

**Class :-12, Political Science,Notes, Chapter :- 2 ,**

**Date:- 6/06/21**

## **The end of Bipolarity**

### **SOVIET SYSTEM**

- **The Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917 gave birth to USSR with inspiration of socialism, based on following principles:-**
- **To ensure a minimum standard of living for all its citizens**
- **The government subsidized basic necessities**
- **Productive assets were owned and controlled by the state**
- **Russia was the only republic among fifteen republics that dominates everything and people in the region.**
- **The Soviet economy became more developed than the rest of the world except the US.**

**However, the Soviet system became very bureaucratic and authoritarian.**

- **In the arms race, the Soviet Union managed to match the US from time to time, but at great cost.**

### **Gorbachev and the Disintegration of the USSR**

- **Mikhail Gorbachev, who had become General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985, sought to reform the system.**
- **He introduced economic and political reform policies of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness). But later his policies were criticised.**
- **A coup took place in 1991 that was encouraged by Communist Party hardliners.**
- **The people did not want the old-style rule of the Communist Party and wanted freedom.**
- **Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, the three major republics of the USSR, declared in December 1991 that the Soviet Union was disintegrated.**
- **Capitalism and democracy were adopted as the basis for the post Soviet republics.**

### **Reasons for the Soviet Union Disintegration**

- **There are several reasons which led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.**
- **These were Internal weaknesses of Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people.**

- **The economy of the Soviet Union became stagnant. The Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal.**
  - **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.**
  - **A section of the society was not happy with the reforms of Gorbachev. It was believed that the reforms introduced by Gorbachev were at a very slow pace.**
  - **Another reason for the collapse of USSR was the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within various republics including Russia and the Baltic republics.**
-