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**Investigating the Price of World War Two on the British
Empire**

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Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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Dedication

Every challenging work needs self-efforts as well as guidance of elders especially those who are very close to our hearts: our parents.

Those who shared their words of advice and encouragement to finish this study: our brothers, sisters, friends and relatives.

This work is dedicated to all of you.

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In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

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Abstract

Human history has known many and many struggles for power and dominance. One of the most crucial struggles over history is World War Two (1939-1945) that shaped the landmarks of our world today. Since the British Empire was the most dominant empire at that time, it is important to identify its role in the war. The study aims to identify the price the British Empire paid in this disastrous war. The study under investigation is a qualitative historical research. Our research depends on data taken from secondary sources, i.e. secondhand information taken from history books, web site articles, journal articles, and encyclopedias. The data is described and analysed using a descriptive method. Through the description of the historical events and the situations before, during and by the end of the war, the study investigates the pricy cost the British Empire paid in the war and the important role it played in promoting the Allies side. The war was so great that the empire recruited all of its colonies and countries of British Commonwealth of Nations, that were significantly involved in wartime. In addition, the war drained the empire's economic and dominating power to become weaker despite the Allies victory in the war against the Axis. By the end of the war, the world's greatest empire had begun to fall.

Keywords: Allies, Axis, British Empire, Commonwealth, Second World War/World War Two

List of Abbreviations

BBC	British Broadcasting Corporate
CID	The Committee of Imperial Defense
CORB	Children's Overseas Reception Board
DRC	Defense Requirements Committee
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
RAF	Royal Air Force
SS	Schutz Staffel
US	United States
USA	The United States of America
USSR	The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WWI	World War One
WWII	World War two

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General Introduction

General Introduction

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General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The British Empire was the greatest empire the world has ever known, after the Roman one. KwasiKwarteng, a British Conservative Party politician, claims that the British Empire, an empire that extended 400 years and thousands of miles and affected all continents, is easy to write about it but it is hard to summarise it.

These words show the extent to which the British Empire was really a great one. When describing this empire, it is somehow obvious to speak about an extended force led by the British and gained enormous achievements. Colonizing parts of Asia, Africa, America, and invading Australia and other territories, and dominating many peoples and human races, the British were the most influential in writing history. Destroying the Spanish Armada and celebrating geographical expeditions unleashed a force acknowledged for more than 400 years.

In the 20th century, the image of the British Empire changed and held new dimensions. Many events and situations, whether for or against, defined the truth of this empire. Critical issues as the rise of the British Labour Party, Balfour Declaration, World War I, and Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 were greatly affected and paved the way to a new nation. However, the most critical issue was the participation in World War Two which showed the world the strong points as well as the weak points of the British. World War Two was the dimension that uncovered the merits and flaws of the British Empire

2. Statement of the Problem

The British Empire that had been the greatest dominating empire and the world's first economic power for more than a century lost its prestige and domination after World War Two. Therefore, the study in hand reviews the course of the war so that we gain an understanding of the scenario that led to the decline of the empire.

3. Research Questions and Research Hypothesis

3.1. Research Questions

This study aims to answer the following questions that are paramount in understanding the situation of the British Empire before, during, and immediately after World War Two.

- a) How did the British Empire take part in Second World War?
- b) What were its achievements and failures during this critical era?
- c) How had the British Empire's status been affected and become by the end of the war?

2.2. Research Hypotheses

- a) The British Empire involved directly through using martial powers to assure its place as a nation of greatness and valor.
- b) The British Empire expanded its geographical dimensions through participating in war and gained more power.
- c) The war was so pricy for the British Empire.

4. Research Methodology

The study under investigation is a qualitative historical research. It is historical as it is designed to study, understand, and interpret a sequence of past events; mainly the extent to which the British Empire contributed to World War Two among others. For chronological and logical convenience, an overview of the British Empire as well as World War Two is given so that the picture can be clarified. In addition, this enables us gain an understanding of the British position and affiliation in the war.

Our research depends on data taken from secondary sources, i.e. secondhand information, history books, website articles, journal articles, and encyclopedias. The data is described and analysed using a descriptive method. The descriptive and historical narrative is used, in the three chapters generally, for the aim of describing the events and characteristics of the phenomena. It is used mainly in the last two chapters for the purpose of narrating and describing the relationships, the different and sharing interests of countries before and during the period of the war, and most importantly the factors and that affected the British direction in the war.

5. Aims of the Study

This study aims to:

- a) Identify the role played by the British Empire during Second World War.
- b) Recognize its strength and weakness during this era.
- c) Investigate the impact of the war on the British Empire.

6. Significance of the Study

The period before, during, and by the end of World War Two was so important in the history of weak nations as well as the world's great powers. This study is important as it highlights the British Empire's situation in this critical period (1939-1945). The study shows as well the British drain of its powers that led to the decline of the empire.

7. Structure of the Study

This work is divided into three chapters. The first of which is an overview of the British Empire. It starts with a review of the first emergence of the British Empire, and a brief history of it and its dominions. Regarding the expansion of the British Empire, this chapter provides a view of how it expanded almost all around the world. It also discusses the construction of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Finally, it tackles the issue of the British Empire's foreign policy and relations. The second chapter is devoted to reviewing Second World War. It begins with an overview of World War Two mentioning its causes and origins. In addition, it presents the course of the war beginning with the Spanish Civil War until the invasion of the Soviet Union. Finally, the third chapter concentrates on the role of the British Empire in the war and most importantly, the price it had paid by its end. It starts with the empire's alliances and enemies during the war. Then, it presents Britain from different aspects in Second World War, mentioning the Commonwealth contribution, and education during this time. It concludes with the impact of World War Two on the British Empire that was detrimental since the war marked its decline.

CHAPTER ONE

An Overview of the British Empire

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Introduction:

This chapter focuses on the history of the British Empire. It begins with a review of the first emergence of the British Empire, and a brief history of it and its dominions. Regarding the expansion of the British Empire, this chapter provides a view of how it expanded almost all around the world. It also discusses the construction of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Finally, it tackles the issue of the British Empire's foreign policy and relations.

1.1. The First Emergence of the “British Empire”

Trusler (1766), trying to make the difference between the terms ‘empire’ and ‘kingdom’, states:

...the word, *empire*, conveys an idea of a vast territory, composed of various people; whereas that of *kingdom* implies, one more bounded; and intimates the unity of that nation, of which it is formed. (p. 15)

“Words are the reflections of facts,” a familiar expression coined by Firth (1918, p.185) to describe why Great Britain was named an ‘Empire’. The history of ‘the British Empire’ reveals that it deserved the name without a competitor and that it was not named as such haphazardly. To reinforce this claim, let us take, as Firth (1918) quoted the New English Dictionary’s definition of the word ‘empire’, “a country of which the sovereign owes no allegiance to any foreign superior,” as the meaning of the word ‘empire’ in Henry VIII’s time (as cited in Firth, 1918). Armitage (2004) also demonstrates this claim, “The idea of empire as sovereignty was the very foundation of the Tudor state’s claim to an independent authority.” (p. 272). In this context, Parliament used it when they got rid of the sovereignty of the Pope and announced it in the Statute of Appeals 1533: ‘This realm of England is an empire’ (Armitage, 2004, p. 272). He added that after a short while, the 1536 and 1543 acts of Henry VIII that integrated Wales into the Tudor state and the announcement of Henry VIII’s monarchy instead of sovereignty, over Ireland in 1541, by the Irish Parliament confirmed the claim of the empire. A while later, the

term became used to describe a state consisting of more states. Protector Somerset predicted that the union of England and Scotland, would make two peoples as ‘knit into one nation’, and ‘of one isle one realm’. He suggested abolishing the words England and English, Scotland and Scottish, to avoid the Scottish opposition, and the United Kingdom should be replaced by the word ‘Empire’ and its ruler the ‘Emperor of Great Britain’. (Firth, 1918).

England further expanded when Scotland was incorporated into the union of England and Wales after the death of queen Elizabeth. This was accomplished by the Scottish king James VI as he gained the crowns of England and Ireland as being James I in 1603 (Armitage, 2004). So, as Firth (1918) as well stated, “Somerset’s dream was realized only in 1603 by the union of the crowns when James I became King of England.” (p. 185). After this union, the state was described as an ‘empire’. The Pamphlet described the union as ‘the beginning of the happiest empire that ever was’ (pp.185-186). James himself in his speech on March 31, 1607 used the word twice, “My meaning in seeking union is only to advance the greatness of your Empire seated here in England”.

The history of the British Empire has generally been told as the story of an empire that formally surrounded parts of South Asia, Australia, Africa, and the Americas. As mentioned in Armitage (2000), its rise started in 1757 when Britain achieved its triumph at the battle of ‘Plassey’. This kept almost consistently in South Asia and the Pacific until the Napoleonic Wars finished, and then throughout and after the Second World War, this was totally disbanded.

1.2. The Dominions

Although there was no formally stated definition of the status of dominions within the British Empire, it was largely accepted that dominions were described as ‘autonomous communities’. They were the colonies that had self-government or in other words ‘autonomous colonies’. Kerr (1922) stated that the Dominions, that were known in the last century as the territories of (Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand), included a number of districts.

The latter generally ruled themselves, but no way at all for engaging in the governing of the Empire of which they formed part. He further added, it became evident that the requirement for treating the settlement problems was on a national basis, and the tendency for unity started to increase. It was effective first in Canada, in 1867. Australia went along with in 1900; South Africa in 1909, when the Boer War had taken away the barrier of the two flags. (Kerr, 1992).

In fact, as mentioned in Darwin (2009), a critical role was played by the dominions in British world power. The ‘overseas British’ marked loyalty, and their economic capacity made them the most trustworthy overseas part of the whole British world-system, engaged in First World War with a million men for military service (as many as India), and more in the Second, as well as (from Canada particularly) essential industrial and financial help.

