

World-Famous
WARS
AND BATTLES



PUSTAK MAHAL, DELHI



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WARS
AND
BATTLES

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Foreword

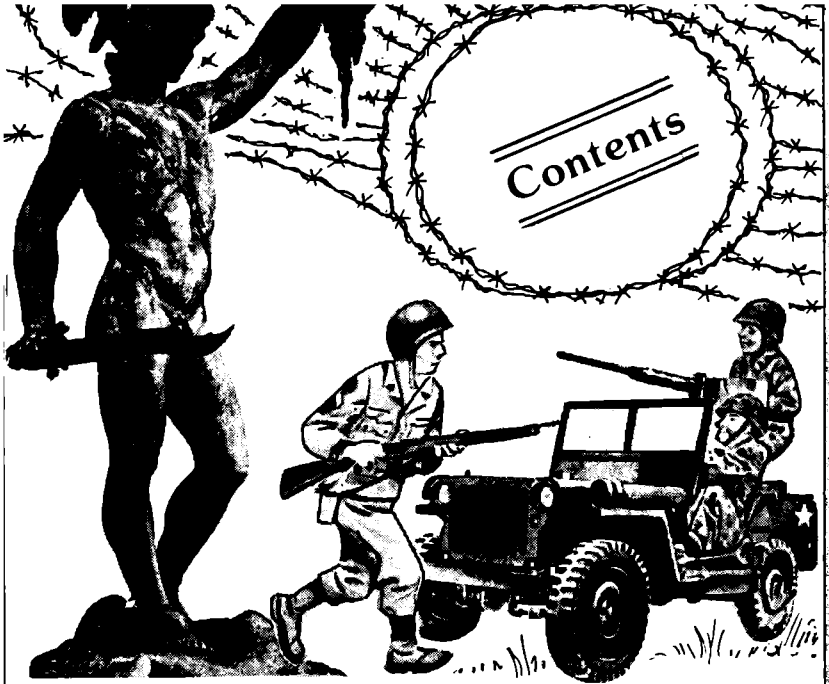
The constantly increasing demand, appreciative 'reviews' in various leading newspapers and magazines, unending stream of good wishes letters from the readers—all these combine to prove the unquestioned popularity enjoyed by our publications. The two basic reasons for this countrywide popularity are—the proper selection of subjects of mass appeal and their beautiful presentation in simple and lucid style.

The objective of 30 volume **World-Famous Series** is to expand the mental horizon of our readers by channelising his knowledge and thought to international happenings.

The present book is a collection of important national and international wars and battles. These wars were fought sometimes for the lust of power and sometimes in the name of religion. The wars have caused destruction on one hand but simultaneously have helped in development of science and technology on the other hand. **World-Famous Wars and Battles** is an interesting treatise comprising 42 wars from sword era to the atomic age. It covers almost all the famous wars and battles at national and international level. To make the book more comprehensive and authentic, rare illustrations and maps have also been added.

The book may be read for 'leisure reading' besides serving the purpose of an authentic book for historical references of wars. We hope it will get a favourable response from our readers.

—**Publisher**



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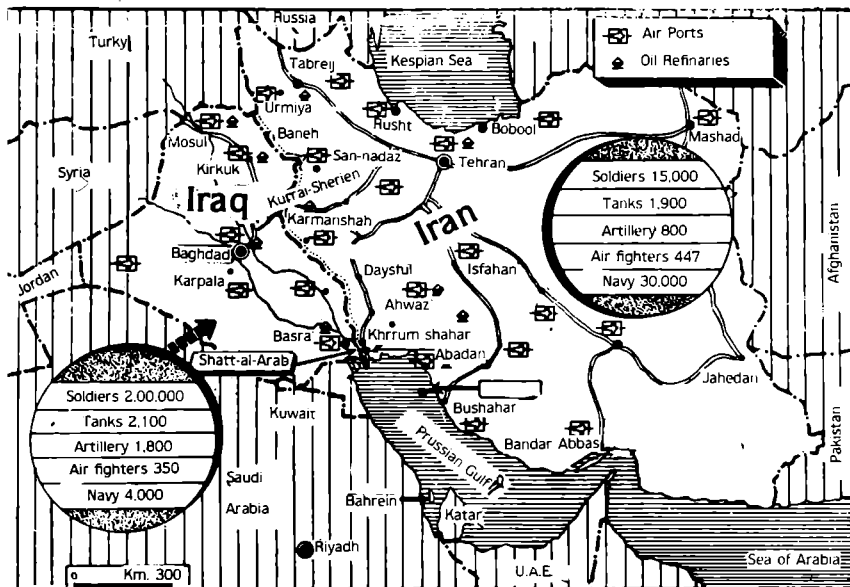
Iran-Iraq War

Date : 22 September, 1980 (Continuing) Place : Iran-Iraq (Persian Gulf)

The abdication and flight of Shah Reza Pahalevi from the country and the return of the Shiite religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini from his exilement in France in 1979 created an atmosphere of internal upheaval and political vacuum in Iran. It seemed as if Iran was on the dangerous precipice of a civil war. Iraq too thought it the most opportune time to settle old scores with Iran. Long standing dispute over borders in the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, Shia-Sunni differences, regionalism etc. compounded together resulting first in minor armed clashes and then escalated into a full-scale war between Iran and Iraq when on 22 September, 1980 Iraq carried air raids on Iran.

TWO issues are at the root of the prolonged Iran-Iraq war—the border dispute and religious rivalries. These issues are not only acting as fuel to this never ending war between the two combatants but have also been mainly responsible for generation of conflict and tension between them.

In 1971, Iran captured some islands from the United Arab Emirates and took them under her occupation. Iraq contended with



Iran the sovereignty of these islands and repeatedly asserted its claim over them. The Shatt-al-Arab strait is another cause of conflict. The 1913 Agreement gave exclusive right to Iraq over Shatt-al-Arab but subsequently, in 1937, Iran also got some concession in this strait. However, the treaty of Algiers (1975) recognised equal rights of Iran and Iraq and settled the border between them in the mid stream of Shatt-al-Arab.

Now Iraq is opposed to both of the above agreements of 1937 and 1975 and wants them abrogated so that pre-1913 situation is restored. The Shatt-al-Arab is of vital importance to Iraq because its chief Commercial port 'Basra' is located there. Iran, on the other hand, dismisses any such Iraqi claim as Iraq occupies only 2% area of the Persian Gulf which gives it no right whatsoever over Shatt-al-Arab. Similarly, Iraq is also putting its claim over the Iranian town Khorramshahr.

The second issue is the religious differences, which is not only more significant than the border one but has also given religious overtone to the persisting Iran-Iraq conflict. It is believed that the present conflict between Iran and Iraq stemmed mainly from the religious controversy. Both are the Muslim countries with the majority of the Shiites. But in spite of the Shia majority in Iraq, it has been traditionally ruled by the Sunnites while Iran has been governed by the Shiites. There are some Parsees and Sunnites also in Iran, but they have got no say in the running of the Government.

Some observers of the Gulf scenario feel that the principal cause of the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war and its being drawn out for so long is the clash of personalities between the two leaders—President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and the supreme religious leader and Chairman of the Islamic Revolutionary Council of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini.

Iran and Iraq had also fought a minor war in 1975, but due to the Syrian mediation a peace treaty was concluded putting an end to the hostilities. Iraq, however, had to pay a very heavy price for signing this treaty. As Syria sympathized with Iran so under the terms of the treaty the part of the Shatt-al-Arab strait over which Iran and Iraq enjoyed equal rights, was put under the exclusive control of Iran. Besides, Saddam Hussein also undertook not to extend any help to the anti-Shah elements in Iran.

Outbreak of War

The Iran-Iraq war broke out on 22 September, 1980 when



Ayatollah Khomeini



Saddam Hussein

Iraqi war planes raided several Iranian air bases. Iraqi forces crossed the borders and made some advances on land occupying Ahwaz and Abadan, the two important Iranian towns. Iraq also established its control over the Shatt-al-Arab and the Hormuz straits. Within a week, Iraq blockaded all the sea routes to Iran cutting off its oil export.

The Iranians also retaliated by heavily bombarding the Iraqi capital Baghdad, Basra and other oil fields and towns. Iraq also suffered tremendously by the Iranian counter-offensive. The people of Iran led by Ayatollah Khomeini resolved to fight the enemy until the complete removal of aggression from their soil.

The intervention of the neighbouring countries further aggravated the Iran-Iraq conflict. While Libya and Syria stood by Iran, the other small countries like Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman etc. lent their support to Iraq. Conspicuously, both the Super Powers i.e. the USA and the USSR maintained an eerie silence. Though Iraq had Russian armament due to traditionally friendly relations between the two countries the Soviet Union was also extending its support to Iraq but there was no open support. The USA, on the other hand, had used Shah Reza Pahalevi as a pawn to contain the rising tide of communism in the Middle East and for this purpose was supplying arms to Iran worth billions of dollars. After the 1979 revolution and the overthrow of the Shah, however, anti-American sentiments ran high in Iran. So the US apparently adopted the posture of neutrality, but

reportedly the US despatched large aid including weapons to Iran through Turkey.

By the 1975 Iran-Iraq treaty that concluded through the Syrian mediation, Iran had promised to extend no help to the Kurds inhabiting the border areas of Iraq. Iran, however, reneged from this promise after the 1979 Islamic revolution which brought Ayatollah Khomeini at the helm of affairs in Iran. Ayatollah started thinking himself to be the sole leader of the entire Muslim World. Iran under Khomeini gave military and economic aid to the Shiites of Iraq to instigate them against the government. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was castigated as a 'Kaffur' (non-believer in Islam) and all the Iranian actions against him were declared as religious in nature. Thus Iraq only retaliated against these hostile postures of Iran.

Present trends and future prospects

This never ending Gulf war poses a serious threat of Super Powers' involvement under certain circumstances. If such an event comes to pass, it will entail serious consequences for the world peace. The oil tankers of USA and her European allies sail through the Hormuz Straits and Iran has held out threats on several occasions to close this waterway for transit shipping. If Iran ever takes such a drastic step, the US is sure to intervene. Going by the nature of international politics, the USSR will also not remain equanimous to this American intervention.

The Iran-Iraq war has entered a phase when both the countries have realised its crippling blow to their economy and social life. Both have also grown weary of carrying on the fighting, even if sporadically, for so many years. Why don't they then agree to a ceasefire? Both desire a ceasefire, but is largely a question of prestige as who takes the initiative. The military might of Iran has suffered considerably after the loss of the American weapons. However, all the forebodings that deprived of American support Iran will collapse under the Iraqi offensive have proved unfounded. At the moment, it is the intransigent attitude of Iran that is blocking the passage to a ceasefire. Iran insists that first the aggressor Iraq should be punished for causing such an enormous loss of life and property to both the countries. According to an American estimate, 1,00,000 Iraqis and 2,50,000 Iranians have so far been killed in this war.

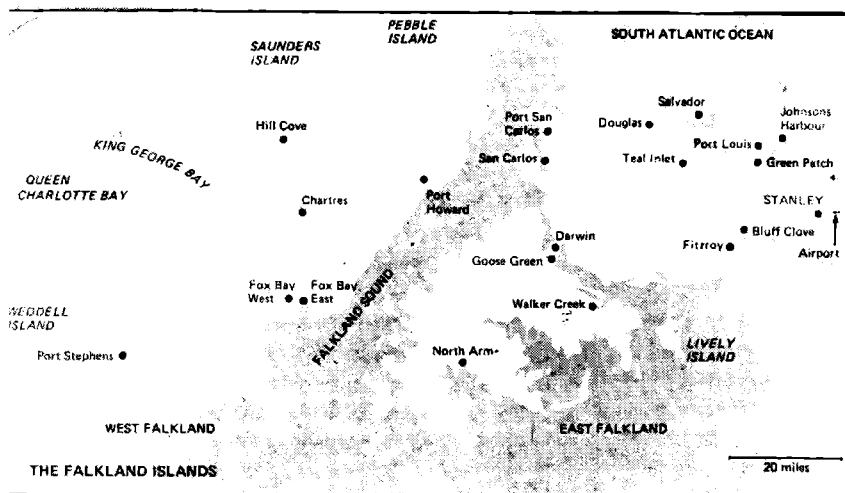
As far as the UN Security Council's efforts to halt the Gulf War is concerned, Iran is insistent on its demand that the Council should first declare Iraq as an aggressor and condemn it. Only then Iran will consider its recommendations.

Falkland War

Date : 1982; **Place :** Falkland Islands (The South Atlantic)

The Falkland War reminded the world of the colonial wars waged in the 19th century. The Falkland Island group has been continuously under the British occupation since 1833, but it is also claimed by Argentina. Argentina's claim rests on the fact that geographically and culturally, Falkland Islands are closer to Argentina than to the distant Britain. But Britain would not like to lose millions of pounds as profit from there. This old dispute between Britain and Argentina over Falkland Islands took a serious turn when the military junta of Argentina sent troops to take Falkland Islands and Britain made a sharp and powerful retaliation....

FALKLAND Islands are located in the South Atlantic, 500 off Argentina. There are over 200 islands in this archipelago. For about the last 150 years, the sovereignty over these islands has been a matter of constant dispute between Argentina and Britain. Argentina has consistently reiterated its claim of sovereignty over Falkland Islands before various International organisations and conferences. However, Britain located at a distance of 12,000 kilometres from Falkland Islands, asserts its colonial supremacy over this island group.



The Argentinian claim appears more tenable as these islands geographically, culturally and historically are closer to Argentina than to Britain. Though 98% population of these islands, inhabited by 2000 souls, hold British citizenship yet they prefer calling themselves 'Kelpers' to the 'British'. Britain wants to retain these islands as her colony, because she earns millions of pounds annually from the abundant oil and natural gas reserves of the islands. The Falkland Oil Company, engaged in the business of inland water transport, remitted 12 million pounds to Britain as profit during the last 30 years. Britain also earned 4.8 million pounds on account of taxation levied on Falkland Islands as a colony.

These are not the only gains. A committee set up in 1976 reported that besides the rich oil and natural gas reserves, St. Georgia (an important island in the Falkland Islands) had vast reserves of protein. It can yield 5 to 8 million tonnes of kelp every year. Kelp fishes are highly rich in protein. Britain, therefore, wants to tap these vast protein reserves as well.

Moreover, this dispute has some political implications. In 1805, while surrendering Port Stanley and the fortress of Falkland to Britain, Spain had entered into an agreement with her. When Falkland Islands were freed from the Spanish rule, Argentina also made her claim over it and thus became a party to the dispute. In 1828, it expelled the British Governor from there and replaced him by appointing its own Governor. In 1833, Britain recaptured Falkland Islands from Argentina with American help and in 1892 proclaimed it as one of her overseas colonies. Since then Falkland Islands have been under the British rule, but Argentina has throughout claimed its sovereignty over them. It has also consistently opposed the British occupation of Falkland Islands at the United Nations, Non Aligned Movement conferences and other international fora. Britain agrees to accept the Argentinian sovereignty over Falkland provided Argentina leases this island group to it for a long term. This British proposal is, however, unacceptable to Argentina. These mutual tussles ultimately exploded into a war.

Outbreak of War

In a sudden move, Argentina with the help of its 4000 naval troops occupied a number of islands including St. Georgia in the Falkland Island group. The Argentinian naval forces also stormed the Falkland capital, Port Stanley, and expelled its British Governor from the city. Britain was caught napping. The British Prime Minister Mrs.

Margaret Thatcher summoned an emergency meeting of the cabinet for deciding measures to meet the Falkland crisis, created by the Argentinian invasion. A British naval task force, led by the warship HMS Invincible, set sail from the Portsmouth the next day. The large British naval and air forces launched a powerful counter-offensive against the Argentinian bases in the Falkland Islands. In retaliation, Argentina torpedoed and sank the nuclear powered British destroyer 'Sheffield'. The British also hit back by sinking the large Argentinian battleship 'General Belgrano' with 368 personnel on board.

By May end, the Argentinian leader General Galtieri realised that any further continuation of war would compel Britain to use nuclear weapons to which Argentina could offer no effective resistance. Contrary to its assurances of help to General Galtieri, the USA supported Britain in this war. It was natural, as Britain was still a great power on the world map while Argentina only a small neighbouring state. Moreover, the internal political and economic conditions of Argentina were also not conducive to the prolongation of the conflict. So on 14 June, the Argentinian Brigadier General Mario Benjamino Menendes surrendered to the British Major General J.J. Moore together with his 11,845 soldiers. Thus ended the 72 days long Falkland War.

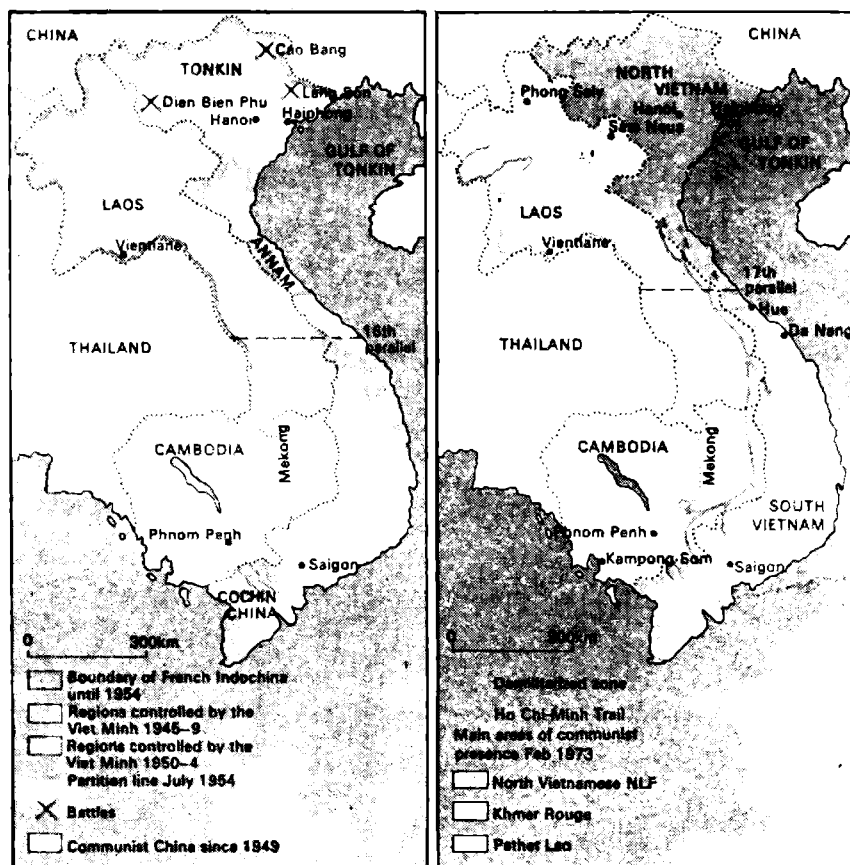
Results

The war proved ruinous for both the countries. It inflicted a shattering blow to the British economy. The British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington had to relinquish his office and the Argentinian leader General Galtieri also met a similar fate. Falkland Islands fell into the possession of Britain again, but the dispute of sovereignty over them still remains unresolved.

Vietnam War

Date : 1954-1976; **Place :** Vietnam (South-East Asia)

There is a small country called the 'Socialist Republic of Vietnam' to the South-East of Asia. It emerged independent in 1954 from its 69 years of colonial subjugation by France only to find itself embroiled into a 22 year bitter war. Vietnam war originated in a civil war that followed the partition of the country into North Vietnam and South Vietnam, but with the involvement of the Super Powers, mainly USA, it conflagrated into one of the greatest wars in the modern history....



THE present unified Socialist Republic of Vietnam emerged as a result of the unification of North and South Vietnam in 1976. The history of Vietnam of 100 years preceding this unification can justly be called a history of intermittent warfare. It dates back to 1867 when France entered Vietnam in the garb of providing protection to the Catholic missionaries, but through subtle manoeuvres and in a gradual manner, turned it into an overseas colony by 1885. The natives of Vietnam called 'Kinh' immediately offered resistance to the French colonialists.

Japan invaded Vietnam in 1940 and the French colonial hold over Vietnam virtually came to an end. The Japanese, however, could not remain in Vietnam for long and they were defeated and forced to flee Vietnam in 1946. The greatest credit of this Japanese defeat goes to Mr. Ho Chi Minh (1892-1969). He founded 'Viet Minh', a nationalist guerilla force, for the liberation of his country. He was also the founder of the Vietnamese Communist Party, still the ruling party of Vietnam. He was also the President of North Vietnam for many years.

The Japanese invaders fled Vietnam, but the French colonialists consolidated their hold over the southern part. They also made an abortive bid to establish their control on the northern part also. The Vietnamese guerillas, however, inflicted a crushing defeat on the Frenchmen in 1969 at Dien Bien Phu.

Ultimately, both the parties signed an agreement in Geneva in 1954. Under the terms of the Geneva Agreement, Vietnam was partitioned into two parts—North Vietnam and South Vietnam—along the 17th Parallel. A communist government under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh took office in North Vietnam, while a nationalist government headed by Ngo Dinh Diem was formed in South Vietnam. The government of North Vietnam favoured unification of both the parts, but the South Vietnamese government was opposed to any such move. After the Geneva Agreement, France completely withdrew its forces from South Vietnam, but the ideological cleavage between the North and South Vietnam increased with the passage of time. These differences became still more acute owing to the reason that a significant part of the South Vietnamese population was against the division of the country. Moreover, the communists were also active in South Vietnam and they were naturally more sympathetic to North Vietnam and they were also against the establishment of a Western Style capitalist order in South Vietnam.



Food supplies to the soldiers

Ho Chi-Minh

On the other hand North Vietnam was supported by China and the Soviet Union, because it was ruled by a communist government. Both these countries sent large economic and military aid to North Vietnam. North Vietnam started to give military aid to the Vietcong, an anti-government guerilla force formed by the South Vietnamese communists. North Vietnamese forces also infiltrated the armies of South Vietnam. The Diem government of South Vietnam was put into an extremely trying situation. To deal with the guerilla raids and the communist insurgency, the Diem government entered into a treaty with the US in 1961 under the terms of which the US gave military aid to South Vietnam. USA became interested in the Vietnamese conflict to counter the increasing Russian influence in the region. As it did not want the establishment of a communists rule in South Vietnam, it sent liberal economic and military aid to South Vietnam. But just two years after the conclusion of a treaty with the US Diem was murdered and his government toppled by his own colleagues. In 1965, Nguyen Van Thieu was installed as Head of the State and his position was confirmed in the 1967 general elections. Thieu gave a measure of stability to the South Vietnamese government but failed to suppress the Vietcong.

On entering the Vietnamese conflict, USA mounted a big offensive against the North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam. By 1968, an estimated 5,45,000 American Soldiers had reached Vietnam and still pouring in larger strength. Yet the US had a difficult time in breaking the resistance of the Vietcong. In these circumstances, USA thought it advisable to open a dialogue with the Vietcong for an

agreement. This could be possible only when North Vietnamese government was also ready for such an agreement as it was extending whole-hearted support to the Vietcong. Consequently, in 1968, both the parties became agreeable for an agreement on the condition that USA declared a ceasefire on its side. So the talks began in Paris for an agreement between the US and North Vietnam. The talks, however, failed in arriving at an agreement and the war continued to rage in Vietnam.

Under a new foreign policy programme, the then American President Richard Nixon recalled all the American troops fighting in Vietnam. Though a ceasefire had come into force in 1973, the US soldiers renewed their intervention in Vietnam in 1975 reviving the hostilities. Almost all the countries of the world joined in the strong condemnation of this American step. This American move came in for serious criticism even in the American Congress and the American people also raised their voice in support of the independence of Vietnam.

In the early 1975, Vietnam war entered a decisive phase. The North Vietnamese forces and forces of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam fighting together, began to rout the American backed South Vietnamese armies. The American soldiers fled in the face of such a terrible offensive from the freedom loving Vietnamese armies.

The North Vietnamese forces overran the South Vietnamese capital Saigon in April 1975, and with this Vietnam war came to an end. A Provisional Revolutionary Government was set up in South Vietnam. In April 1976, general elections were held in Vietnam following which Vietnam was transformed into a united country by merging together North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

Results

With the conclusion of this 22 year old war, the divided Vietnam emerged into a united and independent country. The war took a heavy toll of human lives. There were 55,000 American casualties and lakhs of Vietnamese were also killed. The war had a devastating impact on the Vietnamese economy which was in total ruins. The war also demonstrated that due to ideological differences the USA and the USSR would come into a confrontation anywhere. Both these countries used many a new chemical and strategic weapon in this war. The American defeat in this war proved morale boosting for various liberation movements around the world.

Arab-Israel Wars

Date : 1948-1973; Place : West Asia.

At the end of the Second World War, the United Nations recommended the creation of a Jewish State and an Arab State out of the British mandated territory of Palestine in the Middle East. Consequently, a separate Jewish state 'Israel' came into being on 14 May, 1948. The Arabs, who were against the creation of a separate Jewish state in Palestine, invaded the newly created state of Israel. Israel not only defended itself but also occupied a substantial part of the territory allotted to the Arab State. Subsequently, three more wars (in 1956, 1967 and 1973) were fought between the Arabs and Israel, but the problem still remains unresolved. Israel, which is receiving enormous economic and military aid from the USA, has forced the Palestinians to wander as refugees

THE West Asia, the birth place of three leading religions of the world—Christianity, Islam and Judaism—is living today under the shadow of persisting tension, terror and strife. In fact, the hostilities between the Palestinians and the Jews are historical and can be traced back to 2000 years when the Jews were expelled from the land of their birth (presently the land occupied by Syria, Lebanon

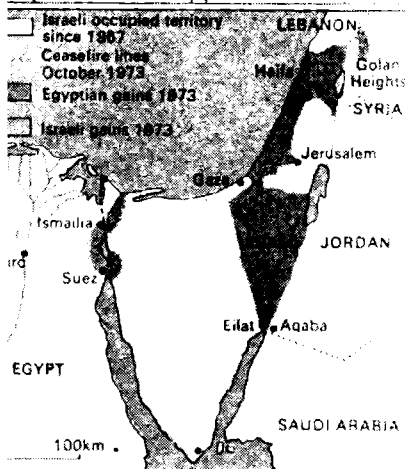
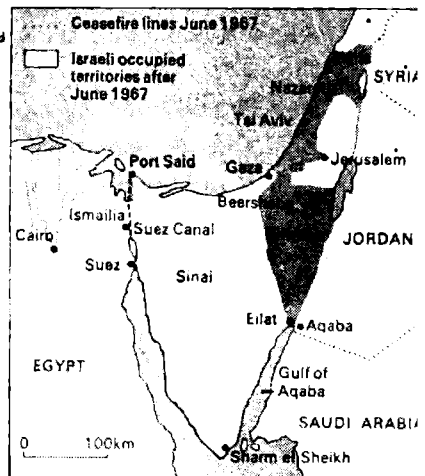
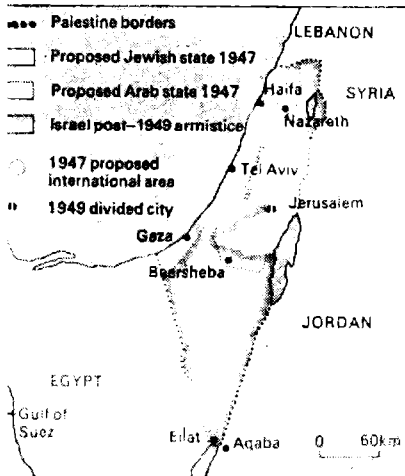


Soldiers marching to the front

and Jordan). The place where Israel is located today was called Palestine in the bygone days also. The Jews underwent great suffering leading an exiled life and settled in all the corners of the world, wherever they could find a place.

The saga of the suffering of the Jewish people took a new turn when the League of Nations pursuant to the Balfour Declaration of 2 November, 1917 (promising the foundation of a Jewish national home in Palestine) expressed its willingness to create a Jewish state out of the British controlled territories of Palestine and Jordan. Owing to some obstacles, however, this plan could not be carried through.

The question of a home land for Jews arose again on the eve of the Second World War. The flow of Jewish immigration into Pales-



Moshe Dayan: The defence minister of Israel

tine was constantly on the increase because the Jews were facing persecution in the Nazi Germany. Hence the demand of the creation of a separate Jewish state gathered momentum. In 1947, the UN General Assembly recommended the creation of separate Jewish and Arab states in Palestine on the expiry of the British mandate. Following this recommendation, a Jewish state of Israel was proclaimed on 14 May, 1948.

Outbreak of Wars

With the birth of Israel, the Palestinians were driven out of Palestine and were forced to live as refugees in tents in the deserts of neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. On the other hand, the Jews continued to pour into Israel from all parts of the world. They were given warm welcome and assured of full protection. Just after it came into being, Israel expanded itself at the cost of the Arabs. This triggered an unending series of wars between the Arabs and Israel. From 1948 to 1973 both fought four major wars.

First War (1948)

The state of Israel was proclaimed on 14 May, 1948, and the USA immediately recognised it. The following day i.e. 15 May, 1948, the combined Arabian armies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon invaded the newly born Jewish state. All these states are located in the neighbourhood of Israel. A ceasefire was enforced on 7 January, 1949, but by that time Israel had made a 50% increase in its territory.

Second War (1956)

The Arabs and the Jews found themselves at a war yet again. In 1956, Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal and prohibited transit of the Israeli ships through the canal. The nationalisation adversely affected the interest of Britain and France which were in control of the Suez Canal prior to the nationalisation. With the support of these countries, Israel attacked Egypt on 19 October, 1956. Israel defeated the Egyptian armies and occupied a large part of the Egyptian territory. However, on the intervention of the USA and the UN, Israel withdrew its forces from Egypt and returned all its occupied territories.

Third War (1967)

Syria had been carrying raids in the Israeli territories for some-time and so Israel in 1967 threatened to retaliate. Syria appealed to Egypt for help which in turn mobilised its own forces. Apprehending

an Arab invasion, Israel launched a sudden and pre-emptive attack on the military bases of Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The security system of these Arab countries crashed under this lightning Israeli campaign. Israeli forces captured the oil rich Sinai peninsula from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria and the West Bank (of the river Jordan) from Jordan. In this war which lasted six days, Israeli forces inflicted a severe defeat on the combined Arab armies.

Fourth War (1973)

Israel showed reluctance in returning the Arab areas that it occupied in the 1967 war. So the Arab countries were infuriated at this haughty attitude of Israel. Consequently, on 6 October, 1973 the day of the Jewish festival 'Yom Kippur,' the Egyptian and the Syrian forces launched an attack on Israel. This war is also known as the 'Yom Kippur War'. Egypt and Syria gained some initial success, but they could not recover the areas that Israel had captured from them in 1967. At last, the then US Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger used his 'Shuttle Diplomacy' and toured various Arab countries like Egypt, Syria and Lebanon to bring about a ceasefire. It was largely due to his efforts that this war was brought to an end.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

In the context of the present conflict in West Asia, it is pertinent to discuss the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. It was formed in 1964 with a view to restore their home land to the Palestinians. Palestinians under the leadership of Arafat have built up a strong public opinion in their favour. The efforts of the PLO have succeeded in focussing the world-wide attention to the plight of the Palestinians and the urgent need of a home land for them.

Present Situation

The political atmosphere in the West Asia is still tense and divided over the issue of recognition to Israel. Yet all agree that the Palestinians should have an independent land of their own.

Many Arab countries have felt displeased with Egypt, because of its compromising attitude towards Israel as is evident from the Camp David Agreement (1979). Prominent among these countries are Libya, Syria, Yemen and Algeria. The most disconcerting prospect of the West Asian situation is that countries like Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Libya are making efforts to develop a nuclear capability. If they succeed in manufacturing an atom bomb, the West Asian crisis may assume frightening proportions.

First World War

Date : 1914-1918; Place : Europe

The incident that precipitated the First World War was the murder of the Austrian Prince, Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian nationalist, but delving deep one finds that it was an inevitable consequence of a scramble among the European nations for colonial possessions in Asia and Africa. The principal combatants: Austria-Hungary and Germany on the one side and Russia, France and Britain on the other. Austria-Hungary and Germany were called the 'Central powers', while Russia, France and Britain came to be known as the 'Allies'. The conflict widened and became more intensified when Turkey in 1914 and Bulgaria in 1915 joined their forces with those of the Central Powers' and Italy took the side of the 'Allies'. Later on, Japan and last of all the USA (1917) also joined hands with Allies....

