

□ Book 1: Contemporary World Politics

□ Chapter 1: The Cold War Era (Detailed NCERT-Based Summary)

□ 1. Emergence of the Cold War

After the end of World War II (1945), the world was divided into two major ideological blocs:

The United States (USA) leading the capitalist bloc

The Soviet Union (USSR) leading the communist bloc

Cold War refers to the state of tension and hostility without direct military confrontation.

□ “The Cold War was not simply a matter of power rivalry, of military alliances, and of the balance of power. These were accompanied by a real ideological conflict.” — NCERT

The world experienced a bipolar international order, with both powers competing for influence, alliances, and military supremacy.

□ 2. The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

In 1962, the US discovered Soviet nuclear missiles stationed in Cuba, just 90 miles off the American coast.

The crisis brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

Eventually, diplomacy prevailed, and the crisis ended with the Soviet withdrawal of missiles in exchange for the US not invading Cuba.

□ This incident marked the peak of Cold War tensions.

□ 3. Nature and Features of the Cold War

No direct armed conflict between the superpowers.

Included:

Arms Race (especially nuclear weapons)

Military Alliances

Propaganda

Proxy Wars in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan

The concept of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) ensured nuclear deterrence.

#### □ 4. Formation of Military Alliances

Western Bloc (led by USA):

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) – 1949

SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organization) – 1954

CENTO (Central Treaty Organization) – 1955

Eastern Bloc (led by USSR):

Warsaw Pact – 1955

These alliances had collective defense commitments, aiming to check the other's influence.

#### □ 5. Arena of the Cold War: Proxy Wars

Though direct conflict was avoided, both powers intervened in regional conflicts to promote their ideology:

□ Examples:

Korean War (1950–53): North Korea (communist) vs South Korea (capitalist)

Vietnam War (1955–75): USA supported South Vietnam against the communist North

Afghanistan (1979): USSR invaded, USA supported the Mujahideen

□ “These confrontations were accompanied by diplomatic communication, arms control agreements and reduced tensions.” — NCERT

□ 6. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

In response to superpower rivalry, newly independent countries initiated NAM in 1961, refusing to join any military bloc.

Founders:

Jawaharlal Nehru (India)

Josip Broz Tito (Yugoslavia)

Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt)

□ “Non-alignment was not about being neutral or passive. It meant staying away from alliances and preserving independence in foreign policy.” — NCERT

NAM focused on:

Peace

Cooperation

Support for decolonization

Economic development of the South

#### □ 7. Reduction of Tensions: Détente

Détente refers to periods of relaxation in tensions, especially in the 1970s.

Treaties signed:

SALT I (1972) and SALT II (1979) – aimed at limiting nuclear weapons

Helsinki Accords (1975) – promoting cooperation between East and West

#### □ 8. End of the Cold War

The Cold War came to an end with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Causes of Soviet Collapse:

Economic stagnation

Authoritarianism

Reforms of Gorbachev: Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (restructuring)

Independence movements in Soviet republics

Loss of legitimacy of the Communist Party

□ “The disintegration of the USSR was not the outcome of war but the result of internal weaknesses.” — NCERT

Now continuing with:

□ Chapter 2: The End of Bipolarity (Detailed NCERT-Based Summary)

□ 1. Disintegration of the Soviet Union (1991)

On December 25, 1991, the USSR formally disintegrated, leading to the end of the Cold War and emergence of 15 independent republics.

□ “The disintegration of the USSR was perhaps the most important event that signaled the end of the Cold War.” — NCERT

Major Reasons:

Stagnant economy

Inefficient bureaucracy

Authoritarian governance

Gorbachev's reforms (1985–1991)

Over-centralization

Failure to address national aspirations

□ 2. Gorbachev's Reforms

Mikhail Gorbachev introduced:

Perestroika (Restructuring) – economic reforms to introduce limited capitalism

Glasnost (Openness) – allowed criticism of the government, free press

These reforms weakened Communist control and accelerated demands for independence in Soviet republics.

### □ 3. Coup and Collapse

In 1991, Communist hardliners attempted a coup against Gorbachev.

Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Republic, opposed the coup and emerged as a national hero.

Gorbachev resigned; the Soviet Union ceased to exist.

### □ 4. Consequences of Soviet Disintegration

End of bipolarity

Emergence of Unipolar World (USA as sole superpower)

Rise of new independent countries with different trajectories:

Some moved to democracy (like Ukraine, the Baltic states)

Others became autocratic (like Belarus, Turkmenistan)

### □ 5. Shock Therapy

Refers to the sudden transition from communism to capitalism in post-Soviet states.

Policies included:

Privatization

Removal of subsidies

Free trade

□ Resulted in:

Economic hardship

Hyperinflation

Unemployment

Rise of oligarchs (wealthy business elites)

Collapse of welfare systems

□ 6. India and Post-Soviet Russia

India maintained strong ties with Russia, the successor of USSR.

Areas of cooperation:

Defence and military (Russia is India's biggest arms supplier)

Space cooperation (ISRO projects)

Support on Kashmir

Energy partnership (oil, gas, nuclear)

□ “India-Russia relations are rooted in history, mutual trust and common interests.” — NCERT