

What is Eastern Question?

According to Miller, "the Eastern question may be defined as the problem of filling up the vacuum created by the gradual disappearance of the Turks from Europe."

When the Turkish were at the height of their power, they ruled over the Balkans, Asia Minor, Syria, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Egypt and almost the whole of the North Coast of Africa. However, the Turkish Empire began to decline gradually.

It is true that on certain occasions the Turks were able to gain some temporary advantage, but on the whole the process of disintegration continued and ultimately the Ottoman rule was ended from the Balkans and North Africa. In Balkans, there were many Christian races (Examples: the Serbs, the Bulgars, the Greeks and the Romanians). The Turkish rule was very oppressive. The people were encouraged to assert their independence partly on account of the decline of military power of the ~~Turks~~ Turks and partly on account of the growth of nationalism among them.

The Christians of Balkans were also assisted by Russia and sometimes by other powers such as England and France. Lord Morley (MORLEY) has described the Eastern

Question as a shifting and interwoven tangle of conflicting interests, rival people and antagonistic faiths. It came to the forefront at various times during the 19th century and those can be called the various phases of the Eastern question.

Short questions

Q 1 When the first and Second Balkan War was held?

A In 1912 the first Balkan war and in 1913 the 2nd Balkan War was held.

Q 2 By which treaty the First Balkan war was ended?

A. By London treaty (1913) the First Balkan war was ended.

Q 3. By which treaty the Second Balkan war was ended?

A By the Treaty of Bucharest, the Second Balkan war was ended.

Q 4 When and between whom the Crimean War was held?

A In 1854, Between Russia and Turkey.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND AFTERMATH

Causes of the ~~War~~ First World War.

(The Great War of 1914-18 was not the result of any sudden provocation or incident. The stage for it had been set during the last years of the nineteenth century and the first few years of the twentieth.)

(It was the result of the self-centred and militant nationalism among the European states during the last years of the nineteenth and early years of the twentieth centuries. There was a race for armament behind the apparent neutrality of the Powers.)

There was also the large-scale production of the munitions of war by the capitalists of the different countries and if not for anything else, at least as a business proposition war was necessary for them.

Above all, (there was a great mutual suspicion among the Powers. In Germany the spirit of nationalism and racial pride grew in an alarming proportion and stimulated German ambition to such a pitch that she became a menace to the European peace.) With the removal of Bismarck from the helm of affairs in Germany the sobering effect on the German colonial and international ambitions was removed. (Germany was on the point of threatening the European balance of power under the aggressive nationalism of the German Kaiser William II.) His dreams of *Welt Politik* (world politics), his naval and colonial ambitions and his policy in Turkey and Africa led to the formation of the *Triple Entente* among England, Russia and France.

(Germany had earlier formed the *Triple Alliance* with Italy and Austria, a reply to which was the formation of the *Triple Entente* by England, France and Russia. Europe was thus divided into two opposite military camps. The inevitable result was the greater tension between England and Germany.)

(Germany was supported by the Austrian aggression in the Balkans as she saw in it the possibility of her propriety of constructing the Berlin-Bagdad railway (for the purpose of setting up a naval base at the Persian Gulf.)

Causes
Great War

Race for
armaments
behind
outward
calm

Large-scale
production
of munitions
of war

Mutual
suspicion
German
pride and
narrow
nationalism

Triple
Entente

Triple
Alliance

Plan of
Berlin-
Bagdad
railway

Russ-Austrian rivalry in the Balkan

Austria had belligerent designs against Serbia which was a Slav Power. Russia being herself a Slav Power would not tolerate extension of Austrian influence in Serbia or in the Balkans.

French determination to recover Alsace-Lorraine

(France, although not very much willing for any war, was nevertheless anxious to get back her Rhenish possessions of Alsace-Lorraine as also to redeem her prestige so seriously undermined by Bismarck.)

