

GENERAL STUDIES

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Name: VIBHOR AGGARWAL

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Q.1 Analyze the reasons behind demand for linguistic provinces and apprehensions among the national leadership on this issue after independence. Also explain how this issue was resolved.

Ans. Post-independence India with its goals of inclusive growth and prosperous future faced several crisis at its inception. One such crisis was the demand of linguistic provinces and reorganization of boundaries lineated by British. Reasons for such demand were:-

→ Administrative inconveniences: With language differences, it became difficult for leaders to effectively communicate with the masses given low level of literacy at the time of independence.

→ Cultural identity: Since cultural identity was closely linked to language, it became inevitable for the regions to preserve their cultural heritage under a linguistic state.

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→ Minority rule: With language heterogeneity state came to be ruled by English-speaking elite minority.

→ British legacy: The 1947 boundaries were product of administrative convenience based lineations, with no emphasis on cultural homogeneity.

Although Congress in its 1920 session had resolved to form linguistic provinces, yet the fresh and ghostly memory of partition made the leadership reluctant.

Fear of disunity in nation and secessionist movements made the then political leadership to put national unity above everything else.

The reluctance on part of central government led to protest and sometimes violent revolt in many parts of country especially South India where Telugu speaking region called for separate Andhra.

Government on its part took following steps:-

→ Dhar Commission: This commission under S.K. Dhar rejected the idea of linguistic

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provinces.

→ JVP committee: Committee under Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramanna also rejected the idea of linguistic states.

→ This led to violent eruptions in the south and it was only after the death of Potti Sriswamulu that Fazl Ali Commission was constituted.

Recommendations of Fazl Ali commission led to States Reorganization Act, 1956 which creates states based on linguistic divisions.

It is to be noted that instead of affecting unity of nation, it strengthened the unity further and made the vision of 'Unity in Diversity' stand-hold in true sense.

Q-2. What were the factors that led to declaration of emergency in 1975? Why is it considered dark period of Indian democracy? In this context, discuss the response to the imposition of emergency among the masses, media & political class.

Ans.] 1975 emergency is one of the landmarks in history of modern India that has led to ever-lasting impression in her polity. Indira Gandhi under Article 352 of constitution, declared emergency on 'internal disturbance' ground in 1975 following the given events :-

→ Gujarat and Bihar Movements :-

The Gujarat under Moraji Desai & Bihar under J.P. Narayan led massive revolts & processions against poverty, agrarian distress, unemployment and called for change in government.

→ Intra-Congress Tussles: Indira Gandhi did not enjoy legitimacy like Nehru & many factions in party opposed her leadership.

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→ Railway strike: Strike led by George Fernandes at all-India level, ultimately repressed by government.

→ Spars with Judiciary: Government accused Judiciary of being anti-poor and there were disagreement on Right to property, amendment power etc.

The verdict by Allahabad High Court invalidating Indira Gandhi's election led to the ~~the~~ final blow resulting in imposition of Emergency.

Emergency has certainly been darkest period of Indian democracy due to widespread repression and curbs such as :-

→ Masses: Complete ^{suspension} ~~ending~~ of Fundamental Rights with large-scale preventive detentions led to some sections revolting but largely the masses' response were peaceful.

↳ Middle class was relieved of disorder and anarchy of Bihar & Gujarat movements.

↳ Poor were hopeful of the socio-economic reforms Indira-Gandhi introduced.

Masses finally expressed their discontent through 1977 elections.

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→ Media: Electricity was cut-off to all media houses for first 2-3 days and further widespread curbs on freedom of speech & expression were there.

Media responded by leaving blank spaces of under banned articles. Some newspapers chose to shut down than relieving their speech & expression.

→ Political class: Widespread arrests and preventive detentions.

Political class under J.P. Narayan coalesced into one faction to oppose the leadership of Indira Gandhi which finally led to her defeat in 1977 elections.

Although, emergency was the darkest time, it further led to rights-based consciousness among all sections of masses, judiciary & political class which led to strengthening of democracy in future.

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Q.3. Though India was facing several difficult problems, it has been argued that Lal Bahadur Shastri's government did not deal with them in a decisive manner and followed a policy of drift instead. Critically discuss.

