

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಮಾನಸಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ೫೭೦ ೦೦೬



KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY
Manasagangotri, Mysore - 570 006

HISTORY

ಇತಿಹಾಸ

M.A. (Previous)
Course - 4



Austrian Chancellor -Metternich

Block - 2

ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಇರುವ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಜಾತಂತ್ರೀಕರಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯವು ದೂರಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುಮಾದ್ಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

..... ವಿದ್ಯಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಪಾದನೆಗಾಗಿ ಕಲಿಕಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ಯುವ ಬದಲು, ಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಪತ್ತನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯೆ ಕಲಿಯುವವರ ಬಳಿ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ಯುವ ವಾಹಕವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಡಾ. ಕುಳಂದೈಸ್ವಾಮಿ

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Block

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Unit - 100

The Third French Republic - Problems and Accomplishments
05-19

Unit - 101

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38-48

Course Design and Editorial Committee

Prof. K. Sudha Rao

Vice-Chancellor & Chairperson
Karnataka State Open University
Mysore - 570 006.

Prof. Chambi Puranik

Dean(Academic) - Convenor
Karnataka State Open University
Mysore - 570 006.

Dr. A. Someshekar

Reader and Chairman
Dept. of Studies & Reserch in History
Karnataka State Open University
Mysore - 570 006.

Subject Co-ordinator

Dr. Made Gowda

Professor of History
University of Mysore
Mysore.

Editor

Course writer

Dr. Shivanna

Professor of History
University of Mysore
Mysore.

Units 100-102

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BLOCK - II

INTRODUCTION

Block - II consists of three units i.e., **the Third French Republic : Problems and Accomplishments, The German Empire: The Period of Bismarck (1871-1890), and The German Empire : The period of William II (1888-1918).**

In the Unit 100, you are going to understand about the establishment of the Third French Republic. You learn about the problems faced by the Republic such as conflict with Church, Boulanger Crisis, Panama Scandal and Dryfus affair and how these problems were solved by it. Similarly you would understand about the achievements i.e., freeing education from Church, Labour Legislation, encouragement given to Industry and Agriculture, acquisition of colonies and foreign policy.

In the Unit 101 you are going to learn about the achievements of Bismarck as Chancellor of Germany from 1871 to 1890. You are going to understand the main features of the German Imperial constitution, Bismarck's struggle against the Roman Catholics and the Socialists, Tariff Policy and the colonial policy. In the foreign policy of Bismarck you are going to learn the formation of the Three Emperors' League, the Dual Alliance, The Triple Alliance and the Reinsurance Treaty.

The Unit 102 is devoted for Kaiser William II of Germany. In this Unit you are going to learn about the Industrial and Agricultural development, expansion of Army and Navy and Colonial and Foreign policy during his period. Further you are going to understand how the economic rivalry, the colonial rivalry, the naval contest and the world politics of Kaiser William II led to World War I.

UNIT - 100 : THE THIRD FRENCH REPUBLIC

PROBLEMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Structure :

- 100.0 Objectives
- 100.1 Introduction
- 100.2 National Assembly - Theirs as head of Executive Power
 - 100.2.1 The Treaty of Frankfurt (May 1871)
 - 100.2.2 Paris Commune
 - 100.2.3 Failure of the Monarchists to re-establish Royalty
 - 100.2.4 An estimate of the achievements of Theirs
- 100.3 France under MacMahon
 - 100.3.1 The Republican Constitution of 1875
 - 100.3.2 Elections under the new constitution and success of the Republicans
- 100.4 Problems confronting Third Republic
 - 100.4.1 Boulanger Crisis (1886-89)
 - 100.4.2 Panama scandal
 - 100.4.3 Dryfus affair
- 100.5 Accomplishments of the Republic
 - 100.5.1 Liberties granted
 - 100.5.2 Reform of Primary education and anticlerical laws
 - 100.5.3 The separation of Church and State
 - 100.5.4 Material development
 - 100.5.5 Colonial Expansion
- 100.6 Foreign Policy
 - 100.6.1 Franco-Russian Alliance
 - 100.6.2 -French Entente (1904)

- 100.6.3 Conference of Algeciras (1906)
- 100.6.4 Agadir incident
- 100.7 Let us sum up
- 100.8 Model Questions
- 100.9 Glossary
- 100.10 Books for further study

100-A - 2.13.10.10

100.0 OBJECTIVES

After studying this unit you would be able to understand :

- the defeat of Napoleon III by Bismarck and the fall of the Second French Empire in France.
- the establishment of the French Third Republic and the work of Thiers as the head of the Executive in France.
- attempts made by the Royalists to restore monarchy in France and their failure.
- main features of the Constitution of the Third French Republic.
- problems faced by the Third French Republic such as Boulanger crisis, Panama scandal and the Dreyfus Affair and how it overcame these problems.
- steps taken by the Republic to free the education from the control of the Church and the separation of Church from State.
- development of industry and agriculture during the rule of Third French Republic.
- establishment of colonies in Africa and Asia.
- efforts to put an end to the isolation of France - the conclusion of a treaty with Russia in 1894 and the formation of the Anglo-French Entente in 1904.
- the establishment of French authority over Morocco.

100.1 INTRODUCTION

The Franco-Prussian War (1870 - 71) sealed the fate of the second empire in France. The disaster at the battle of Sedan destroyed emperor Napoleon III's prestige. The news of the defeat struck Paris like a thunder bolt. One of the first consequences of the defeat of the French armies in the field had been the overthrow of the second empire. When the news of the defeat reached Paris the mobs invaded the Bourbon palace. Immediately a few members of the legislative assembly joined together and proclaimed the fall of the empire. The members afterwards met at Hotel-de-ville and established a Provisional Government of National Defence. The leading figure in this National Assembly was Leon Gambetta. He was anxious to redeem France from the great military defeat and to ensure the permanence of the Third Republic. Gambetta during his six months dictatorship committed the Republican party to continue the war against Germany. Unfortunately, by January France was exhausted, with only eight days of supply of food remaining. Finally, on January 28, 1871 Paris unconditionally surrendered to the Germans.

As stated above, in France following the collapse of the second empire, the Third French Republic was established. The greatest task of the new Government was to rebuild France. The Third French Republic faced a lot of problems. She had lost few important places to Germany and was forced to pay a huge war indemnity. Apart from this it met with a lot of internal crisis such as Boulanger crisis, Dryfus affair, Panama scandal and many other scandals. The Third French Republic also had to take immediate steps to improve agriculture, industry and trade. Nineteenth century was an age of imperialism. Almost all the great powers were thinking of acquiring a large number of colonies in Asia and Africa. The new government struggled to acquire new colonies abroad.

100.2 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY - THEIRS AS HEAD OF EXECUTIVE POWER

Bismarck refused to make peace with the Provisional Government which had not been formally constituted. So elections were held for a National Assembly on February 8, 1871. When the results were announced out of 650 deputies elected to the National Assembly about 400 were Royalists and only about 250 were Republicans. The National Assembly met at Bordeaux. Adolphe Theirs was elected as the Chief of the executive power.

100.2.1 The Treaty of Frankfurt (May 1871)

The newly elected Assembly immediately negotiated peace with Germany. France was forced to cede Alsace and a large part of Lorraine and was made to pay an unprecedented indemnity of five thousand million francs within three years. Further, France was required to support the German army of occupation which would be gradually withdrawn as the installments of the indemnity were paid.

100.2.2 Paris Commune (1871)

Even before the Franco-Prussian war came to an end, civil war broke out between the Commune of Paris and the National Assembly. The left Parisian radicals formed a "Commune" to govern the capital, and led a revolt against the National Assembly. After rejecting the authority of the Assembly, they declared that the city was self governing. Consequently, the National Assembly at Versailles decided to suppress the revolt in Paris by force. For two months, April-May 1871, Paris underwent a second seige. Finally, the Commune was suppressed. Courts-martial were appointed, many were shot on the spot without any trial, and thousands were deported to French Guiana and other places.

Finally, peace was established in France, but the German army of occupation was still in France. France had to pay a huge war indemnity of five billion francs to vacate the German army from its soil.

100.2.3 Failure of the Monarchists to reestablish Royalty

In the National Assembly, there were only two hundred Republican members as against four hundred members, who had strong monarchist sympathies. In view of this, the cause of the Republic seemed hopeless, but the monarchists were evenly divided between Legitimists (supporters of the Bourbon) and Orleanists (supporters of the Orleans branch). These two groups were unable to agree on a candidate. They ruined the cause of the monarchy in France. The monarchists cooperated halfheartedly with Theirs hoping to restore monarchy. When they found Theirs, a liberal monarchist, was supporting a republican form of government, they attempted to unseat him. Theirs was forced to resign in May 1873, and Marshal Mac Mahon was elected as the next President.

100.2.4 An estimate of the achievements of Theirs

Following the defeat of France at the hands of Germany, there was a political crisis in France. During this crisis, France was fortunate enough to possess an extraordinary statesman in Adolphe Theirs. By the force of his personality and wise moderation, he guided France during this critical period in her history. Theirs was a lawyer, journalist and a historian. As stated already in Feb. 1871, he was elected "Head of the Executive Power" of the Third Republic. He negotiated the peace treaty with Bismarck. In the summer of 1871, after the suppression of the commune, he became officially President of the Republic, an office which he held until 1873. He cleared the war indemnity within a record period of two and a half years for which the French men acclaimed him as "the Liberator of the Territory". He was succeeded by Marshal Mac Mahon as President.

100.3 FRANCE UNDER MAC MAHON

At last, the monarchists came to an understanding about the succession issue. The Comte de Chamford, Henry V, a Bourbon who was childless should be succeeded. But Henry V took an uncompromising stand of not accepting the revolutionary tricolour flag. He would rather sacrifice the throne than surrender the lily white flag of the Bourbons. Under these circumstances, it was impossible to restore monarchy in France. Thus the Republic was saved.

