

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. What changes took place in Soviet System with the passage of time?

Ans. Soviet System became bureaucratic and authoritarian.

Q.2. What was the reason of dissatisfaction in prosperous European republics?

Ans. Those republic felt that they had paid a high cost by merging and connecting backward region to Soviet Union.

Q.3. Highlight any one major distinction between the Soviet economy and the capitalist economy.

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. The Soviet economy was planned and controlled by the state only whereas the capitalist economy was enjoyed by the people or group of people as well as by the state.

Q.4. What was the effect of Shock therapy on Russia?

Ans. Industrial complex almost collapsed, as about 90% of industries were sold out.

Q.5. How did Russia benefit from Indo-Russian relationship?

Ans. Russia stands to benefit from this relationship because India is the second largest arms market for Russia. The Indian military gets most of its hardware from Russia.

Q.6. Highlight any one consequence of 'Shock Therapy.'

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. In Russia, the large state controlled industrial complex almost collapsed, as about 90 per cent of its industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies at throw away prices called as 'the largest garage sale in history'.

Q.7. Why is falling of Berlin wall considered as an evidence of collapse of bipolar world?

[CBSE Delhi 2011]

Ans. Germany was divided during the period of bipolarity. Eastern Germany and Western Germany were the parts of Soviet Union and USA respectively. In 1989, the Berlin Wall was toppled and Germany, which was divided after the Second World War, was unified and Germany, after being divided into two parts, came under the dominance of USA. Soviet Union was disintegrated after some time. In this way, bipolar World also collapsed.

Q.8. Why did Soviet Union came to be known as 'Second Pole' of international politics?

Ans. After the adoption of communist party system, Soviet Union progressed in every field. In the Second World War, Soviet Union fought against military powers of Germany and Italy with great determination and liberated East European countries with its own regions from fascist forces and brought them under its own control. It emerged as a superpower after the end of the Second World War and due to its strong influence on East European countries, it came to be known as 'Second Pole', 'Second bloc' and 'Second World' in international politics.

Q.9. What is the historic significance of Berlin Wall?

Ans. In 1961, Soviet Union separated Western Germany from Eastern Germany by building a wall with Eastern Berlin. This wall divided Germany and stood from 1961 to 1989. But in around 1989, there was a huge dissatisfaction and public demonstrations among the people of nations under communist rule of Eastern Europe along with Eastern Germany. The Berlin Wall, which had been built at the height of the Cold War and was its greatest symbol, was toppled by the people in 1989. All the communist governments of Eastern Europe were ruled out.

Q.10. What changes occurred in the condition of Soviet Union after the Second World War?

Ans. 'Bipolar World' emerged after the Second World War, in which Soviet Union was one pole. Economy of Soviet Union was more developed than other countries of the world except America. Soviet Union freed many Eastern European countries from fascist forces after the Second World War. These came under the influence of Soviet Union. Political, social and economical systems of these countries were designed as per Soviet system. They were known as countries of the 'Second World'. The leader of this alliance was socialist Soviet Republic and these countries were joined by 'Warsaw Pact'.

Q.11. What were the causes of dissatisfaction among republics of Soviet Union?

Ans. (i) Domination of one republic over all the institutions.

(ii) Failure of social, economical and political institutions to meet the aspirations of the citizens.

(iii) Lagging behind in production and technological fields than western countries.

(iv) Shortage of consumer goods and their production.

Q.12. What was the effect of 'Shock Therapy' on the economy of Russia?

Ans. Shock therapy brought destruction to the economies and people of the entire region. The rate of inflation was so high that people lost all their savings. The value of the ruble declined dramatically. As a result of 'Shock Therapy', about half of Russia's 1,500 banks and other financial institutions went bankrupt. As a result, the money of

10,000 corporate and private shareholders was lost, along with the money kept in the bank by customers.

Q.13. How did India benefit from Russia's friendship after the disintegration of Soviet Union?

[CBSE Sample Paper]

Ans. Benefit to India from Russia:

1. Russia supported India during the Kargil War.
2. Russia supplied raw material to India for the development of energy sector.

Q.14. Analyse Soviet Union's situation after the Second World War.

Ans. After the Second World War, Soviet Union became a great power. Soviet Union progressed in every field. The Soviet economy was then more developed than the rest of the world. Vast mineral and energy resources helped it in its economical development and progress. There was an improvement in the efficiency of transport sector. Even the remote areas of USSR were connected with the capital Moscow. It also improved much in scientific sector. It was successful in sending first space traveller to Moon. It was a leading country in terms of production of nuclear weapons. Everyone in Soviet Union had consumer goods, though their quality did not match that of the Western Capitalist countries. Yet basic necessities including health, education, childcare were available to all. There was no unemployment. All citizens were ensured of minimum living standards.

Q.15. Why were people dissatisfied with Soviet System?

