

## **CHAPTER 02                      DISINTEGRATION OF THE “SECOND WORLD” AND COLLAPSE OF BIPOLARITY**

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## Introduction

No doubt the world which we live in is one. But the philosophers have particularly divided in three. Those are the First world, the 2<sup>nd</sup> world and the 3<sup>rd</sup> world. The first world headed by USA, 2<sup>nd</sup> by USSR and the 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries have opted for NAM.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> world was the creation of the socialist revolution in Russia in 1917. This revolution was inspired by the ideas of Socialism under this ideology the union of Soviet Socialist republic was formed in 1922. This union survived up to 1991 and in December 1991 disintegrated and collapsed. With disintegration of second world bi-polarity came to an end and uni-polarity took birth.

## SOVIET POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM

The great revolution of 1917 laid foundation of United Socialist Soviet Republic in 1922. This union was made by the combination of 15 republics and 20 autonomous units. Since this union was inspired by socialism, so the same ideas were followed. This union developed such a political and economic system that was based on the ideas of communist. This system was in favour of:-

1. Establishing of an egalitarian society.
2. To oppose capitalism
3. To abolish concept of private property.
4. To believe in equal society.
5. To give primacy to the state.
6. Whole political system to centre one and only one political party i.e. communist party.
7. No opposition.
8. There was vast communication system
9. There was well developed industrial sector.
10. There was minimum standard of living for all
11. There was total state ownership which followed planned economic model.
12. There was least unemployment.

In short Soviet political system revolved round one political party i.e. communist party. There was no space for opposition. There was planned economy. No concept of private property. Everything was state controlled.

## DISINTEGRATION OF SOVIET UNION:

Soviet Union disintegrated due to internal weakness of its political and economic system. There was different developments which resulted in escalating the curses which finally resulted in collapse of Second World. In real sense the soviet system failed to meet the aspirations of soviet people .Thus collapsed on 25 of Dec. 1991.

The main reasons responsible for its disintegrations are as under:-

1. **ECONOMIC STAGNATION:-**Soviet Union used much of its economic resources in maintaining and obtaining nuclear and military arsenal. So economy stopped to grow since late 70's. This lead to decline in agricultural productivity and import of food grains. This resulted in economic degradation and in sense of instability among people.
2. **SUCCESS OF CAPITALISM:-**Citizen of USSR becomes more and more knowledgeable about the economic advancement of West. They could judge the difference between two systems. Seeing capitalism much progressive, desired a change. This desire for change finally led to Soviet disintegration.
3. **ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL STAGNATION:-**Soviet system had become stagnant both administratively as well as politically. This system becomes very bureaucratic and

authoritative. This rigidness made life of its citizens very difficult. There was no democracy and freedom of speech. Common people were isolated. Communist party was playing the role of a dictator and seemed not to be accountable to its citizens. The harsh administrative and political system resulted in its collapse.

4. **Rise of Nationalism:**-Soviet system was rigid. But once reforms were introduced, people tested the ideals of democracy. This taste for democratic values of is raise at the instituting of Nationalism. So protests started against the right system and finally resulted in soviet disintegration.
5. **INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN:**-In 1979 USSR invaded Afghanistan. This gave a chance to USA to help anti Soviet faces. As a result it met with heavy losses with men and material. Finally Soviet Union was faced to leave Afghanistan. This defeat should USA and later resulted in its collapse.
6. **Role of Gorbachav:**- Gorbachav, the last president of Soviet Union is deemed responsible for Soviet disintegration. It is believed the he introduced reform like "Glasnost" openness and perestroika economy retouring in hast. Since the prevailing system was not ready to accept it, thus resulted in disintegration.
7. **SUPERMACY OF RUSSIA:**-Soviet Union was a confederation of various states. But Russia was owning a dominant role. Other units were either ignored or oppressed. So this alienation resulted in the fall of Soviet Union.
8. **CONFEDRATION IN USSR COUNTITUTION:**-Soviet Union was an umbrella of different units. The constitution itself provided a choice to its allies to have a separate identity at any time if they like so in future. This choice finally breaks Soviet Union.

In short the Soviet System become victim of its own drawbacks. Lack of democratic values, shortage of accountability, ignoring the will people, down fall of economy etc. led to the disintegration of Soviet Union.

#### NOW BE ABLE TO ANSWER

1. How would you explain Soviet System?
2. What was Soviet political and economic system?
3. Soviet System was responsible for its breakdown?
4. What are the main causes of Soviet disintegration?

#### IMPACTS OR CONSEQUENCES OF SOVIET DISINTEGRATION

- End of cold war
- End of Bi- polarity
- Unipolarity
- Supremacy of Capitalism
- Shock therapy on international policies.
- Promotion of New States
- Increasing role of UNO

We know that USSR came into existence in 1922 by union of different units. This union survived up to 1991 and disintegrated due to its loopholes. Its disunion or collapse had different imparts on international politics and relations. As mentioned and enlisted above were impacts, due to collapse of 2<sup>nd</sup> world.

1. **END OF COLD WAR:**-We know that during 1945 to 1991 strained and tense relations were between two giants USA and USSR, resulting in cold war era. But once Soviet Union broke, hence race for power came to and end resulting in the end of cold war.