1.3. The History and Growth of the British Empire

The history of the empire as a whole is in fact a review of the interactions between the British and other people rather than of the British ‘impact’ on them. Interaction supposes that the peoples over whom the British ruled were not merely hapless ‘natives’ to whom the British brought blessings or misfortune. The peoples of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Pacific of course made their own history before colonial rule. They continued to do so also under British rule, as well as having it made for them by British power. (Marshall, 1996, p.8).

In 1913, the British Empire was politically and economically the most strong organization in the world. In 1924, it had maintained its power, but its international dominance had weakened. This loss, as mentioned in Whelpley (1925), came due to political modifications from within, the increase of richness and force of other countries, and the bad impact of the Great War and its responses onto the direct and indirect sources of British wealth and influence.

Within the five years following the war, the British Empire made a marked development to recover lost wealth and power. The international political situation, as well, regained its sway, as it was in 1913, and the trade of the world again offered as great chances as it did in that year.

Thus, the pre-war position of the British Empire might possibly have been restored now. (Whelpley, 1925).

In fact, the British Empire exceeded the idea of retaining 1913's power to that of being the second greatest government persistent founder throughout history after the Romans. He added that the character of the Empire has changed; the status of a Federation of States was what the empire seeking by a process of evolution. If this process is to be completed, the result might have been easier to be noticed and have a better quality than the original idea of the imperial-minded founders of the British Empire.

The change in relation to the trade of the world was one of the most marked changes that have taken place in the past years. The British Government, recently, stood isolated from commerce. It was obvious that 'trade followed the flag'. Whelpley (1925) states that the Government function was pushing the flag or its impact in every way that offered some income for the effort. Any progress achieved by the British power, was left to those who managed the trade of the Empire to pursue it. Right after the Great War, the British Government dedicated itself to raise its sales overseas, and to obtain raw materials from its conquered territories. (Whelpley, 1925).

1.4. Expansion of the British Empire

The British Empire expanded greatly, during the nineteenth century, in terms of size, population and wealth. In that century, it was at its powerful and self-confidence commercially. By the end of the century, the Empire had become more political rather than commercial so that it controlled large areas in the world. Thus, this era has been called 'Britain's Imperial century'; the Empire covered almost one-quarter of the world's land surface and ruled one-fifth of its population. It is not surprising, therefore, as Lloyd (2007) says, that Britain news was an interesting subject to much of the newspaper press.

1.4.1. The British Empire at the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century

Britain intended to make its trading position to be the most powerful. To obtain such a goal, its authority over an outstanding number of strategic colonies was of great influence. Its history in the nineteenth century describes a process of expansion. Although Britain, as stated in Lloyd (2007), By the end of the eighteenth century, Britain had lost thirteen of its colonies, maintaining a large collection of other colonies. First, maintaining Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Quebec, British colonies in North America had not been all lost. In 1788, a new colony was found in Australia, it was named New South Wales. It was a ‘dumping-ground’ for British criminals. It also had control over several places that it occupied during the Napoleonic wars. These included, as mentioned in McDowall (1989), Mauritius (in the Indian Ocean), the Ionian Islands (in the eastern Mediterranean), Sierra Leone (West Africa), Cape Colony (South Africa), Ceylon, and Singapore.

1.4.2. India

As stated in Lloyd (2007), India was a very important part of the British Empire at the beginning of the nineteenth century and this significant position would be maintained throughout the century. The British Empire was very careful not to lose the Indian colony and very worried about the security of the road to India. Accordingly, as McDowall (1989) wrote, the route to India was the imperial interest that deserved protection. For protection purposes, Britain fought wars to save its “areas of interest”. As such, Lloyd (2007) said that widening in India maintained through ways of fights and annexations, such as the shameful ‘Opium Wars’ against China, the war in Afghanistan against Russia, the one in Sindh, a part of Pakistan today, and another in northwest India as mentioned in McDowall (1989). Subsequently, by 1850 almost all the Indian subcontinent had become British, and the remaining part was restricted by pacts to Britain. Due to its importance, Britain kept securing India’s boundaries, during the second half of the nineteenth century, by “annexing and acquiring further territory.” (Lloyd, 2007).

From the 1830s, the British followed new reforming ideas, which led to the truly Imperial view of the Empire's control over India. The most significant of which was, as Lloyd (2007) mentioned, the priority of 'westernizing impulses', such as the suppression of several traditional Indian customs. According to Harrison (1902), as well, there was a transition from the Trading Company towards the Sovereign Power to deepen the foundations of the British rule in India. This led to unwelcome matters in India. For instance, the British unwise Treatment of Indian soldiers concerning payment resulted in revolt, known as the 'Indian Mutiny', in 1857. This revolt was regarded, in the words of McDowal (1989), as "a national movement against foreign rule" (p. 145), and led to the British loss of control in northern India.

The Indian Mutiny was of great threat to the British authority in India that the British Empire reviewed its policy in India. It was directed towards a more violent strategy to restore its authority. One of the most important resultant decisions of the British Empire was the dissolution of the East India Company and the imposition of formal imperial rule on the company's area of administration rather than the East India Company board of directors (Lloyd, 2007).

Despite this new strategy and the direction towards more authority and control, the British preferred not to intervene in religious matters. In this vein, Lloyd (2007) stated, "...the government thereafter was hesitant to interfere in religious and social customs, believing that it had been the policy of Anglicization that had caused the rebellion" (n.p). Instead, Britain reinforced the role of the Indian rulers and wanted to improve India from the materialistic side, to make India opened to business, a railway was built. Such improvements, besides the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, made India an important to the British economy during the second half of the nineteenth century; by the 1880s, "India was taking one-fifth of British overseas investment and almost 19 percent of British exports." (Lloyd, 2007).

1.4.3. West Indies

Britain had a long history in the West Indies that had started in the seventeenth century. For the limitation of this section, we are going to restrict our review to the period of the late

eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In this period, the British took control and established crown colony governments in the islands of the West Indies (Sewell, 1978) and by the end of the century, the most lucrative part of the new empire was the West Indies. (McDowall, 1989). With its colonies, Britain made, in the words of McDowall, a “trade triangle”, on the first corner, the British produced cutting tools, and tissues that were exported to West Africa, which constituted the second corner, to be exchanged for slaves. The latter was taken to the West Indies, as a third corner of the trade triangle, where sugar, which had been grown by slaves, was sent back to the British (ibid). In the West Indies islands, sugar was the basis of all economic activity, with coffee and cotton widely planted as well. In this vein, Lloyd (2007) says “...another lucrative part of the British Empire was its colonies in the West Indies, where coffee, cotton and particularly sugar were grown on large slave plantations.” (n.p).

However, as stated in Sewell (1978), a British Act of Parliament, which was passed in 1834, abolished slavery in all British territories causing the emancipated slaves to leave the sugar plantations and start working for themselves. Another event, which was the ending of discriminatory prices on sugar from the West Indies in 1846, caused “considerable blows to islands' plantations.” (Lloyd, 2007) Sugar farming witnessed problems; costs increased and lost workers, i.e., slaves, had to be replaced. To overcome such a situation, Sewell (1978) wrote, West Indian sugar planters adopted the indentured system that was based on bringing in immigrant laborers, particularly from India. This transition caused many intentions and social problems as well as economic ones that led the British to take a firmer hand in the political operation in the West Indies (Lloyd, 2007 & Sewell, 1978).

1.4.4. The White Settler Colonies

During the nineteenth century, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand (which had been acquired in 1840), which were called white settler territories, were a major part of Britain’s Empire. Lloyd (2007) mentions that “they all had expansionist impulses—often at the expense of their native populations—with all of these colonies expanding in size during the nineteenth

century”. Lloyd further detailed population growth with statistics that revealed an increase in the number of inhabitants; by 1901 11.5 million people lived in Britain's settler colonies—up from 550,000 in 1815—with this growth, being achieved both through natural increase and immigration (particularly from Britain).

Britain ruled many territories tyrannically. However, the white territories were permitted to rule themselves. (McDowall, 1989). As stated in Lloyd (2007), appointed governors in the colonies shared some of their power with domestically selected assemblies. This right of self rule was the result of the British fear after trouble in Canada in 1837 which would have led to independence. In the 1840s and early 1850s, the Canadian colonies were the first to introduce “responsible government” (essentially, colonial internal self-rule), which was finally expanded to the other colonies—Australia and New Zealand in the mid-19th century, and the Cape Colony in 1872 (Lloyd, 2007)). She further adds that in 1867 the Dominion of Canada was shaped after joining the colonies of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and in 1901 the Commonwealth of Australia was formed when Australian colonies came together. By the end of the nineteenth century, these areas had been changed into confident, rich and self-controlling societies, after they were restricted outlying colonies. (Lloyd, 2007).

1.4.5. Africa and Asia

During the late nineteenth century, Britain expanded vastly in Africa and Southeast Asia. By the end of the century, the British had a strong belief in forming an empire and felt their superiority over others and to expand everywhere as they need (McDowall, 1989). Lloyd (2007) states that, during the 1880s and 1890s, the so-called European ‘scramble for Africa’, Britain added greatly to its province in Africa. Britain's earnings contained Egypt (it was not an official settlement), Kenya, Uganda, Northern Southern Rhodesia, and finally the Afrikaner republics of southern Africa (the Orange Free State and the Transvaal) after the British victory in the Boer War (1899-1902). These colonies were divided into Crown territories, protectorates. However, he adds that, except for the Cape Colony and the Transvaal, the previously mentioned colonies

were not of a significant economic position. By the end of the 19th century, Britain also extended its province in South East Asia, gaining the Malay Peninsula, North Borneo, and the rest of Burma. (Lloyd, 2007).

1.4.6. The British Rationale for the Expansionist Movement

First of all, the expansionist idea of the British Empire was pure for economic and trading reasons since its policy was to be the world's first economic power. That is why; it did not use to colonize and everywhere. Instead, it was looking for strategic places that could serve its economical purposes.

