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...15 Non-Aligned MovementSubject: History and Civics

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Jawaharlal Nehru the first Prime Minister of India coined the term 'non-alignment'. After the Second World War the world got divided into two power blocs - one led by the United States of America and the other by the Soviet Union. Most of the countries were the members of one of these blocs. An atmosphere of tension, suspicion and fear developed between these two blocs. This period is known as the Cold War.

Meaning of Non-Alignment

Non-alignment does not mean "isolation" or "neutrality".

It is an independent movement stressing that nations should follow their own policies without joining any of the power blocs. It refers to the international policy of a independent state on the basis of which it does not join any of the power blocs.

Factors Responsible for Non-Alignment:1. Global tension caused by Cold War.

Most of the Asian and African nations realised that the division of the world into two power blocs could start another world war and so they wanted to maintain distance from them.

2. Struggle against Imperialism:

The newly independent nations supported non-alignment because they wanted to secure the newly acquired freedom and power.

3. Right of Independent judgement:

All nations wanted to solve their problems themselves without any outside interference or influence.

4. Use of moderation in relations to all big powers:-

The newly independent nations wanted to establish goodwill and cooperation among the nations of Asia

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and Africa. They wanted to establish friendly relations among all nations.

Panchsheel

The main principles which influenced the Non-Aligned Movement are known as Panchsheel or five principles of peaceful co-existence which was signed between Indian and China in 1954.

The five principles are

1. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity.
2. Mutual non-aggression
3. non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
4. Equality and mutual benefit
5. Peaceful co-existence.

Belgrade Summit:

The first summit of non-aligned nations was held at Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1961. 26 Nations attended the Summit.

Founding Fathers of the NAM:

Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt

Jawaharlal Nehru of India

Marshall Joseph Broze Tito of Yugoslavia

Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia.

Objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement:

1. To remove all causes which could lead to war.
2. To protect the freedom of the new-born independent countries of Asia and Africa.
3. It was against Colonialism and racial discrimination
4. To establish friendly relations among nations.
5. It opposed apartheid.
6. The NAM favoured disarmament and it opposed the possession and the use of nuclear weapons.