100.3.1 The Republican Constitution of 1875

Both royalists and republicans joined together and drafted the constitution of 1875. The new constitution provided for two houses - a

Senate, consisting of 300 members, chosen for nine years, and a Chamber of Deputies to be elected by universal suffrage for a term of four years. The Chamber of Deputies had a strength of 610 members. The Chamber was subject to dissolution only by President, with the consent of the Senate. The President of the republic was elected by an absolute majority of the vote of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, sitting together. He was chosen for seven years. He was eligible for re-election. President was the head and even possessed of the command of the army and navy, right to choose civil and military officers, but requiring a countersignature for each of his acts by the relevant minister. Each minister was responsible for his own act, together for the general policies of the Government. In December 1875, the National Assembly was finally dissolved.

100.3.2 Elections under new constitution - Success of the Republicans

In the beginning of 1876 itself elections were held according to new constitution in France. When the results were announced, the royalists secured majority in the Senate. But in the Chamber of Deputies, Republicans secured majority. The President Marshal Mac Mahon, with the support of the Senate, retained his office and utilized it along with his personal prestige to advance the Royalist cause. He also tried to safeguard the interests of Catholics. President Mac Mahon continued to rule arbitrarily unmindful of the feelings of Republican members. This naturally brought him in conflict with the Assembly. Gambetta, the leader of the Republican party in the Chamber of Deputies, opposed the policies of Mac Mahon. In the Chamber and in the country at large, he criticised the Royalists because they aided church. A test of strength between Gambetta and the Royalist President Mac Mahon took place. On May 16, 1877, Marshal Mac Mahon appointed a Royalist (and clerical) ministry and dissolved the Chamber with the permission of the Senate and ordered the holding of new elections throughout France. In these elections once again Republicans were returned in majority to his utter surprise. The Republicans who had been opposing the policies of Mac Mahon forced him to resign. But Mac Mahon managed to continue for a year with the support of Senate. But partial elections to the Senate, early in 1879 assured Republican control of the upper house, as well as the lower house and left the Royalist President in a hopeless situation. Therefore, he resigned yielding his place to a Republican named Jules Grevy. The seat of the Government was immediately shifted from the Royalists centre of Versailles to the Republican Citadel of Paris.

100.4 PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THIRD REPUBLIC

During the early years of its existence the political stability of the Third French Republic was threatened by many scandals. They tarnished the fair name of the Republic and the people were losing confidence on this account.

100.4.1 Boulanger Crisis (1886-1889)

The danger loomed large with the advent of George Boulanger on the political scene. He was a general who had fought in the Franco-German war and in Tunis and was popular among his fellow army officers. He was an enemy of monarchy and friend of republicanism. He was appointed as minister of war in 1886. He then used his public office for personal aggrandizement. He began to pose too much at military reviews. He talked about a war of revenge against Germany. He endeared himself to the rank and file of the French army. The increasing popularity of "the general on horseback" alarmed Republican leaders. Recalling how Napoleon had risen to power, the Republican Government forced General Boulanger to resign his office (1887) and quit the army. Boulanger demanded a revision of the constitution and won backing from the Orléanist and Bonapartist groups. Boulanger movement was quickened when it was discovered that the son-in-law of President Grevy living in the Elysee palace, was involved in a financial scandal. Although, Grevy was not implicated, the scandal forced him to resign and seemed still further to discredit the Republic. Sadi Carnot was elected as new President of the Republic.

With widely enthusiastic, popular backing, Boulanger now launched a political campaign, demanding the election of a new constituent assembly. During the by-elections, his name was filed for contesting from many constituencies and surprisingly he was elected in all of them. Particularly in Paris, he won by a big margin of votes. His rising popularity caused great anxiety to the Republican government. The government did not know his intentions. The government acted boldly and ordered his arrest on the grounds of conspiracy against the state. Boulanger immediately fled from the country. Two years later, he committed suicide in Brussels on the grave of his mistress. The Boulanger movement had failed, but it clearly revealed the lurking elements of disloyalty to the Republic. A more positive result was that it led those who genuinely believed with the Republic to rally more sincerely to it.

100.4.2 Panama Scandal

In 1892, another issue which posed a serious threat to Republican Government was the Panama Scandal. It all began with the commencement of the construction of the Panama Canal by an expert French engineer De

Lesseps. The French led by this engineer successfully completed the Suez Canal project. The success of this project enhanced not only the prestige of this great engineer but also of the French Government. De Lesseps undertook to construct a similar project on the Isthmus of Panama. But De Lesseps made a mess of things by his miscalculations in this project. When the whole project came to a sudden standstill, investigations into the failure of this project exposed fraud, bribery, extravagance and blackmail. Some of the Deputies and Senators were also involved in this great scandal. De Lesseps was arrested and sentenced to five years imprisonment. Thousands of investors lost their money. Despite this great scandal the Republican Government survived. But it gave an opportunity to royalists to discredit the Republic.

100.4.3 Dreyfus Affair

Even before the Panama Scandal died down the Republican Government was faced with a more severe crisis in 1894 than the previous one. Dreyfus case plagued the Republic for the next twelve years. It almost split French society into two sections Pro-Dreyfus and Anti-Dreyfus. On the basis of forged document, Captain Dreyfus of the French Army was charged by a Military Tribunal for leaking out defence secrets to Germany. A court-martial decreed his sentence to life imprisonment. The vehemence with which he was persecuted revealed that he was punished for being a Jew. They were convinced that he was punished because of his birth. In 1897, after carefully investigating the matter, the head of the espionage section, the French army, colonel Picquart, expressed his belief that the officer who had sold military secrets to Germany was not Dreyfus, but Major Esterhazy. A large number of intellectuals in France including the famous novelist, Emile Zola, believed that Dreyfus was innocent. He published in the press the alleged forgers of incriminating documents and the army officers concerned. When Col. Picquart produced Esterhazy before court-martial, the latter was acquitted. Picquart was disgraced. Meanwhile, Esterhazy's successor Col. Henry, confessed that he forged the documents in order to use them against Dreyfus. Subsequently he committed suicide. The minister concerned had to resign. Despite these developments, the army officers did not deem it necessary to release Dreyfus. The French Supreme Court ordered the army to reopen the Dreyfus case and to accord him a new trial. The court martial still pronounced Dreyfus, "guilty", yet it recommended in view of "extenuating circumstances", that he be pardoned. This was promptly done by President Loubet, and not long afterwards the Supreme Court annulled unconditionally the conviction of Dreyfus and restored him to office in the army. Picquart also was indicated and reinstated. Zola, who died in 1902, was given a state funeral and buried in the pantheon.

100.5 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC

100.5.1 Liberties granted

Many liberties were granted to the people of France. Freedom was granted to the citizens to hold public meetings, without government permission. Freedom of the Press was granted. Workers were permitted to form trade unions.

100.5.2 Reform of primary education and anti-clerical laws

Education was a major issue which needed the attention of the Third Republic. Since the time of Napoleon I, Catholic religious instruction had been given in most French schools, and under Napoleon III there had been a marked increase in the number of schools conducted by catholic teaching orders. Now under the Third Republic, two demands for educational reform were insistently voiced. One was for a compulsory education to every French boy and girl, like every German boy and girl. The other demand was for the supremacy of lay (and Republican) over clerical (and Royalist) influence throughout the primary school system, so that every French boy and girl should be inoculated with republicanism and immunized against "reaction".

In the early 1880's Jules Ferry, as minister of public instruction, obtained parliamentary enactment of a series of educational laws. Compulsory attendance at some schools was prescribed for all children. Parents might still elect to send their children to "free" (church) schools, but if they did, they would have to support such schools out of their own pockets. On the other hand, a system of "public" or "national" schools was established to be financed and directed by the republican government. Attendance upon them would be free, but in them none but laymen acceptable to the government might teach and no religious instruction might be given. Ferry and his allies accompanied the reform of primary education with other anti-clerical measures.

A few laws were also passed to curb the other privileges enjoyed by the clericals. A law enacted in the parliament prescribed that marriages to be legal must be performed by civil magistrates, and another law empowering civil courts to grant divorces and annulments of marriage. All these education and marital measures came to be called as "Laic Laws".

Ever since 1871, the Clerical Party had been extremely active in politics. The Clerical Party supported monarchists and opposed Republicans. The Republicans felt that the French Republic faced a real danger from the growing power of religious orders. The religious Orders also possessed enormous wealth. The concentration of wealth in these Orders was a danger to the state. The Republican government decided to free education from the clutches of the clergy and inculcate the spirit of nationalism among children.

The Republican government passed several laws to reduce the control of church on education. In 1901, France passed the Law of Association which stated that no religious order should exist in France without the permission of the state. Many religious orders refused to ask permission from state and those who asked for permission were refused. Tens of thousands of monks and nuns were forced to leave their institutions which were closed down. By a law passed in 1904 all teaching by religious orders was to stop within 10 years. This led to the suppression of about five hundred teaching and preaching orders. The cumulative result of this anti-clerical legislation and its implementation was that by 1909-1910 there were over 50,00,000 children in public schools as against less than 100,000 children in schools run by religious orders. The struggle between the State and the Church for the control of education ended in complete separation between the two.

100.5.3 The separation of Church and State

In 1905, the Third Republic abrogated the Concordat of 1801 with the Pope by passing the Act of Separation. The State henceforth would not pay the salary of the clergy. The church properties should be at the free disposal of the Roman Catholic Church, but they should be held and managed by laymen, the so-called "Association of worship". The law abrogating the concordat was condemned by the Pope Pius X. He therefore rejected the Act of Separation of 1905. To this French Parliament reacted more severely by passing a new law in 1907 by which most of the privileges guaranteed to the Church by Law of 1905 were abrogated. Within the country also the Roman Catholics opposed the Act of Separation and organised protests. In view of these protests the government withdrew all the facilities granted to the Catholics. It declared churches open to the public for worship and clergymen were allowed to use them only on religious occasions with the prior permission of the Mayors and Prefects. Thus effective separation between state and church was brought about. This was indeed a significant development in so far as it established supremacy of the States over Church.