Marshall (1996) mentions, for example, that territorial expansion in India was part of a wider movement of the British expansion well underway at the end of the eighteenth century. It took many forms. Britain was taking over more states in India. A great increase was in the volume of trade with China. In West Indies, more sugar was being grown. Britain was shipping out more slaves from Africa. The great voyages of James Cook had quartered the Pacific between 1768 and 1779. The British army and navy, which had been largely on the defensive during the American Revolution, were now ready to be turned loose on the overseas empires of France, Spain, and the Netherlands. British Christians were forming themselves into societies to convert the heathen all over the world. (Marshall, 1996).

Marshall, further, states: "It is not very rewarding to look for designs behind these multifarious processes of expansion" (n.p). For the most part, they were not directed or planned by ministers. They cannot be neatly demarcated into first and second empires. They do not have any very close relationship with the needs of the industrial revolution whose effects on British society as a whole were still limited (Marshall, 1996). Expansion presents the desire of many sections of British society to look for chances to trade, plunder, land, office, knowledge-in short, features of all kinds from a world they and their governments were increasingly confident of Britain's dominance. Driven by different impulses at different times and taking different forms.

Expansion and the determination to maintain what had been acquired gave British imperial history a continuity that lasted from the eighteenth century at least until the Second World War.

Thus, in the nineteenth century, especially after 1870, the British Empire grew greatly. In this century, it was of its utmost power and self-confidence so that it gave the British a strong feeling of pride and superiority. It was, as McDowall (1989) mentioned, the first industrial power and the world's 'workshop'. Certainly, this was due to its expansionist movement. However, as Lloyd (2007) mentions, on some views the rise of the Empire was not consistently decided or meant, and stands about the Empire were completely different. It grew eventually on its intentions and attempts to secure its free trade and develop its economics. This was apparent and proved to be the logic regarding its way of governance in the colonies. Indeed, "very often the colonies had been a little controlled by the British government, and annexation was always seen as a last resort." (Lloyd, 2007, n.p).

Due to the new industrial trend of the empire, people started to move from the countryside to towns and consequently, the middle class grew rapidly. Thus, the aristocracy and the Crown's power weakened (McDowall, 1989). After accessing this situation, it became important to talk about the future plans of the British Empire. As it was mentioned before, stands over the British Empire varied, some argued that the conquered territories were of a high price without any benefit, while others believed that the Empire should be maintained, as it reinforced Britain's strategic position. (Lloyd, 2007). Besides, she added, according to some Britons, it was Britain's responsibility to expand civilization over the world, since it was the most progressed state at that time.

However, as Lloyd wrote, at the beginning of the 1870s, Britain went into the 'Age of Imperialism' (1870-1914). In this period, the world witnessed the engagement of European industrializing nations in the process of colonizing, influencing, and annexing other parts of the world. She added that regardless of which government was in rule, the Empire extended fast, annexing what had been known before as an "informal empire", and new territories being

acquired. Germany, France, and Russia competed to expand imperially; there were threats over British benefits, therefore Britain annexed more territories in order to secure its interests.

Lloyd continued that, during this period, a "vocal pressure" was created by the so-called imperialists or the fans of the empire, demanding for nearer Imperial relations and oneness in all fields. The Conservative party was known as the party of Empire, due to its close relation with imperialism. Liberal politicians with the leadership of William Gladstone were against the imperial expansion, but the expansion of the empire was maintained even when they were in power. Few politicians were quite against the Empire itself and wanted to secure the current empire and its benefits. (Lloyd, 2007).

1.5. The British Commonwealth of Nations:

Barker (1951) mentions that the Balfour Committee supplemented its definition of the nature of the society of the British Commonwealth of Nations by a definition of the aims and ends of the whole of the British Empire: "It depends essentially, if not formally, on positive ideals. Free institutions are its life-blood. Free co-operation is its instrument. Peace, security, and progress are among its objects." (p.96).

Of the territories under the heading, "The History of Britain and the British Empire", the area of the special and undesirable position of Imperial history. Other areas, like "Tudor and Stuart England", are stable ever in time and space. Conversely, the Empire's dimensions and form were always in change. It was not ready for historical study, until the middle of the nineteenth century. In addition, at the beginning of the twentieth century, it achieved both case and a rational following of both students and researchers, the Empire began to convert itself into the Commonwealth, and some parts even left the Commonwealth. (Curtin, 1959).

1.5.1. The structure of the Commonwealth

As Wheare (1953) mentioned, the structure of the British Commonwealth of Nations is strange that could not be invented if it did not exist. Its properties detect themselves when trying to find a response to a simple question, namely "How do we know whether a country is inside

the Commonwealth or outside it?” The response to this question has always been difficult. If a country is one of the Queen's dominions, this is not enough to say that it is within the Commonwealth. Wheare added that this is completely true. This is obvious in the cases of such main countries of the Commonwealth as the United Kingdom itself, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, Ceylon, and the British West Indian Colonies. However, it will not be enough to characterise the status of such countries as Malaya, or Nigeria, or Uganda, or the Gold Coast, or Kenya, or Tanganyika. These countries do not belong the Queen’s dominions. They are either secured nations (as in Malaya) or protectorates (as in most of the African territories) (Wheare, 1953).

1.5.2. Politics and History

Trivedi (2010) states that it must be forthrightly acknowledged that the Commonwealth is primarily a political category. It is above all else a ‘British Commonwealth of Nations’. To outline quickly a brief history of this term in the sense now prevalent (in disambiguation from say Oliver Cromwell’s ‘Commonwealth’). It appears to have been first used in 1884 by Lord Roseberry, later Prime Minister of Britain, during a visit to Australia, and it was in 1926 that Britain and its white Dominions officially came together to form ‘The British Commonwealth of Nations’. India after it became independent, decided that even though it was going to be a democratic republic, it would still want to continue to be a member of the British Commonwealth headed by the British sovereign. Everyone agreed, according to Trivedi (2010), that if India had not so decided, the Commonwealth would have soon withered away, or at best remained a small and insignificant club of Britain and its four white colonies (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Canada). In addition, it certainly would not be the large international association of 53 mostly non-white countries that it is today.

1.6. The British Empire Foreign Policy and Relations:

Great Britain adopted yet again its traditional balance of power policy among the great powers of Europe, after the victory in the First World War and its participation in the Paris Peace

Conference of 1919-1920, a policy it had so well identified itself with in the past 300 years. Great Britain obstinately refused, almost throughout the interwar period, to become allies with any of the European states, as a result of its confidence in its capacity to defend itself in case of danger. (Arhire, 2013).

As soon as the war ended, as Arhire (2013) stated, the tensions between the British and the French manifested, and originated in the Foreign Office's fear that France was too strong and Germany too weak after the definite defeat of the Germans, which led the British to seek to balance the scales of power on the Continent with every occasion. In the short run, it was undoubtedly correct that France was the dominant military force in Europe and that Germany underwent a much too harsh treatment, but it turned out disastrous in the long term as the British leaders failed to see the real threat to the safety of the British Islands. When the time came to define a policy towards Central and Eastern Europe, most British politicians of the 1920s had the same view as Lloyd George that the boundaries of this part of the Continent were defective. Thus, to the government in London, the treaties of the Paris Peace Conference were neither sacrosanct nor final.

There was instability and unreliability in the newly emerged states, that were enlarged territory, while resentment and the spirit of revenge smoldered in Austria, Hungary, and Bulgaria. It did not bring a change in Great Britain's attitude towards Germany that the Nazis rise to power. After all, Adolf Hitler had become Chancellor on the legal path. In Great Britain, there was no trace of fear towards Germany. Conversely, immediately after Hitler's rise to power the fear that Germany might collapse was greater than the thought it would wage an offensive war. (Arhire, 2013).

As mentioned in Clayton (1986), The Committee of Imperial Defense restated the Ten Year Rule in its ultimate shape in 1928, with the presence of representatives of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and reconfirmed without restraint in 1929. The impacts of the Depression, the tendency in Germany, the intention of Japan to get Manchuria, actualities in

Shanghai, and the fragility of the League supplied the political uncertainty. Military fears emerged from Britain's evident incapability in the Far East with Hong Kong and Singapore feeble defended and Trincomalee not defended at all. It was obvious that the China navy was incapable to armor the British situations until the main navy arrived was evident. Nonetheless, he adds that Britain preserved the Rule and had great hopes on the 1932 Geneva Disarmament Conference; in March 1932 the Rule was thrown but with conditions that eliminated any raised protection expense and its impacts were of course to last until late 1933, after the German retreat from the League and the Geneva Conference. (Clayton, 1986).

In late 1933, as Clayton (1986) stated, a review of Britain's preparedness was begun by a Defense Requirements Committee (DRC) of officials and Service Chiefs of Staff, at first a secondary committee of the CID but shortly to take significance, under the leadership of Sir Maurice Hankey. The Committee estimated the risks as an instant menace from Japan but a much more serious longer-term menace from Germany, with the protection of India as the third preference. For the rest of the decade, as Clayton (1986) added, the priority of British governments was the stress on the threat from Germany. The DRC both analyzed the protection necessities accurately and with a praiseworthy measure of the inter-service deal. Consecutive governments, although, highly decreased the committee's guidance or distorted them for causes of political expediency in the favour of one Service, generally the RAF, and not in the favour another, ordinarily that on any Continental committee for the Army.

The idea that Italy and Germany can not ally was reinforced by the French-Italian agreements of January and April 1935. In fact, the exaggerated reaction of Germany over the surrounding was Britain's fear. In addition, accordingly, Britain signed the Anglo-German Naval agreement, after only some discussions with France. The pact was seen as a helpful card by Britain, more than the French - Italian rapprochement. When Germany was planning for military expansion, Britain's only response was the RAF expansion in 1935. (Clayton, 1986).

The second half of 1935, as Clayton (1986) stated, witnessed the Ethiopian crisis and adding a possible enemy which is Italy; the hardness of gathering powers, stores, and ammunition he gave the Chiefs of Staff some fearful ideas into the eroding capacities during the 15 years ago. These fears had increased when Britain was not certain of French support in case of conflict with Italy. The more pragmatic British ministers started to agree that both disarmament and League of Nations collective security were sterile and that the rearmament was inevitable; they agreed that peace and security can not be ensured after January 1939, which was also the Foreign Office view. These thoughts were confirmed when Germany attack the Rhineland in March 1936.

