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NCERT CONDENSED / SUMMARISED CLASS 12 POLITICAL SCIENCE -Part 1

CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Chapter 1- The Cold War Era

Chapter 2 - The End of Bipolarity

Chapter 3 - US Hegemony in World Politics

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Chapter 1- The Cold War Era

Cuban Missile Crisis

- Cuba was an ally of the Soviet Union and received diplomatic and financial aid from it. In April 1961, leaders of the USSR were worried that the United States of America would invade communist-ruled Cuba and overthrow its President Fidel Castro.
- In 1962, the leader of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, placed nuclear missiles in Cuba for converting it into a Russian base.
- Three weeks later, Americans became aware of it. The US President John F. Kennedy and his advisers tried to find a solution to avoid full-scale nuclear war. But they were determined to get Khrushchev to remove the missiles and nuclear weapons from Cuba.
- Kennedy ordered American warships to intercept any Soviet ships heading to Cuba as a way of warning the USSR. This clash between the USA and the USSR came to be known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. It made the whole world nervous.
- Cuban Missile Crisis was a high point which came to be known as the Cold War. It refers to the competition, the tensions and a series of confrontations between the United States and Soviet Union.

Cold War

- Cold War was the war of ideologies. The US followed the ideology of liberal democracy and capitalism while the USSR backed the ideology of socialism and communism.
- Second World War (1939-1945) came to an end with the defeat of the Axis powers led by Germany, Italy and Japan by the Allied forces led by the US, Soviet Union, Britain and France.
- It marked the beginning of the Cold War. The Second World War ended when the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, causing Japan to surrender.
- This decision of the US was both criticised and supported. But the consequence of the end of the Second World War was the rise of two new powers on the global stage.



- United States and the Soviet Union became the greatest powers in the world with the ability to influence events anywhere on Earth.
- But the Cold War inspite of being an intense form of rivalry between great powers, remained a 'cold' and not hot or shooting war. It was due to the 'logic of deterrence'.
- 'Logic of deterrence' means when both sides have the capacity to respond against an attack and to cause so much destruction that neither can afford to initiate war.
- Two superpowers and their allies were expected to behave as rational and responsible actors.

Emergence of Two Power Blocs

- Two superpowers i.e. the US and USSR wanted to expand their spheres of influence in different parts of the world. Hence, they decided to take help of the smaller countries.
- These smaller states got the promise of protection, weapons and economic aid against their local rivals, mostly regional neighbours.
- First division took place in Europe. Most countries of Western Europe sided with the US and thus, came to be known as 'Western alliance'.
- Countries of the Eastern Europe joined the Soviet camp and came to be known as 'Eastern alliance.'
- Western alliance formed itself into an organisation, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). It came into existence in April, 1949 with twelve states.
- NATO declared that armed attack on any one of them in Europe or North America would be regarded as an attack on all of them.
- Eastern alliance, also known as the Warsaw Pact, was led by the Soviet Union. It was established in 1955. Its principle function was to counter NATO's forces in Europe.
- In East and South East Asia and in West Asia (Middle East), the United States built an alliance system called the South-East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO).
- Many newly independent countries were worried of losing their freedom. Cracks and splits within the alliances were quick to appear.



- Communist China quarrelled with the USSR towards the late 1950s. The other important development was the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- Smaller countries were of more help to the superpowers because they were the means to gain vital resources such as oil and minerals; locations to spy each other and to launch weapons.

Arenas of the Cold War

- Arenas of the Cold War refer to areas where crisis and war occurred or threatened to occur between the alliance systems but did not cross certain limits.
- Cold War was also responsible for several shooting wars.
- Two superpowers were poised for direct encounter in Korea (1950-53), Berlin (1958-62), the Congo (the early 1960s) and in several other places.
- Jawaharlal Nehru, one of the key leader of NAM played a key role in mediating between the two Koreas. In the Congo crisis, the UN Secretary General played a key mediatory role.
- US and USSR decided to collaborate in limiting or eliminating certain kinds of nuclear and non-nuclear weapons.
- Two sides signed three significant agreements within a decade. These were :
 - Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT).
 - Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)
 - Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABMT)

Challenge to Bipolarity

- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) offered the newly decolonised countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America a third option i.e. not to join any of the alliances.
- NAM was founded by three leaders-Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito, India's Jawaharlal Nehru and Egypt's leader Gamal Abdel Nasser. Indonesia's Sukarno and Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah strongly supported them. The first NAM summit was held in 1961 at Belgrade.
- Non-Alignment neither means isolationism nor neutrality. It played a role in mediating between the two rival alliances.

New International Economic Order

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- Challenge for the newly decolonised countries was to become more developed economically and to lift their people out of poverty. The idea
- of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) originated with this realisation.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) brought out a report in 1972 entitled 'Towards a New Trade Policy for Development'.
- Nature of Non-Alignment changed to give greater importance to economic issues. As a result,
- NAM became an economic pressure group.

India and the Cold War

- India followed a two way policy regarding the Cold War. It did not join any of the alliances and raised voice against the newly decolonised countries becoming part of these alliances.
- The policy of India was not 'fleeing away' but was in favour of actively intervening in world affairs to soften Cold War rivalries.
- The Non-Alignment gave India the power to take international decisions and to balance one superpower against the other.
- India's policy of Non-Alignment was criticised on a number of counts. But still it has become both as an international movement and a core of India's foreign policy.

Facts:

1. Cuban Missile Crisis made whole world nervous by creating clashes between the two superpowers, the US and Soviet Union namely Cold War.
2. Cold War referred to competitions, tensions and series of confrontations between the US and USSR.
3. In 1945, with the end of Second World War, Cold War began when the US dropped bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in diplomatic manner to warn Soviet Union.
4. Both the powers became reluctant to initiate war to protect world from large scale destruction as they were aware that it will not lead only political aim to them.
5. Greed of expansion of their spheres of influence divided the world into alliances. The US built NATO, South East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO).



