




International Relations

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International Organization

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Definition:

- ▶ It refers to a situation where sovereign nations interact by establishing mutual relations among themselves
- ▶ The interaction is voluntary
- ▶ Membership is drawn from among the independent nations of the world.

LEVELS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Political

Relations that exist between and among countries sharing similar ideologies and political systems, either at the bi-lateral or multi-lateral level.

Economic

These are either bi-lateral or multi-lateral relations between and among countries established in order to improve their economies e.g. Trade, Industry.

Cultural

They involve social and cultural exchanges among nations e.g. games (Olympics, Commonwealth games), education, music and dance troops, private international travel e.t.c

Diplomatic

Whereby states conduct formal relations among themselves i.e. exchange of diplomatic staff, opening of embassies and high commissions.

BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Enhancement of peace and security through peaceful settlement of disputes
2. Promoting world understanding through cultural exchange
3. Nations are able to solve issues of global concern (Global warming, desertification) Industrial development is accelerated through the exchange of skills, knowledge and technology between countries
4. Developing countries benefit from the assistance (technical, financial), given to them by the developed countries
5. Expansion of international trade
6. Cordial relations between countries promote economic growth.

THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION (UNO)

Introduction

- ▶ Formed in 1945 after the 2nd World War to replace the League of Nations
- ▶ It is an alliance of independent countries
- ▶ Membership is open to all nations
- ▶ The UN charter was drawn up at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, USA, by representatives of 50 countries
- ▶ The headquarters of UN is in New York.

UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK



AIMS OF UNO

1. Preserve/maintain international peace and security and thus prevent the occurrence of another world war
2. Foster cooperation among member states
3. Encourage social, cultural and economic progress
4. Solve humanitarian problems
5. Recognize the sovereign equality of all member states
6. Continue with the diplomatic meetings began during the war.

Organization of UNO

Organs of the UNO

The General Assembly

- ▶ Comprises of representatives of all member nations
- ▶ Meet once a year
- ▶ Can convene special sessions in times of crisis.

Functions

1. - Discuss and sort out international problems
2. - Review reports of its other organs
3. - Approve UNO budget
4. - Elect members of the security council
5. - Supervise other UNO bodies.

The Security Council

1. Has 5 permanent members — China, France, USA, Russia, Britain, who have a veto power
2. Has 6 non-permanent members who serve for 2 years
3. Based in New York.


Functions

1. investigates disputes which may threaten international peace and security
2. Checks hostility between nations
3. Permanent decision making organ of the UNO
4. Empowered to deploy UN peace-keeping forces
5. Can authorize sanctions against aggressive states.

The International Court of Justice

- a. Comprises of 15 judges, of different nationalities
- b. Serve 9 year terms (5 retiring every 3rd year)
- c. Jointly elected by the Assembly and the Security Council
- d. Based in the Hague, Netherlands