Ans. Lal Bahadur Shastri became PM after the death of ~~Indira~~^{Pandit} Nehru in 1964 in uncontested consensus. Although he was non-controversial figure, he soon came under criticisms for inefficiencies & indecisiveness.

→ Mid 1960's period saw widespread agrarian distress and famines leading to food scarcity.

→ ~~1962~~ was to widespread unemployment and failure of socio-economic reforms and growth which government had promised.

→ Despite 1965 victory against Pakistan, all the acquired territory was ceded by India and compromise was established despite strong position of India.

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All these factors have led the critics to question Shastriji's leadership and accusing him of policy of drift.

But, we have to be aware of conditions under which he became PM and issues he inherited.

→ War of 1962: 1962 war had put a dent on government's image beside putting a huge dent on exchequer and lowered the morale of forces.

→ Failure of 1950's policy: 1950's policy of giving priority to industry over agriculture had resulted into backwardness of primary sector.

→ Droughts: Shastriji's period saw one of the worst droughts & famines. Due to already low agricultural productivity it put a huge ~~but~~ pressure

→ Legacy of Nehru: Political leadership of Nehru was huge & Shastriji had 'big shoes to fill'. Despite all these circumstances, he bravely managed the situation leading India to decisive victory in 1965 war and tackling food scarcity through initiating 'Green Revolution' and 'White Revolution'.

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His slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' has motivated generations of farmers & soldiers.

Q-4. Events around the globe at beginning of last decade of 20th century, influenced multiple changes in India which had long lasting consequences.

Ans: The beginning of 1940's period saw unprecedented developments in geo-political arena. The 4-decade old 'Cold-War' which had led the whole world to be divided into 3 sections of US, USSR and 3rd world came to an end with disintegration of USSR and emergence of US as sole superpower.

The event besides causing ripples worldwide affected India also in significant ways:-

① Foreign Policy

→ Drifting towards China & US. → With the disintegration of USSR and its weakening, India had to move towards its traditional rivals for economic and security trade.

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→ Significance of NAM. : With the world no longer divided into two blocs, NAM lost its original significance but emerged as a platform against neo-colonialism.

→ Globalization : With the coming together of new economic order and globalization, India also drifted towards it and opened its economy.

② Economic Policy

With loss of support from USSR, India found itself in BoP crisis and had to adopt 'New Economic Policy' of market reforms which led to everlasting impacts on country's policies.

↳ Though globalization & free market economy benefitted India's growth and development, it largely remained unequal and concentrated.

↳ This growth was termed as 'jobless growth' due to widespread unemployment it caused.

↳ Trade liberalization also negatively impacted agriculture and MSME sector.

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Despite its initial negative fallout, India has constantly tried to deploy inclusive policies with positive reforms in agricultural sector and at the same time as managed to utilize the ~~best~~ geo-political & geo-economic space to its advantage.

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Q.5. In the context of Punjab crisis, it can be argued that language, religion and regionalism combined into a potentially explosive situation which political elites struggled to contain. Examine.

Ans. The political crisis in Punjab dates back to its demand of ~~so~~ separate 'Punjabi Suba' since independence. The events which led to the explosive situation were certainly a combination of language, religion and regional aspirations.

→ Language: Punjab was one of the states involved in anti-Hindi struggles. This led to linguistic consciousness in already polarized region.

→ Regionalism:

↳ Punjab had been demanding Punjabi-speaking state since independence, although its demand got fulfilled in 1966 only.

↳ More extremist elements wanted separate 'Khalistan' nation, and even moderates wanted more autonomy.

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→ Religion: Even after a separate state, the local political leadership was wary of Hindus and other non-Sikh population.

Dismissal by Centre during second term of 'Akali Dal' and Congress dominance over Hindus and lower-caste Sikh population in elections led the political unrest explode through armed rebellion.

This became one of the most intense internal conflicts India had to see and government faced a tough time in containing the revolt.

The methods employed to suppress the armed assaults of 'Golden Temple', further hurt the religious ~~and~~ sentiments of Sikhs ~~leading~~ ~~to~~ and 'Sikh Pogrom' erupted after assassination of Indira Gandhi led the struggle into well over 90s era.

