



# 1 Post World War Political Developments

## Let's revise!

In the Civics textbooks till now, we have studied local self-government institutions, India's Constitution and our political system or governmental structure. In this class, we are going to study India's relations with the world. You must have understood world geography through the study of geography. You must have become familiar with the global historical events through the study of history. Now through the study of political science, we are going to study India's relations with the world and some major global issues.

We are dependent on different persons, institutions and organisations in the society for different reasons and for different facilities. Our social life is interdependent and mutual cooperation has a very important place in it. Just as it is true about individuals and society, it applies to different nations as well. There are many independent nations in the world like India. Some exchange and interaction goes on between them constantly. These independent States also enter into treaties with each other. A system of all these independent, sovereign States comes up. We call it international system. Let us get to know some features of this international system.

**Interdependence :** All the countries of the world are dependent on each other for one reason or the other. However big, prosperous or developed a nation may be, it can never be self-sufficient about all its needs. Even big nations have to depend upon other big and small nations. Thus, interdependence is an important feature of

the international system, i.e. today's global system.

## I wonder ....

- \* What is the difference between the interdependence between individuals and that between nations ?
- \* Is there such a division like rich countries and poor countries ?
- \* Just as a country is governed by a Constitution, is there some kind of a Constitution at the global level ?
- \* Who enjoys the supreme position in an international system ?

**International Relations through Foreign Policy :** Every nation has policies about its internal dealings, as also about its relations with other nations. Such a policy is called foreign policy. We are going to study India's foreign policy in detail in the next chapter.



## Let's do this.

Collect newspapers for a month and take cuttings of news about different foreign countries. Classify the news on the basis of the points given below and put up an exhibition.

- (a) The visits to our country of persons holding important positions in other nations.
- (b) Treaties signed between our country and other countries.
- (c) An international conference convened in our country.
- (d) Events with respect to our neighbouring countries

**Background :** The world in which we live today has been shaped through many events and developments. Hence we need to go back to history in order to understand today's world. We know that two world wars were fought in the last century. These were the most important events in the world in that century. The world completely changed because of them. New currents of thought emerged. Let us understand what else happened due to these world wars.

**First World War :** The First World War was fought between 1914 and 1918. Major countries of Europe took part in it. Europe had a very central place in the international or global system at that time. The war caused a tremendous loss of life and property. The countries which joined the war suffered tremendous economic losses. Even the countries which did not join the war were impacted by the war. The economies of the victorious as well as the losing countries collapsed.

### Countries involved in the First World War

Allied Powers	Central Powers
Britain, France, Russia, Italy, America	Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey Bulgaria.

At the end of the First World War, all the nations felt that such a war should not happen again and some measures need to be taken to achieve that end. An international organisation called the League of Nations was established out of this thinking. It became an important platform to solve international disputes and carry out negotiations. The main responsibility of the League of Nations was understood to be to avoid war.

After the First World War, major changes came about in Europe and outside Europe. For example, earlier empires in

Europe collapsed and new nations came into being.

Many European countries had their colonies in the continents of Africa and Asia. Movements for independence started in these colonies. These movements challenged the hegemony of the European nations.

League of Nations was established after the First World War to establish peace. But it did not succeed at preventing war. Autocratic regimes came up in Germany, Italy, Spain and other countries. All these developments culminated in the Second World War.



