

Balance of Power in the World after World War II



The United States of America (U.S.A) becomes a world power

* The rise of United States of America.

The United States of America became an independent state on the 4th of July 1776. From then onwards until the first half of the 20th century, before its advent into world politics the U.S.A. followed a very strong domestic policy.

This domestic policy was as important as its foreign policy in its rise to a world power. Therefore we shall briefly study the domestic policy of U.S.A.



Map 5.1 United States of America

The U.S.A. rose as a world power after the 1st World War of 1914-1919. Until then during the whole of the 19th century, what was obvious was the dedication and patriotism, of the rulers and the people to strengthen and fortify the country on the domestic plane to ensure the rise of America as a world power at some future date.

The first of these was the composition of a suitable system of government, to enable all 13 separate states which had become independent of the British to rise as one nation. A federal Government with an executive president was established and system it was different from the various monarchies prevalent in Europe at the time and of the parliamentary system which was the type of government that prevailed throughout history in England, the motherland of the 13 colonies which founded the United States of America..

A federal system government with an executive president was set up, by which the 13 different and separate states could function as one country the United States of America.

Next an economic policy was planned to make the country known as United States of America (USA) a strong country in the world. Capitalism which is based on private enterprise was selected as the suitable policy. This was under Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, to the first President George Washington. All successive presidents have continued this policy. In 1776 at the time of gaining independence what prevailed was an agricultural society of small land owners. By the end of the 19th century the USA facing an extensive industrial revolution had established a capitalist economy based on large scale industries land, water and mineral resources needed for this were available in the country. With the development of industries other facilities such as railway networks, electricity and other infra structure facilities too were developed. In the meantime there was rapid growth of a farmer class who owned large extents of land, industrialists and a substantial labour class.

The USA through the capitalist system had built a powerful economy within a period of 125 years, and by 1990 it had the economic power required to rise as a world power.

Similarly, a parallel foreign policy which would enable the USA to become a world power was put into effect throughout the 19th century. By this time most of the European countries had their colonies in Asia Africa and Latin America. There was

competition among these countries for the colonies. The first President of the USA George Washington decided that it was inopportune to get involved in 'such politics' until it had a strong economic foundation. Therefore he declared an isolationist policy which was followed by all successive presidents. In 1820 President Monroe announced the Monroe Statement which confirmed the above policy.

A Civil war broke out in 1865; but due to the strength of the government it was able to overcome the uprising reconfirming the unity among states. By the end of the 19th century there was such development in industries, agriculture, and trade and all other domestic spheres that the U.S.A. had attained a very high position among the rich countries in the world. It was only after that the U.S.A. showed an interest in the outside world and in expansion towards the outside world.

Eventhough it was necessary for USA like all other European countries, to start empire building for economic benefit and national prestige there was no country left to achieve colonisation. At the time two factors were evident in the rest of the world; the development of empires in the continents of Asia, Africa, and Latin America centred on Europe, the rise of conflicts among the European countries merging out of this situation. Hence the USA turned its attention on to a new policy. European countries by then had captured certain ports of China and Japan where ample trade opportunities prevailed. The new policy of the USA was to allow for all nations to join in trade activities with China and Japan- the "Open door policy". This was declared as a policy by the State Secretary John Law in 1899. Under this for the first time the USA was able to gain equal status in foreign trade during President Mckeny's (1866-1906) time. But it was in 1898 that the USA showed its strength in coming into conflict with Spain.

Conflict between the USA and Spain

Cuba which had extensive trade relations with the USA was a Spanish colony by 1890. In 1895 Cuba launched a freedom struggle against the rigid dictatorial rule of its motherland. Cuba started its war against the motherland to gain independence. At the beginning the USA remained neutral. But in 1898 when a USA ship berthed at a port in Havana was attacked and 260 sailors died, the USA went to war against Spain. During this war and just before the declaration of independence for a brief period Cuba was placed under the the USA. But the real victory was when the USA got ownership of Peurtorico, Guam, and Philippines that had belonged to Spain. For the USA which was eyeing Japan and China seeking to expand trade Philippines was of great importance.

Even after the victory which paved the way for colonial expansion and the newly declared foreign policy, the USA still continued with its domestic policy and the usual trade activities with China.

The USA joined other powers as a world power and got into direct conflict with countries along with the outbreak of world war I.

U.S.A. Joins World War I

America decided to abandon the policy of isolation it had followed for a long time and joined the war of the European nations which had begun in 1914.

The immediate cause for this decision was the sinking of Lucitania - a British passenger cruiser carrying American citizens as well on board by a German U boat in 1915. (You would remember studying about this in detail in chapter 4 of this book.)

In this instance the army of the USA joined the allies - France, Britain, Belgium, Canada, Australia, Japan, Brazil, China, Italy and Portugal the central powers and waged war against the enemy such as Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria.

President Woodrow Wilson presented a document of 14 points to the Central Powers on winning the war. The objective of this document was to restore dignity to the vanquished as well.

Some clauses in this document.

A few facts of Universal Rights

1. Establishing fair and just freedom
2. Annulment of the international intelligence service
3. License to use all seas/oceans
4. Reduction of the manufacture of arms
5. Non implementation of all economic barriers



**Figure 5.1 White House
(official Residence of the President)**

By the 1920s with the end of the world war a world wide economic crisis was seen, with the economy of many countries in dire straits. However the economy of the USA was stable and strong.