After the Rajiv-Gandhi - Langowal Pact & ~~the~~ fair elections in 1996, situation has normalised.

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Q6 The role of women since independence has not been confined to issues of women alone; rather they have played an important role in the issues related to peasants, tribals, farmers, trade unions and environment. Discuss.

Ans. Post-independence period saw many social movements and protests against policy of government and increased assertions of demands. Women played a leading role in this democratic upsurge and were major players in showcasing the locuses in democratic politics. Women were involved in spectrum of movements like:-

→ Environmental: Chipko movement was the first social movement India witnessed after independence & women were major players. The movement was against ecological disturbance caused due to commercial logging.

Narmada Bachao Andolan' was also one such

movement against damming of Narmada river under 'Sardar Sarovar Project'. It was led by 'Medha Patkar', environmental activist and saw large participation of women.

→ Agrarian: Rural women participation in 'Narmada Bacho Andolan' was huge. Vast tracts of villages & farms were submerged without adequate rehabilitation & compensation of farmers. Women also led movements against ego families.

→ Tribal: The tribal movements of 'Ojha Movement' and assertion of tribal rights in North-East also saw unprecedented participation of women.

Thus role of women were not limited to women issues alone. Even "anti-arrack" movement which started from family distress, took a widespread social form against to improve economic productivity and better social harmony and protest against prevailing government policies.

Q. 10 Examine the root causes behind ethnic assertion and secessionist tendencies by various tribal communities of North-East India. Also discuss why institutional mechanisms for their accommodation & assimilation have proved to be ineffective.

Ans. North-East India has been the most neglected part of India. Despite having its geo-strategic and resource-rich nature, its people have not seen the fruits of development other regions have seen. Root causes behind such assertions are:-

→ Geographic hindrance: North-east has been connected with India by 22 km wide Siliguri Corridor, thus hindering effective connection with rest of India.

→ Regional aspirations: Demand for 'Greater Nagalim', independent Mizoram have mobilized the diverse tribes to demand regional autonomy or separate nation altogether.

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→ Political neglect: ↳ Neglected by the Assam government towards indigenous & diverse tribes and attempts to impose Assamese as unifying language.

↳ Centre has also neglected the development needs of the people of North-east.

→ Wide-boundaries: The sharing of boundary with 3 nations, with two of them East-Pakistan (till '71) and China being hostile to India has fuelled cross-border motivations for secession.

~~Centre has proactively pursued dialogue and sought to satisfy regional aspirations as seen~~

→ Inmigration: Widespread immigration of refugees and job-seeking outsiders like Bangladeshi Muslims, Rohingyas, Chakmas has fuelled ethnic, cultural and economic insecurities of indigenous people.

~~At least~~ Centre has proactively pursued dialogue like Mizo Peace Accord, Assam Accord, and ceasefire agreements. Still there are certain inefficiencies in institutional mechanisms:-

→ Vote-bank politics has led to accommodation of immigrants without efforts to seek solution.

→ Exclusion of groups like NSCN(IM) while seeking dialogue with dominant groups (NSCN(1-M)) has led to their further isolation.

→ Despite Sixth Schedule, article-371 and PESA act, effective devolution of power hasn't happened.

→ Cultural isolation without efforts to assimilate and awareness ~~ness~~ inter-cultural diversity.

Although efforts are being made, inefficiencies have to be straightened proactively.

Q.7. Not only was Japan able to escape imperialist control, it also underwent a process of modernization that enabled her to emerge as a world power. Discuss. Also analyze the reasons for emergence of 'military fascism' in Japan.

Ans.] Japan was for a long time, an isolationist country which was completely reliant on domestic production. Country was controlled by generals called 'shoguns'.

This however changed started from 1869 when country went through 'Meiji Restoration'. 'Meiji' was ~~emperor~~ ^{emperor} of Japan whose power was reinstated through a coup. This event prompted Japan to embark on journey of modernization built on the edifice of extreme nationalism.

→ Industries were nationalized and brought under state control. After a certain level

of development, these were given to capitalist to ensure profit. Thus, there was industrial progress.

→ Education was particularly focussed upon and nationalistic values installed in children from a young age. This led to hard-working and qualified work force.

→ Since Japan was a relatively small country, with low agricultural prospects and low consumption, it embarked on export economy.

