

1. How did India manage to tackle the food crisis after independence? What were the key long term reforms undertaken by the government then? Discuss.

Approach-

candidate is required to give brief analysis of the situation prevalent at the time of independence. In the next half, reforms like green revolution to irrigation infrastructure can be given and its long term impact on India's food security can be stated.

Introduction

Independent India was born in hunger, hunger lay at the roots of much of its public policy in its early years, and over 70 years later, we are still a hungry nation. The nature may have shifted a bit malnourishment rather than stark famine is the real problem today, but at a basic level, this is still a country that struggles to feed its people adequately.

Body

Food security after independence.

- Food security concerns can be traced back to the experience of the Bengal Famine in 1943 during British colonial rule, during which about 2 million to 3 million people perished due to starvation.
- Since attaining independence, an initial rush to industrialize while ignoring agriculture, two successive droughts in the mid-1960s, and dependence on food aid from the United States exposed India's vulnerability to several shocks on the food security front.
- The country went through a Green Revolution in the late 1960s and early 1970s, enabling it to overcome productivity stagnation and to significantly improve food grain production.
- Despite its success, the Green Revolution is often criticized for being focused on only two cereals, wheat and rice; being confined to a few resource abundant regions in the north western and southern parts of the country that benefited mostly rich farmers; and putting too much stress on the ecology of these regions, especially soil and water.
- The Green Revolution was followed by the White Revolution, which was initiated by Operation Flood during the 1970s and 1980s. This national initiative has revolutionized liquid milk production and marketing in India, making it the largest producer of milk.
- Of late, especially during the post-2000 period, hybrid maize for poultry and industrial use and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cotton have shown great strides in production, leading to sizeable exports of cotton, which made India the second largest exporter of cotton in 2007–2008.

Some major steps taken by government.

- Green revolution with high yielding crops and efficient irrigation system in northern parts of India especially in Punjab, Haryana and western U.P. proved to be effective in providing necessary staple diet for growing population in the short period of time.

This was an important event accompanied with land reforms made India an example of success story overcoming hunger.

- In the mid-1970s, the Government of India launched three important food intervention programmes for food security. They include Public Distribution System (PDS) for food grains; Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (introduced on an experimental basis) and Food-for-Work (FFW). Over the years, several new programmes have been launched and some have been restructured with the growing experience of administering the programmes.
- The food procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer section of the society. This is called the Public Distribution System (PDS). This is the most important step taken by the Government of India towards ensuring food security.
- The Government of India introduced Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in 1,700 blocks in the country in 1992. The target was to provide the benefits of PDS to remote and backward areas. From June 1997, in a renewed attempt, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced to adopt the principle of targeting the poor in all areas.
- With a five-fold increase in food grain production from 50 million tonnes in 1950-51 to about 250 million tonnes in 2014-15, India has moved away from dependence on food aid to become a net food exporter.
- Since 1980's there was an increasing acknowledgement that physical and financial access to food had a determining role in achieving food security in the country.
- Further, Amartya Sen's Nobile Prize winning theory (Poverty and famine, 1998) highlighted that hunger and starvation result from some people not having access to enough food – what he called entitlement. This implied inspite enough food being available in the country people suffered from hunger and starvation because they were physically or financially unable to reach to food. The approach shifted from food production to access to food and from charity to a rights-based approach.

Conclusion

Food security of a nation is ensured if all of its citizens have enough nutritious food available, all persons have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality and there is no barrier on access to food. The right to food is a well established principle of international human rights law. Though India crossed many barriers, road is just half travelled. India is still home to largest number of malnourished children, our record on hunger index is poor. A fulfilled diet for our population will drive us toward realising full potential of our dividend.

2. Examine the issues that affected the integrity of India's social fabric post-independence. What was the response of the leadership to those challenges?

Approach

Since question is asking you to examine, it necessitates you to probe deeper.

Introduction

15th August 1947 marked the end of colonial rule in India and the country found itself standing on the threshold of a new era wherein the task was to build a strong nation. While India found itself independent from the British, it was still to find independence from social, economic and political problems that had started to become a rock in the way of its growth.

Body

THE ISSUES THAT AFFECTED THE INTEGRITY OF INDIA'S SOCIAL FABRIC POST- INDEPENDENCE

- Boundaries of the British Indian provinces had been drawn and redrawn in a haphazard manner without any thought to cultural and linguistic cohesion. Most provinces were multilingual and multicultural and after independence, many former princely states were absorbed into them. There was a demand for linguistically homogeneous provinces.
- When India gained Independence, its population numbered about 340 million. The literacy level then was just 12% or about 41 million.
- The partition of India gave way to the refugee problem. By mid-1948 about 5.5 million non-Muslims had moved into India and a very large number of Muslims had left India for Pakistan.
- At the time of Independence, the incidence of poverty in India was about 80% or about 250 million. Famines and hunger pushed India to take external help for its food security.
- The Naxalite Movement was a revolutionary movement that was started by the Naxalbari in Bengal another group of Maoist themed activity in Andhra Pradesh the Andhra Naxalites were mainly active in two regions Telangana and Srikakulam bordering Odisha in both the regions the area of dispute was land and forest. The main victims were the tribal and the peasants.
- The oil crisis of the mid 70's had also contributed to the crisis and all of these developments together led to riots and large-scale unrest and strikes and erosion of support for the Congress from the poor and the middle class.
- There was violence between Hindus and Muslims. The difference in ideologies paralyzed the government both at the centre and the states.
- The terrorist movement led by Bhindranwale and Amrik Singh was started by the murder of the head of the Nirankari sect.

THE RESPONSE OF THE LEADERSHIP TO THE SOCIAL CHALLENGES POST-INDEPENDENCE

- The Indian Constituent Assembly adopts Article 370 of the Constitution, ensuring special status and internal autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir.

- Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru introduces India's first five-year plan, which defines the Nehruvian model of centralized economic planning and development. The Soviet-style five-year plan also creates a typically Indian model of mixed economy and big government.
- States of India were reorganized in 1955 on the basis of the recommendations made by the States Reorganization Commission. Since this was done on the basis of the language spoken by the people, each state has some cultural cohesiveness.
- The government abolished such patrimonial feudalism, and subsequently also abolished the privy purses and compensations granted to the rajas.
- Education has promoted migration of people from villages to towns and cities. There is an increased emphasis on Hindi and other national languages. The policy of learning three languages at the school level has been implemented in all the states of the Union of India.
- The Community Development Programmes (CDPs) were started on 2 October 1952 for the uplift of the rural people. To overcome some of the impediments in the implementation of these schemes, the Panchayati Raj scheme was introduced on 2 October 1959", initially in the states of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.
- The elected leaders of the rural people at three levels, viz., the village, the block and the district, were given the responsibility of implementing the developmental schemes in view of the 'felt needs' of the rural classes.
- Several schemes were executed for the welfare of the urban people and of those working in industries.
- The Government of India passed the Hindu Marriage Act in 1955 and the Hindu Succession Act in 1956. Legislation also was enacted to discourage child labour.

Conclusion

It is to be noted that, Indian constitutional principles of secularism and federalism are the foundational keystone of Indian democracy. Indian democracy is a heterogeneous model with a vast socio-religious and cultural diversity. It was predicted by western political analysts that the Indian model of democracy would not last long. However, it was due to India's strong commitment to its constitutional principles that led India to not only survive as a nation but also to emerge as the leader of the newly independent countries.

3. How did insurgency develop in the state of Punjab? How was the insurgency tackled? Discuss.

Approach:

Approach is very straight forward and simple, students are expected to write about how insurgency developed in Punjab stating the reasons and how it tackled mentioning reasons in a detailed manner and conclude by mentioning the changes happened in Punjab thereafter.

Introduction:

Post independent India stood up as a united nation in the face of extreme diversity and forces stretching her indifferent directions. One of the strongest movements for “self-determination” was the Khalistan movement in the late 20th century to carve out an independent state from the erstwhile India and some parts of Pakistan with predominant Sikh population. Punjab insurgency was overtly and covertly supported by Pakistan, however the ground was laid by certain other factors like Punjabi speaking feeling neglected, Sikh demanding a separate state and other issues like Satluj Yamuna Link issue and Chandigarh as a capital of Punjab only.

Body:

Factors which led to emergence of insurgency in Punjab-

- 1947 Partition of India – Independence of India was not a joyful event for Sikhs, partition left Sikhs in a lot of discontentment with regard to their traditional lands being lost to Pakistan.
- The fight for a separate Sikh state owes its origins to the Punjabi Suba Movement. The Akali Dal – a Sikh-dominated political party – sought to create a separate Sikh Suba or Province.
- When the States Reorganization Commission, constituted to assess the demand for separate states by linguistic groups, made its recommendations, it rejected the Akali Dal’s demand. But after a series of violent protests, the Indira Gandhi government relented in 1966.
- The state was trifurcated into Punjabi-majority Punjab, Hindi-majority Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Some hilly regions of the state were merged into Himachal Pradesh.
- However, the Anandpur Sahib resolution reignited the passion of Sikhs and sowed the seeds of Khalistan movement. The resolution demanded autonomy for the state of Punjab, identified regions that would be part of a separate state, and sought the right to frame its own internal constitution. This was the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. The Anandpur Sahib resolution found an admirer in Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale – a religious scholar who’d been travelling across Punjab advocating a return to the Khalsa or a more orthodox form of Sikhism.
- Initially, the movement helmed by Akali leader Sant Harchand Singh Longowal and party chief Parkash Singh Badal adhered to the principle of non-violence. But gradually, as the talks lingered without any breakthrough, radicals led by Bhindranwale started dominating the agitation.

- Demands for separate nation-hood for Punjab was carried out through violent protests and killings of high profile persons in Indian government.
- Finally, the spiral of violence led to Operation Blue Star that was launched to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in June 1984. Bhindranwale was killed in the operation. Four months later, Indira Gandhi was shot dead by two of her Sikh bodyguards to avenge the operation.

