

Section IV: International Relations

Introduction



You may have read in the newspapers about the Indian Prime Minister meeting with the President of the United States or President of Russia. There would also be news about some foreign dignitaries visiting India. This is international relations. But all this seems so far away. You may feel that this has nothing to do with your daily life. But think again.

When there is a rise in petrol and diesel prices in India you feel the pinch. Why did the petrol price rise? Newspapers would tell you that the reason for this is tensions in the region of West Asia. We import petroleum and when its supply is affected by some conflicts in the region where it is produced, prices rise. Maybe, someone whom you know from the Indian Army lost his life on the border

in Kashmir. Such news is not something that is happening far away. It has something to do with your daily life. All this is also a subject matter of international relations.

History and Geography

History and geography are important in understanding international relations. Look at the world map. The world map will give you the locations of countries. It will give you information of where India is located and who are its neighbours. Similarly, you would understand the locations of countries of Europe, United States, China and Russia. History is not just a chronology of events; it helps us to understand how changes have taken place in the world.

It is also a study of war, of diplomacy, of treaties, agreements, etc. All this is part of international relations.

Subject matter of International Relations

When was international relations studied as a separate subject? The First World War had seen a massive devastation. People believed that it was necessary to avoid any future conflict. It is in the memory of the soldiers who died in this war that the University College of Wales (now Aberystwyth University, United Kingdom) started the study of international relations in 1919. The initial focus was on how to avoid wars and establish peace. Later on, the focus widened to include political, economic, socio-cultural issues besides security problems.

Some of the important questions that international relations tries to answer are: Why do nations behave as they do? The answer to that is that nations will take decisions to protect their interests. They protect their national interest. Foreign policies of countries are based on their national interests.

This section provides a survey of major events since the end of the Second World War. The purpose is to understand the policies of countries since the Second World War. It will look at such concepts like cold war and nonalignment. It will discuss the role of the United Nations.

The two chapters in this section are as follows:

Chapter IX : The World since 1945 (I) : This chapter deals with the events from the end of the Second World War until 1959. The main focus of this chapter is on the cold war and the growth of regionalism in Asia and Africa.

Chapter X : The World since 1945 (II) : This chapter deals with the period from 1959 until 1991. It looks at the changes that came about in the sixties. They include the growth of nonalignment and the changes that took place during cold war. The chapter ends with the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. The changes that took place after 1991 are to be studied in the XIIth standard.



9. The World since 1945 - I

The period between the end of the First World War (1919) and the beginning of the Second World War (1939) was a period of change in international relations. The League of Nations was created as an international organisation to establish peace and order in the world. However, the conflicts in Europe did not stop and eventually the world experienced yet another war.

It is after the Second World War that several important changes took place in world affairs that are relevant to the contemporary times. These changes became the foundation of the world order that was to emerge in the post second world war era. It saw the beginning of the era of 'Cold War'. This chapter presents an overview of the key events that have taken place in the world since 1945.

Effects of the Second World War

The changes that had begun in the inter war years took a more concrete shape in the aftermath of the Second World War. These changes now included the following:

(i) End of the primacy of Europe :

The world had been described as 'Eurocentric' because of the dominant position enjoyed by the main European powers in the 19th and the early 20th century. The Second World War had seen the defeat of the major European powers including Germany, France and Italy. United Kingdom witnessed severe devastation. On the other hand, the United States and Soviet Union emerged as new powers. With the European powers having lost

their importance the world ceased to be 'Eurocentric'. The emergence of United States and Soviet Union as two important players in world affairs also diminished the importance of the European powers.

(ii) Division of Europe :

During the Second World War the Soviet forces occupied the area of Eastern Europe. The Western countries of United States, France and United Kingdom occupied the area of Western Europe. After the defeat of Germany and the end of the war, both sides wanted to retain their influence on the areas under their control. With the end of the war Europe was divided into East and West Europe.

(iii) Role of Ideology :

The Bolshevik revolution of 1917 had brought in a new factor in international relations: role of ideology. The revolution created the Soviet Union as a Socialist State. The East European states that were under the influence of the Soviet Union adopted the socialist ideology. The West European states that were under the American influence adopted the capitalist ideology. Now the division of Europe had a new dimension, that of ideology.

