

THE END OF BIPOLARITY

STUDY NOTES

Soviet System

- **The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)** came into being after the **Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917**. The revolution was inspired by the ideals of socialism and the need for an egalitarian society as opposed to capitalism.
- After the **Second World War**, the East European countries that the Soviet army had liberated from the fascist forces came under the control of the USSR.
- There was change in the **economic and political system of the USSR**. Then the Soviet economy became more developed than the rest of the world except the US.
- However, **the Soviet system became very bureaucratic and authoritarian**. It made life very difficult for its citizens.
- In the arms race, the **Soviet Union managed to match the US from time to time, but at great cost**.

Gorbachev and the Disintegration of the USSR

- **Mikhail Gorbachev**, who had become **General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985**, **sought to reform the system**. He introduced economic and political reform policies of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness). But later his policies were criticised.
- **A coup took place in 1991** that was encouraged by Communist Party hardliners. The people did not want the old-style rule of the Communist Party and wanted freedom.
- **Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, the three major republics of the USSR, declared in December 1991** that the Soviet Union was disintegrated.;
- **Capitalism and democracy were adopted as the basis for the post Soviet republics**.

Reasons for the Disintegration of Soviet Union

There are several reasons which led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. These were-

- **Internal weaknesses** of Soviet political and economic institutions failed to meet the aspirations of the people.
- The economy of the Soviet Union became stagnant. The Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal.
- **The Soviet Union too became stagnant due to** rampant corruption, the unwillingness to allow more openness in government, and the centralization of authority in a vast land.
- A section of the society was not happy with the reforms of Gorbachev. It was believed that the reforms introduced by **Gorbachev were at a very slow pace**.
- Another reason for the **collapse of USSR was the rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty** within various republics including Russia and the Baltic republics.

Consequences of Disintegration

There are many consequences of the disintegration of USSR. They are as follows:

- It led to the **end of Cold War confrontations**. There was no dispute of Socialist ideology and Capitalist ideology.

- **Power relations in world politics changed** and thus it led to change in the relative influence of ideas and institutions.
- **The US became the sole superpower** which also backed the capitalist economy making it the dominant economic system internationally.
- The end of the Soviet bloc paved way for the emergence of many new countries. All these countries had their own independent aspirations and choices.
- **The international system saw emergence of many new players**, each with its own identity, interests and economic and political difficulties.

Shock Therapy in Post-Communist Regimes

- The model of transition in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe from an authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system which was influenced by the World Bank and the IMF came to be known as **'Shock Therapy'**.
- This process of transition was **due to the Collapse of Communism**.
- There was a need to make **a total shift to a capitalist economy** which meant rooting out completely any structures evolved during the Soviet period.
- Shock therapy also involved a drastic change in the external orientation of these economies.
- It also involved a break-up of the existing, trade alliances among the countries of the Soviet bloc.

Consequences of Shock Therapy

- The shock therapy brought ruin to the economies and disaster upon the people of the entire region.
- The value of the Russian currency **'Ruble'** declined dramatically. People lost all their savings due to high rate of inflation.
- **The government withdrew subsidies** which pushed large sections of the people into poverty. The middle classes were pushed to the periphery of society.
- **The construction of democratic institutions was not given the same attention** and priority as the demands of economic transformation.
- Most of these economies, especially **Russia, started reviving in the year 2000, almost 10 years after their independence**. The reason for the revival was the export of natural resources like oil, natural gas and minerals.

Tensions and Conflicts in Former Soviet Republics

- There were tensions and conflicts in most of the former Soviet republics and many have had **civil wars and insurgencies**.
- **In Russia, two republics, Chechnya and Dagestan have had violent secessionist movements**.
- **Tajikistan witnessed a civil war for almost 10 years till 2001**. The region had many sectarian conflicts.
- **Central Asia too became a zone of competition** between outside powers and oil companies.
- **Czechoslovakia was divided into two, the Czechs and the Slovaks thus forming independent countries**.
- **Yugoslavia broke apart with several provinces like Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina declaring independence**.