How this violent insurgency was tackled-

- The first phase of insurgency was treated as a law and order situation by both union and the state government, until 1984 they refused to entertain the idea of a rising Sikh insurgency. This stage saw low violence low base situation which calls for pre-emptive multi-pronged initiatives employing various elements of national power failing which its progression is a possibility. The political leaders from both Akali and Congress jostled for political supremacy, blaming each other for the woes of people and failed to address the political, economic or social causes of the dissent. The dynamic created a political void which was filled by Sikh religious extremists.
- In the second phase Strengthening of the counter insurgency measures took place at a larger scale police apparatus in Punjab was strengthened and focus on border areas was increased to counter cross border movement and supply of weapons, also diplomatic measures were initiated to counter any external support to terrorists.
- But with the increasing violence and terrorists occupying the golden temple operation blue star was initiated to flush out the terrorists and curb the increasing violence. In 1984 Army was given a go ahead to enter the temple which neutralized the terrorists inside but the collateral damage was huge with large number of civilians were killed in the operation and the Akhal Takht was also damaged, this alienated the sikhs further which resulted in massive demonstrations against the government which culminated in the assassination of Prime inister Indhira Gandhi by her two sikh bodyguards and subsequently violence against sikhs took place at a large scale in and around Delhi.
- Later Rajiv-Longowal accord was signed which set the base for peace but all the promises could not be fulfilled due to the disagreements which led to the assassination of longowal by the sikh militant groups.
- Violence continued till 1995 when chief minister Beant singh was killed in a suicide bombing, with increasing public support security forces effectively eliminated anti-state combatants through intelligence based operations thus paved the way for peaceful Punjab.

Conclusion:

India continues to fight a lone, painfully slow, but successful battle against terrorism that is funded and supported by Pakistan. The Indian Security Forces, with their vast experience, have developed new counter insurgency techniques. Nowhere are the results of these techniques more visible than in the spectacular peace dividend in the State of Punjab. The Punjab campaign stands out among the most recent, successful and victorious counter insurgency campaigns in the world. This was largely made possible by a coherent grand strategy and tactical innovations on the ground. Sikh masses played an important role in helping to curb the

violence in the state and in later times Punjab emerged as one of the most prosperous states in India.

4. What were the key provisions of the Shimla agreement after the 1971 Indo-Pak war? Was it a lost opportunity for India? Critically comment.

Approach

We need to list down key provisions of Shimla agreement and comment on whether it was a lost opportunity or not. We have to present both sides of argument.

Introduction

The Shimla Agreement was signed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan on 2nd July 1972 in the aftermath of the 1971 Indo-Pak War. It was much more than a peace treaty and intended to establish peaceful Indo-Pak and regional relationship in the long run.

Body

The Shimla Agreement contains following guiding provisions, mutually agreed to by India and Pakistan, which both sides would adhere to while managing relations with each other:

- A mutual commitment to the peaceful resolution of all issues through direct bilateral approaches.
- To build the foundations of a cooperative relationship with special focus on people to people contacts
- To uphold the inviolability of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, which is the most important confidence building measure (CBM) between India and Pakistan, and a key to durable peace.
- To always respect each other's national unity, territorial integrity, political independence and sovereign equality;
- To take all steps within their power to prevent hostile propaganda directed against each other and to encourage the dissemination of such information as would promote the development of friendly relations between them.
- Progressively restore and normalize relations between the two countries by resuming communications, promote economic and trade relations.

However, Shimla agreement is claimed to be a lost opportunity for India due to following reasons:

- Recently, Pakistan unilaterally made Gilgit-Baltistan its 5th province, which was a grave violation of Shimla agreement.
- Wars and Terrorist attacks: Kargil War (1999), Mumbai 9/11, Pathankot, Uri, Pulwama, etc. Pakistani state sponsored terrorist attacks continue to cause escalations and casualties.
- The Shimla Agreement, and the subsequent Delhi Agreement, gave Pakistan everything it wanted: the territory it lost to India in the war (15000 sq. km.) and the safe return of all its soldiers (93000) without anyone of them being held responsible for the genocidal campaign unleashed in what is now Bangladesh.

- India missed a golden opportunity to resolve the Kashmir issue: Captured territory and soldiers could have been used to resolve Kashmir dispute.
- Nothing in the Agreement pinned Pakistan down to future good behaviour, which led to continued violations of agreement.
- Ceasefire violations: According to security officials, there were 5,100 instances of ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in 2020 in Jammu and Kashmir, the highest in nearly 18 years that claimed 36 lives and left more than 130 people injured.
- Pakistan-China nexus: India today faces a possibility of two front war on its western and eastern borders.
- Radicalization and Propaganda: It is misguiding Indian youth especially Kashmiri youth and causing violence, radicalism and disharmony in the Kashmir valley.
- Internationalization of Kashmir issue: Pakistan continues to raise Kashmir issue at various international forums like UN General Assembly, SAARC, etc. which is against agreed provision of 'resolution via direct bilateral approaches'.
- Bangladeshi migrant issue was neglected and today the migrant issue continues to disturb India's social and security fabric. E.g.: Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, etc.
- Disturbed and Least Integrated region: South Asia hosts a 25% of world's population but accounts only around 4% of the global economy.
- Restricted Connectivity: Continuing tensions have restricted India's as well as South Asia's connectivity with West and Central Asia.

Still, Shimla agreement is an important milestone in Indo-Pak relations as following opportunities were or can be seized:

- Pakistan recognized Bangladesh, as a newly independent democratic country which today forms a vital component in India's 'Act East Policy'.
- Isolating Pakistan at global forums: India reiterates provisions of Shimla Agreement to maintain bilateral nature of the issue and highlights Pakistan's non-adherence to mutually agreed treaty.
- Prevented internationalization of Kashmir issue by Pakistan to some extent.
- It continues to be comprehensive blue print for good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan, which can be adopted to revive peaceful bilateral resolution of pending issues.

Conclusion

India has faithfully observed the Shimla Agreement in the conduct of its relations with Pakistan and expects same from Pakistan. India is firm on its stand of 'talks and terror cannot go together', so Pakistan has to create an enabling environment for talks and both countries need to work towards the establishment of durable peace, friendship and cooperation.

5. India's journey towards the status of a responsible nuclear power was full of challenges and roadblocks. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Students are expected to write about India's nuclear power and highlight on challenges of India as a responsible nuclear power with substantiating your view.

Introduction

India has a largely indigenous nuclear power programme. The Indian government is committed to growing its nuclear power capacity as part of its massive infrastructure development programme. Because India is outside the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty due to its weapons programme, it was for 34 years largely excluded from trade in nuclear plant and materials, which hampered its development of civil nuclear energy until 2009.

Body

Challenges and roadblocks for India towards its status of responsible nuclear power:

- The NSG was created in response to India's first nuclear test 'Smiling Buddha' (Pokharan-I) in 1974. The NSG first met in November 1975 in London, thus popularly referred to as the "London Club".
- India was left outside the international nuclear order, which forced India to develop its own resources for each stage of the nuclear fuel cycle and power generation, including next generation reactors such as fast breeder reactors and thorium breeder reactors.
- As India is not a signatory of NPT and NSG, nuclear supply is severely contained by sanctioned against India. This situation has changed after 2009 waiver and bilateral civil nuclear energy agreements with many countries.
- To address the issue of nuclear liability, India has ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage and set up an insurance pool of Rs.1,500 crore (\$225 million) for liability risks that may arise from the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in the country.
- It is uncertain, however, if this amount will effectively assuage supplier concerns. Just as an example, after the Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984, the Indian government claimed \$3.3 billion in damages. The proposed insurance pool is measly in comparison.
- Land acquisition and selection of location for Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) is also major problem in the country. NPP's like Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu and Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh have met with several delays due to the land acquisition related challenges.
- Genuine problems of Nuclear technology includes safety and waste management. Incidents like Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, Fukushima are serious case of concern.
- The idea of no-first-use (NFU) of nuclear weapons has been rejected by some nuclear weapons states and accepted only at the declaratory level by most, if not by all of the others. Nuclear weapons are often seen as an antidote to conventional

inferiority as the inferior party will seek to deter conventional attack by threatening a nuclear response.

- India has low reserves of uranium. But this changed a bit recently with the discovery of the Tummalapalle uranium mine in Andhra Pradesh, which has the potential to be among the largest uranium mines in the world. India has also entered into uranium supply agreements with various countries such as Russia, France and Kazakhstan to import the majority of its uranium needs.
- Regulatory challenges with respect to AERB as noted by the parliamentary Public Affairs Committee (PAC) report on the AERB, regulatory oversight too faces a huge manpower shortage.
- In Human resource India currently faces a shortfall in nuclear scientists and engineers. In 2006, Department of Atomic Energy stated that it would be necessary to train and recruit about 700 scientists and engineers every year in R&D units.
- It is the duty of the Governments to ensure the safety and security of using nuclear power as a source to meet growing energy challenges. Nuclear technology suffers from genuine problems of safety and waste management.

Conclusion

India is blessed with aplenty of sunshine and a nearly inexhaustible resource of Thorium. Our future depends on how efficiently these two resources are utilised. With India's entry into international nuclear cooperation, the opportunity for a rapid growth in the installed capacity helps in accumulating fissile inventory at a faster pace. In the meantime, several enabling indigenous technologies have been developed for thorium utilization. Focused developments in solar and Thorium energy can lead to a stage when India do not have to look onwards for meeting its energy demands for several centuries, in harmony with environment.

6. What were the key philosophical ideals rooted in the American Revolution? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the American Revolution and discuss about key philosophical ideals rooted in the American Revolution.