(iv) United Nations :

The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 was another important milestone. The objective was to use international organisations as a means to establish peace and security. The UN was to substitute the League of Nations as an international organisation.



- (v) **Rise of Asia :** Yet another important trend that one can see in the post Second World War era is the rise of anti-colonial or national liberation struggles in Asia and Africa. This eventually lead to countries of Asia and Africa attaining freedom from colonial rule.



Do you know ?

The main Organs of the United Nations (UN):

- (i) **General Assembly :** The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All the members of the UN are represented in the General Assembly.
- (ii) **Security Council :** The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members).
- (iii) **Economic and Social Council :** The Economic and Social Council is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- (iv) **Trusteeship Council :** The Trusteeship Council was

established to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories. Steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence. By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence. The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994.

- (v) **International Court of Justice :** The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its seat is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- (vi) **Secretariat :** The Secretariat comprises the Secretary-General and UN staff members, who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN. The Secretary-General is chief administrative officer of the Organisation. He is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year term.

Find it.

- (1) Total membership of UN.
- (2) Permanent members of the Security Council.
- (3) Location of the Head Quarters of the UN.
- (4) Names and tenure of all the Secretary Generals of the UN.

Role of the United Nations

- (i) **Maintain International Peace and Security :** The United Nations came into being in 1945 with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN does this by working to prevent conflict; helping parties in conflict make peace; peacekeeping; and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish.
- (ii) **Protect Human Rights :** The promotion and protection of human rights is a key purpose and guiding principle of the UN. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created.
- (iii) **Deliver Humanitarian Aid :** One of the purposes of the United Nations is “to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.”

The international community relies of the UN to coordinate humanitarian relief operations in times of natural and man-made disasters.

- (iv) **Promote Sustainable Development :** The global understanding of development has changed over the years. The UN seeks to promote sustainable development, that is, development that promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and protection of the environment.
- (v) **Uphold International Law :** The development of and respect for international law has been a key part of the work of the Organisation. This work is carried out in many ways - by courts, tribunals, multilateral treaties and by the Security Council.



Do you know ?

The name ‘United Nations’ was coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War. In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organisation to draw up the United Nations Charter. India was a founding member of the United Nations. It joined the UN in October 1945.

Find out!

UN Peace Keeping is an important activity conducted for the maintenance of peace and security. In which countries did India send its armed forces for UN Peace Keeping activity?

Cold War

The division of Europe between East and West Europe led to tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. It is this confrontation between United States and Soviet Union in Europe that gave rise to the Cold War. The term cold war has been used to describe the nature of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. This confrontation had several dimensions:

(i) **Political** : One was the aspect of struggle for political influence over the areas under the control of the two countries. Areas under Soviet influence included East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania. Areas under United States influence included Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, West Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Greece and United Kingdom. Finland was forced to opt for neutrality to ensure that both the United States and the Soviet Union did not clash in the region.

(ii) **Ideological** : Eastern Europe adopted socialist ideology under the influence of the Soviet Union and followed a socialist form of government. Western Europe adopted capitalist ideology under the leadership of the United States. These countries had democratic governments.

(iii) **Economic**: East European countries with socialist governments followed the socialist economic system. This meant that the government or the public sector would play a dominant role in the economic system. West European countries that followed the democratic system of government



Do you know ?

Division of Berlin : When the Second World War ended the Soviets had control over East Germany while the United States, United Kingdom and France had control over West Germany. This was the division of Germany. The city of Berlin that was the capital of Germany was also

divided between East and West Berlin. East Berlin was under Soviet influence while West Berlin was under American, British and French control. The city of Berlin lies inside the territory of East Germany. Thus, West Berlin was surrounded by East Germany from all sides.



Map showing location of Berlin

had a capitalist form of economy. Here the private sector played a dominant role in the economic system.

- (iv) **Security:** Military alliances were created in Europe to protect these countries. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was created in 1949 as a military alliance to defend West European countries and the United States from the threat of invasion from the Soviet Union and East Europe. Warsaw Pact was created in 1955 to defend East European countries and the Soviet Union from the threat from Western Europe and the United States.

