

## **PART-V**

**Subpart-I : Europe after the Second World War**

**Subpart-II : Condition and Direction of the World in Post World War Era**

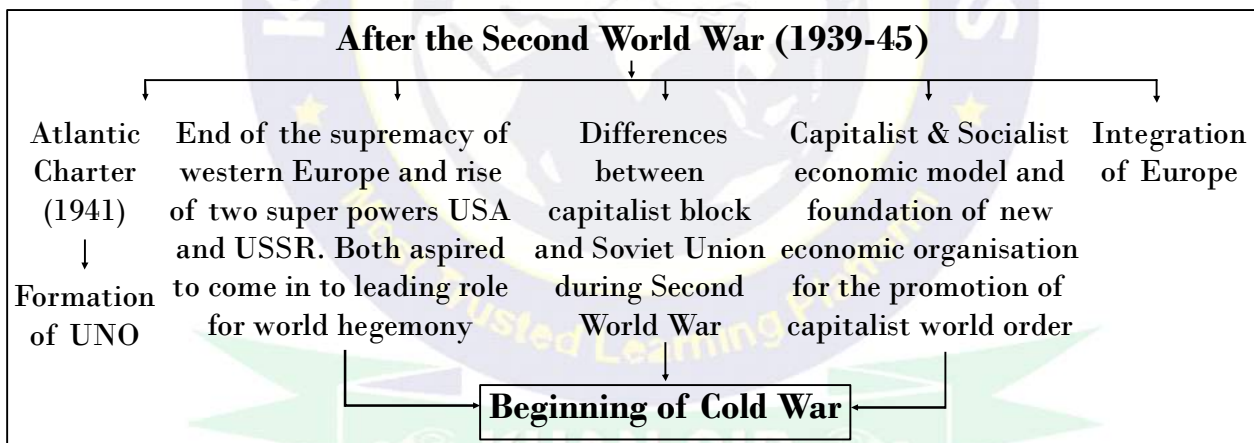
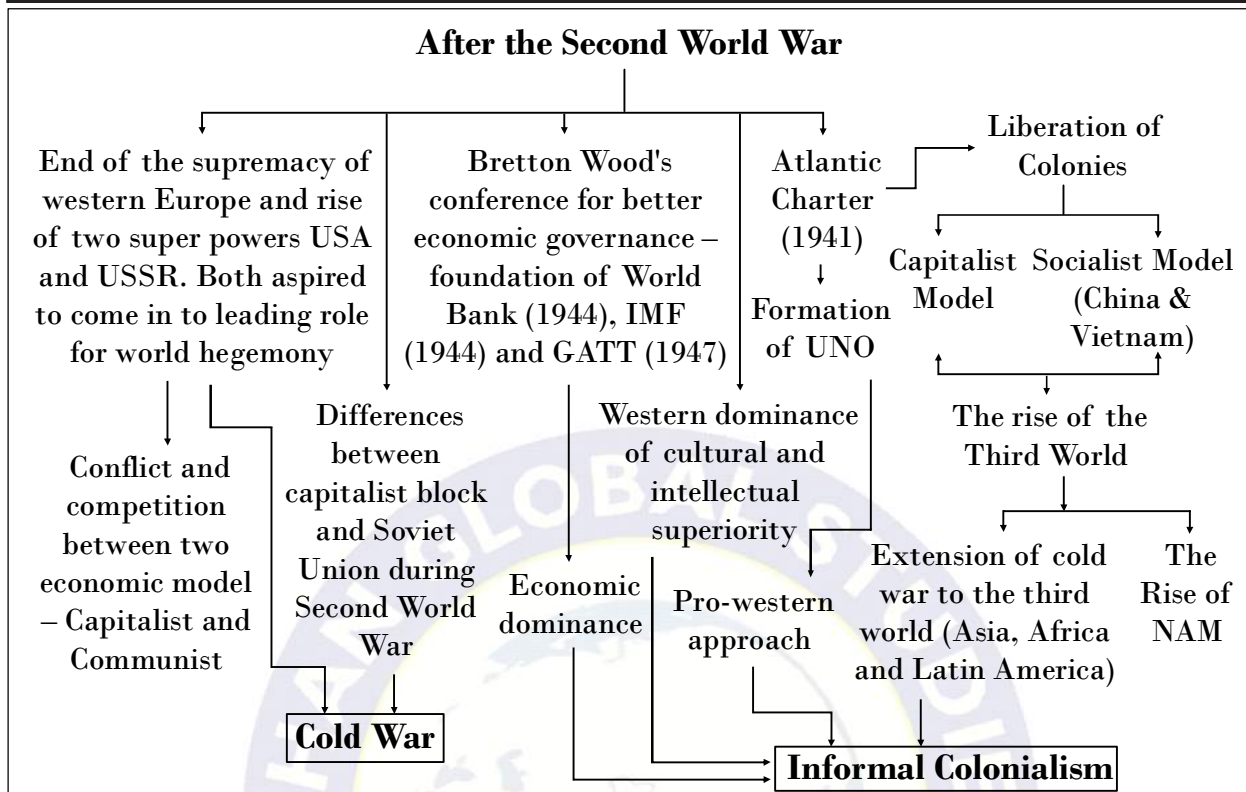
While studying these topics, it will be necessary to consider the following important facts-