Ans. Soviet system was based on the ideology but after the Second World War, there was an internal dissatisfaction which erupted like fire. The economic, social and political lives of Soviet citizens were under the state control, due to which bureaucracy increased, making life very difficult for its citizens. The Soviet political system centered around communist party. Thus, no proper system of democracy and freedom of speech was there. The party bureaucrats gained more privileges than ordinary citizens, which increased dissatisfaction among the people. The bureaucrats and authoritarians were not answerable to common people. There was a discrimination among the citizens of Russian republics and citizens of other republics due to which the citizens of other republics felt neglected and often suppressed.

Q.16. Which step of Soviet Union in the period of Brezhnev led to its disintegration?

Ans. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 weakened the system. Its economy ruined due to this step. Even after hard practice of ten years (1979-89), it couldn't gain full control over Afghanistan and finally, it had to call back its armies. Invading Soviet Union in Afghanistan resulted in continuous shortage of consumer good and food products. The conditions were so miserable that food imports increased every year and

it led to the increase in the dissatisfaction and anger amongst people. The Soviet economy was faltering in the late 1970s, became stagnant and finally Soviet Union disintegrated.

Q.17. How did Soviet disintegration affect International economy?

Ans. After the disintegration of Soviet Union, capitalist system gained more popularity than communist system. America gained benefit from this as it didn't have to face any kind of problem in the expansion of its capitalist system. America evolved as the only superpower. The people of its opposite alliance were attracted towards its system. Now on the basis of America's power and reputation, capitalist economy is the dominant economy at international level. Institutions like World Bank and IMF became advisories of different countries as these institutions provided loan to those countries to encourage them to move towards capitalist economy. In this manner, disintegration of Soviet Union had completely changed the International economical system.

Q.18. 'Although India has established good relationships with all the communist countries, yet the relations of India and Russia are most cordial.' Explain the above statement with any three arguments in favour.

[CBSE Delhi 2012]

Or

Describe the relations of India and early communist countries.

Ans. During the Cold War era, India and the USSR enjoyed a special relationship, which led critics to say that India was part of the Soviet Camp. It was a multidimensional relationship.

(i) Political: The Soviet Union supported India's stand on the Kashmir issue in the UN. It also supported India during its major conflicts, especially during the war with Pakistan in 1971. India too supported Soviet foreign policy in some crucial but indirect ways (When US had sent flotillas in Pacific Ocean).

(ii) Economic: The Soviet Union assisted India's public sector companies at a time when such assistance was difficult to get. It gave aid and technical assistance for steel plants like Bhilai, Bokaro, Visakhapatnam and machinery plants like Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd., etc. The Soviet Union accepted Indian currency for tradewhen India was short of foreign exchange.

(iii) Military: India received most of its military hardware from the Soviet Union at a time when few other countries were willing at part with military technologies. The Soviet Union entered into various agreements allowing India to jointly produce military equipments.

(iv) Culture: Hindi films and Indian culture were popular in the Soviet Union. A large number of Indian writers and artists visited the USSR. India has maintained good

relations with all the post – Communist countries. But the strongest relations are still those between Russia and India. India's relations with Russia are an important aspect of India's foreign policy. Indo-Russian relations are embedded in a history of trust and common interests and are matched by popular preceptions. Indian heroes from Raj Kapoor to Amitabh Bachchan are household names in Russia and many post-Soviet countries. One can hear Hindi film songs all over the region, and India is part of popular memory. Russia and India share a vision of a multipolar world order. What they mean by a multipolar world order is the co-existence of several powers in the international system. Collective security, greater regionalism, negotiated settlements of international conflicts, an independent foreign policy for all countries and decision making through bodies like the UN that should be strengthened, democratised and empowered. More than 80 bilateral agreements have been signed between India and Russia as part of the Indo Russia strategic Agreements of 2001. India stands to benefit from its relationship with Russia on the issues like Kashmir, energy supplies, sharing information on international terrorism, access to Central Asia, and balancing its relations with China. Russia stands to benefit from this relationship because India is the second largest arms market for Russia. The Indian military gets most of its hardware from Russia.

Q.19. Write an essay for or against the following proposition. With the disintegration of the Second World, India should change its foreign policy and focus more on friendship with the US rather than with traditional friends like Russia.

[NCERT]

Ans. The arguments in favour and against the statement are as follows:

Arguments in favour: Unipolar system was originated in the World after the disintegration of Soviet Union. USA was the only superpower on international front. The war which continued for so many years between communist and capitalist ideology was finally ended along with the disintegration of Soviet Union. The capitalist system had proved its superiority over communist system. That's why India needs to change its foreign policies and should lend a hand of friendship towards America. America wants to establish trade relationship with India for its own interest. So, India should be conscious while establishing its trade relationships and should exercise the friendship of superpower of the world to its own interests.