100.5.4 Material development

The Republicans perceived the desirability of encouraging commerce, industry and agriculture. Some 30,000 kilometers of the new railway were constructed. Harbours were deepened and spacious new ones were provided at Le Havre and St. Nazaire. The beautification and expansion of Paris went on, and here great international expositions were held in 1878, in 1889, and in 1900. To the agricultural classes, on one hand, the Government collected a number of taxes from them, on the other hand it extended many positive favours. Financial grants were made in aid of vine-growers (beginning in 1879). Bounties were voted for the culture of silk, flax and hemp and for the breeding of horses. Farmers were encouraged to form co-operative societies for collective buying and selling. Mutual loan banks and insurance agencies

were established under state guarantees to assist peasant proprietors (1894). Agricultural schools were opened and endowed. And a system of tariff protection for French agriculture, was introduced by the tariff act of 1892. That these measures had their own impact, is indicated by the fact that the mass of the peasants, especially in southern and central France, became staunch advocates of the Republic and also by the fact that the annual value of the country's agricultural product, which between 1800 and 1860 rose from four to six billion francs, mounted in 1913 to over eleven billion.

But the relative growth of French machine industry, and French urban centres, was even more remarkable under the Third Republic. Machines in factories multiplied ten fold in horse power. The output of coal mines was doubled and that of blast furnaces sextupled (six times). Though the Principal market for French manufactures was the domestic market, foreign exports increased by 25 percent.

The accumulation of capital went on apace in France. This increase represented in part the growing profits of industrial enterprise accruing to a comparatively small number of peasants, artisans, and shop keepers. The Frenchmen also invested in government bonds of their own country and of foreign countries too. Indeed the reason for the "backwardness" of French industry as compared with that of Britain or Germany was the preference of French investors for putting their money into government securities rather than into business. France had the largest public debt of any country in the world, but practically all was owed to its own citizens, who thus, in the receipt of their interest, were pensioners of the state.

100.5.5 Colonial expansion

Another significant development under the Third Republic was the emergence of France as a colonial power second only to Great Britain. When the Republicans took over the government in 1879, France possessed a few remnants of its empire of the eighteenth century, together with Algeria. Some islands in the West Indies and the Gulf of Newfoundland, the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean, five commercial posts in India, a strip of Guiana in South America, a foot hold on the Senegalese coast of Africa.

Republican France followed an aggressive colonial policy. It was an era of imperialism and France would not like to be left behind by the race for colonies. Jules Ferry and his moderate associates were bent on pursuing a vigorous colonial policy. Jules Ferry was the chief champion of the 'new empire'. While he was Prime Minister in 1881, he dispatched a French expedition from Algeria into the troublesome neighbouring state of Tunis. Finally, it became a French protectorate. Then in 1883-1885, he was again Prime Minister, he sent another expedition to the Far East. The French army compelled China to consent to the establishment of a French protectorate

over its vassal states in Indo-China-Annam and Tonkin. By similar means by threatening the ruler of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, Jules Ferry established French protectorate there. He also brought under his control a part of Somali land on the African coast. Vast stretches of the Sahara and the western Sudan were explored and linked up with Algeria and Tunis on the north and with the Congo, Niger and Senegal territories in the South and West. In 1892, Negro Kingdom of Dahomy on the west coast of Africa was conquered. In 1896, a revolt in Madagascar was suppressed and the island was transformed from a protectorate into a colony. In 1912, a French protectorate was established over the greater part of Morocco.

By 1913, the "empire" of republican France included not only the scattered minor colonies which were French before 1871 and more recent acquisitions of Indo-China and Madagascar, but also a huge block of African territory constituting five great administrative divisions of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, French west Africa and French equatorial Africa and comprising an area of three and a quarter million square miles (almost fourteen times the area of France) and a population of approximately thirty million (about three-fourths the population of France).

From its overseas empire, France reaped considerable advantage, especially for its industrialists and financiers. The colonies were not permitted to levy tariffs against imports from the mother-country, but were required to give preference to French manufacturers, trade and investment. The value of annual commerce between France and its colonies steadily increased from 350 million francs in 1879 to nearly two billion in 1913; and by the latter year French capital investments in the colonies amounted to four billion francs. Thus the colonies remained as financial and moral asset to France.

100.6 FOREIGN POLICY

The rise of German empire under Bismarck dwarfed the importance of all other countries, including France in Europe. Bismarck succeeded in isolating France with his political manoeuvres. However after his exit in 1890, it became possible for France to play its own legitimate role in international affairs. Her first step in foreign policy was taken by De Classey (1898-1905), when he advocated reconciliatory policy with England and Italy.

100.6.1 *Franco-Russian Alliance of 1893*

In 1893, France and Russia concluded Dual Alliance, which ended French isolation in Europe and strengthened Russian position. The terms of the treaty were :

1. If Germany alone or Germany helped by Italy attacked France, then Russia would have to fight against Germany.

2. If Germany, or Germany helped by Austria-Hungary attacked Russia, then France would have to support Russia by fighting against Germany.

Likewise, in the event of attack by any member of the Triple Alliance on either of them, they were to help each other. The military officers of two countries were to maintain close contact and co-operate among themselves. This growing intimacy with Russia greatly contributed to the enhancement of French prestige in International sphere and also secured balance of power in Europe.

100.6.2 Anglo-French Entente (1904)

Republican France decided to establish alliance with other big powers of Europe by putting an end to the isolationist policy. For many years her relations with Italy and England had been severely strained owing to colonial rivalries. France, therefore signed a commercial treaty favourable to Italy. France also promised Italy a free hand in Tripoli, and got an assurance in return that she would be given a free hand in Morocco, a country of special significance to France.

In 1904, France signed an agreement with England which removed the sources of friction between them. This agreement came to be known as the Anglo-French Entente. By this France recognised England's interests in Egypt and England recognised French interests in Morocco.

100.6.3 Conference of Alegeciras (1906)

According to Anglo-French Entente both England and France arrived at an understanding regarding Morocco. But Germany objected to this and said that she should have been also consulted in such matters. Germany's attitude suddenly led to an international crisis known as the First Moroccan Crisis (1905). Therefore an international Conference of Great powers was convened to settle the disputes between Germany and France at Alegeciras in Southern Spain. Germany's aim was to destroy the growing friendship between Britain and France. However, the Germans were isolated completely at the Conference. The powers accepted the "Act of Alegeciras" which authorised France and Spain to police Morocco. The close co-operation between Britain and France at the Conference strengthened the Anglo-French Entente.

100.6.4 Agadir Incident

A Second Moroccan Crisis occurred in 1911, when the German gun boat Panther was sent to the small part of Agadir on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. The step was taken by Germany as a protest against French expansion in Morocco. Britain gave a strong warning to Germany. This renewed crisis threatened a European war. But France continued negotiations

with Germany and ceded to her as compensation extensive territories in Kamenun and the French Congo. Germany in return recognized the position of France in Morocco. Finally, Morocco was practically incorporated in the colonial empire of France.

100.7 LET US SUM UP

Following the defeat of France by Prussia in 1870-71 the French Second Empire came to an end and the Third French Republic was established. France concluded peace treaty with Germany. France lost two important provinces namely Alsace and Lorraine to Germany and was forced to pay heavy war indemnity. It was paid to Germany in two and a half years.

During the early years of its existence, the Third Republic was confronted with serious problems. Boulanger crisis was the first to occur. Boulanger was a General in the army. But soon he was appointed as a minister of war in 1886. After becoming minister, he talked about a war of revenge against Germany. This created an embarrassing situation to the ministership and the government ordered his arrest on the grounds of conspiracy against the state. He immediately escaped from France and fled to Brussels. After two years, he committed suicide there. After this, Panama Canal scandal occurred. Under the supervision of the French engineer De Lesseps the French undertook the construction of a project on the Isthmus of Panama. But De Lesseps made a mess of things by his miscalculations in this project. The work was abruptly stopped. When an enquiry was conducted it was revealed that many ministers and deputies had accepted bribe from the company which had undertaken the work. This scandal brought discredit to the Republic. Dreyfus Affair was another scandal. The French society was divided into two groups over Dreyfus Affair. On the basis of a forged document captain Dreyfus was charged for leaking out defence secret to Germany. The enquiry lasted for 12 years. During this long period Dreyfus had to spend his time in the prison. Ultimately, Dreyfus was proved innocent and was acquitted.

The achievements of the Third Republic are many. After coming to power, the Republic granted many liberties to the people. The most important achievement was related to the education. Till this period, the education was controlled by church in France. By passing Laic Laws the Republic freed the education from the control of church and brought under its control.

Under the rule of the Third French Republic industry and agriculture also developed. Both internal trade and foreign trade grew substantially. France also acquired colonies in Asia and Africa.

In foreign policy the Republic's achievement was indeed great. By putting an end to isolationist policy it concluded Anglo-French Entente in 1904. She also succeeded in solving the Moroccan Crisis.

100.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Explain the problems faced by the Third French Republic with special reference to Dreyfus Affair.
2. Give an account of the accomplishments of the Third French Republic.
3. Briefly explain the French Foreign Policy under the Third Republic.

100.9 GLOSSARY

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Commune | : | Government formed by radicals to govern Paris. |
| Laic laws | : | Laws relating to education and marriages were called as Laic Laws. |

100.10 BOOKS FOR FURTHER STUDY

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Wright | : | History of the Third French Republic |
| Hazen .C.D | : | Modern Europe upto 1945, New Delhi, 1979. |
| Hexter J.H and Richard Pipes | : | Europe since 1500, Newyork, 1971. |
| Lipson E. | : | Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries, London 1953. |

Prof. Shivanna

NOTES

UNIT - 101 : THE GERMAN EMPIRE : THE PERIOD OF OTTO VON BISMARCK (1871-1890)

Structure :

- 101.0 Objectives
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101.0 OBJECTIVES

By studying this unit you should be able to understand :

- the formation of the German Imperial Federation and the main features of the new constitution.
- provisions made in the constitution for the supremacy of Prussia in German Federation.
- Bismarck as the Chancellor of the German Federation and the measures undertaken by him to strengthen it.
- Bismarck's struggle against the Roman Catholics and the reasons for his withdrawal from this conflict.
- Bismarck's conflict with the socialists - the laws passed to suppress them and the welfare measures introduced by him to attract the working class towards the state.
- Bismarck's tariff protection policy towards agriculture and industry.
- main features of Bismarck's foreign policy - aimed at isolating France in Europe.
- Three Emperors' League (*Dreikaiser bund*) concluded between Germany, Austria and Russia in 1872.
- Austro-German Alliance or Dual Alliance concluded in 1879.
- formation of the Triple Alliance amongst Germany, Austria and Italy in 1882.
- about the Reinsurance Treaty concluded between Germany and Russia in 1887.
- establishment of Colonies in Africa and Asia by Bismarck towards the last years of his rule.
- the factors responsible for the resignation of Bismarck in 1890.

