



# CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS

Textbook in Political Science for Class XII

## CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS

# CHAPTER-1 THE COLD WAR

This chapter has 2 parts

Refer to the notes on my website.

This series is based upon the new syllabus.



# INTRODUCTION

Cold war referred to the series of competitions, tensions and confrontations between US and USSR backed by their respective allies.

The Cold war was not simply a matter of power rivalries, of military alliances, and of the balance of power. These were accompanied by real ideological conflict as well, a difference over the most best and appropriate way of organising political, economic and social life all over the world.



- The Western Alliance headed by the US represented the ideology of liberal democracy and capitalism.
- The Eastern Alliance headed by Soviet Union was committed to the ideology of socialism and communism.
- It was the war in which the rival states through all means try to control or gain supremacy at the cost of other.





# LOGIC OF DETERRENCE

The logic of deterrence means when both sides have the capacity to respond against an attack and to cause so much destruction that neither can afford to initiate war. Thus the cold war in spite of being an intense form of rivalry remain cold and not hot or shooting war. The two superpowers and their allies were expected to behave as rational and responsible actors in the sense that they understood the risk in fighting wars. The deterrence relationship prevents war but not rivalry between the powers.



# WORLD WARS

- **The First World War** had shaken the world in **1914-1918**.
- **The Second World War (1939-45)** ended when **Allied Forces- US, Soviet Union, Britain and France** defeated **Axis Powers** led by **Germany, Italy and Japan**.



- The Second World War ended when the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima(the bomb was code named ‘Little Boy’) and Nagasaki(code named ‘Fat Man’) in August 1945 causing Japan to surrender.

CRITICS of the US decision have argued that-

- the US knew that Japan was about to surrender and that it was a necessary to drop the bombs.
- they suggested that the US action was intended to stop the Soviet Union from making military and political gains in Asia and elsewhere and to show Moscow that United States was supreme.



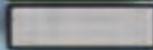
- **US SUPPORTERS** have argued that the dropping of the atomic bombs was necessary to end the war quickly and to stop further loss of American and Allied lives. The end of Second World War resulted in the rise of two new powers on the global stage United States and Soviet Union who became the greatest powers in the world with the ability to influence events anywhere on earth.



# THE EMERGENCE OF TWO POWER BLOCS

- During cold war the world was sharply divided between two alliance systems. Most countries of Eastern Europe sided with the US and those of Western Europe join the Soviet camp that is why these were also called the Western and Eastern alliances.
- The Western Alliance was formalized into an organisation the North Atlantic Treaty organisation (NATO) which came into existence in April 1949. It was an association of 12 States which declared that armed attack on any one of them in Europe or North America would be regarded as an attack on all of them.
- In East and in Southeast Asia and in West Asia (Middle East), the United States built an alliance system called the South East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO).



-  NATO Members
-  Warsaw Pact Members
-  Other Communist Nations
-  Others





- The Eastern Alliance, known as the Warsaw Pact, was led by the Soviet Union. It was created in 1955 and its principle function was to counter NATO forces in Europe.



# WHY SUPERPOWERS NEEDED SMALLER STATES TO BE THEIR ALLIES?

The smaller states were helpful for the superpowers-

- in gaining access to vital resources such as oil and minerals.
- territory from where superpowers could launch their weapons and troop.
- locations from where they could spy on each other and
- economic support, in that many small allies together could help pay for military expenses.
- they were also important for ideological reasons in the sense that winning the loyalty of allies means winning the war of ideas, that liberal democracy and capitalism were better than socialism and communism and vice versa.



# **WHY SMALLER STATES IN ALLIANCES USE LINKED TO THE SUPERPOWERS?**

The smaller states used the link for their own purposes.

They got the promise of protection, weapons and economic aid against their local rivals, mainly regional neighbours with whom they had rivalries.



# ARENAS OF THE COLD WAR

- Arenas of the cold war means areas where crisis or war occurred or threatened to occur between the alliance systems but did not cross certain limits. Crisis deepened as neither of the parties involved was willing to back down. Sometimes countries outside the two blocs for eg. the non-aligned countries played a role in reducing cold war conflicts and averting some grave crisis. Lot of people were killed in these wars but the world was spared of a nuclear war and global hostilities. Jawaharlal Nehru played a crucial role in mediating between the two Koreas.
- *Examples of arenas of cold war- Korean crisis (1950-53), Berlin crisis (1958-62), Congo crisis (early 1960s), Cuban missile crisis (1962), Vietnam and Afghanistan.*



Berlin in  
1958 – 62



Korea In  
1950-53



Congo (the  
early  
1960s)



Cuba 1962



Vietnam  
1954-75



Afghanistan  
In 1979-89

## **Cold War led to arms race-**

- The two sides understood that war might occur in spite of restraint.
- Since the Cold War did not eliminate rivalries between the two alliances, there was always a suspicion and fear in the minds of superpowers regarding sudden attack by the other.
- Thus the cold war led the superpowers to arm them to the teeth and to constantly prepare for war.
- The two blocs feared an impending war in spite of restraint.
- Either side might miscalculate the number of weapons in the possession of the other side.
- Thus huge stocks of arms were considered necessary to prevent wars from taking place.



