

SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE COLLAPSE OF IMPERIALISM

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We studied the havoc caused to humanity by the First World War. "The war to end all wars" could bring neither peace nor democracy in the world as it was promised. In the post-War period enmity, and friction increased among the nations. This dragged the world into another terrible war. The Second World War which lasted from 1939 to 1945 was a real threat to the very existence of humanity. The war which utilised new technologies was more destructive than any previous wars. Though the War began in Europe, very soon it turned out to be a global war.

Background

We have already discussed the various treaties concluded at the Paris Peace Conference after First World War. The victorious Allied Powers revengefully imposed the Treaty of Versailles on Germany. German colonies and territories were partitioned among the Allied Powers. Germany was held responsible for the war. A huge war indemnity was imposed on her. She was demilitarised. These unilateral and unjust provisions of the Treaty of Versailles were highly resented by the Germans. By exploiting this dissatisfaction, Hitler's Nazism incited the spirit of revenge and aggressive nationalism among the Germans. The capture of power by Hitler in Germany and Mussolini in Italy paved the way for the outbreak of the Second World War.

The competitions among the imperialist countries became acute after the First World War. Most of the colonies and markets of Asia and Africa were controlled by Britain, France, Holland, etc. Countries like Germany, Italy and Japan had neither colonies nor markets. This affected their economy which led to considerable resentment. They tried to capture the colonies of other countries and weak nations. The conquest of Manchuria



A cartoon by David Low from the *London Evening Standard*, 1936. This was a popular newspaper with a large readership in Britain.

by Japan, Abyssinia by Italy and Rhineland by Germany was part of this project. The League of Nations, supposedly formed to ensure world peace, was not successful in solving these problems. European powers like Britain and France considered Soviet Union as their chief enemy. The appeal of Soviet Union that Fascism should be encountered unitedly was not heeded by them. Not only did they not try to solve these problems but they also followed a policy of appeasement towards the fascist powers.

Arguments for appeasement

At least Hitler is standing up to Communism

Hitler was not the only concern of Britain and its allies. He was not even their main worry. They were more concerned about the spread of

Communism and particularly about the dangers to world peace posed by Stalin, the new leader in the USSR. Many saw Hitler as the buffer to the threat of spreading Communism.



The attitude of Britain's Empire

It was not at all certain that British Empire and Commonwealth states

We must not repeat the horrors of the Great War

Both British and French leaders vividly remembered the horrific experiences of the First World War.



Britain is not ready for war
British armed forces were not ready for war against Hitler



The USA will not support us if we stand up to Hitler

American leaders were determined not to be dragged into another war. Could Britain and her allies face up to Germany without the guarantee of American support?



Hitler is right the Treaty of Versailles is unfair

Many felt that the Treaty of Versailles was unfair to Germany. They assumed that once these wrongs were put right then Germany would become a peaceful nation again.

Our own economic problems are a higher priority

Britain and France were still suffering from the effects of the Depression. They had large debts and huge unemployment.



Arguments against appeasement

It encouraged Hitler to be aggressive

With hindsight, you can see that each gamble he go away with encouraged him to take a bigger risk.



It allowed Germany to grow too strong

With hindsight, you can see that Germany was not only recovering lost ground it was also becoming much more powerful than Britain or France

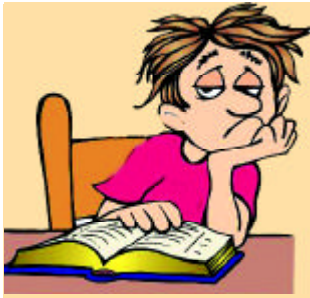
It put too much trust in Hitler's promises

With hindsight, you can see that Hitler often went back on his promises. Appeasement was based on the mistaken idea that Hitler was trustworthy.



It scared the USSR

With hindsight, you can see how the policy alarmed the USSR. Hitler made no secret of his plans to expand eastwards. Appeasement sent the message to the Soviet Union that Britain and France would not stand in Hitler's way.



What were the causes for Britain and France to follow a policy of appeasement towards Germany?

- Enmity towards Soviet Union
-
-

Munich Conference

Czechoslovakia was an independent state which came into being after the First World War. Sudetanland, a part of Czechoslovakia, was predominantly inhabited by people of Germanic origin. Hitler decided to annex this region which was an industrial centre also. When the German army reached its borders, Czechoslovakia appealed to Britain and France for help. But these countries helped Hitler. In September 1938, the representatives of Britain, France, Germany and Italy met in the German city of Munich and approved the claim of Germany over Sudetanland. Sudetanland was to be ceded to Germany. This decision was taken without consulting Czechoslovakia nor Russia who had concluded a treaty with the former. But Germany conquered the whole of Czechoslovakia on the strength of the Munich agreement. Upon this, Britain and France stopped the policy of appeasement and made preparations for war.

