

UNIT 5: THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM.**THE WORLD BETWEEN 1870-1914**

1.- THE II INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

2.- IMPERIALISM.

3.- INTERNATIONAL SITUATION 1870-1914

1.- THE II INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The Second Industrial Revolution took place between 1875 and 1915 and it became a worldwide phenomenon, since it affected most of Europe, Japan, and the USA.

- **NEW INDUSTRIAL POWERS:**

Great Britain continued to be the strongest commercial and financial power in the world during the “Victorian Era” (1837-1901), building up the largest colonial empire in the world. By 1900, it lost industrial primacy in favour of Germany or USA.

France, recovered after its defeat in the war against Prussia (1870), focused on its imperial expansion during the III Republic and became one of the greatest powers in the world. Tensions with Britain or Germany will soon arise.

Southern Mediterranean countries experienced lesser growth.

Germany became after the unification a powerful nation, with a leading role of its chancellor Otto von Bismarck in the international scenario. Germany became the second most important economic power in the world under Wilhelm II (1888-1914). **Germany's** industrialisation developed thanks to the state intervention and banking.

The **Austro-Hungarian** empire was a dual monarchy, challenged by its multiple nationalities and the rise of disintegrating nationalism, that will be one of the factors of the outbreak of WW1 in 1914. Industrialisation was delayed and limited to the western part of the country.

Russia was ruled by an autocratic tsar, the parliament had no power and the industrialisation was also delayed and limited to some cities. Some improvements were made, as the emancipation of the serfs in 1869.

Japan started to undertake a quick industrialisation and modernisation after the Meiji Revolution (1868). It soon became a major power in Asia, threatening China or Russia.

USA, after the Secession War (1861-65) continued its expansion to the west, whereas the Eastern cities were quickly industrialised. Becoming a leading industrial power thanks to its abundant population, new forms of production (Taylorism, Fordism), mechanisation and abundant natural resources.

- **NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY: electricity and oil.**

- Electricity: used for lighting (EDISON, light bulb 1879) and to power engines.
- Oil: first oil companies; invention of the petro-powered car (first model was patented by Karl Benz in 1886. It had a combustion engine). Oil will be used for the combustion engines in cars, airplanes...

- **NEW INDUSTRIAL SECTORS:**

- **iron and steel** (used for other new products, such as sewing machines, bicycles, automobiles, airplanes,) **electrical** (important companies were created at that time, such as Philips, Siemens) **chemical**, (plastics, synthetic fibres, explosives, medicines, colourings, soda, fertilisers, dynamite) **food industry** (canning industry).

- Innovations in the traditional ones: **textile** (use of new type of fibres; sewing machine: Singer, 1850)
- Innovations in the **transport sector**: railway grew worldwide , building trans-continental lines (ex: Trans-Siberian railway from Moscow to Vladivostok in 1890); ocean lines were opened thanks to the faster boat voyages , canals were opened to shorten distances (the Suez canal , the Panama canal); the first airplane (Wright brothers, 1903) or the first car (1886) used combustion engines.
- **NEW METHODS OF PRODUCTION : TAYLORISM, FORDISM**
 - Taylorism. It analysed working practices and applied the most efficient one for production.
 - Fordism. It was created by the businessman Henry Ford, who introduced the assembly line (*CADENA DE MONTAJE*) to mass-produce cars. In that line workers or machines assemble parts of a product until the final product is completed.
- **NEW INVENTIONS***: Telegraph** (Samuel Morse, 1836) & wireless telegraph by Guglielmo Marconi in 1896.; **Telephone**. Alexander Graham Bell patented the new invention in 1876); **radio** (Guglielmo Marconi, 1906); **Cinematograph** (Lumière brothers in 1895).
- **NEW BUSINESS STRUCTURES**: cartels, trusts, holdings
 - **Cartels**: grouping of companies that participate in all the different stages of production. They integrate from the extraction of raw materials until the sale of the produce.
 - **Trusts**. Companies involved in the same industrial activity join.
 - **Holdings**. Some companies invest money in other companies to control over different industrial sectors.
 - • Some of those companies eliminated so much competition that they became **monopolies**, where they were the only producers
- **FINANCES**: enormous amounts of capital were needed to maintain the industrial activity; **banks** invested in industry; **banknotes, cheques** were common; the **Stock Market**(*la Bolsa*) was developed as companies sold shares (*acciones*) to investors, who received part of the profits.
- **COMMERCE** grew thanks to improvements in transport systems, railways, steamships; canals were opened to shorten distances (Suez Canal in 1869, , to link the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea); the Panama Canal was opened in 1914, to link the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

The **consequences** of finance Capitalism were very relevant, as it promoted a high industrial productivity, which encouraged **consumerism**; additionally there was an increase of the **trade imbalance** between developed and less-developed countries (which provided raw materials to developed countries at low prices); there were also social conflict in periods where unemployment increased.

- **NEW IDEAS IN MEDICINE AND SCIENCE**

The late nineteenth century also brought about advances in medicine and science. The following table summarizes some key changes.

New Ideas in Medicine and Science		
Name	Major Ideas	Results
Joseph Lister (British, 1827–1912)	Infections connected to filthy conditions; he insisted that staff keep hospital clean.	Doctors began to use sterilized medical instruments; European and American hospitals developed a standard of cleanliness.
Louis Pasteur (French, 1822–1895)	Germ theory—connection between microbes and disease	Developed vaccines against rabies, as well as the process of pasteurization, which kills diseases carrying bacteria in milk.
Dmitri Mendeleev (Russian, 1834–1907)	Organized all known elements arranged in order by weight—lightest to heaviest	Periodic table still used by scientists today.
Marie Curie (Polish/French, 1867–1934) Pierre Curie (French, 1859–1906)	Studied radioactivity	In 1910, four years after the death of her husband, Marie Curie isolated radium. In 1911, she won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery of radium and polonium.

- **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS.**

Between 1870 and 1914, the European population accelerated its growth (300→400 million people) As a consequence, **emigration** to America or Australia became common, reducing unemployment and social conflicts in the countries of origin. Besides, rural exodus resulted in a constant **urbanisation**. Cities introduced certain innovations (sewage system, lighting, paving, rubbish collection...) improving the quality of life. However, the differences between the workers and bourgeoisie neighbourhood were very important.

In Paris during the [Second Empire](#) (1852–70), [Georges-Eugène, Baron Haussmann](#), became the greatest of the planners on a grand scale, advocating straight arterial boulevards, advantageous vistas, and a symmetry of squares and radiating roads. The resulting urban form was widely emulated throughout the rest of continental Europe. In Spain, some examples of a similar urban planning were the [Eixample of Barcelona](#), directed by Ildefonso Cerda or the *Barrio de Salamanca* in Madrid.

- **WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR VOTING.**

By the 1890s, several industrial countries had universal male suffrage. However, no countries allowed women to vote. In Great Britain, there was a split over the question of suffrage (voting rights) for women. Many men and women thought that women’s suffrage was too radical, claiming that women did not have the mental ability to be involved in politics. Queen Victoria (1819–1901) called the struggle for suffrage wicked. Women also disagreed on how to achieve it.

In **Great Britain**, Emmeline Pankhurst (1858–1928) formed the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU). The WSPU believed that after years of peaceful protest only aggressive or militant action would bring victory. The term **suffragette** was applied to the radical members of the WSPU. Besides peaceful demonstrations, many of these suffragettes heckled speakers in Parliament, cut telegraph wires, smashed windows, burned public buildings or went on hunger strikes when they were on jail. In June 1913, one radical suffragist died when she threw herself in front of the king’s horse at the English Derby.

However, in **France**, women fighters rejected the militant tactics of the English movement and favoured legal protests. After World War I (1918), the British parliament granted the right to vote to women over the age of 30. In 1928, the required age was lowered to 21, making the voting age for both sexes the same. French women

did not gain the right to vote until after World War II (1944) . In Spain, they got it during the Second Republic (1931). See the [MAP OF WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE](https://brilliantmaps.com/womens-suffrage-world/) in <https://brilliantmaps.com/womens-suffrage-world/>.