The main reason for this was the monies accruing from the purchase of arms by other countries. The USA had sold its weapons to many countries in the world. The main source of income of the USA at the time was from the sale of arms. Even today the manufacture and sale of arms comprise its main source of income.

USA Joins World War II

In the Second World War, on 7th December 1941, Japan conducted air attacks on the warships anchored in the Pearl harbour. Immediately the USA joined the World War. At the time the President of the USA was Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Figure 5.2 Modern aeroplane manufactured in USA

In February 1945, the USA army encircled Japan and demanded an unconditional surrender. Since Japan refused to surrender the USA dropped atom bombs on Japan. Subsequently on 2nd September 1945 Japan surrendered.

At the time the USA was the only power that possessed nuclear weapons. It could be observed that U.S.A. emerged as a super power in world affairs by using nuclear weapons in the second world war.

USA had utilised the following in the second world war

60000 aeroplanes

20000 plane destroyers

45000 tanks

1275 destroyers

USA becomes the head of the Capitalistic Camp

At the conclusion of world war II many nations expected that Britain, the USA and Russia would jointly work out a stable programme for peace. But, after the revolution of 1917 Russia was concerned with establishing a communist system of government in the world while USA took over the leadership of the capitalist camp.

We must be the champion of
democracy
Franklyn d. Rooseweldt
6th January 1946
Speech of Congress

After world war II the USA took many steps at an international level to establish democracy. By that time a large number of Asian and African states were colonies of European countries such as Britain and France. The USA made representations that these countries be given independence.

The U.S. president Harry Truman took steps to give independence to the Philliphines. The U.S.A. then requested Britain to give freedom to India Pakistan and Burma(Mynmar). The USA was the mediator for Indonesian independence from Holland.

The actions of the USA paved the way for the grant of independence to Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya etc of Africa.

The aim of the U.S.A. was to emerge as a world power itself by systematically destroying the powers of other European countries. The power of the countries which were for and against the U.S.A. resided in the large empires they held.

The USA aimed to destroy these powers, by freeing the colonies in the name of democracy spreading capitalism indirectly, and strengthening its own position by getting them on to its camp.

The U.S.A. expected the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa to follow the capitalist economy and have democratic governments. By this time the Socialist Soviet Russia had emerged as an opponent to the USA. Therefore

the USA also wanted to prevent Socialism spreading to these newly independent countries. Katanga is one example. Uranium, Copper and Diamonds were in abundance in Katanga. Moshe Tshombe supported by the USA and directed by the European capitalist Trading companies declared Katanga an independent state. In the ensuing riots Patrice Lumumba who was the ruler and had a leaning towards socialism met with his death and Tshombe who was victorious joined the capitalist camp.

Marshal Plan

This plan too which was implemented in 1948 was designed to convert the newly independent states to capitalism and democracy. The USA announced that this was to help the independent, but developing countries, which had freed themselves from imperialism. Accordingly Asia, Africa and Latin American countries were supported by providing specialist assistance in the fields of Agriculture, Education Health etc. Countries like Norway, Belgium, West Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Greece, Turkey, and Portugal have obtained assistance under this scheme. East European countries headed by Russia refused such assistance.

Establishment of the NATO

In 1948 West Germany joined the capitalist camp which was under the leadership of the USA. Therefore for over an year Russia blocked the railways that transported goods and medicines to West Germany. To overcome such threats from Russia the capitalist countries which had signed the Washington agreement in April 1949 established the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Sixteen members comprising USA, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Iceland, Turkey, West Germany, Spain and Greece signed this agreement. (Greece resigned in 1974) NATO head quarters at Brussels in Belgium. The (5th paragraph) of the Washington agreement spells out the purpose of the NATO clearly.

We agree to consider any attack on any one member country as an attack on the whole membership NATO (Clause 5.)

The Main intention of the NATO was to protect the powers of the capitalist camp headed by USA. For this purpose each country had set aside more than 20% for defence. The USA has employed the NATO to spread a capitalist economy in a democratic government in the world.

The American State Organisation

The American State Organization was founded by the USA with 21 Latin American states. The plan was to prevent the advent of socialism into their countries through Cuba, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela belonging to this organisation. The Latin American states which are still striving to solve the characteristic inherited problems like unemployment, poverty, inflation have now come to disregard the guidance of the USA. The best example is Venezuela where president Hugo Chavez is a continuous challenge to the United States of America.

Creation of Israel

Amidst the opposition of all Arabian countries, USA and Britain together established Israel under the Balfour declaration of 1948. Israel was the main spokesman that implemented the power of USA in the Arabian world in the Middle East. The USA has a very close affinity with Israel, an affinity not seen with any other country, symptomatic with the importance of Israel in the expansion of American power.

Secret Intelligence Service

The Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A) belongs to the USA. Over 20,000 serve in this agency. This agency has been able to employ Journalists, Lawyers, Ministers, Heads of Departments, Professors and many others in its service. The purpose of the CIA is to suppress through military confrontation or intellectual dialogue any kind of opposition that rises against the policies of the USA. The fall of Soviet Russia has now been identified as a direct result of the activities of the CIA.

Israel too maintains a very powerful secret intelligence service. It is called the Mossad. Their function too is to spread the anti-Socialist American thought and politics in the world.