In an essay titled "On the Brink of War", Nehru said: "If England, France and Russia stand united, the Nazi invasion could have been stopped". Do you agree with this statement?



Germany signed a Non-aggression Pact with Soviet Union in 1939, though she was considered as an enemy. Accordingly, both the countries agreed not to attack each other and to partition Poland. Thus Hitler was able to avoid a possible invasion from Soviet Union. It also enabled Soviet Union to prepare herself to face an invasion from Germany which she was expecting any time.



Non - aggression pact - a Cartoon



Examine the circumstances under which soviet Union, on the forefront of anti-Fascist struggles, signed the Non-aggression Pact with Fascist Germany.

Beginning of the War

After signing the Non-aggression Pact with Soviet Union, Germany turned against Poland. Hitler demanded the Polish Corridor which separated East Prussia from Germany and the city of Danzig. Poland did not concede. On 18th September, 1939, Germany invaded Poland on the pretext that Poland invaded the German radio station. Britain and France joined hands with Poland and declared war on Germany. Thus began the Second World War.

War-time Alliances

Even before the commencement of the War, Italy and Germany had come to an understanding to assist each other. It was known as the Rome-Berlin Axis. In 1937 Japan joined this alliance and thus was formed the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis. They were generally known as Axis Powers.

Britain, France and China came together and formed the Allied powers. It was an anti-Fascist alliance. Later Soviet Union and America joined the Allies.

Secret Plan

The Axis powers prepared a plan for conquering the whole world. Germany would proceed to the East by conquering Central Europe and Central Asia. Italy would move towards the East after conquering North Africa and West Asia. Far East and South East Asia would be conquered by Japan by moving towards the West. These three powers would meet at Delhi. But the entry of Soviet Union and America in the war foiled this plan.

Hitler's Programme

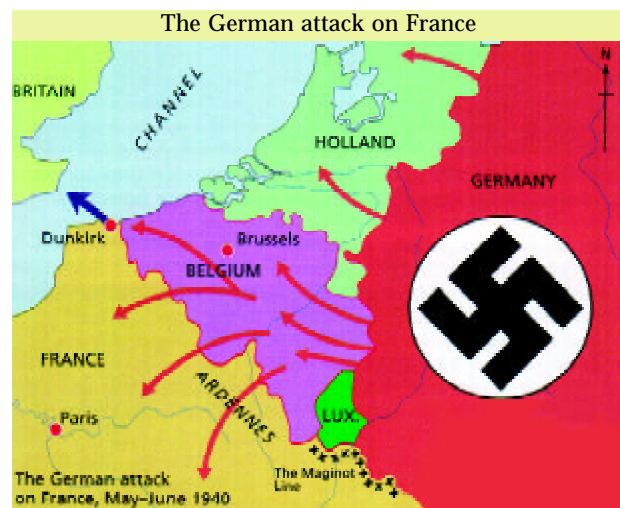
- 1933 Germany withdraws from the League of Nations and begins militarisation
- 1934 Attempts to conquer Austria, but Mussolini prevents him
- 1935 Germany conducts a huge military rally
- 1936 Compulsory military service is proclaimed in Germany. German army is sent to Rhineland. Enters into an Anti-Communist Pact with Japan
- 1937 German arms are tested in the Spanish Civil War. Enters into an Anti-Communist pact with Italy
- 1938 Sudetanland and Austria are conquered
- 1939 Remaining parts of Czechoslovakia and Poland are invaded

Phoney War

Though Britain and France declared war on Germany, a direct confrontation was avoided. They kept out after giving aid to Poland. Hence the period from September 1939 to April 1940 came to be known as 'Phoney War'. This was a period when no big war took place. After conquering Poland, Germany turned against Norway and Denmark. Then Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg were conquered.

France surrenders

In June 1940 the combined forces of Germany and Italy invaded and occupied Paris. Pushed to the wall, the French army



Time Line towards War

1929-30

Great Depression

- Unemployment
- Inflation
- Poverty and starvation
- The countries which co-operated with each other before the depression now became self-seeking.

1931-33

Machurian Crisis

Japan conquered Machuria to expand their commerce; League of Nations failed to intervene. This encouraged other nations to do whatever they liked. League became defunct.

1934-36

Abyssinian Crisis

Mussolini conquered Abyssinia in order to get control over Africa. League failed to help Abyssinia. League collapsed.

1936-38

Hitler denounced the Treaty of Versailles.

He sent his army to Rhineland. Austria was annexed to Germany. Britain and France failed to stop Germany.

1938

Munich Agreement

Hitler conquered Sudetanland. Britain and France accepted this on condition that no further conquests would be made.

1939

Hitler Conquered Czechoslovakia.

Britain and France threatened Germany with war if she committed any more aggression.

1939

Nazi-Soviet No War Pact

Hitler entered into a No War Pact with Soviet Union. Poland was partitioned.

