

Question:

Examine Napoleon's Continental system as a strategic and economic policy during the early 19th century. Discussing the motivation behind its implementation and impact on European trade and economies?

Introduction:

Napoleon, the emperor of France, imposed continental system in 1806 through Berlin decree in Europe. Major purpose of this system was to cripple the economy of Britain and to force her out of Napoleonic wars. As it was impossible for Napoleon to defeat the Britain in battles evident by their previous victories against France. Nevertheless, this continental system did little to

harm the Britain economy, but it had crippling impacts on European trade encompassing shortage of goods, closure of industries, smuggling and invasion of number of European states in an attempt to enforce this system. Hence it proved to be calamitous event in European history.

The continental System.

It was blockage imposed on British goods by Napoleon to cripple British economy lasted from 1806 to 1814.

Napoleon strategy and economic policy:

Napoleon could not defeat Britain master of Sea

In 1804, the treaty of Amien broke down between France

Day: _____

Date: ____/____/20

and Britain. As result Britain sought new alliance against France and fought new wars with France. These wars although established French hegemony but, could not defeat sea power of Britain. France controlled land but Britain was master of sea.

Napoleon envisioned to cripple Britain economy through embargo

Napoleon believed that by imposing ban Britain trade. He would cripple the Britain economy and moved her out of European affairs. Moreover, this ban would create widespread social upheaval in Britain and she would be enforced to make peace.

Britain dependency on European market

In fact, Britain was subject trade partners of Europe.

It imported grain, hemp and naval supplies. Britain also export 40% of total trade to Europe. This ban would paralyze her economy. As, Napoleon referred her "The Nation of Sheepfess."

Replace Britain with French industries to bolster her hegemony

Napoleon also develop this strategy to enhance economic influence of France. As closure of Britain industries would give space to French industries to fill the gap. This would ensure political, economic and military clout of France

Response of Britain:

Britain initially laughed off at this French strategy. However, there was economic depression in

Britain in 1806. unemployment industries were close to failure but this turmoil was not near to the magnitude that Napoleon desired.

Britain found new market in Asia, Africa.

Britain traders were encouraged to open market in Asia, Africa. These markets became new favorite place for British. It bolstered Britain economy in very short period. As British exports rose from 25.4 million Euro to 35 million Euro by 1814.

Impacts on European trade and economy:

Shortage of goods:

The continental system had much negative impacts on Napoleon empire and client states. These

Was shortage of food, cotton, luxury goods. Merchant could only purchase them at very high price or through smuggling. Even Napoleon's brother refused to enforce it in his state owing to devastating economic impacts which led to his abdication.

impact on industry:

Blockade resulted in closure of industries across Europe. In France textile industries reduced from 1700 to 235 only. Italian industries of tobacco, cotton and silk also closed down. In Norway industries reduced from 40 to 8 by 1809.

Rampant smuggling practice:

Smuggling was rampant during that phase. Ottoman empire and Holland were major entry

points. British sold 10 million Euros of goods to Europe through smuggling. Custom officers were prone to bribe. Even Napoleon's wife Josephine and relatives used to buy contraband British goods.

~~Envision~~ Envision of other states to enforce CS:

Initially, Portugal was reluctant to enforce it. So Napoleon attacked militarily. Similarly, He invaded Papal states to enforce compliance. His war with Russia in 1813 also resulted from exist of the Russia from continental system. This was proved to be downfall of Napoleon.

Conclusion:

The continental system imposed by French emperor Napoleon was

remarkable event of Napoleonic wars. This system failed to achieve its true purpose to breakdown British economy and coerce her for peace plea. But this system had crippling impacts on European trade and economy and enforced many countries to abandon this system which led military confrontation with France and ultimately fall of Napoleon.

Question

Analyze the rise of Nationalist movements (Nazism and Fascism) in Europe _____?

Introduction:

During the interwar period between 1918 to 1939, Europe witnessed a rapid emergence of Nationalist movements. Main of these were Fascism led by Mussolini and Nazism led by Hitler. These movement reshaped the European course of actions and sow the seeds of new conflicts and ultimately WWII. Both movements emerged due to economic pressure and post-war territorial resettlement. Hitler and Mussolini ruled with dictatorial powers and banned all kind of freedoms. Hitler's territorial ambitions

Day: _____

Date: ____/____/20

led to invasion of Sudetenland and other parts of Czechoslovakia and finally drawn major power into another great power

Rise of nationalist movements in Europe:

After the WWI, peace treaties were signed. These held Germany responsible for war. At that time there was severe economic downfall in country. These factors set the stage for Nazism. Similarly economic turmoil and dissatisfaction with treaties led to Fascism in Italy.