India and Post-Communist Countries

- **India maintained a cordial relationship with all the post-communist countries**. The strongest relation of India is still exists with **Russia**.
- **Indo-Russian relation is an important aspect of India's foreign policy**. Both the countries share a vision of a multipolar world order.
- **India got benefits from Russia over issues like Kashmir, energy supplies, access to Central Asia, balancing its relations with China**.
- **Russia stands to benefit from this relationship because India is the second largest arms market for Russia**. Both the countries have collaborated over many scientific projects.

QUESTION BANK

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Tick (✓) the correct answer :

1. Which among the following statements that wrongly describe the nature of the Soviet economy?

- (a) Socialism was the dominant ideology
- (b) State ownership/control existed over the factors of production
- (c) People enjoyed economic free-dom
- (d) Every aspect of the economy was planned and controlled by the State

2. Arrange the following in chronological order:

- (I) Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
- (II) Fall of the Berlin Wall
- (III) Disintegration of the Soviet Union
- (IV) Russian Revolution.

Option :

- (a) (IV) (II) (III) (I)
- (b) (IV) (III) (II) (I)
- (c) (I) (II) (III) (IV)
- (d) (IV) (I) (II) (III)

3. Which among the following is not an outcome of the disintegration of the USSR?

- (a) End of the ideological war between the US and USSR
- (b) Birth of CTS
- (c) Change in the balance of power in the world order
- (d) Crises in the Middle East

4. Match the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) Mikhail Gorbachev | (i) Successor of USSR |
| (B) Shock Therapy | (ii) Military pact |
| (C) Russia | (iii) Introduced reforms |
| (D) Boris Yeltsin | (iv) Economic model |
| (E) Warsaw | (v) President of Russia |

Option :

- (a) (A)-(ii), (B)-(i), (C)-(v), (D)-(iv), (E)-(iii)
- (b) (A)-(iii), (B)-(iv), (C)-(i), (D)-(v), (E)-(ii)
- (c) (A)-(v), (B)-(i), (C)-(iv), (D)-(iii), (E)-(ii)
- (d) (A)-(iv), (B)-(i), (C)-(ii), (D)-(v), (E)-(iii)

5. In which year Gorbachev did become General Secretary of the Communist Party of USSR?

- (a) 1989
- (b) 1990
- (c) 1987
- (d) 1985

6. Russia took over the USSR seat in the UN in:

- (a) December 1991
- (b) November 1989
- (c) December 1990
- (d) October 1992

7. Which one of the following was not given primacy by the makers of the Soviet System?

- (a) Abolition of private property
- (b) Society based on the principle of equality
- (c) No opposition party to be allowed
- (d) No state control over the economy

8. Bolshevik Communist party was founded by

- (a) Vladimir Lenin
- (b) Stalin
- (c) Nikita Khrushchev
- (d) Leonid Brezhnev

9. The USSR came into being after the Socialist Revolution in Russia in the year

- (a) 1915
- (b) 1916
- (c) 1917
- (d) 1918

10. The Berlin wall fell in _____.

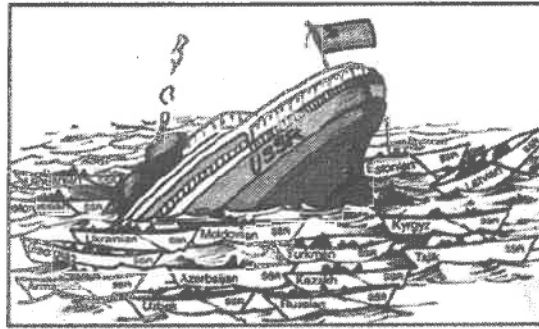
- (a) November 1989
- (b) December 1989
- (c) January 1990
- (d) February 1990