Assistance to Anti Socialist Countries

When North Korea joined the socialist camp, the USA gave economic and military assistance to South Korea. When China became a powerful socialist country in South East Asia, the USA endeavoured to engage rebel groups in US pay to prevent the spread of socialism into the neighbouring countries.

The USA strove to establish capitalism and democracy in the world using various ways and means.

Student Activities

Explain how the USA built up the Capitalist world.

The Rise of Soviet Russia as a World Power

Lenin promised peace, land and bread to the farmers and the labourers and with their help won the October revolution in 1917 and established the Socialist Soviet Russia. The reasons for the success of the socialist Revolution were:

- * The oppression of the people by the corrupt and dictatorial rule of the Tsar.
- * The Economic crisis in Russia.
- * The Problems faced by farmers, labourers and soldiers
- * The oppression by Aristocrats.
- * Luxurious lives of Priests, Lords and Aristocrats.

Under the revolution all lands, banks and private enterprises were nationalised. The management and control of factories were handed over to labour committees. Therefore Lenin did not succeed in getting the expected economic progress during 1917-1921. Consequently he implemented a new economic policy from 1921-1924 where people could participate in the distribution of goods and retail sales. These economic policies created an efficient market and a strong economy. The administration established by Lenin created a unified and strong government; the economy too was stabilised.

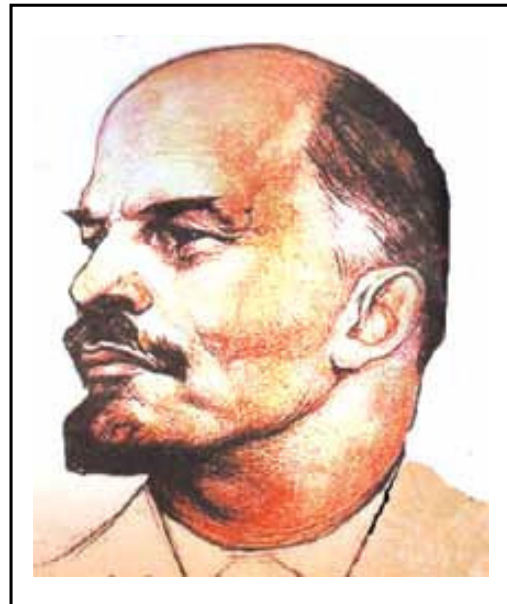


Figure 5.3 V. I. Lenin

Joseph Stalin who succeeded Lenin was a stern ruler. In 1924 he became a dictator and implemented a five year plan. His ambition was to make Russia a great economic power. The first five year plan was implemented in 1928. Large scale community farming was established under this plan, modern technical knowledge and implements were used and a cooperative system was put into execution. Hence jobs were abundant, economy flourished and production increased.

To implement the five year plan Stalin appointed a public service commission called 'Gosplan' It was expected that agricultural produce in Russia would increase by 35% while industrial products increase by 136% specialists were brought down to increase research in these fields.

The expected increase in petroleum products under this first five year plan was achieved in 21/2 years. The production of tractors, motor vehicles and farming equipment reached its target within 3 years.

The Construction of the Turkistan - Siberian railway was concluded one year ahead of the schedule in the original plan.

In this manner as the first five year plan was successful another five year plan was implemented. Thus Russia was strengthened economically.



Figure 5.4 May Day in Russia

Nikita Khrushchev who succeeded Stalin too continued with five year plans. To strengthen industries he established provincial organisations at local levels and made those responsible for the economic activities.

There was much progress in the fields of education and science as the economy strengthened. Russia engaged in research in the use of nuclear power in the generation of electricity in 1952. After world war II due to the competition with the capitalistic block headed by the U.S.A., interest was aroused in keeping missiles in outer space; for which extensive research was done on outer space activities.

In 1961 Yuri Gagarin became the first man to reach the outer space, while Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman astronaut to reach outer space, thus making history.

The political and economic strength achieved enabled, Russia to spend large amounts of money to spread socialism in the world. The Russian government, assisted in printing and publishing books on politics, economics and the social systems in various languages and distributing these at a very low price.

Russia becomes the leader of the Socialist group

Once Russia became economically strong, it engaged itself in spreading socialism. In the late 1940s, a socialist state was born in North Korea. In 1949 Mao-Tsetung established the People's Republic of China. Soviet Russia continued

to assist China even afterwards. In 1959 Fidel Castro was able to establish a socialist government overthrowing the government of Batista who had been a dictator supported by the USA. Similarly socialist governments were established in Eastern Europe, in Poland, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Chekoslovakia and East Germany.

Establishment of the Warsaw Pact

All the socialist countries in Eastern Europe including East Germany Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Chekoslovakia, Rumania and Russia met in Warsaw in Poland on 11th May 1955 and signed the Warsaw pact. It was formed essentially to face any possible threats from the NATO. The member countries agreed: "If any enemy attacks a country within this organisation it will be reckoned as against one's own country and will be collectively repulsed".

The main purpose of this organisation was to protect and spread socialism in the world. In 1956 they assisted the Hungarian Revolution and in 1968 helped the Chekoslovakian Revolution. What actually happened was that aid was supplied to these countries by Russia through the Warsaw Pact.

