

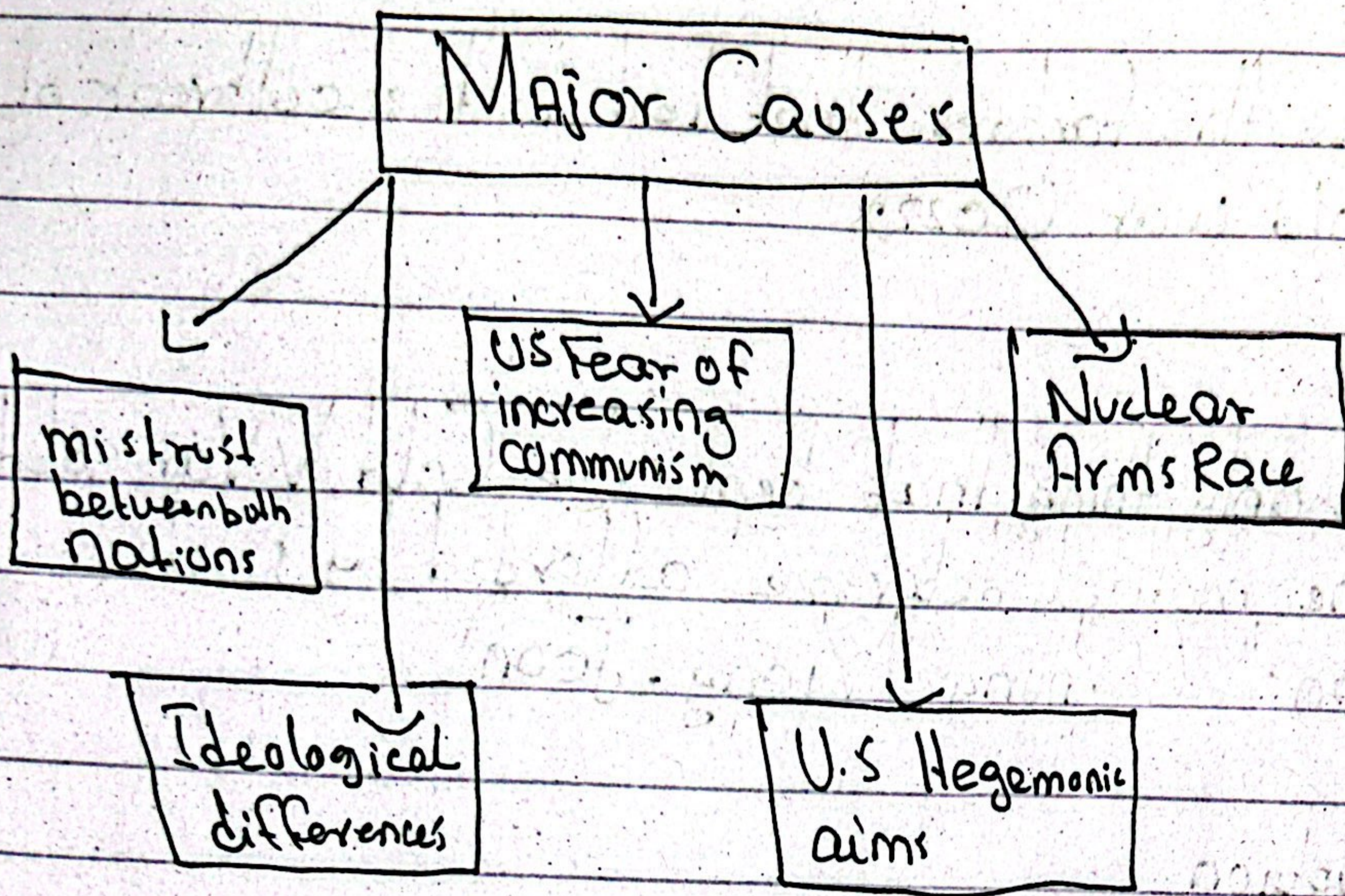
Q) Discuss the factors that led to the outbreak of the Cold War. (2022)

Ans) "The only thing that kept the Cold War cold was the mutual deterrence afforded by nuclear weapons" (Chung Mong-Joon)

Introduction

The word 'Cold War' means a type of war in which the opposing states do not engage in a direct conflict with each others, but use proxies instead. The term "Cold War" first appeared in a 1945 essay by the English writer George Orwell called "You and the atomic bomb". The time period of cold war was from 1945-1990, which marked the end of the USSR. There were many factors that led to the outbreak of the cold war some of them are, ideological difference, mutual distrust and misperception, Nuclear arms race, fear of United states regarding the spread of communism and the hegemonic aims of the United States.





Factors that led to Cold War

① Ideological differences

The United States of America and the USSR followed different ideologies, which resulted in different forms of government. United States followed a democratic form of government, in which there was free market competition, freedom of rights and expression. Anyone through his hardwork can become rich. Whereas, USSR followed a communist style of government in which the state

controlled everything and there was equal distribution of wealth between people. This basic difference grew with time and led to the outbreak of the cold war.

② (The) United States fear regarding the spread of communism.

As mentioned earlier United States followed a different style of government and they feared that communism might spread in the world and can result communism taking over America as well too. This was against the idea to which the United States was formed. The fear of the United States was genuine as USSR supported existing government of communism to attack anti communist states or government. For example U.S.S.R. helped communist government of North Korea to attack democratic South Korea and around 75000 North Korean soldiers crossed the 38th parallel line to take over South Korea. America feared this and backed South Korea, and this shows that communism being spread at that time was a genuine concern.

③ Mistrust between both nations

The United States of America and USSR fought on the same side of World War II. As a result of war U.S.S.R got Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and a few other states along with the east side of Germany as it was divided into two. The west side of Germany was with the United States, Britain and France. A conference was held in 1945 by the name of "Yalta" and "Post war conference" in which the future form of government was to be decided in the occupied states. It was decided that elections would be allowed to take place in these territories. However, USSR went behind back and tried to install communist government. This ~~developed~~ developed some sort of mistrust between both states. Hence, this mistrust somehow lead to the outbreak of Cold war.

④ Nuclear Arms Race.

United States of America build their first nuclear bomb in 1945, which they launched on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 1949 USSR

Successfully conducted their tests of nuclear weapon. This caused serious concerns to the United States and they decided to build a Hydrogen-Bomb the biggest ever built on this planet. They successfully built and tested it too. This shows that both nations started an arms race with each other which further deteriorated the existing relationship between them and led to Cold War.

③ U.S. Hegemonic Aims

The United States after World War II became more powerful than before. U.S. wanted to assert its dominance throughout the world as Europe was now very weak. The only country that still stood up after World War II was the United States and second to it was the USSR. USSR challenged its dominance throughout the world as USSR was big enough with vast natural resources and scientific inventions. So there ~~was~~ ^{was} strategic rivalry between both the ~~states~~ ^{states}, same like China and U.S. today. U.S. knew that they cannot spread their influence where there was a fear of communism spreading and something needed to be done to end this. This

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slowly led to the development of harsh policies and aims towards U.S.S.R which resulted in a cold war.

Conclusion

United States of America and USSR fought this cold war till 1990 and in 1991 it led to the fall of USSR. USSR broke into 15 states under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev due to internal social, economical and political issues. However, out of all the factors that led to ^{cold} war, the difference in ideology was the main one and it led to the outbreak of Cold War.