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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q12

How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · GS I · 15 marks · History of the World

History of the world will include events from the 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. - their forms and effect on the society.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Triple Alliance / Triple Entente

Pre-war groupings of Germany-Austria-Hungary-Italy versus France-Russia-Britain that turned a regional crisis into a general war.

Schlieffen Plan

German general-staff plan to strike France quickly through Belgium, which internationalised the war and brought Britain in.

Sarajevo, June 1914

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand that set Austria's ultimatum to Serbia in motion.

Fischer debate

Fritz Fischer's thesis emphasised German responsibility and annexationist aims, challenging a pure 'slide into war' or balance-only story.

Belgian neutrality

Britain cited the 1839 guarantee of Belgian neutrality as the legal trigger for war with Germany.

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