**Cold War in International Relations**

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**Cold War**

**INTRODUCTION**

* After Second World War the period of International Relations from 1945 to 1990 is known as the period of Cold war.
* In fact, after the war, the war time cooperation between the Soviet Union and the USA had almost come to an end
* American statesman Bernard Baruch coined the term of Cold War.

**MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF COLD WAR**

* By Cold War, we refer to a world between 1945 and 1990 in which two supers confronted and competed with each other in order to establish their respective global leadership.
* Also it was a tussle between capitalism and communism or democracy and authoritarianism.

**Post World War II Scenario:**

* After World War II, for a very brief period, the world remained Unipolar**.** However, soon, a new era dawned on humanity where nuclear superiority of USA was matched by another power USSR.
* With the emergence of bipolar momentum in the world, quest for ‘sphere of influence’ increased between these two super-powers.

**Outcomes of World War II**

Generally, there are four important outcomes of World War II

* 1. The most important outcome of World War II was the emergence of two **superpowers**—the United States and the Soviet Union.
  2. The second outcome of the war was the recognition of ‘fundamental incompatibilities’ between these two superpowers in both national interests and ideology.
  3. The third outcome of the end of World War II was the beginning of the end of the colonial system.
* European colonies, beginning with Britain’s granting of independence to India in 1947, Indochina and African states became independent in the 1950s and 1960s.
  1. The fourth outcome was the realization that the differences between the two superpowers would be played out indirectly, on third-party stages, rather than through direct confrontation between the two protagonists. The superpowers vied for influence in these states as a way to project power.

**Causes:**

It is not easy to trace the origin of Cold War.

Generally, however, there are Three Causes;

1. Conflict of Interests
2. Ideological Incompatibilities
3. Misperceptions

**Conflict of Interests:**

* USA and USSR emerged as the primary actors in the international system
* The rise of these super powers caused the decline of Europe as the epicenter of international politics.
* Interests were colliding throughout the world e.g. Korean War;
* In 1950 North Korea attempted to reunify the Korean peninsula under communist rule, launching at attack against the South.
* U.S. forces, fighting under the auspices of the United Nations, counterattacked and nearly defeated North Korea.
* As UN troops approached the Chinese border, the Chinese attacked, driving the UN forces South and leading to an eventual three-year stalemate ending in a armistice in 1953.

**Ideological Incompatibilities:**

* The U.S. economic system was based on capitalism,which provided opportunities to individuals to pursue what was economically rational with little or no government interference.
* The Soviet state embraced Marxist ideology, which holds that under capitalism one class (the bourgeoisie), controls the ownership of production. The solution to the problem of class rule is ‘revolution’ wherein the exploited proletariat takes control by using the state to seize the means of production. Thus, capitalism, in Soviet, is replaced by **socialism**.
* In February, 1946 George Kennan, the Deputy Chief of the US to the USSR, wrote back to US a long telegram that offered a different analysis of the motives of soviet foreign policy. Its main points were;

1. Russian rulers had always been weak
2. Russian needed to invent external enemy
3. That enemy was the west
4. Therefore USSR was inevitably expansionist and hostile to the west
5. Marxism-Leninism was the ideological basis of soviet aggression and expansion
6. Marxism-Leninism taught that communist states could not co-exist peacefully with capitalist states

**Misperceptions**

Differences between the two superpowers were exacerbated by mutual misperceptions as during the Cold War the United States and the Soviet Union frequently misinterpreted each other’s policy.

* The Marshall Plan and establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were taken as a campaign to deprive the Soviet Union of its influence in Germany.
* Likewise, the Berlin Blockade was interpreted by the West as a hostile offensive action.
* United States believed that the Soviet Union was systematically penetrating areas vital to US security and was engaged in a grand design to become the world’s dominant post-war power. US policy-makers, therefore, took measures to assure US security.
* But those defensive measures were construed by the Russians as aggressive, prompting the Russians to take further defensive measures which the Americans then saw as offensive. Thus a dangerous cycle of action and reaction came into being.
* Strategists call this situation the “security dilemma”. The net outcome was less security for both parties.

**NATURE OF COLD WAR**

* Ideological war
* Methods of Cold war were different than those of traditional War
* War without Weapons
* War like Situation
* Use of Economic Aid
* Faith in war preparedness for the maintenance of peace
* Wordy War
* Suspicion and mistrust
* Diplomatic relations remained intact

**MEANS OF COLD WAR**

* Propaganda
* Diplomacy
* Spying
* Economic Aid
* Power Display

**Chronological Phases of Cold War:**

The Cold War itself (1945-89) can be characterized as forty-five years of high-level tension and competition between the superpowers but with no direct military conflict.