The Expansion of Socialist Idealism

After the socialist revolution of Cuba and China, a wave of socialism swept through the Asian and African countries. In Vietnam under Ho-Chi-Ming a communist government was established. Patrice Lumumba in the Belgian Congo was a convert of socialism. However it was seen how Moïse Tshombe was able to bring about Lumumba's death and capture the Congo under the instigations of the capitalist camp. Once the Western powers refused to build the Aswan dam; Abdul Gamal Nassar of Egypt became a pro-socialist. Similarly Gaddafi of Libya and the Gandhis of India did not directly accept socialism nor did they approve of the capitalism of USA. Russian armies were sent to Afghanistan. Sri Lanka gained independence in 1948. The first Prime Minister of independent Sri Lanka D.S. Senanayake was from the United National Party; a party leaning towards capitalism, but S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike when became the Prime Minister established foreign relations with the socialist camp and signed a number of treaties and agreements which gave economic assistance.

The National Security Committee Intelligence Service(K.G.B.)

The KGB, the intelligence wing of the socialist camp was as powerful as the CIA of the capitalist camp. Its head quarters was in Moscow. It was employed to spread socialism and to obtain war secrets of the capitalist group headed by the USA. There had been an instance where money had been paid to obtain secrets of the CIA. .

Ambassadors in foreign countries, professors, lecturers, government officers and others had joined the KGB. Modern technology was used in its activities. The main target was to obtain the secrets of the capitalist group as a counter move to the USA spread of capitalism.

It is obvious that just as the USA has tried to preserve and promote the spread of Capitalism so had the USSR endeavoured to preserve and spread the socialist economic and the administrative system.

Student Activity

In a world map using two colours, name and mark the countries that were involved in NATO and WARSAW PACT.

The United Nations Organisations in the context of the division of the world into power blocs

Chapter 4 carried details of the UNO and its activities. Therefore the discussion here will be only on its contribution to world peace. That information can be studied under the divisions given below.

1. Activities of the UNO during the cold war period
2. Period after disarmament.
3. Disarmament.

Activities of the United Nations Organisation during the Cold War

The Cold war, or the unarmed conflict is the struggle between the two power groups for supremacy without the use of arms, but making use of other ways and means.

The main features of this struggle between the capitalist and socialist camp that lasted for over four decades were the mutual distrust, the conflict of opinion, mutual threats and challenges and the secret intelligence services.

The UNO was able to intervene and avert an imminent recourse to arms between the power blocs in certain places during the period of the cold war disarmament. Among these were the following important issues

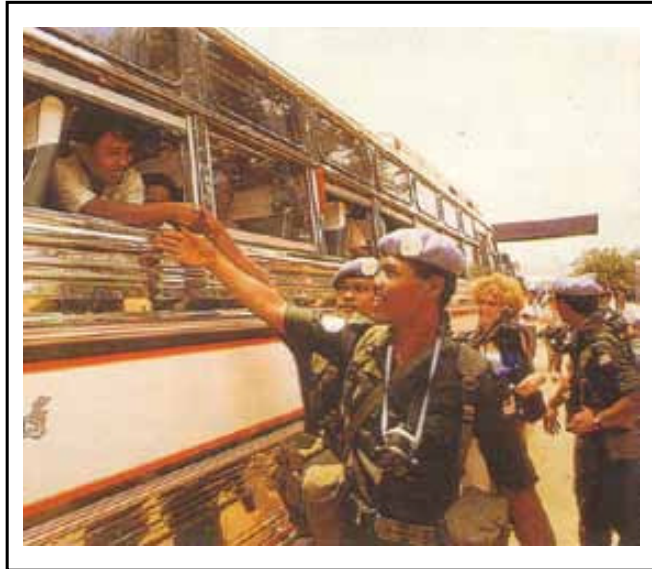


Figure 5.5 A Peace corps of the United Nations

The Berlin Question

The problem of Korea

The Cuban missile crisis

The Suez Crisis

The Berlin Question

After world war II Berlin was divided into two zones as East Berlin and West Berlin. The Western countries introduced financial reforms to West Berlin. As a consequence on 23rd June 1948 Stalin, the leader of Russia closed all access roads to Berlin. This problem which had lasted for over an year was settled on 04th May 1949 after discussions through the Secretary General of the United Nations Organisations.

This is one occasion where the struggle for power between the great powers was settled by the intervention of U.N.O.

The Problem of Korea

In 1948 Korea was divided into North Korea and South Korea. North Korea paid allegiance to Russia while South Korea paid allegiance to the USA.

Eventhough latitude 38^o was accepted as the boundary, on 25th June 1950 the armies of North Korea invaded the South. The U.S. armies were sent to South Korea The proposals forwarded by the security council regarding North Korea were rejected by China and Russia. Peace discussions in 1953 were unsuccessful. In Dec. 1991 another peace treaty was signed. Until such time the borderline was kept under vigilance by the UNO. In this situation China and Russia assisted North Korea, while USA assisted South Korea.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

The people who had fled to USA during the time of the Cuban revolution obtained military training and returned with arms, to oust Fidel Castro's socialist government. A civil war broke out in Cuba. The rebels were assisted by the USA. On the order of president Kennedy Cuba was surrounded and missiles that could target the USSR were placed in Turkey. Because the rebels were assisted by the USA, the Soviet Union in 1962 fixed missiles in Cuba that could target the USA. This problem was settled with the personal intervention of the Secretary General of the UNO.