Introduction

The American Revolution, which took place between 1765 and 1783, was a political upheaval during which colonists in the Thirteen North American Colonies of Great Britain rejected the British monarchy, overthrew the authority of Great Britain, won political independence and went on to form the United States of America. The American Revolution was the result of a series of social, political, and intellectual transformations in American society, government and ways of thinking.

Body

Key philosophical ideals rooted in American Revolution –

- Some of the leaders of the American Revolution were influenced by Enlightenment ideas which are, freedom of speech, equality, freedom of press, and religious tolerance. American colonists did not have these rights, in result, they rebelled against England for independence. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote about American's natural rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These ideas came from the Enlightenment, the ideals led towards the American Revolution soon after.
- John Locke was one of the most important and influential philosophers in the history of the world. He devoted a lot of his time into writing about philosophy and political thought. The founding fathers of the American Revolution drew heavily on his ideals. John Locke argued "The power of any king or government is derived from people who contract to obey their rules in exchange for law and security. Individuals have a natural right to hold property and this can never be taken from them without their own consent. If a ruler infringes the terms of the contract that empowers him or seizes property without consent, the people can resist and depose him" (John Locke).
- Around 1750, many Thinkers were challenging the status-quo and demanding freedom & liberty for the people. They placed before the people idea of a democratic form of governance. They helped in development of ideas of Republicanism and Liberalism that militated against colonialism.
- Many leading colonists, most notably Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, followed the doctrines of deism, a religious outgrowth of the Enlightenment. Deists relied on the reasoning power of science rather than on faith. The best way to improve society, deists argued, was to rely on reason. The Enlightenment embraced the concept of natural rights as a rational ideology, which fostered the Patriots' yearning for liberty and a democratic government that protected their freedoms.

- As the leaders of the American colonies fought for independence from Great Britain, the focus of attention broadened to include social reforms. Political representatives tackled several key issues, including voting rights, slavery, religion, and women's rights.
- No Taxation without Representation called by Colonial lawyers they argued that the stamp tax violated colonists' natural rights, and they accused the government of "taxation without representation." In Britain, citizens consented to taxes through their representatives in Parliament. The colonists, however, had no representation in Parliament. Thus, they argued they could not be taxed.
- Ideas that were once just abstract thoughts such as popular sovereignty, natural rights, constitutional checks and balances and separation of powers were now part of an actual political system that worked.

Conclusion

The American Revolution had a profound impact on the history of the modern world. It provided a template through which modern ideas could defeat oppressive regimes.

The subsequent success of the USA in world arena is a testimony to how powerful is the idea of liberal democracy and emancipation of the populace. This model was successfully emulated by many countries (especially in Europe) post World War II. India also has learned a lot from the American experience and adopted many of these democratic principles, adding to our own democratic socialist principles.

7. With the help of suitable examples, explain the concepts of mercantilism and imperialism.

Approach

Question is straight forward in nature. Candidate can give evolution of mercantilism and imperialism in brief and then complement it with suitable examples.

Introduction

Mercantilism was dominant in modernized parts of Europe, and some areas in Africa from the 16th to the 19th centuries, a period of proto-industrialization. It promotes imperialism, colonialism, tariffs and subsidies on traded goods to achieve that goal.

Body

What is mercantilism?

- The Mercantilism theory states that there is a finite amount of wealth in the world and that it is in a nation's best interest to accumulate this finite wealth.
- A country achieves wealth by producing and exporting more goods than it imports. These goods must be sold at a profit for wealth to accumulate. Profits are large when a country spends a small amount of money on raw materials needed to create a product and sells the finished product for a high price. Then, Mercantilism was meant to serve the interests of the only empire, not the colony. Colonies existed for the benefit of the home country.
- A nation's wealth is measured by the amount of precious metals (Bullion) it has accumulated rather than by its productivity. Sometimes, mercantilism is also known as bullionism.
- A favourable balance of trade is required to increase the wealth of the nation. To achieve this, domestic industry should be protected. Exports should be encouraged even at the cost of rival economies and imports should be curbed.

Strategies of Mercantilism –

- Aggressively exploit natural resources abroad. Build colonies to extract wealth.
- Maximize the export-to-import ratios and build up trade surpluses with other countries. The strategies to do so were as follows:
- Raise protective tariffs or quotas or both on foreign imports.
- Erect non-tariff barriers on foreign imports.
- Dump exports on foreign markets by pricing them below cost so as to drive foreign companies out of their own domestic markets.
- Prevent other states from obtaining wealth. This could be done by Create exclusive trading relationships with weaker states so as to deny more powerful states access to their resources.

Examples of mercantilism –

- Mercantilist ideas were the dominant economic ideology of all of Europe in the early modern period. It began in France in early 16th century when an important decree

of 1539 banned the import of woollen goods from Spain and some other parts. In 1540, France banned the export of bullion.

- In England, the mercantilism reached its peak in 17th century particularly between 1640 to 1660. A major contrast between French mercantilism and British mercantilism was that in Britain, the focus remained in international trade rather than the domestic control.
- The nation aggressively sought colonies and once under British control, regulations were imposed that allowed the colony to only produce raw materials and to only trade with Britain. mercantilist policies were one of the major causes of the American Revolution.

Imperialism –

- Imperialism is the ideology and policy of extending the rule or authority of a country over that of another and its people either through military, economic or political means.
- Although the earliest examples of imperialism can be traced back to the third millennium BC empires of Assyria and Babylon, the modern concept of imperialism arose in the 17th century with the rise in European colonialism.
- The word 'Imperialism' comes from the Latin word "imperium", which means 'sovereign power' or simply 'rule'.
- the main focus of imperialism has always been power projection and economic growth for the country carrying it out. Keeping the focus of European imperialism in mind, territorial expansion was largely focused on economic growth by collecting resources from subjugated territories and maintaining control either through military or political means. The British colonisation of India can be regarded as an example.

Types and examples of imperialism –

- Colony: A region our country governed directly by a foreign power. The example of this is British control of India and French control of Vietnam and Cambodia.
- Protectorate: Where a country or a part of its territory has its own government but is under the control or 'protection' of a foreign power. The British protectorate of the Niger River delta was an example of a protectorate.
- Sphere of influence: An area where an external power claims exclusive rights and privileges for trade and investment. Central Asian nations were under the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union through the duration of the Cold War.
- Economic Imperialism: Independent but less-developed nations controlled by private businesses rather than by foreign governments. For example, American fruit-based companies had a monopoly on fruit production, particularly bananas, in the Caribbean region and some parts of Latin America. As these nations were dependent on the trade of banana for the survival of their economy, they were at the mercy of the whims and fancies of these American fruit companies leading to the coining of the term 'banana republics'.
- Walter Rodney, a Guyanese economist, in his 1972 classic *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, proposes the idea that imperialism is a phase of capitalism which stated that "Western European capitalist countries, the US, and Japan

established political, economic, military and cultural hegemony over other parts of the world which were initially at a lower level and therefore could not resist domination.”

Conclusion

Mercantilism, in a way, was both the cause as well as the effect of imperialism. Mercantile economic policies were definitely an impetus for the start of colonization. But subsequently, the benefits due to colonial exploitation further reinforced the ideology of mercantile capitalism and augmented its spread across Europe. As a result these countries saw very rapid increase in trade volume while colonies suffered proportionally.

8. How did nationalism evolve as an important political strand in the 19th century? How did it impact the world? Analyse.

Approach

The question is asking you to analyse so it means to look at or think about the different parts or details of something carefully in order to understand or explain it.

Introduction

A nation is a group of people speaking a common language, sharing a common culture, a sense of a common destiny, and sharing a common history. So, nationalism is also a term to describe the common bonds that hold people together within a nation, creating a new type of community. Tied to this is the idea that individuals' loyalty should be focused on the nation and that each nation should be able to determine its own future—an idea known as self-determination. So, nationalism is also the idea that the nation should have that right to govern itself and the right to self-determination.

Body

EVOLUTION OF NATIONALISM AS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL STRAND IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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- Nationalism is not very old. Before the very end of the eighteenth century (1700s), nationalism didn't even exist as a widespread cultural or political ideology.
- The French revolutionary era had great importance in the development and spread of nationalism as an ideology. As Napoleon expanded and his armies occupied many other European countries, those other countries all agreed national self-determination was the way to go. Uniting against the French regime created a sense of common destiny—a sense of nationalism.
- There were many other trends occurring at the same time including the growth in literacy, urban areas, and print culture (communicating through printed words and images). With the enlightenment, education and literacy and the many forms of print were crucial to the spread of ideas. Common bonds formed between intellectuals and the reading public within countries.
- The most devoted nationalists in the early nineteenth century were actually secondary students and university students in urban areas.
- While nationalism has much to do with unity, its development often comes through the defining of differences.

IMPACT OF THE NATIONALISM ON THE WORLD –

- The rise and spread of nationalism gave people a new sense of identity and also led to an increased sense of competition among nation-states.
- After the downfall of Napoleon in 1815, the Congress of Vienna met mainly to redistribute the territories occupied by the French. The makers of the Vienna

Settlement tried to prevent the spread of the ideas of democracy and nationalism. Despite their efforts, liberal ideas were gaining ground.

- Italy had been divided into small kingdoms and principalities. Napoleon, through his conquests, brought the country under a single administrative unit.
- The fall of Napoleon again led to the disintegration of Italy but later, Venetia was ceded to Italy by Austria in 1866 when Austria was weakened by the Prussian War. When Prussia attacked France in 1870, the Italian army occupied Rome. The unification of Italy was complete; Rome became the capital of united Italy.
- The German victory led to the political unification of Germany. The Prussian king, William I, was proclaimed Emperor of Germany. The spirit of nationalism brought about the unification of Germany. Within a short time, a united Germany emerged as a powerful force in European polity.