AS an impact of, the industrial revolution in Europe in the 19th century, the highly industrialised nations of Europe were drawn into a fierce struggle to establish overseas colonies. These countries were searching more and more new sales markets for their finished products as also to obtain raw material at cheaper rates. As such,



the colonial rivalries were bound to surface. The main rivals were Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Russia and Italy, all of which were making plans to establish colonies by usurping the independence of weaker countries in Asia and Africa. All their mutual enmity, discord and tension were rooted in this very colonial rivalry.

Secondly, in the 1870 Franco-Prussian war, Prussia had not only routed France but also annexed Alsace and Lorraine, the two iron ore rich provinces of France. France felt terribly revengeful at the loss of these two provinces and was prepared to regain them at all costs.

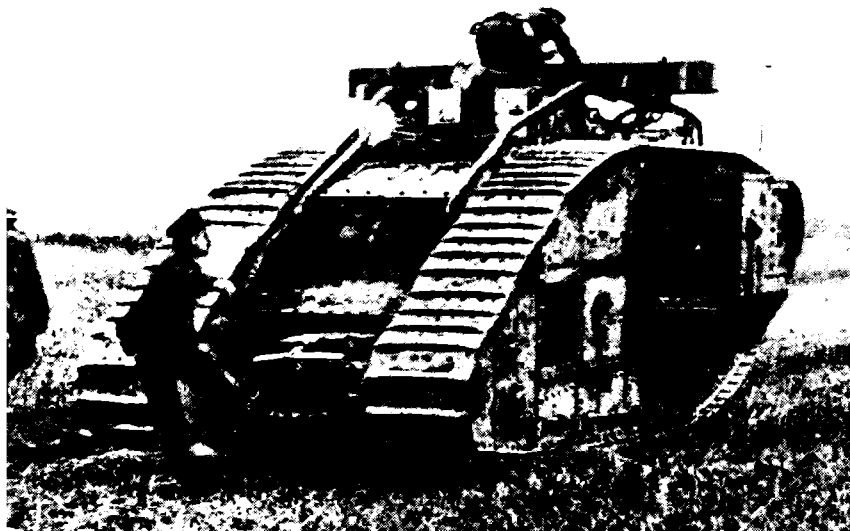
There were other factors also like economic competition, chauvinism and formation of power blocs that heightened the tension in Europe on the eve of the outbreak of the First World War.

Due to the aforesaid reasons the mutual rancour of the European countries had reached crisis proportions and could erupt into a violent conflict at the slightest excuse. Such an excuse was seized by Austria when the Austrian Prince Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist on 28 June, 1914. After an exchange of charges and counter charges Austria declared war against Serbia a month later. Gradually many countries affiliated to different camps were drawn into the war. On one side were the countries of the 'Central powers'—Austria, Hungary, Germany, Turkey, Bulgaria—and on the other the Allies—Russia, the USA, France, Britain, Serbia and Japan. In all, 16 countries had participated in this war.

When Austria declared war against Serbia on 28 July, 1914, Russia pledged its full support to Serbia while Germany took the side of Austria. Fightings broke out in a big way. Germany declared a war against Russia on 1 August and against France on 3 August. On the other hand, Britain also declared war against Germany on 4 August when the German troops violated the neutrality of Belgium; Britain being one of the guarantors of Belgium's neutrality.

Germany had hoped to mount a sudden offensive on France through Belgium to defeat it within a matter of weeks and then proceed against Russia. For a while this plan worked well and it appeared that Germany would succeed in its scheme as the Germans had reached within twenty kilometres of the French capital Paris. However, the Russian attack at this juncture made this German scheme go haywire. The German troops had suddenly to rush to their eastern frontiers to repulse the Russian attack and it brought a stalemate in the war.

When the German advance in the Western theatre of war had



Tank was used by Britain for the first time.

been halted, a novel kind of warfare set in. The belligerents dug trenches with the help of which they made assaults upon each other. Previously, the armies fought in the open field. Machineguns and aeroplanes were used in this war for the first time. The British also made use of the tank in this war for the first time. Sea warfare played a key role in intercepting the supplies of food, weapons etc. to each other. Germany used its 'U' boats submarines not only in the conduct of war but also for destroying the cargo ships of the neutral countries sailing towards the British ports.

So far the USA had followed its traditional policy of non-interference in European affairs, but when German submarines began to attack and destroy the neutral US vessels in the Atlantic it changed its policy. On 6 April, 1917 the USA joined the war against Germany. The entry of the USA proved of invaluable help to the Allies as it became their chief source of supply of weapons and other essential commodities.

An important development in the war took place in December 1917 when the communists staged a successful revolution in Russia abolishing the Tsarist rule. The new communist regime withdrew the Russian armies from the War. The new ruling party of Russia, the Bolshevik Party, concluded an armistice with Germany in 1918.

End of the First World War

Even as the war raged at its fiercest, the peace initiatives were taken by many countries, though all of these fell through. In January

1918, the then US President Woodrow Wilson put his peace proposals before the belligerents. These were called the Wilson's 14 points and the main terms set forth included: open diplomacy, freedom of shipping, disarmament, independence of Belgium, restoration of Alsace and Lorraine to France and the establishment of an international organisation for safeguarding the independence of all the countries. Some of these points were incorporated in the peace treaty concluded at the end of the war.

Britain, France and the USA launched a joint campaign in July 1918 with the result that Germany and its allies were put on defensive. In September 1918 Bulgaria collapsed and the surrender of Turkey followed in October. The Austria-Hungary Emperor also surrendered on 3 November, 1918. Meanwhile, a revolution had taken place in Germany resulting in the establishment of a republican government in the country. The new German government signed the armistic on 11 November, 1918 bringing the war to an end.

Peace Treaties

The victorious Allies held conferences from January to June 1919, first at Versailles and then at Paris, to decide terms of the treaties with the defeated countries, particularly Germany. Though formally representatives of 27 countries had participated in the peace conferences, the terms and conditions of the treaty were mainly decided by the representatives of Britain, France and the USA. The Versailles Treaty, the principal treaty that terminated the First World War, was signed by the British Prime Minister Lloyd George, the US President Woodrow Wilson and the French premier Clemenceau on 28 June, 1919 at Versailles near Paris. The representatives of the defeated powers boycotted the peace conference while Russia was deliberately kept away by the Allies from it. The victors thus, in a way, had imposed their terms on the defeated countries.

The treaty held Germany and her allies responsible for forcing a war on the Allied countries and the losses that they had suffered in this war. Alsace and Lorraine were restored to France. The coal mine rich German area 'Saar' was placed under the League of Nations which allowed it to be administered by France for a fifteen year period. Germany was forced to cede some of her pre-war territories to Denmark, Belgium, Poland and Czechoslovakia. The German army was curtailed heavily; it could maintain no military aircraft and no submarine. The German colonies of Togo and Cameroon were shared out by Britain and France among themselves. Germany was asked to pay £6,600 million as reparations.

Separate treaties were concluded with the allies of Germany. The union of Austria-Hungary was dissolved and Hungary was created an independent country. Austria was asked to grant independence to Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland. The political map of the Balkan Peninsula was redrawn and new states created.

Palestine and Mesopotamia were placed under the British control while the French control was accepted over Syria. Most of the remaining territories of the Turkish empire were apportioned between Greece and Italy. Turkey was thus reduced to a small state.

The main part of the Versailles Treaty was that in accordance with which the 'League of Nations' was established in 1920 with its headquarters at Geneva (Switzerland). Though the League of Nations came into existence by the inspiration of the US President Woodrow Wilson, the USA could not become its member as in spite of the wish of Wilson, American Senate had refused to ratify the Versailles Treaty.

Results

In the long history of warfare, no other war was so destructive in terms of human life and property as the First World War. Out of the 65 million soldiers, belonging to both the sides, who fought in this war, 13 million were killed, twenty two million were wounded and out of them 7 million became disabled. Besides the number of the civilians who perished due to massacres, hunger and epidemics is impossible to estimate.

Economically, this war proved very disastrous. The belligerents spent \$186 billion on the prosecution of this war. If other losses on land and on sea are also taken into account, the total cost of war would come to \$270 billion.

As regards the technology of war, the First World War was very significant. Many new and important weapons like tank, machinegun, aeroplane and submarine were used in this war for the first time.

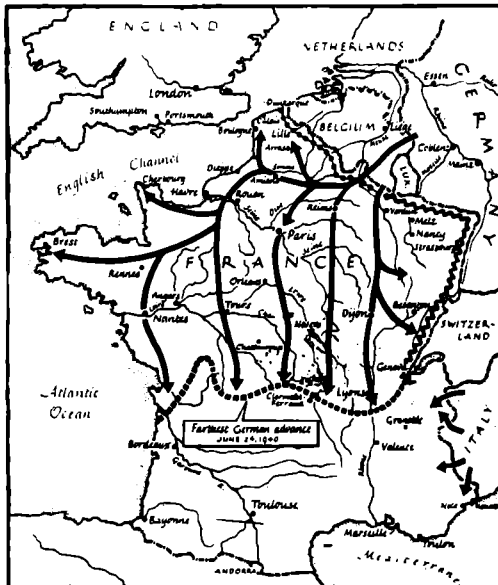
The war led to many social changes also. Revolutions broke out in Germany and Russia though of differing nature. Compulsory military training was introduced in Britain and it was adopted by many other countries later on. Women stepped out of the confines of their home and went to work in offices and factories for the first time, because menfolk were off fighting on the front. This factor later helped in the spread of women liberation movement all over the world.

Second World War

Date : 1939-1945; Places : Europe, Asia, Africa

In the post First World War period, peace reigned for twenty years in the world. But during this interval Germany kept seething with discontentment over the harsh terms inflicted on it by the victorious Allies through the Treaty of Versailles. With the rise of Hitler in Germany, the winds of blind nationalism swept across the country. Hitler rallied his countrymen around him on the issues of racial superiority, freedom and secure frontiers. Blind nationalism also raised its ugly head in another European country, Italy. Two dangerous creeds—Nazism in Germany and Fascism in Italy took birth in Europe that plunged the world into another world war. The utter destructions of the two Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the crippled generation breathing in the aftermath of the atomic attack speak for the catastrophe that World War II was

LIKE the First World War, the Second World War also started in Europe but took the whole world into its embrace later on. The Treaty of Versailles, concluded at the end of the World War I had imposed



very severe terms on Germany and the whole Germany felt offended at it. Hitler, who came to power in Germany in 1933, awakened strong nationalistic feelings among his countrymen. With Hitler delivering the inflammatory speeches to redeem national honour, the passions of revenge became more and more violent in Germany.

The Western countries also adopted a policy of appeasement towards the aggressive postures of the countries like Germany, Italy and Japan. They did not take any action when Germany invaded Czechoslovakia, Japan occupied Manchuria and Italy overran Ethiopia. The Fascist countries felt emboldened by this attitude of Western powers to their aggressive designs. They, in fact, wanted a redivision of the colonies in the world. Thus it became clear that sooner or later they would come into clash with the established imperialistic powers like Britain and France. After dismembering Czechoslovakia and the annexation of Austria, Hitler threatened Poland with an invasion. Realising that there was no end to the ambition of Hitler, France and Britain concluded a treaty with Poland whereby they pledged their support to Poland in the event of German invasion. Germany also concluded a non-aggression treaty with the USSR in August 1939.

Outbreak of Second World War

German invasion of Poland

The German troops marched into Poland on 1 September 1939. Hence Britain and France declared war against Germany on 3 September, 1939. The Second World War thus began with the German invasion of Poland. In the absence of any outside help to Poland, German forces gained a complete victory over it. In spite of a declaration of War, no major fight took place for many months. Therefore, the war during the period from September 1939 to April 1940 is referred to as the 'Phoney War'.

German Victory over Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France

Germany invaded Norway and Denmark on 9 April, 1940. Britain and France moved their troops to Norway for help, but these were recalled in an exigency in France. By 10 June, 1940, the Norwegian resistance gave way while Denmark surrendered without any fighting. Belgium, Luxemburg and Holland were invaded in May and by the month's end they fell to the German invaders. Soon afterwards, German armies broke into France and on 14 June, 1940 the Germans took Paris without much fighting. Meanwhile, Italy also joined the war on the side of its friend Germany. France surrendered on 22 June, 1940 and con-



Yalta Conference : (left to right) Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin.

cluded a ceasefire agreement with Germany. Germany divided France into two zones. Whereas it established its own control over one zone, it allowed the second zone to be governed by the Frenchmen. Vichy was made the capital of that part of the country which was still under the French rule. With the collapse of France, Germany emerged as the most powerful nation on the European continent.

Battle of Britain

After the fall of France, Britain was the only major power left in Europe. To force its surrender as well, German air force launched swift and massive air raids on Britain. In reply, the British air force also gave a heroic battle. By the end of October 1940, Germany had lost its 1700 war planes in a bid to crush the British air power, but the defeat of the British air force was nowhere in sight. Hitler, therefore, gave up the idea of carrying on fighting with Britain, in sheer desperation. Germany however, was successful in occupying the countries of Balkan Peninsula such as Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and large territories in East Africa.

German invasion of the USSR

In spite of a non-aggression treaty, Germany perfidiously attacked the USSR in the early hours of 22 June, 1941. Hitler was convinced that the Soviet Union was the main obstacle in the way to his world domination. The people of the Soviet Union were stunned by this sudden and

unexpected German invasion. Germany made some gains in the initial stage and the Soviet troops had to suffer heavy losses. Stalingrad (now Leningrad) was besieged. In December 1941, the German forces had reached within a few kilometres of Moscow, but then Hitler's dream of the conquest of USSR was shattered. On December 6, 1941, the Soviet forces launched a counter offensive as a result of which the Germans were thrown back 400 kilometres to the West. Three lakh German soldiers were killed in this battle.

The events of the Second World War took a new turn with the success of the Soviet troops against the Nazis. Britain and the USA entered into an alliance with the USSR to form an anti Hitler coalition. The combined efforts of these countries ultimately brought about the defeat of Germany, Japan and Italy.

Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour

The Japanese launched a massive attack on 7 December, 1941 on the Pearl Harbour, an American naval base in Hawaii, and with this the war acquired the world-wide dimension. Many American warships anchored at the Pearl Harbour were sunk or destroyed. The attack made it clear that Japan was resolved to become the master of Asia and the Pacific. Within six months of its attack on the Pearl Harbour, Japan had conquered Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and many other Asian territories.



Hitler who plunged the world into the Second World War.

Battle of Stalingrad

The battle of Stalingrad gave a decisive turn to the war. In November-December 1941, the advancing German troops met stiff Soviet resistance and their attack was repulsed. Nazis, therefore, decided to advance towards Volga so that Moscow was cut off the southern parts of the country. By August 1942, the German soldiers succeeded in reaching the outskirts of Stalingrad. They captured the central part of the city and a violent fight raged in Stalingrad. The civilians helped the troops in the defence of the city. About 3,00,000 German soldiers lost their lives in this battle. By 1944, the brave Soviet fighters had succeeded in driving back the German invaders from their soil. Having liberated the Soviet territories from the Nazis, the Soviet troops pursued the fleeing Germans and stopped only when they had entered Germany.

Second Front

The Fascist countries suffered defeat elsewhere as well. Japan failed in its attempt to take the Hawaiian island. In May 1943, the 'Allies' launched an offensive against the Italian troops and forced their surrender. It was preceded by a significant development in Italy in which Mussolini was overthrown and a new pro-Allies government took office that offered an unconditional surrender of Italy. On 6 June, 1944, the second front was opened when over 1,00,000 British and American troops landed on the beach of Normandy in northern France. Before starting the hostilities, they carried heavy bombardments of railway tracks and bridges so that the German did not move forward easily. The second front pushed Germany on the brink of a defeat.



Atomic dome : a relic of the nuclear catastrophe of 6 August, 1945.

On 3 September, the Allied troops entered Holland and Belgium. Moreover, the final stage of war against Germany had arrived when the Soviet troops from the east and other Allied troops from the West advanced towards Berlin. After a violent fighting, the victorious Soviet troops finally stormed Berlin on 24 April, 1945. On 30 April, Hitler committed suicide in his fortified underground shelter. The German surrender got under way in early May, and on 8 May the German command signed an unconditional surrender.

Surrender of Japan

With the surrender of Germany and Italy war ended in Europe, but it continued to rage for another three months in the Asian theatre as Japan still had a large army to carry on the fightings. The then American President Harry S. Truman felt that it would be better to use an 'atom bomb' to force an early surrender to Japan instead of allowing millions of people to be killed in the continuous warfare in Asia. The USA, therefore, dropped two atom bombs on two Japanese cities—one atom bomb upon Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945, and another upon Nagasaki on 9 August, 1945. Both these bustling Japanese cities were totally ruined and more than 1,20,000 people were killed. Consequently, Japan surrendered on 14 August, 1945 bringing the Second World War to an end.

Results

The end of the Second World War saw emergence of the USA and the USSR as the two most powerful countries on the world map. They gained this position over Britain and France because of their decisive role in the Second World War in the defeat of the Fascist powers. Besides the tremendous military might, these countries were also endowed with abundant natural resources. The British and the French economies were in shambles. Many other European countries were also equally hard hit. The USA and the USSR helped these countries in their economic reconstructions. Through the instrument of economic aid, the USA and the USSR also tried to spread their respective brands of ideologies—the USSR standing for communism and the USA for capitalism. The two Super Powers carved out the whole world into their respective spheres of influence, and this was the cause of the cold war in the period that immediately followed the Second World War. The main imperialistic powers, Britain and France, were considerably weakened by their heavy losses in the war. They were reduced to the status of the second rate powers in the world. So they were not in a position to effectively control their farflung colonies. These colonies, therefore, gained independence at a quickened pace.

As far as the losses of human life and property are concerned, the Second War was a catastrophe. More than 50 million people were killed, 22 million being the civilians, 12 million people lost their lives either in the concentration camps or due to other brutal atrocities committed by the Fascist. Besides this tremendous loss of life the economies and physical resources of many other countries were badly shattered as a result of this war.

Many a new weapon were invented and used in this war for the first time. The USA, for example, invented the 'atom bomb' and used it successfully in this war. With a view to strengthen their security and to gain the status of a great power, many countries joined the scramble to manufacture an atomic bomb. The war also unleashed an arms race in the world.

At the end of the Second World War, the victorious Allies divided Germany into four zones. While the Eastern Germany was put under the control of the Soviet Union, the Western Germany came under the occupation of the UK, the USA and France. The armed forces of Italy were curtailed and some of its colonies were taken over by the Allied countries and placed under their administration.

Balkan Wars

Date : 1912-1913; **Place :** Balkan Peninsula (South East Europe)

The countries of Balkan Peninsula in the South East Europe groaned under the tyrannous rule of the Turkish Empire and yearned for their liberation. At the beginning of the 20th century the Turkish empire was in a tottering state. The Balkan countries unitedly fought against Turkey, defeated it and declared themselves independent. The euphoria of the victory had hardly wore off when they fall out over the distribution of the conquered territories....



BALKAN peninsula lies to the south of the Danube river in the South East Europe and comprises six countries viz Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, Turkey and Yugoslavia. For hundred of years Balkan countries were ruled by the Turkish empire. In the beginning of the 20th century, Turkey was in a weakened state and beset with internal troubles. To take advantage of this vulnerable condition of Turkey, the Balkan countries concluded a secret pact among themselves. In fact, these countries wanted to gain independence throwing off the Turkish yoke. It was also agreed upon among these countries how Macedonia and other territories conquered in the war would be shared out. As a matter of fact, Russia was the main inspiration behind these secret parleys among the Balkan countries. Feeling emboldened by the Russian support, Balkan countries declared war against Turkey.

First Balkan War

The first Balkan War broke out in 1912 and was fought between the Balkan states and Turkey. The Balkan countries gained a spectacular victory and the Turkish army suffered a humiliating defeat. The Turks lost the important fort of Adrianople which was occupied by the Greek forces. Albania was occupied by Serbia and Montenegro and the Bulgarian troops had reached very close to Constantinople. Under the circumstances, Turkey had no option but to make a proposal of treaty. The representatives from the both sides assembled in London to finalise the terms of a treaty, but agreement on terms of a permanent treaty proved an uphill task. The Balkan countries presented demands which were too many to be accepted by Turkey. Had Turkey acceded to all these demands it would have ceased to matter in the European affairs. The leaders of the party of young Turks could never tolerate it. The conference was, therefore, dissolved and fightings resumed.

Treaty of London

The Turk's defeat this time was even worse. A disheartened Turkish Sultan had again to propose a treaty. The representatives from both the sides assembled in London on 30 May, 1913 once again. The terms of the treaty were as follows:

1. All the European countries under the Turkish empire were to be granted independence. Constantinople and some of its adjoining zones were now the only European possessions of Turkey left. The western boundaries of Turkey were also fixed.
2. Albania to be declared a separate and independent country.

3. Crete to become independent and be merged with Greece.
4. The issue of the distribution of Macedonia, Albania etc. should be deemed deferred for the time being.

A treaty was thus finally concluded by the Balkan countries with Turkey but the tangled issue of the distribution of the conquered territories among the victors still remained unresolved. In accordance with the terms of a pre-war pact, Macedonia was given to Bulgaria and Albania to Serbia. The provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina were inhabited mostly by the Serbs and the Yugoslavs. Austria felt apprehensive at this rising power of Serbia. In view of the complications involved, the issue of the distribution of the conquered territories was postponed.

Second Balkan War

Serbia opposed the decision to create Albania into an independent country. Serbia contended that the major portion of Macedonia was decided to be given to Bulgaria on the condition that it would be given Albania. As Bulgaria and Serbia failed to find a mutually agreed solution of this problem they went to a war against its former allies. Serbia, Montenegro, Greece and Rumania became united against Bulgaria in this war. Turkey helped the opponents of Bulgaria. The fightings continued for about a month, but Bulgaria alone could not hold against so many enemies for long. The result: it was defeated on every front. At last, Bulgaria felt compelled to sue for a treaty. A treaty was, therefore, concluded between the two parties on 10 August, 1913 in the Rumanian capital Bucharest terminating the war.

Results

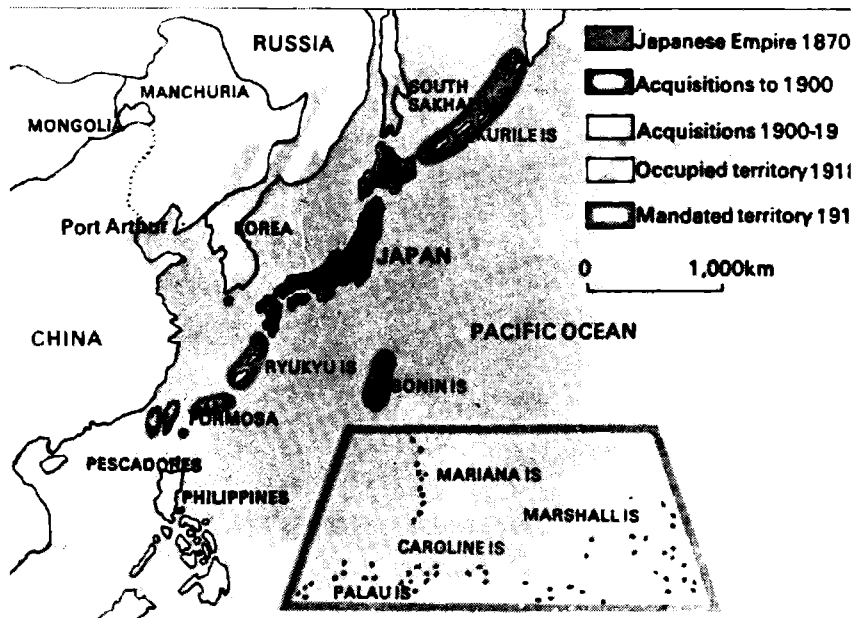
Outwardly though the treaty established peace among the Balkan states, tension was brewing under the surface. Bulgaria was smouldering at its insult and nursed revenge against its enemies. This may explain why Bulgaria helped the enemies of Serbia in the first World War. Moreover, Austria was also annoyed at the Bucharest treaty. The reason being that after its expulsion from Italy, the centre of the trading activities of Austria shifted from the Adriatic to the Aegean Sea. It wanted a trade route to the West Asia. Serbia had grown into power and size becoming the centre of the unity of the Slav race. Austria was already against Serbia. There were thus constant possibilities that Austria and Serbia would become involved in some sort of conflict in the near future.

Russo-Japanese War

Date : 1904-1905; **Place :** Port Arthur (The Pacific Ocean)

In the beginning of the 20th century, the Tsarist Russia occupied the two Far Eastern countries namely Manchuria and Korea to which Japan raised a strong protest. Japan, in fact, itself coveted these two countries. Japan even entered into correspondence with Russia for the evacuation of these countries but to no effect. Japan, therefore, declared war against Russia on 8 February, 1904. Russia was defeated which seriously affected its military prestige among the European powers. Whereas Japan, an unknown military power until then sprang a surprise on the world by its victory over Russia and attained the status of a great power....

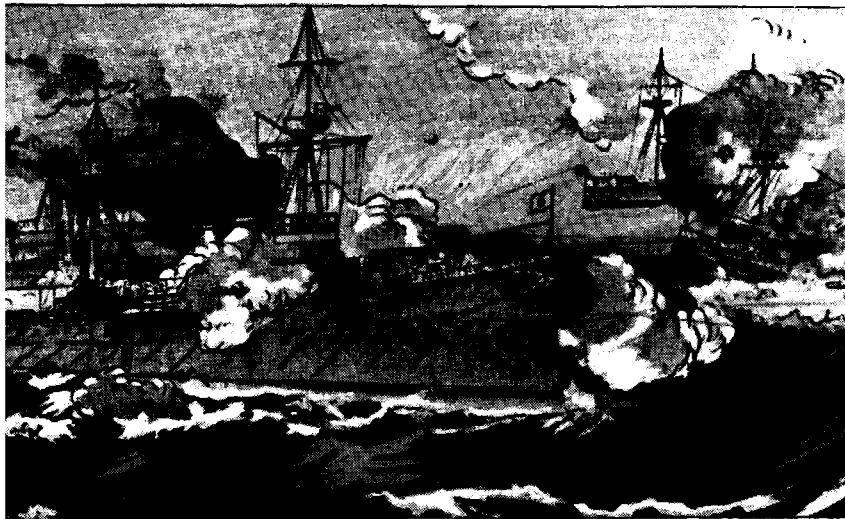
THIS war, fought between the Tsarist Russia and Japan, is one of the most important wars of the 20th century. This can also be described as the war of colonial aggrandizement in the Far East. The war resulted in the emergence of Japan as the dominant power in



Asia. It also gave an added impetus to the outbreak of the first Russian Revolution in 1905 against the oppressive regime of Czar.

The Russian armed forces under the Czarist regime were ill-organised and ill-equipped. Hunger and poverty were widespread in the country and even the soldiers did not get their salary for months together. The food supply to them was inadequate and neither did they have the necessary war equipment. The Japanese on the contrary, due to a strong industrialisation and modernisation drive had built up their armies extremely well. Moreover, during the reign of the Emperor Meiji (1852-1912) the Japanese armed forces were reorganised and modernised. The services of the English experts were requisitioned for the development of railways, communication and building of naval fleets, while the French experts imparted military training to the Japanese.

As a consequence of its rapid industrialisation, just like the European industrialised countries, Japan also looked for external markets to dispose of its finished products and to acquire raw materials at cheap rates. Finding them militarily weak, Japan started to exert pressure on Korea and China. Japan caught a petty excuse in 1894-95 and attacked China. China was defeated in this war. Russia supported by France and Germany made several attempts to prevent Japan from taking advantage of its victory over China. It stopped Japan from occupying the Chinese port 'Port Arthur'. Firstly, Russia



Naval battle raging in the Korean waters.

got 'Port Arthur' returned to China, but occupied it itself in 1898 and decided to extend the Trans-Siberian Railway up to the Port Arthur. In 1900, Russia also occupied Manchuria. The Japanese government felt infuriated at these Russian moves and waited for an opportune time to act. At the same time it took up the matter with the Russian government through correspondence. But when even years of correspondence efforts did not elicit any desired response, Japan asked Russia to evacuate Korea and Manchuria. Getting no satisfactory reply from the other side, Japan declared war against Russia on 8 February, 1904 without any warning. Japan attacked the Russian warships anchored at Port Arthur and captured this port in January 1905.

The Japanese armies drove the Russian troops out of Korea and destroyed the Russian fleet at the Port Arthur. As a result, Russian garrison at the Port Arthur surrendered. A terrible battle was fought at Mukden in Manchuria in 1905 which left about 125,000 Russians dead or wounded. The Japanese navy routed the Russian navy in the naval battle in the Tsushima bay on 27 May, 1905. This battle forced Russia to sue for a treaty.

Treaty of Portsmouth

It was largely due to the mediation efforts of the then US President, Theodore Roosevelt that a peace treaty was signed in September 1905 between Russia and Japan at Portsmouth (USA) terminating the war. As per the terms of the treaty, Port Arthur, Liaotung and the southern half of the Island of Sakhalin and southern section of the Chinese Eastern Railway were ceded to Japan. Japan retained its control over Korea while Manchuria was returned to China.

Results

According to Prof. H.G. Wells, the Russo-Japanese war put an end to the supremacy of the European nations in Asia. It was the first occasion in the modern history when an Asian country defeated a big European power. The news of the Japanese victory over Russia sent a wave of jubilation throughout Asia. It also accelerated liberation movements in many Asian countries suffering under an alien rule. The revolutionary activities got under way in China and it also boosted up the national freedom struggle of India. Japan had a meteoric rise as one of the great powers of the world. The Russian defeat in the war further aggravated the political crisis in Russia which culminated in the first Russian Revolution of 1905.

Franco-Prussian War

Date : 1870; Place : Sedan (France)

The Franco-Prussian War immortalised Otto von Bismarck as the founder and first Chancellor of the German Empire. The greatest ambition of Bismarck was to weld together numerous German states into a strong and unified country under the leadership of Prussia. He could accomplish this unification only by defeating Denmark, Austria and France which had their own selfish interests in keeping Germany disunited. Bismarck, acting in a very calculated manner, defeated Denmark in 1864, Austria in 1866 and then attacked France in 1870. Prussia routed the French armies in the Franco-Prussian War. The unification of Germany was complete and France was isolated in Europe....

WHEN the Franco-Prussian war broke out, the French throne was occupied by Napoleon III. He was a nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte the Great, but unlike him he was neither a military genius nor possessed administrative capabilities. Napoleon III, in fact, proved himself an incompetent ruler and became unpopular



with his countrymen because of his unpragmatic policies, yet he was very ambitious. A republic was established in France after the 1848 Revolution and Napoleon III was elected its President. He was not, however, content with the Presidentship only; he assumed dictatorial powers and then declared himself the Emperor of France.

Meanwhile, under the able leadership of Bismarck, Prussia emerged as a strong and unified country. Bismarck dreamed to unite all the German states, riven with disunity, into a strong empire under the leadership of Prussia. He proceeded to realise his ambition by acting on a very well thought out strategy. Now he had to remove obstacles on the way, one by one. First he defeated Denmark with the help of Austria. But Austria which had helped Prussia against Denmark, itself presented a hurdle as the rulers of Austria wanted to play a dominating role in the affairs of the German states. This clashed with the Prussian ambition to dominate the German states. Prussia, therefore, declared war against Austria.

Napoleon III was watching these developments in his neighbourhood with keen interest. He had hoped that when both the sides would be exhausted in this war, he would have a splendid opportunity to force his conditions on both the warring countries. But all his hopes were shattered by the result of the War of Sadowa on 3 July, 1866.



Coronation of William I : Bismarck (in white dress) is in the middle.

Austria was defeated and Bismarck refused to give any share out of the conquered territories to France. What is more, Napoleon III was even prevented from taking Luxemburg. He then proposed to Bismarck that if the districts of Bavaria, Palatinate and Hesse were ceded to France, he would be on his side. Bismarck asked Napoleon III to make a written proposal to this effect. It was, in fact, an artifice of Bismarck to involve France in a war with Prussia. But how? Such a proposal from France would stir up nationalistic sentiments in Germany and all the German states would rally against France. Thus the task of forging unity among the German states would be facilitated.

So the relations between France and Germany became tense. If France would not countenance the emergence of a strong and united Germany in its neighbourhood, Prussia thought a war with France essential for the unification of Germany. In such a surcharged atmosphere, even the slightest excuse could spark off hostilities between the two countries.

