

Effects of World War II

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2021-2022

HISTORY

From Left
2021

INTRODUCTION

Causes of the second world war

At the end of the First World War in June 1919, Germany was humiliated by the extremely restrictive terms and conditions of the Treaty of Versailles. It called on the German state to assume guilt for causing losses and deaths during the war, besides forcing it to disarm and make punitive territorial and monetary concessions to the victorious Entente powers led by France, Britain and Russia.

This caused an immense amount of resentment and turmoil among the people of Germany, creating conditions for the rise of the National Socialist Workers Party, or the Nazis, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler in 1933. He ignored the Treaty of Versailles and aggressively re-armed and industrialized Germany. In 1938, he annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Simultaneously, Japan, under Emperor Hirohito, began a policy of imperial expansionism because it had very few strategic mineral and oil resources to sustain its rapidly progressing industries and military power. This policy led to the invasion of Manchuria in China in 1937, and French Indo-China in 1940, which brought it in confrontation with the interests of America and other western powers there.

In Italy, Benito Mussolini came to power in 1922 after the 'March on Rome' demonstration and converted



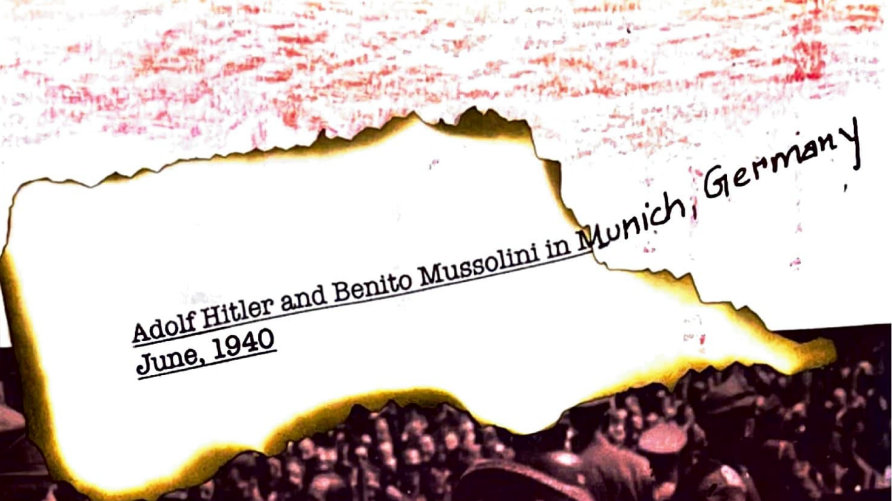
President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing the Declaration of War against Japan
Dec. 8, 1941

Italy into an effective dictatorship. He envisioned a return to the glory of the ancient Roman Empire. In a series of campaigns in the 1920s and 1930s, he invaded Northern Africa, including Libya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia, and Albania. He also ordered aggressive military actions against Greece and Spain.

In September 1940, Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact, which became known as the Axis alliance.

The aggressive actions of Germany, Italy and Japan were left largely unchecked by the major Western powers. The League of Nations, which had been formed at the end of the First World War to prevent future conflicts, proved to be ineffective, with the US never joining it and even the member countries ignoring it in favour of their individual interests and alliances.

The Western powers tended to follow a policy of appeasement to the aggressive Axis nations, partly in sympathy for the Treaty of Versailles and partly in the hope that they would prove to be a bulwark against the growing Bolshevik-Communist influence from Russia since they were all signatories to the Anti-Comintern pact, a precursor to the Axis alliance.



Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini in Munich, Germany
June, 1940



General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander



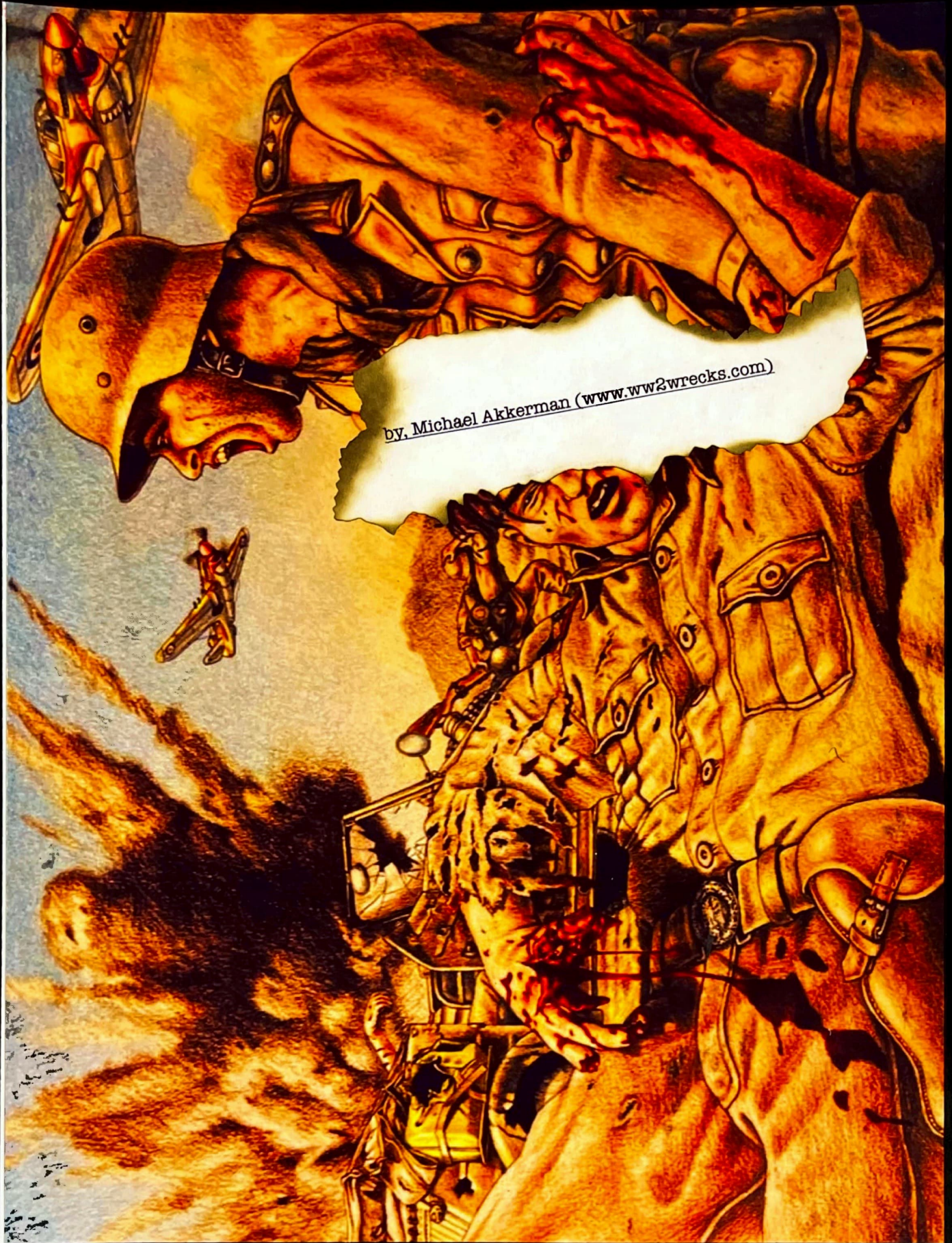
Two soldiers in WWII crouch on a narrow ledge as an enemy shell explodes nearby



In these conditions, Hitler invaded Poland in September 1939 with the clandestine support of the Soviet Union, which resulted in Britain and France declaring war on Germany. Despite this declaration, they did not come to the military aid of Poland and there was little actual fighting between them and Germany, for the next 8 months - a period known as the 'Phoney War'

This is considered the beginning of the
SECOND WORLD WAR.





by. Michael Akkerman (www.ww2wrecks.com)

EFFECTS OF THE WAR

1. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

The Second World War was the most devastating conflict in human history with approximately 70 to 80 million people killed in the fighting.

