

Date: 24.1.26

Maham-141-Westridge
U.S. History:

Day: _____

Q3 What are the challenges to U.S led.

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1) INTRODUCTION:

The United States emerged as a global power after World War II, maintaining its dominance through economic strength, military power, and influence in international institutions. However, several challenges in the 21st Century threaten its supremacy. These include the rise of powers like China and Russia, internal political divisions and shift in global dynamics.

2) CHALLENGES TO U.S. GLOBAL SUPREMACY:

(i) RISE OF EMERGING POWERS:

CHINA:

Historical context of relation:

Relations with China were strained during the Cold War, especially after the Communist revolution in 1949. However, US President Nixon's visit to China in 1972 marked a thaw, leading to economic engagement. Over the past few decades China's rise as a global economic powerhouse and

actor has introduced new competition with U.S particularly in Asia-Pacific.

Economic Rise:

The GDP of China is second largest globally, and it challenges U.S dominance in trade, technology, and infrastructure investment, particularly through initiatives like Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). (2)

Military Expansion:

China is rapidly modernizing its military and asserting territorial claims in South China Sea and Taiwan, challenging U.S allies in the Indo-Pacific.

Technological Leadership:

China's advancement in AI, 5G, and quantum computing are rivalling U.S. dominance in innovation.

RUSSIA:

Historical Context of Relation:

During the Cold War (1947-1991), the US and Soviet Union were ideological rivals representing capitalism and communism, respectively. This period saw proxy wars, arms races and political standoffs, such as Cuban Missile Crisis (1962). After the collapse of Soviet Union in 1991, U.S dominance grew.

unchallenged, but Russia under Vladimir Putin has since reasserted itself as a global actor.

Geopolitical Aggression:

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Russia's annexation of Crimea (2014) and its involvement in Ukraine (2022) underscore its challenge to Western hegemony. Russia seeks to weaken NATO and U.S. influence in Eastern Europe.

Energy and Cyber Threats:

Russia leverages its energy resources and cyber capabilities to disrupt global stability, including interference in elections and infrastructure hacking.

The Sino-Russian alliance:

Both China and Russia are neighbours and their economic and political ideologies intersect with each other, they formed alliance with each other against the U.S.

2) INTERNAL AND POLITICAL DIVISIONS:

Polarization:

Increasing political polarization undermines U.S. governance and global leadership.

Erosion of Democratic institutions:

The perception of declining U.S. democratic values weakens its moral authority on global stage.

Economic Inequality:

Rising economic inequality threatens social security and stability.

3) SHIFT IN GLOBAL DYNAMICS:

Decline of Post Cold War Order:

The unipolar moment following cold war is fading as multipolarity emerges. Countries like India, Brazil and regional blocs (EU) assert more independence.

Alliances and Partnerships:

The U.S. led alliances such as NATO and partnerships in Indo Pacific like the AUKUS QUAD, face challenges as allies pursue more autonomous foreign policies. The multilateral cooperation like SCO, SAARC and BRICS+ also challenges U.S. led system.

(4)

CONCLUSION:

The U.S. faces unprecedented challenges to its global supremacy, rooted in the rise of China and Russia, internal politics and instability, the transformation of global power dynamics. The emergence of a world order that is less favorable to its values and interests.

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Q5 What was the significance of Monroe..?

INTRODUCTION:

The Monroe Doctrine proclaimed in 1823 by President James Monroe, was a cornerstone of US foreign policy that significantly influenced its stance towards European nations and Latin America throughout 19th and 20th century. It declared the Western Hemisphere was off-limits to future colonization by European powers, warning them against interference in the affairs of the Americas, while pledging U.S. non-involvement in European conflicts. Its significance can be explored through its long-term effects on U.S. foreign policy relations and interventions.

2) SIGNIFICANCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY:

(i) Assertion of U.S. Influence in Americas:

The Monroe Doctrine marked the first major assertion of U.S. influence in global affairs. Though initially a policy of deterrence, it reflected the growing national confidence of a young United States. (6)

(ii) Limited Immediate Impacts:

In 19th century, the U.S. lacked the military and naval capacity to enforce the doctrine, relying on British naval power to deter European intervention in Latin America.

