to secure the life of European people. Germany resisted this action of France and send its warship Panther to the Agadir port. It increased the termvil of international war. Due to the warning of England, Germany inclined and bound to leave the part of French congo. This incident increased bitterness between England and Germany. In the year 1908-09 AD. Austria included Bosnia and Hargegovina in its empire created a serious crisis. The relations of Russia and Austria and Italy and Austria become bitter due to this reason.

In the year 1912-13 the Balkan wars also made the international environment so tense. Due to these wars militarism and race for armament took speed. Bulgaria was most unsatisfied country because Serbia and Greece etc the states snatched most of its territories. Because of the importance of the Balkan wars, Grant



and Temperley wrote : For the world war 1914 not any incident is responsible then Balkan wars.

Immediate Cause of the war : The relations between Austria and Serbia were deteriorated since 1908 and crossed the limit up to 1914. Some extremists under the influence of All Slav movement formed many secret committees for their liberation. One among them was the Black Hand. This Association joining hand with other the 'Organization or Death' planned for the murder of the governor of Bosnia-Potiyorike, but at the same time they came to know that prince Ferdinand of Austria is to come on official tour. Then they made conspiracy to kill the Prince. On June 28, 1914 Prince Ferdinand and his wife were killed in the city of Bosnia at Sarajevo. This incident put the world in to the fire of war.

There was a strong reaction in Austria for this under case. The murderer were serbs so Austria decided hard punishment for Serbia, But without the support of Germany it was not possible for Austria to bear this risk. So the Austrian king Francis wrote a letter to German king for help which was accepted by Germany and informed Austria that whatever Austria decide for serbia would be supported by Germany. Assured by Germany an ultimatum was given to Serbia on July 23, 1914 and asked her to accept the terms of Austria within the period of 24 hours. In its warning Austria imposed charges on serbia that it has violated the agreement of 1909 and engaged in anti Austrian publicity and not taking interest in punishing the accused of murder. In reference to these charges Serbia accepted most of the conditions but only two were

refused to accept. One was that the Austrian officers will be included in the investigation in Serbia, this demand was against the sovereignty of Serbia. regarding these demands Serbia agreed that she will accept the decision of the international court of justice at Hague. All the countries realized the Serbian reply satisfactory But Austria by this time decided for war. So she refused the Serbian reply and said it is unsatisfactory and declared war against Serbia on July 28th 1914.

Beginning of world war :

With the attack of Austria on Serbia, the world war began on July 28, 1914. Next day Russia got the information of Austrian Bombardment on Belgrade, the Russian army also prepared, as a result German entry in the war became necessary. On August 01, 1914 Germany declared war against Russia and on August 03, Against France. But Italy was remain neutral for one year. On the issue of the refusal of Belgium to give way to German army from its land, both the countries become tense. So England declared war against Germany on August 04, 1914. With this the war between all the big powers of Europe took place. After some time few other countries of Asia and Europe also indulged in War. As a result the war became world wide.

Whole of the world was divided into two major groups

1. Allied Nations : Among Allied powers, England, France, Russia, Serbia, Japan, Portugal, Italy, United states of America, Rumania, Greece, Siam, Siberia, Cuba, Panama, Brazil, Guatemala etc.

2. Axis Nations : In the Axis nations Germany, Austria Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey were main.

Responsibility of War :

The winning countries appointed a commission to know about the responsibility of war after war ended at the time of Paris peace conference. This commission held Germany and its allies responsible for the war.

But it will not be fair to blame any one country or a group guilty for the war. If we see the white book, orange book. Yellow book of that period, which were being published respectively by Germany, England Russia and France, even then we can not reach the truth because every nation did not take the responsibility on herself but imposed on others. But when we see the diaries, letters and reminiscences of the persons who were related to the war, then we come to know that any one country was not guilty of war, even if the guilt can be successively imagined. Prof. Fay clearly written that it is not historically proper to hold Germany and its allies, Culprit for the war. He attributed all the countries somehow culprit for the war.

The Serbian government knowing well about the conspiracy of murder but had not taken any action and not informed Austria. The revengeful attitude of Austria inspired her to remove Serbia from the world map; this decision was not fair. But maximum responsibility comes on Germany who supported Austria. At the other side Russia became much excited when heard about the demolition of Serbia by Austria. Germany was in blind that the war will be remain a local war. Germany afraid off with the Russian military action. France followed Russia, thus it became difficult to stop the war. In fact any one country or group may not be held guilty of war. At this time about all powers of the world gave importance to the self-interests either than peace. Except Belgium none of the countries was innocent.

Events of First World War :

This war was unprecedented war in the world, which was operated for four years, three months and eleven days. About 10 billion 50 lakh soldiers of 30 countries took part in it. Prior to this, this much of number of soldiers never took part in any of the wars in the world. The winners and the defeated both had to pay high price. The number of soldiers killed in the war was about 80 lakh and the injured were 2 billion.

conference was organized in Paris for the permanent peace. 32 countries were invited in this conference. To keep the discussions secret a council of Four big countries was formed. American President Wilson, British Prime Minister Lloyd George, Prime Minister of France Clemenceau and Prime Minister of Italy Orlando were mainly included in it. The members of this council were having different ideologies, influence, ideals and self interests. Wilson was idealist whose vision was mainly justice, democracy and self determination and committed to League of Nations. When Clemenceau hated the idealism, his craving was to take the revenge from Germany. He wanted to ruin Germany at such a level that it can never dare to invade France third time. Lloyd George agreed some out of Wilson's, 14 points, but it did not want that France should become powerful so that the balance of power of Europe may not disturb. It wanted to weaken the German naval power and wanted to have more share in the commodities of loot. Orlando demanded port of Fiume, which was denied by Wilson, so he left the conference in the mid.

The defeated countries could not be saved from the feeling of revenge of the winner countries. Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner participated in the peace conference as a representative of princely states : Many treaties were committed with the defeated countries on the name of peace.

1. The Austria Hungary empire was dissolved and the treaty of Saint Germain was conducted with Austria. By this Italy ceded with South Tyrol, Trentino, Istria and some islands of coastal Dalmatia.

2. The treaty of Trianon was conducted with Hungary. Hungary given up its rights from the non Magyar people. The Hungarian army was reduced to 36 thousand and its naval army was dissolved.

3. The Treaty of Neuilly was conducted with Bulgaria, Bulgaria had to return the provinces

conquered during World War I and Balkan wars. Her Military power was reduced to 33 thousand and it had to pay an amount of 5 lakh dollars as reparation.