Fascism: nationalist movement:

Factors led to rise of Fascism

Italy's disappointment from war settlement and severe economic conditions were largely responsible.

Rise of Fascism

Italy demanded more territories but gained few. They failed to get Fiume and Dalmatia.

Economic depression in Italy led to high unemployment, inflation, debts and closure of industries.

Mussolini's Fascism attracted wide support:

Mussolini aimed to prevent anarchy, communism. He was newspaper editor. He formed association of ex-soldiers which turned into disciplined Fascist party. His writing against communism attracted mass support.

Mussolini consolidation of power:

Mussolini got majority seats

in elections and become Prime Minister of Italy.

Dictatorship under Fascism:

Mussolini demanded dictatorial power from king to end violence in Italy. He appointed his loyal people to key positions. He banned all unions, media and political parties. He was not answerable to Parliament.

Mussolini Foreign policy:

Crofu incident:

During border dispute between Albania and Greece two Italian officials were killed. Mussolini acted aggressively and invaded Greece by capturing its Crofu Island.

Non-aggressive pact with Austria:

In 1933, Hitler tried to overthrow Austrian chancellor. but Italy ensured its full support by

Day: _____

Date: ____/____/20

signing non-aggressive pact with Austria.
He warned Hitler through military
advancement.

Rome-Berlin axis:

1936, after Italian invasion
of Abyssinia, LON imposed sanction.
Mussolini highly annoyed and withdrew
from LON and greater power camp.
He then supported Hitler's invasion
of Spain and Czechoslovakia and
led to WWII.

Nazism: Nationalist movement.

Factors led to rise of Nazism:

Acceptance
of Versailles
Treaty

Germany accepted harsh
terms of treaty by
ceding 1/3rd territories,
population, disarmament and
acceptance of war criminal
state.

Economic Strain

New Weimar republic was unable to stabilize economy. Germany bankrupted after war. Had to take debts from USA. High unemployment, fear of communism.

Popularity of Nazism:

Along with above factors, passion and words of Hitler attracted people. He was great speaker. He pledged to provide jobs, ensure dignity and self-sufficiency of Germans through his movement named Nazism.

Germany Italy under Nazism.

Hitler became new chancellor after elections. He passed **Enabling Law** which developed dictatorship in state. All parties were banned, no freedom for media, special

surveillance police was formed in Germany to control public.

Anti-Semitism:

Hitler's hatred for Jews was pathological. He viewed them as responsible for German defeat in WWI. He banned all Jews from jobs. Their houses were burnt, millions were murdered. out of 9 million only 6 million Jews left in Germany.

Hitler's Foreign Policy:

Withdraw from LoN:

Hitler said that other nations must ensure disarmament to match the level of Germany. When refused he left LoN and began his aggressive territorial invasion.

Annexation of Saar and Rhineland

Major territory of Germany Saar was regained after Plebiscites. Hitler then militarily occupied Rhineland.

Anti-Commitment Pact:

After improving relations with Italy, Hitler signed Anti-Commitment Pact with Japan and got her neutrality in possible war.

Case of Czechoslovakia:

Annexation of Sudetenland:

There were 3 million Germans living in Sudetenland. Hitler demanded its annexation and invaded it. This led to Munich agreement. Seeing Hitler's move, great powers agreed to give Sudetenland and ensure integrity of remaining Czechoslovakia.

But Hitler was not satisfied.
Later he invaded Czechoslovakia and
led the Europe to WWII.

Conclusion:

After the end of WWI,
there was rise of nationalism
across Europe, primarily due to
unjustified treaties. Nazism and
Fascism were the major movements.
Both, led the countries with
extreme dictatorship at home
and abroad. They took the
clauses of post-war treaties and
continued territorial ambitions and
resettlement across the Europe.
All these factors once again
drew major powers into new
WWII, after the failure of
negotiations with Germany.