

її залізничним транспортом.. Нансен відправив телеграму В. І. Леніну, в якій виклав свою пропозицію [4, 198].

Телеграма Нансена була отримана в Москві 4 травня. Три дні по тому Г. В. Чичерін надіслав у відповідь радіотелеграму, де висловив подяку Нансену та заявив, що Радянський уряд готовий вступити з ним в контакт, але питання про припинення військових дій, має обговорюватися з тими державами, які ведуть війну проти Радянської Росії [2, 98]. Отримавши згоду Радянського уряду, Нансен повідомив Чичеріну й «Раді чотирьох» про свою готовність прибути до Москви. Проте поїздка не відбулася: Вільсон та інші члени «Ради чотирьох», окрилені тимчасовими успіхами Колчака, не побажали домовлятися з радянською стороною. У результаті план Нансена не був втілений у життя [4, 201]. «Російське питання» на Паризькій конференції не зводилося тільки до вироблення заходів ліквідації радянського ладу в Росії. У зв'язку з тим, що більшовизм набув величезної міжнародної ваги, Вільсон і його колеги з табору Антанти трактували «російське питання» в розширеному полі, невідривно пов'язуючи його з завданням придушення революційного руху в Європі. Р. Гувер з гіркотою констатував, що «комуністична Росія була привидом, який майже щодня блукав по мирній конференції»

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*Stoliarenko Danylo*

#### **WORLD WAR I. AN INEVITABILITY OR A COINCIDENCE?**

*Ця стаття показує дві точки зору щодо походження та причин виникнення Першої світової війни.*

*Автор представляє на розгляд той факт, що причини для появи цього конфлікту слід шукати в умовах в яких відбувалися міждержавні відносини, сформованих локальних конфліктах, що призвели до виникнення світової війни та в загальній напруженості.*

**Ключові слова:** *Перша світова війна, неминучість, збіг обставин, глобальний конфлікт, військово-політичні союзи, імперіалістичні протиріччя.*

*This article represents two trends related to the origins and reasons for occurring of World War I. The author submits that the reasons for this conflict happening should be sought in the history of international relations of previous and informed local conflicts that led to bigger ones.*

**KeyWords:** *World War I, inevitability, coincidence, global conflict, political and military unions, imperialist contradictions.*

The First World War was remembered as a decisive conflict of the modern era. Colossal - both by the number of participating countries, and by the number of mobilized troops, and by the intensity of the fighting and the length of the fronts, and by military-political and social consequences - the World War 1914 - 1918 pp. Caught the territory of Europe, Asia and Africa with a total area of 4 million square km, and the population of countries involved in the war was more than 1.5 billion people, that was more than 75% of the world's population.

In its role, meaning and consequences, the period 1914 - 1918 claims to be considered as a real frontier between the XIX and XX centuries. The war, in particular, its completion, is the cause and at the same time the result of social transformations that put the risk under the general development of the nineteenth century: from economics to morality and opened the way for the development of processes inherent to new XX century.

In the historiography of the origin of the First World War, there are two directions. Representatives of one of them considered it as a natural phenomenon, conditioned by the concrete historical development of Western civilization (or capitalism of European sample). The constituent of this trend was, with some exceptions, Soviet historiography, since the classics of Marxism, in particular, F. Engels, did not simply foresee the inevitability of the European war, but also pretty accurately depicted its course and its consequences.

30 years before it Engels wrote that «for Prussia - Germany no other war is possible now, except for the World War. And this would be a world war of unprecedented size and strength. From eight to ten million soldiers will be choking each other and eating the whole of Europe so clean, as never before have eaten clouds of locusts.

The devastation caused by the Thirty Years War was compressed over three or four years and spread to the whole continent, famine, epidemics, the general running wild of both the troops and the masses, caused by the acute need, the hopeless confusion of our artificial mechanism in trade, industry and credit; all this ends with a general bankruptcy; the collapse of the old powers and their routine state wisdom, - the collapse is such that dozens of crowns lie on the brook and there is no one to raise these crowns; the absolute inability to predict how this will end and who will be the winner of the struggle; only one result is absolutely indisputable: the general exhaustion of conditions for the final victory of the working class. Such an outlook, if the system of mutual competition in military weapons was brought to an extreme degree will, would give its inevitable fruits. That's where, gentlemen of kings and state men, our

wisdom led to old Europe. « [1]. As you can see, strict determinism was used, which determined this event as fatal and inevitable.