Indian Soldiers on a battlefield in the First World War

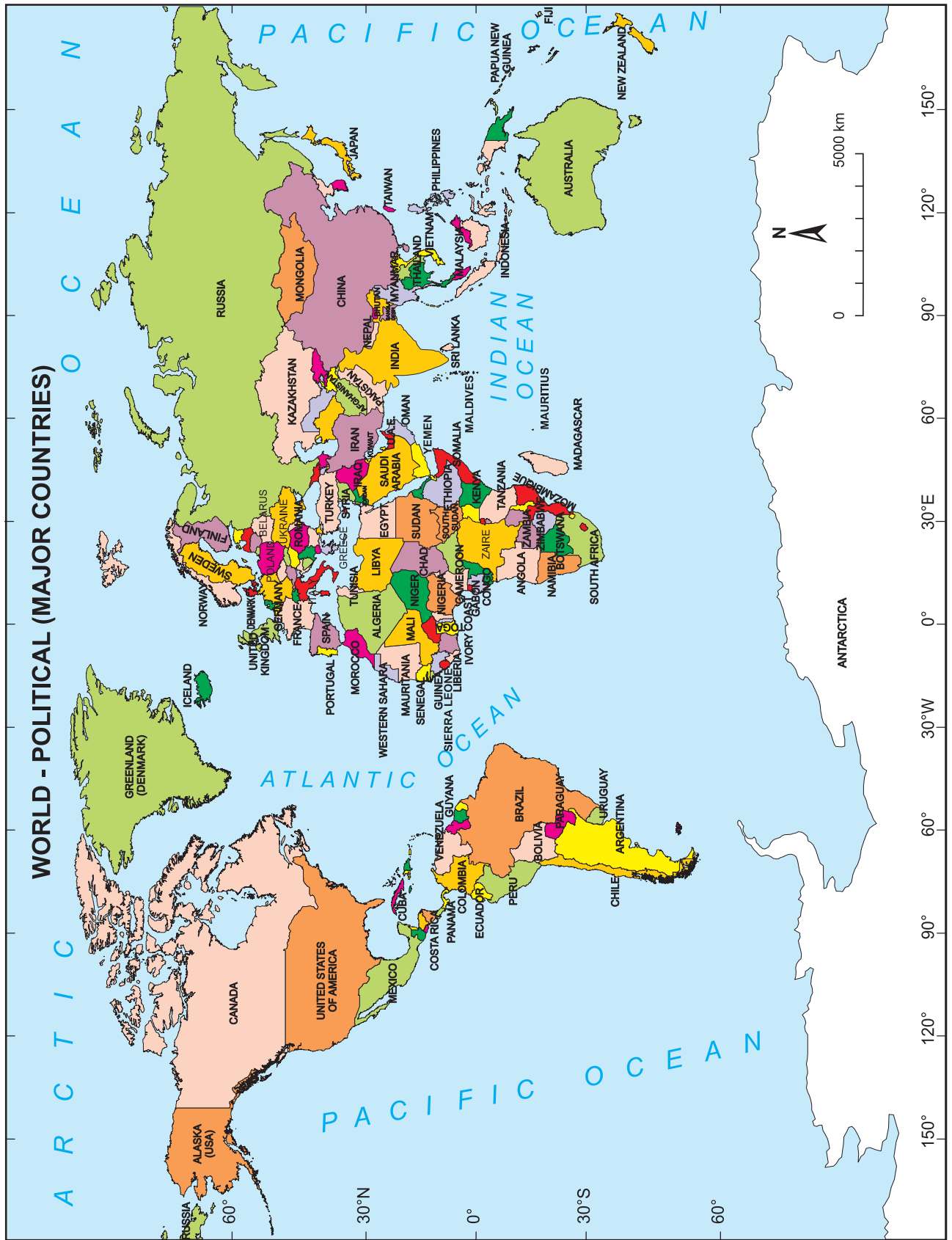
### Think and Write.

The autocratic dictatorial regime of Hitler came up in Germany. What would have happened had the democratic traditions been strong in Germany? What precautions should we take in order to prevent the rise of autocratic regimes?

### What is your opinion ?

The League of Nations was established to prevent war, but it failed to avoid war. What measures should the League have taken to prevent war?

**Second World War :** The Second World War was fought between 1939 and 1945. It proved to be far more destructive than the First World War. Not only was it more widespread compared to the First



World War, but also more advanced technology was employed in this war. Countries which took part in the Second World War once again faced a situation of economic crisis.

### Let's write ...

The Second World War was fought between 1939 and 1945. What events were unfolding in India during this period?

What was the effect of the Second World War on India?

### Countries involved in the Second World War

Allied Powers	Britain, France, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, India, Soviet Russia, China, America
Axis powers	Germany, Japan, Italy

America played a major role in the Second World War. It had manufactured nuclear weapons. In order to end the war, it dropped two nuclear weapons on two cities of Japan – Hiroshima and Nagasaki – on 6th and 9th August 1945 respectively. The Second World War ended with the defeat of Germany in Europe and of Japan in Asia. Among the many events that took place in the world after the Second World War was the beginning of the Cold War. 1945 to 1991 is the long period of the Cold War. Let us take stock of a few changes in this period.