→ Nationalism also led to compulsory military training which made Japan a military super-power and thus was able to ward off imperialism.

The journey Japan undertook culminated in military fascism owing to following factors:

→ Resource-base of Japan was low and thus it ventured into imperialism to find source of raw material and market for exports.

→ Japan greatly benefitted from World War I, as European economy was down and Europe was weak to check Japanese imperialism.

But, this reversed in 1920s leading to unemployment.

→ Japan had been losing industries to China in Manchuria which infuriated military.

Already dissatisfied with emperor's soft approach towards China and banking on discontent among population, military took over Japan and thus 'military fascism' emerged in Japan.

Q.8. In what way did Cuba play a significant role in shaping cold-war? Analyze the factors that led to the period of detente between U.S. & U.S.S.R.

Ans. Cuba, a small island between North and South America witnessed a strong revolution in 1950's under the leadership of Fidel Castro. Castro overthrew Batista, supported by U.S. and nationalized US oil companies. Thus U.S. and Cuba had strained relations since Castro's regime in 1959. Cuba, whose economy was dependent solely on sugar exports was supported by U.S.S.R. after U.S. imposed sanctions.

Further, after U.S.'s conspired 'Bay of Pigs', Cuba adopted socialist mode of polity where only 'one party rule' was allowed.

The increasing involvement of Cuba in cold-war was raised to peak during Cuban

Missile Crisis when world reached brink of nuclear war between U.S. & U.S.S.R due to U.S.S.R fielding missiles in Cuba.

After this Cuba's involvement continued through Castro's support to anti-imperialistic movements in South America & Africa with the help of U.S.S.R. E.g. Cuba played a decisive role in independence of South-Western Africa (Namibia).

It is to be noted that Cuba maintained its full autonomy from U.S.S.R in foreign policy and even joined NAM, anti-cold war front.

Following factors led to detente between U.S. & U.S.S.R in 1970's:-

→ West Germany had started the policy of Ostpolitik (friendly relations with East Germany) which eased tensions.

- Both U.S. & U.S.S.R were horrified by Vietnam war and the excesses perpetrated.
- Cold-war & arms race had put huge strain on USSR's economy.
- China was getting closer to U.S.A. which prompted USSR to do the same owing to communist rivalry between them.

However, this detente ended with USSR's invasion of Afghanistan.

Q.9. The events that led to the American Revolution had causes rooted in the social, economic, political and ideological context of that time. Elaborate. Also bring out the influence that American revolution had on French Revolution.

Ans. American Revolution was waged against British empire by the white settlers in North America and had its causes rooted in variety of factors playing out that time, which led to colonists rising against their mother-country:

→ Social factors:- The settlers were well integrated into American society and created a distinct identity separate from a British one.

→ Economic factors:- Policy of mercantile capitalism which led to colonies being exporters of raw materials and importers of finished goods. Further indigenous industries were disadvantaged against and tariffs & taxation was controlled.

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→ Political factors:- Nexus between property owners charging high rent in North America and Britain prevented expansion to east by settlers. This led to demand for political autonomy.

→ Ideological factors:- The ideals of scholars like Voltaire and Kant asserting towards human rights and dignity inspired Americans.

These factors led to Boston Tea party and further American revolution culminating in Constitution. It further inspired French revolution due to following influences:-

→ French supported Americans in the revolution which costed heavily on economy and led misery to common people.

→ The ideals which Americans were fighting for like autonomy, rights and dignity inspired the common man in France, who themselves were deprived of these.

→ French support to American independence and curbing free speech and liberty at home was a contradiction which couldn't be ignored.

The ideals of American & French revolution inspired generations leading to rise of socialism and anti-imperialistic struggles.

Q.11. Discuss the immediate challenge faced by India in the process of nation building and ways in which these were sought to be addressed in the first few decades. Also examine whether some of these challenges still persist.

Ans. India after recovering from 200 years of British rule was immediately faced by crisis of building together a nation, which was deeply divided, reeling under poverty and hoping to find new space in international arena. These challenges were:-

→ Diversity :- First task was to reconcile extreme linguistic, ethnic, & religious & regional diversity with unity & integrity of nation.

