

THE COLD WAR

Military Blocs And The Cold War

Germany after the II World War.

The aggressive states of Germany, Italy and Japan were defeated in the second World war. At the end of the Second World War Germany was divided among Britain, France, Russia and USA. The capital city of Berlin was also divided into four parts.

Emergence of the two Super Powers
After the Second World War Russia restricted entry into its territories by road or rail as there was a lot of tension between Russia and other allied countries. Though Russia fought on the allies side its relations with the allied countries was unstable. These countries were allied for

profit and convenience not for maintaining friendly relations.

This situation paved the way for emerging two super powers of the world.

They are :

- . The Capitalist bloc or the Western bloc
- . The communist bloc or the Eastern bloc.

The Capitalist bloc

The United States took part in the war and rose to become a super power. It was democratic and capitalist. The main motto of Capitalistic countries is profit.

The communist bloc

The Soviet Union or Russia also emerged as a super power and started spreading communism. Communism works for the

welfare and self sufficiency of the country.

Both the countries were felt threatened by each other so Russia tried to spread communism in European countries. While America along with other countries fought to control Russia from spreading Communism. Russia was quickly establishing communism and already had most of east Europe under its control. The allies were insecure because democracy and capitalism are important aspects of their way of life were being threatened by the Russians this led to the cold war

The Cold War

The American writer, Walter Lipman described the tension between the Russia the allies by using the term Cold war. Though it was not a war with weapons people lived with the fear of another world war. Winston Churchil, along with the

allied nations took some drastic steps to prevent the spread of communism.

The Truman Doctrine

The US president Truman announced a doctrine according to which America would render military, moral and economic aid to the countries threatened by Communism. By this the US took up on the responsibility of preventing the spread of communism. Turkey and Greece were the first two countries benefited by this.

Marshall Plan

It was the economic counter part of the Truman Doctrine. It was formed by US Secretary George C Marshall. Purpose of this was to fight out poverty and economic crisis. The US undertook the European Recovery Program on a grand scale where as the east European countries suffered to

recover.

Russia felt that America was building an economic empire by providing aid to those countries. The tension between the two countries increased and led to defensive strategies.

NATO

America and 13 other countries formed the NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in 1949 to protect from Soviet bloc . All the NATO countries decided to solve the problems among them selves and would be peaceful with Russia .

Maltov Plan & Warsa Pact

This made Russia form another group with 9 countries and proposed Maltov plan keeping in mind Americas Marshall plan. Opposite to Nato Russia signed the Warsa

pact in 1955 with east European countries. These treaties and agreements of cold war led to a clear political division of the world.

Consequences of the Cold War

- . Seize of Berlin by Russia in 1948.
- . The Korean war of 1951.
- . The Vietnam war from 1955 to 1975 .
- . The Cuban crisis of 1962.

Hot line between USA & USSR

Around 1962, the tension reached to its peak where the world was once again on the edge of war. It was necessary to take immediate step to prevent the war and reduce the tension. Many meetings were organized by the leaders of different countries to reduce hostility. In 1963, a hot line was established between the USA and

USSR. So that the leaders could immediately communicate .

End of the Cold War

The non alignment movement gained strength as a way to avoid joining the blocs while still being involved in the world politics . In 1991, the USSR broken up into smaller countries. with the collapse of USSR America emerged as only super power in the world.