

## 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)

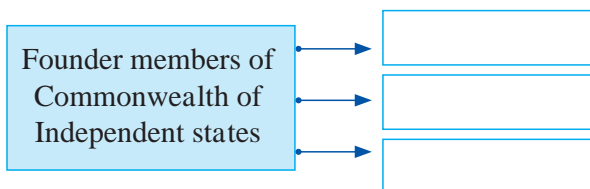
**(B) Identify the incorrect pair in every set, correct it and rewrite.**

- (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.**



**(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.

**Note down national and international developments with the help of news in the media .**

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