



# Centre for Distance and Online Education Punjabi University, Patiala

**Class :** M.A. Part-I Semester-I (History)  
Paper-III : World History (1871-1919 A.D.)

**Unit No. 1** Section : A

**Medium : English** Academic Session : 2023-24

## **Lesson No.**

- 1.1 : Principles of Bismarckian Diplomacy**
- 1.2 : Austro-German Alliance, 1879 A.D.**
- 1.3 : The Triple Alliance, 1882 A.D.**
- 1.4 : The Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894 A.D.**
- 1.5 : Anglo-French Entente**
- 1.6 : Anglo-Russian Convention (1907 A.D.)**
- 1.7 : Imperialism in East Asia**  
**The Anglo-Japanese Alliance and the Russo-Japanese War**

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## Syllabus

### M.A.-I SEMESTER-I PAPER-III ( OPTION-I) HISTORY OF THE WORLD (1871-1919)

**Time Allowed: 3 hours**

External Examination : 75

Internal Assessment : 25

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER-SETTERS

1. The Syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.  
The paper-setters should keep in view the topics specified in each paper and not the title of the paper.
2. The question paper will consist of three sections: A,B and C Sections A and B will have four questions each from the respective sections of the syllabus and will carry 12 marks each. Section C will consist of 9 short-answer type questions which will cover the entire syllabus and will carry 27 marks in all. There being no internal choice in this section, each short-answer type questions will carry 3 marks. Candidates are required to attempt two question each from the Sections A and B and the entire Section C. The candidates are required to give answer of each short-type questions in 50 words i.e. in 7-10 lines.
3. If there is a question on notes, the choice offered in such question should at least be fifty percent.
4. The wording of the questions should be simple and easily understandable by an average student. There should be no vagueness.
5. The number of questions based upon quotations should not exceed two in a question paper.
6. The general standard of the questions should cater to the different intellectual levels - average, above average and below average.
7. Each paper is of 75 marks and three hours duration and 25 marks are of internal assessment.

#### NOTE:

1. The paper setter should keep in view the topics specified in each paper and not the title of the paper.
2. Candidates are required to attempt two questions each from the sections A and B and the entire Section C.

#### SECTION-A

1. Bismarckian Diplomacy : Principles of his Foreign Policy.
2. Austro-German Alliance, Triple Alliance
3. International Alliances :
  - Franco-Russian Alliance - 1894
  - Anglo-French Entente-1904

- Anglo Russian Convention - 1907  
4 Anglo-Japanese Alliance 1902; Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)

### SECTION-B

5. New Imperialism: Partition of Africa
6. Imperialism in East Asia: Battle of Concessions, Open Door Policy
7. First World War : Causes and Impact
8. Peace Settlement of 1919 : Treaty of Versailles.

### SECTION-C

Nine short-answer questions will be set from the entire syllabus. The candidate will attempt all the 9 questions. These questions will be used upon terms, concepts, institutions and historical sources within the purview of the syllabus. The answer of these questions will be 50 words i.e. 7-10 lines and will carry 3 marks each. Thus the total marks for these questions will be 27 marks.

### Essential Books

1. Erich Brandenburg : Bismarck to World War
2. John, A, Garraty & Gay P. : The University History of the World
3. S.A. Pakeman : The Modern World, 1789-1957
4. H.G. Wells : A Short History of the World
5. Robert Ergang and Donald G. Rohr : Europe Since Waterloo
6. Langer William L. : European Alliances and Alignments
7. Vinacke, H.M : A History of Far East in Modern Times
8. H.C. Jain & K.C. Mathur : World History 1500-1950

### REFERENCE BOOKS

1. J.M. Roberts : The Hutchison History of the World
2. S.B. Fay : The Origins of the World War
3. R. Collids : The Partition of Africa
4. E. Lipson : Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
5. E.H. Carr : The Bolshevik evolution
6. Arvind Sinha : Europe in Transition - From Feudalism to Industrialisation

## PRINCIPLES OF BISMARCKIAN DIPLOMACY

### 1.1.1 Objectives

### 1.1.2 Introduction

### 1.1.3 Principles of Bismarckian Diplomacy

#### 1.1.3.1 Principles of Bismarck's Foreign Policy

#### 1.1.3.2 Maintenance of peace

#### 1.1.3.3 Isolation of France

#### 1.1.3.4 Prevention of Confrontation between Austria and Russia

#### 1.1.3.5 Self Restraint in Colonial Ventures

### 1.1.4 The League of Three Emperors 1873

#### 1.1.4.1 Circumstances leading to Alliance

#### 1.1.4.2 Terms

#### 1.1.4.3 Comments

#### 1.1.4.4 War Scarce of 1875

### 1.1.5 Summary

### 1.1.6 Keywords

### 1.1.7 Short Questions

### 1.1.8 Long Questions

### 1.1.9 Suggested Readings

#### 1.1.1 Objectives

In this lesson we will study:

- The various principles of Bismarck's Foreign Policy.
- Bismarck's efforts for establishments of peace in Europe after 1871
- Germany's relations with neighbouring countries

### **1.1.2 Introduction-**

After the creation of the German Empire in January 1871; Bismarck assumed the office of imperial Chancellor. He held this exalted office till his resignation in March 1890. During these two decades he was undoubtedly the most dominating personality in European politics and this period is known to historians as the "Age of Bismarck". It is said that like a fine fingered artist he juggled with five balls (Russia, Austria, France, England and Italy) of which two years were always in the air. In the words of Erick Eyck, "Nowhere was there a man bold enough to dispute his superiority, whether in London or St.Petersburg, let alone Paris or Vienna." The leading statesmen of Europe looked to Berlin for guidance, and sought the intervention and help of the German Chancellor in every important political issue of international nature. The period from 1871 to 1890 was verily the period of the ascendancy of Bismarck in politics in the same manner as the period from 1815 to 1848 was marked by the dominance Meternich in continental politics.

### **1.1.3 Principles of Bismarck's Diplomacy**

#### **1.1.3.1 Principles of Bismarck's Foreign Policy**

The 'supreme object of Bismarck's foreign policy after 1871 was to safeguard the German Empire which he had created with Herculean efforts. Unlike Napoleon of France, he had no ambition of extending the boundaries of the Empire. His ambition was clearly and cautiously confined to the accomplishment of German unification under the leadership of Prussia and once it was achieved' he was more than satisfied. Bismarck himself said that Germany was 'satisfied'.

Strictly speaking, Bismarck had no principle in his foreign policy, as in his private life' A shrewd and realistic diplomat, he was opposed to set principles, theories on ideas, Nevertheless for the purpose of strengthening the possibilities of maintaining the child of his creation, he deliberately and determinedly did certain things in the foreign affairs during twenty years of chancellorship which may be regarded his principles. It should, however be emphasised that these were his principles only in so far as they helped towards the security of the German Empire. These principles may briefly be explained as under :

#### **1.1.3.2 Maintenance of Peace :**

Before 1871 Bismarck had waged three wars - in 1864, 1866 and 1870 and more significant still he himself had, brought about these wars. But after 1871 he resolutely applied his energy and skill for maintenance of peace, in Europe, and become in his own words "*frieden's fanactiker*" i.e. fanatic for peace. He tried to win over the friendship of Austria and even France who had been previously the great rivals of Prussia. He cultivated friendly relations with other European'

powers notably England, Russia and Italy. Not only that he made earnest effort to avert war between the great Powers of Europe. It should however be underlined that Bismarck had not become an instinctive lover of peace not had he lost his faith in the efficiency of blood and iron. Before and after 1870 he considered military strength the creation of strength and importance for a state. After 1871 he endeavored to maintain peace because peace was essential for the security of German Empire, for any disturbance of peace might jeopardise what had already been acquired as a result of three wars.

#### **1.1.3.3 Isolation of France :**

Equally important principle of Bismarck's foreign policy was to isolate France completely if possible. In the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), France had suffered humiliating defeat and by the Treaty of Frankfurt (May 10, 1871), she had to cede her territories of Alsace and Lorraine to Germany and agreed to pay a huge war-indemnity within three years to the latter. Territorially mutilated, financially crippled and military weakened, France was burning with the spirit of revenge. Bismarck knew that, she was looking forward to wage a war of revenge against Germany in order to recover her valuable territories regain her lost prestige in Europe. The German chancellor was also aware of the fact that France would not dare fight single handed against a powerful Germany and would try to get some ally. He, therefore, made it a principle of his policy to prevent her from getting an ally and to keep her in quarantine. That is why during 1871-90 Bismarck concluded a series of alliances, bringing in as many European powers as possible.

It must be noted that there was a close connection between the maintenance of peace in Europe and isolation of France in as much as both were calculated to lead to same ultimate result viz security of the German Empire. If peace of Europe was disturbed and a war did take place, France might be able to get an ally, for she would offer to help one of the parties in such away on the understanding that the party should join her in contemplated war against Germany.

#### **1.1.3.4 Prevention of confrontation between Austria' and Russia :**

Peace of Europe could also possible be disturbed by confrontation between Austria and Russia over "Eastern Question". There were frequent troubles in the Turkish Empire due to the desire of the Balkan states to shake off the Turkish yoke, and the neighboring powers of Russia and Austria wanted to take advantage of these troubles to push forward their selfish interests there. Bismarck apprehended lest there should be a clash of interest leading to confrontation between the Great powers. If such a confrontation took place, he feared it might provide an opportunity to France to get an ally. Hence there was a persistent effort on the part of Bismarck to bring about conciliation between Russia and Austria, to keep them together as allies of

Germany as far as feasible and, at any rate, to prevent a rupture between them. It will be observed in the following account that in 1873, and again in 1881, Bismarck brought about League of the three Emperors of Germany, Austria and Russia, but as the League could not last longer than few years he had to conclude a separate alliance with Austria in 1879 and a separate alliance with Russia, the Re-insurance Treaty in 1887. Thus, Germany remained a common friend of both Austria and Russia and could exercise a restraining influence upon each.

#### **1.1.3.5 Self Restraint in Colonial Ventures :**

Bismarck was essentially a continentalist and evinced limited interest beyond the continent of Europe. He believed that it was in the interest of the German Empire to concentrate her energies on the continent for the purpose of effective maintenance of her hedge Any in Europe. He repeatedly declared: "I am no colonial man." There is no doubt that in 1880 when international situation was favourable Bismarck did get indirectly, if not directly some colonies for Germany in East Africa, South Africa and West Africa. Yet the fact remains that he did not pursue active colonial policy. He feared that Germany's active participation in colonial race might embroil her in rivalries with other Europe powers, notably England and France, who might join hands against her. Bismarck's self- restraint in colonial ventures and his support to France in her colonial ambitions also aimed at diverting the attention of her rival (France) towards the world outside Europe so that she might think apart from waging 'war of revenge' against Germany and gradually forget, if possible, the loss of Alsace and Lorraine.

Since it was not the principle of Bismarck's foreign policy to build a worldwide German Empire he did not feel the necessity of building a strong navy, although he continuously went on strengthening the army of Germany. Bismarck had correctly visualised that any scheme of increase in Germany's navy would provoke the jealousy of England and would bring about an Anglo-German confrontation sooner or later. Pointing to the impossibility of such a confrontation under existing circumstance he remarked in humorous tone, that there could be no possibility of conflict between a 'land-rat' and 'sea rat'.

In Europe itself Bismarck deliberately kept Germany away from participating in the scramble for territorial concessions in the Near East. He is reported to have said, "Eastern question is not worth the bones of a Pomeranian Grenadier;" In other words he did not, consider it a profitable game on the other hand, he felt that Germany's participation in the ticklish game might create for her unnecessary rivalries of other great powers. Bismarck's main interest in the 'Eastern Question' was to prevent the possibility of conflict among other powers such as Russia, Austria and England.

**Self-Check Exercise****Q1- When was Franco Prussian war fought?**

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**Q2 Who said " I am no colonial man."**

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**1.1.4 The League of the Three Emperors 1873 A.D.**

In 1873, Bismarck brought the monarchical powers of Germany, Russia and Austria closer to one and other by forming the League of the Three Emperors or Dreikaiserbund. This triple combination aimed at securing monarchical solidarity against the danger of international socialism and was calculated to preserve peace and *Status quo in Europe*.

**1.1.4.1 Circumstances Leading to:**

These three powers (Russia, Austria and Prussia) had formed Holy Alliance after the fall of Napoleon and acted together for a good many years in defence of their common interests. Even after the collapse of Holy Alliance, friendship between Russia and Prussia continued to exist which was further strengthened by Prussia's diplomatic support to Russia during the Crimean war of 1854 and the Polish Uprising of 1863 and Russia's attitude of benevolent neutrality in favour of Prussia during the Franco-Prussian war. After the creation of German Empire Bismarck wanted to maintain friendly relations with Russia and at the same time he also desired to establish firm and friendly relations with Austria. Fortunately for him Austria and especially Count Andrasay (who had become to Foreign Minister of Austria in November 1871), was also keen on cultivating such relations with Germany. In the spring of 1872 when Emperor William I of the Germany and Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria started coming closer to each other visibly, Tsar Alexander II of Russia also expressed his desire to join his two brother monarchs. Consequently in the second week of September, 1872 the Three Emperors, accompanied by their Foreign Ministers (Bismarck of Germany, Andrassy of Austria and Gorchakov of Russia) met at Berlin. This meeting, which lasted for more than a week, resulted in a close understanding among the three powers and provided the basis of the League of the three Emperors which was concluded next year.

**1.1.4.2 Terms :**

In June 1873 the Austrian Emperor and the Russian. Tsar signed an agreement of a general



nature which was accepted and signed by the German Emperor on October 22, 1873. It provided that:

1. The three powers would consult one another on any question in which they might have divergent interests:
2. In case of any aggression by a fourth power menacing the peace of Europe, the three powers would come to an understanding with one another without seeking or contracting new alliances.
3. If, as a result of this understanding, military action should become necessary, it should be arranged by a special Military convention.

#### **1.1.4.3 Comments :**

The League of 'The Emperors' served Bismarck's purpose of maintaining peace in Europe and isolating Republican France. After 1873, the only power France could look to for an alliance were Italy and England. But it could not be possible for her to win over either, for the former (Italy) followed the lead of the three Emperors and the latter (England) was clinging to her traditional policy of Splendid Isolation.'

The League, however, suffered from some glaring shortcomings. The terms of the agreement concluded were too general to be of any real value. There was no positive commitment on the part of contracting powers to support one another at the time of a crisis. So the League could not last for long. The war scare for 1875 greatly weakened it and the Near Eastern Crisis of 1875-78 led to its break-up.

#### **1.1.4.4 War Scare of 1875**

About one and half year after the formation of the League of the Three Emperors, the Franco'-German tension increased to such an extent that it gave rise to a crisis known as War-Scare of 1875: any factors contributed to the 'scare' but prominent among them was the phenomenal French recovery after 1871 and the consequent apprehension of Bismarck.

To the great astonishment of the German Chancellor, France cleared the full amount of War-indemnity due to Germany by September, 1873 nearly six months before the scheduled time. She had thoroughly recognized her military system and appeared to be girding for war. Moreover, Mac Mohan who had become the president of France in 1873, was a pronounced anti German. He was backed by the Clericals who hated Bismarck intensely because of his coercive measures against the Catholic Church in Germany. Under these circumstances some important offices in German army began to discuss the merits of waging a preventive war against France. Delcasse, Foreign Minister of France, exploited the situation as, an opportunity to poetry Germany as in effect threatening France in order win over the support and sympathy of other powers. Gorchakov

(Foreign Minister of Russia), who was intensely jealous of Bismarck instigated France and also spread the rumour that Germany had asked Russia to give her a free hand in a war against France in return for Germany's free hand to Russia in the Near East. Some stirring articles, which appeared in various newspapers of Germany, France and England, brought the crisis to its climax. It appeared that another war was imminent between France and Germany.

The war scare was averted by the joint efforts made by England and Russia through their ambassadors in Berlin. Gorchakov was had, also gone to Berlin along with Tsar Alexander II, unnecessarily claimed credit for averting the crisis and securing peace. This diplomatic manoeuvre on his part greatly offended the German Chancellor and increased personal rivalry between the two. The hitherto friendly Russo-German relations began to be ,strained and the League of the Three Emperors was weakened. Bismarck's prestige in Europe was also impaired to some extent. The French, on their part, regarded this as a diplomatic triumph. However, the whole episode did find that European powers desired peace and *status quo* in Europe.

