

WORLD HISTORY CHAPTERS COVERED

21. League of Nations and Treaty of Versailles
22. Rise of Fascism and Nazism
23. Second World War
24. United Nations Organization (UNO)
25. Cold War
26. Decolonization in Asia and Africa
27. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Contemporary World

CHAPTER 21: LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

Introduction

The end of the First World War (1914–1918) brought the victorious Allied Powers together to establish a lasting peace. The Paris Peace Conference (1919) resulted in several peace treaties, the most important of which was the Treaty of Versailles signed with Germany.

To prevent future wars, the League of Nations was established as the world's first permanent international organization dedicated to maintaining peace and promoting international cooperation.

Although the League achieved some early successes, its inability to prevent aggression in the 1930s eventually led to the outbreak of the Second World War.

This chapter is highly important for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Paris Peace Conference (1919)

The Paris Peace Conference opened on 18 January 1919 in Paris, France.

Its main objectives were:

- Establish lasting peace.
- Punish the defeated powers.
- Redraw the political map of Europe.
- Create an international organization to preserve peace.

The conference was dominated by the Big Four leaders.

II. The Big Four**1. Woodrow Wilson (United States)**

President of the United States.

Favoured:

- Self-determination.
- Open diplomacy.
- Collective security.
- Establishment of the League of Nations.

2. David Lloyd George (Britain)

Prime Minister of Britain.

Favoured:

- A moderate peace.
- Protection of British naval supremacy.
- Maintenance of the British Empire.

3. Georges Clemenceau (France)

Prime Minister of France.

Known as

"The Tiger."

Favoured:

- Severe punishment of Germany.
- Security for France.
- Recovery of Alsace-Lorraine.

4. Vittorio Orlando (Italy)

Prime Minister of Italy.

Demanded territories promised under the Treaty of London (1915).

III. Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points (1918)

In January 1918, President Woodrow Wilson proposed the Fourteen Points as the basis for a just and lasting peace.

Major principles included:

- Open diplomacy.
- Freedom of the seas.
- Reduction of armaments.
- Removal of trade barriers.
- Self-determination of nations.
- Establishment of the League of Nations.

Although not all the points were accepted, they significantly influenced the peace settlement.

IV. Treaty of Versailles (1919)

The Treaty of Versailles was signed on

28 June 1919

exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

The treaty was signed in the

Hall of Mirrors, Palace of Versailles, France.

It officially ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers.

V. Main Provisions of the Treaty

1. War Guilt Clause

Article 231

declared Germany responsible for causing the First World War.

This provision became known as the

War Guilt Clause.

2. Reparations

Germany was required to pay heavy financial compensation to the Allied Powers for war damages.

These payments placed a significant burden on the German economy.

3. Territorial Losses

Germany lost approximately 13% of its European territory and all its overseas colonies.

Important territorial changes included:

- Alsace-Lorraine returned to France.
- Eupen-Malmedy transferred to Belgium.
- Northern Schleswig transferred to Denmark after a plebiscite.
- West Prussia and Posen transferred to Poland.
- Danzig (Gdańsk) declared a Free City under League supervision.
- The Saar Basin placed under League administration for 15 years, with its coal mines controlled by France.
- The Rhineland demilitarized.

4. Military Restrictions

Germany was required to:

- Limit its army to 100,000 soldiers.
- Abolish compulsory military service.
- Possess no tanks.
- Possess no military aircraft.
- Possess no submarines.
- Maintain only a small navy.

5. Loss of Colonies

Germany's overseas colonies became League of Nations Mandates, administered by the victorious Allied Powers.

VI. Criticism of the Treaty

Many Germans regarded the Treaty of Versailles as a

"Diktat" (dictated peace)

because Germany had little opportunity to negotiate its terms.

Critics argued that:

- Reparations were excessive.
- Military restrictions were humiliating.

- Territorial losses were severe.
- The treaty created resentment that contributed to the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Second World War.

VII. Establishment of the League of Nations

The League of Nations officially came into existence on 10 January 1920.

Its headquarters was established at Geneva, Switzerland.

It was the first permanent international organization created to maintain world peace.

VIII. Objectives of the League

The League aimed to:

- Prevent wars.
- Promote disarmament.
- Encourage peaceful settlement of disputes.
- Improve international cooperation.
- Promote social and economic welfare.

IX. Structure of the League

1. Assembly

- Included representatives of all member states.
- Each member had one vote.
- Met annually.

2. Council

Originally consisted of:

Permanent Members

- Britain
- France
- Italy
- Japan

Later Germany (1926) and the Soviet Union (1934) joined as permanent members for limited periods.

The Council also included several non-permanent members elected by the Assembly.

3. Secretariat

Headed by the Secretary-General.

Responsible for administrative work.

4. Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ)

Located at

The Hague, Netherlands.

It settled legal disputes between states.

5. International Labour Organization (ILO)

Associated with the League.

Worked to improve:

- Working conditions.
- Labour rights.
- Social justice.

The ILO continues to function today as a specialized agency of the United Nations.

X. Achievements of the League

The League successfully resolved several disputes during the 1920s.

Examples:

- Åland Islands dispute (Finland–Sweden).
- Upper Silesia dispute.
- Greek-Bulgarian dispute (1925).

It also contributed to:

- Public health.
- Refugee assistance.
- Control of drug trafficking.

- Campaigns against slavery.

XI. Failures of the League

The League failed to stop major acts of aggression.

Important failures included:

Japanese invasion of Manchuria (1931)

Japan occupied Manchuria despite League objections.

Italian invasion of Ethiopia (1935)

Italy, under Benito Mussolini, conquered Ethiopia.

League sanctions proved ineffective.

German Aggression

The League failed to stop:

- Rearmament of Germany.
- Remilitarization of the Rhineland (1936).
- Expansion under Adolf Hitler.

XII. Reasons for Failure

The League failed because:

- The United States never became a member, although President Wilson had proposed it.
- It had no standing army.
- Decisions often required unanimous agreement.
- Britain and France were reluctant to use force.
- Aggressive dictators ignored League decisions.

XIII. Dissolution

After the Second World War, the League of Nations was dissolved on 18 April 1946.

Its functions were transferred to the United Nations (UN), which had been established on 24 October 1945.

XIV. Historical Importance

The League of Nations represented the first serious attempt to establish a system of collective security and peaceful international cooperation.

Although it failed to prevent the Second World War, it laid the foundation for the creation of the United Nations.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

Paris Peace Conference 1919

Treaty of Versailles 28 June 1919

Hall of Mirrors Palace of Versailles

War Guilt Clause Article 231

League of Nations Established 10 January 1920

Headquarters Geneva, Switzerland

Founder of Fourteen Points Woodrow Wilson

Big Four Wilson, Lloyd George, Clemenceau, Orlando

PCIJ The Hague

ILO Associated with the League

U.S. Membership Did not join

League Dissolved 18 April 1946

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Paris Peace Conference (1919)
- Big Four leaders
- Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points
- Treaty of Versailles
- War Guilt Clause (Article 231)
- Reparations

- Military restrictions on Germany
- League of Nations headquarters
- Structure of the League
- Permanent Court of International Justice
- International Labour Organization
- Reasons for the failure of the League
- United States not joining the League

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The Paris Peace Conference was held in _____.

- (A) 1918
- (B) 1919
- (C) 1920
- (D) 1921

2.

The Treaty of Versailles was signed on _____.

- (A) 11 November 1918
- (B) 10 January 1920
- (C) 28 June 1919
- (D) 18 April 1946

3.

The Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Palace of _____.

- (A) Buckingham
- (B) Versailles
- (C) Schönbrunn
- (D) Fontainebleau

4.

The War Guilt Clause is contained in Article _____ of the Treaty of Versailles.

- (A) 14
- (B) 100
- (C) 231
- (D) 356

5.

Woodrow Wilson proposed the _____ Points.

- (A) Ten
- (B) Twelve
- (C) Fourteen
- (D) Sixteen

6.

The headquarters of the League of Nations was at _____.

- (A) Paris
- (B) Geneva
- (C) Brussels
- (D) Vienna

7.

The League of Nations officially came into existence in _____.

- (A) 1919
- (B) 1920
- (C) 1925
- (D) 1945

8.

The Permanent Court of International Justice was located at _____.

