

state. Trotsky had to leave the country. He went to Mexico and there he was assassinated in 1940.

Trotsky was one of the leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution. From his early life he was engaged in revolutionary activities. He helped Lenin very much in the

Though a follower
of Lenin Trotsky
had a different
ideal

November Revolution of 1917 and also in the consolidation of the Bolshevik regime.

But Trotsky often clashed with Lenin and

Stalin on matters of policy and principle.

Lenin and Stalin wanted to consolidate Russia internally and make her strong. After this, communism would be propagated outside Russia. But Trotsky believed that communism in an isolated position could not flourish. So, he was in favour of propagating Communism internationally. Over this policy, Trotsky and Stalin came into conflict and ultimately Trotsky was defeated.

So, after Lenin, Stalin became the leader of Russia in 1924. He made an elaborate plan to improve the condition of Russian economy. Under him, several Five-Year Plans

Stalin and the Five-
Year Plans

were conducted and an all-round improvement in the industrial and agricultural sphere

was made. These plans were carried out successfully. During the period of Stalin, a vigorous foreign policy was evolved. Russia became a member of the League of Nations in 1933, and successfully resisted the attack of Hitler on Russia during the Second World War. Russia or U.S.S.R. became one of the 5 big member states of the United Nations Organisation.

The state of U.S.S.R. rejected and changed the Imperialistic policy of the Tsars. U.S.S.R. declared that all nations of the world have

New foreign policy

the right of independence and self-determination. The influence and hegemony which the Tsarist Russia had extended was withdrawn. All these declarations and policies made Soviet Russia very popular.

The real name of Stalin was Joseph Vasarianovitch Yugusville and he was born in 1879 in Georgia. He took part in the working class movement and was attracted by

the Marxian Socialism. He became a close follower of Lenin. He was imprisoned several times but nearly on every occasion he managed to escape. By virtue of his intellect and talent, he became the secretary of the Communist Party (Ex-Bolshevik Party) and after Lenin's death, he became the head of the state of U.S.S.R. and her Communist Party. Stalin was possessed with extraordinary will-power and personality. He had deep faith in the Marxian theory and in fact he was the first educated Marxist. His iron determination and his strong actions had

earned for him the title of the 'Steel Man'

The 'Steel Man', his contribution to socialism or Stalin. Stalin had very great contribution in establishing socialism on the line advocated by Marx in Russia. Under him a new constitution for U.S.S.R. was adopted and it guaranteed 'right to work' for all citizens of the state. Stalin died in 1953. His achievements for winning the Second World War, for making immense improvement in the internal condition of U.S.S.R. and for making it a great country in the world are undoubtedly too great.

Karl Marx had prophesied that Communism would be established in France first. But this prophecy had not become successful. In Russia, Communism had been

established—and a state of government and society have been formed on the line advocated by him.

**Russian
Communism on
the line of Karl
Marx—and the
future**

The Communist regime of U.S.S.R represents a new ideal and a new order of society. It must be looked upon with profound interest whether or not it is possible to establish socialistic states in the world on the line of U.S.S.R. In recent times, classless society and socialistic pattern of state have become the declared goal of many countries in East and West.

Rise of Hitler in Germany

The history of Germany after the First World War assumed complexity due to the clash of progressive and reactionary principles. Germany was put to much hardship immediately after the war. Her economy was nearly destroyed and it was on the very brink of collapse. The Versailles Treaty was forced on her and her representatives were treated in an insulting manner. The provisions of the Versailles Treaty tried to cripple up Germany's economic, political, military capacities permanently. As the war ended, the number of unemployed increased, the trade and commerce nearly became destroyed and vast multitude of retrenched armymen spread discontent and disaffection in the country. The ruinous provisions of the Treaty of Versailles produced widespread discontent. The German nation denounced the Treaty of Versailles. Strong movements were very soon started to make the provisions of the Treaty null and void.

