

WW1 Consequences / Outcomes

such economic chaos increased social unrest & German marginalization in Europe undermined and isolated its democratic leaders & underscored need to restore Germany through

1. Chance for Democracy in Those War Torn Nations Weakened

- collapse of gov'ts → weak democracies — LACK OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS
- economic depression set in across Europe making economic & democratic progress even more difficult

- ① German economic crisis & Great Depression destabilized the European economy
- ② racial instability in Europe as a result of conflicting ethnic groups
- ③ defects in new constitutions helped the emergence of authoritarian rule
- ④ democracy in post-war period severely weakened by absence of popular leaders

2. Communist Revolution

- ① WW1 placed an unbearable strain on Russia weak gov't & economy, resulting in mass food shortages & hunger
- ② arrogance of power (weakening of the autocracy) & collapse of autocracy — failure to consider hardships of masses / demoralization
- ③ misdirected desperation of the oppressed
- ④ political, economic & social backwardness / lag & collapse
- ⑤ string of military failures

3. Creation of the League of Nations

- ① born of the destruction & disillusionment arising from WW1
- ② goal to construct a peaceful global order
- ③ principle of self-determination & world of independent states free of outside interference
- ④ open diplomacy & resolution of disputes by discussion
- ⑤ collective guarantees of security to replace old military alliances
- ⑥ agreed disarmament

4. Creation of a Jewish Homeland

- ① UK intent to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine to help garner Jewish support for the Allied effort in WW1
- ② approved by League of Nations
- ③ Arabs opposed creation of Jewish homeland for fears it would mean the subjugation of Arab Palestinians
- ④ After WW1 the Jewish population increased dramatically, as did Jewish-Arab violence
- ⑤ Arab resistance and failures to reach a compromise led to a delay by UK to decide on the future of Palestine
- ⑥ Post WW2 & Holocaust — much of int'l community took up Zionist cause & in 1948 the State of Israel was declared

5. Economic Crisis in Europe & Beyond

- ① Germany pre WW1 was Europe's most powerful economic power (second only to USA)
- ② Germany post WW1 banned from import or export / severely limited trade
- ③ harsh Treaty of Versailles reparations to the Allies → Germany could not pay & BEL / FRA occupied the Ruhr to take goods & raw materials
- ④ GER printed money to pay striking workers → hyperinflation → value of middle class / wealthy savings
- ⑤ GER recovery & prosperity — USA lent GER large sums of money — economy rebuilt, unemployment reduced & security increased

6. Collapse of International Trade & Labour Unrest

- ① int'l trade w/ GER suspended / European trade suspended
- ② rise in economic protectionism because of economic struggle
- ③ worker strikes rampant due to exploitation / conditions
- ④ USA economic collapse — major impacts on European economy → high poverty & unemployment
- ⑤ hindered international economic cooperation and trade

7. Inflamed Nationalism / Rise of Fascism

- ① desire for a strong state & leader to revive the economy
- ② resentment toward Treaty of Versailles
- ③ social unrest
- ④ weakness of democracy / instability
- ⑤ fear of a spread of Communism throughout Europe
- ⑥ rise of propaganda & its use to popularize fascist ideals

8. Shifting Balance of Power in Asia (Japanese Supremacy)

- ① Increase in global demand for Japanese products as European products unavailable (export-led boom by Japan and USA)
- ② growth of Japanese ultra-nationalism & militarism (sense of racial superiority)
- ③ Japanese imperialism (Korean peninsula, Manchurian province in China ...) / emerges as a major power post WW1 as part of Allied Powers — WW1 elevates Japan as a world power

remilitarization & expansion
descent into autocratic rule to create strong states from weak democracies

Germany
Austria
Italy
Czechoslovakia
Bulgaria
Romania
Greece
Yugoslavia (nationalist tensions)

new leaders failed to show citizens how democracy improves economic lives → Treaty of Versailles blocked reconstruction / economic prosperity

9. High Casualties (Modern Warfare is an Exceptionally Costly Way to Resolve Disputes)

- ① use of advanced weapons of mass destruction
- ② ~16 million deaths due to WW1 — 8-10 million military deaths — 6-7 million civilians — 1 million due to military action
 - ↳ 60% Entente Powers
 - ↳ 40% Central Powers
 - ↳ ~7 million disabled
 - ↳ ~15 seriously injured
- ③ moral & ethical dilemmas of modern warfare emerge (e.g., use of chemical weapons, sending soldiers to certain death, use of drugs to keep soldiers in battle, etc.)
 - ↳ rest famine/starvation, disease, genocide of Armenians by Ottoman Empire (1 to 1.5 million)

10. Modern Warfare is Unreliable and an Uncontrollable Way to Achieve Goals

- ① Total war monopolized all resources of the nation
- ② Strong support for war reinforced the serious misconceptions about the nature of modern industrialized warfare and the total destruction left behind
- ③ No clear agreement or evidence that the goals of the warring nations were achieved either in the short-term or long-term — Arguably, the war was counterproductive by most measures

11. Triumph of Democracy / World Secure for Democracy to Take Root

- ① collapse of imperial expansion & dissolution of empires into new nations
 - ↳ universal suffrage
 - ↳ collective security
 - ↳ democratic governments
- ② birth of the idea of each country's right to self-determination
- ③ a myth as WW1 the genesis for political extremism and a force that undermined social progress & stability caused by the political, geographical & economic reordering caused by WW1 and the collapse of the AUS-HUN, GER, RUS and OTTOMAN empires

12. Maps, Territory, Borders Redrawn

- ① straight lines make uncomplicated borders and unsolvable territorial disputes
 - ② Rus territory lost — new countries born
 - ③ AUS-HUN empire dissolved
 - ④ OTTOMAN empire stripped of most of its European territories
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|---|--|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| } | New independent states for minority populations of old empires | Austria | Lithuania | Romania enlarged |
| | | Hungary | Poland | Denmark enlarged |
| | | Turkey | Czechoslovakia | Greece enlarged |
| | | Finland | Yugoslavia | Middle East |
| | | Estonia | France enlarged | Syria |
| | | Latvia | Italy enlarged | Lebanon |
| | | | | Jordan |
| | | | | Iraq |
| | | | | Palestine |

13. U.S.A. Economic and Financial Prosperity

- ① After WW1 USA experienced a massive economic boom due to an increased demand for USA goods and rapid industrial growth
- ② USA entered war late and did not face direct destruction/damage
- ③ USA/New York becomes financial/banking capital of the world

14. Europeans Lose Grip on Overseas Colonies

- ① Economically damaged, European powers lose a measure of control over colonies and their ability to rule directly
- ② In the absence of a strong imperial presence/direct rule, colonies campaign for rights and in some cases independence movements (e.g., Indian independence movement from UK, Vietnam from FRA)
- ③ The rise of the principle of self-determination within the League of Nations/Treaty of Versailles weakened European Imperialist Powers claim to overseas colonies within the international community

15. Signing of the Treaty of Versailles (WW1 Terms of Peace)

- ① new balance of power created in Europe in favour of the Allied Powers (Entente)
- ② the goal was to restore European stability and maintain everlasting peace
- ③ expose the Allies' inability to cooperate toward a meaningful agreement on how to treat GER
- ④ the harsh terms of the treaty (GER claimed it was "morally invalid") fueled GER Nationalism ("war-guilt" clause) & resentment
 - ↳ sole blame for war on GER
- ⑤ the treaty was never fully accepted by GER or enforced by the Allies.