While there was no actual war between the United States and the Soviet Union, there existed a continuous state of tension between the two countries. The term cold war is used to describe this situation: a state of tension but no actual war. Thus, the two adversaries were preparing for a possible war that did not take place.

Now we would look at some of the major events and trends that have taken place since 1945. This is a brief survey of events and trends.

Phases of Cold War

Phase: 1945 to 1949/50 (Formative years)

This is the formative phase when cold war takes shape. The focus is on the division of Europe on the basis of political, ideological, economic and military aspects. The political division was based on the influence and control over the areas of East and West Europe; ideological differences in goals and aspirations of these countries; the economic

division on economic policies and military division on the creation of military alliances. This division of the world in two groups or blocs is sometimes called the East-West division. The East represented the countries of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the West represented the countries of Western Europe and the United States.



Do you know ?

Iron Curtain : The former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill during his visit to the United States in 1946 gave a speech at the Westminster College in Fulton where he described the situation in Europe as “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent.”. This speech was the first clear expression of the division of Europe between the West and the East.

Find out.

Who are the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)?

In Asia there were some significant developments:

- (i) India became independent in 1947. This was a success of Asian anticolonial struggle.
- (ii) In 1949 China became a communist country under the leadership of Mao Zedong. In 1950 it signed a military alliance with the Soviet Union.



Division of Europe after World War II



Military Alliances: NATO and Warsaw Pact

Phase: 1949/50 to 1959 (Cold war in Asia)

China's becoming communist was the beginning of a change in the politics of Asia. 1950 saw the beginning of the Korean War. It started with the attack by North Korea on South Korea. The latter approached the United Nations for help. The United Nations sent in armed forces to defend South Korea. The war lasted from 1950 to 1953. The war ended in a stalemate and Korea was divided between North Korea and South Korea.

Find out.

Did India participate in the Korean War? What was the nature of Indian participation?

A series of military alliances were made in Asia. These alliances included the following:

- ANZUS : (1952) Australia, New Zealand and US
- South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) : (1954) Thailand, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, France, UK, US
- Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) : (1955) Turkey, Iraq (Iraq withdrew in 1958), Iran (Iran withdrew in 1979) and Pakistan.
- The Soviet Union and China also signed a military alliance in 1950.

In Europe, the Soviet Union created the military alliance called Warsaw Pact in 1955. Its members were Albania (Albania withdrew in 1968), Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

The 1950s saw a change in the leadership in the Soviet Union. Joseph

Stalin died in 1953 and was succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev. Khrushchev brought in some changes in Soviet Union's policies. He brought in the policy of 'Peaceful Co-existence'. This policy meant that the Soviet socialist system and the American capitalist system could and would have to coexist. The main reason for this change was that both the United States and the Soviet Union had nuclear weapons. There was a fear that in case a nuclear war takes place the entire world would be destroyed. Therefore, there was no alternative to co-existence.

This phase also saw the growth of regionalism in Asia and Africa. India had hosted the first Asian Relations Conference in Delhi in 1947 to promote a sense of regionalism. The Asian Relations Conference brought together many leaders of the independence movements in Asia. Representatives of 25 Asian countries participated at the conference. The objectives of the conference were: (i) to bring together the leading men and women of Asia on a common platform to study the problems of common concern to the people of the continent; (ii) to focus attention on social, economic and cultural problems of the different countries of Asia; and (iii) to foster mutual contact and understanding. This conference is looked at as the beginning of the attempt to create a sense of regionalism in Asia.



Do you know ?

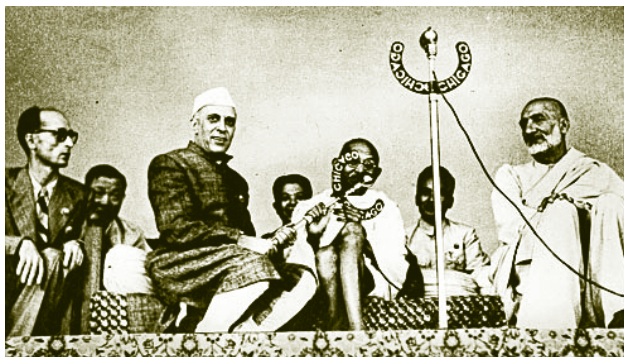
What is Regionalism?

