



# 4

## **War in practice: The Causes and Consequences of World Wars**

## I. Ön Hazırlık

Bu bölümde, 20. Yüzyılın ilk yarısına damga vuran ve milyonlarca insanın ölümüne sebep olan Birinci ve İkinci Dünya Savaşları ele alınacaktır. Her ne kadar bir önceki bölümde değinildiği gibi savaş olgusu devletler arası ilişkilerde tarihin her döneminde görülen bir unsur olsa da, Birinci ve İkinci Dünya savaşları birçok açıdan istisnai sebeplere ve sonuçlara sahiptir. Hem dünya siyasi tarihini doğru analiz edebilmek, hem de bugünün dünyasını daha iyi anlayabilmek, hem de gelecekte benzer savaşların yaşanmasını önleyebilmek için bu istisnai savaşların detaylı bir şekilde incelenmesi gerekmektedir. Her ne kadar bu savaşların olağandışı yıkıcılığı barışın insanlık için çok önemli olduğunu gösterse de, Birinci Dünya Savaşının üzerinden yüz sene geçmesine rağmen, bugün halen savaş uluslararası ilişkilerde çözülmeyi bekleyen sorunların başında gelmektedir.

Bu bölümün ele aldığı konuyu anlayabilmek için aşağıdaki kavramları araştırın ve bu konuda Türkçe ve İngilizce kaynaklardan yararlanarak bir ön hazırlık yapın.

I. Dünya Savaşı, II. Dünya Savaşı, güç dengesi, silahlanma yarışı, faşizm, komünizm, kapitalizm, yatıştırma, Versay Anlaşması,

## II. Çeviri Çalışması: Aşağıdaki metinleri tercüme ediniz.

1. The hundred years after 1900 were without question the bloodiest century in modern history, far more violent in relative as well as absolute terms than any previous era. Significantly larger percentages of the world's population were killed in the two world wars that dominated the century than had been killed in any previous conflict of comparable geopolitical magnitude. Although wars between 'great powers' were more frequent in earlier centuries, the world wars were unparalleled in their severity (battle deaths per year) and concentration (battle deaths per nation-year). By any measure, the Second World War was the greatest man-made catastrophe of all time. And yet, for all the attention they have attracted from historians, the world wars were only two of many twentieth-century conflicts. Why? What made the twentieth century, and particularly the fifty years from 1904 until 1953, so bloody?

*Niall Ferguson, The War of The World, The Penguin Press, New York 2006, s. xxxiv*

### Vocabulary

**Violent**  
**Absolute**  
**Percentage**  
**Man-made**

**dominate**  
**comparable**  
**magnitude**  
**catastrophe**

### Translation

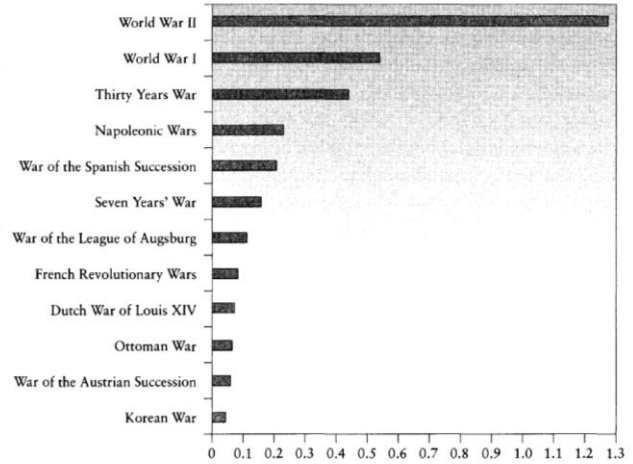


Figure 1.1 Battlefield deaths as percentages of world population

2. Parts of the answer lie at each of the three levels of analysis.

At the structural level, there were two key elements: the rise of German power and the increased rigidity in the alliance systems. The rise of the German power was truly impressive. German heavy industry surpassed that of Great Britain in the 1890s, and the growth of German gross national product at the beginning of the century was twice that of Great Britain's. In the 1860s, Britain had 25 percent of the world's industrial production, but by 1913 its share had shrunk to 10 percent, and Germany's share had risen to 15 percent. Germany transformed some of its industrial strength into military capability, including a massive naval armaments program. This expansion alarmed Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill (1874-1965). Britain began to fear becoming isolated and worried about how it would defend its far-flung empire. These fears were increased during the Boer War due to German sympathy for the Boers, the Dutch settlers in South Africa, against whom Britain was fighting at the end of the century.