6. Soviet Union created Eastern alliance known as WARSAW PACT.
7. Smaller states „Maine either the alliance to get the promise of protection, weapons and economic aid against their local rivals.
8. Superpower required them to gain on access to vital resources, territory to launch weapons and troops, to spy on each other and economic support.
9. Despite of occurring crisis in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan, both the superpowers behaved rationally and responsibly.
10. Both the superpowers maintained 'arms control' by signing various treaties as Limited Test Ban Treaty, Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.
11. Countries outside the two blocs known as NAM (Non-Aligned Movement), joined by decolonised countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, played a crucial role in reducing cold war conflicts to maintain peace and stability all over the world.
12. Five founder members of NAM were Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito, India's JL Nehru, Egypt's leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, Indonesia's Sukarno and Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah.
13. Majority of NAM members was categorised as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which initiated economic development under the head of New International Economic Order (NIEO).
14. United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD) brought out a report in 1972 to propose to give the LDCs control over their natural resources, to make western market available to them to reduce cost of technology and to provide greater role in international economic institutions.
15. India responded to growth of Cold War into two fold. First, it stayed away from alliances and secondary, it raised voice against newly decolonised countries becoming part of either the alliance.
16. NAM served India's interests also to participate in international decisions and maintained balance between two superpowers.
17. India's policy was criticised on grounds of possessing contradictory postures i.e. signed treaty of friendship with the USSR in August 1971 for 20 years and developed good relations with the US during Bangladesh crisis.



18. It is said that NAM has lost its relevance after disintegration of USSR and end of cold war in 1991.
19. NAM is based on a resolve to democratise international system to redress existing inequities that poor and very small countries need not to follow any of the big powers instead they can pursue an independent foreign policy also.
20. These core values make NAM relevant even in today's scenario as it has stood of adverse circumstances and served an important purpose of protecting the interests of third world countries.

Important Terms:

- **Cold War:** Cold war referred to competitions, tensions and a series of confrontations between the US and USSR.
- **Cuban Missile Crisis:** It created tensions between the US and USSR when Soviet Union (USSR) installed missiles in Cuba to make it a Russian base.
- **Allied Forces:** Allied forces were one of the two camps during second world war including the US, Soviet Union, Britain and France.
- **Axis Power:** It was another camp against allied forces led by German, Italy and Japan.
- **Alliance System:** Alliance system was created by the two superpowers to expand their sphere of influence all over the world.
- **Deterrence:** It was a logic followed by both the superpowers to avoid large scale destruction i.e. not to take place hot war between them because both of them had the capacity to retaliate.
- **Neutrality:** Neutrality is a condition not to participate in world affairs or make oneself aloof from world.
- **Decolonisation:** To make colonised states free from the rule of mother country.

Timeline:

- **1947** American President Harry Truman's Doctrine about containment of communism.
- **1947-52** Marshall Plan: US aid for reconstruction of Western Europe.
- **1948-49** Berlin blockade by the Soviet Union.
- **1950-53** Korean War



- 1954 Defeat of the French by Vietnamese at Dien Bien Phu; Signing of Geneva Accord; Division of Vietnam along the 17th parallel formation of SEATO.
- 1954-75 American intervention in Vietnam.
- 1955 Signing of Baghdad Pact, later CENTO.
- 1956 Soviet intervention in Hungary.
- 1961 US-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba construction of Berlin Wall.
- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1965 American Intervention in the Dominican Republic
- 1968 Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia.
- 1972 US President Richard Nixon's visit to China
- 1978-89 Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia
- 1979-89 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan
- 1985 Gorbachev becomes the president of the USSR and begins reform process.
- 1989 Fall of Berlin Wall
- 1990 Unification of Germany
- 1991 Disintegration of Soviet Union, End of the Cold War era.

Chapter 2 - The End of Bipolarity

Soviet System

- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) came into being after the Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917. The revolution was inspired by the ideals of socialism and the need for an egalitarian society as opposed to capitalism.
- After the Second World War, the East European countries that the Soviet army had liberated from the fascist forces came under the control of the USSR.
- There was change in the economic and political system of the USSR. Then the Soviet economy became more developed than the rest of the world except the US.
- However, the Soviet system became very bureaucratic and authoritarian. It made life very difficult for its citizens.
- In the arms race, the Soviet Union managed to match the US from time to time, but at great cost.

Gorbachev and the Disintegration of the USSR

- Mikhail Gorbachev, who had become General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985, sought to reform the system. He introduced economic and political



reform policies of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness). But later his policies were criticised.

- A coup took place in 1991 that was encouraged by Communist Party hardliners. The people did not want the old-style rule of the Communist Party and wanted freedom.
- Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, the three major republics of the USSR, declared in December 1991 that the Soviet Union was disintegrated.;
- Capitalism and democracy were adopted as the basis for the post Soviet republics.

Reasons for the Soviet Union Disintegration

There are several reasons which led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. These were

- Internal weaknesses of Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
- The economy of the Soviet Union became stagnant. The Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal.
- The Soviet Union too became stagnant due to rampant corruption, the unwillingness to allow more openness in government, and the centralisation of authority in a vast land.
- A section of the society was not happy with the reforms of Gorbachev. It was believed that the reforms introduced by Gorbachev were at a very slow pace.
- Another reason for the collapse of USSR was the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within various republics including Russia and the Baltic republics.

Consequences of Disintegration

There are many consequences of the disintegration of USSR. They are as follows:

- It led to the end of Cold War confrontations. There was no dispute of Socialist ideology and Capitalist ideology.
- Power relations in world politics changed and thus it led to change in the relative influence of ideas and institutions.
- The US became the sole superpower which also backed the capitalist economy making it the dominant economic system internationally.



- The end of the Soviet bloc paved way for the emergence of many new countries. All these countries had their own independent aspirations and choices.
- The international system saw many new players' emerge, each with its own identity, interests and economic and political difficulties.

Shock Therapy in Post-Communist Regimes

The model of transition in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system which was influenced by the World Bank and the IMF came to be known as 'Shock Therapy'.

- This process of transition was due to the Collapse of Communism.
- There was a need to make a total shift to a capitalist economy which meant rooting out completely any structures evolved during the Soviet period.
- Shock therapy also involved a drastic change in the external orientation of these economics.
- It also involved a break up of the existing trade alliances among the countries of the Soviet bloc.

Consequences of Shock Therapy

- Shock therapy brought ruin to the economies and disaster upon the people of the entire region.
- Value of the Russian currency 'Ruble' declined dramatically. People lost all their savings due to high rate of inflation.
- Government withdrew subsidies which pushed large sections of the people into poverty. The middle classes were pushed to the periphery of society.
- Construction of democratic institutions was not given the same attention and priority as the demands of economic transformation.
- Most of these economies, especially Russia, started reviving in 2000, 10 years after their independence. The reason for the revival was the export of natural resources like oil, natural gas and minerals.