Conclusion

Over the following century several revolutions across Europe would remove these royals from power. New constitutional governments led by citizens of these nation-states would take their place. These nations would then compete for colonies across the world in Africa, Eastern Asia, and Southeast Asia by the end of the nineteenth century. At the beginning of the twentieth century, however, nationalism would play a major role in the competition between nations. It was an extremely bloody competition that we now call World War I.

9. Examine the factors that led to the early success of Industrial Revolution in Europe.

Approach

Question is very simple and straight forward in its approach students are expected to mention the factors that led to the success of industrial revolution in Europe in a detailed manner.

Introduction

Industrial Revolution, in modern history, the process of change from an agrarian and handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacturing. This process began in Britain in the 18th century and from there spread to other parts of the world. Goods that had once been painstakingly crafted by hand started to be produced in mass quantities by machines in factories, thanks to the introduction of new machines and techniques in textiles, iron making and other industries. Fueled by the game-changing use of steam power, the Industrial Revolution began in Britain and spread to the rest of the world, including the United States, by the 1830s and '40s. Modern historians often refer to this period as the First Industrial Revolution, to set it apart from a second period of industrialization that took place from the late 19th to early 20th centuries and saw rapid advances in the steel, electric and automobile industries.

Body

Factors that led to early success of Industrial Revolution in Europe –

- It is established that some historians visualized the Revolution as a consequence of social and institutional changes brought by the end of feudalism in Britain after the English Civil War in the 17th century. As national border controls became more effective and it also prevented transmission of various deadly diseases. The percentage of children who lived past infancy rose significantly and it resulted in creating a huge workforce.
- The Enclosure movement and the British Agricultural Revolution made food production more effective and less labour-intensive, forcing the excess population who could no longer find employment in agriculture into cottage industry. The colonial expansion of the 17th century with the associated development of international trade, creation of financial markets and accumulation of capital are also mentioned as factors, as is the scientific revolution of the 17th century.
- Primary reason for the early success of industrial revolution is the population's increase. Since the XVIII century, epidemics of plague were vanishing and the development of agriculture allowed the growth of food production and then there was a decline in catastrophic mortality (hunger, wars and epidemics). In addition, population's increase augmented demand for goods and services. It promoted technical innovations that increased production and profits. Several technological inventions also led to the industrial revolution and major enabling technology was

the invention and development of the steam engine. These inventions began in England in the textile sector, at the beginning they were very simple inventions, they were built of wood and made by artisans and people without scientific preparation, but after that, this technological development in the industry made possible the emergence of factory. It is a place where a high production is achieved through the division of labour because each worker takes charge of only in a portion of the process.

- The foreign trade led to get inexpensive and plentiful raw materials and achieved broad market for industrial products. So, people generated revenues through reducing of production costs and expanding of their market, take advantage of that opportunity was unquestionably the best option. Although primarily the countries of northern Europe had organized a global trade for their benefit and their privileged status was delaying the industrialization of the rest of the world, the discovery of the optimization of profits through the purchase of raw materials in other markets led to countries realized that it was essential to establish stable relations with markets elsewhere in the world.
- Historians stated that the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain was due to abundant natural or financial resources that Britain received from its many foreign colonies or that profits from the British slave trade between Africa and the Caribbean assisted fuel industrial investment. It has been designated that bondage provided only 5% of the British national income during the years of the Industrial Revolution. A major cause for the Industrial Revolution was the huge spurt of population growth in England. Alongside the fast growth in population, medical systems had also enhanced, thus there was a reduction in the number of epidemics that spread resulting in less of a death toll through lack of medical knowledge.
- In the beginning, the Industrial Revolution was closely related to a small number of innovations, made in the second half of the 18th century: Textiles: The progression of the textile industry was major development in Britain's industrialization. Steam power-The enhanced steam engine developed by James Watt which was mainly used for pumping out mines, but from the 1780s, it was applied to power machines. This permitted rapid development of efficient semi-automated factories on an earlier unimaginable scale in places where waterpower was not available. Iron founding- In the Iron industry, coke was finally applied to all stages of iron smelting, replacing charcoal. This had been attained much earlier for lead and copper as well as for producing pig iron in a blast furnace, but the second stage in the production of bar iron depended on the use of potting and stamping.
- Disappearance of serfdom (a person who is bound to the land and owned by the feudal lord) and 'enclosure movement' provided huge surplus agricultural labour which looked for employment and became source of cheap labour. Britain was rich with natural resources. Iron and coal proved twin pillars of Industrial Revolution and Britain was lucky to have them in close proximity. If not then their colonial policy fulfil their need of resources.
- The emergence of British power would spawn the third major advance in management, the Industrial Revolution. As the British Empire's power grew, so did

opportunities for trade. The 18th century saw the emergence of various international corporations, such as the Hudson's Bay Company which conducted business globally. The Hudson's Bay Company orchestrated fur trade in Canada where pelts were produced and then shipped to England for trade in any part of the globe. This further development of trade led to the establishment of the marketplace as a dominant means of organizing the exchange of goods. The market would coordinate the actions and activities of various participants, thus allowing resources to flow to their most efficient uses. One of the major intellectual leaders of this period was the economist and moral philosopher Adam Smith.

- Adam Smith proposed the idea of specialization and coordination within corporations as a source of economic growth. Specialization and division of labor were Smith's major contributions to management thought. The division of labor meant that a worker specialized in performing one task that was part of a larger series of tasks, at the end of which a product would be produced. The idea of specialization of labor had several important outcomes. Firstly, specialization drastically reduced the cost of goods. Secondly, it drastically reduced the need for training. Instead of learning every aspect of a task, workers needed to learn one portion of it. Thirdly, the need to coordinate all these different tasks required a greater emphasis on management.

Conclusion

Many people around the world today enjoy the benefits of industrialization. With so much more energy flowing through human systems than ever before, many of us must do much less hard physical labor than earlier generations did. People today are able to feed more babies and bring them to adulthood. Many people vote and participate in modern states, which provide education, social security, and health benefits. Large numbers of people enjoy levels of wealth, health, education, travel, and life expectancy unimagined before industrialization. The benefits of industrialization, however, have come at great cost. For one thing, the rate of change (acceleration) is now so rapid that individuals and social systems struggle to keep up. And strong arguments can be made about depersonalization in the age of mass production. The increased complexity of the industrial system has also brought increased fragility. Industrialization depends on the interaction of many diverse components, any one of which could fail.

10. The French Revolution was a watershed in European history. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Approach

We have to mention features that made the French Revolution as a watershed in European history. We can also put arguments to claim that it was not a watershed movement. We need to give examples for our arguments.

Introduction

The French Revolution was a watershed event in modern European history that began in 1789 and ended in the late 1790s with the ascent of Napoleon Bonaparte. During this period, French citizens razed and redesigned not only their country's political landscape but also of Europe.

Body

The French Revolution was a watershed in European history in following ways –

- Political Upheaval: Uprooting of centuries-old institutions such as absolute monarchy and the feudal system. Political systems like constitutional monarchy, republic were tried and tested.
- “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen”: The document proclaimed the commitment to replace the ancient régime with a system based on equal opportunity, freedom of speech, popular sovereignty and representative government.
- Propagation of Modern Ideas: Liberty, Fraternity, Equality become core ideas of Europe.
- Religious reforms: Privileges of clergy, church were abolished. It was subordinated to state and it gave rise to concept of secularism in Europe.
- Rise of middle and worker class: Though bourgeois played crucial role in initiating revolution, the worker class strengthened and sustained the revolution. Socialism, Chartist Movement, Marxism, etc. had genesis in French revolution.
- Nationalist Forces: It gave impetus to Italian and German integration, which were based on principle of nationalism.
- Structural changes in European economy: Mercantilism, Capitalism, Laissez-faire like concept got more currency. Private ownership of land was considered as a fundamental right.
- Role of Philosophers: Philosophers like Rousseau, Montesquieu, Voltaire, etc. played crucial role in reforming not only France but also Europe and World at large. They exposed existing degenerating system but at the same time put forward the vision

of better future. Montesquieu emphasized on virtues of constitutional monarchy, Rousseau in his 'Social Contract' laid foundations for 'State' and Democracy.

- Napoleon – The child of French Revolution: He took ideas of French Revolution to other parts of Europe like Spain, Italy, Germany, etc. He caused many administrative reforms like Napoleonic Code of 1804 formed basis for Civil and Criminal justice system in Europe and many other parts of the world including India.

However, it had following issues that prevented it from being a watershed movement –

- American Revolution, 1765-83: It can be said to be a real watershed movement, as it was first successful revolution and successfully implemented modern ideas. It was also one of the reasons to cause French revolution.
- Lack of concern to women and their rights: Voting rights, equal status, economic rights, etc. were not the core part of French revolution.
- Reign of Terror, 1793-94: Caused apprehension about revolution in Europe and caused set to revolutionary ideas not only in France but also Europe.
- Destabilized Europe: Revolutions caused rise of Napoleon, European Coalitions, and set stage for wars which eventually caused world wars.

Conclusion

Although French Revolution failed to achieve all of its goals and at times degenerated into a chaotic bloodbath, the French Revolution played a critical role in shaping modern nations by showing the world the power inherent in the will of the people.

11. How did American entry change the course of World War I? Analyse.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about America's entry in 1st WW, shift from its neutral stance and analyse on how did American entry into world war changed the course of war.

Introduction

America entered World War One on April 6th, 1917. Up to that date, America had tried to keep out of World War One though she had traded with nations involved in the war but unrestricted submarine warfare, introduced by the Germans on January 9th, 1917, was the primary issue that caused Woodrow Wilson to ask Congress to declare war on Germany on April 2nd. Four days later, America joined World War One on the side of the Allies.