Clayton (1986) stated:

Politically the easy view was taken that the reoccupation constituted only a qualified, and not a flagrant breach of the Locarno treaty and French reactions were unreasonable; and also that, faced with the new European challenges, an accommodation with Japan must be reached. This in practice meant accepting the Japanese attack on China later in 1937 with little more than measures to protect British trading privileges. (p.256)

Conclusion:

This chapter presented the history of the British Empire, mainly its emergence and rise. It reviewed the expansion and dominance of the British Empire during the 18th and 19th centuries. We also saw that it is so important to state the causes of the expansionist movement that was economic in origin and had nothing to do with politics. The chapter also gave a glance at how the independent colonies constructed the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is also of utmost importance to shed light on the British foreign policy and relation to serve the smooth transition from the content of this chapter and the second one that is going to deal with the Second War World.

Chapter TWO

The Second World War

Chapter Two: The Second World War

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Introduction

Series of worldwide crises, both politically and economically, led to a highly destructive world war. Principally, First World War left the question of the world's dominating powers unresolved. The unstable and tense situations it left behind, as well, paved the way and set the foundation for a more universal and devastating war, that is World War II. The latter was one of the most crucial events of the twentieth century. A historical review is the focus of our research second chapter. The chapter presented the main events in Second World War. It starts with an overview of the war, presenting views and about its universal and harsh nature and the various conflicts, the war witnessed. The chapter proceeds then to highlights the main origins and causes of the war, that were resulted from first world one, and led then to the Spanish Civil War and Nazi dictatorship. Finally, it provides the two major steps of declaration of the war, that is, invasion of Poland and invasion of the Soviet Union.

2.1. An Overview of World War Two

Many researchers consider Second World War the most extended war ever, which involved many countries from all over the world. As Ross (2003) stated, the Second World War was the most widespread and destructive conflict in history. It was different in both scope and scale than any war the world has ever known. It was indeed all around the world, containing more countries, more people – especially civilians – and a much more vast area of the planet's surface than any other war. Royde-Smith (1998) mentioned that World War II was the most brutal, and the largest collision in history. Both World War I, World War II produced the ugliest scenes of the 20th-century.

After First World War, all countries developed their war technology: planes, tanks, atomic bombs, and radars. According to Ross (2003), technological developments made Second World War the first total war, particularly the development in the aircraft industry. Royde-Smith (1998) also stated between 1918 and 1939, the aerial technology of war had been completely changed

from its roots. As the size, speed, and range of the military aircraft had been developed. Ross (2003) added that states in the front line, such as Germany, Britain, and Japan, were obliged to divert every available resource, human, moral, and material, into the war effort. The bomber and the missile threatened the people's safety while the parachutist and swiftly moving armoured column enabled military commanders to strike deeper and faster than ever before.

Unlike First World War, WWII was more complicated and extended since conflicts were outspread in almost all over the world. This is overtly said by Ross (2003), “the Second World War was much more complicated”. (p. 8). The war spread out all over Europe, the Pacific, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, and even reached North America and mainland Australia. Beginning in the Far East in 1937, with Japanese – the only Asian industrial power– declared war against China, various conflicts started in various places at various periods. Countries, such as Italy, changed sides. It, with Germany, announced a Rome-Berlin alliance (the Axis) in 1935 that thereafter, during the Japanese war against China, included Japan as well (the U.S. Army Campaigns of World War II, 1992). The war in Europe ended in May 1945, while that in the Far East lasted for a further three months. In the words of Royde-Smith (1998), “Second World War was a conflict that involved virtually every part of the world, and Europe was not the only theatre of the war.” (n.p)

The world's great powers formed two opposing military alliances. On the one hand, as have been just mentioned, Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan allied to form the ‘Axis’. On the other hand, Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, France, and China formed the ‘Allies’. As the war proceeded, other countries joined both sides according to their interests. Rothwell (2001) expresses the pivotal universal serious impact these countries caused saying, “the actions done by a narrow group of countries were of a great importance and must have the major attention.”(p.1).These states became locked in a contest for political supremacy in which economic considerations were, to an important extent, rationalizations (Rothwell, 2001).According to Royde-Smith (1998), the principal belligerents were the Axis powers—

Germany, Italy, and Japan—and the Allies—France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China.

2.2. Origins and Causes of World War Two

The destruction left after WWI was so horrible that an agreement to end the war became a necessity. However, this agreement was meaningless and could not find satisfying solutions to world problems. In fact, matters went worse than before and the new situations led to a more catastrophic war – WWII –Actually, the results of WWI, which led to much depression and tenseness around the world, set up the groundwork for the fall of democratic institutes and paved the way to WWII. The causes of WWII are numerous and can be summarized to the following: the impact of the Treaty of Versailles after WWI, the world’s economic depression, failure of appeasement, the rise of militarism in Germany and Japan, the rise of dictatorship, and the failure of the League of Nations

2.2.1. Treaty of Versailles

The treaty of Versailles that was resulted in the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 was an attempt to establish world order and decide the future of Germany. It was held by the victorious Allies to negotiate the peace terms of the defeated nations. The treaty imposed a series of harsh terms on Germany that was forced to sign it. Despite the objection raised by Germany, France had taken its revenge and Germany lost overseas colonies and deprived of having a large army (Reynold, 2016, pp. 9-10). It was forced to accept guilt for the war under the notorious ‘war guilt clause’ and pay reparations. In fact, Germany was unfairly treated and could not be blamed to try regaining its status (Catherwood, 2014 & Lloyd, 2001).

2.2.2. The Great Depression

Another serious situation that led to the outbreak of WWII was the so called ‘Great Depression’ or the ‘Economic Depression’. It was a period that witnessed severe economic difficulties that started in the late 1920s and lasted until the late 1930s. In this time, economies reduced, trade is shrink, businesses locked, prices fell, banks flopped, and unemployment

increased. This new catastrophic situation was exploited by dictator leaders to reach their tyrannical ambitions and to take control of government. Those leaders, such as Adolf Hitler in Germany, Benito Mussolini in Italy, and Hirohito in Japan, promised reparations and restoration of prosperity and power. They soon gained absolute power and took control of all sectors of their countries' governments, and soon after their people's lives as well. They started their planned expansionist movements that led to the outbreak of WWII.

2.2.3. The Rise of Militarism and Totalitarianism in Germany, Japan, and Italy

In the West, we have always the idea that World War II was a 'good war', a moral campaign against oppression, Japanese imperialism and European fascism. (Catherwood, 2014).

For the above mentioned reasons and after WWI, all totalitarian and military forms of government dominated Germany, the Soviet Union, Japan, and Italy. These governments looked for regaining prosperity that was lost due to the results of WWI and, hence, expansion to reach that goal. However, of course, being dictators on their standards, those were so tyrannical even with their citizens and accepted no opposition of other parties except theirs.

Germany was severely affected by this depression with a crisis of unemployment. To resolve their problems, a powerful political ruler was what people want. Thus, in 1933, Adolf Hitler, the leader of the 'National Socialist' also known as the Nazi Party, promised to restore German wealth and power and became the leader of Germany (Catherwood, 2014). Nazi ideology spread among Germans due to its racist beliefs; it persuaded Germans that they were a 'master race' and they were superiors over others. Following Nazism, Germans believed that they were betrayed by Jews and other 'traitors' in WWI, and thus, grew on their hatred of Jews (Chapter 24, the World War II Era).

Immediately after being chancellor, Adolf Hitler began secretly to build up Germany's army. Soviet Communism preceded Nazism's domination over Germany in 1929. Both trends made Germany and the Soviet Union totalitarian states, where a single party took control of government (ibid). Mindlessly, Britain and France thought that the power of Germany could

eradicate the expansion of communism from Russia (ibid) but Hitler surprised them as his troops entered Rhineland in France, Austria, and Czechoslovakia in 1936. The two countries were not ready to go to war against Germany. At that time, the latter made its alliance with Italy and Japan 'the Axis' since both countries, i.e., Japan and Italy, were hit badly, as the Germans, by the economic depression.

As Germans resorted to Hitler and his Nazism to get rid of their economic crisis, Japanese people resorted to the army to find solutions that the government failed to reach. This was the cause behind Japan invasion of China as previously mentioned. Japan needed natural resources to restore its industrial power. Although, the League of Nations intervened to stop Japan, the latter ignored and continued its occupying plans into other areas of interest. Those areas include Korea, Southeast Asia, and Vietnam, what made its expansion opposed to the United States concerns about its territories in Asia. Thus, Japan feared that the U.S. would threaten its expansion plans and attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the spark that lit, then, the war in Asia in December 1941.

The situation in Italy was not different from that of Germany and Japan. After the economic depression, Benito Mussolini took the responsibility of restoring prosperity , thus he gained the acceptance of Italians. Then he made Italy the world's first Fascist country. Fascism is a political system known for undisputed loyalty to the leader. Mussolini was so totalitarian leader and ended all forms of freedom.

2.2.4. The Failure of Appeasement

As German began its aggressive expansions, Britain and France recognized that the Treaty of Versailles was unjust to Germany and Hitler's strategies were explained. Therefore, British and French politicians tried to rectify and calm down the situation so as Hitler would abandon his horrible plans. However, this was far to reach. The attempts to repair were known as the 'policy of appeasement'. During the 1930s, as mentioned in Catherwood (2014), Britain followed this policy to give Hitler reasonable demands to avoid conflict with him. Meanwhile, Britain could

build its armament. The Munich Agreement of September 1938 was an example of this policy (Gluckstein, 2012). According to this pact, Britain and France gave Germany the right to seize territories in Czechoslovakia where German-speakers lived. While Germany accepted not to conquer the rest of Czechoslovakia or any other country, but later on Germany broke the agreement. It invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939 and then, Poland in September 1939 (the U.S. Army Campaigns of WWII, 1992). War against Germany was announced by Britain and France immediately after the second invasion and WWII began.