*Joseph S. Nye, Understanding International Conflicts, New York 2007, s. 70-71*

### ***Vocabulary***

***Structural***  
***Gross national product***  
***Military capability***  
***Far-flung***

***alliance system***  
***shrink***  
***naval***  
***settler***

### ***Translation***

3. By the waning years of the nineteenth century, that balance-of-power system had weakened. Whereas previously alliances had been fluid and flexible, with allies changeable, now alliances had solidified. Two camps emerged: the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria, and Italy) in 1882, and the Dual Alliance (France and Russia) in 1893. In 1902, Britain broke from the "balancer" role, joining in a naval alliance with Japan to prevent a Russo-Japanese rapprochement in China. This alliance marked a significant turn: for the first time, a European state (Great Britain) turned to an Asian one (Japan) in order to thwart a European ally (Russia). And in 1904, Britain joined with France in the Entente Cordiale.

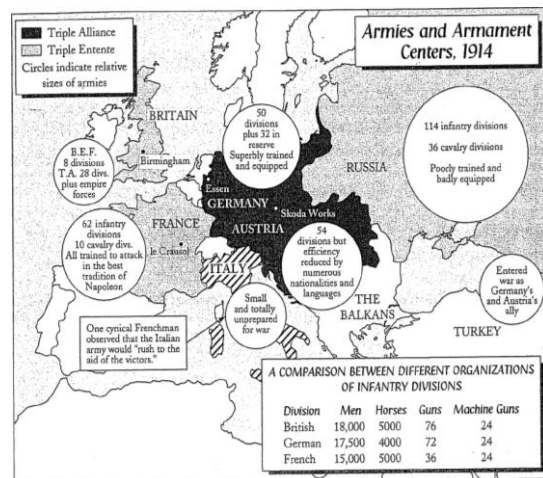
*Karen A. Mingst, Essentials of International Relations, s.35*

**Vocabulary**

*Waning  
Fluid  
Rapprochement*

*balance of power  
solidify*

**Translation**



4. Another important domestic-level explanation of World War I lay in the domestic politics of Germany. German historian Fritz Fischer and his followers argue that Germany's social problems were a key cause of the war. According to Fischer, Germany's efforts toward world hegemony were an attempt by German elites to distract attention from the poor domestic integration of German society. He notes that Germany was ruled by a domestic coalition of landed aristocrats and some very large industrial capitalists, called the Coalition of Rye and Iron. This ruling coalition used expansionist policies to provide foreign adventures instead of domestic reform-circuses in place of bread. They viewed expansionism as an alternative to social democracy. Internal economic and social tensions are not sufficient to explain World war I, but they do help explain one source of the pressure that Germany put on the international system after 1890.

*Joseph S. Nye, Understanding International Conflicts, New York 2007, s. 75*

### ***Vocabulary***

**Effort**  
**Distract**  
**Expansionist**

**hegemony**  
**integration**  
**tension**

### ***Translation***

5. What about the first level of analysis, the role of individuals? What distinguished the leadership on the eve of the World War I was its mediocrity. The Austro-Hungarian emperor, Franz Josef (1830-1926), was a tired old man who was putty in the hands of General Conrad and Count Berchtold, his duplicitous foreign minister. Ironically, Franz Ferdinand, the crown prince who was assassinated at Sarajevo, would have been a restraining force, for the potential heir had liberal political views. In Russia, Czar Nicholas II was an isolated autocrat who spent most of his time resisting change at home. He was served by incompetent foreign and defense ministers and was strongly influenced by his sickly and neurotic wife. Most important was Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941), who had a great sense of inferiority. He was a blusterer, a weak man who was extremely emotional. He led Germany into a risky policy without any skill or consistency. Personality did make a difference. There was something about the leaders, the Kaiser in particular, that made them significant contributory causes of the war.

*Joseph S. Nye, Understanding International Conflicts, New York 2007, s. 75-6*

### ***Vocabulary***

**Distinguish**

**Putty**

**Heir**

**Incompetent**

**Blusterer**

**mediocrity**

**duplicitous**

**autocrat**

**inferiority**

**contributory**

### ***Translation***



6. The Second World War was the most widespread and destructive conflict in history. The First World War, although fought by soldiers from all continents, took place largely in Europe. Huge numbers of combatants were killed and wounded in static, slogging bloodshed, but the civilian populations of most countries were rarely in direct danger from the fighting. Air warfare was in its infancy. Apart from one major naval battle, operations at sea were largely taken up with submarines and blockade. The fighting which began about twenty years later and which became known as the Second World War was different in both scope and scale. It was truly world-wide, involving more countries, more people- especially civilians- and a greater area of the planet's surface than any previous war.

*Stewart Ross, Causes and Consequences of the Second World War, Evans Brothers Limited, London, 1995, s.6*

***Vocabulary***

**Widespread**  
**Bloodshed**  
**Blockade**

**wound**  
**infancy**  
**surface**

***Translation***



7. The Second World War was a war of ambitions and denials. The ambitions belonged to Germany, Japan and Italy. All three nations were determined to expand their national frontiers at the expense of neighboring states. Hitler and Germany wished to dominate central Europe and to reduce Poland and the USSR to the status of vassal states. Hirohito and Japan sought dominion over China and South East Asia. Mussolini and Italy coveted the Balkans and the Mediterranean region in a planned revival of the glories of ancient Rome. At first the League of Nations, primarily represented by Britain and France, attempted to moderate and to appease the different national ambitions. However, as the demands for expansion escalated appeasement was gradually replaced by denial. The result was a series of wars as Japan, Italy and Germany resorted to military force to secure their national ambitions.

