



WELCOME TO STUDYSHIP WITH KRATI

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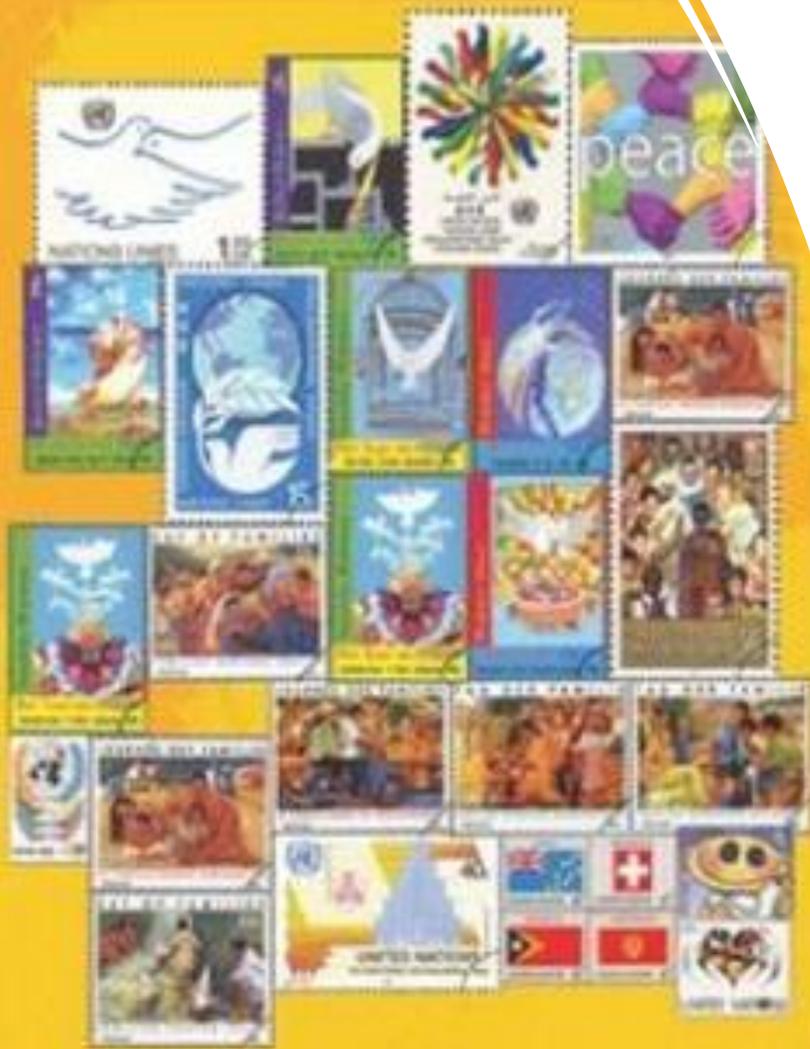
CHAPTER- 2

THE END OF BIPOLARITY

This lesson is divided into 2 parts

Explanation as per the latest syllabus

Get notes from my website



CONTEMPORARY
WORLD POLITICS

Textbook in Political Science for Class XII

Military partition

- ▲ Nato 1949-55
- ▲ Warsaw Pact 1948- 55
- ▲ Brussels Pact 1948

Economic blocs 1988

- Benelux customs union since 1947 (and EEC)
- original members of European Community (EEC) 1957
- EEC members 1972-
- founder member European Free Trade Association (EFTA) 1960
- subsequent members of EFTA
- Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) 1949
- subsequent members of Comecon

3/Military and economic blocs (right)
 The Western defence group NATO (1949) is shown confronting the Warsaw Treaty Organisation (1955). Their economic counterparts are the EEC, formed in 1957, and Comecon, formed in 1949.





INTRODUCTION

- The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) came into being after the socialist revolution in Russia in 1917.
- The revolution was inspired by the ideals of socialism as opposed to capitalism and the need for an egalitarian society. The revolution gave rise to a new type of political economic system in Russia. After the World War II the eastern European countries that the Soviet army liberated from the fascist forces came under the control of USSR.
- The main aim of USSR was to install communist government in these countries. The political and economic system of all these countries was modelled after USSR.
- In doing so, the makers of the Soviet System gave primacy to the state and the institutions of the party. They abolished the institution of private property and designed the society based on the principles of equality.