In 1868, the Spaniards rose against Queen Isabella and expelled her from the country. They offered the Spanish throne to Prince Leopold of the Hohenzollern family. Leopold was related to the Prussian King William I by family ties. France felt that in the event of Prince Leopold succeeding to the Spanish throne, Prussia would wield enormous influence on Spain and so it would be in danger from both the sides. In view of the French opposition to his succession to the Spanish throne, Leopold declined the offer of the Spaniards. Napoleon III also sent a message to William I that no Prince of the Hohenzollern dynasty should ascend the Spanish throne.

William I wired this message to his Minister-President Bismarck. Bismarck already wanted an excuse to start a war against France. He rightly believed that the French defeat would help in the establishment of a German empire under the leadership of Prussia. Bismarck seized this opportunity to start a war with France. A meeting of the French ambassador with the Prussian King was advertised in such a way as to give the impression that the French envoy was insulted. The Frenchmen took this insult as tantamounting to the insult of their nation. Just at this time, Bismarck made public the written proposal of Napoleon III in which he had asked Bismarck to cede certain German areas to France to obtain the French support. Bismarck did all this deliberately to whip up German nationalistic sentiments against France. When the people of Germany learnt about this proposal, they felt furious with France. Bismarck's purpose was served.

Outbreak of War

Consequently, the war broke out between France and Prussia in 1870. Napoleon III had hoped that because of their enmity with Prussia, the states of Southern Germany would support him. But contrary to his expectations, the German states burying all their mutual jealousies and acrimonies and being inspired by higher patriotic ideals stood unitedly against France. After centuries, the entire Germany rose once more in war against its age old foe France. France sustained defeat first at Worth and then at Graveloth.

Ultimately, after the decisive battle of Sedan on 2 September, 1870, about 8,0000 French soldiers laid down their arms before Von Moltke. Napoleon III was taken prisoner. France was declared a republic again and a provisional government was set up under Gambetta. By the Treaty of Frankfurt (1871), France ceded Alsace and Lorraine to Germany. It also agreed to pay a large sum as reparations to Germany.

Results

The war produced results of far reaching consequences for Germany, Italy and France. The unification of Germany was complete. It also got Alsace, Lorraine, Maize and Strassburg. On 18 January, 1871, William I was proclaimed the Emperor of Germany at the Versailles Palace. Bismarck and General Moltke stood on his sides on this historic occasion. Berlin was declared the capital of the United Germany.

The Franco-Prussian war also resulted in the unification of Italy. The French troops were stationed in Rome which were recalled by France when the war broke out with Prussia. When the French troops evacuated Rome, Victor Emmanuel occupied Rome and declared it the capital of the unified Italy. In the absence of the French troops, the political power of the Pope eclipsed. As a result of the French defeat in this war, Napoleon III abdicated and the Third Republic was established in France.

Crimean War

Date : 1854-1856; **Place :** Sevastopol (A Black Sea coastal town in Crimea, USSR)

On the pretext of providing security to the Christian population of the Turkish Empire, Russia wanted to extend its frontiers up to Constantinople so as to bring the Mediterranean ports under its control. In July 1853, when Russia attacked and occupied the two Turkish provinces of Moldavia and Walachia, Turkey declared war against Russia in October. In March 1854, Britain, France and Sardinia came to the rescue of Turkey as they also felt alarmed at the Russian expansionism in this region. In October 1854, the four Allied countries bombarded Sevastopol, a Black Sea coastal town in Crimea. The war known as the 'Crimean War' raged for about two years. Ultimately, Russia accepted its defeat and concluded a treaty with the Allied countries in March 1856....

THOUGH the ostensible cause of the war was a religious controversy between the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church over the protection of Christian shrines in Palestine, the mutual jealousies and power rivalries among the European nations cannot be lost sight of. The real issue was that Russia wanted to take certain portions of the Turkish Empire in order to expand its



Battle of Inkerman: 5 November, 1854

borders as far as Constantinople and the Mediterranean Sea. It was a golden opportunity for Russia to realise its ambition. Consequently, under the pretext of providing protection to the rights and religious shrines of the Christians in Palestine, Russia occupied two Turkish provinces of Moldavia and Walachia in July 1853.

Britain and France were alarmed at the increase in Russian power and influence over these European territories. Lest it should become a dominating European power, Britain and France decided to come to the aid of Turkey. So now on one side in the war was Russia, and on the other, were the four Allied countries—Britain, France, Turkey and Sardinia.

Both sides, in fact, desired war for imperialistic aims, and for glory and wealth. The religious controversy between the two Christian sects was just an excuse for them and a convenient cover to serve their selfish ends. It was no secret that Russia wanted the disintegration of the Turkish Empire. In 1844, Czar Nicholas of Russia had even suggested to Britain to dissolve the Turkish Empire. Renewing its desire in 1853, Russia assured Britain that in return of the Russian concessions in the Black Sea, it would allow reciprocal concessions to Britain in Egypt and Turkey.

Britain, however, did not favour the dissolution of the Turkish Empire and had actually helped it whenever the need arose. There was an added reason too—the then British ambassador in Turkey was against the Russian Tsar. In 1832, the Russian Tsar had opposed his ambassadorial appointment to Russia so he wanted to salve his wounded ego.

The French Emperor Napoleon III, like his uncle Napoleon the Great, also wanted to dominate the European affairs. He, therefore, always thought to turn every international conflict to the advantage of France by way of enhancing its prestige or gain of wealth or territory. His government was supported by the Roman Catholics and the army. Hence he had to keep both of them contented.

Outbreak of War

On 5 October 1853, Turkey asked Russia to evacuate Moldavia and Walachia, but Russia turned down the Turkish demand. Resultantly, Turkey declared war against Russia. In March 1854, Britain, France and Sardinia also joined the war on the side of Turkey and deployed their fleets in the Black Sea. Russia promptly evacuated Walachia and Moldavia. The immediate cause of the war was thus

removed. The Allied countries, however, did not stop the hostilities and carried bombardment on the famous Russian fort of Sevastopol on 17 October, 1854. They, in fact, wanted the complete rout of Russia.

The Crimean war continued to rage for two years and both the sides suffered great losses. More than 500,000 people were killed and property worth billions of rupees destroyed. This tremendous loss of life and property resulted from the two major battles—the battle of Balaklava (25 October, 1854) and the battle of Inkerman (5 November, 1854). Under these circumstances, it was not useful for the belligerents to carry on the hostilities. Russia too had grown weary of war. She feared lest Austria should join its enemies, because Austria wanted to expand itself in the Balkan peninsula where Russia presented the greatest in the way. At long last, the sieze of Sevastopol was lifted in September 1855 with the victory of the Allied countries. The war though finally came to an end in February 1856 and in March a treaty was signed by both the sides at Paris.

Results

Under the terms of the Paris Treaty, Russia and other signatories agreed to respect the independence and territorial integrity of Turkey. Russia also undertook not to make any kind of interference in the internal affairs of Turkey. It is a different issue that the treaty was of little help in checking the decline of the Turkish Empire.

The Black Sea was neutralised and provisions were made that no country could deploy its battleships in its waters nor could stockpile ammunition on its coasts.

Until now Russia had considered its exclusive responsibility to provide security to Rumania and Serbia, but the treaty abolished the Russian right in this regard when all the European countries recognised the independent existence of these two countries.

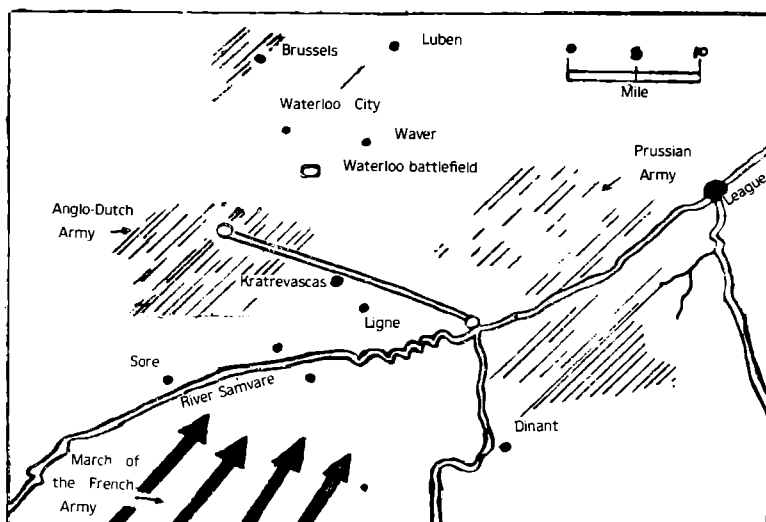
The war dealt a shattering blow to the Russian prestige and the British policy was a complete success. The British policy that the Russian ambition could be bridled by sustaining the Turkish empire was fully vindicated by this war.

The Battle of Waterloo

Date : 1815; Place : Waterloo (Belgium)

To the south of the Belgian capital Brussels is a place called Waterloo. On 18 June, 1815, a terrible battle was fought here in which Napoleon Bonaparte confronted a coalition of European powers. Napoleon met his ultimate doom as a military conqueror and was forced to live an exiled life on a lonely island. The French defeat was so decisive that 'Waterloo' has since become a synonym of final defeat. Napoleon's dream of conquering and uniting all the European countries into a vast French Empire ended forever when Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia unitedly stood against him....

THE decline and fall of Napoleon is one of the most exciting chapters in the world history. His rise from the humble position of a military corporal to the Emperor of France and master of almost the entire Europe is a tale full of adventures and thrill. When Napoleon was at the zenith of his power and glory, his name struck terror in the heart of the European nations. Napoleon's greatest ambition was to establish a vast European empire dominated by France by conquering all the European countries. And he came pretty close to



realise his dream as with the exception of Britain and Austria, he had conquered almost all the other important European countries.

Undoubtedly, Napoleon was a gallant fighter and an extraordinary military genius, but his frequent invasions posed a threat to the security and independence of other European nations. So these nations burying their mutual differences and rivalries began to unite against him. All the important European countries like Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, Spain and Portugal exerted their efforts jointly to bring about the defeat of France. Napoleon had suffered terribly from his unsuccessful invasion of Russia in 1812. Due to the very heavy French casualties in this campaign, the strength of the French army was considerably impaired. Moreover, Napoleon had also weakened himself by fighting the Peninsular wars during 1808-1814.

In 1814, the forces of the anti-Napoleon coalition had inflicted a crushing defeat on France at the battle of Leipzig. Napoleon was deposed and exiled to Elba Island to lead a lonely life.

The first Paris Pact was signed in April 1814. The pact was signed between the representatives of the Allies and Louis XVIII, a successor of the old ruling dynasty of France the 'Bourbons'. Louis XVIII was installed on the French throne.

In the mean time, Napoleon escaped from Elba after spending a period of 10 months in exile there. He came to France, raised a new army and reinstated himself as the Emperor of France. He, in fact, aimed at launching one more campaign against the Allied forces. To accomplish this objective he advanced into Belgium to prevent an Anglo-Dutch army under the Duke of Wellington from uniting with the Prussians. Napoleon met the combined armies of Britain, Austria and Prussia at Waterloo, near Brussels, in 1815.

Outbreak of hostilities

This historic and decisive battle started on 18 June, 1815 in the famous field of Waterloo. Napoleon in the initial phase displayed remarkable tactics and agility. The British and the Prussian forces were dispersed over different places. Napoleon also learnt that the Allied forces would not be ready for a battle by the following morning. He, therefore, divided his army under two commands—one under General Ney and the other under General Grouchy. He also retained one unit of his army under his own command to rush it to wherever the need arose.

But his strategy fell through due to the swift action of General



Prussian General Blucher marching with his troops in the battlefield.

Blucher. The Prussian troops all of a sudden fell on the French armies under Napoleon's command at Liege. Not a single soldier of General Ney's army could reach to assist Napoleon as his troops were locked into a combat against the British general Wellington. General Arlen was on his way to Quatre Bras with his 20,000 troops when he was ordered to reach Liege instead. General Arlen was, therefore, caught in a strange predicament and he lost much time in running in between the two battlefields without fighting. This proved a very costly mistake for Napoleon.

By this time, Napoleon had scored a victory against his enemy. He assumed that the Prussians were completely routed and so he slowed down his movement. He also decided to have rest that day. Having issued orders to General Grouchy to pursue the Prussian armies at noon, Napoleon himself hastened to help General Ney.

Had Napoleon advanced his departure by four hours only, it would have been easy to launch an attack against Wellington. The reason being that Wellington had camped that day on the Montgein hills. Napoleon's forces outnumbered that of Wellington but Napoleon did not take the offensive even up to noon the next day.

Fierce fightings continued in the battlefield of Waterloo for three days. Nobody could guess who would win in the end. At 4 p.m., some Prussian troops under General Blucher also joined Wellington.

The retreat of the French soldiers in the closing hours of the day changed into a virtual stampede. The tables were, in fact, turned against France and Napoleon suffered such a terrible defeat that this battle proved to be the final engagement in the long series of Napoleonic wars. The French losses amounted to some 25000 men.

Napoleon fled to Paris. He still aspired to raise a fresh army to lead yet one more campaign against his enemies, but was arrested by the British intelligence personnel. The army commanders of many Allied countries wanted Napoleon to be blown up under the cannon fire, but due to the intervention of great generals like Wellington they refrained from doing so. Napoleon was instead cast off to the Island of St. Helena in the Atlantic Ocean to lead a solitary life. The shock of his utter rout coupled with an afflicting stomach ailment hastened the end of Napoleon. He died on 5 May, 1821.

Results

After the downfall of Napoleon, two contradictory ideologies came to prevail in Europe. One was the Reactionary ideology the adherents of which were opposed to the ideals of 'equality', 'liberty' and 'fraternity' and supported absolutism instead. And the other was the Reformative ideology which stood against feudalism and supported democratic values.

The reformative tendencies were clearly manifest in France, England and Belgium. Still during the next thirty years, Europe was dominated by the reactionary ideology. The newly freed countries were merged with each other against their will. For instance, Belgium was united with Holland against its wish. However, the people of Europe revolted against the reactionism. Revolutions broke out in many countries. As a result of the 1848 revolution, monarchy was abolished and a republic established in France. The Chartist Movement, a mass revolutionary working class movement, took place in Britain in 1830s and 1840s. The high priest of European reactionism Metternich himself was swept off from power by a strong revolutionary current and he had to take asylum in Britain.

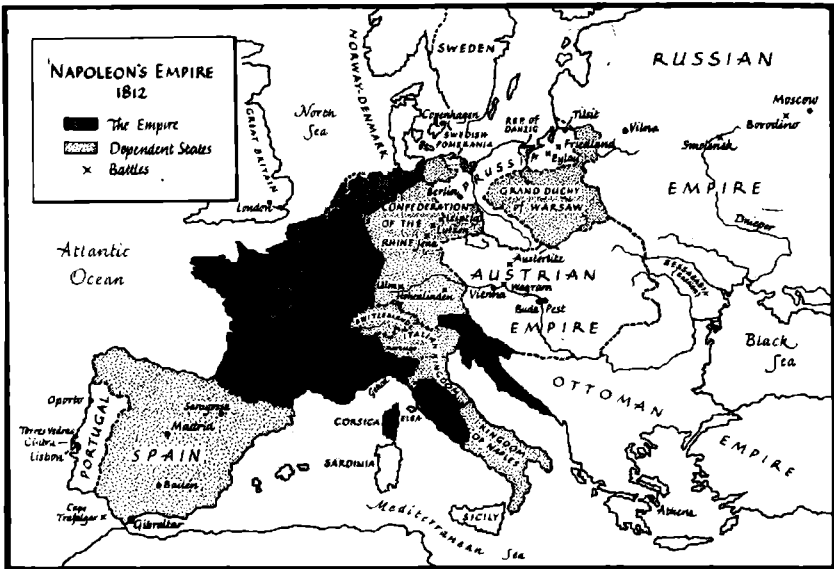
Europe got respite from a long series of wars that Napoleon had imposed on it. A grand congress of the European nations was held at Vienna in 1815 to redraw the map of Europe after the overthrow of Napoleon. As a result, Europe remained free from wars for many years to come.

The Battle of Salamanca

Date : 1812; Place : Salamanca (Mid-West Spain)

Spain had cordial relations with France, but Napoleon did not want to see any country independent in Europe as it conflicted with his ambition to dominate the whole of Europe. This was to achieve his goal of European domination that Napoleon in 1808 sent troops under Murat to take Spain. Spain was conquered and Napoleon installed his brother Joseph Bonaparte on the Spanish throne. The Spaniards, however, never accepted the Frenchmen as their master and soon rose against them. The neighbouring Portugal also yearned to throw off the French yoke while Britain had already taken initiative to put a check on the blind ambition of Napoleon for domination. In 1812, the freedom-loving armies of Britain, France and Spain made a common cause and took the field against France at Salamanca. The French forces were defeated and Joseph Bonaparte abdicated and fled Spain....

NAPOLÉON Bonaparte was an intrepid fighter and a very remarkable general, but he always remained worried about the security of his empire. He held the wrong notion that if any country of Europe



remained independent and was not brought under the French domination, it would be a potential threat to both his life as well his empire. Napoleon took many wrong decisions due to this misapprehension. The campaigns against Portugal and Spain were understandably the direct consequences of these vague fears of Napoleon.

Spain and Portugal both were on cordial terms with Napoleon and wanted friendship with France, but the independent existence of these two countries was an eyesore to Napoleon. He was trying to find some sort of excuse to invade them.

In 1806, Napoleon declared economic blockade of Britain. This is better known as the 'Continental System' and through it Napoleon wanted to bring about an economic strangulation of Britain by cutting off its overseas trade. All those European countries which were under the French domination had to participate in the blockade but Portugal refused to participate in this economic blockade of Britain. Napoleon got a good excuse to invade Portugal and soon he sent a large French force under the Duke of Abrantes, Junot to take Portugal. In November 1807, Junot attacked and occupied Portugal. The Portugal Royal family fled and took asylum in Brazil.

In 1808, about 100,000 French soldiers led by Murat marched against Spain. The excuse offered this time was that the powerful British navy was a threat to the Spanish coasts which could remain safe only when they came under the French protection. After conquering Spain, Napoleon installed his brother Joseph Bonaparte on the Spanish throne.

Though France occupied Portugal and Spain, the French hold over these countries was only precarious. The people of Portugal and Spain rose against the French occupation. Guerilla activities continued against Joseph Bonaparte in Spain. Britain extended full support to the patriotic Spanish guerilla fighters.

By his Russian invasion, Napoleon had no gain, and on the contrary, due to heavy casualties the French army was weakened considerably. Moreover, Napoleon had also suffered much from waging the Peninsular wars. As the French empire underwent great expansion, Napoleon necessarily had to keep forces on several fronts for security purpose, but it cast a heavy burden on the French exchequer.

Britain was keeping a close watch on these developments in France. So it sent a huge army under Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of

Wellington, for the liberation of Spain. Supported by the patriotic armies of Spain, the British forces led by Wellesley routed the French troops led by Marshal Marmot at Salamanca on 22 July, 1812. After the decisive defeat of France at Salamanca, Joseph Bonaparte fled Spain.

Outbreak of Hostilities

The battle began on 22 July, 1812 at Salamanca. The Frenchmen were commanded by Marshal Marmot. The French armies suffered a complete defeat and Joseph Bonaparte along with his supporters, fled Madrid. A victorious Wellington entered the Spanish capital, but after sometime the French forces recaptured Madrid. Napoleon sent general Jordan to help Joseph. On 21 June, 1813, the British troops led by Wellington defeated Jordan in the battle of Vittoria. Joseph and Jordan fled to France. Wellington also invaded France later on.

Results

The rout of the French forces in the battle of Salamanca pushed Napoleon on the brink of a defeat. Actually many factors conspired against Napoleon to bring about his defeat in this battle. In the hilly terrains of Spain, the French troops could not give their best performance while the Spanish guerilla adopted the tactics of attacking the enemy and then go into hiding behind the hills.

Secondly, until then Napoleon had defeated only the autocratic kings but in Spain he faced the fierce opposition of the entire population united by the strong bond of patriotism. Moreover, the greater part of the French army remained occupied in suppressing the revolt of the guerillas. Consequently, out of a 3 lakh strong French army only 70,000 could reach the front.

Even the Church stood against Napoleon by infusing patriotic and courageous spirits among the people. After its liberation from the French yoke, a democratic system was adopted in Spain with a single house Parliament. The French casualties were not only heavy but many able French generals also lost their lives. The decline in Napoleon's power encouraged the North European nations to form a coalition against him. The coalition countries, most notably Prussia, Russia, Austria and Britain, defeated Napoleon first in the battle of Leipzig (1814), and then finally in the battle of Waterloo in 1815.

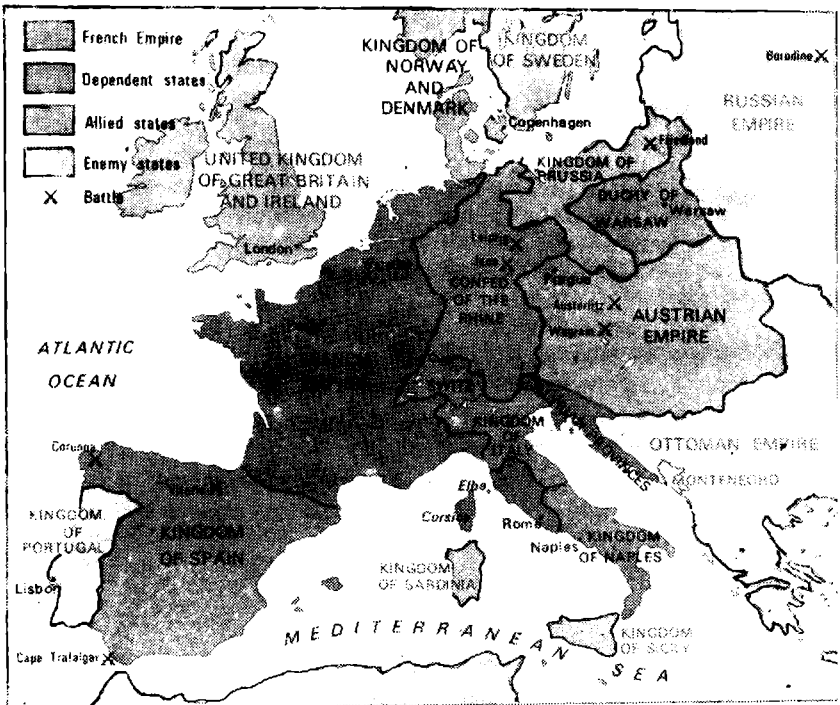
The Battle of Austerlitz

or

The Battle of the Three Emperors

Date : 1805; **Place :** Austerlitz (presently in South Czechoslovakia)

In July 1805, the three major European powers viz. Britain, Austria and Prussia decided to form a joint front against Napoleon. Napoleon, in quick retaliation, attacked Austria on 22 October, 1805. Austria was defeated and Napoleon captured Vienna. On 28 November, 1805, the 65000 strong Napoleon's army and 83000 strong combined armies of Austria and Russia were locked into a terrible fight at Austerlitz. On 2 December, Napoleon came out victorious. This victory was momentous for him as it marked the beginning of his rise to mastery in Europe. The Russian forces withdrew to home while Austria signed a peace treaty. Having suffered a defeat at the hands of Britain in the naval battle of Trafalgar, Napoleon failed to prove his supremacy in the sea warfare, but after this brilliant victory the French supremacy on land was firmly established....



THE battle of Austerlitz is of special significance in the Napoleonic wars. This is also known in the history as 'The Battle of the Three Emperors' due to the fact that three European Emperors had participated in it—Napoleon I of France, Tsar Alexander I of Russia and Francis II of Austria.

This battle whereas on the one hand shows the remarkable military leadership of Napoleon, on the other, it also reflects his indomitable courage. He had recently suffered a crushing defeat in the battle of Trafalgar but he did not lose courage even in the least. He accepted the fact that France would have to build large fleets and make large scale preparations for sea water before it could defeat Britain. He now developed a new strategy in which Austria, Prussia and Russia which had supported Britain were to be defeated first in order to remove every possible threat on land. Thus when there would be no rival left on land, France could easily attack Britain. The battle of Austerlitz was a step towards the implementation of this scheme.

Outbreak of hostilities

It was just two months after the battle of Trafalgar that Napoleon embarked on this expedition. First he tried to humble Prussia and Austria. On 22 October, 1805, he defeated the Austrian armies at Ulm. This was, as a matter of fact one-sided battle, because the Austrian armies surrendered to the French forces in too easy a manner. Napoleon also occupied the Austrian capital Vienna.

On hearing about the advance of Napoleon towards Vienna, the Arch Duke Charles of Italy proceeded to meet him. The Russian Armies were also getting assembled in Bohemia. Had Prussia seized this opportunity to mount a big offensive in the mid Danube valley, Napoleon might have found himself in trouble and the rival armies would have been locked into a tight combat. However, both Austria and Russia were too much confident of their power. Moreover, Russia herself wanted to take the credit of the defeat of Napoleon.

On the other side, Napoleon was all set to cover himself with the glory of victory before the arrival of the first anniversary of his coronation (2 December). He was, therefore, fighting with redoubled courage and swiftness. On 28 November, his forces reached Austerlitz to face the combined armies of Austria and Russia.

The 65,000 strong Napoleon's army confronted the 83,000 strong combined forces of Austria and Russia. When the hostilities broke out, Napoleon also developed the reserve forces. Ultimately,



French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte

the combined Austrian and Russian forces were put to rout on 2 December. The Austrian Emperor had to make proposal of a treaty while the Russian emperor fled. The then British Prime Minister William Pitt was so distressed at the defeat of Russia and Austria that he died after six months. Thus the joint front of Austria, Prussia and Britain against Napoleon was broken up.

Treaty of Pressburg

Austria concluded a treaty with Napoleon on 26 December, 1805. This was the third defeat of Austria at the hands of France. So through this treaty Napoleon tried to crush Austria completely by

imposing severe terms. The important terms of the treaty were:

1. Austria ceded Venice and Dalmatia to France.
2. Tyrol and Swabia were given to Bavaria, an ally of France.
3. The Feudal lords of Bavaria and B urtemberg were conferred the title of 'King'.
4. Bavaria, B urtemberg and Baden received many neighbouring zones.

This treaty dealt a hard blow to the prestige of Austria as a great power. She ceded areas inhabited by a population of about 30 lakh. Austria also lost her possessions in Rhine, Italy and Switzerland.

Results

It was a very magnificent victory for Napoleon and France. Napoleon fully avenged his defeat in the battle of Trafalgar and his reputation of a conqueror again reached at the pinnacle. He now set himself on the course of the mastery of Europe. In 1806, the centuries old institution of the 'Holy Roman Empire' was given a burial. After his defeat in the battle of Austerlitz, Francis II of Austria renounced the title of the 'Holy Roman Emperor' out of the fear that lest it should be inherited by Napoleon.

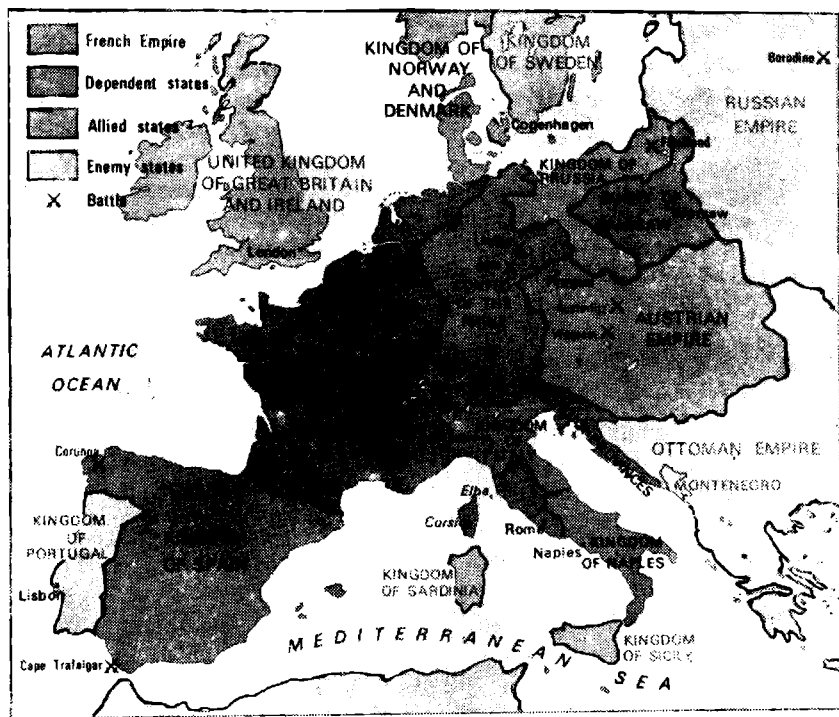
The Naval Battle of Trafalgar

Date : 1805; **Place :** Cape of Trafalgar near Gibraltar.

Napoleon in his life fought two naval battles with Britain and was beaten down both the times. His first naval engagement with Britain, known as the 'Battle of the Nile', took place in Egypt in 1798. And the second, famous as the 'Naval Battle of Trafalgar' was fought around Cape of Trafalgar near Gibraltar in the Mediterranean Sea. The Battle of the Nile was caused when Napoleon planned to defeat Egypt and then march towards India to offer a challenge to the British rule over there. And the battle of Trafalgar, when in 1803, Britain had declared war against Napoleon to check his rising power and Napoleon in retaliation ordered his navy in 1805 to attack Britain....

NAPOLÉON Bonaparte became an Emperor of France on 18 May, 1804 and was ceremoniously crowned by the Pope on 2 December, 1804. On ascending the throne, he accorded topmost priority to the work of national reconstruction through administrative and economic reforms. He formulated several plans for social and economic reforms and also carried them through. He understood that once France became internally strong and stable it would be easy for him to launch imperialistic expeditions for the conquest of Europe. Britain, however, had already anticipated these designs of Napoleon





and it was also clear to her that growth in Napoleon's power would pose a threat to the security of Britain. Since Napoleon wanted to stabilize the internal condition of France and make it strong in all spheres, he concluded a peace treaty with Britain ending all the disputes that had embittered their relationship over the years. Britain first entered into a treaty with France in 1802 and then declared war against her in 1803.

Ultimately, Napoleon decided to invade and defeat Britain. To this end, he mobilized his forces at a place called Boulogne on the French coast of English Channel. The supremacy of Britain in the sea warfare was unchallenged so it was not possible to conquer Britain until the British fleets were either drawn away from the British coasts or destroyed. Hence the imperative need for France was to force the British fleets out of English Channel to some distant place anyhow.



Great British Admiral Nelson.

To accomplish this objective, Napoleon ordered the French and the Spanish fleets to sail towards the West Indies. It was done to camouflage the British fleets so that these would immediately pursue the French and the Spanish fleets and meanwhile France would get the desired opportunity to attack Britain. But this tactic boomeranged on France. The Franco-Spanish fleets sailing towards the West Indies were suddenly attacked by the British fleets lying in ambush on the route. This sudden strike proved disastrous for the large number of Franco-Spanish fleets of which only 33 ships under the command of Admiral Villeneuve survived the attack. The remaining fleets too were pursued by the British Admiral Horatio Nelson on board the ship 'Victory'.

At this Napoleon ordered the Franco-Spanish fleets to return to cape Trafalgar, near Gibraltar in the Mediterranean sea. It was at this point that Nelson opened attack on the Franco-Spanish fleets.

Outbreak of hostilities

The British fleet led by Admiral Nelson attacked the French fleet commanded by Admiral Villeneuve on the morning of 21 October, 1805. Both Nelson and Villeneuve knew that on the outcome of the battle hinged the fate of Europe. Hence both were planning their strategies with utmost care.

Villeneuve arrayed his fleet into two lines. Nelson also followed the same order with the change that he put 8 fast speed and hard striking battleships in the front.

Nelson stood on the deck of his ship watching the movements of his enemy and issued orders accordingly. As the zero hour of the battle approached, he began moving about impatiently on the deck. Nelson was in his Admiral's uniform and the medals worn by him were shining brilliantly. Before launching the decisive offensive against the enemy, Nelson issued his last historical message to his countrymen: "England expects that everyone of us will perform his duty." His message was conveyed to the entire fleet and all reciprocated with thunderous applause.

The French Admiral Villeneuve too was watching the enemy's activities from his ship, but he let Nelson and Collingwood move forward. At noon, he ordered his men to carry bombing raids on the enemy to find out whether the enemy battleship 'Victory' was within the striking range. Some cannon shots passed over the 'Victory' but one hit a group of British soldiers leaving 8 of them dead. In this situation Nelson ordered Captain Adyer to disperse the soldiers so that the casualties could be minimized. In spite of the enemy fire, the 'Victory' did not strike back and within a few minutes 50 British soldiers lay dead. Thereafter, the British fleet was also ordered to return fire and thus a terrible fight ensued on the seas.