↳ Government undertook state ~~reorg~~ reorganization in 1956 to fulfil regional aspirations.

↳ Mechanisms to ensure regional autonomy like 5th & 6th Schedule, Article 371 etc.

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→ Poverty & agrarian distress :- Second task was to reduce poverty, unemployment, boost agriculture & reduce regional disparities.

↳ 5-year plans to boost economy, utilize resources and balance development.

↳ Land reforms & further Green Revolution & White Revolution were undertaken.

↳ PSUs were set-up to boost employment.

→ International sphere :- India was finding its place in global order & dealing with neighbours like Pakistan & China :-

↳ NAM initiative was launched by Nehru.

↳ India became member of UN & Commonwealth

↳ Panchsheel was signed with China.

↳ Defence was boosted to deal with border tensions.

While the issues were dealt with comprehensively and curbed to a large extent,

they remain in present times to certain degree.

→ Regional tendencies like Naga rebellion, bhoomi-pekta movements & autonomy demands remain

→ India still faces poverty & inequality crisis.

→ Border disputes with Pak & China remain.

However India has over the years progressed in its capabilities to effectively deal with them and nation-building process is accelerated.

Q.12. The transformation in agriculture was also reflected in social as well as political relations in India. Analyze in context of green revolution and rise of a new agrarian class.

Ans. India after its independence was facing acute agricultural crisis of low productivity & low income & high imports.

To deal with the situation, India found a solution in Green Revolution leading to high productivity, self-sufficiency & higher farmer income. But it entailed several social & political costs too:-

Social relations:-

- The revolution created a new class of intermediary & rich farmers. This further deepened inequality in society.
- The benefitted farmers were of particular castes with which increased casteism.

→ Small farmers converted into labourers were migrating to urban areas. This created urban disparities & class divide.

Political relations:-

→ The new class of farmers acquired political power too. This led rise to regional parties.

→ New farmer movements began which included demands from state for irrigation, loan waiver etc. Ex. Shetkari Sangathan.

→ The caste relations reflected in politics to leading to casteization of politics.

→ The demography of parliament changed from lawyer class to agriculturalist class.

→ Rise in Naxalism & secessionist movements

Besides these implications, green revolution created regional disparities & environmental costs & economic disparities too. It

is said "Green revolution" led to "Red Revolution".

Q.13. Examine the factors that resulted in the formation of Non-aligned movement (NAM) What was the significance of movement in international arena? Also assess the relevance of movement in contemporary world.

Ans. Non-aligned movement (NAM)

is a group of like-minded 3rd world countries who wanted to have neutral stance in cold-war era. Several factors led to its formation:-

→ The emergence of new countries from erstwhile colonies.

↳ These countries having faced imperialism wanted to be politically & economically independent.

→ Increase in cold-war politics in 1950s with international conflicts like Korean War, Vietnam war, Cuban crisis etc.

→ Huge poverty and instability in newly formed nations. An alliance was necessary

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to support these countries.

The movement was a breakthrough & had significant presence in international arena.

→ It led to small countries find political voice.

→ South-south cooperation became an influential lobby in international organizations like UN.

→ It led to developed nations being more receptive & accommodative of demands of developing nations.

The movement is gradually losing relevance & voice in contemporary times due to rise of unipolar world order, globalization leading to increased economic interactions ~~with~~ between 'North' & 'South' and pioneer countries like India losing interest.

However, the continuance of issues like WTO negotiations, Climate Summit & continued neo-imperialism requires NAM to stand united and has continued its relevance in these troubled times for South-South solidarity.

Q-14. The disintegration of Soviet Union was followed by a transition in both economic and political spheres. Analyze.

Ans. The long-drawn out cold-war finally culminated in disintegration of USSR and what some scholars claimed as 'end of history'. This was marked by transition in both economic & political spheres:-

Economic sphere:-

→ The socialist mode of economy was ended in erstwhile satellite states and market economy was adopted -

→ Huge economic crisis that these states faced, was resolved by loans from IMF called as 'shock therapy'. It involved:-

↳ Adopting the ideas of 'Washington Consensus' and opening up & liberalizing economies.

↳ Ending austerity measures and socio-economic policies.