• **EVOLUTION OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.**

In Western Europe, the situation of the proletariat improved. Laws were passed regulating working hours, reducing child labour and establishing protection measures (accidents compensation, retirement pensions, minimum wages, etc. Besides, mass production brought about in the II Industrial revolution lowered prices of many goods, which allowed the proletariat, along with the increase in wages, to improve their quality of life.

Labour movement was reinforced with the recognition of freedom of assembly and association. States also legalised workers associations. Labour parties emerged, whose aim was to access political power and promote democratic and social reforms. The first and most influential labour party was the German Social Democratic Party (SPD), founded in 1875. There were other labour parties in France, UK, Italy or Spain. (the PSOE was founded by Pablo Iglesias in)

Labour internationalism was revived after the breakout between Marxists and anarchists during the First International held in London in 1874. **Second International** met in Paris in **1889** and lasted until the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Only socialists were allowed to attend this meeting. They initiated the 8-hour working day campaign. They also elected 1 May as the day to claim for the workers’ rights (**International Workers’ Day**). In 1910 they also fixed 8 March as the **International Women’s Day**.

Despite these achievements, there were internal struggles between the supporters of a workers’ revolution (Marxists purists) and the defenders of reaching power through democratic elections (revisionists). The International also condemned Capitalism, Imperialism and war.

ACTIVITIES:

1. In your notebook, make a **clear** chart comparing the I and II Industrial Revolution

	I industrial Rev	II Ind Rev
		England→Fce, Belgium→
Sources of energy		
Methods of production	Factory system	
Innovations		
Economic and social consequences		

2.- **What names do you associate with these terms...?**

- a) telegraph→
- b) Petro-powered car
- c) Airplane
- d) Assembly line
- e) Radio
- f) Lighting
- g) Cinematograph
- h) Telephone
- i) First vaccines
- j) Radium
- k) Sterilisation & cleanliness→
- l) Periodic table→
- m) Urban planning in Paris→
- n) Urban planning in Barcelona→

3.- What were the consequences of emigration? How did cities change during this period?

4.- How the movement for women's voting differ in England and France?

5.- List the achievements of the Second International. What was the result of the internal disputes?

6.- Where and when was the first Socialist Party created? When was the PSOE founded in Spain?

II- IMPERIALISM

In 1914, most of the world was controlled by European nations, mostly Great Britain and France. Other countries had also colonies, such as Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Spain, the USA, and Japan.

2.1.- The **causes** that allowed imperialism were:

→ **Economic**, as many raw materials were needed for the growing industrial sector and new markets were sought for the industrial products.

By 1870, it became necessary for European industrialized nations to expand their markets globally in order to sell products that they could not sell domestically on the continent. Businessmen and bankers had excess capital to invest, and foreign investments offered the incentive of greater profits, despite the risks. The need for cheap labor and a steady supply of raw materials, such as oil, rubber, and manganese for steel, required that the industrial nations maintain firm control over these unexplored areas. Only by directly controlling these regions, which meant setting up colonies under their direct control, could the industrial economy work effectively—or so the imperialists thought. The economic gains of the new imperialism were limited, however, because the new colonies were too poor to spend money on European goods.

→ **Political and strategic**. The power and prestige of a country was measured in the number of colonies which were controlled: the possession of colonies was an indication of a nation's greatness; colonies were status symbols. In addition, some of these countries also wanted to control strategic points for the commercial routes, such as Great Britain. (Suez Canal)

Leading European nations also felt that colonies were crucial to military power, national security, and nationalism. Military leaders claimed that a strong navy was necessary in order to become a great power. Thus, naval vessels needed military bases around the world to take on coal and supplies. Islands or harbors were seized to satisfy these needs. Colonies guaranteed the growing European navies safe harbors and coaling stations, which they needed in time of war. National security was an important reason for Great Britain's decision to occupy Egypt. Protecting the Suez Canal was vital for the British Empire. The Suez Canal, which formally opened in 1869, shortened the sea route from Europe to South Africa and East Asia. To Britain, the canal was a lifeline to India, the jewel of its empire.

→ **Demographic**, as colonies could relieve Europe's population growth. Migration reduced unemployment and social conflicts in the countries of origin. However, although imperialists argued that living space was needed for the excess population of Europe, the millions who left in the late nineteenth century persisted in heading for the Americas, where there were no European colonies.

→ **Cultural and ideological** as the western world had the duty to civilise the rest of the planet.

Many Westerners believed that Europe should civilize their little brothers beyond the seas. According to this view, non-whites would receive the blessings of Western civilization, including medicine, law, and Christianity. Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) in his famous poem, “The White Man’s Burden” expressed this mission in the 1890s when he prodded Europeans to take up “their moral obligation” to civilize the uncivilized. He encouraged them to “Send forth the best ye breed to serve your captives’ need.” Missionaries supported colonization, believing that European control would help them spread Christianity, the true religion, in Asia and Africa. Another important influence was Social Darwinism fostered imperialistic expansion by proposing that some people were more fit (advanced) than others. The Europeans believed that they, as the white race, were dominant and that it was only natural for them to conquer the “inferior” people as nature’s way of improving mankind. Thus, the conquest of inferior people was just, and the destruction of the weaker races was nature’s natural law.

2.2.- The types of domination were diverse:

- a) **colonies**, completely controlled and exploited by the metropolis and they did not have any autonomy; Most of the African territories were colonies.
- b) **protectorate**, where local authorities were fully respected in home affairs, whereas the rest of the matters were controlled by the metropolis (Morocco, Egypt or Indochina)
- c) **Dominions**: areas with a large-scale European population. They were granted autonomy although they were supervised by the metropolis. It was exclusive of Great Britain, which practised that in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa;
- d) **settler colonies**, fully annexed to the metropolis as a part of it (ex: Algeria, which was integrated to France)

2. 3.-The **biggest colonial empires** were the British and the French empires.

- The British Empire included colonies in N.America, Asia (India), Oceania (N.Zeland, Australia) and Africa (controlling a vast territory from El Cairo to Cape Town).
- France: Africa (Senegal→ Somalia in the east), Asia (Indochina)Portugal, Italy, Germany ,Japan and Spain also wanted to establish colonies.

A) In Africa, The French had the largest colonial empire, over 3 1/2 million square miles, half of which contained the Sahara Desert. In 1830, **France** had conquered Algeria in North Africa. Between 1881 and 1912, France acquired Tunisia, Morocco, West Africa, and Equatorial Africa. At its height, the French Empire in Africa was as large as the continental United States.



Great Britain 's holdings in Africa were not as large as France's but it controlled the more populated regions, particularly of southern Africa, which contained valuable mineral resources such as diamonds and gold. In 1806, the British displaced Holland in South Africa and ruled the Cape Colony. However, the British soon came into conflict with the Boers (farmers), the original Dutch settlers who resented British rule. They eventually migrated north and founded two republics. A relevant character in the British expansion in Africa was Cecil Rhodes (1853–1902), a who was born in Great Britain and had become a diamond mine millionaire, became prime minister of the Cape Colony. He wanted to extend the British African Empire from Cape Town to Cairo and decided to annex the Boer Republic. In the Boer War (1899–1902), the British, with great difficulty, defeated the Boers and annexed the two republics. In 1910, Britain combined its South African colonies into the Union of South Africa. Whites ran the government, and the Boers, who outnumbered the British, assumed control. This system laid the foundation for racial segregation that would last until the 1990s in South Africa (the *apartheid*).