1939

Hitler conquered Poland

Britain and France declared war on Germany. The War begins.



- Discuss how each incident pushed the world close to a war.

surrendered. The province of Alsace-Lorraine was annexed by Germany.

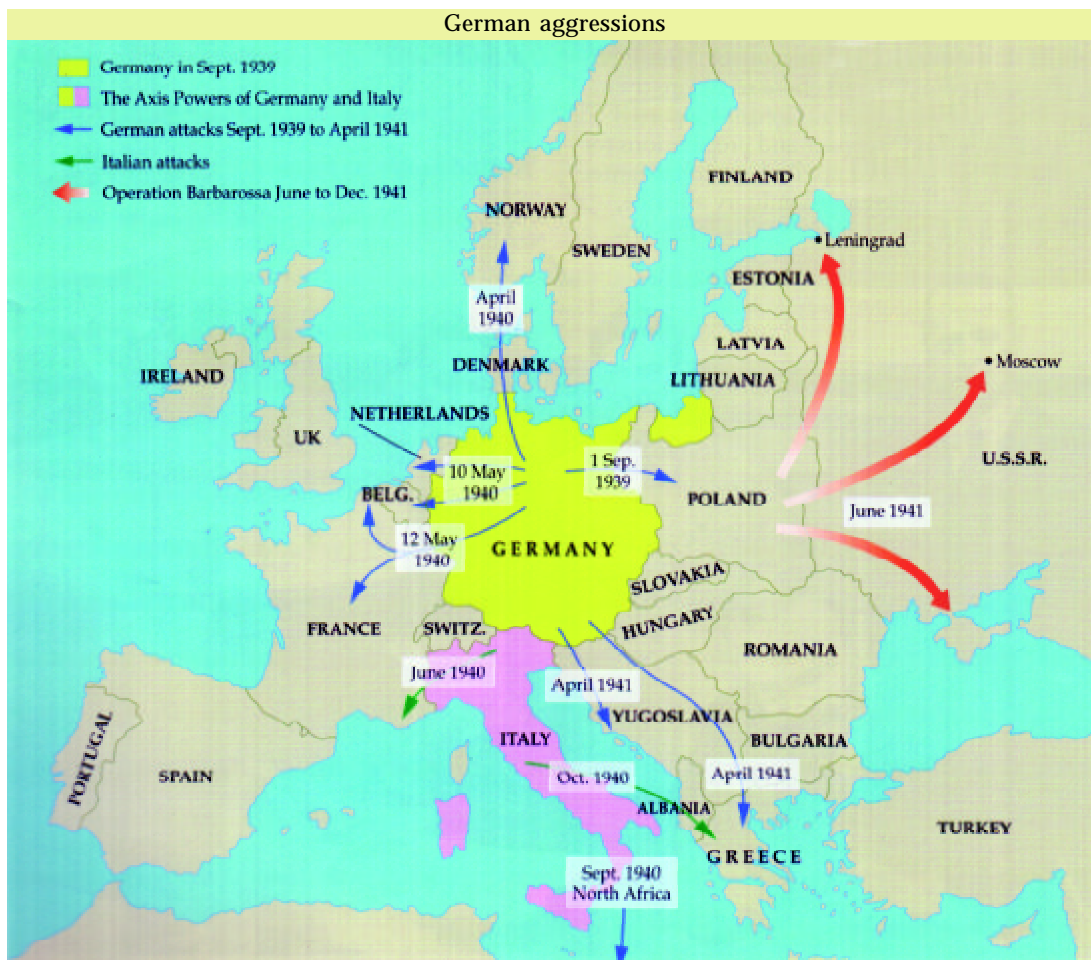
Battle of Britain

With the occupation of France, it was evident that the aim of Hitler was the invasion of Britain. The German plan to invade Britain was named 'Sea Lion'. German air force bombarded Britain. This was known as Blitzkrieg. Britain retaliated under the leadership of Winston Churchill. America rushed to the help of Britain without directly participating in the war. This war, known as "Battle of Britain", brought unexpected reversals to Germany.

During this period Italy conquered North Africa. She occupied Somaliland, Eritria and the Sudan. Germany occupied Greece, Yugoslavia and a major portion of North Africa. Thus the whole of Europe except Britain and Soviet Union was occupied by the Axis Powers.

Soviet Union enters the war

Emboldened by the recent victories, Hitler invaded Soviet Union in June 1941, by ignoring the No War pact. The German army conquered many parts of Russia and reached the outskirts of Moscow. Soviet Union struck back heavily. The Russian winter proved too



Do you think that it was the German invasion of Russia that changed the course of the Second World War? Discuss.

hostile to the German army. In the historic Battle of Stalingrad Germans were defeated. Millions of Soviet people became martyrs in this war. Vast farmlands and several industries were severely damaged. The Soviet people met the Nazi invasion unitedly and against heavy odds.