The British under Nelson were returning the enemy fire with great confidence. Nelson was himself observing the progress of war. Then suddenly a shell fired from the enemy ship 'Redoubtable' hit Nelson on his shoulder and he fell on his mouth. Nelson himself took his handkerchief out and covered his face and medals with it so that his men did not know that he had been wounded and feel demoralised.

Even though Nelson was writhing in pain, he kept himself abreast with the latest progress in the war till the very last moments. After sometime, Captain Hardy approached him. Nelson asked him "How many enemy ships have been destroyed?" Hardy replied, "Fifteen... and our victory is complete". The face of this gallant fighter who was on his death-bed glimmered with hope at this answer. However, the satisfaction and jubilation of victory could not keep him alive for long and he breathed his last. The whole of Britain mourned the death of this hero of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Results

The French defeat in the battle of Trafalgar was so terrible that Napoleon abandoned the very idea of attacking Britain through sea route. Britain continued to rule supreme on the seas as before.

Seven Years' War

Date : 1756-1763; **Place :** Europe, North America, India

This world-wide war that lasted seven years was fought between Austria, France, Russia, Saxony and Sweden on one side, and Britain, Prussia and Hanover, on the other. The two greatest reasons that accounted for the outbreak of this war were — colonial rivalry between France and England, and, the struggle between Austria and Prussia for supremacy in Germany. The war broke out in August 1756 with the invasion of Saxony by the Austrian Emperor Frederick the Great and was brought to an end in 1763 by the treaties of Hubertsburg and Paris. Britain and Prussia emerged as the two predominant powers in Europe. Britain got decisive success against its traditional colonial rival France at Quebec in North America and at Plassey in India....

The Seven Years' War among the European nations can be well described as a war for colonial aggrandizement. The European countries in the 18th century were involved in the fierce scramble for overseas colonies which brought about this conflict. In this war, France, Austria, Russia, Saxony, Sweden and Spain were pitted against Britain and Prussia.



The Empress of Austria, Maria Theresa (1717-1780) desired friendship of a country that was opposed to Prussia as she wanted to recover Silesia from Prussia. Prussia seized Silesia from Austria in 1740 when the war of the Austrian succession broke out. On the other hand, France too felt shuddered at the rising power of its neighbour, Prussia. So it was also looking for a friend that would be of help to it in its strive for advancement of overseas trade, colonial expansion and colonial rivalry with Britain. As the interests of these countries converged on these points they made friends burying 200 year old enmity. Thus while on one side France and Austria joined hands, on the other, Britain and Prussia stood together.

At this stage France and Britain were at daggers drawn outside Europe, in America and in India, due to colonial rivalry. When Austria turned its back upon Britain, the British King George II entered into a treaty with Frederick the Great of Prussia which pledged Frederick to protect Hanover, the birthplace of George II. George II felt even more attached to Hanover than England because he was an Elector of Hanover and his father had been invited to succeed to the British throne from there. Thus Britain and Prussia struck up friendship between them.

When in 1756, Frederick learnt about an Austro-French alliance, he at once marched against Saxony, defeated its armies and began to enlist the local people in his army. The Austrians in the beginning fought valiantly but were defeated in the end. The following year, Frederick attacked Bohemia and was about to occupy its capital when a unit of his army was defeated at Cologne and so he had to run to Saxony. By this time the Swedish and the Russian troops had reached East Prussia to give a battle to Prussia, and the combined forces of Germany and France had come still closer. In this grim hour of difficulty, Frederick remained undaunted and carried an assault on the French army taking shelter behind a hill. Then he made a sharp return and defeated the Austrian forces at Luthun in 1757. Meanwhile, France defeated the British and took Hanover. The shrewd and foresighted British Prime Minister William Pitt in view of the critical state of the war, held back a large part of his army to fight against France for the protection of Britain's overseas trade and gave full financial backing to Prussia. Moreover, he sent troops and recovered Hanover from France.

The next year the Russians inflicted a severe defeat on Frederick and the Austrian forces also having captured Dresden advanced towards him. Overcome with frustration, Frederick even

thought of committing suicide, but in the meantime he received the cheering news that the Prussian infantry had made a short work of the French cavalry. The next year again he beat the Austrian forces at two places but by that time he had run out of both men and money.

With the death of George II of Britain and the ouster of Pitt from power a case was made against the British help to Prussia. It was argued that Britain was wasting its money and men by fighting for Prussia. Hence Britain negotiated with France for a treaty. Meanwhile also with the death of the Russian Tsarina Alexandra, Frederick's fear of Russia was also removed, because her successor, Peter II was an admirer of the valour and other innate qualities of Frederick. On ascending the throne, he pulled out the Russian armies of the war. Moreover, the British gained a decisive victory over France in the colonial wars in America and India. The British captured Louisburg in 1758, Quebec in 1759 and in 1760 Montreal also fell to them. With these victories the French dominion in Canada came to an end. Prussia and Austria were now the only two combatants left in the battle arena. These two also grew weary of continuous violence and hatred and ultimately made peace through a treaty.

Britain and France concluded a treaty in 1763 at Paris. Britain got Nova Scotia and Canada, and Madras was also restored to it. St. Lucia, Pondicherry and Chandranagar were given back to France. Austria and Prussia also signed a treaty at Hubertsburg under the terms of which Prussian control over Silesia was upheld but it withdrew its forces from Saxony.

Results

The Seven Years' war provided an impetus to the efforts of the European countries to establish colonies in Asia, Africa and America. Britain emerged as the foremost colonial power of Europe.

Prussia emerged as a competitor of Austria in power and importance. So thereafter, there were two contenders for supremacy in Germany — Austria and Prussia. France was ruined. She lost many of her colonial possessions to Britain and was even deprived of its place among the major European powers. Secondly, luck came to the rescue of Prussia. It was Prussia's good luck that the Russian Empress Alexandra died and her successor was warm towards Prussia.

Thirty Years' War

Date: 1618-1648; **Place:** Bohemia (presently in Czechoslovakia and other European countries).

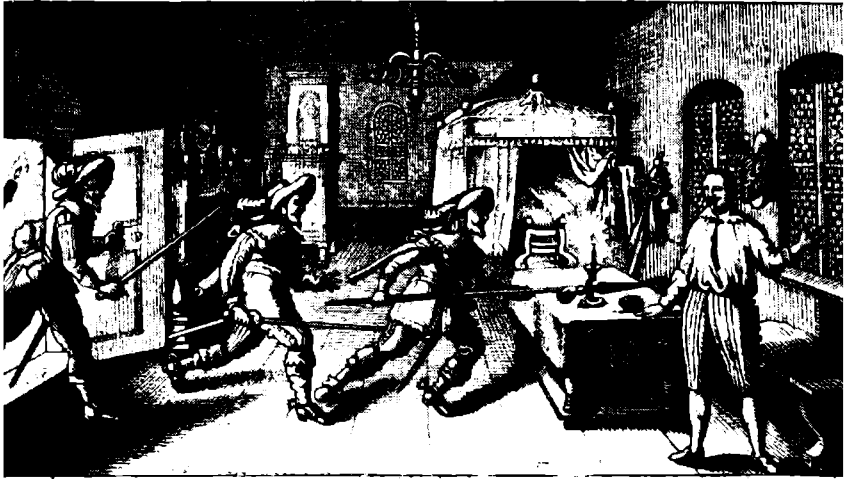
This is also one of those European wars that originated in the religious differences of the Europeans, particularly the differences between the Catholics and the Protestants. The war broke out in 1618 when Czechoslovak citizens of Bohemia, a Protestant province in the Holy Roman Empire, refused to accept Ferdinand II who was of Austrian origin as their ruler since he was a Catholic. Gradually the war took political overtones when many European countries stepped in for their ulterior motives, sending armies against each other in the garb of a religious cause. The war had already been fought for thirty years when it was put to an end in 1648 by the treaty of Westphalia.

IN the 17th century, the European countries formed coalitions and were involved in fierce-struggle to establish a balance of power among themselves. German historians have called this struggle by the name of the 'Thirty Years' War' and fixed its duration from 1618 to 1648. They attributed religious causes to these wars. Though the nomenclature 'Thirty Years War' still persists, most modern historians tend to fix their duration from 1610 to 1660 and hold that these wars were fought for diverse causes.

This is undoubtedly true that these wars had their roots in a religious dispute between the Protestants and the Catholics, all the same many constitutional issues also accounted in large measure for them. And, as a matter of fact, it is well nigh impossible to pinpoint which of the causes e.g. religious, political, economic and constitutional, is of greater importance and which of them lesser. This much, however, can be said without fear of exaggeration that religious causes served as theoretical and propagandistic base for these conflicts.

Even if we agree that the 'Thirty Years' War' came to an end with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, at least ten wars were fought during these thirty years.

1. War of the Julich Succession (1609-14).
2. Bohemian and Palatine War (1618-23).
3. Struggle for Graubunden (1620-39).
4. Swedish-Polish War (1621-29).
5. Danish War and the Edict of Res-



Murder of Wellenstein, the officer of Catholic League

titution (1625-29), 6. War of the Mantuan Succession (1628-31), 7. Swedish War and Peace of Prague (1630-35), 8. War of Smolensk (1632-34), 9. Franco-Swedish War (1635-48) and 10. Swedish-Danish War (1643-45). These wars were brought to an end by the Treaty of Westphalia concluded in 1648. However, two more wars were fought in this series : Franco-Spanish War (1648-59) and First Northern War (1655-60).

For convenience, all these wars can be divided into four phases : 1. Palatine, 2. Danish, 3. Swedish and 4. French.

Palatine phase

The Palatine phase began with the outbreak of war in 1618 and lasted five years i.e. up to 1623. In this phase, the head of the Protestant Union, Frederick was defeated. With the help of the Bavarian King Maximilian and the Catholic League, the Emperor Ferdinand attacked the Protestants. The weak leadership coupled with his carelessness brought about Frederick's defeat in 1620 at Prague. Consequently, he was exiled from the country and the Protestant Union dissolved. Gradually, in reaction to the repressive measures of the Catholics, the Protestants began to forge unity and earnestly asked England and the Danish King Christian IV for help.

Danish phase

The second phase set in with Denmark jumping into the conflict in 1624. The Emperor Ferdinand aided by the famous general

of the Catholic League Tilly and another army officer Wallenstein, defeated Protestants at several places. Owing to its fear of the power of Hapsburgs, Denmark attacked Northern Germany, but was defeated in 1629. The Emperor Ferdinand had to agree to return all the occupied areas to the Catholic Church.

Swedish phase

In 1630, the Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus led the Protestant German states against Ferdinand. However, in 1632, in the battle of Lutgen, he was caught in a dense fog when the enemy's bullets hit him. He fell down and breathed his last shortly after.

French phase

By the turn of 1635, Germany withdrew its support to Sweden. The armies of Wellenstein also beat a retreat. However, at this juncture, the French intervention under the leadership of Richelieu led to the resumption of the hostilities.

The armies of Italy, Sweden and Holland fought alongside Richelieu in this phase. The Swedish general Bernard and the Dutch people together defeated the Spanish and the Emperor's armies several times. In the meantime Bernard, Richelieu and the French King Louis XIII were all dead.



Signing of the Treaty of Westphalia, 1648.

In 1637, Ferdinand II also passed away and was succeeded by Ferdinand III. Peace negotiations got under way in 1640, but these could not lead to a treaty. The war at long last was brought to an end by the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648.

Results

With the signing of this treaty, the era of Religious Reformation in the European history was over. By the treaty of Ogsburg, the rulers of different sovereign states gained complete freedom to choose religion for their states. The Catholics as well as the followers of Lutherism and Calvinism and other sects were granted equal rights. They were also accorded equal representation in the religious assemblies etc. The property confiscated from the Catholics and the Protestants were restored to them.

The unification of Germany was a dead issue now. Brandenburg, Bavaria, Saxony and many other smaller German states, numbering about 350, were granted complete independence. These states were given full freedom to manage their own affairs. Consequently, the Emperor was only a nominal ruler now.

France retained Alsace and Lorraine but for many years to come France and Germany clashed sporadically over their possession.

Due to wars and famines, the population of Germany dropped to one-third i.e. it came down from 30 million to 12 million. Moreover, there was a general decline in different spheres of life like agriculture, industry, literature and science during these thirty years of war.

The Wars of the Roses

Date : 1455-1485; **Place :** Britain

Britain was ravaged by terrible civil wars in the fifteenth century. It all began when the King of England, Henry VI (1421-71) became deranged and the two prominent royal dynasties of England — Lancaster and York — contended for the English throne. These civil wars in England are known as 'The Wars of the Roses,' because the emblems of both the dynasties were rose: white rose of Yorkists and red rose of Lancastrians. These wars lasted thirty years and ended in the victory of Henry Tudor of the House of Lancaster who founded a new dynasty, 'Tudor Dynasty', in England...

THIS was a furious struggle between the Lancastrians and the Yorkists for the English throne. Lancastrians were the descendants of John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, who was the third son of Edward III. Yorkists, on the other hand, were the descendants of the fourth son of Edward III, but through a matrimonial alliance were also the inheritors of the rights of the second son. In this manner, they had a greater claim to the throne than the Lancastrians. The Lancastrians, however, had already ascended the English throne in 1399 and legally the claims of all the rest of the descendants of Edward III were set aside.

Richard, Duke of York, represented the dynasties of the second and the fourth sons of Edward III. The representative of the Lancastrians was Henry VI, the King of England at that time: there was one more person of the name of Edmund, Duke of Somerset, who represented the House of Beaufort. Beaufort family descended from the third son of Edward III who was born by an illegal marriage. The Duke of York staked the claim for the English throne against the rival claimants Henry VI and Duke of Somerset. This led to a Civil War in England.

The Hundred Years' War had bred disorderliness, cruelty, indiscipline and lawlessness among the English barons and soldiers. Henry VI was a weak king. Due to ill maintenance of the law and order, the Barons were becoming a law unto themselves and it became impossible to keep them under leash. They maintained

soldiers, called 'retainers', for their own individual uses. The retainers were the instruments in the hands of their masters to intimidate the judges and the juries and thus they saved their friends from getting punishment under law. This evil was known as the 'Livery and Maintenance'. The prevalence of this evil crippled the maintenance of law and order in the country, and the king found it a great handicap in effectively governing the country.

Henry VI had no son. After his death, the English throne was to pass to either of the two — Duke of Somerset or Duke of York. In August 1454, Henry VI became mentally deranged but after two months the queen gave birth to a son. Hence both the Dukes lost their claims. However, Duke of York succeeded in controlling the council. Duke of Somerset was imprisoned while Duke of York declared himself 'Protector'. The King, however, recovered from his mental illness the next year. Duke of York was removed from the 'Protectorship' and Duke of Somerset was set free. In May 1455, the Queen convened a meeting of the Nobles of the House of Lancaster and called upon them to protect the King. In the meantime, Duke of York started a war of succession.

Famous battles of the Wars of the Roses

The first battle was fought at St. Albans in May 1455. Duke of York won and Duke of Somerset was killed, while the King was taken prisoner. In the next battle of Bloer Heath Lancastrians were defeated again. The same year, Yorkists were defeated in the battle of Ludlow. July 1460 : in the battle of Northampton Lancastrians were defeated. December 1460 : the Queen of the imprisoned King defeated Duke of York and Salisbury in the battle of the Wakefield and both of them were executed. Again in the second battle of St. Albans, the Queen defeated Warwick and obtained the release of her husband. February 1461 : in the battle of Mortimer's Cross the son of Duke of York defeated Lancastrians. 1461 : Edward and Warwick captured London and Edward himself ascended the throne as King Edward IV. The same year the biggest battle of Towton was fought in which Lancastrians were routed. The King, the Queen and the Prince of Wales fled England.

In the battle of Hexan (1464), Warwick beat Lancastrians again. In 1465, Henry VI was recaptured and brought to London. 1469: in the battle of Edgecotfield, Warwick defeated and imprisoned Edward IV. March 1470 : the battle of Losecotfield; Warwick sustained defeat and fled to France where he joined hands

with the Lancastrians. In September, he made an attack on England. Due to non-cooperation of his troops he escaped to France and Warwick assumed the kingship of England Henry VI. April 1471 : Warwick was killed in the battle of Barnet. In the following May, Edward defeated Queen Margaret, wife of Henry VI, in the battle of Tewkesbury. Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales was killed and Henry VI also died in his incarceration.

Thereafter Edward ruled peacefully until his death in 1483. He was succeeded by his son Edward V who was only 12 years old at that time. Therefore, his uncle Richard, Duke of Gloucester, became Regent, but he was a wicked and ambitious person. Within months he usurped the throne from Edward V and got the minor King and his brother killed. He ruled for about two years as Richard III. After 14 years of the battle of Tewkesbury, the last battle of the Wars of the Roses took place. Henry Tudor of Wales, who claimed descent from the house of Lancaster, with the help of the French King challenged Richard's throne. So a decisive battle was fought at Bosworth in 1485 between Richard and Henry Tudor. Richard died fighting till the bitter end. Thus the Lancaster dynasty became victorious in the end. Henry Tudor ascended the throne as King Henry VII and also founded a new Tudor dynasty in England.

Results

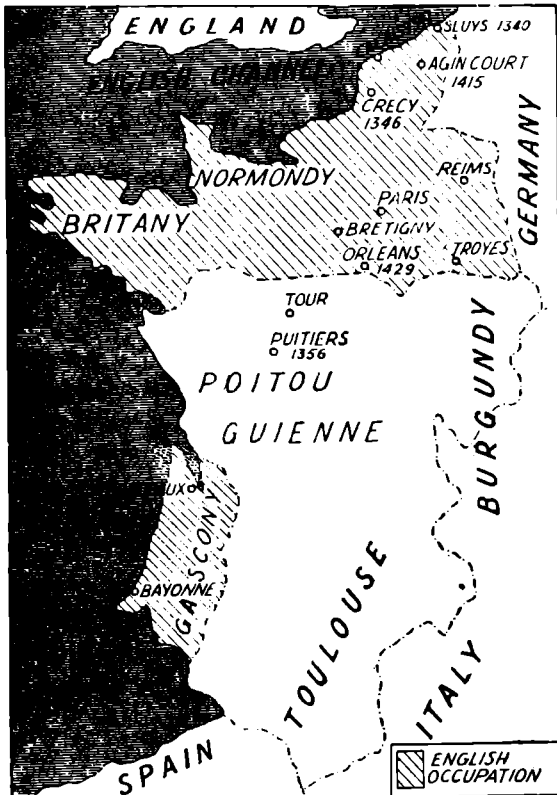
The Wars of the Roses sounded the death knell of the Feudal Age and Feudal Baronage in England. Most of the Feudal barons perished in the course of the fightings. The rest who survived were subjected to severe punishment and their property was also seized.

Significantly, the common men of England did not participate in these wars. This being so, the social life, trade and commerce in England did not suffer much. The common people wanted peace and order. This strong desire of the people at large brought England under the despotic rule of the Tudors. The experiment to rule through Parliament that the Lancastrians had tried failed miserably. The ordinary people, therefore, desired that the King ruled with a firm hand so that the country could enjoy peace and security. All the powers that the Parliament had acquired during the period 1399-1461 were either ignored or held in suspension.

Hundred Years' War

Date : 1337-1453; Place : France

This sporadic series of wars, fought mainly between England and France for about 115 years, had its genesis in the claim of the British kings for the French throne. In this long drawn out war sometimes Britain had an edge over France while at other times France got the better of Britain. In 1425, Henry V, the King of England, defeated the Frenchmen in the battle of Agincourt (1415) and by the Treaty of Troyes (1420) forced them to recognize him as the heir to the French throne. But tide turned in favour of France, when in 1429, a peasant girl Joan of Arc resurged her countrymen to throw off the British yoke. Consequently the Frenchmen fought determinately, against the British and by 1453 liberated all the territories under their occupation....



This series of wars fought sporadically for over hundred years between France and England originated in stray clashes. On the death of the King of France Charles IV, a dispute arose in France regarding his successor as Isabella, his own daughter, could not succeed to the throne under the law. This being the case, Philip of Valois was crowned the King of France and a new line of Kings 'Valois' came to rule in France. These were the kings of this dynasty, in fact, who waged the hundred years' war with Britain.

Meanwhile, the British King Edward III put his claim to the throne of France. His claim rested on the fact that his mother was the sister of Philip IV so he should rightfully succeed to the French throne. Confrontation mounted between Britain and France on this issue of succession. Resultantly, the king of Britain Edward in 1337, attacked Gascony and won the battles of Sluis (1340), Crecy (1346) and Poitiers (1356). Britain gained important possessions in France by these victories.

There was respite in these wars as a result of the Treaty of Bretigny concluded in 1360. Edward gave up his claim to the French throne in lieu of which he got enormous wealth and the principality of Accatine. The Frenchmen were opposed to the British domination but could not help it.

During the reign of Charles V, France recovered some of the lost territories from Britain. He appointed Betterrand Dige Scrule as his Commander-in-Chief. Betterrand marched with his troops to Castile in Spain, deposed its ruler Padro and installed Henry on the throne of Castile. Thus now in an exigency France could count on Castile navy. Having recovered much of the lost territory from Britain during 1369-75, Charles V attacked Britain. Betterrand chastised many British nobles. Charles with the public support introduced many administrative reforms in the country and made France internally strong.

Charles VI was only 12 when his father died. His coronation took place in 1388 but when he became an insane in 1392 the internal crisis of France was further aggravated. Seizing this opportunity, Henry V of England invaded France in 1415. Henry V wanted to fulfil his long cherished ambition of becoming a dual monarch of Britain and France. He captured Harfleu and defeated a superior French army at Agincourt. Finally, by the Treaty of Troyes (1420), Henry forced the Frenchmen to accept him as their king.

In spite of the Treaty of Troyes, Philip, the Duke of Burgundy,



A scene of the War.

and almost all the Northern Provinces of France recognized Charles VII as the only legitimate king of France. But in 1422, the minor son of the Henry V became the ruler of Britain and France with John, the Duke of Bredford, as the French Regent. By his able rule John became popular among the Frenchmen who extended him their full support. However, in 1429 a peasant girl Joan of Arc aroused patriotic fervour among her countrymen. The Frenchmen under her leadership and inspiration built up a huge army and recaptured Orleans from the English.

Charles VII carried out many important reforms in the army and administration. The French troops during 1441-45 beat the English armies several times and ultimately they were forced to retreat. As a result, the English were in the possession of only Calais (until 1558) and the Channel Island. Soon afterwards, Charles VII decided to put an end to this hundred years old series of wars with the help of a well-equipped army. Britain was racked by internal problems at that time and so felt hesitant in being drawn into a war. In 1453, France inflicted a crushing defeat on England in the battle of Constintyai. Having suffered a defeat in this battle, Britain lost its control on France. Thus ended this hundred years old war between England and France.

Results

The Hundred Years' War proved disastrous for both the combatants. Their administrative and economic set-up were in total collapse. Lakhs of people from both the sides were killed fighting in numerous wars of this series. The ambition of Britain to control France met its end and it had to remain content with Calais and Channel Island only. The morale of the Frenchmen soared high by this victory over their historical rival Britain. They were thus inspired to forge unity among them.

Crusades

Date : 1096-1291; **Place :** Jerusalem and the adjoining territories (West Asia).

Jerusalem (presently the capital of Israel) is a sacred place for three major religions of the world — Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Time to time, the followers of all these three religions have fought among themselves over its possession. At the close of the eleventh century, the religious head of the Christians, The Pope, called upon all the Christian countries of Western Europe to wage a holy war to recover Jerusalem and other Christian holy places in Palestine from the Muslims which they had captured in 1076. This led to a series of religious wars between the Christians and the Muslims known as the ‘Crusades’ that lasted up to the end of the thirteenth century....

IN the eleventh century, the Seljuk Turks succeeded in establishing their dominion over an extensive area. By their victory in the bat-



tle of Manzikert in 1071, they extended their sway from Byzantine (parts of Eastern Europe under the Eastern Roman Empire) to Asia Minor and captured Jerusalem in 1076. It is believed that one reason why the Christians launched Crusades was that the Turks perpetrated great atrocities on the Christians inhabiting the areas under their occupation. Moreover, the Christians were resolved to recover Jerusalem while the Turks were also equally determined to retain it under their control perpetually.

The Christians felt much hurt and humiliated at the Turk's taking their holy places. In 1095, the Pope Urban II organised the entire Christian community of Western Europe and called upon them to wage a holy war against the Turks for the liberation of Jerusalem. The Pontiff assured them that everybody fighting in these wars would be absolved of all his sins as they were fighting for a religious cause. This call worked as the main inspiration for the Christians in launching the First Crusade.

In addition, trade rivalries also accounted in good measure for the outbreak of the Crusades. The traders of such famous commercial centres of Italy as Geneva and Venice carried trading activities in the Mediterranean lands. When the Muslim rule ended in Sicily and Spain, they also thought of expanding their trade in the East. As a result, a mass meeting of the Christians was held in France to abolish the Muslim rule in the Eastern Mediterranean countries. Provocative speeches were delivered to incite the Christians to make sacrifices for throwing out the Turks from Jerusalem. This movement



Christians besiege Jerusalem : July 1099.

also helped in forging unity among the Christians to fight a holy war against the Turks.

Outbreak of Crusades

In all, 8 Crusades were launched by the Christians but among them only 4 Crusades and one Children's Crusade is worth mentioning.

First Crusade

The first Crusade was fought from 1086 to 1099 and is the most successful of all the Crusades. The Christians captured Jerusalem in 1097 and three Christian Kingdoms were set up in the lands which they had seized from the Turks. Thousands of the Muslims and the Jews were massacred. The Turks took advantage of the inexperience and mutual rivalries of the Christians and recaptured Edessa, a Christian stronghold, in 1144.

Second Crusade

The second Crusade, fought during 1147-48, was caused by the Turk's occupation of Edessa. This Crusade also, like the first, was launched at the call of the Pope. Louis VIII of France and Conrad III, the Emperor of Germany, supported the Christians but they met a dismal failure.

The Turks had a clever leader, Saladin, who occupied Egypt in 1171 and united the whole of Muslim world for a holy war against the Christians. The Turks under Saladin took back Jerusalem in 1187.

Third Crusade

The third Crusade (1189-92) was launched in retaliation to the reoccupation of Jerusalem by the Turks in 1187. This Crusade assumed added importance inasmuch as the German Emperor Frederick, Philip II of France and Richard I of England decided to participate. However, before he could join the Crusade, Frederick passed away while Philip was taken ill and retreated to France. So only Richard could lead the Christian army to Jerusalem. He defeated Saladin in the battle of Arnif which earned him the title of 'Lion Heart'. He recaptured Acre and Jaffa but failed to liberate Jerusalem.

Fourth Crusade

It was fought from 1201 to 1204. The Crusaders reached up to

Constantinople. But instead of advancing further to Jerusalem, they sacked the city for three days and destroyed its works of art. The later 4 Crusades were all failures and out of them only Children's Crusade is important.

Children's Crusade

After the dismal failure of the preceding four Crusades, some Christians put forth the proposal to send a Children's army to Jerusalem. The basis of their proposal was a statement in the 'Bible' wherein it is said that a small child would lead the Christians. Consequently, a French shepherd gathered an army of 30,000 children while 20,000 German children under the leadership of Nicholas marched to Jerusalem. But it turned out to be a fiasco. Out of the French Crusading children only one and out of German children only 200 could survive. Some perished on the way while others were sold into slavery by the Muslims.

Results

Though the Crusaders failed in achieving their main objective of liberating the Christian holy places from the control of the Turks yet they produced significant results. In addition to the above mentioned Crusades, 4 more Crusades were launched later on, but no decisive development followed from them. In 1291, the Crusades ended without regaining Jerusalem.

The Crusades proved useful for the Christians in many ways. Through their interaction with the Turks they learnt much from them in the spheres of art and science. The isolation of the Christians was broken and their dress and customs also underwent a change. Luxury articles like furniture were used on a large scale.

The Crusades also helped in expanding their geographical and trade horizons. The people of the Western Europe now knew fairly well about the Mediterranean and the West Asian countries. Some explorers and adventurers undertook long voyages for trade and discoveries of which Marco Polo's voyage is the most renowned.

The Crusades also played an important role in putting an end to feudalism in Europe. The people learnt to live with mutual tolerance and understanding and the hold of the Church over them also weakened. Their faith in the Pope also began to wane. The Europeans were made familiar with the wealth of the classical works of the ancient Greeks through their contact with the Arabs. As a result, compass, gun powder and printing machine came into use in Europe.

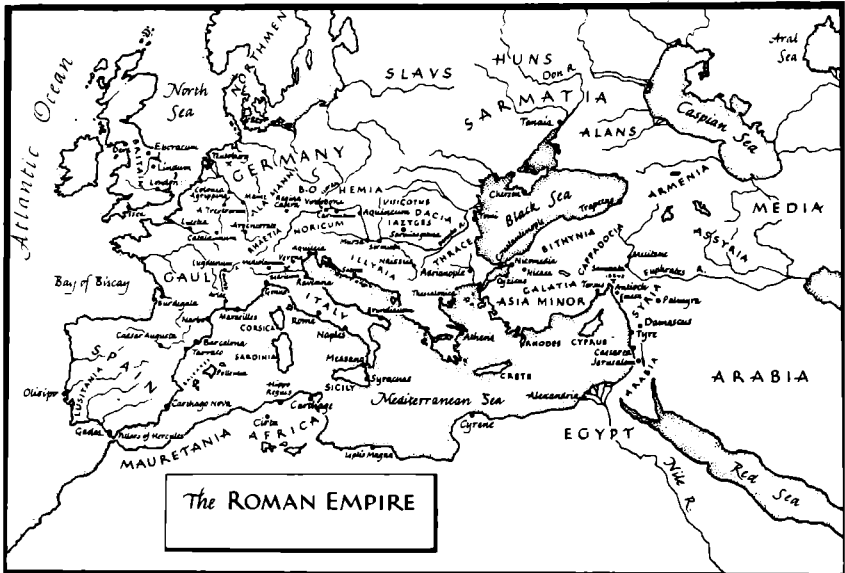
The Roman Invasion of Britain

Date : 55 B.C., Place : British Isles

The great Roman general Julius Caesar led two invasions of Britain in 55 B.C. and 54 B.C. Second time, Caesar penetrated far into the interior parts of Britain, but returned without bringing his victory to completion. This invasion may or may not have brought any gains to Caesar, it definitely did great good to Britain. Britain's isolation was broken and it came into touch with the rest of the European parts....

UNTIL 2000 years ago, Britain was almost completely cut off from the rest of the world. Only some merchants brought tin from Britain to sell it in the European markets. A merchant named Pythes toured through Britain in about 325 B.C. and left some account of his travels. The people outside came to know for the first time through this account that there were two islands to the west of Europe. They called these islands the 'Tin Islands'.

The Roman general Julius Caesar (100-44 B.C.) brought Britain into touch with the world outside for the first time. He was nurs-



ing an ambition to conquer Britain because during the Rome-Gaul (France) war in 58 B.C. he had come to know that some British tribes were helping Gaul in this war. He, therefore, wanted to chastise them for this act. Besides, he was also tempted by the glory that the conquest of the new islands would bring him in the Roman Republic. Wealth was yet another pull. Above all, Caesar was contemplating to establish his supremacy in the Roman Republic and so to that end, wanted to credit himself with as many victories as he could gain.

Outbreak of War

Caesar invaded Britain in August 55 B.C. at the head of a large army. He sailed to Britain with his fleet and landed on the shores of Kant. His war fleet had 80 battleships, but as the second part of his army could not reach in time he had to return in disappointment. The following year, in 54 B.C., he led the second expedition against Britain. This time his fleet had as many as 800 ships. The Britons were defeated and they agreed to pay tribute to the Roman Republic. Having extracted this promise from the Britons, Caesar returned to Gaul. Britain, however, did not fulfil its promise to pay tax to the Roman Empire. Meanwhile, Caesar became preoccupied



Caesar leading Roman armies against Britain.

with some other matters. Moreover, Caesar saw no point in leading a fresh invasion of Britain as he himself had seen the stark poverty of Britain. The famous Roman historian Cicero writes that there was not even a single gramme of gold on the British island. There were no riches except slaves, nor the British islands had any knowledge of art, science etc. Civilisation had not yet dawned over there.