4. Turkey also fought in support of Germany. So the treaty of Sevres was conducted with her, by which the Dodecanese island and Rhodes were ceded to Italy. The Dardanelles pass was declared international territory. The Turkish army was reduced to 50 thousand. But because of young Turk movement in Turkey in place of Sevres, the treaty of Lausanne was signed in 1923 by which Turkey received back most of the lost parts.

5. Several treaties were conducted in the Paris peace conference but amongst all these the treaty of Versailles with Germany was more important. Germany had to sign this insulting treaty on June 28, 1919. According to this treaty the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine were ceded to France. The Saar valley of Germany full of mining properties was handed over to France for 15 years. But the Saar province was left under the control of League of Nations.

6. In German occupied Schleswig after plebiscite given to Denmark. The Polish territories were taken from Germany, Austria and Russia and a free Poland was made. Germany had to surrender its Danzig port under the control of the League of Nations. Germany had to renounce all her overseas colonies in favour of the allied powers. The League of Nations distributed her colonies among Britain, France, Japan, Austria and South Africa.

The treaty of Versailles made Germany lame in the field of military so that the European peace could not be disturbed again. The compulsory military service in Germany was abolished. The German army including officers was decided one lakh only. The fortification on the eastern coast of Rhine river was declined. The air force of Germany was prohibited, her naval power was also reduced. Other than all these provisions a

reparation of 5 billion dollars was imposed to be paid up to 1921. Germany was compelled to accept the responsibility of war.

To conclude this can be said about the treaty of versailles that if at the time of negotiations Germany was included then the treaty of versailles could not become so harsh and insulting. It was not fair that even after occupying the German economic sources she was bound to pay the amount of reparation. But we should not forget this also that Germany supported the war. Thus it becomes inevitable that if any nation without any reason becomes invader, she should be given a lesson and this type of stamp should be placed on the fate of such nations who invade the neighbouring countries.

Consequences of the First World war :

1. Political consequences :

(i) End of the absolute Monarchies : The map of Europe was changed after the world war I. This world war ended the absolute monarchies of Russia, Austria and Turkey, with the Collapse of the monarchical dynasties the feudalistic traditions depended on them also ended.

(ii) Growth of Democracy : After the world war I Holland, America etc announced that they are fighting war for the democracy . Thus the democratic governments were established in the newly created defeated nations. In Hungary, Poland, Eczechoslovakia, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, the republican governments were formed. The ruler of Turkey mustafa Kamal pasha also formed a republican government.

(iii) Spirit of Nationalism and Rise of New States : Nationalism was the foundation stone of the political life of new Europe. The peace treaties made several changes in the map of the world. The new states rise were Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Poland etc. the wave of nationalism reached is the backward countries of asia also and the people

started movements for freedom. The Non cooperation movement of Bharat is significant in this regard.

(iv) Rise of new ideologies : By the end of Nineteenth century the wave of socialism reached many countries of Europe. The Bolsharik revolution took place in 1917 which spread communism. Facism in Italy, Nazism in Germany and militarism in Japan emerged. Because of this, once again an environment of tension was formed in the world.

(v) Increase in the influence of united states of America : After the war the influence of America was increased and it became the head of the European countries. It's trade developed very high. America had given the loan of one trillion twenty billion dollors to many of the countries. By this time the German trade and commerce was collapsed, that's why the European trade and commerce completely came under America.

(vi) Contest of Armament : The disarmament plan was there in the treaty of versailles which was ment for the nations of axis powers including Germany. This gave way to the spirit of armament rather than disarmament. The modern weapons were manufactured and this contest opened the way to second world war.

2. Economic Consequences :

(i) Economic Destruction : When on the November 11, 1918 with the anouncement of ceasefire the war was ended, the humanity jolted in to assessing price it paid for the four and quarter years. 10 Trillion rupees spent directly in this war and the indirect loss of men and property was unassessable.

(ii) Loss of Man power : The war of four and a quarter years the 80 lakh death and 2 billion injured proved that how destructive this war was. In this time span 7 thousand people dead every day. A large number of people died by murder, starvation and diseases. France in the propertion of its population bear maximum loss. Even after regaining Alasace and Lorraine the population was not equal to what it lost in

the mess are of four years war.

(iii) War Debt : Due to the extra ordinary expenditure the public debt also increased up to an exalted level. The public debt of both the groups was 8 thousand crore which increased five times up to 40 thousand crores up to 1918. over all the property worth 13 thousand two hundred crore of rupees was destroyed. The impact of such huge destruction of the money was that there happened to a great price hike. The labour rates gone up and the production rate went down. The value of currency decreased and disorder in trade and commerce was prevailed.

(iv) Destruction of Trade : The significant impact came on the trade due to the destruction of Trillions of rupees. Now each country was trying to purchase less from the other countries and sale maximum to them. For this the governments increased the custom duties which reduced the world trade more and more after the war. America, Japan and some latin American countries keep hold on those markets which were under Britain and Germany. America was a borrower country before the war now become a major money lender of the world after the war.

(v) Currency Extension : The war was fought with the expenditure of trillions of rupees. This amount was not invested in any of the productive work but in destruction. The money was drained like water in the war. The factories and mills, Railways, Ships and other properties were also ruined. In this situation, about all the countries to meet the increased expenses and to pay the loans, issued the paper currency in a big volume, that's why the prices went high. The paper currency was devalued much. This inflation finished the savings, which led to the economic crisis.

3. Social consequences :

(i) Efforts to solve the problems of Minorities : This problem came before the paris peace conference clearly that how the problem of minorities should be

solved. Who were permanently settled in the foreign countries. This problem was not only in the countries of poland, Czechoslovakia etc. but also in Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, There also such people were settled who were not the citizens of those countries. The paris peace conference compelled Poland, Czechoslovakia to give guarantee that they shall protect the permanently settled minorities, with their religions. language, culture. But Czechoslovakia, Rumaria, Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey were against such type of guarantee. As a result no permanent solution of minorities could be done . The feeling of separatism was remain intact among these minorities.

(ii) Improvement in the Position of Women : In the four years of war more and more male were needed in the war. Due to war period circumstances it was expected that other than the traditional role their contribution is not sufficient. Now the women started working in factories, shops and all the other functions by this time only male were doing. After that the issue of more rights and representation to women was risen.

(iii) Equality among Races : By the end of the 19th century the feeling of racial superiority was too much among the people of Europe. They use to consider the black, brown, yellow people of asia and africa inferior to them. But due to compulsion of war the soldiers of India, Africa and Japan were also sent to Europe where they show their valour similar to the white people. Thus the idea of the superiority of European races proved base less.