11. Which country in Central Asia witnessed a civil war that went on for ten years?
 (a) Azerbaijan (b) Tajikistan (c) Uzbekistan (d) Turkmenistan
12. The revolution of Russia in 1917 was inspired by Ideals of
 (a) Socialism (b) Capitalism
 (c) Socialism as well as Capitalism (d) Democracy
13. The Warsaw Pact was _____ .
 (a) an economic alliance (b) an political alliance (c) a military alliance (d) a democratic alliance
14. Independence movement begins in Lithuania in -
 (a) 1985 (b) 1988 (c) 1989 (d) 1991
15. Which of the following country is the part of NATO?
 (a) US (b) Canada (c) Belgium (d) All of these
16. The Chechens are
 (a) Buddhist group (b) Christian ethnic group (c) Jewish ethnic group (d) Muslim ethnic group
17. Which was the first Soviet Republic to declare its independence from Soviet Russia?
 (a) Lithuania (b) Moldova (c) Armenia (d) Georgia
18. The most severe conflict took place in the Balkan republics of:
 (a) Bulgaria (b) Greece (c) Yugoslavia (d) Macedonia
19. When did the Soviet Union collapse?
 (a) 1989 (b) 1990 (c) 1991 (d) 1992
20. The country that gave the aid and technical assistance for steel plants in India was
 (a) The United States (b) The USSR (c) Russia (d) Japan
21. The Russian Revolution in 1917 was led by
 (a) Joseph Stalin (b) Nikita Khrushchev (c) Mikhail Gorbachev (d) Vladimir Ilyich Lenin
22. The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in the year
 (a) 1975 (b) 1977 (c) 1979 (d) 1981
23. Who became General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985?
 (a) Joseph Stalin (b) Nikita Khrushchev (c) Mikhail Gorbachev (d) Vladimir Ilyich Lenin
24. The successor country to the Soviet Union is _____ .
 (a) Russia (b) Uzbekistan (c) Belarus (d) Georgia
25. What was the result of withdrawal of government subsidies?
 (a) Had no impact at all (b) Market prices hiked rapidly
 (c) People became rich (d) None of these
26. What is the name of Russian currency?
 (a) Riyal (b) Ruble (c) Rupee (d) Real
27. Which of the following country was not a part of Soviet Union?
 (a) Latvia (b) Armenia (c) Azerbaijan (d) Iceland
28. Name the disputed area between Azerbaijan and Armenia.
 (a) Yugoslavia (b) Nagorno-Karabakh (c) Kotayk (d) Shirak
29. What does the Berlin wall symbolized?
 (a) The division between the capitalist and the communist world
 (b) The division between the East Korea and the West Korea
 (c) The division between the Socialist and the Communist world
 (d) None of the above

30. Czechoslovakia split peacefully into two, with the _____ and the _____ forming independent countries.
 (a) Czechoslovakia and Slovakia (b) Area 1 and Area 2
 (c) Czechs and Slovaks (d) None of the above
31. Which of the following statement is not true about Boris Yeltsin?
 (a) He was the second elected President of Russia
 (b) He was made the Mayor of Moscow by Mikhail Gorbachev
 (c) He played a key role in disintegration of the Soviet Union
 (d) None of the above
32. Which of the following was a drawback of the Soviet System?
 (a) Soviet System was bureaucratic and authoritarian (b) No unemployment
 (c) Domestic sector industry produced everything (d) All of the above
33. In which year, the coup was taken place by Communist party hardliners?
 (a) 1994 (b) 1990 (c) 1991 (d) 1989
34. Who came up as a national hero in opposing the coup?
 (a) Mikhail Gorbachev (b) Fidel Castro (c) Joseph Stalin (d) Boris Yeltsin
35. Russia, Ukraine and..... declared that the Soviet Union was disbanded.
 (a) Belgium (b) Georgia (c) Kosovo (d) Belarus
36. What is the full form of NATO?
 (a) North Antarctic Treaty Organisation (b) Northwest Atlantic Treaty Organisation
 (c) North Arabic Treaty Organisation (d) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
37. Which of the following was not a reason behind the disintegration of the Soviet Union?
 (a) Soviet economy used much of its resources in maintaining a nuclear and military arsenal and the development of its satellite states in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet System
 (b) Ordinary citizens became more knowledgeable about the economic advance of the west
 (c) Soviet state secured a minimum standard of living for all citizens and subsidized basic necessities including health, education, childcare and other welfare schemes
 (d) None of the above
38. In Russia, which two republics, witnessed violent secessionist movements?
 (a) Amur and Atlay (b) Chechnya and Dagestan
 (c) Belgorod and Chukotka (d) Chuvashiya and Dagestan
39. Name the last leader of the Soviet Union introduced policy related to reform.
 (a) Vladimir Lenin (b) Boris Yeltsin (c) Nikita Khrushchev (d) Mikhail Gorbachev
40. Who was the leader of the Soviet Union at the time of Cuban missile crisis?
 (a) Mikhail Gorbachev (b) Nikita Khrushchev
 (c) Fidel Castro (d) Gamal Abdel Nasser
41. Assertion (A): After the Second World War, the east European countries that the Soviet Army had liberated from the fascist forces came under the control of the USSR.
 Reason (R): The Soviet System, however, became very bureaucratic and authoritarian, making life very difficult for its citizens.
 (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
 (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
 (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
 (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

