

Que. Analyze the effects of World War II on the global polity, economy, society and science and technology. (250 w)

Ans World War II, also called second World War, was a conflict that involved virtually every part of the world during the years 1939-45. The principal countries were the Axis powers - Germany, Italy and Japan and the Allies - France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union and to a lesser extent, China. It was the most destructive conflict in history.

Effects of World War II on the global polity, economy, society and science and technology are as follows :-

1. GLOBAL POLITY :-

- End of colonialism and imperialism
- End of dictatorship in Germany and Italy
- Emergence of two power blocks - USA and USSR. This resulted in cold war.
- UNO was set up in 1945.
- Strengthening of nationalist movements in Africa and Asia.
- Germany was divided into West Germany and East Germany. West Germany was controlled by Britain, France and USA. East Germany by USSR.

2. ECONOMY :-

- Allied victory in world war II resulted in the US dollar becoming the world's reserve currency.
- It saw the creation of major global organizations such as the World Bank, the UNO, IMF and NATO.
- During the war, 17 million new civilian jobs were created.
- Many European nations had to take loans for development.

3. SOCIETY :-

- Advancements were made in health care, education, transportation, communication etc.
- Standards of living rose, styles of dress changed etc.
- 5 crore deaths (→ 2.2 crore soldiers and 2.8 crore civilians).
- After the end of the war, a conference was held in Potsdam, Germany, to establish peace treaties.
- It led many women to take jobs in defense plants and factories around the country.

4. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY :-

- The world's first computer - Colossus, was developed by Allies
- During world war II, US developed the first Atom bomb in the history.
- Penicillin was developed by US and its mass distribution saved millions of lives.
- Radar was a new technology, developed to detect the enemy aircraft.
- The V-1, which is also known as "Cruise missile" today, was developed during second world war.
- Several antibiotics, surgical techniques and blood transfusion techniques were developed.
- Germans & Americans both developed their own synthetic oil and started using it in their aircrafts.

Thus, Worldwar II affected various fields, in some it created new opportunities while in others it caused mass destruction.