

CHAPTER 19 ARMAMENTS, NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND WORLD PEACE

Objectives

After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- explain the origin and causes of the cold war;
- discuss the outbreak of World War II and the potency of the atomic bomb;
- know the meaning of armaments, acquisition of arms and arms trade;
- explain the circumstances that led to the Strategic Arm Limitation Treaty (SALT);
- discuss nuclear science and the proliferation of arms;
- explain nuclear science, armaments and world peace.

19.1 Origin and Causes of the Cold Wars

Cold war can be described as a situation of high tension between two blocs, i.e. communist bloc and capitalist bloc. It can also be described as a psychological warfare aimed at reducing the enemy's area of influence and increasing the number of one's own camp followers. The term was coined by Baruch in 1947 to describe the emerging tensions between the Soviet Union and the Eastern European states under its influence of one land, and the USA and its Western European allies on the other. The tensions had been apparent ever since the division of occupied Germany into four zones and the beginning of Soviet administration in Eastern Europe, and was intensified by the marshall plan, which the Soviet Union forbade the countries under its control to accept.

The first, most hostile, phase which began after the Potsdam conference, included the Greek Civil War (1946 – 9) and the Berlin Blockade in 1948. It reached a first climax with the Korean War (1950-3). There was a slight relaxation after Stalin's death in 1953, but it continued until the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. They brought the two superpowers of the USA and the USSR to the brink of a nuclear war and thus caused a change of attitude which led to first efforts at disarmament.

Causes of the Cold War

The cold war was the aftermath of a long time mistrust and suspicion between USA and USSR, who were allies during the 2nd World War. It started when, to the utter surprise of the USSR, USA in August 1945 dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities. The first bomb was dropped in Hiroshima and the second was dropped in Nagasaki by the B – 29 bombers, named Enola Gay and Bockscar. The potency of these bombs on the Japanese cities forced Japan to withdraw from the war. It also resulted in the end of the war and giving victory to the allied forces.

Although, the USSR fought in the same camp with the United States, it was obvious to the USSR that the USA had a monopoly on specific knowledge of raw materials for nuclear weaponry. The implication of this was that the USA had an edge over the USSR. This became a source of worry to Stalin who immediately had a change of attitude towards the USA.

19.2 World War II and the Atomic Bomb

The Second World War (WWII) started on 1st Sept 1939 and ended on 2nd Sept 1945. It was the world's biggest military confrontation which started with the German invasion of Poland and was extended into a global war by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Poland was occupied by 28 September 1939 and according to the Hitler-Stalin pact, was divided between Germany and the USSR. After a brief phoney war, neutral Denmark was attacked and occupied on 9 April 1940, while the invasion of Norway lasted from 9 April to 10 June, 1940. German success in the Norway campaign, only days before the British had planned to land there, provoked a political crisis in Britain. German atrocities dramatically increased popular hostilities and resistance and, thus, eased the task of the liberating armies. From May 1944, the strategic bombing of Germany entered a new stage, destroying not only war production, but also supply routes and oil refineries. After a number of last desperate measures, such as the V1 and V2 bombs developed by Braun and the Ardennes offensive, the allies proceeded to occupy Germany. Berlin fell on 2nd May 1945. As the allies continued to make progress in taking over all the war fronts, but after their victory in the Japanese Island of Iwo Jima, the USA began a bombing campaign against Japanese cities in preparation for an invasion. Encouraged by the victory in Europe and the successful development of the atomic bomb, the allies, under the leadership of the USA, issued the Potsdam declaration on 26th July 1945 demanding unconditional Japanese surrender. As this was not forthcoming, and in order to save lives and cut short the gruesome war, Truman authorized the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan, who could not contain the destructive effects of the atomic bomb, immediately ended hostilities effective from 15 August and formally surrendered unconditionally on 2 September 1945. Five months after the end of hostilities in Europe, World War II had come to an end.

19.3 Armament and Arm Trade

All through the ages, states have relied on their national power. State power has proved to be of great importance in the existence of states. These states power is often measured by the military might of such state in question. In order to maintain these state power or even beef up such state power and remain recognized at the international levels, states have embarked on the production of different types of ammunition ranging from light to heavy and nuclear arms in the case where the state in question could not produce, she can procure from other states who have produced and stockpile such weapons. When a state enters into a pact with another state for the production and supply of arms such a state is said to be involved in arm trade. Every state, both big and small, can always be

involved in armament and arms trade. Reasons include the fact that they must equip their army so as to defend their independence in the face of any external or internal aggression. They also need to protect their territory as well as their sea and air space. They must protect their integrity and ensure that their national interest prevails whenever it clashes with other states. The cold war era encouraged states to engage in armament and arms trade so as to increase their arms stock pile.