#### **Self Check Exercise**

Q1- Three emperors League was between which countries?

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Q2- Three emperors league is also known as?

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#### **1.1.5 Summary**

Otto von Bismarck was the architect of German unification. German empire came into being on 18th January 1871, headed by Kaiser William I of Prussia. Bismarck became the first chancellor. He followed the policy of peace in Europe for the security and development of his creation. He made many alliances with neighbouring countries for the strengthening of German Empire. This he started with three emperors league which included Austria and Russia along with Germany.

#### **1.1.6 Keywords**

1. Frieden's fanactiker- It means fanatic for peace. The policy followed by Bismarck for development and security of Germany.
2. Treaty of Frankfurt- Its was result of Franco Prussian war. This treaty was between Germany and France.

3. Dreikaiserbund- Also known as Three Emperor's League. It was between Germany, Austria and Russia.

### 1.1.7 Short Questions

- Q1 Where was proclamation of German Empire was held?  
Q2 Who was Andrassy?  
Q3 Which country was a strong naval power?  
Q4 When was three emperors league signed?  
Q5 Why isolation of France was necessary?

### 1.1.8 Long Questions

- Q1 What were the principles of Bismarck's foreign policy?  
Q2 Discuss the circumstance that led to three emperors league.

### 1.1.9 Suggested Readings

1. Erick Eyck : *Bismarck and German Empire (London: Third Edition, 1968)*
2. S.B. Fay : *The Origins of the World War (First Indian Reprint) 1965.*
3. G. P. Gooch : *History of Modern Europe 1878-1919 (Indian Edition)*
4. Emil Ludwig : *Bismarck*
5. William L. Langer : *European Alliances and Alignments 1871-1890 (New York-: 1962).*
6. C.G., Robertson : *Bismarck*
7. A J.P. Taylor : *Bismarck the Man and the Statesman.*

### SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

1. Discuss “the main principles of Bismarck’s policy from 1871.
2. What compelled Bismarck to enter into alliance With Austria in 1879? Was his choice of Austria in preference to Russia a wise one?
3. Critically examine the Dual Alliance of 1879. Do you agree with the view that it was a master stroke of Bismarck’s diplomacy?

## **Austro-German Alliance 1879**

### 1.2.1 Objectives

### 1.2.2. Introduction

### 1.2.3 Austro German Alliance 1879

#### 1.2.3.1 Circumstances Leading to Alliance

#### 1.2.3.1.2 Russia's Disappointment with Berlin Settlement

#### 1.2.3.1.3. Revision of Treaty of Prague

#### 1.2.3.1.4. Military preparation of Russia

#### 1.2.3.1.4. Danger of Franco-Russian combination

#### 1.2.3.1.5. Tsar's Threatening letters to German Emperor

#### 1.2.3.1.6. Bismarck's meeting with Andrassy at Gastein.

#### 1.2.3.1.7. German Emperor's Opposition

#### 1.2. The Viennese Conference and Signing of the Treaty 1.2.4

### 1.2.4.1. Terms of Treaty

### 1.2.5 Justification and Merits of the Alliance

#### 1.2.5.1. Essential Peace of Europe

#### 1.2.5.2. Secured Peace of Europe

#### 1.2.5.3. Not Responsible for Franco-Russian Alliance

#### 1.2.5.4. Not a Final Arrangement.

#### 1.2.5.5. Choice of Austria- a wise one

### 1.2.6 Criticism of the Alliance

#### 1.2.6.1 Alliance Not Necessary

#### 1.2.6.2 Set an unfortunate precedent

#### 1.2.6.3. Led to Franco-Russian Alliance and first Great war.

#### 1.2.6.4. Choice of Austria an unwise one.

### 1.2.7. Summary

### 1.2.8. Keywords

### 1.2.9. Short Questions

### 1.2.10. Long Questions

### 1.2.11. Suggested Readings.

### **1.2.1. Objectives**

In this lesson we will study :

- The causes that led to Austro-German Alliance 1879
- The terms of the alliance

- Merits of the alliance
- Criticism of the alliance

### **1.2.2 Introduction**

Soon after the War scare vanished, the attention of European diplomats was diverted to a new Eastern crisis. Starting with an insurrection 'against Turkish misrule in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the mid summer of 1875, followed by rising in Bulgaria and outbreak of war between the Serbs and the Turks and between Russia and Turkey, the crisis culminated in the Congress of Berlin in 1878. This Congress was convened on June 13, 1878 under the Chairman of Bismarck who already declared that he would play the role of an honest broker. Due to the effective mediation of the Germany Chancellor, the Congress succeeded in arriving at some significant decisions which were incorporated in the Treaty of Berlin (July 13, 1878). Whatever be the criticism of the Congress, there is no doubt; that it marked the recognition of Bismarck's supremacy in Europe and served his purpose of preserving continental peace. But the events following this historic Congress-created such a situation for the German Chancellor as to compel him to conclude a defensive alliance with Austria Hungary in 1879.

### **1.2.3.-Circumstances leading to the Alliance**

Bismarck claimed afterwards that the idea of concluding an alliance with Austria had been in mind as early as 1866. That was why he had deliberately shown leniency to Austria after her defeat, demanding neither any territory nor war-indemnity but the claim does not seem to be justified. There is an unmistakable evidence to suggest that it was only after the Congress of Berlin that the German Chancellor, compelled by the existing circumstances, actually determined to enter into Austro-German Alliance. These circumstances may briefly be summarised as under:

#### **1.2.3.1-Russia's Disappointment with the Berlin Settlement :**

Russia was disappointed with the decisions of the Congress of Berlin. She had been robbed by the Congress of the fruits of her victory over Turkey, which she had acquired by the Treaty of San Stefano. Big Bulgaria which had been created by her was broken into pieces; the Straits were closed and could no longer be under her control; and her rivals England and Austria had gained substantial concessions. The Russian and particularly the Tsar blamed Bismarck for all. Austria was under his chairmanship and it was under him that those decisions had been made. They accused the German Chancellor of ingratitude and desertion. The Tsar openly denounced the Congress as a "Europe coalition against Russia under the leadership of Bismarck". Not only that, the Russian Government also condemned the German delegates, who were the members of various international Commissions appointed to acute decisions of the Congress for adopting

hostile attitude at the bidding of Bismarck. All this could not be tolerated by the German Chancellor who believed that he had played the role of an 'honest broker' and that if he had departed from the role it was only to favour Russia. So he lost faith in the friendship of Russia and decided to come closer to Austria.

### **1.2.3.2- Revision of the Treaty of Prague :**

The anti-German feeling in Russia increased all the more when it became known early in February 1879 that Bismarck had concluded a treaty with Andrassy by which Austria had agreed to the annulment of Article V of the Treaty of Prague (1866). This article lay down that the inhabitants of Northern Schleswig could decide by a plebiscite whether they desired to Join Denmark or remain With Prussia, but this article had not been implemented during the last twelve years. The Russians considered the new agreement as a compensation for the help which Bismarck had given to Austria during the Congress and one of the Russian Newspapers bluntly remarked; "The honest broker acted for a big commission." Such stinking remarks made the German Chancellor furious and drove him away from Russia.

### **1.2.3.3 Military Preparation of Russia :**

In the beginning of 1879 Russia undertook a vigorous increase in her armaments under the direction of General Miliutin a pronounced antagonist of Germany and Austria. Miliutin had declared, "Russia must prepare for war." Not only had that he started transporting Russian troop's west-ward into Poland towards the German and Austrian Frontiers. All these provided the cause of alarm to both Germany and Austria and they decided to come closer to each other for their mutual defence and security.

### **1.2.3.4 Danger of France-Russian Combination :**

It was not much the fear of an attack by Russia alone as the danger of a Franco-Russian coalition while really compelled Bismarck to go in for a alliance with Austria. In the words of C.G. Robertson "Russia by herself had no fear, but France in conjunction with Russia the war on two fronts-weighed like lead on Bismarck and Moltke's mind." Gorchakov, who was great personal rival of Bismarck, had been making keen efforts to bring France and Russia closer. Many newspapers, both in Russia and France were also advocating the cause of Franco-Russian alliance against the possibility of such a hostile combination.

### **1.2.3.5 Tsar's Threatening Letter to German Emperor :**

On 17 August, 1879 Tsar Alexander II of Russia wrote a threatening letter to Emperor William of Germany. In this letter he referred to the systematically "hostile attitude of German diplomats, condemned Bismarck for spoiling Russo German relations due to his personal hatred for Gorchakov and warned that disastrous consequences might follow. When Bismarck came to

know about the contents of this letter he was much provoked. He put the most sinister possible interpretation on the letter. Warning Emperor William against any compliance with Russian wishes, he tried to impress upon the German Emperor the need of establishing more intimate connection with Austria, Hungary and England.

#### **1.2.3.6 Bismarck's Meeting with Andrassy at Gastein :**

At about the same time Bismarck taught his friend Andrassy (Foreign Minister of Austria) had decided to resign due to his ill health. The German Chancellor feared that his successor might not be as friendly to Germany. So he hastened to meet Andrassy at Gastein on August 27, 1872. In the course of discussion, that "took place between the two chancellors, Andrassy expressed readiness for entering into a defensive Austro German alliance and promised to remain in office till such an agreement was finalized.

#### **1.2.3.7 German Emperor's Opposition:**

After this successful meeting with Andrassy at Gastein. Bismarck tried to persuade the German Emperor to sanction the proposal of a defensive alliance with Austria but the latter was unconvinced. On September 3, 1879. Emperor William went to Alexander in response to an invitation by Tsar Alexander II. In the meeting that took place between the two. Tsar apologized for his letter of August 15, and expressed his keen desire to re-establish friendly relations with Germany. This made Bismarck's task all the more difficult. However, the German Chancellor went on making persistent efforts and put all types of pressure on the German Emperor till the latter permitted" him to go to discuss with Andrassy the draft of a treaty of a general nature which should not be specifically against Russia.

#### **Self Check Exercise**

- Q 1. Why was Russia disappointed at Berlin Settlement?  
Q2. Was Franco-Russian Treaty a danger for Germany?

#### **1.2.4 The Vienna Conference and Signing of the Treaty :**

Bismarck went to Vienna on September 22 and discussed with Andrassy terms or the draft of the treaty. The point at issue was whether the treaty should be general or specifically against Russia. Andrassy if listed that it should be especially against Russia while Bismarck pleaded for general terms in which Russia should not be specifically mentioned. Since Andrassy was adamant upon his stand, Bismarck had to yield, so the treaty specifically against Russia was prepared. Now the most serious problem before Bismarck was to procure consent of the German Emperor who was most unwilling to sign a treaty specifically against Russia. The Chancellor struggled hard to convince his master but to no purpose. In the end the German Emperor gave

way, because Bismarck had threatened to resign along with other ministers. The Treaty was signed at Vienna on October 7, 1879 and on October 17, at Berlin.

#### **1.2.4.1 Terms of the Treaty**

**The Preamble :** In the preamble it was stated that the intimate co-operation of Germany and Austria aimed at consolidation of the peace of Europe as established by the Treaty of Berlin and that the two powers had decided to conclude an alliance of peace and mutual defence which not be allowed to develop into an aggressive tendency.

**Article I :** If one of the two Empires was attacked by Russia, its ally was bound to assist with whole of its military power and only to conclude peace in common.

**Article II :** If one of the high contracting parties was attacked by a power other than Russia, its ally would observe at least neutrality.

If, however, the attacking power was supported by Russia either by active co-operation or military measures which constitute menace, both the contracting parties would support each other with their full military and conclude peace in common.

**Article III :** The duration of the treaty was to be five years and it was to be prolonged for three year more unless one of them desired negotiation a year before its expiration.

**Article IV :** The treaty was to be kept secret, but if the armaments of Russia really proved menacing for two they would consider it an obligation of loyalty to inform the Tsar confidentially that they would consider an attack on one as directed against both.

#### **1.2.5 Justification and Merits of the Alliance**

The contemporary writers and diplomats generally regarded Bismarck's conclusion of this alliance as a master stroke. For instance, St. Vallier French Ambassador of Berlin remarked: "From the point of view of his prestige in Europe and of his popularity in Germany Bismarck had never accomplished a work so considers able as that of the alliance with Austria. The later historians by and large have endorsed this contemporary opinion. The main arguments advanced in favour of the alliance are as under.

##### **1.2.5.1 Essential for Germany's Security :**

The admirers of Bismarck and statecraft contended that the conclusion of his alliance was essential for the security of Germany. Since the Treaty of Berlin the Russians had become very critical of Germany and had started concentrating forces near the German frontier. The possibility



of Franco-Russian coalition against Germany could also not be ruled out. Under these circumstances Bismarck showed practical wisdom by concluding a defensive alliance with Austria.

#### **1.2.5.2 Secured Peace of Europe :**

The alliance succeeded in its object of securing peace in Europe. Bismarck believed that Germany and Austria united would be the guarantee of peace for Europe. It was clearly stated in the preamble of the alliance that it consolidated the peace of Europe established by the Berlin. As a result of the conclusion of this alliance, Russia abandoned her aggressive tendencies and stopped all propaganda and pre campaign against Germany and Austria.

#### **1.2.5.3 Not a Final Arrangement :**

The Austro-German Alliance was not considered to be a final arrangement by Bismarck, not was the wire between Berlin and St. Petersburg permanently cut off. The German Chancellor only wanted to teach a lesson to Russia for her anti-German propaganda. Once she was brought on the right path and expressed sincere desire to re-establish friendly relations with Germany, Bismarck responded favourably to her overtures and concluded the Three Emperor's League in 1881. When the League could not be renewed in 1887 the German Chancellor concluded a separate alliance with Russia, the so called Re-insurance Treaty in 1887. There is thus no substance in the argument of the critics that by concluding Austro-German alliance, Bismarck had violated his own principle of keeping Austria and Russia together. Throughout his terms as Chancellor Bismarck had tried his best to keep up friendship with both Austria and Russia.

#### **1.2.5.4 Not Responsible for Franco Russian Alliance :**

It is argued in justification of the alliance that it was not really responsible for the France Russian Alliance as alleged by some critics. The Franco-Russian Alliance was concluded in the beginning of 1894 whereas Bismarck had renounced his chancellorship in 1890. It was obviously Bismarck's successors who should legitimately be blamed for bringing about this counter-alliance due to their tactless policies and measures. Nor was the Austro-German Alliance responsible for the First Great War.

#### **1.2.5.5 Choice of Austria - a wise one :**

It is emphatically argued by Bismarck's eulogists that the choice of Austria in preference to Russia was a wise one. Firstly, the alliance with a brethren German country marked the logical completion of the world of German unification begun in 1860's. That is why this' alliance was widely hailed in Germany by all the parties had won enormous popularity for Bismarck's foreign policy.

Secondly, this alliance, Bismarck aptly calculated, would be welcome to England. Since the Berlin Settlement of 1878. England was favorably inclined towards Austria but was averse to Russia. Germany's alliance with Austria, therefore, did not lack the support of England. When Salisbury, Foreign Secretary of England, learnt about the conclusion of this alliance he considered it "good tidings of great joy." If Bismarck had concluded alliance with Russia, it would have alienated England.

Thirdly, this alliance brought Austria, under Germany's guns. Austria being relatively a weak country, Bismarck was able to exercise control over Austrian foreign policy. The German Chancellor liked an alliance in which Germany was the 'rider' and other party the 'horse'.

Fourthly, this alliance secured for Germany control of the Danube and created the political framework of Central Europe under her dominance. Without a control of the Danube basin as complete as that of the Rhine, the political, economic and military conditions of Central Europe could not be adequately realized.

Fifthly, this alliance between two German Empire immensely strengthened Germanism and helped in checking the growth of Slaved influence. Germany and Austria mutually protected each other against the rising tide of Pan Slavism.

Whereas Germany derived all the above mentioned - advantages from the Austro-German alliance, an alliance would have compelled Germany to support Russian ambitions in the Near East and would have made a coalition of England, Austria and Franco-practically inevitable.