## **Cold War led to arms control-**

- Both the powers the US and USSR decided to collaborate in limiting or eliminating certain kinds of nuclear and non-nuclear weapons.
- They decide that a stable balance of weapons could be maintained through arms control.
- The two blocs signed crucial agreements since 1962 to practice arms control.
- Some treaties signed during the period between **1963 and 1993 were:**



S.NO.	NAME OF THE TREATY	TIME OF SIGNING	SIGNATORIES	PURPOSE
1.	Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT)	5 August 1963	US, UK, USSR, Moscow	Banned nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space & under water.
2.	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)	1 July 1968 and extended indefinitely till 1995	5 nuclear weapon states-- US, USSR (later Russia), Britain, France & China	Only nuclear weapon states can have nuclear weapons and stop others from acquiring them.
3.	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks I (SALT-I)	26 May 1972	Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev & US President Richard Nixon	a) Treaty on the limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty); b) Interim agreement on the limitation of strategic arms.
4.	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks II (SALT-II)	18 June 1979	Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev & US President Jimmy Carter	Limitation of strategic offensive arms.
5.	Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I (START-I)	31 July 1991	USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev & the US President George Bush (Senior)	Reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.
6.	Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II (START-II)	3 January 1993	Russian President Boris Yeltsin & the US President George Bush (Senior)	Reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.

# CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS



- 1) Cuba was an ally of Soviet Union and received both diplomatic and financial aid from it.
- 2) The leaders of the USSR were worried that USA would invade communist rule Cuba and overthrow Fidel Castro the President of the small island nation.
- 3) Nikita Khrushchev the leader of the Soviet Union decided to convert Cuba into Russian based in 1962, he placed nuclear missiles in Cuba.
- 4) Installation of these weapons put the US for the first time under fire from close range and nearly doubled the number of American cities which could be threatened by the USSR.
- 5) The US became aware of it after 3 weeks. The US President John F Kennedy and his advisors were reluctant do anything that might lead to full-scale nuclear war between the two countries, but they were determined to get Khrushchev to remove the missiles and nuclear weapons from Cuba.
- 6) Kennedy wanted American warships to intercept any Soviet ships heading to Cuba as a way of warning the USSR of his seriousness.
- 7) A clash seemed imminent in what came to be known as Cuban missile crisis.
- 8) Eventually both sides decided to avert war and Soviet ships slowed down.
- 9) The Cuban missile crisis is considered as a high point of the Cold War.





# CHALLENGE TO BIPOLARITY

- Challenge to bipolarity means the world was divided into two power blocs and newly decolonized countries were scared and averse in joining either of the two blocs.
- The bipolar world was engulfed by suspicion, hatred and hostility. So these countries decided to pursue the path of Non-Alignment (NAM) for a New International Economic Order.
- The cold war divided the world into two rival alliances. So in this context non-alignment offered the newly decolonized countries of Asia and Africa and Latin America a third option not to join either alliance.
- The roots of NAM went back to the friendship between the leaders- Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Jawaharlal Nehru of India and Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt who held a meeting in 1956.
- Indonesia's Sukarno and Nkrumah of Ghana supported them.
- The first non-aligned summit was held in Belgrade in 1961 which was attended by the leaders of 25 non-aligned countries.



**Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964)**

First Prime Minister of India (1947-64); made efforts for Asian unity, decolonisation, nuclear disarmament; advocated peaceful coexistence for securing world peace.



**Josip Broz Tito (1892-1980)** President of Yugoslavia (1945-80); fought against Germany in World War II; communist; maintained some distance from the Soviet Union; forged unity in Yugoslavia.



**Gamal Abdel Nasser (1918-70)** Ruled Egypt from 1952 to 1970; espoused the causes of Arab nationalism, socialism and anti-imperialism; nationalised the Suez Canal, leading to an international conflict in 1956.



**Sukarno (1901-70)** First President of Indonesia (1945-65); led the freedom struggle; espoused the causes of socialism and anti-imperialism; organised the Bandung Conference; overthrown in a military coup.



**Kwame Nkrumah (1909-72)**

First Prime Minister of Ghana (1946-66); led the freedom movement; advocated the causes of socialism and African unity; opposed neocolonialism; removed in a military coup.