Operation Barbarossa

The secret name of the Nazi plan to invade Soviet Union was Operation Barbarossa. Prevention of Communism, destruction of Soviet Union and settling Germans there, annihilation of the Jews, enslavement of the Slav race, etc. were the objectives of Hitler behind the invasion of Soviet Union.

Enter America

The War was taken to Asia and America by Japan, the ally of Fascist powers. On December 7, 1941, Japan bombarded the American naval base at Pearl Harbour. Forced to enter the War, America declared war on Japan. America also declared war on Italy and Germany when these countries

proceeded to assist Japan. Thus the War spread to all parts of the world.

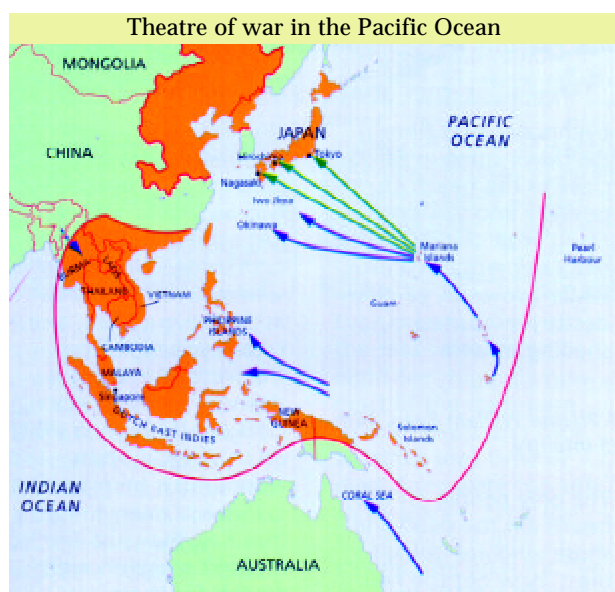
Pearl Harbour

Pearl Harbour was the American naval base in the island of Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean. America utilised this base to control Japan, Philippines, Singapore, etc. Japan bombarded Pearl Harbour with a view to preventing the entry of America into Asia and thwarting the Americans in the Pacific.

End of War

In June 1944 the Anglo-American forces opened a new front in the West to liberate France from German occupation. The Anglo-American forces landed at Normandy on the French coast and drove away the Nazi forces from Holland and Belgium. They liberated France and entered Germany from the West. The Soviet army liberated East Europe and entered Germany from the East. On 2nd May, 1945 the Soviet army captured the German capital, Berlin. Hitler committed suicide. Germany surrendered on 7th May. The Allied forces captured the northern regions of Italy in April 1945. Mussolini was murdered by the people. Thus ended Fascist regime in Italy.

After the cessation of the war in Europe the Allied forces moved towards the East and asked Japan to surrender. Japan refused. The Soviet army moved towards Japan through the trans-Siberian route. Before they reached Japan, America dropped atom bombs in Hiroshima on 6th August and in Nagasaki on 9th August, 1945. On 15th August Japan surrendered. Thus ended the second world war.



Hiroshima and Nagasaki



For the first time in history, atom bombs were dropped in the Japanese city of Hiroshima at 8.15 am on Monday, 6th August, 1945. More than one lakh people died immediately. About 74000 persons died in Nagasaki as a result of the dropping of the atom bomb at 11.02 am on 9th August. There is no estimate of the number of people who died as a result of atomic radiation after the War. The names of the two bombs were 'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man'.



Could the Allied Powers have defeated Japan without the use of atom bombs? What were the reasons which led to the use of the bomb?

After the War

The Allied Powers convened a meeting at Potsdam to discuss the nature of treaties to be concluded with the vanquished powers. Accordingly, Germany was divided into four regions. Each region was taken over by one of the victorious nations, viz., Britain, America, France and Soviet Union. Britain,

America and France accused Soviet Union of trying to make East Germany a Communist state and unified the regions under their control into a democratic state. This was known as the federal Republic of Germany. East Germany, controlled by Soviet Union, came to be known as German Democratic Republic.

Berlin Wall



War for Profit !

The country which benefited most out of the War was America. Like in the First World War, no battle was fought in America during the Second World War too. But most of the combating nations used the arms and ammunitions manufactured by American companies. American companies earned profit through the sale of pharmaceutical goods. Thus the Second World War was a boon to America. She became rich. Most nations became her debtors. America became the "arsenal of democracy".

Ferocity of the War

The Second World War had devoured about forty million people. It was Soviet Union which tried hard to defeat the Nazis and had suffered the loss of the greater number of men. Many countries suffered from epidemics. Cities and buildings were razed to the ground. Factories, farms, roads, rail tracks,

communication systems, etc. were destroyed. Each nation was faced with the grave problems of inflation, price hike, famine, unemployment, health hazards, poverty and similar other problems. Millions became refugees. The Second World War was so ferocious.