Political sphere :-

- These countries adopted democracy and free and fair elections from 'one-party rule'.
- Many Soviet states started inclining towards U.S.-Europe axis and joined NATO.
- The transition led to many secessionist movements within these states.
- This led to a dominance of U.S. as single super-power.

These transitions were however not smooth and led to huge economic downfall due to shock therapy and bloody and violent civil wars due to political turmoil.

Q-15. Although there is much that is wrong with the European Union (EU), its achievements cannot be discounted either.

Ans. European Union is an economic, monetary and political union ~~but~~ among countries in European Union. It came into being with Maastricht Treaty in 1993. The union aimed at political harmony and economic prosperity. However, much needs to be realized.

→ Associations are very complex with different and overlapping sets of countries in Eurozone, Schengen area and single market.

→ Decision-making process is also very complicated leading to delay and confusions at times.

→ Inter-country dispute and divergent views on issues, such as refugee crisis, bailout package for South-European countries etc.

- There are European countries, i.e., countries annexed to EU present in the union such as Denmark and until now Britain.
- EU has not been effective in checking fiscal policies of its members which came out after Global Financial Crisis.

However, despite all these shortcomings, EU has been a ^{relatively} successful example in political & economic integration.

- Intra-country and inter-country trade has expanded manifold since 1957 European Community.
- Countries' exports and GDP has also increased with Germany & Britain competing with U.S.
- European borders are one of the most peaceful and no inter-country war or major dispute has been observed after W.W.II.

→ European Union has further inspired associations like ASEAN, CARICOM, African Union.

→ Despite differences over Brexit and climate change crisis caused due to Trump exit, EU has come out more determined & united.

Thus, EU needs to resolve the loopholes in its functioning and create an more equitable environment, for it to emerge out of the crisis it faces.

Q-16. Cooperativization was seen as an important element in the agenda for institutional changes sought to be achieved through land reforms.

Discuss Also explain why the progress made by the cooperative movement in India largely fell short of the goals set by its early proponents.

Ans. Cooperativization refers to formation of farmer or worker groups to act as in cooperation to tackle ^{issues} ~~changes~~ faced by their members as an individual.

Cooperatives were recommended and politically accepted as important institutions in land reforms. Land was sought to be consolidated. This would have following advantages:-

→ Land consolidation would lead to better output and economies of scale.



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- Farmers can pool inputs and resources for comprehensive land productivity improvement.
- Marketing of produce would be easier & cheaper.
- Loans and credit can be easily availed.
- Farmer distress can be solved through group collaboration.

However, the initial enthusiasm & momentum which cooperatives gathered fell short of its goal in agriculture development:-

- The understanding of cooperatives was limited and its impacts less known.
- Bureaucratic apathy led to these groups having no effective guidance.
- Cooperatives were largely hijacked

By influential farmers and poor farmers remained unbenefitted.

→ the class & caste relations were reflected in cooperatives.

→ Government-initiated cooperatives were distributed low-quality land and were largely neglected.

Lack of political will, bureaucratic apathy and ineffective organization failed agricultural cooperatives. Presence of ^{essential} ~~some~~ requirements saw success of dairy cooperatives in same time-frame, such as AMUL.

Q-17. Napoleon's conquest of Europe was a new source of modernization the legacy of which continues till date. Discuss.

Ans. } Napoleon took over France in 1799 amidst political turmoil and united it under a common civil law. He then undertook conquests of European countries which led to European Napoleonic wars from 1801-1815.

This led to series of factors which shaped the modern Europe.

→ Napoleon introduced similar civil law in the acquired countries which was a source of modernization in political sphere.

→ These wars led to a rise in nationalism in the invaded countries which led to political unity and strengthening state as an national, autonomous territory.

→ The countries to defend themselves embarked upon a unification process such as Confederation of Germany in 1815.

This led to further unification of Germany and Italy in 1871.

→ The political liberties these countries' citizens received under Napoleon left an ideological stamp.

The unification and ideals of civil liberties and nationalism these countries gained led to industrial revolution in countries of Europe and the consequent modernization the legacy of which can be still seen from Europe's modernity.

However, the industrial growth coupled with rise in nationalism caused imperialistic tendencies and culminated in two world wars.