Tensions and Conflicts in Former Soviet Republics

- There were tensions and conflicts in most of the former Soviet republics and many have had civil wars and insurgencies.



- In Russia, two republics, Chechnya and Dagestan have had violent secessionist movements.
- Tajikistan witnessed a civil war for almost 10 years till 2001. The region had many sectarian conflicts.
- Central Asia too become a zone of competition between outside powers and oil companies.
- Czechoslovakia was divided into two, the Czechs and the Slovaks thus forming independent countries.
- Yugoslavia broke apart with several provinces like Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina declaring independence.

India and Post-Communist Countries

- India maintained a cordial relationship with all the post-communist countries. The strongest relation of India is still with Russia.
- Indo-Russian relation is an important aspect of India's foreign policy. Both the countries share a vision of a multipolar world order.
- India got benefits from Russia over issues like Kashmir, energy supplies, access to Central Asia, balancing its relations with China.
- Russia stands to benefit from this relationship because India is the second largest arms market for Russia. Both the countries have collaborated over many scientific projects.

Facts:

1. Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917 gave birth to USSR with inspiration of socialism, ensure a minimum standard of living for all its citizens and also the government subsidised basic necessities and productive assets were owned and controlled by the state.
2. Russia was the only republic among fifteen republics who dominates everything and people in the region.
3. Soviet Union lagged behind the west in technology, infrastructure and could not fulfil political aspirations of people. Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 also weakened the system furthermore.
4. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of Communist Party of Soviet Union in 1985 initiated the policies of economic and political reforms to democratise the system which were



- opposed by leaders within communist party and contradictory view of people.
5. People of republic had been fed up with old style rule of Soviet bloc and in Dec 1991, under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin (an elected leader), Russia, Ukraine and Baltics declared themselves independent.
 6. Formation of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) came as a surprise and the exclusion of these states was resolved by making them founder members of the CIS.
 7. Russia was accepted as successor state of Soviet Union by inheriting a Soviet seat in UN Security Council, who accepted all international treaties and commitments of Soviet Union and carried out some nuclear disarmament measures with the US.
 8. Now Soviet Union had been disintegrated on the grounds to maintain nuclear and military arsenals, awareness of people of their backwardness than western capitalism as well as alienation of ordinary people who were exempted from any kind of privileges.
 9. Rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within republics like Russia, the Baltic Republics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), Ukraine, Georgia and others proved to be the most immediate cause for disintegration of USSR.
 10. Disintegration of USSR resulted into the end of Cold War confrontations, created dominant capitalist system, emerged many new states and the advantage was taken by Central Asian countries of their geographical locations by maintaining relations with Russia, the West, the US, China and others.
 11. Process of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe was influenced by World Bank and IMF came to be known as Shock Therapy.
 12. Shock Therapy involved privatisation of property, private firms emergence, complete switch over to free trade and Foreign Direct Investment, Financial opening up, Currency convertibility as well as break up of existing trade alliances among the countries of Soviet Bloc to maintain relations directly with the West.
 13. Shock Therapy resulted in the largest garage sale in history, declined value of Russian Currency 'Ruble', due to inflation, food was imported, destroyed Old Social Welfare System,



14. Migration of educated and intellectual manpower and disparities due to privatisation between rich and poor regions of Russia.
15. Constitution of newly democratic institutions was drafted in a hurry where strong executives appointed themselves as presidents due to weak Parliament and lack of independent judiciary as in Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
16. Russia revived in 2000 due to export of natural resources like oil, natural gas and minerals which were available in abundance in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. And from where these pipelines crossed, were paid on rent.
17. Most of the former Soviet Republics had civil wars and insurgencies as in Russia, two republics Chechnya and Dagestan had violent secessionist movements, in Central Asia. Civil War took place in Azerbaijan and Georgia. Czechoslovakia was also split into two. Even countries and provinces like Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia are fighting over river water leading to instability and making life difficult for ordinary people.
18. Central Asian Republics were rich in hydrocarbon resources for economic benefit as Oil Companies and outside powers had a competition to exploit these natural resources. Also, the US approached them to hire bases and territories during wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
19. Russia and India share a vision of multipolar world order, collective security, greater regionalism, negotiated settlements of international conflicts, on independent foreign policy and decision making through UN.
20. India is benefitted from Russia on issues of Kashmir, energy supplies, sharing information on international terrorism, access to Central Asia and balancing its relations with China. In return, Russia has also been benefitted from India on the ground of second largest arms market for Russia.

Important Terms:

- **Soviet System:** Soviet system was introduced after Russian Revolution in 1917 based on the principles of egalitarian society and planned economy controlled by the state.
- **Socialist Bloc:** The east European countries were known as Socialist Bloc because these countries were liberated from the



fascist forces and their political and economic systems were based on this bloc only.

- **Capitalist Economy:** In this economy, land and productive assets are owned and controlled by the Capitalists.
- **Unipolar System:** Affairs at international level are dominated by only one superpower.
- **Multipolar System:** Affairs at international level can not be dominated by one superpower only, instead group of countries play an important role.
- **Egalitarian Society:** It believes that all people are equally important and should have the same rights and opportunities in life.
- **Largest Garage Sale:** It was resulted due to Shock Therapy to undervalue the valuable industries of USSR to sell them at throwaway prices.
- **Shock Therapy:** The model of transition from authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe under the influence of the World Bank and IMF.

Timeline

- **March 1985** Mikhail Gorbachev elected as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; appoints Boris Yeltsin as the head of the Communist Party in Moscow; initiates a series of reforms in the Soviet Union.
- **1988** Independence movement begins in Lithuania; later spreads to Estonia and Latvia.
- **October 1989** Soviet Union declares that the Warsaw Pact members are free to decide their own future; Berlin Wall falls in November.
- **February 1990** Gorbachev strips the Soviet Communist Party of its 72-year long monopoly on power by calling on the Soviet Parliament (Duma) to permit multiparty politics.
- **March 1990** Lithuania becomes the first of the 15 Soviet republics to declare its independence.
- **June 1990** Russian parliament declares its dependence from the Soviet Union.
- **June 1991** Yeltsin, no longer in the Communist Party, becomes the President of Russia.
- **August 1991** The Communist Party hardliners stage an abortive coup against Gorbachev.