42. Which one of the following statements about the Berlin wall is false?
- (a) It symbolised the division between the capitalist and the communist world
 - (b) It was built during the Second World War
 - (c) It was broken by the people on 9 November 1989
 - (d) It marked the unification of the two parts of Germany
43. Assertion (A): The Soviet economy was then more developed than the rest of the world except for the US.
Reason (R): The Soviet Union became a great power after the Second World War.
- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
 - (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
 - (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
 - (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true
44. Which one of the following was not a consequence of the disintegration of the USSR?
- (a) Many new states emerged
 - (b) Russia emerged as a new superpower
 - (c) Power relations in world politics changed
 - (d) The capitalist system emerged as the winner
45. Assertion (A): The Cold War had a great cost on the economy of the country.
Reason (R): In the arms race, the Soviet Union managed to match the US from time to time.
- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
 - (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
 - (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
 - (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true
46. Which one of the following did Gorbachev not promise to reform?
- (a) To loosen the administrative system
 - (b) To catch up with the west
 - (c) To reform the economy
 - (d) To maintain strict control over the government
47. Assertion (A): Gorbachev did nothing to save the disintegration of the Soviet system.
Reason (R): These developments were accompanied by a rapidly escalating crisis within the USSR that hastened its disintegration.
- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
 - (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
 - (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
 - (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true
48. Mikhail Gorbachev was elected as theof the communist party of the Soviet Union.
- (a) Secretary
 - (b) Prime Minister
 - (c) President
 - (d) General Secretary
49. Assertion (A): Reforms were necessary to keep the USSR abreast of the information and technological revolutions taking place in the West.
Reason (R): Mikhail Gorbachev, who had become General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985, sought to reform this system.
- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
 - (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
 - (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
 - (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true
50. Which one of the following was not an outcome of 'Shock Therapy'?
- (a) The old system of social welfare got destroyed.
 - (b) Industries were put up for sale to the private sector.
 - (c) The value of the Russian currency, the 'Ruble' rose dramatically.
 - (d) Russia started to import food grains.

51. Study the following diagram and answer the questions accordingly.



I. What led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union?

- (a) The rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty at various places
- (b) The world economy sunk
- (c) Russia emerged as a superpower with capitalist democracy
- (d) None of the above

II. What event officially marked the end of Communism in the Soviet Union?

- (a) End of Cuban Missile Crisis
- (b) Rise of New World Order
- (c) The failed August Coup
- (d) Rise in US economy

III. How was the collapse of the USSR seen by the West?

- (a) As an opportunity to colonise Russia.
- (b) A victory for freedom, a triumph of democracy over totalitarianism.
- (c) As the end of communist dominance.
- (d) None of the above.

52. The real GDP of Russia in 1999 was below what it was in

- (a) 1959
- (b) 1969
- (c) 1979
- (d) 1989

53. Assertion (A): Gorbachev's decision to normalize relations with the West and democratize and reform the Soviet Union had some other effects that neither he nor anyone else intended or anticipated.

Reason (R): People supported Gorbachev in his every decision.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

54. The post-Soviet countries underwent a process of transition from an authoritarian socialist system to _____ a capitalist system.

- (a) democratic
- (b) authoritative
- (c) aristocratic
- (d) systematic

55. Assertion (A): The exclusion of these republics was an issue that was quickly solved by making them founding members of the CIS.

Reason (R): The declaration on the disintegration of the USSR and the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) came as a surprise to the other republics, especially to the Central Asian ones.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

56. Arab Spring began with

- (a) Russian Revolution
- (b) Tunisian Revolution
- (c) Egyptian Revolution
- (d) Syrian Revolution

57. Assertion (A): Shock Therapy was the transitional form from authoritarian socialist system to a democratic capitalist system in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe under the influence of the World Bank.