- (A) Geneva

- (B) Paris
(C) The Hague
(D) London
-

9.
The Prime Minister of France at the Paris Peace Conference was _____.

- (A) David Lloyd George
(B) Vittorio Orlando
(C) Georges Clemenceau
(D) Raymond Poincaré
-

10.
The Prime Minister of Britain at the Paris Peace Conference was _____.

- (A) Neville Chamberlain
(B) Winston Churchill
(C) David Lloyd George
(D) Stanley Baldwin
-

11.
The United States President associated with the Fourteen Points was _____.

- (A) Theodore Roosevelt
(B) Franklin D. Roosevelt
(C) Woodrow Wilson
(D) Herbert Hoover
-

12.
The League of Nations failed to prevent Japan's invasion of _____ in 1931.

- (A) Korea
(B) Taiwan
(C) Manchuria
(D) Mongolia
-

13.
The League failed to stop Italy's invasion of _____ in 1935.

- (A) Libya
(B) Ethiopia
(C) Egypt
(D) Sudan
-

14.
The League of Nations was dissolved in _____.

- (A) 1945
(B) 1946
(C) 1947
(D) 1948
-

15.
The organization that succeeded the League of Nations was the _____.

- (A) European Union
(B) NATO
(C) United Nations
(D) Commonwealth
-

Answer Key

- 1 – B (1919)
2 – C (28 June 1919)
3 – B (Versailles)
4 – C (Article 231)
5 – C (Fourteen)
6 – B (Geneva)
7 – B (1920)
8 – C (The Hague)

- 9 – C (Georges Clemenceau)
- 10 – C (David Lloyd George)
- 11 – C (Woodrow Wilson)
- 12 – C (Manchuria)
- 13 – B (Ethiopia)
- 14 – B (1946)
- 15 – C (United Nations)

CHAPTER 22: RISE OF FASCISM AND NAZISM

Introduction

The economic and political instability that followed the First World War created conditions for the emergence of dictatorial regimes in Europe. In Italy, Benito Mussolini established Fascism, while in Germany, Adolf Hitler established Nazism.

Both ideologies rejected liberal democracy, opposed communism, promoted extreme nationalism, glorified militarism, and concentrated power in a single leader. Their expansionist policies became major causes of the Second World War (1939–1945).

This chapter is one of the highest-weightage topics for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Fascism

Meaning

The word Fascism is derived from the Latin word

Fasces

meaning "a bundle of rods with an axe," an ancient Roman symbol representing authority, unity, and state power.

Fascism is a political ideology characterized by:

- Extreme nationalism.
- Dictatorship.
- One-party rule.
- Militarism.
- Suppression of opposition.
- Rejection of liberal democracy.
- Opposition to communism.

II. Benito Mussolini (1883–1945)

Benito Mussolini founded the National Fascist Party in 1919.

He organized armed supporters known as the Blackshirts (Squadristi) who intimidated political opponents.

III. March on Rome (1922)

In October 1922, Mussolini organized the March on Rome.

King Victor Emmanuel III invited Mussolini to form the government.

Mussolini became the Prime Minister of Italy on 30 October 1922.

IV. Features of Fascist Rule

Mussolini gradually transformed Italy into a dictatorship.

Major characteristics included:

- One-party government.
- Censorship of the press.
- Secret police.
- Suppression of political opponents.
- Cult of leadership ("Il Duce").
- Promotion of militarism.
- Expansionist foreign policy.

The title

Il Duce

means

"The Leader."

V. Corporate State

Mussolini introduced the concept of the Corporate State,

where employers and workers were organized into state-controlled corporations to regulate industrial relations.

VI. Lateran Treaty (1929)

Mussolini signed the

Lateran Treaty

with Pope Pius XI.

The treaty:

- Recognized Vatican City as an independent state.
 - Improved relations between the Italian government and the Roman Catholic Church.
-

VII. Expansion of Fascist Italy

Major acts of aggression included:

- Invasion of Ethiopia (1935–1936).
- Intervention in the Spanish Civil War.
- Occupation of Albania (1939).

Italy later formed the

Rome–Berlin Axis (1936)

with Germany.

VIII. Nazism

Meaning

Nazism refers to the ideology of the

National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP),

commonly known as the Nazi Party.

Despite its name, Nazism was a far-right ideology emphasizing:

- Extreme German nationalism.
 - Racial superiority.
 - Anti-Semitism.
 - Dictatorship.
 - Expansionism.
 - Militarism.
-

IX. Adolf Hitler (1889–1945)

Adolf Hitler joined the Nazi Party in 1919.

He became its leader in 1921.

His book,

Mein Kampf ("My Struggle"),

outlined his political ideology and future plans for Germany.

X. Beer Hall Putsch (1923)

In 1923, Hitler attempted to overthrow the Bavarian government in Munich.

The attempt failed.

He was imprisoned, during which he wrote much of Mein Kampf.

XI. Rise to Power

The Great Depression (1929) caused:

- Massive unemployment.
- Economic hardship.
- Political instability.

The Nazi Party gained increasing public support.

On

30 January 1933,

President Paul von Hindenburg appointed Hitler as

Chancellor of Germany.

XII. Reichstag Fire (1933)

The German Parliament building (Reichstag) caught fire on 27 February 1933.

The Nazi government used the incident to suspend civil liberties and arrest political opponents.

XIII. Enabling Act (1933)

The

Enabling Act

passed in March 1933 allowed Hitler's government to enact laws without parliamentary approval.

This effectively established a dictatorship.

XIV. Nazi Ideology

Major principles included:

Aryan Supremacy

Nazis claimed that the Aryan race was superior.

Anti-Semitism

Jews faced systematic discrimination and persecution.

Lebensraum ("Living Space")

Hitler argued that Germany needed additional territory, especially in Eastern Europe, for its growing population.

Führer Principle

Absolute loyalty was expected toward

Der Führer (The Leader),

Adolf Hitler.

XV. Nuremberg Laws (1935)

The

Nuremberg Laws

deprived Jews of:

- German citizenship.
- Many civil rights.
- The right to marry or have certain relationships with non-Jewish Germans under Nazi racial laws.

These laws institutionalized racial discrimination.

XVI. Nazi Organizations

SS (Schutzstaffel)

Elite organization led by

Heinrich Himmler.

Responsible for:

- Security.
 - Concentration camps.
 - Internal repression.
-

Gestapo

The

Secret State Police

which identified and suppressed political opposition.

Hitler Youth

An organization established to indoctrinate German youth with Nazi ideology.

XVII. Joseph Goebbels

Joseph Goebbels

served as

Minister of Propaganda.

He controlled:

- Newspapers.
- Radio.
- Films.
- Public meetings.
- Education.

His objective was to spread Nazi ideology and strengthen support for Hitler.

XVIII. Expansionist Policies

Hitler pursued aggressive expansion by:

- Rearming Germany.
- Reoccupying the Rhineland (1936).
- Annexing Austria (Anschluss, 1938).
- Occupying the Sudetenland (1938).
- Occupying the rest of Czechoslovakia (1939).
- Invading Poland (1 September 1939).

The invasion of Poland led Britain and France to declare war on Germany, beginning the Second World War.

XIX. Similarities Between Fascism and Nazism

Fascism	Nazism
Founder: Benito Mussolini	Leader: Adolf Hitler
Italy	Germany
Blackshirts	Brownshirts (SA)
Il Duce	Führer
Extreme Nationalism	Extreme Nationalism
One-party dictatorship	One-party dictatorship
Militarism	Militarism
Opposition to Communism	Opposition to Communism

XX. Historical Importance

Fascism and Nazism transformed European politics during the interwar period. Their authoritarian rule, militarization, and expansionist policies contributed directly to the outbreak of the Second World War. The crimes committed under Nazi rule, including the persecution and mass murder of millions of civilians, profoundly shaped post-war international law and human rights efforts.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic	Fact
Founder of Fascism	Benito Mussolini
Fascist Party Founded	1919
March on Rome	1922
Il Duce	Mussolini
Lateran Treaty	1929
Nazi Party	NSDAP
Mein Kampf	Adolf Hitler
Hitler became Chancellor	30 January 1933
Reichstag Fire	27 February 1933
Enabling Act	1933
Nuremberg Laws	1935
SS Leader	Heinrich Himmler
Gestapo	Secret State Police
Propaganda Minister	Joseph Goebbels
Invasion of Poland	1 September 1939

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Fascism and its characteristics
- Mussolini and the March on Rome
- Blackshirts
- Lateran Treaty
- Nazism and NSDAP
- Hitler's Mein Kampf
- Reichstag Fire
- Enabling Act
- Nuremberg Laws
- Gestapo
- SS and Heinrich Himmler
- Joseph Goebbels
- Anschluss
- Invasion of Poland

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The founder of Fascism was _____.