(iv) Growth of World Institutions : The social, Political and economic problem arise due to world war I. To obviate these problems also many world institutions were established. Managed to stop the trade of the intoxicants for labour welfare and to solve the political problems world labour organization and League of Nations were established. This led to the growth of International spirit.

Thus, the consequences of world war I proved very far reaching, which seriously affected the economic and social condition of the world, could not be compensated in several years to come.

India and the First world war : Among the many colonies India was one of the largest and important British colony. India was the base of the prosperity and industrial empire of England.

India's Role in the war : Indians were not related directly to the war even then at the beginning of the war England included India in the war, when it was the war for British interests. A tremendous change was seen in India at the declaration of the war. The British Prime minister considered the defeat of Germany in the war as the security of democratism in whole of the world and asked the Indians to help in the war. So the liberal leaders of the congress thought that England is fighting for democratism and so after the war it would give something towards democratism. The liberals decided to help England by all means. When Mahatma Gandhi returned from south Africa to India in 1915, the liberal leadership of congress was engaged to help the Britishers in the world war I. Gandhi came in Indian politics as companion to the British government. He inspired the Indians to help the British government with men, Money and heart. He felt that the English are fighting in the war for the superior principles.

The I world war broke out in 1914 shocked and agitated Lokmanya Tilak and the revolutionaries. They did not want to cooperate with the British as liberals and Gandhi ji. Tilak was of the view that any type of crisis on Britain is in the interest of India, it is an opportunity for us. The assessment of Tilak, Annibasant and revolutionaries was that the British demand for help is circumstantial, They would carry on the same policy after the war is over and the wellness of India lies only in intensive movement. It became clear after the war that the estimation of Tilak was true.

In spite of the above contradiction the exploited masses of India helped Britain with all their resources with a hope that after the war they would definitely be rewarded with the political rights. Indian soldiers were recruited in a big number to fight on the different fronts. Weapons, ammunitions, other war materials and besides these a huge quantity of wheat, rice, tea, cotton, Jute, Rubber, Coal, Iron, and steel were sent. The princely states of India also sent full economic and military assistance to Britain. Several rulers of the princely states fought in the war with their army. India gave 10 crore pounds in the war fund, not only this it spent 30 crore pounds per year, on its army. There is no doubt in it that the war for the British prestige was fought on the cost of the Indian masses and became victorious.

The Impact of First world war on India :

The government assured Indians that after the war is over they will be given more facilities. The Britishers cheated Indians, unlike their hopes they got famine, epidemic, economic exploitation, strict rules for the press and other oppressive policies. England wanted to crush the fundamental rights of Indians on the name of repressing the revolutionary activities through Rowlatt Act. This law came in such a time when Indian masses were waiting for constitutional reforms. Gandhi ji felt that the British are the judicious and they shall work in right direction after the war but his dream was soon broken.

The Rowlatt act deeply shocked the Gandhian loyalty towards British crown. The award for the help given to the British they got it in form of Rowlatt Act. By this law the British government could send any one in jail without any prosecution. this act became famous as a 'Black Law' its opposition was but natural. But the British replied in form of Jalianwala Bagh Massacre. The government of India Act 1919 was a major blow on the hopes of Indians. It failed to provide self governance to them. Not only this the Turkish empire

was devided by the treaty of Sevres after the war. Caliph was removed and detended in constantinople. there was a strong reaction among the. Indian muslims. They resisted this treachery by Caliphath movement. Mahatma Gandhi took opportunity for the unity of hindus and muslims. With the advice of Gandhi ji congress decided long time struggle with the British through non coperation movement and Caliphath movement together.

The Caliphath movement was for the revival of the post of caliph, due to Gandhian cooperation some short term blenifit was seen. Some muslims started participating the congress sessions but just after the caliphath problem was over the hindu- muslim unity could not live longer. The attraction of muslims towards Turkey was not national it was majahabi. Such muslims were searching their national values else where which the Mugal emperors never give recognition to any spritual leader or caliph out side India. Mohd. Kareem chagla who was chief jusitice of independent india said that to join the caliphath movement with the national movement was a big mistakes because it created external faith in the muslims. So it encourageel communal leadership.

It is clear by the above analysis that in response to the Indian sacrifices in the first world war the British gave treachery and repression to them. But it motivated the National movement undoubtedly.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 - Lenin, Stalin :

A large country from east to west 1/6 part of land of the total land of the world proves the word super power for her. It's largeness was the source of its power and also the cause of its difficulties. Russia was spread up to Asia and Europe, its borders were also touching the north American frontiers. Tension with the neighbour was seen in its foreign policy. The security of its borders, uninterrupted passage in the black sea,

the adequate share in the loot of the states disappeared from the map, to stop the ambitions of Britain in the middle asia, to maintain its superiority in Japanese expansion in the eastern asia and maitain its superiority. Were the main objectives of Russian foreign policy.

Position before the Revolution :

Russian defeat from Japan in 1904-05 led to the disappearance of its mythical superiority. The asian dwarf defeated the vast country it not only influenced its foreign policy, economy and the domestic politics but also broken the talisman of Russian superioity. This defeat highlighted the weaknesses of the Czar of Russia. The disappointment caused by Russian defeat led the people to think about their bread and other rights, when Russian Czar were still busy in hiding their weaknesses from the general masses. Russian masses wereliving in hunger, Unemployment, disorder and in economic social paucity But Czar was still keen for his despotic rule. The Russian society could be devided in to three broad classes, aristocrats, middle class and proletariats.

Russian Calender :

To avoid the confusion about the dates of Russian history up to the Bolshevik revolution it is essential to mention here that up to the Revolution of 1917 there were two calenders prevail in Russia- Julian system and Gregorian system. There was a 13 days difference in both the calenders. After the revolution the Gregorian calender prevailed so the dates had to go 13 days ahead. According to old calender the Russian revolution took place on October 25, 1917 A.D. so it is called as October revolution But according to new calender this date was Novemebr 7, 1917.

If the Bolshevik revolution of Russia could be seen in the complex of three revolution than only the circumstance will became more clear. The revolution of 1905 though failed but it worked as a foundation stone. The revolution of February (March) 1917

eradicated Czarshp and gave a turning point in the political history and october (November) 1917 revolution made the economic freedom more significant. This revolution was not the incident of single day but it seems like a chain of events. In the years prior to the revolution the dissatisfaction and resentment was on its tall among the various classes and due to various reasons the absolute and despotic rule was the proginator of the discontentment.

Like other revolutions the fundamantal causes of the Russian revolution of 1917 were hidden in the history of last one century and few immediate circumstances and discontentment led to a sudden explosion in Russia.