"Each gun manufactured, each cruiser launched and each rocket fired, in the final analysis, is robbed off from the hungry man who did not eat and the naked man who shivers in cold. A militarised world not only squanders money but also the bread of the toiling, the wisdom of the scientist and the aspirations of the children". Examine this statement of President Eisenhower of America.

Colonies become free

Anti-colonial struggles were further intensified in Asia and Africa when the War came to an end. The imperialist nations could not suppress these liberation movements. Colonies began to liberate themselves from the imperialist control. What were the factors which led this process of decolonisation?

You have studied the struggle for Independence in India against the British. The British left the country after dividing the it into two. Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon

(Sri Lanka) also became independent. In Gold Coast (Ghana) the liberation struggle under Kwame Nkrumah became successful. In 1980 Southern Rhodesia became independent under the name of Zimbabwe. Thus the 'Empire where the Sun Never Set' disappeared. Countries like Spain, Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Holland were compelled to grant independence to their colonies as a result of intensive struggles. With the liberation of Namibia in 1990, European colonial rule came to an end in Africa.



Discuss the circumstances which led to the disintegration of the British Empire over which the sun never set. Prepare a chart of the British colonies which became independent.

Vietnam War

The Vietnam War was entirely different from the kind of anti-colonial struggles which took place elsewhere. The countries of Laos, Campuchia and Vietnam were together known as Indo-China, a French colony.

During the Second World War Japan occupied Indo-China. The liberation struggle against Japan in Vietnam was led by Ho Chi Minh. The Vietnamese people resisted Japan forming a popular liberation army called Viet Min. When the Second

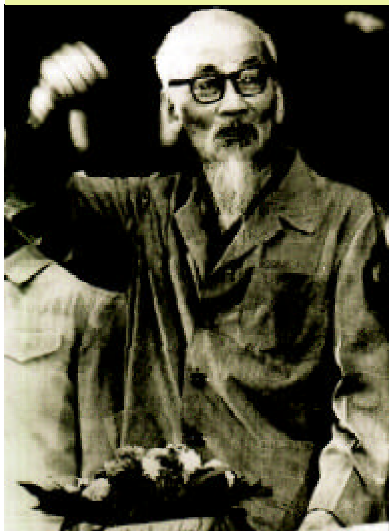


Children fleeing seared by Napam Bombing

World War ended in 1945 the Democratic Republic of Vietnam came into being with Ho Chi Minh as President. The French army came to Vietnam in 1946 to recapture their lost power. America helped the French. Vietnam put up a heroic resistance. In 1954 the French were defeated at Dien Bien Phu by the Vietnamese army. The French came round for an agreement.

The Geneva Conference of 1954 decided to divide Vietnam at the 17th parallel into north and south and to hold elections in the two regions within two years. But the Government which came to power in South Vietnam with the help of America was not ready to respect the Geneva Agreement. The establishment of Communist regime in Vietnam was their possible apprehension. Popular revolts began in 1960 in South

Ho Chi Minh



Vietnam. North Vietnam was accused of instigating these revolts and hence America unleashed war on her. America used biological weapons such as the Napam Bomb, which destroyed only the living beings. Even children were not spared. Several North Vietnamese villages were burnt. World opinion turned against American brutalities in Vietnam. Processions were held in several countries

Korean War

When Japan surrendered at the end of the Second World War, Korea which was under the control of Japan, was divided into two at



the 38th Parallel. North Korea came under the control of Soviet Union and South Korea under America. Though Soviet Union and America withdrew from Korea, the two nations were not unified. The enmity between the two countries became intense. In 1950 war broke out between the two countries. China came to the help of North Korea and America supported South Korea. The United Nations denounced North Korea and passed a resolution in support of South Korea. The War which lasted for three years ended in 1953. The two Koreas are not united till date.

proclaiming solidarity with the people of Vietnam. Anti-American opinion became strong.

Left with no other option, America was forced to withdraw from Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam on 30th April, 1975. In 1976 Vietnam was unified. Ho Chin Minh, who passed away during the course of the war, was commemorated by renaming Saigon as Ho Chin Minh city. The Vietnam War was a great rebuff to America.

National movement in South Africa

The national movement in South Africa had the dimension of a struggle against racial discrimination. The white minority Government of the country was highly discriminatory towards the black majority. Through the struggle against this policy of Apartheid led by African National Congress, South Africa won independence. In the elections held in 1994 African National Congress was voted to power and a government was formed under its leader Nelson Mandela. The transfer of power from the White to the Black was a milestone in the history of the 20th century.



Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was the heroic leader of the black people of South Africa who fought against the white minority rule and their policy of racial discrimination. He was the leader of the African National Congress, the members of which were predominantly black. He led the struggle against the policy of Apartheid for which he was accused of treason and imprisoned in 1962. After 28 long years of solitary confinement he was released in 1990. World opinion was raised against racial discrimination of South Africa and for the release of Mandela. The U.N.O imposed embargo on South Africa against her policy of 'Apartheid'. It was as a result of this global pressure that Mandela was released. After his release he held conversations with the President P.W.de Clerk and became successful in the abolition of Apartheid. As the leader of African National Congress which came out victorious in the elections held in 1994, Mandela became the President of the country. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1993.

