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PART-II
SECTION-A
ANSWER: 4
PRE-WAR ALLIANCES

INTRODUCTION:

The period before WW-I was marked by a series of alliances and counter-alliances.

These alliances were triggered by realist agendas of power maximization and hegemonic aims due to which WW-I was triggered.

The expansion of territories is a negative proponent to global peace. John Mearsheimer elaborates this very concept in his book, "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics."

"The most important cause of WW-I was system of secret alliances."

-V.D Mahajan

(1) Formation of Alliances:

Germany was unified in 1871. Bismark declared to adopt a policy of "no wars" and it was materialized between 1870s and 1890s.

The Germans were guided by diplomacy as the last resort and Alliance system began.

1.1: First Three Emperors League (1873-1878)

This was the revival of the Holy Alliance.

Germany, Austria and Russia formed an alliance.

The sole agenda revolved around incorporation of France into the world system - particularly Europe.

1.2: Dual Alliance 1878:

~~But~~ Austria and Germany entered into an alliance.

The sole purpose was to contain Russian expansion in the Balkan Region.

1.3: Second Third Emperor's League:

During 1881-1883, Britain was added as an observer and Russia, Germany, Austria were deciding on the Ottoman influence.

Germany (Bismark) was of the opinion that **Benovolent Neutrality** was to be adopted by Austria and Germany. They believed Russia could only be stopped by

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alliance and not confrontation.

Gladstone (British PM) was the problem, he did not agree to protect Ottoman Empire.

While its hegemony was being challenged:

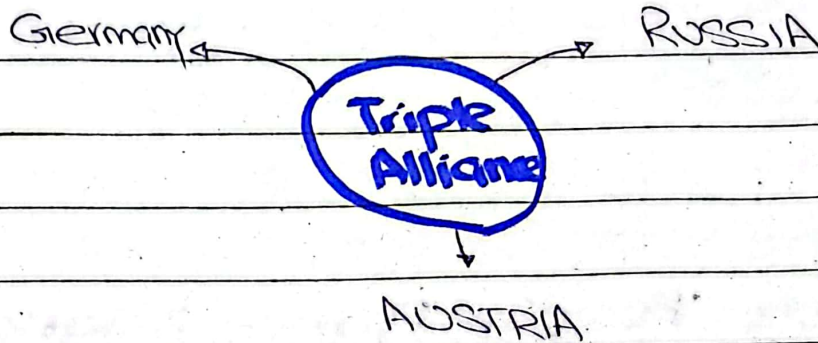
- Baghdad-Berlin Railway
- Kiev Canal

British super-power status was threatened, it triggered war.

1.4: Mediterranean Alliance:

Bismark had good relations with Italy. He included Italy ~~an~~ with triple alliance (Austria, Russia, Germany) and formed Mediterranean alliance.

1.5: Triple Alliance 1892:



1.6: REASSURANCE TREATY:

Germany was in a secret military alliance with Russia.

Both offered to stay neutral in case of conflict but if: ~~GER~~

- 1) Germany attacked France
- 2) Russia attacked Austria

the neutrality would be non-existent.

(2) COUNTER ALLIANCE SYSTEM:

The Western bloc was also bound to ally due to various reasons.

2.1: Russia-France Alliance 1894:

Both states mutually decided to ally for 10 years to solve mutual disputes.

2.2: Anglo-French Alliance 1894:

Britain and France were arch rivals. They decided to mend issues under **Entente cordial**.

i) SUEZ CANAL ISSUE:

France had invested in Suez construction but Egypt was a

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vessel state of Britain. France backed out.

ii) SUDAN - FASUDA ISSUE:

France also stepped-down to settle issues in Sudan.

2.3: Britain-Russia Alliance: (1894)

Britain and Russia decided to settle dispute over Afghanistan, Iran, Tibet.

2.4: Triple Entente:

The era was marred by conflict.

Britain, Russia and France formed the Triple Entente that guaranteed collaboration.

This was due to

- ① Moroccan Crisis 1904-5
- ② Bosnian Crisis.

Wilhelm-II launched the EMS Telegram and alliance

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strengthened.

(3) Alliances and WW-1:

Two major conflicts erupted before WW-1 due to Alliances:

• BOSNIAN CRISIS 1912:

Austro-Hungary captured Bosnia. Serbia had prior interests so Russia attacked Austria. Austrian ally Germany stepped in to protect Austria.

It did not escalate to war but explains the paranoia.

• SERBIAN NATIONALS:

Serbian killed Austrian Chancellor Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand. Germany declared war on Serbia and Russia stepped to back Austria. It escalated to WW-1.