Causes of the Russian Revolution :

1. Dictatorship of Czars : The Czars of Russia were highly despotic rulers. They did not consider them responsible to any one. Their conduct was based on Ivan IV. Ivan anounced that Czar is the absolute monarch of Russia. Similarly Peter the Great used to say that Czar is not at all responisble to any body in the world. The same despotic was the catherine the great. It in clear that the dictatorship was the only objective of the Russian Czars. Czar Alexander I (1801-1825) tried to adopt some liberal policies. But due to the rebellion of Poland and some external impact he again adopted the reactionary policy. Czar Alexander II (1858-1881) also by adopting liberal approach and emancipated the serbs also did same reforms in local self administration but the feudal chiefs pushed him back to the reactionary policy.

In the same period few revolutionary and terrosist institutions formed against the reactionary polices of Czar which were working secretly. The students also contributed by the impact of socialistic ideas to extend the revolutionary movement. Finally one of these terrorists killed Czar Alexander II. Czar Alexander III (1881-1894) learnt the lesson from his

father's murder that the emperor's authority can be secured only through a harsh policy of ruthless suppression, Nicholas II followed the same policy (1894-1917) But because of the revolution of 1905 to satisfy the reformists he had to announce the elections of Duma. However he did not allowed Duma to become a real representative assembly of the people and with the help of Stalipio he again established the reactionary rule. In the last days of Nicholas II he was under the influence of the wicked Rasputin which brought disaster to the empire. The queen was having blind faith in the so called holy sage (Rasputin). He was interfering in all administrative decissions. This was the reason that Rasputin was killed in 1916 by his opponents.

By the end of nineteenth century responsible governments were established in major European countries but the Russian citizens were having no rights. Those opposed the government were severely punished. Because of such increase in the atrocities of the Czar, it became intolerable for the people and the leaders of the masses demanded for the reforms. As the cruelties of Czar increased the discontement and resistance also increased.

2. The Revolution of 1905 and Attempts to crush the Influence of Duma :

In 1904-05 Russo-Japanese war took place. Russia was defeated by the small country Japan. First in Crimea and now in this war the defeat of Russia highlighted the incompetance of the government. The reforms became essential in Russia. On sunday 22nd January 1905 under the leadership of Father Gapon about 1.5 lakh workers staged a demonstration before the Czar to fulfill their political and industrial demands. This was a peaceful activity but Czar ordered to attack these unarmed people and killed 130 of them. Gapon was not even injured, later he was killed by revolutionaries they thought that he was the government detective. This incident of 1905 is called 'Bloody

Sunday' in the history of Russia.

To control the situation Czar declared reforms on October 30, 1905. People were granted freedom of speech and expression and also to form an association. This announcement was just as the surrender of the government. But as soon as the discontentment subsided Czar declared Duma the First house and made a second house named 'Imperial council' whose members were to be appointed by the Czar himself. Duma which was a law making body, which was to have the rights to look after the rights of the people but prior to the beginning of its session it was being reduced not only this Czar also wanted to annihilate the powers of Duma. So when the elections of Duma held in March 1906 the conservative party failed to get the majority as a result Czar dissolved the Duma in its first session. In March 1907 the second session of Duma was held that too was dissolved. Because of this the scepticism took place among the people. People became annoyed to see their rights which they had won during the revolution of 1905 being snatched again in this way.

3. Deplorable condition of the Peasants : Russia was an agricultural country. The condition of farmers was very deplorable even after the declaration of the emancipation of serfs there was not considerable change in the condition of farmers. By the end of the 19th century there were 20 thousand big landlords possessing 18 trillion acre of land when more than one crore peasants were having 19 trillion acre land. The one third population of Russia was landless. These landless farmers were bound to work in the fields of landlords. They had to pay various types of taxes also that made their economic condition worse. The law of the liberation of serfs was also not implemented in all the provinces of Russia. Two time meals became difficult for the serfs. At first they were demanding reduction in land tax and other reforms but when their demands were overlooked then they became violent.

The revolutionary socialist party took benefit of the condition of peasants and excited them against the government. In 1906 all the peasant representatives met in a conference at Moscow in which they decided to form a "Russian peasants Association". As a result every farmer was given a right to withdraw his land from "commune" very few peasants were benefitted with this rule so the problems of the farmers were unsolved they remained poor. In this condition they became rebellious.

4. Discontentment among the workers : Though Russia was an agricultural country but the impact of industrialization was seen there. Industrialization got momentum during the times of Alexander III. The landless peasants reached the industrial centres for employment in thousands in number. The industrialists exploited their miserable and helpless condition. They were paid less wages and worked more. Their wages were much low they could not afford the livelihood. They could not demand anything from their masters and even could not form a labour union. Though few laws were made in 1885 but came no difference because the government was with the interest of the industrialists. The Revolutionary socialist party took advantage and preached the principles of socialism among the workers. The strikes of workers started from 1902-03. The revolution of 1905 was also begun with the workers' procession. At that time the workers became stronger their power and they formed their own government in Saint Petersburg. These workers were struggling to abolish the capitalists and despotic government and form the government of Proletariat.

5. Economic and Social Desparity : The social condition of Russia was similar to that of France before 1789. The whole Russian society was divided into two classes the first was having all rights they were the favorite aristocrats blessed by the Czar. This class was much prosperous. The important offices of the state

and most of the land was under their possession. The another class was having no rights. This comprised of peasants and workers. Their economic condition was very miserable They were bound to bear with the cruelties of the aristocratic class. Even after the abolition of serfdom their was no change in their condition. Thus the Russian society suffered a big economic and social disparity. Thus this class struggle became the significant cause of Russian revolution.

6. Czar's Policy of Russification : The Russian subjects were combination of various races, they followed various religions and spoke several language. There were Jews, Poles, Finns, Ubeys Tatars, Kazaks, Arminians and Russian etc. they all had their own cultures and civilization. Russian became rulers as they were most influensive. They have no sympathy with these minorities. From the period of Czar Alexander I the policy of Russification was adopted and the slogan 'one Czar one Religion' was given. The non Russian subjects were victimized. Their languages were banned, their property was confiscated. This filled them with discontent and they went against the Czar. In 1905 there were violent revolts in Georgia, Poland and Baltic sea. Czar Nicholas used inhuman atrocities to crush them. The naturally became rebellious and took active part in the movement against Czar.