**Problem of defeated
Germany**

**Collapse of
economy**

Immediately after the cessation of the war, popular

risings took place against the monarchy. The rising spread like wildfire and the Kaiser was forced to leave Germany and seek shelter in Holland. Germany became a Republic and the socialist leader Ebert became Chancellor. But the internal problems were not solved thereby. The Communists demanded a socialistic state after the pattern of U.S.S.R. Over this point, the socialists and the communists clashed and Ebert suppressed the communists with the help of the army. The working class people had been influenced by the Russian Revolution. In 1919, riots broke out at many places in Germany and strikes and uprisings against the government took place. The Government tried to put down this disorder by force. Ebert's action to put down all elements of disorder created confusion. About this time, France and Belgium occupied Ruhr, the famous industrial zone of Germany. This nearly ruined the German economy. Chaos and confusion overwhelmed Germany in all spheres of national life and the German people were struck with a note of great disappointment about their future. When Germany was passing through such a critical position, the Nazism was evolved and the man who evolved it was Adolf Hitler.

In 1920, Hitler joined a party called the German Workers' Party. He renamed it National Socialist Party or the Nazi Party. In 1923, Ludendorf tried to capture power but was not successful. Hitler had assisted him and for this offence he was sent to jail. During his life in the prison, he wrote his famous book 'Mein

Revolution in
Germany

Ebert's Policy
and confusion

Hitler and
evolution of
Nazism

Kampf' in which he elaborated his political aspirations and ways for its fulfilment. He proposed to violate the treaties of Versailles and the St. Germain because by this action Germany would be free from the great burden that these treaties had imposed on her. Hitler also proposed to unify all the German-speaking people of Europe. To achieve these ends, he advocated the establishment of a strong state and the increase of national strength by means of a national army. The writing brought hope to a defeated nation and a ray of hope amidst the all-round darkness.

Mein Kampf
gave hope and
inspiration

The call of Hitler to create a new Germany was echoed by the whole of the German nation. He declared that the German people were a great people and they had a great future. The German people was to rise again and establish their greatness. All these writings and speeches resulted again in the evolution of a militant nationalism of a very fierce nature. These inspired a defeated nation to rise again.

The call of
Hitler inspired
the German
People

Hitler's Nazism was received very enthusiastically and the people joined the Nazi Party with increasing numbers.

In the election of 1932, Hitler's Nazi Party secured a majority in the German House of Representatives called the Reichstag and Hitler became the Chancellor. In 1934, the President Hindenberg died and Hitler combined in his own person the post of the President and the Chancellor. He declared himself 'Fuhrer' or the leader of the German nation. Thus, Hitler captured full powers.

Hitler captured
power and
became Fuhrer

The ideal of Nazism gave rise to an extreme form of

nationalism. Within a very small time of his coming to power, Hitler tried to suppress the Communists with a very strong hand. The German people believed that Germany had been defeated in the First World War due to the treachery of the Jews. So, Hitler tried in a planned way to wipe out the Jews from the faces of Germany. Now Hitler set his minds to develop Germany internally. The existing means of communications were improved. New roads were constructed, great facilities were given to German industries. The existing land, water and air forces were strengthened. The German economy was given a new life. Unemployment problem was solved and Hitler's bold

Persecution
of the Jews

plans and activities restored self-confidence which had been lost to the German nation. After the vexed economic problem had been solved, Hitler engaged his entire energy to increase the military strength of Germany. In foreign policy, the same vigorous policy was seen. Hitler expressed the inability of Germany to pay the monetary compensation and captured Austria in violation of the Treaty of Versailles. He then let loose a naked imperialism which soon involved Europe in the Second World War.

Internal
developments
and
rearmament

Rise of Fascism and Mussolini in Italy

Though a member of the Triple Alliance, Italy did not take the side of Germany and Austria in the First

The hopes of the
Italians had not
been fulfilled in
the First World War

World War on the ground that it was a war of aggression. She had joined the side of the Allied powers against Germany. But though she was in the side of the victors, the

hope with which Italy had joined the war was not fulfilled.

