

1

The End of Bipolarity

Inside the CHAPTER

- The Soviet System
- Disintegration of the Soviet Union
- Shock Therapy in Post Communist Regimes
- Tensions and Conflicts
- Unipolar World
- Gulf War
- The Clinton Years
- Middle East Crises Afghanistan
- Arab Spring in the 21st Century

The concept of Bipolarity has significant implications on the global order. After the collapse of the Berlin wall in 1989, there was a historic chain of events that led to the collapse of the second world and the end of the Cold War. Germany was unified, the eight European countries one after another that were part of Soviet bloc replaced their communist governments.

The Soviet Union was supported by ordinary men and women, later disintegrated. The disintegration of USSR led to various changes in the world politics be it social, economic or political. There were series of events like introduction of democratic politics, Capitalism in post-communist regimes, mid-east crises, Gulf war and the 21st century Arab Spring.

The Soviet System

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) emerged after the Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917. The Socialist Revolution was influenced by the ideals of socialism and the need for egalitarian society, as against the capitalism. Thus, this revolution led to the disintegration of capitalist

The makers of Soviet system gave priority to the state and the institution of the party. The Soviet political system was centred around the Communist Party. No other political party was allowed by the state. In terms of economy, everything was planned and controlled by the state.

The East European countries liberated by the Soviet Union from the fascists forces after the Second World War, came under the control of the USSR. The same political and economic system of USSR was implied in these countries. This group of countries was called the **Second World** or the **Socialist bloc**. These countries were held together under the Warsaw Pact led by USSR. The USSR was the leader of the bloc.

Characteristics of Soviet System

The characteristics of Soviet System are discussed below

- 1 After the Second World War, the Soviet Union became a powerful nation. Except the US, its economy was developed as compared to other nations.
- 1 It had a complex communications network, vast energy resources including oil, iron and steel, machinery,

- It also had its own domestic consumer industry which produced everything from pins to cars. Although there was a difference in their quality as compared to the Western Capitalist countries.
- A minimum standard of living was assured for all the citizens under the Soviet System. Basic necessities like health, education, childcare and other welfare schemes were subsidised by the government.
- Unemployment was not there at that time. Assets like land and produce were owned and controlled by the Soviet state. Thus, State ownership was supreme form of ownership.

Drawbacks of Soviet System

There were some drawbacks in Soviet System. These were

- The Soviet System became very bureaucratic and authoritarian in nature. It became difficult for its citizens to express their problems.
- Problems like lack of democracy and absence of freedom of speech stifled the people to express their disagreements against the government in jokes and cartoons.
- The Soviet System was based on one-party system represented by Communist Party which had tight control over all institutions. There was lack of accountability towards the people.
- The party refused to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people in fifteen different republics to manage their own affairs including their cultural affairs. Russia dominated everything and people from other republics felt neglected and suppressed.
- The Soviet Union spent a lot on technology and infrastructure to match the US military capabilities. The Soviet Union lagged behind the West in technology, infrastructure e.g. transport, power and most importantly, in fulfilling the political or economic aspirations of citizens.
- The Soviet System was weakened after the Afghanistan invasion in 1979 as its productivity and technology fell miserably

Leaders of the Soviet Union

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

Joseph Stalin (1879-1953) He was a successor to Lenin and led the Soviet Union during its consolidation (1924-53). He began rapid industrialisation and forcible collectivisation of agriculture. He was held responsible for the Great Terror of the 1930s, authoritarian functioning and elimination of rivals within the party.

Nikita Khrushchev (1894-1971) He was the leader of the Soviet Union (1953-64). He criticised Stalin's leadership style and introduced some reforms in 1956 and suggested 'peaceful coexistence' with the West. He was involved in suppressing popular rebellion in Hungary and in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Leonid Brezhnev (1906-82) He was the leader of the Soviet Union (1964-82) who proposed Asian Collective Security System. He was involved in suppressing a popular rebellion in Czechoslovakia and in invading Afghanistan.

Mikhail Gorbachev (Born 1931) He was the last leader of the Soviet Union (1985-91). He withdrew Soviet troops from Afghanistan and Eastern Europe and helped in the unification of Germany. He ended the Cold War and was blamed for the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

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

Check
Point
01

- In which year the Socialist Revolution of Russia came into being?
- Which was the dominant form of ownership in Soviet Union?
- In the Soviet state, party system was prevalent.
- On which country Soviet Union had invaded in 1979?
- Who was the last leader of the Soviet Union who helped in the unification of Germany?

Disintegration of the Soviet Union

Mikhail Gorbachev of the Communist Party of Soviet Union became General Secretary in 1985. He favoured reforms in this system as it would keep USSR ahead from the Western powers. The reforms were also necessary to keep the USSR abreast of the information and technological revolutions. His decisions to maintain normal relations with the West, democratise and reform the Soviet Union had some other effects.

Series of events were responsible for the disintegration of USSR. Some of them are discussed below

- Crises in the Socialist Bloc** People in many East European countries which were part of Soviet bloc started protest against their own governments and USSR. Without right intervention from USSR at the right time, Communist governments in the second world collapsed one after another.
- Policies of Gorbachev** Gorbachev identified the economic and political

By then people experienced freedom and did not want the old style rule of the Communist Party.

- 1 **Opposition Against the Coup** Boris Yeltsin, who won popular election in Russian Republic, protested against the coup and centralised control of USSR.
- 1 **Shift of Power** Power began to shift from Soviet Centre to Republics, especially in the European states which were part of the Soviet Union, these states saw themselves as Sovereign states. The Central Asian republics did not ask for independence and wanted to remain with Soviet Federation. Under the leadership of Yeltsin in December 1991, republics like Russia, Ukraine and Belarus emerged powerful and declared that Soviet Union was disbanded. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union was banned. Capitalism and democracy were adopted as the base for the post-Soviet republics.

Thus, the disintegration of USSR led to the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This came as a surprise to the Central Asian republics. So to resolve this issue, the Central Asian Republics were made the founding members of CIS. Russia emerged as the successor state of the Soviet Union. It also inherited the UN Security Council seat.

All the international treaties and commitments of the Soviet Union were accepted by Russia. It emerged as the only nuclear state of the post-Soviet space and it carried out some nuclear disarmament measures with the US.

Democratic Politics and Democratisation- CIS

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is a regional organisation established in December 1991.

At present there are total 12 states in CIS, from which 9 are member states Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; 1 Associate State Turkmenistan and 2 Observer states, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

The CIS promotes the coordination of its members in the fields of trade, finance, law-making and security. It also supports in cooperation on democratisation as well as cross border crime prevention.

The political landscape of the former Eastern Bloc was opened almost overnight after the disintegration in 1991. Between 1989 and 1991, every nation in eastern and central Europe held competitive parliamentary elections for the first time in decades. Although these elections were not all entirely democratic and some were only partly free.

The Rose Revolution (Georgia), the **Tulip Revolution** (Kyrgyzstan), the **Orange Revolution** (Ukraine) and the **Twitter Revolution** (Moldova) raised expectations for

constitutional norms, including respect for political and civic rights as well as the organisation of free and open elections.