Post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD is a mental health disorder that manifests in victims or witnesses to any traumatic event, and warfare is a major reason for it. Those suffering from PTSD experience disturbing thoughts, anxiety, nightmares, distress and personality changes. Many turned to alcoholism for respite. A person with PTSD may be more likely to have insomnia and attempt suicide. It can be short-term or extend over long periods.

Symptoms can be triggered by direct or indirect memories of the trauma, however slight, including related sights, sounds, smells or tastes, including extreme anxiety and stress.

PTSD was not recognised as a psychological disorder at the time of World War II. The terms 'Shell Shock', 'Battle Fatigue', 'Combat Stress Reaction' or 'War Neurosis' were commonly used to refer to those suffering from it. While reliable statistics don't exist, it is estimated that anywhere between 4 to 10 percent of soldiers suffered from PTSD during or after the war.

Most cases went unreported because the disease was associated with malingering or cowardice, and the military

Marines call it that 2000 yard stare (Thomas Lea)



leadership did not take it seriously. Indeed, psychiatrists initially considered it rooted in fear and even used sodium Pentothal (Truth Serum) on soldiers claiming to suffer from the symptoms to find out if they were lying to avoid combat.

Treatments for PTSD during the war were aimed at returning soldiers speedily back to their frontline units, and used sedatives and barbiturates, which was later compounded by group therapy.

Besides soldiers, PTSD was a prevalent condition among Holocaust survivors, due to the horrors and inhumane treatment they faced in Nazi concentration camps and ghettos. In 1992, a study carried out among survivors concluded that almost half of them (46%) were suffering from PTSD according to modern criteria even half a century after the war.

Sonia Reich, who was a young child during the war, survived the Holocaust while all her immediate family were executed, and migrated to the United States, where she built an outwardly successful life, all the while fighting symptoms of PTSD. These symptoms exhibited as mild obsessive-compulsive behaviours like checking and rechecking locks, keeping a watch on the streets and sitting alone in the dark. The trauma buried in her psyche came to light only in 2001 when she had a paranoiac breakdown and was committed to therapy.

Increasing cases of PTSD during the war led to psychiatrists delving deeper into its causes, which led to



an American soldier in WWII suffering from "battle shock" is given a sedative by a medic
(photograph: Haywood Magee)



infantryman Terry Moore, centre and his fellow soldiers huddle in foxhole



progress in the field of psychiatry as a whole, developing new treatments. Various types of cognitive behavioural therapies and medication have been found to be effective in amelioration. Alternative therapies like yoga, Acupuncture, sports and Exercise and even innovative treatments like hypnosis, Virtual Reality and cannabis or MDMA have been used.

2. Post-War Disillusionment:

All wars are national efforts with far-reaching consequences, and this was more true about the Second World War due to its scale. During the war, the pursuit of victory made nations single-minded and united in the face of adversity, and soldiers and civilians alike accomplished superhuman feats in this mind-set of uncompromising patriotism and spirit of sacrifice.

But after the war, the euphoria of nationalism and idealism quickly passed as people realised that normal life had to continue and everyday problems of the citizenry would get compounded by the after effects of the conflict. It was an anti-climactic environment.

Soldiers returned from prolonged tours of duty in foreign lands to changed societies in their respective nations. The war resulted in women becoming more self-reliant, making men, especially soldiers returning from the war, feel insecure. This,



First Wave (Thomas Lea)

coupled with the sense of emptiness and pervasive loss of purpose caused a sharp rise in divorce statistics. Industry had adapted so fast, automated and systematised manufacturing for the purposes of war and many veterans could not find employment due to the change. Friendships forged during the intense circumstances of war dissolved, not being able to exist without the foreboding sense of urgency.

With the coming of the Cold War and the disintegration of colonial powers, people realised that they had just moved from conflict to conflict and the end of war does not necessarily mean peace.

