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Results of the First World War

Social Results

The First World War had the following social results:

- Many people lost their lives.
- Many people were wounded.
- Some people were declared missing.
- Number of orphans increased.
- Increase in single parent headed families.
- Many soldiers and war victims suffered from stress.
- Shortage of basic commodities like bread, cooking oil e.t.c.
- Strikes and demonstrations in Germany and Italy.
- Homelessness.
- Breakdown of the family system.
- Recognition of women's rights i.e. voting and admission into professions.
- Change of attitudes towards women (gained men's respect).
- Advance in medicine for example new drugs and new surgery methods were introduced.
- Starvation and diseases.
- War eroded class barriers. Different classes fought alongside each other and developed oneness.

Political Results

The political results of the First World War included the following:

- Defeat of the central powers
- Collapse of four empires and their monarchies

Empire	**Monarch/Dynasty**
Russia	Romanov
Germany	Hohenzollern
Turkey	Ottoman
Austria	Hapsburg

- Signing of peace treaties with defeated powers
- Creation of new states e.g. Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland and Latvia.

- Rise of extremist parties e.g. Nazis in Germany, Fascists in Italy and Communists in Russia.
- Development of new ideologies e.g. Communism in Russia, Fascism in Italy, Nazism in Germany e.t.c.
- Creation of League of Nations.
- Abdication of the Kaiser of Germany.
- Establishment of democratic governments in Germany and Austria i.e. the fall of monarchism.
- Rise of banditry especially by demobilised soldiers.
- Emergence of USA as a super power.
- Growth of republican governments (democratic governments) e.g. in Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia & Yugoslavia.
- Growth of dictators in Italy and Germany.
- Spread of nationalism outside Europe e.g. in India, Middle East and Africa.

Economic Results

The First World War had the following economic results or effects:

- War gave commercial advantage to the industrialised nations outside Europe e.g. Japan and USA.
- America got a large share of world trade and became greatest creditor nation.
- European countries had a huge war debt.
- High taxation on Europeans.
- Destruction of infrastructure i.e. industries, bridges, roads.
- High inflation in Germany and Italy.
- Boom in the USA.
- Technological advancement e.g. internal combustion engines and electric lights were introduced.
- Communication improved through the use of cars, buses, telephones, aeroplanes and radios. BBC was established in 1922.
- Mass production of goods.
- Food shortages.
- Payment of reparations by defeated powers.
- Bankruptcy among European countries.
- Countries like India began to build factories of their own instead of depending on European countries.
- Widespread unemployment in Europe soon after the war.

Positive Results Of The War

- Advances in medicine.
- Mass production of many goods.
- Liberation of women (i.e. right to vote, equal opportunities, family planning became accessible and gained men's respect).
- Created employment for soldiers in industries which manufactured armaments.
- War speeded up technological advancements.
- Made people realise the need to maintain peace and use diplomacy and negotiations to get over crises.
- Creation of the League of Nations.
- Self-determination (independence) was given to minority groups e.g. Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Finland.
- Improved communication.
- Eroded class barriers.

Negative Results Of The First World War

- Many people died.
- Many people were either wounded or missing.
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among the soldiers and war victims.
- Starvation and diseases.
- Europe became poor.
- Destruction of infrastructure.
- Reparations ruined economies of defeated powers.
- Demobilisation created unemployment and a high rate of criminals.
- Homelessness.
- Orphans increased.
- Strikes and demonstrations.
- Rise of dictators.
- Left most European countries bankrupt.
- A lot of wealth was wasted.