Functions

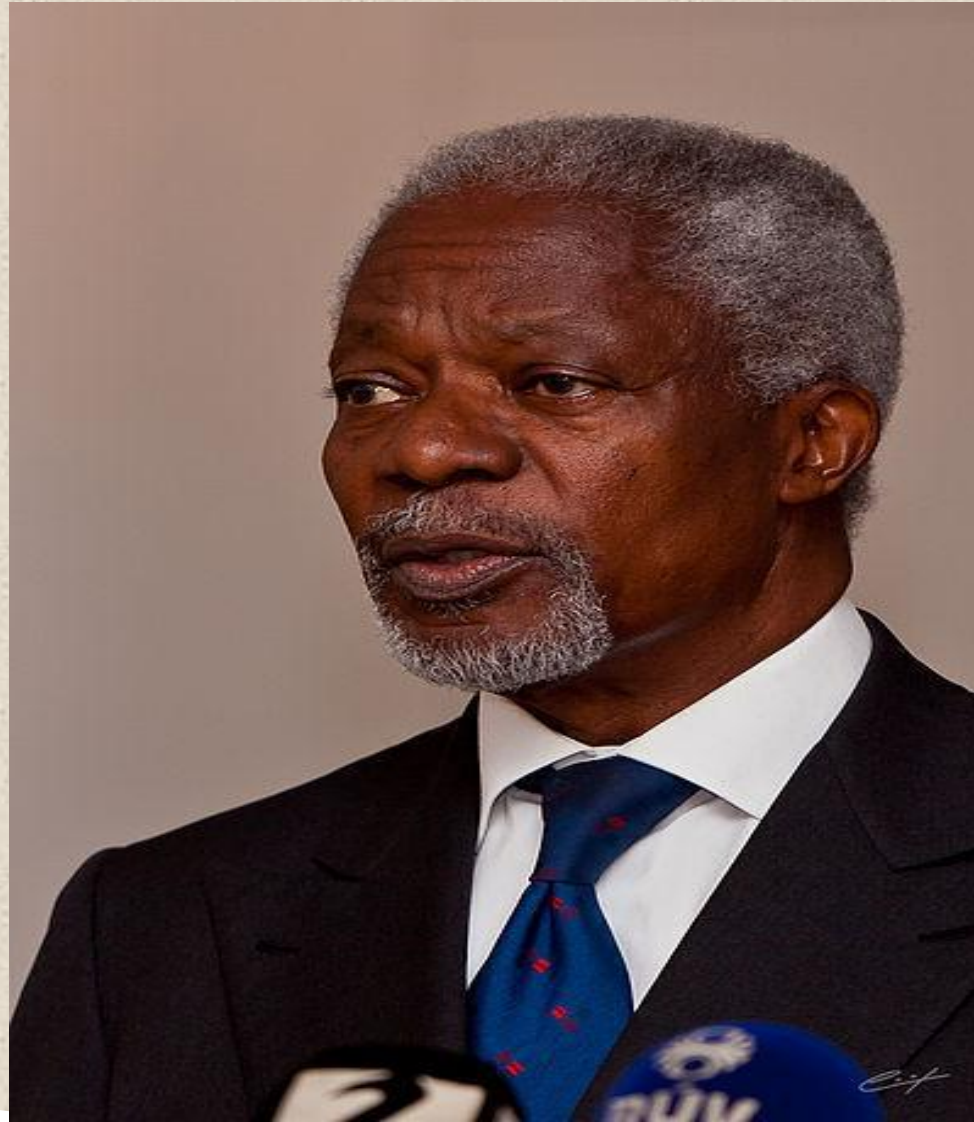
- ☐ Arbitrate International disputes
e.g.
 - ☐ International borders disputes
 - ☐ Territorial waters delimitation
 - ☐ Fishing rights
 - ☐ Nuclear tests
 - ☐ Treatment of diplomatic staff
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The Secretariat

- A. Headed by the Secretary General who is appointed for a 5 year term of office
- B. He/she is chosen from among the world's minor powers
- C. Works with an international staff.

Functions

1. Draws the agenda of the UNO
2. Registers treaties
3. Day-to-day administration
4. Prepare minutes of meetings
5. Translations
6. Publishes reports
7. Undertakes research
8. Deals with correspondence.



KOFI ANNAN
FORMER UN GENERAL SECRETARY 1996-2006

UN SECRETARIES GENERALS

NAME	NATIONALITY	TERM
TRYGVE HALVDAN LIE	NORWEGIAN	1946-1953
DAG HAMMARSKJOLD	SWEDISH	1953-1961
U THART	BURMESE	1962-1971
KURT WALDHEIM	AUSTRIAN	1972-1981
JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR	PERUVIAN	1982-1991
BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI	EGYPTIAN	1992-1996
KOFI ANAN	GHANAIAAN	1997-2006
BAN KI-MOON	SOUTH KOREAN	2007

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)


- A. Concerned with worldwide economic & social development
- B. Works through various agencies and commissions e.g.
- C. WHO — World Health Organization
- D. UNEP — United Nations Environmental Programmes.