**Cold War era can be divided into Three chronological Phases;**

1st Phase; 1945-62; (Confrontation)

2nd Phase-1963-78; (From co-existence to détente)

3rd Phase; 1979-91; (From Renewed confrontation to Rapprochement)

**1st Phase-1945-62 (Confrontation):**

* Expansionist activities of Soviet Union: e.g., Russia used its newfound power to solidify its sphere of influence in the buffer states of Eastern Europe.
* The Europeans, together with their U.S. ally, were more interested in fighting communism than in retaining control of their colonial territories.
* The United States put the notion of containmentinto action in the Truman Doctrine of 1947.
* **Truman Doctrine**:

**‘To contain Soviet Union by encircling and threatening her with military action’**

* After the Soviets blocked western transportation corridors to Berlin, containment became the fundamental doctrine of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War.
* Churchill’s Fulton Speech, 1946 about ‘Iron Curtain’
* In his speech Churchill underlined following points that pinpoint Russian threat;

1. “Iron curtain” had descended across Europe from Stettin to Trieste
2. Behind it the soviets were building an empire in eastern Europe
3. Beyond it they were attempting to project their power by directing communist parties in western Europe to work against elected governments

* Formulation of NATO and division of Germany
* Korean Crisis and its effects
* Nuclear explosion by Soviet Union.
* Formation of SEATO and Warsaw Pact
* Construction of Berlin Wall and its Effects

**2nd Phase-1963-78; (From co-existence to détente)**

* Both sides realized the importance of world peace in an age of nuclear threats. The epoch witnessed the relaxation of strained relations between USA and USSR
* The Cold War was fought and moderated in words, at **summits**(meetings between the leaders) and in treaties.
* Some of these summits were successful, such as the 1967 Glassboro Summit that began the loosening of tensions known as **détente**.

**Détente;**

Détente is the name given to a period of improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union that began tentatively in 1971 and took decisive form when President Richard M. Nixon visited the secretary-general of the Soviet Communist party, Leonid I. Brezhnev, in Moscow, May 1972.

It is also called **Nixon Doctrine**

**Extended Détente:**

‘A strategy that seek to deter an enemy from attacking one’s allies’

**Linkage Strategy:**

**Linkage** was a policy pursued by the United States of America, championed by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, during the 1970s period of Cold War Détente which aimed to persuade the Soviet Union and Communist China to co-operate in restraining revolutions in the Third World in return for concessions in nuclear and economic fields.

* 1963 - Cuban Missile Crisis decisively established hot-lines between the two super powers.
* 1963 - Both agreed to only use underground tests for nuclear explosions (Limited Test Ban Treaty)
* Treaties placed self-imposed limitations on nuclear arms.
* Improvement of mutual relations between China and America, 1971
* **John F. Kennedy, 1963:**

‘Suspicion breeds suspicion and weapons beget counter-weapons’

* The time period from 1970-1979 is also described as the Decline of Cold War and Period of Détente.

**3rd Phase- 1979-91; (From Renewed confrontation to Rapprochement)**

* Détente was challenged by Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in1979.
* **Carter Doctrine; January-1980:**

‘Declaring US willingness to use force if necessary to protect US interests in the Persian Gulf’.

* 1980- Summer Olympics of Moscow were boycotted by more than 60 countries to protest the Soviet Invasion in Afghanistan.
* 1983- Ronald Reagan branded USSR as ‘Evil Empire’
* 1984- The year saw another boycott of the Summer Olympics held in Los Angeles. Nearly 14 countries abstained from the Olympics.
* **Reagan Doctrine:**

‘US pledged to support anti-communist insurgents and overwhelm the global influence of Soviet Union during the final years of Cold War’.

* **Changes in Russia:**

Mikhail Gorbachev assumed the leadership of Soviet Union.

He resolved to reduce the tensions between the East and the West.

Mikhail Gorbachev, as early as the mid-1980s, set in motions two domestic processes;

* *glasnost*(political openness) and
* *perestroika*(economic restructuring)

Gorbachev’s domestic reforms also led to changes in the orientation of Soviet foreign policy.

He suggested that members of the UN Security Council should become the “guarantors of regional security.”

* December, 1991- Disintegration of Soviet Union into independent republics.

**The Post Cold War Era:**

* **The fall of the Berlin Wall:** It symbolized the end of the Cold War
* **New World Order:** The deeper reality of the new world order was the United States’ emergence "as the single greatest power in the world. Moscow was crippled by internal problems, and thus unable to project power abroad.
* **The Age of Globalisation:** A few have labeled the end of the Cold War era the age of globalization.
* **US primacy:** The post-Cold War era appears to be marked by U.S. primacy in international affairs to a degree not even matched by the Romans.
* However, U.S. primacy is still not able to prevent ethnic conflict, civil wars, and human rights abuses from occurring.
* **Civil and Ethnic Strife:** The 1990s was a decade marked by dual realities (and sometimes converged and diverged), the first being U.S. primacy and the second being civil and ethnic strife.
* Yugoslavia’s violent disintegration played itself over the entire decade despite Western attempts to resolve the conflict peacefully.
* At the same time, the world witnessed ethnic tension and violence as genocide in Rwanda and Burundi went unchallenged by the international community.
* **Terrorism:** Post cold war is also characterized by the rise of terrorism across the world. On September 11, 2001, the world witnessed deadly, and economically destructive terrorist attacks against two important cities in the United States. These attacks set into motion a U.S. - led ‘global war on terrorism’.
* **US fear:** Despite its primacy, the United States does not feel it is secure from attack. The issue of whether U.S. power will be balanced by an emerging power is also far from resolved