Reason (R): The model of transition in Russia, Central Asia and East Europe that was influenced by the World Bank and the IMF came to be known as 'Shock Therapy.'

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

58. First Gulf War was known as

- (a) Operation Infinite Reach
- (b) Operation Enduring Freedom
- (c) Operation Desert Storm
- (d) Operation Iraqi Freedom

59. Assertion (A): The Shock Therapy brought success which was not anticipated at all.

Reason (R): Each of these countries was required to make a total shift to a capitalist economy, which meant rooting out completely any structures evolved during the Soviet period.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

60. Which one of the following statements related to the Iraq invasion by the US is incorrect?

- (a) More than forty other countries were involved in this invasion.
- (b) The UN had given consent to invade Iraq.
- (c) The invasion was to prevent Iraq from developing weapons of mass destruction.
- (d) The US lost over 3000 military personnel in this war.

61. Assertion (A): Development was now envisaged through more trade, and thus a sudden and complete switch to free trade was considered essential.

Reason (R): Shock Therapy also involved a drastic change in the external orientation of these economies.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

62. ___ witnessed a Civil War that went on for ten years till 2001.

- (a) Dagestan
- (b) Tajikistan
- (c) Chechnya
- (d) Moscow

63. Assertion (A): Each state from this bloc was now linked directly to the West and not to each other in the region.

Reason (R): The transition also involved a breakup of the existing trade alliances among the countries of the Soviet bloc.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

64. In the Soviet System, who used to control the economy?

- (a) Businessmen
- (b) State
- (c) People
- (d) None of these

65. What was the nomenclature of the group who followed the USSR?

- (a) Communist group
- (b) Democratic group
- (c) Liberal socialist group
- (d) The Second World or The Socialist bloc

66. Study the following diagram and answer accordingly.



I. Which country is represented by this mighty soldier?

- (a) Russia (b) China (c) USA (d) Canada

II. Why have the names of so many countries been written on the uniform of the soldier?

- (a) It symbolizes the union of these countries
(b) It symbolizes the colonization of these countries by the USA
(c) The USA has invaded these countries.
(d) None of the above.

III. What message does this cartoon give to the International Community?

- (a) It reminds the world about peace and unity
(b) It urges the world to fight against terrorism
(c) It urges the need to have military rule over democratic governments
(d) It conveys that the US is a superpower and has the might to push its interests into any part of the world

67. Why did the Soviet System lose its popularity so quickly?

- (a) It became more democratic (b) People were fed up of the system
(c) It exploited people (d) It became very bureaucratic and authoritarian

68. Assertion (A): Most of the former Soviet Republics are prone to conflicts, and many have had civil wars and insurgencies.

Reason (R): In Russia, two republics, Chechnya and Dagestan, have had violent secessionist movements.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
(b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
(c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
(d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

69. Assertion (A): In Georgia, the demand for independence has come from two provinces, resulting in a Civil War.

Reason (R): In Central Asia, Tajikistan witnessed a Civil War that went on for ten years till 2001.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
(b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
(c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
(d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

70. Who became the sole superpower after the disintegration of the USSR?

- (a) China (b) Russia (c) US (d) Britain

71. What among the following was the result of the disintegration of the USSR?
 (a) End of Cold War confrontations (b) End of Second World War
 (c) End of Vietnam War (d) All of these
72. Assertion (A): The hydrocarbon resources have brought enormous prosperity to these countries.
 Reason (R): The Central Asian Republics are areas with vast hydrocarbon resources.
 (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
 (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
 (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true
73. The model of transition, influenced by the World Bank and the IMF, came to be known as
 (a) NATO (b) Shock Therapy (c) United Nations (d) CENTO
74. What type of economy was proposed by Shock Therapy?
 (a) Communist (b) Liberal Communist (c) Socialist (d) Capitalist
75. How did Shock Therapy affect the economy?
 (a) It flourished the economies (b) It devastated the economies
 (c) It had no impact at all on economies (d) None of these
76. Which currency declined after the implementation of Shock Therapy?
 (a) Ruble (b) Dollar (c) Pound (d) Euro
77. Assertion (A): Central Asian countries were already in control of the US.
 Reason (R): Central Asia has also become a zone of competition between outside powers and oil companies.
 (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
 (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
 (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
 (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true
78. What was the result of withdrawal of government subsidies?
 (a) Had no impact at all (b) Market prices hiked rapidly
 (c) People were pushed into poverty (d) None of these
79. How have Central Asian economies benefited?
 (a) Due to oil resources (b) Due to their agricultural activities
 (c) Due to tourism (d) Due to their hydrocarbon resources
80. Which period is described as the period of US dominance?
 (a) 1960 onwards (b) Cold War era (c) Post-Cold War era (d) 1980 onwards
81. Name the party which dominated the Soviet Union's political system?
 (a) Congress Party (b) People's Party (c) Liberal Democratic Party (d) Communist Party