This is how alliances caused war:

“Conflict fueled due to no flexible diplomacy”

- Henry Kissinger

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INTRODUCTION:

The French Revolution converted France into a constitutional monarchy (1791) and eventually a republic in (1792)

Apparently, they were proponents of anti-absolutism, interference of Church in politics and rule of nobility only.

But after the revolution, Robespierre led the reign of terror (1793-1795) and the directly also included elites and powerful. The Napoleonic era that followed the course of revolution was also characterized by absolutism, tyranny and control.

They were ultra-radicals and altered stance very often.

(1) Napoleon - A War Monarch:

The revolutionaries accepted Napoleonic era. Napoleon was an enlightened war monarch.

They had no issues with his absolutist traditions.

The French considered him a flag-bearer of national glory.

Napoleonic Regime was marred by oppression against the Austrians and the intent of Continental System was to be harsh to Britain.

(2) Religion - A Notable Factor:

Uptill the abolishment of Church's supreme power and Catholicism as State Religion, revolution was aimed at exclusion of Church from politics.

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However, **Concordat Agreement** 1801, marked catholicism as the majority, if not state religion.

1790's - Civil Constitution of Clergy was also similar.

The Pope had to take oath at the hands of Napoleon.

How was this divorce of religion from politics?

(3) Client Kingdoms Concept:

Napoleonic Era formed Client Kingdoms - Holland, Norway, Duchy of Warsaw, Poland etc.

Monarchy and feudalism remained intact by the concept. Imperialistic values were being followed.

(4) Paris Commune and Prison Massacre:

The oppressors killing over 6000 prisoners on the name of revolution validate Paine's concept.

The gaining of Sans-culottes by Duke of Brunswich signify monarchial hold of revolutionaries.

(5) Reign of Terror:

What began after a liberal-driven revolution was guillotine. Over 40,000 people were prosecuted and beheaded for not opposing the revolution.

Robespierre and Lord Mirabeau were monarchs after all. They belonged to clergy and nobility (First and Second Estate).

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Conclusion:

It is notable that just regime was just a cover for tyranny that resulted during and after the French Revolution.

{ Note: kindly provide outline on how the qs. was supposed to be attempted }

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SECTION: B

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POLICIES OF METTERNICH

INTRODUCTION:

The decline of Napoleonic Era marked the rise of Austrian Chancellor Metternich from 1815 to 1848.

He dominated the negotiations throughout the concept of Europe. Austria emerged as a big power and

opposed to the British Interests. His policies are regarded conservative because he showed little flexibility towards them. Prussians were kept at bay and so were the British.

" Metternich was a moral dictator "

-Henry Kissinger

(1) Carls Bad Decree 1819:

Metternich's conservatism is deeply rooted in Carls Bad Decree which states:

1- Controlled Press:

The press, media was controlled and it could not post anything against the state or ruler.

2- Controlled Education System:

Austrian Education System was kept under a strong check.

3- Suppression of Conspiracies:

A secret committee was formulated to suppress any conspiracies against the regime.

(2) Opposing Liberalism:

The purpose was to oppose liberal or nationalist uprisings within (Europe) Austria.

Spill-over effects from France must not succeed against his monarchical regime.

(3) Dominance in Congress System:

~~Naples~~ Metternich dominated the Congress System attaining maximum gains for Austria.

The Congress of Troppau (1820) was marked by his dominance to intervene in regime changes of European States.

They did so to suppress Spanish Revolts in Latin America. Regardless of British opposition and Truman Doctrine of US, Metternich still decided to intervene just to avoid regime change.

He even changed venue to Laibaich in (1821) to meet King of Naples.

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CONCLUSION:

Such conservative but dominant stances of the Austrian leader signify the time 1815-1848 as Metternich Era.

(C)

ECONOMIC CRISIS

During Inter-war Years (1919-1939), Europe faced severe economic backlash.

The most evident were

(1) Versailles for

Germany:

The Treaty of Versailles imposed heavy reparations on Germany \$6,600 Million to be paid by them.

Also, Second Paris Peace Treaty demanded

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Troops to be stationed in Germany for a period of five years and Germany was to bear their expenses.

ii) Great Depression 1928:

Global Great Depression further added to the economic struggles of European states in general and Germany in particular.

Rise of Nazi Party:

The humiliation of Versailles connected the German into unity as none else could.

They were ready to bring back at Europe, particularly at Centr Allies for revenge.

{ Please guide, how to retain European history course }