2.2.5. Failure of the League of Nations

The League of Nations was an international organization founded in 1919 by means of the Treaty of Versailles to keep world peace. It was created by the Allies and considered to be a post-war political settlement that would allow nations to ally with each other (McDowall, 1989). Countries are meant to be members and to solve their conflicts peacefully without using violence. The League did not involve all countries, and it had not enough power to eradicate military attacks such as Italy's attack of Ethiopia or Japan's conquest of Manchuria. (Catherwood, 2014).

The League of Nations was a good idea to preserve peace and make a balance of world powers, but finally a failure. Not all countries joined the league and the League had no army and enough power to prevent military aggression such as Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in Africa or Japan's invasion of Manchuria in China (FCPS HS Social Studies © 2014). In fact, members of the League accepted to honour and maintain the frontiers and regions of all other members. However, as mentioned in McDowall (1989), although it was a member of the League, Italy attacked Ethiopia in 1935. Italy's alliance was eagerly wanted by both the UK and France against Hitler, as a result they did not want to interfere in Italy's case. In addition, it could not oppose Hitler's tyranny. In this vein, Catherwood (2014) stated,

It was all very easy to oppose Hitler, and morally the right thing to do; but with no weapons and a League of Nations which had no teeth, effective opposition to the growing threat of Nazi Germany was therefore, to all intents and purposes, non-existent. (p. 11)

The Allies failure to use the League's power had dangerous effects. The fact that Britain and France did not care about the League's codes, was considered by Italy's Fascist leader, Benito Mussolini, and Hitler. Britain and France had not the willingness to follow the standards of the League (McDowall, 1989). Therefore, the League could not forbid WWII.

2.3. The Course of Second World War

2.3.1. Spanish Civil War

If we are to accept the hypothesis that WWII was a true fight for democracy against fascism, it is then logical to recognize, as Gluckstein (2012) stated, The war against the Nationalist General Franco's rebellion was the true beginning of the Second World War, and not as it is known that it started in Poland in 1939. As the editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica mention, the Spanish Civil War started precisely on July 17, 1936. It was started after the Republicans' rebellion against Nationalists had failed. Nationalists were under the leadership of General Francisco Franco, they launched the civil war as a strong reaction to the rebellion. However, allied authorities did not use weapons yet, thus this is not considered to be the starting point. (Gluckstein, 2012).

According to Gluckstein, it was clear that Franco was linked to fascism and Nazism, but he was considered a military character rather than a fascist ruler following Italy or Germany. The editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica state that both Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany gave help to the Nationalists. Whereas, the Soviet Union and participants from Europe and the United States helped the Republicans. Gluckstein added that without the interference of Hitler to export fighters from Morocco using his Junkers 52 transport planes, the rebellion will not be launched. Mussolini provided Spain quickly with planes, arms, and ships.

Even when Franco stated that his motion is ‘not exclusively fascist’, he nevertheless confessed that fascism was the ‘inspiration of the new State’. Nationalists repeated the Nazi slogan “Ein Reich, ein Staat, ein Führer”, which means one empire, one state, one leader to substitute the Spanish equivalent “One fatherland, one state, one caudillo” (Gluckstein, 2012).

Moreover, as Gluckstein coined, one Falangist admitted: “The repression in the nationalist zone was carried out in cold blood, purposefully and methodically” (p.15). In the city that gave up without resistance, Malaga, 4,000 were shot in one week. This process was so extreme and violent; 300,000 people lay dead when the conflict ended on 1 April 1939. Spain was utterly exhausted so it did not enter the war and stayed formally neuter. The standard model of army versus army was not confirmed by the Spanish Civil War, but it was a war of army versus revolution. The people's war was not only against the Nationalists, but also against the elected Republican authority.

Gluckstein also stated that the struggle that started in 1936 was also a world war. The working class was not the only who fought against Franco, Hitler and Mussolini, but also the International Brigades, which included almost 32,000 soldiers from 53 different countries.

Still, the future Allies of the Second World War did not need the people's war that was anti-fascist. France and Britain promoted a Non-Intervention Committee, rather than standing with the democratically elected authority. It was supposed that both sides in Spain are denied weapons and combatants by agreement of all European countries. (Gluckstein, 2012).

Additionally, Gluckstein mentioned that, when the principles were not applied by Italy and Germany, they were not stopped. This was because even before 1936 the British foundation had deduced that in Spain, as Gluckstein wrote: “the foundations of civilization are being undermined [because] the revolution is beginning ...” (p.17). Popular Front government had been elected by France in 1936 under Blum who wanted to help the Spanish Republic. However, his fear was not only from domestic right-wing forces; but also from Hitler, so he wanted Britain

to be an ally. Blum initiated the non-intervention process, alerted of 'strong pro-rebel feeling in the British Cabinet'.

Since the USA Neutrality Law was not applied to civil war, it could have sold arms to the Republic. However, Washington declared that, as Gluckstein said, it would: 'of course, scrupulously refrain from any interference whatsoever in the unfortunate Spanish situation'. (p.18). It was suggested that he regretted his assisting policy to Franco and his dabbling in a failed project to send secret military provisions. Nevertheless, practically, to discourage support to the Republic, everything was done (Gluckstein, 2012).

In the Spanish Civil War, civilians were bombing big cities, and it was the first fought in Europe doing this. Spain's first 'photogenic' war in history was made by the new photo-journalism, which transmitted also pictures of the large numbers of political refugees that the conflict created (Graham, 2005).

The editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica state that the Spanish Civil War ended on March 28, 1939, when the Republican armies began to give up, and the Nationalist forces took up Madrid on that day. (Spanish Civil War, 8 June 2021).

According to History.com editors and the editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, million lives were lost in the Spanish Civil War during only three years, it was a terribly bloody civil war and the most devastating conflict in Spanish history (Spanish Civil War breaks out, 8 June 2021).

2.3.2. Nazi dictatorship

Nazism may be the most prominent side in WWII to the extent that the war was called the war of Hitler. Even you ask someone who knows the minimum about the world's history about WWII, he will mention Hitler and his aggressive and tyrannical actions. According to Trueman (2015), Dictatorship demands just one person or one party controlling the nation in an atmosphere of fear, and with the absence of personal freedom. This was what happened in Germany 88 years ago. On January 30th 1933, Hitler was appointed as a chancellor; he had

powers more than the previous politicians did. When the German president Hindenburg died in August 1934, Hitler played the role of both chancellor and president.

Duggan (2021) states that Second World War was called Hitler's war. In the first two years, Germany proves its success that Hitler was near to achieve his goal of establishing dominance in Europe.

Thus at that time, there was one man who ruled all elements of German power, Adolf Hitler. Hitler, according to Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin (2014), often took a long time to discover the answer or solutions deep within himself, and then he made decisions. He typically failed to share his decision making with others. We need to comprehend Hitler's complex mind, in order to understand the decision. Research supposes that Hitler's character was influenced by, as it is mentioned by Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin:

- Sad childhood, his mother and brothers died young, he had inebriated father.
- Failure as a painter.
- Need for order, combined by the close to disorder of the republic.

As Gompert, Hans, and Linn mentioned, in order to achieve loyalty, consensus, and consent, the German society was constituted at the time. Those closest to Hitler or the führer as he was famous, were the most afraid of this threatening character. From 1934 to 1941, Hitler's life was threatened to be assassinated more than twenty times.

2.3.3. Invasion of Poland

Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin mentioned that 1939 was the beginning of an attempt to transform Hitler's vision into a savage plan, called 'Generalplan Ost' by him and his Schutz staffel (SS), this plan called for the racial reordering of Eastern Europe, including Russia. It stated teamwork and murder of Slavs to form area for Germany's population, which might increase. (Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin, 2014). Stephen Fritz concludes, as Gompert, Binnendijk and Lin wrote, this plan "was anticipated and was directly linked to the so-called Final Solution" (n.p). However, it was not the right time to attack Russia.

Hitler would take the coveted Polish territory as an advantage of shared interest with Stalin. Their predecessors had controlled Polish territory for quite a century however was relinquished because of World War I (Gompert, Binnendijk and Lin, 2014). In August of 1939, in order to find a common purpose, both Hitler and Stalin set aside their ideological and nationalist differences (ibid). Both of them set up a five-year mutual nonaggression pact that was contained in the ‘Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact’ or the so-called the ‘Nazi– Soviet Pact’. The latter was a secret protocol that secretly divided Poland between Germany and Russia (Gluckstein 2012, & Gompert, Binnendijk and Lin, 2014). This gave, as Catherwood (2014), Hitler ‘carte blanche’ to conquer Western Europe and also the part of Poland allotted to him, “in the sure knowledge that he would only have to fight a single front war” (p. 21). In September 1939, Germany attacked Poland, and weeks later, the Soviet Union also attacked Poland.

Mędykowski (2018) states that Schleswig-Holstein began the war on September 1, 1939, at 4:45 a.m., on Westerplatte, using the cruiser. Cities and military facilities were begun to be bombed by German aviation. The German army attacked Poland, offensive from three directions in the same time: “from the north: Pomerania, the west: Prussia, and the south from the territory of Slovakia.” (p. 5). A set of damaging actions were prepared by the Germans before the attack.

History.com editors mention that Second World War began when German forces, under the leadership of Hitler reveal, invaded Poland on land and from the air. The German invasion of Poland was the first step to gain hegemony in Europe (Germany invades Poland, 8 June 2021). According to United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Germans justify the invasion of Poland that, Poland wanted to attack Germany. As a result, Hitler launched a defensive attack (Introduction to the Holocaust, 8 June 2021). Poland stayed under German control for six years until 1945. On September 17, 1939, and after sixteen days of the German invasion of Poland, Soviet forces invaded Poland from the east. Both Germany and the Soviet Union, signed an agreement, German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact in Moscow, to invade Poland and divide it between them in Germany's favour.