Body

- In 1914, when war was declared in Europe, America adopted a policy of neutrality and isolation. That neutrality extended to a policy of 'fairness' – whereby American bankers could lend money to both sides in the war.
- However, public opinion about neutrality started to change after the sinking of the British ocean liner Lusitania by a German U-boat in 1915; almost 2,000 people perished, including 128 Americans. Along with news of the Zimmerman telegram threatening an alliance between Germany and Mexico, Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany. The U.S. officially entered the conflict on April 6, 1917.

American entry into World War One changed the course of the war –

- By the time the United States joined the Allies, the war had been raging for nearly three years. In those three years, Europe had lost more men in battle than in all the wars of the previous three centuries. The war had claimed the lives of millions and had changed countless lives forever. The Great War, as the conflict came to be known, affected everyone. It touched not only the soldiers in the trenches but civilians as well.
- After supplying humanitarian relief to faraway countries during the early part of the war, the United States proceeded to act further on a moral imperative, offering the commitment of the entire nation in the name of peace and freedom.
- The U.S. Navy was the second largest in the world when America entered the war in 1917. The Navy soon abandoned its plans for the construction of battleships and instead concentrated on building the destroyers and submarine chasers so desperately needed to protect Allied shipping from the U-boats.

- The entry of the United States was the turning point of the war, because it made the eventual defeat of Germany possible. It had been foreseen in 1916 that if the United States went to war, the Allies' military effort against Germany would be upheld by U.S. supplies and by enormous extensions of credit.
- As one of the first total wars, USA mobilized women in unprecedented numbers on all sides. The vast majority were drafted into the civilian workforce to replace conscripted men, taking traditionally male jobs working on factory assembly lines producing tanks, trucks, and munitions.
- The experience of American army helped in formation of innovative strategies against Central Power.
- Entry of American troops was the greatest physical and morale booster for the tired and exhausted armies of the Allied powers.
- America helped in the Second battle of Marne and defeated Germany marking the end of final attempt at victory.
- The Central Powers' moral decreased because they knew they had to face the world's most powerful economy. America's involvement in the war fed up Germany's chances of winning, which leads them to signing the armistice in November 11, 1918.
- Looking at 1918 in this new way, restoring the enormous impact of the U.S. military to its proper scale and significance, achieves two important things. First, it fundamentally revises the history of the First World War.
- Second, it brings out the thrilling suspense of 1918, when the fate of the world hung in the balance, and the revivifying power of the Americans saved the Allies, defeated Germany, and established the United States as the greatest of the great powers.

Conclusion

The U.S., which had won the war but had not experienced the conflict on its territory, became a first world power. However, USA call "war to end all wars" turned out to be the opposite. By ensuring Germany's economic ruin and political humiliation through the Treaty of Versailles, the post-war settlement provided fertile ground for World War II.

12. How did the global economy shape up during the interwar period? Discuss.

Approach

Candidate is required to give socio economic conditions of Europe and America and the effects it had on the global economy, leading to Second World War.

Introduction

During World War I, some 10 million Europeans were killed, about 7 million were permanently disabled, and 15 million seriously wounded, mostly young men of working age and middle class backgrounds. This loss, combined with the destruction of land and property, led to a European situation of grave pessimism and poverty for many.

Body

Socio-economic conditions during interwar period –

- Living conditions declined dramatically at the close of the war, the infant mortality rate skyrocketed, and life was quite difficult for Europeans of the period. The widespread material destruction totalled billions of dollars of damage in Europe.
- The war's prosecution had cost the nations of Europe six and one-half times as much as the total national debt of the entire world during the years from 1800 to 1914.
- The Allies bore the brunt of the debt, and material damages, France especially. But the Central Powers were punished severely by the war's concluding treaties. Germany lost 15 percent of its pre-war capacity, all of its foreign investments, and 90 percent of its mercantile fleet. The Treaty of Versailles imposed reparations payments which were generally considered intolerable and impossible.
- By 1920, prices in Hungary were 23,000 times what they had been before the war, and in Russia the multiplier was 4 million. A sharp depression in 1920 and 1921 corrected prices to some extent.
- Meanwhile, the European Allies had their own financial problems. They ended the war deeply indebted to the United States. The United States demanded payment in gold and dollars, which the Allies borrowed from creditor nations, creating even greater debt elsewhere.
- From 1925 to 1929, Europe entered a period of relative prosperity and stability. However, unemployment remained high, and population growth outstripped economic growth. During this time, world trade increased and speculative

investment increased as the result of better economic times. US creditors, flush with capital coming in from Europe, led this speculative movement.

- As the Great Depression that had struck the United States in 1929 began to set in throughout Europe in the early 30s, banks began to collapse. Despite international loans, Germany, and Europe as a whole, plunged into depression, during which currencies collapsed and all hope of stability was dashed.
- While Europe struggled to rebuild during the 1920s, the United States prospered as the major creditor of the Allied nations. Collapse of foreign currencies, so US demanded payment in dollars and gold. US financial institutions benefited greatly from this influx of capital, and sought ways in which to invest it, driving up the US stock market by speculation, and often sending capital back to Europe in the form of loans.
- American financial experts favoured massive international loans as a means of increasing American exports, increasing employment, and strengthening the already mighty dollar.
- This period of outward prosperity belied the problems beneath. There was no international agreement on currency stabilization, so it was carried out haphazardly, in a varied, unsynchronized fashion by the nations of Europe, pushing America in great depression.

Effects of depression –

- The worldwide economic depression of the 1930s took its toll in different ways in Europe and Asia.
- In Europe, political power shifted to totalitarian and imperialist governments in several countries, including Germany, Italy, and Spain.
- In Asia, a resource-starved Japan began to expand aggressively, invading China and manoeuvring to control a sphere of influence in the Pacific.
- High unemployment in industrial countries of Europe and elsewhere.
- Bank failures and collapse of credit from US and other major financial giants.
- Collapse of prices in world trade
- Nazi Party's growing importance in Germany; Nazi Party's blame of European Jews for economic collapse.
- Due to the global crisis, there was a drastic fall in agricultural prices, the mainstay of India's economy, and a severe credit contraction occurred as colonial policymakers refused to devalue the rupee.
- The decline of agricultural prices, which was aggravated by British financial policy in India, made substantial sections of the peasantry rise in protest and this protest was articulated by members of the National Congress.
- At the time of the Great Depression, the United States was the only industrialised nations with no form of employment protection or social security. In 1935, the United States Government passed the Social Security Act, which provided Americans with insurance and pensions for old age.

The New Deal –

- In 1933, a new government led by Franklin D Roosevelt introduced the New Deal. It included financial support for farmers and a construction programmer to create more jobs, Banks were more closely regulated and savings were better protected.
- One of the programs what aided in recovery from the Great Depression was a new set of construction projects that built dams and hydroelectric projects. And the Works Progress Administration (WPS), a permanent jobs program that employed 8.5 million people from 1935 to 1943.

Conclusion

Although the US Congress had adopted a policy of neutrality upon the outbreak of World War II in 1939, it was inevitable that the United States would not sit on the side-lines for too long. In preparation, defence manufacturing geared up, producing more and more private-sector jobs, hence reducing unemployment. This expanding industrial production, as well as widespread conscription beginning in 1942, reduced the unemployment rate to below its pre-Depression level. The Great Depression had ended at last, and the United States turned its attention to the global conflict of World War II.

13. With what objectives did Japan enter World War II? What were the consequences of its defeat? Discuss.

Approach

The question is asking you to discuss which necessitates a debate where reasoning is backed up with evidence to make a case for and against an argument and finally arriving at a conclusion. In simple terms an examiner expects one to discuss various perspectives and present a logical argument.

Introduction

Hirohito (1901-1989) was emperor of Japan from 1926 until his death in 1989. He took over at a time of rising democratic sentiment, but his country soon turned toward ultra-nationalism and militarism. During World War II (1939-45), Japan attacked nearly all of its Asian neighbours, allied itself with Nazi Germany and launched a surprise assault on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbour.

Body

WITH WHAT OBJECTIVES DID JAPAN ENTER WORLD WAR II?

- In September 1940, Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, in which they agreed to assist one another should any of them be attacked by a country not already involved in the war.
- Japan sent troops to occupy French Indochina that same month, and the United States responded with economic sanctions, including an embargo on oil and steel.
- To Japan, war with the United States had become to seem inevitable, in order to defend its status as a major world power. Because the odds were stacked against them, their only chance was the element of surprise.
- A little over a year later, Hirohito consented to the decision of his government to battle the Americans.
- On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes bombarded the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbour near Honolulu, Hawaii, destroying or crippling 18 ships and killing almost 2,500 men. The United States declared war one day later.

WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS DEFEAT?

- Atomic bombs largely destroyed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively. On August 8 the Soviet Union declared war and the next day marched into Manchuria, where the Kwantung Army could offer only token resistance.
- The Japanese government attempted to gain as its sole condition for surrender a qualification for the preservation of the imperial institution; after the Allies agreed to respect the will of the Japanese people, the emperor insisted on surrender.
- The Pacific war came to an end on August 14 (August 15 in Japan). The formal surrender was signed on September 2 in Tokyo Bay aboard the battleship USS Missouri.
- Aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan formally surrenders to the Allies, bringing an end to World War II.
- By the summer of 1945, the defeat of Japan was a foregone conclusion. The Japanese navy and air force were destroyed. The Allied naval blockade of Japan and intensive bombing of Japanese cities had left the country and its economy devastated.
- By the end of the war, Japan's cities were destroyed, its stockpiles exhausted, and its industrial capacity gutted. The government stood without prestige or respect. An alarming shortage of food and rising inflation threatened what remained of national strength.

Conclusion

Post-war investigators concluded that neither the atomic bombs nor the Soviet entry into the war was central to the decision to surrender, although they probably helped to advance the date. It was determined that submarine blockade of the Japanese islands had brought economic defeat by preventing exploitation of Japan's new colonies, sinking merchant tonnage, and convincing Japanese leaders of the hopelessness of the war while the bombing brought the consciousness of defeat to the people.