Reasons for Disintegration

Some of the reasons which are mainly responsible for the disintegration of Soviet Union are discussed below

- 1 Internal weaknesses of Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
- 1 The economy of the Soviet Union became stagnant which led to severe consumer shortages and disbelief and doubt in the system.
- 1 The Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and the development of its satellite states in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet System, which led to huge economic burden.
- 1 Ordinary citizens also became aware about the economic advancement of the West and disparities between their system and the systems of West.
- 1 The Soviet Union too became stagnant due to rampant corruption, the unwillingness to allow more openness in government and the centralisation of authority in a vast land. People were alienated by slow and stifling administration that was no more accountable to the people.
- 1 The party bureaucrats gained more privileges than ordinary citizens. People did not associate with the system and with the rulers and the government lost citizens' support.
- 1 Gorbachev carried out his reforms and loosened the system. There were sections of Soviet society which felt that Gorbachev should have moved much faster and were disappointed and impatient with his methods. Others, especially members of Communist Party felt that their power and privileges were eroding and Gorbachev was moving too quickly. In this 'tug of war', Gorbachev lost support on all sides.
- 1 Another reason was the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within various republics including Russia and the Baltic Republics (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), Ukraine, Georgia. As people in these areas felt alienated from the Central Asians and from each other.

Consequences of Disintegration

Some of the consequences which emerged after the collapse of Soviet Union are discussed below

End of Cold War Confrontations

It led to the end of Cold War confrontations. Basically, the

Since, the ideological dispute had engaged the military of the two blocs, it triggered a massive arms race and accumulation of nuclear weapons and had led to the existence of military blocs, the end of the confrontation demanded an end to this arms race and a possible new peace.

Change Power Relations in World Politics

As power equation in the world politics changed. It left only two possibilities i.e. unipolar system or multipolar system that would dominate the world. As a result, the US became the sole superpower which was supported by the capitalist system. This made the capitalist system as the dominant economic system globally.

Institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund became powerful advisors to all these countries since they gave them loans for their transitions to capitalism.

Emergence of New Countries

The end of Soviet bloc led to the emergence of many new countries. All these countries had their own independent choices. For instance, the Baltic and East European countries wanted to be a part of European Union and become part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The Central Asian countries wanted to take advantage of their geographical location and continue their close ties with the West, the US, China and others.

Thus, the international arena witnessed many new players each with its own identity, interests, economic and political difficulties.

Shock Therapy in Post Communist Regimes

Shock Therapy is known as the model of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system. In Russia, Central Asia and East Europe that was capitalist system influenced by the World Bank and the IMF. Though the direction and features were quite similar, but shock therapy varied in intensity and speed amongst the former second world countries.

Each of these countries was required to make a total shift to a capitalist economy, which meant rooting out completely any structures evolved during the Soviet period.

Following are the features of shock therapy

- It meant that private ownership was to be the dominant pattern of ownership of property.
- Privatisation of state assets and corporate ownership patterns were to be immediately brought in.
- Collective farms were to be replaced by private farming and

Consequences of Shock Therapy

The shock therapy administered in 1990s did not lead the people into the promised state of mass consumption rather it had following adverse effects

- Destruction of Economy** It brought ruin to the economies and disaster upon the people of the entire region. In Russia, the large state-controlled industrial complex almost collapsed, as about 90 per cent of its industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies. Since, the restructuring was carried out through market forces and not by government-directed industrial policies, it led to the virtual disappearance of entire industries. This was called the **largest garage sale in history**, as valuable industries were undervalued and sold at throwaway prices. Though all citizens were given vouchers to participate in the sales, most citizens sold their vouchers in the black market because they needed the money.
- Decline of Russian Currency and Import of Food** The value of the ruble, declined dramatically. The rate of inflation was so high that people lost all their savings. The collective farm system disintegrated leaving people without food security and Russia started to import food. The real GDP of Russia in 1999 was below what it was in 1989. The old trading structure broke down with no alternative in its place.
- System of Social Welfare Destroyed** The old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed. The withdrawal of government subsidies pushed large sections of the people into poverty. The middle classes were pushed to the periphery of society and the academic and intellectual manpower disintegrated or migrated.
- Emergence of Mafia and Privatisation** A mafia emerged in most of these countries and started controlling many economic activities. Privatisation led to new disparities. Post-Soviet states, especially Russia, were divided between rich and poor regions. Unlike the earlier system, there was now great economic inequality between people.
- Lack of Democratic Institutions** The construction of democratic institutions was not given the same attention and priority. The constitutions of all these countries were drafted in a hurry and most, including Russia, had a strong executive President with the widest possible powers that rendered elected parliaments relatively weak. In Central Asia, the Presidents had great powers and several of them became very authoritarian. For example, the Presidents of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan appointed themselves to power first for ten years and then extended it for another ten years. They allowed no

Steps Taken Under Shock Therapy

- Shock therapy also involved a drastic change in the external orientation of these economies. It was believed that development can be done through more trade. Thus, a sudden and complete switch to free trade was considered essential. Now, the main engines of change were Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the free trade regime.
- This transition also involved a break up of the existing trade alliances among the countries of the Soviet bloc. Gradually, these states got absorbed into the Western economic system.

As a result the Western capitalist states became the leaders and thus guided and controlled the developments of the region through various agencies and organisations.

Most of these economies, especially Russia, started reviving in 2000, ten years after their independence. The reason for the revival for most of their economies was the export of natural resources like oil, natural gas and minerals. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are major oil and gas producers. Other countries have gained because of the oil pipelines that cross their territories for which they get rent. Some amount of manufacturing has restarted.

Tensions and Conflicts

Most of the former Soviet Republics were prone to conflicts and had many civil wars and insurgencies. There was a violent secessionist movements in Russia's two republics i.e. Chechnya and Dagestan.

Growing involvement of outside powers made situation more worst and complicated.

Facts Related to Tensions and Conflicts

Some facts related to tensions and conflicts in these republics are as follows

- Secessionist Movements** In Russia, two republics, Chechnya and Dagestan, have had violent secessionist movements. Moscow's method of dealing with the Chechen rebels and indiscriminate military bombings have led to many human rights violations but failed to deter the aspirations for independence.
- Sectarian Conflicts** In Central Asia, Tajikistan witnessed a Civil War that went on for ten years till 2001. The region as a whole has many sectarian conflicts. In Azerbaijan's province of Nagorno-Karabakh, some local Armenians want to secede and join Armenia. In Georgia, the demand for independence has come from two provinces, resulting in a Civil War. There are movements against the existing regime in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia. Countries

Reasons for Tensions and Conflicts

Reasons for tensions and conflicts in these areas

- Regions with Vast Hydrocarbon Resources** The Central Asian Republics are areas with vast hydrocarbon resources, which have brought them economic benefit. Central Asia has also become a zone of competition between outside powers and oil companies.
- Establishment of Military Bases** The region is next to Russia, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan and close to West Asia. After 11th September, 2001, the US wanted military bases in the region and paid the governments of all Central Asian states to hire bases and to allow airplanes to fly over their territory during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, Russia perceives these states as its 'Near Abroad' and believes that they should be under Russian influence. China has interests here because of the oil resources and the Chinese have begun to settle around the borders and conduct trade.
- Conflicts for Independence** In Eastern Europe, Czechoslovakia split into two independent countries i.e. Czechs and Slovaks. But the most severe conflict took place in the Balkan republics of Yugoslavia. After 1991, it broke apart with several provinces like Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina declaring independence. Ethnic Serbs opposed this and a massacre of non-Serb Bosnians followed. The NATO intervention and the bombing of Yugoslavia followed the inter-ethnic Civil War.

Check
Point
02

- When did Mikhail Gorbachev became General Secretary?
- Why did Gorbachev initiate reforms?
- What were the reason for Soviet economy to become stagnant?
- The Baltic and East European countries wanted to be a part of
- Who established the Bretton Woods System?

Unipolar World

The US dominance or Unipolar World began in 1991 after Soviet power disappeared from international scene. After the end of Cold War, USA was left without any serious rival in the world. This era has been described as a period of US dominance or we can say a Unipolar world. In other words, when the international system is dominated by the sole superpower then it is called a **unipolar system**.