Britain and France were involved in the **Suez canal project**. In 1875, Britain purchased a controlling interest in the Suez Canal from the bankrupt ruler of Egypt who was unable to repay loans that he had contracted for the canal and modernization. of the country. The French, who organized the building of the Suez Canal under Ferdinand de Lesseps in 1859, owned the other shares. The Suez Canal was important because it shortened the route from Europe to South and

East Asia. The canal also provided a lifeline to India, which Britain had made part of the British Empire in 1858. In 1882, Britain established a protectorate over Egypt, which meant that the government leaders were officials of the Ottoman Empire, but were really controlled by Great Britain. The British occupation of Egypt, the richest and most developed land in Africa, set off “African fever” in Europe. To ensure its domination and stability in the area, Great Britain extended its control over the Sudan as well.

Late unification delayed **Germany's** imperialistic ventures, but it also wanted its place in the sun. Germany took land in eastern and southwestern Africa.

Italy was another late entry into the imperialistic venture. It took control of Libya, Italian Somaliland, and Eritrea, which is the north-most province of Ethiopia, near the Red Sea. Italy's efforts to gain control of Ethiopia ended in bitter defeat.

Belgium led the exploration of the Congo basin. King Leopold II of Belgium sent the Anglo-American newspaperman Henry Stanley, to explore the Congo and establish trade agreements with leaders in the Congo River basin. Stanley had become famous for having found in 1871 the great Scottish explorer and missionary



David Livingstone , who had travelled throughout Africa for over thirty years. When several years passed without a word from him, it was feared that he was dead. Stanley was hired in 1869 by the New York Herald, an American newspaper to find Livingstone. His famous greeting, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume” became legendary, even though there is some question about its authenticity. Stanley's account of their meeting made headlines around the world and helped make him famous. Stanley eventually sold his services to Leopold II in 1878. Leopold II's intrusion into the Congo area raised questions about the political fate of Africa south of the Sahara. Other European nations were fearful that Belgium wanted to extend control over the entire area.

As a result, there were some international conflicts due to the colonial aspirations. Bismarck organised the **Berlin Conference** (1884-1885), held in order to fix the principles that would regulate the future exploration, occupation, and colonisation of Africa. The main



agreements reached in this conference were: that all Africa would be shared up by the European powers; the rivers Congo, Niger, Zambezi and Nile were free for ship traffic; the Congo Free State was created and given to Leopold II of Belgium; it was prohibited to trade with slaves; it was compulsory to occupy the territory with European population so that it was effective; the possession of the coast allowed conquering its inland. This principles

benefited the most powerful countries: Great Britain and France.

B) In Asia the **British** took control of India in 1763, after defeating the French in the Seven Years' War

(1756–1763). The British controlled India through the British East India Company, which ruled with an iron hand. In 1857, the British suppressed an Indian revolt, and later made India part of the empire in 1858, calling India the “Crown Jewel of the British Empire.” The Indian masses, however, continued to live close to starvation and the British had little respect for the native Indian culture.

The **Dutch** held the Dutch East Indies and extended their control over Indonesia, while the **French** took over Indochina (Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam). The **Russians** also got involved and extended their control over the area of Persia (Iran).

Imperialism in **China** began with the First Opium War (1839–1842), when the Chinese government tried to halt the British from importing opium. This resulted in a war in which Britain's superior military and industrial might easily destroyed the Chinese military forces. The Treaty of Nanking (1842) opened up five ports to the British, gave Britain the island of Hong Kong, and forced China to pay a large indemnity. In 1858, China was forced to open up eleven more treaty ports that granted special privileges, such as the right to trade with the interior of China and the right to supervise the Chinese custom offices. Between 1870 and 1914, the Western nations carved China into spheres of influence: France acquired territory in southwestern China, Germany gained the Shandong Peninsula in northern China, Russia obtained control of Manchuria and a leasehold over Port Arthur, and the British took control of the Yangzi valley.

By the 1900s, there was rising sentiment against foreigners because China had been forced to give up so many political and economic rights. This anti-foreign sentiment exploded into the **Boxer Rebellion** (1899–1901). The Boxers were a secret Chinese nationalist society supported by the Manchu government, and their goal was to drive out all foreigners and restore China to isolation. In June 1900, the Boxers launched a series of attacks against foreigners and Chinese Christians. They also attacked the foreign embassies in Beijing. The imperialistic powers sent an international force of 25,000 troops to crush the rebellion, which ended within two weeks. The Boxer Rebellion failed, but it convinced the Chinese that reforms were necessary. In 1911, revolutions broke out across the country and the Manchu emperor was overthrown. A republic was proclaimed under nationalist and democratic principles.

Japan was the only Asian country that did not become a victim of imperialism. Fearful of domination by foreign countries, Japan began to modernize by borrowing from the West. The **Meiji Restoration**, which began in 1867, started the modernisation and industrialisation of Japan. The goal was to make Japan strong enough to compete with the West. The new leaders strengthened the military and transformed Japan into an industrial society. The Japanese adopted a constitution, built a modern army and a fleet of iron steamships. The Japanese were so successful that they became an imperial power. It will soon confront and defeat China (Sino-Japanese War of 1894–95) and Russia, (Russo-Japanese War of 1904–1905). Japan's victory was the first time that an Asian country had defeated a European power.

- c) The importance of the **Middle East** to the new imperialists was its strategic location (the crossroads of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa), and valuable oil resources. **Britain's** control of the Suez Canal forced her to take an active role in Egypt. They also secured their influence in Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain. Pipelines were built to the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf. **Russia**, that wanted to get access to the Mediterranean through the straits in the Black Sea, helped to dismember the Ottoman Empire and gain independence for several Balkan states. **Germany**, obtained the Ottoman Empire's consent to complete the Berlin- Baghdad Railroad increasing its influence in the region.

2.4.- The consequences

A) for the colonies were :

- local governments were mostly substituted by authorities from the metropolises;
- traditional agriculture was changed into plantations to get more production for exportation;
- growth of the cities in the colonies;
- development of the metropolitan educational system which involved the destruction of the native culture;
- intensive exploitation of the territory and people by the colonisers.
- Racism grew since white people became the elite in the colonies;
- development of the metropolitan educational system which involved the destruction of the native cultures.



C) For the coloniser metropolises:

- many raw materials were obtained for industry,
- trade increased and many Europeans moved to the colonies.
- Additionally, there were nationalist problems in the colonies derived from the colonial situation (the *Cipayos revolt* in India)
- Tensions arose among colonial powers
 - the *Fashoda crisis (1898)*, when the French and the British army met at the village of Fashoda (Sudan) in their goal of creating a continuous-land empire;
 - problems between Italy and France due to the control of Tunisia
 - problems in Morocco between France and Germany (Agadir, 1911)
 - tensions between Russia and Japan led to the Russo-Japanese War (1905) in order to control some areas of Manchuria and Korea. It was finally won by Japan;
 - conflicts between Great Britain and Russia in order to control Afghanistan, which eventually became a buffer state between both two powers.

Chronology of the Age of Imperialism

1763	End of Seven Years' War; Great Britain gains control of India.
1830	France occupies Algeria.
1839	The First Opium War begins.
1842	The First Opium War ends with the Treaty of Nanking.
1849	Gustave Courbet paints <i>The Stone Breakers</i> .
1850	Jean François Millet paints <i>The Sower</i> .
1850	The Taiping Rebellion in China begins; Chinese civil war against the Manchu rulers (Qing Dynasty); millions are killed.
1851	Great Exhibition in London celebrates the technological achievements of Great Britain.
1853	Commodore Perry opens up trade with Japan.
1857	The Sepoy Mutiny against British rule in India takes place.
1858	India comes under direct rule by Great Britain.
1869	Suez Canal completed.
1870	Cecil Rhodes arrives in Cape Town, South Africa.
1872	Thomas Cook organizes his first trip around the world. It takes 222 days.
1872	Claude Monet paints <i>Impression, Sunrise</i> .
1874	Edgar Degas paints <i>The Dance Class</i> .
1875	Great Britain gains control of the Suez Canal and begins to establish a protectorate over Egypt (in 1882).
1882	British land troops in Egypt.
1884–1885	International Berlin Conference on meets to establish guidelines for European imperialism in Africa.
1885	Germany controls German East Africa.
1886	British take over Burma.
1889	Vincent van Gogh paints <i>The Starry Night</i> .
1892	Pierre Auguste Renoir paints <i>Girls at the Piano</i> .
1897	Paul Gauguin paints <i>Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?</i>
1897	First Zionist Conference meets in Basel, Switzerland.
1899–1901	The Boxer Rebellion in China against Westerners takes place.
1899	Open Door Policy is proposed by United States for China.
1899–1902	Boer War; British crush rebellion by Dutch farmers in South Africa.
1904–1905	Russo-Japanese War; Japan takes Korea and Port Arthur from Russia.
1910	Union of South Africa is formed.
1911–1912	Manchu Dynasty overthrown; Dr. Sun Yat-Sen is named president of Chinese Republic.