### **1.2.6 Criticism of the Alliance**

After 1914, when Germany's unreserved support to Austria proved to be among the main causes precipitating the Great-War, the Austro-German Alliance met with strong criticism. The conclusion of this alliance began to be regarded as a great blunder on the part of Bismarck. The arguments of the critics of the alliance may briefly be presented as under.

#### **1.2.6.1 Alliance not necessary:**

It is pointed out by the critics that alliance was not necessary for the security of Germany for there was really no danger of attack from Russia much less from that of France and Russia combined. Only a month before the conclusion of this alliance Tsar Alexander II had met the German Emperor and had expressed his keen desire for establishing friendly relation with Germany. The French Republic was also "resolutely specific" at that time.

#### **1.2.6.2 Set an Unfortunate Precedent :**

By concluding the uncalled for alliance with Austria Bismarck set an unfortunate precedent of making formal written and secret alliances in the time of peace. Previously the alliances were

signed just before or on the eve of a war. But as a result of the signing to Austro-German Alliance a new precedent was set in Europe. This alliance was followed by other similar secret alliances, which gave rise to counter alliance of same nature.

### **1.2.6.3 Led to Franco-Russian Alliances and the First Great War :**

The main argument however, of the critics against the Austro-German Alliance is that it made the Franco-Russian Alliance inevitable and provided the basic cause leading to the First Great War. After the conclusion of the alliance which expanded into Triple Alliance when Italy joined in 1882, Russia began to feel herself more and more isolated. Though Bismarck tried to win over Russia by three Emperors League of 1881 and afterwards, by the Re-insurance Treaty of 1887, yet, these proved to be temporary transactions. Russia felt the need of a dependable ally. England was already her enemy. Under the circumstances the only country she could have looked to for an alliance was France, despite the fundamental difference between the Republican France and autocratic Russia. The closeness between the Triple Alliance Powers and England for a number of years alarmed both Russia and France and compelled them to sign an alliance early in 1894. It is significant to observe that Franco Russian Alliance was concluded as a counter measure to Triple Alliance, as is clearly shown by the terms of former. Thus, paradoxical as it may seem to Austro-German Alliance was intended to avert a Franco-Russian combination, but that combination became a distinct possibility on account of this very alliance.

The alliance was followed afterwards by the formation of Anglo-French Entente in 1904, and Anglo Russian Convention 1907. By 1907, Europe stood divided into two armed camps Triple Alliance and Triple Entente. The ever increasing hostility between the two groups led to the Great War of 1914.

### **1.2.6.4 Choice of Austria - an unwise one.**

The critics opine that Bismarck's choice of Austria was not a wise one. By concluding alliance with Austria, Germany undertook the liability of protecting Austria. For the sake of Austria Bismarck had been to sacrifice partially the interests of Germany, for Germany was bound to support Austria if she was attacked by her enemy Russia, but in the event of French attack on Germany Austria was only to observe benevolent neutrality.

It is also argued by critics that Bismarck would have shown real statesmanship if instead of Austria he had concluded an alliance with Russia the dynamic and political friend on whose support Prussian policy had pivoted since 1862. Such an alliance would have permanently averted the possibility of Franco-Russian combination and avoided disastrous consequences, which flowed from Austro-German Alliance.

But on a close and candid scrutiny it will be found that most of the arguments of the critics do

not carry much weight. Before concluding the alliance with Austria, Bismarck had carefully weighed its pros and cons. It should also be noted that the Austro-German alliance was only calculated to secure peace of Europe and it was used only for that purpose by Bismarck. It was after Bismarck that Germany could not restrain Austrian foreign policy. So for all the disastrous consequences of this alliance which followed later, the successors of Bismarck should be held responsible.

### Self-Check Exercise

1. How peace was secured in Europe after alliance of 1879 A.D.?
2. Was the choice of Austria - a wise decision in part of German Chancellor?

#### 1.2.7 Summary :

The Austro-German alliance was signed at Vienna capital of Austria on 7 October, 1879 and at Berlin, capital of Germany on 7th October, 1879 A.D.. With this alliance both nations were successful in maintaining peace in Europe. They protected each other against Russian Pan-Slavism. Bismarck was able to exercise control even Austrian policy. In this alliance Germany was the rider and Austria was the horse.

#### 1.2.8 Keywords

- 1 Dual Alliance : Austro-German alliance 1879 is also known as dual alliance. Two countries Austria and Germany went for a defensive alliance to prevent war.
- 2 Pan-Slavism : Slavs - the largest etholinguistic group. It was a political and cultural movement of Slav people which was associated with Russian expansion in the near east.

#### 1.2.9 Short Questions

- 1 Which countries were part of Dual Alliance of 1879 A.D.?
- 2 Who was Russian Tsar at the time of alliance of 1879 A.D.?
- 3 Was this alliance necessary for Germany?

#### 1.2.10 Long Questions

- 1 What compelled Bismarck to enter into alliance with Austria in 1879? Was his choice of Austria in preference to Russia a wise one?
- 2 Critically examine the Dual Alliance of 1879. Do you agree with the view that it was a master stroke of Bismarck's diplomacy?

**1.2.11 Suggested Readings**

1. Erick Eyck : *Bismarck and German Empire (London: Third Edition, 1968)*
2. S.B. Fay : *The Origins of the World War (First Indian Reprint) 1965.*
3. G. P. Gooch : *History of Modern Europe 1878-1919 (Indian Edition)*
4. Emil Ludwig : *Bismarck*
5. William L. Langer : *European Alliances and Alignments 1871-1890 (New York-: 1962).*
6. C.G., Robertson : *Bismarck*
7. A.J.P. Taylor : *Bismarck the Man and the Statesman.*

### THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE, 1882 A.D.

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#### 1.3.1 Objectives

In this lesson we will study :

- The circumstances that led to the formation of alliance of 1882 A.D.
- The gains for the countries which formed alliance of 1882 A.D.

### **1.3.2 Introduction:**

A year had not yet passed after the 'Three Emperors' League when Bismarck brought into existence the famous Triple Alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. Like his previous alliance Triple Alliance, was also secret and defensive in nature and aimed at maintenance of peace and *status quo* in Europe. But this alliance, which was repeatedly renewed and remained in existence till 1915, was destined to be of far reaching significance in the history of European diplomacy.

### **1.3.3 Origin of the Alliance**

The formation of the Triple Alliance is commonly attributed to the initiative of Bismarck. It is said that he deliberately snubbed the Italian representative at the Congress of Berlin so as to make her realise the need of allying herself with Germany. Not only that after this Congress he encouraged France to take Tunis with the calculation that this "would arouse such bitterness in Italy that Bismarck could undoubtedly secure the consent of the Italian Government to an alliance with Austria and Germany." It is also argued that it was the policy of the German Chancellor after 1870 to enter alliance with as many European Powers as possible in order to isolate France and secure the guarantee of peace in Europe.

S.B. Fay does not support the above viewpoint. He opines: "It was not with Bismarck that the Triple Alliance originated, but with Italy". Italy got nothing at the Congress of Berlin not because of Bismarck's attitude but because she had no importance in Europe at that time nor she developed any substantial interest in the Near East. It is further contended that Bismarck's encouragement to France to seize Tunis was designed to sow ill will between France and Italy, thereby compelling the latter to seek alliance with the Central Powers; it rather aimed at winning over the friendship of France and diverting her attention to colonial activities so that she might forget the defeat of 1870. Bismarck also had a low opinion about the Italians as allies, whom he denounced in his private notes for "their fickle character" and 'their childish egoism'. Lastly, as will be noted in the following account, it was Italy who took initiative and began to approach Germany repeatedly for the alliance and Bismarck responded favourably to such approaches only afterwards due to compelling developments in Europe. Thus the Triple Alliance may be said to have originated with Italy but Bismarck's eagerness to go in for the Alliance in due course of time was no less all important factor leading to its conclusion.

#### **1.3.3.1 CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE ALLIANCE**

##### **1.3.3.2 Congress of Berlin and Austro-German Alliance :**

Italy had come away from the Congress of Berlin empty-handed. Since that time she began to feel that she had no prestige or importance in Europe and that she must seek alliance with

some Great Power. The conclusion of Austro-German Alliance in 1879 alarmed her as this had made her enemy Austria very strong. Some of the Italian diplomats, therefore, began to realise that Italy could no longer afford the enmity of Austria and that she must strengthen her position by allying herself with a Great Power like Germany. But Cairoli, the then Prime Minister of Italy (who was a pronounced anti Austrian) was not convinced of the need of an alliance with Germany.

**1.3.3.3. Italy's Unofficial Approach to Germany :** Due to pressure put upon Cairoli, the Italian government made an unofficial approach to Germany in August 1880 through a Berlin correspondent of an Italian newspaper. The German Chancellor, however, did not respond favorably. He said, "Road to Berlin lay through Vienna," adding that it would have been better if the Italian Government had approached officially through the regular channel.

**1.3.3.4 French Occupation of Tunis and its Reaction in Italy :** Both France and Italy had developed great interests in Tunis, a small state in North Africa continuous to French Algeria and quite near from the southern boundary of Italy. The state was militarily weak and financially indebted to . European Powers. Both France and Italy wanted to take advantage of its feeble position and were casting covetous glance over it. France enjoyed the diplomatic support of other European Powers and even the German Chancellor encouraged her to "pluck the ripe Tunisian fruit" On the pretext of some raids conducted on the borders of Algeria, the French Government sent an army of 35,000 men to Tunis and compelled the Bey (technical term for ruler of Tunis) to sign the Treaty of Bordo in May 1881. By this Treaty French got the right of occupying Tunis, which became their Protectorate.

The French occupation of Tunis was a great blow to Italian prestige. No European Power had come to her rescue. The Italian public opinion reacted strongly to the effort Cairoli was compelled to resign and was replaced by Depretis. Many Italian newspapers demanded change in the foreign policy of Italy. Sonnino, a prominent politician published a widely read article in which he vigorously pleaded the necessity of establishing closer relations with Germany and Austria. Isolation, "he emphatically Stated, means annihilation." It began to be realized by the Italian diplomats including the new Prime Minister, that Italy should forget the enmity with Austria over Trieste and Trentiono two Italian territories which were still under Austria and cultivate friendly relations with Germany and Austria in order to regain prestige in Europe and promote her colonial interests in future.

#### **1.3.3.5 Italian King's Visit to Vienna**

In the, last week of October, 1881 the Italian King Humbert, accompanied by the Prime Minister Depretis paid a visit to Vienna. They were given a cordial welcome. Although no negotiations



for an alliance could take place due to the recent death of Hamerle, the Austrian Foreign Minister yet the visit helped in establishing somewhat friendly relations between the two hitherto rival countries.

#### **1.3.3.6. Formation of Gambetta's Ministry In France :**

In November 1881 Gambetta became the Prime Minister of France. His rise to power provided a cause for alarm for the Italian Government because he was staunch republican and was regarded as embodiment of French chauvinism. It was apprehended by the Government of Italy that he might create trouble by instigating the radical and republican elements in Italy. Hence the Italian Government further felt the necessity of coming closer to the strong monarchial Powers of Germany and Austria.

#### **1.3.3.7 Question of Rome and Beginning of Negotiation :**

What however made Italian Government most keen to seek alliance of the alliance of the Central powers was the question of Rome. Since the loss of his temporal authority in Rome in 1870 the Pope had become an irreconcilable enemy of any Italian Government. Such a hostile attitude of the Pope was distasteful to the Italian patriots, especially the radicals who created trouble in July 1881, when the remains of the late Pope -Pius IX were being transferred to the Church of San Lorenzo in 'accordance with his last will. After July 1881 also the radicals continued to organise movement against Pope Leo XIII. The latter retaliated and appealed to foreign powers for help. He openly expressed his desire for the restoration on of his temporal authority in Rome. The Italian Government was naturally much worried and decided to negotiate with the Central Powers for securing guarantee of the possession of Rome. Simultaneously negotiations were opened with Germany and Austria. Bismarck's stand, as usual was that the key to the Berlin door was in Vienna. So everything, depended upon Austro-Italian negotiations will could not prove successful because the Italian Ambassador insisted upon securing guarantee of Rome while Austrian Foreign Minister Klanoky was prepared for a 'neutrality' treaty-treaty by which each should be bound to remain neutral in the event of its ally's involvement in a war with a third power.

#### **1.3.3.8 Bismarck's Desire for the Alliance :**

In the beginning of 1882 at Bismarck perceived to his concern some anti-German developments in Europe, which made him keen to win over Italy to the side of the Central Powers. The French Prime Minister Gambetta who was the very embodiment of the French spirit of revenge against Germany, had started making persistent efforts for winning over the friendship of England and Russia. In Russia the Pan Slavists were engaged in extensive propaganda for Franco-Russian rapprochement. In February 1882 Stubby, a popular Pan-Slavist General paid a visit to Paris.

In the course of his speeches there he referred to the inevitability of war between the German and the Slaves, and vigorously advocated the cause of Franco-Russian alliance.

In view of the aforesaid developments the German Chancellor made up his mind to bring about defensive alliance between Germany, Austria Italy. Serious negotiations for the treaty were; therefore, resumed, Bismarck authoritatively mediated between Austria and Italy. Consequently the Treaty was signed by the three powers of May 20, 1882 which was in substance “a compromise between neutrality and guarantee.”

### 1.3.4 Terms of the Treaty

#### The Preamble :

It was stated in the preamble that Germany, Austria and Italy- “animated by the desire to increase the guarantee of peace, to fortify the anarchical .principal and thereby to assure the unimpaired maintenance of the social and political order- in their respective states, have agreed to conclude a treaty which by its essentially conservative and defensive nature, pursues only the aim of forestalling the dangers which might threaten the security of states and the peace of Europe.” It means the aims of the Treaty were:

- (a) To increase the guarantees of peace in Europe;
- (b) To strengthen the monarchial system;
- (c) To maintain the existing social and political order in three states.

It was also clarified that the Treaty was “essentially conservative and defensive” in nature.

**Article I :** The three powers mutually promised peace and friendship and would enter into one alliance or engagement directed against anyone of them. They also agreed to exchange ideas on political and economic questions of a general nature and further promised support to one another within the limits of their own interests.

**Article II :** In case Italy, without direct provocation on her part, was attacked by France for any reason whatsoever; the two other Contracting Parties were bound to lend help and assistance with all their forces.

If Germany, without direct provocation on her part, was attacked by France, Italy was bound to help her partner with all her forces.

**Article III :** If one or two of the Contracting Parties was/were attacked and engaged in a war with two or more Great Power non-signatory to the Treaty, all the three Contracting Parties would fight together against the enemies.

According to Fay, this Article “Virtually extended to Italy the principle agreed upon Austria and Germany in 1879, except that the addition of the words” without direct provocation” gave the obligation a more restricted and purely defensive character.

**Article IV :** In case a great Power, non-signatory to the present treaty, threatened the security of States of one of the Contracting Parties and the threatened party was forced on that account to make war against it, the two others bound themselves to observe towards their Ally a benevolent neutrality. Each of them, however, reserved the right to take part in the war if it saw fit to make common cause with its Ally.

**Article V :** If the peace of one of the Contracting Parties was threatened all the three would consult one another regarding military measures to be taken. They agreed in all cases of common participation in a war, to conclude neither armistice, nor treaty, except by common consent among themselves.

**Article VI :** The contracting Parties promised to maintain secrecy regarding the contents and existence of the Treaty.

**Article VII :** Treaty would remain in force for five years.

#### **Self Check Exercise**

Q1- Name the countries which were the members of triple alliance of 1882.

Q2 Where was Pope's temporal authority?

### **1.3.5. Significance of the Alliance-Gains of the Contracting Parties**

The Triple Alliance is considered to be a momentous landmark in European diplomacy. Concluded in 1882 for a period of five year, it was renewed time and again and remained in existence till the beginning of the First Great War. The alliance was calculated to bring some substantial gains to all three Contracting Parties.

#### **1.3.5.1 GAINS OF GERMANY**

**Security against French Aggression :** The Triple Alliance was of supreme importance for Germany. In the first place, it secured and strengthened her position against the possibility of French aggression. It was hoped that this alliance would prevent Italy from joining France, for it was clearly laid down in Article I of the treaty that the Contracting parties would not enter into any alliance or engagement directed against anyone of them. If Germany was actually

attacked by France, Italy was bound under Article II to come to her assistance with all her forces. Such an assistance of Italy was likely to prove very useful to Germany. It would have the effect of dividing the French forces to be used against Germany, for "the French forces available against the Rhine would be diminished by those which would have to be directed to the Alpine frontier against Italy." Under the circumstances Germany would be able to repulse French aggression successfully.