Supporters of the second trend considered the Great War a tragic accident. Despite such reasons as the rivalry of imperial ambitions; economic rivalry; militarism; nationalism; confrontation of military and political alliances that divided nations of Europe into hostile camps [6]; the desire of ruling elites to defuse the social tensions in their countries, which grew in almost all countries by taking advantage of the war, many modern historians believe that the First World War was not inevitable. Ferenbach considers the war to be «absolutely absurd, which could have been completely avoided».

By 1914, the overall international political situation was determined by the extreme exacerbation of the main imperialist contradictions: Anglo-German, Russian-German, Russian-Austrian, French-German and others [8]. This happened in the presence of two military imperialist blocs. Traditionally, Soviet historiography, among the causes of the war, called interim imperial or imperialist contradictions, the struggle for markets and capital markets, nationalism, that is military and political as well as financial and economic disputes. But on a global scale, it was not only an intergovernmental rivalry between the states of the Entente and the Tripartite Alliance [2]. The essence of the conflict was reduced to the question: which of the two real variants of the development of industrial society would be chosen by western civilization as a whole - West European, Franco-Anglo-American, civil law, liberal-democratic or Central European, German-Austro-Italian, military authoritarian, conservative- monarchical [4].

The result of this confrontation has depended a lot on Russia's position. Only world war could solve these global inter-civilizational, inter-imperial contradictions. Although there was no fatal inevitability of the war.

The Great War is a phenomenon of civilizational significance. It was both a creature and a reflection of the global crisis of Western civilization, which became a reality at the beginning of the XX century. Industrialism has become an indisputable achievement of the West (which allowed it to lead social progress) but at the same time a factor that began to destroy the humanistic values of Western civilization, which threatened its rebirth. The war broke out in the critical period when the free-enterprise capitalism of the classical model exhausted itself when the signs of an ever-increasing systemic crisis, which covered all the most important realms of society's life: economic, social, political, spiritual, were contemplated.

The World War gradually led to an aggravation not only of the problems that they were trying to solve, but also of all other contradictions of the Western or, as some modern scholars call it, the liberal-capitalist civilization. Moreover, it deepened this global crisis to a dangerous point by placing on the agenda the question of the fate of Western civilization, which seemed to be approaching its death [7]. It is no coincidence that at this time there were born forces that offered

alternatives to the western path of development, the values of Western society, primarily fascism and communism.

Unfortunately, the new ideas and plans that emerged from the experience of the Great War, in particular the creation of the United States of Europe on the basis of national equality and peaceful coexistence of large and small nations, the democratization and humanization of the continent, remained the subject of discussion and debate for a long time in the midst of European intellectuals who have not survived a confrontation with totalitarianism. And just after going through the trials of the Second World War and the rigid ideological split in the postwar years, at the end of the 20th - the beginning of the 21st century, we witnessed the construction of a truly democratic, united Europe, which today represents the European Union.

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*Коваленко Надія*

#### **ЛОКАРНЬСЬКА КОНФЕРЕНЦІЯ 1925 РОКУ**

*У цій статті досліджуються події конференції «Локарн», яка проходила з 5 по 16 жовтня 1925 року в місті Локарн, Швейцарія. Її учасники узагальнили тривалі переговори про гарантії на кордоні, які мали місце в Європі після Першої світової війни. Особлива увага приділялася причини переговорів та їх результату. Вона детально розглянула, який з пунктів у цій угоді, плюси та мінуси цього. Локарнська конференція поставила дії європейських націй у залежність Ліги Націй у разі загрози агресії або спроби почати війну. Безпека східних правлінь Німеччини не була гарантована, що викликало проблеми у відносинах між нею і східноєвропейськими країнами. Загалом конференція «Локарн» складала*