- Why is World War-II considered the dividing line in world history?
- Impact on 'World History' after the end of European domination.
- What were the points of difference between the Western countries and Soviet Russia during the Second World War?
- How was the Cold War different from earlier wars?
- What steps did the western countries take to save the capitalist model?

**- Manikant Singh**

## World History (Part-V)

### Subpart-I: Europe after the Second World War



#### ■ Cold War

- It was a psychological or diplomatic war whose objective was to extend the area of influence of the one bloc at the cost of the other. Just after the end of the Second World War, the third World War started, although it was different in nature from earlier wars. It is characterised either as 'Cold war' or 'Hot peace'.
- The background of the cold war**– It is said that friends during the Second World War

didn't remain together at the end of the war as fresh issues of conflict appeared among them-

- The issue of opening of second military front during the Second World War**-(difference between Russia and western power) - Against Nazi invasion Britain and USA fought together along with USSR. But USSR was converted into a worst battle field, facing the situation of unparallel devastation. Therefore, the head of Russia suggested to allied powers

- that it would be better to open a second front in France against Germany so that German power would be divided and Russia's devastation could have been halted, but Britain gave her own plea and rejected this proposal. Britain replied that as she had already been involved into a war against Italy in Greece, so it was not advisable to open a new front in Greece.
2. **The issue of the surrender of Italy in 1943-** In 1943, after the surrender of Italy to allied powers, Britain and USA opened talks with her. USSR being a coalition partner was hoping an invitation to talk but to her utter frustration, she was not invited.
  3. **USSR brought eastern European countries and a part of Germany under its control-** After repulsing Nazi attack, USSR made an eastward expansion and captured a vast region of Eastern Europe as well as a part of Germany. So, allied powers, exclusively British Prime Minister Churchill turned to be suspicious about Russian designs.
  4. **The "percentage agreement" between British PM, Churchill, and head of USSR Stalin-** But having been suspicious of Russian movement, British Prime Minister Churchill thought it wise to divide the East European region under Russian control in respective area of influence. So, he signed a percentage agreement with USSR. According to this agreement, Russian occupied region had to be divided between capitalist and communist spheres of influence. This agreement was signed in October 1944, but putting aside the provisions of the treaty, Stalin could impose communist governments in these regions from above.
  5. **Nuclear bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by USA in August 1945-** USSR under Stalin raised the issue that being a coalition partner USSR had every right to be consulted before taking such a major step like bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the government of Truman replied that this matter was a much secret and sensitive matter associated with the security of USA which it could not share with any partner. This reply was disturbing to USSR.
  6. **In Feb 1946, Stalin declared that capitalism and communism are poles apart. In reply Churchill's declaration at Fulton in USA in March, 1946-** In 1946, Churchill the former Prime Minister of Great Britain gave a speech at the university of Fulton, Missouri, in the US, in which he stated that 'from Baltic to Trieste' in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the continent. This notion of an 'iron curtain' imposed on the Soviet Union and European countries has since become the pervasive image of the Soviet Union during the cold war.
- **Comprehensive causes behind the cold war:**
1. It was the product of a historical situation. In fact, in history, there is a very short period of co-operation but a long period of conflict.
  2. Every war creates a power vacuum and after that existing powers try to fill it. The same phenomenon was also visible after WWII. In other words, after WWII the two superpowers USA & USSR tried to fill up the vacuum.
  3. The ideological conflict between Soviet Russia & the USA became a major point of difference between the two.
  4. In fact, WWII made both the USA &

