

Midterm Exam: The Great War

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course

Instructor's Name

Due Date

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SECTION I:

Question 1:

The Great War also World War began in the Balkan nations of Europe, but the major European powers played a massive role in initiating it. A Serbian assassin assassinated in 1914, the Arch Duke of Austria, Franz. The event that followed was Austria issuing a request to the Serbian government. In other words, Austria- Hungary was ready for war and busy looking for an excuse to start it. Before issuing an ultimatum, Austria had sought German assurance to support their course in the fight (Startt,2017). The German government assured them of support. Before the war broke out, the Balkan nations had allies aligned to the major European powers' policies. As such, it was inevitable that the partners will support each other during the war. However, before the Great War, the Balkan region of Europe already experienced tension. Nationalism caused it, which was influenced by the adoption of the ideologies of the major European powers. In other words, the entry of the major European powers in the Balkan region of Europe was the beginning of the end of peace in the area and the onset of tension and animosity (Startt,2017). When Austria issued the injunction, it was evident that they were looking for a reason to go to war. The war started where Serbia declines two of the demands by Austria. On noticing that war was inevitable, the Serbian government requested its main ally, Russia, for support. The Russian government promptly contacted France, Great Britain, and Belgium to support Serbia's readiness for war. On the other hand, Austria was supported by German and its allies. The war led to the collapse of some of the agreements between the major European nations and the Balkan.

Based on the events and the causes of the Great war, it was avoidable and also inevitable. For instance, before the war began, tensions were already brewing in the Balkan region of Europe. The cause of this was the entry of the major European powers in the area. Even though the Balkans were the uncivilized and isolated lot of Europe, they did not experience much tension as witnessed during the region's major European powers' entry. Thus, the Balkan conflicts' major causes were related to the major European powers' presence in the area (Kurban.,2019). In other words, avoiding the Great World War was depended on the major European powers. If they had been careful in their influence in the region and found alternative means of resolving conflicts, the war would not have been the only resort. Archduke Franz's assassination as the Great War's actual cause would have also been avoided by seeking other approaches to justice. The war was not the only resort, and the stringent demands were unnecessary. The major European powers would have resorted to and push for no-violent approaches to solve the already volatile situation. However, they did the opposite by taking sides and supporting the warring nations in the Great War.

What were the immediate and long-term causes for the event?

The immediate cause of the Great War was the assassination of Archduke Franz by the Serbian nation. Austria responded to the assassination by issuing a stern ultimatum to the Serbian government. While giving the ultimatum, Austria was ready for war because the Serbian could not accept the demands. The events led to Serbia rejecting two of the demands (Kurban.,2019). The Austria -Hungarian government responded by appealing to Germany for assistance in their cause of action. The Serbian government also requested Russia for help. The event culminated in the Great War because the allied nations joined forces to defeat an ally's enemy. For instance,

when Serbia appealed to Russia for support, Russia asked other allied, and that is how Belgium, France, and Great Britain entered the Great War.

On the other hand, Austria appealed to Germany for assistance, resulting in all the allied nations being on the same front as Austria. In other words, the immediate cause of the Great War was the assassination of the archduke of Austria, but other nations in Europe joined to protect their interests (Manic & Stepic.,2017). The allied were the markets in one country's produce or partners in different fronts. Therefore, each nation had to protect her interest least it is affected by war or the defeat of an ally.

The long-term cause of the events was the brewing tensions in the Balkan region of Europe. One of the issues was the major European powers' negative nationalism (Manic & Stepic,2017). The Balkan was an isolated part of Europe that, when the Great War was brewing has been influenced by the ideologies of different major European nations. The influence of the major European countries divided the region and caused the brewing tension. For instance, the archduke's assassination, which was the Great War's immediate cause, was based on nationalism. According to Austria, the assassin was a Serbian; thus, Serbia had to take responsibility for failure, to which they were to feel the wrath of Austria.

Could it have been avoided?