14. Examine the forces that created the platform for Cold War.

Approach

Student should write down the reasons responsible for Cold-War in the post-WW2 world. The question is very simple and the student is expected to write the main forces and events that unfolded resulting in the Cold-War between erstwhile USSR and USA, culminating in the bipolar world for nearly 45 years.

Introduction

Cold War, the open yet restricted rivalry that developed after World War II, between USA and USSR and their respective allies. The Cold War was waged on the political, economic and propaganda fronts and had only limited recourse to weapons. The term was first used by the English writer George Orwell in an article published in 1945 to refer to what he predicted would be a nuclear stalemate between “two or three monstrous super-states, each possessed of a weapon by which millions of people can be wiped out in a few seconds.”

Body

Forces that created the platform for Cold War –

- End of World War II and the Conferences of Yalta and Potsdam: The Yalta Conference, along with the Potsdam Conference, was an important event for the end stages of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War. The purpose of the conference was for the three Allied powers to begin discussing how to reorganize Europe once Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany were defeated. While, World War II in Europe was not over yet, the Allies could see that the end of the war was near and that Germany would soon be defeated. However, it highlighted the divide between Stalin and the other two leaders. Neither side trusted the other and Joseph Stalin was resentful of the other two believing that they delayed the Normandy Invasion and Allied invasion of Italy to cause the Soviet army to struggle alone against Nazi Germany. This divide would be further highlighted at the later Potsdam Conference.

- The purpose of the Potsdam conference was for the three Allied powers to begin discussing how to handle the defeat of Nazi Germany, which had occurred just recently. Other goals focused on how the world would carry on after the war. While, World War II in the Pacific was not over yet, the Allies could see that the end of the war was near and that Japan would soon be defeated. It deepened the divide between the two superpowers- USA and USSR. As well, it is at the Potsdam Conference that Truman made Stalin aware of the American atomic weapons program (Manhattan Project) and that the Americans had developed the world's first atomic bomb. It was also at this conference that a deep divide was created between the United States and the Soviet Union specifically. In general terms, the seeds of the Cold War were planted at the Potsdam Conference. The United States would bomb Hiroshima just days after the conference ended and World War II would be over in the just a few weeks, while the Cold War was just beginning. As such, Yalta and Potsdam Conferences as the start of the Cold War since they highlighted the growing mistrust and tensions between USA and USSR.
- Nuclear Arms Race: The next major cause of the Cold War was the emergence of nuclear weapons at the end of World War II. With the atomic bombing of Japan, the United States had begun the era of nuclear weapons and the nuclear arms race. On August 29th, 1949, the Soviet Union performed a test of their first atomic bomb codenamed 'First Lighting'. These early years were important to the growing tensions and anger between the two superpowers. Because of the development of nuclear weapons, the two nations did not trust each other. As a result, they each spent the first few decades of the Cold War developing large arsenals of nuclear weapons. By the 1950's each country had developed enough nuclear weapons to destroy the other. This development was an important aspect of the Cold War, as the stockpiles of nuclear weapons acted as a means of defense.
- Ideological Conflict: The third main cause of the Cold War was the ideological conflict that existed between the United States and Soviet Union. At the time, the Soviet Union was a communist nation that was based on the principles of collectivism or socialism, while the United States was a modern liberal democracy nation based primarily on the principles of individualism. This means that the Soviet Union was positioned on the far-left side of the economic spectrum, while the United States was position on the right side. This difference in ideology was a major source of the conflict between the two nations because throughout the Cold War, the Soviet Union sought to expand communism to other regions and the United States sought to stop it with its policy of containment.
- Spread of Communism: The United States, led by Harry S. Truman feared that communism as an ideology would spread throughout Europe and the rest of the world. For example, after World War II both Greece and Turkey were facing financial crisis. Due to their proximity to Soviet territory and the rise of communism in recent decades it was feared that the two countries might fall into the Soviet sphere of influence and become communist. Essentially, the Truman Doctrine was the idea that the United States should attempt to contain the Soviet sphere of influence and the spread of communism. This foreign policy caused the United

States to enter into conflict with the Soviet Union as it attempted to thwart Soviet expansionism in events such as: Berlin Blockade, Korean War, Vietnam War, etc. As such, many historians view this as a cause of the Cold War because it increased tensions between the two

- superpowers and led to several conflicts between the two superpowers.

Conclusion

The 1970s saw an easing of Cold War tensions as evinced in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) that led to the SALT I and II agreements of 1972 and 1979, respectively, in which the two superpowers set limits on their antiballistic missiles and on their strategic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons. That was followed by a period of renewed Cold War tensions in the early 1980s as the two superpowers continued their massive arms build-up and competed for influence in the Third World. But the Cold War began to break down in the late 1980s during the administration of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev. He dismantled the totalitarian aspects of the Soviet system and began efforts to democratize the Soviet political system. When communist regimes in the Soviet-bloc countries of Eastern Europe collapsed in 1989–90, Gorbachev acquiesced in their fall. Gorbachev's internal reforms had meanwhile weakened his own Communist Party and allowed power to shift to Russia and the other constituent republics of the Soviet Union. In late 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed and 15 newly independent nations were born from its corpse, including a Russia with a democratically elected, anti-Communist leader. The Cold War had come to an end.

**16. What were the long-term consequences of decolonisation in the African continent?
Discuss with the help of suitable examples.**

Approach

We need to define decolonisation and further mention both positive and negative consequences of decolonisation process in the African continent. We have to focus on long term perspective while listing down consequences.

Introduction

Decolonization is a process in which colonies become independent of the colonizing country. Decolonization was gradual and peaceful for some colonies largely settled by expatriates but violent for others, where native rebellions were energized by nationalism.

Body

After World War II, European countries generally lacked the wealth and political support necessary to suppress faraway revolts; they also faced opposition from the new superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, both of which had taken positions against colonialism. After World War II, only four countries on the African continent were independent: Ethiopia (Abyssinia), Egypt, Liberia and the Union of South Africa. All the rest was under the rule of the colonial European powers.

Positive long-term consequences of decolonisation in the African continent –

- Newly independent nations post-decolonization changed the balance of power within United Nations (UN), World Trade Organisation (WTO), etc.
- Political Awareness among Africans: Nelson Mandela caused removal of Apartheid and new beginning in South Africa, removal of Zimbabwe's dictator Mugabe (2017), etc. highlight increased political awareness of erstwhile colonised African people.
- Adopting liberal ideas from colonizers: Democracy, constitutionalism, liberty, fraternity, etc. guided reforms in African countries.
- Integration of African nations with Global markets and gaining from benefits of Globalization.

- Progress and rapid urbanisation: Countries like South Africa, Nigeria, etc. are some of the bright spots that highlight innate potential of African countries.
- Formation of African Development Bank, African Union, etc. mark organized effort of African countries to eliminated socio-economic issues.

Negative long-term consequences of decolonisation in the African continent –

- Unnatural borders: They were plotted arbitrarily by the colonial powers in the nineteenth century and completely bypassed local ethnic structure. This has resulted in a number of ethnic and religious conflicts. Mali, Somalia, Northern Nigeria, Sudan, etc. Conflicts continue to disturb peace in African Continent.
- Neo-colonialism: Loans from abroad left African countries heavily in debt, and as they concentrated on increasing exports to pay for the loans. This made African nations heavily dependent on western European countries and the USA for both markets and investment and enabled those countries to exert control over African governments. France still interferes too much in political matters of its ex-colonies in Africa and keeps them dependent for its own benefits. Recently China has been involved in neo-colonialism in Africa.
- Instability of the post-colonial political systems: The weakness, lack of experience and lack of qualified personnel, etc. of state institutions contributed to the growth of corruption and frequent political upheavals, leading to the authoritarian rule of the often violent nature. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to many of the world's longest-ruling heads of state. Some postcolonial leaders in the 1960s and 1970s sought to become "president for life". Example: Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo in Equatorial Guinea, Paul Biya in Cameroon, and Yoweri Museveni in Uganda.
- Deep economic problems: Most African states had very little industry; this had been a deliberate policy by the colonial powers, so that Africans would have to buy manufactured goods from Europe or the USA. They often depended on only one or two commodities for export, making them vulnerable to global market price fluctuations. Nigeria, for example, relied heavily on its oil exports, Ghana and Cameroon (cocoa), Zambia (copper), Mozambique, Egypt and Sudan (cotton) and Ivory Coast, Zaire and Ethiopia (coffee). It
- Social consequences: 25 of the world's bottom poor countries are in Africa, a child dies every 45 seconds of malaria, Africa accounts for more than a 25% of global burden of HIV/AIDS.

Conclusion

Decolonisation caused transition of sovereignty from coloniser to the colonised; it initiated a new chapter in post-World War-II world history. However, for African continent it was a mixed blessing and even today African countries continue to suffer and benefit from the aftermath of decolonization process.

17. What are the different strands of socialism? Discuss. How did socialism evolve as a politico-economic philosophy? Examine.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about socialism and its various strands. The question also demands to examine on how socialism evolved as a political economic philosophy.

Introduction

Socialism refers to a set of political ideas that emerged as a response to the inequalities present in, and reproduced by, the industrial capitalist economy. The main concern of Socialism is how to minimise existing inequality and distribute resources justly. Although advocates of socialism are not entirely opposed to the market, they favour some kind of government regulation, planning and control over certain key areas such as education and health care.