- **September 1991** Three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania becomes UN members (Later join NATO in March 2004).
- **December 1991** Russia, Belarus and Ukraine decided to annul the 1992 Treaty on the creation of the USSR and establish the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan joined the CIS (Georgia joined later in 1993); Russia took over the USSR seat in the United Nations.
- **25 December 1991** Gorbachev resigns as the President of the Soviet Union; the end of the Soviet Union.

Chapter 3 - US Hegemony in World Politics

Beginning of the 'New World Order' by the US

- The disintegration of USSR led to the beginning of the US hegemony in 1991. It remained with all its powers enhanced and intact.
- Kuwait was invaded by Iraq in August 1990 and was subsequently annexed. After a series of diplomatic attempts failed at convincing Iraq to quit its aggression, the United Nations mandated the liberation of Kuwait by force. This decision of UN was hailed by the US President George HW Bush as the emergence of a 'New World Order.'
- The First Gulf War took place in which Iraq was defeated by a coalition force of 6,60,000 troops from 34 countries. It was known as 'Operation Desert Storm' or 'First Gulf War'.
- The war was overwhelmingly American. It revealed the vast technological gap that had opened up between the US military capability and other countries.

The Clinton Years

- George HW Bush lost the US Presidential elections of 1992 to William Jefferson (Bill) Clinton of the Democratic party.
- During this era, it was believed that the US had withdrawn into its internal affairs and was not fully engaged in world politics.

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- The government led by Clinton focused on 'soft issues' like democracy promotion, climate change and world trade rather than 'hard politics'.
- Still, the US showed its military powers. Firstly, in 1999 in response to Yugoslavian actions against the pre-dominantly Albanian population in the province of Kosovo. Secondly, in response to the bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar-es- Salaam.
- 'Operation Infinite Reach', launched by the US, was a series of cruise missile strikes on Al-Qaeda terrorist targets in Sudan and Afghanistan.

9/11 and the 'Global War on Terror'

- On 11th September 2001, four American commercial aircrafts were hijacked and flew into important buildings in the US.
- First and second airline crashed into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Centre (New York), the third crashed into the Pentagon building (Arlington, Virginia) and the fourth aircraft came down in a field in Pennsylvania. These attacks came to be known as '9/11'.
- US response to 9/11 was swift and ferocious. George W Bush had succeeded Clinton in the US Presidency.
- US launched 'Operation Enduring Freedom' as a part of its 'Global War on Terror'.
- The operation was against all those suspected to be behind the 9/11 attack, mainly Al- Qaeda and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.
- Arrests were made all over the world by the US forces often without the knowledge of the government of the persons being arrested.
- These persons were transported across countries and detained in secret prisons.

The Iraq Invasion

- Operation Iraqi Freedom' was launched by the US on 19th March, 2003 and was joined by more than forty other countries.
- Purpose of the invasion was to prevent Iraq from developing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).
- As there was no evidence of WMD, it is speculated that the invasion was motivated by other objectives such as controlling Iraqi oilfields, etc.



- US invasion of Iraq was both a military and political failure as around 3000 US military personnel were lost and Iraqi **casualties were much higher.**

Constraints on American Power

- There are three constraints on American power. The institutional architecture of the America is the first constraint.
- Second constraint is domestic in nature and stems from the open nature of American society. There is a deep scepticism regarding the purposes and methods of government in American political culture.
- Third constraint on American power is the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) which is only organisation in the international system that could possibly moderate the exercise of American power.

India's Relationship with the US

- During the Cold War, India closest friendship was with the Soviet Union.
- Over the years, India decided to liberalise its economy and integrate it with the global economy. This made India an attractive economic partner for a number of countries including the US.

Two new factors emerged in Indo-US relations in recent years. They include :

Technological dimension

Role of the Indian-American diaspora.

- There are three different strategies to decide what kind of relationship India should have with USA. They are as follows :
- Those Indian analysts who see international politics in terms of military power, prefer that India should maintain its distance from US and should focus upon increasing its own national power.
- Other analysts see the growing convergence of interests between US and India as a historic opportunity for India.
- A third group of analysts advocate that India should take the lead in establishing the coalition of countries from developing world.



- Indo-US relations are too difficult to manage by a sole strategy. There should be mixing of foreign policy strategies of deal with the US.

Meaning of Hegemony

- Eord 'hegemony' means the leadership or predominance of one state over others by virtue of its military, economic, political power and cultural superiority.
- Politics is all about gaining power. In world politics, countries and groups of countries are engaged in constantly trying to gain and retain power.
- It is important to understand the distribution of power among the countries of the world in order to understand world politics.
- During the Cold War Era, there were two superpowers, the US and the USSR. But after the disintegration of USSR, only a single power was left i.e. the US.
- International system dominated by a sole superpower or hyper-power is sometimes called a 'unipolar system'.

Hegemony as Hard Power

- Hegemony relates to the relations, patterns and balances of military capability between states.
- Base of US power lies in the overwhelming superiority of its military power. It is both absolute and relative.
- Military dominance of the US is not just based on higher military spending but on a qualitative gap.
- But still, the US invasion of Iraq reveals weakness of American power as it was not able to force the Iraqi people into submitting to the occupation forces of the US-led coalition.

Hegemony as Structural Power

- The idea behind this type of hegemony is that an open world economy requires a hegemon or dominant power to support its creation and existence.
- In this sense, hegemony is reflected in the role played by the US in providing global public goods. The best examples of global public goods are Sea-Lanes of Communication (SLOCs), Internet, roads, etc.



- The economic preponderance of the US is inseparable from its structural power, which is the power to shape the global economy in a particular way.
- Another example of the structural power of the US is the academic degree called the Masters in Business Administration (MBA). The idea of teaching skills for business is uniquely American.

Hegemony as Soft Power

- In this type of hegemony, it implies class ascendancy in the social, political and particularly ideological spheres.
- It suggests that a dominant power not only possess military power but also ideological resources to shape the behaviour of competing and lesser powers.
- The US predominance in the world is based not only on its military power and economic powers but on its cultural presence.
- During the Cold War, the US scored notable victories in the area of structural power and soft power rather than hard power.