Some aspects of US dominance did not emerge in 1991 but in fact go back to the end of the Second World War in 1945. US played a predominant role in the world politics as a

US emerged as a global player after the Soviet Union disintegration as it is present in all sectors of the world economy and in all areas of technology. For example, the Bretton Woods system which was set up by the US after the Second World War still constitutes the basic structure of the world economy.

Gulf War

The Gulf war, lasted between August 1990 and February 1991, was an international conflict that erupted after Iraq, under dictator Saddam Hussain, invaded neighbouring Kuwait. After Hussain defied UN warnings, the US and its allies forced Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Series of Events During the Gulf War

- 1 Iraq annexed Kuwait, its South-Eastern neighbour 25 times smaller in size on 2nd August, 1990. Although Hussain claimed Kuwait to be part of Iraq, he invaded the region so that Baghdad could cancel a massive debt that it owed Kuwait, as well as acquire Kuwait's large oil resource. Hussain also sought to link the annexation with the Palestinian conflict.
- 1 Immediately after, the UN Security Council strongly reprimanded Iraq and warned of military action if its forces did not retreat by 15th January, 1991.
- 1 As Hussain refused to pay any attention to UN's many warnings, a US led coalition, consisting of 660,000 troops from 34 countries assembled in Saudi Arabia Iraq's neighbour also threatened by Hussain's adventures in the region.
- 1 After 15th January deadline was flouted by Baghdad, coalition forces first launched operation Desert Storm. An American General, Norman Schwarzkopf, led the UN coalition and nearly 75 per cent of the coalition forces were from the US. Although the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussain, had promised 'the mother of all battles', the Iraqi forces were quickly defeated and forced to withdraw from Kuwait.
- 1 Operation Desert Storm is also known as **First Gulf War**. The war was largely fought in the United States. It exposed the massive technological gap that had developed between US military power and that of other nations.
- 1 The highly publicised use of so called **smart bombs** by the US led some observers to call this a **computer war**. Widespread television coverage also made it a **Video game war** with viewers around the world watching the destruction of Iraqi forces live on TV.
- 1 The war finally ended on 28th February, 1991 when the US declared a ceasefire.

The Clinton Years

Despite winning the First Gulf War, George H.W. Bush lost the US presidential elections of 1992 to William Jefferson (Bill) Clinton of the Democratic Party, who had campaigned on domestic rather than foreign policy issues. Bill Clinton won again in 1996 and thus remained the President of the US for eight years.

During the Clinton years, it often seemed that the US had withdrawn into its internal affairs and was not fully engaged in world politics. In foreign policy, the Clinton government tended to focus on 'soft issues' like democracy promotion, climate change and world trade rather than on the 'hard politics' of military power and security.

US Military Actions Under Clinton's Leadership

- 1 The most important episode occurred in 1999, in response to Yugoslavian actions against the predominantly Albanian population in the province of Kosovo. The air forces of the NATO countries, led by the US, bombarded targets around Yugoslavia for over two months, forcing the downfall of the government of Slobodan Milosevic and the stationing of a NATO force in Kosovo.
- 1 Another significant US military action during the Clinton years was in response to the bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania in 1998. These bombings were attributed to Al-Qaeda, a terrorist organisation strongly influenced by extremist Islamist ideas. Within a few days of this bombing, President Clinton ordered **Operation Infinite Reach**, a series of cruise missile strikes on Al-Qaeda terrorist targets in Sudan and Afghanistan. The US did not bother about the UN sanction or provisions of international law in this regard.

9/11 and the 'Global War on Terror'

- 1 On 11th September, 2001, nineteen hijackers hailing from a number of Arab countries took control of four American commercial aircraft shortly after takeoff and flew them into important buildings in the US.
- 1 One airliner each crashed into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York. A third aircraft crashed into the Pentagon building in Arlington, Virginia, where the US Defence Department is headquartered.
- 1 The fourth aircraft, presumably bound for the Capitol building of the US Congress, came down in a field in Pennsylvania. The attacks have come to be known as '9/11'.

- 1 The attacks killed nearly three thousand persons. In terms of their shocking effect on Americans, they have been compared to the British burning of Washington, DC in 1814 and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941. However, in terms of loss of life, 9/11 was the most severe attack on US since the founding of the country in 1776.
- 1 The US response to 9/11 was swift and ferocious. As a part of its 'Global War on Terror', the US launched 'Operation Enduring Freedom' against all those suspected to be behind this attack, mainly Al-Qaeda and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.
- 1 The Taliban regime was easily overthrown, but remnants of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda have remained potent, as is clear from the number of terrorist attacks launched by them against Western targets since.
- 1 The US forces made arrests all over the world, often without the knowledge of the government of the persons being arrested, transported these persons across countries and detained them in secret prisons.
- 1 Some of them were brought to Guantanamo Bay, a US Naval base in Cuba, where the prisoners did not enjoy the protection of international law or the law of their own country or that of the US. Even the UN representatives were not allowed to meet these prisoners.

Middle East Crises Afghanistan

The Afghanistan conflict is a series of wars that has been fought in Afghanistan since 1978. Starting with the **Saur Revolution** military coup, an almost continuous series of armed conflicts has dominated and afflicted Afghanistan.

Afghan-Soviet war began in 1979 and ended in 1989 the Soviet Army 'invaded' or 'intervened' in the country to secure the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) following large waves of rebellion against the government. This became a Cold War proxy ultimately resulting in the defeat of Soviet Union in 1989 and the country steeped into perennial war due to the policy of harboring terrorism by the Taliban.

Afghan civil war (1989-2001) was the continuing war between the government and rebels. The Soviet Union nevertheless continued to financially support the Afghan government in its fight and likewise rebel factions continued receiving support from the US and Pakistan. The war changed its nature but the civil war on Afghan soil continued till 2001. Taliban was an instrumental force in this civil war which was backed by Pakistan.

Afghanistan-US Conflict

It is true that no area of the world had a greater impact on

Why was Afghanistan at War with US?

- 1 The US invaded Afghanistan along with its allies after the 11th September, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre, Twin Towers in New York. The US wanted to dismantle the terror infrastructure and eliminate Al-Qaeda that was provided a safe heaven in Afghanistan by the Taliban.
- 1 In 2019, the US intensified peace talks with the Taliban in Doha. Officials from the Taliban promised to keep international terrorist groups out of Afghanistan in exchange for the United States withdrawing its troops. Trump abruptly ended peace talks in September, only a week after US Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad declared he had reached a 'in principle' deal with Taliban officials.
- 1 The United States and the Taliban struck an agreement in 2020, clearing the stage for the massive withdrawal of Western troops from Afghanistan. In the days that followed, however, without a ceasefire, Taliban insurgents started a series of attacks against Afghan security troops.
- 1 As a result, the United States launched an airstrike against Taliban militants in Helmand province. Thousands of troops had already been removed following the US-Taliban deal.
- 1 President Joe Biden declared in 2021 that the US will not meet the 1st May date set by the US-Taliban agreement for troop withdrawals. Instead, he claimed, forces would be totally withdrawn by 11th September, 2021.

Arab Spring in the 21st Century

- 1 The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across the Middle East in 2010. The 21st century witnessed the emergence of new developments for democracies and democratisation in West Asian countries.
- 1 The Arab Spring emerged in Tunisia took its roots where the struggle against corruption, unemployment and poverty was started by the people. This protest later turned into a political movement because the people blamed autocratic dictatorship as a cause for existing problems.
- 1 Then, the demand for democracy that started in Tunisia spread throughout the Muslim-dominated Arab Countries in West Asia. Hosni Mubarak, who had been in power in Egypt since 1979 also collapsed as a result of the massive democratic protests.
- 1 In addition, the influence of Arab Spring was also visible in North Africa, Middle East, and South Asia.