The Suez Crisis

Abdul Gamaal Nasser, the President of Egypt an admirer of socialist economic policies nationalized the Suez canal. This inconvenienced the English and French Companies. Therefore the armies of Israel, Britain and France were sent to the Suez region. In 1954 the armies of the United Nations were withdrawn and peace was restored.

Peace movements of the UNO following the Cold war

After the fall of Russia, the competition between the two main countries came to an end, but there were incidents in several places. The UNO is currently trying to solve these. A few of these peace keeping interventions are as follows

- * The Gulf Crisis
- * The Attack on Rwanda
- * The Cambodian Crisis

Gulf Crisis

The problem started with the charge against Kuwait for stealing of oil from the oil deposits of Rumaila near the Iraqi border. Kuwait was invaded by Iraqi. The USA which had emerged as world power due to the fall of Russia on this occasion sent armies against Iraq. The contemporary US President George Bush declared that it was done because “one country cannot be allowed to invade another. According to him a silent onlooker is also an act of encouragement”.

This war was second only to world war II. A large number of lives was lost, property destroyed and the environment polluted to a massive extent. The UNO could not prevent or appease this conflict.

Campuchian Crisis

Several rebel groups had been fighting against Prince Sihanouk for about 30 years from 1970. Prince Sihanouk was only a nominal king but Polpot, the fascist dictator was the actual ruler. To settle this internal problem, the UNO sent Butos Garley to Cambodia in 1985 to discuss matters with the parties concerned. As a result in 1989 the Vietnam armies left Cambodia. In 1993 free elections were held. With that the UNO brought its interventions in Cambodia to a close.



Figure 5.6 A Missile

The Attack on Rwanda

Riots had broken out between the Rwandan state army and the Rwandan Patriotic Front. Though there was peace between the two parties in 1993, on 6th April 1994 when the two presidents of Rwanda and Burundi died in a plane crash riots broke out again. In 1994 the UNO sent their peace keeping forces to settle this, but again Hutu and Tutsi tribes started riots between them. UNO had to intervene until it was settled.

Student Activity

Make a list of countries and activities where the UNO was successful. The list should state the problem of each country briefly.

The Control of World Economy

The decade following the cold war in 1980 saw Soviet Russia defeated and fallen the capitalist camp entrenched. After world war II it was obvious that there was a competition between these two camps for power.

The USA tried to expand the capitalist economy, for which in 1949 President Truman implemented the 'four point scheme' a programme by which economic aid was offered to developing countries hoping that they would be converted to capitalism and join their camp.

The Marshall plan implemented in 1948 too expected the same results. The NATO too was formed to achieve that target. The USA distributed wheat, biscuits and food to the developing countries. Eg: under PL 480 wheat flour was given to Sri Lanka at a concessionary rate and in 1980 nutritional biscuits were supplied to schools as a mid day meal.

The Soviet union took steps to strengthen the socialist economy and communism. It provided economic, technological, educational and cultural assistance in a major way especially to Eastern Europe, to China, North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, and to the developing countries in Asia and Africa. Eg. The Tyre Corporation in Kelaniya was built with Russian aid. Similarly annual scholarships were offered to Sri Lankan students at universities like the Partrice Lumumba

Friendship University in Moscow. Books on Russian politics, government, literature, and other information were printed in the vernacular languages and distributed at a concessionary rate. By this they expected to spread the socialist ideology.

By 1950, many countries in the world were nationalising their industries following the socialist pattern. The aim was to eliminate the multinational companies. Eg: The nationalisation of the Suez canal in Egypt and nationalisation of Gas, Petroleum, and the port of Colombo in Sri Lanka can be taken as examples..

In this way, the world powers attempted to expand their own political and economic ideologies.

The Non Aligned Summit

After world war II both the capitalist camp headed by the USA and the socialist camp driven by the Soviet Union have endeavoured to spread their individual philosophical ideals drawing other countries into their own camps. By this time many Asian and African countries had won their independence from colonial powers. The two camps came forward to provide help to improve the economic and social conditions of these countries. These countries in turn faced a dilemma of loyalties which directly or indirectly affected their independence.

Therefore an organisation of the non-aligned nations was formed to protect the independence and sovereignty of nations, to gain prosperity, in economic and social fields, to maintain friendship among nations and to have peaceful co-existence without considering the power camps.

This idea was discussed in 1954 in Colombo and in 1955 at Bandung in Indonesia at the conference of the heads of states. The first session was held on 1st September 1961 in Belgrade of Yugoslavia based on the Panchaseela, Five Fold Policy (Five Precepts) proposed by the Indian Prime minister Sri Nehru.

The Panchaseela policy which was the foundation for the Non-aligned Conference was as follows.



Figure 5.7 Sri Javahalal Nehru

1. Respect for the independence and unitary status of all states by each other
2. No nation should conquer another
3. No country should interfere in the internal affairs of another country
4. Peaceful co-existence
5. Equality and mutual welfare

Sri Lanka, India Yugoslavia Egypt, and Indonesia participated at this conference. At the Belgrade Summit of 1961 there were 45 countries, at the Cairo Summit of 1964, 47 countries, at the Lusaka Summit of 1970, 53 countries, at the Algeria Summit of 1970, 75 countries, and at the Colombo Summit of 1976, 85 countries.