A large number of Italians lost their lives (according to one estimate the number was about 7 lakhs), and many more were wounded. After the war, her army was retrenched. The weight of the war had its effect on the economy of the country. The country became exhausted and an acute financial crisis faced her. The rulers and statesmen of the country were not much capable and they were not able to tackle this critical situation arising out of a ruined economy, unemployment and frustrated hope. To add to this trouble, the workers in the factories went on a mass strike and socialists gained some support.

About this time, a new leader arose and became very famous. On a very similar circumstance in which Nazism was born in Germany, an ideal very similar to Nazism was evolved in Italy. The new leader, by his speeches, organising capacities and works drew attention of the frustrated and disappointed Italian nation. The exponent of Fascism in Italy was Benito Mussolini. From the very first, he opposed revolutionary activities but inspired the Italian people, particularly her youth to extend the bounds of Italian Empire by wars etc. The restless condition into which Italy had fallen had alarmed the rulers and they were foreseeing the possibility of a revolution. On the background of this restless condition of Italy, Mussolini formed a political party known as the Fascist. The programme of the party was to replace the present unworthy rulers and to restore the lost prestige and positions and to bring back the Empire of Italy. The Fascists wanted to end

Benito Mussolini
and Fascism

The ideal of
Fascism—the
cries for war

the disorder by establishing a centralised despotism. One of the cries of the Fascists was for war. This zingoistic attitude of Mussolini and his Fascist Party was, more than anything else, responsible for creating unholy war fever among the Italians. The Fascist Party rapidly gained strength and the members of the party multiplied during the two years from 1919 to 1921.

Benito Mussolini was born in the house of a blacksmith in 1883. He was a socialist at first but soon changed his policy and party. He formed the Fascist Party with the discontented middle class people and retrenched army men.

The slogan of
the Fascists

The Facist raised the slogan—"one state, one party and one leader" and by their activities they came into conflict with the Socialists.

The semi-military organisation of the Fascists came into occasional skirmishes with the Socialist and Communist institutions in factories and elsewhere. In 1922, Mussolini marched towards Rome and captured power. Emanuel III, the King of Italy, was obliged to appoint Benito Mussolini his Prime Minister.

The chief aim Mussolini and his Fascists was to establish a totalitarian regime and to put an end of the Democracy. Hence, as soon as Mussolini captured power, he declared

Establishment of
totalitarian regime

the Socialist and the Communist Parties as illegal. Thousands of people were imprisoned.

The individual liberties were set aside and the parliamentary democracy was put to an end. The military power of Italy was increased at a very rapid rate and an atmosphere of Imperialism was created in the country. The Fascists soon made a demand for the island of Corsica and other places and ignoring the League of Nations

invaded Abyssinia and conquered it. When the League Council sought to stricture Italy, she withdrew her name from the League of Nations.

As a natural sequence to the Zingoistic attitude, Italy formed an Anti-Commintern Pact with Germany and Japan.

In 1939, Italy captured Albania and when the Second World War broke out, Italy took the side of Germany and entered the war.

The Civil War in Spain and General Franco

During the First World War, Spain had a constitutional monarchy. Spain remained neutral and supplied goods to the countries at war. Thus, her factories and trade flourished during the war. But though there was an improvement in the economic condition of

The condition of the working class became very bad

the country, the conditions of the peasants and workers had not improved. The working class made movements to improve their lot

and this movement of the working class became acute when there was world-wide trade depression after the war. About this time, in 1923 Primo De Rivera, an ex-military captain captured power and proceeded to establish a government to create war fever in Spain. But this intention became unsuccessful and the government of Rivera collapsed in 1930 due to popular risings. As a result, monarchy

Republic established in Spain

was abolished and republic was established. The wealthy people and the Socialists supported this republican government but it failed

to alleviate the discontent of the peasants and the workers. In 1933, the reactionary forces won the Spanish elections

but the Republicans and the Socialists again came to power in 1936.