Causes of Arab Spring

The causes of the Arab spring can be classified as Economic, Social and sudden causes. These were

Economic Causes

- 1 The global crises played an important role in the rising of the Arab spring. Such as the downfall in the oil prices during 2008-09.
- 1 The rise in price of food leading to food crises gave rise to the political unrest especially in poor countries.
- 1 Increase in unemployment especially among the youths and females was one of the most important causes behind Arab Spring.

Social Causes

- 1 Youth bulge, education and awareness among the people and democracy also gave rise to the Arab Spring.
- 1 The demand for political freedom and removal of economic inequalities was one of the major cause behind Arab Spring.
- 1 The media and internet made the transmission of information and news throughout the world. Mass media declared Arab Spring as 'Social Network Revolution'.

Sudden Cause

Self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazig a street hawker of Tunisia gave a sudden rise to the Arab spring. His suicide became a means for the occurrence of Tunisian Revolution and widespread Arab Spring.

Consequences of Arab Spring

The various consequences of Arab Spring are enumerated below

- 1 It helped in the removal of the Authoritarian rulers from Tunisia, Libiya and Egypt.

- 1 Keeping in view the fate of Bin Ali, Qadhafi and Hosni Mubarak, Baharain granted social and economic rights to their respective citizens.
- 1 Arab Spring marked the formation of a public political sphere where common people could discuss politics at public places.
- 1 The Arab spring was deliberated as a good attempt towards democracy by the world.

Check
Point
03

1. How many countries fought against Iraq during the First Gulf War?
2. Name the President of Iraq at the time of First Gulf War.
3. The Commonwealth of Independent States came into existence in
4. In which years Eastern and Central Europe held the Parliamentary Elections?
5. helped in the removal of authoritarian rulers from Tunisia, Libiya and Egypt.

TERMS TO KNOW

- 1 **Soviet System** It was introduced after Russian Revolution in 1917 based on the principles of egalitarian society and planned economy controlled by the state.
- 1 **Egalitarian Society** It believes that all people are equally important and should have the same rights and opportunities in life.
- 1 **Coup** A sudden violent seizure of power from government.
- 1 **Stagnation** It means limiting something to grow further.
- 1 **Shock Therapy** The model of transition (transfer) from capitalist economy to free trade private economy in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe came to be known as 'Shock Therapy'.

NCERT FOLDER

1. Which among the following statements describe that the nature of Soviet economy is wrong?
- Socialism was the dominant ideology
 - State ownership/control existed over the factors of production
 - People enjoyed economic freedom
 - Every aspect of the economy was planned and controlled by the state

Ans. (iii) People enjoyed economic freedom

2. Arrange the following in chronological order.

- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
- Fall of the Berlin Wall
- Disintegration of the Soviet Union
- Russian Revolution

Ans. (iv) Russian Revolution (1917)

- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979-1989)
- Fall of Berlin Wall (1989)
- Disintegration of the Soviet Union (1991)

3. Which among the following is not an outcome of the disintegration of the USSR?

- End of the ideological war between the US and USSR
- Birth of CIS
- Change in the balance of power in the world order
- Crisis in the Middle East

Ans. (iv) Crisis in the Middle East

4. Match the following.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Mikhail Gorbachev | (i) Successor of USSR |
| B. Shock Therapy | (ii) Military Pact |
| C. Russia | (iii) Introduced reforms |
| D. Boris Yeltsin | (iv) Economic model |
| E. Warsaw | (v) President of Russia |

Ans. (i) → (c); (ii) → (d); (iii) → (a); (iv) → (e); (v) → (b)

5. Fill in the blanks.

- The Soviet political system was based on ideology.

- initiated the reforms in the USSR in 1985.
- The fall of the symbolised the end of the Cold War.

Ans. (i) Socialist (ii) Warsaw Pact
(iii) Communist (iv) Gorbachev
(v) Berlin Wall

6. Mention any three features that distinguished the Soviet economy from that of a capitalist country like the US.

Ans. The three features that distinguished the Soviet economy from that of a capitalist country like the US were as follows

- The Soviet Union was a socialist state where the major means of production and property were owned by the state while in capitalist countries like US property can be private and business can be individual.
- The Soviet economy focused upon equity of wealth and its balanced distribution among the people. Whereas, the capitalist economy of US doesn't concern about equitable distribution of resources and considers inequality as a major driving force for people to do better.
- Economies like that of the Soviet Union created and ensured employment for the people. On the contrary capitalist economies like the economy of US were not responsible for unemployment of people and did not guarantee employment.

7. Explain any six factors that forced Gorbachev to initiate reforms in the Soviet Union. **CBSE 2012**

or What were the factors that forced Gorbachev to initiate the reforms in the USSR? **CBSE 2010**

Ans. The factors that forced Gorbachev to initiate the reforms in the USSR are

- To keep the USSR abreast of the information and technological revolutions while were taking place in West.
- To normalise the relationships with that of the West.
- To democratise and reform the Soviet Union.
- To loosen the administrative system by which the ordinary people were exempted from the privileges.
- Russia dominated everything and people from other region felt neglected.
- The Soviet economy became stagnant because of low productivity and shortages of all consumer goods.

8. What were the major consequences of the

Ans. The major consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union for countries like India were

- (i) It gave end to Cold War confrontations and to the ideological disputes between the two superpowers.
- (ii) Military alliance of Soviet countries were abolished and demand arose for world peace and security.
- (iii) The vision of multipolar world was shared and discussed where a group of countries could play a crucial role in world politics.
- (iv) Central Asian republics comprising Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Kazakhstan were left open for bilateral agreements to be concluded in the field of mineral and energy resources for the upgradation of their economy.
- (v) Many East European countries, Baltic nations and Balkan states were liberalised and most of them became part of the West and NATO.
- (vi) Many new countries emerged with the independent aspirations and choices. The idea of liberal democracy surfaced as a way to organise political life.

9. What was shock therapy? Was this the best way to make a transition from communism to capitalism?

Ans. Shock therapy was the process of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system, that was influenced by the World Bank and the IMF.

Shock therapy is not considered as the best way to make a transition from communism to capitalism because

- The economies were ruined and there was disaster upon the people of the entire region.
- The large state controlled industrial complex almost collapsed in Russia. The valuable industries were undervalued and sold at throw away prices.
- The value of the Russian currency 'Ruble' declined.
- Due to high rate of inflation people lost their all savings.
- Russia started to import food as the collective farm system disintegrated and people were left without food security.
- With no alternatives in its place the old trading structure broke down.
- Large sections of the people were put into poverty due to the withdrawal of the government subsidies.

10. Which among the following statements is wrong with regard to 'Operation Iraqi Freedom'?

- (a) More than forty countries joined the US-led coalition of the willing to invade Iraq.
- (b) The reason given for invading Iraq was to prevent it from developing weapons of mass destruction.
- (c) The action was taken with the prior approval of the UN.
- (d) The US-led coalition did not face major resistance from Iraqi forces.

Ans. (c) The action was taken with the prior approval of the UN.

11. Match the Following.

| List I | List II |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A. Operation Infinite Reach | (i) War against Al-Qaeda and Taliban |
| B. Operation Enduring Freedom | (ii) Coalition of the Willing |
| C. Operation Desert Storm | (iii) Missile attack in Sudan |
| D. Operation Iraqi Freedom | (iv) First Gulf War |

Ans. (i) - C, (ii) - A, (iii) - D, (iv) - B

***12.** "If big and resourceful states cannot resist the US hegemony, it is unrealistic to expect much smaller and weaker non-state actors to offer any resistance". Examine this proposition and give your opinion.