101.1 INTRODUCTION

With the completion of the unification of Germany in 1871, the political centres of Europe was shifted to Berlin from Paris. Germany remained a leading power in Europe till 1914. William I became the emperor of United Germany in 1871 and ruled upto 1888.

The formation of the German empire in 1871 was in reality only a first step. The work of organizing its institutions and welding the separate states into a true nation yet remained to be done. This task was successfully accomplished under the guidance of Bismarck, who as chancellor used his

immense prestige with the people and his influence with the emperor to win support for his policies.

Bismarck had to begin a struggle against the Roman Catholics and Socialists. They were posing a serious threat to the government. In foreign policy his intention was to isolate France in Europe and safeguard the interest of Germany. Therefore, he felt the need of creating alliances. Thus Bismarck's aim was to consolidate and strengthen the newly established German confederation.

101.2 THE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

101.2.1 Federal in nature

The German empire was created on the federal principle. The German Imperial Federation lasted only for about 50 years. Germany until 1933, like the United States of America, Canada, Switzerland and Australia was a federal state, bearing resemblance to most of them in some features.

The Federation included Prussia, the kingdom of Bavaria, Saxony and Wurttemberg, eighteen lesser states, three free cities and the so-called Reichsland, Alsace and Lorraine. Sovereignty was vested by the constitution in the Reichstag, but most of the matters that affected the daily lives of Germany's citizens were reserved to the individual states. Each state preserved its own Government, legislature, Executive and Law courts.

101.2.2 Federal or Central Government

The Central or Federal Government consisted of a two-housed Legislature, an executive and a Supreme Court of Law. The two Imperial Legislative houses embodied, as in other federations, the double character of the state. The Reichstag or National House, represented the whole empire according to the respective populations of each principality; it was elected by men twenty-five years of age or older. It consisted of 397 members, elected for a term of five years. It had far less power than its sister chambers in Britain and France. Its right to initiate legislation was limited and it acted for the most part, on matters submitted to it by the Government. The Bundesrat or Federal House (Upper House) represented the principalities as separate units, not, however, as in the United States of America, on a basis of equality, but according to a quota agreed upon between the Governments. Thus Prussia sent seventeen members, Bavaria, the next largest state, only six; Saxony and Wurttemberg four each, while each of seventeen smaller states held only one seat. The Federal executive was vested in the Prussian king as Deutscher Kaiser, and in the almost more important Federal Chancellor. There was no such feature as responsible government with the German Imperial Constitution until the revision of 1918.

101.2.3 Monarchical Character

The two most marked features of the German Federation were, first, its prevailing monarchical character and second, the primacy of Prussia. The first principle revealed itself directly and indirectly. Alone of all federations in the world, the German Federal State was a monarchy and a collection of monarchies, with the exception of the three free cities of Hamburg, Bremen and Libeck. The Federal constitution, like the constitution of the separate states, was granted from above rather than formulated from below. It was ratified by the State Legislatures, but it had already been agreed upon by the Government.

The executive of the states was practically in every case exercised by the prince and the ministers appointed by him. The State legislatures, like the Federal Reichstag possessed a controlling or criticising rather than a ruling power. There was a representative but not responsible Government. The union, therefore, emphasized throughout the power of the state executives - i.e., of the provinces. It entrusted to them the carrying out of Federal Laws and the appointment of representatives of the Bundesrat. Moreover Bundesrat, which was in practice the organ the princes, with extensive functions, gave it a predominant voice over the Reichstag.

101.2.4 Superiority of Prussia

The Second important feature in the Federal Constitution was the superiority of Prussia over other states. Because of her historical role, in addition to her size and population, she enjoyed such a predominant position in the Federation. She possessed two-thirds of the total territory of the empire and three-fifths of its total population. She held 235 seats with Reichstag and commanded twenty votes in the Bundesrat, which gave her an absolute veto on all amendments to the constitution. Her king was hereditary emperor, commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and director of foreign affairs. He appointed the Federal or Imperial Chancellor. She presided over all the standing committees of the Bundesrat except that on foreign affairs, and her capital was the seat of the Federal Government. The German Empire in short was a Prussian hegemony. He appointed the Imperial Chancellor. He was only responsible to the emperor and the subordinate ministers only to the Chancellor.

Bismarck became the first Imperial Chancellor and until 1890 he was the real ruler of Germany. Bismarck will always be remembered chiefly for the great constructive achievements of the first ten years of his official career, and in a sense his great life work was over by that time. Germany was made; in his own words, a "satiated" power.

101.3 CONSOLIDATION OF THE EMPIRE

With in a short period, the governmental machinery of the new empire was organised and perfected. In home affairs Bismarck was less the artist and more the dictator. His chief aim was to consolidate and strengthen the empire and to crush its enemies. He extended the scope of Federation and enlarged the functions of Imperial Government. The legal systems of the several states were replaced by uniform codes of law for the whole empire. Imperial coinage supplanted the coins of various states. An Imperial Railway Bureau unified the state rail roads and coordinated them with the military, postal and telegraphic services. Control of Banks was transferred from the State Governments to the Bundesrat and an Imperial Bank (Reichs bank) was set up.

In putting through his various policies, Bismarck had the support of the bourgeois National liberal party and of the free conservative party. The other major parties were old conservatives and the progressive party. Social Democratic party was another which was becoming popular. The Catholic Centre party enjoyed mass support and opposed the policies of Bismarck.

101.4 CONFLICT WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - KULTUR KAMPF

It was in the Catholics and the Socialists, 'the Black' and the 'Red' internationals, that Bismarck saw the greatest enemies of the empire. Both of them were organised in powerful political parties. Bismarck threw himself into close combat with them to expel them from the German system. Finally, he was defeated by both of them.

101.4.1 Attitude of Roman Catholics

No sooner was the new empire established that it was torn by a fierce religious conflict that lasted for many years, the so called Kultur Kampf or "war in defence of civilization", a contest between the State and Roman Catholic Church.

Bismarck's enmity towards the Roman Catholic Church dated at least from 1866. The Roman Catholics were the supporters of the Austrian empire. The defeat of Austria by Prussia, a protestant state in 1866, irritated the Roman Catholics. The Roman Catholic Church was as fundamentally hostile to the new German Empire as the popes of history had been to the old German emperors. The Pope had far too much power in Germany and too much authority over the laity. The Catholic party was an anti-national body, looking outside the state for its authority. It embarrassed Bismarck by its consistent and deliberate opposition. The domestic and foreign policy

measures adopted by Bismarck were opposed by the Roman Catholics. The pope by his infallibility decree claimed control over the catholic subjects who lived in the German empire. "It is the Infallibility of the Pope" said Bismarck "which threatens the state. He declares our laws null and void, levies taxes.....". The liberals described this attack of Bismarck on the Church as "the battle for civilization" (Kulturkampf).

In 1871, there were sixty-three members of the centre or catholic party in the Reichstag. Bismarck determined to break the party. He was of the opinion that the church should keep out of politics. Moreover, he objected to claims that church was superior to secular authority.

The immediate cause of the Kulturkampf was a quarrel among Catholic themselves. A difference arose between the supporters and opponents of infallibility decree of pope in Germany. Majority of the Roman Catholics accepted. But a few Roman Catholics refused to submit to this order. They came to be called as old Catholics. There was a demand to remove these old Catholics from their positions in universities and schools. They were threatened with excommunication. Bismarck accepted these measures as a challenge and threw himself into conflict.

101.4.2 May Laws

An Imperial law 1871 expelled Jesuits from Germany and made it a penal offence for priests to discuss state affairs in the pulpit. The famous May Laws of 1873, carried the attack considerably further. Sometimes these laws were also called after the Prussian minister of education as 'Falk laws'. They enjoined compulsory civil marriage, ordered all candidates for the priesthood to attend Government schools and Universities and to pass Government examinations, forbade public excommunications, and proclaimed the authority of the state with the appointment and dismissal of priests. Two years later all religious orders were dissolved.

The pope declared the Laws null and void, and forbade Roman Catholics to obey them. Bismarck replied with renewed defiance. For five years the Kultur Kampf continued. Those who objected to his policy were put behind the bars. A large number of Priests, Bishops and Arch-Bishops were sent to prison for defying May Laws. Bismarck closed one thousand and three hundred parishes to curb the growth of Centres party. In spite of these harsh measures, Bismarck was unsuccessful in curbing the activities of Centre party.

101.4.3 Bismarck's Retreat

Therefore when the more diplomatic Leo XIII assumed the papacy, Bismarck was willing enough to compromise. The struggle had brought him

little satisfaction, and had multiplied the sources of trouble. Leo XIII was skilful in discovering grounds of agreement. Bismarck on his part allowed the harshest of the anti-catholic laws to lapse. Diplomatic relations were restored between the papacy and the Empire, and the pope in 1887 asked Centre party not to vote against the new Imperial Army Bill.

Bismarck had decided to abandon the struggle with the Catholics party because by a change of economic policy he was loosing the support of the liberals. England, France and Germany were virtually free-trade countries. It seemed as if Europe was about to be united in a common commercial system. But towards the end of the seventies, Bismarck began to abandon these economic principles; in 1879 he imposed a tariff upon foreign corn and foreign commodities, which benefited the German agricultural classes, but alienated the industrial interests.

Bismarck himself confessed that Kultur Kampf had been a failure. From his standpoint it was even worse, for it raised up a new and well-organized catholic party which was soon working with democrats and socialists to secure political and social reforms.

101.5 BISMARCK AND SOCIALISM

The Catholic struggle was mainly abandoned to take up conflict with the socialists. The Social Democrats were the best-organised political party in Germany. They were anti-monarchical, anti-militarist, and like the Catholics "men without a country". They were therefore enemies of the Empire.