The working class people began a great agitation. The peasants plundered and razed the manor houses of the Zamindars and they became ready to capture the land of the nobles by force. The forces of reaction,

Rising of the peasants

i.e. the wealthy people, a section of the army under General Franco etc. rose in

rebellion against the republican government. Consequently a severe civil war ensued in Spain. General Franco was in favour of establishing a totalitarian regime.

Civil war

He secured the help of Hitler and Mussolini.

England and France did neither intervene nor did they keep Germany and Italy in check.

Franco succeeded with the help of Germany and Italy

They remained aloof in the name of neutrality. Only the Government of

U.S.S.R. sent some help to the republican Spanish Government. Many volunteers from different parts of the world came to help and save the republican government. But in spite of all these, the Republican Government was defeated after about two years of fighting and a military despotism was established in Spain by General Franco.

So, the forces of reaction became victorious in three countries *viz.* Italy, Germany and Spain.

Questions

1. Trace the history of the rise of Kemal Ataturk in Turkey. Discuss how Turkey was westernised under him.

(The Victorious Allied Powers concluded Treaty of Sevres with Turkey—severe terms—the Empire of Turkey dissolved—opposition and resistance of the Turkish people against the

treaty—Kemal was born in Salonica—his military training—contact with Young Turk Movement—reactionary role of the Young Turk Movement—went to Paris and understood how backward Turkey was—First World War, battle of Gallipoli and generalship of Kemal—his nationalist party secured majority in Parliament in 1919—problems of this Parliament—Greek invasion—sultan's attitude—defeat of the Greeks—Treaty of Laussane secured a modification of the terms of Sevres—first President of the Republic of Turkey.

Kemal wanted reforms in various aspects of national life—abolition of Caliphate—Turkey became a secular state—Calendar reform—metric system—Roman alphabet introduced—improvement of the condition of women—spread of education—agriculture, trade, commerce improved—a national bank established—Kemal was a great leader of men—his honorific title of Ataturk.)

2. Discuss the constitution and aims of the League of Nations. How far was the League a success or a failure ?

(The aim of the League—to maintain international peace and to punish an aggressor state by collective security measures—the idea of the League derived from the Fourteen Points of President Woodrow Wilson of U.S.A.—the constitution—a council, an assembly, a secretariate—the permanent court of International Justice—the I.L.O., etc. ; The League tried to maintain international peace by means of mediation, arbitration etc.—failed to do anything in some international aggressions—causes of the failure—some big states remained outside the League—constitutional weakness—insincerity and selfishness of members etc.)

3. Describe the state of Society and Government under the Tsars in Russia.

(Russia was very backward—when the rest of Europe was changing Russia remained the solid bulwark of conservatism—

the feudal state of society—emancipation of the serfs—administrative chaos—weakness of the Tsars and their defiance of all liberal ideas—the condition very similar to the condition of France on the eve of Revolution of 1789.)

4. What is socialism? Discuss how the Socialism was evolved.

(Industrial Revolution had created factories—industrial workers—greater amount of work—very small pay—the factory-owners rolled in wealth—greediness of the capitalists—miserable living conditions of the working class—ill pay, ill food, ill clothing—extremely unhealthy living condition—deterioration of their morals—lack of proper education for their children—the socialists—their aim to do good to the working class.)

5. Who was Karl Marx? What do you know about his writings?

(A German—left Prussia and at last reached England—establishment of the Communist League—the Communist Manifesto—the *Das Capital*—Marx called his theory Communism;—His theory—new interpretation of history—the courses of history was influenced by economic clashes between classes.—Marx told that clash between the working class and the capitalists inevitable—called upon the working class throughout the world to unite,—Marx first gave scientific definition to socialism—gave it a new life—his *Das Capital* became the bible of Russian Revolutionaries—criticism of Marxian theory.)