Ans. It is a reality that the resourceful state cannot resist the US hegemony because there are differences among big countries like China, India and Russia that have the potential to challenge the US hegemony. Under these circumstances, the smaller and weaker non-state actors can offer resistance.

These challenges to American hegemony will emerge in the economic and cultural realms, and will come from a combination of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), social movements and public opinion; it may arise from sections of the media and intellectuals, artists and writers. These various actors may well form links across national boundaries, including with Americans, to criticise and resist US policies.

CHAPTER PRACTICE

Objective Type Questions

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. In which year the Berlin Wall was built?

(a) 1960 (b) 1961
(c) 1965 (d) 1955

Ans. (b) 1961

2. Which one of the following statements about the Berlin Wall is incorrect?

(a) It symbolised the division between the capitalist and the communist world.
(b) It was built immediately after the Second World War.
(c) It did not mark the unification of the two parts of Germany.
(d) It was broken by the people on 9th November, 1989.

Ans. (c) It did not mark the unification of the two parts of Germany.

3. For how many years did Civil War continued in Tajikistan?

(a) 15 years (b) 5 years
(c) 12 years (d) 10 years

Ans. (d) 10 years

4. The Communist Party staged an abortive coup in August 1991, against which Soviet leader?

(a) Boris Yelstin (b) Mikhail Gorbachev
(c) Leonid Brezhnev (d) Joseph Stalin

Ans. (b) Mikhail Gorbachev

5. Which of the following statement given below is/are correct about the Soviet Leader Vladimir Lenin?

(a) He was the outstanding theoretician and practitioner of marxism.
(b) He began rapid industrialisation and forcible collectivisation of agriculture.
(c) He proposed Aslan Collective Security System.
(d) He was the first elected President of Russia.

Ans. (a) He was the outstanding theoretician and practitioner of marxism.

6. Which of the following statement(s) with regard to the Tajikistan conflict is/are incorrect?

(a) The main zone of conflict was the South zone.
(b) The civil war started in 1991.

Ans. (b) The civil war started in 1991.

7. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) came into being after the Socialist Revolution in Russia in

CBSE 2020

(a) 1914 (b) 1917
(c) 1939 (d) 1991

Ans. (b) 1917

8. Which one of the following statements was not a feature of the Soviet System?

CBSE Term I 2021

(a) A minimum standard of living was ensured to all citizens.
(b) The Soviet Government subsidised the basic necessities.
(c) There was no unemployment.
(d) People had the right to property.

Ans. (d) People had the right to property.

9. Which among the following statements about Soviet System is not true?

CBSE 2020

(a) The Soviet Union had complex communication.
(b) It had a complex machinery production system and transport sector that connected its remotest areas with efficiency.
(c) It had a domestic consumer industry that produced everything from pins to cars.
(d) Soviet Union disintegrated in 1992.

Ans. (d) Soviet Union disintegrated in 1992.

10. Which one of the following was NOT a consequence of disintegration of the USSR?

(a) Many new states emerged.
(b) Russia emerged as a new superpower.
(c) Power relations in world politics changed.
(d) The capitalist system emerged as the winner.

Ans. (b) Russia emerged as a new superpower.

11. Which among the following is not an outcome of the disintegration of the USSR?

(a) End of the ideological war between the US and the USSR.
(b) Birth of CIS.
(c) Change in balance of power in the world order.
(d) Crisis in the Middle East.

Ans. (d) Crisis in the Middle East.

12. Why did Russia become the successor of USSR?

(a) Russia led the formation of CIS
(b) It inherited the Soviet Seat in the UN

CBSE 2020

13. Which three major republics of the USSR declared in 1991 that the Soviet Union was disbanded?
 (a) Lithuania, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan **CBSE Term I 2021**
 (b) Russia, Latvia and Uzbekistan
 (c) Russia, Ukraine and Belarus
 (d) Russia, Estonia and Turkmenistan

Ans. (c) Russia, Ukraine and Belarus

14. Identify the group of countries that had been part of the Soviet Union before its disintegration.
 (a) Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia
 (b) Armenia, West Germany, Azerbaijan
 (c) Poland, East Germany, Norway
 (d) Norway, Hungary, Romania

Ans. (a) Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia

15. Which one of the following was not a weakness of the Soviet Union? **CBSE Term I 2021**
 (a) The Communist Party was not accountable to the people.
 (b) There was rampant corruption in the Soviet Union.
 (c) The party bureaucracy had many more privileges than an ordinary citizen had.
 (d) Gorbachev initiated reforms in USSR.

Ans. (d) Gorbachev initiated reforms in USSR.

16. Which one among the following is a cause of disintegration of the Soviet Union? **CBSE Term I 2021**
 (a) Inability of the Soviet System to correct its own mistakes.
 (b) Over aspirations of the people.
 (c) Rapid economic development.
 (d) Superiority of the Soviet system over Western Capitalism.

Ans. (a) Inability of the Soviet System to correct its own mistakes.

17. The disintegration of Soviet Union was one of the most important events that altered the global geopolitics after the Second World War. Consider the following statement(s) in this regard and choose the correct one(s).

- A coup took place in 1991 that was encouraged by communist party hardiness.
- Boris Yeltsin emerged as a national hero in opposing this coup.
- In December 1991, under the leadership of Yeltsin, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus three major republics of the USSR, declared that the Soviet Union was disbanded.

Codes

- (a) 1 and 3
 (b) Only 1
 (c) 1 and 2
 (d) 1, 2 and 3

disintegrated in 1990 due to the following given reasons.

- One party system.
- Russian dominance over other 15 republics of USSR.
- Non-recognition of cultural affairs of people residing in these republics.

Codes

- (a) 1 and 2
 (b) Only 2
 (c) 1, 2 and 3
 (d) 2 and 3

Ans. (c) 1, 2 and 3

19. Which one of the following was not a consequence of disintegration of the USSR? **CBSE 2019**
 (a) Many new states emerged.
 (b) Russia emerged as a new superpower.
 (c) Power relations in world politics changed.
 (d) The Capitalist system emerged as the winner.

Ans. (b) Russia emerged as a new superpower.

20. Shock Therapy is a phenomenon associated with **CBSE 2020**
 (a) Central Asian conflicts in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan
 (b) New International Economic Order
 (c) US plans to root out communism
 (d) Stabilising the Russian currency against the US dollar

Ans. (d) Stabilizing the Russian currency against the US dollar

21. Which one of the following was not a consequence of Shock therapy in Russia? **CBSE Term I 2021**
 (a) The collective farm system disintegrated.
 (b) It brought ruin to the economy and disaster upon the people.
 (c) The whole large scale state controlled industrial complex almost collapsed.
 (d) The system of social welfare got strengthened.

Ans. (d) The system of social welfare got strengthened.

22. The movement 'Arab Spring' that began in 2010 later turned into which type of movement?
 (a) Social Movement
 (b) Religions Movement
 (c) Political Movement
 (d) Economic Movement

Ans. (c) Political Movement

23. The Arab Spring was a struggle against what?
 (a) Unemployment
 (b) Corruption **CBSE 2020**
 (c) Poverty
 (d) All of these

Ans. (d) All of these

24. Which one of the following states is not a Baltic

25. The Arab Spring did not transcend which of the following countries? **CBSE 2020**
 (a) Tunisia (b) Libya (c) Iran (d) Yemen

Ans. (c) Iran

26. The result of Arab Spring was **CBSE 2020**
 (a) Autocratic dictatorship (b) Socialists system
 (c) Post cold war (d) Capitalist system

Ans. (a) Autocratic dictatorship

27. Which statement among the following about the first Gulf War is correct? **CBSE Term I 2021**
 (a) It was an exclusive war between the US and Iraq.
 (b) The UN had no role to play in this war.
 (c) American forces used atom bombs to win the war.
 (d) The first Gulf War proved to be financially profitable for the U.S.