101.5.1 Socialists' propaganda

Bismarck was correct in his belief that the Socialists were gaining in strength. As Germany became increasingly industrialized, the urban proletariat grew by leaps and bounds, and they turned towards socialists. In 1877, the newly United Social Democratic Party polled a half million votes and elected twelve deputies to the Reichstag. The doctrines which these socialists preached - revolution, class conflict, thorough going social and political democracy, abolition of private property, internationalism and pacifism - were the very opposite of Bismarck's ideas and to him they seemed destructive of the State, the family and civilization itself. He was outraged by the propagandist speeches of the Socialist and deputies and by their opposition to every measure he sponsored. He therefore sought to suppress socialism in two ways; to crush it by force, and to kill it by kindness.

101.5.2 Laws against Socialists

Two attempts on the life of the Emperor in 1878 provided the excuse for forcing through the Reichstag a number of exceptional laws, prohibiting

all associations, meetings, or publications which sought to subvert the existing system of society and government, and granting extensive powers to the police. The Socialist leaders were arrested, socialist publications were suppressed, their editors were imprisoned and their funds confiscated; owners of assembly halls were forbidden to rent them for socialist meetings. During the years in which the Acts remained in force 1400 publications were suppressed, 900 persons were deported and 1500 were imprisoned. Rigorous persecution failed in its object, socialist discontent was merely driven underground. Trade Unions were declared illegal. Secret societies sprang up, and meetings which could not be held in Germany were held outside in Switzerland. Bismarck was defeated by the Socialists as he had been by the Catholics. The Social Democrats captured more seats in the Reichstag in 1881, it won twelve seats and by 1890 it won thirty five. In 1890, the exceptional laws were not renewed.

101.5.3 State Socialism

But Bismarck did not rely on repression alone. Bismarck tried to win over the working man from the socialist party by an experiment in state socialism. Bismarck thought that by removing the most acute economic grievances of the working class, he could make it loyal to the state. The Imperial laws of insurance were passed in 1883 and 1884 respectively against sickness and accident. In 1887, the labour of women and children was drastically limited, the hours of work were restricted in various industries, Sunday was set aside as a day of rest and an elaborate system of government regulations and supervision of factories and mines was set up. These Insurance laws became a model for the legislation of England and France. These measures of Bismarck, instead of killing socialism, seemed to have the opposite effect. The socialists called the new laws half-measures and pleaded for more drastic reforms. Thus Bismarck's crusade against socialism was no more successful than his fight against Catholicism.

101.6 BISMARCK'S TARIFF POLICY

In 1879, Bismarck brought about a profound change in the financial and industrial policy of Germany by inducing parliament to abandon the policy of low tariff and adopt a system of high tariff. Thus he announced a policy of protection. His purposes were two fold. He wished to increase the revenue of the Empire and to encourage native industries and home market. Not only was this largely accomplished. But by its means the foreign market also was widened. By offering concessions to foreign nations, for concessions from them, Germany gained for her manufactured products an entrance into many other countries which had been denied them before.

Bismarck as a land owner, sympathised with the agricultural classes, wished to preserve a balance between agriculture and industry, and hoped for military reasons. Accordingly in 1885 and 1887, he secured the passage of tariffs which greatly raised the import duties on agricultural products, and especially on grain. This policy served to prevent a decay of German agriculture comparable to that which occurred in England.

101.7 BISMARCK'S NATIONALIST POLICY

He adopted a policy of 'Germanization towards the other nationalities' which were included in the German Empire. The three and a half million poles on the eastern frontier, the 1,50,000 Danes of North Schleswig and the nearly two million French men of Alsace-Lorraine lived in the German empire. Every attempt was made, both by Bismarck and his successors, to assimilate these foreigners with German system. These foreigners were profited considerably by the economic, educational and scientific advantages offered by the German Government. In spite of this they remained till World War I, aliens in sentiment.

101.8 ACQUISITION OF COLONIES

One of the important features of the closing years of Bismarck's political career was the beginning of a German Colonial empire. In his earlier years, Bismarck did not believe in Germany's attempting the acquisition of colonies. He believed that Germany should consolidate and should not risk incurring the hostility of other nations by entering upon the path of colonial rivalry. The change in the policy of the Government from one of aloofness to one of energetic participation in the competition for colonies was largely a result of the adoption of the policy of protection and active governmental encouragement of manufacturers and commerce. But to develop industrial production to the utmost, Germany must have new markets for her products as well as new sources of supply; and here colonies would be useful. In 1884, Bismarck adopted a vigorous colonial policy, supporting and expanding the work of private merchants and travellers. In that year, Germany seized a number of places in Africa. A period of diplomatic activity began, leading in the next few years to treaties with England and other powers, resulting in the fixing of the boundaries of the various claimants to African territory. Germany thus acquired a scattered African empire of great size, consisting of Kamerun, Togoland, German southwest Africa, German East Africa and also a part of New Guinea.

In 1899 Germany purchased the Caroline and the Landrone Islands, from Spain for about four million dollars. A part of Samoan Island also came into her possession.

101.9 BISMARCK'S FOREIGN POLICY

Bismarck's chief consideration in diplomacy was to isolate France in Europe completely. He wrote to the German Ambassador in Paris, "we want France to leave us in peace". On another occasion he wrote, "we have to prevent France finding an ally. As long as France has no allies she is not dangerous to Germany". With this aim of isolating France, he decided to make alliances with the neighbouring countries.

The international situation from 1871 to 1890 was favourable to Germany. First of all Bismarck adopted a most conciliatory attitude toward Austria-Hungary. He had been purposely been lenient in dictating terms of peace to the Emperor Francis Joseph in 1866. Then Bismarck could count upon the friendship of the newly formed kingdom of Italy. Many Italians remembered that it was through an alliance with Bismarck's Germany that they had been enabled to wrest Venetia from Austria in 1866. Besides, the Italian government was at feud with the papacy and so was the German government in 1870's. With Great Britain, Bismarck cleverly avoided conflict. Even with Russia Bismarck tried to be friendly. Politically, autocratic Russia was more sympathetic with monarchical Germany than with republican France. Alexander II gratefully remembered how Bismarck had offered him Prussian aid for the suppression of the Polish insurrection of 1863. Bismarck graciously agreed in 1871 for the cancellation of the clauses of the peace treaty of Paris and right to keep Russian war ships on the Black Sea. Russian Tsar felt the need of German support in overcoming British opposition to Russian expansion whether in the Balkans or in Asia.

101.9.1 *Three Emperors' League (Dreikaiserbund)*

Taking into consideration above aspects Bismarck carefully planned his foreign policy. The first important move was the formation of three emperors' league. In September 1872, a meeting of the emperor William I, Emperor Francis Joseph, the Tsar Alexander II and their several ministers was held at Berlin. There they announced to the world that cordial and intimate relations existed among the three great empires of central and eastern Europe. Then in 1873, the members of this so-called Three Emperors' League agreed to co-operate in the preservation of peace and in case war should threaten, to consult together "in order to determine a common course of action".

For a moment in 1875, a press campaign in Germany against the military preparations then going on in France threatened the Russo-German friendship. Bismarck immediately declared that the suspicion was quite ill-founded. The Press campaign was halted, and the excitement over the "affair of 1875" soon subsided.

A more serious difficulty for Bismarck was presented by the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78. The triumph of Russia and the treaty of Sanstefano gave a dominant position to her in the Balkan states. Austria-Hungary was frightened by this development. Great Britain also opposed this predominant position of Russia. Because of the pressure of Great powers Russia agreed for another treaty. Thus the congress of Berlin was held (1878). Bismarck presided over this congress. In this Berlin settlement Bismarck favoured Austria and as a result, he alienated Russia. In this new diplomatic development lay the germ of the formation of the Triple Alliance.

101.9.2 Dual Alliance of 1879 (Austro-German Alliance)

In order to guard Germany against Russia, Bismarck in 1879 concluded a defensive alliance between Austria-Hungary and Germany. According to the terms of the treaty :

If either Germany or Austria were to be attacked by another power - as, for instance, France - the ally should remain neutral, but that if this enemy should be aided by Russia, then Germany and Austria should act together with their full military force, and should make peace in common. Thus this Austro-German treaty of 1879 established a defensive alliance aimed particularly against Russia, to a lesser degree against France. The treaty was secret and was not published until 1887.

101.9.3 Triple Alliance (1882)

Bismarck turned towards Italy to overcome the danger of hostility from Russia. Italy, as has been remarked, was already naturally disposed toward Germany. The Italian Government also felt the weakness of diplomatic isolation. In 1881, France had seized Tunis in North Africa which Italy had coveted as a seat for her colonial expansion. In order to force Italy into the Austro-German Alliance Bismarck had encouraged France to take Tunis with the motive of making one more enemy for France. Bismarck succeeded in his design, and Italy joined Austro-German alliance in 1882, and thus was formed Triple Alliance. The Triple Alliance first formed in 1882, for five years, was renewed in 1887. The Triple Alliance was subsequently renewed for continuous periods in 1891, in 1903, and in 1912. This remained in force until 1915.

101.9.4 Three Emperors' League re-established (1881)

Danger of conflict between Germany and Russia had already subsided. The new Tsar Alexander III decided to come to an understanding with Germany, if necessary with Austria also. Bismarck of course, deemed the inclusion of Austria necessary. As a result another Three Emperors' League was negotiated in 1881. By its terms, Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary

mutually promised neutrality in case any of them should be involved in war with a fourth power. This arrangement, entered into for a period of three years, was renewed in 1884 for another three years period.

101.9.5 Reinsurance Treaty with Russia (1887)

Increasing friction in the Balkans between Russia and Austria led to the former's withdrawal from Three Emperors' League in 1887. Meanwhile General Boulanger in France spoke of a war of revenge against Germany. Bismarck greatly alarmed in this development in France took extra ordinary steps to meet the situation. While renewing and strengthening the Triple Alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy, he made a secret three years Pact, the so-called "Reinsurance Treaty" with Russia. By this pact, he promised Germany's diplomatic support of Russian predominance in Bulgaria and even of Russian occupation of Constantinople. In return he obtained Russia's neutrality in case of a French attack upon Germany. At the same time (1887), in order to prevent Russia from becoming too aggressive in the Balkans, as well as to hold France in check, he secretly encouraged a special agreement among Great Britain, Austria-Hungary and Italy for the preservation of Status-quo in the Mediterranean and the Near East.

