

Q. In the post-Second World War scenario, friends in war did not remain friends in peace. Examine.

Ans. During the second world war USA, Britain and France fought together along with Russia to counter the threat posed by fascist powers i.e. Germany, Italy and Japan. Though the Allied powers dreaded Russian communism they made her their friend to counter the bigger threat. However, this friendship came under severe threat as soon as Allied victory was in sight. USSR accused Britain and USA that they deliberately delayed the opening of the second front so that Germans could inflict heavy damages on USSR.

During the Potsdam conference the friendship rocked the bottom as Truman was very cold in making amends with USSR. Moreover, he did not reveal the true character of atomic bomb to Stalin. Before the planned date of attack on Japan, USA dropped atomic bomb on Hiroshima resulting into formal beginning of the cold war. This rivalry between USA and USSR divided the whole world into two power-blocks. The cold war reflected during various incidents after the

WWII not only in Europe but across the globe.

The USSR forcefully established communist governments in eastern Europe despite the promise of fair and free elections made during Potsdam conference. In return USA retaliated by issuing Truman doctrine and Marshall plan. Blockade of Berlin imposed in 1949 by USSR resulted into formation of NATO. USSR then formed its own military block known as Warsaw Pact.

- This rivalry also reflected in the construction of nuclear and other military weapons. USA produced hydrogen bomb, ICBMs etc. USSR also started to produce nuclear weapons, ICBMs, ABMs putting the whole world on the edge of a catastrophic.

The cold war rivalry did not limit itself to the European continent. It reflected in Korean war (1951), Cuban missile crisis, Vietnam war across the ~~continent~~ world. Formation of military pacts such as SEATO and CENTO were the repercussions of global dimensions of cold war.

The western European countries viz. Britain and France allied with USSR during cold war. Thus, it can be said that friends in war did not remain friends in peace.

Q. The main pillar of the United Nations is the Security Council. Comment.

Ans. The United Nations was established on 24th October, 1945 to ensure global peace and prosperity after the dread of Second World War.

The organisation of United Nations was made keeping in mind the flaws of the League of Nations. Thus, Security Council was created to ensure its efficient and effective functioning along with General Assembly, International Court of Justice etc.

United Nations Security Council was given some extraordinary powers. It contained 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members (elected for two years). The permanent members were provided with veto powers by which any member could stall passing of any resolution by putting its 'veto'. This extensive power ensured that no one nation could go its own way without taking other members into confidence. During the cold war veto powers became a handy tool to stop outbreak of war during many occasions.

Moreover, Security Council was

provided with the authority of imposing military and economic sanctions over violations of its resolutions. Across the decades security council has passed many important resolutions over disarmament, counter-terrorism, climate change etc. Recently, UNSC passed resolution 2233 to ensure judicial co-operation in cases of global terrorism.

Thus, it can be said that UNSC is the main pillar of UN. However, the authority of UNSC as an effective body has been severely impaired due to various reasons:-

- veto power has been used by powers to set their personal goals. For example, china vetoed India's bid to declare massed azhars as global terrorist a number of times.
- Global powers are unwilling to shed their authority by providing entry to other major countries such as India, Japan, Germany as permanent members.
- UNSC resolutions have been accused of bias in the favour of Western nations many a times. For example during Kashmir issue, during Vietnam war.

Thus, it is imperative that UNSC is reformed so that it can function effectively in 21st century.