Overcoming the Hegemony

- It is important to understand that there is no single power to balance the US military. There are various strategies which can be helpful to overcome the hegemony.
- According to the Bandwagon Strategy, it is suggested that instead of engaging in activities opposed to the hegemonic power, it is advisable to extract benefits by operating within the hegemonic system.
- Hide Strategy implies staying as far removed from the dominant power as possible. China, Russia and the European Union are many examples of this behaviour.
- Another belief is that resistance to American hegemony may come from non-state actors rather than other states. It is believed that challenges to US hegemony will come from a combination of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), social movements and public opinion.

Facts:

1. America refers to the United States of America. It covers two continents – the North and the South America, the US is only



- one of the countries of the continent which is a symbol of US hegemony.
2. After the disintegration of USSR in 1991, the first instance of US hegemony came into observation through Operation Desert Storm by the UN during first Gulf War to retreat Iraqi forces from Kuwait. This operation was dominated and won by the US due to vast technological gap between the US military capability and other states.
 3. William Jefferson (Bill) Clinton, the newly elected President of the US in 1992 and again in 1996, focused on soft issues like democracy promotions, climate change and world trade rather than of military power and security. .
 4. The above mentioned policies of the US were contradicted in response to Yugoslavian action against predominant Albanian population in Kosovo by targeting bombards through Operation Infinite against Al-Qaeda in response to the bombings of US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, Dar-es-Salaam and Tanzania in 1998.
 5. On 11 September 2001, nineteen hijackers hailing from a number of Arab countries took control of four commercial aircrafts shortly after take off and crashed into World Trade Centre in New York, Pentagon building in Arlington, Virginia (US Defence Department) and the capital building of the US Congress in Pennsylvania, came to be known as event of 9/11 in the US.
 6. In response to 9/11, George W. Bush won the elections in the US succeeding Bill Clinton. The US launched Operation Enduring Freedom against all those suspected behind attack in 9/11 mainly Al-Qaeda and Taliban regime.
 7. US forces made arrests all over the world, transported and detained the persons in secret prisons like Guantanamo Bay, a US navy base in Cuba where the prisoners did not enjoy the protection of international law or the law of their own country or that of the US. Even the UN representatives were not allowed to meet these persons.
 8. On 19 March 2003, the US launched Operation Iraqi Freedom to prevent Iraq from developing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in the ostensible purpose to control oil fields and installing a regime in Iraq friendly to US.
 9. Hegemony is an international system with only one centre of power to be gained and retained in the form of military domination, economic political chart and central superiority



- which was enjoyed only by the US after disintegration of Soviet Union.
10. Hegemony as hard power is based on military capabilities of a country and the US has proved it. The US today spends more on its military than the next 12 powers and even technologically no other power can match with the US.
 11. Hegemony as structural power must sustain global structure in economic sense. The US has provided global public goods as sea lanes of communications (SLOCs) as well as accounts for 15 percent of world trade if EU is included and 20 per cent in world economy. The US has contributed basic economic structure in the form of Bretton Woods System and Degree in MBA.
 12. Hegemony as soft power implies class ascendancy in social, political and ideological spheres which is more effective than coercion to more hand in hand and the US was proved ultimately triumphant in this.
 13. Though the US has been a hegemonic power, still it experiences some constraints in itself as institutional architecture (division of power). Open nature of American Society and the presence of only one organisation in international system to moderate the exercise of American Power i.e. NATO.
 14. After the collapse of Soviet Union, India decided to liberalise its economy and integrate it with global economy. Hence the US also found India an attractive economic partner due to technological dimension and the role of Indian-American diaspora.
 15. India needs an appropriate mix of foreign policy strategies to deal with the US. Either India should maintain aloofness from Washington and comprehend its military power or to establish mutual convergences or to lead a coalition in weaning the hegemony assay from its dominance.
 16. To deal with the hegemony, all the states bear the different strategies either to extract benefits by operating within hegemonic system or to stay away as far as possible from dominant power i.e. Russia, China and European Union have opted this policy. Both the policies are known as Bandwagon Strategy and to hide respectively.

Important Terms:

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- **America:** It covers two continents of North and South America and the US is only one of the countries of American continent that symbolises US hegemony.
- **9/11:** To denote a series of attacks on the US by hijackers from Arab countries on 11 Sep, 2001. It was the most disastrous attack on the US.
- **Guantanamo Bay:** A naval base in Cuba set up by the US where prisoners are forbidden of the protection of international law or law of their own country or that of the US.
- **Hegemony:** An international system to dominate world by only one superpower.
- **Qualitative Gap:** It signifies US superiority in technology and no other power could dare to challenge the US.
- **Bandwagon Strategy:** To extract benefits by operating within hegemonic system in place of opposing it.
- **Global Village:** It refers to the US as the village headman and all the nations as its members are neighbours.
- **Manufacturing Consent:** It refers to win the consent of countries to the dominating power in a manner favourable to ascendancy of the dominant class.
- **Bretton Woods System:** A basic economic structure of world set up by the US after Second World War.
- **Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs):** It is the naval power of hegemony that underwrites the law of the sea and ensures freedom of navigation in international waters. These sea routes commonly waded by merchant ships.

Chapter 4 - Alternative Centres of Power

European Union

- After the end of the Second World War, there was a dilemma among many European leaders over the status of Europe. The Second World War shattered the structure on which the European states had based their relations.
- Cold War aided the integration of Europe after 1945. The European economy was revived by the extensive financial support by USA under the 'Marshall Plan'.
- Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was established in 1948 to channel aid to the West European states. Another step forward in political cooperation was the establishment of the council of Europe in 1949.



- Disintegration of USSR led to the formation of European Union in 1992 which laid the foundation for a common foreign and security policy, cooperation on justice and creation of a single currency.
- European Union has evolved over time from an economic union to an increasingly political one.
- European Union has economic, political, diplomatic and military influence.
- Economically, the European Union is the world's biggest economy. It had a GDP of more than \$12 trillion in 2005. Its currency Euro, can pose a threat to the dominance of the US dollar.
- On the political and diplomatic ground, Britain and France, the two members of EU are permanent members of the UN Security Council.
- In the defence field, the European Union's combined armed forces are the second largest in the world.