The post war period was marked by a feeling of 'Existential Angst', a feeling of reduced value of individual life, alienation from society and a sense of injustice, stemming from the realisation that the herculean effort of the war, would not make life significantly better for those who lived through it.

This was evident in a sense of disillusionment in society at large, in the years following the war.

Two other themes that developed as a result of having come through witnessing the horrors of the Holocaust at close quarters and expecting to do something meaningful with the rest of one's life.



THE
INVISIBLE WOUNDS
OF WAR

'Alienation' of the individual, isolation and loneliness in absence of manual work.

'Inconsistency' of social justice and individual hopelessness brought on with the chaos, paranoia, violence and the knowledge of the obscurity of racial inequalities.

War contains the duality of being destructive and pitiless while also giving the youth that join the army the power of brotherhood and purpose. The inescapable 'survivor euphoric' reveals its destruction psychologically in the soldiers who experience the fundamental breach of morality involved in taking a life. They are haunted by this in the relative mundaneness of civilian life, devoid of adrenaline rushes.

Post war disillusionment also extended to the women who joined the workforce during the war, only to be forced to go back to domestic duties with companies resurrecting their prewar policy against the hiring of married women.

3. War Crimes:

At the time of the Second World War, International Law concerning the conduct of warfare was subject to the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907.

In the chaos of fighting, War Crimes were perpetrated by soldiers of both, the Axis and the Allied Powers, including intentionally killing civilians or prisoners, arbitrary imprisonment,



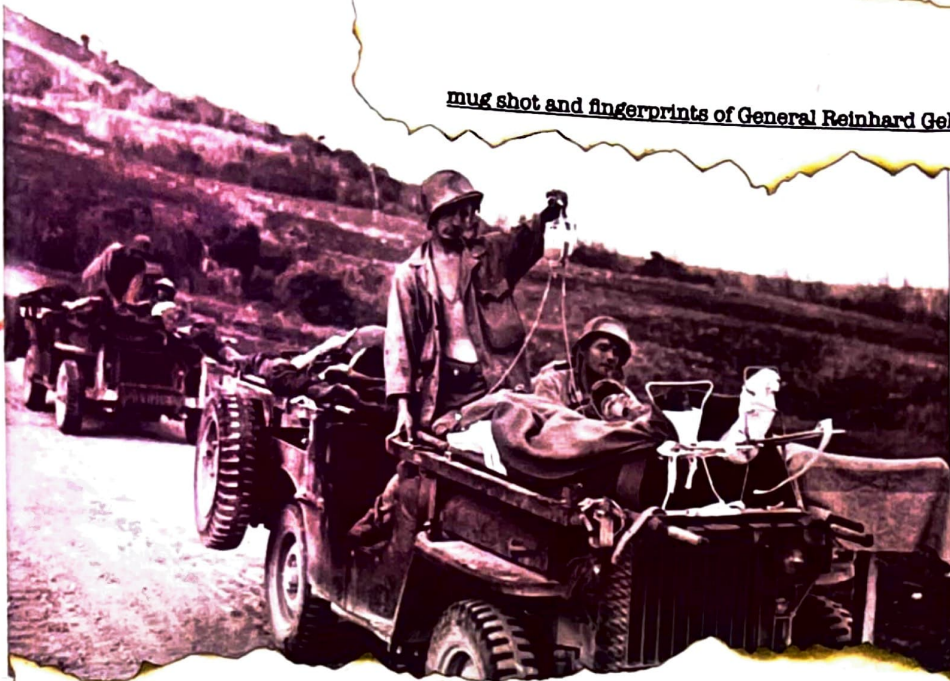
soldier praying, battle for Rocky Crags, Okhinawa (W. Eugene Smith)

torture, indiscriminate military actions, property destruction and looting, taking hostages and rape. The most abhorrent war crime of the period by far was the systematic genocide of Jews and other minorities in occupied Europe by German forces through Concentration Camps as a part of Hitler's notorious 'Final Solution' Doctrine.