Ans. (a) It was an exclusive war between the US and Iraq.

28. The statements given below are related to Shock Therapy. Choose the option that represents only the true statements. **CBSE Term I 2021**

- I. The value of the Ruble, the Russian currency, declined due to Shock Therapy.
- II. Shock therapy strengthened communism.
- III. Shock therapy reduced the prices of goods.
- IV. Shock therapy destroyed the old system of social welfare.

Choose the correct option.

- (a) I and II (b) II and III
 (c) I, II and III (d) I and IV

Ans. (d) I and IV

29. Arrange the following in chronological order.
 I. End of the Second World War—1945
 II. Disintegration of the USSR—1991
 III. Fall of the Berlin Wall—1989
 IV. Indo-Russian Strategic Agreement—2001

Choose the correct option. **CBSE Term I 2021**

- (a) I, II, III, IV (b) I, III, II, IV
 (c) I, IV, II, III (d) I, IV, III, II

Ans. (b) I, III, II, IV

Match the Following

30. Match List I with List II. Select the correct answer from the codes given below.

| List I | List II |
|------------------------------|---------|
| A. Berlin wall was broken in | 1. 1979 |
| B. Russian Revolution | 2. 2001 |

Codes

| | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| (b) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| (c) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| (d) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |

Ans. (b) 3 4 1 2

31. Match List I with List II. Select the correct answer from the codes given below.

| List I | List II |
|--|---------|
| A. Mikhail Gorbachev elected as the General secretary of the communist party | 1. 1991 |
| B. Russian Parliament declared its independence from the Soviet Union | 2. 1988 |
| C. Independence movement began in Lithuania | 3. 1985 |
| D. Three Baltic republics Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania become republics | 4. 1990 |

Codes

| | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| (b) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| (c) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (d) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Ans. (a) 3 4 2 1

32.



This picture symbolised the division between

..... and world.

(a) Capitalist and Communist

Assertion-Reason Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 33-35) In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

33. Assertion (A) The old system of social welfare in the Soviet Union automatically got destroyed.

Reason (R) The withdrawal of government subsidies pushed large sections of the people into poverty. **CBSE Term I 2021**

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

34. Assertion (A) The Soviet Union had become stagnant in an administrative and political sense as well.

Reason (R) The Soviet system was based on the ideology of socialism. **CBSE Term I 2021**

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

35. Assertion (A) The Soviet Union and Communism collapsed in 1991.

Reason (R) The internal weaknesses of the Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the Soviet people. **CBSE Term I 2021**

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

Passage Based Objective Type Questions

1. Study the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The Soviet system, however, became very bureaucratic and authoritarian, making life very difficult for its citizens. Lack of democracy and the absence of freedom of speech stifled people who often expressed their dissent in jokes and cartoons. 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 all institutions and was unaccountable

Although, on paper, Russia was only one of the fifteen republics that together constituted the USSR, in reality Russia dominated everything, and people from other regions felt neglected and often suppressed.

- (i) How many republics formed the Soviet Union?
(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 15 (d) 16

Ans. (c) 15

- (ii) Which among the following republic dominated in the USSR?

- (a) Ukraine (b) Russia
(c) Georgia (d) Latvia

Ans. (b) Russia

- (iii) Why did people become dissatisfied with the rule of Communist Party of Soviet Union?

- (a) Because Soviet Union had tight control over all the institutions.
(b) Because government was not accountable towards the people.
(c) Because people were devoid of their basic fundamental rights.
(d) All of the above

Ans. (d) All of the above

- (iv) How the people of Soviet Union expressed their dissatisfaction?

- (a) In the form of protests (b) Jokes and Cartoons
(c) Newspapers (d) Magazines

Ans. (b) Jokes and Cartoons

2. Study the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The declaration on the disintegration of the USSR and the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) came as a surprise to the other republics, especially to the Central Asian ones. The exclusion of these republics was an issue that was quickly solved by making them founding members of the CIS. Russia was now accepted as the successor state of the Soviet Union. It inherited the Soviet seat in the UN Security Council. Russia accepted all the international treaties and commitments of the Soviet Union.

- (i) CIS here stands for
(a) Commonwealth of Independent States
(b) Commonwealth of International Successor
(c) Common Independent States
(d) Commonwealth of Independent Sovereigns

Ans. (a) Commonwealth of Independent States

- (ii) Which among the following state was accepted as

(iii) Disintegration of USSR came as a surprise because

.....

- (a) It emerged as a great power after the Second World War.
- (b) It had vast energy resources.
- (c) In the arms race, Soviet Union managed to match the US.
- (d) All of the above

Ans. (d) All of the above

(iv) What kind of role was played by the successor of Soviet Union in the International Politics?

- (a) It accepted all International treaties and commitments of the Soviet Union.
- (b) It inherited the Soviet Seat in the UN Security Council.
- (c) It signed treaties with the US.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d) Both (a) and (b)

3. Study the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

"The collapse of communism was followed in most of these countries by a 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 the IMF came to be known as 'Shock therapy'. Shock therapy varied in intensity and speed amongst the second world countries, but its direction and features were quite similar." **CBSE Term I 2021**

(i) Which of the following incidents has been quoted as the 'collapse of communism'?

- (a) Gorbachev's failure to get the desired results through his reforms.
- (b) Disintegration of the Soviet Union.
- (c) The Soviet Union had become stagnant in administration.
- (d) People were not satisfied with the Soviet System and government lost popular backing.

Ans. (b) Disintegration of the Soviet Union.

(ii) Which one of the following countries was popular for its democratic capitalist system?

- (a) United States of America
- (b) Russia
- (c) Cuba
- (d) East Germany

Ans. (b) Russia

(iii) Which group of two countries belonged to the 'Second World' countries?

- (a) India and Pakistan
- (b) Germany and Italy

(iv) Which one of the following was not a consequence of 'shock therapy'?

- (a) The rate of inflation rose high.
- (b) The value of 'Ruble', the Russian currency declined.
- (c) The collective farm system got strengthened and food security was ensured.
- (d) The old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed.

Ans. (c) The collective farm system got strengthened and food security was ensured.

(v) Choose the option that is a feature of communism.

- (a) Multi-party system
- (b) State controlled economy
- (c) Special Economic Zones (SEZ)
- (d) Privatisation of industries and agriculture

Ans. (d) Privatisation of industries and agriculture

4. Study the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The First Gulf War revealed the vast technological gap that had opened up between the US military capability and that of other states. The highly publicised use of so called 'smart bombs' by the US led some observers to call this a 'computer war'. Widespread television coverage also made it a 'video game war', with viewers around the world watching the destruction of Iraqi forces live on TV in the comfort of their living rooms.

(i) In the above passage, which human fault was highlighted?

- (a) Iraq overestimated his powers against the US.
- (b) Human beings must have true knowledge of their power.
- (c) America has shown its hegemony properly.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d) Both (a) and (b)

(ii) Which type of Bomb was utilised in this war?

- (a) Human Bomb
- (b) Nuclear Bomb
- (c) Chemical Bomb
- (d) Smart Bomb

Ans. (d) Smart Bomb

(ii) Which kind of message did the US want to share with the world by using the Bombs?

- (a) It wanted to reveal the vast technological gap.
- (b) It wanted to show its dominance in the world.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) It wanted to show Iraq that they are more competent in technology.

Ans. (c) Both (a) and (b)

(iv) Why this war is known as a computer game war?

