

CH 1 : Cold War Era (1945 - 1991)

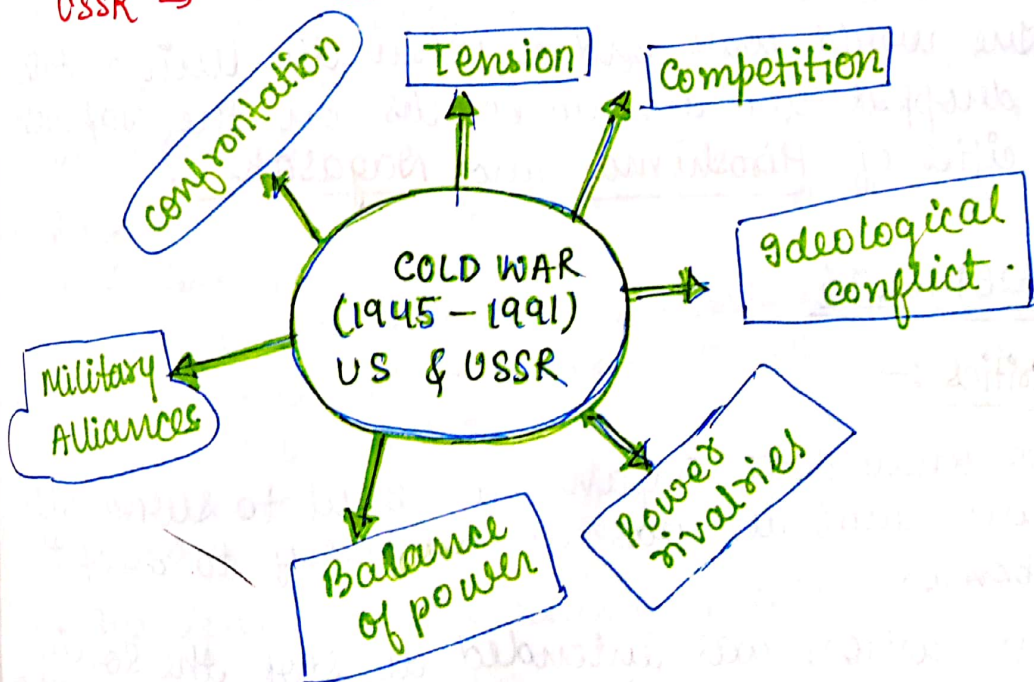
- * Multimillionaire and financier Bernard Baruch coins the term "Cold war" to describe relation between the US and USSR.

What is Cold War :

- * The cold war referred to the competition, tensions and a series of confrontations between the "US" and "USSR" backed by their allies.

- * Cold war was not simply a matter of power rivalries, of military alliances and of the balance of power. These were accompanied by a real ideological conflict as well.

- * US → Liberal democracy and Capitalism.
- * USSR → Socialism and Communism.



Background

→ The end of second world war. (1939 - 1945)
(1939 - 1945) →

Allied Power	Axis Power
US USSR Britain France	Japan Germany Italy

→ USSR, US, Britain, France $\xRightarrow{\text{defeated}}$ Japan, Germany, Italy
Allied Axis

- The war devastated the world in terms of loss of human lives and civilian property.
- The world war ended when the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

ARGUMENTS

Critics :-

- * US knew that Japan was about to surrender and that it was unnecessary to drop the bombs.
- * US action was intended to stop the Soviet Union from making military and political gains in Asia and elsewhere and to show Moscow that the United States was supreme.

Supporters :

- * US supporters have argued that the dropping of the atomic bombs was necessary to end the war quickly and to stop further loss of American and Allied lives.

"Logic of Deterrence"

- Cold war was an outcome of the emergence of the US and the USSR as two superpowers rival to each other.
 - But there was an understanding that the destruction caused by the use of atom bombs is too costly for many countries to bear.
 - When two rival powers are in possession of nuclear weapons capable of inflicting death and destruction unacceptable to each other.
 - In spite of provocations, neither side should want to take of war since no political gains would justify the destruction of their societies.
 - In the event of a nuclear war, both sides will be so badly harmed that it will be impossible to declare one side or the other as winner.
 - Even if one of them tries to attack and disable the nuclear weapons of its rival, the other would still be left with enough nuclear weapons to inflict unacceptable destruction.
- ⇒ This is called the "logic of deterrence".

Military features of Cold War :-

- ⇒ The two superpowers and the countries in the rival blocs led by the superpowers were expected to behave as rational and responsible actors.

- ⇒ They understood the risks in fighting wars that might involve the two superpowers.
- ⇒ When two superpowers and the blocs led by them are in a deterrence relationship, fighting wars will be massively destructive.

The Emergence of two power bloc

- * The two superpowers were keen on expanding their spheres of influence in different parts of the world.
- * The alliance systems led by the two superpowers therefore, threatened to divide the entire world into two camps.

"This division happened first in Europe."

Western Europe → **US** (Western alliance)

Eastern Europe → **USSR** (Eastern alliance)

Western Alliance ⇒ organisation → **NATO**
(North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)

1949
(existence)

12 states
(union)

Armed attack on any one of them in Europe or N. America would be regarded as an attack on all of them.

(Aim)

East and South East Asia, West Asia.

US built alliance

SEATO

CENTO.

CENTO → Central Treaty Organisation

SEATO → South East Asia Treaty Organisation.

* The Soviet Union and Communist China responded by having close relations with regional countries such as N. Vietnam, N. Korea and Iraq.