Trusteeship Council


- a. Replaced the League's Mandates Commission,
- b. Monitored political developments among organized nations

PERFORMANCE OF THE UNO

Achievements

1. Solving disputes between nations e.g. India and Pakistan in 1949
 2. Decolonization e.g. Tanzania, Togo
 3. Through the Human Rights Commission it champions the rights of all peoples worldwide
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4. Through the International Labour Organization (ILO), it has helped to improve working conditions
 5. Combating diseases through the World Health Organization (WHO) and providing money train medical personnel
 6. Assisting refugees and other displaced people
 7. Encouraging the spread of literacy
 8. Fostering international cooperation between scientists, scholars e.t.c.
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9. Improving the health and living standards of children all over the world
 10. Through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has given development assistance to developing countries.
 11. Encouraging the growth of trade worldwide
 12. Obtaining equal rights for women in voting, legal and other fields.
 13. Fights against environmental degradation
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- 14. Encourages improvement in agricultural production
- 15. Reduction of conflicts and discouraging war
- 16. Controls drug trafficking
- 17. Is in the forefront of HIV/AIDS campaign
- 18. Fostering cooperation and understanding among nations of the world.

PROBLEMS/WEAKNESSES OF THE UNO

1. Relies on goodwill of members for implementation of decisions
2. Increased membership — makes it difficult to pass resolutions
3. Shortage of funds. Some nations do not remit their contributions
4. The UN has found it difficult to disarm nations due to the arms race
5. Ideological disputes especially in the 1980s hampered the operations of UNO
6. The Palestinian problem which started in 1947 is yet to be resolved
7. The Veto power of the permanent members of the UNO makes it difficult to pass resolutions

- 8. Inability to solve disputes e.g.
 - a. In Somalia, where the UN withdrew troops and left warlords to fight it out
 - b. In Kashmir (boundary dispute between India and Pakistan)
 - c. Cyprus (civil war)
- 8. UNO members owe allegiance to other organizations e.g. commonwealth, OAU
- 9. Member states of the UNO are sovereign states that serve their own national interests first, and those of UNO come second

THE COMMONWEALTH

Definition:

A voluntary association of independent states which were formerly colonised by Britain. They were protectorates, colonies or dominions.

Origins

- **Its origins can be traced to the publication of**
- **the Durham Report of 1839**
- **In 1931, the Statute of Westminster was enacted which helped to shape the association**
- **This statute established equality of all the independent states, formally colonized by Britain. These states were united by their allegiance to the Crown. This was the beginning of the commonwealth**
- **The modern commonwealth had its beginning in 1947, with India's independence**
- **On attaining independence a state can decide to remain in the commonwealth or to leave the association**

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMONWEALTH

- The modern commonwealth has opened membership to independent non-British colonies e.g Togo, Mozambique, Cameroon
- Today, it is a political association of sovereign states.

THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS THE COUNTRIES THAT FORM THE COMMONWEALTH

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Botswana | 13. Seychelles | 22. Kiribati |
| 2. New Zealand | 14. Canada | 23. Malaysia |
| 3. Australia | 15. Cyprus | 24. Maldives |
| 4. Ghana | 16. Swaziland | 25. Malta |
| 5. Kenya | 17. Vanuatu | 26. Nauru |
| 6. Bangladesh | 18. Grenada | 27. Antigua and
Bermuda |
| 7. Lesotho | 19. Zambia | 28. Gambia |
| 8. Singapore | 20. Pakistan | 29. Papua New
Guinea |
| 9. Belize | 21. India | |
| 10. Mauritius | 22. Jamaica | |
| 11. Sri Lanka | | |
| 12. Brunei | | |