**Cold War :** America and the Soviet Russia, who were allies in the Second World War became competitors as soon as the war got over. The cooperation between them gave way to rivalry. This rivalry occupied a period of 40-45 years of international politics. There was no open war between these two countries; but there was such tension in their relations,

that it seemed that a war would erupt any time. The concept of Cold War is used to describe the condition where there is no actual war, but there are such tensions in the circumstances, that they may be responsible to cause war. In this period, America was already a super power, but the Soviet Russia also tried to become a super power by making nuclear weapons and by increasing its military might. The struggle for power, arms race, differences in ideologies, attitude of checkmating each other by strategies and counter-strategies gave rise to the Cold War.

### Effects of the Cold War

- **Creation of Military Organisations :** During the Cold War, both the super powers created military organisations. The respective super powers took up the responsibility of the security of the countries joining the military organisations led by them. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was a military organisation under the dominance of America, while the Warsaw Pact was a military organisation under the command of the Soviet Russia.

### What is your opinion?

- \* Is there any correlation between the advances in technologies and world peace?
  - \* How can technology be used for human welfare?
- **Bipolarisation of the World :** During the Cold War, most countries of the world joined either of the two super power blocs. Such a division of the nations of the world in two groups is bipolarisation. The scope of the Cold War increased due to this. The sphere of tension spread.

### Let's do this!

The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) was an important event in the cold war period. Find out more about this event.



### Do you know?

The communist revolution took place in 1917 in Russia and the Soviet Russia came into being. In a short while, the Soviet Russia came up as a super power in international politics. But there were extreme difference of opinion between America and the Soviet Russia. For example,

- The U.S.A was a democratic State, advocating capitalism, while the Soviet Russia advocated socialism and a one party authoritarian system. Both the super powers wanted to expand their own dominance in the world. America wanted to spread capitalism, while the Soviet Russia wanted to spread socialism.
- Both countries started making efforts to pull smaller countries into their respective blocs in order to increase their hegemony. As a result, Europe was ideologically divided. Western European countries joined the bloc led by America, while Eastern European countries joined the bloc led by Soviet Russia. These super powers espoused the policy of extending military and economic help to the countries in their respective blocs.

- **Arms Race :** The super powers started producing arms on a large scale to outsmart each other. There started a rivalry to make more and more destructive weapons and to acquire the technology required for the same. But

soon, both the super powers realised that the arms race may endanger international peace. Hence efforts towards arms control and disarmament also happened during this period.

- **Creation of Regional Organisations :** Developing nations created regional organisations at the regional level in order to ensure mutual cooperation in the context of the super power rivalry. They felt that economic development was more important. European countries came together and formed the European Economic Community, while the South East Asian countries (Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, etc.) established the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- **Non-alignment :** In the period of the Cold War, while the world was becoming bipolar, there were some countries which did not want to join the super power rivalry. Such nations decided to stay out of the cold war rivalry. Their policy is known as Non-alignment. Non-alignment was an important movement during the Cold War.

**Non-aligned Movement :** The Asian and African countries, which became independent after the Second World War supported the idea of non-alignment. This movement started from 1961 under the leadership of India's Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of Yugoslavia Marshall Tito, President of Egypt Gamal Abdal Nasser, President of Indonesia Dr Sukarno and President of Ghana Dr Kwame Nkrumah.

**Evaluation of the Non-aligned Movement :** The Non-aligned Movement has opposed colonialism, imperialism and

racism. It has encouraged the resolution of international disputes by peaceful means. India led this movement under the guidance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. India continued to actively support the movement afterwards as well. Even after the end of the Cold War, the importance of the movement has not reduced.

The non-aligned movement is based on eternal principles of humanism, global peace and equality. It has inspired the less developed countries to come together.

It has encouraged the resolution of international disputes by peaceful means. While taking a firm stand on disarmament, fostering human rights, the non-aligned movement put forth the problems of poor, undeveloped countries firmly. This movement made a demand of a New International Economic Order (NIEO).

Summarising briefly, the significance of the non-aligned movement has not reduced even if the cold war is over. It inspired the less developed countries to come together. It brought several new streams of economic and social changes into international politics. It gave these countries the confidence to assert themselves with self-respect in international politics.

**End of the Cold War :** The Cold War that had dominated international politics since 1945 came to an end. It was an important event that happened towards the end of the last century. There were many reasons for the end of the cold war, as given below:

(1) The Soviet Russia adopted the policy of opening up the economy. The State loosened up its control of the economy.

