



Short Answer Type Questions [4 Marks]

1. Describe any four consequences of the disintegration of Soviet Union.

Answer:

- (i) The disintegration of Soviet Union meant the end of Cold War confrontations which demanded the end of armed race and restoration of possible peace.
- (ii) This disintegration created the possibility to bring in a 'multipolar system' where no power could dominate.
- (iii) The US became the sole superpower and the 'capitalist economy' was now dominant economic system at international level.
- (iv) This disintegration emerged in many new countries dividing Soviet Union into 15 independent countries alongwith their own aspirations and choices.

2. Explain any two reasons for disintegration of the USSR.

Answer:

- 1. The internal weaknesses of Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
- 2. Economic stagnation for many years led to severe consumer shortage and a large section of Soviet society began to doubt the system because Communist Party was not accountable to peoples.

3. What were the political reasons for disintegration of Soviet Union?

Answer:

- 1. The Communist Party of Soviet Union had ruled for over 70 years but it was not accountable to people.
- 2. Ordinary people had been alienated and were exempted from enjoying the privileges and to participate actively in political affairs.
- 3. Due to slow and stifling administration, the inability of system to correct mistakes lost popular support.
- 4. The centralisation of authority in a vast land.

4. In what manner Gorbachev's reform policy was protested? Who took the command during these events?

Answer:

- 1. The East European countries which were the part of the Soviet Bloc, started to protest against their own government and Soviet control.
- 2. Boris Yeltsin took the command during these events as he got popular support of people in the elections and began to shake off centralised control.
- 3. Power began to shift from centre to the republics which declared themselves independent.
- 4. In December 1991, under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin Russia, Ukraine and Baltics declared themselves as sovereign states.

5. Why did Soviet system become so weak and Soviet economy stagnant?

Answer: Soviet system became so weak and Soviet economy stagnant due to the following reasons:

- 1. The Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining nuclear and military arsenals.
- 2. Soviet economy concentrated on the development of its satellite

states in Eastern Europe especially in the five central Asian Republics.

3. This led to a huge economic burden on people to be coped up with.

4. Ordinary citizens became more knowledgeable about the economic advancement of the West and backwardness of Soviet system.

6. Why did Gorbachev's reform policy fail in spite of his accurate diagnosis of the problem?

Answer:

1. When Gorbachev carried out his reforms and loosened the system, he set in motion forces and expectations that few could have predicted and became virtually impossible to control.

2. Some sections of Soviet Society felt that Gorbachev should have moved much faster and were disappointed and impatient with him.

3. The members of communist party felt that their power and privileges were eroding and Gorbachev was moving too quickly.

4. In this tug of war, Gorbachev lost support on all sides and divided public opinion with the disillusionment of inadequate dependence.

Passage Based Questions [5 Marks]

1. Read the following passage (NCERT Textbook, page 27) carefully and answer the questions:

In eastern Europe, Czechoslovakia split peacefully into two, with the Czechs and the Slovaks forming independent countries. But the most severe conflict took place in the Balkan republics of Yugoslavia. After 1991, it broke 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 inter-ethnic civil war.

Questions:

1. In Eastern Europe which republic split into two?

2. Name the republic/place where severe conflict took place.

3. Name various provinces with which Yugoslavia had been broken in 1991?

4. Which incidents resulted into inter-ethnic civil war?

Answer:

1. Czechoslovakia split into two with Czechs and Slovaks.

2. Balkan republics of Yugoslavia.

3. Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Herzegovina.

4. 1. Ethnic Serbs opposed the breaking up of several provinces independently following a massacre of non-serb Bosnians.

2. NATO intervention and bombing on Yugoslavia.

2. Read the following passage (NCERT Textbook, page 18) carefully and answer the questions:

The Soviet system, however, became very bureaucratic and authoritarian, making life very difficult for its citizens. Lack of democracy and the absence of freedom of speech stifled people who often expressed their dissent in jokes and cartoons. Most of the institutions of the Soviet state needed reform : the one-party system represented by the communist party of the Soviet union had tight control over all institutions and was unaccountable to the people. The party refused to recognise the urge of people in the fifteen different republics that formed the Soviet Union to manage their own affairs including their cultural affairs. Although, on paper, Russia was only one of the fifteen republics then together constituted the USSR in reality Russia dominated everything, and people from other regions felt neglected and often suppressed.

Questions:

1. What was Soviet system?

2. How many republics formed Soviet Union?

3. Which republic dominated in the USSR?

4. Why did people become dissatisfied

with the rule of Communist Party of Soviet Union?

Answer:

1. 1. Soviet system was bureaucratic and authoritarian making life difficult for citizens.
2. Soviet system lacked democracy and the freedom of speech of people was also snatched away.
2. 15 Republics.
3. Russia.
4. 1. Soviet Union had tight control over all institutions.
2. Soviet Union was unaccountable to people.
3. Soviet Union refused 15 republics to manage their own affairs.

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