Thus impact of Napoleon's conquest remains mixed, although it culminated in modern Europe.

Q.18) United States entered the Vietnam war incrementally, in a series of steps between 1950 and 1965. Elucidate. Also analyze the reasons for America's failure in war.

Ans.) Vietnam War from 1965-1971 was one of the most horrific events in international history with huge casualties and gross human rights violation. It was a part of cold-war with its culmination in a series of steps:-

- After I Vietnam war, Vietnam was divided into North Vietnam supported by USSR & South supported by U.S.
- After elections were announced for unification, South Vietnam was emboldened by U.S. to boycott the elections which led to North declaring war.
- South Vietnam was continuously supplied with arms & funds by U.S.
- Finally, in 1965, U.S. entered the war in

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support of South Vietnam.

However, Vietnam was the worst defeat US had to face, owing to following reasons:-

→ USSR & China: North Vietnam was supported by USSR & China with arms & funds.

→ Unrelenting spirit: Vietnamese kept fighting US despite heavy casualties. This unrelenting spirit kept them moving forward.

→ Ho Chi Minh trail: This was a trail of path from North Vietnam to supply resources to soldiers fighting in South. US could not demolish this path.

→ Adverse public opinion: U.S. faced huge internal pressure and sentiments were heavily against war.

→ Casualties: U.S. received huge losses of soldiers. Further the excesses like Napalm jelly and carpet bombs horrified

even U.S. administration.

→ U.N. United nations and international community was also pressurizing U.S.

All these factors led to U.S. falling out of the war. Horrors of Vietnam still haunt U.S. to this date.

Q.19. Weaknesses inherent in the structure and functions of the League of Nations were a decisive factor in its inability to maintain peace. Comment.

Ans. League of Nations was an inter-governmental organization formulated after World War I to promote international peace and socio-economic welfare.

However, the ideals of LoN were far from realized and it remained a failure. Reasons were many:-

→ LoN was dominated by allied countries and mainly Britain and France. Thus its non-transparent functioning led its decisions to be tilted in their favour. Ex-terms of post-war treaty were extraordinarily harsh on Germany.

→ LoN was consensus-based which was

usually near impossible owing to inter-country conflicts.

→ It was not able to realize its goals of self-determination as German colonies were given to allied countries.

→ An interim committee formed to carry out its tasks of LoN was continued which clashed with the league on various issues such as Corfu incident.

→ Its weaknesses further led to imperialistic rise unchecked. LoN remained a spectator in Manchuria invasion, Ethiopia invasion and Czechoslovakia invasion.

Despite these weaknesses & consequent failures, LoN was able to do some commendable job in realizing its socio-economic goals such as labour welfare.

However, LoN was weak enough to be discontinued and gave way to United Nations in 1945.

Q.21- Whatever its faults, the China of today is very much the creation of Mao Zedong. In this context, highlight the problems that Mao faced after the communist victory in 1949 and the steps taken by him to deal with these.

Ans. After a prolonged civil war, Communist Party emerged victorious in China in 1949. Mao Zedong the leader of Communist Party, faced several issues at that time :-

- Chinese economy was in worst state due to prolonged battles, civil war & World War II.
- China had no industrial base and capacities to embark on industrial progress due to neglect of warlords.
- Chinese agriculture was in bad shape due to pro-landlord policies adopted by Kuomintang.
- Employment was at an alltime low with lower skill-set and reeling poverty.

Mao Zedong with the help of USSR undertook 5-year plans which came out to be quite successful. However, in his '100 flowers campaign' to gain feedback of people, he faced another problem of huge public discontent. Finally, Mao undertook 'Great Leap Forward' which entailed:-

- Deviation from USSR styled socialism and focus on agriculture rather than industries.
- Decentralization of industries through small iron furnaces spread across villages.
- Village communes to decentralize administration and promote social welfare.
- Cooperativization of agriculture, but through persuasion and not force.
- Cultural revolution and iron-hand to protect communism.

His reforms had its own faults which led to famines in 1960s, political turmoil,

public discontent and initial economic downfall, but his measures did create a strong base for future China by increasing industry, enhancing capability of people and empowerment of women and villages.

Thus, China of today owes its economic rise and international clout mainly because of Mao's reforms.