Student Activity

Write an essay on the topic, 'The importance of a non-aligned policy in the presence of two power camps'.

The Fall of the Soviet Union

The Soviet Union which has a vast expanse of land covering both Asia and Europe had a rigid system of administration. Later it became difficult to control such a vast area. Eventhough the political machinery was suitable, it was not strong enough to control the industrial, agricultural and all other fields. With this weakening in the centre in all fields, the then President of Soviet Russia, Mihail Gorbachev introduced reforms that came to be known as "Perestroika" - Glasnots. Accordingly in 1980 in place of the Socialist policies that had been observed so far these reforms were continued by his disciple and successor Yeltsing as well. As a result the Soviet union veered from the socialist system and became a land that followed the open economy.

We shall now examine the causes for such reforms

1. Bureaucracy and the shortcomings in the system
2. Absence of competitive production due to the socialist economic policies
3. Manufacturing goods without not identifying with the market demands
4. Lack of storage for daily production in excess of what is required
5. The loss of excess production had to be borne by the government
6. Excessive military expenses
7. Massive expenditure on spreading socialism
8. Hopes and expectations of the younger generation for a free economy
9. Activities of the Central Intelligence Agency.(CIA) of the USA

Results of the Downfall of the Soviet Union

Results of the fall of the Soviet Union could be analysed internationally and nationally.

International Results

1. Fall of the socialist camp.
2. The USA emerged as the undisputed leader in world affairs.
3. Opportunities for the expansion of socialism lessened.
4. Nuclear technology was passed on to other countries India, Iran , North Korea.
5. End of the cold war and power struggle.
6. Paved the way to end the competition in weapons.
7. Dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

National Results

- (1) Establishment of a multi-party democratic rule, instead of a socialist government
- (2) Beginning of capitalist ,free economic policies instead of a socialist economy
- (3) Beginning of private enterprise instead of state enterprises
- (5) Import and Export limits being abandoned
- (6) Increase of inflation due to sudden flow of imports.
- (7) Indebtedness due to foreign loans

With the introduction of the new economic reforms, the exhilarated anti socialist group who hated socialism went to the extent of even breaking down the statues of Lenin. Leningrad was renamed by its original name Petersburg. But by the end of 1990, due to inflation, unemployment, the fall in the economy, the shortage of food etc., the need for re-establishing socialism was beginning to be felt again.

Accordingly, instead of Boris Yeltsin who had introduced democratic reforms; Elmond Putin from the socialist group was elected. Three states including Bylo Russia which had seceded were united and the present Russia had been born.

Due to the fall of the Soviet Union the East European countries such as Yugoslaavia and Poland were further fractured and East and West Germany were unified as one country. Many East European socialist countries joined the capitalist economic system and the democratic political system as Russian aid was not forth- coming. Therefore the fall of the Soviet Union was the main cause that limited the spread of socialism in the world.

Student Activity

- * Examine the causes for the downfall of the Soviet Union.

Rise of Japan

Here we study the rise of Japan after the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a result of the Marshall Plan. By the 2nd World War Japan had to import most of the raw material such as petroleum and coal needed for industries and even food as it had no natural resources. All the industries Japan had, had declined, Japan also had to hand over her colonies. It was limited to its former boundaries.



Figure 5.8 Mount Fuji

The Arrival of armies of USA in Japan

With the defeat of Japan, USA troops led by General Douglas Mc Arthur arrived in Japan. They had two main ambitions , and they are to:-

1. Reduce the military power of Japan
2. Introduce a new democratic system of government

For easy analysis we shall discuss the development of Japan under these topics. They are political, economic, social and cultural.

Political development

In 1946 a new constitution was submitted under the supervision of General Mc Arthur for the creation of a a democratic and peaceful government and implemented from 3rd May 1947. The Japanese committed themselves to protecting the high goals of peace and democracy .

Before World War II the Emperor of Japan had sovereign power over the people, but under the new constitution he became only the symbol of the state and the people. Sovereign power rested with the people. The emperor had no power. According to the new constitution he could make a few appointments such as those of the Prime Minister and Chief Justice. The Prime Minister is nominated by the legislative assembly, known as the Diet, and the judges are nominated by the cabinet, the appointments are made by the emperor.



Figurer 5.9 The Japanese Palace

The Diet (The Legislative)

The parliament established by General Mc Arthur is known as the Diet. It consists of a representative Council of 486 members and an advisory council of 250 members. Except for one out of the 123 electorates all others are multiple member seats with 2-5 members each. The duration of the legislature is 4 yrs and that of the advisory legislative is 6 years .Once in 3 years 50% is reselected Those over 20 years of age are eligible to vote.The Party system in politics is effective. Once all laws are passed in the Diet the signature of the emperor has to be obtained to put them to effect.



Figure 5.10 The Diet

The Executive

All powers of the executive have been transferred to the cabinet headed by the Prime minister. The number of ministers should not exceed 18. All of them are collectively responsible to the Diet. The Prime Minister is responsible for the appointment and dismissal of ministers. At present 12 Ministries and 05 Agencies and an independent Board of Audits come under the prime minister's office.

The Local Government

Japan is divided into 46 local council areas out of which the City of Tokyo is one. Local administration is done by various institutions such as provincial councils, urban councils and village councils.