### **Security against Franco-Russian Attack :**

The Triple Alliance furnished additional strength to Austro German Alliance in the event of a joint attack by France and Russia under the terms of Treaty of 1879. Germany and Austria were already bound to fight together in case of attack by Franco- Russia combination. Now under Article III of the Triple Alliance treaty Italy was bound to join the Central Powers against such a combination. Although Italy might not be able to provide large fighting force yet her very friendship and involvement in the war on their behalf would be of great value to Germany and Austria. On the one hand Austria would be enabled to utilize her full military strength against the enemies (which she could not do before the conclusion of the Triple Alliance as she had then to part with her forces on the Austro-Italian frontier) and on the other, French to be utilised against Germany would be diminished by those would have to be employed against Italy. The former consideration weighed more heavily with the Germany Chancellor as he himself remarked: "Sparing the Austrian forces rather than winning those of Italy is our aim."

### **Isolation of France :**

As a result of the conclusion of the Triple Alliance, France found herself isolated for years to come. Russia had already been won over by the Three Emperor's League of 1881. After Germany's alliance with Austria and Italy the only important power left was England, but there could be no possibility of alliance between England and France after 1882; for serious differences had arisen since this very year between the two western powers over the question of Egypt. Finding herself isolated in Europe, France turned her attention towards colonial enterprises. Thus the Triple Alliance served Bismarck's purpose of isolating France and diverting her attention outside Europe.

### **Maintenance of Peace in Europe :**

The Triple Alliance also strengthened the possibilities of peace in Europe; it was stated along other things in the Preamble of the Treaty that it aimed at increasing the guarantees of peace. Hitherto, Austria and Italy had been traditional enemies and their hostility could threaten the peace of Europe at any time. By bringing these two rivals together in the Triple Alliance Bismarck avoided the possibility of confrontation between them, thereby assuring the maintenance of peace in Europe.

**Supremacy in Central Europe :**

With the formation of The Triple Alliance a powerful block emerged in Central Europe extending from North Sea to the Mediterranean. Since Germany was the strongest of the powers of this block her supremacy in Central Europe was practically asserted.

**Influence over Italian Policy :**

As Italy was the weakest of the Triple Alliance Powers and her previous relations with Austria had not been cordial, she depended entirely upon Germany for support. This enabled the latter to exercise substantial influence over the Italian policy. The German traders, industrialists and bankers also derived great benefits due to such influence. It is said that the alliance followed trade (between Germany and Italy) and the trade followed the alliance.

The joining of the Italy with Austro-German proved useful to Germany in other way. It enabled her to keep Austria in check by taking advantage to her jealousy with Italy.

**Strengthening of Position against the Pope:**

Early in the 1880 Bismarck had involved the German Government into a serious struggle with the Catholic Church, backed by the Pope. The Kulturkampf, as the struggle is popularly known continued for compromise still Kulturkampf was by no means healed by 1882. The Treaty of May 20, 1882 says Robertson, Was “a potent schedule to the May Laws of 1873 and 1875. Although its terms were secret, yet the fact of the conclusion of the alliance was known, which greatly alarmed Pope Leo XIII and compelled him to abandon uncompromising attitude towards the German Government.

**1.3.5.2 GAINS OF ITALY****End of Isolation :**

Italy also gained a lot from the Triple alliance; though she did not acquire as much as Depretis and other Italian statesmen expected. Hitherto she had no ally on the continent. No power had supported her claims at the Congress of Berlin over the question of Tunis. With the conclusion of alliance with two powerful countries of Europe, her isolation came to an end. Not only that, she also gained increase in prestige. Henceforth she began to be regarded as one of the Great Powers of Europe.

**Strengthening of Italian Monarchy :**

Before the conclusion of the Triple Alliance the republican and radical elements had been gaining great strength in Italy and posed a danger to Italian monarchy. Italy's alliance with two great monarchical Powers of Europe lent a unique strength to her monarchical system. It was also said down in the Preamble of the Treaty of the Triple alliance that one of its objective was “to fortify the monarchical principal”

**Security against French Attack :**

With the coming of Gambetta to power in France, Italy had been confronted with the danger of attack from France. The Triple Alliance provided her security against such a danger. Article II of the Treaty laid down that if Italy was attacked by France for any reason whatsoever, Germany and Austria would support her with all their forces.

**Security against Austrian Attack :**

Italy also got protection against the possibility of attack from Austria. For a long time Austria and Italy had been traditional rivals. Though the latter had taken away the territories of Lombardy and Venetia from the former and Italian unification had been practically accomplished by 1870, yet Italian territories of Trieste and Trentino were still under Austria, which kept up hostility alive between the two countries. Austria being a comparatively stronger country could launch an attack 'on Italy at any time to suppress the movement for the liberation of these territories. In 1882, Italy was by the fact of the alliance with Austria and Germany protected against Austrian attack. She was also not compelled by the terms of the Treaty of this alliance to renounce her claim over Trieste and Trentino.

**Security of Rome :**

But the chief advantage which Italy got by entering into the Triple Alliance was the security of Rome. Although there was no specific term in the Treaty about the guarantee of Rome to Italy, yet the phrase, "unimpaired maintenance of social and the political order" used in the Preamble might be considered as "a tacit recognition of the possession of Rome". Apart from this, the very fact of Italy's alliance with two Great Powers of Europe alarmed the Pope to such an extent that he abandoned his hostile attitude and stopped talking about the restoration of his temporal authority in Rome.

**Support in Colonial Ambitions :**

As a result of the conclusion of the Triple Alliance, Italy expected the active support of Germany and Austria in her colonial ambitions. She had lost Tunis to France due to lack of support from any European Power. One of the main demands while entering into the Triple Alliance was promise of support in her colonial aspirations in North, and East Africa. No such promise was given clearly by the terms of the Treaty. It was however laid down in Article I that the three powers would exchange ideas on political and economic questions of a general nature "and support one another' within the limits on their own interest such a restricted promise of support in general terms did not satisfy Italy and she was' much disappointed when practically no support was given to her colonial ambitions by Germany and Austria in the following years. So at the time of renewal of the alliance Italy demanded specific support in writing from Germany

and Austria regarding her ambitions in the Near East and Africa as her conditions for the renewal of the Treaty. Her demand had to be accepted to some extent. But in spite of that she did not get that much support from the Central powers which she desired and expected. Disappointed with the attitude of Germany and Austria, Italy began to come closer to France towards the close of the last century.

Italy thus gained from the Triple Alliance a number of reasonable advantages, though these fell short of her expectations. The obligation which she was expected to discharge in return were not heavy. Where as in case of attack upon her by France she was to get the support of both of her' allies, she was not bound to support Austria in the event of a war between Austria and Russia. She was of course bound to support Germany if the latter was attacked by France.

### 1.3.5.3 GAINS OF AUSTRIA

**Italian Neutrality against Russia:** The gains of Austria from the Triple Alliance were comparatively less than those of Germany and Italy. Her chief benefit from the Treaty lay in the fact that in case she was engaged in a war with Russia over the Balkan questions, she would no longer have to leave apart of her army to guard her southern frontier as Italy was bound by Article IV to observe benevolent neutrality in such an eventuality.-

**Security of Trieste and Trentino:** Another gain of Austria from the alliance was the security of Trieste and Trentino. A movement had been going on in Italy for the liberation of source territories known as Italian irredentism. When Italy became the ally and friend of Austria in 1882 this movement was naturally weakened. Her said territories remained secure under Austria as long as Triple Alliance would continue to exist.

#### Self Check Exercise

Q1 When did this alliance remain in existence?

Q2 What type of rule was in Italy?

### 1.3.6 Summary

The Triple Alliance was essentially conservative and defensive in nature and aimed at the maintenance of peace and status quo in Europe. This is clear from the Preamble as well as various terms of the Treaty. There is also a doubt that Bismarck was really interested in preserving the peace of Europe which he considered essential for the security of the German Empire. But Italy sought to make use of the alliance to promote her ambition in North Africa and elsewhere. The German Chancellor told her bluntly that the alliance was made to secure the peace of Europe and not to win new conquests for its members. Nevertheless, some sort of supporting

her ambitions had to be promised to Italy at the time Of the renewal of the alliance in 1887 and again in 1891. Similarly Austria after 1906 tried to make use of the Alliance for aggressive rather than defensive purposes. It may also be observed that the secrecy about terms of the alliance gave to suspicions in France and Russia and compelled them to conclude a counter France-Russian Alliance in the beginning of 1894. In due course of time England also came closer to France and Russia. By 1907 Triple Entente (France, Russia and England) practically came into being as opposed to the Triple Alliance. The enmity between the two blocks went on increasing and proved to be fundamental cause of the First Great War.

### 1.3.7 Keywords

1. Republic- It means a country where the head of the state is elected by the people.
2. Kulturkampf- It was a conflict between Pope Pius IX and the government of Prussia led by Bismarck (1872-1878 A.D.)
3. Monarchy- It is a political set up where absolute sovereignty or undivided rule by a single person or king

### 1.3.8 Short Questions

1. Who was the monarch of Italy in 1882 A.D.
2. What kind of Government was established in the countries related to Triple alliance?
3. When and where was the alliance signed?
4. Which country among the Triple alliance gained the most?

### 1.3.9 Long Questions

1. "Give an account of the circumstances that led to the formation of the Triple Alliance in 1882. Did the alliance originate with Bismarck or with Italy?"
2. Describe the main terms of the Triple Alliance. What were the respective advantages derived by the three powers from it? .
3. Why did Italy join the Triple Alliance of 1882? What were its principal gains from it?
4. Critically examine the Triple Alliance of 1882.

### 1.3.10 Suggested Readings

- |                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| S.B. Fay          | : | <i>The Origins of the World War.</i>                 |
| William L. Langer | : | <i>European Alliances and Alignments, 1871-1890.</i> |
| Emile Ludwig      | : | <i>Bismarck</i>                                      |
| G.P. Robertson    | : | <i>History of Modern Europe, 1878 1919.</i>          |
| C.G. Robertson    | : | <i>Bismarck</i>                                      |
| S.L. Sikri        | : | <i>Prince Bismarck.</i>                              |
| APJ Taylor        | : | <i>Bismarck, the Man and the Statesman.</i>          |



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**THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE OF 1894 A.D.**

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1.4.1 Objectives

1.4.2 Introduction

1.4.3 Circumstances leading to the Signing of the Alliance

1.4.4. The Provision of the Treaty

1.4.5 Results and Significance

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1.4.7 Keywords

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**1.4.1 Objectives -**

In this lesson we will study

- The factor responsible for the Franco- Russian Alliance.
- The terms of the treaty
- The significance of the alliance.

**1.4.2 Introduction-**

The Franco-Russian alliance of 1894 marked a turning point in the diplomatic history of modern Europe. From 1870 to 1890 France had been an outcast among the nations. She had been politically isolated by the dominant influence of German diplomacy under the leadership of Bismarck. France had been looking for an opportunity to avenge her defeat by Germany and to recover Alsace and Lorraine. It was a difficult and formidable task. The first on the long road had to be the strengthening of French position in Europe. The German attempt to divert the French attention from Europe to Africa or Asia was good 'real politik' but poor psychology. Neither Tunis nor Morocco could ever be regarded as adequate compensation for the loss of Alsace Lorraine. To recover her prestige in Europe, France was keen to have a European ally.

Russia was obviously the only possible ally under existing circumstances. Although an alliance between the autocratic Russia and republican France appeared to be unnatural, 'yet the feeling of isolation and irritation which existed in both the countries against the Triple Alliance powers brought them closer eventually.

### **1.4.3 Circumstances leading to the Signing of the Alliance**

The Franco Russian Alliance of 1894 was the culmination of a series of diplomatic and military moves by the Republican France and autocratic Russia. It was not a marriage of convenience but co summation of a long drawn and complex process. It was the natural result of suspicion, the feeling of irritation and isolation against Germany which existed among the people of France and Russia. "Approachment between them, in spite of the fundamental difference between the Republican and absolutist. forms of government of Paris and St. Petersburg, was the obvious counter balance to the Triple Alliance." The greatest ambition of Bismarck was to prevent a Franco-Russian Alliance but his exit in 1890 changed the scene.

The reinsurance Treaty of 1887 between Germany and Russia, which Bismarck had used to keep Russia away from France, was not renewed in 1890 by the German foreign office. Baron Van Holstein organised the opposition against the renewal of the Reinsurance Treaty with Russia on various grounds. The Treaty was considered contrary to' the spirit of the Triple Alliance and would have impaired its future harmony particularly if its real nature was known to Austria. Secondly, he argued that if the existence of Reinsurance Treaty was known in London, it might have strained the Anglo-German relations. Implicit in this; the decisive argument against renewal was Holstein's belief that an Anglo-Russian war lay in the logic of history. .Therefore it was not safe for Germany to be committed to either' side in advance. Much of these arguments were based on wrong assumption but they appealed to "Kaiser William II and the Reinsurance Treaty between Germany and Russia was not renewed. Once Russia was free from an entangling Alliance with Germany, she was willing to join hands with France. Consequently, the failure of reinsurance Treaty paved the ground for the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894. The Kaiser on his part tried to flow conciliatory policy towards France and Russia after 1890 but he failed to keep them apart.

The Russians had been becoming suspicious that Germany was drawing closer to England. The Treaty of June 14, 1890, by which Germany had given up claims of the great strip of American territory near Zanzibar to . England in return for Heligoland, seemed to confirm the Russian apprehension. The visit of Kaiser William II to England in the summer of 1890 seemed a further sign of the way the wind was blowing. His emphasis on the Triple Alliance at the. Opening season of the German Parliament, the Reichstag in May 1890, and the new army law increasing the German forces by some 18,000 disturbed. both Russia and France.

The Russo-German relation had already been strained because of the election of Ferdinand of Coburg as Prince of Bulgaria at the suggestion and encouragement of Germany. The letter of German Ambassador at Vienna, "assuring German support to Bulgaria against Russia, fell into the French hands and France conveyed it to Russia. The German design in the Balkans and the German military training to the Turkish army had created a feeling that Mediterranean would not be allowed to become Russian lake confirmed the Russian fear against the Triple Alliance of which Italy was a member. The fall in the value of the Russian currency, Rouble, in 1887 was exploited by the German press. The German newspaper campaign against Russian credit was not liked by Russia. Hence these minor conflicts, long before the failure of the Reinsurance Treaty with Russia in 1890, had prepared the ground for the parting of the ways. The French offer to help Russia financially came as a blessing in disguise. France at the moment was looking for a field investment, because commercial conflict with Italy shut off the Italian market for the French capital. A group of French bankers began to float Russian loan in Paris. Thus France set out on a financial path which may thousands of her citizens interested financially and politically in Russian ambition. The German response to the Russian financial difficulties was discouraging and was a blunder. Which brought France and Russia closer. Foreign loans were essential for the use of financial powers for political ends and Paris was much better equipped than Berlin. The Loan given by France to Russian in 1888 and 1889 at a low rate of interest, were outstandingly successful from the Russian point of view. The financial collaboration led to political and military coordination and eventual the Alliance.

After the financial collaboration came the French offer to supply Russia with guns. France agreed to manufacture for Russia half a million rifles similar to the lab rifle which France had been manufacturing for sometime.

The next step was the visit of the French fleet to Kronstadt in 1891. Kronstadt visit was made the occasion for an extraordinary demonstration of Franco-Russian solidarity; Both Tsar and Tsarina went aboard the French flagship and showed utmost cordiality and friendship to the Admiral, officers and sailors of the ship. For the first time the playing of the Marshellaise was allowed by absolutist Russia. This marching song of the French revolution had been forbidden in Russia hitherto but this restriction was removed in the honour of the visit of French flagship. The change in Russian policy was clear to the entire world. M. Poincare, who became the president of France twenty years later, recorded in his memories the enthusiasm of that year when France felt for the first time that she was no longer friendless. He wrote.

