



Very Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks]

1. What is meant by Shock Therapy?

Answer: The 'Shock Therapy' was the state of affairs which signifies the collapse of communism followed by a painful process of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system-

1. 'Shock Therapy' administered in the year 1990 not to lead the people into the promised utopia of mass consumption.

2. It brought ruin to economies and disaster upon the people of entire region.

2. Why is it said that collapse of Berlin wall signified the collapse of bipolar world?

Answer: Collapse of Berlin Wall unified the divided Germany and eight east European countries of the Soviet Bloc replaced their Communist government resulting into disintegration of Soviet Union. With the disintegration of Soviet Union, military alliances came to an end and the world became unipolar.

3. Mention any two characteristics of Soviet Political System.

Answer: 1. The Soviet Political System central around the Communist Party and no other political party or opposition was allowed.

2. The economy was planned and controlled by the state only.

Or

The one party system had tight control over all institutions and was unaccountable to people.

3. People locked democracy and were snatched away their right to freedom of speech and expression.

4. "The Soviet Union lagged behind the West". Comment.

Answer. The Soviet Union lagged behind the West in technology, infrastructure (transport, power etc.) as it could not cope with the political and economic aspirations of people and resulted in:

1. Though wages continued to grow but productivity and technology fell considerably behind that of the West.

2. This led to shortage of consumer goods and increased food import every year.

3. The above mentioned reasons made the Soviet economy stagnant.

5. Mention some features of Soviet Society.

Answer:

1. Soviet Society gave priority to the state and party institutions only.

2. Only the Communist Party was ruling over there and no opposition was allowed.

3. The economy was planned and controlled by the state only.

4. The Soviet Union became the great power after the Second World War.

6. Write anote onformationof Commonwealth of Independent States.

Answer: Disintegration of the USSR gave birth to Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) when under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin Russia, Ukraine and Belarus declared themselves as independent and gave a surprise to other republics especially to central Asian

Republics. This issue was resolved quickly by making these republics as founding members of the CIS and Russia became the successor state who inherited the Soviet seat in the UN and accepted all the international treaties and commitments.

7. Mention any two possibilities which were being presumed in changed scenario of world politics after disintegration of the USSR.

Answer:

1. The US, the only superpower could dominate the world and make a unipolar world.
2. A multipolar world could also exist where no other power could dominate or the group of countries could participate in the international affairs.

8. How did the USSR come into existence?

Answer: The USSR came into existence after the Socialist revolution in Russia in 1917 with the inspiration of socialism and a need of egalitarian society who opposed capitalism. This was considered the biggest attempt in human history to abolish the institution of private property and to design a society based on equality.

9. Who was Gorbachev? Why did he seek to reform Soviet Society?

Answer: Gorbachev was the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985. He was forced by the following factors to seek reforms in Soviet Society:

1. To keep the USSR abreast of the information and technological revolutions.
2. To bring Soviet economy at par with the west.
3. To loosen the administrative system.
4. To democratise Soviet System and to normalise relations with the west.

10. How did Shock Therapy affect trade and commerce of Russia?

Answer: Shock Therapy affected trade and commerce of Russia in the following manner:

1. The value of Ruble, the Russian ' currency declined.
2. Inflation rose at a very high rate and it lost all savings of people.
3. Lack of productivity and technology created shortage of food which increased food imports every year.
4. The GDP of Russia also declined between 1989 to 1999.

11. When and how did Russia revive its economy?

Answer: Russia revived its economy in 2000 by the export of natural resources like oil, natural gas and minerals. Even other countries have also gained due to crossing of pipelines from their region and they have been paid a rent. Russia has started some manufacturing units also to revive its economy.

12. Write a note on tension and conflicts that occurred in Russia.

Answer: In Russia, two republics—Chechnya and Dagestan—had violent secessionist movements. Moscow's method of dealing with the Chechen rebels and indiscriminate military bombings have led to many human rights violation but failed to deter the aspirations for 'independence'.

13. Mention the methods of 'Shock Therapy' amongst the former Second World countries.

Answer:

1. The newly evolved criterion required to make a total shift to a capitalist economy to root out completely any structures evolved during Soviet period.
2. Shock therapy involved a drastic change in the external orientation.
3. Sudden and complete switch to free trade was considered essential.

4. It also involved openness to foreign investment, financial opening up and currency convertibility.

14. “ The old system of social welfare was systematically destroyed”. With reference to Shock Therapy, justify the statement.

Answer:

1. The Government withdrew subsidies and pushed people into poverty.
2. The middle classes were pushed to the periphery of society and the academic and intellectual manpower migrated.
3. A mafia had been emerged and started controlling many economic activities.
4. Privatisation led to new disparities.

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