Input Text Based MCQ's

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (82 to 86):

A coup took place in 1991 that was encouraged by Communist Party hard-liners. The people had tasted freedom by then and did not want the old style rule of the Communist Party. Boris Yeltsin emerged as a national hero in opposing this coup. The Russian Republic, where Yeltsin won a popular election, began to shake off centralised control. Power began to shift from the Soviet centre to the republics, especially in the more Europeanised part of the Soviet Union, which saw themselves as sovereign states. The Central Asian republics did not ask for independence and wanted to remain with the Soviet Federation. In December 1991, under the leadership of Yeltsin, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, three major republics of the USSR, declared that the Soviet Union was disbanded. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union was banned. Capitalism and democracy were adopted as the bases for the post-Soviet republics. The declaration on the disintegration of the USSR and the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) came as a

surprise to the other republics, especially to the Central Asian ones. The exclusion of these republics was an issue that was quickly solved by making them founding members of the CIS. Russia was now accepted as the successor state of the Soviet Union. It inherited the Soviet seat in the UN Security Council. Russia accepted all the international treaties and commitments of the Soviet Union. It took over as the only nuclear state of the post-Soviet space and carried out some nuclear disarmament measures with the US. The old Soviet Union was thus dead and buried.

82. Which were the three major republics of the USSR?

- (a) Poland, Cuba, Russia
- (b) Sweden, Germany, France
- (c) Russia, Ukraine, Belarus
- (d) Ukraine, Poland, Sweden

83. Which type of government was adopted by the post Soviet countries?

- (a) Socialist
- (b) Capitalist and Democratic
- (c) Communist democratic
- (d) Monarchy

84. Which country became the successor state of the Soviet Union?

- (a) Belarus
- (b) Ukraine
- (c) Central Asian Republics
- (d) Russia

85. Shock therapy involved a drastic change in the orientation of the economies.

- (a) external
- (b) internal
- (c) international
- (d) opposition

86. Assertion (A): The Russian Republic, where Yeltsin won a popular election, began to shake off centralized control.

Reason (R): A coup took place in 1991 that was encouraged by Communist Party hardliners.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (87 to 91):

The Soviet Union had become stagnant in an administrative and political sense as well. The Communist Party that had ruled the Soviet Union for over 70 years was not accountable to the people. Ordinary people were alienated by slow and stifling administration, rampant corruption, the inability of the system to correct mistakes it had made, the unwillingness to allow more openness in government, and the centralisation of authority in a vast land. Worse still, the party bureaucrats gained more privileges than ordinary citizens.

People did not identify with the system and with the rulers, and the government increasingly lost popular backing. Gorbachev's reforms promised to deal with these problems. Gorbachev promised to reform the economy, catch up with the west, and loosen the administrative system. All this might not have led to the collapse of the Soviet Union but for another development that surprised most observers and indeed many insiders. The rise of nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within various republics including Russia and the Baltic Republics (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), Ukraine, Georgia, and others proved to be the final and most immediate cause for the disintegration of the USSR.