ACTIVITIES ABOUT IMPERIALISM:

- 1.- Identify the **causes** of Imperialism in each text.
- 2.- Complete the **world map** with the colonial empires and label it with the main events/conflicts
- 3.- Complete the blank map of **Africa** with the colonies. Label the map with the main events/conflicts

III- INTERNATIONAL SITUATION 1870-1914.

Two different political systems coexisted between 1870 and 1914: parliamentary systems in Western Europe and USA and autocratic systems in Central and Eastern Europe.

There were no wars in Europe between 1870-1914, but **tensions** increased due to: 1. economic competence (Germany/UK) ; 2. territorial claims (Alsace&Lorraine by France; Balkans); 3. military development (Germany); 4. colonial conflicts (France//Germany in Morocco), 5. Nationalism (pangermanism, Balkans (Russia/A-H Empire/Ottoman Empire). (→ see ppt with graphs)

We can divide this periods into two phases:

- 1870-1890: the **Bismarckian systems**, established by the powerful German chancellor Otto von Bismarck in order to guarantee the German supremacy in Europe trying to prevent conflict in Europe. How? isolating France (who was resentful after having been defeated in the Franco-Prussian war, 1870)
→ **alliances with Russia, Austria and Italy**. Finally, these alliances didn't work because Russia and Austria both wanted to expand in the Balkans.
- 1890-1914: **The Armed Peace**, with William II as German Kaiser (Bismarck was dismissed in 1890). The new German international policy known as *Weltpolitik* involved a **worldwide German intervention**. As a result of German expansionism, tensions increased between Germany and other countries. Consequently and feeling threatened, France set up new alliances with Russia and UK.

Tensions brought about several crisis in Morocco (France/Germany) and in the Balkans: Austria would annexed Bosnia in 1908, while Serbia became the most powerful Balkan state protected by Russia. The confrontation between Austria and Russia will move towards the outbreak of WW1 in 1914.

By 1914, Europe was divided into two blocks:

- The **Triple Alliance** : Germany, Austria, Italy
- The **Triple Entente**: France, Russia, UK.

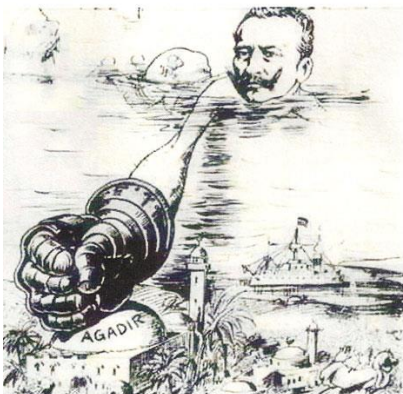
→ Label the map with the alliances established before WWI.



CONCLUSION: THE WAY TO IWW

As we have seen throughout the unit, there were some conflicts that affected these countries in this period. The most important were:

- **Moroccan crises.** Germany and France wanted to get control over Morocco and they were about to begin a war. Germany declared itself as defender of the Moroccan independence so that France may not control it. In the Algeciras Conference (1906) it was decided that a protectorate should be established in Morocco by Spain (north) and France. In 1911 Germany denounced France because it had not respected all the agreements of Algeciras. The German battleship *Panther* was sent to the Moroccan port of Agadir to press France. France finally ceded a part of Congo to Germany in order to avoid a war.



Balkan crises. They were conflicts between the nations in the Balkans, mostly the Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, and Austria-Hungary.

- **Crisis of 1908.** Austria-Hungary took advantage of an internal revolution in the Ottoman Empire and annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina. Russia did not like the annexation because it considered itself the protector of the Slavs. None the less it had to cede. Bulgaria also took advantage to proclaim its total independence from Turkey.
- **Balkan Wars (1912-1913).** 1st Balkan War (1912). Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro allied in order to expel the Ottoman Empire from the Balkans. o Turkey was defeated very quickly. 2nd Balkan War (1913). There were disputes between the previously allied countries. Hence, Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece declared war on



Bulgaria because of the control of the Balkans. Bulgaria was defeated and a need of revenge grew in that country.

Serbia became the most powerful and influential country in the Balkans, which was also protected by Russia. Crisis of 1914. It was the final crisis since the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo by a pro-Serbian activist, Gavrilo Princip (28 June 1914). Austria-Hungary sent an ultimatum to Serbia that was not accepted. It involved the outbreak of the First World War.

→Complete the self- assessment worksheet

UNIT 6: WORLD WAR ONE

1. CAUSES OF WAR:
2. PARTICIPANTS AND PHASES
3. CHARACTERISTICS OF WAR: A “TOTAL WAR”
4. CONSEQUENCES
5. THE END OF WAR AND THE PEACE TREATIES.

INTRODUCTION: This War was caused by the tension between the European countries and was the first one of its kind, because, at that time, no war had ever had so many deaths, countries included and that amount of different warfare. This is why it is known as “*The Great War*” and the reason why it had a big impact in the economy and society.

1.- CAUSES OF WAR

In the beginning of the 20th century there was an **underlying friction** between European countries. Little by little new alliances were formed in the shadows between different countries to protect their interests in case of a breakout of war, which was pretty clear it was imminent. Several crisis, such as the Moroccan or Balkan crisis, were worsening and deteriorating relations. Europe reached a point in which any little action against the other could mean the War, that war everybody had been waiting for.

IMMEDIATE CAUSE: The 28th June 1914, the Serbian Gavrilo Princip, who belonged to a terrorist organization called “the Black Hand” **killed the heir to the Austrian-Hungarian Empire**, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife. It was the spark that started WWI, as it provoked a very sensible relationship between **Serbia** and the **Austrian** Empire, which had had a controversial situation concerning the Balkans before. **Russia** took a step forward and proclaimed its self the protector of Slavs in Europe, Serbia mostly.

UNDERLYING CAUSES: The assassination of the Austrian heir wasn't the main reason for a war breaking out, as there were other reasons underlying (summarized in the acronym **MANIA**)

- **Militarism:** there was an “**arms race**” between **Germany** and **France** and the **UK**. Both “blocks” wanted to have military supremacy and made war by building up a strong army and navy. The incident in Agadir (1911), Morocco, showed how close were European powers to war. UK was reluctant to declare war on Germany, but felt strongly threatened by German naval development, which challenged UK superiority in the sea (essential to maintain UK vast empire)
- **Alliance system:** two main blocks that confronted each other were created by European nations: firstly the **Triple Alliance** was created and involved Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy; and then the **Triple Entente** involving France, Russia and the UK. All the powers were getting ready for war. The alliance system explains why the assassination of the Austrian heir could not be just limited to the Balkans, as previous conflicts (1st and 2nd Balkan Wars). Yet, it triggered multiples enchainned reactions that put the major European countries in two opposite blocks.
- **Nationalism:** The nationalism of various countries throughout Europe contributed not only to the beginning but the extension of the war in Europe. Each country tried

to prove their dominance and power. This increased **aggressiveness** and **revenge** among them. This was the case between Germany and France (Sedan, 1870) or between Austria and Serbia (pan Slavism, annexation of Bosnia, 1908).