The Judiciary

According to the Meiji constitution of 1889, these activities of the judiciary were under the executive to some extent. Under the new constitution, the judiciary was made an independent body. Judges of the High Courts could serve on the understanding that they could do so either till they retire or resign after a service of ten years. Any charge of corruption is examined by a committee appointed by both the assemblies. The High Court comprises 14 judges including the Chief Justice. Judges of the lower courts are appointed by the cabinet, from a list submitted by the high courts.



Figure 5.11 Robots involved in Manufacturing Motor Vehicles

Foreign Relations

The main highlights of the foreign policy of Japan are the acquisition of national peace, prosperity and independence in the world and participation in the welfare of the human race.

Japan and the USA came to an understanding on defence and signed an agreement in 1951. It was amended in 1960 under which the USA troops were allowed to stay in Japan. In 1952 Japan signed a peace agreement with China to overcome the former disagreements. In 1956 Japan started diplomatic relations with Russia.

In 1956 Japan obtained membership of the United Nations and became an active member. Further Japan had taken steps to protect economic cooperation among Asia, Africa, Latin America etc. The aid supplied by Japan to developing countries in 1965 amounted to US\$ 485 million. Japan has set 1% of the national income for such aid annually. Two hundred million dollars were invested in 1966 to acquire 20% of the Asian Development Bank. It became a member of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) in 1955

In 1964 Japan obtained membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and by 1966 started training centres in 18 countries in order to provide technical knowledge to the poor countries.

Economic Development in Japan

In 1960 a five year plan for economic activities had been introduced but due to inflation it was abandoned. Since rice is the staple diet of the Japanese, cultivation mostly of the paddy, then wheat and barley were improved. Before World War II farmers did not own land. Ownership of land was the privilege of the aristocracy. Under the new constitution, along with the reduction of the powers of the



Figure 5.12 Peace Garden

emperor the authority of the aristocrats invariably declined. The new reforms introduced gave ownership of land to the farmers. Cultivable land of the total land area was 16.2%. Therefore there arose small farmlands of approximately 2.5 acres. A special feature was that every inch of arable land got cultivated. The harvest was increased with the use of tractors and other mechanised farming



Figure 5.13 Japanese Gymnasium

equipment. Small pastures caused a low level in livestock. In 1964 the forest cover was 2/3 of the land area. Wood had to be imported from USA and Britain for its timber requirements and forests had to be re-established through reforestation.

Fisheries was a widespread industry from the olden days. The fisheries products increased from 1961-1964 with the intervention of the government.

Electricity was the main factor for the industrialisation of Japan. Being a country with mountains and high rainfall by 1955, 70% (seventy percent) of the domestic requirements of electricity were met with hydropower. By 1968 Japan became the country with the highest domestic electricity consumption. Japan generated more electricity, with solar power in 1962, and atomic power in 1965.

Japan is poor in mineral resources. The coal that is amply available is not suitable for use. Graphite, arsenic, sulphur, zinc, limestone, silica, and dolomite are some of the minerals found in Japan. Out of the total requirement of petroleum only 2% is found within the country. Though 90% of the raw materials required for industries have to be imported, the industrial sector is well developed.

Industrial Development

During World War II the industrial sector in Japan was totally destroyed. The industrial development in Japan after World War II could be seen in three stages.

Stage I -1945-1952- Stage of reform

Stage II 1952-1959 Stage of Co-ordination- A good co-ordination took place.

Stage III 1960-1967 Stage of Expansion.- Industry was diversified into various fields.

Rich investors are a major factor in the success of industrial development. In addition, the dedication and discipline of the Japanese worker, the high quality of goods, the trade exhibitions held in many parts of the world, price of goods being lower than those of Germany and USA and the use of modern technology have contributed to the success in industrialisation.



Figure 5.14 A two storeyed train



Figure 5.15 Japanese Oil Tank



Figure 5.16 People at a Railway Station

Famous Industries

Japan is famous for using the most advanced technology in ship building.

- * By 1960, Japan manufactured the fastest railway engine called Nokaido and sold it to Argentina, Russia, Saudi Arabia etc.
- * Electrical goods such as the television, radio, refrigerator etc made in Japan could be seen anywhere in the world by 1960.
- * Japan became the second highest in motor vehicle manufacturing country in 1966. By 1990 it became a challenge to USA.
- * During 1960-1965 Japan became the country which manufactured the most number of motor cycles. Within 5 years the number increased by fifteen times.

- * Iron ore is not found in Japan. Most raw materials needed for industries are imported. But by 1960 Japan reached the third place in the world in the production of stainless steel.
- * Japanese cameras, spectacles and binoculars are popular productions.
- * Japanese textile manufacturing equipment has become very popular among the Asian countries.

Foreign Trade

It is clear that the whole economy of Japan lies in foreign trade. As the country lacks raw material, over 95% of it is imported, then it is converted into finished articles through the use of highly advanced technology, and then exported to foreign countries. By 1961 about 55% of the goods were manufactured targeting the export market. Japanese products are famous and found all over the world due to the fine finish of the product, durability and quality.



Figure 5.17 Modern Homes

Social Status

Many people migrated to cities due to industrialisation. Therefore by 1960 it was a heavily urbanised country.