(iii) Foundation of U.S. Hegemony in the Hemisphere:

Over time, the doctrine became a foundation for U.S. expansionism, justifying interventions such as the annexation of Texas and involvement in Mexican-American War.

3) INFLUENCE IN THE 20TH CENTURY:

(i) Roosevelt Corollary & Interventionism:

President Theodore Roosevelt expanded the doctrine in 1904 with the Roosevelt Corollary, asserting the U.S. right to intervene in Latin American countries to stabilize their economies and to prevent European interference.

(ii) Latin America Relations

The doctrine and its extensions often created resentment in Latin America, as U.S. intervention were view as imperialistic.

(iii) Cold War Applications:

During the cold war, the Monroe Doctrine was used to counter Soviet influence in the Western Hemisphere. It justified the actions like the U.S opposition to Fidel Castro's government in Cuba and support for anti-communist regime in Latin America.

4.) Impact on:

(i) European Non-intervention in the Americas:

The doctrine discouraged European countries to colonize and interfere in Americas, solidifying U.S position as a dominant power in Western Hemisphere.

(ii) Tensions with European Powers:

While the doctrine avoided major conflicts with Europe, it occasionally caused friction, such as during the Venezuelan Crisis, when U.S mediated dispute between European creditors and Venezuela.

LEGACY:

CONCLUSION:

MONROE DOCTRINE: A LEGACY:

The Monroe Doctrine shaped foreign policy by establishing the Americas as a sphere of U.S. influence and laying the groundwork for its later rise as a global power. While it initially aimed to protect Latin American nations from European colonialism, its evolution into justifying for U.S. interventionism complicated relations with its southern neighbors and fueled anti-American sentiments. Despite this, the doctrine reinforced the principle of regional autonomy and was a key element in shaping the U.S.'s role in world affairs.

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Q7 What were the main causes of the U.S Civil War...

1) INTRODUCTION:

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The U.S Civil war (1861-1865) was one of the most transformative periods in American history. Its causes were deeply rooted in political, economic, social and ideological differences, with long term effects that shaped the nation particularly in terms of slavery, reconstruction and national unity.

2) MAIN CAUSES OF THE U.S CIVIL WAR:

1) SLAVERY:

The most significant and contentious issue was the slavery issue. The Southern states' economies were heavily dependent on slave labor, particularly in agriculture (cotton and tobacco). The North, with a more industrialized economy, increasingly opposed slavery on moral, economic, and political grounds. The question of whether new states entering the union would permit slavery heightened tensions.

Example : 1) Missouri Compromise

2) Kansas-Nebraska Act.

2) STATE RIGHTS VS. FEDERAL AUTHORITY:

Southern States championed the idea of

States' rights, asserting that they had the right to govern themselves and make decisions (including legalizing slavery) without interference from the federal government. The North favoured a stronger federal government to maintain unity.

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3) ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES:

The South's economy was agrarian and reliant on slave labor, while the North was industrial and favoured free labour. Tariff policies also created friction, with the South opposing high tariffs that benefitted Northern industries but increased the costs of goods in South. This led to the tensions between the North and the Southern states.

4) SECTIONALISM:

Cultural and ideological divides between Southern and Northern states exacerbated tensions. The South viewed itself as culturally distinct, with a way of life centered around agriculture and social hierarchy, while the North emphasized upon freedom, reform and industrialization.

5) POLITICAL EVENTS AND POLARIZATION:

The rise of abolitionist movement in the North and events like the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) and John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry (1859) inflamed public opinion. Moreover, the elections of Abraham Lincoln (1860), seen by the South as a threat to slavery, prompted the secession of Southern States and the formation of the Confederacy.

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2) LONG-TERM EFFECT OF THE CIVIL-WAR:

(i) ABOLITION OF SLAVERY:

The *Emancipation Proclamation* (1863) declared freedom for slaves in Confederate territories; and the **13th Amendment** (1865) formally abolished the slavery nation wide. However, the transition from slavery to freedom was fraught with challenges, including systemic racism, limited economic opportunities for freed men, and discriminatory laws.