- **Imperialism:** every big country wanted to have the biggest empire in the world by controlling many colonies. This provoked friction in colonies.



The outbreak of WWI: Serbia responded by Austria, who is the attacked by Russia, who is then attacked by Germany, who is then attacked by France and Britain...

- **Assassination of the Austrian heir**, which provoked a response from both the Austrian Empire (sending an ultimatum to Serbia that Serbia could not accept) and from Russia, (who started its mobilization to protect its Slavic ally, Serbia.).

This chart shows the crisis in 1914 summer:

1914 - the build-up to war

Date	Event
July 5th	The Austrian government asks the German government if it will support Austria in a war against Russia, if Russia supports Serbia. The Germans say they will support whatever the Austrian government decides to do - the so called 'blank cheque'.
July 23rd	The Austrian government sends the Serbian government an ultimatum.
July 25th	The Serbians accept all the conditions except one - that Austrian police should be allowed into Serbia.
July 28th	Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.
July 30th	The Russian army is mobilised.
August 1st	Germany declares war on Russia.
August 3rd	Germany declares war on France and, following the Schlieffen Plan, attacks Belgium.
August 4th	Britain keeps the promise made in a treaty of 1839 to defend Belgium, and declares war on Germany.

Activity 1: causes of war through texts

Activity 2: make a mind map with the role of each country in the outbreak of war

2.- PARTICIPANTS AND PHASES

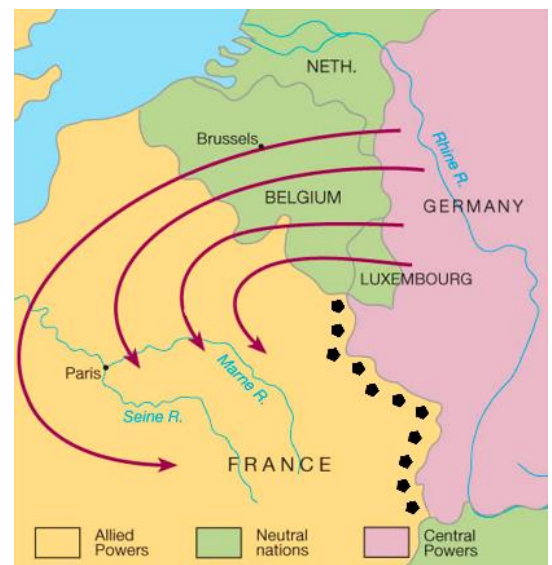
Before the war broke out, there were two main alliances: Triple Entente (France, Britain, Russia) and Triple Alliance (Italy, Germany, Austro-hungarian empire). Italy finally entered the war in May 1915 fighting against its previous allies, Germany and AH.

WWI was mainly divided in 3 phases:

1914	-West: German offensive (Plan Schlieffen); Germans defeated in the Marne -East: Germans defeated Russia (battle of Tannenberg)
1915	-Trench warfare: western front stabilised along 700 km of trenches -Italy joins the Allied powers → new front in the south -Eastern front balanced as Bulgaria joins the central powers and Romania the Entente (Allies)
1916	-battle of Verdun exemplifies the war of attrition, causing 300,000 of deads in both sides with little change in the front line. -battle of the Somme, a Franco-British offensive, where millions of shells were
1917	The submarine warfare forces USA to intervene in April Russian revolution → retreat
1918	Germans were now free in the Eastern front after Russia's withdrew, Germany launched the final offensive against France, almost reached Paris but were defeated in the 2 nd battle of the Marne. Central powers began to surrender (Bulgaria, Ottomans, Austria) 9 Nov: Kaiser Wilhem II abdicated, new Rep. of Weimar. 2 days later, new government signed the armistice

2.1.-1914: WAR OF MOVEMENT.

-The war starts with **German offensives**. Germany put the **Schlieffen Plan** into practice the 3rd august 1914. This plan consisted in attacking **France** through **Belgium** and defeating it in less than 6 weeks, and then turning into **Russia** ("*Breakfast in Paris, dinner in St Petersburg*"). Germany wanted to avoid a two-fronts-war and was confident believing the Russians would need a lot of time to mobilize its army. Actually it took just ten days, so Germany had to fight in both fronts. The Germans were also wrong about Britain, believing that the **British** would not care about the violation of Belgian neutrality, but they did and **declared war on Germany** a day later, 4th August.



As a result, the British helped the French army in the western front, stopping the Germans in the **Marne**, 40 miles from Paris. However, the Germans were successful in the eastern front, defeating the Russians in the **Tannenberg** battle.

2.2.- 1915-1916: FROM WAR OF MOVEMENT TO WAR OF POSITION.



As the armies were quite balanced, **700 kilometres of trenches** were established in the Western Front. This meant the beginning of the **“Trench Warfare”**, which was marked by the amount of deaths caused by the machineguns and the barbed wires that protected the trenches from the attackers. The main battles during this period were the bloody **battle of Verdun** (German offensive) and the **battle**

of the Somme (French offensive aimed at reducing pressure over Verdun), both in the Western Front. These battles are good examples of the *war of attrition*, and failed because were unable to take more than some meters from the enemy causing thousands of deaths. It is estimated that in Verdun and the Somme more than 1 million soldiers of both sides lost their lives.

In the **Eastern Front** Germany launched an offensive against Russia and defeated them.

In addition during this period many countries joined the war like **Bulgaria** (revengeful towards Serbia after the 2nd Balkan War) or the **Ottoman Empire** to the Central Powers. **Italy, Romania and Japan** joined the Allies. This change in alliances created a **new front in the South of Europe**.

2.3.- INTERNATIONALISATION OF WAR.

1917 was a crucial year, as it meant and the intervention of **USA** in April, as German submarines were sinking British and American boats around the Isles to keep a trade blockade. Additionally, **Russia retreated** as the Revolution broke out in October. Lenin, the new Russian leader, decided to end the war with Germany and signed a treaty in Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) in which Russia ceded part of their territory to the central powers. Meanwhile, both sides had to suffer mutinies and desertions.

2.4.- END OF WAR AND ALLIED VICTORY .

Despite the withdrawal of Russia, France was able to resist the last German offensive in the 2nd battle of Marne, which caused the progressive surrender of all the countries from the Central Powers .

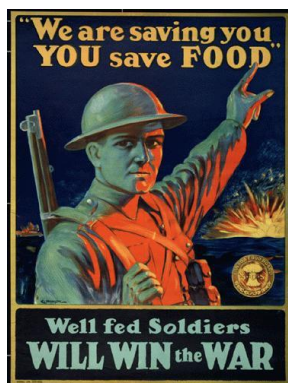
The 9th November, the German emperor Wilhelm II abdicated and a Republic is founded (the Weimar Republic). The new German leaders signed the **armistice the 11th of November of 1918**. Different conferences will be hold in Paris with the defeated countries.

Activity 3 : Complete the activity “What word is defined?” IN YOUR NOTEBOOK.

3.- CHARACTERISTICS OF WWI: The Great war is considered a “TOTAL WAR” due to many reasons:

By 1915, the war had been consolidated as a total and global war, and the Battle of Ypres settle this term definitely. Germans and British used this battle to try new weapons for the first time such as mustard gas, they destroyed the city and its surroundings making clear that this new war involved citizens as well and they mainly used to create this catastrophe soldiers recruited from the respective empires. To make clear this was a total war we have to keep in mind:

- This is a “world” war as European countries made use of their **colonies** to provide workforce during the war for manufacturing weapons or building trenches, and to recruit soldiers (4 million people mobilized from colonies). Some colonies were also war theatres.
- The creation of **new weapons** made this war pretty modern and more devastating. **Artillery** and machineguns were the kings of the war, but there were more inventions: mortars, flamethrowers, mustard gas, tanks, zeppelins, fighters, bombers, destroyers, submarines...
- **Warfare:** It was the first time that a war was fought on the sky, the sea and the land at the same time. In addition new ways of fighting appeared thanks to the new inventions (airplane, toxic gases...), like the chemical warfare, the psychological warfare, the trench warfare or the already mentioned aerial warfare.
- **Civilians** suffered lot from the war even if being far from the frontline, social effort. They work very hard to keep



the country running with jobs in factories, in France and Germany there was **extreme hunger** among the people, **rationing** was the solution to food shortage. The whole population was focused on war and their **freedoms were suspended** to prevent uprisings and promote patriotism.