2.3.4. Invasion of the Soviet Union

Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin (2014) state that the existing tensions between Germany and the Soviet Union were highly increased by the new proximity between them. In November 1939, Stalin met, in his invasion of Finland, unexpectedly fierce resistance from Republic of Finland, making the effect of Soviet military fragility. In April 1940, in the three Baltic states (Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania), Soviet military bases were created, in June Bessarabia and Bukovina were occupied by Stalin in his reinforcement of his important situation against Germany, and Hitler realised it.

Meantime, German Nazi was obliged to affect his Western Front. Responding to German's attack of Poland, France and Britain announced a war. In 1940, Hitler reacted through the conquest of Norway, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and lastly France. Blitzkrieg avoided the Maginot Line, and France surrendered on June 22. (Gompert, Binnendijk and Lin, 2014).

The Battle of England lasted from July 10 to October 31, 1940. As Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin mentioned, British naval was given the advantage, the requirement of a complete air supremacy was what the German admirals asked Hitler for, before starting the amphibious attack. British and German aircraft were equal in number, but Britain achieved superiority having radar. As of September, the Luftwaffe's concentration became on exploding British towns rather than air management. As a result, The Royal Air Force gained victory, and Hitler lost the Battle of Britain.

Gompert, Binnendijk and Lin state that Hitler wondered if they were ready for the attacks on Britain and plans for invasion, thinking that Britain would finally agreed a truce. After his setback in conquering Britain, Hitler returned to his most wanted objective. He believed that the British hoped Russia would be in their side; hence, they were continuing to fight. Ergo, if Russia were defeated, Britain would capitulate. Now he said as Gompert, Binnendijk and Lin stated, "The road to London ran through Moscow". (p.83).

As Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin mention, historians argued whether Operation Barbarossa was an opportunist's practical decision or “the fruition of a long espoused ‘programs’ for eastern expansion”. Operation Barbarossa final timetable was finalised on June 6. German troops, with the help of forces from the Italian Republic, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Republic of Croatia, crossed the frontier at 3:00 a.m. on June 22.

General Georgy Zhukov launched a counteroffensive on December 6, 1941. The next day, Pearl Harbor was struck by Japan, and soon Germany and the United States became at war. The possibility of a great war on two fronts was what Hitler encountered. The Battle of Stalingrad, (August 1942 - February 1943) was a crucial Russian victory, with a almost two million victims. Friedrich Paulus’s Sixth Army was surrounded and, when unsecure attempts to cut, given on February 2, 1943. Many historians consider this the major turning point of the war in the European theatre. The German fall back started. (Gompert, Binnendijk and Lin, 2014).

Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin state that Hitler believed that he could learn lessons from Napoleon’s errors, so he studied Napoleon’s campaign. However, he learned the wrong lessons. Unlike Napoleon, who sent his forces all together at once, Hitler split his army into three lines of attack, which suffered failure. In addition, Hitler thought that Napoleon had to stay and fight till the end rather than retreating. Thus, when the Soviets counterattacked, the dictator demanded his forces not to stop fighting, resulting huge losses. Hitler was careless about a serious lesson of Napoleon’s failure, the effect of weather. Instead, winning a short war made him think that he avoided winter. German army froze, due to Hitler ignorance of weather impact.

The course of World War II was completely modified in 1941, after two wrong decisions, one in Tokyo and the other in Berlin. One of the Axis powers invaded the Soviet Union, while another invaded the United States. Each decision, produced individually, resulting an astonishing attack on a strong nations with strategic position. In both cases, the Axis power overestimated the effect of their attack, and underestimated the power of the opponent (Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin, 2014)

Gompert, Binnendijk, and Lin added that both decisions were made taking into account only the short-term victory and without accurate estimation of the potential results. Once the Soviet Union and therefore the US each accessed the war, it absolutely was solely a matter of time before Hitler and Hideki TojoEiki fail.

On June 22, 1941, and precisely at dawn, Nazi Germany began its sudden attack on the Soviet Union. Arad (2009) states that the attack was conducted from four directions: Army Group North attacked through the Baltic States (Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania), and its target was Leningrad. From the northwest, this drive was supported by Finnish forces that joined the attack on Leningrad. Army cluster Centre attacked through the Republic of Belarus, with the capital of the Russian Federation as its chief objective; Army cluster south attacked through the country within the direction of the capital of the Ukraine and Kharkov. The Eleventh Army, along with the Romanian army, attacked via Bessarabia, on the northern coast of the Black Sea, its objectives being Odessa and therefore the Crimean terra firma. A few days before the invasion, and precisely on June 16, Joseph Goebbels wrote in his diary: “The Führer estimates that the operation will take about four months. I reckon on less. Bolshevism will crumble as a set of cards.” (Cited in Arad, 2009).

Royde-Smith mentions that Hitler designed for a great campaign against USSR. Operation Barbarossa or Operation Fritz are code names for the German attack on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. German forces failed to defeat Soviet forces due to winter.

Conclusion

As far as Second World War is concerned, this chapter gave a thorough review of the war detailing all of its dimensions. The chapter presented a general overview of the war mentioning its nature and importance in shaping today’s world. It detailed the circumstances under which the war started and presented the causes that gave rise to the war. The disastrous situation left after WWI deserved careful attention in our research due to its significant role, as a fertile land, in creating instability and tenseness and hence promoting the division into two opposing sides,

based on shared interests. An event like the economic depression caused by WWI was of great importance in the background of the war as it was exploited by greedy dictators to step towards the top. Those dictators, such Hitler and others, promised reparation and persuaded the nervous people of their countries bright future. This gave rise to militarism and totalitarianism in those countries, and the failure of settlement attempts to stop them caused the outbreak of WWII. The chapter, as well, reviewed the Spanish Civil War as it was the first fought in Europe against nationalists, and the Nazi dictatorship since Hitler was the most prominent devastating character in the war. Finally, the chapter provided the actual declaration of war in two steps: invasion of Poland by both Germany and Soviet Union, and invasion of Soviet Union itself by Germany.

Chapter Three

The Price Paid by British Empire for the Second World War

Chapter Three: The Price Paid by the British Empire for Second World War

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Introduction

This chapter focuses on identifying the role of the British Empire in the Second World War. It provides a glance of the British Empire's alliances and enemies during Second World War. It presents also the British situation, during Second World War, from different aspects. It mentions how the Commonwealth participated in Second World War. In addition, the chapter shows how the education was in wartime. It provides also the impact of the World War 2 on British Empire.

3.1. Alliances

It was obvious that the war was not a British war to be only raged by the British. Britain was among many nations and countries who joined the events of those overwhelming worldwide scenes. It participated in the long-term combat hand in hand with France, the Soviet Union, and then later U.S.A. for shared interests. As Turbett (2021) claims, total war was launched across a blending of British bravery and hardness, American money, and, most important, Soviet gore on the battleground. In this vein, we can say that the three countries allied and joined the war to complement each other; each of which participated with what it possessed, and more importantly according to the power, it had over the others.

History.com editors claim that, Paris was invaded by Nazi Germany on June 14, 1940. After just one month of the German storming into France, German forces were highly combating against the French resistance. In addition, Hitler strongly demanded from his army not to surrender Paris to the opponent, Allies, except if it was ruined (Paris is liberated after four years of Nazi occupation, 10 June 2021). The German General Dietrich von Choltitz, started putting explosives June everywhere in Paris, but he refused Hitler's order to destroy Paris. Both Britain and the United States wanted to liberate Paris from German occupation. According to McDowall (1989), they invaded German-occupied France and succeeded in defeating German troops, and Paris was freed on August 25, 1944.

The United States, as it was a strong ally of the British Empire, helped Britain with weapons and arms. According to McDowall (1989), the U. S. and Britain bombed German cities. Germany lastly gave up in May 1945. Britain and the U.S. used their bombing power to destroy Japan. They utilised the atomic bombs in two of the biggest Japanese cities, Nagasaki and Hiroshima. This bombardment caused thousands of victims instantly, and others died from the after-effect. It was a horrible end of the war.

The British Empire as being the world's first economic power, both economically and politically by means of colonization, is believed to be a gain to both The U.S. and the Soviet Union. However, alone its power was not able to withstand in front of fierce German without its strong allies as well since it lacked military power. McDowall stated, the Soviet Union and United States were considered to be Britain's stronger allies. They helped British Empire to defeat Germany. In 1943, German troops were fired out by Soviet forces, while Britain had pushed German and Italian forces out of North Africa.

3.2. Enemies

It is evident that war is always between two opposing sides, in the case of Second World War, the first side was, as it is mentioned before, the 'Allies'. The second side was the 'Axis' powers: Germany, Japan, and Italy. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum claims that, Germany almost dominated all Europe, the Mediterranean Sea was under the Italian dominance, and Japan dominated the region of East Asia and the Pacific Ocean (AXIS ALLIANCE IN WORLD WAR II, 10 June 2021).

According to History.com editors, on July 10, 1940 Luftwaffe, the air forces of Germany, attacked Britain and bombed its cities causing a half million homeless people. Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF), confronted the German air forces in the first air battle in history and achieved great win on the Luftwaffe, on October 31, 1940. McDowall (1989) stated that Germany did a big mistake by invading Soviet Union in 1941, as USSR was a superpower at that time and due to this invasion, it became an important ally to the British Empire against Germany.

In 1942, as Royde -Smith mentions, Japan, as an adversary of British Empire, attacked the British colonies in Malaya (Malaysia), Burma, and India. Soldiers from all the British Empire fought versus Germany, Italy and Japan. This latter invaded Singapore, although it was considered invincible because of having a powerful protection, on February 8 and 9. On February 15, the Japanese forces obliged Singapore to surrender, and it was the fall of Singapore. McDowall claimed that this was the worst surrender in British history as Churchill claimed, as Singapore was the basic British ground in the Pacific. As did Germany, Japan also committed a mistake by invading the United States which became a strong ally to British Empire. So, as we have seen, German was hasty and irrational in its invasions as the latter led to create strong enemies that allied against it. It was really ill-advised and impetuous to put itself in the face of strong powers at once.