HOW SOVIET UNION BECAME A SUPERPOWER

- The Soviet Union became a great power after the Second World War. Its economy was more developed than the rest of the world except for the US. There were many factors which made Soviet economy a superpower –
 1. It had a complex communications network, vast energy resources including oil, iron and steel, machinery production and transport sector that connected its most remote areas with efficiency.
 2. It had a domestic consumer industry that produced everything from pins to cars.
 3. The Soviet state ensured the minimum standard of living for all citizens and the government subsidized basic necessities including health, education, child care and other welfare schemes.
 4. There was no unemployment, state ownership was the dominant form of ownership: land and productive assets for owned and controlled by the Soviet state.



GORBACHEV AND THE DISINTEGRATION

- In 1985 Gorbachev was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party and in 1988 he became President of the country. He did not lack faith in Communist ideology but he wanted to introduce political and economic reforms in the Soviet system.
- Gorbachev wanted to normalise relations with the West and democratise and reform the Soviet Union because he thought that it was necessary to keep USSR abreast of the information and technological revolutions taking place in the West.
- Gorbachev initiated the policies of GLASNOST (openness) and PRESTROIKA (restructuring).
- He carried out his reforms and loosened the system, set in motion forces and expectations that few could have predicted.
- There were sections of Soviet Society which felt that he moved much faster and were disappointed and impatient with his methods.
- Others, especially members of the Communist Party felt that their power and privileges were eroding as Gorbachev was moving too quickly.



- In this tug of war for Gorbachev lost support on all sides and divided public opinion. Even those who were with him felt that he did not adequately defend his own policies.
- His reforms were opposed by leaders within the Communist Party and it led to a coup in 1991. Boris Yeltsin emerged as a national hero in opposing this coup.
- The people of the East European countries which were part of Soviet bloc started to protest against their own government and Soviet control.
- Power began to shift from the Soviet centre to the republics. In December 1991, under the leadership of Yeltsin, three major republics of the USSR, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared that Soviet Union and Communist Party was disbanded. Capitalism and democracy were adopted as the bases of post-Soviet republics.



DEMOCRATISATION OF COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

- It was the organisation of the newly independent countries formed post the disintegration of USSR. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is a regional organization **established on 8 December 1991** when **Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine** signed a “Creation Agreement” on the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the creation of CIS as its successor entity.
- At the same time they declared that the new organization would be open to all republics of the former Soviet Union, as well as other nations sharing the same goals.
- The “Creation Agreement” abolished the USSR and stated that all the member States were sovereign and independent nations.
- **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan joined CIS on 21 December 1991.**
- **Georgia** joined two years later, **in December 1993**, while the three **Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania**, chose not to take part.
- Currently, the Commonwealth of Independent States has 9 members, plus two States Ukraine and Turkmenistan which are taking part in only few activities of CIS.
- The CIS aims to promote the coordination of its members in the realm of trade, finance, law-making, and security, and to support cooperation on democratization and cross-border crime prevention. It also participates in UN peacekeeping forces and operates through its Charter and Executive Bodies.

MAP OF CENTRAL, EASTERN EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES





WHY DID THE SOVIET UNION DISINTEGRATE?

The internal weaknesses of the Soviet economic and political institutions, economic stagnation and unaccountable and unresponsive political system lead to its downfall –

- 1) **Negation of Political Democracy** - The Soviet system became very bureaucratic and authoritarian making life very difficult for its citizens. Lack of democracy and absence of freedom of speech stifled people who often expressed their distant through jokes and cartoons.
- 2) **Economic Failures** - Economic stagnation for many years led to severe consumer shortages and a large section of the society begin to doubt and question the system.
- 3) **Militarism** - The Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and development of its satellite states in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet system. In the arms race Soviet Union managed to match the US from time to time but at a great cost.