Chinese Revolution

You have learnt about the establishment of the Chinese Communist Party in 1921. It was under the leadership of Mau Ze Dong that the Chinese Revolution took place. The policies of the government of Koumingtang were extremely anti-people. Chiang Kei Shek ruled the country like a dictator. The government protected the interests of the industrialists and the big land lords. The workers and the peasants were tired of this rule. The government was not able to prevent the Japanese occupation of Manchuria.



Mao Ze Dong greets people

Mao found that the peasants were the chief revolutionary force of the country and therefore they were organised and fought against the Koumintang government. He organised the Red Army for this. He conducted the 'Long March' in order to escape from the attack of Chiang Kei Shek. The March began on the 16th October 1934 from Kang Shi and ended at Shensi after covering 6000 miles on foot within one year. They crossed 18 mountain ranges, 24 rivers and 12 provinces. They captured 62 cities. Land from big land lords was confiscated and distributed among the land less peasants.

When Japan invaded China in 1937, the Communists and Koumintang formed a united front to resist the common enemy. In 1945 when the Japanese were defeated, the Communists revived their struggle against Koumintang. America helped them by supplying men, money and weapons to fight the Communists. But the People's Army under the leadership of Red Army fought against the Koumintang by adopting techniques of Guerilla war. On 23rd April, 1949, the Koumintang capital of Nanking

was captured by the Red Army. Chiang Kei Shek and his army fled to the island of Formosa. On 1st October 1949, the People's Republic of China came into being with Mao Ze Dong as the Chairman and Shou En Lai as Prime Minister.

Expansion of Socialism

The changes brought about by the Second World War led to the expansion of socialism. Socialist government came to power in the East European countries of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Socialist ideology gathered strength in West European countries like France and Italy. Asian countries like China and Vietnam and many countries of Africa came under the influence of socialism. The upper hand gained by socialist ideology the world over scared the capitalist countries. The capitalist countries were afraid of the spread of socialism and these countries under the leadership of America tried to destroy socialism.





Winston Churchill looks through the 'Iron Curtain' - British cartoon

Iron Curtain Speech

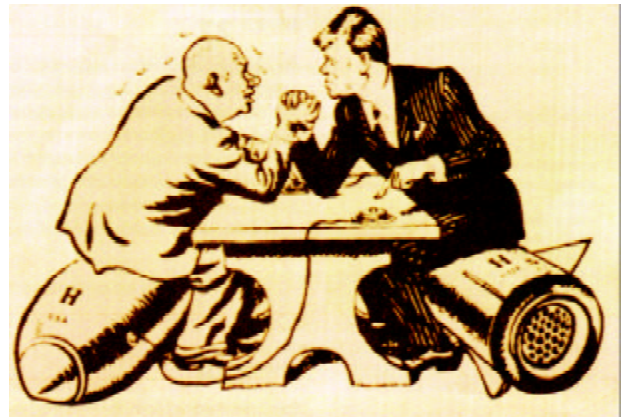


Winston Churchill sets out to deliver his Foulton speech

"A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory. From Stettin on the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended. Behind that line lie all the states of central and eastern Europe. The Communist parties have been raised to power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control. This is certainly not the liberated Europe we fought to build. Nor is it one which allows permanent peace. (Winston Churchill speaking in the USA, in the prresence of President Truman, March 1946).

Cold War

America and the Soviet Union became super powers after the Second World War. The friendship and alliance which they established during the War had come to an end after the War. The world was divided



Coldwar-Cartoon in the English News paper 'Daily Mail'

into blocs on the basis of ideological differences. They were the Socialist bloc under the leadership of Soviet Union and the Capitalist bloc under America. However, the enmity nurtured by these blocs did not assume the nature of an open war. Hence it was known as Cold War. In the anti-colonial struggle the two blocs were on either side.