7. Intellectual Revolution : The liberal ideas of Europe were entering in Russia since years and Czar and their reactionary officials left no stone unturned in strangling them. Even then the liberal ideas flourished here. In Russia itself Tolstoy, Turganev, Dostoevsky etc novelists attracted people against the failures of Russian life. Their thoughts brought political awakening. The educated class started demanding political rights. Besides them the socialist ideas of Karl Marx, Maxim Gorky and Bakunin influenced the workers and the intellectuals. Many Socialist parties were formed in the country. They influenced the workers and peasants

constantly At the same time Nihilism was raised which tried to wipe out the old order. Prince Kropotkin was the main propagator of nihilism.

8. Spread of Socialism in Russia : The industrial revolution of European countries naturally influenced Russia also. The industrial revolution in Russia started in the last years of nineteenth century. Like the industrial countries the spirit of workers movement held sway there. The peasants revolted against their miserable condition. Influenced with the condition of peasants some intellectuals of middle class initiated movements under their socialistic ideas after 1860. Herzen and Chernyshvsky were the inspirers of the movement. Their followers were known as narodniks or populists. They wanted that the peasants should be recognized as owners of the land and the land should be distributed through village councils. After some time the socialist party divided in two parts. one was the Revolutionary socialist party and other was the social Democratic party. The revolutionary socialists party wanted revolution through organizing the peasants. This party formed terrorist programmes and did several murders. But Social Democratic party which was founded in 1898 considered the proletariat class as the basis of revolution not the peasants. The Social Democratic party again divided in two parts Bolsheviks and Mensheviks in 1903 A.D. The Czar tried to suppress the socialistic ideas but could not get much success.

9. The Personality of Czar Nicholas and the corrupt Administration : According to Fisher Czar Nicholas II of Russia was much superstitious and incompetent. He was weak and uncompromising, dull and lacked the power of perceiving the significance of events and character of individuals. He was under the influence of queen Alexandra and in favour of despotic rule. The Czarina was puppet in the hands of the monk called Rasputin. Rasputin misused his influence and started interference in the administration. The

appointment of high officials and their dismissal depended on his will. Consequently a group was constituted against Rasputin in the court which finally murdered him in december 1916.

10. Immediate cause : Entrance of Russia in the I world war and Economic Crisis : Russia entered the first world war in August 1914 in favour of the Allied countries. except the five members of Bolshevik party all members of the parliament supported and welcomed the decision of the government. If Czar Nicholas would have been competent and the bureaucracy, honest in that circumstances the public opinion could be made loyal to the Czar. But again at this time the Russo Japanese war was revived. At the early stage the Russian army got some success but after some time the Russian army was defeated. The army was not supplied with the sufficient arms and ammunitions and Ration. Due to lack of transportation it proved difficult to supply the goods to the army. The incompetancy of the army officers, corruption in the various departments and interference of Czarina and her feudals in the war cause etc led to the constant defeat of Russian army. In the first three year of war 1 crore 50 lakh soldiers sent in the war field which created paucity of workers in the agricultural fields led to the decline in the agriculture produce. With the food grains other commodities were also wiped out from the market. In this situation the discontentment among the general masses was but natural. In the cold season in 1916-17 there was heavy dissatisfaction among the people. The constant defeat of Russian army was insulting to the people and at the other side there was deficiency of food grain, fuel, clothing etc just as famine to come in Russia. People held responsible the Czar for this mismanagement.

Revolution of February 1917 and End of the Czarism : To solve the problems and mismanagement a committee of experts was formed by

the government. This committee was of the view that the food grains and cloth is available in the country abundantly but due to mismanagement and disorder it has been passed in to the hands of black marketeers. In February 1917 a conference of the aristocrats was called in Moscow. This class also demanded that to improve the situation reforms in the administration become necessary and the session of the parliament should also be called. But the Czar and his officials pay no attention towards this.

Workers Strike at Petrograd :

Finally in March 1917 the situation went out of control. When poor workers starving and shivering with cold come out on the roads of Petrograd and began to pillage the shops. Czar ordered the soldiers to open fire on them and drive them away but the soldiers refused to obey the orders. This was the beginning of the revolution on March 8, 1917 the women workers of textile mill at Petrograd went on strike because they were not getting sufficient food. Next day the male workers also joined them. The strikers organized a rally which entered in the central part of the city. They were loudly shouting the slogans, 'Give us Bread' and 'destruction of tyrannical rule.' On March 10 the work in all the factories and mills of Petrograd was closed the rebellions plucked arms from the policemen. Czar sent an army regiment to suppress the rebellions but the soldiers also joined hand with rebels. Next day Czar dissolved the Duma even then this struggle last for three days. On March 12 the troops violated the orders of their officers and went to the side of rebels.

Formation of Revolutionary soviet (Council) :

Looking to the experiences of 1905-07 the revolutionaries joined with the new revolutionary agency of workers and soldiers formed a 'Revolutionary council' with the representatives of workers and soldiers. This council took over the

powers of the government. On March 14 the members of the Revolutionary Soviet and the Duma Jointly formed a temporary government. Under the leadership of prince Lvov. The leader of revolutionary socialist party Alexander Kerensky the leader of Octoberist party Guchkov and the leader of constitutional democratic party Milyukov were included in the temporary government. Now in the critical situation Czar Nicholas II abdicated in favour of his brother Grand Duke Michael on March 15, 1917. The Romanov dynasty ruling since 300 years came to an end. The Russian revolution was successful. In the Russian revolution Petrograd had the same place which was of Paris in the French revolution.

Cabinet of the Temporary Liberal Government :

In the temporary government of Russia the leader of revolutionary socialist party Alexander Kerensky was become the minister for Judiciary. Leader of Octoberist party. Guchkov was become war minister the leader of constitutional democratic party professor Milyukov become foreign minister and Tereshchenko become finance minister. Though the revolution had been brought about mainly by the hungry and naked workers yet the leadership passed into the hands of the nobility and the middle class in the temporary government. Lipson wrote about this that - "The workers snatched the government from the Czar but immediately they handed it over to the middle class.

Contribution of Lenin in the Growth of Bolshevik Ideology :

The real founder of socialism and thinker was Karl Marx. But the credit goes to Lenin for the formation of the first communist government and for the adoption of Marxian model from the books to the earth. The birth of the hero of the Bolshevik revolution took place at the Simbirsk city near Volga river of Russia on April 22, 1870 A.D. The name of his father was Ilya Ulyanov and the name of his mother was Alexandrovna Blank.