"Those of us who had reached manhood in 1890 cannot recall without emotion the prodigious effect produced at that time in France by friendliness of the Emperor Alexander III. It was for

Republic not only recognition of the Republic by a government whose tradition had further removed from us and our institutions, it was for France herself the end of a prolonged isolation and the outward sign of her revival.” (Tardieu, France and the Alliances, pp. 11-14).

The enthusiasm generated by the Kronstadt demonstration led many Frenchmen to believe that a Franco-Russian Alliance was already assured and the long period of the French isolation was now passed. But the French Foreign office was realistic. Although France had not forgotten Alsace and Lorraine but for Russia it made no difference who ruled these two provinces. Similarly, Balkan Jealousies of Austria and Russia did not interest Paris. For Russia the main enemy was England who blocked the Russians at the straits in the Middle East and on the Afghan Border. But France had no desire to pull these distant chestnuts out of fire to please her new Russian friends. Both France and Russia held grievances against England, the former in Egypt and the upper Nile, the later on the Afghan border. But his factor alone was not enough to bring France and Russia together. It was Germany in Conjunction with England that cemented it. ‘The Russian design in the Balkans had to clash with Austria and Austria was Germany’s ally. The Russians desire to open the straits for Russian warships were bound to antagonise England. The possibility that England might become the forth partner in the Triple Alliance leaving France and Russia alone hastened the process of the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894. The increase in the German army by the army law of 1892, a tariff war between Russia and Germany because of the failure of the Russo-German Commercial Treaty and the Siam crisis of July 1893, which brought France and England Closer to war, further accelerated the process.

The Russian Navy visited the French port, Toulon, in October 1893. The Russian officers were given rousing reception both at Toulon and Paris where the press and the French government did not hint the possibility of the Alliance because of its timely adverse effect in the world.

The Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894 was initiated as a military alliance. The draft of a military convention had been signed by the France and Russian Chief of staff and approved by the Tsar in August 1892. The Military convention was given political shape through an exchange of diplomatic notes. Military convention was given the force of a treaty on Jan. 4, 1894 and became the basis of a very secret Franco-Russian Alliance. The French Parliament and the France cabinet were not aware of its terms. It was never made public until published in the French Yellow Book in 1918. This secrecy had been maintained on the insistence of the Tsar of Russia.

#### **1.4.4. The Provision of the Treaty**

The terms of the Franco-Russian Alliance were realistic and precise, France and Russia pledged

mutual assistance if either of them were attacked by Germany or the Central Powers. The exact conditions were that if France were attacked by Germany or by Austria supported by Germany, France should apply all her available forces against Germany. The forces to be made available were indicated in the provisions of the Treaty; France was to provide 13,00,000 men and Russia was to provide 7,00,000 to 8,00,000 men. These forces were to be concentrated against Germany as the principal enemy. There was to be constant coordination and consultation between the Staff of the two countries for the execution of provisions of the Treaty. France and Russia also agreed not to conclude peace separately. The Treaty was to have the same duration as the Triple Alliance.

#### **Self Check Exercise**

1. What was reinsurance treaty of 1887 A.D.?
2. Who succeeded Emperor William-I of Germany?

#### **1.4.5 Results and Significance**

The Franco Russian Alliance was defensive in form. Both sides proclaimed a common desire to preserve the peace. Its defensive character was underlined by the declaration that it had the same duration as the Triple Alliance. Its terms implied an anxiety to adjust the European Balance of Power. The treaty contained no suggestion of mutual support for the realization of dangerous and ambitious politics which might involve a conflict with the Triple Alliance Powers of England. There was originally no intention to use the alliance for an aggression against Germany or any other power. There was also no mention of French Support for Russian ambition in the Balkans or of Russian support for French ambition in North Africa. The French Cabinet did not count on Russian armed support in Fashoda or in Morocco. The Russian also did not depend upon the French military support in the Far East and in the Balkans. It was during the days of Delcasse, Izvolski and Poincare, that the Franco-Russian Alliance was essentially changed in spirit from a defensive to a potentially offensive combination.

The fact that a Franco-Russian Alliance had been signed became known but its terms remained secret. The German Ambassador in Paris refused to believe it. But the reality was different. The new Dual Alliance against Bismarck's Triple Alliance had been established. The German policy to keep France and Russia apart or to keep France isolated had failed. The bad dream of old Chancellor Bismarck had come true. Germany had potential foes on either flank. The two rival camps had been established the Triple Alliance of Austria, Germany and Italy and the Dual Alliance of France and Russia.

But Germany was not alarmed, because she felt that the Triple Alliance was still equal in

strength to the new combination. She also believed that England held the balance of power and England was not expected to join hands with such long standing opponents as France and Russia the Franco-Russian Alliance, however, inspired a new respect for the two powers of the Germany. It intended to preserve peace and balance of power in Europe. Between the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894 and the Anglo French Entente of 1904 there was balance of power and equilibrium. Neither the Triple Alliance nor the Dual Alliance dared to risk distributing it by force. In 1894, Germany and France joined hands in preventing England from acquiring a strip of Congo territory. In 1895 Germany cooperated with Russia and France to restore the territory of Liao-tung taken by Japan from China after Sino-Japanese war. The same three powers discussed the possibility of mediation between England and Boers in 1900. The same year German, French Russian and English troops marched side by side to suppress the Boxer rebellion in China. The powers participated in the First conference. Kaiser William of Germany even entertained the idea of merging the Triple Alliance and Dual Alliance into grand "Continental League." He thought that such a combination of powers would assure the peace of Europe and check the colonial domination of England. Thus during the early years, the Franco-Russian Alliance tended to strengthen rather than endanger the peace of Europe. "It established a healthy counterpoise to the Triple Alliance" (Fay). Neither group was superior enough to attack to dominate the other.

### **Self-Check Exercise**

Q 1. In which Region there was Boxer Rising?

Q 2. Has Franco-Russian Alliance, a secret alliance?

**1.4.6 Summary-** However according to another view the Dual Alliance did not provide adequate counterpoise to the Triple Alliance. England regarded it a threat to her Naval supremacy in the Eastern Mediterranean. With the Russian fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean communication were gravely jeopardized. These fears made England very much apprehensive of Dual Alliance. The peace and balance in Europe depended upon German willingness to accept Bismarck's view that Germany was a satiated power. But Germany did not remain satisfied with the status quo and embarked upon a policy of expansion which soon disturbed the balance of power. The desire of England to give up her policy of isolation which resulted in the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 and Anglo-French Entente of 1904 tended to destroy the equilibrium. The dubious loyalty of Italy towards the Triple Alliance further complicated the diplomatic scene of Europe. The Dual Alliance soon turned into Triple Entente. A division of Europe into two power stocks. Triple Alliance and Triple Entente paved the way for various international crises and finally for the first world war of 1914.

However it can be said that during the year the Dual Alliance preserved peace and balance of power but subsequently the frequent changes in the diplomatic scene of Europe as well as new focal point of tensions and pressures in the North Africa, Balkans and Asia produced disequilibrium and disturbed peace. Through the Dual Alliance the sensitive current hitherto lacking between two sources of unrest-the Alsace Lorriane and the Balkans was set up and the danger of war on two fronts, so dreaded by Bismarck, was brought with in reasonable distance.

#### 1.4.7 Keywords

1. Boxer Rising (1900 A.D) : It was an uprising begun by Chinese secret society known as Boxer Society. It was against the foreigners in China.
2. Balkans : A geographical and ethnic region which comprised of modern Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia - **Herzegovina**, Serbia, **Montenegro** etc. Its **inhabitants** are called Slavs.
3. **Weltpolitik** : The Foreign policy adopted by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. The aim was to make Germany a global power.

#### 1.4.8 Short Questions

- (1) Name the two power groups formed in Europe after this Alliance of 1884 A.D
- (2) Dual Alliance of 1894 A.D was between which two Nations?
- (3) Was this Alliance defensive or offensive in Nature?

#### 1.4.9 Long Questions

1. Discuss the circumstances leading to the formulation of the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894. How was it a reaction against the Triple Alliance?
2. Review the causes and effects of the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894.
3. Trace the genesis and nature of the Franco-Russian Alliance.
4. Critically examine the nature and significance of the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894.
5. "The Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894, like the Austro-German Alliance of 1879 and Triple Alliance of 1882 was in its origin essentially defensive in purpose."
6. How far did the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894 tend to strengthen rather than endanger the peace of Europe?

#### 1.4.10 Suggested readings

1. Eric Brandenburg, From Bismarck to the World War, pp. 26-78.
2. Sidney Bradshaw Fay, the Origin of World War, pp. 105-124.
3. G.P. Gooch. History of Modern Europe, pp. 3-48.
4. W.L. Langer. Diplomacy of Imperialism, pp. 3-48.
5. Nicholas Mansengh. The coming of the First World War, pp. 38-39.
6. For further reading. books mentioned in the course of study may be consulted.

## ANGLO-FRENCH ENTENTE

### 1.5 Anglo-French

#### 1.5.1. Objectives

#### 1.5.2. Introduction

#### 1.5.3 The Third Republic and England

#### 1.5.4 Factor that favoured the signing of Entente Cordiale

#### 1.5.5 Term of the Entente Cordiale

#### 1.5.6 Significance

#### 1.5.7 Summary

#### 1.5.8 Keywords

#### 1.5.9 Short Questions

#### 1.5.10 Long Questions

#### 1.5.11 Suggested Readings

### 1.5.1 Objectives

In this lesson, we will study :

- the factors that led to the signing of Entente
- the terms of the Entente
- significance of the Entente

### 1.5.2 Introduction :

England and France are neighbours. Only a strip of sea called the English channel or the French Channel (as France call it) separates the two. At the nearest points in these countries, the distance is about forty kilometres, William I, a Prince from Normandy (France), overran England in the 11th century. He and his successor's gave England some of her present institutions. England's civilization and culture thus owes a lot to France, later England and France came into conflict with each other. In the 14th and 15th centuries they fought the so called Hundred Year's war. From the end of this war right upto Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo (1815), England and France often measured swords with each other. When the French revolution broke out in 1789, most of the Englishmen welcomed it as they believed that it would lead to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in France. But they were soon disillusioned, as the leaders of the revolution 'murdered' the French King, and the Queen and set up the 'Reign of Terror'. England



became hostile to France. Pitt, the younger, the British Prime Minister who had been pro-French in the beginning, declared war against France in 1793. In fact, from this onwards right upto 1845, England was at war with France excepting for a short while, after the signing of the Treaty of Amiens in 1802. She organised four coalitions against France and ultimately succeeded in overthrowing Napoleon in 1815. A congress of powers was held at Vienna in the same year to settle the map of Europe. Some statesmen desired that 'exemplary punishment should be given to France because of the havoc she had wrought in Europe, But the fullness of her representative, Talleyrand, at the congress and the magnanimity of British Foreign Secretary, Castlereagh saved the situation and France was not given a harsh treatment at the conference. The liberal treatment of France created goodwill between the two countries. However the difference cropped up between them when the latter intervened in Spain to restore the despotic rule of the Spain kings in 1823. British Foreign Secretary Canning protested against this, He, however, dissuaded her from intervening, in the Spanish Colonies in America, The two powers cooperated with each other along with Russian in the Greek War of independence, Their joint fleet destroyed the Turkish and Egyptian fleets in the Navarino. Bay on October 20; 1827 and hastened the process of Greek independence.

While the coming of Louis Philippe, to the throne of France in 1830, cordial relations were established with England. But goodwill did not go for long. Palmerston, the British Foreign Secretary, was personally hostile to the Louis Philippe. This caused bitterness between the two nations. Differences deepened because of their different approach to the Ottoman Empire. England wanted to maintain its independence and integrity, whereas France desired its partial dismemberment, so that she could have firm grip over Algeria, over which she had "established her control. Again France supported Mehmet Ali the Khedive of Egypt in his designs of achieving independence and of conquering Syria. The French had special take in Egypt as she had granted loans to Mehmet Ali and had "sent officials to train his army. The British opposed all this. The result was at the Khedive could not get Syria though he was made the hereditary Pasha of Egypt as a result of the treaty of London (1814), this produced resentment against England in France.

Louis Philippe had to lose the throne in 1848. However, sometime later, Napoleon III became the Emperor of France. He tried to keep friendship with England. In fact the relations of England and France remained cordial during the first ten years of his rule. Both the countries co-operated in fighting against Russia in the Crimean War. But their relations began to cool off after 1860 due to the short-sighted foreign policy of Napoleon III and his undesirable attitude in getting Savoy from Piedmont in 1860 in return for French support in the war against Austria;

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After Napoleon's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71) the Third Republic was established in France.

### 1.5.3 The Third Republic and England

Bismarck had snatched away Alsace-Lorraine from France in 1870. He did his best to isolate the latter and as long as he was the chancellor of Germany, he did not let her win friends. By a subtle diplomacy, he kept England in good humour so that the latter should not be friend. In fact, the chances for an Alliance between these "countries appeared to be quite remote in the last quarter of the nineteenth century- The main reason for this was that England had been following the policy of so-called 'Splendid isolation' She did not want to join any power with a 'view to keeping herself all away from the continental politics so long as her own interests were not involved.

Secondly, ever since the occupation of Egypt by Great Britain in 1882, great resentment prevailed in France. Both these countries, and their nationals had invested large sums of money in Egypt along with other Europeans. Khedive Ismail's extravagance had made Egypt almost bankrupt. Hence to control the Egyptian finances, England and France established a joint control over the country called Condominium. In 1879 at the instance of two powers the 'Sultan of Turkey' deposed Ismail and appointed his son, Tewfik as the Khedive. The Condominium tightened its control over Egypt. European officials controlled the administration. This was resented by the Egyptian's nationalists. Arabi Pasha led a revolt against the foreigners. He compelled the Khedive to appoint him as Administrator/Director. Some fire brands murdered a number of Europeans. At the suggestion of the French premier Gambetta, it was decided that the British and the French should act together for suppressing the revolt. But in the mean time Gambetta was turned out of office. His successor refused to cooperate with England, because of the French Chamber's refusal to grant money for an expedition to Egypt. The result was that England was alone to send her armies over there, she suppressed the revolt and restored the Khedive to full power. England had done everything to restore order in Egypt. Hence she alone became the virtual overlord of Egypt in 1882. The French were very much annoyed with her for this, though they had refused to act -at the time of need. Latter differences developed between England and France over the Fashoda incident in 1898.

The partition of Africa had also created a lot of heart burning between England and France in 1890, some new problems cropped up every now and then. England signed a treaty with the Congo Free State in 1894. By this she agreed to lease to king Leopold of Belgium Baher-el-Ghazal, a district of Nile, in return for some concessions. This was disliked by Germany and resented 'by the French, as the district did not belong to her (England). She had latter to retreat from this position.

Despite the fact that the Kruger-Telegram in 1896 had embittered the relations between England and Germany, the former still fawned upon the latter. She approached her for an alliance in 1899 and even in 1901, but all in vain. British attempts at an entente with Germany came in the way of an understanding between England and France. There was other hurdle also e.g. the dispute between the two over French rights of fisheries. In Newfoundland and over the Hebrides, Lord Salisbury, was anti-French as he could never trust them and he was partly justified in his view, during the Boer War, (1899-1902), the French sympathies were actually with the Boers. In fact there was some suggestions in, France and Russia that the two powers in conjunction with Germany should intervene in favour of the Boers. But the latter did not agree to it.

The Fashoda incident of 1898 almost created a crisis of great magnitude between England and France. Kitchner, the British General, “ during the course of the victories marched through Sudan, after defeating the Mahdists. He reached Fashoda, a village in Sudan. In the mean time, Hanotaux, the French foreign minister (1894-98), who was Pro-German had ordered French Captain Marchand to lead an expedition across Africa to the upper Nile. He also reached Fashoda and implanted French flag over there. There was danger of war. But both the officials exercised moderation and referred the matter to their respective Governments. In the mean time Hanotaux fell from office.