- 4) **Disparity between Western nations and Soviet Union** - Ordinary citizens became more knowledgeable about the economic advance of the West. They could see disparities between their system and the systems of the West. The Soviet Union lagged behind the West in technology, infrastructure and most importantly in fulfilling the political and economic aspirations of citizens.
- 5) **Administrative and Political Stagnation** - The Soviet Union had become stagnant in administrative and political sense as well –
 - a) The Communist Party that had ruled Soviet Union for over 70 years was not accountable to the people.
 - b) Most of the institutions of the Soviet State needed reform: the one party system represented by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had tight control over the institutions and was unaccountable to the people.
 - c) The party refused to recognise the demand of the people in fifteen different republics that form the Soviet Union to manage their own affairs including their personal affairs.
 - d) Although on paper Russia was only one of the 15 republics that together constituted the USSR in reality Russia dominated everything and people from other regions felt neglected often suppressed.
- 6) **Gorbachev's Policies** - Gorbachev promised to reform the economy, catch up with the west and loosen the administrative system. Gorbachev's lost support on all sides and divided public opinion.



- 7) **Rise of Nationalism** - The rise of nationalism and desire for sovereignty within the various republics including Russian the Baltic Republics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) Ukraine, Georgia and other proved to be the final and most immediate cause for the disintegration of USSR.
- 8) The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 weakened the system even further.
- 9) Though wages continued to grow productivity and technology fell considerably behind the west. This led to shortages in all consumer goods. Food imports increased every year.
- 10) The Soviet economy was faltering in the late 1970s and became stagnant.



CONSEQUENCES OF DISINTEGRATION OF USSR

The collapse of the second world of the Soviet Union and the socialist systems in Eastern Europe had profound consequences for world politics –

- 1) It meant the end of the cold war confrontations. The ideological dispute over whether the socialist system is better than the capitalist system was not an issue anymore.
- 2) Since the cold war had triggered a massive arms race and accumulation of nuclear weapons and had led to the existence of military blocs and the confrontation demanded an end to this arms race and possible new peace.
- 3) The power relations in the world politics changed and therefore the relative importance of ideas and institutions also changed. The end of cold war left open only two possibilities: either the remaining super power dominate and create a unipolar system or different countries or a group of countries become important players in international system thereby bringing in a multipolar system when no one power could dominate.



- 4) As it turned out the US became the sole superpower, the capitalist economy became the dominant economic system internationally and institutions like World Bank and International Monetary Fund became powerful advisors to all these countries.
- 5) The end of the Soviet bloc meant the emergence of many new countries. All these countries had their own independent aspirations and choices. Some of them especially the Baltic and East European states wanted to join the European Union and become part of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).
- 6) The Central Asian countries wanted to take advantage of the geographical location and continue their close ties with Russia and also to establish ties with the West, the US, China and others.



SHOCK THERAPY IN POST-COMMUNIST REGIMES

- The collapse of communism was followed in most of these countries by painful process of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system.
- The model of transition in Russia, Central Asia and east Europe that was influenced by the World Bank and IMF came to be known as **Shock Therapy**.

Features of Shock Therapy:

- Each of these countries was required to make a total shift to a capitalist economy.
- It meant privatisation of state owned assets.
- Collective farms were to be replaced by private farming.
- A sudden and complete switch to free trade was considered essential.
- The free trade regime and foreign direct investment (FDI) were to be the main engines of change.
- The transition also involved a breaking up of the existing trade alliances among the countries of the Soviet bloc.
- The Western capitalist states now became the leaders and thus guided and controlled the development of the region through various agencies and organisations.

CONSEQUENCES OF SHOCK THERAPY



- 1) The Shock Therapy administered in the 1990s brought ruin to the economies and disaster upon the people of the entire region.
- 2) In Russia the large state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed as about 90% of its industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies.
- 3) As the valuable industries were undervalued and sold at throwaway prices, this was called 'the largest garage sale in history'.
- 4) The value of the ruble, the Russian currency declined.
- 5) The rate of inflation was so high that people lost all their savings.
- 6) The collective farming system disintegrated leaving people without food security.
- 7) The real GDP of Russia 1999 was below what it was in 1989.
- 8) The old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed. The withdrawal of government subsidies pushed large sections of people into poverty.
- 9) The academic and intellectual manpower disintegrated or migrated.
- 10) A mafia emerged in most of these countries and started controlling many economic activities.
- 11) Privatisation led to new economic disparities which divided Russia between rich and poor regions.
- 12) About half of Russia's 1500 banks and other financial institutions went bankrupt. Russia's second largest bank – INKOMBANK went bankrupt in 1998.

TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS IN FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS AFTER DISINTEGRATION

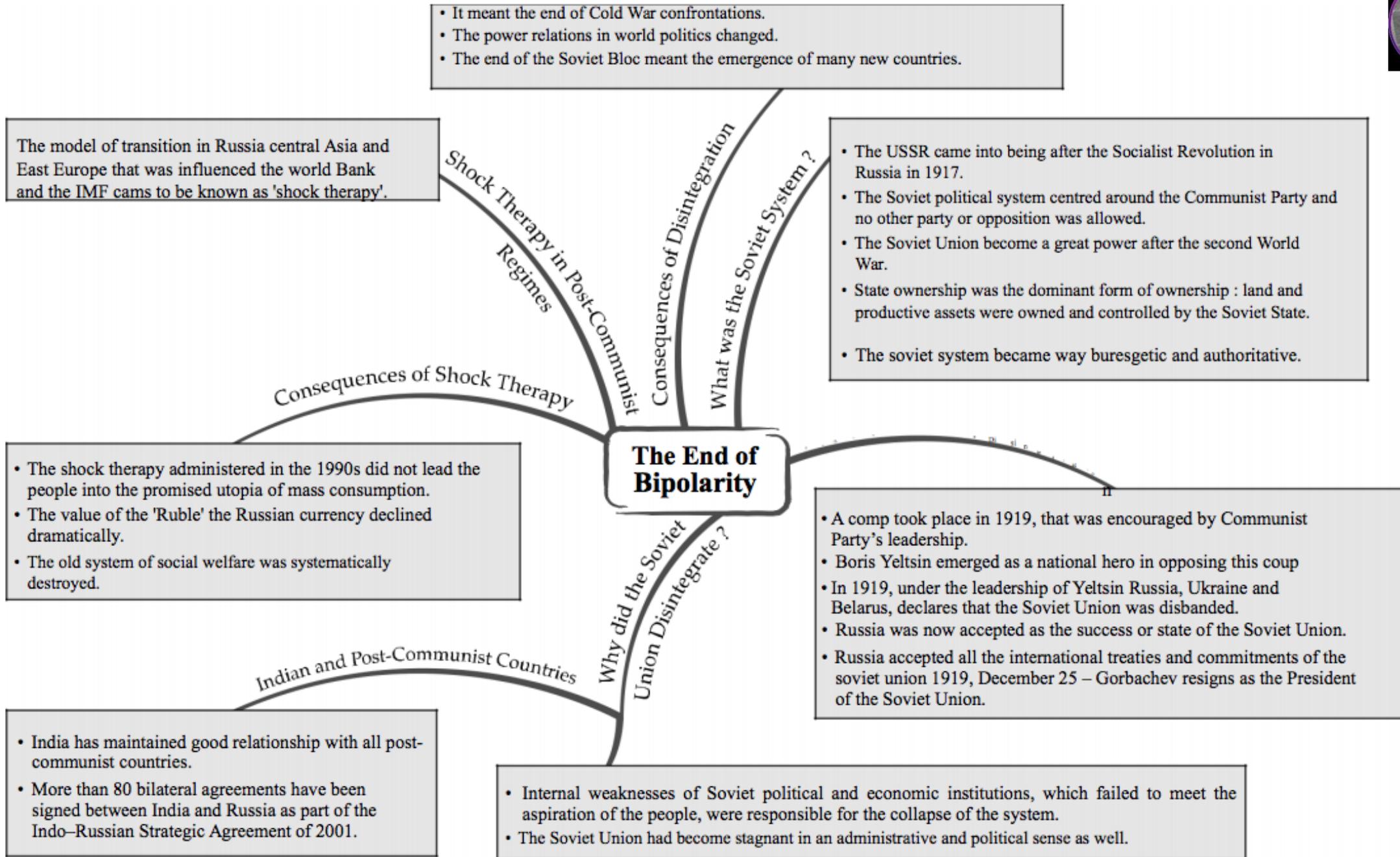


- Most of the former **Soviet republics** are prone to conflicts and many have had civil war and insurgencies.
- In Russia, two republics **Chechnya** and **Dagestan**, have had violent secessionist movements.
- In Central Asia, **Tajikistan** witnessed a civil war that went on for 10 years till 2001.
- In **Georgia** the demand for independence has come from two provinces resulting in a civil war.
- There were movements against the existing regimes in **Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia**. The Central Asian republics are areas with vast hydrocarbon resources and have become a zone of competition between outside powers and oil companies.
- In Eastern Europe **Czechoslovakia** split peacefully into two, with the **Czechs** and the **Slovaks** forming independent countries.
- But the most severe conflict took place in the Balkan republics of Yugoslavia, which in 1991, broke with several provinces like **Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina** declaring independence.
- The inter-ethnic civil war in **Yugoslavia** led to **NATO intervention**.

INDIA AND POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES



- India has maintained good relations with all the post-communist countries.
- But the strongest relations are still those between Russia and India.
- Indo-Russian relations are embedded in a history of trust in common interests and are matched popular perceptions.
- Russia and India share a vision of a multipolar world order which means coexistence of several powers in the international system, collective security, greater regionalism, negotiated settlements of international conflicts, independent foreign policy for all countries and decision making through bodies like UN.
- More than 80 bilateral agreements have been signed between India and Russia as part of the Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement of 2001.
- India stands to benefit from its relationship with Russian on issues like Kashmir, energy supplies, sharing information on international terrorism, access to Central Asia and balancing its relations with China.
- Russia stands to benefit from this relationship because India is the second largest arms market for Russia.
- The India military gets most of its hardware from Russia and Russia imports oil from it.
- India is seeking to increase its energy imports from Russia and republics of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.
- Russia is important for India's nuclear energy plants and assisted India's space industry by giving the cryogenic rocket when India needed it.





LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION



Vladimir Lenin
(1870-1924)
Founder of the Bolshevik Communist party; leader of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the founder-head of the USSR during the most difficult period following the revolution (1917-1924); an outstanding theoretician and practitioner of Marxism and a source of inspiration for communists all over the world.



LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION



Joseph Stalin
(1879-1953)
Successor to Lenin and led the Soviet Union during its consolidation (1924-53); began rapid industrialisation and forcible collectivisation of agriculture; credited with Soviet victory in the Second World War; held responsible for the Great Terror of the 1930s, authoritarian functioning and elimination of rivals within the party.



LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION



Nikita Khrushchev
(1894-1971)
Leader of the Soviet Union (1953-64); denounced Stalin's leadership style and introduced some reforms in 1956; suggested "peaceful coexistence" with the West; involved in suppressing popular rebellion in Hungary and in the Cuban missile crisis.



LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION



Leonid Brezhnev
(1906-82)
Leader of the Soviet Union (1964-82); proposed Asian Collective Security system; associated with the détente phase in relations with the US; involved in suppressing a popular rebellion in Czechoslovakia and in invading Afghanistan.



LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION



Mikhail Gorbachev
(Born 1931)
Last leader of the Soviet Union (1985-91); introduced economic and political reform policies of *perestroika* (restructuring) and *glasnost* (openness); stopped the arms race with the US; withdrew Soviet troops from Afghanistan and eastern Europe; helped in the unification of Germany; ended the Cold War; blamed for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.



LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION



Boris Yeltsin
(1931-2007)
The first elected President of Russia (1991-1999); rose to power in the Communist Party and was made the Mayor of Moscow by Gorbachev; later joined the critics of Gorbachev and left the Communist Party; led the protests against the Soviet regime in 1991; played a key role in dissolving the Soviet Union; blamed for hardships suffered by Russians in their transition from communism to capitalism.





The Arab Spring was a wave of pro-democracy protests and uprisings that took place in the Middle East and North Africa in 2010 and 2011. It challenged some of the region's most authoritarian regimes.

The movement began in Tunisia in 2010, and thereafter it soon spread to other countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

What were the outcomes?

Arab Spring resulted in regime changes in countries such as Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

Not all of the movements, however, could be deemed successful—at least if the end goal was increased democracy and cultural freedom.

In fact, for many countries enveloped by the revolts of the Arab Spring, the period since has been hallmarked by increased instability and oppression.



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THANKS FOR WATCHING!



POLITICS IN INDIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

CHAPTER-1 CHALLENGES OF NATION BUILDING