

# Unit 5

## GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1945

### Introduction: Historical Developments Since 1945

This unit covers significant historical events and developments from 1945 to the present. Key areas of focus include the formation and role of the United Nations (UN), the Cold War, and various global conflicts and revolutions.

### Key Points

#### 1. The United Nations (UN)

- **Formation and Mission:** The UN was established in 1945, succeeding the League of Nations. Its mission is to maintain international peace and security, foster friendly relations among nations, and address international issues such as economic, social, and humanitarian problems.
- **Key Organs:**
  - **General Assembly:** All member nations meet to discuss international problems and elect Security Council members.
  - **Security Council:** Responsible for maintaining peace and security; includes five permanent members (USA, Britain, France, Russia, China) with veto power, and ten non-permanent members.
  - **Secretariat:** Managed by the Secretary-General, handles day-to-day operations and peacekeeping.
  - **Trusteeship Council:** Oversaw territories under foreign rule, assisting them in attaining independence.
  - **International Court of Justice:** The principal judicial body, based in The Hague, Netherlands.
  - **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** Promotes international economic and social cooperation.

#### Timeline Highlights:

- **1941:** Atlantic Charter signed by the US and Britain.
- **1942:** 26 countries sign the Declaration by the United Nations.
- **1943-1945:** Discussions and drafting of the UN Charter at various conferences.

- **1945:** Charter signed by 51 nations in San Francisco.
- 2. **Cold War Overview**
  - **Superpowers Emergence:** Post-World War II, the USA and USSR emerged as superpowers. The USA had strong economic and military capabilities, while the USSR sought to protect itself by creating a buffer of communist states in Eastern Europe.
  - **Iron Curtain:** Term coined by Winston Churchill in 1946, describing the ideological and political boundary dividing Europe into Soviet and Western spheres.

### Characteristics of the Cold War:

- **Political Conflict and Tension:** Involves indirect conflicts known as proxy wars.
- **Arms Race:** Competition in nuclear and conventional weapons.
- **Espionage:** Spying to gather intelligence.
- **Propaganda:** Dissemination of information to influence public opinion.
- **Military Alliances:** NATO (for the USA and allies) vs. Warsaw Pact (for the USSR and its allies).
- **Aid Programs:** Providing aid to expand influence.
- **Proxy Wars:** Conflicts where third parties represent the interests of superpowers.

### Differences Between USA and USSR:

- **Ideology:** USA - Capitalism and democracy; USSR - Communism.
- **Governance:** USA - Multi-party system; USSR - Single-party rule.
- **Economic System:** USA - Free market; USSR - Command economy.

### Key Terms

- **UNO:** United Nations Organization
- **Veto Powers:** The right of permanent members of the Security Council to block any substantive resolution.
- **Cold War:** The period of tension and competition between the USA and USSR.
- **Superpowers:** Nations with dominant influence or power globally.
- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):** A group of states not formally aligned with any major power bloc.

## **The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan**

### ***The Truman Doctrine***

In early 1947, the United States took a leadership role in opposing Soviet expansion during the early years of the Cold War. The British government announced it could no longer protect the eastern Mediterranean region, leading to concerns about Greece, Turkey, and the Middle East potentially falling under communist influence.

To address this, President Harry S. Truman introduced the Truman Doctrine in March 1947. This policy aimed to contain the spread of communism by providing economic and military aid to countries threatened by communist movements. Truman requested \$400 million from Congress to support Greece and Turkey. By 1949, American assistance helped Greece suppress a communist insurgency. This policy marked the beginning of a broader strategy called "Containment," designed to prevent the expansion of communism, with George Kennan being a key architect of this doctrine.

### ***The Marshall Plan***

World War II left Europe in ruins, with widespread destruction of infrastructure, industrial centers, and homes. To aid in Europe's recovery, U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall introduced the Marshall Plan in 1947. Officially known as the European Recovery Program, this plan aimed to rebuild war-torn Europe and prevent the spread of communism by stabilizing economies and fostering political stability.

The United States committed \$17 billion to assist 16 European countries. This aid helped revive European economies, rebuild infrastructure, and prevent the spread of communism. The Soviet Union and its satellite states rejected this aid, calling it "Dollar Imperialism," and responded with the Molotov Plan to support Eastern European countries aligned with the Soviet Union.

## **5.4. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is an international organization established during the Cold War by countries that chose not to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union. The aim was to remain independent and neutral while advocating for global peace and cooperation. NAM was not about neutrality on global issues but rather about peaceful intervention in global politics.

## Origins and Formation

The idea for NAM emerged from the Asia-Africa Bandung Conference held in Indonesia from April 18-24, 1955. This conference brought together 29 leaders from newly independent countries in Africa and Asia. They condemned racial discrimination, colonialism, and apartheid, and proposed the establishment of a United Nations Fund for economic development.

The first official NAM conference took place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961. Key figures in NAM included Joseph Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and Sukarno of Indonesia.

The Havana Declaration of 1979 outlined NAM's core objectives: to ensure "national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security" for non-aligned countries and to fight against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign subjugation.

## Objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement

1. **Maintain Independence:** NAM countries sought to remain independent from major power blocs like the United States and the Soviet Union, thus avoiding entanglement in their rivalries.
2. **Promote Peaceful Cooperation:** NAM advocated for peaceful solutions to global conflicts and supported the right of nations to self-determination and independence.
3. **Support Decolonization:** In its early years, NAM played a crucial role in the global decolonization process, helping former colonies gain independence from colonial powers.
4. **Oppose Imperialism and Racism:** NAM worked against all forms of imperialism, colonialism, and racism, promoting equality and justice on the international stage.

## Summary

The Non-Aligned Movement emerged from the desire of many newly independent countries to avoid the influence and control of the superpowers during the Cold War. By advocating for independence, peace, and anti-colonialism, NAM has played a significant role in shaping international relations and promoting global stability.