Roman Republic by now had been transformed into the Roman Empire and Augustus (31-14 B.C.) the nephew and adopted son of Caesar, became the first Roman Emperor. The fourth Emperor of Rome, Claudius, as soon as he ascended the throne in 41 B.C., resolved to conquer Britain. Consequently, in 43 A.D., he sent an expedition under the experienced general Allius Plautius with 40,000 strong army to conquer Britain. The Roman army landed on a British island. Only after 4 years of bloodshed could Plautius get success in his mission. Romans conquered the Southern and Eastern parts of Britain. Plautius returned in 47 A.D.

In 59 A.D., the Roman territories in Britain extended from Licoln to Chester. The same year, the Roman general Sentonius Pollinus captured a British shrine Mona Island and put to death many British priests.

In 61 A.D., a rebellion broke out in Britain led by Bodesy, the widow of a tribal chief. The British people rose under the inspiring leadership of this brave lady and wiped out 7000 Romans and their British stooges. Pollinus ultimately succeeded in crushing the rebellion. The Roman army in a fury of revenge massacred 80000 Britons. Bodesy committed suicide by taking poison.

For the next seventeen years i.e. from 61 to 78 A.D. Roman armies made continuous advance northwards and conquered most of the British territories. Under the leadership of the Roman Governor General Agricola, the Romans occupied the whole of Wales as well as the Mona Island. Agricola returned to Rome in 85 A.D. During his term of office in Britain, Agricola effected the Romanisation of the British and also made improvement in its economic system

Results

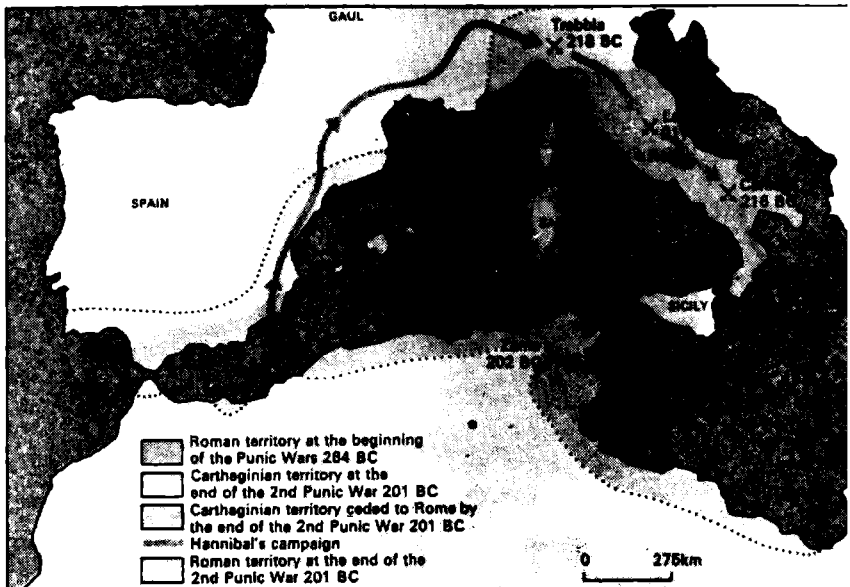
The Roman invasion produced results of far-reaching consequences for Britain. When the British came into close contact with the advanced Roman culture and civilisation, they felt motivated to develop their own art, literature and philosophy.

Punic Wars

Date : 264-146 B.C. **Place :** Mediterranean and European lands

The North African city of Carthage, founded in 813 B.C., grew so powerful by the 2nd-3rd century B.C. that it began to compete with the Roman Empire for supremacy in the Mediterranean. A war was, therefore, natural to arise between the two owing to this rivalry. In all, three wars were fought between Rome and Carthage and these are known in history as 'Punic Wars'. The third Punic war resulted in the complete destruction of Carthage by the Romans and most of the Carthaginians were taken into slavery....

Carthage was a colony of the Phoenicians in North Africa. It had its location in North Africa near the modern Tunis, and in 813 B.C. Phoenicians declared it an independent state. As a result of its flourishing trade Carthage soon became so prosperous and powerful a state that it established its sway over North Africa, southern half of Spain and Sicily etc. As Carthage was predominantly a commercial city, its administration was also in the hands of the trading community. The founders of Carthage, the Phoenicians, are called 'Poeni' in Latin, that is why Rome-Carthage wars are called 'Punic Wars'.



On the other hand, the Roman Empire was also steadily gaining in power and prosperity and wanted to enjoy trade supremacy. Thus it was to be decided as between the two which would have trade supremacy in the Mediterranean. Consequently, a long series of Punic Wars began in 264 B.C.

First War

The first Punic War was fought from 264 to 241 B.C. The main reason of its outbreak was the occupation of Sicily by Carthage. The first major engagement between Rome and Carthage took place in 262 B.C. The Carthaginian armies under Generals Xanthippus and Hamilcar gained some preliminary success on land. They slain hundreds of Romans and made their sacrificial offerings to the Carthaginian gods. The naval reinforcement for the defeated Roman army could not reach because it was destroyed by a terrible storm on the way. The Roman Senate was much disappointed over these Roman reverses. Romans, however, exercised patience and in 251 B.C. a large Roman force defeated the Carthaginians and seized their weapons, elephants etc. This Carthaginian defeat proved a prelude to their final rout. In the battle of Aegadian Isles in 241 B.C. the Carthaginians were put to rout by the Romans. Result: Carthage had to conclude a treaty and pay a large indemnity to the Romans. Moreover, it also agreed to evacuate Sicily.

Second War

The Second Punic War raged from 218 to 201 B.C. On the death of the Carthaginian general Hamilcar, his son Hannibal vowed to complete the unfinished task of his father. Following its victory in the first Punic War, Rome extended its empire up to the Alps. This unleashed repression on the Carthaginians. The Carthaginians were already smarting under their defeat in the first Punic War, the repressive Roman measures added fuel to fire. Hannibal and his soldiers were just waiting for such an opportunity to come.

Hannibal also embarked on the expansion of his empire. He made known his ambition by invading Italy crossing the insuperable Alps from the side of Spain. The Romans felt seriously concerned at these victory expeditions of Hannibal. It became now imperative for the Romans to crush the rising might of Hannibal, but the Roman Senate was divided over the issue of war with Carthage. The common people were against the war while those whose business it was to advise the government felt that a war with Carthage was the greatest need of the hour.

Consequently, Rome had to fight such terrible war as it never had fought before in its history. Meanwhile, as soon as Hannibal learnt that the Roman army under the command of Scipio Africanus had planned to invade Carthage, he abandoned his victory campaigns and turned back to repulse the Roman invasion.

So a decisive battle ensued between Roman and Carthage at Zama in Africa in 202 B.C. The Romans led by Scipio inflicted a crushing defeat on the Carthaginian forces commanded by Hannibal. Twenty thousand Carthaginian soldiers were killed and an equal number taken prisoner in this war. Carthage faced a complete rout and Hannibal fled to Carthage. Carthage had to conclude a treaty by the terms of which it agreed to pull out its forces from Spain and also surrendered its navy. The Romans wanted to take Hannibal alive, but they could not, as he committed suicide by taking poison.

Third War

Despite savouring a terrible defeat in the second Punic War, Carthage reorganised its army and emerged powerful again. Naturally, Rome felt apprehensive at this resurgence in Carthage. The war, however, was sparked off by the Roman Senator Cato who carried a relentless propaganda for war and who would end his every speech by proclaiming: "As for the rest, I am of the opinion that Carthage must be destroyed." The last of the Punic Wars began in 149 B.C. and ended in 146 B.C. in the complete destruction of Carthage.

Results

What accounted, in main, for the complete rout of Carthage in the Punic Wars were its hired soldiers. These soldiers who worked on fixed salaries had fighting spirits, but were not fired by the same patriotic zeal as displayed by the patriotic Roman armies which ultimately brought victory to the Romans.

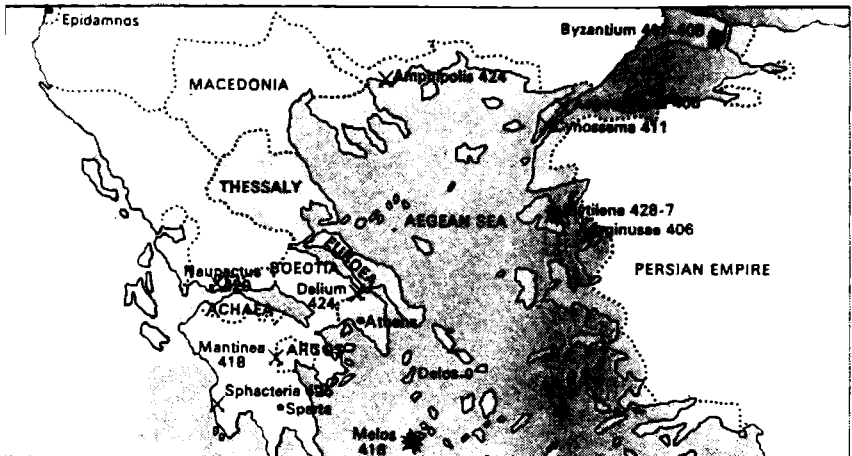
The power of Carthage which it had built up progressing at a rapid pace was completely shattered and Carthage turned into a desolate place. By its victory over Carthage, Rome ascended as the greatest power in the Western World. The social, religious and political life of Rome underwent transformation. Under the influence of Greek civilisation and culture, many Greek gods came to be worshipped by the Romans. Carthage became the Roman boundary in Africa. The Carthaginians general Hannibal no doubt was defeated but his extraordinary ability and bravery as a military commander earned him a place among the greatest generals in history like Alexander and Napoleon.

Athens-Sparta Wars

Date: 431 B.C.; Place: Ancient Greece

The two city states of ancient Greece—Athens and Sparta—remained involved in a deadly rivalry over regional hegemony and power accumulation. Both led invasions against each other frequently. These wars between Athens and Sparta are also known as Peloponnesian War. Though Sparta ultimately emerged victorious over Athens, but it had grown so weak that it was unable to suppress internal revolts and repulse external invasions. Sparta in the long run was absorbed in the Roman Empire in 146 B.C....

The ancient Greece was divided into many independent CityStates that were always busy plotting against each other. They were locked in rivalries of the worst kind. In the context of this rivalry, a treaty was concluded between Athens and Sparta in 445 B.C. having its principal aim to create harmonious relations among the numerous city states of Greece. An effort was thus made to create an atmosphere wherein no state felt jealous of any other state's getting more powerful or prosperous, and on the contrary, it looked at it with appreciation. Athens then was busy in the expansion of its land and naval forces which caused deep resentment in Sparta. Secondly, Athens had defeated Cornith and blocked its trade routes which jeopardized its trade. To take revenge upon Athens, Cornith asked Sparta for help. Meanwhile, Borsira (in the



Mediterranean and now called Porfu Island) requested for merger with Athens since it did not enjoy good relations with Cornith.

Outbreak of War

At long last, the warlike Sparta invaded Athens in 431 B.C. Athens had no land army to match the well-trained Spartan land forces, but it had a preponderant and well-trained navy. The Athenian general Pericles instead of ordering an attack, ordered his troops to hold the attack so that the enemy forces did not make advance. Meanwhile, a terrible war broke out in Athens that was believed to be the result of the curse of the goddess Athena.

Pericles died in 429 B.C. His death created a void in the Athenian leadership. There was no other person of his ability to offer wise counsel and competent leadership. The war continued to rage for several years. In 425, the Athenians encircled 420 Spartan soldiers on the coast of Peloponnese. The Spartan soldiers fought bravely against an overwhelming Athenian army, numbering 10,000 men, but when only 282 of them were left alive they thought it better to surrender. Athens was not inclined to any kind of treaty with Sparta and so the hostilities dragged on.

The following year, the Spartans led by Brasides inflicted a major defeat on the Athenian forces at Dalium. In this war Socrates and his pupil Alcibiades had also fought. The generals from both sides—Brasidas of Sparta and Clion of Athens—died fighting in the battlefield. Finally in 431 B.C. both agreed for a treaty on the condition of mutual exchange of their prisoners and occupied territories.

In spite of the treaty, the mutual discord between Athens and Sparta still persisted. Alcibiades aspired to make Athens more powerful by merging Southern Italy and Sicily in it, but one incident meanwhile occurred in Athens upsetting all his plans. On one morning, the people were surprised to notice pieces of a broken idol of Hermes at every gate of the city. They suspected Alcibiades of establishing an autocratic rule by subverting the democratic system. This annoyed Alcibiades and hence he fled to Sparta where he leaked out all the secret war strategies of Athens to the enemy. Helped by the defection of Alcibiades, Sparta resumed hostilities against Athens. After Alcibiades, Nicias was the only able leader to guide Athens in the war. A reinforcement was sent under Demosthenes, but this army too, on which Athens had full confidence suffered a defeat. Also defeated was the Athenian war fleet. Athens was left with an army numbering 40,000 only to pursue the war against Sparta. Nicias and Demosthenes, in spite of the limited military strength

fought determinedly. Eventually the Athenian forces were put to a complete rout, and the Athenians awarded capital punishment to both of their leaders.

After sometime, Alcibiades also fell out with the Spartans and now he fled to Persia. In spite of all this, Athens still desired to welcome him back. Alcibiades had anti-democratic leanings and wanted a despotic rule for Athens. Hence he wrote to the Athenians that the Persian help against Sparta would be available provided Athens changed its democratic system. Consequently, in 411 B.C. democracy in Athens gave way to an oligarchy.

So Alcibiades returned to Athens in 410 B.C. He was accorded a grand welcome and was reinstated to his old post of a general, but soon he aroused suspicion and was relieved of his post. In the meantime, the Spartan general met the Persian king Cyrus and won him over to his side. Sparta attacked Athens again. Athens was routed. The Athenian authorities were furious at the failure of their army commanders to defend the country and put forward a proposal in a public meeting for awarding death sentence to them. The proposal met an overwhelming support from the people. On the execution of the army commanders, the defeated Athenian armies were taken prisoner in 404 B.C. The Athenian forts were demolished. The Athenian democracy met its abrupt end while the empire had collapsed already.

Results

The ancient culture and civilisation of Greece suffered most from the disastrous consequences of this war. Many Greek cities that represented the magnificence of the intellectual, cultural and artistic attainments of Greece were laid waste bringing to an end an epoch of advancement in the Greek culture.

Sparta realised its dream of blotting out the independent existence of its age old rival Athens. As a result of this dreadful war, the feeling of unity struck root in many smaller states and fiefs of Greece.

The Battle of Thermopylae

Date: 480 B.C. **Place:** Thermopylae Pass (East-Central Greece)

Thermopylae is a very narrow pass in the East-Central Greece. It has through the ages been the principal route to enter Greece from the North. In 5 B.C., near this narrow pass, a small Greek force led by Leonidas held up a much larger invading Persian army for three days setting an example of heroic resistance. Since this battle was fought near Thermopylae, it is famous in the history as the "Battle of Thermopylae"....

In the battle of Marathon, the Persian armies fighting under Darius had suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Greeks. This defeat rankled in the heart of the Persian king Darius I (522-486 B.C.) all through his life and he made persistent efforts to conquer Greece. Unfortunately, he died before he could fulfil his ambition.

Darius was succeeded by his son Xerxes I (486-465 B.C.) but he was not as brave and as gallant a fighter as his father. He was, however, surrounded by advisers who incited him all the time to lead an invasion against Greece. As a result of this constant instigation, he had also strong feelings to avenge the defeat of his father and marched to Athens at the head of a large force.

Outbreak of War

An account of this war has been left to the posterity by the famous Greek historian Herodotus (484-425 B.C.). He writes that the Persian army numbered 5 million and led by Xerxes entered Europe by crossing the Helisampet and occupied Thrace and Macedonia.

Thermopylae is a narrow pass in the East-Central Greece, near which this battle was fought. The pass was so narrow that in between the high hills on both its sides a ship could barely pass through. The Greeks thought it a strategic place to give a battle to the invading Persian army. Secondly, Athens and Sparta leaving behind their traditional enmity and discord stood unitedly against the invaders. Thus only a small united Greek force of Sparta and Athens stood up to a much larger invading army. Athens, however, had a large navy which the Athenian general Themistocles had built up in the teeth of opposition from his rival Aris-



Persian army under Xerxes crossing the Helisampat river.

tides. The Greek army was commanded by the king of Sparta Leonidas.

Before taking an offensive against Greece, Xerxes sent a message to the enemy asking it to surrender. The Greeks replied that Xerxes himself should come to bring about their surrender. The answer infuriated the Persians so much that they immediately marched against Greece. The Greek forces, limited though in strength, put up a heroic fight and Xerxes on many occasions was in deep despair. Just at this juncture, an informer divulged to Xerxes a new route to besiege the Greek forces. The Persian army arrived on the spot all of a sudden and swooped on the Greeks. The Greek soldiers began to fall. The King of Sparta Leonidas also died fighting in the battlefield.

The residents of Athens began to flee the city. The Greeks feared a total route but after sometime their navy turned the tables against the Persians. Themistocles made an advance with his army. The overwhelming Persian army was fully confident of its victory but it had no experience of fighting in narrow straits in which the Greeks were adept. This being the case, the Persian force met its debacle in spite of the fact that it heavily outnumbered the Greek army.

Results

For the Greeks it was a very magnificent victory. As had happened earlier in the case of the battle of Marathon, the culture and civilisation and independence of Greece narrowly escaped destruction. Xerxes's dream to conquer Greece remained unfulfilled. The Greeks even got their neighbouring territories liberated from the Persian domination.

The Battle of Marathon

Date : 490 B.C., **Place :** Marathon (Greece)

In the 5th-6th Century B.C., the Persian kings were in ascendancy. They had established their dominion over almost all the lands around the Aegean Sea, comprising mainly the Greek Colonies. When Darius I (522-486 B.C.) became the king of Persia, these territories rose in revolt and also stopped payment of taxes to their Persian masters. Darius decided to chastise them. He marched with a huge army and arrived at Marathon in the north of Athens. In the ensuing battle, the Persians suffered a rout. To break this news to his Athenian compatriots, a Greek citizen named Pheidippides ran all the way up to Athens, covering a distance of 40 kilometres. He succeeded in his mission but died of exhaustion. Marathon race in the Olympics is held in commemoration of this event....

The Persian king Cyrus the Great having conquered Media and Lydia in 559 B.C. also annexed Babylon to his empire. The imperialistic expeditions of the Persians continued even after his death and Egypt was also made a part of the extensive Persian empire. In 522 B.C., Darius I became the king of Persia. A decade later he built up a pontoon bridge on the river Danube so as to march across the river to invade Scythia. He was the first with some of his followers to step on the bridge and while addressing his Greek followers in Asia he said, "I will be off for an invasion of Scythia. If I don't return within sixty days then take me for dead and after dismantling the bridge return to your country". Sixty days passed but Darius did not return. One day it came to be known that Darius was running back because the enemy had defeated the small force he carried with him. The enemy were pursuing him. At this point, some people advised the Greek followers of Darius to destroy the bridge. Darius though was an enemy of Greece yet they did not pay any heed to their advice..Darius crossed into his country safe.

After sometime, Darius thought of conquering Europe and began his campaign by conquering Thrace and Macedonia, the two Greek states. Meantime, a revolt erupted against them in the Greek territories under the Persian empire like Iona. The people of Athens set a famous city Sardis, under the Persian empire on fire. When Darius learnt about this incident, he was in violent fury to take revenge. Consequently, he attacked Athens with his naval and ground forces several lakhs strong.



A scene of the battle

His forces advanced up to the right bank of the Danube river near the Black Sea. The Greeks made a feeble resistance which was crushed by the Persians. As a result, the Greek soldiers retreated to such remote hilly tracts where it was difficult to arrange provisions for the armies. The invading Persian army was thus forced to return disappointed. Yet the Persians took Thrace and left a strong garrison 80,000 strong, to defend it.

Outbreak of hostilities

Feeling frightened of the rising power of Persia, the Greeks instigated Egypt and Babylon under the Persian domination to revolt. Similarly, another Persian dependency Iona was given open support to its revolt against Persia. Darius planned a second invasion of Greece to crush their revolt and audacity.

The hostilities finally broke out in 490 B.C. at Marathon, to the north of Athens in Greece. The Athenian army, number 11,000 and led by Militides confronted by the Persian army twice its size and numbering 20,000. The Persians were sure of making a good use of their cavalry on the level plain of Marathon, but the Athenians did not give them an opportunity to carry this scheme through. They led a surprising attack on the Persians when their daredevil horses were away for watering. After prolonged fightings, the Athenian general Militides routed the Persians and drove them back to the beaches. The Persians left in their ships. The Persian casualties in the war were 6400 against 182 of Athens. The Persian defeat shocked Darius so much that he died soon after.

Results

The Persian defeat at Marathon further excited the anger of Darius who until his death continued to strive to conquer Greece though without success. Besides, under the impact of the war, the small Greek states burying their mutual differences united themselves into a confederation and got liberation from the Persian yoke.

Trojan War

Date: Around 1190 B.C.; **Place:** Troy (A neighbouring State of Sparta in Greece)

In 1870, a German archaeologist Heinrich proved for the first time on the basis of his researches that the Trojan War was not merely a figment of imagination of the famous Greek poet Homer, but a historical fact. It came about when Paris, the son of the king of Troy Priam, abducted the beautiful Helen, the wife of the king of Sparta Menelaus. The Greeks attacked Troy to avenge this national insult. The war dragged on for years but the Greeks failed in breaking into the city of Troy. At long last, they played a clever trick: some Greek soldiers hiding themselves inside a giant hollow wooden horse entered the fort of Troy and opened its gates in the dark. Troy was defeated and destroyed completely.....

Over the centuries scholars tended to believe that Troy was a mythical and imaginary city that had never existed in reality. In their opinion, there was never a city called Troy and the 'Troy' mentioned by the classical Greek poet Homer in his epic 'Illiad' was only a product of his imagination. But the famous German archaeologist of the 19th century Heinrich Schliemann, on the basis of his persistent excavations and research efforts, succeeded in finding the ruins of this legendary city. These ruins corroborated the fact that Troy was not merely an imaginary or legendary city but it had a certain existence about 5000 years back. The Trojan War was fought here around 1190 B.C.

Outbreak of War

The cause of the outbreak of this war was a woman. Once a beauty contest was held among three goddesses and who among them was the most beautiful was left to the decision of Paris, the son of the king of Troy Priam. One goddess was declared the most beautiful of the three contestants. She felt pleased with Paris and promised him to present with the most beautiful woman in the world. To accomplish this objective, a conspiracy was hatched to possess Helen, the Queen of the king of Sparta Menelaus. At long last, Paris abducted Helen and took her to Troy. Helen also fell to the charms of Paris but then she was already a married woman.

The Greeks were dazed at this national dishonour and attacked Troy to avenge it. The Greek forces for ten long years besieged Troy but

due to its impregnable walls, could not succeed in entering the city. At last, the Greek general Odysseus hit upon a trick. At his suggestion, a giant wooden horse hollow from the inside was built so as to accommodate 100 soldiers in a standing posture. The Greeks left this giant horse at the gate of Troy and retreated a little to camouflage the Trojans.

Odysseus' trick worked. The people of Troy assumed that the enemy had fled leaving behind that magnificent gift horse for them. Feeling jubilant they dragged the giant wooden horse inside the fort. When the night fell, the Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse came out at a fixed time and opened the closed doors of the fort. A terrible war then followed between the two forces.

In those days there was a custom in which warriors used to fight 'duel'. As per this custom Achilles, the ablest warrior of Greece, challenged Hector, the well-known warrior of Troy for a duel. When he heard this challenge, the old Priam inspiring his son Hector said "I miss many brave men among Trojans today. I have already lost my two sons. We don't know where they are. If they have been killed in the war then my and their mother's souls will always be in distress. It is Achilles who is the root cause of our sufferings. Hence come forward, my son! to save the men and women of Troy."

On the other hand, Achilles too wanted to avenge the death of his friend Patroclus who had been killed by Hector. Hence both fought a fierce duel. Achilles wounded Hector badly but Hector did not want to die without fighting till the last breath. So Hector unseathed his sword and pounced on Achilles. Achilles too moved forward holding a javelin in his right hand and took aim of Hector's neck. The aim this time was dead accurate. The young Hector fell on the ground. Writhing in pain, he struck his head against the ground and then closed his eyes forever.

Whom the Trojans worshipped like a deity was no more. Achilles tied the corpse of Hector to a chariot and drove it fast. His old mother burst into tears. The father cried out in deep pain. The whole of Troy went into deep mourning. In the end, the valiant Greek fighters captured Troy. The war thus had a terrible end.

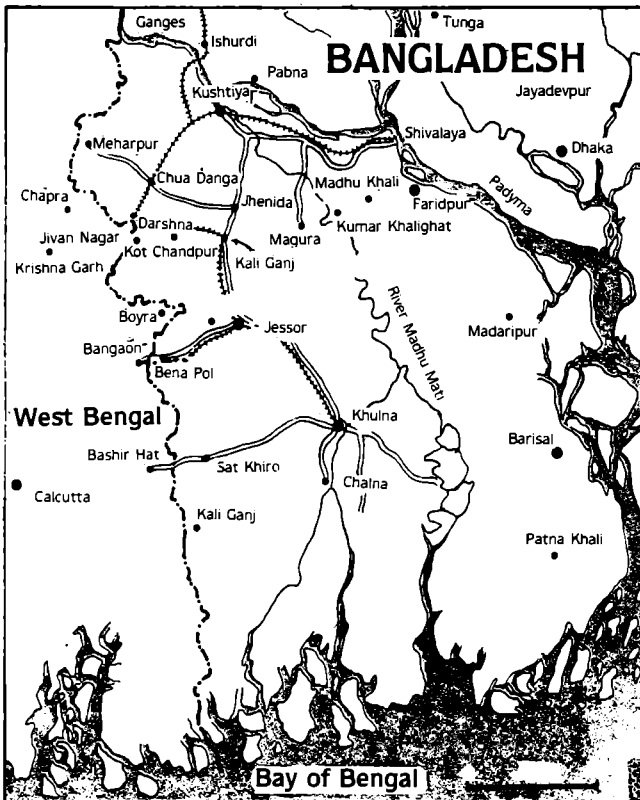
Results

History is replete with examples where a woman became the cause of a war and utter destruction. So was the case with the Trojan war that was fought for Helen. Troy was ruined utterly. The Greeks and the Trojans both lost many of their national heroes like Paris, Hector and Achilles.

Indo-Pak War of 1971

Date: December 1971; **Place:** Eastern and Western borders of India

India gained freedom from the British colonial bondage in 1947, but a new Islamic nation of Pakistan was carved out of it by merging together the Muslim majority areas on its Eastern and Western frontiers. Since the formation of Pakistan, both the countries i.e. India and Pakistan have had strained relations and fought three major wars—in 1947, 1965 and 1971. Of these wars, the Indo-Pak War of 1971 assumes the greatest significance as its end saw the birth of a new nation, “Bangladesh”, in the Indian subcontinent. It is the Bangladesh of today that prior to the 1971 Indo-Pak war had formed the Eastern wing of Pakistan....



Pakistan that was formed by dismembering India suffered from many incongruities. Its Eastern and Western halves were joined by the bond of religion only while in every other respect like history, geography, language, culture, customs and traditions they differed radically. The Eastern wing was separated from the Western by 1000 miles of the Indian territory. The then Governor General of India Lord Mountbatten had told in 1947 that both parts would hold together for not more than 25 years. Besides, West Pakistan adopted discriminatory policies in matters such as budgetary allocations, developmental activities and appointments in government jobs. The East Pakistanis were, in fact, second class citizens and the East Pakistan no better than a colony of West Pakistan.

Naturally, therefore, the East Pakistanis were in ferment to secure their legitimate rights. The birth of the Awami League in East Bengal (East Pakistan after the amendment of 1956 in the Constitution of Pakistan) was a step in this direction. In the general elections held in 1970 for the Pakistan National Assembly, out of its total strength of 313 seats, 196 were reserved for East Pakistan. The Awami League led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman begged 167 out of the 196 seats of East Pakistan in the national Assembly. As Mujib's party had gained clear majority, he offered to form the government. In the West Pakistan, on the other hand, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's People's party won large majority. He, therefore, objected to Awami League forming a government. As a result, the opening of National Assembly was postponed indefinitely. Latterly, a scheme was made to effect necessary amendment in the Pakistani constitution so as to disqualify the Eastern wing from putting a claim to form the government, but it could not be carried through.

As all the efforts to resolve the crisis had failed, Sheikh Mujib on 26 March, 1971 proclaimed East Pakistan an independent republic under the name of 'Bangladesh'. He called upon the Bangladeshis, who had already been agitating for their rights, to intensify their struggle. He asked them not to pay taxes. In the end of March, the government in West Pakistan unleashed military repression on the people of East Pakistan. To escape this genocide by the armed forces in East Pakistan, the East Bangladeshis fled across the Indian borders for asylum. By October 1971, the number of refugees in India went up to 10 million. On an average, India was spending a sum of Rs. 20 million per day on them which put a heavy strain on the Indian economy. To find a solution to this crisis and also to acquaint them about the deteriorating situation in India's neighbour, the then Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi visited countries like USA, Britain, France and Belgium. She, however, did not meet any satisfactory response from these Western countries.

Meanwhile, the crisis for India was deepening with every passing day.

To turn to Pakistan, General Yahya Khan found it difficult to cope with the mounting crisis in East Pakistan and tried to put the whole blame on the doors of India. Still Yahya Khan had no wish to lay down his office though he also talked of civil administration in the wake of the movement led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party. For the brutal suppression of the revolt of East Bengalis, Yahya Khan sent about 100000 troops. A reign of terror was thus unleashed in the East Pakistan. Pakistan faced no problem of arms as it received regular military aid from China and the USA. To divert the attention of the people from this mounting internal crisis, General Yahya Khan thought it expedient to start a war with India. Pakistan, therefore, launched an attack on India on 3 December, 1971 first in the Western borders and then in the Eastern.

Western Front

When finally Pakistan launched a massive attack on India on 3 December, 1971 by carrying bombing raids on 12 Indian air fields in the Western sector, its ground forces had already reached Bhimber front along Chenab sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The same day early in the night, Pakistan launched two powerful attacks but both the times six of its tanks were destroyed. When Pakistan failed in its first attempt to make a dent in the Indian territory in this sector, it began to send infiltrators but this was also thwarted by the vigilant Indians.

On the 9-10 December night, the reorganised Pakistani army advanced to the north of Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir, but before it



Indian soldiers seen with a damaged Pakistani tank in Shakargarh sector in Western Front.

could deliver an attack the Indian bombers inflicted a crushing blow on it. Its supply line was cut off by bombing Kahuta town near Haji-Pir. All the posts on the Hajira-Kotli route were captured by the Indians and all the territories adjoining Poonch also came under the Indian occupation.

Prior to that in an encounter with the Pakistanis that took place on the West bank of the river Munnabar Tavi on 5 December, Indians had to make a slight retreat. Though the Pakistani army had suffered much, it continued to put pressure on the Indian side forcing the Indian troops to evacuate first Deva Mandolia and then Chhamb. But on the 10-11 December night, Indians mounted a counter offensive and drove the enemy to the other side of the river Tavi. In this confrontation about 3,000 Pakistani soldiers were killed and more than 50 tanks destroyed. After this successful offensive, Indian pressure on Pakistan continued to mount. Excluding Chhamb, Poonch and Uri, the entire border along Kashmir remained calm save skirmishes here and there.

In spite of the freezing cold and heavy snowfall in Kashmir, Indian soldiers fought bravely during nights. The most fearful battle of this dreading cold was the Shakargarh's battle of tanks. The enemy had concentrated its largest number of tanks in this sector. Indians had deployed fewer tanks here but with a superior command they were able on the 15-16 December night to destroy more than 45 enemy tanks against their losses of 15. Pakistani army reeled under this hard blow. Thus on the Western Front, excepting Chhamb, Shakargarh and Rajasthan minor and major clashes occurred all along this 700 Kilometre long border from the Thar deserts up to Gurdaspur district in Punjab. The Indian army, indeed, held the enemy on this front with full force.

Eastern Front

The combined operations of the Indian army and the Mukti Bahini forces of Bangladesh began to encircle the Pakistani formations in the Eastern front. The Pakistani forces fighting in East Pakistan had no option but to surrender. To make them aware of this fact, the Chief of Staff General Manekshaw on 8 December called upon the Pakistani troops to surrender immediately. But there was no response from the other side. The following day, on 9 December, it was officially announced in India that the largest submarine of Pakistan, the US built 'Ghazi' was sunk off on 3-4 December night.