* Cracks and splits within the alliances were quick to appear. Communist China quarrelled with the USSR towards the late 1950s, and, in 1969, they fought a brief war over a territorial dispute.

"Advantages of superpowers in alliance with smaller states."

- ① vital resources, such as oil and minerals.
- ② Territory, from where the superpowers could launch their weapons and troops.
- ③ Locations from where they could spy on each other.
- ④ Economic support, in that many small allies together could help pay for military expenses.
- ⑤ The loyalty of allies suggested that the superpowers were winning the war of ideas as well.

"Advantages of smaller states in alliance with superpowers."

⇒ The smaller states in the alliances used the link to the superpowers for their own purposes. They got the promise of protection, weapons, and economic aid against their local rivals,

mostly regional neighbours with whom they had rivalries.

ARENAS OF THE COLD WAR

- The cold war led to several shooting wars.
- The two superpowers were poised for direct confrontations in Korea (1950-53), Berlin (1958-62), the Congo (the early 1960s) and several other places.
- The ~~Korea~~ crisis
- Crises deepened, as neither of the parties involved was willing to back down. Arenas are therefore areas where crisis and war occurred or threatened to occur between the alliance systems but did not cross certain limits.
- A great many lives lost in some of these arenas like Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan but the world was spared a nuclear war and global hostilities.
- ★ The non-aligned countries, played a role in reducing Cold War conflicts and averting some grave crises.

Jawaharlal Nehru → one of the key leaders of the NAM, played a crucial role in mediating between the two Koreas.

In the Congo crisis, the UN Secretary-General played a key mediatory role.

- ★ Since the Cold War did not eliminate rivalries between the two alliances, mutual suspicions led them to arm themselves to the teeth and

to constantly prepare for war. Huge stocks of arms were considered necessary to prevent wars from taking place.

Solution :

- * The US and USSR decided to collaborate in limiting or eliminating certain kinds of nuclear and non-nuclear weapons.
- * A stable balance of weapons, they decided, could be maintained through 'arms control'.
- * Starting in the 1960s, the two sides signed three significant agreements within a decade. These were Limited Test Ban Treaty, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

NAM

ROOT / BACKGROUND :

The root of NAM went back to the friendship between these leaders.

- Josip Broz Tito (Yugoslavia)
- Jawaharlal Nehru (India)
- Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt).

Held a meeting in 1956.

Sukarno (Indonesia)

Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana)

} Strongly supported them.

The first non-aligned summit was held in Belgrade in 1961.

The first summit was attended by 25 member states.

* Over the years, the membership of NATO has expanded. The latest meeting, the 14th Summit was held in Havana in 2006. It includes 116 member states and 15 observer countries.

* The policy of staying away from alliances should not be considered as

Isolationism

Neutrality

→ Isolationism means remaining aloof from world affairs. Isolationism sums up the foreign policy of US from the American Civil War to the beginning of First World War. In comparison, the non-aligned countries including India played an active role in mediating between the two rival alliances in the cause of peace and stability.

→ Neutrality

Non alignment is also not neutrality. Neutrality refers principally to a policy of staying out of war.

Non aligned countries including India, were actually involved in wars for various reasons. They also worked to prevent war between others and tried to end wars that had broken out.

India and the Cold War

- * India's response to the ongoing cold war was two fold
 - staying away from the two alliances
 - Raised voice against the newly decolonised countries becoming part of these alliances.

India's Policy during cold War

- * India's policy was neither negative nor passive. As Nehru reminded the world, non-alignment was not a policy of 'fleeing away'.
- * On the contrary, India was in favour of actively intervening in world affairs to soften cold war rivalries.
- * India tried to reduce the differences between the alliances and thereby prevent differences from escalating into a full scale war.
- * Indian leaders and diplomats were often used to communicate and mediate between cold war rivals such as in the Korea War in the early 1950s.
- * India repeatedly tried to activate those regional and international organisations, which were not a part of the alliances led by US and USSR.
- * Nehru supposed great faith in a 'genuine commonwealth of free and cooperating nations' that would play a positive role in softening, if not ending, the cold war.

• NAM also served India's interest very directly in two ways :-

- ① Non-alignment allow India to take international decisions and stances that served India's interest rather than the interests of the superpower and their allies.
- ② Second, India was often able to balance one superpower against the other. Neither alliance system could take India for granted or bully it.

Critics of India's Non-Alignment Policy :

- ① Unprincipled : First, India's non-alignment was said to be unprincipled. India often refused to take firm stand on crucial international issue in the name of pursuing national interest.
- ② Inconsistent - India was inconsistent and took contradictory postures. The signing of Treaty of Friendship in August 1971 with the USSR for 20 years was ~~as joining Soviet alliance~~ by regarded as joining Soviet Alliance system.

* But India Government view was that India needed diplomatic and possibly military support during the Bangladesh war.

Relevance of NAM

→ With the disintegration of the USSR and the end of the cold war in 1991, non-alignment lost some of its earlier relevance and effectiveness.

- However, non-alignment contained some core values and enduring ideas.
- It was based on a recognition that decolonised states share a historical affiliation and can become a powerful force if they come together.
- It meant that the poor and often very small countries of the world need not become followers of any of the big powers, that they could pursue an independent foreign policy.
- It was also based on a resolve to democratise the international system by thinking about an alternative world order to address existing inequities.
- These core ideas remain relevant even after the Cold War ended.