- (A) Adolf Hitler
 - (B) Benito Mussolini
 - (C) Francisco Franco
 - (D) Joseph Stalin
-

2.

The March on Rome took place in _____.

- (A) 1919
 - (B) 1922
 - (C) 1929
 - (D) 1933
-

3.

Mussolini was popularly known as _____.

- (A) Führer
 - (B) Il Duce
 - (C) Kaiser
 - (D) Tsar
-

4.

The armed supporters of Mussolini were called the _____.

- (A) Brownshirts
 - (B) Red Guards
 - (C) Blackshirts
 - (D) White Army
-

5.

The Nazi Party was officially known as the _____.

- (A) Communist Party
 - (B) National Socialist German Workers' Party
 - (C) Social Democratic Party
 - (D) German People's Party
-

6.

The author of Mein Kampf was _____.

- (A) Joseph Goebbels
 - (B) Heinrich Himmler
 - (C) Adolf Hitler
 - (D) Hermann Göring
-

7.

Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in _____.

- (A) 1929
 - (B) 1933
 - (C) 1935
 - (D) 1939
-

8.

The Enabling Act was passed in _____.

- (A) 1933
 - (B) 1935
 - (C) 1936
 - (D) 1938
-

9.

The Nuremberg Laws were enacted in _____.

- (A) 1933

- (B) 1934
(C) 1935
(D) 1938

10.
The Nazi secret police was known as the _____.
(A) SA
(B) Gestapo
(C) Wehrmacht
(D) Luftwaffe

11.
The leader of the SS was _____.
(A) Joseph Goebbels
(B) Heinrich Himmler
(C) Erwin Rommel
(D) Rudolf Hess

12.
The Nazi Minister of Propaganda was _____.
(A) Hermann Göring
(B) Joseph Goebbels
(C) Albert Speer
(D) Martin Bormann

13.
The annexation of Austria by Germany in 1938 is known as the _____.
(A) Anschluss
(B) Blitzkrieg
(C) Lebensraum
(D) Kristallnacht

14.
Germany invaded Poland on _____.
(A) 1 September 1939
(B) 3 September 1939
(C) 10 May 1940
(D) 22 June 1941

15.
The invasion of Poland marked the beginning of the _____ World War.
(A) First
(B) Second
(C) Crimean
(D) Seven Years'

Answer Key

- 1 – B (Benito Mussolini)
2 – B (1922)
3 – B (Il Duce)
4 – C (Blackshirts)
5 – B (National Socialist German Workers' Party)
6 – C (Adolf Hitler)
7 – B (1933)
8 – A (1933)
9 – C (1935)
10 – B (Gestapo)
11 – B (Heinrich Himmler)
12 – B (Joseph Goebbels)
13 – A (Anschluss)
14 – A (1 September 1939)
15 – B (Second)

CHAPTER 23: SECOND WORLD WAR (1939–1945)

Introduction

The Second World War (1939–1945) was the largest and most destructive war in human history. It involved more than 60 countries and was fought across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. The war was primarily fought between the Axis Powers and the Allied Powers.

The conflict resulted in enormous human and economic losses, the defeat of Fascism and Nazism, the emergence of the United States and the Soviet Union as superpowers, and the establishment of the United Nations.

The Second World War is one of the most important topics for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Causes of the Second World War

1. Treaty of Versailles

The harsh provisions of the Treaty of Versailles created widespread resentment in Germany.

Major grievances included:

- War Guilt Clause.
- Heavy reparations.
- Territorial losses.
- Military restrictions.

These conditions facilitated the rise of Adolf Hitler.

2. Rise of Fascism and Nazism

The aggressive policies of:

- Benito Mussolini (Italy)
- Adolf Hitler (Germany)

challenged the existing international order.

3. Failure of the League of Nations

The League failed to stop aggression by:

- Japan in Manchuria (1931).
- Italy in Ethiopia (1935).
- Germany in Europe.

Its weakness encouraged aggressive states.

4. Policy of Appeasement

Britain and France adopted the policy of Appeasement, hoping to avoid another major war by making concessions to Hitler.

The most notable example was the

Munich Agreement (1938),

which allowed Germany to annex the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia.

5. Expansionist Policies

Germany pursued aggressive expansion by:

- Rearming.
- Remilitarizing the Rhineland.
- Annexing Austria (Anschluss).
- Occupying Czechoslovakia.
- Invading Poland.

6. Nazi–Soviet Pact (Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact)

On 23 August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed a Non-Aggression Pact.

A secret protocol divided parts of Eastern Europe into spheres of influence, including the partition of Poland.

This agreement removed the immediate risk of a two-front war for Germany.

II. Immediate Cause

On

1 September 1939

Germany invaded Poland.

On 3 September 1939,

Britain and France declared war on Germany.

This marked the beginning of the Second World War.

III. Major Alliances

Axis Powers

- Germany
- Italy

- Japan
- Later joined by:
- Hungary
 - Romania
 - Bulgaria

Allied Powers

Initially:

- Britain
- France
- Poland

Later joined by:

- Soviet Union (1941)
- United States (1941)
- China
- Canada
- Australia
- India (as part of the British Empire)
- Many other nations

IV. Important Events

German Blitzkrieg

Germany adopted the strategy of Blitzkrieg (Lightning War), using:

- Tanks.
- Aircraft.
- Motorized infantry.

This enabled rapid victories in Poland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France.

Fall of France (1940)

Germany occupied France in June 1940.

Northern France came under German occupation.

Southern France was governed by the Vichy Government, led by Marshal Philippe Pétain.

Battle of Britain (1940)

Germany launched extensive air attacks against Britain.

The Royal Air Force (RAF) successfully defended Britain.

This was Hitler's first major military defeat.

Operation Barbarossa (1941)

On 22 June 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union.

It was the largest land invasion in history.

Major battles included:

- Moscow.
- Leningrad.
- Stalingrad.

Attack on Pearl Harbor (1941)

On

7 December 1941,

Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The following day, the United States entered the war.

V. Major Turning Points

Battle of Stalingrad (1942–1943)

The Soviet Union defeated Germany.

This marked the turning point of the war in Europe.

Battle of El Alamein (1942)

British forces under General Bernard Montgomery defeated German and Italian forces commanded by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel in North Africa.

This ended Axis dominance in North Africa.

Battle of Midway (1942)

The United States defeated Japan in the Pacific.

This battle shifted naval superiority in favor of the Allies.

VI. D-Day (Operation Overlord)

On

6 June 1944,

Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France.

This operation is known as

D-Day.

It opened the Western Front and accelerated the liberation of Western Europe.

VII. Defeat of Germany

The Soviet Army captured Berlin in April–May 1945.

Adolf Hitler committed suicide on

30 April 1945.

Germany surrendered unconditionally on

8 May 1945

known as

V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day).

VIII. Atomic Bombings

To end the war against Japan, the United States dropped atomic bombs on:

Hiroshima

6 August 1945

Nagasaki

9 August 1945

These remain the only wartime use of nuclear weapons.

IX. Surrender of Japan

Japan announced its acceptance of Allied terms and formally surrendered on

2 September 1945,

ending the Second World War.

This day is celebrated as

V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day).

X. The Holocaust

The Holocaust refers to the systematic persecution and mass murder carried out by the Nazi regime against Jews and other targeted groups during the Second World War.

Approximately six million Jews were murdered.

The Holocaust remains one of the gravest crimes against humanity in modern history.

XI. Yalta Conference (1945)

Held in February 1945.

Leaders:

- Franklin D. Roosevelt (USA)
- Winston Churchill (Britain)
- Joseph Stalin (USSR)

Major decisions included:

- Planning the post-war occupation of Germany.
- Establishment of the United Nations.
- Soviet participation in the war against Japan.

XII. Potsdam Conference (1945)

Held after Germany's surrender.

Leaders included:

- Harry S. Truman (USA)
- Winston Churchill (later Clement Attlee)
- Joseph Stalin

The conference finalized arrangements for post-war Europe.