101.9.6 Relations with England

Bismarck showed eagerness to maintain friendly relations with England and avoided expansion of navy as well colonial empire which could bring him in conflict with England. He also avoided involvement in the Eastern question and refused to support Austria in the Balkans because this could bring Germany in conflict with England. On the otherhand England also showed eagerness to maintain cordial relations with Germany because she wanted to check the expansionist designs of Russia in the east which posed a serious threat to the eastern empire of England. In 1889, he sought to bring Great Britain into direct alliance with Germany. In this he was unsuccessful, because Great Britain was unwilling to take part in a Franco-German conflict. In short, mutual interests of Germany and England resulted in cordial relations between the two countries, at least so long as Bismarck remained at the helm of affairs.

At any rate during his tenure as Chancellor from 1871 to 1890, Bismarck managed by a remarkably complex series of alliances, and with the backing of a most powerful army, to keep France isolated and to ensure the peaceful consolidation and development of the German empire. International diplomacy, well as military might, centered in Berlin during this period.

101.10 FALL OF BISMARCK

In March 1888, the long alliance between sovereign and Chancellor came to an end. The old Emperor died after a short illness at the age of ninety-one. The ninety-nine days reign of his son and successor Fredrick III was a tragedy of physical illness, culminating in emperor's death in June 1888. With the accession of his son, the Kaiser William II.

William II, the young emperor of 29 years was bent upon assuming absolute authority himself. He did not tolerate the absolute power which Bismarck had accumulated in his hands. Kaiser found himself powerless in his own cabinet meetings, sharp differences between the new Emperor and the Chancellor developed. The whole relationship between the Chancellor and the Emperor was incompatible and contradictory. Bismarck held his position in reality solely by virtue of the King's support. The Emperor felt that the servant was usurping the master's place. The crisis came in March 1890. The emperor began to talk of 'commands', a word which Bismarck had not heard on the lips of his old master. He insisted that his will should be carried out, if not by Bismarck, then by another. Then Bismarck felt, that he had no positive role to play and then he resigned in March 1890. The emperor accepted the resignation without any regret. Thus ended the political career of Bismarck. This incident in the history of Germany has been described as 'Dropping the pilot'.

101.11 AN ESTIMATE OF BISMARCK

Bismarck was a great statesman and diplomat of the 19th Century. As Marriot has observed, "In the history of the nineteenth century, Bismarck will always claim a foremost place in the sphere of diplomacy. No one except Cavour could dispute his claim to the first place". Turner, another prominent historian has also showed great praise on Bismarck. He remarks "His (Bismarck's) successes and achievements were so great and amazing that not only in his own times but in the times to come. He was considered to be a great man not only of his country but also the greatest and the most successful politician of his age".

Bismarck displayed his qualities both in the conduct of domestic and foreign policies. No wonder, he left a deep impact on the politics of Europe between 1871 and 1890 and this period has come to be designated as 'Bismarkian Era' in the history of Europe.

101.12 LET US SUM UP

The Unification of Germany was completed in 1871. Germany was declared a Federal state. William I became the emperor of the Imperial German

Federation. Bismarck was appointed as the Chancellor. He as Chancellor played a significant role both in domestic and foreign affairs of the German Federation. Bismarck consolidated and strengthened the German Federation by various measures.

Roman Catholics and socialists posed serious threats to the Federation. Bismarck first fought against the Roman Catholics. A series of laws known as 'May Laws' were passed to curb the activities of the Roman Catholics and to bring them under the control of the state. In spite of all these measures, Bismarck was not successful in curbing the influence of the Roman Catholics.

In order to begin his struggle against the socialists, another enemy of the state, he gave up his fight against the Catholics. Socialists were speaking about revolution, class-conflict, political democracy. A series of laws were passed which prohibited all associations, gatherings and publications of the socialists. Many socialists were sent to jails. Many positive measures were also adopted to win over the working class by passing a series of insurance laws. Despite all these measures he failed in his struggle against socialists also.

During the closing years, he acquired colonies for Germany in Africa.

In foreign policy, Bismarck succeeded in isolating France in European politics. In the beginning, Three Emperors' League was formed to counteract France (1872). As this broke down soon, he succeeded in concluding an alliance with Austria, known as Dual Alliance (1879). Afterwards Bismarck brought pressure upon Italy to join this Dual Alliance. Thus was formed the Triple Alliance (1882). This Triple Alliance continued till 1915. In order to prevent Franco-Russian Alliance Bismarck concluded Reinsurance treaty with Russia in 1897. Thus Bismarck succeeded completely in isolating France in Europe. At the same time, by his Dual Alliance he formed a defensive alliance against the Russian threat. He also maintained cordial relations with England.

Bismarck was forced to resign by Emperor Kaiser William II in 1890.

101.13 GLOSSARY

- Dreikaiser bund** : The League formed by the emperors of Germany, Austria and Russia.
- State Socialism** : Welfare measures introduced by the state to improve the conditions of the working class

101.14 MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Explain the main problems which confronted Germany in 1871. How did Bismarck solve these problems ?
2. Describe the controversy between the state and church in Germany after the establishment of the Empire.
3. What were the main objectives of Bismarck's foreign policy? How far he succeeded in achieving the same.

101.15 BOOKS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Craig .G.A : *Europe Since 1815*, London, 1966.

Ketelbey .C.D.M: *A History of Modern Times form 1789*, Bombay 1976.

Marriot. J.A.R : *A History of Europe*, Delhi, 1979.

Langer .W.L : *European Alliances and Alignments, 1871-90*

Taylor .A.J.P : *Bismarck, the man and the Statesman*

Prof. Shivanna

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

UNIT - 102 : THE GERMAN EMPIRE : THE PERIOD OF WILLIAM II (1888-1918)

Structure :

- 102.0 Objectives
- 102.1 Introduction
- 102.2 William's Chancellors
- 102.3 Domestic Policy
 - 102.3.1 Development of Industry
 - 102.3.2 Development of Agriculture
- 102.4 Labour Legislation
- 102.5 William II and the Socialists
- 102.6 Expansion of Army and Navy
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- 102.8 Foreign Policy
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 - 102.8.3 Second Morocco Crisis (1911)
 - 102.8.4 Relations with other countries
- 102.9 Kaiser William II's role in World War I
 - 102.9.1 Naval Contest
 - 102.9.2 Economic Rivalry
 - 102.9.3 Colonial Rivalry
 - 102.9.4 Outbreak of the war and Germany's victories
 - 102.9.5 The defeat of Germany and Kaiser's fall
- 102.10 Let us sum up
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102.0 OBJECTIVES

By studying this unit you will come to know about :

- the accession of William II and the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Germany.
- the resignation of Bismarck in 1890 and the Chancellors of Germany who served as the servants of William II.
- the rapid industrial progress made during the reign of Kaiser William II.
- the expansion of army and navy and the establishment of colonies in Africa and Asia.
- Kaiser's 'world politics' which estranged relations with England, France and Russia.
- Kaiser's domestic and foreign policy which disturbed world peace.
- naval race, armament race, colonial rivalry, economic rivalry with England which led to the outbreak of World War I.
- the participation of Germany in World War I along with Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.
- victories gained by Germany and her Allies in World War I.
- the defeat of Germany and her Allies by France and England.
- the fall of Kaiser William II and his flee from Germany.

102.1 INTRODUCTION

After the death of William I in 1888, Fredrick III ascended the throne of Germany. But, he was a sickman and died within three months. Thereupon his son William II succeeded to the throne. With his accession Germany recieved a new master, and opened a new page of her history. He proved to be one of the most ambitious and imperialistic rulers of Germany. The new ruler was twenty nine years of age, a young man of very active mind, of fertile imagination, versatile, ambitious, self confident, and a mass of unusual vigour. He firmly believed in the theory of Divine Rights of Kings. He was a strong opponent of democratic sentiments and freedom of people. He wanted to make Germany a topmost power in the world. He paid great attentions to build a strong Germany by giving encouragement to agriculture and industry. But he was much under the influence of military leaders and feudal gentry that he completely repudiated the precautions which were the essence of Bismarckian system.

It was evident that man of such character would wish to govern and not simply reign. He was bent upon ruling his kingdom. Serious differences arose between the new Emperor and the old Chancellor. Then Bismarck felt that he had no positive role to play and therefore resigned in 1890. The new emperor accepted his resignation without any regret.

102.2 WILLIAM'S CHANCELLORS

After 1890, the personality of William II was the decisive factor in the state. His Chancellors were, in fact, his servants, carrying out the master's wish. They did not possess the abilities of their illustrious predecessor. Major decisions were made the emperor himself. Down to the outbreak of the Great war there were four Chancellors : Caprivi 1890-1894; Hohenlohe 1894-1900; Von Bulow, 1900-1909; and Bethmann - Hollweg, from 1909 to July 1917. There were three others, whose terms were to prove exceedingly brief : Michaelis, Hertling and Prince Maximilian.

102.3 DOMESTIC POLICY

William II was determined to make Germany a strong nation in the world. Therefore, he paid great attention to the industrial and agricultural development of the country. He also introduced important reforms in the domestic affairs with a view to arouse the national sentiments of the people which were so vital for making Germany a great nation.

102.3.1 Development of Industry

Germany, which had made considerable industrial progress under Bismarck, reached its zenith of development during the reign of Kaiser William II. She became one of the world's three greatest industrial nations by 1914. The other two nations were England and United States of America. This rapid industrial progress was due to the enormous funds provided by France in the form of war indemnity and also the raw materials supplied by the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which were ceded to Germany by France. William II continued the policy of protection adopted by Bismarck which contributed to the industrial development of the country and promoted foreign trade. Lorraine strengthened Germany's textile industry by doubling the number of mechanical looms operating in the country. Lorraine was also rich in iron deposits. Germany soon came to possess the most powerful iron and steel industry in Europe. The development of iron and steel industry in turn, enabled Germany to increase its domestic rail net three and a half times between 1871 and 1914; to build one of the greatest merchant fleets in the world; to expand the machine industry and to build armaments industry.

Germany's electrical and chemical industries also became world famous. The Berlin firm of Siemens and Halske, founded by Werner Von Siemens in 1847, gave Germany its first telegraph net, U.S first electric railway and its extensive trolley system. At the same time, Emil Rathenau established an electrical company (AEG) which rapidly built up a mass demand for electrical products. The expansion of German electrical products. The expansion of German electrical industry which employed 26,000 people in 1895 and 107,000 in 1906 is a good illustration of the increase of employment opportunities in industries. Similarly considerable progress was made in chemical industries, synthetic dyes and pharmaceuticals.