Regional organisations are created by countries from a particular geographic region. They form groups to promote their national interest in a cooperative manner. They try to

establish their independent identity. This process of regional level cooperation is also called regionalism. While geographic linkages are important, sometimes some functional issues become the basis of regional cooperation. These can be in areas like transport and communication, energy, health, etc. The process of regionalism usually begins with a political dialogue amongst the participants. Such a dialogue may lead to the creation of an organisation. Organisations like the European Union (EU), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) or South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) are examples of such regional groupings.



Venue of the Asian Relations Conference, Delhi



Jawaharlal Nehru with Mahatma Gandhi and Khan Abdul Gafar Khan at the Asian Relations Conference

This was followed up by the Bandung conference of 1955 in Indonesia. This was the first Afro-Asian conference that sought to broad base the concept of regionalism to include the countries of Africa. The conference had 24 participating countries besides the sponsoring countries, namely Burma (now, Myanmar), Ceylon (now, Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia and Pakistan. The main purposes of the conference were:

- (i) To promote goodwill and cooperation
- (ii) To consider social, economic and cultural problems and problems of special interest to Asian and African people.
- (iii) To view the position of Asia and Africa in the world today and the contribution they can make to world peace.

The Bandung Conference was a historic event. It tried to spread the concept of regionalism to Asia and Africa.



Venue of the Afro-Asian Conference, Bandung

In Western Europe, regionalism was to take a new form. It used the logic of economic cooperation. It started with the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951.

The European Union (EU) was set up with the aim of uniting European countries

economically and politically in order to secure lasting peace. The process of this regional integration was to take a new leap forward in the form of the efforts at European integration through the creation of the European Parliament and the European Community.

In 1959 President Dwight Eisenhower of the United States and Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev of the Soviet Union met at Camp David in the United States. This was the first serious attempt at

seeking a dialogue between the two cold war rivals.



President Dwight Eisenhower of the US and Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev of the Soviet Union at Camp David (1959)



Do you know ?

In international relations the word Summit Meeting is used only when the Heads of State or Heads of Government meet to discuss issues relating to their countries.

Camp David Summit is important as it was a turning point in the history of cold war. Let us see the changes that happened after 1959 in the next chapter.

Please see the following websites for further information:

(1) World After World War II

COEP History Club COEP (College of Engineering Pune) History Club arranged the last lecture of its eighth lecture series on the topic of “World After World War II”.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=shrikant+paranjpeThe World after World War II \(in Marathi\)](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=shrikant+paranjpeThe+World+after+World+War+II+(in+Marathi))

(2) UN Peacekeeping

UN Peacekeeping is the largest and most visible representation of the United Nations. It is a collective investment in global peace, security, and stability.

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/india>



Exercise

1. (A) Choose the correct alternative and complete the following statements.

- In 1949, China became a communist country under the leadership of
(Khrushchev, Mao Zedong, Joseph Stalin, Ho Chi Minh)

- The principle of peaceful co-existence was put forth by
(Eisenhower, Joseph Stalin, Khrushchev, Jawaharlal Nehru)

(B) State the appropriate concept for the given statement.

- Period of dominance of European powers.

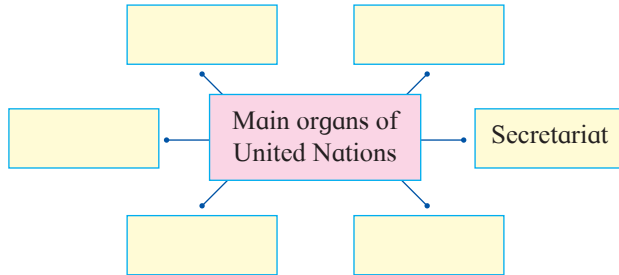


2. Conflict between America and Soviet Union.

(C) Find the odd word in the given set.

1. Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, France
2. Italy, Poland, Spain, Greece

2. (A) Complete the concept map/maps.



(B) Observe the given map and answer the following questions.

See map of Division of Europe after World War II.

- (i) Name two East European countries under the influence of Soviet Union.

- (ii) Name two West European countries under the influence of United States.

3. State whether the following statements are true or false with reasons.

1. After the Bolshevik Revolution, Soviet Russia became a capitalist nation.
2. The Bandung Conference brought cold war in Asia.

4. Answer the following.

1. Explain the term regionalism.
2. Discuss the role of United Nations.

5. Answer the following in detail with reference to the given points.

1. Elaborate the dimensions of Cold War.
(a) political (b) ideological
(c) economic (d) security

Activity :

Make a list of various regional organisations in the world.



10. The World since 1945 - II

We studied the developments since 1945 in the earlier chapter. We saw how the cold war began in Europe. We also saw the developments that took place in Asia. Let us now see the developments since 1959.

Phase 1959 to 1962 (Shifts in cold war)

The Camp David Summit began a new era in cold war. The meeting had sought to create goodwill between the two cold war adversaries. However tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union continued to escalate. In 1961 the Soviets started to erect the Berlin Wall. This wall virtually cut off the city of West Berlin from the rest of the country. People could not travel between East and West Berlin. Families and friends were cut off from each other.

In 1962 came the Cuban Missile Crisis. This was one of the most significant events of the cold war. Soviet Union placed missiles in Cuba that were a direct threat to the United States. Americans retaliated with a naval blockade of Cuba. This was the first direct confrontation between the cold war rivals. For the first time since 1945 American and Soviet naval ships faced each other and there was a real possibility of a war. It was feared that such a war would be a nuclear war. This forced the two countries to reduce tensions. The situation was de-escalated after the Soviets withdrew the missiles from Cuba.



Location of Cuba vis a vis United States



Picture of the Berlin Wall

What is a Naval Blockade?

A naval blockade is prohibiting ships from entering the port or a country. This is done by using the Navy. The United States Navy established a blockade around the island to prevent any offensive weapons from entering Cuba.

Another important development took place in the Third World in the 1960s. In 1961 the first nonaligned summit conference was held at Belgrade. The concept of nonalignment was based on two important principles: independent understanding of world affairs and peace approach. Thus the nonaligned countries were to stay away from cold war alliances. Nonalignment as a movement grew over a period of time as new countries became independent and joined the movement. The idea of nonalignment does not mean that the states would remain passive and neutral in international politics. It wants the states to participate in world affairs to promote peace and development.

Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana,

Sukarno of Indonesia and Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia were the founding members of the nonaligned movement.

The nonaligned movement has grown over the past fifty years. The Movement helped the developing world to gain economic and political rights. Today the movement faces many challenges. These include eliminating weapons of mass destruction, combating terrorism, defending human rights, working toward making the United Nations more effective, etc.



Do you know ?

The **Third World** is a collective name for the countries of Asia, Africa and South America. Most of these countries had been colonies in the past. They are also described as developing, less developed, or least developed countries. This is because they have a slow pace of industrialisation, low literacy rate and high level of population. Most of these countries have joined the nonaligned movement. During the cold war the Western capitalist economies aligned with the United States were described as the First World and the Eastern socialist economies aligned with the Soviet Union were referred to as the Second World.

The founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1960-61: (L-R) Nehru of India, Nkrumah of Ghana, Nasser of Egypt, Sukarno of Indonesia and Tito of Yugoslavia.

Since the first conference at Belgrade the movement has held regular summit meetings. The movement began with 25 members at Belgrade in 1961. Today it has 120 members.

Find out!

Make a list of the entire nonaligned summit meetings since 1961. Write the place and the year that the summit was held and the main issues discussed in the summit.

Which countries can be considered as nonaligned? The following criterion was adopted at the Belgrade Conference in 1961:

Criterion for Nonalignment
(Adopted at Belgrade, 1961)

1. The country should have adopted an independent policy based on the coexistence of states with different political and social systems.
2. Support national independence movements.
3. It should not be a member of a multi-lateral alliance concluded in the context of cold war.
4. It should not be a member of a bilateral military alliance, or a regional defence pact in the context of great power conflicts.
5. It should not concede military bases to foreign powers in the context of great power rivalry.