XIII. Consequences of the Second World War

Political

- Defeat of Fascism and Nazism.
- Division of Germany.
- Beginning of the Cold War.
- Rise of the United States and Soviet Union as superpowers.

International
The
United Nations (UN)
was established on
24 October 1945
to promote international peace and cooperation.

Economic

- Massive destruction.
- Reconstruction through programs such as the Marshall Plan in Western Europe.
- Rapid industrial recovery in several countries.

Social

- Millions of deaths.
- Large refugee movements.
- Growth of decolonization movements in Asia and Africa.

XIV. Historical Importance
The Second World War reshaped international politics.
It:

- Ended colonial empires gradually.
- Accelerated technological development.
- Established the United Nations.
- Created the bipolar world of the Cold War.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic	Fact
Duration	1939–1945
Immediate Cause	German invasion of Poland
Germany invaded Poland	1 September 1939
Britain & France declared war	3 September 1939
Pearl Harbor	7 December 1941
Operation Barbarossa	22 June 1941
D-Day	6 June 1944
Hitler died	30 April 1945
Germany surrendered	8 May 1945
Hiroshima	6 August 1945
Nagasaki	9 August 1945
Japan surrendered	2 September 1945
United Nations	24 October 1945
Holocaust	Approximately 6 million Jews murdered

Previous Examination Focus Areas
SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Causes of the Second World War
- Appeasement and the Munich Agreement
- Nazi–Soviet Pact
- Blitzkrieg
- Battle of Britain
- Operation Barbarossa
- Pearl Harbor
- Battle of Stalingrad
- Battle of El Alamein
- Battle of Midway
- D-Day
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- United Nations
- Yalta and Potsdam Conferences

Fill in the Blanks
(15 Questions)
1.
The Second World War began with Germany's invasion of _____.
(A) France
(B) Poland
(C) Belgium
(D) Austria

2.

Germany invaded Poland on _____.

- (A) 1 September 1939
 - (B) 3 September 1939
 - (C) 22 June 1941
 - (D) 7 December 1941
-

3.

The policy of making concessions to Hitler before the war is known as _____.

- (A) Containment
 - (B) Appeasement
 - (C) Isolation
 - (D) Neutrality
-

4.

Germany's strategy of rapid warfare was called _____.

- (A) Blitzkrieg
 - (B) Trench Warfare
 - (C) Attrition
 - (D) Guerilla Warfare
-

5.

The Battle of Britain was fought mainly in the _____.

- (A) Air
 - (B) Sea
 - (C) Desert
 - (D) Mountains
-

6.

Operation Barbarossa was Germany's invasion of the _____.

- (A) France
 - (B) Soviet Union
 - (C) Italy
 - (D) Poland
-

7.

Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on _____.

- (A) 1 September 1939
 - (B) 22 June 1941
 - (C) 7 December 1941
 - (D) 6 June 1944
-

8.

The turning point of the war in Europe is generally considered to be the Battle of _____.

- (A) Dunkirk
 - (B) Stalingrad
 - (C) Normandy
 - (D) Warsaw
-

9.

The turning point of the Pacific War was the Battle of _____.

- (A) Midway
 - (B) Jutland
 - (C) Trafalgar
 - (D) Somme
-

10.

D-Day refers to the Allied landings in _____.

- (A) Sicily
 - (B) Normandy
 - (C) Crete
 - (D) Belgium
-

11.

Adolf Hitler died on _____.

- (A) 8 May 1945

- (B) 30 April 1945
- (C) 6 August 1945
- (D) 2 September 1945

12.
The first atomic bomb was dropped on _____.
(A) Nagasaki
(B) Hiroshima
(C) Tokyo
(D) Osaka

13.
The United Nations was established on _____.
(A) 8 May 1945
(B) 2 September 1945
(C) 24 October 1945
(D) 10 January 1946

14.
The systematic mass murder carried out by the Nazi regime is known as the _____.
(A) Blitzkrieg
(B) Holocaust
(C) Anschluss
(D) Lebensraum

15.
The Second World War ended with the surrender of _____.
(A) Germany
(B) Italy
(C) Japan
(D) France

- Answer Key
- 1 – B (Poland)
 - 2 – A (1 September 1939)
 - 3 – B (Appeasement)
 - 4 – A (Blitzkrieg)
 - 5 – A (Air)
 - 6 – B (Soviet Union)
 - 7 – C (7 December 1941)
 - 8 – B (Stalingrad)
 - 9 – A (Midway)
 - 10 – B (Normandy)
 - 11 – B (30 April 1945)
 - 12 – B (Hiroshima)
 - 13 – C (24 October 1945)
 - 14 – B (Holocaust)
 - 15 – C (Japan)

CHAPTER 24: UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION (UNO)

Introduction

The United Nations Organization (UNO) is the largest international organization in the world, established after the Second World War to maintain international peace and security, promote friendly relations among nations, protect human rights, and encourage international cooperation.

The United Nations (UN) officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, after the required number of countries ratified the UN Charter. Every year, 24 October is celebrated as United Nations Day.

The UN succeeded the League of Nations, which had failed to prevent the Second World War.

The United Nations is one of the most important topics for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Background

During the Second World War, the Allied Powers realized the need for a stronger international organization than the League of Nations.

Important developments leading to the formation of the UN include:

Atlantic Charter (1941)

Issued by:

- Franklin D. Roosevelt (USA)
- Winston Churchill (Britain)

It emphasized:

- Collective security.
- Self-determination.
- Peaceful international cooperation.

Declaration by United Nations (1942)

On 1 January 1942, 26 countries signed the Declaration by United Nations, pledging to continue the fight against the Axis Powers.

The term "United Nations" was coined by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dumbarton Oaks Conference (1944)

Representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China prepared proposals for a new international organization.

Yalta Conference (1945)

The leaders of the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union agreed on the voting procedure for the Security Council and finalized plans for the new organization.

San Francisco Conference (1945)

Held from 25 April to 26 June 1945.

Delegates from 50 countries drafted and signed the United Nations Charter.

Poland signed later and became the 51st founding member.

II. Establishment of the United Nations

The United Nations Charter came into force on 24 October 1945.

This date is observed annually as United Nations Day.

The headquarters of the UN is located in New York City, United States of America.

III. Objectives of the United Nations

The principal objectives of the UN are:

- Maintain international peace and security.
- Develop friendly relations among nations.
- Promote human rights.
- Encourage international cooperation.
- Promote economic and social development.
- Resolve international disputes peacefully.

IV. Official Languages

The United Nations has six official languages:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- Russian
- Spanish

V. Principal Organs of the United Nations

According to the UN Charter, there are six principal organs.

1. General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main deliberative body.

Features:

- All member states are represented.
- Each member has one vote.
- Meets annually.
- Approves the UN budget.
- Elects members to various UN bodies.

Important decisions usually require a two-thirds majority.

2. Security Council

The Security Council is responsible for international peace and security.

Composition

Total Members:

15

Permanent Members (P5):

- China
- France
- Russia
- United Kingdom
- United States

Non-permanent Members:

- Ten members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.

Veto Power

Each permanent member possesses the

Power of Veto,

which enables it to block the adoption of substantive resolutions.

3. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

ECOSOC promotes:

- Economic development.
- Social progress.
- Education.
- Public health.
- International cooperation.

It coordinates the work of many specialized agencies.

4. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

Location:

The Hague, Netherlands

Composition:

- 15 judges
- Elected for nine-year terms

Functions:

- Settles legal disputes between states.
- Gives advisory opinions.

The ICJ should not be confused with the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is a separate institution.

5. Trusteeship Council

Purpose:

To supervise Trust Territories and assist them in achieving self-government or independence.

The Trusteeship Council suspended operations in 1994 after Palau became independent.

6. Secretariat

The Secretariat conducts the day-to-day administrative work of the UN.

It is headed by the

Secretary-General.

VI. Secretary-General

The Secretary-General is often described as the Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations.

Major responsibilities:

- Administration.
- Mediation.
- Peace initiatives.
- Diplomacy.
- Reporting to the General Assembly.

Some notable Secretaries-General include:

- Trygve Lie (First Secretary-General)
- Dag Hammarskjöld
- U Thant
- Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
- Boutros Boutros-Ghali
- Kofi Annan
- Ban Ki-moon
- António Guterres

VII. Specialized Agencies

The United Nations works with several specialized agencies.

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Headquarters:

Paris, France

Functions:

- Education.
- Science.
- Culture.
- World Heritage Sites.