Association of South East Asian Nations [ASEAN]

- Before and during the Second World War, the South East Asia suffered a lot from repeated colonialism i.e. both European and Japanese.
- There were problems of nation-building, ravages of poverty and economic backwardness and a pressure to align with any of the two super blocs.
- South East Asian Countries established the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1967 as an alternative to Bandung conference and the Non-Aligned Movement.
- On the ASEAN logo, the ten stalks of paddy (Rice) represent the ten South East Asian countries bound together in friendship and solidarity. The circle symbolises the unity of ASEAN.
- There were five founding countries-Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Objectives of ASEAN was to accelerate economic growth, social progress, promote regional peace, stability and cultural development.
- Members of the association promoted ASEAN way, a form of interaction that is informal, non-confrontationist and cooperative.
- In 2003, an ASEAN community was established comprising three pillars, namely, the ASEAN security community, the



ASEAN economic community and the ASEAN socio- cultural community.

- Member states promised to uphold peace, neutrality, cooperation, non-interference and respect for national differences and sovereign rights.
- ASEAN economic community aims for a common market and to aid social and economic development in the region.
- ASEAN has a vision 2020 which has defined an outward looking role for ASEAN in the international community.

Rise of the Chinese Economy

- China has been growing as an economic power since 1978. It is projected to overtake the US as the world's largest economy by 2040. In 1949, the economy of the China was based on the Soviet model. It now relied on its own resources.
- During 1970's, China established relations with the USA ending its political and economic isolation.
- An 'Open Door Policy' was announced by Deng Xiaoping in 1978, which aimed at generating high productivity by investments in capital and technology from abroad.
- Special economic zones were set up. State had a centralised role in setting up of China's economy.
- Still the Chinese economy did not benefit everyone in China. The rate of unemployment has risen, working conditions and female employment is bad.
- However, regionally and globally, China has been in limelight economic power.

India-China Relations

- India and China had a cordial relations since time immemorial. Both have political, economic and cultural relations.
- After India gained independence, both the countries shared a peaceful relation. During this period the slogan of 'Hindi-Chini-Bhai Bhai' was popular.
- Very soon both the countries involved in border dispute. The difference aroused from the Chinese takeover of Tibet in 1950.
- India suffered military reverses in the conflict of 1962. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were downgraded until 1976.



- It was during the visit paid by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to China in 1988 December, the relation between the two countries started improving.

Facts:

1. After the Second World War, Europe shattered the assumptions and structures on which the European states had based their relations.
2. To revive European economy, the US introduced 'Marshall Plan' to establish organisation for European Economic Cooperation in 1948. Through OEEL, Western European States began to cooperate on trade and economic issues.
3. European Union established in 1992, was a group of European Capitalist countries with a common foreign and security policy, cooperation on justice and home affairs and creation of single currency and also has its own flag, anthem and founding date.
4. The European Union has economic, political, diplomatic and military influence as the EU is the world's biggest economy which gives it influence over its closest neighbours and in Asia and Africa. And it functions as an important bloc in international world economic organisation as the World Trade Organisation.
5. In political and diplomatic influence, two members of EU, Britain and France hold permanent seat in the UN Security Council as well as non-permanent members in UNSC which enabled to influence the US policies i.e. current position on Iran's nuclear programme, use of diplomacy, economic investment and in case of a dialogue with China on human rights and environmental degradation.
6. Militarily, the EU's combined armed forces are the second largest in the world by spending second after the US and Britain and France also have nuclear arsenal. And it is the most important source of space and communications technology also.
7. Though EU bears common interests. Still, its member states have their own foreign relations and defence policies that are often at odds with each other i.e. Britain favoured the US's Iraq invasion which other members of EU Germany and France opposed America's this policy. All these limit the ability of the EU to act in matters of foreign relations and defence.

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8. Before and during the Second World War South East regions of Asia suffered economic political consequences of repeated colonialism as well as at the end of war it confronted with the problems of nation building which gave birth to Association of South East Asian Nations popularly known as ASEAN for uniform cooperation and interaction.
9. ASEAN was established in 1967 by five countries of this region-Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand by signing the Bangkok Declaration. Over the years Brunei, Darussalam, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Cambodia made its strength to ten.
10. ASEAN countries celebrated the ASEAN WAY', a form of informal interaction, non- confrontation and cooperation standing on three pillars in 2003 i.e. ASEAN Security Committee, ASEAN Economic Committee and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Committee.
11. ASEAN VISION 2020 encourages negotiations over the conflicts in the region by mediating the end of Cambodian conflict, East Umar Crisis and meets annually to discuss East Asian Cooperation.
12. In recent years, India has also tried to make agreements with ASEAN by signing Free Trade Areas with two ASEAN members – Singapore and Thailand as well as signed on FTA with ASEAN itself.
13. China emerged as the fastest growing economy since economic reforms of 1978 to be projected to overtake the US as the world's largest economy by 2040 with the economic strength of population, land mass, resources, regional location and political influence.
14. After independence of People's Republic of China in 1949, Soviet model of economy was adopted under the leadership of Mao by assuring employment, social welfare, education to all and better health as China began to use its own resources and grow Chinese economy at the rate of 5-6 percent.
15. China ended its political and economic isolation with major policy decisions taken in 1970s. These included China-US relations establishment in 1972, four areas of modernisation (Agriculture, Industry, Science and Technology) in 1973, open door policy in 1978, privatisation of agriculture and industries in 1982 and 1990 and setting up of special Economic Zones.
16. Regionally and globally China is going to be recognised as an economic power due to contributory factors i.e. integration



and interdependency have tempered its issues with Japan, the US, ASEAN, Russia, Taiwan. Even China's outward-looking investment and aid policies in Latin America and Africa are projecting it as a global player.

17. Indo-China relations experienced friendly gestures at the moments, but 1950 onwards both the nations were involved in the differences on the issues of Tibet problem, border issues in Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin area of Ladakh, Chinese attack in 1962 and Chinese contribution to Pakistan's nuclear programme.
18. Relations between India and China began to improve slowly from the mid-1970, by a series of talks to resolve border issues in 1981 and now these relations have strategic and economic dimensions.
19. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in 1980, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit in 2003 have accommodated both the countries to maintain peace and tranquillity on the border.

Important Terms:

- **European Union:** A group of European Capitalist countries established in 1992 founded for common goals of foreign and security policy, cooperation and home affairs.
- **OEEC:** Organisation for European Economic Cooperation established in 1948 to channel aid to West European states to cooperate on trade and economic issues.
- **Marshall Plan:** It was introduced by America to provide financial help for revival of European economy.
- **ASEAN:** Association of South East Asian Nations to accelerate economic growth through social progress and cultural development.
- **ASEAN WAY:** An interaction that is informal, non-confrontationists and cooperative to promote supernational structures.
- **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF):** An organisation established in 1994 to promote coordination of security and foreign policy.
- **Special Economic Zones (SEZs):** Foreign investors could set up their own enterprises in these zones.
- **Open Door Policy:** To invite investment of capital and technology from abroad.



