

CLASS- 12th ,pol- sci (NOTES)

THE END OF BIPOLARITY

CHAPTER- 2

DATE- 19/ 04/ 2020

- 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 subsidised basic necessities.
- Productive assets were owned and controlled by the state.
- Russia was the only republic among fifteen republics who dominated everything and people from other regions felt neglected and often suppressed.
- Soviet union lagged behind the west in technology, infrastructure and could not fulfil political aspirations of people.
- 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.
- Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 also weakened the system further more.
- Mikhail Gorbachev general secretary of communist party of Soviet Union in 1985 initiated the policies of economic and political reforms to democratise the system which were opposed by leaders within communist party and contradictory view of people.
- Reforms were necessary to keep the USSR abreast of the information and technological revolution taking place in the west.
- However Gorbachev's decision to normalise relations with the west and democratise and reform the Soviet Union had some other effects that neither he nor anyone else intended or anticipated.
- The people in the East European countries which were part of the Soviet bloc started to protest against their own government and Soviet control.
- The people of the republic had been fed up with old style rule of Soviet bloc and in 1991, under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin (an elected leader) Russia, Ukraine and Baltics declared themselves independent.

- The formation of common wealth of independent states (CIS) came as a surprise and the exclusion of these states was resolved by making them founder member of the CLS.
- Russia was accepted as successor state of soviet union by inheriting a soviet seat in UN security council, who accepted all international treaties and commitments of soviet union and carried out some nuclear disarmament measures with the US.
- Now soviet union had been disintegrated on the ground to maintain nuclear and military arsenals, awareness of people of their backwardness than western capitalism as well as alienation of ordinary people who were exempted from any kind of privileges.
- The rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within republics like RUSSIA, the baltic republics (Estonia latvia, lithuania) ukraine, georgia and other proved to be the most immediate cause for disintergration of USSR.
- Disintegration of USSR resulted into the end of cold war confromtations created dominant capitalist system emerged many new states and the advantage was taken by central ASIAN countries of their geographical locations by maintaining relations with RUSSIA the west the US CHINA and others.

THE END.