Policy of Containment

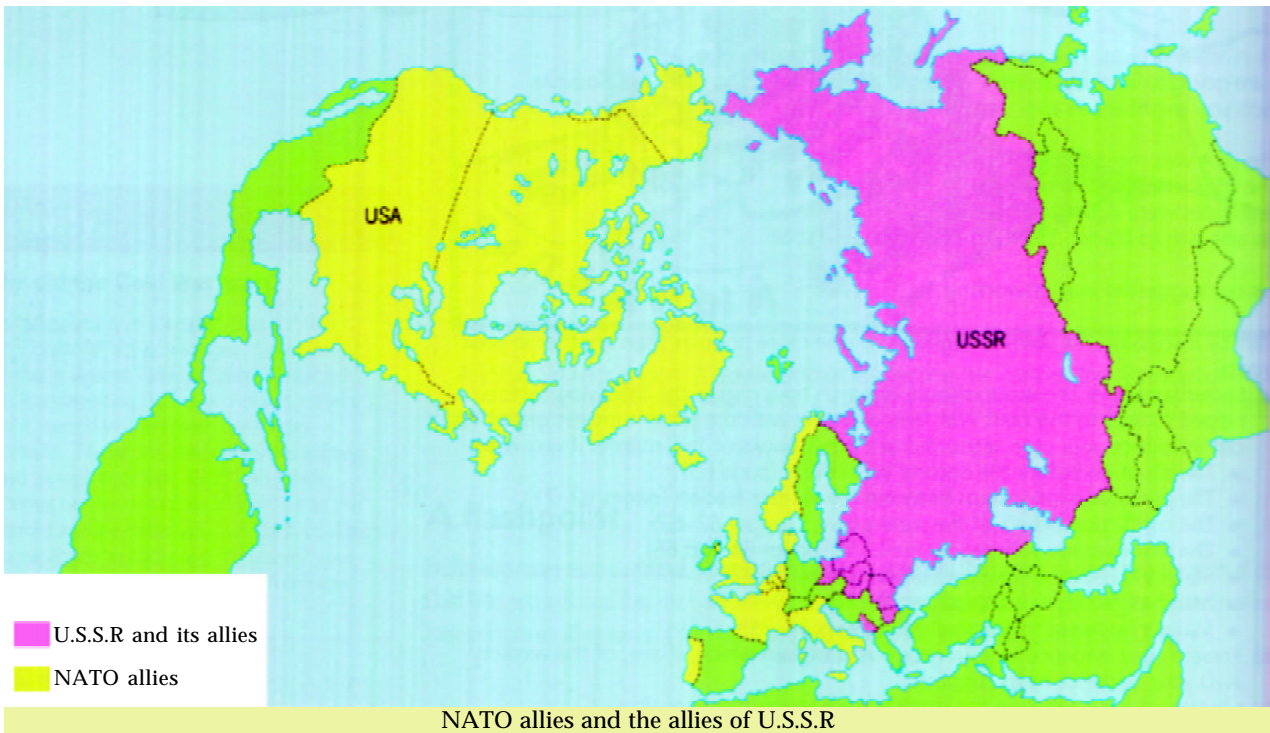
The attempt made by America to contain Communism within the borders of Soviet Union was the main plank of their foreign policy. America tried to keep the newly independent nations with her by extending all kinds of assistance to them.

The phrase 'Cold War' was first used by the American diplomat Bernard Berooch. The book written by Walter Lipman titled *Cold War* gave currency to this idea.

Cold war was neither a state of war nor of peace. It was a diplomatic war. Ideological hatred and political distrust were the bases of this phenomenon.

Military Pacts

The mutual distrust and fear generated by the Cold War led to the formation of military pacts and alliances. America organised military alliances against the Socialist bloc under Soviet Union. Similarly Soviet Union



formed alliances against the Capitalist bloc led by America. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), South East Asian

Treaty Organisation (SEATO), Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) and the Warsaw Pact were the most important among them.



Complete the chart with the names of the member nations of each military pact with the help of the world map.

NATO	SEATO	CENTO	WARSAW PACT
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•

UNO and World Peace

The destructions caused by the Second World War made it clear that an international organisation was essential for ensuring world peace and security. World leaders had made several efforts in that direction. War

time conferences were convened for the realisation of this objective. As a result, the United Nations Organisations came into being on 24th October, 1945. A detailed discussion of the UNO is given elsewhere.

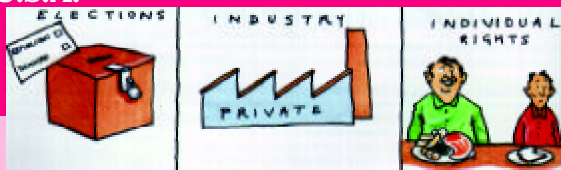
The UNO intervened in international events to find peaceful solutions to them. But a criticism exists that it is a puppet in the hands of the super powers. The countries of South America and Africa are not represented in the Security Council of UNO. It is alleged that the UNO became an agency

to implement the American agenda after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It is said that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which function with the financial backing of America, implement policies beneficial to that country.



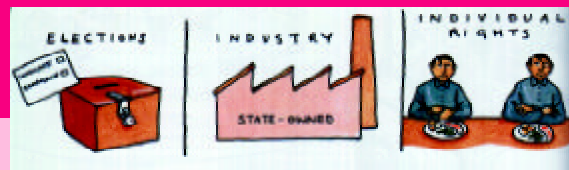
Discuss the important challenges faced by the UNO in the changing international context.

U.S.A.