On the morning of 12 December, the Indian armies moved from Jamalpur to Dhaka. Near Tangyle, the Pakistani soldiers who had fled Jamalpur and Mammansingh were regrouping to repulse the Indian

attack, but the Indian army pre-empted their move by encircling them. About 300 Pakistani soldiers were killed in this encounter.

On 13 December, the Indian army again made a rapid advance and suddenly encircled the Pakistani troops at a certain spot. The Pakistanis were now in a hopeless situation and had no option but to surrender. With a view to strike terror in the Pakistani troops and to bring about its early surrender, the Indian Air Force carried bombing raids on Dhaka cantonment, airport and the Governor's house. The bombardment caused great panic in the Pakistani forces and the Governor Dr. Mullick resigned from his post. The Pakistani army commanders also realised that further continuation of war with India would spell doom for them. Hence they remained calm and silence gripped their entire camp. The destruction of 'Ghazi' and setting ablaze of fuel installations in Karachi greatly demoralised the Pakistani soldiers in Bangladesh.

At last, the Indian General Manekshaw directed the Pakistani Lt. General Abbas Niazi to surrender with his troops by 9 a.m. on 16 December. General Niazi agreed to surrender.

Thereafter, the Indian army commanders arrived at the Pakistani headquarters in Dhaka where General Niazi was hiding in a bunker. He came out at about 11 a.m. and took Major General Nagara into his embrace. Meanwhile, the GOC of the 36th Pak Division Major General Jamshed surrendered with his troops unconditionally.

Around 1 p.m. the General Officer Commanding Lt. General Jagjit Singh Aurora and Major General Jacob, dashed to Dhaka by helicopter with the surrender documents. And at 4.30 p.m. Niazi signed the documents and surrendered together with 93,000 soldiers. With this the war came to an end and a new nation 'Bangladesh' took birth in the Indian subcontinent. Bangladeshis, forgetting all the brutalities and massacres, broke into a dance in joy.

Results

The Eastern wing of Pakistan was liberated from the atrocious bondage of Pakistan emerging an independent nation of 'Bangladesh'. The people of Bangladesh elected Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as their first Prime Minister reposing full faith in his leadership.

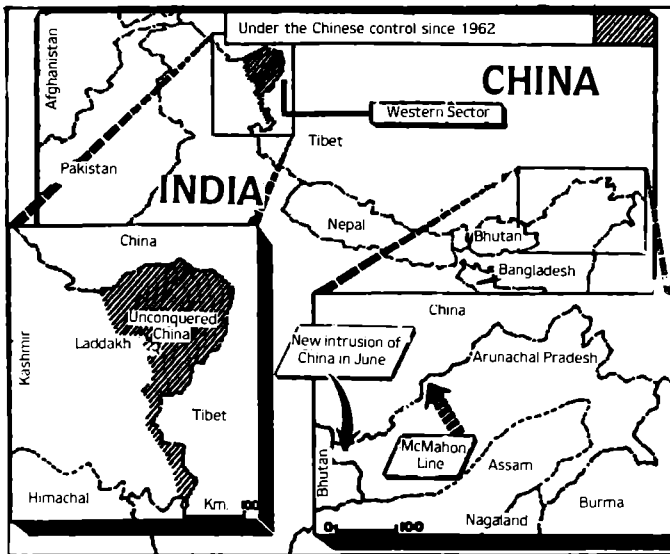
The military regime of Yahya Khan in Pakistan gave way to a civilian government led by the Prime Minister Bhutto. A pact was concluded in Simla on 2 July 1972 between Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Indian troops withdrew from over 5000 sq. miles of Pakistan territory. Both sides supported disarmament and agreed to resolve their bilateral problems through peaceful means instead of war.

India-China War

Date : 20 October, 1962; **Place :** India's North-East and North-West borders.

A boundary conference convened by Britain and held in Simla from October 1913 to July 1914 demarcated the boundary between India (then a colony of Britain) and Tibet, and, Tibet and China known as the McMahon Line. The Communist China repudiates this boundary line and calls it an imperialistic manoeuvre even though the Chinese representative had acquiesced in its demarcation at the above conference. India accepts the McMahon Line as the authoritative and historical boundary and has made serious objection to its frequent Chinese violations. In 1959, when China forcibly captured Tibet by sending its troops, India severely criticised the Chinese action. China met this Indian criticism by launching a sudden and full-scale invasion on 20 October, 1962....

THE India-China border is about 2500 miles long. There has been a long boundary dispute between the two countries. India's stand is that the McMahon Line runs its 700 miles long hilly course from Tibet and the eastern border of Bhutan in North-East India to Talu pass. But China claims 35,000 sq. miles of the North-East Fron-



tier Tract to the south of this Line. In the middle sector, Indian boundaries extend up to the Sutlej and the Ganges between the river Spiti and Pare Chu.

For the demarcation of the North-East and North-West boundaries of India (then a British colony), Britain convened a boundary conference. It was held in Simla from October 1913 to July 1914 and attended by the representatives of the British India, China and Tibet. In these tripartite talks, the boundary between India and Tibet, and, Tibet and China were finalised. A large map of India's North-East frontiers was prepared to draw a boundary line on it. This was called McMahon Line after the British representative McMahon who presided over the boundary conference. The seals of the participating countries were affixed on the copies of the map. It is worth mentioning that the Chinese representative Van Chen-Chu by affixing his signature on the boundary document had given his consent to this boundary demarcation.

The McMahon Line was drawn up after taking natural, traditional, administrative and historical factors into account. An important criterion adopted was the "ethnic" closeness. The tribes living to the south of the McMahon Line like Monbas, Akas, Daflas, Miris, Abhors and Mishimis came of the same ethnic stock as the other hill tribes of Assam and had no kinship with the Tibetans.

What is the most amazing thing is that even though the Chinese representative had participated in all the talks that led to the drawing up of the McMahon Line and had given official approval by affixing his signature on the boundary papers, China refuses to accept it as an authoritative boundary. What is more, it put its claim in 1950 over an area of 35,000 sq. miles to the south of this line in the North-East frontier of India. On 20 November, 1950, the then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru protested against this illegitimate Chinese demand. And it was from this time onward that the boundary dispute between India and China became a major irritant in their relationship. It took a serious turn in 1959 when India strongly criticised the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

Outbreak of War

On 20 October, 1962 at 4.30 a.m., dealing a death blow to the traditionally friendly relations with India and the principle of peaceful coexistence enunciated in the 'Panchsheel', China launched aggression on India in the North-East in Laddakh and Dhaula sectors. As the Chinese invasion had been sudden and totally unexpected, the Indian



Repulsing the aggression : Gallant Indian fighters.

armies were not fully prepared to repulse this massive onslaught. Still the Indians fought very bravely but as they suffered from several disadvantages the Indian posts in Laddakh were taken. The 5th Jat Battalion that was dispersed over a large area had to abandon all the northern posts as far as Daulat Beg Oldi. Damchowk and Jarla situated 100 miles to the south of Chushul also fell to the Chinese. Detachments were air-lifted to Chushul which had turned into a fortress.

Though the fightings continued in the forward areas, further advance of the Chinese was halted. In spite of an extremely inhospitable weather, the Indian soldiers put up a determined fight but were helpless in containing the Chinese thrust in the Eastern sector. The Chinese advance continued unabated and they occupied Walgong situated on the other end of NEFA. The Indian army gave a tough fight to the Chinese but due to the preponderant military power of China, it had to retreat. India fell into a very vulnerable position and it appeared that if war continued to rage Assam would also very soon fall to the Chinese.

An effort was made to check the tide of the Chinese advance by sending troops reinforcements on both the fronts. One infantry division was airlifted from Jalandhar and Ferozepur and posted at the main terrestrial latitude of Twang. The infantry division brought from Ambala was posted at Goyerkalta in North Bengal. While two infantry divisions were retained in Rangiya and the other two posted to strengthen Kalimpong—Nathula latitude. Dibrugarh situated on the northern extremity of Assam was made headquarters of yet another division.

The war in NEFA soon turned into a debacle of India. The well-trained and well-equipped six Chinese divisions carrying on an aggressive campaign captured the Sela Hill on 18 November and Bomdilla on 19 November. The Chinese advanced into Assam as far as the lower hills just 40 miles off the headquarters of the 4th Corps at Tejpur. When everybody was feeling pessimistic and the emergency measures were under way, China declared a unilateral ceasefire on 21 November and withdrew its troops on 1 December. The administration of NEFA reverted to the Indian civilian authorities on 21 January, 1963.

Results

When China declared a unilateral ceasefire, it had already grabbed 24,000 sq. kilometres of the Indian territory in both the Eastern and the Western sectors. This part of Indian territory is still under the Chinese occupation. The border issue between India and China became a tangled skein henceforth and consequently their bilateral relations also deteriorated. Though after 1970 several efforts were made by India for normalisation of relations and in 1976 diplomatic ties were also restored, the latest Chinese incursions are a pointer to the Chinese intentions. The Chinese invasion and India's debacle in the war left Nehru a very disillusioned person. It caused a great mental shock to him as a result of which his health deteriorated and ultimately became a cause of his death on 27 May, 1964.

Many reasons were responsible for the utter rout of India in this war. In comparison to the Indians, the Chinese had better and abundant weapons and they were also more experienced in the mountain warfare. Moreover, through the Tibetan route the Chinese sent quick supplies of arms and ammunition to the front. Besides, India was also quite unprepared to meet this sudden invasion.

The 1962 war with China demonstrated that geographical barriers were no deterrence for a stronger enemy. The myth of the impenetrability of the Himalayas exploded. As a sentinel, the Himalayas proved a midget.

By their unilateral declaration of ceasefire, the Chinese had hoped that India would decline in all spheres. But in the post war period there was a national resurgence in India that belied the Chinese hopes. The Soviet Union remained neutral throughout the war, but the USA, Britain and some other Western countries despatched military aid to India. As a follow up of the review of the national security system, Indian armed forces were reorganised. They

were trained in new techniques of war equipped with the latest weapons. The intelligence services and communication system were made more effective.

The strength of the Indian Air Force was raised to 45 squadrons. Intensive efforts went under way to use Radars for strengthening the air security. Similarly, the Indian navy was also to be given more teeth by commissioning new and better naval ships. In view of the Indian defence efforts, big powers vied with each other in supplying defence equipment to India. The USSR gave us Mig-21 and also provided facilities for their indigenous production. It also gave us submarines. Britain extended facilities for building frigates for the navy.

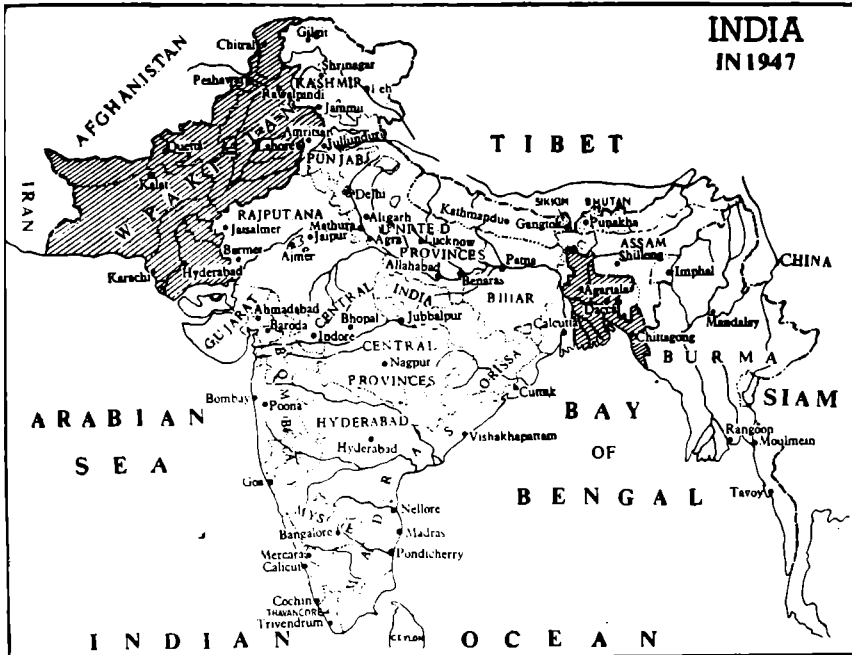
The Chinese aggression caused an irreparable damage to the prestige and self-respect of India. All the same it served a lesson to us to strive for strengthening our defences and attain self-reliance.

Kashmir War of 1947

Date : 1947-1948; Place : Kashmir

Since the very dawn of independence, Kashmir has been the most contentious issue and a major irritant in the Indo-Pak relations. Exercising the rights given to the princely native states by the India Independence Act, 1947, the ruler of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, acceded neither to India nor to Pakistan but remained independent. The Pakistani rulers, however, strongly coveted Kashmir as the majority of its population were Muslims who they thought wanted accession to Pakistan. Pakistan, therefore, started to pressurise Hari Singh and later even invaded Kashmir. Pakistan would have annexed Kashmir, had India not moved in troops in time at the request of the Maharaja....

INDIA became independent on 15 August, 1947. It is an occasion of great national rejoicing but there was also the trauma of partition. The leader of the Muslim League, Mohammad Ali Jinnah (1876-



1948), remained adamant on his demand of a separate Muslim state which ultimately led to the partition of India.

This was, in fact, a deliberate mischief of the British who not only divided the Indian subcontinent into two separate states of India and Pakistan, but also left the doors open for further division by incorporating a provision to this effect in the India Independence Act. By virtue of this provision, the princely native states of India were free to accede either to India or to Pakistan, or should they so desire could remain independent as well.

The ruler of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, exercising his rights under the aforesaid provision, acceded neither to India nor to Pakistan but decided to remain independent. This decision of the Maharaja upset all the calculations of the Pakistani rulers who had hoped that Kashmir would accede to Pakistan as it had a majority of the Muslims. Pakistan now started to put pressure on the Maharaja to sign the Instrument of Accession in its favour. When the pressure tactics did not work, Pakistan launched a massive tribal attack on Kashmir supported by the Pakistan army. As the Maharaja had no adequate armies to repulse the attack, he asked India for help and with certain conditions also agreed to accede to India.

Outbreak of War

Pakistan launched a full-scale invasion of Kashmir on 22 October, 1947. As India had no intention of a similar invasion of Pakistan so it had not made any sort of advance planning. Besides, rocky terrain, snow and rains presented formidable difficulties but the Indian soldiers were imbued with great zeal and fervour. Srinagar was the main target of the enemy. Pakistan had planned to let its troops cross the borders on 22 October and then storm Srinagar by 26 October. The first Indian contingent, the first Sikh battalion, landed in Kashmir on 27 October.

The Indian troops were immediately airlifted to Srinagar. When the Indian army was preparing itself for a counter offensive, the Pakistani invaders during the first ten days, were continuously advancing towards Srinagar. This was the most critical stage in the war.

The first major battle was fought on 7 November, 1947 at Sholatona in the outskirts of Srinagar. The fighting continued the whole day. The Indian army carrying a relentless offensive defeated the enemy on 14 November at Uri, at a distance of 65 kilometres from Srinagar. The enemy's morale sank low and the Pakistanis fled the battlefield leaving behind their 300 dead.

There was a small garrison of the state army at Gilgit under its Governor Brigadier Dhanshara Singh. The British and the Pakistani officers stationed there rose in revolt and were taken prisoner after minor fightings. Pakistanis then moved to Kargil and Leh.

Down to south, the state army battalions were posted at places like Naushera, Jhangar, Rajouri, Bhimber, Mirpur, Kotli and Poonch all along the state borders. These were all encircled. On 19 November, the Indian troops captured Naushera and Jhangar. Next to fall to the Indian were Kotli and Mirpur after which the liberation of Poonch was planned.

The greatest battle was, however, fought on 6 February, 1948 for the liberation of Naushera. The Indian posts were raided by 400 Pakistanis from the South-East and 30000 from the North-East. A terrible fight ensued in which the Indian Air Force gave a good account of itself. Some 2000 Pakistanis were killed against 48 Indian casualties. Later, on 18 March, Jhangar was also liberated from the enemy.

On 8 April, the Indian fighters marched towards Rajouri and occupied it on 12 April. After the fightings in several other hilly tracts of Kashmir, relief of Poonch was started in September 1948. It was not until 21 November that contact could be established with the Poonch garrison. And on 23 November, Magher was captured. At last, the UN declared a ceasefire on 1 January 1949 though one third of Kashmir still remained to be liberated from the enemy.

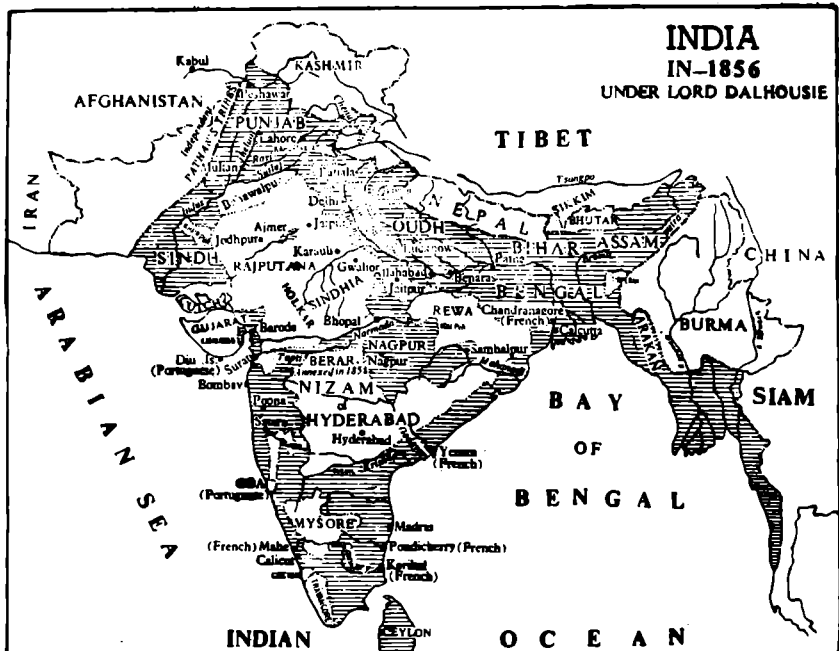
Results

The Pakistani invasion brought home to the then rulers of Kashmir the point that with Pakistan as a neighbour it would be very difficult for them to maintain an independent existence. As such, it would be better to merge with India. The sudden declaration of ceasefire by the UN resulted in a great loss to Kashmir as it prevented the Indian troops from beating back the Pakistanis from the entire area occupied by the enemy. One third of Kashmir still remained to be liberated from the enemy occupation, and this part of Kashmir has since remained under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. The war also removed the illusion of the Pakistani rulers that ordinary Kashmiri wanted a merger with Pakistan. During the hostilities the people of Kashmir, contrary to the expectations, had helped the Indian army in repulsing the attack. Indian stand on the Kashmir issue is that the merger of Kashmir with India is final and irrevocable and any attack on Kashmir is an attack on India.

Rani Jhansi's War of Independence

Date : 1857-1858; Place : Jhansi, Gwalior etc.

To bring all the native states under the direct British rule, the then Governor General of India, Lord Dalhousie (1848-1856) enunciated a policy known as the 'Doctrine of Lapse'. Under this policy, if the ruler of any princely state died without a natural heir, his adopted son would not be recognised his successor by the British and that native state lapsed to the British dominion. By the application of this policy, a number of Indian states were brought under the British sway. It was also applied to Jhansi when its ruler Raja Gangadhar Rao died without a natural heir and the British refused to recognise his adopted son as his successor. The wife of late Gangadhar Rao, the amazon queen Lakshmi Bai, refused to surrender Jhansi. The British then sent a huge force under Sir Hugh Rose to take Jhansi. The Rani too, took up the sword against the British....



THE great Indian mutiny that broke out in May 1857 at Meerut and Lucknow for throwing off the British yoke spread over to Jhansi also. The rebellion in Jhansi was spearheaded by the legendary Rani Lakshmi Bai. She was married to Raja Gangadhar Rao, the ruler of Jhansi. He died issueless. On the death of her husband, the Rani Lakshmi Bai declared their adopted son Anand Rao as the successor of the late Raja. However, the then Governor General of India Lord Dalhousie had already enunciated his famous 'Doctrine of Lapse' by which the British refused to recognise the adopted sons of the native rulers as their successors. By the application of this policy, Dalhousie annexed Satara, Jaipur, Tanjore, Sambhalpur etc. to the British dominion. So Dalhousie refused to accept Anand Rao as the successor of the late Gangadhar Rao and annexed Jhansi in 1853.

The War of Independence that broke out in 1857 shook the foundation of the British rule in India. The British administration was crumbling all over the country and became very shaky in Jhansi also. In the wake of this upheaval, Rani's rule was re-established in Jhansi and she continued to rule for about 9-10 months. Then the trouble started for the Rani when in March 1858, the British offensive got under way. On 20 March, 1858, General Hugh Rose reached Jhansi with a huge army. The Rani put up a heroic resistance and battled hard against the enemy for 12 days. Ultimately, the superior British forces forced her to flee Jhansi. On 4 April at night, the Rani together with her 8 to 10 thousand troops left Jhansi and managed to reach Kalpi. The very next day, the fort of Jhansi was occupied by the British.

At Kalpi, the Rani joined her forces with those of the Peshwa Nana Sahib and herself jumped into the battle on 22 May dressed as a male cavalier. The combined forces of the Rani and the Peshwa, however, could not hold for long against the lethal bombardment by the British guns. She had to flee Kalpi also.

In spite of these reverses, the Rani did not admit defeat. She and the Peshwa knew that the forces of Jiaji Rao Sindhia of Gwalior were in a rebellious mood against the British and in the April last had rebelled by setting ablaze the old cantonment and the bungalows of the army officers at Murar and had also put to death many British officers. So the forces of the Rani and the Peshwa now marched off to Gwalior. The Rani was accompanied by Peshwa Nana Sahib, his cousin Peshwa Rao Sahib and the commander-in-chief of the Peshwa forces, Tantiya Tope. On 1 June, they attacked the cantonment of Gwalior, Murar and inflicted a defeat on the Sindhia's forces. Having

suffered a defeat in the war, the Maharaja of Gwalior retreated to the royal palace in sheer desperation and then left for Agra.

In consequence of the battle of 1 June, the combined forces of the Rani and the Peshwa occupied the city of Lashkar and the Gwalior fort. They strengthened their security by mounting cannons on the fort and opening up several fronts in the city. Gwalior thus remained under the rule of Rani Lakshmi Bai for 17-18 days.

After taking Kalpi, the British now turned their attention to Gwalior, the last strong hold of the rebels. General Hugh Rose was ordered by the Governor General to immediately rush to Gwalior. The Hyderabad Regiment and some other army units were also moved to Gwalior. The British, in fact, planned a terrible offensive against the rebels and so called in a stronger force that included a total of 5 British regiments, 4 Indian regiments, 2000 cavalrymen aided by the British troops posted at Jhansi, Agra, Shivpuri and other places. This army was so huge that one could hardly doubt the rout of the rebels.

The British army reached Murar on 14 June. Jiaji Rao Sindhia too came back to the Murar cantonment from Agra to launch a joint attack. An emergent meeting was held on 16 June in which it was decided that the enemy should be fought on every front. After the battle lines had been drawn carefully, this historic war broke out on 18 June. For about six hours, fierce fightings continued on all fronts. The whole city reverberated with the constant booming of the cannons. However, against the well-trained and overwhelming British forces the combined armies of the Rani and the Peshwa were no match. Still they fought with great valour using guns and swords, but when their ammunition was spent up their resistance began to fizzle out. The British, on the other hand, had a massive quantity of arms and ammunition with them.

In the end, the only front held by the rebels was that of the Kothi of Sardar Munna Sahib where Rani Lakshmi Bai herself was fighting against General Hugh Rose. As the British offensive mounted, the rebels began to flee the battlefield. The British now put their entire pressure on the Rani and the Peshwa Rao Sahib. Tantiya Tope, after the Kampu front had fallen, somehow managed to reach here to help the Rani but he also failed in redeeming the situation.

At long last, the Rani rode out of the battlefield with some of her followers and female attendants. The British soldiers pursued the Rani and continued to fire shots at her. As a result of her getting mor-

tally wounded, she fell off her horse and breathed her last. The British pursuers also arrived there soon after but only to find her horse standing alone and learnt that the last rites of the Rani had already been performed.

Results

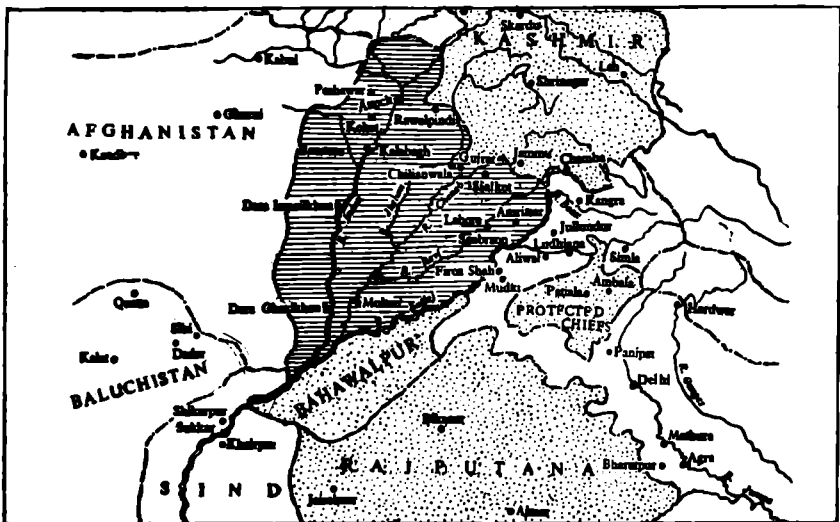
Though the Rani and Peshwa Rao Sahib who threw in his lot with her were defeated in the war, their heroic battle against the British strengthened the resolve of their countrymen to shake off the British yoke. They had a limited army and means against the overwhelming might of the British. The mutual rivalry, feuds and dissensions among the Indian people once more brought victory to the aliens. The British rule was established over whole of the country. Though the British had used different types of conventional weapons in this war, it was the artillery which played a decisive role in their victory.

Anglo-Sikh Wars

Date : 1845-1849; **Place :** India's North-West Frontier Areas

The Sikh sect founded by Guru Nanak in the 16th century remained not only a peaceful mystic sect by the advent of the 18th-19th century, but also emerged as the strongest military power in the North-West India. It reached at its zenith when Maharaja Ranjit Singh forged unity among the Sikhs who were divided into Misls and founded the Sikh State. As long as Ranjit Singh lived, the British maintained cordial relations with him though they had also started feeling apprehensive of the rising power of the Sikhs. The death of Ranjit Singh reversed this situation. A war of succession followed that weakened the Sikh State and those who succeeded to the throne were also weak and incompetent. The British took advantage of the internal troubles of the Sikhs and launching a series of imperialistic wars against them ultimately annexed the whole of the Punjab....

BEFORE the ascendancy of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Sikhs were divided into small 'Misl'. 'Misl' is an Arabic word that means 'alike' or 'equal'. In the early 19th century, Ranjit Singh foun-



ded a strong Sikh Kingdom by the conquest and merger of these 'Misls'. The Sikhs now stood as a strong and united force ever ready to defend their religion and nation.

When Ahmad Shah Durrani left India finally in 1767, the Sikhs took into their possession all those territories in Punjab which were held by Durrani. The territories under the occupation of the Sikh Misls now extended from the West of Saharanpur up to Attock, and, from Kangra and Jammu up to Multan. There were a total of twelve Sikh 'Misls' and before he founded a united Sikh state, Ranjit Singh himself was also the chief of a Sikh Misl.

In 1798, the grandson of Ahmad Shah Abdali, conferred the title of Raja to Ranjit Singh and appointed him the Governor of Lahore. Ranjit Singh was only 19 at that time. Though there were many other chiefs of the Sikh Misls more powerful and influential than Ranjit Singh, it was he who had rendered the most valuable services during the attacks in the period 1763-1798. Zaman Shah recompensed these services of Ranjit Singh by the title of 'Raja' and the Governorship of Lahore. With this, Ranjit Singh embarked on his remarkably successful military career. By his valour Ranjit Singh put an end to the years old Afghan supremacy in Punjab and created a strong kingdom. The Chiefs of the Sikh Misls across the Sutlej were racked by mutual conflicts and discords. Ranjit Singh through diplomacy and conquest effected, in a gradual manner, the merger of these Misls with his kingdom.

By 1809, Ranjit Singh brought the whole of the Middle Punjab under his sway, but by the Treaty of Amritsar (1809) concluded with the British his expansion to the East of Sutlej was halted. Ranjit Singh, however, was free to expand his kingdom to the North, South and West of Sutlej. Consequently, he conquered Attock (1813), Kashmir (1819), Dera Ghazi Khan (1820), Dera Ismail Khan (1821) and also Peshawar, Kangra, Multan etc. His numerous conquests enabled Ranjit Singh to found an extensive and powerful kingdom but he could not establish an effective control over it. Ranjit Singh died in 1839 aged 59.

With the death of Ranjit Singh, a dismal series of revolutions and assassinations followed for succession. Those who came to occupy the throne were also just puppets in the hands of the army. The Sikh state fell into a spell of chronic instability and chaos. The army finally, in 1843, accepted the claim of Dilip Singh, the youngest son of Ranjit Singh, to succeed to the throne. The mother of Dilip Singh, Rani Jindan, acted as his regent. Under these fluid

circumstances, the civil administration lost its grip over the armed forces which now enjoyed absolute and capricious power. The British were keeping a close watch on the process of disintegration of this once mighty Sikh Kingdom. The same British as had sworn by their friendship with Ranjit Singh throughout his life were tempted to annex his extensive kingdom across the Sutlej.

The Sikhs grew apprehensive of the British intentions when a British cantonment was built at Ferozepur, near the Sikh capital Lahore. Besides, there were many other British acts which strengthened the suspicion in their mind that the British were up to usurp their independence. For instance, the British moved several of their army division towards the Sutlej. During 1844-1845, a pontoon bridge was also built across the Sutlej. Under the pretext of an attack on Multan, the British troops were being made well-equipped. The army contingents in charge of the civil defence were strengthened. The Sikhs thought that all this was preparatory to a British attack on them. The East India Company was already busy in the expansion of its empire in India.

It would be incorrect to say that these fears of the Sikhs were entirely misplaced. The British had long thought of annexing the extensive Sikh Kingdom, but they could not find a good excuse for attacking the Sikhs. And now they got the much needed excuse also when on 11 December, 1845 the Sikh regiment crossed the Sutlej. When the Sikh troops were crossing the river, the British army neither protested at this nor offered any sort of resistance. The reason was not that the British were unprepared or they were ignorant of it, but this that they wanted a plausible excuse to launch an attack on the Sikhs. So now that they had an excuse, the Governor General Henry Hardinge declared a war against the Sikhs on 13 December, 1845. He also declared that all the territories occupied by the Sikhs on the south bank of the Sutlej were annexed to the British dominion and the Sikhs now had no right over these territories.

Outbreak of War

Within a space of four years i.e. from 1845 to 1849, two terrible wars were fought between the Sikhs and the British. The first Anglo-Sikh war was fought at Mudki. It was a misty evening. The British army led by General Lord Gough entered the battlefield with great enthusiasm and selfconfidence. However, the frontline of the Sikh army led by the Prime Minister Lal Singh opened a sudden attack on the enemy and within two hours turned the tide of the war

in their favour. The British casualties amounted to 872 killed or wounded. They also lost many of their top officers in this bloody conflict. The Sikhs had hardly celebrated this initial success against the British when their leader Lal Singh fled the battlefield at a decisive stage in the war. This greatly demoralised the Sikh army. As a result, the Sikh army was defeated and returned to the camps.

The second engagement between the two armies took place on 21 December at Firoz Shah. The British once again had to reckon with their formidable enemy. This battle also proved a nemesis for the British officers. But due to the desertion of Lal Singh during the night and that of the commander-in-chief Teja Singh in the morning the victory slipped from the hands of the Sikhs.

