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⇒ Second World War

- Causes of second world war

- Though invasion of Poland by Germany was the immediate cause for the outbreak of World War II, the real causes of the war were much deeper and varied in character.
- The mistakes of victors at Versailles
- This treaty was based on spirit of revenge. according to E.H. Carr "Nearly every treaty which brings a war to an end is in one sense a dictated peace but in the Treaty of Versailles the element of dictation was more apparent than in any previous peace treaty of ~~Mauryan~~ times.
Mauryan"
- Aggressive nationalism of Germany
- The desire of German leaders to make her a world power and the adoption of policy of militarization also greatly contributed in the second world war.
- Rise of Fascism and Nazism
- Statement of Alfonso Mussolini (war alone brings up to the highest tension all human energy and puts the stamp of nobility upon people who have courage to meet it)
- Japanese Imperialism
- It was an outcome of its failure to secure many concessions at peace conference, but she was determined to dominate Far East. so in 1931 Japan intervened in Munichuria inspite of opposition from League of nations.

- Dissatisfaction of national Minorities
 - In the Paris Peace settlement problem of national minorities assumed serious dimensions, these minorities continued to nourish of feeling of alienation. example: Saxon Germans in Poland.
- Economic Depression
 - The great depression of 1929, many nation faced series of unemployment, to distract the people war mongering started in European nations.
- Failure of League of Nations
 - L.O.N was created with a view to eliminate war as an instrument of policy, it suffered early blow when USA could not join league, there was no principle of collective security in League of Nations.
The financial aspect of League of Nation was also not clear, the economic sanctions were useless and were not executed properly
 - When League failed to check Japan from occupying Manchuria, Germany from respecting the provisions of Versailles, etc, other members also taking League lightly. those countries who faced aggression lost faith in the strength of League and entered into mutual, political and military Alliances
- Failure of Disarmament
 - Many countries Article 8 of the League had included that the members should take steps for reduction of national armament, but as the League members had no faith in the system of collective security this appeal of disarmament failed.

- Ideological Conflict

- Capitalism, Communism and Totalitarianism, (Nazism, Fascism, etc).

- Attitude of Western powers towards Russia

- Western powers continued to treat Russia as an outcast, they failed to realise that Fascist aggression was directed not only against Russia but also against them. Ultimately Russia got frustrated with the attitude of Western powers and concluded ^{via} a non-war pact (Anti-aggression Pact) with Germany. (This pact ~~not~~ weakened the security of Poland)

- Policy of Appeasement

- Japan's entry into the II World War.

- Japan was engaged in an undeclared war with China even before the II World War, with aim to dominate Far East and for this it was essentially necessary for her to gain control of China.
- The United States had repeatedly protested against Japanese aggression on China and declared that USA could not be neutral in case of aggression. Even USA exported war materials as well as financial credit to China. So according to Japan, USA as greatest obstacle in her aim to dominate Far East.
- Encouraged by Hitler's success in war Japan bombed American Naval base at Pearl Harbour without warning and precipitated a conflict with USA. Britain declared war soon after this attack on another side Italy and Germany declared war against USA.

⇒ Cold War

- Cold War was a war which was fought in the mind of people inspite of battlefield. The term cold war is used to describe the tension that prevails between two super blocks, capitalist headed by USA and communist headed by USSR. Cold war amounts to distrust and jealousy. It is a state of active hostility, it involves an armed race and a military confrontation or ideological propaganda, so basically cold war is an ideological war or a diplomatic war.
- Many historians has divided the phase of cold war into (a) before second world war, (B) during II world war, (C) After II world war.

- Before II world war

- In 1917 after Russian revolution many western countries sent troops to Russia to destroy the new Soviet government this foreign intervention was not liked by the Soviets. The foreign intervention however failed, but it had created a gulf between the communist and the capitalist.
- During the period between I and II world war, after the triumph of Fascism and Nazism it was considered that Germany's aggression would be directed against the Soviet Union, so therefore western countries (USA & Britain) followed a policy of appeasement and had refuse to had have any alliance with the Soviet Union to ~~resist~~ resist aggression.

→ During II World War

- During the war after the Germans tried to invade Soviet Union, a Soviet British US alliance was formed, this alliance however even during the war was not free of tensions. The US and Britain conducted their military operation jointly under a unified command and took ~~their own~~ independent decisions, this was clear on the question of opening a second front against Germany which the Soviet Union failed was being deliberately delayed.

⇒ After the II World War

- Spread of communism in eastern Europe
- The communist domination of governments in Poland and Czechoslovakia particularly aroused British and US and what they called was a Soviet betrayal regarding democratic institution and free election.
- Similar development took place in Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary. In Yugoslavia and Albania also communist who had lead the national resistance had come to power. So seven country in Europe had governments dominated by communist parties and Soviet Union was no longer the only country to be ruled by the communist party. Britain and USA were particularly concerned at this development, they viewed this as a danger to what they called the free world.

— Fulton Speech

- In 1945-47 it was period of beginning of cold war and the first shot in the cold war fired by "Winston Churchill", he made a speech at the University of Fulton in US, in the presence of USA president "Truman" in which he said "From the setting in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic sea an iron curtain has descended across the continent".

- here iron curtain refers to the division of Europe between capitalist and communist. here Churchill also appealed for British-US political and military alliance to confront the Soviet Union.