6. Discuss critically the causes of the Russian Revolution.

(Similarities in the causes of Russian Revolution and French Revolution—sharp differences between the rich and poor—the Tsars resisted all reforms—the Russian writers like Leo Tolsty Maxim Gorkey etc.—working class and influence of Karl Marx and his writings—great disorder in the administration—repeated defeats—failure of absolutism—the character of Tsar Nicholas II—influence of Alexandra, the queen, Rasputin—the Russian Revolution of 1905, defeat in the First World War—the Revolution broke out in 1917.)

7. Narrate the courses of the Revolution in Russia from its out-break to the coming of the Bolsheviks to power.

8. What were the problems before the Bolsheviks? How could they solve them?

(The first problem was War—the Bolsheviks were in favour of peace—concluded peace with Germany by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and withdrew from the War—the second problem was to internally consolidate Russia—private ownership abolished—all factors of production nationalised—the third problem—the propagandas of the Russian Revolutionaries had created uneasiness—Lenin had forfeited foreign loans—Japan, France, England etc. sent armies—the armies were withdrawn and the danger was averted—the fourth problem due to nationalisation—the experiment of pure communism failed—New Economic Policy (N.E.P.) evolved by Lenin.)

9. Make an estimate of Lenin's achievements.

10. What was the cause of rivalry between Stalin and Trotsky ? Trace the history of U.S.S.R. under Stalin.

11. Discuss the political ideal of the Nazis.

12. Trace the courses of the rise of Hitler in Germany.

(Hitler—joined the German Workers' Party—renamed it National Socialist Party—the Nazi Party—imprisoned—wrote the book *Mein Kampf*—advocated violation of the Versailles Treaty—economic clauses—Germany must be made strong—the writing inspired the German nation—the Nazis became popular—captured power in 1932—Hitler became Chancellor—became Chancellor and President—reconstruction of Germany—rearmament—persecution of the Jews—violation of the Treaty of Versailles).

13. Trace the rise of Mussolini and Fascism in Italy.

14. Write a short note on the Civil War in Spain.

15. Write short notes on the following :

- (a) Treaty of Lausanne, 1923 ; (b) The League Council ;
 (c) The Permanent Court of International Justice.
 (d) Emancipation of the Serfs in Russia ; (e) The *Das Capital*
 (f) Mensheviks ; (g) Prof. Milinkov ; (h) Pure Communism ;
 (i) The New Economic Policy (j) Trotsky ; (k) *Mein Kampf* ;
 (l) Nazism ; (m) Fascism ; (n) General Franco and (o) The
 November Revolution.
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CHAPTER XI

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Introduction.

The territorial arrangements made by the Berlin Congress had within it the seeds of many complications and it became the cause of the First World War. Similarly the territorial arrangement made by the Paris Peace Conference became the cause of many complications and discontentment.

The spirit of
vengeance in the
Paris Peace
Conference

The spirit of vengeance and greediness was very much prominent in the Paris Peace Conference. In the Paris conference was uttered many lofty ideals, and many lofty sentiments were expressed. But behind all these utterings the spirit of revenge was prominent. One of the victorious powers viz France had the primary intention of destroying the power of Germany for ever. A very severe treaty was dictated to Germany but the German people could not accept it wholeheartedly. She resolved to rise again. On the 1st September, 1939 Germany invaded Poland and two days later England and France declared war upon Germany. Within a very short time, the war became spread up in a wide area covering all the continents of the Globe. The Second World War had begun. The defeated powers were not satisfied with the arrangements made with them after the First World War and they made a great bid to rise. So, the period between the First and the Second World War may be termed as the period of interlude.

Germany made a
bid to rise again

Causes of the Second World War

The Second World War was a total war and it covered nearly the whole of the Globe. Like all previous great events, the causes of the Second World War were many and varied. Some of them were of recent origin and some of them had their roots in distant past.