- **Three Pillars of ASEAN Community:** ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

Timeline:

- **April 1951:** Six West European Countries, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg sign the Treaty of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).
- **March 25, 1957:** These six countries sign the treaties of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM).
- **January 1973:** Denmark, Ireland and United Kingdom join the European Community.
- **June 1979:** First direct elections to the European Parliament.
- **January 1981:** Greece joins the EC.
- **June 1985:** The Schengen Agreement abolishes border controls among the EC members.
- **January 1986:** Spain and Portugal join the EC.
- **October 1990:** Unification of Germany.
- **February 7, 1992:** Treaty of Maastricht was signed establishing the European Union.
- **January 1993:** The single market was created.
- **January 1995:** Austria, Finland and Sweden join the EU.
- **January 2002:** Euro, the new currency, was introduced in the 12 EU members.
- **May 2004:** Ten new members Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia join the EU.
- **January 2007:** Bulgaria and Romania join the EU. Slovenia adopts the EURO.

Chapter 5 - Contemporary South Asia

Pakistan

- First military rule in Pakistan took place under General Yahya Khan. The reason for this was the popular dissatisfaction against the rule of General Ayub Khan.
- After this, a government was formed under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto from 1971 to 1977.
- Bhutto Government was removed by General Zia-ul-Haq but had to face pro-democracy movement from 1982 onwards.



- Again in 1988 an elected democratic government was established under Benazir Bhutto but had to face competition from the Pakistan People's Party and the Muslim League.
- Army stepped in again and General Pervez Musharraf removed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. General Musharraf got himself elected as the President in 2001.
- There were several factors which led to the failure of Pakistan in building a stable democracy.
- At present, again a democratic form of government is ruling the country under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

India-Pakistan Conflicts

- After independence, both India and Pakistan got involved in issue related to Kashmir. It led to wars in 1947-48 and 1965 which failed to settle the matter.
- Both the countries face conflict over strategic issues like the control of the Siachen glacier and over acquisition of arms.
- Both the countries continue to be suspicious of each other over security issue.
- Another issue of conflict among the two countries is over the sharing of river waters of Indus river system.
- Two countries are not in agreement over the demarcation line in Sir Creek in the Rann of Kutch.

Bangladesh

- Bangladesh was a part of Pakistan from 1947 to 1971. But it started protesting against the domination of Western Pakistan and the imposition of Urdu Language.
- A popular struggle against West Pakistani dominance was led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- In 1970 election, the Awami league under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won all seats but the government dominated by the West Pakistani leadership refused to convene the assembly.
- Pakistani army tried to suppress the movement which led to a large number of migration to India.
- Indian Government supported the demands of people of East Pakistan and helped them. This led to a war with Pakistan in 1971. Bangladesh was formed as an independent country after the end of war.
- A Constitution was adopted by Bangladesh declaring faith in secularism, democracy and socialism. But government under



Sheikh Mujibur amended the Constitution and formed Presidential form of government.

- Sheikh Mujibur was assassinated and a military rule was established under Ziaur Rahman. He was also assassinated and the rule of Lt Gen H.M. Ershad started this continuing the military rule.
- A pro-democratic movement was again started which led to election in 1991. Since then representative democracy based on multi-party elections has been working in Bangladesh.

Nepal

- Nepal was a Hindu Kingdom in the past but later changed into a constitutional monarchy for many years.
- In the wake of a strong pro-democracy movement the king accepted the demand for a new democratic Constitution in 1990.
- There was a conflict among the democrats, maoists and monarchist forces which led to the abolition of parliament and dismissal of government in 2002 by the king.
- Again in 2006, after a pro-democratic movement, the king was forced to restore the House of Representatives.

Sri Lanka

- Democratic set up of Sri Lanka was disturbed by the Ethnic conflict among the Sinhalese and Tamil origin people.
- According to the Sinhalese, the region of Ceylon belonged to Sinhala people only and not to the Tamils who migrated from India.
- This led to the formation of Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a militant organisation, who demanded a separate country.
- Government of India was pressurised by the Tamil people in India for the protection of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.
- India signed an accord with Sri Lanka and sent troops to stabilise relations between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamils.
- Eventually, the Indian Army got into a fight with the LTTE. Later on the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was pulled out of Sri Lanka in 1989 without achieving its aims.
- Presently, the LTTE has been destroyed by the Sri Lankan Government and the area under LTTE has been recovered.



- In spite of the Ethnic conflict, the economy of Sri Lanka has always been high.

India and its Other Neighbours

- Neighbouring countries of India are Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives and Pakistan.
- There are certain issues of conflicts between India and Bangladesh. These include sharing of Ganga and Brahmaputra river waters, illegal immigration to India etc.
- Still, both India and Bangladesh share a cordial relation with each other. Economic relations between the two have improved considerably.
- Nepal and India share a friendly relation with each other but certain issues like warm relation of Nepal with China, Maoist movement in Nepal etc have disturbed the relation.
- Despite differences, trade, scientific co-operation, electricity generation and inter locking water management grids hold the two countries together.
- India enjoys a very special relationship with Bhutan too and does not have any major conflict with the Bhutanese government.

Peace and Cooperation

- Even though there are certain issues of conflicts among the South Asian countries, they recognise the importance of cooperation and friendly relationship among themselves.
- South Asian countries initiated the establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 1985 to evolve cooperation among each other.
- SAFTA was signed in 2004 by the South Asian countries to allow free trade across the borders.
- SAFTA aims at lowering trade tariffs by 20 percent by 2007.
- Although there has been issues between India and Pakistan, measures were being taken to bring cordial changes between the countries.
- There is also an outside power which influence the region. China and the United States remain key players in South Asian politics.