87. How long has the Communist Party been ruling the Soviet Union?

- (a) For sixty eight years
- (b) For seventy years
- (c) For eighty two years
- (d) For fifty years

88. What led to the collapse of the Soviet System?

- (a) Because of its failure in World War II
- (b) Because people did not identify with the system
- (c) Because of its extreme bureaucratic nature
- (d) All of the above

89. What was the final and most immediate cause for the disintegration of Soviet Union?

- (a) The rise of the nationalism and the desire for sovereignty within various republics.
- (b) The rise of extremism and the desire for privatization within various republics including Russia and the Baltic Republics, Ukraine, Georgia, and others
- (c) The rise of capitalism and the desire for democratic government within various republics including Russia and the Baltic Republics, Ukraine, Georgia, and others
- (d) All of the above

90. A system in which the affairs at the international level cannot be dominated by only one superpower but by a group of countries is known as
 (a) unipolar world (b) capitalist world (c) multi-polar world (d) collective world
91. After which event in 1917 Soviet Union came into existence?
 (a) French Revolution (b) First World War
 (c) November Revolution (d) Socialist Revolution

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (92 to 95):

Economist Jeffrey Sachs is widely associated with the shock therapy. He developed a plan of shock therapy for post-communist Poland in 1990, for post-communist Russia in 1992, and several other countries, including Bolivia and Chile. Bolivia, in particular, in 1985, had success as a result of shock therapy in ending a period of hyperinflation. Poland also initially seemed to benefit from shock therapy as inflation was controlled, but it saw a sharp rise in unemployment that peaked at 16.9%.

In Russia, neo-liberal shock therapy did not produce favourable outcomes. Shock therapy was applied swiftly and in large scale, as opposed to how it was applied to other nations. Almost all of Russia's industries were undervalued and sold to private individuals and companies, with most acquired by a few Russian oligarchs. With limited government intervention, most industries disappeared. The Russian currency declined, causing high inflation and the erosion of most citizens' savings. Unemployment increased drastically, and government subsidies were removed, further pushing Russian families into poverty.

92. Who developed the plan of the Shock Therapy for the post-communist Poland?
 (a) Mikhail Gorbachev (b) Jeffery Sachs (c) Paul Milgrom (d) Robert Wilson
93. Which country benefited from Shock therapy in 1985?
 (a) Bolivia (b) Poland (c) Ukraine (d) Russia
94. What happened in Poland after the initial success of the Shock Therapy?
 (a) Rise in the commodity prices (b) Economy declines
 (c) Rise in the unemployment rate (d) All of these
95. What was the aftermath of the Shock Therapy in Russia?
 (a) Rise in the economy and in currency value.
 (b) Decline in the unemployment rate and boosting the economy.
 (c) Improvement in people's income and lifestyle
 (d) Decline in the currency, increasing unemployment, high inflation and decrease in people's incomes.

ANSWERS

Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (d) | 3. (d) | 4. (b) | 5. (d) | 6. (a) | 7. (d) | 8. (a) | 9. (c) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (a) | 14. (b) | 15. (d) | 16. (d) | 17. (a) | 18. (c) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (c) | 23. (b) | 24. (a) | 25. (b) | 26. (b) | 27. (d) | 28. (b) | 29. (a) | 30. (a) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (a) | 33. (c) | 34. (d) | 35. (d) | 36. (d) | 37. (c) | 38. (b) | 39. (d) | 40. (b) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (b) | 43. (a) | 44. (b) | 45. (b) | 46. (d) | 47. (d) | 48. (d) | 49. (b) | 50. (c) |
| 51. I-(a), II-(c), III-(b) | 52. (d) | 53. (c) | 54. (a) | 55. (b) | 56. (b) | 57. (a) | 58. (c) | | |
| 59. (d) | 60. (b) | 61. (a) | 62. (b) | 63. (b) | 64. (b) | 65. (d) | 66. I-(c), II-(c), III-(d) | | |
| 67. (d) | 68. (b) | 69. (b) | 70. (c) | 71. (a) | 72. (a) | 73. (b) | 74. (d) | 75. (b) | 76. (a) |
| 77. (c) | 78. (b) | 79. (d) | 80. (c) | 81. (d) | | | | | |

Input Text Based MCQ's

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 82. (c) | 83. (b) | 84. (d) | 85. (a) | 86. (b) | 87. (b) | 88. (c) | 89. (a) | 90. (c) | 91. (d) |
| 92. (b) | 93. (a) | 94. (c) | 95. (d) | | | | | | |