- **Economic effort** focused on war. The countries' economies were mainly focused on war as every factory produced equipment, food was very important to combat hunger, but was first sent to the trenches, no trade with other countries was available, sometimes not even national as no one individually should benefit from what they produce, everything for the country to fight the enemy.
- **Women** gained huge importance: factories, production of food, etc. was full of female workers as men were the ones that went to the frontlines, but they had lower wages. This was the starting point of many women demonstrations and revolutions as soon as the war ended.

- Undermining the enemy's self-confidence was a new "weapon" used by countries in WWI, that's why **propaganda and censorship** became essential. Propaganda was used to praise themselves for what their country was doing, used for recruiting soldiers and workers and to portray the enemy as a devil and loser. **Censorship** was used to prevent media from posting articles, propaganda or whatever against their own government, or from telling the truth to citizens about the war whether they were losing the war or not.



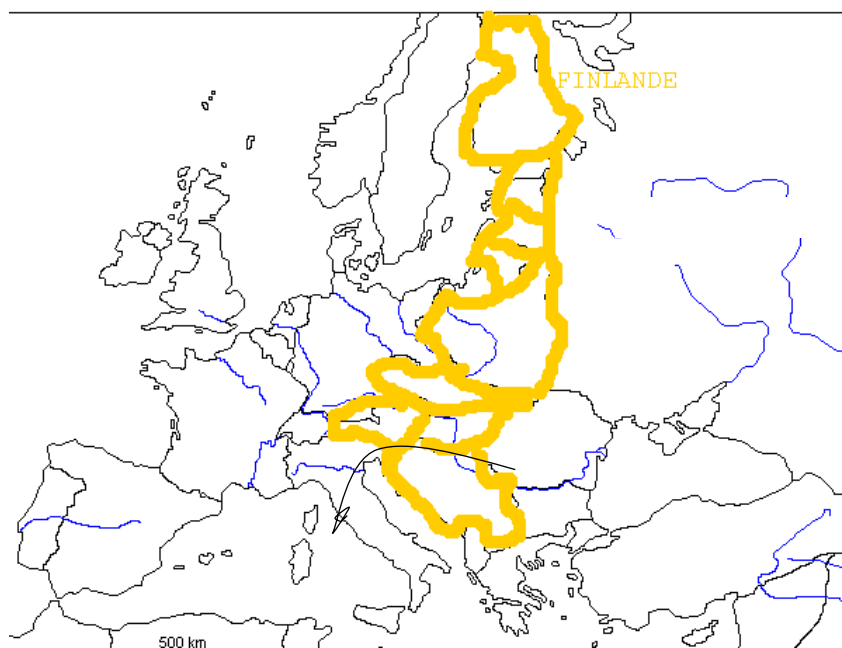
Activity 4 (Voluntary): Illustrate each of the characteristics of WW1 with one source (image, cartoon, text (primary source), graph, map...). The images in the written unit and ppt can not be used.

4.- CONSEQUENCES.

Demographic consequences: In the end, after 5 years of terror and hell, the Great War ended with an unsuccessful treaty (in the long run) and horrific numbers. This had been by far the worst war ever in terms of destruction, casualties, etc.

- 10 million dead
- 20 million wounded
- 20-80 million mobilized → 60-70% were killed or injured
- 16 countries involved + colonial empires (this is what made WWI a world war)

Territorial consequences: 5 main treaties were signed with the loser countries in different



palaces in Paris: Austria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary and Germany, being the latter the most important and signed in Versailles. A **new map of Europe** is created, as the German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires disappeared, leading to the **birth of 9 new countries** in Eastern Europe.(→see map). The Russian Revolution also led to creation of the Soviet Union, formed by different republics with Russia as

the most powerful republic.

Political consequences: Europe loses its hegemony and it's replaced by USA. Encouraged by the success in Russia, **Communism** will spread out in many European countries, helped by the economic crisis. Besides, an important political result was the creation of the **League of Nations**, which was an international organisation to promote peace and dialogue, based on president **Wilson's 14 points**. Finally, thanks to the importance of women during the war some countries gave them the right to vote.

Economic : Europe suffered a period of **economic decline**, affecting both winners (in debt with USA) and defeated countries (forced to pay **war reparations**). **Inflation** became a serious problem in many countries after the war, specially in Germany. In contrast, USA which had entered the war very late, did not suffer destruction the way European countries did. The economic link through the Atlantic ocean became stronger, as the Allied countries had to **pay USA back** for the money they had borrow from Americans during war .

Activity 5: Complete the map in the unit and the “Map 1919 activity”

Activity 6: Complete the activity about Wilson 14 points

Activity 7: What was the *League of Nations*? Research about similarities and differences with the United Nations.

5.- THE END OF WAR AND THE PEACE TREATIES

The Armistice of 11 November 1918 Was great joy. The people of Europe wanted lasting peace and to make Germany pay for the damage and revenge.

The Germans had expected that the peace treaty would be based on President Wilson's Fourteen Points. The six key principles of the Fourteen Points were: setting up a League of Nations, disarmament, self-determination for the people of Europe-the right to rule themselves-, freedom for the colonies , freedom of the seas, free trade.

But the *Big Three*(USA, France, UK) were finally much harsher in the terms of the armistice, which will be the basis for the peace treaties. En FAC de peace treaties were very difficult to achieve because these three countries had different ideas about what about What the terms of the treaties should be.

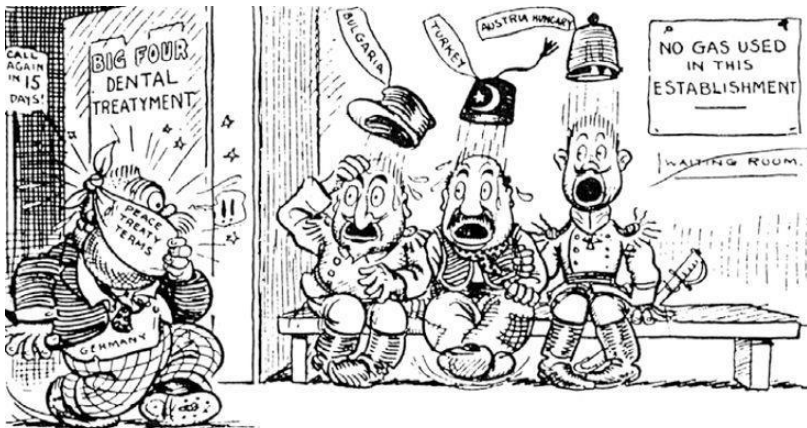
- Wilson wanted to end war by creating League of Nations based on his Fourteen Points; he wanted to ensure Germany was not destroyed; he didn't want to blame Germany for the war (he hated the guilt clause)
- Clemenceau wanted punishment and revenge, the return of Alsace and Lorraine , huge reparations, and didn't want anu League of Nations.
- Lloyd George wanted a fair peace that would leave Germany strong enough to trade, land for Britain's empire and to safeguard Britain's naval supremacy.

The main peace treaties were negotiated in **the Paris Peace Conference** , each defeated country had to sign a specific treaty in different places near Paris..