Arguments in against: Indo-Soviet relations have always been cordial. Russia had always helped India. Although, India was a non-aligned country, even then Soviet Union provided India with economic and military assistance at the time of Bangladesh crises in 1971. Indo-Soviet relations became deeper after Tashkent treaty to avoid Indo Pak War. Indo-Russian relations were cordial even after disintegration of Soviet Union. Boris Yeltsin visited India on 27 January 1993, where he signed an Indo-Russian treaty for military and technical agreement. India stood benefitted from its relationship with Russia on issues like Kashmir. On 23 December 1994, the Russian P.M. visited India and

agreement was signed between both the countries for military, technology and trade. Russia supported India during Indo-Pak War. On 7 December 1999, a ten-year agreement between India and Russia was signed. According to this, Indo-Russia would collectively produce military and non-military aircrafts. Indian nuclear tests were supported by Russia in 1998. By keeping in mind all the above factors, we reach on a conclusion that India should not be much dependent on America after having Russia, as a trusted friend.

The following are the reasons for the above conclusion:

1. America forced Britain to free India but it opposed India when India adopted nonalignment policy after independence. Instead, it supported Pakistan, India's rival country and started providing military assistance to Pakistan.
2. America doesn't want India to emerge as a powerful nation. It opposed India's nuclear tests and forced India to sign Nuclear Treaty CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty). India always stood against America's dual policy.
3. America also adopts a dual policy on the issue of terrorism. It says India to remain patient on the issue of Pakistan's terror attacks. On the contrary, it attacked Afghanistan, causing huge devastation when it was under terror attack.
4. Indo-America's relationship can't be as cordial as Pak-America relationship. Pakistan has always been a country of America's alliance and also gained military assistance from America.

Q.20. There had always been an apprehension and risk of struggle and tension in most of the former Soviet Republics. Explain with any 3 examples.

[CBSE Delhi 2013]

Or

Explain the struggle and tension in former Soviet Republics.

Ans. Bipolarity has collapsed. Second World War didn't end the struggle and tension in former Soviet Republics. Most of the former Soviet Republics are prone to conflict and many had civil wars and insurgencies. Growing involvement of outside power had complicated the picture. Some examples are as follows:

1. In Russia, two republics Chechnya and Dagestan had violent secessionist movements. Moscow's method while dealing with the Chechen rebel and indiscriminate military bombing had led to many human right violations but it failed to deter the aspirations for independence.
2. In Central Asia, Tajikistan witnessed a civil war for ten years, till 2001. The region as whole has many sectarian conflicts.
3. In Azerbaijan's province of Nagorno-Karabakh, some local Armenians want to secede and join Armenia.

4. In Georgia, the demand for independence has come from two provinces resulting in a Civil War.
5. There are movements against the existing regimes in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia. Countries and provinces are fighting over river waters. All this has led to instability, making life difficult for the ordinary citizen.
6. In eastern Europe, Czechoslovakia split peacefully into two, with the Czech and the Slovaks forming independent countries.
7. Conflict took place in the Balkan republics of Yugoslavia. It split apart with several provinces like Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina declaring independence. Ethnic Serbs opposed this, and a massacre of non-serb Bosnians followed. The NATO intervention and the bombing of Yugoslavia followed the inter-ethnic Civil War.
8. The Central Asian Republics and areas has vast hydrocarbon resources, which have brought them economic benefit. Central Asia had encouraged exterior powers to intrude into its region. It has also become a zone of competition between outside powers and oil companies. The region is next to Russia, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan and close to West Asia. After 11 September 2001, the US wanted military bases in the region and paid the government of all central Asian states to hire bases and to allow airplanes to fly over their territory during the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, Russia perceive these states as its near abroad and believes that they should be under Russian influence. China has shown interests here because of the oil resources, and the Chinese have begun to settle around the borders and conduct trade.

(Write any three)

Q.21. What was Shock therapy? Was this the best way to make a transition from communism to capitalism?

[NCERT]

Ans. Most of the Soviet Union republics went through painful process of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system after the collapse of communism. The model of transition in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe was influenced by World Bank and the IMF came to be known as 'Shock therapy'. Shock therapy varied in intensity and speed amongst the former second world countries, but its direction and features remained the same. Each of these countries was required to make a total shift to a capitalist economy, which meant rooting out completely any structures evolved during the Soviet period. Above all, it meant that private ownership was to be the dominant pattern of ownership of property. Privatisation of state assets and corporate ownership patterns were to be immediately brought in. Collective forms were to be replaced by private farming and capitalism in agriculture. This transition ruled out any alternate or 'third way', other than state-controlled socialism or capitalism. Shock therapy also involved a drastic change in the external orientation of these economies. Development was now envisaged through more free trade, and thus a

sudden and complete switch to free trade was considered essential. The free trade regime and foreign direct investment were to be the main engines of change. To bring the change in foreign investment and currency, 'financial opening up or deregulation' policies were followed. Shock therapy was not the best way to make a transition from communism to capitalism.

It had few shortcomings:

1. It brought ruin to the economies and disaster upon the people of the entire region.
2. Due to it, large state – controlled industrial complex almost collapsed, as about 90% of its industries were put up for sale to private individuals and companies.
3. The rate of inflation raised high and the value of ruble declined.
4. Food crisis arose and because of this they started importing food.
5. Inequality between rich and poor increased.
6. The building of democratic institutions was weak.