(ii) RECONSTRUCTION ERA (1865-1877):

The Reconstruction period attempted to rebuild the South and integrate freed slaves to society. The **14th Amendment**

granted citizenship to all born in the U.S., and the 15th Amendment guaranteed voting rights regardless of race. Despite these efforts, Reconstruction Era faced resistance from Southern states, leading to the rise of groups like **Ku Klux Klan** and the eventual establishment of **Jim Crow laws**, which institutionalized racial segregation for nearly a century.

(iii) NATIONAL UNITY AND FEDERAL POWER:

The war reinforced the supremacy of the federal government over states, setting a precedent for stronger central authority. The defeat of the Confederacy ensured that the Union would remain intact, but the regional scars persisted for decades.

(iv) ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION:

The Civil War accelerated industrialization in the North and spurred innovations such as **railroads** and **mass production**. The South, however, faced economic devastation and took decades to recover.

(v) SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT:

The Civil War and its memory deeply influenced American literature

arts, and culture. Veterans and their families grappled with loss and trauma, while shared sacrifice contributed to a stronger sense of national identity over time.

(vi) CIVIL RIGHT MOVEMENT (CRM) LEGACY:

The Civil War set the stage for the civil right struggles of the 20th Century. While legal slavery ended, African-Americans continued to face systemic discrimination, leading to the eventual rise of CRM in 1950s and 1960s.

4) CONCLUSION:

The U.S. Civil War was not just a battle between the North and the South; it was a battle over fundamental principles of liberty, equality and role of government. While the war ended slavery and preserved the Union, it did leave unresolved issue of racial inequality and sectional animosity that would shape American society for generations.

Q8 Discuss the causes of Great Depression. ... ?

1) INTRODUCTION:

The Great Depression (1930) represents one of the darkest periods in American economic history. Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal is largely credited with bringing America out of the Great Depression by providing jobs and relief, but country fully recovered until 1941, when the armed industry geared up for World War II.

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2) CAUSES OF GREAT DEPRESSION:

(i) STOCK MARKET CRASH:

The October 29th, Stock Market Crash led to selling of 1,301,000,000 shares in one day because stocks were overpriced due to speculations, massive fraud and illegal activities occurred due to a lack of regulation and rules.

(ii) OVER-PRODUCTION IN INDUSTRY:

Factories were producing products, however, wages for workers were not raising enough for them to buy. Few workers were able to buy the factory output. The surplus products could not be sold overseas due to

to high tariffs and lack of money in Europe. (iv)

(ii) **OVER-PRODUCTION IN FARMING:**

Due to surpluses and over production, farm incomes dropped throughout the 1920's. The price of farm land fell from \$70 per acre to \$30 in 1930, the average income of a farmer was also very low about \$270. The problems in agricultural sector had large impact since 30% of Americans still lived on farms. (iv)

(iv) **NATURAL CALAMITIES:**

From 1930-1936, American farmers struggled with conditions of the Dust Bowl, a draught that affected more than a million acres of farmland, and the result was mass migration of people from rural lands to urban areas. (iv)

(v) **UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH:**

The unequal distribution of wealth, the top 1% received a 75% increase in their disposable income while other 99% saw on average 9% increase in their disposable income. Most of the American have no savings at all. (iv)

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(vi) WAR DEBTS:

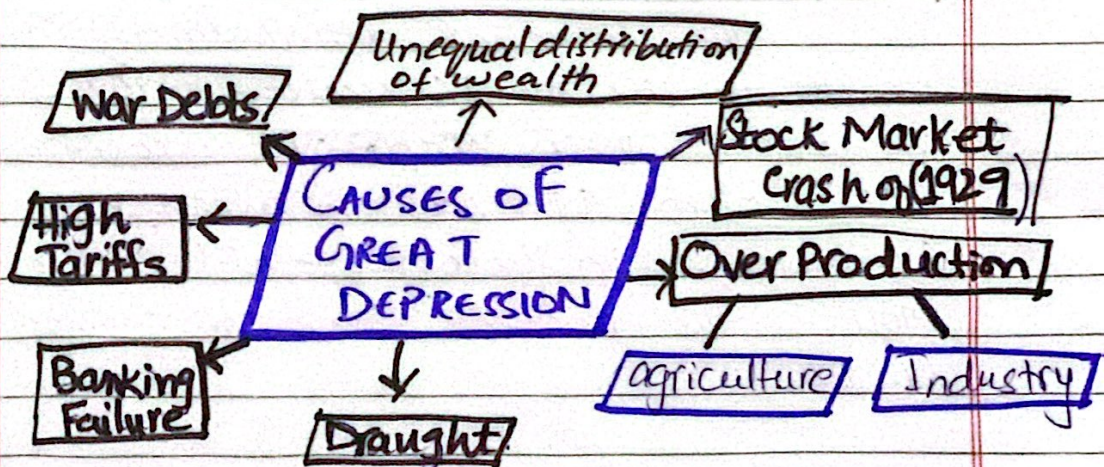
At the end of World War I, European nations owed over \$10 billion to their former ally, the U.S. Their economies were devastated by war and they could not return the money back. This debt contributed to the Great Depression.

(vii) High Tariffs:

Tax imposed on industrial products and tariffs on the imported stuff led to the decline on trade and decline in exports, as well. (vi)

(viii) BANKING FAILURES:

Weak banking systems and inadequate regulation led to the failure of thousands of banks, eroding savings and further contracting credit availability. (v)



3) MAJOR REFORMS OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S NEW DEAL:

The New Deal (1933-1939) was a series of programs, public work policies and projects, financial reforms and regulatory frameworks implemented by the President Franklin D. Roosevelt to address the Great Depression. It is often categorized into two parts.

	<u>FIRST NEW DEAL (1933-1934)</u>	<u>SECOND NEW DEAL (1934-1941)</u>
Emphasis	Reform	Reform
Political Position	Conservative	Liberal
Primary aim	Economic Recovery	Permanent Reform
Philosophy	Economic Nationalism & economic security	International economic cooperation and economic abundance
Objectives	Higher prices for agriculture & businesses	Increased purchasing power and social security for public
Beneficiaries	big business & agricultural business	Small farmer & labor.

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Purpose of New Deal Program:

The purpose was 3Rs; approach

1) RELIEF: Immediate Assistance.

a) Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA): Provide direct aid to the unemployed and poor.

b) Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC):

Created jobs for young men and women in environmental conservation projects.

c) Works Progress Administration (WPA):

Employed millions in construction, arts, and public work projects.

2) RECOVERY: Reviving the Economy.**a) Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA):**

Reduced agricultural overproduction by paying farmers to cut back on the crops, stabilizing prices.

b) National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA):

Promoted industrial growth by setting fair labor laws and supporting collective bargaining.

c) Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA):

Built dams and power plants to modernize the Tennessee valley; creating jobs and improving regional infrastructure.

3) REFORM: Preventing future crisis**a) Glass-Steagall Act (1933):**

Separated commercial and investment banking to reduce financial speculation.

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b) Social Security Act (SSA):

Established pensions for the elderly, unemployment insurance, and aid for dependents.

c) Security & Exchange Commission (SEC):

Regulated the stock market to prevent frauds.

d) Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC): Guaranteed bank deposits to restore public confidence in banking systems.**4. RESHAPING THE U.S. ECONOMY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE:**

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(i) Economic Restructuring:

Expanded the role of federal government in economy, creating a regulatory framework that stabilized the financial market and protected workers rights. Infrastructure, revitalized through public work projects, creating jobs and boosting economic activity.

(ii) Strengthening Labor:

The Act like Wagner Act, empowered labor unions, leading to better labor laws and working conditions.

(iii) Social Equity:

The new deal improved, education housing, employment for many marginalized communities

(iv) Cultural Impact:

Fostered sense of shared purpose and collective action during a time of crisis. Initiatives like WPA also enriched American culture through support for arts and literature.

5) CONCLUSION:

The great depression revealed deep flaws in the U.S. economic and financial systems, prompting FDR to implement transformative policies under the New Deal. While not all programs succeeded, the New Deal reshaped the U.S. economy by instituting regulatory measures, promoting labour rights, and establishing social safety net.

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