24. The Bahamas

25. St. Christopher-Nevis

26. St. Lucia

27. Barbados

28. Malawi

29. Solomon Islands

30. Britain

31. Nigeria

32. Tanga

33. Antigua and
Bermuda

34. Gambia

35. Papua New
Guinea

36. The Bahamas

37. St. Christopher-
Nevis

38. St. Lucia

39. Barbados

40. Malawi

41. Solomon Islands

42. Britain

43. Nigeria

44. Tanga

45. Trinidad and
Tobago

46. Sierra-Leone

47. Tuvalu

48. Dominica

49. Tanzania

50. Western Samoa

51. Guyana

52. Zimbabwe

53. Namibia

54. South Africa

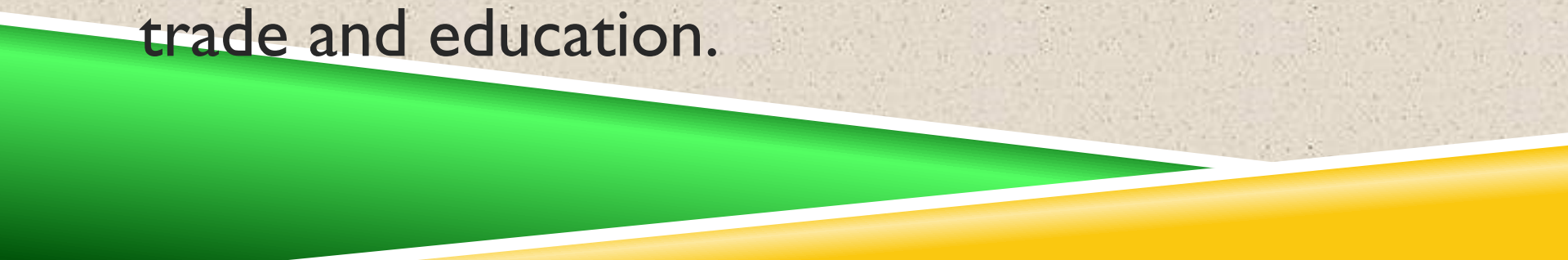
55. Cameroon


56. Mozambique

57. Togo

58. Fiji

COMMON FEATURES OF THE COMMONWEALTH MEMBER STATES

1. They all acknowledge the British Queen as the - head
 2. Have similar education systems
 3. Share a common language, English
 4. Regular consultation between Heads of State
 5. Regularly consult and exchange information in the fields of finance, technical assistance, science, trade and education.
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6. Have adopted similar forms of government's i.e. parliamentary governments
 7. Practice universal adult suffrage
 8. Maintain close economic ties
 9. Have similar legal features
 10. They constitute a power bloc, with its own standards and ideals.
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Principles and Ideals of the Commonwealth

- 1) Support the UNO in its endeavor to maintain world peace
- 2) Respect the rights of the individual and equality of all
- 3) Support human dignity and equality
- 4) Against colonialism and racial discrimination
- 5) Work for the free flow of international trade
- 6) Attempt to remove disparities in wealth among nations worldwide
- 7) Belief in international cooperation.

Advantages of Commonwealth Membership

1. Giving financial assistance to member states
2. Trading among the members
3. Provision of training facilities e.g. by Canada, Hong Kong to less developed countries
4. Developing countries have also benefited from the provision of scholarships e.g. in universities
5. Members of the commonwealth can speak with one voice in international affairs
6. Interaction in games, cultural exchange programmes e.t.c.

7. Member states benefit from technical know-how, advice and expertise in various fields
 8. The commonwealth peace-keeping forces help to maintain peace among member states
 9. Fostering of friendship and understandings among member states
 10. Promote democratic activities in member countries e.g. Kenya
 11. Legal cooperation and information
 12. Cooperation in the field of health.
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CHALLENGES FACING THE COMMONWEALTH

1. Withdrawal of some countries from the organization e.g. South Africa, Pakistan
2. Trade imbalances between the developed and developing countries within the organization
3. Political upheavals in developing countries having created tension among some member states
4. Member states of the Commonwealth also belong to other organizations e.g. OAU
5. Shortage of funds
6. Frontier disputes between member states e.g. India and Pakistan over Kashmir
7. Implementation of decisions relies on goodwill of members.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Definition:

It is a foreign policy initiated by the developing and independent states of Asia, Africa and the Middle East in their relationship, with the two major power blocs (USA, USSR and their allies)

- It is the policy of not aligning or taking sides with any of the two power blocs
- It stands for neutralism of policy in international affairs
- It upholds peaceful co-existence with other countries
- It expresses freedom in decision making on international issues.

Formation

- The movement developed in the 1950's following the independence of Asian nations (India, Pakistan e.t.c.) and African states
- 1955 — Asian and African states convened a conference in Bandung, Indonesia.
- Conveners of the conference
 - ✓ Jawaharlal Nehru India
 - ✓ Surkano — Indonesia
 - ✓ Marshal Tito — Yugoslavia
 - ✓ Gamal Nasser — Egypt
 - ✓ Chou En-Lai — China

Note:

Ethiopia, Libya and Liberia sent delegates


During this conference the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was launched.