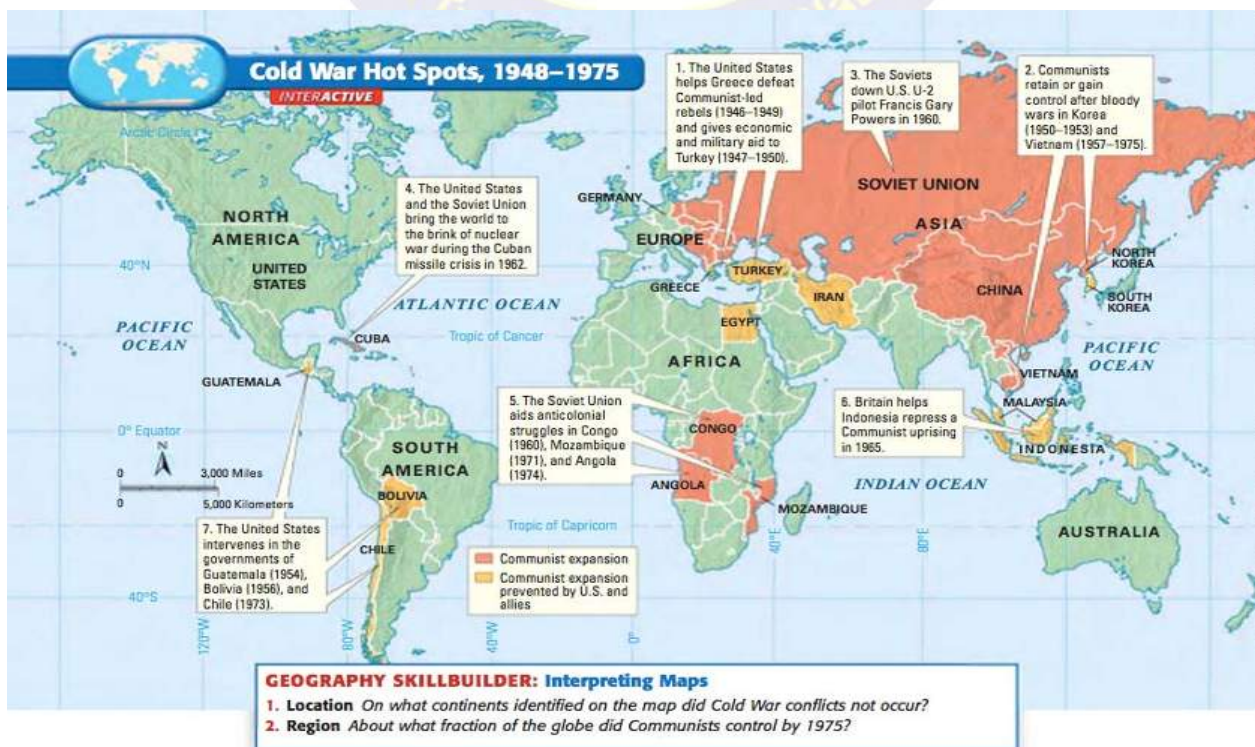


USSR much conscious about their defence. Before WWII, USA treated herself to be a safe nation which was protected through the great fort of the Atlantic Ocean. But an attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan exposed its vulnerability. Not simply that, the invention of aircraft made this point clear that the Atlantic Ocean would not work as a protective wall for a longer time.

5. Likewise, Russia had bitter memories to be invaded at both its fronts western as well as eastern. So, Russia came to realise that so far it was not going to develop friendly nations on its border, its security would always be threatened. It was with this objective it installed the communist governments in the Eastern European counties.
- **Strategy adopted by the United States for the promotion of capitalism and to check socialism:**
    - After the WWII, the process of decolonisation started and it was followed by the democratisation of international

relations. So there arose a question of “How to run the international economy after the decline of colonial powers? Earlier, they had been giving the guarantee of the repayment of loan as well as smooth functioning of economy”. Further, the gold standard in international trade also collapsed up to this period. So there was a major question, “How to run international economy now?”