The third confrontation occurred on 21 January, 1846 at Buddewal. The Sikhs led by Ranjodh Singh and Ajit Singh beat down the British forces commanded by Harry Smith. And the fourth took place on 28 January at Aliwal. However, it was the last battle fought at Sabraon on 10 February that was the most terrible and destructive of all the Anglo-Sikh confrontations. After three hours of lethal bombardment, the British General Lord Gough opened attack on the strongly held Sikh front on the left bank of the Sutlej. The British gained victory but at a tremendous loss. Perhaps for the first time, 12 British Generals lost their lives in the course of a single battle. The 24th Infantry Division was declared unfit for war.

The Sikhs suffered defeat in the first Anglo-Sikh war not because of larger and superior British forces but due to the treacherous conduct of their generals who fled the battlefield at the decisive moments in the war. For instance, Gulab Singh intentionally delayed supplies to the front while Lal Singh failed in sending timely reinforcement. Then their Commander-in-Chief Teja Singh not only fled the battlefield at a point of climax in the battle but also pulled down the pontoon bridge at the rear of the Sikh army. Hence the Sikhs had no option but to surrender.

Treaty of Lahore

The victorious English armies entered Lahore on 20 February, 1846. A treaty was concluded on 9 March, 1846 by the terms of which the Sikh ceded all their territories to the left of the Sutlej and the Jullundur Doab (the land between the Sutlej and the Beas) to the British. The strength of the Sikh army was also limited. The minor Maharaja and his mother and regent, Rani Jindan were pensioned off. The Sikhs were also made to pay an indemnity of one

and a half million pounds or half a million pounds with Kashmir. The latter alternative, in fact, was chosen by the Sikhs. The British then handed over Kashmir to Gulab Singh, the Raja of Jammu, for one million pounds.

Second War of Chilian Wala

Peace established by the treaty, however, proved only short lived. The issue of the resignation of the Governor of Multan, Mulraj on being asked to pay succession duty led to a nation-wide turmoil. Chaotic conditions prevailed everywhere. To defuse the explosive situation, the Lahore government conspired in the murder of two young British officers. The revolt of Governor Mulraj thus became one of the causes of the second Anglo-Sikh war.

Secondly, Rajmata Rani Jindan was arrested in Shekhupura and later even deported from Punjab on the charge of seditious instigation of the Sikhs. The Sikhs were in deep anguish over this maltreatment to their Rajmata and they now resolved to wreak vengeance on the British.

In the second Anglo-Sikh War, fought at Chilianwala on 13 January 1849, the Sikhs army was led by Jawahar Singh Nalwa, the son of Hari Singh Nalwa. The war proved disastrous for the British. The British took to flight leaving behind all their dead, six guns and even some regimental colours. Their losses in killed and wounded amounted to over 2400 that also included 89 officers. Never before in history had an English general fought such fearful a war as Lord Gough fought at Chilianwala. Both the sides fought so violently that it remained debatable as to which side won — the British or the Sikh. Though both sides claimed a victory.

The second encounter of this war took place on 21 February in Gujran Wala and was completely decisive. The Sikhs faced a total rout and laid down their arms saying, "Ranjit Singh is dead today." On 29th March, the whole of the Punjab was annexed to the British empire.

Results

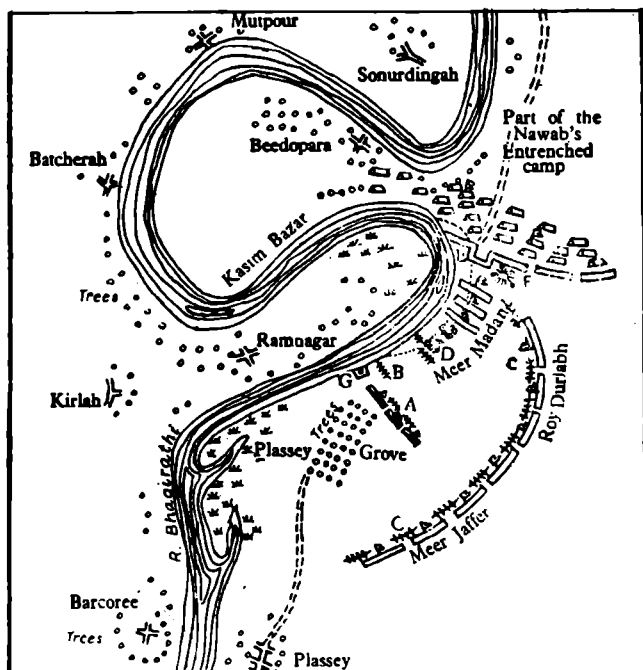
The vast and powerful Sikh Kingdom founded by Ranjit Singh vanished into history. The British forced the minor Maharaja Dilip Singh to give an undertaking that he had no right to interfere in the affairs of Punjab. He was granted a pension of 50,000 sterling per annum. With the annexation of Punjab, the frontiers of British India in the North West were extended up to the base of the mountains of Afghanistan.

The Battle of Plassey

Date : 23 June, 1757; **Place :** The field of Plassey (West Bengal)

The battle of Plassey, fought in 1757 between the British and the Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-Daulah, in its results outweighs even some of the greatest battles in history. By this battle, the British not only became the undisputed masters of Bengal but, which is more important, it also laid the foundation of the British rule in India. A handful of the British soldiers commanded by Lord Clive and Watson put to rout the considerable forces of the Nawab. The defeat of the Nawab's forces was not due to any tactical superiority of the British but due, in the first place, to the treason of its generals like Mir Jaffer and secondly to the internal dissensions, intrigues and factional fightings that were an inseparable part of the contemporary socio-political climate in India....

‘CAN any army defeat an opposite army twenty times as much in number and striking power?’ Obviously, the answer



should be 'no'. However, when turning over the pages of Indian history we pause at the battle of Plassey, the answer becomes 'yes'.

When the British found themselves at war the Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-Daulah and Colonel Robert Clive and Admiral Watson arrived at Plassey with a smaller force, who could think that this small force would obtain a historical and decisive victory over a huge army of the Nawab? Chance: the vicissitudes of the battle fought on 23 June, 1757 made possible what looked impossible.

It is indisputable that a major factor in the victory of the British in the field of Plassey was the treason of the two generals of Nawab, Mir Jaffar and Rai Durlabh, and also of the wealthy banker Jagat Seth, Had Mir Jaffar not treacherously sided with the British to usurp the throne of Bengal, the handful army of Clive would have been torn into pieces. Clive's army totalled 3,000 that included 800 Europeans, 200 gunners and 2000 Indian sepoy. In addition, he had 6 pounders and 2 howitzer guns. Against these, the Nawab's forces numbered 35,000 infantry, 15,000 cavalry and 53 heavy guns under the expert command of 50 Frenchmen.

Outbreak of hostilities

Clive's army reached Plassey on 22 June during night and encamped in the mango grove 800 yards in length and 300 yards in breadth. The trees here stood in straight rows which could serve as a shelter against the enemy firing. The river Bhagirathi (Hoogly) in the background of the garden gave a protection to the Nawab's forces and so he entrenched his camp on this spot. His artillery took position on a steep place. Nawab's French artillery was closest to the Clive's army. The command of the artillery was in the hands of the most trusted general of Nawab Mir Madan supported by 5000 mounted men and 7000 infantrymen. In the battle formation, Mir Jaffar was at the far end of his army in close proximity to Clive.

On the morning of 23 June, when Colonel Clive had a look at the battle formation of Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah, he reorganised his army in a different way. To take advantage of the shelter offered by a brick-kiln close to the river, he deployed two guns there. In the middle, he placed the European soldiers in a line formation, and the defence of both the flanks of the army was left to the Indian sepoy.

The battle started with the firing by the Nawab's French artillery. The British returned the firing but this was a minor offensive and the Nawab's forces withstood it easily. Clive felt somewhat perturbed at the loss of 10 European and 20 native soldiers in this pre-



A Scene of the battle : Robert Clive (inset)

liminary encounter. So he recalled his men from Shikargarh and took them under the shelter of the garden. After a short while, it started to rain in torrents.

As the Nawab had not provided shelter against the rains, his ammunition was rendered useless and his guns also bogged down in the slush. The British proved foresighted from this point of view. They had already arranged for tarpaulins under which their ammunition lay completely safe.

The loyal general of the Nawab, Mir Madan committed one more blunder at this juncture. He miscalculated that just as their ammunition went damp the enemy's guns would have also been

silenced by the rains. Hence he made an advance with his cavalry detachment. This cavalry advance was greeted by a tremendous bombardment from the British artillery. The brave soldiers of Mir Madan made a quick retreat in fright. Mir Madan himself was seriously wounded.

The Nawab was in panic at his most faithful general getting wounded. He called Mir Jaffar and put his turban before him to beseech for his help. Mir Jaffar acting in great duplicity, on the one hand, swore by the loyalty to Nawab, and on the other hand, wrote a letter to Clive acquainting him of all these developments and also suggesting him to launch an attack forthwith or to wait till the night fell. The general of the south flank, Roy Dulabh also played treachery with the Nawab on this very occasion.

Seizing this opportunity, Clive opened an attack and captured the place from where the Nawab's French artillery had beaten a retreat. He utilised this spot to launch an attack on the newly entrenched Nawab's artillery. The Nawab's soldiers did not lack in bravery or ardour but they were forced to retreat due to the wrong orders they received from their treacherous commanders. By 5 p.m. the field of Plassey fell into the hands of Clive's army. The British gained an incredible victory.

Results

Clive's victory at Plassey was hardly of any great strategic merit, but it was certainly responsible for laying the foundation of the British rule in India. Historians are accustomed to portray Mir Jaffar, Roy Durlabh and others of their like as traitors to the country. As a matter of fact, there was no accepted notion of patriotism at that time and conspiracies for power were the most common.

The British no doubt installed Mir Jaffar on the throne of Bengal but also marked the beginning of Clive's dual rule. The real power was exercised by the British while Mir Jaffar was a Nawab in name only. A similar practice was later followed by the British in their relationship with the other native powers.

The Anglo-French rivalry for colonial possession in India was put to an end by this battle. The English were the victors.

Nadir Shah's Delhi Invasion

Date : 1739; Place : Delhi

Nadir Shah who rose to be the Emperor of Persia from a bandit Chief, just 32 years after the death of the last powerful Mughal emperor Aurangzeb (3 March, 1707), carried massacre and pillage in Delhi for 57 days while a helpless Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah pleaded to stay all this. When Nadir Shah returned home, he carried a staggering booty with him amounting to 70 crores of rupees and it also included the historical 'Koh-i-Noor' and the invaluable 'Peacock Throne' built by Shahjahan. Nadir Shah's invasion delivered a death blow to the already tottering Mughal empire. It never emerged from this hard blow and India was once more subjected to a wave of foreign invasions....

THE decline of the Mughal empire set in with the death of Aurangzeb; he himself being responsible for it in no small measure. His successors were mostly incompetent and kept busy fighting among themselves to grab the throne. They were unable to hold together the vast Mughal empire they inherited. The selfishness and intrigues of the nobility and courtiers further aggravated the situation. India which had been known for its fabulous wealth allured foreign invaders since ancient times. When the Mughal empire fell weak, India was again threatened with foreign invasion. The invasion this time, however, did not emanate from Central Asia but from Persia. The Persian emperor Nadir Shah who had already seized Kandahar from the Mughals now felt tempted to invade Delhi for plunder.

Nadir Shah came of a very ordinary family. In his early life he was the chief of a gang of dacoits. As he had passed his life amidst constant hardships and dangers, courage and bravery were his forte. The Afghans had captured Persia from Shah Hussain Safavid. Nadir Shah helped in its recovery and so came close to the royal family. The son of Shah Hussain was an incapable ruler and Nadir Shah easily usurped the royal power from him in 1732.

In 1738, Nadir Shah proceeded to invade India. The excuse for the invasion being that the Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah had insulted the Persian envoy at the royal court of Delhi. As the

Mughals had not taken measures to reinforce the defence of their North West frontiers against a foreign invasion, Nadir Shah without much difficulty overran Ghazni, Kabul and Lahore in 1739.

When Nadir Shah crossed the Khyber Pass, the Governor of Punjab Zakaria Khan wrote a letter to the Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah earnestly requesting him to reinforce the defences in Punjab. The Mughal emperor and his courtiers, however, turned a deaf ear to this genuine request of Zakaria Khan. Not until the Shah had stormed Punjab that they waked up to the reality.

To drive back the invader Nadir Shah, Muhammad Shah appointed Khan Dauran and Nizam-ul-Mulk as his generals, but they both pleaded their incapability to lead the Mughal army against the Shah. At this, the emperor himself took up the command and proceeded to meet the invaders.

The Mughal army met the Nadir Shah's forces at Karnal but the latter encircled the former. Meantime, the Nawab of Oudh Sadat Khan jumped into the battlefield without any preparations. He was defeated and taken a prisoner. Khan Dauran was seriously wounded. When he was on the point of death, sensing the approaching danger he advised his friends to keep Nadir Shah away from Delhi at all costs. Better it would if he was persuaded to go back immediately on getting some payment. This sagacious advice was not, however, paid the required attention by Muhammad Shah and the coterie of advisers around him.

The defeat of the Mughal army caused confusion in their ranks. The Nizam played the role of a mediator and persuaded the Shah to return to Persia on receiving 20 million rupees. The Mughal emperor felt pleased with the Nizam and conferred on him the title of 'Amir-ul-Umra' and also appointed him the Prime Minister. At this, Sadat Khan was consumed with envy and spite. He arranged a private meeting with Nadir Shah and said to him, "How could you feel satisfied with a paltry sum of Rs 2 crores, Sir? Even a provincial Governor can give you this much amount from his own coffers." This had an electrifying effect on the Persian ruler and the grandeur of Delhi flashed before his eyes.

A triumphant Nadir Shah entered Delhi accompanied by the humbled Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah. The city Kotwal of Delhi had already surrendered the keys of the fortress and the treasury to the agents of Nadir Shah. Delhi was peaceful and an amount was also settled with the Shah for his return when a false

rumour spread that Nadir Shah had been killed. This sparked off riots in Delhi in which some Persian soldiers were killed. The Persian army officers trembling in fear approached Nadir Shah in the dead of night and recounted him the entire episode.

Order of Massacre

At daybreak, Nadir Shah, rode into the city and came across corpses of Persian soldiers lying about on the streets. Near the Sunhari Masjid of Roshnuddola, some people even hurled stones at him. A stray bullet also killed a Persian soldier. Nadir Shah flew into extreme rage to note all these things.

Consequently, on 11 March, 1739 at 9 a.m., seething with violent anger Nadir Shah ordered the general massacre of the inhabitants of some particular localities in Delhi where his soldiers were reported to have been killed. No sooner had they received the orders than thousands of Persian soldiers fell upon the helpless Delhites. Houses located in Chandni Chowk, Sabzi Mandi, Dariba Kalan and in the vicinity of Jama Masjid were set on fire. Terrified children and women hiding in their homes were caught in blazing fire. Those trying to escape were struck down with spears, swords and arrows. This heinous massacre continued for five hours. The scene of the massacre presented a dreadful sight. Corpses were strewn all around and much blood was shed. It was only on the pleading of the nobles of Muhammad Shah that Nadir Shah stopped further slaughter.

There were varying estimates of the number of people killed on this ghastly occasion. The historian Fraser believes that about two lakhs people were killed on that fateful day. While another well-known historian Jadunath Sarkar puts the number of killings to 20,000. Besides the plunder and exactions from the people at large in the city, the Persian invaders seized a large quantity of the royal jewellery from the Red Fort. The famous 'Peacock Throne' built by Shahjahan and the legendary and invaluable 'Koh-i-Noor' also fell into their hands. Thus within no time, Nadir Shah plundered the vast Mughal treasures which they had collected over the centuries. It is estimated that about 60 crores of rupees worth jewellery, gold worth one crore of rupees and coins worth 60 lakhs of rupees were taken into his possession by Nadir Shah. Having plundered Delhi for 57 days, when Nadir Shah returned to Persia, he had collected a booty worth 70 crores of rupees and also took care to include in his train 100 elephants, 7000 craftsmen, 100 stone-cutters and 200 carpenters.

Results

Nadir Shah's invasion caused an irreparable damage to the already sagging prestige of the Mughal empire. The decline of the Mughal empire led to a number of foreign invasions which resulted in a great economic loss to the country. These foreign invaders, in fact, were attracted by the fabled riches of India. The Mughal provinces across the Indus (Sindh, Kabul, and Western parts of Punjab) were ceded to the Persians. Feeling inspired by Nadir Shah's invasion, his successor Ahmad Shah Abdali also carried several raids in India from 1748 to 1767.

The Battle of Kandahar

Date : 1648-1653; **Place :** Kandahar (A province in modern Afghanistan)

To consolidate the Mughal defences on the North-West frontiers, the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan decided to regain Kandahar from the Persians which they had captured in 1623. Shahjahan won over the Persian Governor of Kandahar, Ali Mardan, by offering him wealth, honour and also by taking him into his service. Ali Mardan, in return, surrendered Kandahar to the Mughals. The Persian ruler Shah Abbas II in order to capture it laid siege to Kandahar in December 1648. Due to snow, the Mughal Governor of Kandahar could not get timely reinforcements, so he surrendered in February 1649. This was the first battle of Kandahar. The second battle took place when Shahjahan sent an unsuccessful expedition under Prince Aurangzeb to recapture Kandahar. Three years later, one more attempt was made by Prince Dara Shikoh but it also proved infructuous. Having suffered a loss of twelve crores of rupees, Shahjahan abandoned the idea of retrieving Kandahar....

THE province of Kandahar, in the present-day Afghanistan, had formed a part of the Indian territory prior to 1747. Due to its strategic location, it has played very important role in the history of India. Whereas, on the one hand, it served as a gateway to India for the invaders from the Central Asia or Persia, on the other hand, it was also a first line of defence for the Indian rulers to stave off



these incursions. A number of battles were fought between the Mughals and the Persians for the possession of this North West frontier province. During the reign of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, through bribery to the Mughal officers, pretensions of friendship and taking advantage of the internal troubles of the Mughal administration, the Persian ruler Shah Abbas II succeeded in capturing Kandahar from the Mughals in 1623.

In spite of his ardent wish, Jahangir failed in regaining Kandahar in his life-time. His son, Shahjahan, as soon as he ascended the throne decided to take back Kandahar. But due to troubles at home it took him several years to act upon his decision. Shahjahan won over the Persian Governor of Kandahar Ali Mardan Khan to his side by bestowing on him precious gifts and honours and he also took him into the Mughal service. In return, Ali Mardan surrendered Kandahar to Shahjahan.

The Persian throne was occupied those days by Shah Abbas II. He chose the winter season to recapture Kandahar, because due to snow it would be difficult for Kandahar to have reinforcement from India. He laid siege to Kandahar on 16 December, 1648 and on 11 February, 1649, the Mughal Governor of Kandahar Daulat Khan surrendered. Consequently, in 1649, Shahjahan sent a huge army under Prince Aurangzeb and the Prime Minister Sadullah Khan to recover Kandahar.

Outbreak of hostilities

Accompanied by the Prime Minister Sadullah Khan, Aurangzeb marched at the head of a heavy force, numbering 50,000 against Kandahar via Ghazni and arrived there in May 1649. He immediately laid siege to the Kandahar fort. The battle raged through the entire summer but the Mughals could not make a dent in the beleaguered armies as they had already been provided heavily by Persia. The Mughal army, on the contrary, sustained heavy losses as it could not get provisions and the necessary war material in time. Moreover, they had also no big guns for bombardment. Ultimately, in desperation, Aurangzeb lifted the siege and proceeded back to Lahore in September 1649.

Shahjahan made yet another attempt in 1652 to retake Kandahar by sending a fresh expedition led again by Aurangzeb. The second battle of Kandahar started on 22 May, 1652 lasting two months and ten days. The valour of the Mughals proved of no avail against the heavy firing by the Persian guns. Meanwhile, the Uzbeks



Mughal emperor Shahjahan

rose in rebellion precipitating a crisis in Ghazni. As Ghazni was situated on Kandahar-Kabul route, Shahjahan felt apprehensive lest the Persians and the Uzbeks should join hands. So he asked Aurangzeb to lift the seige and come back.

The task of reconquest of Kandahar was then entrusted to Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of Shahjahan. He set off on this expedition in 1653 with a huge army, one crore of rupees and some heavy guns. Before opening an attack on Kandahar, he first occupied the neighbouring territories so as to prevent the Persian aid from reaching Kandahar. He captured Bisht and Girishak situated to the West of Khandahar and laid waste the surrounding areas. Then he ordered for bombardment of Kandahar. The walls of the fort were shaken under the impact of the bombardment, but before the powerful Persian artillery the Mughals dared not enter the fort. Nevertheless, Dara Shikoh got a greater measure of success than Aurangzeb. The Persian army was in panic, but with the onset of winter, the enemy had an upper hand and on the whole was in a stronger position than before. Moreover, the Mughals had also spent up their ammunition. The Mughal army was, therefore, recalled in October 1653. Thus like the earlier ones, this expedition also failed in recovering Kandahar from the Persians.

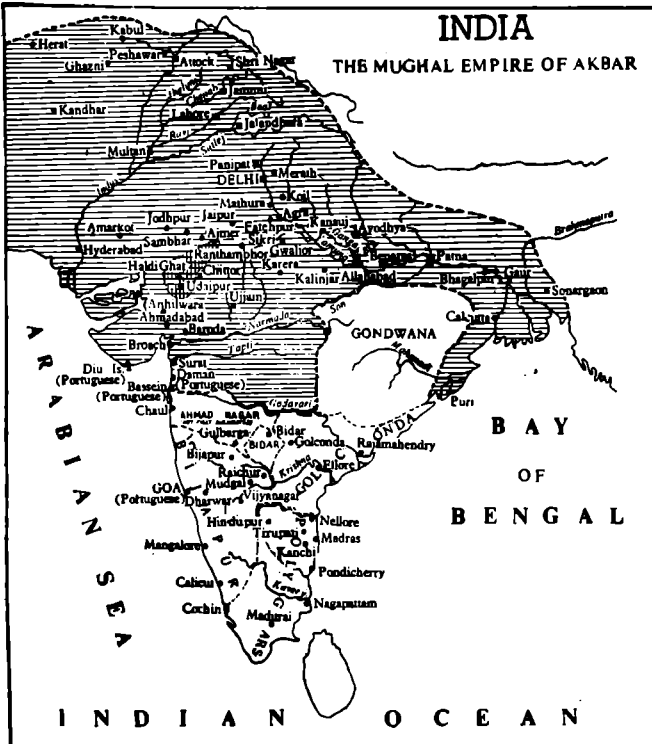
Results

These three expeditions to Kandahar cast a heavy drain on the economy of the Mughal empire. These expeditions consumed about 12 crores of rupees without any significant result. The Mughals could not capture even an inch of land. They not only lost the impregnable fort of Kandahar, but many neighbouring zones as well. Besides, many men and beasts of burden perished. The failure in Kandahar was a great setback to the political and military prestige of the Mughal Empire, because it laid bare the inefficiency of the Mughal army.

The Battle of Haldighati

Date : 1576; Place : Haldighati (Rajasthan)

The founder of the Mughal dynasty Babur had defeated the Rajputs in the battle of Khanwah (16 March 1527), but the Rajputs were not disspirited. On the death of Babur (26 December, 1530) they became independent again. When Akbar the Great, the grandson of Babur, came to the Mughal throne, he realised the importance of the Rajputs and to either won them over or force them into submission. But the Mewar ruler Rana Pratap Singh (Maharana Pratap) did not accept the Mughal suzerainty. At this Akbar sent a huge army to subdue him. The rival armies met at Haldighati. The Rana was defeated but he refused to surrender. And for the rest of his life he carried a ceaseless struggle against the Mughals and thereby became immortalised in Indian history for his indomitable courage and unflinching patriotism....



THOUGH the Mughals had captured Chittor, the capital of Mewar, in 1568, the larger part of the kingdom of Mewar was still held by Maharana Udai Singh. The coronation of his brave and heroic son Rana Pratap Singh (Maharana Pratap) took place on 3 March, 1572 amidst depressive circumstances. Against such odds as the limited resources, discontented kinmen and the hostile attitude of his brother Shakti Singh, Maharana Pratap decided to stand up to Akbar, the mighty ruler of the Mughal Empire. On the other hand, Akbar was also worried about the recalcitrance of Mewar and wanted to subdue this Rajput Kingdom at all costs. Consequently, in April 1576, a huge royal army under the command of Prince Man Singh of Amber and Asaf Ali was sent against the Rana. Man Singh started off from Mandal Garh towards Gogonda through Modi Nagar, and, encamped facing the Haldighati between the Aravali hills and the Khamnaur Village on the south bank of the river Beas. The full name of Haldighati, in fact, is 'Haldighat Ki Ghati' but the former has gained currency.

When Maharana Pratap saw the approaching Mughal armies, he assembled his armies on both sides of the narrow pass. This thickly forested hilly route was so narrow that two riders could barely pass through side by side. The Maharana selected this strategically located spot to meet the Mughal army. As compared with the numerous army of the Mughals, the forces of the Rana were very limited. The Rajputs, however, were imbued with unprecedented patriotic zeal.

Moving forward from the Haldighati, the Rana launched a direct attack on the Mughal troops. The attack was so vehement that it made short work of the left and front side phalances of the Mughal army while the middle and the right side phalances were in disarray. The Rana had neither the additional force nor any phalanx at the rear to take advantage of this initial success. Hence to bring about a defeat of the middle and left side of the opposite army, the Rana launched an attack with elephants, because the shower of the arrows from the enemy had made even the heroic Sisodias to lose their nerves. All of a sudden, a rumour spread that the Mughal emperor Akbar himself was coming to the aid of Man Singh. This filled the Mughal armies with great enthusiasm which now encircled the Rana's army and it appeared that Maharana Pratap himself would be killed before long. At this precious moment, the Naik of Jhala took the crown off the head of the Maharana and put it on his own so as to impersonate Maharana Pratap. The enemy mistook him



Mughals won but Rajputs also put up a memorable fight.

as the Rana and killed him off. The Naik thus rescued Maharana Pratap by sacrificing his own life.

Seizing an opportunity, the Rana took aim with his spear on Man Singh who was riding an elephant. The aim, however, missed and the spear pierced the body of Mahout instead. Finding their general in danger, the Mughal army encircled the Rana.

The favourite horse of Rana 'Chetak' took his master out of the battlefield, but as it had sustained serious injuries it fell unconscious on the ground and died. The loss of 'Chetak' left the Rana a broken hearted man. By this time his soldiers had also become enervated and began to flee the battlefield. Ultimately, victory rested with Man Singh in the battle of Haldighati. Maharana Pratap evacuated Gogonda which now passed under the Mughal occupation.

Results

This battle is important in many respects. It exposed the internal disunity, mutual rivalry and the limited military strength of the Rajputs. The Mughals too, could not fully enjoy the fruits of their victory as Kumbhal Garh, the fort of Devsuri, Gogonda etc. were such areas where they had not enough provisions and the local people also rose against them.

During the course of the fightings, the brave and self-respecting Sisodia Rana had to face hunger on many occasions but he refused to bow to the will of the mighty Mughal empire. And for this reason, Man Singh was deprived of Akbar's favours. The Rana, in fact, recovered most of his possessions before his death on 19 January, 1597. On the death of Maharana Pratap, Akbar made an attempt to absorb Mewar in the Mughal empire but owing to his pre-occupation with other problems he failed to make avail of this splendid opportunity.

Second Battle of Panipat

Date : 1556; Place : Panipat (presently in Haryana)

The first (1526) and the second (1556) battles of Panipat played a decisive role in the foundation of the Mughal empire in India. In the first battle, Babur defeated the Afghan ruler Ibrahim Lodi and occupied Delhi and Agra to establish the Mughal rule in India. In the second battle, his grandson Akbar decisively defeated the Afghans who in his father Humayun's time had recaptured the Delhi throne. Akbar thus re-established the Mughal Empire in India. This was the first victory of Akbar after his enthronement while this proved to be the last battle for the successors of Sher Shah Suri (1540-1545) in their struggle against the Mughals....



BABUR laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire in India, but he did not live long enough to provide a strong base to his newly founded empire and died at a comparatively young age. On his death in 1530, his son Humayun ascended the throne though he faced a tough challenge. The throne was contended within the royal dynasty as well as without, mainly by the Rajputs and the Afghans. This explains why Humayun lost both Delhi and Agra just nine years after the death of Babur. He managed to escape with his wife and moved from place to place as a fugitive. During 1540-1554, the Delhi throne was occupied by the Suri dynasty. In 1555, Humayun succeeded by taking advantage of the mutual rivalry among the successors of the Suri dynasty in regaining the Delhi throne. By organising his army suitably, he had hardly started off on his empire building campaign when he met his sudden end.

On the death of Humayun, his son Akbar succeeded to the Mughal throne. His position, however, was very vulnerable. Humayun in his life time could recover only a fraction of the large conquests that Babur had made. Most of the territories were under the occupation of the Suri dynasty. No sooner Akbar was enthroned, the ruler of the Suri dynasty Adil Shah Suri and his Hindu general Hem Chandra Vikramaditya (Himu) proceeded with a large army to challenge the Mughals.

Outbreak of hostilities

Proceeding from the direction of Gwalior, Himu took Agra and marched off to Delhi. At Tughlaquabad, he inflicted a crushing defeat on the combined armies of Iskander and Tardi Beg. Soon he occupied Delhi also. The Mughals evacuated Delhi and retreated northward. The frontlines of the rival armies clashed on 15 November, 1556 at Panipat.

Himu had deployed most of his artillery at the front of his battle formation. The Mughals led by Ali Kuli Khan routed the Afghan forces and captured their entire artillery. The loss of the artillery was a great setback for Himu. He now put up a strong front with the help of his elephants. He took the initiative and delivered a sharp attack on the entire front of the enemy. Initially, the Afghans had an edge over the Mughals and also got a number of successes. The elephants fell on the enemy army in the centre. The command of this section of the army was in the hands of Ali Kuli Khan. He made a feeble resistance. The Mughals were on the brink of a defeat but the Providence willed something else. Suddenly an arrow hit Himu in the eye and pierced his brain and he became unconscious.

His army took him dead, felt panicky and fled in confusion. Himu was captured and put to death. The best parts of his armies were wiped out. Though with a vast army Himu was in an advantageous position the Mughals won because of their qualitative superiority. They captured all the 1,500 elephants. The enemy was pursued up to Delhi which was occupied by the Mughals immediately.

Causes of Himu's defeat

Himu was a Vaisya by caste. This caste generally refrains from war. It was only on the strength of his great merit that he could rise to the high positions of General and Prime Minister. Prior to this battle, he had fought many battles and was successful in most of the cases. To win his last battle he had staked his all. Himu was chosen to lead the Afghans in this battle in preference to several Muslim generals, a fact that is an eloquent testimony to his exceptional abilities. In the beginning of the campaign, he got some measure of success but he made the fatal mistake of placing his entire artillery in the front. In this, he disregarded a fundamental principle of the war. Secondly, he failed in keeping track of the enemy's movements and tactics, because of the highly defective intelligence system.

Results

Akbar's victory in the second battle of Panipat led to the consolidation of the Mughal Empire in India. After the death of Himu, his forces were in total disarray. The political results of the battle were of far reaching consequences. The chances of Afghans re-establishing their rule in India were lost forever. The victors captured Delhi on 6 November, 1556 and soon took Agra as well.

The Battle of Khanwah

Date : 1527: Place : Khanwah (near Agra)

As regards its results, the historians attach even greater significance to the battle of Khanwah than the first battle of Panipat (1526). The first battle of Panipat resulted in the defeat of the Afghan ruler, Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. And in the battle of Khanwah, the leader of the Rajput confederate armies, Rana Sangram Singh (Rana Sanga) was defeated. Rana Sanga was a far greater foe than Ibrahim Lodi. He had organised a vast army and Rana himself was a remarkable soldier. Babur's brilliant victory in this battle helped him in laying the foundation of Mughal Empire in India in true sense....

THE success of Babur in the first battle of Panipat and the downfall of the Afghan ruler, Ibrahim Lodi in Delhi inspired the Rajputs to rehabilitate their lost image by establishing their rule in



northern India. The leader of the Rajput revivalism, Rana Sangram Singh (Rana Sanga) had to proceed to Agra as per the terms of an agreement he had made with Babur, but he withheld his advance on the advice of his advisers. He instead occupied two hundred villages to the south of Agra and thus made his position strong in this area. Sanga was in no mood to compromise with the newly established Mughal power in Delhi under Babur. Meanwhile, Mahmud Lodhi who had survived the first battle of Panipat came to the Rana along with his 10,000 soldiers and the Rana accepted him as an ally against Babur. With a view to defeat Babur, Rana Sanga called upon the dependent and friendly Rajput Chiefs to extend sending in armies against Babur. The confederate army under Sanga was a mighty force and it also included 80,000 horses and 500 elephants. Among those who joined this grand alliance against Babur were the Afghan Chiefs Hasan Khan Mewati and Mahmud Lodi. The Mughal soldiers were dismayed at the sight of such a vast army under Rana Sanga. To raise the morale of his dispirited soldiers, Babur delivered a stirring speech and inspired his soldiers to take a vow on the Quran. This had an instantaneous effect on his troops.