Reasons for the rise of NAM

- 1) The newly independent states did not want to be entangled in the super power rivalry between USA and USSR
- 2) They wanted to establish a forum to enable them exert their influence in world politics
- 3) They wanted to avoid the arms race between the super powers
- 4) To enhance friendly relations! peace in the world
- 5) To break off the colonial yoke and safeguard their independence
- 6) To enable them acquire aid from both power blocs (e.g. Man power, finance).

Objectives of NAM

1. Safeguard sovereignty of member states
2. Fight for decolonization
3. Fight against racial discrimination
4. Get better terms of trade
5. Improve agriculture and raise food production by availing funds
6. Discourage neo-colonialism
7. Work towards the disarmament of superpowers
8. Participate in UNO programmes

9. Have one voice in international affairs
 10. Discourage bilateral and multilateral military alliances with the superpowers
 11. Pursue an independent policy based on peaceful co-existence
 12. Establish a new world economic order
 13. Promote neutrality among member states by not aligning with any power block.
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Performance/Achievements

1. Non-aligned countries have gained influence in world affairs. They have increased their voting power in the UNO
2. NAM members have attempted to gain neutrality in world affairs. They can seek aid from either the West or East power blocs.
3. Facilitating the attainment of independence in previously colonized countries
4. Has enabled members to safeguard their independence and territorial integrity
5. Promoting peace and international cooperation

6. Provides an international forum where the emergent nations can air their views/acts as the spokesman of developing nations
7. It has supported disarmament conferences and discourages arms competition
8. Have mediated in international disputes
9. Has strengthened the economic base of member states by trading with members from the two super power blocs
10. Has made great strides in the development of science and technology
11. Has minimized the dominance of the two super powers over third world countries
12. Has discouraged neo-colonialism

CHALLENGES FACING THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

- 1) Shortage of funds — Due to economic problems in some member countries, they have not been able to remit contributions.
- 2) Personality differences among some leaders
- 3) Lack of commitment since NAM members owe allegiance to other organs e.g. OAU, UNO, Commonwealth e.t.c.
- 4) Member countries still retain ties with former colonial masters and hence find it difficult to pursue independent policies
- 5) Political instability e.g. civil wars, coup d' etats
- 6) Border disputes between member states hinder their cooperation e.g. India and Pakistan over Kashmir, Somalia vs Ethiopia.

7. Affairs of NAM are not well coordinated due to lack of a secretariat
8. Individual national interests conflict with those of NAM
9. Ideological differences between member states
10. Collapse of the USSR destabilized the movement. There was no longer any need to align with her.
11. Relies on the goodwill of member states to implement decisions
12. Weak economies of member states and hence failure to remit funds to NAM.

Cold War

Definition:

- It describes the struggle /hostility between the capitalist west and the communist east i.e.
- The West - USA and her allies championed the capitalist system
- The East -USSR and her allies advocated communist policies
- The hostility created mistrust and suspicion between the super powers
- The mutual hostility was not expressed in open fighting

➤ Weapons of war were:

- ✓ Propaganda
 - ✓ Economic sanctions
 - ✓ Military assistance to the enemy/allies of the enemy
 - ✓ Financial aid to the enemy
 - ✓ General policy of non-cooperation
- Note: In some cases it developed into real war e.g. in Vietnam, Korea and Afghanistan.


Causes of the Cold War

1. Mistrust and suspicion based on ideological differences between the capitalist West and the communist Soviet bloc
2. The USA and USSR disagreed on disarmament and hence continued to stockpile weapons
3. The Iron Curtain policy adopted by the USSR which sealed Eastern Europe from the West. This made the international relations to deteriorate
4. Conflicts in Europe in the late 1940s, such as the civil war in Greece increased the tension between the 2 superpowers
5. The formation of military alliances by the 2 power blocs
6. The Marshall plan of 1947, initiated by the USA intensified the cold war
7. The declaration of the Truman Doctrine of 1947 by USA which threatened the spread of communism by the USSR.