- (a) Because viewers watched the destruction of Iraqi forces live on TV.
- (b) Due to widespread coverage of war.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. The Soviet economy was more developed than the rest of the world except for the US after the end of the Second World War. Substantiate the statement with any one example. **CBSE 2019**
- Ans.** After the end of the Second World War, the Soviet economy had developed a complex communication network and vast energy resources including oil, iron and steel. It had a domestic consumer industry that produced everything from pins to cars.
So, it is true that Soviet economy was more developed than the rest of the world after the end of the Second World War.
2. State any two features of the Soviet system.
or Which were the two important features of the Soviet system? **CBSE 2013**
or Mention any two characteristics of the Soviet political system. **CBSE 2012, 2008; CBSE 2008**
or Describe any two features of Soviet System. **CBSE 2019**
- Ans.** The two features of the Soviet system were
(i) The Soviet system was based on state welfarism, where the state was engaged in mass production to meet the needs of the people.
(ii) The Communist Party of Soviet Union (CPSU) controlled the government and dominated the political decision-making.
3. Why did the Soviet Union disintegrate? Highlight any two arguments in support of your answer. **CBSE 2010**
or Mention any two main reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union. **CBSE 2009**
- Ans.** The USSR disintegrated because
(i) The Soviet political and economic institutions had developed internal weaknesses which defined people's aspirations and needs.
(ii) The existence of the Soviet Union was affected by the corruption and more because of their inability to take appropriate actions which would lead to the correction of mistakes.
4. List any two differences between the Socialist and Communist party.
- Ans.** The two differences are
- Socialist party believes in gradual change whereas, the Communist party believes in radical and fundamental change.
 - Socialist party aims at improvement and reform in society while, Communist party aims at restructuring
- Ans.** The US was benefitted by the Soviet disintegration on the economic crisis in front of the USSR.
The Soviet Union used much of its resources in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and the development of its satellite states in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet system.
6. Highlight any one major distinction between the Soviet economy and the capitalist economy. **CBSE 2015**
- Ans.** The Soviet system was based on the principles of equality and planned economy controlled by the state. Whereas in capitalist economy, private ownership is dominant. Land and productive assets are owned and controlled by the capitalist.
7. Name the republic that succeeded Soviet Union after its disintegration. What was its position in the international domain? **CBSE 2019**
- Ans.** The disintegration of Soviet Union was succeeded with the formation of three major republics i.e. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. Russia was accepted as a successor of Soviet Union after its disintegration and inherited the Soviet seat of the United Nations Security Council.
8. What was the main objective of 'Operation Desert Storm'? **CBSE 2015**
or Why was 'Operation Desert Storm' fought against Iraq. **CBSE 2014**
- Ans.** The Gulf war also known as 'Operation Desert Storm' was fought from 2nd August, 1990 to 28th February, 1991. It was a UN waged war led by United States against Iraq. This war was in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait.
9. Describe any two social causes that led to Arab Spring.
- Ans.** Following are the two social cause that led to the Arab Spring
(i) The demand for political freedom and removal of economic inequalities.
(ii) The media and internet made the transmission of information and news throughout the world thereby spreading the movement.
10. The end of the USSR does not mean the end of socialism. Explain.
- Ans.** After the disintegration of the USSR in 1991, many countries still follow the socialist ideology in organising their political, social and economic life.
For example, Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, China, these are communist countries which are still in existence after the demise of USSR. The success of state

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why did the Soviet System become so weak and Soviet economy stagnated?

Ans. The Soviet System becomes so weak and Soviet economy stagnated because of the following reasons

- The internal weakness of the Soviet political and economic institutions, which failed to meet the aspirations of the people were responsible for the collapse of the system.
- Economic stagnation for many years led to severe shortage and downfall of consumers and made the Soviet System questionable.
- The use of large amount of its resources in maintaining nuclear and military arsenal and the development of its satellites in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet System led to the weakness of the system and stagnating the economy.
- At the same time, the ordinary citizens had the knowledge of rapid advancement of West and their disparities with the system of the West came as a political and psychological shock.

2. Explain any four issues of tension and conflicts in the former Soviet Republics.

Ans. Four issues that made the former Soviet Republics prone to tension and conflict were as follows

- (i) Chechnya and Dagestan had violent secessionist movement. Russia was criticised for its method of suppression which led to human rights violation.
- (ii) Tajikistan experience a decade long civil war which lasted for ten years. Georgia also faced civil war due to the demand for independence in two provinces.
- (iii) There were movements against the existing regimes in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan which led to sectarian conflicts.
- (iv) Countries and provinces of former USSR were fighting over river waters. This led to instability and made life difficult for the ordinary people.

3. Define the term Unipolarity. What were the outcomes of a unipolar world after 1991 that benefitted USA?

Ans. Unipolarity means that there is a sole superpower that is dominant in the international domain. For example, US remained the only superpower after the disintegration of USSR in 1991.

The outcomes of a unipolar world after 1991 are discussed below

- (i) The US became the sole superpower and the capitalist economy remained the dominant economic system internationally.

- (ii) The power relations in world politics changed and therefore, the relative influence of ideas and institutions also changed.
- (iii) Politically, the notion of liberal democracy emerged as the best way to organise political life.
- (iv) Institutions like World Bank and IMF became powerful advisors to all the countries and gave loans for their transitions to capitalism.

4. Differentiate between the capitalist and the socialist models of development. CBSE 2014

Ans. Difference between the capitalist and the socialist models of development are

| Capitalist Model | Socialist Model |
|---|--|
| In this model, means of production can be owned by the individual which means state ownership is absent here. | The socialist model favours state ownership of means of production and individual ownership is prohibited. |
| The main motive of this model is to extract maximum profit from the market. | The main motive of this model is the social welfare of the masses. |
| It doesn't recognise the principle of equality and widens the gap between rich and poor. | It upholds and recognises the principle of equality and seeks to create an egalitarian society. |
| Production is carried out on demand and supply basis. | The socialist model is based on mass production with no profit motive. |

5. What do you mean by Arab Spring? Mention any four causes of Arab Spring.

Ans. The Arab Spring was a series of pro-democracy uprisings that developed largely in the Muslim countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Baharain. The event in these nations generally began in the spring of 2011, which led to the name Arab Spring.

The various causes of Arab Spring are as follows

- The rise in the global crisis, such as the downfall in the oil prices during 2008-09.
- The rise in the price of food leading to food crisis gave rise to the political unrest especially in poor countries.
- Increase in unemployment especially among the youths and females were one of the most important causes behind Arab Spring.
- The demand for political freedom and removal of economic inequalities was one of the major cause behind Arab Spring.
- Self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi a street hawker of Tunisia gave a sudden rise to the Arab Spring

6. What was the Gulf war of 1990?

Ans In August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, occupied and annexed it. United Nations tried to convince Iraq to quit its aggression, but the UN failed to convince. Then the UN mandated the liberation of Kuwait by force.

The US President George W Bush hailed the emergence of New World Order.

In response to this, there was an emergence of war which came to be known as First Gulf War. In this war, a huge coalition force from almost 34 countries fought against Iraq. This war was fought under the code name of Operation Desert Storm. This operation of UN was mostly American. There was about 75% of forces from the US.

The First Gulf War revealed the vast technological gap that opened up between US military forces and other countries. The use of smart bombs made it a computer war. And widespread television coverage made it a video game war.

of capitalism, though later on, it was abandoned (shock therapy).

- (iv) The Soviet economy was state owned and state planned where state was the owner of the means of production thus, there was absence of private property.
- (v) The Soviet System was characterised by a complex communication network with vast energy resources like oil, iron and steel. The state had a vast network of transportation to manufacture or transport goods to remotest areas.
- (vi) The Soviet System was based on state welfarism where the state was engaged in mass production to meet the needs of the people.