Lenin's name initially was Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov. He was very much impressed by his elder brother Alexander. He had interest in history and literature since childhood. All of his brothers and sisters were revolutionary and dedicated their lives to nation and the proletariat class. By this time not only on the Russian revolutionaries but on the workers, peasants and defeated race the cruelties were common phenomenon. Lenin on all these events seriously by heart. His life was influenced by the Chernyshevsky's novel 'What is to be done?' Because of his elder brother Lenin was full of self-discipline, thoroughness, serious attitude and dutifulness. He only gave him the famous text 'Das Capital' of Karl Marx to him for reading. By the same time the seeds of revolution were began to grow in Lenin's mind.

Division of Social Democratic Party in to Bolshevik and Menshevik :

On May 8, 1887 the brother of Lenin Alexandra Ulyanov was hanged, he was accused for the murder of Czar Alexander III. After this incident Lenin took oath to remove the Czarism from its roots. Lenin became successful in his oath. But he was of the view that to fight against despotism the path of terrorism is wrong. He was well aware of the propaganda organization and protection of leadership. He gave whole hearted attention towards propagation of ideas through news papers and journals along with the organization. The social democratic party was established during his period of exile in 1898. Its first session was also held in his absence but the another party congress of this organization was more important for him, this was initiated in London on July 17, 1903. At the same place the social democratic party was divided. The majority of the congress supported the revolutionary programme of Lenin. Majority is called 'Bolshevik' in Russian language from this the Bolshevik word was came in to circulation. The

opponent group of Lenin was is minority. Menshinshtva' means minority in Russian language. from this the Menshevik word derived. Bolsheviks considered themselves revolutionary and Mensheviks as reformists and opportunists. This was the claim of the supporters of Lenin the majority and minority. The congress representatives were limited. This is different matter if majority is assessed in London very far from Russia. Since beginning 1970 the Mensheviks were more influential in Russia.

Cooperation of Austria and Germany to Lenin During the war :

Lenin enjoyed the political freedom of the democratic countries but never tolerated discrepancy or protest himself. This seems to be a contradiction. It is a political fashion to say reformist or opportunist to the party man or thinker who disagree with the self. Lenin strengthened himself in the party by its organizational structure its sessions, Programmes etc and throw out the opponents.

Lenin was not a emotional revolutionary as his elder brother who after doing murder of two and three and withdraw himself to the government. He escaped himself at the time of crisis and came back when the opportunity came. It is surprising that in 1905, February (March) 1917, and October (November) 1917 when Russia was facing revolutions Lenin was abroad.

On October 25 (November 7) 1917 when Bolshevik revolution become successful he came back from Finland to Russia. Between 1900-1917, he spent most of the time in foreign countries probably he got the help from Austria and Germany during war, because he was Russian but against the Russian participation in world war I. This was favourable to these countries. That is why he was arrested by Austria on August 8, 1914 considered him as a Russian spy and released him on August 10, 1914. He lived in Austria freely during 1912-14 with protesting Russian Czar. Germany

helped him to arrive in Russia during the war through its borders. In March, 1918 the Lenin government conducted insulting treaty of Brest Litovsk with Germany. Due to this cause, the German liberality towards Bolsheviks can be understood. During his stay in European countries the network of Bolsheviks developed and his propagation system improved. Lenin also escaped from the expected subjugation in Russia being far away he could keep hold on the party. The Bolshevik party was changed by him as communist party later. The competent leadership and strong organization made Bolsheviks to take the government in their hand.

Bolshevik Revolution of October (November) 1917 :

In the sequence of revolution this was the third revolution. It has more importance so far the stability and impact is concern, social democratic party in 1898, then the rise of Bolshevik party as its group, its growth, the account of activities, its leader Lenin is mentioned in the previous topic. By this is clear that to take the Russian governance in its control the Bolshevik organization and its publicity level become more active after the first revolution 1917. They were in search of an opportunity to overthrow the government.

The Bolsheviks by propagating anti government filled, the proletariat with anger for the government. Kerensky government was so weak, all the parties left the government. Living in Finland Lenin estimating the value of time wrote a secret letter to the Bolshevik executive on 12-13 September and said now the time has come to get the authority in our hand by the means of armed revolution.

Appointment of Polit Bureau and Revolutionary Military Council for the Revolution :

On October 10 (October, 23) 1917 as directed by Lenin, the executive of the Bolshevik party decided

to take over the government through armed revolution and to implement the plan it appointed a political Beareu. Trotsky appointed the Military Revolution Committee, who became the head of the Petrograd soviet. The Bolshevik leaders decided that the plan of Revolution should be executed before the 'All Russian Soviet congress' to be held on October 25 (November 7) the Kerensky government was unstable. When this government came to know about the activities of Bolsheviks, it issued orders to arrest the Bolshevik leaders on October 23 (Nov. 5) But by this time the Bolsheviks were prepared for the revolution. The members of the Military revolution committee Trotsky, Podvysky and Lashivich were ready for the armed revolution.

In the evening of October 24-25 (Nov. 6-7) the soldiers of the Red army of Bolsheviks and the troops of regular army as per preplan captured the Telephone both post offices, electric houses, Railway station, National Bank etc of the Petrograd without any resistance. No body was there to resist in the night and a weak government was unable to resist. On the morning of October 25 (Nov 7) the workers and soldiers captured the palace of the former Czar in Petrograd under the leadership of the Bolsheviks. The ministers of the government were arrested, Kerensky fled from the capital. In the capital Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg, later Leningrad) the pamphlet was pasted at the important places in which announced that the temporary government has been abolished and the revolution committee and Petrograd Garrison of Proletariats has occupied the government.

In this way without any bloodshed, within a few hours time Russian government was passed in to the hands of Bolsheviks. The capital was came under them. About the revolution Trotsky said to the Petrograd soviet in his report that people used to say that when any riot took place the revolution will drown in the rivers of

blood but we have not heard news of any one's death. There is no example in history that when many people are involved in revolution and that is blood less.

Trotsky's statement seems to be egotistic. Because the last revolution which lasted for a week (Nov-March 1917) was also without blood shed when there was despotic Czar in front of them secondly Bolshevik revolution was suddenly happened in the night, there was no second party in the field, so there was no need of blood shed. But the blood shed was seen after this revolution. According to A. Rothernstein (A history of the U.S.S.R) in the struggle of three years 13.50 lakh people were killed or injured Trotsky himself admitted that public had to suffer from the 'Red Terror' The common People had to support the 'Red Terror' and counter revolution suffered with 'White Terror' Whenever this type of total change took place as a result, violence- counter violence is natural.