According to McDowall, a war was declared on Britain by Mussolini in June, 1940. As it was mentioned before, Italy dominated the region of Mediterranean and North Africa, and Britain was driving out Italian troops from its region. Italy was the first to surrender in July, 1943, when the decline of Axis powers began.

Allies' enemies in Second World War were the Axis powers: Germany, Japan, and Italy. Germany, or "Nazi Germany" as it was known, was the first who launched the war. It attacked Poland, Britain, and the Soviet Union. While Japan attacked Britain's colonies in the Pacific, and it was the responsible of the fall of Singapore. Other Britain's colonies in Mediterranean was attacked by Italy.

3.3. Britain during World War Two from Different Aspects

When appointed in 1940, Churchill who replaced Chamberlain regarded joining the World War as an "act of valor". Standing in the face of German forces were a source of pride to the British nation. (Briggs, 1985).

3.3.1. Militarily

Concerning the British army, in early 1939 it was obviously weak. In the beginning of Second World War, the British Empire had a small, weak army with respect to its enemies. British forces were not ready to war; as a result, it was defeated in almost all confrontation at that time. According to French (2000), the British army suffered from a sequence of defeats in Norway, France, and Greece. British politicians justified those defeats that British Army was not prepared to engage such a war. In 1939/1940, spending money on the Army increased to £ 242.4 million, and money was no longer the problem that Army suffered from.

Moreover, Fennel (2019) stated that in March 1939 Churchill imposed 2 million as a maximum on the force of the Army to guarantee that it did not absorb manpower that would be more needed in industry. However, with rising of American help ammunitions from mid-1941, the maximum was breached and the number of men in that Army continued to increase, reaching 2,920,000 by June 1945. The equilibrium of manpower distribution between the forces and industry during WWII can partly be explained by the more technological, and less manpower-intensive, approach employed by the British armed forces during the war, but the different relationship that existed between citizens and the state also played a role..

According to Fennel again, more than 5.5 million men worked for British forces during WWII, representing 45 percent of all men aged from fifteen to forty-nine in 1939. Home front and industry obtained a bigger part of the country's manpower than WWI. Since 1943, British forces did not lose any confrontation as it gained a great ally on December 8, 1941, i.e. the United States, and the army became stronger.

From another corner, Foster (2005) claimed that Britain exploited its colonies which provide supply stations and bases for the armed troops. For instance, more than 100,000 soldiers passed through West Africa during the war, and countries like Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast (Ghana), and Nigeria were used as significant military bases.

Accordingly, relying on the available information in secondary sources we accessed, the British Empire had as its ultimate goal developing its economics that made its status and pride among nations. Even its expansionist and colonial movement was for trading purposes. It did not use to have such an aggressive and fierce policy like others, such as Germany. This made the British government not eager to promote and develop its military forces. Thus, it was not ready to access the war, especially from the military side. It was still weak and had not enough forces and troops to face countries and attacks in the strength of Germany. However, the situation was no longer a problem for the British Empire. Quickly, the British Empire rectified the situation and strengthened its army. It got benefits from its economical trend; it allocated a great deal of money to finance its military and exploited its colonies to provide the army with men. As a result, Britain's military forces become stronger and ready to face great powers.

3.3.2. Economically

Fennel (2019) stated that Britain was the most developed society at that time. It was ruling almost quarter of the world's surface under its empire which was the largest empire ever. Also, the British and French empires' gross domestic product (GDP) surpassed that of Germany and Italy by 60 percent. In September 1939, Britain and her allies had double, comparing to Germany, production of the coal and moto-car and more than three times the merchant shipping and iron-ore production.

According to Foster (2005), Britain exploited its colonies which provide raw materials, foodstuffs. Essential agricultural supplies of sisal, maize, wheat, tea, sugar, rubber, jute and cotton, came from the colonies. Moreover, although the evolution of industry was forbidden by Britain in its colonies, but it profited of the Empire's iron, steel, manganese, tin, coal, timber, gold and diamonds. Many African colonies were obliged to pay a high economic price. Likewise, India devoted around 80% of its yearly budget serving the war, and the Caribbean islands also paid a heavy economic cost of war.

Since almost all the British manpower was driven to the war, the British economy also was in a critical situation during Second World War. Britain was obliged to ask help from its colonies, they helped her with food and raw materials.

Therefore, this critical economical situation of the British Empire during WWII shows the extent to which the war was great and pricy. In fact, Britain's economic power had been so great that it was difficult to be declined. It needed a force majeure to be affected by loss. Before WWII, Britain was the world's first industrial and economical power but during the war, this strength began to be drained until it had weakened by the end of the war.

3.3.3. Politically

Regarding political context, Fennel (2019) claims that Britain was not united politically when Second World War started. In early 1939, the Conservative Party had political supremacy, as Chamberlain, the Prime Minister, was a member of this party. Chamberlain's situation became insupportable when major disputes started within the country. When Conservative Party quitting Chamberlain, he turned to Labour, but they refused him. As a result, he was obliged to resign and was substituted by Churchill on May 10, 1940. The latter allowed Labour Party to join the war and they agreed. They had two seats in the new five-man War Cabinet and sixteen ministerial positions, while Conservatives had fifty-two. Fennel asserted, at the political level, National Unity had finally been achieved.

Whitelock (2021) claims that Churchill had taken the responsibility of asking the king to resolve the Parliament, elected in 1935. Therefore, he began discussions with the Labour Party, in May, suggesting that Labour stay in the coalition until Japan surrender, an event he rated to be at least 18 months after, But Labour Party insisted to leave. Consequently, Churchill resolved the government on May 23, chose a new, single-party Conservative government, and set poll day for July 5.

In addition, Whitelock states the British voted against Stanley Baldwin and Neville Chamberlain. "At the end Labour won 393 seats, almost double the Conservative total of 213

and far more than it had expected. On July 26, 1945, as soon as the results were clear, Churchill resigned.”

In the early years of the war, the Conservative Party was the leader at that time, as Chamberlain, the Prime Minister was a member of it. When Churchill became a Prime Minister, he gave the chance to the Labour Party. Finally, the unity was achieved in the British policy.

3.3.4. Socially

From 1918 to 1939, as Allport (2015) stated, Britain changed in many ways and it became a very different country. British young people had grown up healthier, wealthier and better educated comparing to their parents. They had become more used to comfort and the pleasures of personal utilization; had had less knowledge with the strictness of traditional discipline; had embraced a rather less class-awareness way to life; and were more doubtful about conventional authority and the wisdom of their elders and betters. Times have changed. Boys have become freer, more democratic in outlook. They no longer lent themselves so easily to obligation. Ian Hay, military writer: “The youth of today is like no other youth that our country has ever known”, (cited in Allport, 2015).

WWII brought positive changes at the level of social structure and national affiliation. In this line, Jose (1992) states Second World War reinforced national unity and social solidarity, and in wartime, administrative ‘collectivism’ and the evolution of the ‘welfare state’ were stimulated.

By the beginning of the war in 1939, the British youth had been very different from their elders. They gave themselves the chance to enjoy life. Although the British Empire was in state of war, but its young people learned the true meaning of life.

3.4. Commonwealth during Second World War

3.4.1. New Zealand

Around 200,000 men and women from New Zealand, as Foster (2005) states, worked in the armed troops in the war. 140,000 of these were sent to the Middle East and Italy to fight in

campaigns there. "In total 11,625 sacrificed their lives during Second World War." (p. 7). The New Zealander participation in the war was significant.

3.4.2. Australia

According to Foster (2005), After excluding menacing advances by the adversary in Europe and the Pacific, by 1942, Australian forces had contributed spectacularly to Allied victories on a range of fights including the deserts of North Africa, the jungles of Papua New Guinea, and the seas of the Pacific Ocean. Additionally, The Royal Australian Navy had a significant role in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean. At the climax of the war, "more than 500,000 served in the armed forces with hundreds of thousands more engaged in munitions, or constructing roads and airfields. In total, Australian battle casualties amounted to 72,814."

3.4.3. Canada

Foster (2005) mentions that "Canada's participation in World War II was spectacular" (p. 7). Helping in every main scene in the war, Canadian forces participated in its events in, for example, Hong Kong, Sicily, Italy, and North Western Europe. During the greatest fear of German attack, Canadian troops had protected Britain, and during Battle for the Atlantic, Canadian naval vessels played an important role. Reynolds (2016) wrote, in the autumn of 1940, "two Canadian divisions served in southern England as part of the front line against possible invasion" (p. 22). Most specially, Canadian troops participated highly in the D-Day landings of June 1944 (the Normandy landings when Allied invaded Normandy and it was the largest seaborne invasion in history). "At its maximum strength in 1943, Canadian armed forces amounted to half a million, of whom 43,000 tragically were killed in combat." (Foster, 2005, pp.7-8).

3.4.4. Africa

African forces also participated in the Mediterranean campaign. "Around 160,000 Africans were forwarded abroad to fight." (Foster, 2005, p. 9). An essential side of the

participation of Africans in the war was the large numbers of people participated for military effort.

3.4.5. India

India's state during is not different from the other Commonwealth countries who were thrown into the war. Foster stated that, by the end of the war, "around 2.5 million Indian men and women were in service and the Indian army, and the Royal Indian Navy had made a worthy contribution to the combined Allied triumph." (p.9). Before the remarkable progress of the Japanese army in 1942, Indian forces were obliged to play supporting roles in Egypt, Malaya, Iraq, the Persian Gulf, and Burma. After 1942, India engaged deeply in the war. "Around 36,000 Indian troops were killed or reported missing in action during the war, and more than 65,000 were injured." (Foster, 2005, p.10). As it is mentioned by Foster, without the support of the Indian army, Britain would not be capable to achieve her many commitments in the Middle East and the Far East.

3.4.6. The Caribbean

The participation of the Caribbean islands (West Indies) could never be the same as the Indian and African contributions. (Foster, 2005). In the early years of the war, Caribbean role was to save the ports, construct military establishments, and secure important places. Although the RAF recruited around 6,000 Caribbean personnel, West Indian forces did not contribute overseas service. The accomplishments of West Indian men and women were not futile.