At the end of the war, two War Crimes tribunals were set up by the victorious Allies, to conduct trials of politicians and military commanders of the Axis Powers, at Nuremberg in November 1945 and at Tokyo in May 1946 respectively. The trials were conducted according to the 'Nuremberg Principles', enumerated by the then newly formed United Nations Organisation.

At Nuremberg, 24 major war criminals were indicted including leaders of the Nazi party, the Reich Cabinet, the SS and the Gestapo, with charges including conspiracy to wage war and crimes against humanity. The most notorious of these were Hermann Goering (Commander of the Luftwaffe and the Gestapo), Rudolf Hess (Hitler's deputy) and Wilhelm Keitel and Alfred Jodl (Top ranking officers of the Wehrmacht). The international tribunal found all but three of the defendants guilty. Twelve were sentenced to death, one in absentia, and the rest were given prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment. Hermann Goering committed suicide by cyanide the night before his scheduled

mug shot and fingerprints of General Reinhard Gehlen, Hitler's top intelligence officer on the Eastern Front



Name: Reinhard		Height: 5' 10"	Inventory: Page 1 of 1
Sex: Male		Weight: 140	
Eyes: Blue-gray			
Hair: Blond			
Age: 43			
Distinguishing marks or characteristics: None			
The above is correct: <i>Reinhard</i>			
Other and given names (include nicknames, hotel names, or other aliases):			
RIGHT HAND			
1. Thumb	2. Index Finger	3. Middle Finger	4. Ring Finger
5. Little Finger			
LEFT HAND			
6. Thumb	7. Index Finger	8. Middle Finger	9. Ring Finger
10. Little Finger			
Note: Angulations in Proper Spans			

1944, US soldiers drive wounded away from the front line in Saigon



a US soldier stands at the door of a gas chamber at Dachau



American POWs held by Japanese at Mukden, Manchuria



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execution.

At Tokyo, 28 Japanese military and political leaders were charged with the waging of war, murder and conventional war crimes committed against prisoners-of-war and civilians. The defendants included three former prime ministers (Koki Hirota and Kiichiro Hiranuma and Hideki Tojo), foreign ministers, and high ranking military commanders. Two defendants died during the trials. One was ruled unfit to stand trial due to insanity. All remaining defendants were found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment or execution. Emperor Hirohito, in whose name the war was waged, was exonerated from responsibility by the Allies and not indicted.

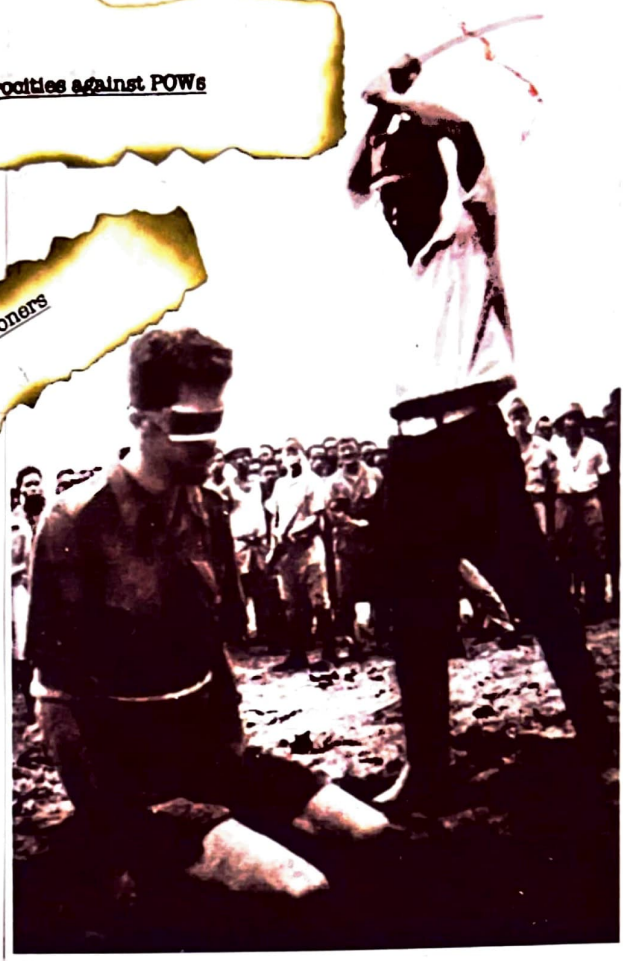
Interestingly, British India was also represented among the judges of the tribunal by Justice Radhabind Pal. Justice Pal dissented against the guilty verdicts because he saw them as 'Victor's Justice'.