*Bradley Lightbody, The Second World War, Ambitions to Nemesis, Routledge, London, 2004, s.1*

### **Vocabulary**

**Ambition**

**Vassal**

**Covet**

### **Translation**

**at the expense of**

**dominion**

**appease**

*The occupation of the Rhineland: German troops march through the streets of Karlsruhe on 9 March 1936*



8. The Treaty of Versailles blamed Germany for starting the Great War, cut her armed forces to the bare minimum, took away all her colonies, ordered her to pay for war damage and gave large areas of her land to neighboring states. But not only was the Treaty harsh: many Germans also felt that it was unfair. For while peoples like the Poles and Czechs were allowed to form their own nations at the end of the Great War, the Treaty did not allow the German speaking people of Austria to unite with Germany in a single German nation. Also, the transfer of German land to neighboring states meant that millions of Germans were now living under foreign rule. When Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 he had three basic aims in his foreign policy. First, he aimed to tear up the Treaty of Versailles. Second, he intended to unite all German-speaking people in one country (to be called 'Greater Germany'). Third, he aimed to give Germans 'lebensraum', or 'living space'; Germany was overcrowded, he said, and did not have enough food or raw materials. The way to get these things would be to take over the land east of Germany, particularly in the USSR and Poland.

*Josh Brooman, Roads to War: The Origins of the Second World War, Longman, s.8*

### ***Vocabulary***

**Bare**

**Tear up**

***Translation***

**harsh**

**overcrowded**

9. Germany proved to be the real challenge. Having been rearmed under Hitler in the 1930s, buoyed by helping the Spanish fascists during the Spanish Civil War and having been successful in reuniting ethnic Germans from far-flung territories, Germany was ready to right the "wrongs" imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. For various reasons, Britain and France acquiesced to Germany's resurgence. Britain agreed in 1938 to let Germany occupy Czechoslovakia, in the hope of averting more general war. But this was an idle hope. German fascism uniquely mobilized the masses in support of the state. It drew on the belief that war and conflict were noble activities, from which ultimately superior civilizations would be formed. It drew strength from the belief that certain racial groups were superior, others inferior, and mobilized the disenchanted and the economically weak on "behalf of its cause. The power of fascism- German, Italian, and Japanese versions-led to the uneasy (unholy) alliance between the communist Soviet Union and the liberal United States, Great Britain, and France, among others. That alliance was intended to check the Axis powers, by force if necessary. Thus, when World War II broke out, those fighting against the Axis acted in unison, regardless of ideological divergence.

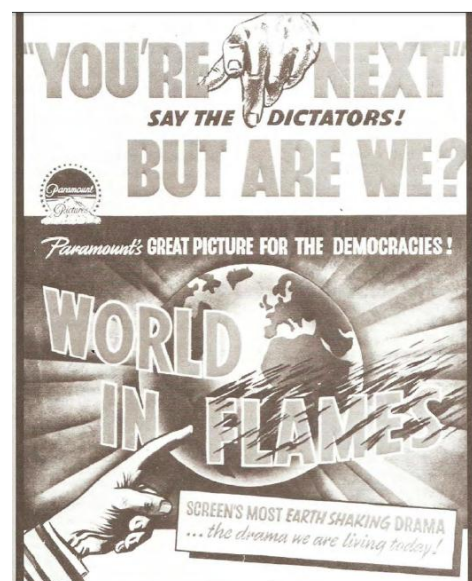
*Karen A. Mingst, Essentials of International Relations, s.39*

### ***Vocabulary***

**Buoy**  
**Resurgence**  
**Idle**  
**Unison**

**acquiesce**  
**avert**  
**disenchanted**  
**divergence**

### ***Translation***



10. Birinci ve İkinci dünya savaşları milyonlarca insanın ölümüne ve sayısız trajedilerin yaşanmasına sebep olarak barışın insanlık için ne denli önemli olduğunu göstermektedir. Bu büyük savaşlardan çıkarılan dersler neticesinde her ne kadar barışçıl bir dünya sistemi oluşturmaya yönelik önemli adımlar atılsa da, devletler arasındaki güç mücadelesi Soğuk Savaşla birlikte yeniden savaşın ön planda olduğu bir dönemin başlamasına sebep olmuştur.

**First and Second world wars proved the importance of the peace for humanbeings by causing millions of death and innumerable tragedies. Even though, as a result of the lessons learned from these major wars, some measures had been taken in order to form a peaceful world system, with the Cold War, the power struggle among major states led to a period in which war was at the forefront again.**

### *Vocabulary*

**Trajedi**

**güç mücadelesi**

**Barışçıl**

**Soğuk Savaş**

**Dünya sistemi**

### *Translation*