Phase : 1962 to 1972 (Foundations of détente)

The impact of the Cuban crisis on the progress of cold war was tremendous. It brought in a realisation of a possible nuclear confrontation and the need to de-escalate the tensions. The United States and the Soviet Union took several efforts at reducing bilateral tensions. The two countries established the Hotline as a direct telephonic link between themselves. The purpose of this Hotline was to have a direct telephone conversation between the two leaders in time of a crisis. Various agreements were also signed to reduce the nuclear weapons.

In 1972 the American President

Richard Nixon and General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Leonid Brezhnev met at Moscow. This meeting was significant as it began the process of reduction of tensions. An important agreement was signed to limit the nuclear missiles that the two countries had. The 1972 Moscow summit meeting signaled the beginning of the era of détente. Détente means reduction of tensions. The United States and the Soviet Union tried to reduce tensions between themselves.



US President Richard Nixon and General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Leonid Brezhnev met at Moscow (1972)

Find out!

Can you find out some of the summit meetings that have taken place between leaders of India and Pakistan in recent years? Who were the leaders who participated and when and where did the meetings take place?

The other significant event of this period was the breakthrough in relations between United States and China. The United States had not recognised the Communist government of China since the time of the Chinese revolution of

1949. President Richard Nixon visited China in 1972. Now, by visiting China in 1972, the United States had recognised the communist government of China. This was the first visit by an American President to China after China had become communist.



**Chairman Mao Zedong and
US President Richard Nixon (1972)**

Phase 1972 to 1979 (Détente)

Détente is not friendship. It is a process of reduction of tensions. This process began slowly. Several initiatives were taken by the United States and Soviet Union to reduce tensions. These included:

- (i) Efforts were made to halt the war in Vietnam with a conference at Paris in 1973.
- (ii) The Apollo-Soyuz joint flight was conducted in 1975
- (iii) The Helsinki Conference on Security in Europe 1975 (35 European nations including US and Soviet Union participated) was held to reduce tensions between Eastern and Western European countries.
- (iv) In 1978 the United States held a conference at Camp David to resolve the Arab Israel dispute. American

President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed a 'Framework for Peace for Middle East'. This meeting tried to reduce tensions between Israel and the Arab world.



**Postage Stamp celebrating the Apollo-Soyuz
joint flight**

This phase also saw some other significant developments. These developments had an economic significance.

- The Arab - Israel war took place in 1973. In order to put pressure on Israel, the Arab world decided to reduce the production of oil. This resulted in the sudden increase in the price of oil. This was done through the organisation called the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This resulted in the increase of petroleum prices all over the world.
- Another event was the initiative taken by the nonaligned countries. The nonaligned group placed a demand for the New International Economic Order (NIEO). The purpose was to demand participation by the poor countries in the global economic decision making process that was dominated by the rich countries.

This phase saw the growing importance of economic issues in international relations. On one hand, the political tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union were reducing. On the other hand, the Third World was becoming more active in its demands. It is during this phase that a new terminology starts to be used. The division of the world is now described as North – South division. The North represented the rich countries of the Northern Hemisphere (Soviet Union, Europe, and North America). The South represented the poor countries of the Southern Hemisphere (Countries of Asia, Africa and South America).

This was also a phase of economic interdependence. Here the cooperation is mainly on economic issues. This phase has seen the creation of organisations for economic cooperation. Now economic organisations focussed on trade as an important motive for cooperation. The idea was to remove trade barriers like customs duties. Free flow of goods from one country to the other would generate goodwill and a sense of cooperation amongst people. This is done by signing agreements for ‘Free Trade’. These organisations are also called ‘trade blocs’. This was seen in case of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union. Both these regional organisations signed free trade agreements. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was established as a ‘trade bloc’. This included Canada, United States and Mexico.

Besides these there are regional organisations established to foster a dialogue and create a stable regional environment. These organisations were to

What is a Trade Bloc?