Body

Different strands of socialism –

- Utopian Socialism: One of the earliest forms of socialism founded by the Welsh Spiritualist philosopher Robert Owen. In contrast to later socialist schools of thought which would advocate violent revolution, the Utopians believed that capitalists could be convinced to become socialists purely through rational persuasion
- Democratic Socialism: Democratic Socialists are arguably the most pragmatic socialists in that instead of demanding immediate market abolition like Marxist-Leninists, Trotskyists and some Libertarian Socialists, they work within the market system from below in order to gently nudge employers to give workers fairer wages.
- Revolutionary Socialism: Revolutionary socialism is the socialist doctrine that social revolution is necessary in order to bring about structural changes to society. More specifically, it is the view that revolution is a necessary precondition for a transition from capitalism to socialism.
- Libertarian Socialism: Libertarian Socialism seeks the dismantling of all unjust social and economic hierarchies. They generally agree that early attempts at creating socialist societies failed due to their statist nature, viewing statism as a contradiction

to the egalitarian values of socialism on the basis that states promote social stratification and class disparities.

- Fabian Socialism: The Fabians constructed a model of socialism which they claimed could be achieved through a programme of nationalisation and delivery of welfare services directed by national government, with some tasks delegated to local municipalities elected by the people, but with effective control in the hands of those who knew best, the professional classes.
- Marxism, Leninism, and Maoism: Marxism-Leninism, as the Soviet version of communism is often called, held that urban workers should form the revolutionary vanguard. Mao Zedong, on the other hand, believed that Communist revolutions should gestate among the rural peasantry, who would later join with their proletariat comrades in the cities to form classless paradises.
- Green socialism: Green socialism is protective of natural resources. Large corporations in a green socialistic society are owned and run by the public. In addition, green socialism promotes the development and use of public transit, as well as the processing and sale of locally grown food. Moreover, the public is guaranteed a sustainable wage.

Emergence of socialism as a political economic philosophy –

- Industrialisation and capitalism brought benefits as well as hardship to man unemployment, smoky, crowded cities, unhealthy living and working conditions, rivalry and conflict between nations.
- The wide gap between the aims of the French Revolution and the actual conditions in France after the revolution created serious discontent among the people. It led to an attempt to overthrow the existing government in France with a view to building a society based on socialist ideas. This attempt, known as Babeuf's Conspiracy, is an important event in the history of socialism.
- Greatest challenge to laissez faire, & to capitalism itself, has come from the idea of socialism, which grew in beginning as a reaction against the evils of capitalism. Ideas of socialism arose as political economic philosophy while recognising the importance of Machines & making them even better, aimed at solving the problems created by capitalism, by building a new social order.
- The First Communist Manifesto appeared in German in February 1848. The influence of this document in the history of the socialist movement is without a rival. Pioneers Marx and Engels worked in the socialist movement and through their numerous writings, they gave a new direction to socialist ideology and movement. It pointed out that socialism was not merely desirable, but also inevitable.
- The Second International decided that the socialists should utilise the “economic and political crisis created by the war, to rouse the masses and thereby to hasten the downfall of capitalist rule”. The socialists in many countries had resolved to call for a general strike to prevent their countries from participating in wars.
- The idea appealed particularly to workers. Through their struggles, they were able to achieve much improvement in their living conditions. Laissez faire doctrine was opposed by many people. Gradually, almost all the countries came to accept the

idea that the state has a legitimate right and duty to regulate the economy. This started crystallisation of socialism as political economic philosophy.

- The idea grew that, capitalism itself is evil and needs to be replaced by a different kind and economic system in which the means of production would be owned by the society as a whole and not by a few individuals.

Conclusion

Though the socialist movement did not succeed in bringing about a socialist revolution in any country in the 19th century, it brought about widespread awareness of the problems created by capitalism and the inadequacies of democracy. It also emerged as a powerful political movement in a number of countries. It was to play an increasingly important role in the coming years all over the world, making socialism, along with democracy and nationalism, the dominating factor in the history of the world in the 20th century.

18. Examine the factors that led to the expansion of communism in Europe.

Approach

Question is straight forward in nature. Candidate can give timeline of events and factors that led to rise of communism in Europe concluding with disintegration of USSR.

Introduction

During the latter half of the 19th century, various left-wing organisations across Europe continued to campaign against the many autocratic right-wing regimes that were then in power.

Body

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels joined the German Social-Democratic Party which had been created in 1875, but which was outlawed in 1879 by the German government, then led by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who deemed it to be a political threat due to its revolutionary nature and increasing number of supporters. This was a start of communism in Europe.

Factors responsible for rise of communism –

- At the time, Marxism took off not only in Germany, but it also gained popularity in Hungary, the Habsburg Monarchy and the Netherlands, although it did not achieve such success in other European nations like the United Kingdom, where Marx and Engels had been based.
- the new political ideology had gained sufficient support that an organisation was founded known as the Second International to unite the various Marxist groups around the world.
- The devastation of the war resulted in a massive recovery program involving the rebuilding of industrial plants, housing and transportation as well as the demobilization and migration of millions of soldiers and civilians. In the midst of this turmoil during the winter of 1946–1947, the Soviet Union experienced the worst natural famine in the 20th century.
- Relations with the United States and Britain went from friendly to hostile, as they denounced Stalin's political controls over Eastern Europe and his blockade of Berlin.

By 1947, the Cold War had begun. Stalin himself believed that capitalism was a hollow shell and would crumble under increased non-military pressure exerted through proxies in countries like Italy.

- The military success of the Red Army in Central and Eastern Europe led to a consolidation of power in communist hands. In some cases, such as Czechoslovakia, this led to enthusiastic support for socialism inspired by the Communist Party and a Social Democratic Party willing to fuse.
- In other cases, such as Poland or Hungary, the fusion of the Communist Party with the Social Democratic Party was forcible and accomplished through undemocratic means.
- In many cases, the communist parties of Central Europe were faced with a population initially quite willing to reign in market forces, institute limited nationalisation of industry and supporting the development of intensive social welfare states, whereas broadly the population largely supported socialism.
- The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a major challenge to Moscow's control of Eastern Europe. This revolution saw general strikes, the formation of independent workers councils, and the restoration of the Social Democratic Party as a party for revolutionary communism of a non-Soviet variety. This flowering of dissenting communism was crushed by a combination of a military invasion supported by heavy artillery and airstrikes; mass arrests
- West Germany and West Berlin were centres of East–West conflict during the Cold War and numerous communist fronts were established. East Germany worked as a front of communist ideology.
- The Czechoslovak Communist Party began an ambitious reform agenda. The plan to limit central control and make the economy more independent of the party threatened bedrock beliefs. On 20 August 1968, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev ordered a massive military invasion by Warsaw Pact forces that destroyed the threat of internal liberalization.
- An important trend in several countries in Western Europe from the late 1960s into the 1980s was Eurocommunism. It was strongest in Spain's PCE, Finland's party and especially in Italy's PCI, where it drew on the ideas of Antonio Gramsci.

End of eastern bloc –

- Social resistance to the policies of communist regimes in Eastern Europe accelerated in strength with the rise of the Solidarity, the first non-communist controlled trade union in the Warsaw Pact that was formed in the People's Republic of Poland in 1980.
- Eastern European communist states politically deteriorated in response to the success of the Polish Solidarity movement and the possibility of Gorbachev-style political liberalisation.
- The Soviet Union itself collapsed between 1990 and 1991, with a rise of secessionist nationalism and a political power dispute between Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, the new leader of the Russian Federation.

Conclusion

Communism in Europe was at its peak after the end of world war second and during the cold war. But the failed economic and social policies gave rise to new spring of reforms with ideas of liberal west dominating public sphere. After 1980's communism started declining in Europe and with the fall of berlin wall eventually died its own death.

19. Capitalism has been the primary force shaping the global economy in the post-cold war period. Illustrate.

Approach

The question is asking you to illustrate it means it asks you to exemplify or to provide examples.

Introduction

Capitalism is often thought of as an economic system in which private actors own and control property in accord with their interests, and demand and supply freely set prices in markets in a way that can serve the best interests of society.

The political and economic systems of the capitalist USA and communist USSR were incompatible. Both sides wanted countries to conform to their adopted ideologies for their own gains. The Cold War was a political, economic, and military confrontation between capitalism and communism that lasted from 1945 to 1991, but it continues to influence our lives today. The so-called collapse of communism reinforced powerful North American- and Western-European-centred visions which continue to see 'Western' models of development or capitalism as the key to modernization world-wide.

Body

CAPITALISM HAS BEEN THE PRIMARY FORCE SHAPING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IN THE POST COLD WAR PERIOD –

- The global expansion of capital Post-Cold War Era has had varied effects on the global economy and state relations on a global scale. Undoubtedly the world has experienced significant lowering of trade barriers that historically inhibited cross border transactions.
- With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 and the end of the Cold War in 1991, the world became more interconnected. This is because the communist bloc countries, which had previously been intentionally isolated from the capitalist West, began to integrate into the global market economy.

- Trade and investment increased, while barriers to migration and to cultural exchange were lowered.
- The People's Republic of China, already having moved towards capitalism starting in the late 1970s and facing public anger after the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 in Beijing, moved even more quickly towards free market economics in the 1990s. McDonald's and Pizza Hut both entered the country in the second half of 1990, the first American chains in China aside from Kentucky Fried Chicken which had entered 3 years earlier in 1987.
- Stock markets were established in Shenzhen and Shanghai late in 1990 as well. The restrictions on car ownership were loosened in the early 1990s, causing the bicycle to decline as a form of transport by 2000.
- The move to capitalism has increased the economic prosperity of China, but many people still live in poor conditions, working for companies for very small pay and in dangerous and poor conditions.
- After the end of the Cold War, Communism would also end in Mongolia, Congo, Albania, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Angola. Today there are only 4 remaining countries in the world ruled by communist single parties: China, Cuba, Laos, and Vietnam.
- At the same time, economic recovery in the capitalist world, combined with increasingly globalized telecommunications, advertised the West's advantages far more effectively than any propaganda. It was capitalism's ability to outpace Soviet growth at key junctures that made ideological victory possible.