102.3.2 Development of Agriculture

Along with industry Kaiser William II also paid attention towards the development of agriculture. Thanks to new techniques of cultivation and the agricultural chemistry introduced by Justus Liebig, production increased by as much as fifty percent in some crops in the twenty five years following unification. Grain producers, however, could compete, with foreign grains only by means of government support in the form of tariffs, and even these could not maintain prices.

102.4 LABOUR LEGISLATION

During the Chancellorship of Caprivi in 1890, a law established labour courts to settle wage disputes. Employment of women and children in factories was restricted. Sunday was declared as a rest day for all the workers. The industrial courts which included the representatives of both labour and management, were to mediate disputes between employees and employers. Payment of wages in kind was prohibited.

In 1900, the Accident Insurance Law was extended to new occupations. The old age invalidity law had already been amended to increase old age and invalid pensions and extend compulsory insurance to various new groups. In 1903, the sickness Insurance Law was passed to give larger and more generous help to workers in ill health (20 weeks instead of 13).

102.5 WILLIAM II AND THE SOCIALISTS

The early measures under the new reign showed a liberal tendency. The Anti-socialist laws, expiring in 1890, were not renewed. This had been one of the causes of friction between the Emperor and the Chancellor. Bismarck wanted to renew, but William II refused to renew. On the other hand, the Emperor wished to try milder methods. He hoped that if the condition of the labourers was improved, socialism would automatically suffer a decline. The socialists took full advantage of this liberal attitude of Kaiser William II

and strengthened their organisation. This greatly upset Kaiser William II and he proposed to the Reichstag to enact anti-socialist laws once again. However, the Reichstag rejected this proposal which greatly upset William II. Thus the socialists continued to increase their power during the rule of William II.

102.6 EXPANSION OF ARMY AND NAVY

William II tried to build a strong army and navy. He fully realised that Germany could emerge as a dominant nation only if she was militarily strong. "My trust is in the army" he said. He therefore tried to increase the number of soldiers. For this purpose he reduced the period of compulsory military service from three years to two years. As a result of his efforts the strength of the Germany's standing army rose to more than eight lakhs on the eve of First World War.

William also paid attention to build a strong navy. The new German colonists counted upon the protection of the Imperial Government. William II was determined to make Germany a great naval power. He considered that a formidable fleet was essential to the power and prestige of the Empire. He declared "sea power is the world power". He openly declared "I will never rest until I have raised my naval power to a position similar to that occupied by my army". Admiral Von Tirpitz, at the navy department since 1897, was the Chief instigator of a great program of naval expansion. In 1898, the first German Navy Law was passed. It marked the beginning of German naval expansion and the gradual emergence of friction with England on this score. In pursuance of this policy he chalked out a plan for the construction of war-ships. Several cruisers, destroyers and battle ships were built during his period. Due to all these efforts Germany came to possess a powerful and modern fleet, which was second only to that of England.

In 1890, William acquired island of Heligoland from England in return for Zanzibar in Africa. He established a strong naval base on this island. He also got a canal dug to link Baltic Sea with the North Sea. This greatly reduced the distance because henceforth there was no need to take round of Denmark to reach North Sea from the Baltic Sea. This greatly contributed to the utility of the German navy.

At the Second Hague Conference in 1907, all efforts of the British to secure some limitation of armaments were wrecked by the opposition of other powers including Germany. Another attempt made by Great Britain by sending a mission under the leadership of Lord Haldane in 1912 to find some end to the mutually destructive naval race.

102.7 COLONIAL POLICY

As Germany developed in the colonial field, a number of organisations arose with the purpose of encouraging her world ambitions. A Colonial League was founded in 1882; a Navy League in 1898, and in 1893 the Pan-German League came into existence.

When Bulow created a separate colonial office under a former banker, Bernhard Deinburg, in 1907 the new colonial era may be said to have begun. Improved methods of administration, much activity in the way of speeches, propaganda, railway building, subsidies to planters, and tours of inspection, and the founding of the colonial school at Hamburg, were all evidence of Germany's determination to take her colonial role seriously and to build up her possessions in the hopes of equalling those of the other great imperial powers.

In 1890, William acquired island of Heligoland from England his return for Zanzibar in Africa. In 1885, the chief canal from the North Sea to the Baltic was opened. In 1896, the Kruger telegram episode marked the first violent outbreak of popular hostility between Germany and England. Emperor William sent a telegram to president Kruger of the South African Republic (Transval) congratulating him on the defeat of the raiders led by Dr. Jameson. This created a storm of indignation in England. Public opinion on both sides was stirred up that for the future a policy of friendship became almost impossible.

Ever since 1895, the Germans were determined to secure a port on the Chinese coast as reward for their intervention against Japan. They had decided upon Kiachow. Meanwhile, the murder of two German missionaries took place in 1897. The Chinese refused the German demands until March 6, 1898, when an agreement was concluded giving Germany a lease of Kia-chow Bay for 99 years and permission to construct two railways in Shantung province and to operate mines.

Tensions inspired by rivalries in Africa and the Far East were accompanied by a new concern over the Ottoman empire. German policy towards Abdul Hamid II was one of friendship. William II visited him in 1889 and again in 1898. German business interests had railway concessions all the way to Baghdad and the Berlin to Baghdad railway became a realizable possibility.

102.8 FOREIGN POLICY

World politics, expansion, and the navy became the three dominant notes of the Kaiser's foreign policy. Thus Cautious foreign policy pursued by

Bismarck was completely abandoned. As H.A.L. Fisher has pointed out "William II of Germany bade good-bye to the conciliatory policy of Bismarck and adopted the policy of world politics". William II wanted Germany to play a dominant role in all world events. He once said "Nothing must go anywhere in the world in which Germany does not play a part". He believed in the superiority of the German race and wanted her to play a dominant role in world politics. "There is no Balance of power in Europe except one-me and my twenty-five army corps," the Kaiser is said to have remarked. The national policy was to be a forward, dynamic, one of expansion. All this naturally strained relations with England. His alliance with Turkey further estranged his relations with England.

102.8.1 Lapse of Reinsurance Treaty with Russia

With the "bankruptcy of German State craft" which resulted from the Kaiser's handling of foreign affairs, Bismarck's elaborate system of alliance broke down. Within three years Russia had been alienated and driven to a rapprochement with France. The Russian 'reinsurance' was allowed to lapse immediately after Bismarck's retirement. The abandonment of the Russian treaty resulted directly in a rapprochement between France and Russia. Partnership with France constituted Russia's only escape from a dangerous isolation. In 1891 French fleet paid a ceremonial visit to Kronstadt, thus entering Russian waters for the first time since the Crimean war. Similarly Russian squadron also visited France 1893. Following this a secret treaty was signed on December 31, 1893. However, after the death of Alexander III in January 1895, the treaty was publicly proclaimed. This treaty was in existence till 1918. This treaty especially in Germany aroused a serious alarm.

102.8.2 First Morocco Crisis (1905)

William's relations with France also got strained due to Germany's efforts to oust her from Morocco and demolish her influence there. In 1904, France signed an agreement with England which removed the sources of friction between them. This agreement came to be known as the Anglo-French Entente. By this France recognised England's interests in Egypt and England recognized French special interests in Morocco. Germany objected to the agreement made between France and Britain with regard to the fate of Morocco. Germany insisted that she should have been also consulted in such matters. Germany's attitude suddenly led to an international crisis known as the first Moroccan Crisis in 1905. Therefore, an international Conference of 12 countries was convened to settle the disputes between Germany and France, at Algeciras in southern Spain (1906). Germany's aim was to destroy the growing friendship between Britain and France. However the German's were isolated and outvoted at the conference. It appointed an international police comprising Spanish and French soldiers to maintain law and order. It also decided to set up a bank under England, France, Germany and Spain to

look after trade and commerce. It entrusted the responsibility for looking after the custom duties to France and Spain. In short, Germany failed to check the influence of France in Morocco.

102.8.3 Second Morocco Crisis (1911)

Another Morocco incident took place in 1911, when the patriots of Morocco rose in revolt against the Sultan of Morocco, who was acting according to the guidance of France. Germany even sent a warship to Agadir to safeguard her interests. Germany was willing to withdraw her naval force from Morocco if France agreed to surrender the entire French Congo. Finally, Morocco was practically incorporated in the colonial empire of France.

102.8.4 Relations with other countries

Kaiser also cemented Turkish-German relations which led to a full fledged wartime alliance.

The Turko-Italian war of 1911 over Tripoli, lasted a year and the Turks were finally forced to recognise Italy's seizure of Tripoli. Germany maintained a benevolently neutral attitude. The Triple Alliance was renewed for another six year term in December 1912.

In 1912 England made a last effort to come to terms with Berlin on the naval disarmament but the emperor refused to agree to naval limitations.

The Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913 were true overtures to the outbreak of World War I. Germany was sympathetic to Turkey and Austria during the most of the crisis.

102.9 KAISER WILLIAM II'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR I

One of the fundamental causes which brought about the great war was the formation of two hostile alliances - the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente. The former was established by Bismarck mainly to isolate France from the rest of Europe with a view to protect the newly born German Empire. While keeping France thus isolated, Bismarck was careful not to alienate the sympathies of the other great powers-Russia and Britain. However, his policy of relative restraint was thrown to winds by the new German Emperor, Kaiser William II after 1890. After the exit of Bismarck in 1890, the German emperor designed a new policy - the *welt politick* (world politics) which was to dominate the rest of his career. The new policy implied that Germany should not remain happy with her present position, but aim at world domination through means of conquests and as well as expansion of trade and commerce.

102.9.1 Naval contest

A special phase of the armament race was naval contest between Great Britain and Germany. Kaiser William II was not satisfied with having the strongest army in Europe. He wanted to build a large navy, and therefore paid special attention to naval armaments. This compelled Britain to spend large sums in maintaining her naval supremacy to meet German naval competition. What greatly alarmed Britain was Kaiser William's provocative declarations, such as : 'we Germans fear God, and nothing else in the World', "Our future lies upon the water" and "The ocean is indispensable for Germany's greatness..."