WHO

World Health Organization

Headquarters:

Geneva, Switzerland

Functions:

- Global public health.
- Disease control.
- Vaccination.
- Health standards.

FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization

Headquarters:

Rome, Italy

Functions:

- Food security.
- Agriculture.
- Nutrition.

ILO

International Labour Organization

Headquarters:

Geneva, Switzerland

Functions:

- Labour rights.
- Working conditions.
- Social justice.

Founded in 1919, it became the first specialized agency associated with the UN in 1946.

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

Headquarters:

New York, USA

Functions:

- Child welfare.
- Education.
- Nutrition.
- Immunization.

IMF

International Monetary Fund

Headquarters:

Washington, D.C., USA

Functions:

- International monetary cooperation.
- Financial stability.
- Balance of payments support.

World Bank

Headquarters:

Washington, D.C., USA

Functions:

- Development finance.
- Poverty reduction.
- Infrastructure projects.

VIII. Peacekeeping Operations

One of the most visible functions of the UN is Peacekeeping.

Peacekeeping missions help:

- Monitor ceasefires.
- Protect civilians.
- Support peace agreements.
- Assist post-conflict reconstruction.

India has been one of the largest contributors of troops to UN Peacekeeping Operations.

IX. India and the United Nations

India is a founding member of the United Nations.

India has:

- Participated in numerous peacekeeping missions.
- Served multiple terms as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.
- Advocated reforms of the Security Council.
- Sought permanent membership in an expanded Security Council.

X. Achievements of the United Nations

The UN has contributed to:

- Peacekeeping.
- Human rights promotion.
- Eradication of diseases.
- Disaster relief.
- Refugee protection.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- International cooperation.

XI. Criticism of the United Nations

Major criticisms include:

- Frequent use of the veto.
- Difficulty in preventing major conflicts.
- Slow decision-making.
- Need for Security Council reform.
- Unequal representation of developing countries.

XII. Historical Importance

The United Nations remains the world's foremost international organization for promoting peace, security, development, and cooperation among nations.

Despite challenges, it continues to play a central role in addressing global issues.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

UN Established 24 October 1945

UN Day 24 October

Headquarters New York, USA

UN Charter Signed 26 June 1945

San Francisco Conference 1945
Principal Organs Six
Security Council Members 15
Permanent Members China, France, Russia, UK, USA
ICJ The Hague
ECOSOC Economic and Social Council
UNESCO HQ Paris
WHO HQ Geneva
FAO HQ Rome
IMF & World Bank HQ Washington, D.C.
UNICEF HQ New York

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Formation of the United Nations
 - UN Charter
 - United Nations Day
 - Headquarters
 - Six Principal Organs
 - General Assembly
 - Security Council
 - Permanent Members (P5)
 - Veto Power
 - International Court of Justice
 - ECOSOC
 - Secretary-General
 - UNESCO
 - WHO
 - UNICEF
 - ILO
 - FAO
 - IMF
 - World Bank
 - India's role in the United Nations
-

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The United Nations officially came into existence on _____.

- (A) 10 January 1920
 - (B) 24 October 1945
 - (C) 26 June 1945
 - (D) 1 January 1946
-

2.

The headquarters of the United Nations is located in _____.

- (A) Geneva
 - (B) Paris
 - (C) New York
 - (D) Washington, D.C.
-

3.

The United Nations Charter was signed at the _____ Conference.

- (A) Vienna
 - (B) San Francisco
 - (C) Yalta
 - (D) Dumbarton Oaks
-

4.

The United Nations has _____ principal organs.

- (A) Four
- (B) Five

- (C) Six
(D) Seven
-

5.
The principal organ responsible for international peace and security is the _____.

- (A) General Assembly
(B) Security Council
(C) ECOSOC
(D) Secretariat
-

6.
The Security Council has _____ permanent members.

- (A) Four
(B) Five
(C) Six
(D) Ten
-

7.
The principal judicial organ of the United Nations is the _____.

- (A) International Criminal Court
(B) International Court of Justice
(C) Permanent Court of Arbitration
(D) European Court of Justice
-

8.
The International Court of Justice is located at _____.

- (A) Geneva
(B) Paris
(C) The Hague
(D) Brussels
-

9.
The headquarters of UNESCO is at _____.

- (A) Rome
(B) Geneva
(C) Paris
(D) Vienna
-

10.
The headquarters of the World Health Organization is at _____.

- (A) Paris
(B) Geneva
(C) Rome
(D) New York
-

11.
The headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization is at _____.

- (A) Rome
(B) Madrid
(C) Brussels
(D) London
-

12.
The headquarters of UNICEF is at _____.

- (A) Geneva
(B) New York
(C) Paris
(D) Rome
-

13.
The headquarters of both the IMF and the World Bank is _____.

- (A) London

- (B) Washington, D.C.
(C) Geneva
(D) Paris
-

14.
The United Nations Day is celebrated on _____.
(A) 1 January
(B) 24 October
(C) 26 June
(D) 10 December
-

15.
India is a _____ member of the United Nations.
(A) Associate
(B) Founding
(C) Observer
(D) Temporary
-

Answer Key

- 1 – B (24 October 1945)
2 – C (New York)
3 – B (San Francisco)
4 – C (Six)
5 – B (Security Council)
6 – B (Five)
7 – B (International Court of Justice)
8 – C (The Hague)
9 – C (Paris)
10 – B (Geneva)
11 – A (Rome)
12 – B (New York)
13 – B (Washington, D.C.)
14 – B (24 October)
15 – B (Founding)

CHAPTER 25: COLD WAR (1945–1991)

Introduction

The Cold War (1945–1991) was a prolonged period of political, ideological, economic, military, and technological rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union after the Second World War. Unlike the two World Wars, the Cold War did not involve direct large-scale military conflict between these two superpowers. Instead, they competed through proxy wars, military alliances, arms races, diplomacy, espionage, and space exploration.

The Cold War shaped international politics for nearly half a century and ended with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Cold War is an important topic for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Meaning of the Cold War

The term Cold War refers to a state of hostility between nations without direct full-scale war.

It was characterized by:

- Ideological rivalry.
- Military competition.
- Nuclear arms race.
- Propaganda.
- Economic competition.
- Proxy wars.
- Diplomatic confrontation.

The expression "Cold War" became widely popular through the writings of the American journalist Walter Lippmann.

II. Causes of the Cold War

1. Ideological Differences

The United States supported:

- Capitalism.
- Liberal democracy.
- Free-market economy.

The Soviet Union supported:

- Communism.
- One-party socialist rule.
- State-controlled economy.

2. Mutual Distrust

Differences that emerged during the Second World War created suspicion between the Allies.

Disagreements concerned:

- Eastern Europe.
- Germany.
- Political systems.
- Security arrangements.

3. Soviet Expansion

After the Second World War, the Soviet Union established communist governments in several Eastern European countries, including:

- Poland.
- Hungary.
- Romania.
- Bulgaria.
- Czechoslovakia.
- East Germany.

Western countries viewed this as Soviet expansion.

4. American Containment Policy

The United States adopted the policy of Containment

to prevent the spread of communism.

This policy influenced American foreign policy throughout the Cold War.

III. Truman Doctrine (1947)

Announced by

President Harry S. Truman
in 1947.

It promised American assistance to countries resisting communist expansion, particularly Greece and Turkey.

The Truman Doctrine became the foundation of the policy of containment.

IV. Marshall Plan (1948)

Officially called the

European Recovery Program (ERP).

Introduced by

George C. Marshall,
the U.S. Secretary of State.

Objectives:

- Rebuild Western European economies.
- Prevent the spread of communism.
- Promote economic recovery after the Second World War.

V. Berlin Blockade (1948–1949)

The Soviet Union blocked all land routes to West Berlin.

In response, the United States and its allies organized the Berlin Airlift,

supplying food, fuel, and essential goods by air.

The blockade ended in 1949.

VI. Formation of NATO (1949)

The

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

was established on
4 April 1949.

Purpose:

- Collective defence.
- Mutual military cooperation.

Article 5 states that an attack on one member is considered an attack on all members.

VII. Formation of the Warsaw Pact (1955)

The

Warsaw Pact

was established on

14 May 1955

by the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies.

It served as the communist counterpart to NATO.