COURSE OF THE WAR

Europe

- 1947 — The USA issued the Truman Doctrine and used it to counter the spread of communism in Greece and Turkey.
- 1947-the USA initiated the Marshall plan; an economic recovery programme for post war Europe
- USSR rejected it and sealed off Berlin
 - - This culminated in the division of Germany into 2 East (soviet controlled) and West Germany, (Under the allies)
 - - To counter the Marshall plan, USSR formed the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON)

- 1949 — Formation of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance c the allies
 - 1955 — USSR formed the Warsaw Pact, a military union to check the activities of NATO
 - 1961 — USSR put up the Berlin wall this divided the allied-controlled West and Soviet controlled East.
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The Cold War in Asia

- ❖ By 1949 — USSR was able to spread her influence in China and helped to install a communist government
- ❖ The USA and USSR clashed over Vietnam.
- ❖ This led to the division of Vietnam into 2 i.e. Soviet controlled north and US controlled south.
- ❖ This was later reunited under the communists in 1975
- ❖ The 2 superpowers also competed for control of Korea. USSR controlled North Korea while the USA controlled South Korea
- ❖ In Afghanistan — 1978 government by communists. USA gave support to Afghan Muslim guerillas. USA & allies boycotted the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 to protest against the soviet presence in Afghanistan.

The Cold War in Central America

- ❑ In 1959, led by Fidel Castro, Cuba became a communist state, supported by the Soviet Union, which was also arming Cuba with dangerous missiles
 - ✓ To counter these activities, President Kennedy of USA ordered a blockade of Cuba in 1962
 - ✓ USSR gave in and halted the military build-up
 - ✓ This eased the Cuban Missile crisis.

The Cold War in Africa

- Ethiopia — Haile Selassie was over thrown in 1974. The communists installed Mengistu Haile Mariam to the throne.
 - Angola — Where the USA and USSR competed to exert their influence
 - Giving of financial aid to African Countries
 - Giving scholarships and educational opportunities to African students.
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Factors that led to the end of the Cold War


1. The adoption of the détente policy — geared to easing of hostility between USA and USSR
2. 'Khrushchev assumed presidency in the USSR in 1953. He favoured a policy of peaceful co-existence
3. Convening of disarmament conferences e.g. in 1955 signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
4. 1968—the Non-proliferation Treaty was signed (to halt the spread of nuclear weapons)
5. 1972 — signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)
6. 1972 — signing of SALT 11

7. Collapse of communism and the establishment of the Western democracies in former Soviet controlled areas in Eastern Europe e.g. in East Germany, Poland
8. Accession of Mikhail Gorbachev to power in the Soviet Union in 1985
 7. - He adopted a liberal policy
 8. - Initiated reforms based on 'glasnost' i.e. openness and 'Perestroika' i.e. economic restructure
9. Attempts by USA to foster friendship ties with USSR
10. 1985 — reopening of talks between USA and USSR on limitation of strategic arms
11. 1991 — Cancellation of the Warsaw pact
12. 1991 — Disintegration of the USSR into separate republics.

Effects of the Cold War

- 1) Led to the splitting up of countries e.g. North and South Korea
- 2) Suspicion and mistrust between nations
- 3) Led to international insecurity and disruption of world peace
- 4) Led to the space race, spearheaded by the USSR in 1957
- 5) Intensified the arms race and stockpiling of weapons
- 6) Competition for dominance between the 2 power blocs culminated in crisis in various regions e.g. The Suez Canal crisis in Egypt, the Cuban missile crises
- 7) In certain areas, the 2 powers engaged in direct armed conflict e.g. In Vietnam
- 8) Super power rivalry in Africa
- 9) Division of Germany into 2 (has now reunited).

EFFECTS OF THE END OF THE COLD WAR ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. It led to the emergence of nationalism e.g. in former states of USSR
 2. It led to the secessionist movement e.g. in
 3. Yugoslavia which broke up in 5 states
 - i. Serbia — Montenegro
 - ii. Bosnia- Herzegovina
 - iii. Croatia
 - iv. Slovenia
 - v. Macedonia
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4. The unification of Germany created a refugee problem as Germany had to host refugees from Eastern Europe. Nations such as Poland were suspicious of a united and powerful Germany
5. Differences have emerged between the Western allies over
 - i. Trade issues
 - ii. Provision of peace keeping forces
6. Former communist states have suffered from economic collapse and intense poverty
7. Establishment of better weapons supervision and control of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons

The End