2. **END OF BI- POLARITY:-**The disintegration of USSR left open only two possibilities either USA will be sole super power or multiple power system may exist. Hence ended bi-polarity.
3. **UNIPOLARITY:-**USA has dominated the world politics after disintegration of USSR. It has now hegemonic character there are some alternative Centres of power but till date USA has dominated on all fronts in international politics. It is clear from the present day international politics that disintegration of USSR has paid way for unipolarity.
4. **SUPERMACY OF CAPITALISM:-**Once there was competition between two ideologies capitalism and socialism, with passage of time capitalism as is clear from modern world politics has gained field. It has proved its supremacy. On the other hand socialism has lost its original ground. Due to its weakness have provided space to capitalism to rule almost whole world.
5. **SHOCK THERAPY ON INTERNATIONAL POLITIS:-**With collapse of second world the switch over from one ideology to other began necessity for over all development. This transmission became order of the day as maximum socialist countries went for capitalist ideology.
6. **FORMATION OF NEW STATES:-**Due to disintegration of Soviet Union many new states emerged on world map. Number of new independent states were formed was part of Soviet Union.
7. **INCREASING ROLE O UNO:-**Due to collapse of USSR single super power USA emerged. To put this power under check and control role of UNO has increased.

#### **BRIEF ACCOUNT OF CENTRAL ASIAN STATES:-**

Central Asia is a core region of the Asian continent from the Caspian Sea in the West, china in the east, Afghanistan in the south and Russia in the north. The major countries of central Asia include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

These central Asian counties have vast hydro carbon resources and rich sources of oil.

#### **Names and Geographical Location of Balkan States:-**

The Balkans also known as the Balkan Peninsula is a geographic area south east Europe. The countries know on Balkan are Croatia, bosma and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece and the European part of Turkey. This region lies on the south eastern edge of the European continent. It lies between the Adriatic Sea and Black Sea.

#### **NOW BE ABLE TO ANSWER**

1. What were results of collapse of 2<sup>nd</sup> world?
2. What were consequences or impacts of Soviet disintegration
3. Give a brief account of central Asian States?
4. What is geographical location of Balkan States?
5. Name different Balkan states?

#### **SHOCK THERAPY AND ITS RESULTS/FEATURES:**

Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991 due to different cause's epically economic stagnation. So just to overall the system the new states sought out a change. This change was from authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system known as "Shock Therapy". This was introduced with the help of world bank and IMF under this system the newly formed republics were require to make a total shift to capitalist economy, rooting out completely the structures developed during Soviet Svstem.

In short the countries Russia, central Asia and East Europe through Shock Therapy were required to follow the economic and political system of Western countries. Each sector was guided and led by capitalist ideology. So this is a model of transition from communism to democratic and capitalistic system.

### **ITS RESULTS**

The capitalist ideology being progressive but one introduced by the name of "Shock Therapy" did not bring good results. It was a painful process. Its impact was negative. Its results were:-

- It brought ruin and disaster to economies.
- The value of Rubble declined. The inflation got so high that people lost their savings.
- 90% of industries were put to sale at low rates.
- Restructuring was carried out through market forces and not by govt. directed policies which almost led to disappearance of entire industries.
- The old system of social welfare was destroyed by taking away desired subsidies
- This privatization led to new disparities. Despite of these negative aspects, most of the countries started reviving their economies from 2000 as they exported oil, natural gas and minerals.

### **FEATURES OF SHOCK THERAPY**

- Countries were required to make total change from socialist economy to capitalist economy.
- The countries were required to adopt private ownership of property.
- There should be privatisation of state assets and to establish co-operate ownership patterns.
- Collective farming to be replaced by private farming
- Re-arrangements in trade, social and political relation with world.

In short shock therapy ruled out "third way" other than state controlled Socialism or Capitalism.

### **INDIA'S RELATION WITH RUSSIA**

No doubt after disintegration of Soviet Union world order of relations changed. Despite being follower and founder of NAM, India was quite often blamed to be an ally of Soviet Union. But after the end of cold war the history of relations indicate that India till is towards USA, although it has maintained good relation with Russian too. These relations are Infact rooted in a history of trust and common interests. Both countries share a vision of multipolar world order.

India signed friendship treaty with Soviet Union in 9<sup>th</sup> august 1971. Russian respects that treaty of friendship even today. More than 80 bilateral agreements have been signed between India and Russia as a part of Indo Russian strategic agreement of 2001. India stands to benefit from its relationship with Russia on issues like Kashmir, energy supplies, access to central Asia and technology outputs while an India is the second largest arms market for Russia. Good relations with India help Russian to balance china's influence.

### **INDIA'S RELATION WITH POST COMMUNIST COUNTRIES:-**

India shows good political, economic, social and cultural relation with all post-communist countries' Both Baltic and central Asia Republic have large sources of oil and natural gas, since India is an oil importing nation, these countries are important for India. India has enter into agreements with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan for investments and partnerships in oil fields.

These countries also share a lot of cultural heritage with India. They are also co-operating

To conclude, it is clear from the history of relation Indian has maintained good relation with all the post communist countries. But strongest relations are still those between Russian and India. India relation with Russia is an important aspect of India's foreign policy.

**NOW BE ABLE TO ANSWER**

1. What was Shock Therapy? What were its features
2. "Shock Therapy" had negative impacts. Discuss?
3. What do you know about India- Russian relation communist countries? Discuss?
4. What do you know about Soviet political and economic system?
5. What were causes responsible for soviet disintegration?
6. What were impacts of soviet disintegration?
7. Give a brief account of Central Asian States?
8. What is Shock Therapy? What are its features?
9. What were impacts of Shock Therapy?
10. Pen down relation between India and Russia?
11. Indian has good relation with almost all post-communist countries. Discuss?