19.4 Nuclear Science and Proliferation of Arms

Nuclear Science has to do with the act and process which leads to the development and production of weapons of mass destruction of life and property. It was the nuclear science that was adopted in the USA Manhattan project that produced the atomic bomb which was exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August 1945, respectively. The decisive victory which the atomic bomb gave to the allies and to the USA, in particular, made every state interested in nuclear science. With the development of nuclear science countries, especially the rich industrialized ones, have increased the quality and quantity of their nuclear arsenals.

As these weapons of mass destruction of life and property are now produced through the instrumentality of nuclear science, they are equally circulating to states and nations who may not have had the capacity to manage it well. The unguaranteed circulation of nuclear arms can be viewed from the view point of arms proliferations which was made possible through nuclear science technology. When states are armed to the teeth (armament), they start looking for testing grounds for such arms. Our world would be in great danger if no restrictions are made on nuclear science and arms proliferations.

19.5 The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)

International concern rose over the possibility of achieving and maintaining global peace and order, considering the rate at which countries and nations are developing and procuring nuclear war heads. In reaction to the risen international concern for global peace, the two super powers, USA and USSR, opened up talks in November 1969 on how best to achieve limitations on the production and proliferation of long-range missiles and bombers. This talk between the superpowers led to the SALT I agreement of 26 May 1972. This agreement limits the deployment of anti-ballistic missiles and froze the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles for the next five years or until further SALT negotiations had been concluded.

After six years of renewed talks, the SALT II treaty, which brought about only a minimal reduction in the number of missile launches and other weapons was concluded. Perhaps, because of USSR's invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, SALT II was never ratified by the US senate.

19.6 Armaments and World Peace

States and nations have gone into the procurement of arms to secure their own security. However, it has been observed that when states are armed, they become a source of threat to their neighbours. Over 70percent of inter-state and intra-state wars that loom today are caused by the fact that states are armed. For example, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1991, was caused primarily because Saddam Hussein felt he had an inexhaustible source and stockpile of arms. The recent Arab spring which has left millions of people dead, and well over 10millions of people homeless, is a function of the use of armament. The use of armaments has made nonsense of the vital role of diplomacy and peaceful settlement of disputes while promoting the use of force which should be the last option.

On the other hand, one can as well argue that the use of armaments has contributed to the existence of a world without physical confrontations during the cold war era.

Summary

- Cold war is the emerging tension between the Soviet Union and the United States of America as both of them work harder to contain each other's influence.
- Cold war started immediately after the 2nd World War, when USA demonstrated nuclear discoveries by using their atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Cold war was caused by a long time suspicion and mistrust between the two superpowers.
- World War II started on 1st Sept 1939 with the German invasion of Poland.
- Armament and arms trade were consequences of the cold war.
- The peace of the globe is at risk due to the issues of armament and arms proliferation.

Objective Questions

1. Cold war was a psychological war between _____.
 - A. China/Japan
 - B. USSR/Germany
 - C. USSR/USA
 - D. France/Russia
2. The cold war can rightly be described as the aftermath of the 2nd World War because of _____.
 - A. America was forced to showcase its advanced knowledge of nuclear science through her use of atomic bomb.
 - B. It made USSR to confirm her suspicion and mistrust over America
 - C. A only
 - D. A and B
3. The Second World War started with Germany's invasion of _____.
 - A. Japan
 - B. Russia

- C. Poland
D. Britain
4. The German leader who started the 2nd World War was _____.
A. Ottovon Bismark
B. Hitler
C. None of the above
D. Lord Curzon
5. The Second World War started on _____.
A. 1st Sept 1939
B. 2nd Sept 1945
C. 27th June, 1918
D. None of the above
6. The USA president who authorized the use of atomic bomb on the Japanese cities was _____.
A. Harry Truman
B. Winston Churchhill
C. Lord Curzon
D. Prime Minister Tojo
7. The 2nd World War formally ended on _____.
A. 1st Sept 1939
B. 2nd Sept 1945
C. 2nd June 1918
D. 11 Sept 1981
8. Hiroshima and Nagasaki where the atomic bombs were dropped belonged to which country?
A. Russia
B. Germany
C. Poland
D. Japan
9. The talks between USSR and USA which led to the adoption of SALT started when?
A. November 1969
B. November 1996
C. April 1976
D. None of the above
10. The USA's Senate refused to ratify USA's agreement with USSR that led to SALT II because _____.
A. of USSR's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979

- B. they observed the agreements were faulty
- C. USA cannot carry the burden
- D. None of the above

Essay Questions

1. What is the actual cause of the cold war between USA and USSR?
2. Nuclear science and arms proliferation is a source of sleepless night to lovers of global peace. Discuss.
3. Discuss the Second World War and show how the allies victory turned to be a source of tension to the world in general?
4. What are the prospects and ills associated with armaments and arms trade?
5. In the faces of the use of armaments, the world will know no peace. Discuss.