Many causes

events, the causes of the Second World War were many and varied. Some of them

After the First World War, attempts were made to cripple up Germany politically, economically and militarily. A totally unjust peace was forced on her and she was forced to sign the humiliating Treaty of Versailles. A heavy amount

The severity of the Treaty of Versailles

of debt in the name of war indemnity was forced on her, her colonies were taken away, her territorial boundary reduced and her industrial areas mortgaged to others. Thus

a two-fold attempt was made to destroy Germany—her economic means were taken away from her and a fresh economic burden was forced on her shoulder. The German nation could not accept this humiliating position. They were neither prepared to remain in such a subdued condition for ever, nor were they able to pay up the huge

Germany tried to take revenge of the national dishonour

amount of war indemnity. So, the violation of the Treaty of Versailles became an imperative national necessity. The defeated German nation cherished an intense hatred

for the victors. So Germany rose again under the leadership of Adolf Hitler to take revenge of her national humiliation. And Hitler threw the Treaty of Versailles to the winds, again armed the German people, let loose an aggressive policy and involved the world into a war unprecedented in human history for its devastating role.

So, the first cause of the war is to be found in the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.

When Hitler was spreading Nazism in Germany, Fascism was being spread in Italy by Benito Mussolini. Taking advantage of the post-war confusion due to economic depression and frustration, Mussolini made himself master of Italy and by a systematic policy of Zingoism, created an unholy atmosphere of war. Italy attacked and occupied Abyssinia and followed an aggressive policy in Europe and Africa. The atmosphere of Europe was further complicated by another power namely, General Franco in Spain. With the help of Hitler and Mussolini, he established his dictatorship in Spain. Outside Europe, in Japan, military dictatorship had assumed preponderance. Japan was following a policy of naked Imperialism and on the eve of the Second World War had occupied Korea and Manchuria and was engaged in an aggressive war with China.

Fascism
in Italy

Hitler and
Mussolini helped
Franco of Spain

Japanese
Imperialism

The alarming atmosphere created by the aggressive policy of Hitler and Mussolini created a veritable war hysteria. Violating the Treaty of Versailles, Germany occupied Austria, and in 1938, demanded Czechoslovakia. All the three states—Italy, Germany and Japan—disregarded the covenant of the League of Nations and followed their own aggressive policy. Hitler was inspired to carry on with his aggressive policy due to the lack of unity among the great powers of Europe. Mutual jealousy and rivalry prevented the powers from taking recourse to any strong action against Hitler. Had they done so, perhaps Hitler

Aggressive policy
of Germany and
Italy

would have maintained caution. But Hitler was not checked until their safety and security was endangered. But by that time, Hitler had become very much aggressive. Austria had been captured by Germany and in 1938 she demanded the Sudetan lands from Czechoslovakia. By the Munich pact, England and France made Cechoslovakia agree to cede the most of the Sudetan areas. But Hitler wanted to bring under him all the German speaking areas. So, not long after the Munich Pact, Hitler occupied the rest of Chechoslovakia, captured Memel from Lithuania and demanded the port of Danzig from Poland and a piece of corridor between East Prussia and Germany. When Germany made this demand, England and France became careful and with Poland, they concluded a defensive alliance. Germany put great pressure upon Poland for the fulfilment of the demands. At length, Hitler attacked Poland and according to the terms of the treaty, England and France took the side of Poland and declared war on Germany.