Immediate cause: Serajevo murder

(When the international atmosphere was thus surcharged with mutual suspicion and rivalry Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, the nephew of the Austrian Emperor and the heir to the Austrian throne, was murdered by the Serbian anarchists at Serajevo, the capital of Bosnia. The incident served as a lighted match-stick in the tinder box to set the whole of Europe nay, the world into a huge conflagration.

Austrian ultimatum to Serbia

The Austrian Government after some investigation ascribed the crime to deliberate Serbian propaganda, carried on with the support of his Serbian officials. Austrian Government with the assured German support served an ultimatum to Serbia (July 23, 1914). The reply to the ultimatum was demanded within forty-eight hours. Serbia in her reply accepted most of the conditions but rejected some, as being inconsistent with her sovereignty. Her reply was considered unsatisfactory and Austria declared war against Serbia on the 28th July, 1914.

Declaration of War, 28th July, 1914

Russian determination to stand by Serbia—German determination to stand by Austria

Russia declared that "in no circumstance will Russia remain indifferent to Serbia's fate" and warned that on the movement of the Austrian troops against Serbia, Russia would mobilise. Germany declared that in the event of Russia's support to Serbia she would help Austria. On the 29th July, with Austria's bombardment of Belgrade and the consequent mobilisation of Russia as also the violation of neutrality of Belgium by Germany, began one of the greatest cataclysm of human history. Germany formally declared war on August 1, France on August 3, and England on August 4.

Bombardment of Belgrade

Major participants of

Gradually more countries joined in
Russia, Turkey

CHAPTER XIII

CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II

A. (1) (The *Treaty of Versailles* that was drafted and imposed on Germany made the Germans restive. Germany went wild with anger at the treatment meted out to her at Versailles. The Versailles Treaty injected iron into the soul of Germany inasmuch as from the dizzy heights of a super power in the World she was reduced to the rock-bottom of a third-rate power in Europe. Thus the Germans were in a mood of silent anger of having been wronged at Versailles.) The abyss of national humiliation rankled the hearts of the Germans. The hatred that surged in the hearts of the Germans gave birth to a splendid machinery of dictatorship which moulded and channelised the resources of Germany towards the augmentation of the army. The ultimate aim was to wreak vengeance upon the victors of 1919 in another War. (Thus the Second world war was implicit in the First and Nazism was but a reaction to the *Treaty of Versailles*.)

