

# **THE COLD WAR**

## **SUMMARY OF CHAPTER:**

**Cuban Missile Crisis (1962):** Countries involved were USA represented by John F. Kennedy & USSR represented by Nikita Khrushchev.

## **CAUSE OF THE CRISIS:**

1. Cuba was an ally of the Soviet Union and received both diplomatic and financial aid from it.
2. Nikita Khrushchev, the leader of the Soviet Union, decided to convert Cuba into a Russian base. In 1962, he placed nuclear missiles in Cuba.
3. The installation of these weapons put the US, for the first time, under fire from close range.
4. Kennedy ordered American warships to intercept any Soviet ships heading to Cuba as a way of warning the USSR of his seriousness.
5. A clash seemed imminent in what came to be known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**THE COLD WAR:** The end of the Second World War was also the beginning of the Cold War. The Cold War was not simply a matter of power rivalries, of military alliances, and of the balance of power. These were accompanied by a real ideological conflict as well, a difference over the best and the most appropriate way of organising political, economic, and social life all over the world. The western alliance, headed by the US, represented the ideology of liberal democracy and capitalism while the eastern alliance, headed by the Soviet Union, was committed to the ideology of socialism and communism.

**THE LOGIC OF DETERRENCE:** When two rival powers are in possession of nuclear weapons capable of inflicting death and destruction unacceptable to each other, a full-fledged war is unlikely. In the event of a nuclear war, both sides will be so badly harmed that it will be impossible to declare one side or the other as the winner. Even if one of them tries to attack and disable the nuclear weapons of its rival, the other would still be left with enough nuclear weapons to inflict unacceptable destruction. This is called the logic of 'deterrence': both sides have the capacity to retaliate against an attack and to cause so much destruction that neither can afford to initiate war.

**THE EMERGENCE OF TWO POWER BLOCS:** The two super powers wanted to expand their power and so urged the smaller states (countries) to join their alliance. The world was soon divided between two alliance systems, the western alliance & the eastern alliance. Most countries of western Europe sided with the US and those of eastern Europe joined the Soviet camp. Both, the super powers & the smaller states, gained in this alliance.

**SUPER POWERS:** The smaller states were helpful for the superpowers in gaining access to (i) vital resources, such as oil and minerals, (ii) territory, from where the superpowers could launch their weapons and troops, (iii) locations from where they could spy on each other, and (iv) economic support, in that many small allies together could help pay for military expenses. (vi) They were also important for ideological reasons. The loyalty of allies suggested that the superpowers were winning the war of ideas as well, that liberal democracy and capitalism were better than socialism and communism, or vice versa.

**THE SMALLER STATES:** The smaller states got the promise of protection, weapons, and economic aid against their local rivals, mostly regional neighbours with whom they had rivalries.

### TREATIES FORMALISED BY BOTH:

**Western Alliance (US):** North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which came into existence in April 1949. It was association of twelve states which declared that armed attack on any one of them in Europe or North America would be regarded as an attack on all of them. In East and Southeast Asia and in West Asia (Middle East), the United States built an alliance system called — the Southeast Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO).

**Eastern Alliance (USSR):** The Warsaw Pact, was led by the Soviet Union. It was created in 1955 and its principal function was to counter NATO's forces in Europe.

**ARENAS OF THE COLD WAR:** Besides the Cuba crisis of 1962, the two superpowers were poised for direct confrontations in Korea(1950 - 53), Berlin (1958 - 62), the Congo (the early 1960s).

**FORMATION OF NAM( Non-Aligned Movement)** as a challenge to this bi-polarity is the policy of staying away from both alliances:

1. Five leaders who came to be known as the founders of NAM- Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito, India's Jawaharlal Nehru, Egypt's leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, Indonesia's Sukarno and Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah.
2. The first non-aligned summit was held in Belgrade in 1961 which was attended by 25 member states. Over the years, the membership of NAM has expanded.
3. The policy of staying away from alliances should not be considered isolationism which means remaining aloof from world affairs. In fact, non-aligned countries, including India, played an active role in mediating between the two rival alliances.
4. Non-alignment is also not neutrality which refers to a policy of staying out of war. Non-aligned states, including India, were actually involved in wars for various reasons. They also worked to prevent war between others and tried to end wars that had broken out.
5. The challenge for most of the non-aligned countries — a majority of them were the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) — was to be more developed economically and to lift their people out of poverty. Economic development was also vital for them.
6. By the mid-1970s, they had become the most important issues. As a result, NAM became an economic pressure group.

**UNCTAD:** ( The idea of a New Inter -national Economic Order (NIEO). The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) brought out a report in 1972 which proposed a reform of the global trading system so as to:

- (i) give the LDCs control over their natural resources exploited by the developed Western countries,
- (ii) obtain access to Western markets so that the LDCs could sell their products and, therefore, make trade more beneficial for the poorer countries,
- (iii) reduce the cost of technology from the Western countries
- (iv) provide the LDCs with a greater role in international economic institutions.

### INDIA'S RESPONSE TO THE COLD WAR:

1. It took particular care in staying away from the two alliances.
2. It raised its voice against the newly decolonised countries becoming part of these alliances.
3. India tried to reduce the differences between the alliances and thereby prevent differences from escalating into a full-scale war.
4. Indian diplomats and leaders were often used to communicate and mediate between Cold War rivals such as in the Korea War in the early 1950s.
5. India tried to involve other members of the non-aligned group in this mission & during the Cold War, repeatedly tried to activate those regional and international organisations, which were not a part of the alliances by the US and USSR..

ATTEMPT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN LOOSE SHEETS:

Q1. What was the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Q2. "The Cold War was not simply a matter of power rivalries, of military alliances, and of balance of power. It was accompanied by an ideological conflict as well" Justify. OR What was the Cold War?

Q3. What do you understand by the Logic of Deterrence?

Q4. What do you understand by the alliance system?

Q5. Why did the superpowers have alliances with smaller countries? What benefit did the smaller states have?

Q6. The Cold War produced an arms race as well as arms control. What were the reasons for both these developments? (Find answer from book pg 8)

Q7. NAM was considered a 3rd option by Third World countries. How did this option benefit their growth during the peak of the cold war? OR NAM was a challenge to bipolarity-Explain

Q8. Evaluate the NIEO of 1970's.

Q9. What was the role of India in the cold war?

Q10. "India's non-aligned policy served its interest directly and also received criticism" Explain.

Q11. What was India's foreign policy towards the US and USSR during the cold war era. Do you think that this policy helped India's interests?

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