When Delcasse became the foreign minister of France, he saw the absurdity of conflict between France and England. He felt that by yielding on this painful but trifling issue of Fashoda he might be successful “in initiating a general settlement of all France-British differences: Marchand was offered to withdraw from Fashoda and England and France after negotiations signed a Treaty in 1899. To quote Ensor “An Anglo-French Convention (21 March) fixed a line (roughly the watershed between the Nile and the Congo) Beyond which Great Britain would not seek territory or influence westwards, not France eastwards. Though popular feeling in France had been rendered intensely anti-English, this agreement and that about the Niger ended most the competitive friction between the nations; and with advent of Paul Cambon as French Ambassador in London their relations took a turn for better.” This paved the way for the signing of the entente latter on (1904). It is now desirable, to study briefly the factors that were responsible for the signing of the Entente Cordiale between France and England.

#### **1.5.4 Factors that favoured the signing of the Entente Cordiale**

The first and foremost reason that helped in the signing of the Treaty with France was the realisation by the British that their policy of ‘Splendid isolation’ had made their country friendless. They felt that in the world international-alliances, England should also join some Power Block, if she wanted to survive and maintain her position as a great Power. She had taken the first

step towards this direction by signing the Anglo-Japanese Alliance in 1902. Once this (Alliance) appeared to be a message of hope for Britain, she was encouraged to mend her relations with other powers including France.

Her isolation during the Boer War convinced her that she should seek allies. In fact, during this war there was a danger of intervention of Russia and France on the side of the Boers. There had been a great anti-British propaganda and pro-Boer feelings during the years of this war. If any of these powers had intervened, the position of the British might have become critical. But for the refusal of the Kaiser of Germany to act in support of the Boers, England would have to eat humble pie in this trial of strength with her opponents. Heamshaw has rightly stated, "The critical situation of 1898 warned the statesmen of this country that the day of safe isolation was past." This feeling of helplessness in such an eventually led British statesmen see the reality of the situation and after some time she entered into Parleys with France for concluding a treaty.

Even as late as 1901, England was keen to enter into treaty with Germany. But the Kaiser was not willing to sign a treaty with her, unless Austria was included as partner in the alliance. Infact, he was willing to be a treaty partner of England, provided the latter joined as the full-fledged member of the Triple Alliance. England was naturally not willing to tie herself to the tail of the Triple Alliance. But the Kaiser repeated that the "road to Berlin lay through Vienna." Kaiser's cold attitude compelled England to seek a friend in France and made to possibility of Anglo-French understanding a reality.

The German ambitious naval programme, especially after 1900, created some panic in England. The Germans had started building big ships and multiplying armaments. The activities of the Pan-German league and bellicose speeches of Kaiser William II, who hurled insult at his uncle Edward VII whom he called 'Old peacock', produced anti German feelings. The British began to feel that the talk of *Welt Politick* and Kaiser's pronouncements for getting place in the sun were perhaps directed against the British "Empire, parts of which he would wrest by use of forces. Hence, to preserve her naval supremacy and to safeguard her imperial interests she sought alliance with the most anti German powder in the world, namely France.

The coming of Delcasse to the French foreign office in 1898 was another factor that helped the two countries to come together. In the beginning, he too was not very friendly to Britain. "He seems to be as much anti-British as anti-German", writes Wright "when he took office. But after some time he felt, that after the French alliance with Russian, England was the only country which could be of great help as a friend in the hour of need. After yielding on the Fashoda incident he. wooed England and in course of time succeeded in winning her over to the French side.

The importance of the Fashoda incident (1898) in helping towards the solution of long standing problem between England and France cannot be over exaggerated. When Delcasse signed a Convention with her In 1899 to seek a solution of these problems, the British did not encourage him. But later, they agreed to see reason. The accord that developed as a result of the generosity shown by the French general a lot of good will for France in England. This helped a lot in ironing out differences. Marriot's comment about this is worth quoting "Fashoda had paradoxically prepared the way for the Entente of 1904." Last but not least, was the important part by King Edward VII (who was called Edward the Peace, Maker) in bringing the two countries together. He came to the throne in 1901 and did his best to create goodwill for his countries by paying visit to different lands. A happy coincident was that s Salisbury, who distrusted the French, also relinquished office. This made the British statesmen to enter into peaceful negotiations for reconciling France. Edward VII, was a Parisian at a hear and was very much pro French. He paid a visit to Paris in 1903. He was accorded a red-carpet treatment and this created a great deal of goodwill for his country. During the course of his speech in France, he remarked, "It is sincerely necessary to tell you with what sincere pleasure. I find myself once more in Paris to which, as you know, I have paid frequent visit to with ever increasing pleasure, and for which I feel an attachment fortified by so many happy and ineffable memories,' the days of hostility between the two countries are, I am certain, happily at an end." He stated that old misunderstanding had disappeared and that the two countries would come together. He further stated, "The friendship of the two countries is my constant pre-occupation, and I count on you all, who enjoyed French hospitality in their magnificent city to aid me to reach this goal." This won the hearts of the French to a great extent. While the King was exchanging pleasantries with the hosts, his UnderSecretary of Foreign Affairs, who always accompanied him in his tours, discussed matter of state with his French counterpart. This set a chain of negotiations between the two countries. President Loubet paid a return visit to England and he was accorded there a welcome royal." The visit was a great success. In reply to Laubet's farewell message, Edward VII had telegraphed. "It is my most ardent wish that the rapprochement between the two countries may be .lasting." The negotiations than started between the two countries in right earnest.

According to Ensor, Anglo-French differences that awaited solution "fell into two classes", First a long string of local colonial disputes. In several of these (The New Foundland finished rights were a case in a point), the French claim, resting on of treaty, were more detriment to Britain than of advantage to France,' and were chiefly valuable to the latter as bargaining countries, which she could not be forced to surrender without compensation elsewhere..... But in the other class were two questions of very high policy..... Morocco and Egypt." Lansdowne

the British Foreign Secretary and Delcasse, the French Minister, were bent upon resolving them and after protracted negotiations succeeded in their efforts. Lansdowne signed a number of conventions, as a result of negotiations with Cambon, the French Ambassador in London. They culminated in establishing Entente Cordiale'. (April, 1904) between England and France. All the outstanding disputes between the countries were resolved and they become friends.

### **1.5.5 Terms of the Entente Cordiale**

The Entente cordiale, as a noted above, was a treaty of friendship between England and France. It amicably settled the points of dispute between England and France detailed below:

*Firstly*, England recognized the special, position of France in Morocco. The French assured England that they would not alter' the status of Morocco.

*Secondly*, England was given to free hand in Egypt and Sudan. France desired to fix a time, limit about the British occupation of Egypt. But the point was not pressed. She was, however, given some advantages in the Suez Canal.

*Thirdly*, the French fishermen were "given fishing rights on the shores of New Foundland. They, however, surrendered other rights and privileges given to France under the treaty of Utrecht (1713). In return for 'loss of some concessions in New Foundland., she was given compensation in West Africa. Some additions were made to French territory over there to her great advantage. As a result of this France "obtained 1400 square miles and misinterpreted access from her territory on the Niger to those on Lake Chand".

*Fourthly*, about Siam the treaty stipulated that Menam was to be a neutral zone. (a) The Siamese land west of this zone including the Malay Peninsula was to come under the British influence. The territory to the south and south-east of this neutral zone was to be French sphere of influence. (b) Madagascar was finally declare to be a French possession. (c) A regarding Hebrides: a commission was established. As a result of the report of this Commission the New Hebrides convention was signed in 1906, establishing a Condominium (Joint Control of the two Powers). In addition to the above clauses of the treaty, there were some clauses, which were not made public until 1911.

### **Secret Causes**

1. In case of modification of the status of either in Egypt or in Morocco, there was to be as before, freedom of trade, free passage of the Suez Canal and prohibition of fortifications opposite ,the straits of Gibraltar the capitulations were to be abolished, if desired by France and England.
2. In case the Sultan of Morocco ceased to exercise authority over it, "a specified part of

Morocco should be transferred to Spain.” This clause implied the Spain could annex a part of Morocco and the rest would go to France. In such a case England was bound to support French action.

Thus, France could annex Morocco excluding the part to be handed over Spain with which the former signed a treaty about this in October 1904. France had already secured the neutrality of Italy in case of war with Germany and her approval for annexing Morocco; In return of French support to Italy in the latter’s scheme of the conquest and annexation of Tripoli (Libya).

This Entente was well received in England. The French Parliament also approved of it though some French colonial politicians severely criticized it.

### **Comments on the Entente**

This was a treaty of friendship, not an alliance, though in course of time, as the events, showed, intended to become one. Its critics have struck discordant notes about its proponents opine that this treaty was for peace and it preserved the peace of Europe for sometimes at least. Even Bulow, the German Chancellor felt in the beginning that it was innocuous and was not in any way directed against any power. This was also the feeling of William II, who told Edward VII in June 1905 that Morocco did not interest him and never had. But later on he took an attitude of confrontation to ward this.

There are some scholars, who believe that it endangered the world peace. To quote Albert Guerard, “Unfortunately there were in the Entente two factors of a less unhealthy nature.” According to him, in the first place, the ‘ Entente implemented not peace but imperialism.” He says that while making decisions about Morocco and Egypt, the two great powers gave and took what did not belong to them. Secondly, though the Entente was not directed against Germany, yet with the aggressive mode of Germans and their belief in world politics, backed by the spirit of use of force in attaining their goal, it was bound to become a sort of military understanding directed against Germany. In fact one of the reasons of the British Plunge into World War I was her membership of the Triple Entente’ a sequel to the signing of her Entente with France in 1904. With a brief account of the above comments, we proceed to examine the significance of the Entente Cordiale. “

### **1.5.6 Significance**

In the first place the signing of this treaty of understanding and friendship marked the complete abandonment of the Policy of splendid Isolation by the British. English had already signed a treaty with Japan in 1902, which had secured her interest in the Far-East and assured her of full support against Russian designs; With the conclusion of the Anglo-French Entente in 1904 her

position and interest in Europe and Egypt were secured. England was to remove her fleet into the North Sea from the'

Mediterranean at the time of need. to safeguard the British interest and to protect the French coast, whereas the French fleet would police the Mediterranean Sea and protect the British and the French interest there. France had also agreed not to obstruct England action in Egypt.

*Secondly*, it brought the British in the French Camp. The long outstanding hostility between the two countries came to an end. It generated a lot of goodwill between the people of the two nations. It Was bound to range the British on the side of France in case of war with the third power, though the British proclaimed from the house-tops that it was not directed against any country, much less against Germany. Even the German Chancellor and Kaiser William II, in the beginning, saw nothing in it that militated against the German interests, as already stated.

*Thirdly*, it was because of the friendship established between England and France as a result of the Entente that the latter could avert a war between England and Russia over the Dogger Bank incident in October 1904, when Russian ships had inadvertently fired over some fishing trawlers. At the French suggestion the dispute was referred to a tribunal and the matter was amicably settled to the satisfaction of all. But for the existence of Entente Coridale, France might not have averted the possibility of war between a friend (England) and an ally (Russia).

*Fourthly*, this Entente indirectly paved the way for signing of the Anglo- Russian Convention in 1907. Soon after the signing of treaty of friendship between England and France, the latter stated efforts to bring her two allies together. She had realised the weakness of her Russian ally as a result of her defeat in the Russo-Japanese War. Hence she thought that her position would be greatly strengthened if Russia and England patched up their differences and became friends. Her consistent efforts ultimately bore fruit and England and Russia established an entente in 1907.

#### **Self-Check Exercise**

1. Which country followed the policy of splendid isolation?
2. When was Anglo-French Entente signed?

#### **1.5.7 Summary**

This treaty was for peace in Europe. But with this entente Germans believed that it was a military understanding between the two nations against Germany. With signing of entente by England and France a strong front to counter central powers existed. Interest of England were now secured in far-east.



**1.5.8 Keywords :**

1. Splendid Isolation : This policy was adopted by Britain in 19th century. It meant that British diplomatic practice of not involving itself in the permanent alliances in Europe so it did not bother to have allies.
2. Boer War : The second Boer war was fought between Britishers and South African republic and Orange Free state on October 11, 1899 A.D.
3. Fashoda incident (18 Sept. 1898 A.D.) : It was a series of dispute for territories in Africa between England and France.

**1.5.9 Short Questions :**

1. Explain policy of splendid isolation.
2. Name the countries of two power blocks.
3. What is Boer War?

**1.5.10 Long Questions :**

1. Discuss the factors that favoured Anglo-French Entente in 1904 A.D.
2. What were the effects of Anglo-French Entente?
3. Trace the genesis and nature of Anglo-French Entente.

**1.5.11 Suggested Readings**

1. Eric Brandenburg, *From Bismarck to the World War*, pp. 26-78.
2. Sidney Bradshaw Fay, *the Origin of World War*, pp. 105-124.
3. G.P. Gooch. *History of Modern Europe*, pp. 3-48.
4. W.L. Langer. *Diplomacy of Imperialism*, pp. 3-48.
5. Nicholas Mansengh. *The coming of the First World War*, pp. 38-39.
6. For further reading. books mentioned in the course of study may be consulted.

## ANGLO-RUSSIAN CONVENTION (1907)

- 1.6.1 Objectives
- 1.6.2 Introduction
- 1.6.3 Political Situation of the countries in Near East
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- 1.6.9 Short Questions
- 1.6.10 Long Questions
- 1.6.11 Suggested Readings

### 1.6.1 Objectives

In this lesson, we will study :

- The factors that led to Anglo-Russian Convention
- Terms of the convention
- Outcome of the convention

### 1.6.2 Introduction

The Anglo-French-Entente paved the way for an understanding between Russia and England. During the course of the 19th century, there was no love lost between these two countries. They had become the sworn enemies of each other in the course of their opposing designs and clashing interests in the Near East (Ottoman Empire) and Asia.

### **1.6.3 Political Situation of the countries in Near East**

#### **1.6.3.1 Afghanistan:**

By the beginning of the 19th century, England had established her hold practically over the whole of India. In the meantime, Russia had been advancing forward in Central Asia towards Afghanistan. According to the British statesmen, if Russia succeeded in extending her influence over Afghanistan, she would become a potent danger to the safety of the British Empire in India. It was to checkmate Russian designs over Afghanistan that the British Government asked the Amir of Kabul to enter into an alliance. But the latter wanted some support in his designs over Peshawar. This the British were not ready to give. Hence the Amir refused to be allied with the British who attacked Afghanistan. This led to the First Afghan War (1839-42), which, despite ultimate British victory, brought great disasters and infamy to the British. Later the British fought a war in Afghanistan (1879-82), as the then Amir of the land had refused to accept a British resident at his court, to counteract the designs of Russia. This war also did not bring credit "to England, though she succeeded in controlling the foreign affairs of Afghanistan for sometime after the war. All this created ill-will between Russia and England. Later on, the Panjdeh incident (1885), about Russian claims over the village to the Panjdeh, created further bitterness between England and Russia. Extension of British influence over Afghanistan created a lot of hostility between the two powers.

#### **1.6.3.2 Persia:**

Russia had established her influence over Northern Persia and controlled her economy over there. The British had, in the meantime, extended their influence over Southern Persia and wanted to control the Persian Gulf. Both the powers had been moving forward for sometime, and their advance towards each other could bring about a war between them at any time. Each desired to turn the other out of Persia, so that she could command a unquestioned influence over there to advance her economic and political interests.

#### **1.6.3.3 Tibet:**

In the beginning of 20th century, Russia had begun to look with covetous eyes on Tibet, a territory contiguous in India, but under the nominal suzerainty of China. A Russian monk named Dorjjeff visited Lhasa. The British feared that the Dalai Lama the spiritual head of the Tibet was passing under Russian influence. The British Government in India asked him to receive Indian mission. On the Dalai Lama's refusal, an army was sent to Tibet in 1904 to

bring him to accept the British demands. The Tibetans were defeated and they signed treaty of peace with the British. But it brought no tangible gains to England. This action of the British, however, greatly annoyed Russia.

#### **1.6.3.4 The Far East:**

In the beginning of the 20th century Russia had started moving towards China and seized some ports on her coast. This was looked with great disfavour by England. The interest of Russia and Japan clashed in Northern China. It was a counterpoise to the expansion of Russia in Northern China. To balance her expanding influence in Central Asia England formed an alliance with Japan in 1902. This caused a great bitterness in the minds of Russia against England. It indirectly encouraged Japan to go to war against Russia in 1904. Russia was defeated and compelled to sign a humiliating peace with Japan. Russia could not easily forgive England for entering into treaty relationship with Japan.