In whole of Europe, Germany and Italy created an atmosphere of war. They had let loose a naked imperialism and had thrown out international treaty obligations and had disregarded the principles of the League of Nations. Since the powers like England and France followed a policy of appeasement, the only check to this terror of territorial aggrandisement were the Communist state of U.S.S.R. and Communist International, *i.e.*, united bloc of Communist states. Hitler realised this and concluded with Italy and Japan the Anti-Commintern Pact. The aim of this pact was to extend

Lack of unity among the great powers

Occupation of Czechoslovakia and demand for the port of Danzig

Anti-Commintern Pact

sovereignty throughout the Globe and to make a redistribution and re-division of the territorial arrangements. The U.S.S.R. easily understood this anti-Soviet attitude of Hitler and repeatedly drew attention of England and France

**Non-aggression Pact
between Germany
and Russia**

towards the possible consequences of such activities. But partly due to anti-Soviet mentality and partly due to other reasons, England and France followed a policy of appeasement towards Germany. At this, the U.S.S.R. concluded with Germany a "non-aggression pact." After the conclusion of this pact with Russia, Hitler understood that a great obstacle for the fulfilment of his ambitions had been removed. He demanded Danzig and the war broke out over this issue.

It must be remembered here that Germany was not solely responsible for the Second World War. The reaction-

**Responsibility
for the war**

ary attitude displayed at the Paris Peace Conference sowed the seed for war. The policy of appeasement followed by the powers towards Hitler helped the growth of the seedling and it gradually bore fruit and ripened in due time. Along with Hitler and Mussolini, the other great powers had undoubted responsibilities for the war.

The Courses of the War

Hitler had prepared Germany for the war but England and France had not become ready. So, Germany scored a very easy success and occupied Poland within a very short

**Rapid success of
Germany**

time. After a small period of inactivity, Germany made a great offensive in air, water and land and within a very short time occupied Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway. Unable to

withstand this great attack, the British army in Europe returned to England after suffering heavy losses. Now, German army attacked France with great vigour. The French army was defeated and France was forced to surrender. A great portion of France was occupied by Germany and a government was set up under Marshall Petain which owed its allegiance to Germany.

When Germany occupied Norway, the British Prime Minister Lord Chamberlain resigned and a war cabinet was formed by Winston Churchill. Winston Churchill showed great skill in conducting the war and restoring the morale of the English people in face of defeats and reverses. During this period, Germany tried to force England to submit by bombing her towns and military and industrial installations. But though havoc was created by such bombing England did not submit. Meanwhile, Italy had captured Albania. She also captured British Somaliland in Africa.

When Hitler had occupied nearly the whole of Europe, he violated the pact of non-aggression with Soviet Russia and invaded her in 1941. It was a great blunder but the German army occupied a considerable portion of Russia within a short time. But in spite of this rapid success, Russia was not defeated. The Russian army and Russian winter made heroic resistance and a great battle was fought for the occupation of Stalingrad and the German army suffered great loss and was defeated.

That was the turning point of the war. The mistake committed by Napoleon Bonaparte by attacking Moscow was again repeated by Hitler. The great loss

Random bomb-
ing in England

Hitler invaded
Soviet Russia

Battle of
Stalingrad

suffered in the Russian campaign became one of the causes of the defeat of Hitler.

In 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbour and at this the United States of America joined the allies against Italy, Germany and Japan. Like Germany, Japan secured rapid success during the first phase of the war. She occupied the islands so long occupied by England and U.S.A., overran Burma, captured the Andamans and came near the eastern frontier of India when it crossed Kohima. The German army secured some success in Africa under Romel.

Japan's rapid
success

But the tide of war began to turn before the year 1942 had ended. The German army had been defeated in the battle of Stalingrad. Thereafter, the Russian Red Army began a relentless hammering on the Germans, drove them out of Russia, followed them through Poland and Finland and entered Germany. The historic leadership of Stalin, the heroic resistance of the Russian people caused the undoing of Hitler.

The defeat of
Germany

In Africa also, the German forces were defeated by the British General Montgomery. In Italy a second front had been created against the Germans and in 1944, the Anglo-American army had landed in Italy. The Anglo-American army occupied Sicily and marched towards Rome and whole of Italy was occupied. Mussolini tried to escape but he was captured by the mad mob and was killed. The rate of allied advance continued and the Anglo-American armies and Soviet army entered the mainland of Germany through different routes.

Second front
against Germany

Surrender of
Germany