The most important treaty was the one signed with Germany in the palace of Versailles. The terms of the **Treaty of Versailles** were:

Territorial provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Territorial losses in the West (Alsace/Lorraine returned to France...) and East (lands ceded to Lithuania, Poland) ✓ Rhineland demilitarised ✓ Saar (industrial region) occupied by French army for 15 years ✓ Colonies became mandates (controlled by the League of Nations)
Economic and financial provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Germany and its allies responsible for causing all loss and damage (War guilt clause) → huge reparations
Military provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Army limited to 100,000 men ✓ Prohibition to have air force, submarines, tanks ✓ Navy restricted to 6 battleships
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Germany not allowed to join the League of Nations ✓ Germany not allowed to join with Austria (Anschluss)

Four other treaties were signed with the countries that helped Germany during the war. The Treaty of Versailles, however, was the template for these treaties, which were drawn up by officials (not the Big Three) and followed the principles of Versailles: they had to disarm, pay reparations, they lost land, so new countries were formed (see map 1919)



The **Treaty of Saint Germain** was signed with Austria, Hungary signed the **Treaty of Trianon** they meant the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Bulgaria signed the **Treaty of Neuilly** and the **Treaty of Sèvres** was signed with Turkey (the Ottoman empire was dissolved).

Activities 8 and 9: Complete the activities about the treaty of Versailles.

CONCLUSION

After it was over, World War I was called "the war to end all wars" because it was so destructive that the nations of the world wanted to prevent such slaughter from ever happening again. This prompted prolonged negotiations over proposed solutions like the League of Nations. Unfortunately, rather than end war, the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles drafted mainly by the Big Four (USA, England, France and Italy), almost destroyed Germany's economy and led to the rise of the Nazi Party in the 1930s, setting the stage for World War II.

UNIT 7: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONS

INTRODUCTION: Historical significance of the Russian Revolution

1.- RUSSIA BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

- 1.1.-The Tsarist regime
- 1.2.-The 1905 Revolution
- 1.3.- The effect of WWI in Russia

2.- THE 1917 REVOLUTIONS

- 2.1.-The February Revolution
- 2.2.-October Revolution

3.- THE USSR.

- 3.1.-Lenin government (1917-24)
- 3.2.- Stalin government (1924-54)

INTRODUCTION: The historical significance of the Russian Revolution

The years between 1917 and 1945 was an unstable period marked by the Russian Revolutions (the February 1917 Rev and the October 1917 Rev), the post-war crisis in most of European countries, the spread of communism, the economic crisis of 1929 and the rise of totalitarian regimes (Fascism, Nazism, Stalinism) that led to the Second World War

Historians agree that the events that happened in Russia are one of the most relevant in contemporary History, as they created the first communist state in the world (the Soviet Union) that will have a great influence throughout the 20th century until its dissolution in 1991. .

1.- RUSSIA BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

The **Russian Revolution** was the result of several elements that characterised the early-20th century Russia. The effects of liberal revolutions that had affected most of Europe were almost inexistent in Russia, where the tsar ruled with an absolute power. Industrialisation was delayed and concentrated in some cities. Yet, the Russian empire was the largest continental empire in the world, and played an important role in the international scenario. Foreign affairs will have major consequences and will trigger the beginning of the end of the tsarist regime.

1.1.-The Tsarist regime



In the late 19th century, Russia was a vast empire ruled as an **absolute monarchy**. The tsar Nicholas II (1896-1917) held an autocratic regime where he had all the power and government. While most of Europe had been introducing liberal measures throughout the 19th century, in Russia was no Parliament nor elections. The tsar was supported by the Orthodox church, the army and an outdated bureaucracy. Political parties were forbidden and the secret police persecuted the opponents.

The **economy** was semi-feudal, where a wealthy minority of noblemen owned most of the agricultural land, which was worked by a peasant majority (80%). Their living conditions were very hard and most of them were illiterate. Rural areas were completely backward, tools were rudimentary and productivity was low. Industrialisation had been delayed in comparison to the other European countries, focused on heavy industry and railway construction, which led to the emergence of the proletariat in the cities. However, there was only a small bourgeoisie because industrial development was promoted by foreign investment and the state.

In the late 19th century, clandestine political parties were founded, opposing the tsar.

-The ***Socialist Revolutionary Party***, led by Kerensky (→important role in the February Rev).

-Marxists formed the ***Russian Socio-Democratic Workers Party***, that split in two groups:

-the **Mensheviks**, more moderate, who wanted to implement gradual reforms in a liberal regime that would make a gradual transition to socialism.

-the **Bolsheviks** were more radical. They rejected cooperation with the bourgeoisie and wanted to establish a **proletarian dictatorship**. They wanted an immediate revolution. THEIR LEADER WAS LENIN. **Anarchism** also spread through the use of violence and terrorism against important figures of the regime (such as the tsar **Alexander II**, killed in 1881 by an anarchist terrorist).

1.2.-The 1905 Revolution

In 1905 Russia was defeated by Japan in the **Russo-Japanese War**, in a time of a deep economic crisis. There were protests against the tsar's absolutist regime, they demanded improved living conditions and political reforms, but not an end of tsarism. However, they were violently repressed by the government (Bloody Sunday). The following months were marked by strikes and protests. Workers and soldiers formed revolutionary councils (*soviets*) in St. Petersburg. These popular assemblies later became very important in Russian history. The tsar finally made a few concessions, the main one was the creation of a Parliament (**Duma**) via universal male suffrage, but it was not really respected by the sovereign. He continued to govern without the Duma. The situation worsened and criticism against the tsar increased. A liberal party was founded after the 1905 revolution (***the Constitutional Democratic Party (kadets)***), that wanted to establish a parliamentary monarchy in Russia. It was mostly composed of middle-class people.

1.3.- The effect of WWI in Russia

The participation of **Russia** in the **First World War** worsened the economic and political problems that the empire was already experiencing. The involvement of Russia in war was a natural consequence of the interest in the Balkans, supporting the Serbians and hence confronting with the Austro-Hungarian empire. The war was quite unpopular and left many casualties (more than 2 million). **Discontent** and protest grew, as Russian soldiers did not have enough food or military equipment. Additionally, **military disasters** against the powerful German army followed, and frustrated soldiers led many **mutinies**. **Desertions** increased in the front, along with **strikes** in the cities, as civilians were suffering from **food shortage**, increase of prices and **starvation**. Protest were harshly repressed.

IN YOUR NOTEBOOK, ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

- 1.- *What were the reasons for political unrest in tsarist Russia?*
- 2.- *List the signs of Russian economic weakness.*
- 3.- *Explain the difference between Mensheviks and Bolsheviks*
- 4.- *What were the causes and consequences of 1905 Revolution?*
- 5.- *List the effects of the participation of Russia in WWI.*

2.- THE 1917 REVOLUTIONS

2.1.-The February Revolution and the formation of the provisional government

A general strike took place in Russia between 23 and 27 February 1917 (8-12 March in western calendar). Peasants, army and bourgeoisie joined to create the **Petrograd Soviet** to fight against the tsarist power. The revolutionary slogan was “Peace, bread and land”. A general strike broke out, and there were mutinies among the soldiers.

Nicholas II, who had lost the support of the army, was forced to abdicate on 2 March in favour of his brother Michael, who subsequently abdicated on 3 March. The **Russian Republic** was thus established and the **Duma** took the political control in Russia. A **provisional government** was formed, first led by prince Lvov and soon replaced by **KERENSKY**, a Menshevik. Workers, peasants and soldiers formed soviets all over the country. These councils had their own armed militias (the Red Guard) and soon fell under Bolshevik control. In fact, there were two powers in Russia: the Provisional Government and the soviets.

The **first liberal measures** of the Provisional Government were: freedom of speech was allowed, political parties were permitted, the redistribution of land was promised... but as Kerensky knew Russia needed the support of Western countries, the Russians went on fighting in WWI, hoping as well that Russian victories would restore morale.