Outbreak of hostilities

The hostilities broke out between the contending armies on 16 March, 1527 at 9 a.m. at Khanwah near Agra. To push back the Mughal troops on their right side, Rana Sanga ordered the left phalanx of his army to deliver the attack. The attack was so powerful on Tulguma, who was in command of the right phalanx of the Babur's army, that his troops were in total confusion and Babur sent Chintaimur to his rescue. He attacked the left phalanx of the Rajputs and the Mughal soldiers infiltrated the Rajput ranks to create a sudden panic among them. Just now, Babur ordered his assistant Mustafa to open gun fire and advance the troops in the open field. The artillery did such a wonderful job that it proved a great morale booster for the Mughals.

In spite of the terrible bombardment by the Mughal artillery, the brave Rajputs struck terror in the heart of the Mughal soldiers. The Rajputs were in great excitement to gain a victory. Then at the suggestion of an ingenious Mughal general, Babur picked up the best of his cavalry and let it loose on the enemy. This device paid rich dividends to Babur.

The terrible bombardments by the Mughal cannons and a sudden charge by the cavalry told heavily on the Rajputs. Notwithstanding the deadly gun fire, the valiant soldiers of the Rana

launched an attack on the right and left phalanxes of the Mughal army. This attack in the last moments was so powerful that the Mughals were driven back from their battle position to near the spot where Babur himself was standing. Ultimately, the Mughal artillery proved a curse for the death-defying Rajputs. They could not hold against it for long and their resistance began to fizzle out. Taking advantage of the weakened position of the Rajput army, Babur ordered both the phalanxes of his army to launch a second offensive against the enemy. As a result, the Rajputs were put to rout. Babur gained a spectacular victory at Khanwah.

Results

This battle that continued to rage for ten hours is one of the most memorable battles in the Indian history. Babur possessed a superior technology of war which played a decisive role in his victory. Babur's victory at Khanwah laid the foundation of the Mughal rule in India in real sense. Hasan Khan Mewati and many other chiefs died fighting in the battlefield. Rana Sanga himself was wounded and fell unconscious.

The Rajputs lost the last opportunity to drive out the Mughals from India. Thenceforth the chieftains of Rajasthan never made a concerted effort to establish a Hindu empire in the north India. Babur decided to settle permanently in India instead of returning to Kabul.

The political consequences of this battle were also significant. The Rajputs lost the last opportunity to drive out the Mughals from India. Thenceforth the chieftains of Rajasthan never made a concerted effort to establish a Hindu empire in the north India. Babur decided to settle permanently in India instead of returning to Kabul.

The same cannons and 'matchlock' guns as had brought victory to Babur in the first battle of Panipat (1526) were a key factor in his victory in this battle also.

War of Raichur

Date : 1520; **Place :** Raichur (presently in Karnataka)

In the 16th Century, Vijayanagar empire was the strongest and the most splendorous Hindu Kingdom of South India. In its vicinity was the Muslim Kingdom of Bahman. Between the two, there were constant tensions and frictions over the possession of the fort of Raichur situated in the doab of Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers. In 1509, when Krishna-deva Raya came to the throne of Vijayanagara, he decided to recover the fort of Raichur which the Sultan of Bijapur Ismail Adil Shah had captured from Vijayanagara some time back. Though Vijayanagara won back the fort of Raichur, its strength was considerably sapped in this war and in course of time it was completely destroyed by Deccan Sultanates....

THE foundation of Vijayanagara Kingdom is a momentous event in the Indian history. In 1336, two Hindu brothers,



Harihara and Bukka got themselves crowned in accordance with Vedic rites and founded this kingdom on the bank of Tungabhadra, a tributary of Krishna river. During its long history of over two centuries four different dynasties ruled over this Kingdom — Sangam dynasty, Saluv dynasty, Tuluva dynasty and Arvidu dynasty.

Harihar and Bukka were the sons of Sangama. Hence in the beginning they ruled in the name of their father. In 1343, Harihara died and power passed into the capable hands of his elder brother Bukka. The third illustrious king of this dynasty was Harihara II in whose reign Vijayanagara grew into an extensive, strong and stable empire.

From 1485 to 1490, Vijayanagara was ruled by Nar Singh who founded the Saluv dynasty. In course of time, he grew weak and handed over the reins of power to his minister Naras Nayak, who in turn founded the Tuluva dynasty. The greatest monarch of Vijayanagara empire, Krishna-deva Raya (1509-1529), belonged to this dynasty. The war of Raichur was fought during his reign.

In the vicinity of Vijayanagara was the Muslim Kingdom of Bahmani. Both these neighbourly kingdoms were involved in a fierce rivalry over the possession of the fort of Raichur having a strategic location in the doab between the Krishna and the Tungabhadra rivers. Both had also gone to wars several times over the control of this fort. It is a different thing that Vijayanagara had suffered defeat in many of these wars yet the Muslim rulers of Bahmani could not subdue it completely.

With Krishna-deva Raya ascending the throne, Vijayanagara found in him a very capable ruler, a man of versatile abilities. Within a short span of time he succeeded in extending his dominion over a larger part of South India. Now his main ambition was to recover the fort of Raichur from the Sultan of Bijapur, Ismail Adil Shah had captured it sometime back. Consequently, in 1520, Raya marched off with a huge army to doab.

Outbreak of War

Historical records tell us that the Vijayanagara army proceeded under the command of 11 generals. There was a large number of infantrymen, archers, gunners, horse warriors, elephants etc. under every general. The well-equipped Vijayanagara army encamped at Malliabad, near Raichur. Krishnadeva Raya planned to lay siege to Raichur. Raichur, situated right at the centre of the 40 km wide Doab between the Krishna and the Tungabhadra rivers, was fortified

by three concrete walls, one within the other. These walls were further strengthened by dumping a huge quantity of earth at their back. Near about was a treeless expanse. The fort had already been well provided and there were 8000 soldiers, 400 horse warriors and 20 elephants to defend it.

The artillery of Raichur was also very powerful consisting of 200 big and other small guns. These cannons which were mounted on the ramparts of the fort in striking position were powerful enough to make short work of the enemy forces. The fort was vulnerable to an attack from the eastern side only since the circular rocks rendered the other sides of the fort completely safe.

It was against these heavy odds that Krishnadeva Raya ordered his troops to attack the fort and break into the city. However, they found it extremely hard to come to the trench round the city. As soon as they approached the trench, the cannons would start fierce bombardment, the catapults made a constant discharge of stones while the deadly shooting of arrows from the ramparts of the fort made them lose their nerves. Still, instead of retreating they had to face it squarely.

One day in the morning, Krishnadeva Raya ordered a division of his army to make a direct assault on the enemy. The attack was made in such a sharp and vigorous manner that the Bijapur forces were forced to seek shelter in the trenches. However, the deadly firing by the enemy cannons forced the Vijayanagara soldiers to take to flight.

It appeared that the Bijapur army would very soon overwhelm the Vijayanagara forces. Raya was extremely furious. He ordered another division of his army to push ahead by slaying the fleeing soldiers. So the Vijayanagar soldiers became desperate to fight off the enemy. By this time the army of Adil Shah had also broken up. Thus sudden offensive came as the last straw. The Bijapur armies were completely routed.

Results

The strategically located fort of Raichur once more came into the possession of Vijayanagara, but its strength shattered in the process. By the end of the 16th century, the Bahmani Kingdom had split up into five independent kingdoms — Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golkonda, Berar and Bedar. And in the famous battle of Talikota (1565), a grand coalition of these Muslim Kingdoms fought against Vijayanagara and brought about its complete destruction.

Invasion of Chittor

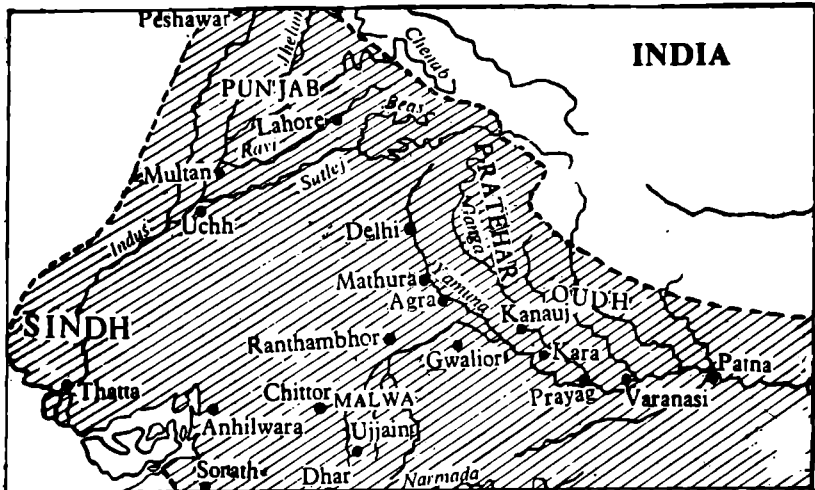
Date : 1303, Place : Chittor (Rajasthan)

Emboldened by his early successes, the Sultan Ala-ud-din Khilji (1296-1316) dreamed to become a world conqueror, a second Alexander. It was on the sagacious advice of the Kotwal of Delhi, Ala-ul-Mulk that before embarking on a world campaign he should establish his sway over the whole of India, that Ala-ud-din conquered one Indian Kingdom after another and annexed them to his empire. To bring the Rajputs under his subjection, he attacked Gujrat in 1297, Ranthambor in 1299 and then turned in 1303 to Chittor. It is said that he invaded Chittor to possess Padmini, the beautiful queen of the Rana of Mewar Ratan Singh....

HAVING ascended the Delhi throne, Ala-ud-din Khilji saw the dreams of world conquest. He desired to become a second Alexander. To realise his run away ambition he led aggressive campaigns against the neighbouring Hindu kingdoms without offering even any sort of excuse. It was with a view to expand his empire that in early 1303 Ala-ud-din resolved to take Chittor (Mewar) and so proceeding from Delhi on 28 January he laid siege to this Rajput stronghold.

Outbreak of War

It is said that Ala-ud-din in this invasion was led by his desire



to possess Padmini, the exceptionally beautiful queen of Rana Ratan Singh of Mewar. Historians, however, don't consider it the sole motive for Ala-ud-din to carry an invasion of Chittor. In fact, the conquest of Chittor formed an essential component of his military campaigns. Having laid siege to the fort, Ala-ud-din pitched his Shite Shamiana on the nearby Chittori hills. But all his efforts to take the fort proved futile and the siege lasted 8 months. The Rajputs put up such a heroic fight that it compelled the admiration of even their enemies. However, the Rajputs could not hold against a superior enemy for long and Ratan Singh surrendered in August 1303. Even after a surrender, Ala-ud-din carried a brutal massacre of the Rajputs.

The story of Padmini

There is a popular story that when Ala-ud-din failed in his design to possess Padmini, he agreed to lift the siege on the condition that Rana Ratan Singh allowed him to see the reflection of the charming face of Padmini in a mirror. When the Rana thus had shown to him the reflection of Padmini's face, he accompanied the Sultan out of the fort to see him off when the Rana was arrested in a treacherous manner. Padmini with great ingenuity got her husband released from the clutches of the enemy. Realising that the Rajputs had no chance of a victory over the invaders, thousands of the Rajput women led by Rani Padmini performed the rite of Jauhar i.e. self-immolation to save their honour.

When on his victory Ala-ud-din entered Chittor, he found it a desolate, lifeless city laying in a ruined state. He changed the name of Chittor to 'Khizrabad' and after appointing his son Khizar Khan the Governor of Chittor, the Sultan returned to Delhi.

Results

After the conquest of Chittor, almost the whole of north India passed under the subjection of Ala-ud-din. The Rajputs constantly harassed their new rulers and for this reason Khiljis could not keep their hold on Chittor for long. In 1311, Khizar Khan laid down his office in frustration, and Ala-ud-din was compelled to appoint his friend Maldev in his place. He had hoped that Maldev would be able to keep the rebellious Rajputs under leash and ensure regular flow of taxes to Delhi. But soon after the death of Ala-ud-din (1316), Hamir Dev, the Rana of Ranthambor and chief of a small branch of Guhila Rajputs, drove out Maldev and recaptured Chittor, the capital of his ancestors.

Two Battles of Tarain

Date : 1191-1192; **Place :** Tarain (presently the Taravari town near Thaneshwar in Haryana).

The two battles of Tarain decisively influenced the course of Indian history. In the first battle of Tarain (1191), the Muslim invader from Ghor (situated between Ghazni and Herat), Muhammad Ghor was defeated by Prithviraj Chauhan, the last Hindu ruler of Delhi and Ajmer. But in the second battle (1192) Ghor inflicted a crushing defeat on the Chauhan ruler and laid the foundation of Muslim rule in India. The name of Jaichand, the ruler of Kannauj, which has become synonym of a traitor in Indian History is associated with the second battle of Tarain. Jaichand had not helped Prithviraj Chauhan against Muhammad Ghor. Thus due to mutual jealousies and the internal dissensions among the Hindu rulers, India passed under a long spell of Muslim rule....

MUHAMMAD Ghor (full name : Shahab-ud-din Muiz-ud-din Muhammad bin Sam) was appointed Governor of Ghazni (which his elder brother Ghiyas-ud-din had captured from the weak



successors of Mahmud of Ghazni in 1163) in 1173. He decided to extend the boundary of his kingdom and also gain wealth, through conquests of course. To realise his ambition, he made his first incursion into India in 1175. After subduing the Ismaili Muslim heretics of Multan, he made an unsuccessful advance into Gujarat in 1178. Nevertheless he became successful in seizing Peshawar and building a fort at Sialkot in 1181. With the help of the ruler of Jammu, Jaidev he put an end to the rule of Ghaznavids in Punjab and captured Lahore in 1186. With this, the way was opened for him to push his conquests further into India. But he now had to face the Rajputs, as a powerful Rajput ruler Prithviraj Chauhan ruled over the neighbouring Delhi and Ajmer.

For the defence of the country's North-West frontiers and what may be called the "Gateway" of India, the Chauhan ruler had strongly fortified the bordering towns of his kingdom. Muhammad Ghori first attacked Bhatinda and laid siege to the city in 1189. Historical evidences show that Prithviraj Chauhan was not quite prepared for this attack made in a sudden and deceitful manner. Hence the army defending the city was defeated and it laid down its arms after the defeat.

Muhammad Ghori left a garrison under the command of Zia-ud-din to defend the fort, and he himself prepared to go back when the Chauhan ruler arrived at the head of a huge army to recapture the fort. So Ghori had to stay his departure in order to face Prithviraj. The rival armies met at Tarain, near Thaneshwar. The forces of Prithviraj inflicted a crushing defeat on Ghori's army. Muhammad Ghori himself was seriously wounded and one of his officers took him out of the battlefield.

Second Battle

This was the second defeat of Muhammad Ghori at the hands of the Indian rulers. But the second defeat appeared to him more disgraceful than the first inflicted on him by Bhim Dev. On his return to Ghazni, Ghori made hectic preparations to avenge this defeat. He proceeded towards India with a large force numbering 120000 mounted men. When he reached Lahore, he sent his envoy to Prithviraj to demand his submission, but the Chauhan ruler refused to comply. Prithviraj saw through Ghori's stratagem. So he issued a fervent appeal to the fellow Rajput chiefs to come to his aid against the Muslim invader. About 150 Rajpur rulers, big and small, responded favourably to his call but significantly, the ruler of Kannauj, Raja

Jaichand kept aloof due to an old grudge against Prithviraj Chauhan. What is more, he met Ghori and divulged to him the secrets of Chauhan's planning for war.

Whatever army could be mustered, Prithviraj proceeded with it to meet Muhammad Ghori in the battlefield of Tarain where a year before he had inflicted a crushing defeat on his adversary. Ghori divided his forces into five parts. While he deployed four parts to attack the Rajputs on all the four sides, the fifth part was kept as reserve. And as the sun declined, Ghori led a final charge with his reserve army. This final charge came as the last straw for the Rajputs. Khande Rao, the able general of Prithviraj, who had defeated Muhammad Ghori in the first battle of Tarain was killed. The enthusiasm of Prithviraj also dampened amidst these reverses. He abandoned his elephant and rode out of the battlefield for his life. He was, however, pursued by the enemy who killed him near a village not far from Sambhal in UP. Muhammad Ghori gained a resounding victory.

In some popular legends woven around the bravery of Prithviraj, it is said that Ghori did not kill Prithviraj but blinded him. Subsequently, Prithviraj discharged the Sabdbhedi arrow and killed Ghori. But there are no historical evidences to substantiate it.

Results

The second battle of Tarain was decisive and it realised the ambition of Muhammad Ghori to conquer India. He completely shattered the glory of the armed might of the Chauhans. Muhammad followed his victory at Tarain by conquering outlying strategically important posts like Hansi, Ajmer and Saraswati and made his Turkish troops responsible for their defence.

Muhammad Ghori appointed his faithful slave and friend Qutab-ud-din Aibek to administer his conquered territories in India. Qutab-ud-din was a Turkish slave who rose to a high position in Ghori's army by dint of his remarkable ability as a soldier. After Ghori returned to Ghazni, he further extended his conquests in India by taking many more kingdoms, important among them being Bihar and Bengal. On the death of Muhammad Ghori in 1206, Aibek declared himself an independent ruler and founded 'Slave' dynasty in India.

Kalinga War

Date : 261 B.C. **Place :** Kalinga (present-day Orissa)

The great Mauryan emperor Ashoka is famous for his embracing of Buddhism, setting noble ideals of kingship, propagating moral values and humanitarian principles, as also for waging wars ruthlessly. In 261 B.C., the 12th year of his reign, he fought a war with Kalinga, a strong kingdom on the Bay of Bengal, to merge it into the Mauryan empire. Ashoka won but this war brought about a complete transformation in his life and he was in deep remorse at the great misery caused. He foreswore war; the era of imperial conquests was over and an era of spiritual conquest or Dharma Vijaya ushered in. Ashoka though still retaining kingship, devoted rest of his life in propagating tenets of Buddhism and enforcing his ethical system 'Law of Piety'....

WHEN Ashoka, the son of the Mauryan emperor Bindusara and the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya, ascended the throne of Magadha in 273 B.C. treading in the footsteps of his forefathers he set out to expand his empire. In the 12th year of his reign, he sent a message to Kalinga asking its submission, but the



Kalingraj refused to submit to the Mauryan empire. As a result, Ashoka led a huge army against Kalinga.

This took place in 261 B.C., the freedom-loving people of Kalinga offered a stiff resistance to the Mauryan army. The whole of Kalinga turned into a battle arena. History offers us but few examples of such fiercely fought wars as this. The Kalingaraj himself commanded his army in the battlefield. However, the limited forces of Kalinga were no match for the overwhelming Magadha army. Contrary to Ashoka's expectations, the people of Kalinga fought with such great valour that on a number of occasions they came very close to a victory. The soldiers of Kalinga perished in the battlefield fighting till their last breath for their independence. The victory ultimately rested with Ashoka.

The war took a tremendous toll of life and property. The 13th Rock Edict of Ashoka throws light on this war. At least 100000 Kalingans were killed while another 150000 were taken prisoners. An almost equal number of Magadh soldiers were also killed. There was not a single man left in Kalinga to live a life of subjection under the Mauryans.

Results

This is the singular instance of a war in history which brought about a complete change of heart in a stern ruler like Ashoka. The scene of the war presented a horrible sight. As far as one could see, there lay corpses of soldiers, wounded soldiers groaned in severe pain, vultures hovered over the dead bodies, orphaned children mourning the loss of their nears and dears, widows looked blank and despaired old men stood giving an accursed look.

At this sight of extreme misery, the cruel-hearted emperor was overwhelmed with remorse. He realised that his victory at the cost of such a tremendous human suffering was worse than defeat. He took a vow that henceforward he would not bear arms for the expansion of his empire. In future, his campaigns would not be for military conquests but for spiritual conquests or 'Dharma Vijaya'.

To atone for the atrocities and sins committed in the prosecution of this war, Ashoka embraced Buddhism. The celebrated Buddhist teacher Acharya Uggupta initiated him into Buddhism. Ashoka devoted himself to propagate Buddhism among the people.

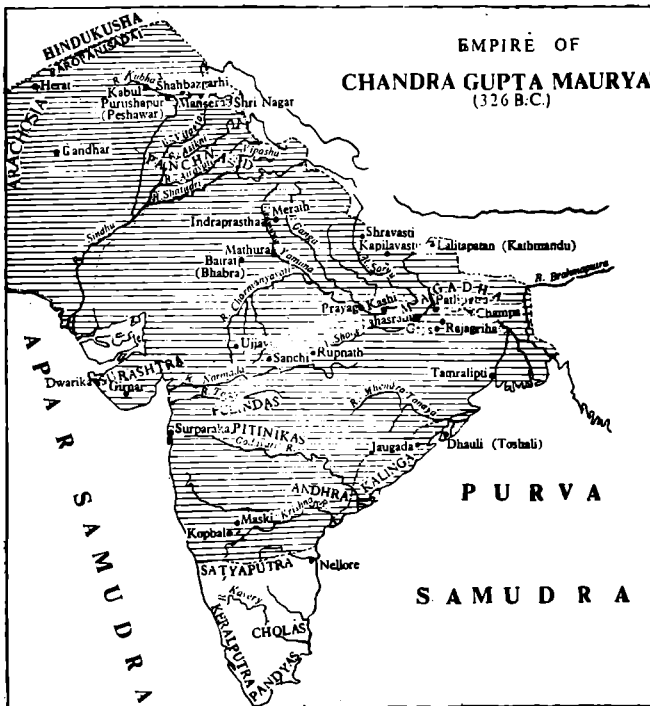
The independent India has paid its respect to the memory of this great king. by adopting his state symbol 'Ashoka Chakra' as its national emblem.

Seleucus Invasion of India

Date : 305 B.C.; Place : North-West Frontiers (Punjab)

Alexander died in 323 B.C. As he had no heir to inherit his vast empire, it was parcelled out by his three prominent generals among themselves. Seleucus was also one of them and he got the Asian parts of the Alexandrian empire. The fragmented India which Seleucus had seen during the Porus-Alexander war inspired him to see the dream of the conquest of India. His dream, however, remained unrealised as by now Chandragupta Maurya had established a strong empire in India

SELEUCUS was one of the leading generals of Alexander the Great. While journeying back to Greece from India, Alexander reached Babylon, he fell seriously ill and died there in 323 B.C.



Alexander died without an heir. So his extensive empire was shared out by his three generals among themselves. Thus the far flung empire of Alexander was split up into three parts—the Greek, the Egyptian and the Asian. The first two parts came into the possession of Ptolemy and Antigones respectively, while the third i.e. the Asian part fell to the lot of Seleucus. Seleucus' Asian empire extended from Syria up to the Euphrates. Some parts of Punjab and Afghanistan were also held by him. Seleucus had accompanied Alexander during his invasion of India in 326 B.C. After the death of Alexander in 323 B.C. when the Alexandrian empire was being split up, Chandragupta Maurya had established a strong empire in India and driven out the Greeks from the Indian soil. Seleucus, therefore, wanted to regain these territories to the east of the Indus also.

The coronation of the Mauryan emperor Chandragupta took place in 321 B.C. two years after Alexander had left India. He united the country into a strong and well-knit empire. With the help of his able minister and astute diplomat Kautilya, he succeeded in the foundation of a strong empire in India and in expelling the Greeks from the Indian soil. The vast empire that Chandragupta had built extended from Magadh in the east up to North-West frontiers in the West which also included Afghanistan. In the south, he had expanded his empire as far as Mysore. The image of India which Seleucus had formed in his mind was that of a country fragmented into small kingdoms that were prone to mutual rivalries and jealousies. He, therefore, entertained the ambition of the conquest of India, but little did he know that India he was going to face was even more powerful than his own empire.



Chandragupta Maurya reviewing the battle formation of his army.

War and its results

Consequently, Seleucus advanced with a huge army against India in 305 B.C. The Indian soldiers were in fine fettle and their horsemen, chariot army and elephants were ready to inflict defeat on the invaders. A terrible war followed on the north-west borders of India. The Greeks could not withstand the onslaught of the gallant Indian fighters. The army of Chandragupta Maurya routed the Greek invaders and Seleucus was forced to sue for a peace treaty. Chandragupta Maurya presented his terms to the defeated army for a treaty which Seleucus had but to accept. By the terms of the treaty, Seleucus surrendered his territories in Afghanistan—Herat, Kandahar and the Kabul valley—to Chandragupta Maurya. In return, the Mauryan emperor made him a gift of 300 elephants in the war. Later he used these warlike elephants in various wars.

Seleucus also gave his daughter in matrimony to the emperor Chandragupta Maurya. Later, he also appointed Megasthenes as his ambassador to the Mauryan court. Megasthenes wrote an account of his stay at Mauryan court in a famous book entitled 'Indika'.

Besides the preponderant army and armaments, one factor that contributed to the victory of Chandragupta Maurya in this war was that as a result of Alexander's invasion, Indians had also become familiar with the Greek methods of warfare. Moreover, it was by dint of his bravery and sharp intelligence that Chandragupta Maurya had built up such an extensive empire. His vast army was also well-trained and well-equipped.

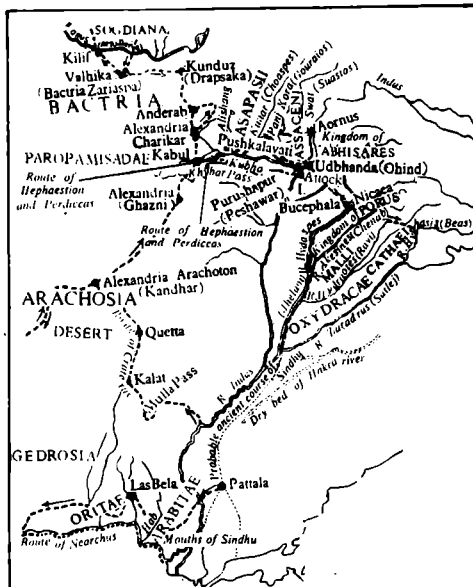
No detailed accounts of this war between Seleucus and Alexander are available. The Greek historians have also confined themselves to just mentioning its results. From the results, however, we can draw the conclusion that Seleucus certainly sustained a crushing defeat in the war, and his dream of the conquest of India was shattered forever.

Porus - Alexander War

Date : 326 B.C.; **Place :** North-West borders of India.

This war was an outcome of Alexander's ambition to conquer the whole world. Having brought the entire Greece under his sway, he organised a vast army and set out to fulfil his ambition. Moving eastwards, he conquered Egypt, Persia and then marched off towards India. Many Indian rulers accepted Alexander's suzerainty without offering any resistance. But the brave Porus, the ruler of the country between the Jhelum and the Chenab, refused to submit and challenged him to meet in the battlefield. Alexander no doubt won but the valour of Porus and his soldiers discouraged him from making any further advance into Indian territory....

PORUS-Alexander war is of great significance in the history of ancient India. Alexander, the son of King Philip of Macedonia (a small kingdom in ancient Greece) ascended the throne in 336 B.C. Alexander was an ambitious ruler and soon he established a strong empire by conquering all the city-states in Greece. When he had expanded his kingdom up to the river Danube, Alexander was





Greek emperor Alexander : failed to realise his dream of World conquest.

emboldened to carry on the expansion of his empire so as to become a world conqueror. He organised a vast army and embarked on his world campaign in 334 B.C. aged only 22. First he occupied Asia Minor and then advancing further eastwards conquered Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Samarkand etc. After conquering Bactria across the Hindu Kush in May 327 B.C., Alexander proceeded towards India.

As soon as Alexander crossed borders into India, Ambhi, the king of Taxila, accorded a warm welcome to him. He bestowed immense gifts on him and accepted his suzerainty. What made him to behave in such a supine manner was that with the help of Alexander he wanted to take revenge on his enemy Porus. Many other smaller Indian chiefs of the area submitted to the Greek invader without fighting. However, Porus, the brave and powerful ruler of the kingdom between the Jhelum and the Chenab, refused to surrender and decided to stand up to the foreign invader.

Outbreak of War

In July 326 B.C., Alexander marched towards the river Jhelum with his huge army together with 5000 soldiers contributed by Ambhi,

the ruler of Taxila. The river was in flood and across it the king Paurva (Porus) was present with his vast army and warlike elephants. In view of the swollen river and the heavy strength of the forces of Porus, Alexander shifted the position of his troops from place to place everyday in order to camouflage Porus. He also despatched several units of his army into different directions to find out a spot wherefrom the river could be crossed most conveniently.

From the placid movement of the enemy troops on the river bank, Porus could form no idea as to when, where and how the attack would be delivered. Moreover, Alexander had already made an announcement that he would not be crossing the river until the flood water has receded.

Thus while Porus was kept guessing, Alexander on one rainy and stormy night took with him a small force consisting of archers, horsemen and some infantrymen and went 18 miles upstream the spot where his army had encamped. This place was full of thick shrubs making it convenient for his soldiers to cross the river without getting noticed by the enemy. Alexander let the rest of his army remain behind in the camp. Alexander and his small force crossed the river with the help of boats and the leather sacks filled with grass. The first to set his foot across the river was Alexander himself. The messengers immediately conveyed this news to Porus. When Porus learnt this, he promptly sent his son with 2000 infantrymen and 120 chariots to check the progress of Alexander. In the ensuing encounter, Alexander's horsemen made short work of this advance force and Porus's son himself died fighting in the battlefield.

When Porus learnt that in this preliminary bout with Alexander his son had died fighting valiantly, he felt deeply bereaved. But he was also surprised somewhat, because the camp army across the river was still preparing itself to cross the river. He left behind a small force consisting of some elephants and infantrymen to face the camp army and himself proceeded with a huge force to meet Alexander in the battlefield.

In view of the battle formation and a vast army of Porus, Alexander put his 6000 soldiers in waiting while with the remaining 6000 opened an attack on the left flank of Porus's army. Shooting arrows fiercely on each other, the rival armies were locked in a close combat. Finding the left flank entangled in this manner, as soon as the right flank of Porus's army advanced from the rear, to help, the waiting Greek soldiers launched an attack from the rear. This forced the right

flank of the Indian army to turn back in order to counter the enemy's offensive from the rear, but as it was a steep place its battle formation was upset. To escape the enemy's attack, Indian warriors took shelter behind the elephants. In this situation, the Mahouts made an advance with their elephant. Though the Greek soldiers tried to check their advance with a terrible shower of arrows, the intrepid Indian elephants set about to trample the enemy under foot. At the same time, the Indian horsemen pushed ahead and fell on the enemy. But due to the unevenness of the ground the horsemen had again to fall behind the elephants. At this stage, the Greek army made a calculated attack on the Indians. Unfortunately, in the confusion thus produced and as a result of a sharp attack from the enemy side, the elephant lost their balance and started to trample under foot their own army. Having conducted the war for twenty four hours at a stretch, the brave Porus fell unconscious of his wounds. When Porus, tired of exertion and bleeding all over his body, was brought before Alexander, he kept wondering at his tall stature. He asked Porus who was standing with his head raised high like a brave fighter, "How would you like to be treated?"

"As a king would treat another king", Porus replied promptly. Alexander was very much pleased by this bold answer of Porus. He immediately issued instructions to his physicians for his treatment. When Porus was healed of his wounds, Alexander not only restored to him his kingdom but also made over to him some additional territories which he himself had conquered and thus made him his friend.

Results

The war resulted in the victory of the Greeks. However soon afterwards Alexander had to beat a retreat as his soldiers had grown weary of years of ceaseless fighting and also felt homesick. Secondly, he encountered a stiff resistance in making advance beyond Punjab.

Alexander's campaign in India opened up communication between Greece and India and paved the way for mutual interaction between the two countries. Indian art and architecture were influenced by the Greek forms and ideas. Bilateral trade also got a boost. However, Alexander's invasion of India did not make any permanent impact on the history of India and fell into oblivion soon. And Alexander's ambition of the conquest of the whole world crashed under the waves of the river Indus.