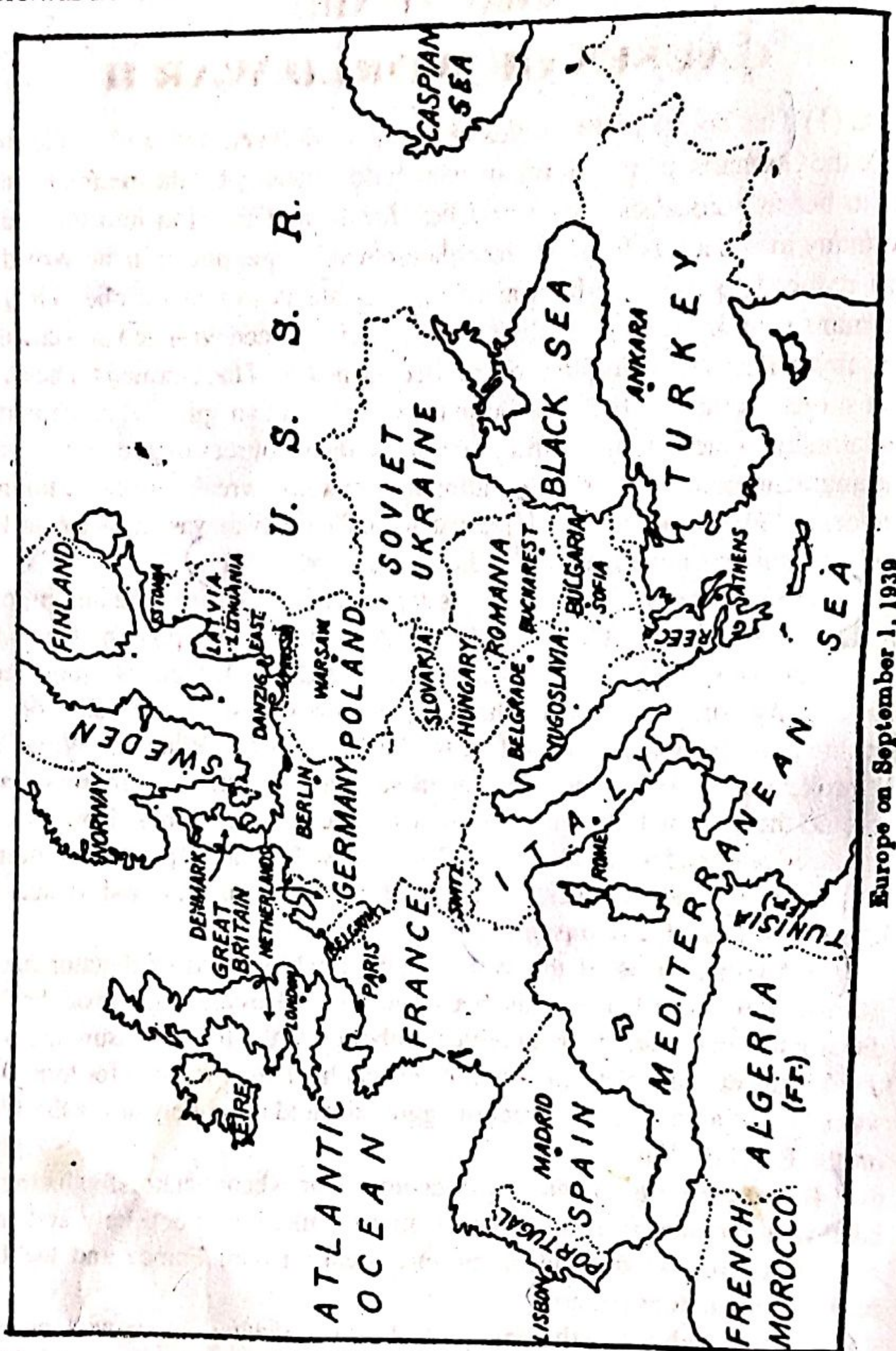
✓ (2) Another cause of the War was Japanese imperialism. The ambitions of Japan increased during the World War I. Although both Japan and China had fought on the side of the Allies during the World War I, Japan was allowed to have many concessions after the War at the expenses of China. Not only Peking but also Nanking fell before the Japanese forces. When the World War II broke out in 1939, the Sino-Japanese War was still in progress. Japan entered the War in 1941 when she attacked the *Pearl Harbour*. However, she had already joined the *Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis*. The Pan-Japanese programme of expansion and conquest was bound to result in war and Peace was impossible in such circumstances.)

(3) Another cause of the War was the establishment of dictatorships in Europe. Reference has already been made to the establishment of the Nazi dictatorship in Germany under Hitler. Although Hitler tried to assure the world that he meant peace but he could not conceal his real ambitions for long. Very soon, he embarked upon a career of aggression and ultimately drove the World on the Paths of War.

(4) There was also a conflict of ideologies between dictatorship on the one hand and democracy on the other. Countries like Germany, Italy and Japan represented one kind of ideology and Great Britain, France and the USA represented another pattern.)

(5) It was realized by the statesmen of Europe that militarism was one of the important causes of the World War I. It was with that idea in their minds that the League of Nations was established with the primary object of maintaining peace in the world and lessening the causes of tension.)

(6) Unfortunately, when hostility was growing between the two camps, there was no effective international organization which could bring the leaders



Europe on September 1, 1939

of the two camps on a common platform and bring about a reconciliation between the two. The League of Nations was practically dead. It ceased to exist as an effective force after her failure on the question of Manchuria and Abyssinia. Both big and small states lost their confidence in that international