- It was in this context that colonialism turned from formal to informal, and a number of institutions were formed which could ensure the economic hegemony of the capitalist west. The twin daughters of Bretton Woods came into existence in 1944. These were the IMF and the World Bank.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**– In the absence of the gold standard, IMF had to facilitate the smooth functioning of the international trade through exchange rate management. Now gold standard was replaced by “Dollar Standard” and IMF had to adjust the value of different





economics to the international competition e.g. agriculture, service sector etc. were kept out from the purview of international trade and the third world economics were given extra protection.

- Under the Keynesian model of economy, the world economy grew faster i.e., between 1950 and 1973. This period is characterised as the golden age of the capitalist economy.

currencies with respect to the Dollar.

- **World Bank**– Likewise, World Bank had to play the role of guarantor of the loan. The headquarter of both of these institutions are in New York. Also, it was decided between the European countries and the USA that the head of IMF would come from the Europe while that of the World Bank from the USA.
- **GATT (General Agreement on Tariff and Trade)**– Apart from that, as the great depression of 1929-30 gave a lesson that at the time of economic crisis, a trade war and a currency war starts between countries. So in order to avoid such possibilities, a new institution GATT was established. Then it was decided that it would work for the smooth functioning of international trade.
- **Contribution**– The architects of these new institutions were J. M. Keynes, a British economist and Harry Dexter White, an US economist. JM Keynes was conscious about the fact that there should be a proper balance between the smooth functioning of international economy and the protection of domestic economy. So, he partially exposed the domestic

#### ■ Formal declaration of Cold War and its progress in Europe-

1. **Truman Doctrine ( March, 1947)**– Britain withdrew from Greece, so the security of Greece and that of Turkey became a big issue and that fell on the head of USA. So, US President Truman made an appeal to US congress to sanction the money for military expenses. As a result, \$ 450 million was sanctioned by the Congress for maintaining US naval force in the Mediterranean Sea. Then, in March 1947, there appeared ‘Truman doctrine’. The US President, Truman addressed a joint session of the US Congress on 12 march, 1947, with a speech that later came to be known as Truman doctrine. He told the Congress, ‘Greece must have assistance if it is to become a self-supporting’ and a respectable democracy... I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free people. The Truman doctrine initiated the phase of the US policy of containment of communism across the world.



2. **Marshall Plan (June, 1947)**– In June 1947, the United States laid out plans for a European re-construction program. This is known as the Marshall Plan. In this plan, a provision of total \$ 13 billion was made for the economic assistance to Europe. The real purpose of this plan was to promote the economic re-construction of Europe and above all, to create a market for American goods. According to Britain, this was a formal declaration of the Cold War because it divided Europe into two separate blocs.
  3. **Brussels Pact (March, 1948)**– Imposition of a communist government in Czechoslovakia by USSR in Feb 1948 and the formation of ‘Brussels pact’ by western countries in March 1948.
  4. **Berlin Blockade and NATO**– The issue of ‘Berlin Blockade’ in May-June 1948 and formation of NATO in April 1949.
  5. **Warsaw Pact (1955)** – In a response to the move of Western powers, USSR formed ‘Warsaw pact’ in 1955.
    - But during the cold war, except some stray incidence of tension, Europe remained to be relatively peaceful. Actual conflict appeared in the vast region of Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- **Atlantic charter (1941):**
- The Atlantic charter was signed by the US President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister, Churchill on a battleship in the Atlantic Ocean and it declared a few common principles for the future world order.
  - **Contributions:**
    1. It promised the right to self-judgment to all the people living in different parts of the world.
    2. It proved a death knell to colonialism and imperialism and it became a charter for decolonization.
    3. As it was realised that one of the reasons for the world wars was the monopoly of some nations on economic resources, so Atlantic charter tried to assure the access of all countries to the sources of raw materials and the market.
- **Limitations:**
1. Through the Atlantic charter the USA had been searching its own market desperately through removing control by colonial powers from the international market.
  2. Very soon, the agenda of the cold war violated the Atlantic charter. In other words, only those liberation movements could enlist the support of the USA where the movement was being led by the bourgeoisie party. But if it was led by the Communist Party it was consciously opposed by the USA.
- **Integration of Europe**
- On the one hand, where Europe was divided into Western and Eastern Europe, on the other, integration among the countries of Western Europe also got a boost. (Only after the 1990s did integration expand to Eastern Europe.)
  - **Factors behind the integration of Europe:**
    1. European leaders and intellectuals realized that each generation of Europe was facing a fierce war. This war could be ended only when there was a unification of Europe. Apart from that, there was awareness among the common people in favour of integration as well.
    2. France realized that the issue of its conflict with Germany would end after unification.