A trade bloc is created when a group of nations make special agreements regarding their economic relationships with each other. The agreements generally focus on the relaxation or elimination of trade barriers. The most common types of trade barriers are tariffs (taxes on imports) and quotas (limits on the quantities of various imports).

promote economic and trade related cooperation. Some examples of such organisations are the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Organisation of American States (OAS) and the African Union (AU).

SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in 1985.

SAARC comprises of eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu.

The objectives of SAARC are:

- i. Promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;
- ii. Accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region;
- iii. Contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of

one another's problems;

iv. Promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields; strengthen cooperation with other developing countries.

Phase 1979 to 1985/86 (New Cold War)

Two events of 1979 changed the story of détente.

- A revolution took place in Iran and the Shah of Iran was ousted. Iran became an Islamic state under the leadership of the revolutionary Islamic leader Ayatollah Khomeini. The new government ended all its ties with the United States and also withdrew from the military alliance CENTO.
- In Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal took control as the Head of the State with the help of Soviet Union. Afghanistan became a socialist country with close military ties with the Soviet Union.

These changes brought an end to the period of détente. The new era that began has been described as 'New Cold War' because the tensions of cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union returned back.

Phase: 1985 to 1991 (The Gorbachev era)

This phase saw some significant changes in the Soviet policy. Soviet Union had a new leader Mikhail Gorbachev who brought in several changes in the policies of the country. His concepts of Perestroika and Glasnost and his visions of a new foreign policy changed the Soviet perspective. Gorbachev's new

foreign policy had the following features: (i) Open a dialogue with China; (ii) focus on arms control and disarmament; (iii) withdraw from Afghanistan; and (iv) improve relations with India.



Do you know ?

Perestroika refers to the reconstruction of the political and economic system established in the Soviet Union. The political change referred to the introduction of democratic practices like free elections and ending the monopoly of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The changes in the economic system were ending the centralised control over the Soviet economy. Economy was decentralised. The term "Glasnost" means "openness". It gave the Soviet people freedom of expression. Writers and journalists could now criticise the government's policies.

The impact of Gorbachev's new policies was felt in the domestic politics of the country. People were given the freedom to criticise the government's



Mikhail Gorbachev : General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of USSR

policies. The control of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) ended.

This was also a period that saw momentous changes taking place in East Europe. The changes in Soviet policies had their impact on the politics of East European countries. The people started to demand more political freedom. There was a popular uprising against the communist governments of Eastern Europe in 1989. This East European revolution ended the rule of communist parties in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, East Germany and Bulgaria. These countries now had democratic governments.

The winds of change that swept East Europe continued into the Soviet Union. On December 25, 1991, Gorbachev resigned as President of the Soviet Union. The next day the Supreme Soviet (Soviet Parliament) voted a formal end to the existence of the Soviet Union as a country. The Soviet Union as a country ceased to exist. The Soviet Union disintegrated and in its place new countries were created.

Find out!

Make a list of countries that were created after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

In Europe, East and West Germany unified in 1990 to create one German nation. In case of Czechoslovakia, it split to form two countries: Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Yugoslavia also split into Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia, Kosovo, and Montenegro. We thus have several new countries in Europe and in the area of the former Soviet Union.