The Bolsheviks, led by LENIN, who came back from his exile in Switzerland (helped by the Germans) opposed the provisional government and presented his program in the “**April theses**”. Lenin promised “*peace, bread and land*”, the withdrawal of WWI, and the nationalisation of lands. He asked to give “*all the power to the Soviets*”, and to stop supporting the provisional government. Helped by TROSTKY, he prepared the future and definitive revolution. His popularity increased and soon controlled the main cities (St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev), establishing alternative government based on the soviets. There were many demonstrations against the Provisional Government in July and Kerensky responded with a harsh repression. Lenin's opposition to the Provisional Government resulted in another exile in July, this time to Finland and many Bolshevik leaders, like Trotsky, were imprisoned.

In September, a conservative military leader (general Kornilov) tried to achieve a coup d'état against the Provisional Government. Consequently, as the soviets were well organized, the Provisional Government decided to free the Bolsheviks that were in jail and gave them weapons to respond to the coup. Trotsky's Red Guard defended the city, increasing its popularity seen as the saviours. They kept the weapons that Kerensky had loaned them! The events in the summer 1917 showed the weakness of the Provisional Government and the strength of the Bolsheviks and the soviets.

2.2.-The **October** Revolution.

On 24th October (6th November in western calendar) Lenin, who had returned from his exile in Finland, joined the Petrograd Soviet. The next day the **Bolsheviks** stormed the **Winter Palace** of St. Petersburg, which was guarded by the Cossacks, Women's battalion, and cadets. Later, they took control of banks, stations, communications, with almost no resistance. The Provisional Government surrendered. It is considered the outbreak of the October Revolution. A new **Revolutionary government** was formed by the Bolshevik leaders: **Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky**, among others. Lenin became soon the leader of Russia.

ACTIVITIES:

6.- *Research and write a short biography about Lenin.*

7.- *What were the main proposals of the so-called April thesis?*

8.- *Make a chart comparing causes /development/ consequences of February and October Revolutions.*

3.- THE USSR.

3.1.- Lenin government (1917-21) and the civil war.

Under Lenin the Bolshevik government imposed some measures: the **Duma** was dissolved and the Red Army seized the control in Russia; censorship was imposed; right to strike was abolished; lands and banks were nationalised; as it had been promised, Russia retreated from War, signing in March 1918 the **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** with Germany, where Russia accepted the independence of Finland, the Baltic republics, Poland, Ukraine, and Transcaucasia. The former Russian Empire became a federal state.

The **Cheka** (political police) was created in order to persecute dissidents and purge the soviets of possible Mensheviks. The government persecuted opponents, and executed the Imperial family (Romanov) in July 1918.

A communist dictatorship was established and all other political parties were banned.

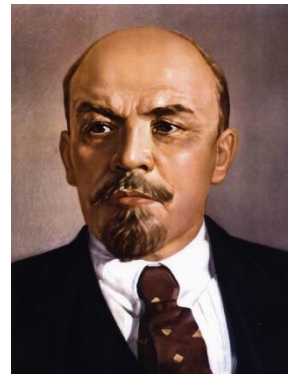
In response to these events, a **civil war** broke out between:

- White Army (counter-revolutionaries, represented by liberals, conservatives and moderate socialists, supported by France and UK, that feared the spread of communism in Europe)

- the Bolshevik forces (the Red Army).

The civil war would last until from 1918 until 1921. Bolsheviks won the war, 8 million people lost their lives. **War Communism** was imposed to guarantee supplies to the cities and the war fronts. Industries and lands were nationalised, crops were seized to feed the army. Protests against these measures were harshly repressed

After the Civil War, the USSR, **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics** was proclaimed (1922), organised as a federal state governed by the Communist Party. The **Constitution of the USSR** was passed on 6 June 1923: only the **Communist Party of the Soviet Union** was legal; the legislative power was held by the **Supreme Soviet**; the executive power was held by the **Presidium and Council of People's Commissars**, who were in charge of controlling the Head of the State; the capital was fixed in **Moscow**; each republic of the **USSR** would have some autonomy. It soon began to expand by incorporating other republics.





In 1921, the Kronstadt sailors - who had been the **Bolsheviks** fiercest supporters - **mutinied**, demanding an end to War Communism. Trotsky put down the rebellion, but Lenin decided to replace War Communism by a **New Economic Policy (NEP)** which was in use until 1927: some economic freedom was given to the peasants; small companies could be private; some foreign investments were allowed; they allowed some international

exchanges; the nationalised companies would be self-managed by the workers. At the same time, local nationalities who had been forced to follow a strict Communist line were **allowed** to bring back their own language and customs. Churches, mosques and bazaars were re-opened. The improvement in the economy was significant, but some old Bolsheviks said Lenin had **sold out to capitalism**, and left the party.

ACTIVITIES

9.- Why was there a civil war after the October Rev? Explain the main features of the two opponent sides.

10.- Explain how the Russian civil war was an international issue.

11.- Summarize the economic measures imposed during the civil war. Research about its results.

12.- What type of economic policy was established replacing War Communism? List its main economic and political consequences.

3.2.- **Stalin's** government (1924-1953)

Once **Lenin** died in 1924, he was succeeded by **Joseph Stalin**, who had fought with **Trotsky** to get the government. This **struggle for power** between Stalin, the secretary of the Communist Party, and Trotsky, the brilliant Commissar for War, was about what the Soviet Union would become: Trotsky believed in encouraging world revolution, whereas Stalin advocated Communism in one country' and said Russia had to establish its power before there was any attempt to spread revolution. Stalin used his position as secretary to put his supporters on the Central Committee of the party. Stalin became party leader in 1924, and Trotsky was dismissed, then exiled and murdered in 1940.



Stalin established a totalitarian regime until his death in 1953. It is the so-called **Stalinism**:

- **Politically**, there was a total centralisation of the state and all the enemies of **Stalin** were purged, even within the Communist party - 93 of the 139 Central Committee members were put to death. Some 20 million ordinary Russians were sent to the **gulag** forced labour camps system mostly in Siberia - where perhaps half of them died. The Christian Church and the Muslim religion were forbidden. Ethnic groups were persecuted, and **Russification** - the acceptance of Russian language and customs - was enforced throughout the Soviet Union.

- In **economic** terms he implemented the **Five-year Plans**, which favoured the heavy industry (coal, oil, steel and electricity). They created the **Kolkhoz** (agrarian cooperatives) and the **Sovkhoz** (state-owned farms) for peasants. Private property was completely prohibited. The State should own the wealth and would lead its redistribution. These plans made the **USSR** a very important economic and military power. However, consumers goods industries (food, textiles) was deficient, and thousands of people died of starvation and cold. Recent research estimate that only in Ukraine, more than 4 million people died of famine in 1932-33.

The Soviet Union also gave **opportunities to women** - crèches were set up so they could also work.



92. Ефремов Б.
Капитан Страны Советов ведет нас от победы к победе! 1933

Women became doctors and scientists, as well as canal diggers and steel workers.

The use of **propaganda** presented Stalin as a caring father to his people.

His leadership was reinforced after the participation of USSR in WW2. The victory over Hitler and the freeing of Western Europe would increase Stalin's popularity and would lead to the spread of Communism from Poland to Yugoslavia (the so-called "iron curtain"), dividing Europe into two blocks.

The division will also affect other areas of the world (Korea, South Eastern Asia, South America).

The confrontation between USSR and USA and his allies will be maintained during the **Cold War** by Stalin successors after his death in 1954. The reforms introduced in the 80's will finally put an end to the USSR (dissolved in 1991) and therefore to Cold War.

ACTIVITIES

- 13.- *List the main political and economic measures established under Stalin dictatorship.*
- 14.- *Research the influence of the Russian Revolution. Which other countries became communist?*
- 15.- *How long did the communist regime in Russia last?*
- 16.- *What was its conflict with the USA called?*

INTERESTING LINKS:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/russia/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/russian-revolution>