VIII. Korean War (1950–1953)

After the Second World War:

- Korea was divided along the 38th Parallel.
- North Korea became communist.
- South Korea became non-communist.

In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea.

The United Nations, led mainly by the United States, supported South Korea.

China supported North Korea.

The war ended with an armistice in 1953.

The Korean Peninsula remains divided.

IX. Vietnam War (1955–1975)

Vietnam was divided into:

- North Vietnam (Communist).
- South Vietnam (Non-Communist).

The United States supported South Vietnam.

The Soviet Union and China supported North Vietnam.

The war ended in 1975 with the reunification of Vietnam under communist rule.

X. Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

The Cuban Missile Crisis is considered the most dangerous confrontation of the Cold War.

In October 1962, the Soviet Union secretly deployed nuclear missiles in Cuba.

The crisis involved:

- John F. Kennedy (USA).
- Nikita Khrushchev (USSR).

After intense negotiations:

- The Soviet Union removed missiles from Cuba.
- The United States secretly agreed to remove missiles from Turkey and publicly pledged not to invade Cuba.

The crisis highlighted the dangers of nuclear war.

XI. Berlin Wall (1961)

The

Berlin Wall

was constructed by East Germany on

13 August 1961.

Purpose:

To prevent migration from East Berlin to West Berlin.

The wall became the most visible symbol of the Cold War.

It fell on

9 November 1989,

symbolizing the end of communist rule in Eastern Europe.

XII. Arms Race

The United States and the Soviet Union competed to develop:

- Nuclear weapons.
- Hydrogen bombs.
- Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

- Submarines.
- Strategic bombers.

The concept of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) discouraged direct nuclear war because both sides possessed the capability to inflict devastating retaliation.

XIII. Space Race

The Cold War extended into space.

Sputnik (1957)

The Soviet Union launched

Sputnik 1,

the world's first artificial satellite.

Yuri Gagarin (1961)

First human in space.

Country:

Soviet Union.

Apollo 11 (1969)

The United States successfully landed humans on the Moon.

Astronauts:

- Neil Armstrong.
- Buzz Aldrin.
- Michael Collins (orbited the Moon).

Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the Moon.

XIV. Détente

Détente refers to the relaxation of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union during the 1970s.

Important developments included:

- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I).
- Helsinki Accords (1975).

XV. End of the Cold War

Major reasons:

- Economic difficulties in the Soviet Union.
- Reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev:
 - o Glasnost (Openness).
 - o Perestroika (Restructuring).
- Fall of communist governments in Eastern Europe.
- Fall of the Berlin Wall (1989).

XVI. Dissolution of the Soviet Union

On

26 December 1991,

the

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

was officially dissolved.

The Cold War ended.

The United States emerged as the world's sole superpower.

XVII. Historical Importance

The Cold War:

- Divided the world into two ideological blocs.
- Influenced international relations for nearly fifty years.
- Led to proxy wars in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- Accelerated scientific and technological development.
- Encouraged nuclear arms control agreements.
- Reshaped the global political order after 1991.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

Cold War Duration 1945–1991

Truman Doctrine	1947
Marshall Plan	1948
Berlin Blockade	1948–49
NATO	4 April 1949
Warsaw Pact	14 May 1955
Korean War	1950–53
Vietnam War	1955–75
Cuban Missile Crisis	1962
Berlin Wall Built	13 August 1961
Berlin Wall Fell	9 November 1989
First Artificial Satellite	Sputnik 1
First Human in Space	Yuri Gagarin
First Moon Landing	Apollo 11 (1969)
USSR Dissolved	26 December 1991

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Meaning and causes of the Cold War
- Truman Doctrine
- Marshall Plan
- Berlin Blockade and Airlift
- NATO
- Warsaw Pact
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Berlin Wall
- Space Race
- Sputnik
- Yuri Gagarin
- Apollo 11
- Glasnost and Perestroika
- Dissolution of the USSR

Fill in the Blanks (15 Questions)

1.

The Cold War was primarily fought between the _____ and the Soviet Union.

- (A) China
- (B) United States
- (C) France
- (D) Germany

2.

The policy adopted by the United States to prevent the spread of communism was called _____.

- (A) Appeasement
- (B) Containment
- (C) Isolation
- (D) Neutrality

3.

The Truman Doctrine was announced in _____.

- (A) 1945
- (B) 1947
- (C) 1949
- (D) 1955

4.

The Marshall Plan was also known as the _____.

- (A) Atlantic Charter
- (B) European Recovery Program
- (C) New Deal

(D) Open Door Policy

5.

The Berlin Blockade took place during _____.

- (A) 1945–46
- (B) 1948–49
- (C) 1950–51
- (D) 1961–62

6.

NATO was established in _____.

- (A) 1945
- (B) 1947
- (C) 1949
- (D) 1955

7.

The Warsaw Pact was formed in _____.

- (A) 1949
- (B) 1953
- (C) 1955
- (D) 1961

8.

The Korean Peninsula was divided along the _____ Parallel.

- (A) 17th
- (B) 25th
- (C) 38th
- (D) 49th

9.

The Cuban Missile Crisis occurred in _____.

- (A) 1956
- (B) 1960
- (C) 1962
- (D) 1968

10.

The Berlin Wall was built in _____.

- (A) 1955
- (B) 1958
- (C) 1961
- (D) 1965

11.

The world's first artificial satellite was _____.

- (A) Apollo 11
- (B) Explorer 1
- (C) Sputnik 1
- (D) Luna 2

12.

The first human to travel into space was _____.

- (A) Neil Armstrong
- (B) Yuri Gagarin
- (C) John Glenn
- (D) Valentina Tereshkova

13.

The first successful human Moon landing mission was _____.

- (A) Apollo 8
- (B) Apollo 10

- (C) Apollo 11
(D) Apollo 13

14.

The reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev were known as _____ and Perestroika.

- (A) Détente
(B) Glasnost
(C) Containment
(D) Ostpolitik

15.

The Soviet Union was officially dissolved in _____.

- (A) 1989
(B) 1990
(C) 1991
(D) 1993

Answer Key

- 1 – B (United States)
2 – B (Containment)
3 – B (1947)
4 – B (European Recovery Program)
5 – B (1948–49)
6 – C (1949)
7 – C (1955)
8 – C (38th)
9 – C (1962)
10 – C (1961)
11 – C (Sputnik 1)
12 – B (Yuri Gagarin)
13 – C (Apollo 11)
14 – B (Glasnost)
15 – C (1991)

CHAPTER 26: DECOLONIZATION IN ASIA AND AFRICA

Introduction

Decolonization refers to the process by which colonies gained independence from their colonial rulers after the Second World War. Between 1945 and the 1970s, most Asian and African countries achieved independence, bringing an end to centuries of European colonial rule.

The process was driven by the rise of nationalism, weakening of European colonial powers after the Second World War, international pressure through the United Nations, and the growing demand for self-determination. Decolonization reshaped the political map of the world and led to the emergence of many newly independent nations.

This chapter is highly important for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Meaning of Decolonization

Decolonization means the transfer of political power from colonial rulers to the people of the colonies, resulting in independent sovereign states.

II. Causes of Decolonization

Major causes included:

1. Impact of the Second World War

European colonial powers such as Britain, France, and the Netherlands were economically weakened after the war.

2. Rise of Nationalism

Nationalist leaders inspired people to demand:

- Self-government.
 - Political freedom.
 - National unity.
-

3. Atlantic Charter (1941)

The Atlantic Charter emphasized the principle of self-determination for all peoples.

Although originally intended for wartime objectives, it inspired colonial independence movements.

4. Role of the United Nations

The United Nations supported:

- Human rights.
- Self-determination.
- End of colonialism.

The Trusteeship Council also supervised the transition of Trust Territories toward self-government or independence.

5. Economic Burden of Colonies

Maintaining colonies became increasingly expensive for European powers.

III. Decolonization in Asia

India

India achieved independence from Britain on 15 August 1947.

Key leaders:

- Mahatma Gandhi.
- Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- Subhas Chandra Bose (through a different approach).

The Indian Independence Act, 1947 created:

- India.
- Pakistan.

Pakistan

Pakistan came into existence on 14 August 1947.

Its founder was Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Sri Lanka

Formerly known as Ceylon.

Obtained independence from Britain on 4 February 1948.

Myanmar (Burma)

Obtained independence from Britain on 4 January 1948.

Prominent leader:

Aung San, regarded as the father of modern Myanmar.

