

CLASS-9 HISTORY

Chap-3

Nazism and the Rise of Hitler

Nazi was a political ideology which flourished in Germany and influenced world politics. When genocidal war was started in Germany under the shadow of the Second World War, it caused killings of millions of people in different inhuman ways. We are going to deal with Nazi ideology, Hitler's politics and its impact on Germany as well as world's Socio-Political-economic system.

Birth of the Weimar Republic:

Germany was powerful empire in the early years of the 20th century. It fought the First World War alongside the Austrian empire and against the allies (England France and Russia). Germany made initial gains in the war by occupying France and Belgium. The allies were strengthened by the US entry in 1917. They defeated Germany and the Central Powers in November 1918. The defeat of imperial Germany and the resigning of the emperor give an opportunity to parliamentary parties to recast German polity. National Assembly met at Weimar and established a democratic constitution with a federal structure. Deputies were elected to the German parliament on the basis of equal and universal votes cast by all adults including women.

Peace Treaty of Versailles:

The peace Treaty at Versailles with the allies was the harsh and humiliating peace. By signing the peace Treaty of Versailles Germany lost its overseas colonies, one tenth of its population and 13% of its territories, 75% of its iron and 26% of its coal to

France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania. Germany had to pay 6 billion pounds as compensation for war. The War Guilt clause held Germany responsible for the war and damages the Allied countries suffered. Germany lost resource-rich Rhineland to Allied countries.

Further, the allied powers demilitarised Germany to weaken its power. Germans held the new Weimar Republic responsible for not only the defeat in the war but the disgrace at Versailles.

The effects of the war:

The first World War both psychologically and financially affected Europe. Europe became a continent of debtors from creditors. The Weimar Republic carried the burden of war guilt and national humiliation. It was forced to pay a huge compensation. Socialists, Catholics and Democrats who supported the Weimar Republic were criticised and came to be known as November criminals by the conservative Nationalists. After the first world war soldiers were placed above civilians and the media glorified their trench life. However the truth was just the opposite. They lived miserable life in trenches. Aggressive war propaganda, national honour and support grew for conservative dictatorship. At that time in Europe democracy was a young and fragile idea which could not survive.