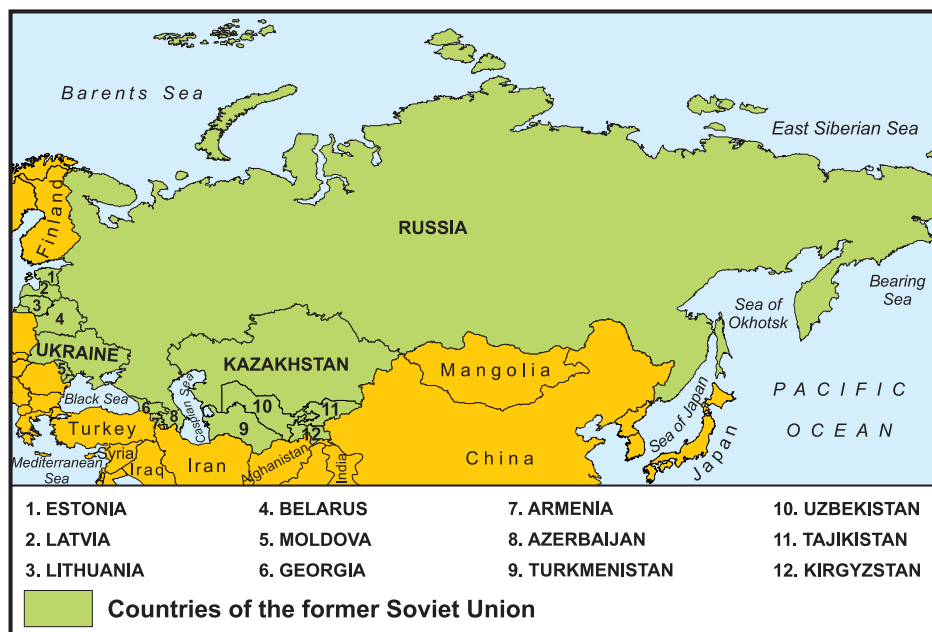
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (1991)

This was created after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. The members are the former states of the USSR. Members: Founder members: Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. Subsequent members: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Common affairs are conducted on a multilateral, interstate basis. It provides a framework for military, foreign policy and economic co-operation.

Cold war was a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union the era of cold war ended. Two new phrases came to be used to describe the world after 1991: 'Post Soviet era' and 'post-cold war era'. This new era saw the rise of China and countries like India, Brazil, and South Africa. New organisations like the World Trade Organisation (WTO), G 20 (Group of 20 countries), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) started to play an important role in world affairs.

These and some other trends we will see in the next year in the XIIth standard.



Countries of the former Soviet Union



East Europe today

Please see the following websites for further information:

(1) **History and Evolution of Non-Aligned Movement, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, August 22, 2012**

<https://mea.gov.in/in-focus-article.htm?20349/History+and+Evolution+of+NonAligned+Movement>

(2) **India and United Nations Peacekeeping Operations January 26, 2014 By Lt Gen Satish Nambiar (Retd) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India**

<https://mea.gov.in/articles-in-indian-media.htm?dtl/22776/India+and+United+Nations+Peacekeeping+Operations>

Exercise

1. (A) Choose the correct alternative and complete the following statements.

1. The _____ Missile Crisis took place in 1962.
(American, Cuban, Russian, Chinese)
2. In 1978, the United States held a conference at _____ to resolve the Arab Israel dispute.
(Camp David, Helsinki, Paris, Geneva)

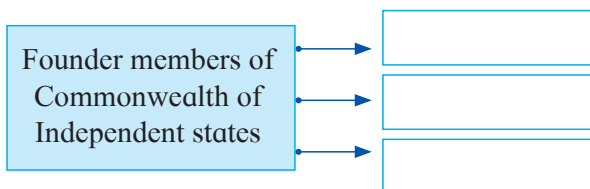
(B) Identify the incorrect pair in every set, correct it and rewrite.

- (a) Iran - Ayatollah Khomeini
- (b) Afghanistan - Babrak Karmal
- (c) Soviet Union - Richard Nixon

(C) Select the appropriate concept for the given statement.

1. Prohibiting ships from entering the port or a country.
2. Reconstruction of the political and economic system established in the Soviet Union.

2. (A) Complete the concept map/maps.



(B) Observe the given map and answer the following questions.

1. Map of East Europe today.
 - (i) Name any 4 countries formed after the disintegration of Soviet Union.

(ii) Name two neighbouring countries of Hungary.

3. State whether the following statements are true or false with reasons.

1. Non-aligned countries put forth the demand of NAFTA.
2. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the founder of ASEAN.

4. Explain the co-relation between the following.

Cold war and Non-aligned movement

5. Answer the following.

1. Explain the term - New Cold War.
2. What is a trade bloc?

6. Express your opinion on the following.

India played an important role in the Cold War.

7. Answer the following in detail with reference to the given points.

Elaborate the period of Détente.

- (a) meaning
- (b) initiatives taken by superpower to reduce tensions

Activity :

Make a list of all summit meetings of SAARC.