Based on the events that led to the Great War's begging, it was easy to avoid the war. For instance, the Balkan region's brewing tension was caused by the different ideologies that the Balkan nations were subjected to by the major European powers. In other words, the division and uncertainty in the region were caused intentionally by the European countries. Thus, avoiding such tensions would have been a solution to preventing the Great War (Manic & Stepic,2017). Next, the major European nations would have resorted to a peaceful approach to solve the

region's division and brewing conflict. For instance, in the assassination of the Archduke of Austria -Hungary, seeking a gentle path to justice would have prevented the outbreak of the Great War.

SECTION II:

Question 1

The Great War influenced Europe both culturally, socially, and politically. Socially, WW1 resulted in propaganda. During the war, propaganda was a tool used to attract the masses to support the war. In some nations, the spread of propaganda resulted in stopping some European film imports. However, using propaganda to spread malice and falsehood did not end with the Great War. It continued even after the war. For instance, the political classes would use propaganda to gain political mileage is different froms. The war also impacted the social lives of the Europeans. The greatly affected by the war were also the families (Sondhaus.,2020). The war-affected soldiers psychologically, and after the war, other countries could not find their families. As a result, they ended up not functioning or living their lonely, unhappy lives in isolation.

The war also impacted European cultural aspects such as film, fashion, leisure, and literature. For instance, before the Great war, the film industry-focused greatly on romance and other parts of life, such as struggles and crime (Bilinski,2018). However, after the Great War, the European film industry began to capture the aspects of war. The films created after the Great War focused on heroism and aimed to demonstrate different aspects and impacts of war on lives. Since popularity influence, the film industry, movies about war became popular and marketable compared to other genres. Eventually, this impacted the film industry even years after the Great War. For instance, the creation of heroes and war movies captured the aspects of war from the

European experience during the Great War. The concept of heroism developed from the Great War also influenced the characteristics of lives and the European perception of leaders and individuals (Sondhaus,2020). All began with the war heroes, and later, the term was used in different aspects of lives to refer to individuals who have created positive impacts on society.

The Great War also impacted the fashion industry in Europe due to the changes in gender roles. The war outbreak led to a decrease in personnel in different aspects of the economy. As such, women were allowed to work in the industries where men were working. As a result, the fashion industry was forced to make attires that would suit women. For instance, women employed in the transport industry needed attires that would suit their roles' nature. The changes in the fashion industry influenced by the Great War eventually inspired the creation of different attires, some resembling men. Since men were needed to join the army, there was a shortage of males to work in the factories (Sondhaus,2020). Hence, different industries began to accept women in areas where they were not received before the great war outbreak. The need for men to be on the battlefield also changes the gender roles concerning the families' structure. The only option fills the position of the head of the family was women. However, after the Great War, European society began to perceive women as standard heads of families.

The Great War also impacted the realm of literature. Before the outbreak of the Great War, the literary world was not influenced by war experiences. However, after the Great War, different authors published stories about war or its impacts on society. The literature world stories also created heroes and plots that depicted the readers' experience during the Great War (Bilinski,2018). For instance, the literature realm adopted heroes as characters in different stories that appreciate the soldiers' efforts on the battlefield.

The propaganda, which was a crucial tool during the Great War, also inspired the mass media's development. The mass media became the source of employment and a significant aspect of the economy and society. For instance, the advertisement conveyed through mass media enhanced popularity making it a powerful tool for fame and enhancing product identity (Dosenrode,2018). The Great War also impacted the art industry. After the Great War, art was inspired by war and its impact on the economy and its social aspect. The artists being the mirror of society, began to create artwork that captures either war-times or heroes and the effects of war on European lives (Bilinski,2018). The Great War also impacted the music industry. Before the outbreak of the Great War, popular music captured romance and affection. However, after the Great War, music began to depict war and its effects on different life aspects. Politically, the Great War ended the monarchies, one of the oldest systems of governance in Europe. The war also led to new countries that emerged out of the empires Austria and Hungary. After the Great War, new political ideologies also emerge. For instance, Russian Revolution resulted in the emergence of the Soviet Union. With the emergence of Austria and Hungary, they also got their independence due to the Great War events. In general, the Great War impacted the cultural, political, and social structure of Europe. In one way or the other, they were impacted either positively or negatively.

References

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