(2) The then President of the Soviet Russia Mikhail Gorbachev implemented the policies of Perestroika (Restructuring)

and Glasnost (Openness). Due to these policies, the control over the media reduced. Important changes took place in political and economic spheres. i.e. these spheres were restructured. This gave impetus to democracy.

(3) As the East European countries under the influence of the Soviet Russia adopted the capitalist and democratic paths, the regimes there changed.

(4) The Soviet Russia disintegrated and several new nations were created out of it. Russia was the biggest country in the former Soviet Russia.



### Why so ?

- NATO still exists, but its nature is no longer military. Find out the countries that are members of NATO.

### Suggest a word.

When there is only one super power and several countries are dependent upon it, such an international system is called a unipolar system. The division of nations between two super powers is called bipolarisation.

When many countries emerge as super powers in the international system, what can that system be called?

Write an essay on the topic 'Futility of War'. Some points have been given below to help you. Discuss them.

- \* Any problem can be solved by discussion and negotiations.
- \* Problems cannot be solved by war.
- \* War puts a spanner in the wheel of development.

## Post-Cold War World

The Cold War came to an end with the disintegration of the Soviet Russia, which till then had been a super power. As a result, major changes took place in world politics. For example,

- America remained the only super power in world politics.
- A conducive atmosphere prevailed for the growth in trade and economic relations between and among nations. Capital, labour, market and information circulated throughout the world. Ideas spread freely as well.
- As all nations of the world decided to give priority to trade relations, the idea of giving ‘aid’ to other nations fell behind. Instead, efforts began to be made to establish economic relations. The description of a country which was opposed to another has now changed from ‘enemy nation’ to ‘rival nation.’
- The responsibility of the United Nations has increased. The United Nations now had to take more concrete steps to maintain global peace and security.
- Environmental protection, fostering of human rights, gender equality and management of natural calamities now acquired a global dimension.

**What is Globalisation?:** After the end of the Cold War, trade and economic relations between countries became more

open. As been mentioned before, capital, labour, markets and information began circulating globally. The give and take of ideas among people all over the world grew. Due to the revolution in information technology, different events and developments began to be known everywhere. The boundaries between nations did not remain as sacrosanct as they were before. All these processes are together called globalisation. Just as globalisation has brought us benefits, it has also caused losses. For example, as the economies of different countries got linked with each other, trade increased, economic unification grew, plenty of products became available in the markets; but (at the same time) the gap between the poor and rich nations did not reduce.

In this chapter, we studied the global developments from 1945 onwards. We understood the world in the Cold War period, the arms race and the efforts at disarmament. We also learnt about the meaning of Globalisation. In the next chapter, we shall study India’s foreign policy.

### Find out and participate!

Find out about any two global organisations that work for protecting the environment. If you agree with their objectives, find out about opportunities for participation in some of the activities.



## Exercises

1. (A) Choose the correct option from the given options and complete the statements.

- (1) A system of independent and sovereign States –
- (a) Political system
  - (b) International system
  - (c) Social system
  - (d) None of these

- (2) The main responsibility of the United Nations –
- (a) to avoid war
  - (b) independence of colonies
  - (c) improving the economics of different nations
  - (d) disarmament

- (3) The Cold War ended with this event
- Establishment of the United Nations
  - Disintegration of the Soviet Russia
  - Creation of Military Organisations
  - Cuban Missile Crisis

**2. State whether the following statements are true or false. Give reasons for your answer.**

- The League of Nations was established after the First World War.
- The world became unipolar due to the Cold War.
- The policies of Mikhail Gorbachev gave an impetus to democratisation.

**3. Explain the following concepts.**

- Cold War
- Non-alignment
- Interdependence
- Bipolarisation
- Globalisation

**4. Write brief answers.**

- Compare the First World War and the Second World War with the help of the following points :

Points	First World War	Second World War
1. Period		
2. Involved nations		
3. Impacts (Political and Economic)		
4. International Organisations established after the War		

- What were the factors responsible for the end of Cold War?
- What major changes occurred in global politics after the end of the Cold War?

**Projects**

- Explain with examples how different nations in the world are dependent on each other.
- Discuss in your class what you intend to do to inculcate the idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' in the society.