As a result of the war, war-crimes were redefined under the four Geneva Conventions in 1949 (subsequently amended with three additional Protocols), which have been signed by 196 countries, and provide the legal framework for conduct of war today.

atrocities against POWs



after liberation a Russian slave labourer points out a former Nazi guard who brutally beat prisoners



POWs, Japan

French countryside after WWII



4. Treatment of Prisoners of War (POW) that led to the introduction of Human Rights.

At the end of the War, as the Allied forces swept through Europe, they discovered more than a thousand internments; camps run by Nazi Schutzstaffel (SS) or 'Security Squad'. Initially meant for political prisoners, the camps subsequently went on to become the primary instruments of the 'Final solution' advocated by Hitler for the Jewish community.


Around 1.65 million people were registered prisoners in the camps, of whom nearly a million died during their imprisonment due to brutal conditions, starvation, sickness or deliberate killing by the Nazi authorities.

The discovery of these camps led to a public outcry in the world. When the United Nations Organisation was formed, it drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights under Eleanor Roosevelt, the US Ambassador to the UN, and it was adopted by 48 of the 58 members of the UN on 10th December 1948, which is now celebrated as International Human Rights Day.

While the Declaration in itself was not legally binding on the signatories, it served as a basis to subsequent legally binding treaties in the UN and is now considered consistent with international law.

common grave, Tarawa (W. Eugene Smith)





The Declaration consists of 30 Articles, which enumerate the rights that humans are endowed with simply by virtue of being born human. The most important and widely recognised of these are the ones that speak of Life, Freedom, Equality, Family, Property and Legal redress.

Today, while the principle of Human Rights is more or less universally accepted, there is often disagreement on the nature, scope and definition of such rights, in deference to local political, religious, social and cultural values.



THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, the Universal Declaration states fundamental rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

We are all born free and equal.

You have the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Everyone is entitled to these rights no matter your race, religion, sex, language, or nationality.

No one can take away any of your rights.

Everyone has the right to life, freedom, and safety

No one has the right to hold you in slavery.



You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are persecuted in your own.



Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage, and membership in a trade union.



No one has the right to torture you.



Everyone has the right to a nationality.



You have the right to leisure and rest from work.



You have a right to be recognized everywhere as a person before the law.



All consenting adults have the right to marry and to raise a family.



Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family.



We are all equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.



You have the right to own property.



Everyone has the right to an education.



You have the right to seek legal help if your rights are violated.



Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.



Everyone has the right to freely participate in the culture and scientific advancement of their community, and their intellectual property as artist or scientist should be protected.



No one has the right to wrongly imprison you or force you to leave your country.



You have the right to think and voice your opinions freely.



We are all entitled to a social order in which we may enjoy these rights.



You have a right to a fair, public trial.



Everyone has the right to gather as a peaceful assembly.



Everyone's rights and freedoms should be protected unless they obstruct the rights and freedoms of others.



Everyone is innocent until proven guilty.



You have the right to participate in the governance of your country, either directly or by helping to choose representatives in free and genuine elections.



You have the right to privacy. No one can interfere with your reputation, family, home, or correspondence.



You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social, and cultural help from your government.



No State, group, or person can use this Declaration to deny the rights and freedoms of others.



You have the right to travel.



CONCLUSION

The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened."