Formation of Bolshevik Government :

On November 7, 1917 A.D. (all dates as per new calendar) the Bolsheviks captured the government. The same day their leader Lenin arrived from Finland. In the evening as pre fixed the session of the All Russian Soviet congress was commenced. 390 out of 649 representatives of the congress were Bolsheviks, Now they were in majority. Lenin introduced a proposal for land acquisition from the land lords and war prisoners. The congress accepted it and welcome the formation of new government in place of the temporary government On November 8, 1917 the first cabinet of the new government was formed under the presidentship of Lenin (The Council of People's Commissar) In the new government Trotsky as Foreign Minister, Stalin as minister for national races, Rykov as home minister, appointed. The newly formed government took the decisions to stop the war and conduct a treaty with allied powers. To change the political, social, strategic and economic systems and to propagate the idea of the revolution of proletariats in the world.

Domestic contentions and interference of foreign countries -

The Bolshevik party to face the domestic contentions in its early three years (1917-1920). The other political parties as well as the army officers whose land was acquired by the new government were all dissatisfied and protesting against the government. The government had to struggle with these. After the treaty with Germany the allied countries supported the counter revolutionaries against the new government of Lenin which fell the government in dilemma. The army of allied countries formed the white government in few parts of Russia. These governments were formed under the military officers. For some time the Bolshevik government was limited up to Petrograd, Moscow and their suburban provinces But finally Lenin became victorious.

Red Army and Terror of Cheka :

The Bolsheviks prepared a powerful Red army to confront with the foreign armies and the former army commanders of Czar. The army of counter revolutionaries was collected the 'White Army' The people had to bear with both red and white armies during confrontation the Czar and Czarina were killed in July 1918. Czar and his family were living as prisoners in the palace of Petrograd. The Bolshevik government removed them from the palace and sent to Yekaterinburg of Ural province where the Czar and his wife were heinously shot dead. To crush the counter revolutionaries The Bolsheviks formed a small form of court secretly called Cheka. Cheka captured thousands of counter revolutionaries and shot dead. Its president was Felix Dzerzhinsky who believed policy of terror, essential. Cheka crushed the counter revolutionaries unforgivingly. The Red Army became much powerful under Trotsky so the allied nations also changed their policy of active interference. After that the Red Army suppressed the rebelled commanders one, by one they

could never organized together.

In this way with the help of Cheka and Red Army the crisis grew up by the counter revolutionaries and foreign interference was controlled. The Bolsheviks were benefitted as the foreign intervention awakened the nationalists for the devotion to the nation, secondly the farmers who were given land they also helped the Bolsheviks. During these three years the Russian economy went down. The agricultural and industrial production became half (in comparison to 1913) and fuel, Kerosene, electricity, cloths etc the commodities were under the scarcity. 13.50 lakh people were killed in the confrontation. According to new Cambridge History - Vol-12 Genevieve a leader of the revolution of 1917 admitted in October 1920 while speaking to German socialists that we never imagined that in the period of civil war such form of terrorist policy would be adopted and our hands will be coloured with blood.

Results of Bolshevik Revolution :

There had been far reaching results of the Bolshevik revolution 1917 can be seen in points below : -

(A) Political Results :

1. Decline of Kerensky Government : The Bolsheviks changed the government of Kerensky on November 6 without a single drop of blood shed. Kerensky was the leader of socialist party this coalition government became totally weak and lonely in its last stage, the Bolsheviks should not be held responsible for the decline of Romanov dynasty because it was finished by the first revolution of 1917.

2. Formation of First Communist Government : This was the first experience of the formation of communist Government in the world. Bolsheviks made it possible to give a practical shape to the ideology of Marx. Some times there is a distance between theory and practice The Bolshevik experience provides a laboratory to the Marxist thinkers to test their philosophy.

3. Withdrawal of Russia from the war : The Bolsheviks were against the Russian participation in the war since beginning. They treated it as a war between two imperialistic blocs. They also demanded from the Lvov and Kerensky government to leave the war. They were influencing people by the slogans of peace, bread and land. Constant defeat of Russia by Germany annoyed the people of Russia and they started opposing the government. The New government as per its policy without consulting allied powers conducted Treaty of Brest Litovsk in March 1918 and separated Russia from the war.

4. Discontentment of Allied Powers and Interference in the civil war : Russia without consulting its allies conducted treaty with Germany which annoyed the allied countries. Now Germany become free from the eastern front could create more hurdles on the western front for the western countries. The Allied countries Britain France etc were unhappy with Russia. They created the situation of civil war in Russia by helping anti Bolsheviks and the dissatisfied public there. The new government had to engage in the civil war during its early three years. At one instance its occupation was reduced upto capital and nearby area only, in most of the provinces the army commanders formed their government. In 1920 the western powers ended their intervention.

5. The Propagation of Communist Ideology and communist system : As the communism does not accept the nation, state or the periphery of state so they did not feel it proper to keep the Russian Revolution in the fencing of Russia only. To spread the communist ideology in the world, the III International (First communist) or Comintern was established in Moscow. According to G.M. Gethornea Hardee (A brief History of international Politics) In fact prior to soviet policy the leaders use to think themselves as a Missionary or Propagator of social revolution and for

this Russia was just a tool for them that could accomplish their ultimate goal. Nationalism was inconsistent in their ideology.

6. Suppression of Civil Liberties : With this Bolshevik revolution Russia march forward in the direction of economic and social freedom but curtailed political freedom. The communist party was declared only legally constituted party in Russia and there too the dissenters and the dissenters were ruthlessly repressed. The freedom of speech, expression organization and faith which the Bolsheviks enjoyed in form or the other completely extirpated in their rule. The dissenters or dissatisfied were given the place either in Siberia or in heaven or in jail.

7. Civil war and Terror : When Bolsheviks come in power Russia indulged in a civil war. It has to confront with the opposite political parties, feudal lords and aristocrats along with the army of allied nations. Both the groups used atrocities, terror and cruelty. The Bolsheviks by red terror and opponent commanders by white terror terrified the Russians. After the final victory of Bolsheviks they efforted to maintain their rule by the means of fear and terror. The main tool of the Bolsheviks was that the opponents of the party were declared as reactionaries, their institutions were dissolved, the members were sent to jail or Siberia or in heaven. The same behaviour in their own party with the opponents, the competition for the leadership with Trotsky, the behaviour of Stalin is the true evidence in this respect.

8. Rise of Russia as a world power : When Russia signed the treaty of Brest Litovsk in March, 1918 as per the direction of Germany, Russia seems to be weak, scattered and poor country. But as result of the revolution, it came up as a supreme power within the coming 5-7 years. From the end of the world war II till 1991 when it disintegrated, soviet union was remained one of the two super powers of the world.