4. Highlight any three positive and three negative features each of the Soviet system in the Soviet Union.

CBSE 2016

Ans. The three positive features of the Soviet system were

- (i) The Soviet economy was more developed than the rest of the world except the US. It had a complex communication network, vast energy resources, machinery production and a transport system that connected its remotest areas.
- (ii) A minimum standard of living for all citizens was ensured by the Soviet state and the government subsidised basic necessities including health, education, child care and other welfare schemes.
- (iii) State ownership was given more importance. Land and productive assets were owned and controlled by the Soviet state.

The three negative features of the Soviet system were

- (i) The Soviet system was very bureaucratised and authoritarian in nature. It turned the life of the people into disorder. Authoritarianism meant the absence of democracy and freedom of speech which angered the people.
- (ii) Soviet economy witnessed economic stagnation for a long time which led to the market failure, when demand failed to meet supply in the market for consumer goods.
- (iii) State treasury had spent a huge fortune on building and maintaining nuclear arsenals and in developing its satellite states in East Europe and within the Soviet system. It turned into a large economic burden for the Soviet system.

5. Why did the Soviet Union, the second most powerful country in the world, suddenly disintegrate? Explain any six reasons.

CBSE 2019

or Explain any six reasons responsible for the disintegration of the USSR.

CBSE 2018

or Explain any four factors that were responsible for the

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Give any three examples to show that most of former Soviet republics were prone to conflicts and tensions.

CBSE 2013

or Describe the factors that make most of the former Soviet Republics prone to conflicts and threats.

CBSE 2015

Ans. For answer refer to text under the heading 'Disintegration of the Soviet Union' on page no. 4.

2. Explain the consequences of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

CBSE 2010, CBSE 2012, 2013

or Describe any four consequences of the disintegration of Soviet Union.

CBSE 2019

Ans. For answer refer to text under the heading 'Consequences of Disintegration' on page no. 5 and 6.

3. Examine any six characteristics of the Soviet System during 1971, 1991.

CBSE 2008

Ans. Following are its six characteristics in the time period of 20 years

- (i) The USSR was only a federation on paper. In reality it didn't embrace the features of a federal system. The fifteen republics were denied autonomy and there was centralisation of power around Russia.

- (ii) The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) controlled the government and dominated the political decision-making. It strengthened the principle of democratic centralism which meant lack of dissent on the decisions of the upper

6. What was the Soviet system? Assess any four features of the Soviet system. **CBSE 2013**

Ans. The Soviet system was based on the criticism of capitalism which declared that capitalism unavoidably leads never ending impoverishment and exploitation of the masses. It stressed that capitalism can never equate itself with mass production for the satisfaction of human needs.

The Soviet system was largely pro-poor in orientation with social policies aimed at welfare of the masses. The Soviet system was constituted after the Russian Revolution of 1917, based on equality and planned economy.

Four features of the Soviet system are

- In Soviet system, state was accorded an important role. State was the saviour of the masses.
 - The Soviet system was an outcome of the socialist doctrine which seeks to create an egalitarian society.
 - The Soviet system's economy was planned and controlled by the state. There were no private enterprises or industries.
 - The Soviet political system gave primacy to the Communist Party with no scope for opposition in politics. It was a sign of authoritarianism.
7. If the Soviet Union had not disintegrated and the world had remained bipolar, how would that situation have affected the world politics? **CBSE 2015**

Ans. If the Soviet Union had not disintegrated, it would have affected the world politics in the following manner

- The USA would not have become so powerful and its hegemony would not have been established. It would not be interfering in the world affairs more unilaterally.
- The world would have headed towards a Third World War, if there was no disintegration of USSR. The war would have been more devastating and destructive.
- The disintegration of USSR led to the independence of many countries which were part of erstwhile USSR. This would have not been possible without the disintegration.
- After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, USA's position in the UNO also became very strong.

Almost all the decisions in UNO were taken under the influence of USA. This situation could have been different if there was no collapse of USSR.

- Most of the former Soviet Republics which are passing through conflicts and Civil Wars, would not have gone through this agony.
- Accumulation of nuclear weapons would have continued endlessly.

Picture Based Questions

1.



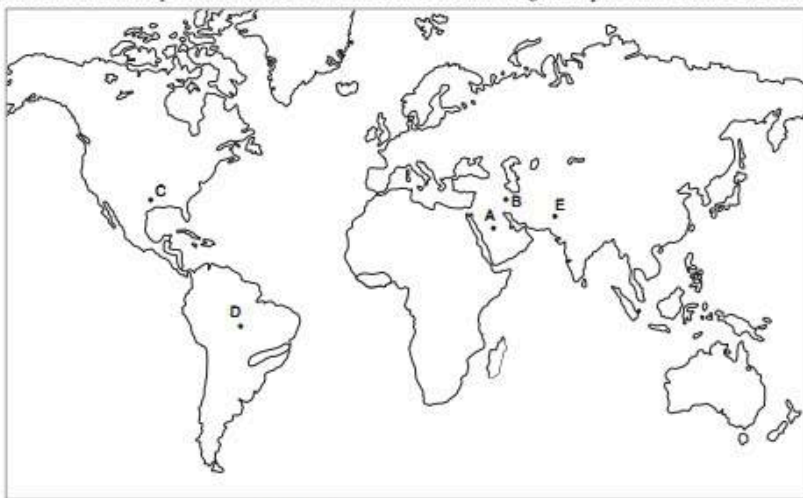
- Who has been represented by cartoon wearing cap?
- What does this cartoon try to speak? Which event can be correlated with this cartoon?
- 'You posed a potential threat'. What does this refer?

Ans.

- In the above picture, US has been represented by the cartoon wearing a cap.
- This cartoon tried to speak about the hegemony of USA over the world. The US response to 9/11 attack against Al-Qaeda and Taliban can be correlated with this cartoon.
- This statement refers to 9/11 attack which was an attack on the US hegemony. So, in response they launched operation Enduring Freedom to teach a lesson to the countries if it is dared to repeat.

Map Based Questions

On a political outline map of the world locate and label the following and symbolise them as indicated.



1. The country Iraq invaded in August 1990.
2. The country in the president ship of Saddam Hussein.
3. The country referred to as a hegemonic power.
4. The Operation Infinite Reach was launched against these countries.

Ans. 1. Kuwait (A) 2. Iraq (B) 3. The USA (C) 4. Afghanistan and Sudan (D) and (E)

CHAPTER ASSESSMENT

Objective Type Questions

- Who was the successor of Lenin?
(a) Leonid Brezhnev (b) Boris Yeltsin
(c) Joseph Stalin (d) Mikhail Gorbachev
- Arrange the following in correct sequence.
 - Socialist Revolution in Russia
 - The Berlin Wall Broken
 - India Russian Strategic Agreement
 - Russian Parliament declares its independence from Soviet Union.

Codes

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (a) 4, 2, 1 and 3 | (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 |
| (c) 4, 3, 2 and 1 | (d) 1, 2, 4 and 3 |
- Consider the following statement about the Berlin Wall and choose the correct option(s).
 - The Berlin Wall symbolised the division between the capitalist and the communist world.
 - It was built in 1965.
 - The wall was more than 150 km long and it stood for 28 years.
 - Both (a) and (c)

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- What is Soviet System?
- Why did Soviet economy became fragile and stagnant?
- Why did Czechoslovakia disintegrate?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Define the characteristics of the political system evolved after the disintegration of USSR.
- Give a short account of collapse of communism in East Europe.
- What role did Boris Yeltsin played in the coup of 1991?
- Write any four characteristics of the Soviet System after the Second World War.

Long Answer Type Questions

- Discuss in brief about the conflicts in Central Asia.
- Discuss the safety measures undertaken by Gorbachev to pacify the stagnation of USSR.
- Elucidate the reasons necessary for the reforms in USSR.