Facts:

1. South Asia is referred to as a group of seven countries namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka which stand for diversity in every sense and constitutes geopolitical space.
2. Despite the mixed record of democratic experience, the people in these countries share an aspiration for democracy which can be drawn from the examples of Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.
3. Pakistan began Post Cold War period with successive democratic governments but suffered a military coup in 1999. In Nepal successful uprising led to restoration of democracy in 2006. India and Sri Lanka have also operated a democratic system, despite many limitations and even Maldives have strengthened democracy.
4. In Pakistan, military rule and democracy are two sides of the coin because, during implementation of first constitution, General Ayub Khan took the command by-elections, but thrown away by military due to dissatisfaction of his rule. After 1971, an elected government was formed under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, removed by General Zia-Ul-Haq in 1977.
5. Again in 1982, in Pakistan, by a pro-democracy protest, democratic government was established in 1988 under the leadership of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif. Later on, the history repeated and General Pervez Musharraf took the command in 1999 and got elected in 2005 to be continued till date.
6. Bangladesh was formed by migrants from West Pakistan and refused to form government by East Pakistan despite winning all the seats. India intervened and supported the demand of creation of East Pakistan financially and militarily. Consequently, in December 1971, Pakistan surrendered with the formation of an independent country named Bangladesh.
7. Bangladesh drafted its own constitution declaring faith in secularism, democracy and socialism. In 1975, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman formed presidential setup, but was assassinated in a military uprising. The new military ruler Ziaur Rahman formed his own Bangladesh National Party and won elections in 1979. He was assassinated and another military take over followed under the leadership of Gen.



- H.M. Ershad. Since 1991, representative democracy has been working in Bangladesh.
8. Nepal was a Hindu Kingdom and became constitutional monarchy in modern period. The struggle for restoration of democracy began in 1990 and 2007 when king restored house of representatives. Even today Nepal is demanding the formation of constituent assembly.
 9. Ceylon, presently known as Sri Lanka experienced an ethnic conflict between Sinhalese and Tamils for power sharing. LTTE demanded a separate state for Tamil 1983 onwards with the support of Indian government who sent Indian Peace Keeping Forces there which was not liked by Sri Lankans.
 10. Sri Lanka has maintained a democratic political system with a considerable economic growth i.e. one of the first developing countries to control population growth rate, liberalized economy, and bears highest per capita gross Domestic Product despite the ongoing conflicts.
 11. India-Pakistan conflicts in South Asian region is most important to be sorted out. The wars between these countries took place in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 on the issues of Pak Occupied Kashmir (POK) and Line of Control (LOC). Except, other issues of conflicts are control of Siachin glacier, acquisition of arms and sharing of river water.
 12. Both the governments are suspicious to each other on the ground of Pakistani strategy to help Kashmiri militants and ISI to be involved in Anti-India campaign. Pakistan blames India for making trouble in Sindh and Baluchistan.
 13. India and Bangladesh experienced differences over the issues of sharing of Ganga and Brahmaputra river water, illegal immigration to India, support for anti Indian-Islamic fundamentalists, refusal to allow Indian troops and not to export natural gas to India. It is the main link of India's 'Look East' Policy.
 14. India and Nepal also bear differences on the issues of Nepal's relations with China and inaction against anti-Indian elements i.e. Maoists. But still both the countries signed the treaty of trade and commerce in 2005 and friendship in 2006 to provide financial and technical assistance and to allow citizens to move without visas and passport.
 15. India and Bhutan do not share any major conflict, but attached on the issues to need out the guerrillas and militants from North-eastern India and involvement of India also in



big hydroelectric projects in Bhutan is the biggest source of development aid.

16. India is supportive to Maldives in their economy, tourism and fisheries. In November 1988, India reacted quickly against an attack from Tamil Mercenaries on Maldives.
17. In spite of the above-mentioned conflicts and differences, states of South Asia recognise cooperation and friendly relations among themselves. Hence, a major regional initiative has been taken in the form of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 1982. SAARC members signed South Asian Free Trade Agreements (SAFTA) to form free trade zone for the whole South Asia.

Important Terms:

- **Geo-Politics:** Geo-politics refers to the Association of countries who are bound with each other geographically and their interests are also interlinked with each other politically and economically.
- **Bilateral Talks:** Talks involving the two countries without any other mediation.
- **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF):** It was sent by India in Sri Lanka to support the demand of Tamils to be recognised.
- **Seven Party Alliance (SPA):** An alliance of seven parties in Nepal which also demanded an end to monarch.
- **SAARC:** It stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation having seven members and aims at mutual trust and understanding.
- **SAFTA:** It is South Asia Free Trade Area Agreement to trade free from custom restrictions and duties by its member states.
- **LTTE:** The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam in Sri Lanka which demanded a separate state for Tamils.

Timeline:

- **1947:** India and Pakistan emerge as an independent nation after the end of British rule.
- **1948:** Sri Lanka gains independence. Indo-Pak conflict over Kashmir.
- **1954-55:** Pakistan joins the Cold War military blocs, SEATO and CENTO.
- **September 1960:** India and Pakistan sign Indus Waters Treaty.
- **1962:** Border conflicts between India and China.



Notes

- **1965:** Indo-Pak War, UN India-Pakistan Observation Mission.
- **1966:** India and Pakistan sign the Tashkent Agreement: Six-Point proposal of Sheikh Mujib- ur-Rahman for greater autonomy to East Pakistan.
- **March 1971:** Proclamation of independence by leaders of Bangladesh.
- **August 1971:** Indo-Soviet Treaty of friendship signed for 20 years.
- **December 1971:** Indo-Pak war, Liberation of Bangladesh.
- **July 1972:** India and Pakistan sign the Shimla Agreement.
- **May 1974:** India conducts nuclear test.
- **1976:** Pakistan and Bangladesh establish diplomatic relations.
- **December 1985:** South Asian leaders sign the SAARC Charter at the first summit in Dhaka.
- **1987:** Indo-Sri Lanka Accord: Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operation in Sri Lanka (1987-90).
- **1988:** India sends troops to the Maldives to foil a coup attempt by mercenaries. India and Pakistan sign the agreement not to attack nuclear installations and facilities of each other.
- **1988-91:** Democracy restoration in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- **December 1996:** India and Bangladesh sign the Farakka Treaty for sharing of the Ganga waters.
- **May 1998:** India and Pakistan conduct nuclear tests.
- **December:** India and Sri Lanka sign the Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- **February 1999:** Indian PM Vajpayee undertakes bus journey to Lahore to sign a Peace Declaration.
- **June-July 1999:** Kargil conflict between India and Pakistan.
- **July 2001:** Vajpayee-Musharraf Agra Summit unsuccessful.
- **January 2004:** SAFTA signed at the 12th SAARC Summit in Islamabad.

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