102.9.2 Economic Rivalry

Economic Rivalry between Great Britain and Germany was bitter. For some years after 1870, Germany was no rival of Great Britain in the industrial sphere. Germany's manufactured goods were generally regarded as cheap. But soon, Germany developed into a colossal industrial and commercial power. By the beginning of the 20th century, Germany marched ahead of France as an industrial nation and was beginning to go ahead of Great Britain in the race for economic leadership in Europe. The German manufactured goods reached every nook and corner of the globe, and her merchant ships floated on every sea. This marvellous growth of Germany caused fear and jealousy among her neighbours particularly Great Britain.

102.9.3 Colonial Rivalry

In the field of colonial activities also the rivalry between Great Britain and Germany was equally bitter. As her industry and commerce expanded, Germany felt a pressing need for colonies. Britain and Germany entered into a competition to dispose of their manufactured goods all over the world in general, and in South American Countries in particular. Economic nationalism took deep roots in Britain and Germany. A cut-throat competition between Germany and Great Britain strained their relations. In trying to acquire colonies, Germany was most untactful. While this attitude created much ill will among other European nations, especially with Great Britain.

102.9.4 Outbreak of the war and Germany's Victories

At the turn of the century, it may not be an exaggeration to say that the world was in a state of perpetual turmoil till the Great war broke out. The ambitions of the great powers belonging to rival alliances clashed. The stern warning came from the Balkans.

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand. (heir to the Austrian throne) and his wife were assassinated in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, by a group of fanatical serbs. The news of this tragedy shocked many countries.

Serbia's polite refusal to certain demands of Austria-Hungary led to the outbreak of the war. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia backed by Germany. Russia mobilised her forces in support of Serbia. Germany entered the fray by demanding the demobilisation of Russian forces and on failing to receive any reply she declared war on her. France received an ultimatum from Germany to remain neutral on failing to receive a satisfactory reply, Germany declared war on France also. When German troops crossed the Belgium borders and thereby broke the Belgian Neutrality treaty (1839). Britain declared war on Germany on Aug 4, 1914. Turkey joined the war to help Germany by a secret treaty signed on Aug, 1914. Bulgaria too joined the side of Germany in September 1915. Italy deserted her allies and joined the war to help Britain.

102.9.5 The defeat of Germany and Kaiser's fall

In the beginning of the war Kaiser William's army was successful on both eastern front and western front. On western front, Germany's troops came very close to Paris. On the eastern side, Turkey, Austria and Germany won a series of victories against Russia. Bulgaria crushed Serbia. A major naval action between the fleets of Britain and Germany took place at Jutland resulting in heavy losses on both sides but in the end the British, reigned supreme over the seas. Germany's inability to challenge the British navy compelled her to start an unrestricted submarine warfare against merchant ships of neutral nations bringing supplies to the British Isles. The sinking of Lusitania enraged the Americans and in March 1917, the U.S.A. declared war on Germany.

As a result of the disgraceful defeats suffered by the Russians, the Bolshevik revolution took place in October 1917. The Bolsheviks came to power. Lenin signed the treaty of Brest litovsk with Germany. Thus Russia ended her hostilities with Germany.

After the defeat of Russia on the eastern front, Germany and her allies concentrated on the western front. France suffered heavily at the hands of central powers. But finally Germany and other powers by middle of 1918 were completely exhausted. Meanwhile, Bulgaria quit the confederacy and surrendered unconditionally to the Allies in September 1918. A month later the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary collapsed and surrendered, only Germany was left in the field. Meanwhile, the German military commander advised Kaiser William II to make peace immediately. The emperor agreed, and authorized the newly appointed Chancellor, Prince Maximilian to negotiate for peace with the Allies. The Allies agreed to make peace on the basis of the "Fourteen points". Meanwhile, there occurred revolutionary agitation and naval and military mutinies within Germany. These rapid developments brought about the downfall of the imperial government of William II and Prince

Maximilian. A republican government was established in Germany. It was this republican government which signed the armistice. The German emperor and his family fled to Holland.

102.10 LET US SUM UP

Accession of Kaiser William II to the German throne in 1888 opened a new chapter in the history of Germany. With his accession Bismarck resigned and his successors were just merely the servants of the emperor. Both domestic and foreign affairs were managed completely by the emperor himself. Kaiser William II was successful in making Germany a strong nation in the world. Under him, the industrial progress reached its zenith. It came to be considered as one of the three great industrial powers along with England and United States of America. Expansion of army and Navy also took place under Kaiser William II. In Naval power, it stood second only to Great Britain. Even in the colonial possessions also Germany emerged as a strong nation. Thus under Kaiser William II Germany made an alround progress and emerged as a strong nation in the world.

It was only in the foreign policy that Kaiser William II committed a series of blunders. World politics, expansion and the navy became the three dominant notes of Kaiser's foreign policy. Bismarck was cautious in his foreign policy but Kaiser Willam II became careless in his approach. He alienated Russia by dropping Reinsurance treaty. This provided an opportunity for Russia to come closer with France and to conclude a treaty. Moroccan crisis revealed that almost all the great powers against Germany. When the world war I broke out almost all the great powers took part in the war. Finally Germany and her allies were defeated. Kaiser was mainly responsible for this war and also for humiliation that Germany suffered as a result of this war.

102.11 MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Describe the Domestic Policy of Kaiser William II
2. How far Kaiser William II was responsible for the outbreak of World War I ? Examine.

102.12 BOOKS FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Craig.G.A** : *Europe since 1815*, London, 1966.
- Fisher.H.A.L** : *A History of Europe*, Vol. II, Delhi, 1981.
- Ketelbey.C.D.M** : *A History of Modern Times from 1789*, Bombay, 1976.
- Pinson.K.S** : *Modern Germany, Its History and Civilization*.

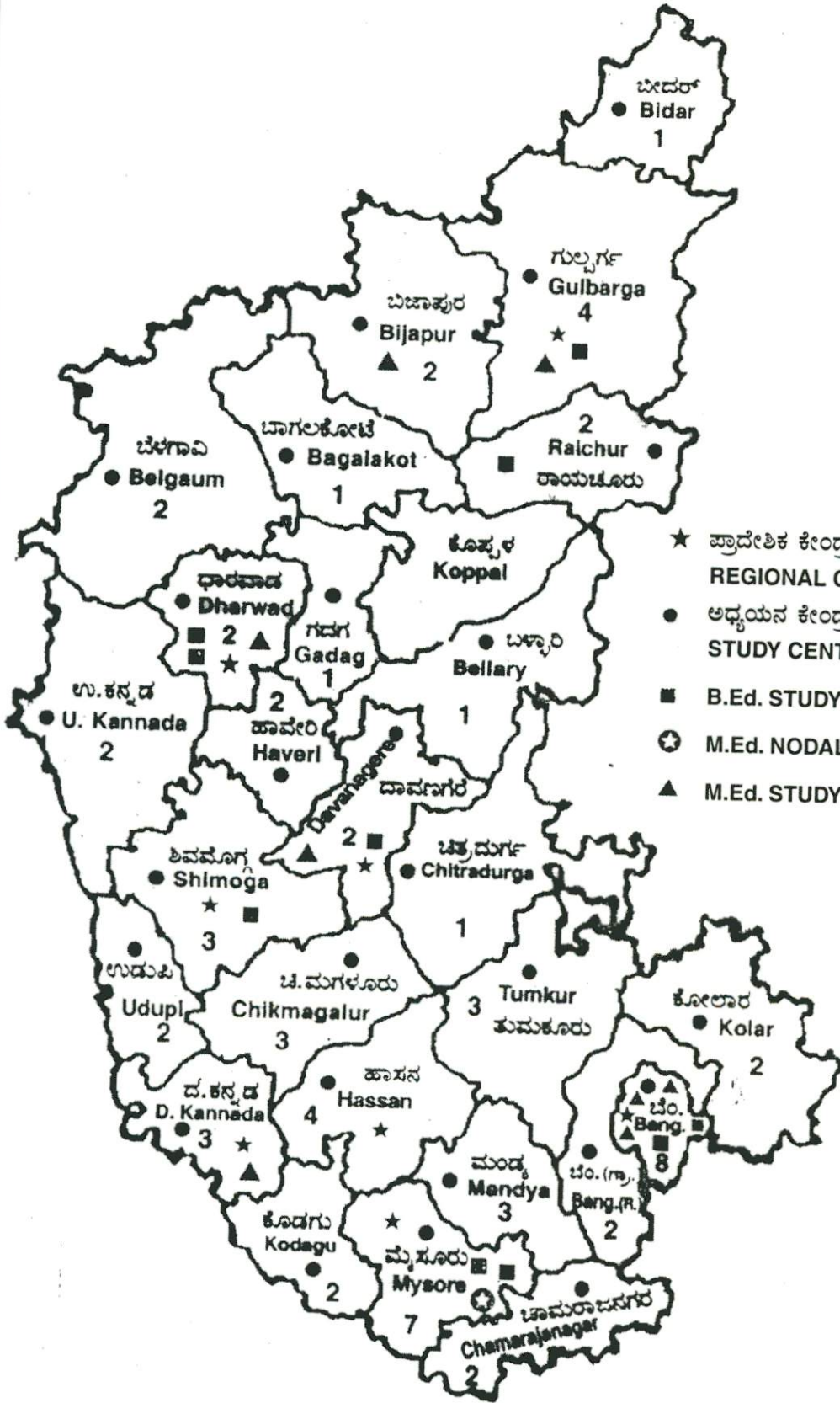
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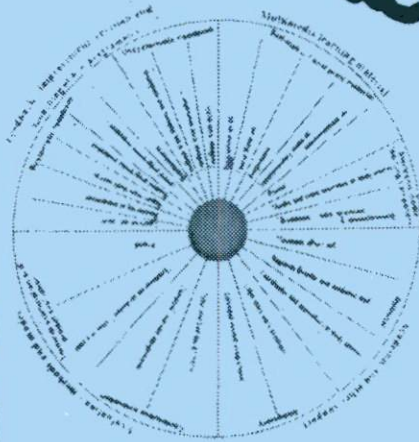
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