9. New Awakening in the countries under subjugation :

The Russian government always supported the people who were poor backward and illiterate. The subject nations of Asia and Africa took inspiration from the Russian revolution. Every revolution event left certain eternal and world wide impact. The French revolution failed in France but it rised world public opinion. The Russian Revolution also awakened the people of China, India and other nations for progress and to fight against the imperialistic powers.

10. Rise of Authoritarianism : The Bolshevik revolution established the authority of proletariat class in the span of time. It proved as the totalitarianism or dictatorship of a leader. Russian revolution established theoretically a totalitarian state, when Europe was forwarding toward political freedom, though it is not clear how much inspiration the totalitarians of Italy and Germany had taken from Russia but impact was definitely there. The democratic powers of west adopted the policy of appeasement with Fascism and Nazism to keep hold the spread of communism or the demon of Bolsheviks.

11. Division of world in to two Blocs : Although Soviet Union spent most of its time in patronising the socialism. It pleaded socialism in other countries after world war II then the world was divided into two blocs, this was the far reaching impact of Russian revolution. Later when the cracks came in the communist bloc a third group emerged as non aligned group.

(B) Social Results :

The Russian revolution took birth from the womb of social inequality so it influenced the society significantly.

1. Abolition of class differences : Russian revolution put an end to the differences between an aristocratic class and the proletariat class. Initially the special rights of the so called aristocrats were abolished along with their general rights were also be snatched. The

Bolsheviks tried to form a special class of organized workers. But later on the peasants who were the sons of the soil were accorded equal importance. Gradually all class differences disappeared in the Russian society. Though the party aristocrats came in to existence the born aristocrats vanished.

2. Improvement in the condition of women : The Russian revolution also abolished the gender based discrimination. The women were provided with equal rights with men. They had given right to vote, right to education and earn livelihood. They become self sufficient economically, Politically awakened and socially progressive.

3. Growth of Education : As a result of Russian revolution a positive result was that education was separated from the church. Now the education become Bolshevikized at the curriculum, Text books and the teaching level. This was a negative impact. But education become public and provided to the common people. The literacy rate increased speedily.

4. Promoting Atheistic Ideas : The communist calls religion an opium so after the revolution this atheist ideology was developed in a planned way, Being religious for a member of communist party was prohibited. Church was considered as tool of exploitation and Czarism so its superiority was broken down. It was banned. With the decree of 1918 the church was completely separated from the state.

(C) Economic Results :

1. Establishment of Economic Equality : There was economic disparities in Russia before the revolution. By the end of 19th century, 30 thousand big landlords possessed 7 crore desyatin land where as 1 crore peasants possessed only 7.50 desyatin land (1 desyatin 2.7 acres) there were two classes in the society the privileged and the under privileged. After the revolution the government acquired the land from the land lords and redistributed it. The industries were

nationalised, the private trade was minimized and gave importance to productive labour. The unequal distribution of income was controlled and the ditch of disparity was dumped.

2. Industrial development of Russia : During the period of Czar Alexander III the industrial development of Russia began. At the time of revolution Russia was far behind in the industrial development in comparison to European countries. After the revolution Russia progressed speedily. The government established the big industries. The working condition of the workers and their capacity was improved. Russia became self-sufficient in the field of industrial production. It is an irony that according to Marx the industrial development was to become the progenitor of communism that became the child of communism.

3. Improvement in the living standard of workers and peasants : The life of serfs, marginal and landless peasants and workers was full of awkwardness. The crowd of the workers came on the roads of Petrograd for the search of bread. The Bolshevik revolution was also the result of that bread. In the early days after revolution due to civil war and ambiguity of policy there was a situation of indecision. Later the income and working condition of this class was improved. The education and health were managed properly. The standard of life fairly developed.

The Subsequent History of Soviet Union and Stalin :

In January 1924 Lenin died, there after a struggle for the top leadership of the party and government held between Lev Davidovich Bronstein alias Leo Trotsky and Joseph Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili in which Stalin got the success. Trotsky was expelled from the party in 1927 and exiled to the remote areas in 1928. Trotsky continued his activities

from the central Asia. Then Stalin ordered to suppress him in the 1928. Trotsky got out of Russia and settled near Constantinople where he wrote his biography accounted for the Bolshevik revolution and fired on Stalinism.

Stalin was born in a village named Gori in 1879 A.D. in the family of a skinner. His father wanted him to become a priest. But he had interest in Marxism. He joined social democrat party actively. Stalin's name is on the basis of steel. He was one of the first followers of Lenin in 1903. Between 1902-1913 he was arrested for six times and exiled. Five times he became able to escape but in 1913 he was sent to Arctic circle, where he lived up to March 1917 when he was released. Stalin decided to stay in Russia for the activities of the movement. He was General Secretary of the party. In the newly formed government he was made the minister for nationalities. He was in favour of centralizing the socialism first. Stalin got success in getting the power with the help of Lev Kamenev and Grigory Zinoviev by throwing Trotsky out. Stalin captured the power as a successor of Lenin. He died on March 6, 1953. During his long tenure Soviet Union progressed very well, became victorious in the II world war and proved equal to America in the period of two great powers.

Questions for Exercise

Very Short Answer Type Questions : (Answer in two lines)

1. Write the names of the two newly emerged Powers before the world war I
2. Write the names of the Allied Powers
3. Write the names of the states newly created after the world war I

4. Write the names of the countries included in Tripple Entente.
5. Write the names of the prominent persons included in peace conference.
6. Which ruler of India participated as representative of Princely states in the peace conference.
7. Tell the meaning of Bolshevik.
8. Who was Rasputin.
9. Write the full name of Lenin
10. What was the impression about Gepon among the revolutionaries.

Short Answer Type Questions :
(Answer in eight lines)

1. What do you understand about Morocoon crisis ?
2. What were reasons of Russian interest in Balkan?
3. Write the immediate cause of First world war ?
4. Write the main term of the treaty of Versailles.

5. What is the significance of 'Bloody Sunday' in the history of Russia?
6. What do you understand by the policy of Russification ?
7. Write the contribution of Lenin in the Bolshevik revolution.
8. By which revolution the Czarism was ended?
9. How stalin achieved the power in Russia? Discuss his works.
10. Discribe the workers strike of Petrograd.

Essay Type Questions :
(Answer in maximum five pages)

1. Describe the main factors of first world war.
2. Account for the results of the Bolshevik Revolution.
3. Describe the main factors of the Russian Revolution 1917.
4. Mention the political results of the First world war.
5. Mention Lenin's role in the rise of Bolshevik party.