Indonesia

Indonesia declared independence on 17 August 1945.

National leader:

Sukarno.

The Netherlands formally recognized Indonesian sovereignty in 1949 after prolonged negotiations and conflict.

Vietnam

After the Second World War:

- Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnamese independence in 1945.

Following conflict with France, the Geneva Accords (1954)

temporarily divided Vietnam into:

- North Vietnam.

- South Vietnam.
- Vietnam was reunified in 1975.

Malaysia
The Federation of Malaya gained independence from Britain on 31 August 1957.
Malaysia was formed in 1963.

Singapore
Singapore became fully independent on 9 August 1965.
Its first Prime Minister was Lee Kuan Yew.

IV. Decolonization in Africa
Ghana
Ghana became the first sub-Saharan African colony to gain independence from British colonial rule.
Date:
6 March 1957
Leader:
Kwame Nkrumah.

Nigeria
Nigeria obtained independence from Britain on 1 October 1960.

Kenya
Kenya became independent on 12 December 1963.
Leader:
Jomo Kenyatta.
The Mau Mau Movement played an important role in the struggle against British colonial rule.

Congo
The Democratic Republic of the Congo became independent from Belgium on 30 June 1960.
Prominent leader:
Patrice Lumumba.

Algeria
Algeria fought a long war against France. The Algerian War of Independence lasted from 1954 to 1962.
Algeria became independent on 5 July 1962.
The principal nationalist organization was the National Liberation Front (FLN).

Tanzania
Tanganyika became independent in 1961.
It united with Zanzibar in 1964 to form Tanzania.
Leader:
Julius Nyerere.

Zimbabwe
Formerly called
Southern Rhodesia.
Became independent in
1980.
Leader:
Robert Mugabe.

Namibia
Namibia became independent from South African administration on
21 March 1990.

V. Apartheid in South Africa
Apartheid was a policy of racial segregation introduced by the National Party in 1948.
Features:

- Racial discrimination.
- Residential segregation.
- Restrictions on political rights.
- Separate public facilities.

Nelson Mandela
Nelson Mandela was the leading figure in the struggle against apartheid.
He belonged to the
African National Congress (ANC).
He spent 27 years in prison.
Mandela became
South Africa's first Black President
in 1994.

End of Apartheid
Important developments:

- Release of Nelson Mandela (1990).
- Democratic elections (1994).
- Election of Nelson Mandela as President.

Apartheid officially ended in 1994.

VI. Commonwealth of Nations
The
Commonwealth of Nations
is a voluntary association of independent countries, most of which were formerly part of the British Empire.
Objectives:

- Democracy.
- Development.
- Human rights.
- International cooperation.

The Head of the Commonwealth is a symbolic position and is distinct from the office of the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

VII. Impact of Decolonization
Political:

- Emergence of many new sovereign states.
- Expansion of United Nations membership.

Economic:

- Challenges of development.
- Industrialization efforts.
- Dependence on foreign aid in some countries.

Social:

- Revival of indigenous cultures.
- Educational expansion.
- National identity.

International:

- Formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

- Increased influence of developing countries in global affairs.

VIII. Historical Importance

Decolonization transformed international politics by ending European colonial empires across Asia and Africa. It promoted national sovereignty, reshaped international relations, and accelerated the movement toward equality among nations.

Frequently Asked Facts

Topic Fact

India's Independence	15 August 1947
Pakistan's Independence	14 August 1947
Sri Lanka's Independence	4 February 1948
Myanmar's Independence	4 January 1948
Indonesia's Independence Declaration	17 August 1945
Ghana's Independence	6 March 1957
Nigeria's Independence	1 October 1960
Congo's Independence	30 June 1960
Algeria's Independence	5 July 1962
Kenya's Independence	12 December 1963
Apartheid Introduced	1948
Nelson Mandela President	1994
Namibia's Independence	21 March 1990
First Sub-Saharan African Colony to Gain Independence	Ghana

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Meaning of decolonization
- Causes of decolonization
- Indian Independence Act, 1947
- Sukarno and Indonesia
- Ho Chi Minh and Vietnam
- Kwame Nkrumah and Ghana
- Jomo Kenyatta and Kenya
- Patrice Lumumba and Congo
- FLN and Algeria
- Apartheid
- Nelson Mandela
- African National Congress (ANC)
- Commonwealth of Nations
- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.
The process by which colonies became independent is known as _____.

- (A) Globalization
- (B) Decolonization
- (C) Industrialization
- (D) Urbanization

2.
India became independent on _____.

- (A) 26 January 1950
- (B) 15 August 1947
- (C) 14 August 1947
- (D) 4 February 1948

3.
The founder of Pakistan was _____.

- (A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (B) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
- (C) Mahatma Gandhi

(D) Liaquat Ali Khan

4.

Indonesia declared independence under the leadership of _____.

- (A) Ho Chi Minh
 - (B) Sukarno
 - (C) Aung San
 - (D) Lee Kuan Yew
-

5.

The leader associated with Vietnam's independence movement was _____.

- (A) Sukarno
 - (B) Ho Chi Minh
 - (C) Kwame Nkrumah
 - (D) Julius Nyerere
-

6.

The first sub-Saharan African colony to gain independence was _____.

- (A) Kenya
 - (B) Nigeria
 - (C) Ghana
 - (D) Congo
-

7.

The first Prime Minister of independent Singapore was _____.

- (A) Lee Kuan Yew
 - (B) Sukarno
 - (C) Mahathir Mohamad
 - (D) Aung San
-

8.

The principal nationalist organization in Algeria was the _____.

- (A) ANC
 - (B) FLN
 - (C) MPLA
 - (D) FRELIMO
-

9.

The leader of Kenya's independence movement was _____.

- (A) Nelson Mandela
 - (B) Jomo Kenyatta
 - (C) Patrice Lumumba
 - (D) Julius Nyerere
-

10.

Patrice Lumumba is associated with the independence of _____.

- (A) Ghana
 - (B) Congo
 - (C) Algeria
 - (D) Nigeria
-

11.

The policy of racial segregation in South Africa was called _____.

- (A) Fascism
 - (B) Apartheid
 - (C) Colonialism
 - (D) Nationalism
-

12.

Nelson Mandela belonged to the _____.

- (A) FLN
- (B) ANC

- (C) NATO
- (D) OAU

13.
Nelson Mandela became President of South Africa in _____.
(A) 1990
(B) 1992
(C) 1994
(D) 1996

14.
The Commonwealth of Nations is mainly composed of countries formerly associated with the _____ Empire.
(A) French
(B) Spanish
(C) British
(D) Portuguese

15.
The United Nations encouraged the principle of _____ for colonial peoples.
(A) Mercantilism
(B) Self-determination
(C) Isolation
(D) Imperialism

- Answer Key
- 1 – B (Decolonization)
 - 2 – B (15 August 1947)
 - 3 – B (Muhammad Ali Jinnah)
 - 4 – B (Sukarno)
 - 5 – B (Ho Chi Minh)
 - 6 – C (Ghana)
 - 7 – A (Lee Kuan Yew)
 - 8 – B (FLN)
 - 9 – B (Jomo Kenyatta)
 - 10 – B (Congo)
 - 11 – B (Apartheid)
 - 12 – B (ANC)
 - 13 – C (1994)
 - 14 – C (British)
 - 15 – B (Self-determination)

CHAPTER 27: NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) AND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Introduction
After the Second World War, the world became divided into two rival military and ideological blocs led by the United States and the Soviet Union. Many newly independent countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America wished to remain independent of both blocs and pursue their own foreign policies. This desire led to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which became one of the most influential international movements during the Cold War. In the post-Cold War period, globalization, regional organizations, and emerging economies have transformed international relations, making the contemporary world increasingly interconnected. This chapter is highly important for SSC CGL, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, CDS, CAPF, NDA, and State PSC examinations.

I. Meaning of Non-Alignment
Non-Alignment refers to the policy of not joining any military alliance led by major powers while maintaining an independent foreign policy. Non-alignment did not mean neutrality or isolation. It meant making decisions based on national interests rather than aligning permanently with either Cold War bloc.

II. Background
After the Second World War:
• The world was divided into:

- o Western Bloc led by the United States.
- o Eastern Bloc led by the Soviet Union.
- Many newly independent countries opposed military blocs.
- They sought:
 - o Peace.
 - o Development.
 - o Sovereignty.
 - o Economic cooperation.