— John F. Kennedy.

Human Rights as agreed upon by the Nations of the world are an essential pillar of modern civilization and are vital to hold anarchy at bay. Without the recognition of fundamental Human Rights, society is in danger of falling into apocalyptic chaos where 'might is right'.

The concept of Human Rights has been a part of Indian culture since ancient times. The Vedas mention the concept of Vasudhaina Kutumbakam or 'The World is One Family'. The Rig Veda specifically mentions the rights of Jana, Skridi and Jibhasi (body, home and life), all of which are a part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Kautilya's Arthashastra makes mentions of the rights of citizens.

On attaining Independence, the Constitution established a socialist, secular and democratic system of government. "Social, economic and political justice; liberty of thought, expression, faith, belief and worship; Equality of status and opportunity" are enshrined in the Preamble. Articles 14 to 32 specifically embody Human Rights as inalienable part of the constitution. Independent India was one of the original 48 adopters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Paris General Assembly in 1948.



In 1993, the parliament passed the Protection of Human Rights Act, and established the National Human Rights Commission of India, under the Chairmanship of a former Chief Justice or sitting Judge of the Supreme Court, along with Human Rights Commissions in all states.

While India has a robust legal mechanism to uphold Human Rights and address violations, in practice, several areas of concern remain.

The Police in India has been known to use torture on incarcerated individuals and death of prisoners in Judicial Custody is disturbingly frequent with more than 1500 cases every year.

Violence, killings and discrimination in incidents and riots related to religion, caste, language and communities also occur often enough to be a cause for worry.

Freedom of Expression is a particular bone of contention. India ranks low in the Press Freedom Index (122nd) despite having a large collection of Fourth and Fifth Estate entities.

Human rights of women are also often under siege, with many social customs across the country denying them these rights and deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes, more so in rural India.

Forced labour and child labour, discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons, child marriage and bride buying, corruption among public officials and delays in

ARTICLE 19

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

- Article 19; Universal Declaration of Human Rights

freedom to speak out against police brutality.



supporting human rights of migrant workers during the COVID 19 pandemic



freedom of choice for our LGBTQI+ community

legal redress are some other issues that affect India's Human Rights record.

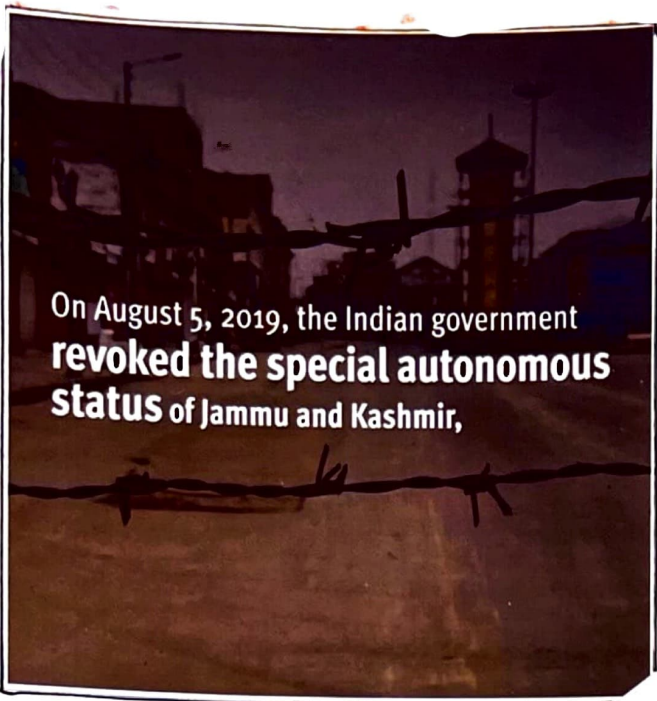
While the laws exist to ensure the upholding of Human Rights, it is the deficiencies in the enforcing and interpretation of laws in an effective, fair and impartial manner that is a major reason for the unfortunate lacunae.