Civil War in Greece

- Since after II world war a civil war was being seen in greece. Communist had been a major force in the resistance against fascist occupation in greece. However the british troops who were sent to greece wanted to restore the rule of king it turn into civil war.
- The British ~~too~~ troops fought against greek communist however british decided to withdraw from greece. She could no longer bear the burden of supporting the greek monarchy in this civil war. This would have paved certain victory of communist in civil war, so the US government decided to take the burden of supporting greek government. similar support by US was also given in Turkey which was also threaten by a communist coup.

Truman Doctrine

- The US decision to intervene in greek civil war was appreciated by the congress. President Truman while asking the congress for 400 million dollar as military and economic aid to the greek government and this policy later called Truman Doctrine.
- In his speech he said "I believe that it must be the policy of United States to support free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities (communist) or by outside pressure (Soviet Union)"

⇒ Marshall Plan

- This plan was introduced in 1947, proposed by USA, to put forward immediate aid and assistance required for Western Europe if it was to be saved from communist revolution. It was also called European Recovery Program. Marshall Plan also gave concrete expression to (Policy of containment) Containment and its success brought about encirclement of Western Europe.

⇒ Formation of Cominform

- It was formed in 1947 aimed at dissemination of communist ideals and values, aimed at developing co-operation and co-ordination among communist countries, the East European countries under the leadership of USSR constituted this forum. This is Cominform.

⇒ Brussels treaty

- It was signed in 1948, a pact among some western European nations for a joint attack against armed attack of any of the member of Europe, ~~signing this treaty of any member signing this treaty.~~ Though US was not part of it yet it supported the treaty.

⇒ Formation of NATO

- With the Brussels treaty a new western military alliance had come into being. In 1949 USA, and other country like Britain, France, Belgium, etc formed NATO. This was there to check the Russian expansion in Europe and to contain communism. In next some years USA give massive military aid to NATO countries. The United States emerge as mighty military power. The US monopoly in atomic weapons was broken in 1949 when Soviet Union conducted an atomic test and from then the development of more and more deadly weapons became major consequence of Cold War.

⇒ Emergence of China as Communist Power

- The fear communism lead the US to intervene in affairs of Asian countries and the cold war was brought to Asia. The US was also involved in many military conflicts, US also came in conflict with anti-colonial, nationalist struggle for freedom who were having communist background.
- In 1950 after the Japanese occupation of Korea ended, Korea had been divided into two occupation zones (Northern under Soviet and Southern under US). The division was along the 38th parallel, southern zone proclaimed herself as Republic of Korea and Northern one called Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea.
- The Soviet troop left North Korea in 1948 and US troops left South Korea in 1949. The government of North Korea was headed by Kim Sung (Leader of Korean Communist Party) and South Korea was ruled by Rhee (Right wing Politician) neither government accepted the division of Korea, both claimed reunification but so in June 1950 a war broke out between two, however in view of United Nations the problem was asked to be settled by UNSC but issue was not settled because of veto of Russia.
- North Korean army made aggressive actions and swiped across almost entire South Korea. Timely intervention of US army, navy, and air force pushed North Korean army back. In support of N. Korean Army Chinese army also intervened into the war and from mid 1951 the war entered a stalemate.
- In 1953 an Armistice was signed which restored the position that existed before the war.

⇒ Warsaw Pact

- In the Soviet dominated nation of eastern Europe, great changes took place after 1956. As a countermeasure against the aggressive attitude of western powers the Soviet Union formulated Warsaw Pact in 1955. Some important members were Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, USSR, etc. The Pact also included economic and cultural collaboration.

⇒ Doctrine of Brinkmanship

- The US policy of ~~containment~~^{containment} of communism should be made more aggressive (suggested by US Secretary of State) It was decided that pushing the Soviet Union on the brink of war and to force her to grant concession. It was claimed that the ability to get to the verge of war without getting into war, was a necessary art for a statesman.

⇒ Eisenhower Doctrine

- This doctrine was put forward in 1957, given by US president Eisenhower, this doctrine brought radicalism in American policy, US could help in pursuing ~~preserving~~ the independence of people under the bondage of communist rule.
- American CNET / US CNET give discretionary power to president to send army to middle east to fight against communism.

⇒ Cuban Crisis

- One of the most serious crisis in the history of post II world war, acquired on the issue of installation of nuclear missile in Cuba. The US had set up missiles aim at Soviet targets at the basis which were closed to the border of Soviet.

- The Soviet Union generally had no basis and her her missile sites were within her own territory. Each site also had submarine carrying these nuclear missiles. The range of these missiles was limited which forced them to set up basis near the territory of their enemy.
- In Jan-1959 there was a revolution in Cuba in the leadership of Fidel Castro, the new government started adopting radical social and economic measures (communist ideology), agrarian reforms, nationalizing industries. America started turning hostile to Cuba, one more reason of hostility was the friendly relations which the new government began to have with Soviet Union and China, USA broke diplomatic relations with Cuba.
- While the Soviet Union was surrounded by US bases with nuclear missiles, the Soviet Union had no basis anywhere near US territory so in 1962 Soviet Union started building missile sites in Cuba (only 150 km from the southern most part of US).
- All through the wars which the US had fought, her own territory had been ~~invincible~~ inviolable, all wars were fought far away. The installation of missiles in Cuba would bring US territory within easy range of attack.
- President Kennedy announced a naval and air blockade around Cuba and also prepared to launch an attack on missile sites of Cuba. This crisis which had brought the world close to disaster ended in October 1962 when Soviet Union agreed to remove her missiles from Cuba if US placed not to attack Cuba. This was agreed from both sides and crisis was over, the US also agreed to withdraw the missiles which she installed in Turkey close to Soviet territory.