



Long Answer Type Questions [6 Marks]

1. What was Soviet system? Assess any four features of Soviet system.

Answer: Soviet system was introduced after Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917. It was based on the principle of egalitarian society and planned economy controlled by the state. Its four features can be summed up in the following ways:

1. The Soviet system ensured a minimum standard of living for its citizens.
2. The government subsidised basic necessities including health, education, childcare and other welfare schemes.
3. There was no unemployment in the Soviet system.
4. State ownership was the dominant owned and controlled by the Soviet state.

2. Explain six factors which helped Soviet Union becoming superpower after Second World War.

Answer: The following factors helped Soviet Union becoming superpower after Second World War:

1. The east European countries the Soviet army had liberated from the fascist forces came under the control of the USSR.
2. The political and economic systems of all these countries were modelled after the USSR and collectively were called the second world.
3. The WARSAW PACT, a military alliance held them together and the USSR was the leader of the bloc.
4. The Soviet economy was then more developed than the rest of the world except for the US.
5. It had a complex communication network, vast energy resources including oil, iron and steel, (machinery) production and a transport sector that connected its remotest areas with efficiency.
6. It had a domestic consumer industry that produced everything from pins to cars to make themselves self-dependent.

3. “During the Cold War era India and the USSR enjoyed a special relationship which made critics to say that India was part of Soviet camp”. Examine the statement.

Or

“India and the USSR enjoyed mutual dimensional relationship.”

Justify the statement.

Answer: During the Cold War era India and the USSR enjoyed a special relationship which made critics to say that India was part of the Soviet camp. It was a multi-dimensional relationship:

1. Economic:

- (a) The Soviet Union assisted India's public sector companies at a time when such assistance was difficult to get.
- (b) It gave aid and technical assistance for steel plants like Bhilai, Bokaro, Vishakhapatnam and machinery plants like Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
- (c) The Soviet Union accepted Indian currency for trade when India was short of foreign exchange.

2. Political:

- (a) The Soviet Union supported India's positions on the Kashmir issue in the UN.
- (b) The Soviet Union also supported India during its major conflicts

during the war with Pakistan in 1971.

(c) India too supported Soviet foreign policy in some crucial but indirect ways.

3. Military:

(a) India received military hardware from Soviet Union.

(b) India got technological know-how regarding maintenance of military arsenal.

(c) India and Soviet Union got mutual agreements to produce military equipments.

4. Cultural:

(a) Hindi films and Indian culture were popular in the Soviet Union.

(b) A large number of Indian writers and artists visited the USSR.

(c) Indian heroes from Raj Kapoor to Amitabh Bachchan are household names in Russia.

4. Mention the causes of Soviet disintegration.

Answer: The causes of Soviet disintegration can be summed up as follows:

1. Economic Stagnancy:

(a) Economic institutions experienced internal weaknesses to meet the aspirations of people.

(b) Economic stagnation for many years to severe consumer shortages.

2. Political and Administrative Causes:

(a) The only ruling Communist Party was not accountable despite its rule of 70 years.

(b) The ordinary people were abstained from taking participation in political riots, hence the system became incapable of correcting its mistakes.

(c) The ordinary citizens were exempted from gaining the privileges.

(d) Due to non-participation of people, the government lost popular support from all sides.

3. Gorbachev's Reform Policies:

(a) Gorbachev's reforms aimed at keeping the USSR abreast of information and technological revolutions taking place in the west.

(b) Gorbachev focused to normalise relations with the west.

(c) Gorbachev worked to democratise the Soviet System.

(d) But Society was divided into two sections towards Gorbachev's reforms and both of them had contradictory views towards him.

4. Rise of Nationalism and Desire for Sovereignty:

(a) The rise of nationalism in various republics of Soviet Union proved to be immediate cause of revolutions in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Georgia.

(b) The nationalist dissatisfaction with the Soviet Union was strongest in European and prosperous part in Russia and the Baltic areas as well as Ukraine and Georgia.

(c) Ordinary people felt alienated from Central Asia.

5. What sort of conflicts had occurred in Soviet Republics? Explain.

Answer:

1. In Russia:

(a) Chechnya and Dagestan had violent secessionist movements.

(b) Moscow's method to deal with Chechen rebels and indiscriminate military bombings led to many human rights violation but for deter aspirations for independence.

2. In Central Asia:

(a) Tajikistan witnessed a civil war that went on for ten years till 2001.

(b) In Azerbaijan's provinces of Nagorno-Karabakh, some local Armenians want to secede and join Armenia.

(c) In Georgia, the demand for independence came from two provinces resulting in a civil war.

(d) There are still movements against the existing regimes in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia.

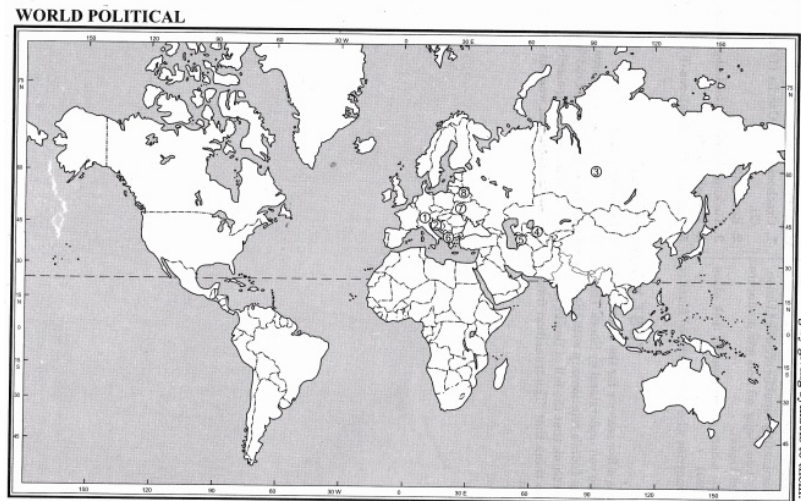
(e) Even countries and provinces are fighting over river water.

3. In Eastern Europe:

- (a) Czechoslovakia, split peacefully into two with the Czechs and Slovaks, forming independent countries.
- (b) The severe conflict took place in the Balkan republics of Yugoslavia.
- (c) After 1991, Yugoslavia broke \ apart with several provinces like Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina declaring independence.
- (d) Ethnic Serbs opposed this and a massacre of non-Serbs Bosanians followed.
- (e) The NATO intervention and the bombing of Yugoslavia followed inter-ethnic Civil war.

Map Based Questions [5 Marks]

On a political map of world locate and label the following by giving symbols to them:



Questions

- 1. A republic of Eastern Europe split into two independent countries peacefully.
- 2. Most dominating republic of Soviet Union.
- 3. Identify two major oil and gas producers of Soviet Union members of Commonwealth of Independent States.

Answer:

- 1. Czechoslovakia Czechs (1) and Slovakia(2).
- 2. Russia (3).
- 3. Turkmenistan (4) and Uzbekistan (5).
- 4. Yugoslavia (6).
- 5. Ukraine (7) and Belarus (8).

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