- American society is rooted in two ideals: Democracy and Capitalism.
- By democracy it is meant that The President and the US Congress(Parliament) come to power through free elections.
- Capitalism means that wealth, property, etc. are owned by individuals or companies.
- USA is a wealthy state. But Islands of wealth and poverty exist side by side.
- To an American individual freedom (freedom of expression and profession) is more important than right to equality.
- Most Americans are proud of their life style.
- They wish that other nations would also follow their life style. They fear that Communism would obstruct their free life. They are apprehensive about Communist revolution.
- Americans think that the policies of the state should be beneficial to them. They prefer individual interest to state interest.

U.S.S.R.



- Soviet society is rooted in Communist ideology.
- Single party rule exists there. They practise election. But all seats are won by Communists.
- Industries are in public sector and owned by the State.
- Unemployment and poverty are less. But the standard of living of an average Soviet citizen is below that of an American.
- Welfare of the society is given priority over individual rights. Hence several restrictions on the freedom of the individual. Eg: Freedom of movement, Freedom to practice any profession etc.
- Communist writers wish that Communist revolutions should also take place in other countries
- Most Soviet citizens oppose Capitalism.



The conflict between two different social systems led to the Cold War. Discuss?

Third World and Non-Alignment

When the world was divided into two blocs, many newly independent states of Asia and Africa decided not to join any of these blocs and remained independent. These countries, which suffered under long years of colonial oppression, came to be known as Third World Countries. These countries were economically and politically ruined.

The Non-Alligned Movement was initiated at the conference held at Bandung in Indonesia in 1955.

Architects of the Movement

- Nehru (India)
- Tito (Yugoslavia)
- Nasser (Egypt)
- Sukarno (Indonesia)

The draft proposal of the Non-aligned movement was prepared at the conference held at Brion in Yugoslavia in 1956. It was officially declared in 1961 at the Belgrade Conference. Non-aligned movement is a policy of neither neutrally nor non intervention. It demands the active intervention in the international events.

Imperialism and Late Capitalism

In the post-War period, a new kind of imperialism emerged. There is no direct conquest or political hegemony. It triumphs with the capitalist countries intervene in the economic and cultural lives of the people of other countries. Some multi-national companies work behind this. It is known as neo-imperialism. The multinational companies of Europe and America which aim to control the resources of the world put forward this ideology of late capitalism through the capitalist countries. It is also known as globalisation.



World Social Forum held in Mumbai

Protest movements are organised throughout world against globalisation by raising the idea that 'another world is possible'. The collective effort of these protests is the World Social Forum. It is the concerted efforts of human rights activists, environmentalists, trade unions, peasants, youths and activists.

Disintegration of the Soviet Union

The world was bewildered at the disintegration of Soviet Union. The country which held out an alternative to capitalism disintegrated in 1991. The deviation from the basic principles of socialism caused its disintegration. The external interventions as part of globalisation weakened the Soviet Union. The policies adopted by Mikhail



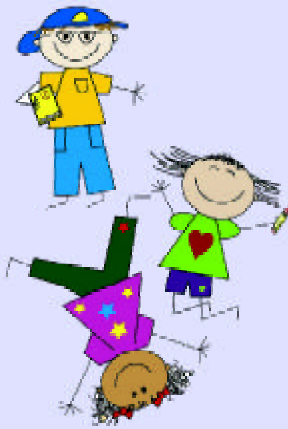
Gorbachev

Gorbachev, who came to power in 1985, led the country to the capitalist path. This led to internal problems both in the party and government and corruption became rampant.

With the resignation of Gorbachev from the office of the President on 25th December,

1991, Soviet Union formally came to an end. Fifteen independent states appeared in its place. With the disintegration of Soviet Union, there is no power to question the pretensions of imperialist powers. The bipolar world came to an end and a unipolar world took its place.

Activities



Can you see differences in strategy and the use of technology as well as the results between the two World Wars? Hold a discussion based on the following points:

- Modernity of weapons
 - Differences in the strategy of war
 - Destructive turn of science and technology
 - Horror of war
 - Shifts in the balance of power
 - Results of the war
-
- Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo were responsible for the Second World War. Discuss.
 - Does the Second World War bring home the necessity of disarmament? Discuss.
 - By organising the neutral nations did the Non-Aligned Movement succeed in reducing the intensity of Cold War? Discuss.
 - Prepare a speech on the topic 'If another world war breaks out'.
 - Conduct an anti-war exhibition by collecting reports, news and pictures related to war.
 - How do neo-imperialism and late capitalism affect the countries of Asia, Africa and South America? Hold a discussion based on contemporary global events.
 - Prepare a note based on the autobiography and biography of Gandhiji on the humiliations suffered by him in South Africa as a result of racial discrimination.
 - Prepare an article on the challenges raised by Cold War to world peace.
 - Conduct a debate on the impact of the disintegration of Soviet Union on international politics and contemporary events.