



BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

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**Programme: FIVE-YEAR INTEGRATED M.A
HISTORY**

Course Title: WORLD IN THE AGE OF EXTREMES

Course Code: CC20

Unit – I

First World War: Causes, Courses, and Effects

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FIRST WORLD WAR 1914 - 1918


Important Powers

- Allies
 - Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Rumania, Greece, Serbia, Belgium, Portugal, China, Japan, and United States
- Central Powers
 - Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria.

Causes of the War

- Aggressive Nationalism
- Imperialism
- Rivalry
- Triple Alliance 1882
 - Austro German Secret Alliance 1879 (also known as Dual Alliance)
 - Later Italy joined the Alliance called Triple Alliance

- Triple Entente
 - Franco Russian Agreement 1894
 - Entente Cordiale 1904
 - Great Britain
 - France
 - Later 1907 Russia joined with and called Triple Entente
 - Japan was joined the Triple Entente in 1910

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- Rise of Big Rivalry
 - Immediate Causes
 - Austria's prince, Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie assassinated at Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip.



Course and the Effects of the First World War

Course of the First World War

- Austria declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914.
- August 1, 1914, Germany declared war on Russia.
- On August 3 on France. England declared war on Germany on August 4, when Germany violated Belgium's neutrality.
- Russia invaded Germany and Austria to help Serbia.
- The Germans routed the Russians, and occupied Russian Poland.

- In 1917 in the Bolshevik Revolution, Tsar Nicholas II was overthrown and communist republic was established.
- The Russians had no other alternative but to surrender to Austria and Germany ended by signing the Treaty of Brest Litovsk on March 18.
- German gave up all the promises with regard to Freedom of sea.
- In 1917 it threatened all the submarines entered into the Atlantic Ocean.
- USA based ship Lusitania was sanked by German U-boat
- Followed by this USA entered into the war in 1917.

Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points

1. No secret diplomacy
2. Freedom of the seas
3. Elimination of economic barriers
4. Reduction of National Armaments
5. Impartial adjustments of colonial claims
6. Evacuation of Russia

7. Restoration of Belgium

8. Restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France

9. Completion of Italian national unification

10. Self-determination for the peoples of Austria-Hungary

11. Self-determination for the Balkans

12. Self-determination for Turkey

13. Independence of Poland

14. Establishment of the League of Nations

Effects of the First World War

- Great Loss of Life and Property
- Fate of the Defeated
- Allied Powers became Stronger
- Emergence of New Nations on the Principle of Self-determination
- Birth of the League of Nations
- Revival of Barbarism