3. France and some other countries believed that it would be possible to limit the influence of both the superpowers on Europe after the unification.
4. It was also necessary for Germany (West Germany) as in condition of integrated Europe it would have been accepted in the community of European nations quickly.
5. Post-World War economic reconstruction would have been easy after the integration of Europe.

- **Model of integration:**

1. An organized federation of different nations like the US.
2. A loose union of different nations, like the United Nations.

- **European Economic Community (1958)**

- A consensus could not be reached in favour of the first model, so an international organization was created by the Treaty of Rome of 1957. Its aim was to bring about economic integration, including a common market, a customs union and a common external trade policy, among its six founding members: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany.

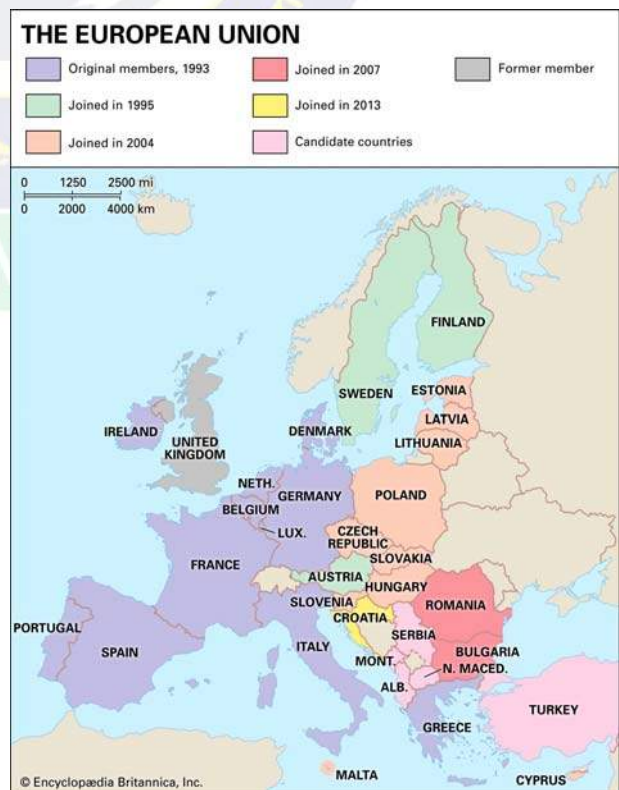
- **Some of the Institutions of EEC:**

1. European Parliament
2. European Council of Ministers
3. European Court
4. Secretariat
5. Euratom - A collective nuclear program of member countries.



- **European Community**

- In 1967, more efforts were made towards economic integration and in this regard, the European Community was formed instead of the European Economic Community. Under this, an effort was made to form an organization by combining the European Economic Community, the European Coal and Iron Commission and the Euratom.



- **Britain's Response** - Initially, Britain was not willing to join this institution, rather it formed an organization EFTA (European Free Trade Association) in association with seven other countries.
- **Why Britain did not join EEC?**
  1. She had more confidence in the Commonwealth market than in European market.
  2. He believed that his relationship with the

United States would be weakened by joining this organization.

- But after the rapid expansion of the economy of France and Germany and the decline of the British economy on the other side, Britain realized its mistake. Then it tried constantly to join the institution but now its decision was vetoed by France. Finally, in 1973 it was successful in joining this institution.