#### **1.6.3.5 The Near East:**

In the Near East the interests of England and Russia had always clashed. The latter wanted to expand at the expense of the disintegrating Turkish Empire, he desired to get a warm-water port, in the Black Sea by reducing it to a "Russian Lake". If Russia could control the Black Sea she could easily control the Mediterranean Sea, which lies on the route of India. How could England tolerate this? Hence it had been the attempt of England in the 19th century to maintain the integrity and independence of the Turkish Empire, which controlled the Black-Sea. It was to prevent the Russian penetration in the Ottoman Empire (Turkish Empire) that England had fought the Crimean War against Russia.

Again, when as a result of the Treaty of San Stefano (1878) Russia got rich gains for herself in the Balkans, Disraeli compelled Russia to agree to refer the whole question to a conference which was held in Berlin. Much to the annoyance of Russia, she had to relinquish many of these gains, due to the mechanism of Disraeli, who got the island of Cyprus in the bargain. Russians, felt deeply aggrieved because of the Bulgarian question.

By the year 1890, Russia was completely friendless, as Germany refused to renew the Reinsurance Treaty. In this hour of need, she veered around to France who also needed a friend and an ally. Ultimately Russia and France signed the Dual Alliance in 1894 to help each other in case of war. This gave some hope to both. By this time, Nicholas II had become the ruler of Russia. William II had entered upon a lively correspondence with him even when he was

the Crown Prince of Russia. He wanted to win back Russia as a friend of Germany. He gave moral support the Russians in their war against Japan (1904-06). But this could never save Russia from a humiliating defeat. Hence Germany could be of no use to her. Russia felt emaciated, weak and helpless after her defeat. Hence she wanted to win over a strong friend. She could thin of England. But as late as, 1904, she was on the brink of war with her, because of the Dogger Bank incident. The situation was however, saved from taking an ugly turn due to the mediation of France. Which urged moderation. The British Government despite a lot of excitement over the incidence in England, took the whole affair coolly. She agreed to refer the matter to a tribunal at the suggestion of France. As a result of its finding and recommendations, the problem was solved to the satisfaction of England.

After the Russo-Japanese War, France encouraged Russia to win over England and gave her full support in the matter. Hence Anglo-Russian Convention was signed in 1907. It is proper at this stage to study the factors that brought about the under standing between the two powers.

#### **1.6.4 Factors that favoured the signing of the Anglo-Russian Convention**

##### **1.6.4.1 French, efforts, for Reconciliation:**

Ever since the signing, *of* the Anglo-French Entente in 1904, it had been the effort *of* France to bring her two allies together. It has already been explained how her mediation at ‘the time *of* Dogger Bank incident had averted a war between her two friends England and Russia. She continued these efforts, especially after Russian defeat in the war against Japan. She felt that it would greatly add to her strength if her weak and em dated ally Russia formed an entente with Great Britain.

##### **1.6.4.2 Weak Position *of* Russia after Russo-Japanese War :**

Russia had become very weak and practically invettebrate with her defeat at the hands *of* Japan. She realised that despite the sweet words *of* Kaiser William II to his relation with Czar Nicholas II, she could not depend on Germany. Infact some *of* the Russians believed that their country had been encouraged to go to war with Japan by the Kaiser, so that the latter could advance and strengthen German interest in the Balkans. Moreover, the Russians felt if , they won prosperous England to their side, the British might help their country with loans and grants to recoup their economy.

#### **1.6.4.3 British Opinion Favourable :**

Again, British public opinion and the liberal Government, which came into power in 1905, also favoured an alliance 'with Russia. With her defeat in the last war against Japan and consequent weak economy and public unrest, she could no longer pose danger to the British Empire in India. Moreover, with the further strengthening of an Anglo- Japanese Alliance in 1905, England could have no fears of Russian aggression. Hence she could conclude a treaty with Russia to sort out her differences with the latter.

It will be pertinent to note that England and Russia had acted united at the time of the Algeciras Conference. At the same time, they did not like the Germany project of Berlin-Baghdad Railways. This was also a factor to bring them together. To quote Grant and Temperley, "The influence of Russia at the Algeciras in 1907 was exercised against Germany, as was that of England. Friendly feelings between England and Russia were thus fostered and soon bore fruit".

They go on to remark, "In 1907 Russian Minister had the good sense to recognise that the Baghdad Railways had gone too far, for them to Oppose Germany over it. But they bore Germany ill-will for promoting it, and gave England credit for standing aloof. "

#### **1.6.4.4 Pro-Turkish Policy of Germany:**

Under Kaiser William II's stewardship, Germany had adopted a pro-Turkish policy. The Kaiser had sent German officials to train the Turkish army and Germans had sunk huge sums of money in Turkey and Turkish projects to prop her shattering economy. The Sultan of Turkey had given concessions to Germany for the construction of the Berlin-Baghdad railway. German influence had become supreme in the Turkish Empire and consequently in Turkey as Germany could use their position there to threaten British position in India and the Persian Gulf. The German position in the Balkan and the Ottoman Empire was thus inimical to the British and Russian interest. Hence both these powers stood to gain, if they formed an alliance to act in unison, to protect their interests.

#### **1.6.4.5 The Growth of German Navy and German Weltpolitik:**

One of the reasons that had induced England to sign an entente with France was the growth of German Navy. Added to this was the danger to the world peace caused by the propaganda of German Weltpolitik that could threaten the British Empire. The situation created by these two German 'plans' was becoming serious day by day. Hence England thought it fit to win one more friend her side. This very situation also compelled Russia to make up with England.

#### **1.6.4.6 Edward VII's Role:**

Edward VII also played a very important role in bringing the two countries together. He had gone on a visit to Denmark in 1904 and when the Russian ambassador Izvolsky met him there the Peace Maker King hinted that Russia and England should compose their differences and come to an understanding with regard to all the points at dispute. The hint was taken by the Russian diplomat, who himself became the Russian Foreign Minister after some time. He consistently worked for an entente with England and ultimately succeeded in his efforts.

There were however, some difficulties in the way. There was some hesitation in democratic England to sign a treaty with Russia, a country with the worst type of despotic system of Government. But the announcement about the calling of the Duma by the Czar in 1905 pacified the British to some extent, though it was dissolved after sometime. The identity of interests, the hostility of Germany and the bellicosity of Kaiser William II induced the Russia and British Statesmen to enter negotiations to resolve their differences. The earnestness of the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, and the sincerity of the Russian Foreign Minister Izvolsky, bore fruit in the long run. The result was that the Anglo Russian Convention was signed on August 31, 1907.

#### **1.6.5 Terms of the Convention:**

The Convention was a treaty of 'understanding'. "The Convention", writes Ensor, "resembles that with France it was in form a set of agreements regulating the different spheres, "where frictions had risen or might arise between the two countries."

According to Fay also the Anglo Russian Entente setting the long standing sources of friction between the two countries in the Middle East, was an obvious complement to the Anglo-French Entente. Its important terms were the following:

**1. Persia:** Persia was divided into three regions. The Northern and the largest region bordering on Russia and comprising the richest and most populous part of Persia, was to be a Russian Sphere of influence, in which Great Britain was not to seek any concessions for herself or a third power. The southern Region, largely barren desert, but containing the road leading to India, was in a like manner to be a British sphere in which Russia would seek no concession. Between these two lay a central neutral zone, including the head of the Persian Gulf, in which neither great power was to accept concessions except in agreement with the other. In all this,

Shah was not consulted. Despite all this, the preamble of the agreement laid down that the powers agreed to maintain the independence and integrity of Persia,

**2. Afghanistan:** The treaty stipulated clearly that Afghanistan was to be outside the Russian sphere of influence. It was entirely to be a British sphere of influence. Russia agreed to withdraw her agent from Herat. She promised to deal with Afghanistan through England in future.

**3. Tibet:** As regards Tibet, both the contracting powers recognized territorial integrity of Tibet under the Suzerainty of China. They agreed not to interfere with the country's internal concerns or attempt to obtain concessions there. Thus Tibet became a sort of barrier between the Russian Empire and the British Empire in India.

#### **1.6.6 Comments on the Convention:**

There were varying comments on this Convention. The radicals in England strongly denounced the formation of an alliance with the reactionary regime of the Czar. Many Englishmen condemned it as giving Russia a little too much. Lord Curzon disapproved of the deal; it had given most of the rich towns and much richer areas of Persia to Russia.

Sir Edward Grey, on the other hand opined that "England was gainer in this bargain. He wrote, "What we gained by it was real, what Russia gained was apparent." But he was not right, because soon after the deal, "Russia began to make encroachments on Persia, contrary to the terms of the treaty. In fact, Russia gained much more than she deserved and much more than England. The latter desired to keep Russia away from the Persian Gulf and in this she succeeded to some extent.

#### **1.6.7 Summary**

After Russo-Japanese war, the position of Russia had weakened. With the coming of Anglo-French entente (1904), formation of alliance between England and Japan (1902) and hostility of Germany induced Russia to enter into an understanding with England. Thus, it led to Anglo-Russian Convention. With this convention, both countries gained but later Russia gained much more.

#### **1.6.8 Keywords :**

1. Panjdeh Incident (1885) : It was about the Russian claim over a village to Panjdeh which led to strained relations between Russia and England.
2. Far East : It refers to the incidents happening in which China and Japan were involved.



3. Near East : It refers to the Ottoman Empire. With its disintegration western powers showed interest and wanted to expand their hold on these countries for economic gains.

#### **1.6.9 Short Questions :**

1. What were the gains for Russia after this convention?
2. Name the members of Quadruple power block.
3. Discuss the terms regarding Tibet.
4. How British were benefitted through this convention of 1907?

#### **1.6.10 Long Questions :**

1. Discuss the circumstances responsible for Anglo-Russian Convention, 1907?
2. Write the significance of Anglo-Russian Convention 1907.
3. Critically examine Anglo-Russian Convention 1907.
4. How this convention effected Russo-Japanese relations?

#### **1.6.11 Suggested Readings**

1. Eric Brandenburg, *From Bismarck to the World War*, pp. 26-78.
2. Sidney Bradshaw Fay, *the Origin of World War*, pp. 105-124.
3. G.P. Gooch. *History of Modern Europe*, pp. 3-48.
4. W.L. Langer. *Diplomacy of Imperialism*, pp. 3-48.
5. Nicholas Mansengh. *The coming of the First World War*, pp. 38-39.
6. For further reading. books mentioned in the course of study may be consulted.

## **IMPERIALISM IN EAST ASIA**

### **The Anglo-Japanese Alliance and the Russo-Japanese War**

- 1.7.1 Objectives
- 1.7.2 Introduction
- 1.7.3 Circumstances favourable for Alliance
  - 1.7.3.1 Japan - A Victim of Pressure
  - 1.7.3.2 Russian concessions from China
  - 1.7.3.3 International Situation
- 1.7.4 Anglo-Japanese Alliance (1902)
  - 1.7.4.1 Terms of the Treaty
- 1.7.5 Significance and Diplomatic Impact
- 1.7.6 Russo-Japanese War
  - 1.7.6.1 Causes and Background
  - 1.7.6.2 Events
  - 1.7.6.3 Treaty of Portsmouth
- 1.7.7 Effects
- 1.7.8 Japan's emergence as World Power
  - 1.7.8.1 Annexation of Korea
- 1.7.9 Summary
- 1.7.10 Keywords
- 1.7.11 Short Questions
- 1.7.12 Long Questions
- 1.7.13 Suggested Readings

#### **1.7.1 Objectives**

In this lesson, we will study :

- Causes for the Anglo-Japanese alliance
- Significance of the alliance
- Condition favourable for Russo-Japanese War
- Effects of the war
- Japan's emergence as world power

### **1.7.2 Introduction :**

In the last lesson we have seen that it was Korea which provided the sparks for the serious conflict between China and Japan. Japan patiently waited for favourable circumstances to involve herself in Korean affairs. Partly because of the Russian influence in the Far East and partly because of her own economic strength, military power and political prestige, Japan forcibly opened the doors of Korea. Japan's naval and military victory over China, "marked the beginning of a new era in the Far East, the effects of which were to be felt almost as much in Europe as in Asia."

The Japanese victory provided a new dimension to her national development and led to the launching of Grandiose schemes of naval, military and industrial development. The Sino-Japanese War changed the attitude of the Big Powers towards Japan. Japan's victory "upset the power balance both within China and on the international scene." Again, "the pro-Chinese, British opinion underwent a sudden shift." Disillusioned by China's appalling incompetence, inspired by Japanese dash and efficiency, England turned to Japan.

### **1.7.3 Circumstances favourable for Alliance**

#### **1.7.3.1 Japan—A Victim of Pressure :**

Japan's victory, however, was subdued because she had to face Triple intervention of Russia, France and Germany (see-relevant portions in the last lesson), and since Japan had not tested her strength against either of these big powers, there was no alternative before her but to yield. The net result of the intervention was that the Japanese did not allow themselves or the government to forget the national humiliation for the next decade during which the entire country worked and lived for one consuming passion namely, to even the score at an opportune moment. Despite the diplomatic declaration on Wikado, Japan could not forget humiliation. The intervention made it evident that Japan could not function independently of and uneffected by external factors, on the international scene and that her progress in foreign affairs was closely "set with European power politics. The Triple intervention also made Japan learn a new lesson in European power politics. Suddenly it dawned on the Japanese mind that the west respected armed might more than a peace-loving civilization. Japan therefore, began to prepare herself to face any future trial of strength" particularly with Russia.

The inevitability of a future war with Russia made Japan review her diplomacy. She turned towards Britain so that she could enjoy the fruits of her future victory uninterrupted by external intervention. Russian expansionist ambitions, her search for an ice-free port and the project of Trans-Siberian Railway brought Russia to the centre of Far Eastern politics. France-aired her eagerness to maintain newly formed friendship

with Russia Franco-Russian alliance, 1894) supported Russian demands. Germany, too joined hands with Russia and France in putting pressure on Japan for the restoration of Liaotung Peninsula to China. Germany was perhaps under the mistaken belief that Franco Russian combination would have lesser concentration.

Japan's security was thus threatened due to Russia's ambitions and expansionist policy. Soon after Triple intervention, Japanese foreign minister Hayashi advocated the need for a positive foreign policy; Jiji Shimpō (a leading newspaper) wrote on the necessity and practicability of an Anglo -Japanese alliance.

### **1.7.3.2 Russian Concessions from China :**

In this battle of concessions which took place in China during 1895--1898, Russia secured vital concessions. In 1898 she got lease of Liaotung which could not be tolerated by Japan. The Government of England also had been alarmed- as her traditional rival Russia assumed the position of a dominating power in the Far East. For the first time the diplomats of the two countries held negotiations and felt community of interests against Russian advances.

### **1.7.3.3 International Situation :**

Throughout later part of the 19th century, the prominent position which Great Britain held in industry, commerce, wealth and overseas imperialism enabled and encouraged its government to pursue a policy of "Splendid Isolation." It took Britain a long time to realise that the balance of power, in Europe had been transformed by Franco-German War (1870-71) and the Germany had become not only an aggressive military nation but also an equally aggressive industrial nation. A central feature of Britain's foreign policy had long been the maintenance of a balance of power which would prevent any continental power from dominating Europe or high seas.

The signatories of the Franco-Russian alliance in 1894 changed the pattern of European politics by bringing into existence a power group in veiled opposition to Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria and Italy. Sir Edward Grey recorded the diplomatic pressure that last administration (1892-94) was rendered almost ineffective by the diplomatic pressure that exerted upon Britain some times by the Dual alliance powers but far more often by Germany and her allies.

A never-ending friction with France and Russia (the Dual Alliance powers) on colonial issues prompted Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, to seek in late 1890 & some sort of a Modus Vivendi with Germany, the principal partner in the Triple Alliance. But negotiations for a possible alliance during 1899-1901 proved abortive. German naval programme challenged Britain in the sphere where she was most sensitive and where

she could not brook a rival—that of maritime supremacy. It was the Boer War (1899-1902) which forcibly brought home to Britain that her position of splendid isolation could and did not mean simply a total lack of friends.