III. Bandung Conference (1955)

The Asian-African Conference was held at Bandung, Indonesia from 18–24 April 1955.

Participating countries: 29 Asian and African nations.

Host:

President Sukarno of Indonesia.

Objectives:

- Promote Afro-Asian solidarity.
- Oppose colonialism.
- Encourage peaceful coexistence.
- Promote economic cooperation.

The Bandung Conference laid the foundation for the Non-Aligned Movement.

IV. Formation of NAM

The First Non-Aligned Summit was held at Belgrade, Yugoslavia from 1–6 September 1961.

This officially established the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

V. Founding Leaders

The principal architects of NAM were:

Jawaharlal Nehru
Prime Minister of India.

Josip Broz Tito

President of Yugoslavia.

Gamal Abdel Nasser

President of Egypt.

Sukarno

President of Indonesia.

Kwame Nkrumah

President of Ghana.

These five leaders are generally regarded as the principal founders of the movement.

VI. Objectives of NAM

The objectives of NAM include:

- Maintain independence in foreign policy.
- Oppose colonialism.
- Oppose imperialism.
- Oppose racial discrimination.
- Promote peaceful coexistence.
- Encourage disarmament.
- Support economic development.

- Promote South-South cooperation.
- Strengthen the United Nations.

VII. Principles of NAM

The movement was guided by principles such as:

- Sovereign equality of states.
- Respect for territorial integrity.
- Non-interference in internal affairs.
- Peaceful settlement of disputes.
- Mutual benefit.
- Peaceful coexistence.

Many of these ideas were influenced by the Panchsheel Principles.

VIII. Panchsheel Principles (1954)

The Panchsheel Agreement was signed between India and China in 1954.

The Five Principles are:

- Mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- Mutual non-aggression.
- Mutual non-interference in internal affairs.
- Equality and mutual benefit.
- Peaceful coexistence.

IX. Achievements of NAM

NAM played an important role in:

- Supporting decolonization.
- Opposing apartheid.
- Promoting nuclear disarmament.
- Supporting newly independent countries.
- Encouraging peaceful coexistence.
- Strengthening the voice of developing nations in international affairs.

X. Criticism of NAM

Major criticisms include:

- Lack of unity among members.
- Differences in political systems.
- Limited influence on major international conflicts.
- Some members aligned closely with one superpower despite claiming non-alignment.

XI. End of the Cold War and NAM

After the end of the Cold War in 1991, NAM continued to address issues such as:

- Sustainable development.
- Poverty.
- Climate change.
- Global inequality.
- Terrorism.
- International economic cooperation.

XII. Globalization

Globalization refers to the increasing integration of countries through:

- Trade.
- Investment.
- Technology.
- Communication.
- Transportation.
- Cultural exchange.

Advantages:

- Economic growth.
- Technology transfer.
- International cooperation.

Challenges:

- Economic inequality.
- Cultural homogenization.
- Environmental concerns.

XIII. European Union (EU)

The

European Union (EU)

is a political and economic union of European countries.

It originated from earlier European communities and was formally established by the Treaty of Maastricht (1993).

Objectives:

- Economic integration.
- Free movement of goods, services, people, and capital.
- Regional peace and cooperation.

The common currency used by many EU members is the Euro (€).

XIV. BRICS

BRICS is an association of major emerging economies.

Original Members:

- Brazil
- Russia
- India
- China

South Africa joined in 2010, making it BRICS.

In 2024, the grouping expanded to include additional member countries, reflecting its growing role in global economic and political cooperation.

Objectives:

- Promote economic cooperation.
- Reform global financial institutions.
- Increase the voice of developing countries.

XV. G20

The

Group of Twenty (G20)

is an international forum comprising major advanced and emerging economies.

Objectives:

- Global economic stability.
- Financial cooperation.
- Sustainable development.
- International trade.

India hosted the

G20 Summit in New Delhi in 2023.

The African Union became a permanent member of the G20 in 2023.

XVI. Contemporary Global Challenges

The world today faces several common challenges:

- Climate change.
- Terrorism.
- Cybersecurity threats.
- Pandemics.
- Poverty.
- Food security.
- Refugee crises.
- Energy security.
- Artificial Intelligence governance.

These issues require international cooperation.

XVII. Historical Importance

The Non-Aligned Movement gave newly independent nations an independent voice during the Cold War.

In the contemporary era, organizations such as the United Nations, G20, BRICS, and the European Union play significant roles in promoting international cooperation and addressing global challenges.

Frequently Asked Facts**Topic Fact**

Bandung Conference 1955

Bandung Host Sukarno

First NAM Summit Belgrade, 1961

NAM Founders Nehru, Tito, Nasser, Sukarno, Nkrumah

Panchsheel Agreement India–China, 1954

Maastricht Treaty 1993

BRICS Expansion South Africa joined in 2010

G20 Forum of major economies

African Union joined G20 2023

India hosted G20 Summit New Delhi, 2023

Previous Examination Focus Areas

SSC, UPSC, TNPSC, Railways, Banking, and State PSC examinations frequently ask questions on:

- Meaning of Non-Alignment
 - Bandung Conference (1955)
 - Belgrade Summit (1961)
 - Founders of NAM
 - Panchsheel Principles
 - Objectives of NAM
 - Maastricht Treaty
 - European Union
 - BRICS members
 - G20
 - African Union joining the G20
 - Globalization
 - Contemporary global challenges
-

Fill in the Blanks

(15 Questions)

1.

The first Asian-African Conference was held at _____.

- (A) Belgrade
 - (B) Bandung
 - (C) Cairo
 - (D) Geneva
-

2.

The Bandung Conference was held in _____.

- (A) 1954
 - (B) 1955
 - (C) 1961
 - (D) 1965
-

3.

The first Non-Aligned Summit was held at _____.

- (A) New Delhi
 - (B) Belgrade
 - (C) Cairo
 - (D) Jakarta
-

4.

The first Non-Aligned Summit was held in _____.

- (A) 1955
 - (B) 1958
 - (C) 1961
 - (D) 1965
-

5.

The Prime Minister of India associated with the founding of NAM was _____.

- (A) Lal Bahadur Shastri
 - (B) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (C) Indira Gandhi
 - (D) Morarji Desai
-

6.
The President of Yugoslavia associated with NAM was _____.

- (A) Slobodan Milošević
 - (B) Josip Broz Tito
 - (C) Mikhail Gorbachev
 - (D) Nicolae Ceaușescu
-

7.
The Panchsheel Agreement was signed in _____.

- (A) 1949
 - (B) 1954
 - (C) 1955
 - (D) 1961
-

8. The Panchsheel Agreement was signed between India and _____.

- (A) Pakistan
 - (B) China
 - (C) Nepal
 - (D) Sri Lanka
-

9. The European Union was formally established by the Treaty of _____.

- (A) Rome
 - (B) Maastricht
 - (C) Versailles
 - (D) Lisbon
-

10. South Africa joined BRICS in _____.

- (A) 2008
 - (B) 2010
 - (C) 2012
 - (D) 2015
-

11. The common currency used by many European Union members is the _____.

- (A) Pound
 - (B) Euro
 - (C) Dollar
 - (D) Franc
-

12. India hosted the G20 Summit in _____.

- (A) Mumbai
 - (B) Bengaluru
 - (C) New Delhi
 - (D) Hyderabad
-

13. The _____ became a permanent member of the G20 in 2023.

- (A) European Union
 - (B) African Union
 - (C) ASEAN
 - (D) SAARC
-

14. The policy of remaining independent of military blocs is known as _____.

- (A) Isolation
 - (B) Non-Alignment
 - (C) Imperialism
 - (D) Appeasement
-

15. The first NAM Summit was hosted by _____.

- (A) Egypt
- (B) India
- (C) Yugoslavia
- (D) Indonesia

Answer Key

- 1 – B (Bandung)
- 2 – B (1955)
- 3 – B (Belgrade)
- 4 – C (1961)
- 5 – B (Jawaharlal Nehru)
- 6 – B (Josip Broz Tito)
- 7 – B (1954)
- 8 – B (China)
- 9 – B (Maastricht)
- 10 – B (2010)
- 11 – B (Euro)
- 12 – C (New Delhi)
- 13 – B (African Union)
- 14 – B (Non-Alignment)
- 15 – C (Yugoslavia)

