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IR - II

QNo: 1

Analyze cold war was the conflict of ideologies or a struggle of global hegemony

1. Introduction:

The cold war between USA and USSR was more than a struggle of global hegemony. It was the war of two contrasting ideologies. Cold war was a war between communism and capitalism. USSR was a communist state and USA was a capitalist state. Both states wanted to emphasize their ideologies. But they never directly jumped into hot waters instead they opposed each other with their alliances. That is why it is termed as cold war. USSR and USA supported their proxies against each other.

Communism and USSR were rising after WW-II so to contain their influence, USA emphasized capitalism in the world.

2. Argument: Cold war: a tussel of two ideologies: communism and capitalism.

More than being a direct war between USA and USSR, cold war was a tussel of communism and capitalism.

Communism supports one man rule over state and people while

Capitalism supports cooperation and multilateralism.

USSR wanted to practice communism over world after world war-II while USA wanted to promote institutionalism and multilateralism i.e capitalism after the chaos of world-war-II. Let's explore the course of cold war as a war of two contrasting ideologies:-

(a) Monarchy in USSR versus democratic government of USA;

During the course of post WW-II era and in cold war, Russia was under the influence of Tsar's monarchy, Nicholas-II who was the king of Russia while USA was a democratic government during cold war. The two contradicting course of governments influenced USSR and USA to defend and influence their ruling ideologies.

(b) USSR's expansionism versus USA's alliance formation;

During cold war, USSR emerged as an expansionist state who wanted to practice its ideology in many parts of cold world. Vietnam war, Korean war and soviet expansion of Afghanistan was due to communist and expansionist ideology of USSR. In a stark contrast to this, USA supported the adversaries of

USSR during cold war portraying himself as a cooperative state and USSR as an aggressive state.

(c) Communism versus capitalism in China;

During cold war China was ruled by a capitalist Chiang Kai Shek who was ousted and defeated by a communist leader Mao Zedong. Chiang moved to Taiwan and China became People's republic of China under the leadership of communist Mao Zedong.

(d) North Korea (communist) versus South Korea (capitalist);

The famous Korean war that left Korea divided was also a war of ideologies during cold war. North Korea was communist state and South Korea was capitalist. When South Korea and USA attacked north

Korea, Russia and China supported North Korea, ousted the troops of USA from North Korea and captured Seoul as well. Today, North Korea and South Korea are still divided by 38th-parallel line. North Korea is still a communist state while South Korea is a capitalist.

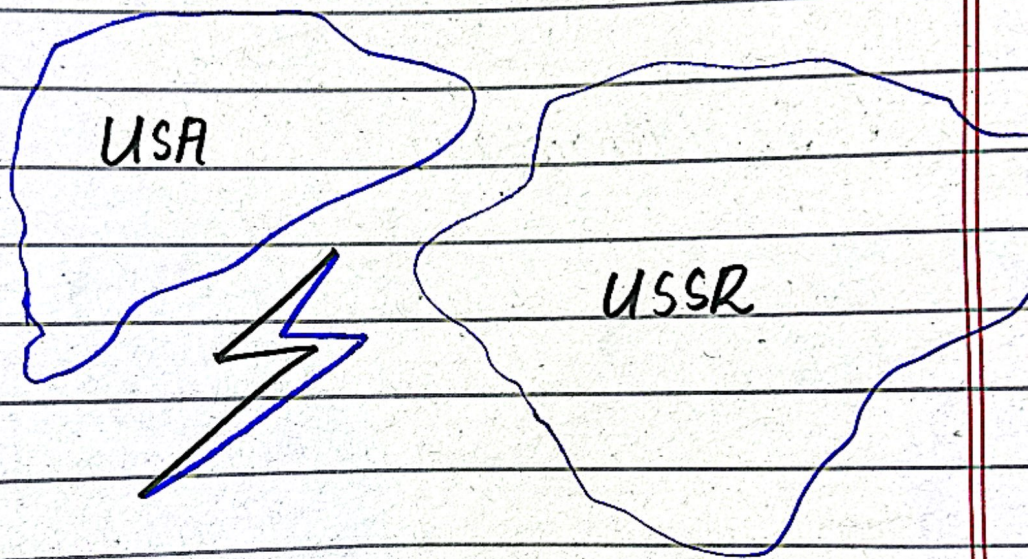
(e) The Vietnam war;

The Vietnam war is another significant warfront of cold war highlighting the tussle between communism and capitalism. USSR supported east Vietnam against the capitalist block of west Vietnam who was backed by USA. Eventually, east Vietnam gained control over west Vietnam and today Vietnam is ruled by communism.

These course of events depicts how cold war was the war of two ideologies: communism versus capitalism. The counter-argument below shows how cold war

was more than a war of ideologies and a war of power influence and coercion between USA and USSR.

3. Counter Argument: cold war was a struggle of global hegemony:



Although USA and USSR did not jump in hot waters during cold war but their coercion of power and influence depict their struggle for global hegemony.

In the aftermath of world war-II, USSR and USA wanted to be a hegemon of world who will govern all the worldly affairs. Their struggle for power in Germany, military, space exploration and arms race paints a

clear picture of struggle of global hegemony.

(a) Space exploration: USSR vs USA;

A global hegemon is powerful in all domains. Russia was excelling in space exploration during cold war in contrast to USA. Russia's focus was to develop first satellite that will help them monitoring the activities of allies. Thus, Russia was the first one in developing and launching the satellite.

(b) Nuclear race;

The sun of WW-II set down with the dawn of nuclear age. Though USA was a nuclear state and attacked Japan with its atomic bomb during WW-II. It was the compulsive need of USSR to develop nuclear bomb to counter the influence of USA. Thus, in 1958 USSR developed its own nuclear bomb and today Russian operates an automated nuclear missile system.

4. Conclusion;

Thus cold war was the war of two ideologies: communism versus capitalism rather than the war of global hegemony. Though Russia succeeded in enforcing communism but due to the vast popularity of capitalism due to media, USA succeeded by the end of the cold war. Henceforth, the world today operates on capitalism and most of the powerful economies are also being operated on capitalistic model of economy.