#### **1.7.4 Anglo-Japanese Alliance (1902)**

Failure of approaches to Russia and Germany helped Cansdowne to gain support in the Cabinet for a move in quite another direction i.e. possibility of an alliance with Japan. The Initiative for such an alliance had come from the Japanese themselves. As the military group became more dominant in the Japanese politics and as Russia continued to challenge Japan's influence in Korea, Tokyo needed England's support to force a show-down with Moscow. With the failure of approaches to Russia and Germany, the idea of a British alliance with Japan rapidly found favour in England also.

Japan accepted the alliance for considerations that were mainly Far Eastern, i.e. to advance her interests in Korea, to protect those interests from the Russian threat advancing in Manchuria and finally to end her own diplomatic isolation. Influential Japanese had been divided as to whether their country should ally herself with Russia or Britain. Some led by Ito, favoured Russian friendship and hoped for a partition of Korea, Manchuria and North China in agreement with Russia. However, the pro-British elements led by Kato won and the influential leaders in both London and Tokyo, preached the end of isolation and pressed the need for an Anglo-Japanese alliance.

Japan supported the Anglo-Japanese alliance thinking that Russo-Japanese alliance would free them from Eastern commitments and thus she would be able to take greater interest in European politics. On the contrary, Anglo-Japanese alliance would constitute a powerful challenge to Russian interests and keep her engaged in Far East. Thus faced with the common threat of Russia, Britain and Japan came together in January 1902 and formalised the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. Japan concluded an alliance with England to balance Franco-Russian powers on the one hand and to get the assurance of German neutrality on the other hand in a bid to isolate her enemy Russia.

##### **1.7.4.1 Terms of the Treaty :**

The first article of the treaty mentioned the special British interests in China and Japanese interests in both China and Korea. Both agreed to take necessary action to safeguard their interests. In doing so, if one was involved in war with any other power, the other would remain neutral and try to see that enemy did not get help for any other power. In case the enemy was supported by another power the friend would come to the aid of its ally. Both would conclude together. The Treaty was to remain in force for five years.

The aim of the treaty was to maintain the status quo in general in the Far East. It was also laid down in the Preamble that the signatories were interested in maintaining the territorial integrity of the Empire of China and the Empire of Korea and in securing equal opportunities for Commerce and Industry of all nations.

### **1.7.5 Significance and Diplomatic Impact :**

The Anglo-Japanese Alliance occupies a significant place in the history of international relations. According to C.D. Hazen, "For the first time in history, an Asiatic power had entered into an alliance with a European power on a plane of entire equality." She was admitted into the European concert. The Mistress of seven seas (England) launched Japan on the international scene as a world Power. Great Britain abandoned her 'dangerous policy' of splendid Isolation. She utilised the treaty to checkmate the Russian bear with the help of the Japanese dwarf. The treaty also precipitated the Russo-Japanese War. The annexation of Korea by Japan in 1910 was another off-shoot of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

"By the demonstration of her powers" writes Latouretiee, "in her war with China, Japan had made herself a force to reckon even if somewhat condescendingly," in the struggle among the nations of the west. The treaty "marked the beginning of a new era in world politics for it was tantamount to a British approval on Japanese aspirations and efforts. It constituted, although indirectly, an endorsement of her programme of expansion which was launched in the last decade of the 19th century." Although the alliance did not prevent war with Russia, it enabled Japan to plan and prosecute the war without any fear of interference from a third power. Moreover, it was an effective guarantee that there would be no repetition of a coalition of Powers against Japan, such as had occurred after the Sino Japanese war.

After being secure by the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, Japan pursued an imperialistic path, tightened her grip over Manchuria through the Manchurian railway, spread her tentacles over China and dominated the whole region. The advantages to both powers of the Alliance were obvious. Japan in the event of war with Russia would have the friendly neutrality of Britain. While if Russia secured assistance of any other power (i.e. France) Britain would aid Japan. On the British side the existence of the alliance diminished the likelihood of a Japanese attack on Australia and it became possible for Britain to reduce the strength of the Pacific Fleet.

### **Self-Check Exercise**

1. Which three countries pressurized Japan to give away territories won by it?
2. When was Anglo-Japanese Alliance made?

## **1.7.6 Russo-Japanese War**

### **1.7.6.1 Causes and Background :**

The fundamental causes of the Russo Japanese war was the question of Korea. Japan wanted to keep Russia away from Korea which was called the "dagger pointed at the heart of Japan," but did not want to keep herself aloof from Korea. The Treaty of Shimonoseki on (April, 1895) had given free hand for carrying out reforms in Korea. The former's attempt, however, produced strong resentment in Korea, whereas Russia gained from the anti-Japanese feeling in Korea. The Korean showing resentment against the Japanese control fled in disguise and took shelter in the Russian legation. Russia now had her own way in the Korean affairs. Instead of reforms, Russia desired to create the conditions of anarchy in Korea and take full advantage of instability in Korea's. The mounting Russian interference in Korea made it clear to the Japanese that Korea was being firmly held in the iron grip of Russia.

Japan through several protocols tried to come to an understanding with Russia with regard to their respective interests in Korea. Japan concluded the Yamagata Labahov Protocol in 1896 and as per its terms agreed to renounce her special privileges in Korea, for example withdrawal of troops, joint pressure for financial stability and restoration of peace and order.

Russia, however, soon violated the spirit of the Protocol by obtaining concession from the Korean Government. Japan again initiated discussion with Russia to remove the causes of friction through the Nishi-Rosen Convention in 1898, by which both parties reaffirmed the independence and sovereignty of Korea. Russia, however, continued her aggressive moves in Korea, whereas Japan opposed Russian moves. Japan tried to arrive at an understanding with Russia by "acknowledging Russia's special position in Manchuria in return for the same privileges in Korea. Russia spurned the offer and her eventual penetration of Korea made a Russo-Japanese War inevitable."

Japan left no stone unturned for amicable settlement with Russia over Korea. In an effort to come to an agreement she prepared to make concessions and even proposed that a line be drawn across northern Korea, the territory to the north, being Russian sphere and to the south Japanese sphere. Besides Korea, the Manchurian question also presented another cause of conflict between the two countries. After 1898 Russia had developed great interests in Manchuria. During the Boxer-War (1900), she sent her forces to Manchuria. After the suppression of the revolt she would not withdraw her forces and made efforts to bring much areas under her occupation and control. This could not be acceptable to Japan who in collaboration with England raised a voice of protest. In 1902-1903, however the questions of Korea and Manchuria were fused.

In July 1903, Japan opened direct negotiations with Russia over Manchuria and Korea where by she proposed :

- (1) To respect Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria.
- (2) To restore Manchuria's administration in Chinese hands.
- (3) To recognise Russian rights in Manchuria
- (4) Russia to recognise Japan's political as well as commercial and industrial interests in Korea.

Russia followed her usual tactics of delay. At the same time Bezohrazov and others who were in control with regard to the control of the Port Arthur insisted that Russia would not get out of Manchuria and there would be no 'Open Door' there. War thus seemed inevitable as Japanese public opinion demanded a check on Russian advance in Manchuria. Under pressure of public demand, Japanese government served diplomatic relations with Russia (February 6, 1904) and on the following day Japan made a surprise attack on Port Arthur and defeated the Russian fleet there.

#### **1.7.6.2 Events :**

Formal war was declared on February 10, 1904. The war was being fought between Russia and Japan on a territory which belonged to neither. The Russia Tsar and his advisers possibly were under the impression that they held key to both war and peace. However, they under-estimated the Japanese naval and military preparations. The entire fighting took place in the Far East, chiefly in Manchuria and the adjacent seas. Both Korea and China declared neutrality in the War. The United States also declared neutrality although her sympathies were with Japan, she even informed France and Germany that she would help Japan if they supported Russia. Japan had already made her position secure through the Anglo-Japanese alliance of 1902. According to H.M. Vinacke, "Had it not been for the Anglo-Japanese agreement and an early intimation from President Roosevelt that United States would not tolerate intervention, Japan would almost certainly have faced a continental European intervention in support of Russia."

Initially fight seemed to be between a giant and a draft, but Japan proved to be a giant killer as she defeated Russia on both land and sea. Japan, through strategy, naval strength, discipline and powerful military machine, smashed the Russian concentration at Port Arthur, which fell on January 1, 1905. On the Manchurian front the Russian general surrendered and finally the battle of Mukden (1905) broke the back of Russian resistance. Soon the atmosphere of peace became ripe and through the mediation of President Roosevelt of the United States both parties agreed to peace negotiations which resulted in the treaty of Portsmouth.



### **1.7.6.3 Treaty of Portsmouth :**

The Treaty of Portsmouth was signed on September 5, 1905. The following were the terms of the treaty :

- (1) Russia recognised Japan's paramount political, military and economic interests in Korea, which was to remain independent.
- (2) Russia agreed to restore to Japan a portion of Island of Sakhalin, which she had earlier captured.
- (3) Both countries agreed to evacuate Manchuria and to help in the restoration of Chinese sovereignty and to maintain 'Open-Door' policy. Russia agreed to transfer Japan her lease of Port Authur, Dairen and adjacent portion of Liaotung Peninsula.
- (4) Russia surrendered her mining and railway concessions in South Manchuria in favour of Japan.
- (5) Manchurian rail roads were to be used only for industrial and commercial purposes.
- (6) Both Russia and Japan got the right to post guards to look after railroads under their control.

The Treaty of Portsmouth divided Manchuria into 'North Manchuria, and 'South Manchuria' with Russian and Japanese spheres of influence in the two regions respectively. The question now was whether Manchuria was to be open in the two regions to commerce and industry of all nations or it was to be an exclusive economic preserve of Russia and Japan. Obviously, the Russo-Japanese War made almost inevitable continuing friction in Manchuria. These countries could not have administrative rights in the same area without friction.

### **1.7.7 Effects :**

Japanese success in the war against Russia was an event of profound significance. According to Fairbank, "the long term effect of Japan's victory was to stimulate the rise of nationalism." The awakening of Asian peoples, like the Chinese renaissance, could be traced to the Russo-Japanese war. The freedom struggles of Asians, received a great impetus from this single factor, Tokyo became the 'Capital of the East' in the truest sense. By defeating Russia, Japan exploded the myth of European invincibility. Japanese victory led to the dawn of Asia's identity; consciousness and freedom.

According to Clyde and Beers, "The Russo-Japanese War transformed the political complexion of the Far Eastern question and in addition affected issues that were not exclusively, Far Eastern. The issues involved the interests and policies of all the great European powers and the United States". The Russo-Japanese War became also an occasion for augmented American activity in the Far-Eastern affairs in an attempt to preserve the open door, with its corollary, the administrative and territorial integrity of China.

With the awakening of national consciousness the Chinese more and more regarded the region as an integral part of their domains. There was no place for three powers in Manchuria. The war had a significant impact on China. It made clear to the Chinese that the only way to remove the European aggression was by repelling the aggressor through western learning and methods of warfare. Under Japanese instructions, Chinese army was trained after European model. The modernization and awakening of China brought about the revolution of 1911 as a result of which the Manchu dynasty was overthrown and a republic established in China.

The Russo-Japanese war also paved the way for Anglo-Russian convention of 1907 which removed friction by mutual understanding and agreement the long standing rivalry of the two powers over their Asiatic interests.

The war also left a deep impact on the internal politics of Russia. The defeat of Russia at the hands of Japan discredited the Tsarist regime and gave strength to the revolutionary movement. The defeat of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War, directly preceded the outbreak of the Russian revolution of 1905.

### **1.7.8 Japan's Emergence as a World Power :**

Soon after the treaty of Portsmouth, Japan secured the consent of China regarding the transfer of territorial, railway and other rights in south Manchuria to Japan. The consent was secured in '1905 (September, 22) which provided for :

- (1) China's agreement to open 16 cities in Manchuria to international trade and residence.
- (2) Japan's agreement to withdraw her troops and railway guards.
- (3) Japan's right to maintain the military on the railway track she had built up to Mukden.
- (4) China's consent to the formation of Sino-Japanese corporation to exploit the Yalu forests.

Japan went ahead with her programmes without caring for pledges to safeguard China's integrity. China found herself helpless to oppose Japan. Manchuria had been developed greatly from economic point of view and Japan primarily profited from this development. Britain too was prepared to support heartily in her attempts to consolidate her position in Manchuria in return for her own benefits. Japan thus became all powerful by 1905.

#### **1.7.8.1 Annexation of Korea :**

Before 1905 Japan had considered her main interests to be in Korea rather than Manchuria. In 1907, Japan presented some new demands to Korea forcing the Korean government to accept Japanese advisers who were to

approve the executive and legislative actions. The crown prince bowed to the Japanese pressure and Korea virtually became a Japanese Protectorate. Japanese control tightened and the assassination of Ito by a Korean national (1909) provided the pretext for the annexation of Korea. All strategic places in Korea were manned by the Japanese troops. The Emperor was forced to request for annexation and the Treaty for annexation was signed on August 10, 1910. It was acclaimed as a great achievement of the Meiji era in Japan.

Meiji Emperor Mutsuhito passed away on July 30, 1912. During his regime Japan witnessed the birth of a new social order. As the time of his accession Japan was a backward nation, but when he died, he left Japan one of the most powerful Empires in Asia, Japan pursued her forward foreign policy particularly in Manchuria and it brought rich dividends. Again, at the home front Japan witnessed the introduction of Western science, technology, military organization and education systems.

After Mutsuhito, the Japanese throne was occupied by his third son Yoshthito. During his regime Japan came to be counted among the 'Big Five nations of the world' and her navy occupied the third place in the world place. The World War came as a golden opportunity for Japan for the fulfillment of her imperialistic ambitions.

Japan was now forging ahead towards becoming a world power. She became a force to be reckoned with in Far Eastern politics from 1894-95. Within less than a decade, thereafter Japan entered into an alliance with world's foremost maritime power—Britain. Within another half a decade she challenged and defeated a major Western power, Russia gained control over Korea and some parts of Manchuria as we have already seen. By 1905, Japan became very powerful. She was envied by the whole world. She rose to the position of an important international power. She captured south Manchuria and exploited the economy of China. In this way she joined the group of western nations who became powerful in the East.

In 1914 when the western powers found themselves engaged in a grim struggle for survival,, Japan felt herself free to exploit the situation to her own advantage. Although in the beginning, British wanted to keep Japan off the war but circumstances changed the British policy. Japan also could not remain neutral nor did she wish to remain so Japan entered the war on the side of the allies.

### **Self-Check Exercise**

1. Name the treaty with which Russo-Japanese war was concluded.
2. Main interest of Japan were in which country?

### **1.7.9 Summary**

England was following the policy of splendid isolation. With Franco-

Russian Entente (1894), two power blocks were created. England was not part of any power block. So it abandon the policy of isolation. To safeguard its economic interests and to check Russian advances in far-east, both the England and Japan formed an alliance in 1902. The Russian interference in Korea and Manchurian question led to Russo-Japanese war. Japan's win over Russia led to Anglo-Russian Convention in 1907.

#### **1.7.10 Keywords :**

1. Russian concessions from China : During battle for concession (1895-1898 A.D.), Russia had maximum concessions from China. Construction of tran-siberian railway line, Liatung province etc.
2. Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895 A.D.) : It was fought between China and Japan. Latter won this war and given many territories.

#### **1.7.11 Short Questions :**

1. What do you know about Battle for concession?
2. When was Anglo-Japanese alliance signed?
3. How did Anglo-Japanese alliance effected the international politics?

#### **1.7.12 Long Questions :**

1. What were the circumstances that led Anglo-Japanese alliance (1902)?
2. Discuss the treaty and significance of Anglo-Japanese alliance?
3. Trace the causes of Russo-Japanese war.
4. What were the factors that led to the victory of Japan in Russo-Japanese war?

#### **1.7.13 Suggested Readings**

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|-----------------------------|---|
| P.H. Clyde and B.F. Beers : | <i>The Far East</i> (Prentice Hall. Inc., New Delhi, 1968)                      |
| J.K. Fairbank and others :  | <i>East Asia, The Modern Transformation</i> , (Allien and Unwin, London, 1969). |
| K.S. Latourette Co. Ltd.    | <i>A Short History of the Far East</i> (The Macmillan London, 1964).            |
| Ian Nish :                  | <i>The History of Japan</i> (Faber and Faber, London, 1958)                     |
| H.M. Vinacke :              | <i>A History of the Far East in Modern Times.</i>                               |

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