Human Rights or Fundamental Rights as laid down are not sacrosanct, and are subject to 'reasonable restrictions', subject to 'national interest', 'national security', 'public order', 'public morality' or in case of 'emergency'. The problem is that these terms are deeply subjective and of wide interpretability, which sometimes leads to violations of citizens' Human Rights.

In the final analysis, as the World's largest democracy, India and all its citizens must commit themselves to the sanctity of Human Rights. This is an imperative for the country to be able to progress in unison and meet the challenges of the future.

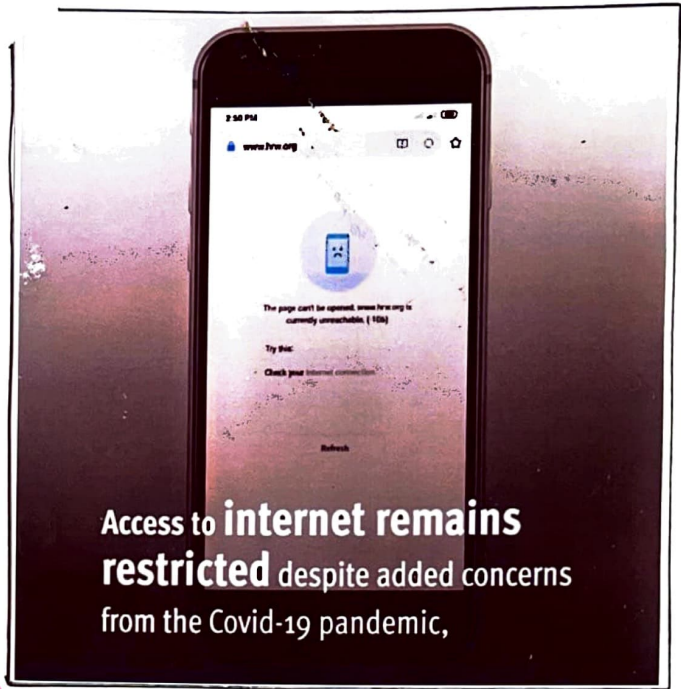
Jai Hind.



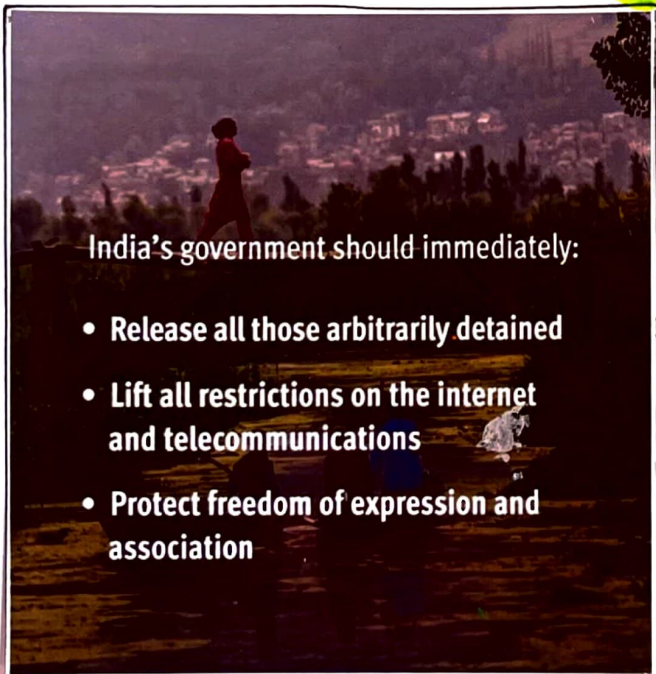


On August 5, 2019, the Indian government **revoked the special autonomous status** of Jammu and Kashmir,

Freedom to advocate for human rights



Access to **internet remains restricted** despite added concerns from the Covid-19 pandemic,



India's government should immediately:

- **Release all those arbitrarily detained**
- **Lift all restrictions on the internet and telecommunications**
- **Protect freedom of expression and association**

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