# The non-aligned summit was the culmination of three factors

- 1) cooperation among these five countries.
- 2) growing cold war tensions and its widening arenas.
- 3) The dramatic entry of many newly decolonized African countries into the international arena. By 1960 there were 16 new African members in the UN.
- 4) The latest meeting (14th Summit) was held in Havana in 2006 and included 116 member states and 15 observer states.



# OBJECTIVES OF NAM

- To uproot imperialism and colonialism.
- To promote international peace and security.
- To end racial discrimination.
- Complete disarmament especially nuclear arms.
- Effective cooperation with United Nations.



# NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO)

- The challenge for most of the non aligned countries a majority of which were categorised as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was to be more developed economically and to lift its people out of poverty.
- The third world countries regard the restructuring of the existing international economic order as the only way to get out of the present problems of poverty, scarcity and unemployment.
- The idea of New International Economic Order originated with this realization.
- It stands for making the international system fairer and equitable by adopting a code of conduct for the developed countries and by accepting the due rights of the underdeveloped countries.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) brought about a report in 1972 and titled Towards a New Trade Policy for Development. The report proposed a reform for of the global trading system so as to-
- Give LDCs control over their natural resources which were exploited by the developed countries.
- The LDCs should be given access to Western market so that they can sell their products and therefore make trade more useful for the poor countries.
- Reduce the cost of technology from the western countries.
- LDCs should be provided greater role in international economic institutions.
- By late 1980s and NIEO had faded mainly because of stiff opposition from the developed countries who acted as a united group while the non-aligned countries struggled to maintain the unity in face of this opposition.



# INDIA AND THE COLD WAR

As a leader of NAM India's response to the ongoing cold war was to fold-

- At one level it took particular care in staying away from two alliances.
- Second, it raised its voice against the newly decolonized countries becoming part of these alliances.
- India's Policy was neither negative not passive.
- As Nehru reminded to the world that non-alignment was not a policy of fleeing away but on the contrary India was in favour of actively intervening in world affairs to soften cold war rivalries.
- India tried to reduce differences between the alliances and thereby prevent differences from escalating into a full-scale war.
- During the cold war India repeatedly tried to activate those regional and international organisations which were not part of the alliances led by the US and USSR



- Nehru reposed great faith in a genuine Commonwealth of free and cooperating nations that will play a positive role in softening if not ending the cold war.



## **A non-aligned posture also served India's interest in two ways**

- 1) Non-alignment allowed India to take decisions and stances that serve its interest rather than the interest of super powers and their allies.
- 2) India was often able to balance one superpower against other.

## **India's policy of non-alignment was criticized on number of accounts-**

- It was said that India's non-alignment was unprincipled means in the name of pursuing its national interest it often refused to take a firm stand on crucial international issues.
- It was suggested that India was inconsistent and took contradictory postures. Having criticized others for joining alliances India signed the Treaty of friendship in August 1971 with USSR for 20 years.
- However, with the disintegration of USSR and the end of cold war in 1991, nonalignment both as an international movement and as the core of India's foreign policy lost some of its earliest relevance and effectiveness.



# WHY NAM MEANS NEITHER ISOLATIONISM NOR NEUTRALITY?

- The policy of staying away from alliances should not be considered isolationism or neutrality.
- Isolationism means remaining aloof from the world affairs by declining to enter into alliances, international agreements etc. and seeking to devote the entire efforts for one's own development.
- The non-aligned countries including India played an active role in mediating between the two rival alliances for the cause of peace and stability.
- Their strength was based on their unity and their resolve to remain non-aligned despite the attempt of the two superpowers to bring them into alliances.
- Non-alignment is also not neutrality since neutrality refers to a policy of staying out of war. It is a concept opposed to state of war. States practicing neutrality are not required to help end a war but non-aligned states including India were actually involved in wars for various reasons.
- They also worked to prevent war between others and tried to end war that had broken out. □ They were newly independent free nations who wanted to assert themselves and to charter their own cause of action.
- Non-aligned movement give the recognition to the smaller countries to have their own foreign policy instead of following big powers.



## KNOW THE DATES

1.	1939-1945	World War II
2.	1947	Harry Truman, President of USA presented Doctrine of containment of Communism
3.	1947-1952	Marshall Plan- USA aid for reconstruction of Western Europe
4.	1948-49	Berlin Blockade by USSR
5.	1949	NATO was formed
6.	1950-1953	Korean War
7.	1954	Vietnam defeated France, Geneva Accord signed, Division of Vietnam
8.	1954-1975	American intervention in Vietnam
9.	1955	Baghdad Pact signed
10.	1956	Soviet intervention in Hungary
11.	1961	Berlin wall constructed
12.	1985	Gorbachev became President of USSR and started reforms
13.	1989	Berlin wall demolished
14.	1990	Unification of Germany
15.	1991	Disintegration of the Soviet Union, End of the Cold War

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THANKS FOR WATCHING!

