

UNIT III INDIA'S STRATEGIC RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS

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UNIT IV INDIA AND THE WEST

1. India's Strategic Relations with European Countries
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India's Strategic Relations with EU

The European Union (EU) is a politico-economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. It has an area of 4,324,782 km².

After WWII, European integration was seen as an antidote to the extreme nationalism which had devastated the continent. The 1948 Hague Congress was a pivotal moment in European federal history, as it led to the creation of the European Movement International and of the College of Europe, where Europe's future leaders would live and study together. 1952 saw the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, which declared to be "a first step in the federation of Europe".

Through successive enlargements, the EU has grown from 6 founding states - Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and Netherlands - to the current 28 countries. Initially, EU environment policy focused on Europe. More recently, the EU has demonstrated leadership in global environment governance. eg

Institutions of the European Union.

- 1) European Council, 2) Council of the EU.
- 3) European Parliament 4) European Commission
- 5) Court of Justice of the European Union 6) European Central Bank
- 7) European Court of Auditors

Now the U.K. was withdrawn their membership from EU.

India's Strategic Relations with Russia

Soviet Union had been a key player on the International scene. Being an erstwhile superpower, her foreign policy had played a prominent role in shaping the post war-II politics. Before its liquidation, the Soviet Union was not only a military power giant, her GNP was next only to that of the U.S.

After seizing power in 1917, the Bolsheviks faced the issue of survival. The Soviet Union immediately made peace with imperialist Germany, although it was a betrayal of revolutionary principles. The Comintern was formed in 1919 to promote Communism throughout the world. Many of the western countries along with the USA and Latin American countries refused to recognise the new Bolshevik regime. But by 1927, most of the countries gave their formal recognition to the Soviet Union but the USA did so only in 1933.

The victory of Stalin inaugurated a long period of building a strong Russia at the expense of World Revolution. Under this policy of "Socialism in one Country" the first 5 year plan was launched in 1928.

In 1939, WWII was begun on full scale. The Soviet Union characterised the war as an "imperialist war", until she herself was attacked on 22 June 1941. However when the U.S.S.R. joined the war, the Strange Alliance was born, the western Allies, on the other hand, went more than half way to accommodate the Soviet Union at the Yalta Conference (1945). Here the question for control and occupation of Germany, Russia's entry into the war against major concessions in the Far East and the convening of the UN Conference were negotiated. But within 3 weeks after Yalta, Russia sent a mission to Southern Europe for the purpose of the imposing Soviet-controlled regimes in the region. She also violated many agreements on Poland and Germany concluded earlier. All these moves on the part of the Soviet Union created cracks in the Alliance, even before the close of the war. After 1945 there was a cold war between two superpowers U.S.A and U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Union's foreign policy represented a blend of objective success and subjective failure. It was a resounding success when its achievements are measured against the traditional yardstick of power politics, but a conspicuous failure when measured against its ideological purposes - World Communism. Interestingly, instead of transforming the world, the Soviet Union got itself transformed ultimately. Neither its domestic nor the foreign policy of the Soviet Union reflected the great ideals that inspired the Oct Revolution of 1917.

Indo-American Relations -

The post 1945 period has been rightly described as American era of international relations. Undoubtedly, America occupies a central place in the continuum of world politics. "America now bestrides the world, she is the 'Colossus' of ~~war~~ ^{world} ~~time~~": whatever is said or done in the US may easily change the lives of unnumbered millions thousands of miles away.

Like that of any other state, the US foreign policy, too, was shaped largely by geographical and historical considerations, by her political and social systems, by her economic strength and military power, by her relative power position, by the policies of other states and by the world environment.

The founding fathers believed that the US should remain aloof from European politics. They wanted to steer clear of 'entangling alliances' and ordinary alliances of European politics. The first phase of her foreign policy, was governed by the principle of isolationism and non-interventionism. The policy of ~~is~~ non-intervention moved a step further. It was based on the Monroe Doctrine. The ~~doctrine~~ doctrine established a fundamental principle of American policy.

- 1) No territorial aggrandisement on American will be allowed.

2) No intervention in European politics.

The ulterior motive behind this doctrine, however, was to serve a warning to European powers that the American continents are hence forth not be considered as subjects for colonisation and to assert hegemony over the whole Western Hemisphere. The.

However, this neutralism came to final end with the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941 and ever since she did not back to the isolationist post. The shift from isolationist inclination to new internationalism took place somewhere between 1940 and middle of 1945 when the Senate ratified the UN charter.

Reasons for this transition was :

i) Partly American involvement with European affairs which was a byproduct of British efforts to resist the Nazis.

By the end of World War II, Western Europe lay in smoking ruins. Although she emerged as the mightiest power on the world scene as a result of the Second World War. and had to occupy a leading and dominate role in the world affairs, the post war American policy is therefore, directed towards facing the challenge posed by post war developments - challenge of Communism, the growing power of the Soviet Union and power vacuum after withdrawal of the West from their former colonies.