

CLASS:--12TH, POLITICAL SCIENCE NOTES

Long Answer Type Questions [6 Marks]

1. Describe any six factors responsible for the disintegration of USSR.

Or

What is meant by New International Economic Order? Mention any four reforms of the global trading system proposed by UNCTAD in 1972.

Answer: Six factors responsible for the disintegration of USSR are—

- (i) The internal weaknesses of Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
- (ii) Economic stagnation for many years led to severe consumer shortages and a large section of Soviet society began to doubt and question the system and to do so openly.
- (iii) The Soviet Union had become stagnant in an administrative and political sense as well. The Communist Party that had ruled the Soviet Union for over 70 years was not accountable to the people. Ordinary people were alienated by slow and stifling administration, rampant corruption, the inability of the system to correct mistakes it had made, the unwillingness to allow more openness in government and the centralisation of authority in a vast land.
- (iv) 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. This led a huge economic burden that the system could not cope with.
- (v) When Gorbachev became the President, he carried out reforms and loosened the system. He set in motion forces and expectations that few could have predicted and became virtually impossible to control. 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 the Communist Party and those who were served by the system, took exactly the opposite view. In this tug of war, Gorbachev lost support on all sides.
- (vi) The rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within various republics including Russia and the Baltic Republics, Ukraine, Georgia, and others proved to be the final and most immediate cause for the disintegration of the USSR.

Or

The non-aligned countries were more than merely mediators during the ' Cold War. The challenge for most of the non-aligned countries — a majority of them were categorised as the Least

Developed Countries (LDCs) — was to be more developed economically and to lift their people out of poverty. Economic development was also vital for the independence of the new countries. Without sustained development, a country could not be truly free. It would remain dependent on the richer countries including the colonial powers from which political freedom had been achieved. The idea of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) originated with this realisation.

The UNCTAD brought out a report in 1972 entitled Towards a New Trade Policy for Development.

The report proposed a reform of the global trading system so as to:

- (i) give the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) control over their natural resources exploited by the developed western countries.
- (ii) obtain access to western markets so that LDCs would sell their products and, therefore, make trade more beneficial for the poorer countries.
- (iii) reduce the cost of technology from the western countries, and
- (iv) provide the LDCs with a greater role in international economic institutions.

2. What led to the emergence of bipolar world? What were the arenas of Cold War between the two power blocs?

Answer: Emergence of bipolar world:

1. Two superpowers expanded their own spheres of influence in different parts of the world.
2. It divided the world into two alliances namely Western and Eastern alliance headed by the US and Soviet Union respectively.
3. The smaller states in alliances got the promise of protection of weapons and economic aid against their local rivals, hence they remained tied to its protective superpowers to limit influence of other superpower and its allies.

Arenas of Cold War:

1. Crisis and war occurred between alliance systems but did not cross certain limits.
2. Many lives were lost in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan, but world was spared from nuclear war and global hostilities.
3. The Cold War led to several shooting wars but it did not lead to another World War despite direct confrontations in Korea (1950-53), Berlin (1958-62) and the Congo (the early 1960s).