Conclusion

When the Soviet Union collapsed 26 years ago, it was generally agreed that the West had won the Cold War. This was affirmed by the prosperity and possibilities awaiting citizens of Western countries, as opposed to the political and economic stagnation experienced by those in Communist states. A natural conclusion, much repeated at the time, was that capitalism had finally defeated communism.

20. What is your understanding of the term 'neocolonialism'? Discuss with the help of suitable examples.

Approach

Students are expected to explain the term “neocolonialism” in simple terms. The question is very simple and the student is expected to write the origin, evolution and development of neocolonialism in the word with the help of some examples.

Introduction

Neocolonialism is a term used by post-colonial critics of developed countries' involvement in the developing world. The term Neocolonialism can combine a critique of current actual colonialism (where some states continue administrating foreign territories and their populations in violation of United Nations resolutions) and a critique of modern capitalist businesses involvement in nations which were former colonies. Critics of neocolonialism contend that private, foreign business companies continue to exploit the resources of post-colonial peoples, and that this economic control inherent to neocolonialism is akin to the classical, European colonialism practiced from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries.

Body

Definition and Context –

- Neocolonialism can be described as the subtle propagation of socio-economic and political activity by former colonial rulers aimed at reinforcing capitalism, neo-liberal globalization, and cultural subjugation of their former colonies. In a neocolonial state, the former colonial masters ensure that the newly independent colonies remain dependent on them for economic and political direction. The dependency and exploitation of the socio-economic and political lives of the now independent colonies are carried out for the economic, political, ideological, cultural, and military benefits of the colonial masters' home states. This is usually carried out through indirect control of the economic and political practices of the newly independent states instead of through direct military control as was the case in the colonial era.

Neocolonialism- The origin and Development –

- The term neocolonialism first saw widespread use, particularly in reference to Africa, soon after the process of decolonization which followed a struggle by many national independence movements in the colonies following World War II. Upon gaining independence, some national leaders and opposition groups argued that their countries were being subjected to a new form of colonialism, waged by the former colonial powers and other developed nations. Kwame Nkrumah, who in 1957 became leader of newly independent Ghana, expounded this idea in his *Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism*, in 1965. Jean Paul Sartre's *Colonialism and Neocolonialism* (1964) contains the first recorded use of the term neocolonialism. The term has become an essential theme in African Philosophy, most especially in African political philosophy. In the book, Sartre argued for the immediate disengagement of France's grip upon its ex-colonies and for total emancipation from the continued influence of French policies on those colonies, particularly Algeria.

Spread of Neocolonialism –

- The heavy dependence on foreign aid and the apparent activities of the multinational corporations in Africa reveal that Africa at the beginning of the 21st century is still in a neocolonial stage of development. The activities of the corporations in Africa, particularly those from Europe and America reveal nothing short of economic exploitation and cultural domination. Early 21st century Africa is witnessing neocolonialism from different fronts, from the influences of trans-national corporations from Europe and America to the form of a new imperial China, which many African governments now seem obligated to. The establishment of the multinational corporations, and more recently Chinese interests in Africa through Chinese companies, appear mainly to exist for the benefits of the home economies of the neocolonialists than to infuse local African economies with cash to stimulate growth and increase local capacity.
- Those who argue that neocolonialism historically supplemented (and later supplanted) colonialism, point to the fact that Africa today pays more money every year in debt service payments to the IMF and World Bank than it receives in loans from them, thereby often depriving the inhabitants of those countries from actual necessities. This dependency, they maintain, allows the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to impose Structural Adjustment Plans upon these nations. Adjustments largely consisting of privatization programs which they say result in deteriorating health, education, an inability to develop infrastructure, and in general, lower living standards.
- In recent years, the People's Republic of China has built increasingly stronger ties with African nations. China is currently Africa's third largest trading partner, after the United States and former colonial power France. As of August 2007, there were an estimated 750,000 Chinese nationals working or living for extended periods in different African countries. China is picking up natural resources—oil, precious minerals—to feed its expanding economy and new markets for its burgeoning enterprises. In 2006, two-way trade had increased to \$50 billion.

- Neocolonialism is also used within other theoretical frameworks. One variant of neocolonialism theory suggests the existence of cultural colonialism, the alleged desire of wealthy nations to control other nations' values and perceptions through cultural means, such as media, language, education, and religion, purportedly ultimately for economic reasons. One element of this is a critique of "Colonial Mentality" which writers have traced well beyond the legacy of 19th century colonial empires. These critics argue that people, once subject to colonial or imperial rule, latch onto physical and cultural differences between the foreigners and themselves, leading some to associate power and success with the foreigners' ways. This eventually leads to the foreigners' ways being regarded as the better way and being held in a higher esteem than previous indigenous ways.
- Even the aid, relief and development efforts carried out both by government of the rich North in the poorer South attracts criticism for furthering the agendas of the powerful. For instance, the humanitarian aid in South Sudan, Yemen.

Conclusion

As a theme of African philosophy, the term neocolonialism became widespread in use—particularly in reference to Africa—immediately the process of decolonization began in Africa. The widespread use of the term neocolonialism began when Africans realized that even after independence their countries were still being subjected to a new form of colonialism. The Chinese have not come to Africa to replace the European/U.S neo-colonialists and their neo-liberal economic model of engagement, but rather to offer Africa an alternative model in the form of the so called "Beijing Consensus". China has found pragmatic ways to legitimize neocolonialism through multilateralism and cooperation in order to navigate an international regime of norms and institutions that guards statehood and sovereignty. Thus, it has turned to trade and bilateral arrangements in order to enter Africa instead of entering via the barrel of the gun as the Europeans did. Thus, China's rise to global power requires a correct interpretation of its motivations and methods. The motivations are similar to those of European colonialism, but its methods are strategically different, as trade advantage has been masked by aggressive multilateralism, disguised as mutually beneficially economic cooperation in a pragmatic attempt to navigate a norm driven international system and institutionalized world community.

21. Examine the concept of 'internationalism'? Why is it important in the current global context?

Approach

We need to define the concept of 'internationalism'. Further we have to mention the importance of 'internationalism' in the current global context.

Introduction

Internationalism is a political principle based on a belief that countries can achieve more advantages by working together and trying to understand each other than by arguing and fighting wars with each other.

Body

- Supporters of internationalism are known as internationalists and generally believe that humans should unite across national, political, cultural, racial, or class boundaries to advance their common interests, or that governments should cooperate because their mutual long-term interests are of greater importance than their short-term disputes.
- Internationalism is an important component of socialist political theory, based on the principle that working-class people of all countries must unite across national boundaries and actively oppose nationalism and war in order to overthrow capitalism
- Most challenges confronting the world and likely to confront it in the future are cross-national in character. They respect no national boundaries and are not amenable to national solutions.

Thus, Internationalism is important in the current global context due to following reasons –

- COVID-19 pandemic: Global Covid death toll crossed 2.43 million still, there is virtually no coordination at the international level to tackle covid pandemic. Addressing UNSC, India urged the international community to stop vaccine nationalism and actively encourage internationalism, underlining that hoarding superfluous doses will defeat global efforts to attain collective health security and combat the pandemic.

- **Economic Revival:** The World Bank (WB) baseline forecast envisions a 5.2% contraction in global GDP in 2020, the deepest global recession in decades due to covid pandemic. Recent protectionist tendencies reflected via USA-China, Indo-China trade conflicts and sanctions on Iran, Russia, etc. deepens economic fractures. Internationalism effort like G-20 summit was born in response to the global financial and economic crisis of 2008 and provided a coordinated response that prevented catastrophic damage to the global economy. Such similar effort is needed to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic V-shaped recovery.
- **Climate Conservation:** Sea levels are rising, glaciers are melting and precipitation patterns are changing. Extreme weather events are becoming more intense and frequent. Through comprehensive communication and co-operation we can mitigate ill effects of climate change.
- **Global Peace:** Tensions between nuclear powered nations like US, China, Russia, North Korea, India, Pakistan, etc. put world in the brink of mass destruction. Terrorism with its complex and wide spread operations threaten the world peace. Wars in West Asia, Gulf, etc. need a global solution through inclusive and peaceful dialogue.
- **Global Governance:** Institutions such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization which are already marginalised may become increasingly irrelevant. United Nation currently works on an outdated global understanding where only five permanent members of UN Security Council (UNSC) wield power to veto crucial decisions. U.N. as the only truly inclusive global platform enjoying international legitimacy despite its failing's needs reforms to make it more democratic and in line with current global realities.
- **Appreciation to global cultural diversity:** Fear of loss of identity due to overriding influence of western culture and influence of other cultures on western culture has caused hate and conflicts. Islam phobia, White Supremacy, etc. highlight divides among the global community. Thus an environment of global solidarity and tolerance can be achieved through internationalism.
- **Technological advances and privacy concerns:** Artificial Intelligence, Cryptocurrency, big data etc. have caused concerns related to data sovereignty and privacy. Solarwind hack, Zhenhua Data leak, etc. highlight misuse of technology. Thus, a global consensus based agreement is need to safeguard sovereignty on nations and privacy of citizens.

Following are recent initiatives that highlight adherence to the principle of internationalism –

- Indian initiative in convening leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation nations for a regional collaborative effort on COVID-19 and providing Covid-19 vaccine to global community. India has shipped Made in India' Covid-19 vaccines to around 25 nations.
- COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

- Paris Climate deal including intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) and efforts to finalise framework for its working and implementation show a cooperative resolve to tackle climate change.

Conclusion

At the recent The Economic Times Global Business Summit, Indian Prime Minister claimed that the world today is “inter-connected, inter-related and also interdependent” but it has not been able to come on a single platform or frame a Global Agenda, a global goal of how to overcome world poverty, how to end terrorism, how to handle Climate Change issues. Thus internationalism can make us capable to face these challenges together and make us all victorious in near common future