Japan which is a patriarchal society began to use modern household equipment reducing the load of house-hold work, giving much free time to the Japanese house wife. Hence Japanese women began to engage in manufacturing jobs.



Figure 5.18 A Japanese family

According to the new constitution the Japanese mother shares an equal responsibility with the father in looking after the children and, providing a suitable education.

The powerful status a father had in the Japanese family has been reduced after the new constitution. As a result the young have got an extensive freedom.

Social Welfare

With the industrial development after World war II the workers formed trade unions. The special feature of their unions was, the dedication and discipline evinced in carrying out their duties. By 1965 there were over 53000 trade unions. After World War II the welfare service of the labour force was visibly increased.

With the environmental pollution following fast upon industrialization the Japanese had to spend a substantial amount of money to protect the environment. By 1960 they were concerned with recycling water and waste management.

A number of laws were introduced by 1950. These included laws on poverty, the welfare of disabled children, and elders, health insurance for the employed, pensioners, maternity care and children and people's welfare. These are some of the many fields where new laws were introduced. The health insurance scheme was extended to cover 98.5 % of the population by 1964.

A severe housing problem arose just after World War II. In 1955 the government constructed 300,000 houses for the provision of housing and shelter. The number of houses constructed in 1984 was 843000 and loans of 98513 million were given to private developers. The government flats and multi storied complexes built through local government institutes directed the traditional Japanese living on to a different path.

Education

Japanese education was based on the laws passed in 1947. They are “Basic law on Education” and “ School Education Law”

Attending school was compulsory for all children upto 15 years of age and the education was free .



Figure 5.19 Mid day meal in a junior school



Figure 5.20 A class in a school

After world war II, under the new constitution education was directed by the Department of Education. Libraries, museums and many other institutes contributed to educational activities.

By the year 1966 about 6990 scholars from countries such as the USA, China, Korea had visited the universities of Japan. By this time 30% of the undergraduates were studying science subjects.

Religion and cultural status

The main religions of Japan are Buddhism and Shintoism. Religious influences are seen at weddings and funerals. The teachings of Confucius are followed as a philosophy. Under the new constitution the state is not involved in the teaching of any religion.

Japan has been famous for art and sculpture from the olden days. After the 19th century it has been



Figure 5.21 A statue of the Buddha

influenced by Western art. The art form called “Ukyor” has influenced European art too. “The Tokyo Binelles” is one of the four largest art exhibitions of the world.

Traditional music as well as western music is popular in Japan. A very good example was the combination of Eastern and Western music in the famous music festival of Japan 1961.

Sumo, Judo, Kwando (sword fight) are the most popular sports in Japan. At the



Figure 5.22 Temple full of people during New Year

18th Olympic festival held in Japan in 1946, Japan won the 3rd place winning a number of Gold and Silver medals at competitions in boxing, wrestling, volleyball, weight lifting, judo, gymnastics etc. Baseball, Golf, Swimming are all popular sports.

At present Japan is the richest country as well as the country with the highest technical knowledge. The productivity level of the Japanese was 104% in 2006. It is a country with the highest living standards.

Thus despite its defeat in World War II Japan has become one of the most advanced nations, utilising the latest technology still preserving the age old traditions art and culture.

Student Activity.

(1) Answer the following Questions.

1. What are the factors that led USA to join world war I and II.
2. What are the steps taken by the USA to be the leader of the capitalist camp?
3. Name three(3) countries which have socialist governments.
4. What is the 'Cold War'?
5. Mention three occasions when peace keeping forces are employed by the UNO which are not mentioned in this book.
6. What are the two main reasons for the USA armies to arrive in Japan?

(2) Select suitable phrases from the brackets and fill in the blanks.

(NATO agreement/ five fold plan/Woodroe Wilson/Diet/Sri Lanka/ India/ Yugoslavia/ Israel/ suez Canal/Franklyn Delanore Rooseweldft/1961/Warsaw San Francisco

1. ----- is the President of USA instrumental in forming the League of Nations.
2. The President of USA at the first world war II was-----.
3. Shortened form of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation -----.
4. The country namedwas established by the Balfour statement of 1948.
5. The Socialist countries formed ----- to counter-act the NATO.
6. Russia implemented----- to build up its economy.
7. Abdul Gamal Nassar of Egypt nationalised ----- in 1956.
8. The non-aligned summit was held in the years with the following countries.

Year	Country
------	---------
9. The Parliament of Japan is called

10. The conference that brought about Peace to Japan was held in the city of
- (3) Mark the following correct statements with a (✓) and the incorrect ones with an (x).
1. Japanese have large amounts of iron and petroleum.()
 2. Executive powers are vested in the emperor. ()
 3. The painting/art form called “Ukiyov of Japan has influenced European art. ()
 4. Japan has reached the 5th place in manufacturing ships, trains, motor vehicles, electrical goods in the world. ()
 5. The non-aligned organization held its conference of 1976 in Lusaka, ()
 6. Reforms named Glasnot, Perestroika converted Russia towards capitalism.()
 7. Soviet Russia is divided into 22 parts.()
 8. The five fold precepts were accepted at the non-aligned summit. ()
 9. Agreement banning storage of nuclear weapons at the bottom of the sea was signed in 1968.()
 10. UNO’s peace keeping forces arrived in Uganda in 1994.()