During the war, as it is mentioned in BBC, troops from the British Commonwealth of Nations, participated in all the main scenes of the war. The Empire did not only provide the war with manpower, but also raw materials and goods to Britain.

According to BBC again, "in wartime the British Empire and Dominions raised a total of 8,586,000 men for military service. More than 5 million came from the British Isles, 1,440,500 from India, 629,000 from Canada, 413,000 from Australia, 136,000 from South Africa, 128,500 from New Zealand and more than 134,000 from other colonies."

The participation of the countries of the Commonwealth and the British colonies in the Second World War was significant and important. They were in Britain's side particularly, and on the Allies' side generally. Especially, India, which without it Britain was completely disabled.

3.5. Education in British Empire during Second World War

WWII brought many changes to children's lives in Britain as in other countries. Their lives were affected detrimentally and their schooling was dispersed. Evacuation policy might be the biggest reason for this disruption. In 1939, as Mayall and Morrow (2020) claim, around two million people were evacuated through the government's voluntary scheme to other places for safety reasons. Accordingly, parents, fearing for their children, sent them to friends and family in safer places while others were evacuated by Children's Overseas Reception Board (CORB). The latter was a scheme adopted by the government, in 1940, by which 2.664 children were sent abroad, but it was stopped when a boat flopped and loosed 73 children. Moreover, some private schools that were located in dangerous areas, sent large groups abroad, while the more common solution at that time was that the whole school move into safer areas, and share with other schools same place. (Mayall and Morrow, 2020, p.73). Schools were requisitioned by government for civil defense, and therefore were closed down, and many others were bombed and damaged in the course of the war.

From the beginning of the war, the state's first focus was children and ensuring to their welfare and health. By 1945, most of schoolchildren had meals and drank milk at school. In January 1941, according to Mayall and Morrow, pre-service training for the air force, navy and army, was established in order to prepare young people. Boys rushed to associate it more than it was expected. Mayall and Morrow mentioned that, the government passed the 1944 Education Act in which education is free for all 5-15 year-olds.

Mayall and Morrow stated that, Churchill did not want an Education Act which states a free education, but schools should be patriotic and children should be encouraged to participate in the war, and that they have a role to play in the war, taking three steps:

- First, using BBC's school broadcasts as key means of contacting children and convince them to join the war.
- Second, making films and movies to encourage children to be patriotic.
- Third, utilizing storybooks because children's literature was important and made children undertake all kinds of patriotic duties to support the war effort.

Briefly, as Lowe (1992) stated, the Second World War caused huge disturbance to the social services in England, specially to the supplying of schooling which was particularly exposed to the effects of the German bombing attacks and which suffered from the beginning from an evacuation program which was specifically intended to reduce the effects of the bombers. The general social disruption caused by the War, allied to the difficulties of keeping schools supplied with basic supplying, resulted in the disruption of an education system which was before the War suffering from underfunding and parliamentary neglect. The increasing realization of a crisis in schooling, allied to a new sense of national solidarity caused by the conditions of war, resulted in a new willingness to seek collective solutions to these social problems, and in particular in a determination to push through educational legislation which would attack the long term problems which had tortured popular schooling. Both the condition of pupils and schools needed to be addressed as matters for politicians. The result was the 1944 Education Act which sought to universalize schooling to the age of 15 and to open up grammar schools to working class pupils.

British learners in the wartime were unstable, there were a lot of evacuations, because of parents' fear, especially during the intensive enemy action. Schools sent their children abroad to safer areas. The British government wanted from children to be patriotic and play a role in the war.

3.6. Impact of Second World War on the British Empire

Briggs (1985) claims that the Second World War was different from the First World War to a great extent. New innovations were used by human beings in the war since the world became developed more and more (primitive computers, radars, bombs, tanks...). Jungles,

deserts, seas and English countryside were often settings to most of the scenes of the Second World War. What made the war terrifying for the whole world, and especially the British, the huge number of casualties. It was only from 1940 to 1941, that 13,339 in London were killed and 17,937 were severely injured (pp. 312-313).

3.6.1. Economic impact

As it is mentioned in BBC, Britain's economy witnessed a disorder during the 20th century, therefore it lost her dominance to the United States. WWII cost Britain and her empire a lot. In 1945, by the end of the war, the country was tired and destroyed. Many British cities had been destroyed by aerial bombardment, and there were deficiencies to reconstruct the country. (Impact of World War Two on Britain's Empire, 12 June 2021).

3.6.2. Ideological impact

According to BBC, WWII was a fight against countries that adopted drastic nationalism and racist concepts. Therefore, British people could not keep thinking of Africans and Asians inferiority in position to white Europeans (Impact of World War Two on Britain's Empire - How Britain Lost an Empire, 12 June 2021). In 1941, Winston Churchill signed the Atlantic Charter. Thus, Britain agreed that nations should not be exhausted by other empires. After 1945, the new United Nations demonstrated concepts of equality and human rights for all people. (Impact of World War Two on Britain's Empire - How Britain Lost an Empire, 12 June 2021).

3.6.3. Psychological impact

As it was stated in BBC, during WWII the British suffered a number of failures. The loss of Singapore to Japanese in 1942 was the most significant one. Japan was one of the weak nations of Asia and incapable to match the power of a white European nation. Losing Singapore, which was an important naval ground, showed to Japan that the British were not unbeatable, and so should not be considered a super power (Impact of World War Two on Britain's Empire - How Britain Lost an Empire, 12 June 2021). This was a significant motivation to nationalist groups in Africa and Asia.

3.6.4. Decolonisation

Based on BBC, Britain should decolonise territories that were highly costing. In 1947, India was given its freedom. In 1948, due to massive troubles in Palestine, Britain retreated from the Middle. However, Britain believed that Africa would help it to rise again as Africa was a source of wealth and trade. (Impact of World War Two on Britain's Empire - How Britain Lost an Empire, 12 June 2021). Thus, after 1945 Britain increased its activities in Africa.

British Empire's participation in Second World War costed it a lot in many aspects. It lost large army forces, and its colonies in Asia and Middle East. After the war, Britain was not a superpower as after First World War, it became subordinate to the United States.

Conclusion

This chapter identified the role of the British Empire in the Second World War as well as the price it paid because of this costly war. It started by giving a glance of the British Empire's alliances and enemies during the war. In this respect, the chapter showed how the British helped their allies especially from the financial corner. The British played a significant role in helping their allies and sharing responsibilities in the war. The chapter presented also the British situation, during the war, from different aspects: militarily, economically, politically, and socially. It asserted the losses of the empire at different levels. The chapter demonstrated as well how important was the participation of the Commonwealth countries and the British colonies in the war, and the extent to which those helped the empire. Finally, this chapter moved to talk about the education conditions that were imposed because of the war. It asserted how hard was the impact of the war on the British Empire.

General conclusion

General Conclusion

Second World War was the most devastating war throughout history. It changed the picture of the world at that time and shaped our present world. The world's great powers were fighting for more power and dominance, and the less powered countries were thrown in the war either to join one of the fighting sides or as a setting for some battles. By the end of this war, some countries arose as the world's new powers – the Soviet Union and the U.S. – while others, like the British, lost their prestige and dominance. The war was really a curse on the British Empire and an issue that deserved research and study.

The British Empire and its involvement in Second World War was a harshly critical issue to discuss. The British Empire had its place in the global war as an event maker and an influencer, however, it cost her an arm and a leg to join this war. The British Empire had some expectations through participating in the world struggle, but her move went to a big failure.

The study investigated that the British Empire had two functions during Second World War, an insignificant weak function, and to a much lesser extent, a significant strong function, supporting the first hypothesis in which that the British Empire participated the war supposing to gain much expansion and power which unfortunately was not achieved.

The British Empire entered the war already defeated, it was not ready to involve in such a war. Although it achieved some success, as in the Battle of Britain, it can be said that it left the Second World War as a loser despite the Allies victory. Britain was looking for gaining more power, and it was unaware that this war would be its end. The war unfortunately ended the empire that took the British a long time to establish and develop.

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الملخص :

لقد عرف تاريخ البشرية العديد والعديد من النضالات من أجل السلطة والهيمنة. كانت الحرب العالمية الثانية (1939-1945) واحدة من أكثر الصراعات أهمية على مدار التاريخ ، والتي شكلت معالم عالمنا اليوم. نظرًا لأن الإمبراطورية البريطانية كانت الإمبراطورية الأكثر هيمنة في ذلك الوقت ، فمن المهم تحديد دورها في الحرب. تهدف الدراسة إلى تحديد الثمن الذي دفعته الإمبراطورية البريطانية في هذه الحرب الكارثية. الدراسة التي بين أيدينا هي بحث تاريخي نوعي. يعتمد بحثنا على البيانات المأخوذة من مصادر ثانوية ، أي المعلومات المستعملة المأخوذة من كتب التاريخ ومقالات مواقع الويب والمقالات الصحفية والموسوعات. يتم وصف البيانات وتحليلها باستخدام طريقة وصفية تحليلية. من خلال وصف الأحداث التاريخية والأوضاع أثناء الحرب وقبلها مع تحليل البيانات المتاحة ، تبحث الدراسة في التكلفة الباهظة التي دفعتها الإمبراطورية البريطانية في الحرب والدور المهم الذي لعبته في جوانب مختلفة أثناء الحرب. كانت الحرب كبيرة لدرجة أن الإمبراطورية جندت جميع مستعمراتها وبلدان الكومنولث البريطاني ، التي كانت متورطة بشكل كبير في زمن الحرب. بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، استنزفت الحرب القوة الاقتصادية والمهيمنة للإمبراطورية لتصبح أضعف على الرغم من انتصار الحلفاء في الحرب ضد المحور. بحلول نهاية الحرب ، بدأت أكبر إمبراطورية في العالم في الانهيار.

كلمات مفتاحية : الإمبراطورية البريطانية, الحرب العالمية الثانية, الكومنولث , الحلفاء , دول المحور.